

# Techniques of relating

Negotiating family care for advanced old age in the  
context of HIV/AIDS, Tanzania

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When you are old  
And your back is bent  
And you have no child  
To whom will you belong

*Saida Karoli- Popular Haya Singer*

I

# Care and Plurality

- Care is a process unfolding over time in which relations with caregivers shift constantly
- Care is about a plurality of practices, which reflect the state of relations at a given moment

Care = Reflection of kinship relationships and biographies that are by nature plural

# Shifts in old age care in the context of AIDS and migration

- New constellations of family care
- Extra demands on family care relations
- Close relations may die
- Migration leads to new forms of care
  
- Issue: who is present?
- Concern: Loss of strength, body is central in securing relations of care

# Case study: how Mae Tophista lost care when she became frail

- History of Mae Tophista's relationships
- Events in advanced old age
- Comments of the village

# Techniques of relating

- Linking bodies: building *closeness* over time
- Using possessions to bind relations through *endowing*
- Complaining to '*shame*' caregivers

In era of AIDS often compromised quality of relationships

Difficult to overcome limits of aging body

# Concluding remarks: pluralistic forms of old age care in the era of AIDS

- Care as process, presence of close relations to provide intimate care over time is insecure
- Care by a multiplicity of people, including those who would not normally care leads to more tenuous relationships, and diminished quality of care.
- Plurality = concept to look at diversities in form, meaning and process