

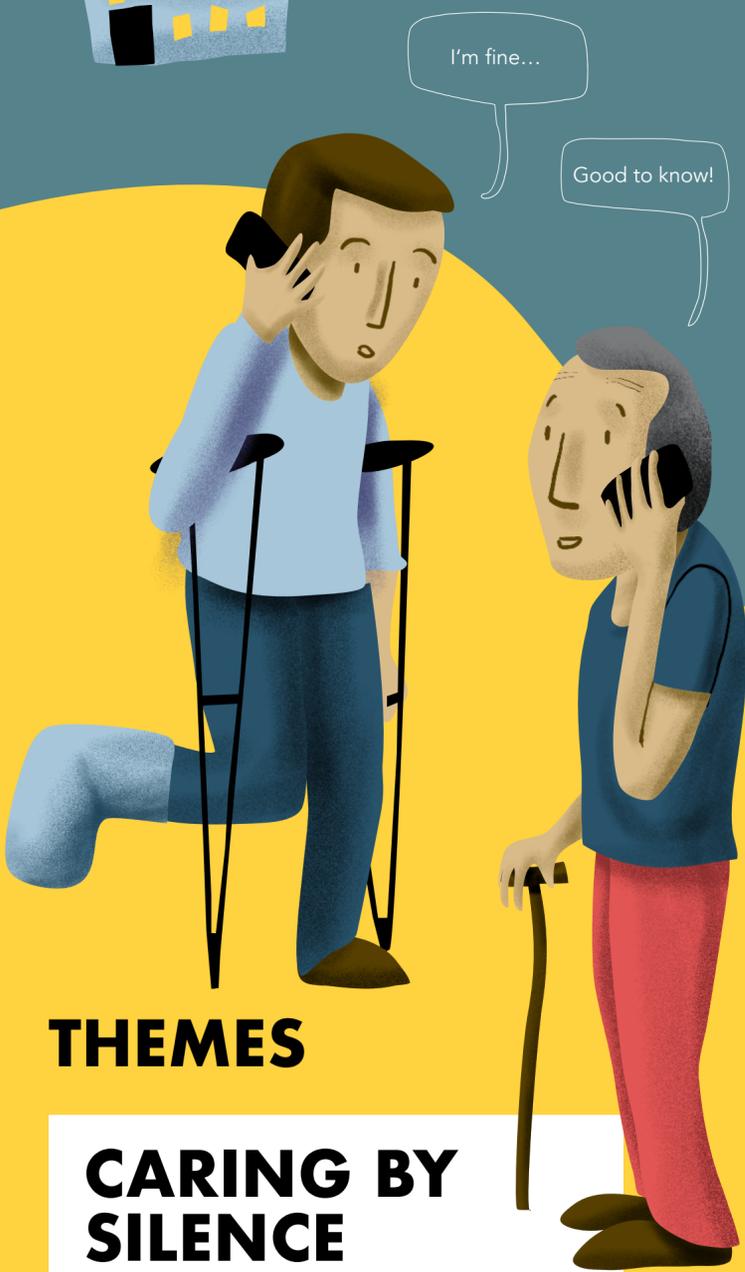
# Silence and Faith in transnational families

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This project is about the experiences of (im)mobility and transnational caregiving of Brazilian families, where the ageing parents are in Brazil and their adult migrant offspring are in United States (Greater Boston area) and the UK (London).

THE PROJECT IS GUIDED BY THREE QUESTIONS:

- 1 What new roles and relationships emerge in contexts of prolonged family separation?
- 2 How do temporalities of ageing and migration intersect and shape each other?
- 3 How is transnational aged care enacted and experienced in contexts of (im)mobility and (un)documented lives?



## THEMES

### CARING BY SILENCE

To better understand ageing and intergenerational caregiving, we need to pay careful attention to what is not said during transnational contacts. To care from a distance, Brazilian transnational families use silences and 'communication voids' as a care practice. Adult children abroad and their ageing parents in Brazil curate and select ('sieve') through difficult lived experiences (such as legal, work and health problems) as acts of care/ing.



### (IM)MOBILITIES

In an unevenly mobile world, the immobility of the adult children abroad often prompt the transnational mobility of the ageing parents in Brazil. Parents' visits abroad are frequently the only way to physically reunite with their 'immobilized' offspring in the United States and nurture a sense of togetherness in these long-term far-flung relationships.



### FAITH

Faith plays a key role in the lives of Brazilian families across borders. It acts as a coping strategy in the process of silencing and concealing emotions and as a means to fight loneliness, cope with adversity, and protect family exchanges from 'difficult conversations.' In some instances, the church can serve almost as a 'surrogate family' and a safe community to confide in and regain strength and a sense of dignity.

### MEETING FAMILIES ACROSS BORDERS

Fernanda handed me over her phone to see the photos ('with plenty of snow!') from her last trip to Boston. 'It was freezing', she told me. She was excited about me meeting her daughter, son-in-law and two grandchildren in the coming weeks: 'Let me call her now, you have to give them a hug from me!' [...]

This received me warmly at the door; it was Sunday, and soon we would be leaving to a Brazilian women's support group and then to church.