

Revisiting *Global Cinderellas*: Taiwan's Care and Migration Regimes

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Abstract:

This paper revisits my book *Global Cinderellas* and re-examines the employment of migrant care workers in the receiving contexts of care regime and migration regime, i.e., how the Taiwanese society organizes the demand and supply of care and how it manages the boundaries between citizens and foreigners.

Taiwan's care regime is gradually moving toward a dual-track system, including the publicly funded long-term care program and the private purchase of live-in migrant care service. Despite its political promise on the provision of universal, public care, the government continues to depend on the cheap labor of migrant women—not only for the subcontracting of filial piety but also for the outsourcing of welfare state. Taiwan's migration regime operates as a system of stratified differences and multiple inconsistencies. Migrant workers, regardless their duration of residency in Taiwan, are ascribed a permanent status of “legally temporary” by the institutional logic of social exclusion based on the intersection of social class and nationality.

To replace a linear model of “global care chains” or “filial care chains,” I propose the concept “*global circuits of care*” to describe relations of interdependence, mutual exchange and reciprocal influence between adult children and aging parents, between care recipients and care workers, between the sending country and the receiving country. The concept of global circuits of care opens up a series of possibility for future researchers to explore the multi-directional exchange of labor, emotions and resources in the contexts of migration and globalization.