



CARE WORK & THE ECONOMY

Newsletter

August 2021

The Care Work and the Economy (CWE-GAM) is a project based at the American University Program on Gender Analysis in Economics (PGAE)

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In 2017, the [Care Work and the Economy](#) (CWE-GAM) project set out to produce new research and develop innovative analytical tools to advance our understanding of care work. Our aim was to demonstrate how integrating care into policy tools such as macroeconomic models can provide a more comprehensive understanding of policy impacts on growth, distribution, and gender equality.

Since then, our global community of researchers collaborated to produce over 30 [working papers](#) as well as [methodological reports](#) and [policy briefs](#) to illustrate the immense global need for care and how much caregiving contributes to family and social wellbeing and to economic development. Through various stakeholders workshops and conferences, such as the recent [International Care Policy Conference](#), we engaged with researchers, advocacy groups, care workers and policymakers to demonstrate the significance of the care economy across countries and how a more interdisciplinary and evidence-based research can open in economic growth and sustainable development. This summer, we offered a [three-week Intensive Course in Gender-Sensitive Macroeconomic Modelling](#), through which we trained 71 Fellows from 32 countries in innovative, gender-sensitive macroeconomic policy tools useful in the formulation of viable research

projects in their countries.

Our research project is ending today, but as the research work of the CWE-GAM Project concludes, we are happy to announce that our dissemination and communications channels will remain open. Visit our [website](#) and follow us on [Twitter](#) to stay tuned with forthcoming working papers, policy briefs, blogs and more.



## REFLECTIONS FROM OUR RESEARCHERS

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*“It has been a remarkable, four-year journey. Over these past few months, we took stock not only of what our community of scholars, advisers, staff and research assistants collectively has accomplished, but also to reflect on the challenges faced and the lessons learned. There were challenges aplenty...from the global COVID-19 pandemic to data issues and problems, change in personnel, ever-evolving political climate, and occasional hurdles that inevitably accompany this kind of project. At times, it seems that our project goals are so difficult to attain, but then we try again and adapt. One thing is clear: The challenges we face make us stronger, more creative, and more passionate about the work we do.”*

- **Maria S. Floro, Principal Investigator**

*“Diversity in disciplinary approaches leads to profoundly different conceptual and empirical models and analyses. It is a characteristic of the CWE-GAM project that deserves recognition because it has led us to fruitful – and exciting – collaborations. Spurred by the challenges of the pandemic of the century, an increasing number of research institutions are now delving into care issues; we hope that they will adopt as diverse a perspective as the CWE-GAM project. Caregiving, the care burden, and care support are topics that require diverse, rigorous thinking.”*

- **Elizabeth King, Co-Principal Investigator**

*“Group 1 activities enabled a diverse group of macroeconomic theorists and modelers to construct a new generation of transformational macroeconomic models, moving forward the cutting edge of approaches to engendering macroeconomic models that incorporate gender and care...Taken together, these... papers have helped establish a critical mass of visible work ...(which) contributed to mainstreaming the notion that incorporating care into macroeconomic modeling is essential for effective and socially just policy analysis, established new pathways for intellectual collaboration among economists for taking up these important questions, as well as sparked new interest in furthering this research among young scholars. “*

- **Elissa Braunstein, Working Group 1 Coordinator**

*“I am so honored to be a part of the CWE-GAM project for the last four years. This project has been so meaningful for me because of its focus on Korean society as a model. Our SNU team has tried our best to make this project a success from the beginning, while working very closely with experts such as Maria Floro, Elizabeth King, and Ito Peng. CWE-GAM project must be a turning point of care economy research, and this will contribute towards achieving gender equality, both in advanced and developing countries.”*

- **Ki-Soo Eun, Center for Transnational Migration and Social Inclusion Director and Working Group 2 Coordinator**

