

## **Is There a “Second Shift” for Women? Trends in Paid Work and Unpaid Domestic Work Time in East Asian and Western Societies between 1980s and 2010s**

### **Abstract**

Dr. Kan Man Yee compiled and harmonized time use data of China, Japan, South Korea, Taiwan and Beijing from 1980s to 2010s with data of European and Anglophone countries. Overwhelming evidence for the “second shift” in Japan, South Korea, Taiwan, Central European countries, and Southern European countries is found. That is, women on average work longer hours on paid work and domestic work together than men. Second, the gender gap in domestic work time is closing faster than that in paid work time. Third, the gender convergences in paid work and domestic work are dependent on the initial levels of gender inequality, thus varying substantially across regions. In liberal regimes including UK and US, and Beijing, where the gender gap in total work time was relatively small but those in paid work and domestic work respectively were large in the beginning, the gender convergences have stalled. In Taiwan, South Korea, Japan, the Central European and the Southern European countries, where the gender inequality in both total work and the division between paid work and unpaid work were all rather substantial initially, the gender convergences have been continuing. In Scandinavian countries, women and men had similar amount of total works, but the gender gaps in paid work and domestic work were large in the beginning, there has been a continuous reduction in the gender gaps in both paid work time and domestic work time. This lecture provides the first and most recent comprehensive documentation of pace of the gender revolution in paid work, unpaid domestic work and total works across both East Asian and Western societies in the last three decades.