

Editorial note for Volume 39

The 39th issue of the journal “Economics: Theory and practice” is a Special Issue dedicated to research on care economy. This Special Issue volume has the most recent research on care economy from the USA, Turkey, Mongolia and we hope these articles will be used more broadly by researchers, graduate students and hopefully by policymakers in Mongolia.

This Special Issue has collaborated with the journal “The Philippine Review of Economics” which is a joint publication of the University of Philippine School of Economics and the Philippine Economic Society that published A Special Edition on Care economy in their Volume No.1 in June, 2023. With an official permission of its editor-in-chief Emmanuel F. Esguerra, our journal is able to publish the translated version of the article by Maria S. Floro and Elizabeth M. King on the introduction to the symposium on the care economy as a first article for this Special Issue.

The aging population and the increasing need for long-term care for the elderly, social assistance and protection policies to address elderly care needs are important issues. Moreover, a representative data on the care of the elderly population is not widely available in many countries which makes it difficult to identify needs and estimate demand for elderly care. Thus, the second article is on long term elderly care. The authors, Emel Memis, and Ozde Izdes Terkoglu aimed to estimate the demand for elderly care to adapt elderly care patterns to the present based on population statistics and data from the elderly care module of the most recent available data, or the Turkish Time Use Survey (TUS) that was conducted in 2014–2015. The methodology that the author proposed in this article is useful for other cases with data constraints to identify the need for care.

The third article is a joint research publication by the team of researchers of Mongolia who aimed to map paid and unpaid care work in the context of the national economic, social assistance and social welfare policy of Mongolia. The Mongolian team is implementing a project on ‘Investing in Inclusive and Sustainable Care: A Macroeconomic Approach to Understanding Care in Mongolia’ and is one of nine teams of the global project ‘Care Economies in Context’ that is being implemented in 9 countries of the 5 continents between 2021 and 2028 and financed by the Tri-Agency Programs Secretariat of Canada.

The authors used the secondary data including the Mongolian Time Use Survey 2015, 2019, Labor Force Survey 2018, Household Socio-Economic Survey 2018, health, education sector statistics available at the National Statistical Office information platform on www.1212.mn, and data and reports published by the line ministries and international organizations and reviewed findings by other researchers. The research has quantified the paid care sector size in Mongolia as well as identified unpaid care sectors. The authors have identified some issues in time use data such as limitations on understanding paid care for elders and disabled people, particularly the extent of informal paid care, and also informal paid care for children 0–2.

The fourth article in this Special Issue is on unpaid care work among rural, herders families in Mongolia by researchers from private universities in the country, Amarjargal Amartuvshin from University of Humanities and Lkhagvaa Dansranbavuu from Mandakh University. The authors aimed to identify the factors influencing time use among members

of rural administrative centers and herding households in Mongolia using time-use surveys conducted in 2011, 2015, and 2019, applying simple regression methods. The authors argued that unpaid labor and unvalued household work should be examined separately. Although both fall within the informal sector, their economic implications differ between household roles, particularly in terms of gender. They found that a significant gender gap in informal employment and unpaid work in rural areas and secondly, compared to women, men are more likely to engage in unpaid work related to livestock herding and animal product processing, whereas women devote more time to household chores and caregiving.

The last article in this special issue is written by Otgontugs Banzragch and Myagmarsuren Boldbaatar who have analyzed time use data in Mongolia and have answered the questions on what were the economic, social, demographic, and political factors and motivations for collecting national time use data (TUD) in the country, and what were the achievements and constraints in using the data in policymaking and policy analysis? The authors have concluded that despite the fact that the National Statistical Organization of Mongolia has conducted a total of six Time Use Surveys since 2000, collecting data from a total of 31,322 households, policymakers are using the data and research findings based on the time use data insufficiently that hinders data-driven decision-making in economic and social policies.

The volume 39 is a Special issue dedicated to the research on care economy authored by researchers from different countries or 40 percent of articles is written by foreign authors. Another feature of the Special Issue is that it collaborated with the journal “The Philippine Review of Economics”. The average time from submission to first decision decreased from 4–5 weeks to 3–4 weeks . and the rejection rate stayed the same. All volumes are now available online and printed twice per year.

We, Otgontugs Banzragch and Erdenebulgan Damdinsuren have worked as an editor and an assistant editor for the last 3 years by aiming to enhance the quality of its publications, widen its research collaboration, and reach a wider academic and policy-making audience by inviting more experienced peer reviewers and publish a Special Issue. I take this opportunity to acknowledge the contribution of our assistant editor Erdenebulgan Damdinsuren, technical assistant Dashdulam Dashdemberel in bringing out issues of the journal in time. Moreover, I would like to express my gratitude to all authors, reviewers, the editorial board in making the journal more international, inclusive and sustainable one.

Starting from the 2025–2026 academic year, professor Tuvshintugs Batdelger will lead the journal publication as an editor and Khaliun Dovchinsuren and Baasandorj Zagsuren will assist as assistant editors. We wish them every success in making the journal “Economics: Theory and practice” successful and in bringing quality of the Mongolian economic research closer to the world standard and widening dissemination of research in economics and economic policy in Mongolia and abroad.

Editor

Otgontugs Banzragch

Professor of economics,

National University of Mongolia