Grandparenthood, grandparenting and wellbeing

It is known that family relationships play a key role in shaping individuals’ well-being across the entire life course, particularly in later life. In pandemic times, however, policies aiming at minimising hospitalisations and deaths caused by COVID-19 encouraged older people to reduce physical interactions. For grandparents in most European countries, this often meant stopping to take care of their grandchildren. Against this background, this presentation will show empirical evidence on the effects of grandparenthood on grandparents’ well-being and discuss the toll that the pandemic took on their mental health.