

Prof Dr Karin Schwiter – Curriculum Vitae

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Date of birth: 9 November 1977
Nationality: Swiss

Education

2018 Habilitation in Geography: “Mobilising difference in today’s labour markets: How gender, culture and mobility are used to legitimise inequalities”
Univ. of Zurich

2010 PhD in Sociology (*with summa cum laude*)
Univ. of Basel
Dissertation: “Lebensentwürfe. Junge Erwachsene im Spannungsfeld zwischen Individualisierung und Geschlechternormen” (Life plans. Young adults caught between individualisation and gender norms), published with Campus Verlag

2001–2002 Erasmus exchange year at the University of Sheffield, UK
Univ. of Sheffield

2004 MSc in Geography (*with an award for outstanding grades*)
Univ. of Zurich

Positions

since 2021 Assistant professor in labour geography with a focus on digitalisation
Univ. of Zurich

2013-2021 Leader of the research group “Labour, Migration & Gender”
Univ. of Zurich at the Department of Geography

2018 Visiting professor at the University of Toronto in Canada (*3 months*)
Univ. of Toronto

2014–2015 Acting professor (Lehrstuhlvertretung) at the Department of Geography
Univ. of Zurich during the sabbatical of Prof. Dr. Christian Berndt (*6 months*)

2014 Visiting assistant professor at the University of British Columbia in Vancouver,
UBC, Vancouver Canada (*7 months*)

2012 Visiting scholar at the University of Washington in Seattle, US (*6 months*)
UW, Seattle

2010–2013 Postdoctoral research fellow at the Centre of Gender Studies, in the project
Univ. of Basel “Gender segregation in educational and occupational pathways” of Swiss National Research Programme 60 on “Gender Equality”

2004–2013 Research and teaching assistant and from 2010 onwards senior research and
Univ. of Zurich teaching assistant (Oberassistentin) at the Department of Geography, with teaching assignments at ETH Zurich and the University of Basel

Rankings, awards and excellence scholarships

2018	Ranked second for the full professorship in Social and Cultural Geography at the University of Bern
2016	Swiss Prize for Research on Education, awarded by Johann Schneider-Ammann, President of the Swiss Confederation, for the article “Why are female electricians and male nurses still rare?” (CHF 25,000)
2012	Area Prize awarded by the Royal Geographical Society for the best article by a young researcher
2001–2010	Various excellence scholarships awarded by the Swiss Study Foundation
2004	Award of the University of Zurich for outstanding grades in the masters’ degree
1997	Award of the Christ-König Kollegium for the best A-levels (Matura) of the year

Continuing education

since 2005	Various continuing education modules offered by the University of Zurich on teaching large classes; supervising master and PhD students; peer teaching evaluation; leading research projects; scientific writing; teaching portfolios; time management; presentation techniques; visualising research; etc.
2005–2008	Various continuing education modules offered by the Graduate School at the University of Basel on doing interdisciplinary research; scientific writing; moderation techniques; qualitative research methodologies; discourse analysis; gender theories; etc.
2001–2010	Various continuing education modules offered by the Swiss Study Foundation on leadership; team building; negotiation techniques; communication; law and politics; life sciences and philosophy; etc.

Memberships in academic societies

- Digital Society Initiative DSI of the University of Zurich, community “Work”
- Research network “Feminist geographies and new materialisms” funded by the German Research Foundation, DFG
- Royal Geographic Society, RGS
- Swiss Society of Gender Studies, SGGF
- Swiss Society of Sociology, SGS
- Society of Geographers at German Universities, VGDH, member of the working groups “Digital Geographies”, “Labour Geographies”, “Geographical Migration Research” and “Feminist Geographies”
- Society of professional women for the environment, FFU
- Think tank „Denknetz“, member of working group on precarity

Other academic activities

Committee work (* at the University of Zurich)

since 2020	Federal Commission for Women's Issues
since 2020	Co-Leader of the Digital Society Initiative's community "Work"*
since 2018	Library advisory board of the Department of Geography*
since 2015	Gender studies commission of the University of Zurich*
2018	Creative task force of the Swiss National Science Foundation for refining the launch phase of National Research Programms
2017-2018	Representative of the non-professorial academic staff (Mittelbau) in the Department of Geography (Invers)*
2014–2015	Committee for the development of a new specialised research master programme in human geography*
2011–2015	Representative of the non-professorial academic staff (Mittelbau) in the university senate*
2010–2012	Committee for the development of a new bachelor curriculum in human geography*
2010–2014	Research commission of the Faculty of Science*
2010–2014	Representative of the non-professorial academic staff (Mittelbau) at the Faculty of Science*
2005–2006	Representative of the non-professorial academic staff (Mittelbau) in the search committee for the new chair in human geography*

