Ageing and Caring as Couples with Disabilities

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Older people with disabilities would not traditionally be called carers. On the contrary, their advanced age, long life of disability and family situation would suggest that they live in a situation of multiple disadvantages and should instead be subjects of care. Yet many older people who have disabilities also provide care to other family members. The mutual caring of couples with disabilities is the subject of this thesis. It explores how care is actualized and experienced by ageing couples with physical disabilities, and investigates the implications of this caring in the couples’ lives. The four papers included in the thesis discuss different questions such as: Does it make sense to be dependent on help and care in everyday life and consider oneself a caregiver? Why do some couples choose to provide help with heavy care tasks, even when they are entitled to formal care? In what ways does their relationship shape their experiences of caregiving? And how can we understand advantaged and active ageing, when both partners are ageing with disabilities?