

3. Género e condições de vida

OC - (22920) - SHARING THE LONELINESS AND SILENCE: EMOTIONAL AND SOCIAL INEQUALITIES IN THE CONTEXT OF PAID HOME-BASED ELDERLY CARE IN TURKEY

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Turkey, as a country, traditionally centred on a family-based care model. Longstanding expectations and care traditions have been challenged by the socio-demographic changes and the transformation in intergenerational relationships. Along with these developments, there has been an emerging trend towards the employment of migrant care workers (MCW) in elderly care. In many parts of the world, there are more women in older age groups than men. Around the world, older women tend to have faced challenges and had fewer opportunities throughout their lives than older men. This is also true for the case of Turkey. Apart from needing a care worker- due to health problems or need for companionship- older women are left with the challenge of building a new identity and life with a care worker. On the other side of the story, MCWs, by migrating to Turkey, start their new life with weaker social networks. These two 'strange' women, from different social classes and socio-cultural backgrounds, suddenly find themselves in the same 'home' space. I explore what kind of norms, values, beliefs and ideas are identified and performed in this unique form of employee-employer relationship and discuss intersections of gender, ethnicity, religion, age and social class in this relationship. In these relationships, I identified social, cultural and emotional boundaries. Based on 39 in-depth interviews with family-employers, care receivers, and MCWs conducted, I will present how the actors experience these boundaries and social and emotional inequalities. The results reveal that when MCWs and care receivers cannot find ways to redraw or flex the boundaries, they share the 'silence' and 'loneliness' round the clock in the 'home' space.

Palavras-chave : migrant care work, care for older adults, socio-cultural boundaries, emotional boundaries, emotional and social inequalities