*“It was a thrilling experience for me to participate in the collective decision-making process and learn to handle/tune upcoming issues... I’m so proud of the multi-disciplinary and multi-stakeholder approach /partnership of this project. We could hear the voices of the field including care workers clearly in particular since the Glasgow conference. The June 2021 Policy Dialogue in Seoul further provided an arena for the voices of advocacy groups and collected the suggestions from the field. In the roundtable diverse advocacy groups and progressive groups participated and we could hear and understand what the real life/field was.”*

- **Young Ock Kim, Advisory Board Member and Working Group 3 Coordinator**

*“...in addition to the huge number of outputs, this project has also achieved continuity and sustainability. This is illustrated by many succeeding projects and institutional developments that came out of this project...I believe that this project sets a new standard for global research-policy-NGO partnership. We must now strive to continue building and sustaining this important work.”*

- Ito Peng, Principal Investigator, Care Economies in Context Project



WHAT'S NEXT

## CARE ECONOMIES IN CONTEXT

The [Care Economies in Context Project](#) will be led by Ito Peng, Professor of Sociology and Public Policy and the Director of the Centre for Global Social Policy at the University of Toronto and the Canadian Research Chair in Global Social Policy. The project pulls together research teams from eight different countries and is funded by the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council, the Open Society Foundations, the William and Flora Hewlett Foundation, and the University of Toronto. This global project explores paid and unpaid childcare, elder care, and sick and disabled care in eight countries around the world. How care is organized impacts our entire economic and social system as well as every individual within it; it intersects with gender, age, migration and citizenship status, and racial and socio-economic inequality. Along with an international team of academic researchers, this partnership involves representatives from key international and national policy and non-profit sector partners. Once the country teams have mapped and measured country-level care economies, they will conduct comparative analyses to understand the institutions, cultures, and social and economic policies that shape differences and similarities across varying contexts.

## CARE WORK AND ECONOMY IN AFRICA

Isabella Aboderin of the African Population and Health Research Center (APHRC) in Nairobi and University of Bristol, and Professor Ito Peng of the University of Toronto are leading the [Care Work and Economy Africa Project](#), in partnership with the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA) and the African Union (AU). This two-country program of research and policy engagement builds on the 2017-2021 *Care Work and the Economy Project* in order to advance the development of transformative care systems and economies in Africa as part of Africa's endeavour to harness its demographic transition and to forge a gender-aware and equitable post-COVID19 future. Supported by the William and Flora Hewlett Foundation, the project will bring together, in the next five years, a team of African and international scholars and institutions in an equitable, Africa-led partnership. It will conduct research in Kenya and Senegal to help develop transformative early child care (ECC) and long-term care (LTC) systems and economies that enhance care quality and reduce and redistribute the extensive unpaid care work women provide in households and communities.

## **CUIDADO Y GÉNERO**

Through a multidisciplinary approach articulating both quantitative and qualitative research methods, the [Cuidado y Género](#) (Care and Gender) project seeks to contribute to the public debate for the design of public policies that prioritize investments in care services and promote gender equality in Colombia. Project activities will focus on exploring a range of topics: (i) a quantitative analysis with a gender perspective of the labor market and time use surveys; (ii) a legal analysis of Colombian care services for differently situated groups; (iii) a qualitative analysis of women's experiences as care providers and their decisions on labor market participation as a result of care responsibilities; (iv) a qualitative analysis of decisions about reproduction and reproductive freedom as a result of the gender division of labor; and (v) the design of a macroeconomic model that integrates the care economy and allows the evaluation of the impact of public policies on people's well-being and the reduction of gender gaps. Some of these research topics are inspired by international experiences, particularly the South Korean project on care economy led by María Floro and Elizabeth King at American University.

## CENTER FOR TRANSNATIONAL MIGRATION AND SOCIAL INCLUSION (CTMS)

The [Center for Transnational Migration and Social Inclusion \(CTMS\)](#) at Seoul National University aims to build on the work of the *Care Work and the Economy* project to advance the issues of care and social inclusion by continuing to produce new research to fully understand the nature of care work and care workers (focusing on women and migrant workers); developing a social inclusion watch to help measure and continuously evaluate social inclusion in the country; and becoming a hub and cultivating a network of researchers, advocacy groups, and policymakers all working together to address care and social inclusion.

