

Prof Dr Karin Schwiter – Curriculum Vitae

Education

- 2018
Univ. of Zurich Habilitation in Geography: “Mobilising difference in today’s labour markets: How gender, culture and mobility are used to legitimise inequalities”
- 2010
Univ. of Basel PhD in Sociology (*with summa cum laude*)
Dissertation: “Lebensentwürfe. Junge Erwachsene im Spannungsfeld zwischen Individualisierung und Geschlechternormen” (Life plans. Young adults caught between individualisation and gender norms), published with Campus Publishers
- 2001–2002
Univ. of Sheffield Erasmus exchange year at the University of Sheffield, UK
- 2004
Univ. of Zurich MSc in Geography (*with an award for outstanding grades*)

Positions

- since 2021
Univ. of Zurich Assistant professor in labour geography with a focus on digitalisation
- 2013-2021
Univ. of Zurich Leader of the research group “Labour, Migration & Gender” at the Department of Geography
- 2018
Univ. of Toronto Visiting professor at the University of Toronto in Canada (*3 months*)
- 2014–2015
Univ. of Zurich Acting professor (Lehrstuhlvertretung) at the Department of Geography during the sabbatical of Prof. Dr. Christian Berndt (*6 months*)
- 2014
UBC, Vancouver Visiting assistant professor at the University of British Columbia in Vancouver, Canada (*7 months*)
- 2012
UW, Seattle Visiting scholar at the University of Washington in Seattle, US (*6 months*)
- 2010–2013
Univ. of Basel Postdoctoral research fellow at the Centre of Gender Studies, in the project “Gender segregation in educational and occupational pathways” of Swiss National Research Programme 60 on “Gender Equality”
- 2004–2013
Univ. of Zurich Research and teaching assistant and from 2010 onwards senior research and teaching assistant (Oberassistentin) at the Department of Geography, with teaching assignments at ETH Zurich and the University of Basel

Rankings, awards and excellence scholarships

2024	Ranked first for the Full Professorship in Social and Cultural Geography at the University of Neuchâtel (declined)
2023	Wiley Top Downloaded Article Award, for the article “Male Privilege Revisited: How men in female-dominated occupations notice and actively reframe privilege”
2022	Ranked second for the full professorship in Gender Studies at the University of Basel
2022	Wiley Top Cited Article 2020-2021 Award, for the article “Geographies of care work: The commodification of care, digital care futures and alternative caring visions”
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 (£500)
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 (CHF 200)

Continuing education

since 2021	Continuing education modules offered for professors by the University of Zurich on professional academic leadership; reducing blind spots for less biased decision making; stress management; burnout prevention and first aid for mental health
2005–2021	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.

Languages

German	mother tongue
English	proficient (Cambridge Certificate of Proficiency C2, grade A)
French	good knowledge
Italian	basic knowledge

Funding history

2025 60 months	European Research Council (ERC) Advanced Grant Project: Underemployed Contribution: Single applicant	€ 2'500'000
2025 12 months	Digital Society Initiative of the University of Zurich Granted annual budget for the community "work" Contribution: Lead-author of grant application & co-lead of the community	CHF 22'900
2024 60 months	Digitalisation Initiative of Zurich's Higher Education Institutions (DIZH) Public Data Lab: Measuring Wellbeing Under Changing Circumstances Contribution: Co-author of grant application; in collaboration with Prof. Ross Purves et al., supervision of 1 PhD student	ca. CHF 300'000 as PI (CHF 1'531'425 tot.)
2024 12 months	Digital Society Initiative of the University of Zurich Granted annual budget for the community "work" Contribution: Lead-author of grant application & co-lead of the community	CHF 39'730
2023 3 months	State Secretariat for Economic Affairs (SECO) Project: Impact of the high-court decision of 22.12.2021 on the live-in care market in German-speaking Switzerland Contribution: Project lead; Co-author of grant application	CHF 17'884
2023 6 months	Digital Society Initiative of the University of Zurich Project: Assessing the scale of place-based platform labour in Switzerland Contribution: Project lead; Co-author of grant application	CHF 9'700
2022 36 months	German Research Foundation (Weave/Lead Agency project) Project: Urban Platform Economies Contribution: Co-author of grant application and PI of the Swiss project team; in collaboration with Prof. Sybille Bauriedl (Flensburg) and Prof. Anke Strüver (Graz), supervision of 1 PhD student	CHF 259'993 as PI (€ 792'000 tot.)
2022 10 days	Federal Commission on Women's Issues Project: Report on gender impact of Covid-19 measures	CHF 2'880
2022 4 days	City of Zurich Project: Expertise on home care agencies	CHF 750
2020 3 months	Digital Society Initiative of the University of Zurich Project: Postdoc-Fellowship of Dr. Sarah Hartmann on digital platform labour Contribution: Co-author of grant application	CHF 15'000
2018 3 months	Graduate Campus of the University of Zurich Project: Travel grant for research visit at the University of Toronto	CHF 3,400
2018 5 days	Swiss Academy of Sciences & Graduate Campus Project: Organisation of the human geography summer school "Gender and Space" for 100 participants & workshop leaders Contribution: Main applicant	CHF 30,000

