AfCAS: ASSOCIATION FOR CUTLURALLY APPROPRIATE SERVICES
21st October, 2019
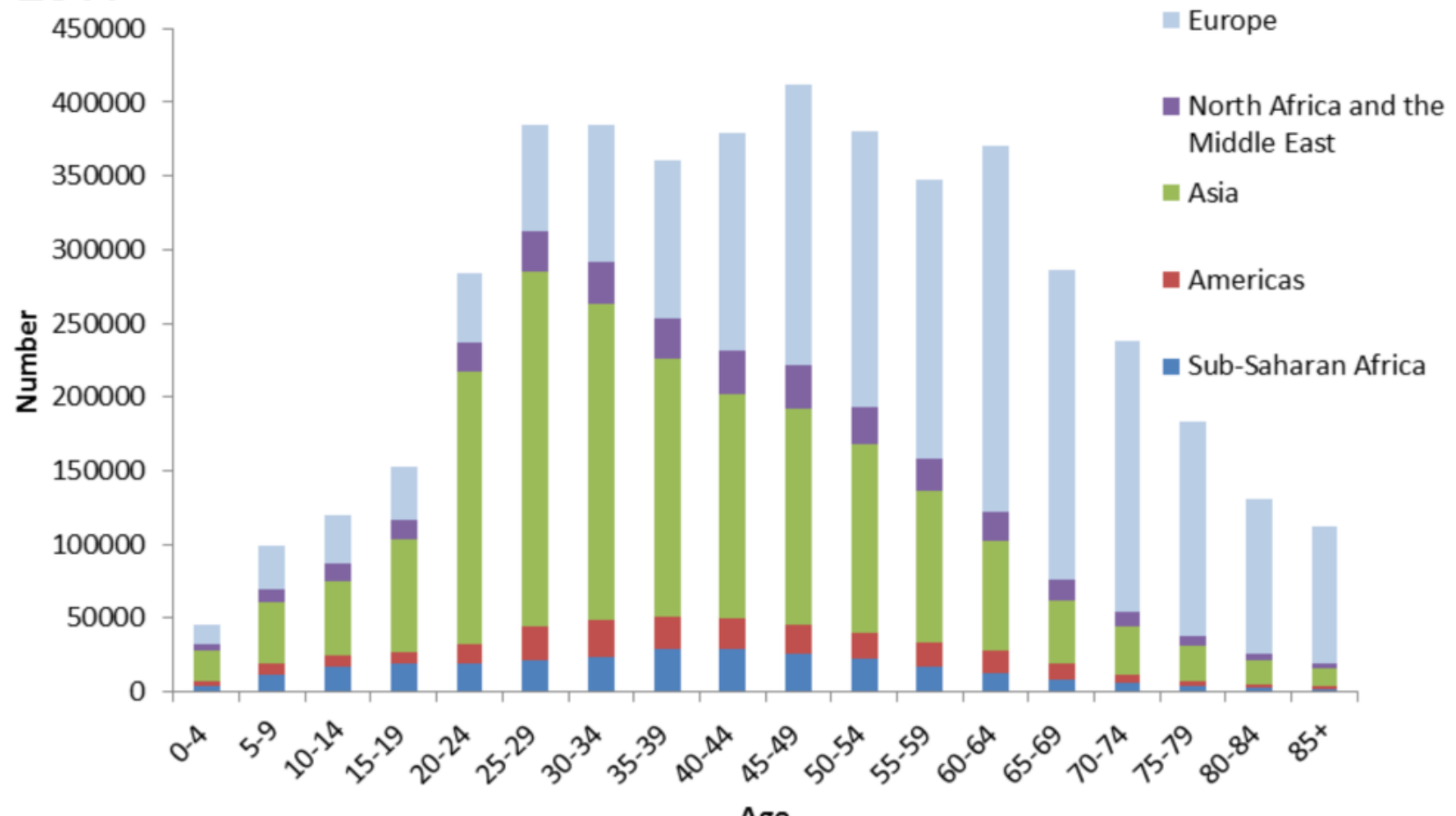### William St Family Therapy Centre

