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**The Political and Social Economy of Care:
Argentina Research Report 2**

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ARGENTINA

An Analysis of Time-Use Data on Work/Care Arrangements and Macro Data on the Care Diamond¹

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Introduction

This paper presents specially processed data from the Buenos Aires Time Use Survey, which was collected by the Directorate-General of Statistics of the City Government (*Dirección General de Estadística y Censos*) as a module of the City of Buenos Aires' Annual Household Survey (AHS) in November-December 2005. First results from the survey have recently been released (DGEyC, 2007b and 2007c) and basic tabulations are available on request.

The Buenos Aires Time Use Survey is the first to be collected in the country using a 24-hour recall activity diary and consistent with the United Nations technical recommendations (UNSTAT, 2005). Its methodological approach builds on the 2000 South African Time Use Survey –albeit on a smaller geographical scale. A closer look reveals a number of methodological variations, particularly with respect to fieldwork organization, activity classification and the way simultaneous activities are captured (Budlender, 2007; Esquivel, forthcoming). A summary of the survey's methodology, including the Activity Classification used, can be found in the Methodological Annex.

The Buenos Aires Time Use Survey provides information on the time that women and men aged 15 to 74 years spend in productive activities (paid and unpaid) as well as in activities such as study, interaction with other people, use of communications media, personal care, etc.

The data from the Buenos Aires Time Use Survey have made it possible to analyse the relationship between unpaid care work, on the one hand, and work in the marketplace by women and men, on the other. As a result, labour-care arrangements – the varieties of ways in which families arrange income and care provision – can be delineated in a descriptive yet *quantifiable* way.

Gender inequalities in the distribution of paid and unpaid care work are analyzed in this report according to personal characteristics (age, educational credentials, labour market status, etc.), position in household (relative to the head of household), household's material welfare (absolute poverty, per capita household income) and household's demographic characteristics (presence of children, presence of other family members and non-members, etc.). The use of multivariate analytical tools sheds light on aspects of the labour-care arrangements hitherto unexplored from a quantitative perspective in Argentina.

This report also calculates the size of women's and men's contribution to the economy which goes unpaid and unrecognized, by assigning a monetary value to the volume of unpaid care work, care of persons and childcare performed in the City of Buenos Aires. These “macro” aggregates are in turn contrasted with traditional measures of economic

performance and wellbeing (GDP, gross earnings/wages, public sector revenue and expenditure, etc.) to get the *complete* picture of the economy.

This report is divided into seven sections, followed by some final observations. The first section sets the stage for the subsequent analysis by providing some definitions; the basic socioeconomic characteristics of the 15- to 74-year-old population of Buenos Aires covered by the survey; and work and non-work in the City of Buenos Aires. Section 2 shows mean population times devoted to SNA work, unpaid care work and care of persons; while Section 3 explores care of persons in more detail. Section 4 turns to the primary focus of our analysis, *childcare*, investigating who cares for children and for how long. Section 5, in turn, summarizes key findings based on multivariate analysis. Section 6 assigns monetary values to unpaid care work and compares the total monetary value of unpaid care work to other macro economic indicators such as GDP, while Section 7 presents standard indicators which will be used in international comparisons.

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