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Joyce Cavaye, *Hidden Carers*, Dunedin Academic Press, Edinburgh, 2006, 96 pp., pbk £12.95, ISBN 13: 978 1903 765 66 1. Margaret B. Neal and Leslie B. Hammer *Working Couples Caring for Children and Aging Parents: Effects on Work and Well-being*, Lawrence Erlbaum, Mahwah, New Jersey, 2007, 392 pp., pbk \$32.50, ISBN 13: 978 0 8058 4604 1.

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group to which it belongs is to invite disaster. Clientelism and its consequences might explain Italian welfare, but competition for support will not explain post-war development in Spain or Greece (both in the same group) or Portugal (grouped with The Netherlands) – all countries subject to dictatorial regimes for part of the post-war period. We cannot take democratic politics for granted. Secondly, the evidence used is based on public social expenditure: as I have argued elsewhere (Whiteside 2006), this is a weak proxy for welfare policy, particularly for pensions. It may suit the author to portray Dutch occupational pensions as belonging to the private sector, but the European Court of Justice would not agree with her – and nor, in all probability, would many Dutch employers who are compelled by law to contribute to them. Since the war, pension policy in The Netherlands has been shaped around these occupational funds and, if their distributional effects were included in the analysis, the distinctions drawn between The Netherlands and Italy would probably be wiped out.

In historical terms, the book makes for uncomfortable reading: there are too many misassumptions and inaccuracies. It reproduces the familiar (and totally wrong) view that the British Beveridgean welfare state is citizenship-based (UK state-pension rights are based on the contributory record of self or spouse, as any divorced British woman knows to her cost). The author also overlooks early local schemes of social assistance for the poor (covering most of Protestant Europe before 1914): a common error when only schemes funded by national taxation are embraced by the statistics. The (thankfully few) attempts to address the pre-1914 situation are disastrous. Using 1910 as a base date, the author proclaims that the British poor laws were early evidence of the citizen-based welfare that subsequently characterised the whole country. This is contrasted with German occupational social insurance cover at the same date (p. 60). The reader is left wondering whether 1910, the year before the introduction of working-class social insurance in the UK was chosen through simple ignorance or covert design – and whether the author has even heard of the German poor law. Arguably this would matter less if the author were not so keen to point up the value of historical perspectives. Just do not let your students near it is my advice.

Reference

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Hidden Carers by Joyce Cavaye is a slim volume that focuses on the results of a qualitative longitudinal study of 26 carers in Scotland who were providing more than 20-hours per week of care and were not in receipt of services. Carers of dementia sufferers were not included. The book starts with a brief review of policy in Scotland, with some comparisons with England and Wales, Germany and Denmark. There is some discussion of the evolution of the term 'carer' in both policy documents and general usage and the role of pressure groups in achieving recognition of carers and the care-giving role. This is useful, as most studies of care-giving rely on people identifying themselves as carers, something clearly dependent to some extent on conceptualisation and identification of this role. Findings are discussed and presented in terms of stages of the care-giver role, from becoming a carer to the ending of this role with intermediate phases sometimes involving acceptance of services. An underlying theme is the reluctance of carers to accept support because they perceive service providers as authoritarian and intrusive. The failure of formal service providers to either offer a 'choice' about assumption of the care-giver role or to recognise and work in partnership with care-givers, for example when drawing up hospital discharge plans, are discussed. Aspects of caring which participants in the study found most difficult, such as the provision of intimate care, especially across gender lines, are documented as well as the important difference that carers felt arose regarding the location of care. The book also deals to some extent with the skills and stratagems that carers acquired and used. Particularly on this topic, more extensive quotations from the primary material might have been helpful.

Working Couples Caring for Children and Aging Parents: Effects on Work and Well-being by Margaret Neal and Leslie Hammer deals with the issue of 'sandwiched' couples. The book reports result from a longitudinal study of middle- and upper-income couples who had a co-resident child aged under 18 and who provided at least three hours per week of care to an elderly parent or parent-in-law. Both couple members were in paid-work. The definition of 'carer' used is thus much broader than in the Cavaye study. The geographic locus of the United States is also different and the scope of the book wider and deeper. Neal and Hammer include chapters which detail the evolution of workplace and government initiatives affecting work and family life (apparently Hallmark Cards was the first employer to introduce an elder-care programme) and with the literature on role conflict, role enhancement and health and wellbeing outcomes. Their methodology was also more complex involving rounds of focus-group discussions and different sampling methods. The main sample used was recruited through telephone screening interviews with a sample of households that were composed of one or more adults aged 30–60 years. The focus on better-off dual-earner families is explained as being a requirement of the funder (the Alfred P Sloan Foundation). Both spouses in the eventual sample were included in the study.

The main account of the research also includes discussion of the respondents' strategies for managing their multiple commitments. This information was collected by including 36 statements in the questionnaires, all derived following reviews of the literature, focus-group discussions and pre-testing. Complex issues dealing with role quality and work-family 'spillover' effects – both positive

and negative – are dealt with. The main conclusions of the study indeed emphasise the importance of ‘role quality’, for example the quality of marital relationships, rather than just number of roles or role demands. Both these books make useful contributions, although of rather different types. The short Cavaye volume is a quick read and provides a useful background, probably especially for those interested in Scotland, as well as some valuable illustrative material. The Neal and Hammer volume is much more challenging, not just because of its length but also the complexity of the issues and analyses. As such it is likely to be more attractive to researchers than to policy or practitioner audiences. The results may not be generalisable to the UK population (and of course ‘sandwiched’ carers are a relatively small sub-group of the whole carer population), but the exploration of how work and family roles interact at the individual and family level, and the consequences for health and wellbeing, will be of interest to specialists in the field.

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Bère M. L. Miesen and Gemma M. M. Jones (eds), *Care-Giving in Dementia: Research and Applications*, Volume 4, Routledge, London, 2006, xx + 436 pp., pbk £22.99, ISBN 13: 978 1 58391 191 4.

Reading this book made me think of paradigms and cultures. The old paradigm is largely biomedical and the culture is essentially custodial. The new paradigm is psychosocial and spiritual. The new culture is one that stresses personhood. If we are in the midst of a revolution, it is a slow one. It is also problematic, because the new paradigm cannot separate itself from the old, even if it can shift; and the new culture of dementia care still has to face the problem that, whatever the emphasis on autonomy in western culture, when it comes to conditions such as dementia the imperative is often safety, which in effect entails custody. The edited collection of papers is firmly based on the side of the new paradigm and culture, which according to Jones *et al.*, ‘involves understanding persons with [Alzheimer’s disease] as ‘behaving [relatively] normally in a “perceptually abnormal” world’ (versus the more common notion of persons with dementia “behaving abnormally” in a normally perceived world)’ (p. 60). This re-orientation with respect to the person with dementia is typical of the new way. Similarly, the description of an Alzheimer café is instructive and welcome with its focus, as described by Thompson, ‘on improving and maintaining the quality of life for the person with dementia, their carers and family by providing opportunities to share experiences and be part of an accepting and open environment’ (p. 297).

Yet both these chapters, laudable as they are in terms of their aspirations, demonstrate weaknesses that often seem to attach to the new way. The first, in a long chapter on visuo-perceptual deficits, presents a pilot study that purports to demonstrate how environmental changes decrease certain problematic behaviours and also increase social interaction. I have little doubt that the environmental changes were beneficial but except for a chapter that makes much use of biomedical details about visual pathways, it is decidedly lacking in