

LABOUR MARKET OUTSIDERNESS AND INFORMAL CARE REGIMES IN EUROPE

Doctoral student

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Education

Bocconi University (Milan, Italy)
Master of Science in Economic and Social Sciences.

Bocconi University (Milan, Italy)
Bachelor of Business and Administration and Management.

Professional experiences

- International IDEA at the United Nations (New York, USA)
- Action Institute (Milan, Italy)

Research

The Political Economy of Labour Market Liberalization (work in progress) with Emanuele Ferragina

Other activities

- PhD representative at Sciences Po for the European Graduate Network (EGN)
- Member of the Family Policy Group (Sciences Po, Paris)

Changes in the labour market, in the social structure and welfare retrenchment all contributed to the rise of new social risks (NSR), exacerbating the difficulties of work-family reconciliation. At the same time, this political economy context contributed to foster an increasing dualism between labour market insiders and outsiders. The aim of my research is to better understand the evolution of both labour market insiders' and outsiders' informal caregiving patterns. The research is structured in three steps. First, using a holistic set of macro-level indicators, it maps the evolution of labour market protection and labour force composition of both insiders and outsiders in 21 OECD countries in 1990 and 2015. Second, it maps the evolution of family and long-term care policies over the same time-period. Third, using the European Union Statistics on Income and Living Conditions (EU-SILC), it studies at the micro-level the effects of labour market outsidership and welfare benefits provision on the amount of informal care individuals carry out in four welfare regimes (Social Democratic, Christian Democratic, Mediterranean and Liberal).

Labour Market Outsidership

In this research, I employ one of the most widely accepted conceptualizations of labour market outsidership, provided by Rueda (2005), in which outsiders are identified as “the unemployed and those who hold jobs characterized by low salaries and low levels of protection, employment rights, benefits, and social security privileges”. On the empirical side, there are two prevalent ways to distinguish labour market outsiders and insiders: the first considers the actual individual labour market status (Rueda, 2005; Emmenegger, 2009); the other focuses on the notion of ‘risk profile’, that is, the likelihood of being an outsider (Häusermann & Schwander, 2009, 2010; Ferragina et al., 2016).

Mesuring labor market outsidership

I operationalize labour market outsidership employing individual and household-level information on socio-demographic characteristics, labour market status, social class (see Oesch, 2006), income, receipt of welfare benefits and childcare usage contained in EU-SILC



Countries under analysis

The micro-level analysis includes sixteen European countries divided into four categories depending on welfare regime belonging (Esping-Andersen, 1990) and the prevalence of formal/informal care: (1) Finland, Denmark, Norway and Sweden that belong to the Social Democratic welfare regime and adopt strong formal care systems; (2) Austria, Belgium, France, Germany, the Netherlands and Switzerland, that belong to the Christian-Democratic welfare regime and adopt both family and formal care; (3) Greece, Italy, Portugal and Spain that belong to Mediterranean welfare regimes and have mixed models of care; and (4) Ireland and the United Kingdom which are characterized by a liberal welfare state, where the share of the population involved in informal care is one of the highest among OECD countries.

Informal care

Using Daly’s (2002) conceptualization, I consider caring activities as “the activities and relations involved in caring for the ill, elderly and dependent young”. Despite this broad definition, it is possible to empirically identify informal carers thanks to the availability of individual-level data collected in EU-SILC and harmonised for cross-national comparison.

Measuring informal care

The dependent variable used in the micro-level investigation is the amount of informal care each individual carries out in one year. Thanks to the availability of harmonised cross-country data collected in EU-SILC, it is possible to analyse individual informal care patterns relating them to:

- (1) the socio-demographic characteristics (such as gender, age, number of members of the household, number of children, marital status etc.);
- (2) labour market conditions (education, outsidership, social class, etc.);
- (3) the individual and household-level information on income;
- (4) welfare benefits eventually received (such as vouchers or other cash or in-kind benefits);
- (5) the institutional background (that is, the prevalence of formal or informal care in each country).