Migration, Ageing and Digital Kinning: The role of distant care support networks in experiences of ageing well

Loretta Baldassar
Anthropology & Sociology
UWA

Raelene Wilding,
Sociology
La Trobe University

CALD Ageing

Region of Birth of the Overseas born Population by Age, Australia, 2011

Legend:
- Europe
- North Africa and the Middle East
- Asia
- Americas
- Sub-Saharan Africa

CALD WORKFORCE

NARI NATIONAL AGEING RESEARCH INSTITUTE LTD
Bringing research to life

Subscribe to NARI's *Ageing Well* newsletter ❯

About us   People   Research   Publications   Education   Policy   News   Foundation

Home » News » News from NARI » Experiences of migrant CALD care workers in aged care – PhD study

What are the experiences of migrant care workers from Culturally and Linguistically Diverse backgrounds in providing care for people living with dementia in residential aged care facilities?

That is the question that PhD student Bola Adebayo will be answering as part of her PhD study. Bola is a migrant and an overseas trained dentist from Nigeria; her research interests are in public health, focusing primarily on migrants' health.
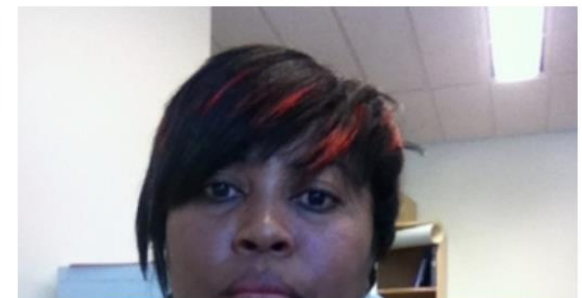
"Dementia is often a common reason for admission into residential aged care facilities, and more than 90 percent of residents with dementia are expected to develop significant behavioural challenges which predisposes them to be dependent on the care workers," Bola said.

