You are kindly invited to the public defense to obtain the degree of

**DOCTOR OF ADULT EDUCATIONAL SCIENCES**

of Ms. Saloua Berdai Chaouni

Which will take place on Wednesday, October 13th, 2021, at 16:00 on campus in **D2.01** (promotiezaal) of the Brussels Humanities, Sciences & Engineering Campus - Pleinlaan 2 – 1050 Brussel

**GRASPING FADING MEMORIES OF A MOTHERLAND:**
**CAPTURING DYNAMIC CARE REALITIES OF OLDER LABOR MIGRANTS WITH DEMENTIA**

**JURY**

**INTERN:**

Prof. dr. Tom Vanwing (chair) (VUB, Educational Sciences)
Prof. dr. Prof. Eva Dierickx (VUB, Psychology)
Prof. dr. Iman Lechkar (VUB, Political Sciences, Fatima Mernissi Chair)

**EXTERN:**

Prof. dr. Marjolein Broese van Groenou (Free University Amsterdam, Social Sciences)
Prof. dr. Sophie Withaeckx (University of Maastricht, Arts & Social Sciences)

Please confirm your attendance before 10/10/21 via this attendance form

You are also invited to the reception afterwards.

How to reach the VUB?

SUMMARY

The dissertation explored: 1) a multilayered image of the dementia experience and dementia care provision among labor migrant families, and 2) methodological pathways to contribute to more ethical research involving this population. The findings of this dissertation are based on five studies.

The findings show that the experience of dementia and the dementia care trajectory is defined by the intersectional social position of older labor migrants and their families, inviting us to move beyond the binary division between migrants and non-migrants with “having a different culture” as the division line. This while recognizing the impact of having a migration background, a non-normative culture and religion on care provision. The current dementia care is provided by a complex and dynamic transnational network of informal and formal caregivers that also includes alternative care forms.

This picture of care provision is sought by family caregivers as an answer to their unmet care needs: A “complexity-sensitive person-centered responsive care” considers the multilayered identity of the older migrant with dementia. This reflects individual and structural professional care gaps to provide inclusive dementia care. Understanding this complexity can advance the provision of better dementia care for older migrants with dementia. Therefore, a new conceptual lens to examine dementia care for a diverse population is suggested.

This dissertation also contributes to the debate on how to conduct ethical research on dementia among older migrants by moving away from the culturalist frame where it is currently embedded with biased and narrow assumptions about this population as a result. This dissertation suggests therefore a further exploration of decolonial frameworks as compass for an ethical gerontological research praxis: a praxis that engages us into a process of awareness of and resistance to the historically rooted coloniality of mind in our own knowledge production.

CURRICULUM VITAE

Saloua Berdai Chaouni is a master in Biomedical Sciences and in Gerontological Sciences (VUB) and obtained several qualifications in Management (i.e. AMS). After a short academic period conducting in-vivo neurophysiological research (UA), she stepped into the social working field. She published her first work on older migrants in 2005 as a policy report in Brussels. This was a start of a decade of innovative practical, policy, consulting, advocacy and action research work on the intersection of (aged) care and ethnic diversity, in Belgium and in Europe. She received in 2012 the Charles Ullens reward by the King Baudouin Foundation for her policy relevant research work on older migrants in Belgium. In 2018, she was acknowledged for her academic and educational work as a member of the Belgian-Moroccan diaspora with a Diwan Award.

Saloua conducted her PhD study at the VUB while working as a lecturer and a researcher at the KDG and the EHB university college. During this period, she published 5 international peer-reviewed scientific articles, a policy research report on inclusive residential care for older migrants for the Flemish Ministry of Wellbeing and a practice-oriented research report on improvement of care to children with Autism Spectrum Disorder with a migration background (KDG). She also co-authored an upcoming book on dementia and dementia care among older migrants in Belgium (Garant), resulting from the Diverse Elderly Care project (EHB).