

**GENDER, MIGRATION AND SOCIAL PROTECTION
IN TRANSNATIONAL FAMILIES:
EXPLORING THE INTERSECTIONS BETWEEN
CARE CIRCULATION AND THE DE-FAMILIALIZATION CONCEPT**

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Gendering Social Protection: Gender, Migration and Resistance

Frankfurt, 20 June 2017

Source:

Degavre F. & Merla L. (2016)

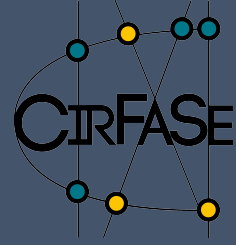
Defamilialisation of whom? Re-thinking defamilialisation in the light of global care chains and the transnational circulation of care.

In: Kilkey, Majella; Palenga-Möllenbeck, Ewa,

Family Life in an Age of Migration and Mobility: Global Perspectives through the Life Course,

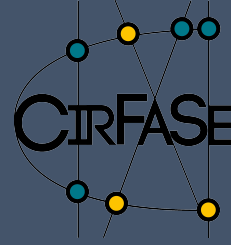
Palgrave MacMillan, 2016, p. 287-311.

STRUCTURE



- Feminist controversies around defamilialization
- Migration as a pathway towards defamilialization?
- Embedding defamilialization in a transnational context
- Moving forward... theoretically and politically

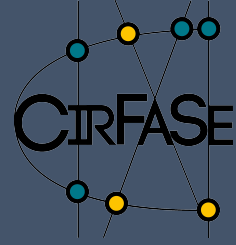
1. FEMINIST CONTROVERSIES AROUND DEFAMILIALIZATION



- Origins: Critique of Esping-Andersen's typology of welfare regimes, which ignored the situation of women, both in the labour market and within families
- Focus on women's rights as workers, *mothers* and *citizens* (Sainsbury, 1994)
- Critique grounded in the social reproduction debate
 - For Knijn and Kremer (1997: 331-2) de-gendered, inclusive citizenship should be based on the assumption that every citizen, male or female, '*at some time or another has to take care of people they care about*' and will also '*need care when they are ill, handicapped, or frail and old*'.
- => Original definition of defamilialisation: « *the degree to which individual adults can uphold a socially acceptable standard of living, independently of family relationships, either through paid work or through social security provisions* ' (Lister, 1997:173)".
- = emancipation of women through paid work, and/or social security provisions guaranteeing the right to provide care

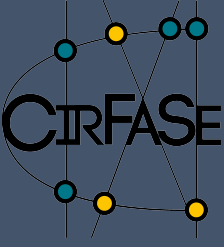
- Progressive shift towards focus on women's emancipation through access to paid work, with caring conceived as a constraint
- => Defamilialization =
“the extent to which the Welfare State enables women to survive as independent workers and decreases the economic importance of family in women's life’ (Bambra, 2007: 327)”.

FEMINIST CONTROVERSIES AROUND DEFAMILIALIZATION



- Today care work is in large part undertaken by migrant workers. But the own care needs of these workers and their relatives have not yet been taken into account by defamilialization scholars.
- = defamilialization is still understood in relation with ‘nationals of the global North’, and does not take into account the realities of both the ‘global north’ and the ‘global south’ – as well as East-West connections.
- Here I focus on third-country migrants working in low paid/low qualified jobs in Europe, including domestic work.

