Transnational care work migration

BB Summer School on Social Welfare

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Gudrun Bauer
Overview

• The emergence of migrant care work
• Migrant care work in Europe (flows/characteristics)
• Care work migration between Austria and CEE
  • Characteristics of and implications for migrant care work(ers)
The development of migrant care work

Factors related to...

• **Migration**
  • Push/pull factors, social networks

• **Gender**
  • Feminised migration, gendered division of labour
  • Reversed gender roles: women as breadwinners

• **Care policies**
  • Re-familiarisation, familialistic orientation
  • Cash-for-care benefits
Countries of origin and destination of migrant care workers in Europe
### Characteristics of migrant care workers

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country</th>
<th>Gender</th>
<th>Age</th>
<th>Main countries of origin</th>
<th>Level of education</th>
<th>Working conditions (contract type, pay etc.)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Austria</td>
<td>Mainly female</td>
<td>Mainly middle-aged</td>
<td>Czech Republic, Hungary &amp; Slovakia</td>
<td>Usually higher than the required one</td>
<td>Both regular and undeclared</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Canada</td>
<td>Mainly female</td>
<td>Mainly middle-aged</td>
<td>Philippines &amp; Asia</td>
<td>Usually higher than the required one</td>
<td>Mostly regular</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Denmark</td>
<td>Mainly female</td>
<td>Mainly middle-aged</td>
<td>Second-generation migrants from Turkey</td>
<td>Usually higher than the required one</td>
<td>Mostly regular</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>France</td>
<td>Mainly female</td>
<td>Mainly middle-aged</td>
<td>North-Africa</td>
<td>Usually higher than the required one</td>
<td>Usually regular</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Germany</td>
<td>Mainly female</td>
<td>Mainly middle-aged</td>
<td>Poland, Czech Republic, Slovenia</td>
<td>Usually higher than the required one</td>
<td>Sometimes undeclared</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Greece</td>
<td>Mainly female</td>
<td>Mainly middle-aged</td>
<td>Bulgaria, Poland and Albania</td>
<td>Usually higher than the required one</td>
<td>Often undeclared</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Italy</td>
<td>90%</td>
<td>Also older age</td>
<td>Ukraine, Romania, Poland, Philippines</td>
<td>Often highly-skilled</td>
<td>Often undeclared and underpaid</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ireland</td>
<td>Mainly female</td>
<td>Mainly middle-aged</td>
<td>Philippines and Poland</td>
<td>Usually higher than the required one</td>
<td>More often employed in private, low-paid sector</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Israel</td>
<td>Mainly female</td>
<td>Mainly middle-aged</td>
<td>Philippines</td>
<td>Usually higher than the required one</td>
<td>Usually regular</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spain</td>
<td>Mainly female</td>
<td>Mainly middle-aged</td>
<td>South America and Morocco</td>
<td>Usually higher than the required one</td>
<td>Often undeclared</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>United Kingdom</td>
<td>Mainly female</td>
<td>Also younger age</td>
<td>Asia &amp; Central Europe</td>
<td>Usually higher than the required one</td>
<td>One third earns below the minimum wage</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>United States</td>
<td>90%</td>
<td>Mainly middle-aged</td>
<td>Central America</td>
<td>Usually higher than the required one</td>
<td>Often undeclared</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Regularisations of migrant care work in Europe

• **Germany**
  - Unsuccessful attempt to regularise migrant care work in private households in 2005
  - Free mobility of services, posting of workers, bogus self-employment
  - Migrant care workers from CEE (e.g. Poland)

• **Southern Europe** (Italy, Spain)
  - Highly unregulated, irregular employment
  - Migrant care workers from CEE and South America
  - Italy: regularisation of 316,000 domestic workers in 2002 (Bossi-Fini Law)
  - Spain: regularisation of 187,500 domestic workers in 2005
Migrant 24-hour care work in Austria

• **Regularisation in 2007**: employment or self-employment, public financial subsidy for users, no qualification or quality requirements

• **Live-in care work** for older people in need of care in their private households

• **Placement organisations** operating in Austria and/or CEE countries

• **Rotational** migration (2-4 weeks)

• **Central and Eastern European** countries of origin (56 % Slovakia, 30 % Romania); 60,589 self-employed 24-hour care workers (2016)

• **24-hour care workers**: 95 % women, 70 % between 40 and 60 years of age

.createFrom: Österle, Bauer 2016
Implications of the regularisation for migrant care workers

• **Working conditions**
  - Isolation, 24-hours availability
  - Psychological and physical constraints
  - Language, lack of qualification

• **Social protection**
  - Access to social welfare system (health insurance, old-age pension etc.)
  - Self-employment limits claims for social security benefits (e.g. sick leave)

• **Transnational living and family life**

Österle, Bauer 2016
Care work migration

Care chains and care drain

• Global care chains

“A series of personal links across the globe based on the paid or unpaid work of caring” (Hochschild 2000: 131)

• International division of reproductive labour (Parreñas 2001)

• Care drain / care gain / emotional surplus
Re-organising family care obligations in CEE

- Informal care obligations at home
  - Multiple informal care obligations
  - Higher care demands for women aged 40 to 50
- Substitute caregivers
  - Nuclear family
  - Role of men, children, grandmothers
- Redistribution of practical, organisational, emotional and financial responsibilities
Determinants of care re-arrangements

• It’s the family...
  • Strong assumptions towards the role of the family
  • Reciprocal considerations
  • Informal care re-arrangements as part of the migration decision
  • Factors that facilitate / hinder the involvement of family members

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Facilitating factors</th>
<th>Excluding factors</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Proximity</td>
<td>Distance</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Multi-generational households</td>
<td>Availability</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Flexible working hours, self-employment</td>
<td>Intergenerational conflicts</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(early) retirement</td>
<td>Risk of neglect</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Determinants of care re-arrangements

• **Monetary resources**
  - Decision for care labour migration is driven by income considerations (rather than career perspectives)
  - Use of informally paid services: determined by family-specific constellations
  - No use of migrant care work (not considered nor available)

• **Social welfare system**
  - LTC-services underdeveloped, high use of institutional child care
  - Cultural acceptability
  - Limited affordability (financial regress, substantial co-payments)
Conclusion

- Women assume **dual roles**: breadwinners and caregivers
- **Re-arrangements** are driven by strong family orientation, lack of financial resources, lack of public welfare provision
- Meeting **care shortages** in Western European countries results in **care drain** in CEE
Thank you!