2017	German Research Foundation (trinational project)	CHF 316'375 as PI
48 months	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. Helma Lutz (Frankfurt am Main) and Prof. Brigitte Aulenbacher (Linz); supervision of 1 PhD student	(€ 876,900 tot.)
2016	Zurich Metropolitan Conference	CHF 25,000
7 months	Project: Doing family: imaginations of family in Switzerland Contribution: Co-author of grant application and member of project steering group	
2014	Swiss National Science Foundation	CHF 271,300
30 months	Project: Anticipated parenthood and employment Contribution: Co-author of grant application and co-project leader with Prof. Andrea Maihofer (Basel) and Dr. Sandra Hupka (Bern)	
2013	Swiss National Science Foundation	CHF 470,500
42 months	Project: Care agencies in the commodification of elderly care Contribution: Co-author of grant application and co-project leader with Prof. Christian Berndt (Zurich); supervision of 2 PhD students	
2012	Voluntary Academic Society of Basel (extension grant)	CHF 20,000
6 months	Project: Gender segregation in educational and occupational pathways Contribution: Author of grant application, member of research team	
2011	City of Zurich	CHF 31,000
6 months	Project: Market analysis – care in Zurich's private households Contribution: Co-project leader with Prof. Christian Berndt (Zurich)	
2010	National Research Programme 60 (SNSF)	CHF 314,000
24 months	Project: Gender segregation in educational and occupational pathways Contribution: Co-author of grant application, member of research team	

Other academic activities

Committee work (current only, * at the University of Zurich)

since 2023	Vice-president of the Swiss Federal Commission for Women's Issues (member since 2020)
since 2022	Group Leader Assessment Committee at the Department of Geography*
since 2022	Co-Lead of the "Better Science Taskforce" at the Department of Geography*
since 2020	Co-Lead of the Digital Society Initiative's community "Work"*
since 2015	Gender studies commission of the University of Zurich*

Co-organisation of conferences and workshops (previous 5 years only)

2025	3-day International Conference "Feminist perspectives on the platformisation of care work in European cities" in Flensburg (D)
2024	Annual Conference of the research network "Laboris" in Zürich

- 2024 3-day meeting of the research network “AK Labour Geography” in Erkner (D)
- 2023 4-day meeting of the DFG network “Labour Geography” in Frankfurt (D)
- 2021 Workshop “Better Science” for Group Leaders in Geography at the University of Zurich
- 2021 “Digital Geographies Networking Forum” at the Geowoche 2021, online
- 2021 Sessions on “Digital Labour Geographies” and on “Transformations of Care and Reproductive Work” at the Annual Conference of the Royal Geographic Society, online
- 2021 3-day International conference “Decent Care Work”, online