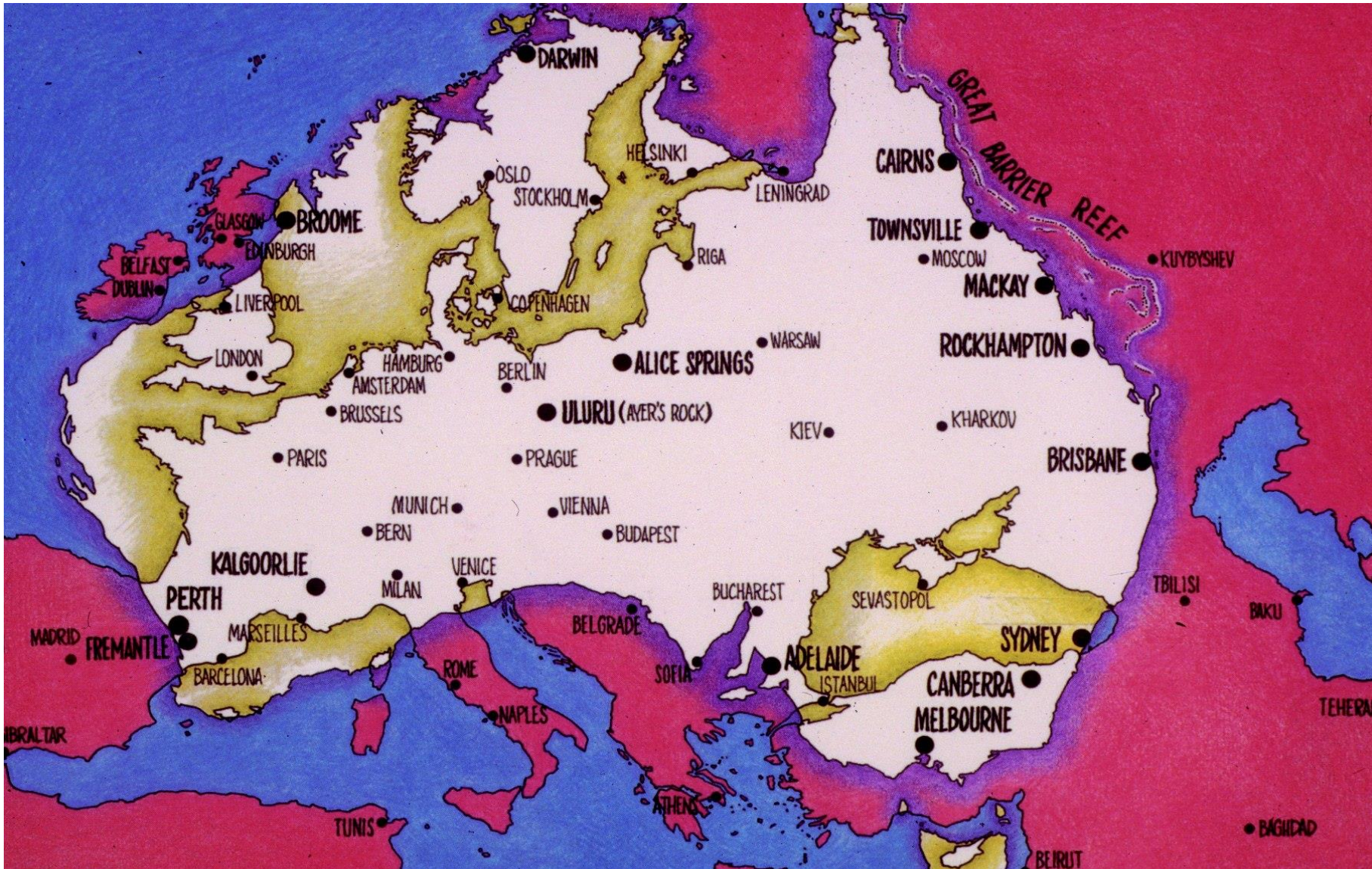"This can result in poor health for both residents and care-workers."

Her focus on migrant CALD care workers is topical given their strong representation in residential aged care facilities. According to the 2016 National Aged Care Workforce Census and Survey conducted by the National Institute of Labour Studies, 32 per cent of residential aged care workers were born overseas.

Her study will look in depth at patient care assistants, registered and enrolled nurses from Indian, Filipino and Nigerian backgrounds. Bola will conduct in-depth

Experiences of migrant CALD ca
aged care – PhD study

new technologies are transforming relationships, and in the process transforming relations of care and support, by impacting on who is called upon to care and what and how that care is provided

Transnational Families

Baldassar, L (2014) Too sick to move: distant 'crisis' care in transnational families, *International Review of Sociology*, 24(3): 391-405

Baldassar, L. (2017) 'Transnational migration, families and identities: Australian perspectives', in Boese, M. & Marotta, V. (eds) *Critical reflections on Migration, 'Race' and Multiculturalism: Australia in a global context.* Routledge.

Ageing in Place

Access to Social Networks

Appropriate Housing

Accessible Neighbourhoods

Access to Health Care Services

Access to transport

Nutrition and Physical Activity

THE UNIVERSITY OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA

Ageing & New Media 2016-2019

Research Associates UWA

Dr Adele Millard
Dr Emanuela Sala
Ms Catriona Stevens
Ms Anne Andersen

Postdoctoral Fellows
Dr Łukasz Krzyżowski
(Polish Ministry of Science)
Dr Rosa Brandhorst
(German Research Foundation)

Research Associates La Trobe

Dr Andrew Gilbert
Mr Shane Worrell
Mr Samiro Mohamad
Ms Lwe Pree
Ms Kiran Kaur
Dr Janet Congues

