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3 March 2026

## How care is organised, experienced and governed amid social and economic change – UCT lecture



Professor Elena Moore

Photo: Supplied

University of Cape Town (UCT) Professor Elena Moore, professor of [Sociology](#) in the [Faculty of Humanities](#), will deliver her inaugural lecture, “Who cares? The directions of state-family relationships in changing times”, on Wednesday, 4 March 2026 at 17:30 SAST at the New Lecture Theatre on upper campus.

This lecture – the first in the UCT [Inaugural Lecture](#) series for the 2026 academic calendar – will bring together a sustained body of research on how care is organised, experienced and governed amid social and economic change. It will also examine how responsibility for care

is allocated between families, the state and other actors, and what this means for those who provide and receive care.

Professor Moore's work shows that care is not simply a private matter or moral choice. It is shaped by law, public policy, labour markets, demographic shifts and histories of structural exclusion in post-colonial contexts. Through this lecture, she will demonstrate how care operates as a social relation embedded in political and economic systems.

Professor Moore's research focuses on family life, gendered inequalities and the relationship between families and the state. She is the author of *Generation, Gender and Negotiating Custom in South Africa* (2022), and *Divorce, Families and Emotion Work* (2017); and co-author (with Chuma Himonga) of *Reform of Customary Marriage, Divorce and Succession in South Africa* (2015).

She is a recipient of UCT's Distinguished Teacher Award (2021) and the Vice-Chancellor's Social Responsiveness Award (2023). She currently holds a Wellcome Career Award (2023–2028) and an IDRC Scaling Care Innovations in Africa Award (2024–2027), through which she leads a regional research programme on family caregiving of older persons in Southern Africa.

Over the past two decades, her scholarship has shaped public and policy debates on care in the region, and her current work on elder care is influencing regional policy frameworks.

- Media interested in attending the event are requested to [RSVP](#).

***Ends***

***Issued by: UCT Communication and Marketing Department***

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