



# **Grey Zones and Boundaries: Service Pathways and Division of Labour in Gerontological Social Work (Katve project)**

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# Katve project



- **Funding:** Ministry of Social Affairs and Health (Finland), Government Grant for University-Level Research in Social Work, 01/2026–12/2027, VN/8327/2025.
- The study is implemented as a collaboration between the social work disciplines of **the University of Jyväskylä (JYU)** and **Tampere University (TAU)**.
- The project involves the **Wellbeing Services Counties of Central Finland, Pirkanmaa, and Kanta-Häme**, as well as **Tampere University Hospital (TAYS)** and **Hospital Nova**. The diaconal work of the parishes of **Jyväskylä** and **Hämeenlinna-Vanaja** also participate in the project.



**Pirkanmaan  
hyvinvointialue**



JYVÄSKYLÄN SEURAKUNTA

**HÄMEENLINNA-VANAJAN  
SEURAKUNTA**

# Boundaries and Grey Zones in Service Pathways

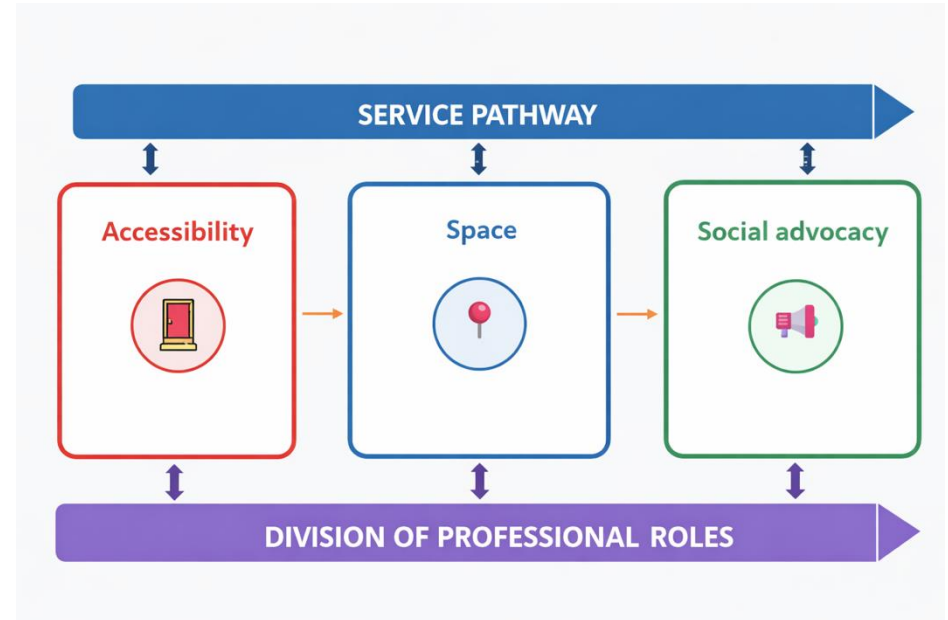


- A central focus of the project is the examination of the boundaries involved in the construction of the service pathway, as well as the potential grey zones connected to it.
- Grey zones refer to situations in which an older person in need of support may fall outside professional or legal scrutiny, be diverted from the service pathway or be directed onto an inappropriate route.
- This raises the question of:
  - Whether gerontological social work itself has shifted further into the margins in the transition to the wellbeing services counties, how gerontological social workers perceive their position within the service pathway for older people, and how they view their opportunities for action.

# Research Focus



- We examine how older adults (65+) access gerontological social work and how service pathways are constructed.
  - This includes the tasks, division of labour, and collaboration between professionals along these pathways.
- The project is grounded in three interconnected perspectives: **access, space, and social advocacy.**
- We analyse transitions and routes that shape smooth service pathways and the realisation of older adults' rights.
  - Through this, we also explore the operating conditions and position of gerontological social work within the wider service system.



# Research Team



## University of Jyväskylä (JYU):

- Heli Valokivi, Professor
  - Project leader
- Paula Vasara, Senior Researcher
  - Work Package 1: Accessibility – Lead Researcher
- Hilla Kiuru, Postdoctoral Researcher
  - Work Package 2: Space – Lead Researcher
- Andrea Lorenz-Wende, Project Researcher
- Sini Tiihonen, Doctoral Researcher
- Taina Miettinen, Project Researcher

## Tampere University (TAU):

- Laura Kallioma-Puha, Professor
  - Project leader
  - Work Package 3: Social Advocacy – Lead Researcher
- Tyyne Ylinen, Researcher
- Satu Ylinen, Visiting Researcher



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