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WHO CARES IN EUROPE?
CALL FOR PAPERS: KEYWORDS READER

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Care, welfare, or dependency: all three are keywords, which shifted their meanings throughout the last centuries. In all three cases we are well aware of the modulations of the terms and the network of the words. Conceptual history and historical semantics offer approaches to examine keywords and to use them as means for getting insights in cultural and social formations. Books by the Welsh thinker Raymond Williams and the German sociologist Stephan Lessenich provide us with first collections of keywords. Among them are some which inform our studies on the history of care and the mixed economy of welfare.

In light of these contributions, we would like to invite the members of the COST Action "Who cares in Europe" to work on a keywords reader, which is concentrated on the terms important to understand the history of care and welfare. While most existing essays and books cover only one language, the project aims on preparing a multilingual collection. In doing so it reflects on how our use of terms changes, when modulations in different languages are considered.

Moreover, we are interested in collecting a wide range of keywords, so as to extend the scope beyond core terms like care and welfare. Dependency, vulnerability, solidarity, voluntarism, need etc. name some examples, which are worth examining closer.

Another starting point could be to look at how ministries or authorities, which were responsible for providing care and welfare, were designated in the past. How did professional titles of social or care workers change? Which terms existed with regard to categories of persons in need of care?

We are planning to publish the keywords reader exclusively online (e.g. word-cloud, blog, wiki). Brief entries will shed some light on the modulations of words through time and in different languages. Furthermore, relations between different keywords will be highlighted. We hope to provide a collection which will inform out network as well as other researchers interested in the history of care. Such a keywords reader might also be useful to those organizing and administer care work, given the fact that European integration makes it increasingly necessary to translate terms and concepts.

There are two modes (ways) of participating in our project:

1. We would like to ask all of you to send us potential keywords, which you think should be covered. As already mentioned, terms in different languages are of interest, but a translation or description in English would be helpful. Also, please recommend any literature, which

deals with terms and concepts connected to the history of care and welfare. Feel free to reach out to us via e-mail or post your ideas directly into our shared document, which you can find here:

https://docs.google.com/document/d/1iAV3acS0tzmfP6C4cm45k4xv0rmQs6XcTGmhAhuy kZw/edit?usp=sharing

2. Those who are interested in writing an entry, are invited to send us some sentences explaining what you could contribute to a semantics of care and welfare in the past. Please let us know before April 30 2022 if you would like to join us. We are about to prepare an online workshop, which will take place in June. This would give us the opportunity to discuss the range of keywords and the structure of the online publication of the keywords reader.

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