Global perspective on estimates and implications of the Counting Women’s Work Project

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Demographic transition is a gender transition

• In high-fertility context, women specialize in bearing and raising children
• Fertility decline means this can change, but often changes more slowly
• Why study the gendered economy?
  – To do good (support equal rights, achieve SDGs)
  – To do well (remove inefficiency, enhance growth)
Gender in the market economy

- Mexico, 2014

**Graphs:**
- **Labor Income (Mex$/year)**
  - Male
  - Female

- **Ratio of labor income (female/male)**
  - Age range: 20 to 80 years
  - Female/male income ratios decrease with age.
Gender in the market economy

- Ratios of female/male labor income

Africa: Ghana, Senegal, South Africa

Asia: India, Vietnam, Turkey

Latin America: Colombia, Costa Rica, Mexico, Uruguay

Europe & US: Germany, Italy, Spain, US
Closing gaps can enhance growth

• Example: what would happen to the first dividend from 2015 to 2050 if the gender gap in market labor decreased by half?

![Chart showing Avg Annual Change in Support Ratio for different countries, with a legend indicating "Only Population Changed" and "Gender gap in labor income decreased by 50%".](chart.png)
What is missing?

• Work also takes place outside of the market, outside of most economic measurement

• Unpaid care work (UCW)
  – Direct care for children, elders, sick or disabled persons, other community members
  – Indirect care in the form of housework, household management and maintenance

• Recognized SDG5, aspect of gender equality
Counting Women’s Work: Measuring the gendered economy

- Estimate NTA by sex
- National Time Transfer Accounts (NTTA)
  - Time-use surveys provide data to estimate consumption, production, and transfers of UCW time
  - Value time by a market wage for $-valued estimates comparable to NTA
The gendered economy, time

- Women specialize in unpaid care work and men specialize in market work
- Example: Mexico, 2014

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Mexico, Female</th>
<th>Mexico, Male</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><img src="image1.png" alt="Graph" /></td>
<td><img src="image2.png" alt="Graph" /></td>
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<tr>
<td>Hours per week</td>
<td>Hours per week</td>
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<tr>
<td>Age</td>
<td>Age</td>
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<tr>
<td>Unpaid care</td>
<td>Market work</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Specialization and variation in the gendered economy

Points are age-standardized averages for ages 30-49
UCW is a large part of our economies.
Children consume a lot of UCW

Averages are age-standardized.

- Ghana
- Mexico
- Senegal
- Costa Rica
- Turkey
- Spain
- United States
- South Africa
- Uruguay
- India
- Italy
- Colombia
- Vietnam
- Germany

Consumption of UCW, relative to consumption of market goods & services

- Age 0-5
- Age 70+

Averages are age-standardized.
Policy relevance

• Gender equity
• Efficiency
• Invisibility of UCW can lead to misleading analyses and policy mistakes
  – Efforts to increase female labor force participation
  – Impacts of population aging
  – Responses to below-replacement fertility?