

*Moving towards gender equality? Examining the migrant care gap and double burden of women in care occupations in Austria*

*[Beitrag wird in Deutsch vorgestellt]*

Care work, paid and unpaid, constitutes a crucial part of society and the economy. Whereas the increasing need and value of the (paid) care economy is well established, less is known regarding unpaid domestic and care work (UDCW). Ambitious goals such as the United Nations SDG 5.4 aim at reducing the knowledge gap in this field and highlight the importance of the matter regarding the goal of gender equality. Time-use surveys are key instruments for empirical evidence on UDCW but are less often collected than other labor market or macroeconomic statistics. This imbalance of available information disguises the macroeconomic value of UDCW but also the microeconomic impact on individuals, which varies according to gender and other socioeconomic characteristics.

This paper reduces the knowledge gap on unpaid and paid care work allocation by investigating the latest Austrian Time Use Survey of 2021/22 and Microcensus data. More specifically, the paper goes beyond standardized gender time gap statistics and investigates the socioeconomic gradient of women. As known from the literature, factors like income and education, family types, gender role perceptions or cultural and social norms explain specific patterns of time-use and selection into different paid work occupations. Since there exist migrant gaps in income and wealth (Muckenhuber et al. 2021), we investigate potential gaps in unpaid work depending on migration status, more precisely, whether there exists a migrant *care* gap in Austria. Studies from Germany or the US (Rebaudo and Calahorrano 2021; Blau et. al 2020) find positive care gaps, implicating that people with a migrant background spent more time on unpaid work than people without. No studies on that subject exist in Austria, a high-income country with relatively conservative perceptions of gender roles and a rising population share of people with foreign nationalities.

Descriptive statistics and multivariate regression analysis are used to answer the following research questions: Which women select into paid care occupations and are their patterns of UDCW different from women in other occupations? How do different sectors and occupations in paid care work affect the intra-household division of unpaid work? Does a migration background explain some variance of the selection into paid care occupations and/or the intra-household patterns of UDCW? Evident recommendations from derived results argue for more policies that redistribute and reduce the burden of unpaid work and underline the importance of the issue of migration.