

The Simone de Beauvoir Institute presents

Care Work that Matters?

The Politics of Care in
Transitional Periods of
Women's Life Courses

MU-401 at noon on Wed., March 29th, 2017



Nina Reggi

In this seminar, scholars Nina Reggi and Alex Rau discuss the “politics of care” and how useful it is for their respective research. The main focus of their perspective is on “life course.” Their perspective allows them to understand how gender intersects

with other categories and is regulated differently compared to other categories such as “age” or “body.” Their examination of different biographical landmarks helps them to show how mechanisms of power and exclusion work along one’s life course. In Germany, the “regime of life course” (with its regulations coming through laws and school, health and pension systems) is tightly connected to the labor system. Reggi and Rau argue that interlocking mechanics between labor and biography transpire a conception of the employment process that is white and male. Carework is invisible in such a regime, thus excluded from the norm and the normative biographical employment history. Reggi and Rau look at two specific transitional periods and how they are interconnected by the politics of care to regulate a specific (female) life course.

Alex Rau

Featuring Visiting Scholars:

**Alex Rau &
Nina Reggi**



Nina Reggi is a Ph.D. candidate and assistant lecturer at the Ludwig-Maximilian University of Munich, in the Faculty of Cultural Studies' Institute of European Ethnology. In her doctoral project, she uses a feminist perspective to examine existing political strategies focused on work-family balance in Germany. Her dissertation is funded by the Hans-Böckler Foundation.

Alex Rau is a cultural anthropologist focusing on feminist theory, precarity, social inequality and aging studies. Her Ph.D. examines the everyday life of women dealing with old age and poverty. She is a member of the international doctoral program “Transformations in European Societies” at the Ludwig-Maximilian University of Munich.