Caring for the Aged in Latin America: The Cases of Chile, Cuba, and Uruguay

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Book Presentation by Coauthor Elaine Acosta
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Latin America is facing a great challenge coming from the aging of population in the context of a crisis of care. This phenomenon raises the issue of developing new and more research on comparative social policies. This book on caring for the aged in Latin America analyzes three of the oldest countries in the region: Cuba, Chile, and Uruguay. The volume describes and compares the legal regulations of care toward elderly people, the social policies on care and aging, and the programs and services offered to cover the needs of the aging population and their families. The book concludes with a series of lessons and recommendations resulting from comparative analysis. Finally, the authors (Drs. Elaine Acosta, Florencia Picasso, and Valentina Perrotta), with the support of the Social Policies in Latin America (SOPLA) program affiliated with the Konrad Adenauer Foundation, assert the need to promote studies on comparative social policies on aging care, which would allow the assessment of the progress, obstacles, and challenges on the issue in Latin America.

Dr. Elaine Acosta is currently a Visiting Scholar at the Cuban Research Institute of Florida International University. She was on the faculty of Alberto Hurtado University in Chile for nearly twenty years, where she established the bachelor's program in Sociology and served as director of the master's program in Sociology. She holds a Ph.D. in International and Intercultural Studies from the University of Deusto in Bilbao, Spain, and a master's degree in Latin American studies from ILADES in Chile. She is currently the Director of the Interdisciplinary Research Program on Care Work, Family and Welfare (www.cuifabi.com) and has conducted studies for several international agencies. Her previous book was entitled Cuidados en crisis: Mujeres migrantes hacia España y Chile (Crisis in Care: Migrant Women to Spain and Chile, 2015).

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