

## **How do we theorise the employment of migrant women in home-based care work in European welfare states?**

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The increased employment of migrant women in domestic and care work in private homes has been captured by the term 'the global care chain'. Helpful as this concept is in identifying a phenomenon that previously had no name, there are, nonetheless, limitations to its application to the relationship between migration and care in European countries, particularly if we want to place the welfare state and its policies in the picture. This paper draws on two cross-national research projects. The first was a qualitative investigation of employers and migrant women employees in home-based child care in London, Madrid and Stockholm. The second project, just started, focuses more widely on migration and care (for old and young) in Germany, the Netherlands and Ireland. Together the six countries under study – UK, Sweden, Spain, Germany, Netherlands and Ireland provide a good basis for comparison for their similarities and differences in their regimes of welfare, care and migration. The paper draws out of the first study the indicators that can help map the similarities and differences across all the countries. The focus of analysis is on the way the state, *including the welfare state*, articulates the relationship between care needs, care provision and the transnational movement of migrant labour. The paper then asks what theories enable us to analyse these complexities of migration, care and welfare in Europe and proposes a synthesis between a global political economy approach and an analytical and normative ethic of care approach.