Provisional title:

“*Out of sight out of mind*. The dynamic of migration and family configuration among elderly immigrants in Switzerland.”

“*Out of sight out of mind*. Processes of family configuration among elderly immigrants in Switzerland.”

Abstract:

People make their family as much as it makes them. Family configuration for the elders is structured by complex factors such as gender, health, wealth and most of all the availability of a partner and of children or grandchildren. The creation of social capital for elderly people is crucial. Their everyday interactions as well as care provision, financial and emotional support, depend for them on the possibility of generating such social capital. Migration, as a life event, disrupts family social capital. Literature suggests that migrants’ family configurations are different from those of nationals. Empirical evidences are still needed in order to draw more fine conclusions about the family configuration of elderly migrants. Little is known about the effects or consequence in later life of the specificity of migrant families. This paper explore empirically the family social network of elderly migrants in Switzerland and the challenge they face due to their particular family configuration when compared to nationals.

Keywords : Older immigrants, Family configuration, Network analysis, Care, Support, Conflict.

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