PhD Students
Ms Cheng Loo
Ms Hien Nguyen

Honours Student
Ms Rachael McMinn

Chief Investigator
Prof Loretta Baldassar
Anthropology & Sociology
UWA

Chief Investigator
A/Prof Raelene Wilding
Sociology
La Trobe University

Ageing and New Media METHODS

THE UNIVERSITY OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA

Ethnographic Case studies:
Australian   UK
Italian   Polish
Chinese   Vietnamese
Indian   Karen

DIGITAL KINNING

- a process that can facilitate and expand the support networks of older people, particularly those networks that are at risk of diminishing due to the impact of migration and mobility

- highlights the ways digital practices activate and fulfil obligations and responsibilities associated with kin roles, including among non-biological and geographically distant support network members; these practices are relational and often facilitated, embedded in relationships of care

- the concept of kinning (Howell 2003) - anthropology of adoption - emphasises the performance ('doing') of kinship, practices of becoming kin (replaces 'fictive kin')

- Marshall Sahlin's (2013) kinship: 'sharing a mutuality of being', not limited to blood-ties

Baldassar, L. & Wilding, R. (in press, 2019) Migration, Ageing and Digital Kinning: The role of distant care support networks in experiences of ageing well, THE GERONTOLOGIST Special Issue Ageing and Migration

Digital kinning practices support the access of older migrants to:

1) **essential sources of social connection and support**

2) **maintenance of cultural identity and**

3) **protection of social identity, including across distance.**

Social identity maintenance

Cultural identity maintenance

Social connection and support

Distant carers
New media carers

Rare Skype calls to Argentina and Italy facilitated during visits

Daughters
Daily phone calls
Weekly visits

Grandchildren
Monthly visits

Lina

Grandchildren
Reads Facebook posts daily

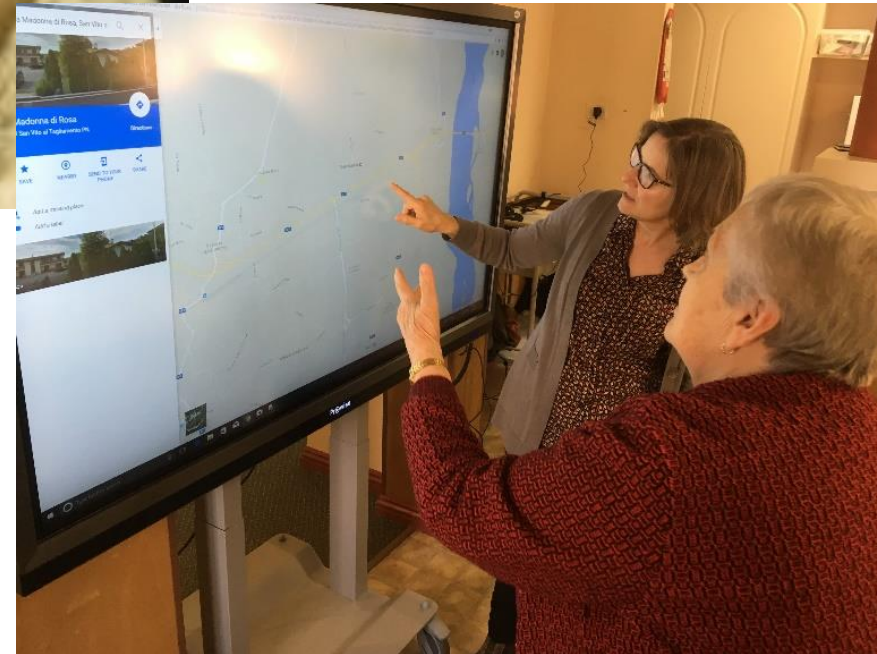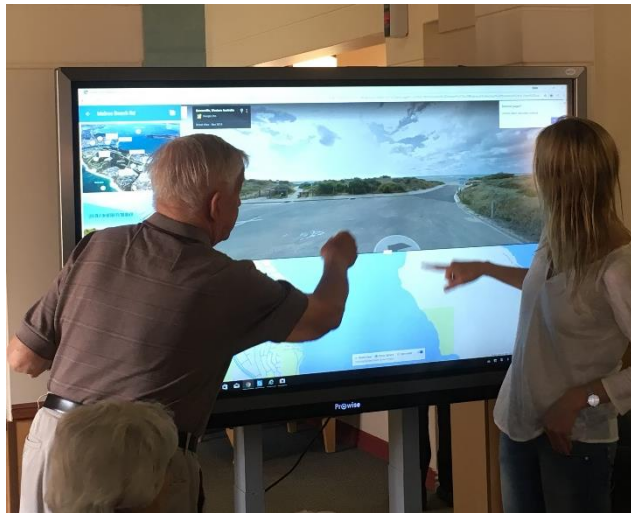Phones cousins in Argentina weekly/monthly