Co-organisation of conferences and workshops

2021	International conference "Decent Care Work" in Frankfurt (D)
2019	International expert workshop "Transnational Care" in Linz (A)
2019	"Feminist Geographies" three day workshop in Essen (D)
2018	Human geography summer school "Gender & Space" in Herzberg
2017	National conference "Paid care work in private households" at the University of Zurich
2016	Workshop "Anticipated parenthood and employment" at the University of Basel
2016	Network meeting "Historical and new materialisms of work" in Waldshut (D)
2012	Workshop "Performativity in Geography" at the University of Zurich
2012	International conference "Career orientations, education systems and gendered school-to-work transitions" at the University of Basel
2007	International conference "Gendered Public Spaces", organised by the Gender Commission of the International Geographical Union at the University of Zurich

Reviews for academic journals

Member of the advisory board of:	Geographica Helvetica
Served as reviewer for:	
Annals of the American Association of Geographers	Antipode
Social and Cultural Geography	Political Geography
Progress in Human Geography	Swiss Journal of Sociology
Environment and Planning A	Geographische Zeitschrift
Gender, Place and Culture	Equality, Diversity, Inclusion
Transactions of the Institute of British Geographers	Community, Work and Family
Gender, Work and Organization	Journal of Economic Geography
Journal of Ethnic and Migration Studies	Critical Policy Studies
Geoforum	Population, Space and Place

Funding history

2020 3 months	Digital Society Initiative of the University of Zurich Project: Postdoc-Fellowship of Dr Sarah Hartmann on digital platform labour Contribution: Author of grant application	CHF 15'000
2020 3 months	Swiss National Science Foundation Project extension: Decent Care Work? (see below)	CHF 14'387
2019 8 months	Swiss National Science Foundation Project extension: Decent Care Work? (see below)	CHF 38'364
2018 3 months	Graduate Campus of the University of Zurich Project: Travel grant for research visit at the University of Toronto, Canada	CHF 3,400
2018 5 days	Swiss Academy of Sciences Project: Organisation of the human geography summer school "Gender and Space" for 100 participants & workshop leaders Contribution: Main applicant	CHF 5,000
2018 5 days	Graduate Campus of the University of Zurich Project: summer school "Gender and Space" Contribution: Main applicant	CHF 25,000
2017 36 months	German Research Foundation (trilateral D-A-CH project) Project: Decent care work? Transnational home care arrangements Contribution: Co-author of grant application and PI of the Swiss project team; in collaboration with Prof. Dr. Helma Lutz (Frankfurt am Main) and Prof. Dr. Brigitte Aulenbacher (Linz); supervision of 1 PhD student	€ 876,900
2017 9 months	Innovation Pool of UZHs Department of Geography Project: Science down to earth: Creating diverse and caring academic	CHF 3,200

	work environments Contribution: Co-author of grant application and co-project leader	
2016 7 months	Zurich Metropolitan Conference Project: Doing family: imaginations of family in Switzerland Contribution: Co-author of grant application and member of project steering group	CHF 25,000
2016 6 months	Swiss National Science Foundation (extension grant) Project: Care agencies in the commodification of elderly care Contribution: Author of grant application and co-project leader with Prof. Dr. Christian Berndt (Zurich); supervision of 2 PhD students	CHF 57,500
2014 30 months	Swiss National Science Foundation Project: Anticipated parenthood and employment Contribution: Co-author of grant application and co-project leader with Prof. Dr. Andrea Maihofer (Basel) and Dr. Sandra Hupka (Bern)	CHF 271,300
2013 36 months	Swiss National Science Foundation Project: Care agencies in the commodification of elderly care Contribution: Co-author of grant application and co-project leader with Prof. Dr. Christian Berndt (Zurich); supervision of 2 PhD students	CHF 413,000
2012 6 months	Voluntary Academic Society of Basel (extension grant) Project: Gender segregation in educational and occupational pathways Contribution: Author of grant application, member of research team	CHF 20,000
2011 6 months	City of Zurich Project: Market analysis – care in Zurich’s private households Contribution: co-project leader with Prof. Dr. Christian Berndt (Zurich)	CHF 31,000
2010 24 months	National Research Programme 60 (SNSF) Project: Gender segregation in educational and occupational pathways Contribution: Co-author of grant application, member of research team	CHF 314,000

Public lectures, workshops and panels (previous six years only)