2. MIGRATION: A PATHWAY TOWARDS DEFAMILIALIZATION?

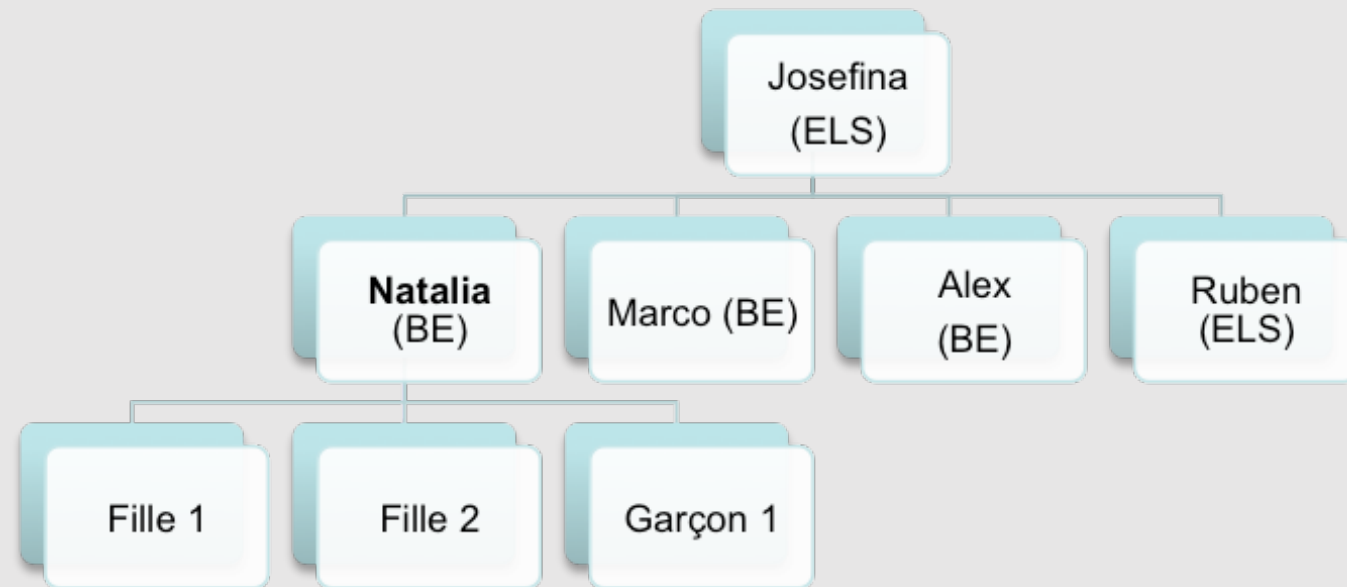
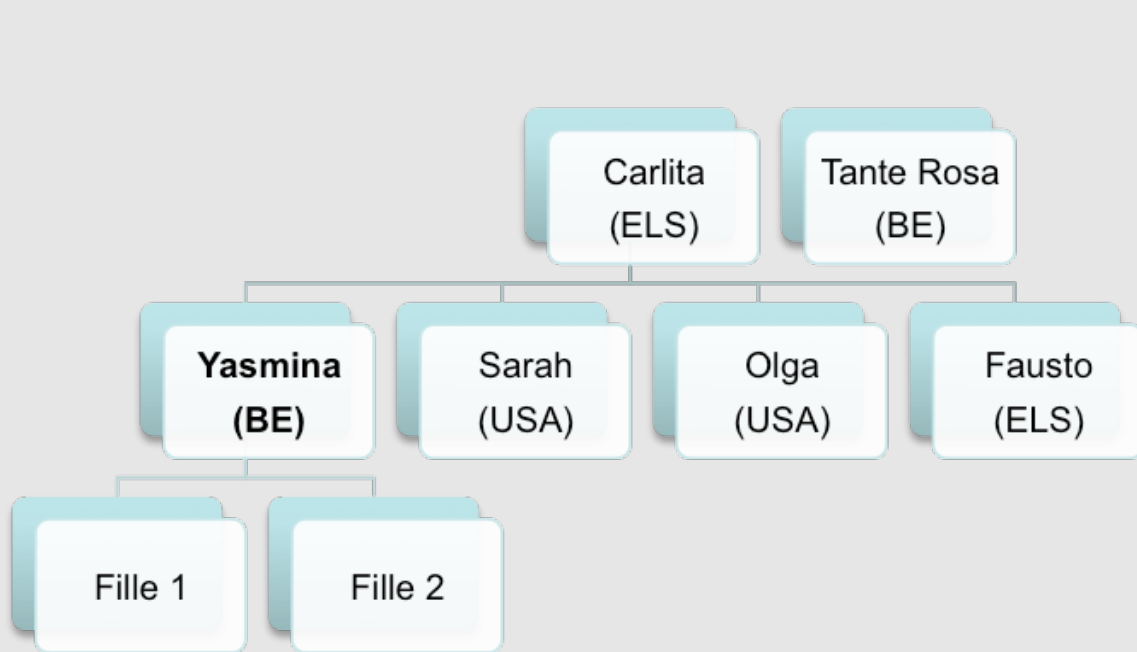


- Can migration be a form of defamilialization?