Date	Time	Extn No	Called/Calling No	Destination	Type		
2/04/2017	16:44:00	4615		Perth	Local	0:02:03	0.18
3/04/2017	15:13:00	4615		Mobile	Mobile	0:01:33	0.37
3/04/2017	18:44:00	4615		Perth	Local	0:00:52	0.18
5/04/2017	11:17:00	4615		Perth	Local	0:07:57	0.18
5/04/2017	15:13:00	4615		Perth	Local	0:01:18	0.18
7/04/2017	16:25:00	4615		Mobile	Mobile	0:01:32	0.37
10/04/2017	9:13:00	4615		Mobile	Mobile	0:01:10	0.28
12/04/2017	16:06:00	4615		Perth	Local	0:01:35	0.18
13/04/2017	11:40:00	4615		Perth	Local	0:02:01	0.18
13/04/2017	11:44:00	4615		Perth	Local	0:02:31	0.18
13/04/2017	13:07:00	4615		Perth	Local	0:00:35	0.18
13/04/2017	13:10:00	4615		Perth	Local	0:02:22	0.18
13/04/2017	13:14:00	4615		Perth	Local		
13/04/2017	14:52:00	4615		Perth	Local		
13/04/2017	16:29:00	4615		Perth	Local		
13/04/2017	16:45:00	4615		U.K.-Outer Londo	IDD		
13/04/2017	17:06:00	4615		Perth	Local		
13/04/2017	18:10:00	4615		Perth	Local		
14/04/2017	8:39:00	4615		Mobile	Mobile		
14/04/2017	11:19:00	4615		Perth	Local		
14/04/2017	16:37:00	4615		Perth	Local		
14/04/2017	16:41:00	4615		Mobile	Mobile		
14/04/2017	16:49:00	4615		Italy-Bologna	IDD	0	
14/04/2017	16:54:00	4615		Italy-Bologna	IDD	0	
14/04/2017	19:12:00	4615		U.K.-Outer Londo	IDD	0	
14/04/2017	19:16:00	4615		U.K.-Outer Londo	IDD	0	
14/04/2017	19:20:00	4615		U.K.-Outer Londo	IDD	0	
14/04/2017	19:25:00	4615		U.K.-Outer Londo	IDD	0	
15/04/2017	11:03:00	4615		Perth	Local	0	
15/04/2017	16:07:00	4615		Mobile	Mobile	0	
15/04/2017	16:52:00	4615		Margaret River	STD	0	
15/04/2017	18:51:00	4615		Italy	IDD	0	
15/04/2017	18:57:00	4615		Perth	Local	0	
15/04/2017	19:06:00	4615		Perth	Local	0	
15/04/2017	19:20:00	4615		Perth	Local	0	
15/04/2017	20:19:00	4615		Argentina-Mar'd'	IDD	0	
15/04/2017	20:44:00	4615		Italy	IDD	0	
17/04/2017	13:13:00	4615		Perth	Local	0	
18/04/2017	18:08:00	4615		Mobile	Mobile		

digital literacy is critical to distant care and support. Many older people require facilitated distant care to use ICTs

The effectiveness of digital kinning is reliant on access to affordable and reliable digital communication tools.

