

**Transnational Migration and Mobility:
Care and Domestic Workers in East Asia**

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<Abstract>

In Beverly Skegg's work *Class, Self, Culture*, she argues that, "mobility is a resource to which not everyone has an equal relationship." With the vast improvement in transportation and various legal provisions and statuses, many people today enjoy the freedom of movement for purposes such as tourism, study and work. However, this freedom of movement or mobility, is in many ways disciplined. This paper will explore the prospects and challenges of particularly female domestic and care workers from Southeast Asia to East Asia, namely Japan, Korea and Taiwan. In all three regions, rapid industrialization, urbanization and high education have resulted in the increase of nuclear families and more women entering the workforce, therefore, care and domestic work is being outsourced to foreign women migrant workers. In addition, all three societies are also rapidly aging with low birth rates, therefore, the demand in the care and domestic industry is ever so increasing. However, the paradox lies in the fact that while there is an endless demand for care and domestic work, such work is considered to be "non to less skilled jobs" in these three respective regions. This paper would like to argue that such care and domestic work is crucial not only for the sustainability of society but relies heavily on it. This paper will deplore Joan Tronto and Fabienne Brugere's idea of "ethics of care" as well as Iris Marion Young's idea of "responsibility for justice" and argue that care itself is a moral action and should be recognized as such.

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