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Programs

# “Transforming Kinship and State: Care as Boundary Object”

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**Friday, March 24, 2023  
2:30pm in 1117 UCC**



In many contemporary debates, care has been invoked against the state to demand more support for citizens, families and communities. While politically effective, this use of care is theoretically unproductive: it reproduces top-down images and scales that oppose ‘micro’ care practices to the encompassing ‘macro’ state. In this talk, I propose to overcome these binaries by exploring how care as boundary object contributes to the coevolution of the state and kinship in opposition to each other. Mapped onto temporal imaginations of modernity, care is not only instrumental in distributions of resources, but also shapes political subjectivities. I illustrate my approach with ethnographic examples from Hungary, Serbia and eastern Germany that demonstrate how care shapes political transformation and the economic inequalities. My ultimate aim is to invert the hierarchy and ask how care shapes boundaries and configurations of the state.

**This event is co-sponsored by the Department of Anthropology and International Programs.**

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