

***Comparing Welfare Regimes across World Regions:  
Care Arrangements in East Asia and Latin America  
with an Eye to Migrant Domestic Care Workers***

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Starting point was partly a classification of both East Asia and Latin America being informal care regimes through a strong family orientation promoted by Confucianism and Catholicism respectively, and partly an observation that the welfare regimes were moving targets. Both regions are facing similar challenges from demographic changes (longer life expectancy, declining fertility) and changes within the labor markets (women's increased formal participation), which combined effect has been termed care crisis. Responses have been to increase (collective) care arrangements via public sector or market interventions; both regions have expanded early childhood education and public (supported) day care and have legislated parental leave. Regions differ with respect to elderly care: in Latin America it is still left to family and/or market, while in East Asia public interventions either as supplementary or alternative have also been introduced. However, within both regions a phenomenon labelled cultural stickiness was discovered: despite legislated rights, practices remained in many instances the same because of non-compliance or non-take up. A preferred or dominant solution to the care crisis among middle class families have been to employ domestic, migrant care workers, which on the outset is a market solution, but it involves active state intervention through migration and labor legislation, and often relies on reinventing family ties either through marriage or family 'inclusion.' These developments have huge and different implications with respect to gender, generation and class.

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