Presentations at scientific conferences

06 Apr. 2021	International online conference “Decent Care Work”: “The Marketization and Transnationalisation of Elderly Care Work in Germany, Austria and Switzerland”
04 Mar. 2021	Online Conference “Platform Urbanism”: “The platformisation of care: How digital labour intermediation platforms transform domestic care work”
11 Feb. 2021	Keynote at the Annual Meeting of the Research Network “Labour Geography”, online: “Covid-19 policy measures for circular migrant care workers in Germany, Austria and Switzerland”
20 Nov. 2020	Online Conference “Critical Gender and Diversity Knowledge”: “Slow, critical, better science: The Slow Scholarship movement as approach to the question of excellence in today’s academic culture”

- 07 Nov. 2020 Swiss Geoscience Meeting, online: "Slow Scholarship – Better Science: Political horizons and practical steps to remake the university"
- 31 Jan. 2020 New Cultural Geography Conference, Bonn: "Arbeiten als coopler, helping, batmaid, notimer und co.: Wie online Arbeitsvermittlungsplattformen die Arbeit von morgen gestalten»
- 28 Sep. 2019 German Congress for Geography, Kiel: "Die Care Economy als Perspektive für die Labour Geographies: Vom Alltag als Care-Arbeiter*in zur Neu-Konzeptualisierung von (Care-)Arbeit im Gegenwartskapitalismus"
- 28 Sep. 2019 German Congress for Geography, Kiel: "Erfahrungen und Herausforderungen ethischer Forschungspraxis in der Zusammenarbeit mit einem Netzwerk organisierter Care-Arbeiter*innen in Basel"
- 11 Sep. 2019 Congress of the Swiss Sociological Association on "The Future of Work", Neuchâtel: "When caring around the clock becomes a job. On the struggles of defining work in the emerging professional field of live-in care"
- 22 Jun. 2019 Global Labour Migration Conference, Amsterdam: "Capitalising on gender, ethnicity and mobility. The role of transnational placement agencies for live-in elder care workers in Switzerland"
- 31 Jan. 2019 International Conference "Care, Migration, Gender", Berlin: "Gute Sorge ohne gute Arbeit? 24-Stunden-Betreuung von Senior_innen in Privathaushalten in Deutschland, Österreich und der Schweiz"
- 04 Jun. 2018 EnGendering Academia: Emotions, Strategies and Alternatives, St. Gallen: "Slow Science: Potentials, pitfalls and collective practices"
- 26 Jan. 2018 New Cultural Geography Conference, Freiburg i. Br.: „Slow Scholarship. How can we build more caring academic work environments?“
- 30 Oct. 2017 German Congress for Geography, Tübingen: "(Im)Mobilisierungen von zirkulär migrierenden Arbeitskräften in der Seniorenbetreuung"
- 12 May 2017 National Conference "Bezahlte Arbeit in Schweizer Privathaushalten: Situation und Zukunftsperspektiven", Zurich: "Live-in care in Canada, Österreich & Deutschland: Was können wir von anderen Ländern lernen?"
- 25 Jun. 2016 Conference "Bios – Technologien – Gesundheit", Frankfurt: "Der neue Markt der 24h-Betreuung als Ethnography of Circulations"
- 03 Oct. 2015 German Congress for Geography, Berlin: "Logiken der (Im)mobilisierung von zirkulär migrierenden Arbeitskräften"
- 20 Aug. 2015 Global Conference of Economic Geography, Oxford: "Labour market intermediaries in the care sector"
- 24 Apr. 2015 Annual Conference of the Association of American Geographers, Chicago: "The geopolitics of labour regimes in live-in elder care: comparing Canada, Switzerland and Austria"
- 19 Apr. 2015 Preconference of the Gender and Geography Commission of the Association of American Geographers, Milwaukee: "Short term circular migration and the negotiation of rights to the city"