Although essential to the wellbeing of older migrants, distant support networks and the digital kinning practices that sustain them receive little attention from policy makers and health practitioners.

Organisations concerned with the care of older adults must improve awareness of distant support networks by supporting practices of 'digital kinning'.

This could range from including distant kin in healthcare plans to prioritising digital inclusion initiatives.
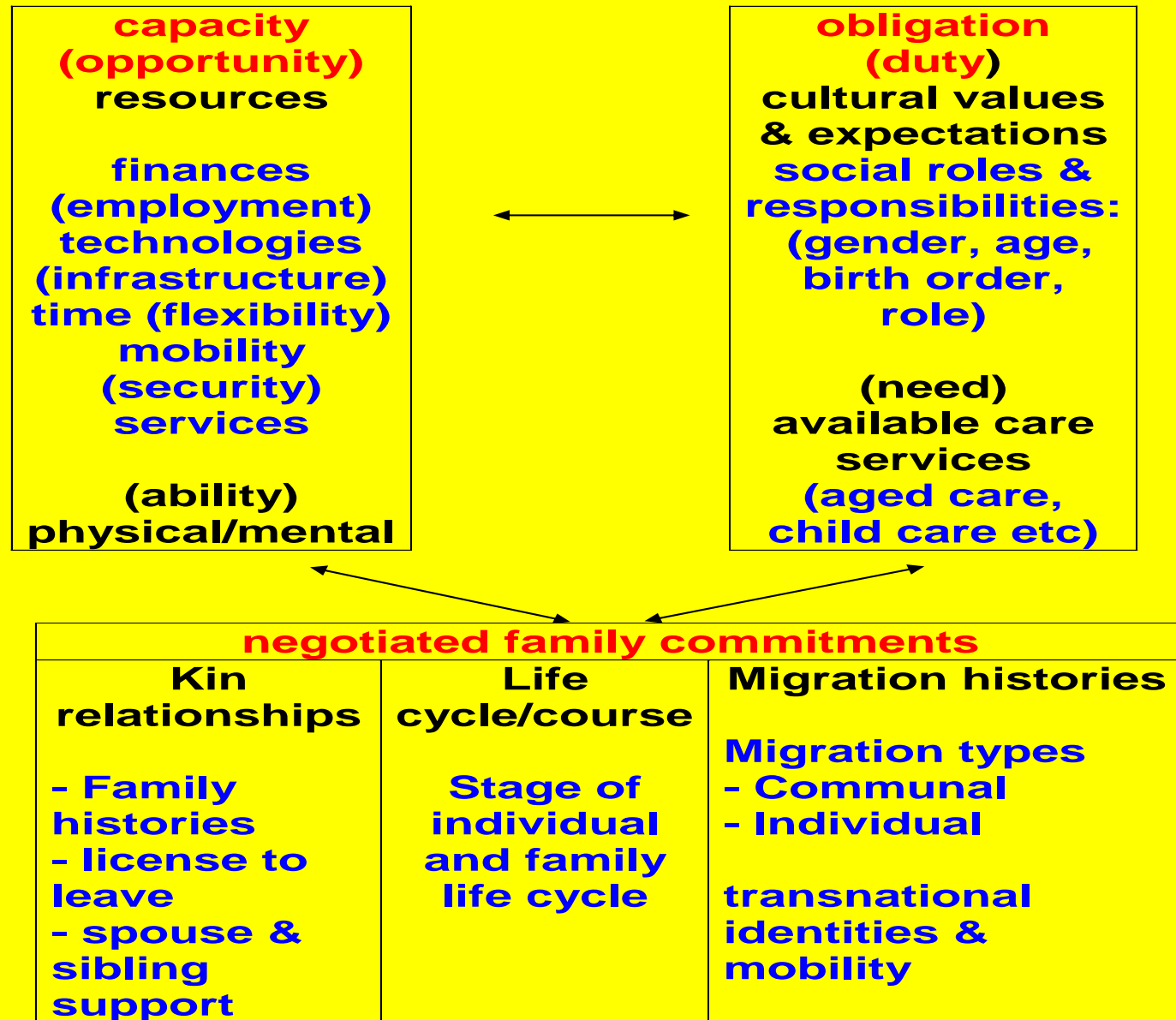
TRANSNATIONAL CAREGIVING

