

Age and Care Graz 2023

September 21, 2023:

11.15-12.45 Keynote 2: Kelli Stajduhar

“Caring in the Context of Inequities: Reflections on Care Work at the End-of- Life”

Living with a life-limiting condition brings many challenges, not the least of which are considerations of how one is cared for as their health declines. For many older adults in the Global North, the majority of care work involved in palliative and end-of-life care is provided by bio-legal family or close friends and relatives. Normative assumptions associated with care work, however, can obscure the very important, yet sometimes invisible, contributions made by others in the name of care. Drawing on research from studies of older people positioned as structurally vulnerable and who are at the end-of-life, I will argue for a more expansive definition and/or consideration of family care work, highlighting how essential this is to promote equitable policy and practices for care at the end-of-life.