



DeZim Lecture Series on Transnational families
May 20th, 2022

Transnational family research: future trends and challenges

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Menu

- Locating this talk
- Looking back
- A changing world?
- Looking forward





Locating this talk

- Personal background & Research expertise
- Main geographical entry



Looking back

From “migrant” to “transnational families”



**MIGRATION AS A ONE-WAY
MOVEMENT**



TRANSNATIONAL & MOBILITY TURN

FEMINIST SCHOLARSHIP ON
TRANSNATIONAL MOTHERHOOD
TRANSNATIONAL FAMILIES

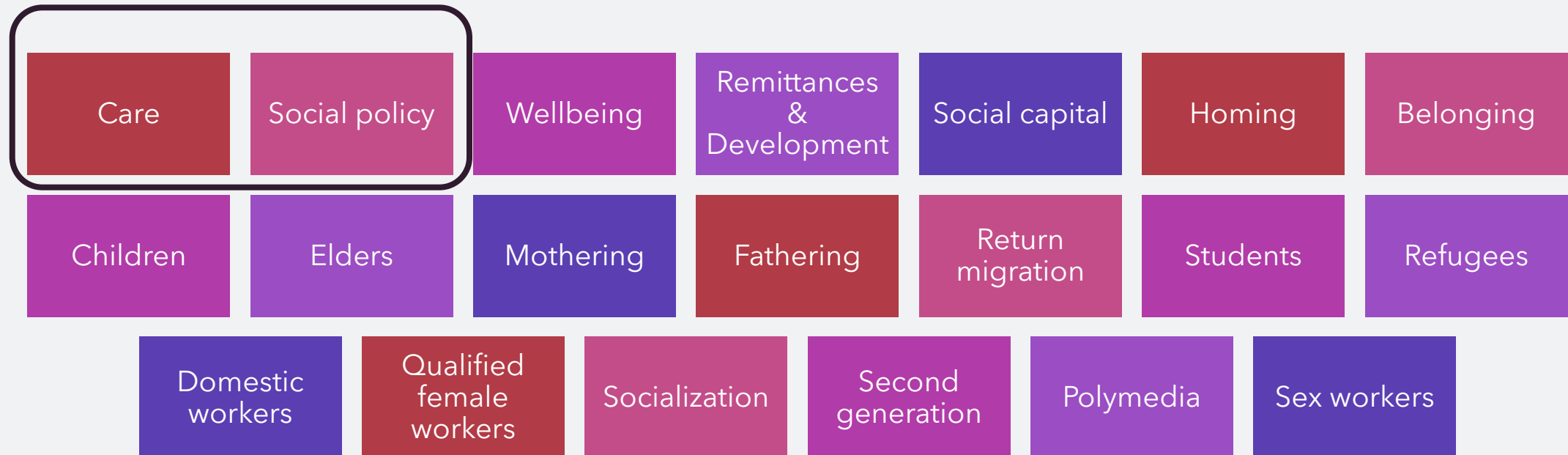
Transnational families =

families that live some or most of the time separated from each other, yet hold together and create something that can be seen as a feeling of collective welfare and unity, namely familyhood, even across national borders

(Bryceson and Vuorela 2002a, p. 18)

=> wide spectrum of situations

Variety of themes and lenses

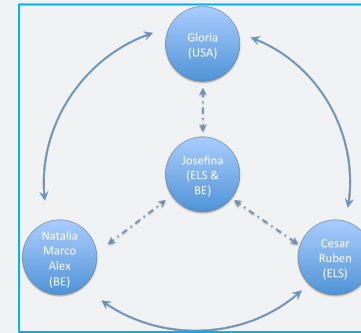
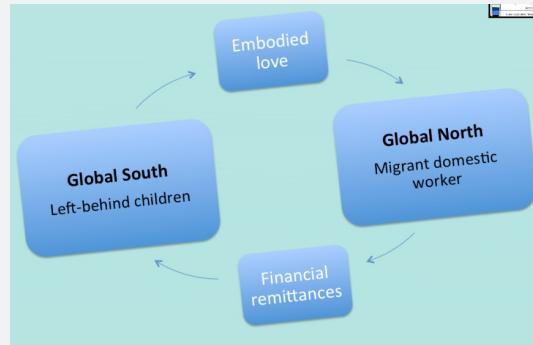


GLOBAL CARE CHAINS

(PARREÑAS; HOCHSCHILD)