Invited lectures

- 13 Mar. 2021 Digital Society Initiative, University of Zurich: “How does digitalisation transform the way we work?”
- 10 Dec. 2020 Department of Geography, University of Berne: “Home – Das Zuhause als Ort der Globalisierung”
14. Oct. 2020 Department of Design and Art, Lucerne University: “Slow Scholarhsip?! Strategien für gesundes Arbeiten und die kollektive (Wieder-)Aneignung der Hochschule”
20. Feb. 2019 Ecole des Hautes Etudes en Sciences Sociales, Paris: “Can circular migration solve the care crisis? An analysis of the transnational live-in elder care arrangements in the German speaking countries”
28. Nov. 2018 Department of Sociology, University of Bern: “Zur Entstehung prekärer Arbeitsverhältnisse in Schweizer Privathaushalten: Wie transnational agierende Personalverleihagenturen migrantische Arbeitskräfte an Schweizer Seniorenhaushalte vermitteln”
23. Nov. 2018 Department of Geography, University of Bremen: “Hochmobil und immobil zugleich: Was das Konzept der Sozialen Reproduktion zu unserem Verständnis von erwerbsbedingter räumlicher Mobilität beitragen kann”
- 28 Jun. 2018 Swiss Federal Institute for Forest, Snow and Landscape Research WSL, Zurich: “Social inequalities, institutional reflexivity and public space”
- 09 Mar. 2018 Innovation Pool Workshop on Citizen Science, University of Zurich: “Doing participatory research in human geography“
- 04 Nov. 2015 Asia and Orient Institute, University of Zurich: “Die kommerzielle 24h-Betreuung als vergeschlechtlichter neuer Markt: Vorstellungen von Geschlecht, Mobilität und Arbeit”
- 23 Oct. 2015 Interdisciplinary Centre for Gender Studies (IZFG), University of Bern: “Gender segregation in occupational pathways”
- 27 May 2015 Human Geography Lecture Series, University of Frankfurt a. M.: “(Im)mobilisierung von Pendelmigrantinnen in der live-in Altenbetreuung”

Continuing education workshops (all invited)

- 28 Nov. 2020 Netzwerktreffen Feministische Geographien, Münster: Workshop “Intersektionale Methodologie am Beispiel digitaler Transformation der Geschlechterverhältnisse»
- 28 Feb. 2020 Reclaim Democracy Congress, Zurich: Workshop “Digital Capitalism”
- 09 Nov. 2018 Training course “Safety and Field Education”, University of Zurich: “Ethics and positionality in the field”
- 04 Feb. 2017 Comundo Workshop on Care in Lucerne: “Care Chains – Abhängigkeit von Pflegerinnen aus Tieflohnländern als billige Dienstleisterinnen”

16 Apr. 2015 Schweizerisches Dienstleistungszentrum für Berufsbildung, Olten:
"Geschlechtersensible Berufs- und Studienberatung"

Outreach presentations (all invited)

- 11 Dec. 2020 Swiss Centre of Expertise in Human Rights, Neuchâtel: "The situation of care workers in the Covid-19 pandemic"
- 21 Oct. 2019 Digital Society Initiative, Challenge Area "Work", Zurich: "Plattformarbeiter*innen. Wie digitale Vermittlungsplattformen verändern, wie wir im 21. Jahrhundert arbeiten"
- 18 Jan. 2018 Collegium Helveticum: Grammar school teachers' day: "Neue Formen von Migration und Arbeit im Privathaushalt"
- 24 May 2016 Network meeting of the Gender Equality Office of the city of Zurich:
"Gender segregation in occupational pathways"
- 19 May 2016 Open doors event of the Department of Geography, University of Zurich:
Presentation of audio pieces "Altenbetreuung zwischen Liebe und Arbeit" and
"Liebe ist Verhandlungssache. Wie junge Erwachsene über Arbeitsteilung nachdenken"
- 11 Nov. 2015 University for Seniors lecture series, Winterthur:
"Der neue Markt in der 24h-Betreuung für SeniorInnen"
- 20 Oct. 2015 University for Seniors lecture series, Zurich:
"Zur Performativität des neuen Marktes in der 24h-Betreuung"
- 02 Jun. 2015 Annual meeting of the Pensioniertenvereinigung of the University of Zurich:
"Zur Performativität des neuen Marktes in der 24h-Betreuung"

Public panel discussions (all invited)

- 17 Jun. 2020 Radio panel discussion, Radio SRF, Zürich: "Die Macht der Sprache"
- 04 Oct. 2019 Radio panel discussion, Free Radio Austria FRO, Linz: "24h-Pflege: Deutschland, Österreich und die Schweiz im Vergleich"
- 21 Aug. 2019 TV panel discussion, Teleclub, Volketswil: "Working mums"
- 07 Mar. 2019 Sustainability Week of the University of Zurich, Zurich: "Forscherin als Beruf"
- 19 Jan. 2019 Social and cultural festival "Tour de Lorraine", Berne: "Zwei Care-Arbeiterinnen erzählen aus ihrem Alltag"
- 10 Sep. 2018 Summer school "Gender & Space", Herzberg:
"Gender Studies und Feministische Geographie im Dialog"
- 03 Apr. 2017 Gender Equality Commission, University of Zurich: "Was ist Männerforschung?"
- 30 Nov. 2016 University of Zurich: "Women in Science. An evening of inspiration and advice on building a successful career in science"