Reviews for academic journals

Member of the advisory board of: Geographica Helvetica

Served as reviewer for: Annals of the American Association of Geographers; Antipode; Children’s Geographies; Community, Work and Family; Competition and Change; Critical Policy Studies; Digital Geography and Society; Emotion, Space and Society; Environment and Planning A; Equality, Diversity, Inclusion; Erdkunde; Gender, Place and Culture; Gender, Work and Organization; Geoforum; Geographische Zeitschrift; Geography Compass; Journal of Economic Geography; Journal of Ethnic and Migration Studies; Organisation Studies; Political Geography; Population, Space and Place; Progress in Human Geography; Social and Cultural Geography; Sozialpolitik; Swiss Journal of Sociology; Suburban; Transactions of the Institute of British Geographers; Zeitschrift für Wirtschaftsgeographie (14 reviews within the last two years)

Scientific Advisory Boards

Project “Promoting the quality of care” by Nicolas Pons-Vignon, Scuola Universitaria Professionale della Svizzera Italiana (SUPSI), 2022-2025

Project “The COVID-19 pandemic and its implications for urban essential workers” by David Kaufmann, ETH, as part of the National Research Programme 80, 2022-2025

Project “Hypervulnerability and Agency: The Impact of the Covid-19 Pandemic on Migrant Women Working in the Domestic Services Sector” by Myrian Carbajal, & Milena Chimienti, University of Applied Sciences and Arts Western Switzerland, as part of the National Research Programme 80, 2022-2025

Memberships in academic societies

Digital Society Initiative DSI of the University of Zurich, community “Work”

Research Network “LABORIS” of the Swiss Researchers in Labour Studies

Royal Geographic Society, RGS

Swiss Society of Gender Studies, SGGF

Swiss Society of Sociology, SGS

Society of Geographers at German Universities, VGDH, active member in the working groups “Labour Geographies”, and “Feminist Geographies”

Think tank „Denknetz“, co-leader of the working group “Precarity”

Teaching

Overview of courses taught***	Language	Level	Participants	Years
<u>Lectures</u>				
Geography of Switzerland * / **	Ger	BSc	120	since 2022
Methods in human geography*	Ger	BSc	120	since 2016
Human geography II* (focussing on processes of globalisation)	Ger	BSc	120	2014, 2015
Introduction to spatial planning (with ETH Zurich)	Ger	BSc	220	2009, 2010
<u>Seminars</u>				
Research colloquium for master and PhD students*	En	PhD/MSc	15	since 2014
Gender, work and space* / **	En	MSc	25	since 2012
Human geography III* / ** (focussing on alternative economies)	Ger	BSc	60	2011–2015
Gender and space*	Ger	MSc	20	2006–2009
Qualitative research methods (University of Basel)**	Ger	BSc	40	2010
<u>Project seminars</u>				
Human geography IV* (focussing on in-/exclusions in low wage labour)	Ger	BSc	60	2010, 2011
Geographies of Gender*	Ger	MSc	40	2005
<u>Exercises</u>				
Discourse analysis	Ger	MSc	20	2009
Methods in human geography*	Ger	BSc	25	since 2016
<u>Block courses</u>				
Discourse analysis (University of Bern)	Ger	PhD	15	2012
<u>Tutorials</u>				
Small group teaching: Introducing geography	En	BSc	6	2015-2018
<u>Field courses</u>				
Hamburg: Door to who's world? * / **	Ger	BSc/MSc	24	2017
Zurich: Inequalities in the neoliberal city* / **	En	MSc	20	since 2014
Feminist Geographies*	Ger	MSc	25	2015

* team teaching with various colleagues from human geography at the University of Zurich

** as course coordinator

*** Unless otherwise indicated, the courses were taught at the Department of Geography, University of Zurich

Advising

Current PhD / postdoc advising

Khaoula Ettarfi, PhD start in 2021, main advisor & head of PhD committee

Jason Schneck, PhD start in 2021, head of PhD committee

Christiane Meyer-Habighorst, PhD start in 2022, main advisor & head of PhD committee

Reta Barfuss, PhD start in 2024, main advisor & head of PhD committee

Dr. Maaret Jokela-Pansini, start in 2024, SNF postdoc mobility return grant, main advisor