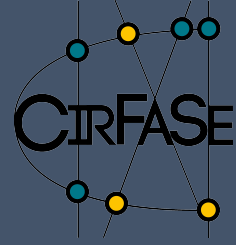
Yes...

BUT families ties, duties and obligations do not automatically fade away

CASE STUDIES



CARE CIRCULATION (BALDASSAR & MERLA 2014)



- Definition:

Reciprocal, multidirectional and asymmetrical exchange of care within family networks of solidarities:

- that fluctuates over the life cycle,
- And is influenced by the political, economic, social and cultural context of the countries of origin and destination

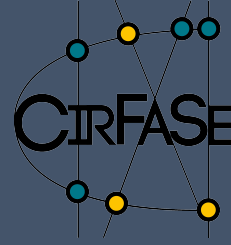
Caregiving, in the form of services and goods, circulates:

- Horizontally and vertically
- Both upwards and downwards
- Over the family/life-cycle

Type of care	Direct provision with physical co-presence	Co-ordination from a distance	Direct provision without physical co-presence	Delegation
Personal care	visits: <i>tourist, duty, special, routine</i>	Communication technologies <i>letters, cards, telephone, email, fax, SMS, skype</i>	N/A	From complete withdrawal to 'caring about' Cf 'dormant' family members (Bonvalet & Ogg 2006)
Practical support				
Emotional support				
Financial support				
Accommodation				

Source: Kilkey & Merla (2014)

MIGRATION: A PATHWAY TOWARDS DEFAMILIALIZATION?



Defamilialization issue 1: Acceptable standard of living?

Migrants working conditions as obstacles for defamilialization:
cf Influence of legal and employment status

Cf estimated wages in domestic/care sector in BE:

- au pair: 440€
- With illegal status: 1000€
- Voucher system: 1700€ (b.t.)
- Professional care worker: 1800€ (b.t.)

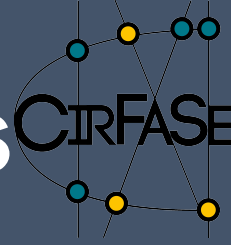
Defamilialization issue 2: Right to provide/externalize care?

Migrants intrafamilial duties **in the North** (cf Wall & Sao José 2004):
difficult access to daycare and work-family balance instruments

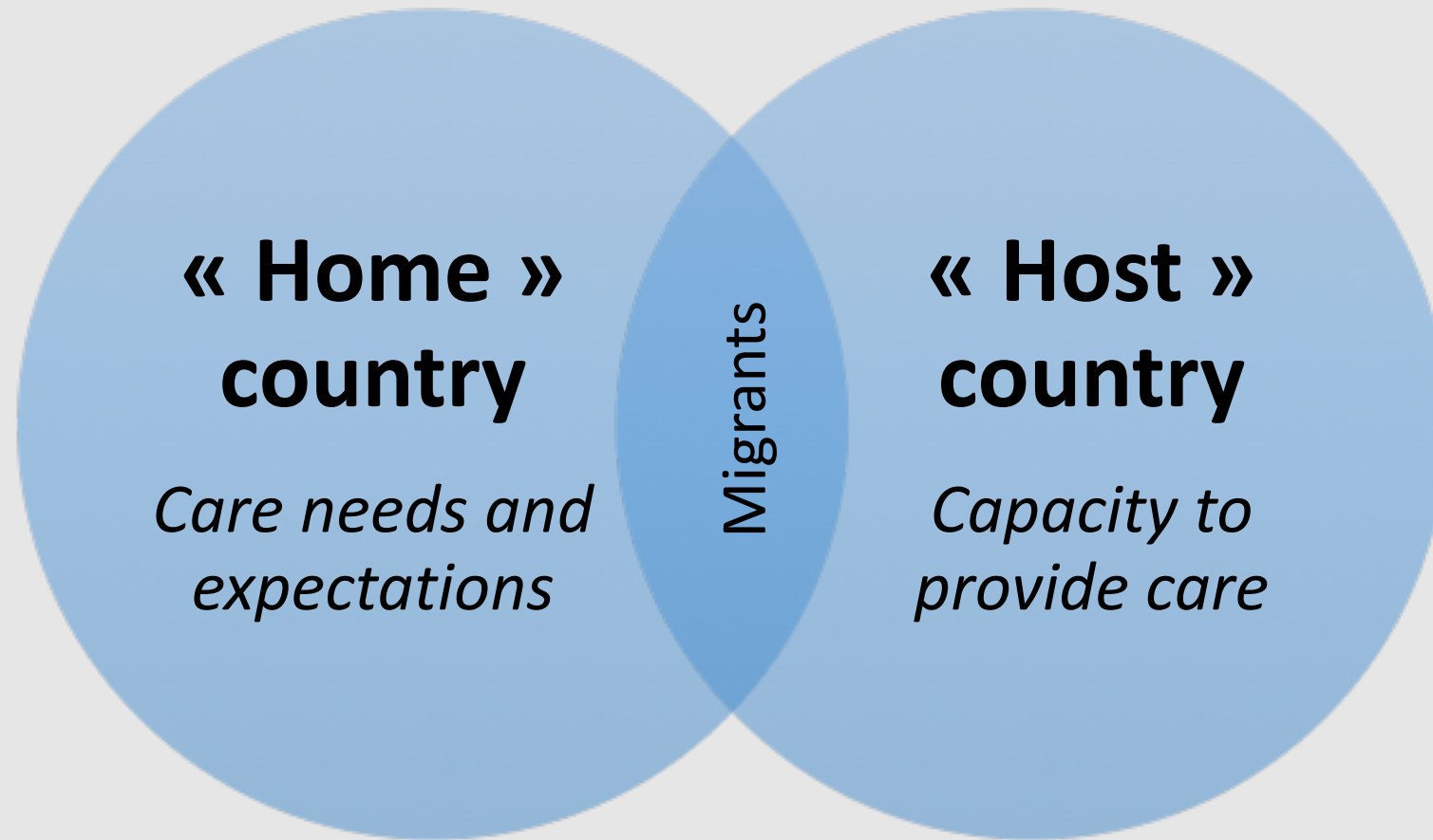
Transnational intrafamilial care beyond the radar (cf Lutz and Palenga-Möllenberg's 2012)

