COMPARING WELFARE REGIMES ACROSS WORLD REGIONS:
CARE ARRANGEMENTS IN EAST ASIA AND LATIN AMERICA

Peter Abrahamson

East Asia and Latin America are both late comers with respect to welfare state development and they also share a strong family orientation, which has strongly influenced the welfare regimes. Both places social security benefits are quite well developed for those in the formal labor market, but lacking for the informally employed. Furthermore, care policies for the old, the handicapped, disabled and children, are underdeveloped in most countries within both regions, which has led to extremely low fertility rates in East Asia and among middle class women in the Southern Cone (MERCOSUR) in South America, since highly educated women choose career over motherhood since it is impossible for them to balance work and family life. The study compares care arrangements with an eye to gender and on a backdrop of the development of the Scandinavian welfare regime where a generous and extensive family policy has led to an increase in fertility rates.

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