

Jointly Organizes

THE FOURTH ANNUAL CONFERENCE ON
'REIMAGINING GENDER, AGEING AND CARE:
PERSPECTIVES FROM SOUTH ASIA'

In partnership with United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA)



ABOUT THE CONFERENCE

As India and much of the Global South grapple with shifting demographic trends, the question of eldercare has become increasingly urgent. This conference calls for a fundamental rethinking of ageing and eldercare as political, economic, and gendered concerns that lie at the heart of social reproduction. It asks: Who provides care in later life, and under what conditions? What infrastructures are necessary to enable dignified ageing? How are care needs and contributions of older persons rendered invisible in public discourse and policy? Who remains excluded from existing arrangements, and how might we reimagine care in ways that centre justice, equity, and dignity?

This conference foregrounds care not as an individual or familial obligation, but as a systemic and collective responsibility, highlighting how the organisation of care in later life is deeply intertwined with gendered labour markets, informal work, social protection deficits, and evolving household structures. It interrogates the residual and fragmented role of the state, alongside the expanding but uneven presence of market-based and community-supported care models. It also seeks to reframe ageing as a labour issue, and care as a critical site through which gendered experiences of ageing are negotiated.

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CALL FOR PAPERS

THIS IS A CALL FOR PAPERS FOR THE FOURTH ANNUAL
CONFERENCE ON REIMAGINING GENDER, AGEING AND CARE:
PERSPECTIVES FROM THE GLOBAL SOUTH

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CONFERENCE ORGANIZERS



Dr. S. Irudaya Rajan,
Chair, The International Institute of Migration
and Development, IIMAD Thiruvananthapuram



Dr. Sreerupa,
Research Fellow and Program Lead
Institute of Social Studies Trust, Delhi

THEMATIC CLUSTERS

1. Intergenerational Circulations of Care and Gendered Expectations

- Structural neglect of eldercare as a public good and the persistence of cultural norms around filial duty and intergenerational reciprocity.
- Gendered expectations in eldercare and the persistent devaluation of care as labour.
- Older women as both recipients and providers of care—especially as grandmothers, kin-keepers, and custodial caregivers.
- Self-care in later life: autonomy, responsibility, and structural constraints.
- Intersectional inequalities in access to care—how caste, class, location, religion, and queerness shape care arrangements.

2. Bodily Experiences of Ageing and the Politics of Care

- Embodied experiences of ageing, chronic illness, and cognitive shifts (e.g., dementia), especially from gendered perspectives.
- The social and political management of ageing bodies: dependence, autonomy, and the moral economies of care.
- Norms around “successful ageing,” productivity, and invisibilized vulnerabilities.

3. Care Labour and the Crisis of Decent Work

- Conditions of paid and underpaid eldercare work—within households, communities, and institutions.
- Informal eldercare workers, migrant care labour, and their invisibilisation in public policy, Domestic workers as unrecognised elder carers
- Building frameworks for decent work in eldercare: wages, labour rights, working hours, recognition, and social protection.
- Organising and unionising care workers in the eldercare sector—emerging practices and barriers.

4. Transforming Kinship, Intimacy and Care Economies

- Reformulations of kin relations and state responses—maintenance laws, commodified care, and eldercare homes.
- Community-based inclusive eldercare models as alternatives to state neglect and market-driven care.
- Transnational care arrangements and remittance-driven eldercare provisioning.
- Role of digital platforms and technologies in shaping new forms of intimacy and eldercare strategies.

5. Futures of Care and Labour

- National care and ageing policies: gaps, innovations, and alternatives
- Feminist visions for inclusive, equitable, and gender-transformative eldercare systems.
- Reimagining public responsibility and care infrastructures beyond the family-market binary.

GUIDELINES FOR SUBMISSION

- Abstracts up to 500 words outlining the research focus, methodology, and relevance to the theme. Submit your abstract here, **SUBMIT**
- Full papers should be between 5,000 to 7,000 words (excluding references)
- Selected authors will get an opportunity to present their paper at the IIMAD - ISST conference to be held on 4 - 5 December 2025 at **India Habitat Centre, New Delhi**.
- Please note: The sub-themes are illustrative, and authors can make submissions related to the main themes listed. Apart from contributions from India, papers related to other countries in the regions are also welcome.
- All presenters will be awarded certificates. A few outstanding papers may also be accorded special recognition.
- A selection of high-quality final paper submissions will be considered for inclusion in a special journal issue or edited volume featuring interdisciplinary gender scholarship on ageing and care in the Global South.
- **Bursaries will be awarded to a select number of participants. Accommodation during the two days of the conference will also be arranged for participants travelling from outside the city.**
- Registration will be required to attend the conference and the registration details will be communicated in due course.

IMPORTANT DATES

20th September, 2025	●	DEADLINE FOR ABSTRACT SUBMISSION
30th September 2025	●	ACCEPTED ABSTRACT NOTIFICATION
25th November 2025	●	FULL PAPER SUBMISSION
3 rd and 4 th December, 2025	●	CONFERENCE DATES

FOR QUERIES, PLEASE CONTACT US



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