Cf Ukrainian mothers living in Poland : lack of access to work-family arrangements in both the sending and receiving country

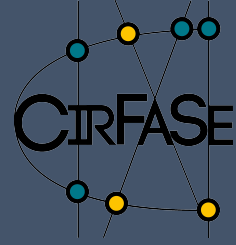
MIGRANTS STAND AT THE CROSSROADS OF 2 SYSTEMS



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3. EMBEDDING DEFAMILIALIZATION IN A TRANSNATIONAL CONTEXT

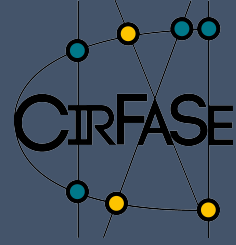


= Combining defamilialization, global care chains and transnational circulation of care:

=> Care chains (Hochschild 2005) describe a **system of global exploitation** of migrant workers in order to fill care needs in the North, and transnational ‘care circulation’ (Baldassar & Merla 2014) helps us understand the **dynamics of intra-familial care flows and exchanges** taking place *within* migrants’ families both transnationally and locally.

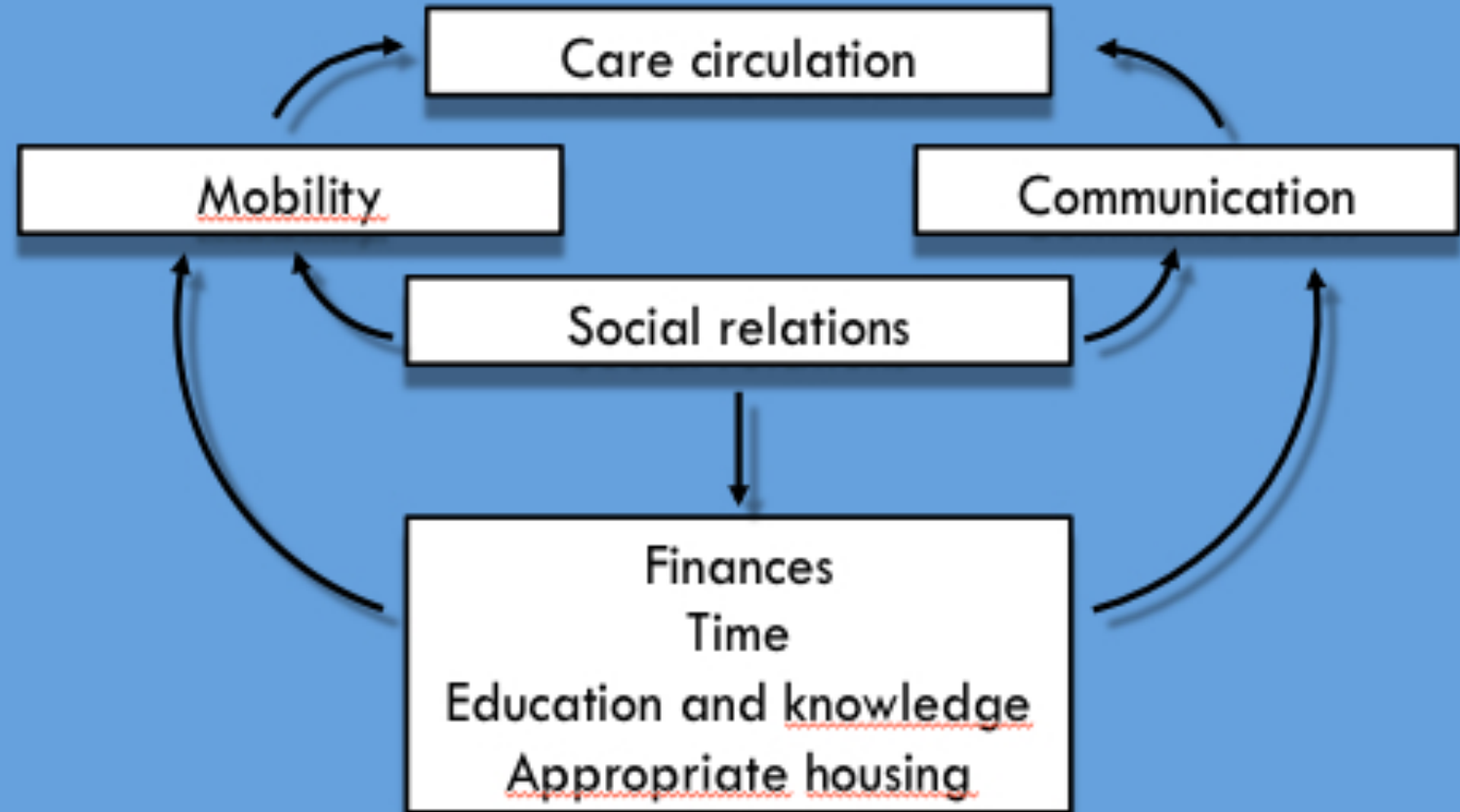
= A ‘circulation of care’ operates within transnational family networks of solidarity, in multiple directions, with various levels of intensity over the life course, both intra-and inter-generationally, and in situations of physical or virtual co-presence.

HOW DO POLICIES INFLUENCE THE CIRCULATION OF CARE?



- Access to, and use of necessary resources for transnational flows of care
- Influenced by formal and informal policies at the cross-section of various regimes (Kilkey & Merla, 2014)

RESOURCES



INFLUENCE OF INSTITUTIONAL CONTEXTS

Migration regime

Entry/exit/residency rights
Access to labour market and social security
Overarching approach of migration

Gendered care regime

Right to 'give care'
Right to 'receive care'

Gendered care cultures

Welfare regime

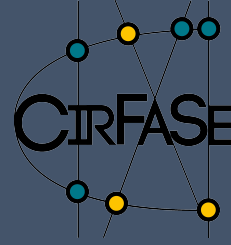
Quality of social rights

Portability rules

Social employment regime

Quality of employment:
- Wages
- Stability
- Work/family balance

4. MOVING FORWARD...



- Theoretically: We need a more substantive approach of defamilialization that simultaneously:
 - articulates a macro-level social policy analysis of defamilialization with the micro-level of the individuals who actually support or benefit from defamilialization policies;
 - critically addresses the fact that the desire to give and receive care has been marginalised in the current dominant conceptualization of defamilialization
 - Takes transnational phenomena into account
- Politically: It is necessary to think of the possibility to extend the coverage of defamilialization policies to migrant workers while facilitating their access to the resources that sustain family solidarity in a geographically 'non proximate' situation.