Types of care: (Finch 1989)	Financial	practical	Emotional and moral support	Accommodation/personal (hands on)
Modes of care:	Remittances gifts	ICTs & digital media: letters, cards, phone, Skype, email, SMS, social media platrofmrs		Visits (routine, duty, special, tourist)
Patterns of care:	Routine/quotidian; ritual; crisis			
Co-presence	Virtual; imagined; ambient; proxy			

Baldassar L Wilding R & Boccagni P Merla L 2017 Ageing in Place in a mobile world: new media and older people's support networks *Transnational Social Review.*

Baldassar L Nedelcu M Merla L & Wilding R 2016 Migration and New Media: 'being together' and 'co-presence' in transnational family life, *Global Networks*

Transnational Caregiving
BETWEEN migrant AND 'non-migrant' kin

capacity (opportunity)
resources

finances (employment)
technologies (infrastructure)
time (flexibility)
mobility (security)
services

(ability)
physical/mental

⟷

obligation (duty)
cultural values & expectations
social roles & responsibilities:
(gender, age, birth order, role)

(need)
available care services
(aged care, child care etc)

negotiated family commitments

Kin relationships	Life cycle/course	Migration histories
- Family histories - license to leave - spouse & sibling support	Stage of individual and family life cycle	Migration types - Communal - Individual transnational identities & mobility

ROUTLEDGE RESEARCH IN TRANSNATIONALISM

Transnational Families, Migration and the Circulation of Care

Understanding Mobility and Absence in Family Life

Edited by
Loretta Baldassar and Laura Merla

ROUTLEDGE

Care circulates between

- **Local carers**

- **Translocal carers**

- **Transnational carers**

– neighbours, family, friends, paid carers, community and religious services

Access is uneven - policy implications: generational divide

New technologies have expanded (migrant) support networks compared to past (including involvement of men and youth)

Polymedia offers potential, for the first time in history, the ability to control when and how we stay in touch across distance

This choice introduces a moral dimension (and set of obligations)

Mode of communication has a phatic function: an emotional reminder of the distant significant other

All communication forms and formats are sources of contestation as well as harmonious relations
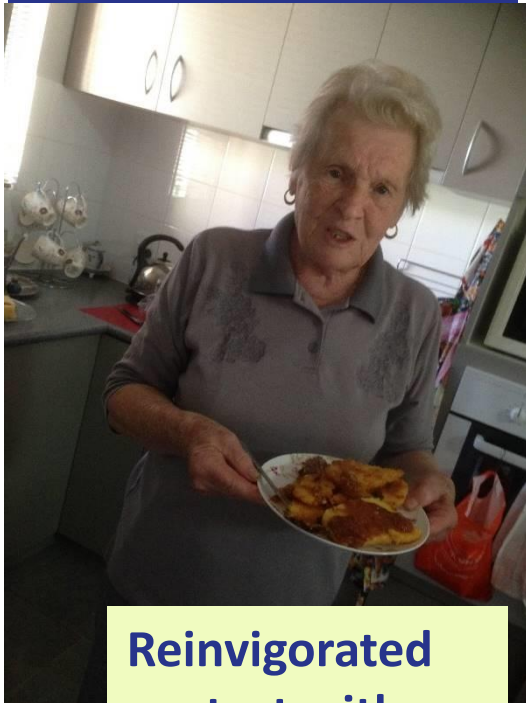
The role of Distant Support