Read the recap of [2021 CWE-GAM Annual Meeting - Day 3](#) for more on the next steps for research on care and the economy.



### FEATURED BLOGS

[Investing in Quality Care has Positive Macroeconomic Effects](#), Lucie Prewitt

[GEM-Care Korea: The First Care-Focused Computable General Equilibrium Model](#), Shirin Arslan

[Climate Change and COVID-19: Why Gender Matters](#), Maria Floro

[The Journey of the Care Work and the Economy Project](#), Catherine Falvey

[The Ongoing Impacts of COVID-19 on Family Work-Life Balance in South Korea](#), Catherine Falvey

[Child and Elderly Care in South Korea: Policy Analysis Using CGE Model](#), Praveena Bandara

[Research Gaps about the Care Economy](#), Praveena Bandara

[The Toll and Rewards of Family Caregiving: Eldercare in South Korea](#), Praveena

Bandara

[Unmet Demand for Care: Family Caregiver's Perspectives](#), Praveena Bandara

[Labor Market Regulation Policy Simulations](#), Catherine Falvey

[Evolving Demographic Change and Care Support in South Korea and the US](#),

Praveena Bandara

[Unmet Demand for Care: Family Caregiver's Perspectives](#), Praveena Bandara

[Insights on Research to Policy](#), Catherine Falvey

[From the Funders of the Care Research and Advocacy](#), Praveena Bandara

[The Next Steps for Research on Care and the Economy](#), Catherine Falvey

[The Cost of Caregiving to Caregivers of South Korea](#), Praveena Bandara

[Innovations in Gender-Aware Macroeconomic Models](#), Aina Krupinski Puig

[Caring For the Future: How Public Spending Makes a Difference](#), Carla (Anai)

Herrera

[Current Situation of Care Work in South Korea: 2018 Family Survey](#), Aina

Krupinski Puig

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## LATEST WORKING PAPERS

[Who Cares and Who Shares: Caregiving in the Household](#), Elizabeth M. King,  
Hannah L. Randolph & Jooyeoun Suh

[The Toll and Reward of Family Caregiving: Eldercare in South Korea](#), Catherine  
Hensly, Jiweon Jun & Elizabeth M. King

[Impacts of COVID-19 on Work-Family Arrangements in South Korea: Empirical  
Findings and Policy Implications](#), Ito Peng & Jiweon Jun

[Family Caregivers' Elderly Care: Understanding Their Hard Time and Care  
Burden](#), Hyuna Moon & Seung-Eun Cha



## **INTENSIVE COURSE IN GENDER-SENSITIVE MACROECONOMIC MODELLING**

The Care Work and the Economy project and the Levy Economics Institute at Bard College recently hosted a three-week [Intensive Course in Gender-Sensitive Macroeconomic Modelling](#). This course engaged [71 Fellows from 32 countries](#), including Colombia, Senegal, Ghana, Mexico, Sri Lanka, Mongolia, to name just a few. The course provided the requisite background on concepts and exposed them to innovative, gender-sensitive tools useful in the formulation of viable research projects in their countries. Read about reflections on the course by fellows [here](#).

## **PROJECT APPRECIATION DINNER**

On August 11<sup>th</sup>, a small group of our D.C. based project members had the wonderful opportunity to enjoy a project appreciation dinner at Zaytinya restaurant in Washington, D.C. For some of our project members, this event was the first time ever meeting face to face. The evening was filled with good food, meaningful conversation, and celebratory drinks. It was a wonderful way to celebrate the closing of the Care Work and the Economy Project. Although many project members were not able to join us, we were thinking of everyone who contributed to this incredible project.