Yannick Eckert, PhD start in 2020, committee member, University of Halle

Xiaohui Jiang, PhD start in 2022, committee member, GIUZ

Nouri Abdelgadir, PhD start in 2024, committee member, GIUZ

Jan Kordes, committee member since 2024, Goethe University Frankfurt am Main

Past PhD / postdoc advising

Dr. Katharina Pelzelmayer, PhD received in 2017, main advisor

Dr. Huey Shy Chau, PhD received in 2018, main advisor

Dr. Isabella Stingl, PhD received in 2021, main advisor

Dr. Jennifer Steiner, PhD received in 2021, main advisor

Dr. Xavier Balaguer Rasillo, PhD received in 2022, committee member

Dr. Marisol Keller, PhD received in 2023, main advisor & head of PhD committee

Dr. Sarah Hartmann, UFO postdoc grant 2021-2023, main advisor

Dr. Barbara Orth, PhD received in 2024 at the Free University of Berlin, committee member

Dr. Lara Landolt, PhD received in 2025, committee member, GIUZ

Master and bachelor student advising

Advisor of more than 30 master and more than 30 bachelor theses

Mentoring (as part of the mentoring scheme for research group leaders at GIUZ)

Dr. Isabelle Gärtner-Röer, since 2021

Dr. Ilia van Meerveld, since 2022

Dr. Sierra Deutsch, since 2023

Dr. Ifigeneia Dimitrakou, since 2024

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

Presentations at scientific conferences

- 11 Jul. 2025 International Conference of the Bavarian American Academy, Munich: “The Future of Home Care Work: Feminist Perspectives on Global Chains and the Platformization of Care”
- 02 Jul. 2025 International Conference “Feminist perspectives on the platformisation of care work”, Flensburg: “Urban Platform Economies: Transformations of labour and intersectional inequalities in care services”
- 23 Jun. 2025 International Conference “Migration and Intergenerational Care”, Fribourg: “Transnational live-in careworkers in Switzerland: persisting challenges and potential ways forward”
- 13 Feb. 2025 Annual Conference of the Research Network Labour Geography, Graz: “Invisible platform subsidies: the role of social networks in concealing (too) low wages on care work platforms”
- 13 Dec. 2024 Annual Conference of the Swiss Labour Network LABORIS, Zurich: “‘This big shadow that we need to turn into light’ – How labour intermediaries moralise commodified domestic care work”
- 24 May 2024 New Cultural Geography Conference, Münster: “Zur Normalisierung von Plattformarbeit: Wie die Narrative von Plattformunternehmen prekäre Arbeit und kommodifizierte Sorgedienstleistungen legitimieren”
- 08 Feb. 2024 Conference “Doing Labour Geogaphy”, Berlin: “From exceptionalism to normalisation: How narratives of platform companies legitimise precarious work and commodified care”
- 07 Sep. 2023 Keynote at the conference “New Work – New Problems? ”, Lucerne: “Debating transformations of care work from a gender perspective ”
- 24 Mar. 2023 Annual Conference of the Association of American Geographers, Denver (online): “Gig Work Futures”
- 16 Nov. 2022 Annual Conference of the network Digitale Geographie of the German Research Association, Halle (Saale), Germany: “Urbane Plattformökonomien: Transformationen von Arbeit und intersektionalen Ungleichheiten im Bereich der Sorgedienstleistungen”
- 22 Jul. 2022 Centennial Conference of the International Geographical Union, Paris: “How the platformization of care services transforms care relations”
- 29 Oct. 2021 Digital Geographies Conference, online: “Commodification and platformisation of care services: Intensifying inequalities?”
- 05 Oct. 2021 Geowoche 2021, online: “Feministische Geographien im Gespräch“
- 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»

