

Employing GIS to Better Understand the Gendered Nature of Unpaid Work

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Across the globe, all health and social care systems are relying on an often invisible workforce – unpaid carers. Unpaid carers are a group of people in society who are universally not only undervalued and unsupported, but often are unrecognized. Unpaid caregivers are predominately women who provide a crucial safety net for national health and social care structures globally. Given the gendered nature of unpaid work, the interdependence of paid and unpaid care work must be examined as we design and build gender equality and empowerment of women in society, while simultaneously adapting to our increasingly important and strained care economies.

Geospatial data provides an innovative approach to analyzing and visualizing unpaid care and domestic work. Paired with time-use diaries, geospatial data provides the opportunity for both spatial and temporal lived experience to be comparatively visualized across gender, making evident relative space-time tensions. Geographical information science (GIS) is an emerging technology which has yet to be fully applied in the field of gender statistics, as it relates to unpaid care and domestic work. This presentation has two objectives:

- (1) Review the progress in the field of GIS and unpaid care/domestic work to date;
and
- (2) Outline emerging directions and opportunities in this field, specific to gender equality and women's empowerment.

This presentation will provide the springboard for further discussion on how geospatial data can complement existing measures of unpaid care and domestic work from a gendered perspective.