“a **series** of personal **links** between **people** across the globe based on the paid or unpaid **work of caring**”

(Hochschild 2000: 131)



CARE CIRCULATION

(BALDASSAR & MERLA)

« **Reciprocal, multidirectionnal** and **asymmetrical** exchange of **care** within **family networks**, that fluctuates over the **life course**, subject to the political, economic, cultural and social **contexts** of both sending and receiving societies »

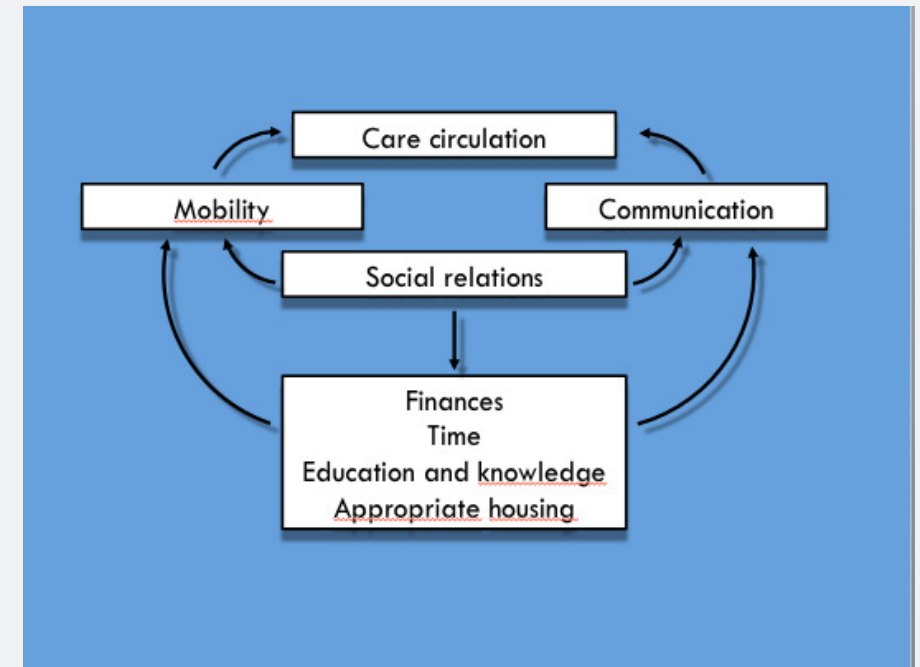
(Baldassar & Merla 2014: 22)

Care circulation

Networks & life-course perspective
Local family cultures & Kinship systems
Invisible participants

Forms of care practices
Factors influencing (non-)participation

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				



Forms of care practices
Factors influencing (non-)participation
Policy implications

The form and degree of participation in care flows derive from a dialectic between:

- *Capacity*
 - *Culturally defined « obligation »*
 - *Negotiated family commitments*
- (Baldassar, Baldock & Wilding, 2007)

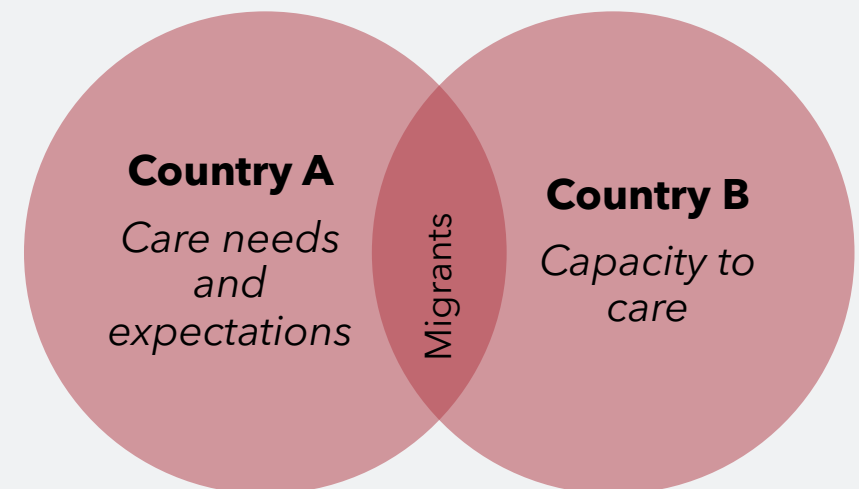
And...

