

CARE WORK AND THE ECONOMY

Advancing policy solutions with gender-aware macroeconomic models

Care Work and the Economy (CWE-GAM) & Levy Institute Intensive Course

Session Brief: Day 4, Americas Timezone

“Estimating the Unpaid Care Sector”: Instructor & Facilitator- Jooyeoun Suh

Lectures:

The goal of this work is to increase the visibility of care. So, we want to measure and estimate the value to unpaid care to show the significance of it to the economy. This work uses time use survey diaries to try and capture all types of care including interactive, support and supervisory care. Supervisory care is the most difficult to capture but one strategy is to ask, “with whom?” for every activity to see if children are present. There are a few ways to place value on the unpaid care which are largely broken into input and output methods. The second part of the lecture included details on time use surveys and the data collection methods. Time use surveys can vary in their duration, time slot intervals, and elements included for each activity. The method of collecting the data includes paper light diaries, online/apps, and high-tech camera and GPS trackers.

Group Discussion:

Busi Sibeko: how do you handle geographical heterogeneity of prices? **Response:** This would be needed for the output method and is what makes this method difficult.

Erica Aloe: What do you do when the respondent answers the “with whom?” with a child and another adult? Is there a risk to overestimate supervisory care? **Response:** There’s not a large concern about overestimation. Sometimes with details about supervisory care it is good to do sensitivity testing. You can play around with adjusting what is considered supervisory care and compare.

Débora Nunes: Family members may have different definitions of what is considered care work because of social norms. Time diary vs observing can have differences because of this.

Samanmala Dorabawila: how frequently should a country do time use surveys? Should you use income disaggregated by education level for specialists? **Response:** on frequency- depends on the country. US is yearly but I think every five years is adequate. On disaggregated income data: If there is data available by education level- use it!

Daniel Haim: Austrian time use surveys are a somewhat political issue. Last time was 2008 and expected data release next 2023. But thinking about previous lessons how can we include care penalty when doing the estimations? **Response:** This idea would make a good paper and would be interesting to try and incorporate that into the valuation method.

MinhTam Bui: Thai time use survey is available. What estimation methods for care work is good? **Response:** how about try all different valuation methods and then compare, share results.

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Maira Colacce: Do we have data about care for people with disabilities? How is this considered? **Response:** most time use surveys do not ask about the care recipient. But, there are interesting papers that connect population surveys to time use and consider when individuals in households have a disability.

Tania Camila Lamprea Barragan: Columbia has survey about household expenditures in certain areas. Can this be utilized to estimate value of care? **response:** yes! use this data as output valuation. Columbia also has time use survey so you can use that to do input valuation and then compare the methods.

Daniel Haim: Is there a process of training or introduction to questionnaires? I can imagine that men and women have different ideas of what is care. This could reduce gender differences in interpreting tasks as care or not.

Cristina Pereira Vieceli: In South Africa time use, they use tertiary activities as well. How to you handle this because they are not ranked by importance? **Response:** You could compare people that list multiple tasks with people who only list primary. Get excited about what data you have available and adjust your research question for details you have.

Iliana Vaca-Trigo: Men report having the perception of men that they have a fair distribution of care work in their households. How do you account for social norms like this? For the hierarchy, sometimes people think market work should always be considered primary activity. **Response:** diaries could help avoid some social norms. Importance is placed on market work. Many time use surveys do not ask any follow ups when a person is doing paid work.

Erica Aloe: I agree that it is difficult to not influence what respondent thinks is a primary vs secondary activity. Also, in Italian TUS there is a question about feelings. For every activity, the respondent reports their feelings which is interesting. HTUS- project is not updated (Italy 2008) but I hope they will update it in the future.