

Who?

Counting Women's Work (CWW) is a project within the National Transfer Accounts (NTA) research network.

The project is coordinated by the

University of California, Berkeley; the Development Policy Research Unit, University of Cape Town; and the East-West Center, Honolulu.

CWW currently supports this research in nine low- and middle-income countries around the world, namely: Colombia, Costa Rica, Ghana, India, Kenya, Mexico, Senegal, South Africa and Vietnam. The project also aims to bring together the ongoing research into gender-disaggregated estimates of the generational economy, including the value of unpaid time, from other country teams within the broader NTA network.

The NTA network includes research teams in more than 40 countries around the world. Over the next several years, all NTA countries with sufficient data will be producing estimates of the gendered economy comparable to those produced by CWW country teams. This will represent a rich resource to those studying gender and the economy around the world.

Gretchen Donehower (UC Berkeley) is the CWW Project Director, assisted by Morné Oosthuizen (DPRU, UCT), with Ronald Lee (UC Berkeley) and Andrew Mason (University of Hawaii) as Principal Investigators.

Funders

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Stay informed about CWW

If you are interested in the results of the Counting Women's Work research, there are a number of ways to keep in touch and track our progress.



www.countingwomenswork.org

The CWW website is the central repository for information on the project, bringing together research results, outputs, and dissemination materials from the various country teams.



CWW Newsletter

The CWW newsletter provides regular updates relating to research findings and CWW events, as well as to the activities of the network of country teams.



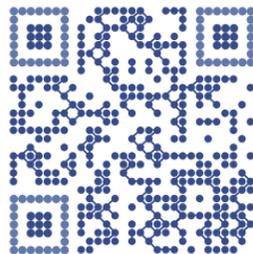
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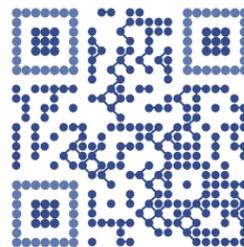


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Counting Women's Work

The gendered economy in the market and at home



COUNTING
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NATIONAL
TRANSFER
ACCOUNTS

Understanding the
generational economy

What?

The Counting Women's Work (CWW) project is a three-year research project (2014-2016) involving research teams from around the world, with the goal of

bringing the economic lives of women and girls into view in a more comprehensive manner than ever before. Our work will provide data and analysis to help develop better policies around economic development, care for children and the elderly, investments in human capital, and gender equity in the workplace and the home.

The CWW research programme was developed as part of the National Transfer Accounts (NTA) project. With member teams in over 40 countries, NTA research has revealed the nature of the generational economy around the world — how people produce, consume, share and save resources across different age groups. NTA has helped us understand how population change impacts economic growth and development, investments in human capital, and family and public support systems for children and the elderly.

We know that gender can play an important role in all of these processes as well. Governments are including gender perspectives in their economic development programmes, and making it a policy goal that women and girls are treated fairly by government programmes that support social welfare and develop the human capital of the next generation. Thus, CWW was developed to bring a gender perspective to National Transfer Accounts. This involves three efforts:

- Dissagregate national-level market economic flows by age and sex, creating NTA age profiles of market income, consumption, transfers and saving for males and females separately. This reveals the gender dimension of the market economy, showing how men and women participate in the paid labour market and accumulate assets, and how young and old dependents receive market goods and services from their families and their societies.
- Include non-market care and housework in the NTA framework, bringing traditionally understood "women's work" into a framework where it can be included in economic and policy analysis.
- Work with policymakers and other stakeholders throughout the research process to understand their gender-related policy goals and include the most policy-relevant analyses in the CWW research agenda.

Why?

There are two main reasons to make gender a vital part of economic research. First, understanding economic gender inequality and building policies to alleviate it is part of

the effort of supporting human rights. Second, understanding gender dynamics in the economy helps us design better policies around work, social welfare, care for dependents, economic development, and human capital investment. For example, making sure that we invest in the human capital of girls and boys equally serves gender equity goals, but also pays off in the future when girls become mothers who are able to achieve better outcomes for their children.

To incorporate gender in economic analysis, CWW takes the innovative step of including unpaid services such as housework and care for children and the elderly in our framework. These household production activities sustain our households and create the human capital of the future. CWW will be the first research project to measure the production and consumption of this unpaid time in economic terms across a large group of countries around the world.

How?

The NTA framework takes flows measured in national accounts, such as production, consumption, and public and private transfers, and disaggregates them by age

using household surveys and administrative data. The CWW methodology for market accounts adds gender as another dimension to disaggregate national accounts. This results in profiles of per capita market flows by age and sex that can be used in economic and policy analysis.

To include unpaid household services in the NTA framework, CWW has developed National Time Transfer Accounts (NTTA). NTTA combines data from time use and wage surveys to measure how much time men and women spend in unpaid household production, what that time is worth in market terms, and who consumes it.

Combining NTA and NTTA estimates results in a complete picture of the gendered economy, showing how women and men, girls and boys, acquire and use economic resources to meet their own material needs, to provide for their futures, and to help others.

Counting Women's Work measures production more broadly: An example from Uruguay

The figure shows market and household production for men and women in Uruguay in 2006. The market accounts in blue are based on surveys of individuals' wages and aggregate data on compensation of employees and the income of the self-employed. The household production accounts in red are based on time use survey data and show the value of time spent in unpaid housework and care activities, valued by an imputed market wage for these activities. Age profiles are per capita and so include the impact of differences in labour force participation, hours worked, and wages.

In this instance, men produce more in the market than women, while women produce more in the household than men. Relatively large amounts of household production are occurring amongst women at the oldest and youngest ages. The figure demonstrates that a large amount of economic activity would be missed if only market accounts were considered. These results allow us to quantify several aspects of the gendered economy: the difference between men and women in market work and wages, and the potential unmet need for household services that might arise if women's participation in market labour converged to that of men.

(Data courtesy of Marissa Bucheli and Cecilia Lara)

