



NOVE PERSPEKTIVE V
 HUMANISTIKI IN DRUŽBOSLOVJU
 NEW PERSPECTIVES IN HUMANITIES
 AND SOCIAL SCIENCES

Caring Frontiers: A Marxist Feminist and Anarcha-feminist approach

The term “care” has become a buzzword in academic discourse over the past five years, even though feminist scholars have been exploring the concept since the 1970s. Care is a pivotal component of reproductive labor, a form of labor that is typically unpaid and carried out predominantly by women. At the same time, the erosion of the welfare state through neoliberal policies has weakened state-funded institutions that provide essential services such as healthcare and education. Pervasive austerity measures and substantial bureaucratization have further exacerbated inefficiencies within state-provided healthcare, particularly for the most vulnerable segments of society, including sick people, the elderly, children, and people with disabilities.

Contributors are invited to explore the manifold forms of care, including both the visible and invisible dimensions of caring, through the theoretical frameworks of Marxist feminism and anarcha-feminism. The objective of this panel is to elicit inquiries within the overarching framework of the politics of care. Key questions include who assumes responsibility for everyday caring labor – whether paid or unpaid – when the state fails to provide essential care. In other words, on whom does the burden of this failure fall?

The panel will focus on the progressively expanding frontiers of capitalism and the repercussions of this expansion for care labor. The objective is to explore the politics of care by employing a theoretical framework that incorporates Marxist feminism and anarcha-feminism. This approach has two primary goals. First, it seeks to

deepen theoretical understandings of these complexities. Second, it aims to explore collective praxis in the context of the ongoing systemic crisis.

We invite theoretically informed and empirically grounded papers from sociology, political science, anthropology, history, and related fields. Contributions from PhD students and early-career scholars are particularly welcome.

Possible topics include, but are not limited to:

- Frontiers of care: neoliberalism, welfare state, and politics of care
- Reproductive labor as care labor
- Caring on the margins: undocumented migrants, sex work, surrogacy, reproductive labor
- Gender-affirming care
- Pre- and post-pandemic worlds of care
- Mutual aid, solidarity, and care
- Movement politics and care politics
- The right-wing world of care
- Social media trends and care
- Thinking beyond the known: political imagination and politics of care
- Caring inside war zones
- Caring Academia?
- Environmental care: Nonhuman animals and the plant kingdom

Through these topics, we aim to address current challenges and explore potential solutions within and beyond statist frameworks. We ask potential contributors to examine questions of care within the current crisis of capitalism. More importantly, we ask how the failure of the state has contributed to alternative ways of organizing, while at the same time opening space for neofascist trends.