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Contents

THE LONG-TERM CARE SECTOR IN THE MEDITERRANEAN AREA

Matteo Luppi, Sara Picchi, *Introduction*

Sharon Asiskovitch, *Israel's Long-Term Care Insurance Programme: Institution, Economy, and Politics*

Mehmet Fatih Aysan, Ummugulsum Aysan, *Who Cares?: Elderly Care in Turkey*

Marco Arlotti, Manuel Aguilar Hendrickson, *The Long-Term Care Policies for Dependent Elderly People in Italy and Spain: Main Features and Recent Trends*

Nikos Xypolytas, *The Reproduction of Labour in Elderly Care Jobs: The Case of Live-in Domestic Workers from Ukraine in Greece*

Manuela Naldini, Emmanuele Pavolini, Cristina Solera, *Does Caring for the Elderly Affect Mid-Life Women's Employment? Differences across Care-Work Regimes*

Sergio Pasquinelli, Giselda Rusmini, *The Elderly Care in Lombardy*

ESSAYS

Simone Cremaschi, Carlo Devillanova, Francesco Fasani, Tommaso Frattini, *Undocumented Migration in Times of Recession*

Sonia Bertolini, Cristina Solera, *Is Atypical Work a Trap or a Bridge towards Reconciliation? Women's Employment Interruptions around Motherhood of Three Italian Birth Cohorts*

Elena Sychenko, *The Value of Comparative Research and International Labour Standards for the Adjudication of Labour-Law-Related Cases by the European Court of Human Rights*

Alessio Marabucci, Pietro Spirito, *Analysis of Total Factor Productivity in Surface Transportation Services Provided by Atac Spa: The 2005-2014 Decade. A Case Study in the Local Public Transport Sector*

PAOLO LEON. THE LEGACY OF A MASTER

Leonello Tronti, *In Memory of Paolo Leon*

Antonio Pedone, *The Continuous, Unpredictable, and Dangerous Transformations of Capitalism*

Sebastiano Fadda, *The Economy of "Ignorant Powers"*

Marco Causi, *Economic Theory and Applied Economics*

Roberto Romano, *Economy, Society, Community*

Roberto Schiattarella, *Leon beyond Leon*

BOOK REVIEWS

E. Granaglia, M. Bolzoni, *Il reddito di base* (by Enrica Morlicchio)

M. Accorinti, E. Pugliese (a cura di), *Generazioni solidali. Giovani e anziani nell'Italia della crisi* (by Giovanni B. Sgritta)

NOTES ON PUBLICATIONS

by the Editorial Staff

Abstracts

INTRODUCTION

Matteo Luppi, Sara Picchi

Several studies have highlighted the increasing role of the families and the mismatch between needs and delivery of long-term care (LTC) in the Southern European countries, but less attention has been paid to other countries in the Southern rim of the Mediterranean. This special section aims to fill this void by presenting articles focused on reform processes and LTC organisation in the Mediterranean area. In doing so, this special section collects contributions coming from Italy, Spain, Greece, Turkey, and Israel as well as a comparative analysis including 21 EU Member States and a focus on Lombardy, one of the most dynamic Italian Regions in LTC arrangement.

ISRAEL'S LONG-TERM CARE INSURANCE PROGRAMME: INSTITUTION, ECONOMY, AND POLITICS

Sharon Asiskovitch

The Long-Term Care Insurance Programme (LTCIP) for Israel's elderly was introduced in 1988. It is the main public programme directed at those past retirement who live in the community and are dependent on others for daily living activities.

LTCIP offers several services, mainly homecare help, to the frail elderly based on dependency and income tests. The programme is administered and financed by the National Insurance Institute of Israel (NII) and services are delivered, for almost all beneficiaries, by for-profit and not-for-profit service providers.

The number of beneficiaries and expenditure on benefits have grown dramatically since the programme was introduced. In 2015, a monthly average of almost 161,000 were entitled to benefits, about 16.5% of the elderly, and public spending was about NIS 5.5 billion (about €1.25 billion). While many elderly individuals receive the benefits, their value to the more dependent is rather limited when compared to their needs.

In recent years, various legal amendments and other policy changes have been introduced in LTCIP. The shifts in LTCIP rules can be related to the economic environment and availability of public resources. In the early 2000s cuts were introduced, as in most programmes administered by NII, due to severe economic crisis. In recent years, shifts broadening access and eligibility have been introduced. The global economic crisis of 2008-2009, which had little impact on Israel, was used to advance a change in LTCIP benefits to encourage the employment of Israeli, rather than foreign, paid caregivers.

