

Migrant domestic workers challenging the governance of migration: Strategies, difficulties and allies

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Abstract

In many countries, we can say migrant domestic workers, the majority women, are positioned in a paradigmatic way vis-à-vis the paradoxes of the governance of migration: they are acknowledged to be a very much needed workforce in the 'essential work' sector, yet they are excluded from social, work and citizenship rights from most host societies. Also in their home countries, their condition as overseas workers can be precarious and loaded with ambiguities. Against this complex scenario, as individuals and collective organizations, migrant domestic workers have enacted various strategies of resistance, advocacy and political campaigning.

This presentation will provide examples from this variegated landscape and its evolution in the last 20 years, shedding light on the specificities of this migrant's activism and of the alliances they have established along their struggles. In particular, the presentation will focus on the case of mobilization of domestic workers' rights in Europe, the majority of Filipino or Latin American origin, and their relationship with feminist groups, trade unions, and migrants' support groups. The importance of their mobilization for the ILO Convention n. 189 will be also discussed for its wider repercussions on the field of social and citizenship rights for migrant workers

Biography

Sabrina Marchetti is Associate Professor in Sociology at Ca' Foscari University of Venice. She specializes on issues of gender, racism, labour and migration, with a specific focus on the question of migrant domestic and care work. She has been the principal investigator of a Starting Grant project funded by the European Research Council entitled "DomEQUAL: Paid domestic work and global inequalities" (2016-21), about the labour rights of paid domestic and care workers in India, Philippines, Taiwan, Ecuador, Colombia, Brazil, Germany, Italy and Spain. She is currently the coordinator of the Italian team for the H2020 research project "VULNER: Vulnerabilities under the global protection regime" (2020-23), coordinated by the Max Planck Institute in Halle. Her recent books are *Global domestic workers: intersectional inequalities and struggles for rights* (Bristol UP 2021, with Giulia Garofalo Geymonat and Daniela Cherubini) and *Migration and Domestic work* (Springer 2022).