- *The social and cultural definition of care needs*

⇒ **Need to understand the institutional/normative contexts in which family members are 'situated'**

⇒ **'Situated transnationalism'**

(Kilkey & Merla, 2014)



SOCIAL POLICY

Situated transnationalism

Institutions and relevant parameters

Migration regime

Gendered care regime

Welfare regime

Social employment
regime Prieto, fc



Transport



Communication



Banking





A changing world? |



Covid-19

Climate crisis

New conflicts

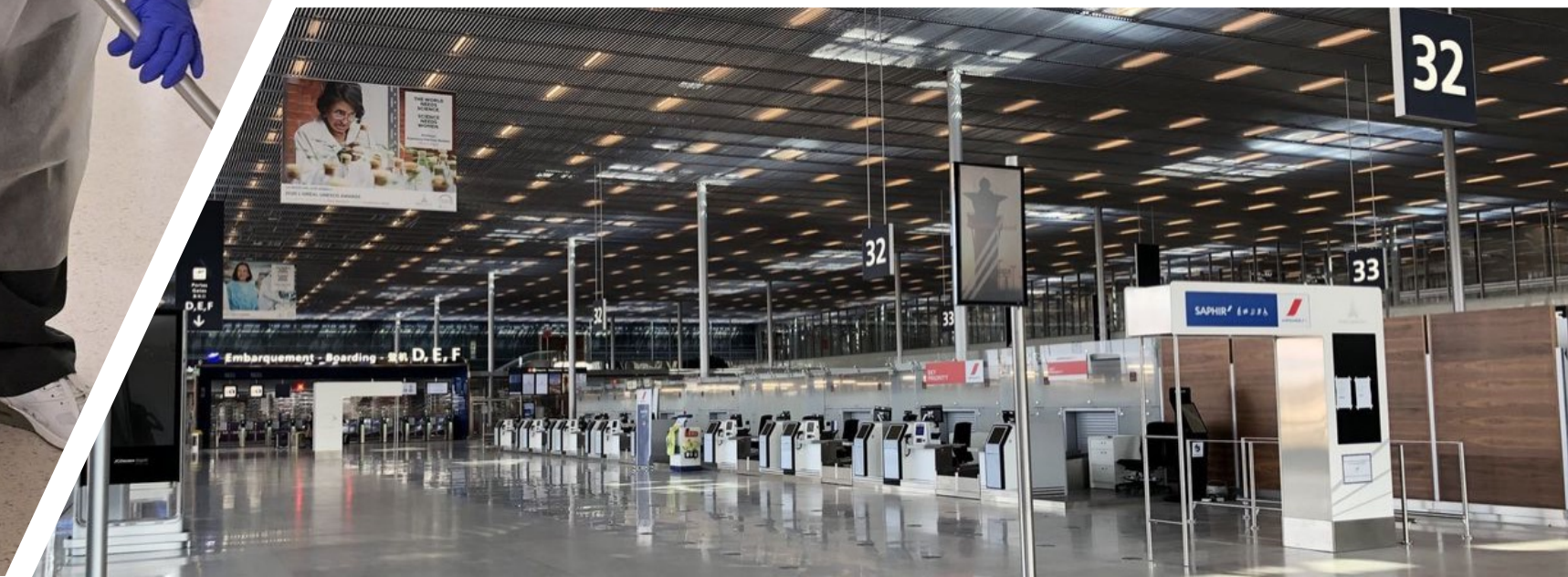
Enforced
temporariness

Borders
closure

Rising
populism

Anti-gender &
Anti-migrant
mobilisations

...