Changes expanding eligibility for LTCIP are related to relatively high public support for the programme and institutional causes linked to some features of the programme itself.

WHO CARES?: ELDERLY CARE IN TURKEY

Mehmet Fatih Aysan, Ummugulsum Aysan

This article analyses elderly care in Turkey and compares it with Southern European countries in relation to welfare regime and ageing discussions in literature. It highlights care services provided by various actors such as the State, the family, and the market. Furthermore, in the analysis of elderly care services, public policies related to structural labour market and demographic challenges, such as gender equality, family, and home-care support, are discussed. The main objective of this paper is to highlight major characteristics of the Turkish caring system and particularly elderly care, which has attracted very few researchers so far in light of welfare regime discussions. Even though the role of the State has increased in the management of social risks in the last decades, families still play significant roles in care services. This paper shows that long-term care services respond to a social assistance principle, rather than a universal care principle in Turkey.

The methodology used in this article depends on secondary quantitative data on care services and surveys on family and elderly care, particularly in Istanbul. In addition to these datasets, the “Turkish Family Structure” (2011) and the “Conditions of the Elderly and Social Services in Istanbul” (2015) surveys have been used to understand the effect of care services on the welfare of old people in Turkey.

THE LONG-TERM CARE POLICIES FOR DEPENDENT ELDERLY PEOPLE IN ITALY AND SPAIN: MAIN FEATURES AND RECENT TRENDS

Marco Arlotti, Manuel Aguilar Hendrickson

Italy and Spain are paradigmatic examples of the so-called “Southern European welfare model”, in which the long-term care needs of dependent elderly people are mainly covered by family and intergenerational solidarities, while the institutional support (in particular through in-kind services) is structurally residual. However, over the last years, a different trajectory of institutional change seems to have taken place in the two countries: Italy characterised by an inertial re-production of its consolidated welfare system, while Spain characterised by a radical change in the wake of the approval of an important national reform about long-term care for dependent people. Despite these different institutional trajectories, our hypothesis is that the two countries still share important similarities due to the impact of the austerity policies and the functioning of a multilevel governance of long-term care policy characterised by a sort of vicious layering, which stimulates negative consequences in terms of territorial inequalities and cost-shifting dynamics (included increasing users’ copayment).

THE REPRODUCTION OF LABOUR IN ELDERLY CARE JOBS: THE CASE OF LIVE-IN DOMESTIC WORKERS FROM UKRAINE IN GREECE

Nikos Xypolytas

The article presents an effort to analyse the reproduction of labour of migrant elderly carers in their low-status jobs. This will be done by looking at the consequences of live-in domestic work on migrant women from Ukraine working as carers of elderly people in Athens. The study utilises a Marxo-Weberian framework that focuses on both working conditions and perceptions of migrant workers. It is argued that the emotional demands related to domestic work result in migrants perceiving their tasks as an extension of familial relationships and obligations. These employment relationships are defined as “pseudo-familial” and form the basis of deference in domestic work. Combined with the structural barriers in the labour market, deference represents the subjective element of the entrapment of migrants in their job.

DOES CARING FOR THE ELDERLY AFFECT MID-LIFE WOMEN'S EMPLOYMENT? DIFFERENCES ACROSS CARE-WORK REGIMES

Manuela Naldini, Emmanuele Pavolini, Cristina Solera

Does caring for an elderly person affect employment of women aged between 43 and 57? What is the role of the institutional and cultural context? Are there differences across “care-work regimes”? This study draws on Eurobarometer microdata, which have been integrated with institutional country-level datasets, and by means of cluster analysis and multilevel analysis across 21 European countries it analyses the main micro and macro factors that influence decisions to give up or reduce (or not) paid work when having to care for a frail elderly parent. The results show that living in a care-work regime, different in terms of care policies, care and family cultures, and overall women's activity rates, matters. In Scandinavian countries – the most de-familialised ones – women rarely change their labour market participation for elderly caregiving. Conversely, where service coverage is lower and intergenerational family care obligations higher, as in Southern and Eastern European countries, employment of women aged between 43 and 57 is discouraged.

THE ELDERLY CARE IN LOMBARDY

Sergio Pasquinelli, Giselda Rusmini

Four hundred thousand dependent elderly people are living in Lombardy today. Who cares for them? To what extent are regional interventions able to cover the need for care and to what extent does it remain uncovered? How can public services, irregular care workers and private social organisations work together to meet a demand that is expected to grow sharply? This contribution summarises some of the results of the *First Report on the elderly care in Lombardy* (Maggioli, 2015), which focuses on the provision of care for the frail elderly people in Lombardy and on its changes.

