

Keynote, Lectures and Discussion

Domestic Work and Care in Globalization



May 25, 2020: 1-6 p.m.

Johannes Kepler University Linz

Altenberger Str. 69, 4040 Linz

Hall C, Kepler Building



JOHANNES KEPLER
UNIVERSITY LINZ

Domestic Work and Care in Globalization

Japanese Exceptionalism? Policies and policy changes in Japan on care and migration

Ito Peng, University of Toronto

Against the backdrop of population ageing and population decline, growing global demand for care, and labor shortages, Japan has been defying dominant East Asian (and global) patterns by keeping its intake of foreign domestic and care workers to a very minimum. Instead, it has opted to expand social care through the expansion of public childcare and the introduction of universal Long-Term Care Insurance, and has redoubled efforts to encourage native-born women and resident foreigners to work in the care sector. This stance, however, is beginning to show signs of strain, and the Japanese government has begun to make changes to its immigration policy since 2018. Why has Japan been so seemingly resistant to accepting foreign domestic and care workers? How sustainable is the policy of minimum foreign worker intake? And what does the most recent immigration policy reform mean? This talk will explain the Japanese immigration policy exceptionality and its recent policy reform, and discuss future challenges as the government tries to deal with labor shortage and the care needs of its ageing population.

Gender-sensitive or gender-selective? Understanding labor migration policies in Sri Lanka

Wasana Handapangoda, Johannes Kepler University Linz

This presentation will relook at recent policy reforms in Sri Lanka's temporary labor export paradigm, a long-overdue, as it has been claimed, for a more gender-sensitive, path-dependent approach to transnational labor migration in the country. Theoretically, positioned in a context of promoting gender equality and equity in labor migration, these policy reforms have been favored as a collaborative governance to recognize, address, and ensure the 'specific needs' of female migrant workers at all stages of the migration process. On the contrary, informed by fieldwork conducted in Sri Lanka, these policy reforms were found to be significantly gender-selective; the regulation of migrant domestic work by restricting labor migration of women with young children—called Family Background Report (FBR)—and imposing age-based bans on women's migration for domestic work, not only were gender- and class-bias, but have inadvertently transformed Sri Lanka's governance perspective to migration; Sri Lanka has transitioned itself from a more liberal towards restrictive regime of migration with repercussions. In the context of the 'unintended', these policy reforms can be viewed as quick-fix solutions to react to popular demand and public outcry that veil traditional forms of gender knowledge deep-seated in Sri Lankan society.

Under re-construction? Perspectives on live-in care in Austria

Brigitte Aulenbacher, Michael Leiblfinger, Veronika Prieler, Johannes Kepler University Linz

Over the last decade, Austria has developed into one of the forerunner states in live-in care provision. Legalized by the home care act, organized as a profession, pushed by cash-for-care-policies, and embedded in the ideal of the home care society, live-in care has become an important and increasing part of the Austrian elder care system. Tendencies of formalization and informalization as well as of training and professionalization are accompanied by new controversies over the acceptance and future of the practiced Austrian model. Brokered by private and third sector home care agencies, it is typically women from Eastern Europe who are working in Austrian households as self-employed live-ins. Their formalized tasks range between housework, assistance for everyday life, and medical care. At the same time, their status as migrants leads to a devaluation of their work as well as the creation of a win-win metaphor that justifies their low wages in Austria by comparing them to the wages in their home countries. Drawing on a policy and care regime analysis, our paper examines how this live-in care model is embedded in the Austrian welfare state and how domestic care is marketized. The next step focuses on how stakeholders in the field – among others representatives of ministries, of trade unions, and of care workers and receivers NGOs – evaluate the nearly thirteen years' experience of the Austrian model and discuss its perspectives. The paper concludes with remarks on the relevance of re-constructing live-in care facing changes in the welfare regime.

Part I: 1-2.30 p.m. Opening, Keynote and Discussion

Welcome

Brigitte Aulenbacher, Doris Weichselbaumer, JKU Linz

Keynote

Ito Peng, University of Toronto:

Japanese Exceptionalism? Policies and policy changes in Japan on care and migration

Discussion

Chair

Karin Fischer, JKU Linz

2.30-3 p.m. Break

Part II: 3-4.30 p.m. Lectures and Discussions

Lecture 1

Wasana Handapangoda, JKU Linz:

Gender-sensitive or gender-selective? Understanding labor migration policies in Sri Lanka

Discussion

Chair

Susanne Loher, Südwind

Lecture 2

Brigitte Aulenbacher, Michael Leiblfinger, Veronika Prieler, JKU Linz:

Under re-construction? Perspectives on live-in care in Austria

Discussion

Chair

Doris Weichselbaumer, JKU Linz

4.30-5 p.m. Break

Part III: 5-6 p.m. Concluding Discussion

Fishbowl discussion

Karin Fischer, Wasana Handapangoda, Susanne Loher, Ito Peng, Veronika Prieler, and the audience

Chair

Gudrun Glocker, weltumspannend arbeiten