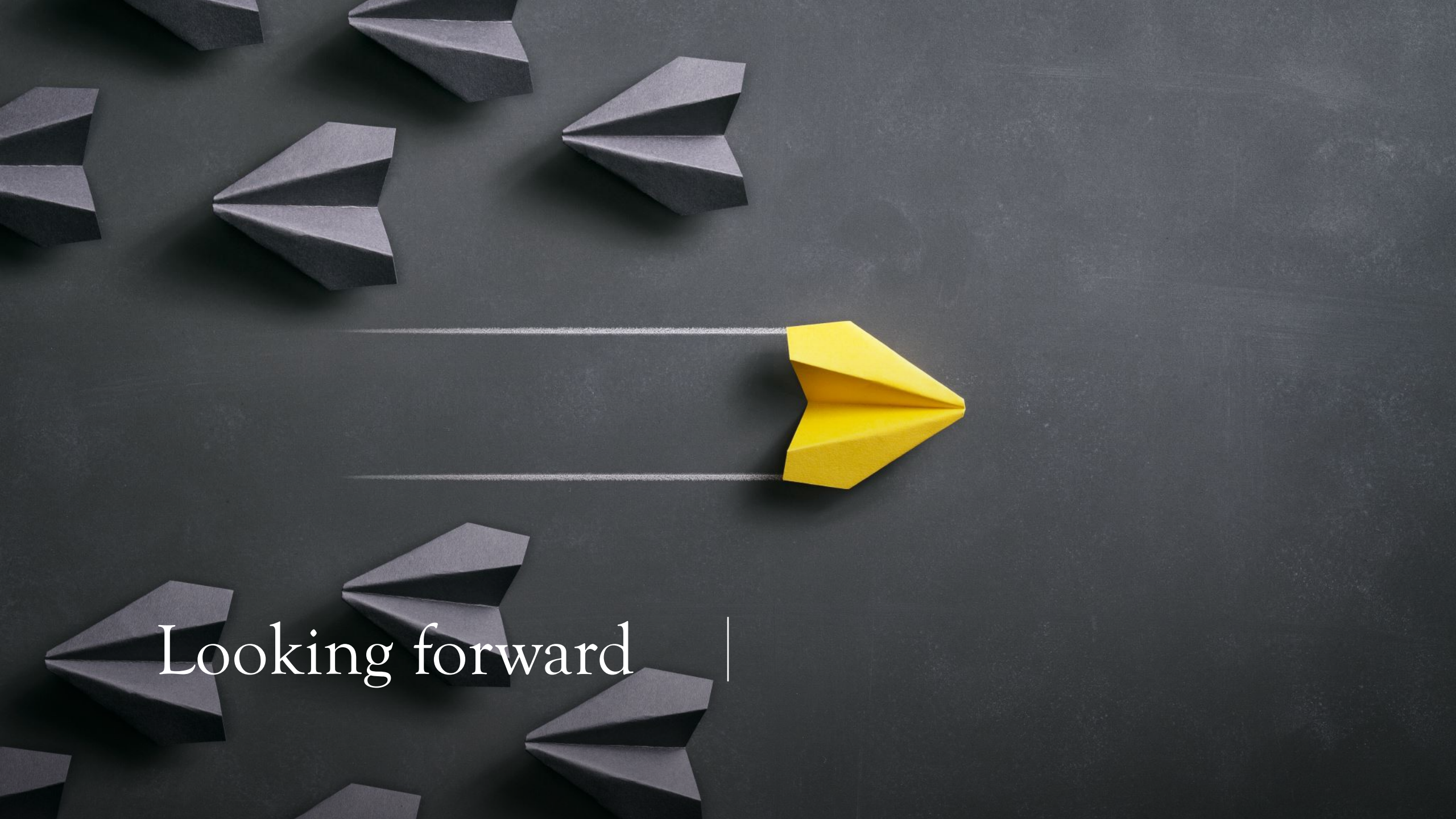
NASCITE AI MINIMI STORICI

L'ITALIA
HA BISOGNO
DI FIGLI

NON DI UNIONI GAY
E IMMIGRATI



FORZA
FN



Looking forward |

Key epistemological, scientific and political turn



- Crossing the boundaries between
 - Disciplines and fields of research
 - Migrants/non-migrants; Transnational/multilocal/local families

⇒ *Design research that:*

⇒ Continues to highlight the specificities of TNFs in order to recognize and support them locally and transnationally in the current context (=> importance of transnational social protection lens!)

(cf Bilecen, Faist, Levitt, Oso Casas, Serra Mingot & Mazzucato...)

⇒ Examines common practices and experiences between TNFs and other family forms

- Ex: Transnational/multilocal families=> “Multilocal habitus” (Merla et al., 2021) cf multiple frames of reference; co-presence and belonging; power relations

Key epistemological, scientific and political turn



- Deconstructing hetero-normative definitions of 'family' and dominant scientific normativities = making space for the epistemologies of the "South"
 - Ex: Vuckovic Juros 2022; Fresnoza-Flot & Wang, 2021
- Making the economic and societal contribution of TNFs visible
 - Inspired by feminist scholarship on unpaid domestic work's contribution to GDP!

Thank you!