Family care resources will diminish over the next 20 years, in a demographic framework characterised by an increase in the number of elderly people living alone. Even today, one in three seniors in Lombardy is living alone. Informal care workers, especially migrant women, have been the answer in the past and they still continue to be a resource for many families.

Over the years in Lombardy, a series of initiatives have been introduced to overcome the problems related to irregular care work. While highlighting the potential risks and problems as well as the future development, this study analyses some significant policies in support of families and private care workers in Lombardy: from those more recently introduced, such as temporary workers and job-sharing (“shared caregiver”), to those more consolidated such as service desks aimed at matching offer and demand, as well as cash-for-care schemes.

UNDOCUMENTED MIGRATION IN TIMES OF RECESSION

Simone Cremaschi, Carlo Devillanova, Francesco Fasani, Tommaso Frattini

This paper analyses microdata from three different sources in order to quantify the impact of the economic recession on undocumented migrants in Italy and to compare their labour market outcomes in recent years with the performance of native workers and documented migrants. This study provides evidence for the first time for a dramatic deterioration of employment outcomes and housing conditions of undocumented migrants during the economic crisis started in 2008. In particular, the reduction in the share of employed workers is about three times larger among migrants lacking legal status than among legally resident migrants. Differently from what observed for this latter group, among undocumented migrants the fall in employment is similar for women and men. If migrant workers are generally more vulnerable in the labour market than natives, the lack of legal status is associated with even higher exposure to the detrimental effects of economic downturns.

IS ATYPICAL WORK A TRAP OR A BRIDGE TOWARDS RECONCILIATION? WOMEN'S EMPLOYMENT INTERRUPTIONS AROUND MOTHERHOOD OF THREE ITALIAN BIRTH COHORTS

Sonia Bertolini, Cristina Solera

While the link between atypical work and family formation has been widely explored in the literature, less attention has been paid to the impact of the type of contract on women's employment continuity around motherhood. By drawing on the last wave of the *Longitudinal Survey on Italian Families* (ILFI, 2005), in this paper we analyse the life courses of Italian women from their first job to the age of 30-40 and their risk of moving from employment to unemployment or inactivity around the birth of the first child. Our results show that, in the cohorts observed, low-educated women are those most at risk of withdrawing from the labour market to become "housewives", regardless of whether they are temporary or permanent workers and/or self-employed. However, the type of contract seems to affect the timing of their decisions: women in temporary jobs exit at the same rate as those in permanent jobs, but when they exit, they tend to do so before having children, regardless of whether they are high or low educated. In addition, atypical workers are at greater risk of unemployment, which can also translate into discouragement and permanent withdrawal from the labour market and, once withdrawn, into the decision to have children.

THE VALUE OF COMPARATIVE RESEARCH AND INTERNATIONAL LABOUR STANDARDS FOR THE ADJUDICATION OF LABOUR-LAW-RELATED CASES BY THE EUROPEAN COURT OF HUMAN RIGHTS

Elena Sychenko

The paper establishes the ways the European Court of Human Rights (ECtHR) applies international labour standards and refers to comparative research of national labour legislations when it adjudicates cases related to labour rights. In the first part, the author researches the meaning of the "living" character of the European Convention on Human Rights (ECHR) and the outcomes of an evolutionary interpretation of the Convention in cases related to labour law. The second part investigates the references to the international instruments other than the ECHR in the ECtHR's case law, and outlines the contributions of the ILO standards to the development of labour rights protection. The third part follows the use of comparative research of national labour legislations by the ECtHR and argues its particular impact on antidiscrimination protection and on the protection of the freedom of association.

ANALYSIS OF TOTAL FACTOR PRODUCTIVITY IN SURFACE TRANSPORTATION SERVICES PROVIDED BY ATAC SPA: THE 2005-2014 DECADE. A CASE STUDY IN THE LOCAL PUBLIC TRANSPORT SECTOR

Alessio Marabucci, Pietro Spirito

The analysis of total factor productivity allows for the determination of the effect of exogenous factors – not related to the classic factors of production, i.e. capital and labour – that contribute to the formation of the output of a business. In the specific case of local public transport, this element is linked to the presence or absence of economies of scale and to the productivity of each factor used in the production process.

The case under investigation concerns the largest public transport company in Italy, Atac, which operates in a geographical area with a number of peculiarities, given the territorial extension of the Municipality of Rome. It is however paying for past mistakes, which have led to choices that do not suit the public service model in question, thus generating inefficiencies.

This work aims to provide, as far as possible, food for thought starting from which initiatives could be undertaken with a view to increasing the company's management efficiency and, consequently, to improving the service provided to final users.