Home Eldercare Assistants and Their Employers: Solidarity or Fear?

In recent years a number of important studies have explored the new international division of reproductive labour, but those works have concentrated, for the most part, on one end of the life cycle: nannies and childcare. My work focuses on the other end of it, home eldercare work. In this paper I explore the relationships that generate from this form of labor. Specifically is it possible that the relationships established between the employers of home eldercare assistants and the immigrant workers, who perform these jobs, could open the way to new forms of solidarity? Is the employment relationship always only an exploitative relationship or can it contains also a seed for a solidarity that extends across national barriers? To answer these questions I analyze the interviews with 35 home eldercare assistants from different nationalities and 26 interviews with Italian employers.