



CARE WORK & THE ECONOMY

Newsletter

August 1, 2020

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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Welcome to the third edition of the Care Work & the Economy (CWE-GAM) newsletter, brought to your inbox by the CWE-GAM Project Communications team. In the monthly newsletters to follow, we will update you with the project's work – including recently published working papers by our researchers, policy briefs, blogs, and other news about the project as we embark on its fourth year.



PROJECT UPDATES

VIRTUAL WORKSHOP SERIES AMONG COLLEAGUES

These invite-only workshops provide a platform for CWE-GAM researchers to share work-in-progress and to engage in stimulating research discussions, such as those we had in Berlin and Glasgow. If you want to have a friendly and thoughtful discussion of your ongoing research, contact our Workshop Coordinator Catherine Hensly at careworkeconomy@american.edu. Please include the title of the paper you would like to present and a month that would work best for your schedule.

A special thanks to our colleagues who have presented, chaired and participated our previous workshops, demonstrating that even in these trying times, meaningful collaboration is indeed possible. We look forward to seeing you at our upcoming workshops:

August 12 | "Microfinance and the Care Economy" – Ramaa Vasudevan and Srinivas Raghavendran

September 2 | "Care Support Ratios in Korea and the US" – Gretchen Donehower

September 23 | "Child and Elderly care in South Korea: Policy analysis with a gendered, care-focused CGE model" – Hans Lofgren and Martín Cicowiez



FEATURED BLOGS

Recent blog posts focus on a range of topics surrounding care work, unpaid work and the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on the care economy. If you are interested in contributing a blog post or would like us to repost a blog from your project or organization, please email careworkeconomy@american.edu. We are always looking for new and interesting content!

[The COVID-19 Care Penalty](#), Nancy Folbre

[Inequalities in Access to U.S. Care Services](#), CWE-GAM Project

[The True Cost of Caregiving: An Aspen Institute Digital Discussion](#), CWE-GAM Project

[COVID-19 and the Care Economy: UM Women Call for Immediate Action and Structural Transformation for a Gender-Responsive Recovery](#), CWE-GAM Project

[Digital Forum on Reopening Long Island and Building a Fair Economy: Care in the COVID Crisis](#), CWE-GAM Project

[How I Learned to Love Macro](#), Nancy Folbre



POLICY BRIEFS

[Options for Modeling the Distributional Impact of Care Policies Using a General Equilibrium \(CGE\) Framework](#)

POLICY HIGHLIGHTS

- Choosing care policies and their financing options should be based on the objective of **reducing gender and other inequalities** and addressing the needs of the most disadvantaged.
- In addition to prioritizing redistribution rather than economic growth, CGE models and the care policies informed by them should **incorporate fiscal spending as an important social investment** rather than a short-term public deficit.
- Compared to other macroeconomic models, **CGE models allow for a greater level of detail on how resources are distributed** across socio-economic groups.
- **Unpaid domestic work and care include a diverse set of activities**, from fetching water to nursing an elderly to educating a child. Care policies and models to design such policies need **to take account of the diversity of care work**.

When carefully designed, CGE models are excellent tools to understand gender inequalities related to particular socio-economic structures and multiple interdependencies within an economy. The paper aims to identify key features that a gender-aware CGE model would need to simulate the gender-equalizing impact of care policies.

Parental Caregiving and Household Dynamic

POLICY HIGHLIGHTS

- It's critical to account for differential **bargaining power** when determining **welfare effects of unpaid caregiving**.
- Policies promoting **flexibility in number of hours worked** could provide **substantial relief** for both **caregivers** and **care recipients**. These include:
 - Caregiver leave
 - Part-time options
- Policies encouraging **division of care across genders** can promote **a more equitable welfare burden of care**. These include:
 - Gender-aware eldercare leave policies
 - Policies to reduce the gender-wage gap

The paper develops a theoretical collective bargaining model to explore how unpaid parental caregiving can affect time and resource allocation decisions

between partners under different household power structures. These decisions have direct implications for both caregivers' and care recipients' welfare, offering insights into policies which could improve relative outcomes



CWE-GAM WORKING PAPER SERIES

RETHINKING MACROECONOMICS

[The Impact of Investing in Social Care on Employment Generation, Time- and Income-Poverty and Gender Gaps: A Macro-Micro Simulation for Turkey](#), Ipek Ilkcaracan, Kijong Kim, Tom Masterson, Emel Memis & Ajit Zacharias

Special Announcement:

Congratulations to EunHye Kang, one of our CWE-GAM scholars, on the birth of her second child Min-ho Ji who was born on June 24th.



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