Distant carers
New media carers

Distant Ritual contact with cousins: birthday; name day; Christmas 'we are close but we don't contact frequently'

Distant Monthly:
Nephews in NZ and EU
Email (Nina's preference)
Skype (their preference)
phone (ritual days)
Cards (post)

Local Daily:
Daughter and grand daughter local (visit)
Brother in Qld (phone; email)

Pina

Reinvigorated contact with extended kin due to funerals, Facebook, and Email

Local Weekly: cleaners; clients; doctors; carers; friend

Distant daily:
Hometown Facebook group

Frequency does not = closeness

KINNING

kinship concept 'unbiologicized' by Schneider (1984)

ideas about the family are formed not on the basis of what is given, but on what is done, performed and exchanged (Souralová 2015)

the process of *becoming* relatives - Signe Howell's (2003) concept of 'kinning'

"the process by which a new-born child… (or a previously unconnected person) is brought into a significant and permanent relationship with a group of people that is expressed in a kin idiom" (Howell, 2003, pp.465).

kinship is "something that is necessarily achieved in and through relationships with others" (*ibid*, pp.468).

kinship ties do not exist *a priori*, but are negotiated on a daily basis through diverse activities, with care-giving being the most significant of those activities.

Sahlins (2013) - kinship is an entirely cultural construction **–** even when it is biological **–** because the social bonds of kinship are culturally constructed - "mutuality of being": kinfolk are persons who participate intrinsically in each other's existence; they are members of one another (pix)'.

DIGITAL KINNING

- **helps to problematise the dichotomy between proximate and distant care**

- **highlights how support networks can be transformed – through the use of new media – into transnational social fields that bring the diaspora worlds of the migrants into the everyday worlds of the locals**

- **embedded in care circulation approach to examine a broader set of family and kinning relationships including formal and informal care services.**

- **highlights how new technologies are transforming practices and processes of care. Eg., some distant care relationships are constituted by digitnal kinning**

Stories and Skills

Belmont Local City Council Age Friendly Project (coordinated by Helen O'Sullivan)

Involved pairing local older resident and younger volunteer to create a life-story booklet

Included digital literacy training

Aims:

Reduce social isolation of elderly;

Foster intergenerational engagement and skills exchange;

Improve digital citizenship

Umbrella Internet Café

- Aged care service provider
- Meet to use the internet twice a week, and access other information and services
- Provided in a local community hall

Social learning, build trusted relationships, co-design, own pace

Residential Care large screen activities

Southern European residential care home weekly activities
- Sit dance involving seated movement to music
- technology and biscuit making, large screen activities including google maps, YouTube, etc.

Enhance social connections amongst residents and staff and visitors

Enliven living space, overcome language barrier with music and singing

Encourage story sharing, nostalgia, virtual visits home

- Increased social connection
- Improved skills using technology
- Increased self confidence
- Increased independence – e.g. online banking, shopping
- Connection to cherished memories – nostalgia and identity
- more connected to grandchildren, (with whom they can discuss technology)
- Learning and engaging brain activity
- Digital citizenship for social equity and access
- increase social support networks
- decrease isolation and
- expand service delivery
- Increase access to information and knowledge

Findings and recommendations

- Need to break down barriers from ageist ideas about older people and digital literacy
- Need to provide older people with opportunities to make informed decision about digital literacy learning
- Communication technology is social, and so is the process of learning about it
- Physical presence is important, but so are distant support networks (Overseas-born are more active technology users than Australian-born)
- Digital engagement requires simple (and friendly) opportunities to access the advice that is needed now (not just what the instructor wants to teach)
- Advice needs to be targeted to the person, not the product

Abraham Maslow's (1943/1954) *hierarchy of needs*