

talist economy in the Czech post-communist experience.

In summary, this is a valuable and interesting contribution to the study of social capital that is not done justice by its title: its relevance extends well beyond the realm of transition countries. In fact, any student or analyst concerned with social capital, its formation and measurement and its socio-economic impact would be well advised to read it, even if they have little or no interest in the process of post-communist transition.

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V. Burau, H. Theobald and R. H. Blank:
Governing Home Care – A Cross-National Comparison, Globalization and Welfare
Northampton, MA, 2007: Edward Elgar Publishing, 224 pp.

This book provides a solid and fresh account of professional and informal home care governance in a cross-national comparison. The group of case studies, many of which with developed long-term care systems, includes several European countries such as Germany, Sweden, the Netherlands, the UK, Estonia, Italy, Japan, New Zealand, and the US. The share of older people living alone is steadily increasing in most of these countries. This could suggest an increased future need for formal care services, particularly for women over 75 years of age. The opening chapter provides a concise overview of the current demographic situation in these countries, focusing on population ageing. Over the next fifteen years the share of the population aged 80 or more will grow rapidly; certain countries like Italy and Germany will be strongly affected with figures around 8% of the total population.

Although there initially appears to be some slight confusion about the definition of informal care, Chapter 5 clearly exposes

the difficulty of installing clear borders around the subject of home care. Recent innovations in this field have understandably blurred the boundary between institutional, informal and professional home care. Countries such as Italy, the Netherlands, the UK, Sweden and Germany provide various types of attendance allowances with the aim of providing beneficiaries with the means to finance in-kind services at home or in institutional care, or to serve as 'routed wages' to pay for informal carers [Huber et al. 2009]. Similarly, in Nordic countries such as Denmark, the line between home and institutional care has become more difficult to define, as housing arrangements where beneficiaries pay rent for adapted individual apartments that provide care are replacing part of the care previously found in care homes [Lewinter 2004]. In Chapter 6 the authors tackle some of the conflicts that arise in terms of regulations, funding and professional training of the home carers across the countries in the study. In the US for example, Medicaid applies rigorous means-testing and serves generally only the most needy, so often the most qualified and registered workers will be employed in care homes, while home carers are more likely to be less-qualified and less formally trained, and many of them are foreign nationals with low wages/benefits, including healthcare. In addition, the topic of home care is complex to study not least because it cannot be analysed without taking into account other factors. The authors rightly expose the fact that home care is closely connected to social and economic policy in general and therefore cannot be understood in isolation from living arrangements.

With these complexities in mind, this book introduces the notion of governance as a fresh way to capture the complex variety of coordination that one finds for home care, including its funding, delivery and rules. The essence of the book is therefore to critically review both the literature of social care and social policy in order to dis-

cuss the latter's contribution to analysing home care governance. In order to achieve this, the authors first provide a detailed conceptual framework. The latter focuses on the analysis of home care governance by mapping out both *ideas* and *institutions* that underpin the governance of home care in the selected countries. The authors clearly show that, as with ideas, the social and political institutions which underpin the governance of the support of informal care are broadly similar to those of the governance of formal care services. Nevertheless, they illustrate the different allowances/benefits that informal carers are entitled to receive from the state in the countries selected. This bird's eye view of home care enables the reader to come to a better understanding of some of the major impediments to the strong performance of home care for the countries of the study, namely the *fragmentation* of governing arrangements with responsibilities spread across different levels and areas of services. In summary, the analytical chapters suggest two things. First, professional home care deals both with health-care aspects and social care related needs. However, in several countries, such as the UK, both aspects fall within the responsibility of separately organised services. This makes for considerable fragmentation, not least as the division in terms of the delivery is often mirrored in divisions in terms of the funding of services. Second, another type of division stems from the fact that different types of providers (notably public and private for non-profit providers) often exist side by side. This is linked in part to the first type of fragmentation, as health-care services are more often likely to be run by public providers.

It is these public/private and social/health dichotomies within the governance of home care that cripple the availability and ultimately the quality of formal care services which are not only highly decentralised but also lack cohesion on a political level. From the second type of fragmen-

tation, the likelihood of integration is nonetheless higher in cases where delivery is public. Furthermore, while strong formal care governance is crucial to the quality of life of dependent elderly people, many countries, and especially Italy within this study, still rely on family support to take care of their elderly relatives. In this scenario, the woman is typically the one caring full-time for her elderly relatives while her partner earns a living. A potential weakness is that Italy is the only formal 'Southern' case study for this crucial section. The authors divided the various family models into four main categories, and chose to focus on two: the female part-time carer model of the male breadwinner family, and the dual breadwinner/female care model. Both scenarios assign the main responsibility of care to women despite the fact that many of them also work part time. Some countries have chosen to focus on supporting either formal or informal care services. Japan and Germany were selected as interesting examples as they have developed public funding schemes to support *both* informal and formal care, mainly through their long-term care insurance.

The authors describe some of the sociological stigma which underpins the framing of formal care in the countries studied. The gender norm varies highly from Italy to Sweden, which in turn affects the governance of home care. Indeed, in a country such as Italy or Japan, which is more in favour of family care, so the women are either not working or very little, the working conditions will be less favourable. Consequently these carers who are offered little support can feel themselves to be under significant strain and this in turn can affect the quality of their informal care. These same women will have problems remaining in gainful employment in a professional environment that offers little tolerance and/or flexibility to employees with caring responsibilities. As Eurobarometer surveys [2008] have recently revealed, those same

carers who have a preference for their elderly relatives being cared for by a family member are also those who feel they are under tremendous strain to balance all obligations. On the other hand, in a country like Sweden, where the gender culture is based on the primacy of formal care in the context of female full-time employment as typical of the dual breadwinner/institutional care model, the latter offers better conditions for the development of formal care services.

The authors rightly state that home care is a highly *gendered* area of governance which remains overwhelmingly informal and largely women's work. While this is true, it should nonetheless be pointed out that men do provide a lot of care, particularly to their partners. This occurs mainly later in their life, that is, usually once they have retired. Overall across Europe men provide approximately one-third of care, a non-negligible share [Eurofamcare 2005]. The authors describe at length a key item on the agenda of policy-makers, namely the sustainability of women as informal carers. The risk of *care gaps* arising owing to the increase in part of female employment could signal a need for more formal home care, in particular in view of most people's preference to 'age in place'. Chapter 4 clearly explains the financial constraints facing governments who are caught trying to meet the EU's Lisbon Agenda while facing an increasingly old population and decreasing resources.

To conclude, the book accomplishes what it set out to do, namely, to provide a rich comparative account of the various challenges affecting home care governance. It does so while taking into account the sociological, gender, economic, demographic and policy aspects without championing one country as a 'best practice'. This was a very ambitious task with a large set of case studies. Its main weakness is that it perhaps covers too much geographical ground (Asia, Europe and North America) with countries having inherited entirely different

gender cultures and socio-economic conditions. A smaller number of country studies might have allowed a deeper analysis of the issues. The book nonetheless offers a highly stimulating overview of the main challenges currently faced by home carers, which can be useful to researchers working in this area on how home care governance may be influenced.

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Jan Drahokoupil: *Globalization and the State in Central and Eastern Europe. The Politics of Foreign Direct Investment*
London and New York 2009: Routledge,
237 pp.

This book is a particularly interesting and innovative example of the transitology literature. It undoubtedly concerns economics, but the topics of policy creation and im-