Care and Wellbeing – Inequalities in Context

Societies around the world undergo substantial transformations, with profound challenges emerging in the realm of social inequality, care and well-being. In addition to population ageing, support needs and potentials are changing worldwide, not only but especially in old age. The question of how to address growing inequalities in generational solidarity and social support has been central for social scientists and policymakers not just since COVID-19. Informal, private care is an important social resource, but at the same time it represents a new, yet underexposed dimension of social inequality: Caregiving responsibilities and burdens are distributed unequally and depend on the policy context – which is also crucial for the effects on health and well-being of informal caregivers. The presentation will shed light on recent findings on the relationship between inequality, caregiving and well-being across Europe in order to identify possible fields of action and intervention in different care regimes and across the life course.