Invited lectures

- 23 Jan. 2025 Minerva Lab Lecture Series at the Sapienza University of Rome (online): “Home Care for Sale”
- 29 Nov. 2023 University of Applied Sciences Lucerne: “Geschlechtersensible Perspektiven auf die gesellschaftliche Organisation der Sorgearbeit”
- 07 Feb. 2023 Human Geography Colloquium at the Free University of Berlin: “Plattformarbeiter:innen im Privathaushalt: Wie Batmaid, Care.com und co. die soziale Reproduktion in Städten verändern”
- 11 Jan. 2023 Lecture series “Global Societies” of the LMU in Munich (online): “Global Care Chains”
- 30 Nov. 2022 Lecture series “Hinter den Kulissen von Forschung und Lehre” at the University of St. Gall: “Die Slow-Scholarship Bewegung: Durch Entschleunigung zu einer besseren Wissenschaftskultur?”
- 31 Oct. 2022 UZH Innovathon on “Building a Human-Centered Future of Work”, Zurich: “Gender in the Future of Work”
- 02 May 2022 Brown Bag Seminar Series, Scuola Universitaria Professionale della Svizzera Italiana (SUPSI), Lugano: “Invisible workers in the spotlight: Covid-19 policy measures for circular migrant care workers in Germany, Austria and Switzerland”
19. Jan. 2022 Department of Geography, University of Linz (online): “Sorgekrise trifft auf Coronakrise”
- 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 (online): “Home – Das Zuhause als Ort der Globalisierung”
14. Oct. 2020 Department of Design and Art, Lucerne University (online): “Slow Scholarhsip?! Strategien für gesundes Arbeiten und die kollektive (Wieder-)Aneignung der Hochschule”

Continuing education workshops

- 27 Nov. 2024 PhD School of Geography and Earth System Science, UZH: “Communicating our research to policy makers”
- 14 Jun. 2023 Network meeting Labour Geography, Steinbach: “Social Reproduction Theory”
- 29 Nov. 2022 Retreat of the Zurich Graduate School of Geography and Earth System Science, Herzberg: “Urban Platform Economies and the Commodification of Care”
- 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”

Outreach presentations (invited)

- 17 Jun. 2025 Mentoring Programm, Schwyz: “Denkfallen in der Zukunftsplanung”
04. Feb. 2025 Swiss Federal Commission of Women’s Issues: “Änderung der Verordnung 2 zum Arbeitsgesetz: Sonderbestimmungen für hauswirtschaftliche Leistungen sowie Betreuung und Unterstützung in der Alltagsbewältigung”
- 31 Mar. 2023 Unia Conference, Münchenwiler: “Care Krise und Care Fixes”
- 02 Nov. 2022 Paulus Akademie, Zurich: “Senior:innenbetreuung zu Tiefstpreisen? Faire Arbeitsverhältnisse in der häuslichen Betreuung – (wie) geht das?”
- 26 Oct. 2022 Caritas Armutsforum 2022, Zurich: “Plattformarbeiter:innen: Die neuen Arbeitsrealitäten in Kürzest-Jobs, die über digitale Plattformen vermittelt werden”
- 23 May 2022 Media conference of the Federal Commission for Women’s Issues, Bern: “Gender-Analyse der staatlichen Massnahmen während der Covid-19-Krise: Empfehlungen der EKF”
- 08 Nov. 2021 Inaugural lecture at the University of Zurich: “Arbeiten im 21. Jahrhundert: Die neue Welt der transnational und digital vermittelten Arbeitsverhältnisse”
- 10 Jun. 2021 Annual Assembly of the UZH Science Alumni, online: “Die digitale Plattform als Chefin: Arbeitsrealitäten in der Gig-Ökonomie”
- 11 Dec. 2020 Swiss Centre of Expertise in Human Rights, Neuchâtel: “The situation of care workers in the Covid-19 pandemic”

Public panel discussions (invited)

- 17 Jun. 2025 Annual Meeting of the Feminist Geographies Network of the Swiss Association of Geographers “Feminist geographies as socially engaged research”
- 09 Nov.2024 Global Science Film Festival, Zürich: Panel moderator for the film: “The miraculous transformation of the working class into foreigners”

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- 24 May 2024 New Cultural Geography Conference, Münster: Book presentation “Home Care for Sale”
- 22 Aug. 2023 Polit Forum, Bern: “Viertagewoche? Zeit im Teilzeitland Schweiz”
- 19 Apr. 2023 Mentoring Programm, Schwyz: “Denkfallen in der Zukunftsplanung”
- 16 Oct. 2022 Video-postcast series of the think tank Denknetz: “Pfleger grenzenlos”
- 24 Jan. 2022 Video-podcast series hosted at the University of Lancaster (online): “Transforming Economies of Care”
- 17 Jun. 2020 Radio panel discussion, Radio SRF, Zürich: “Die Macht der Sprache”