

Feminist Perspectives on Responses to the Crises in Ecology and (Care) Economy

Social Sustainability in Times of Deregulation

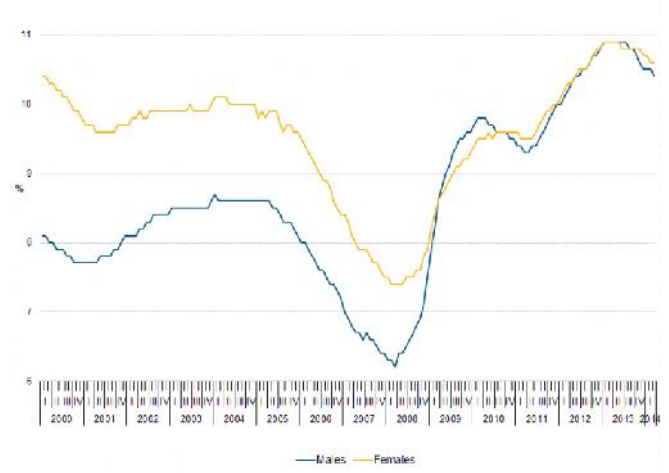
WIDE SWITZERLAND CONFERENCE

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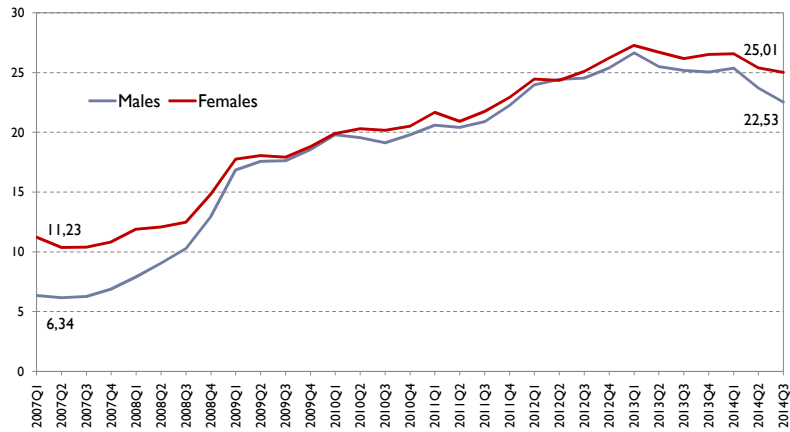
A he-cession?

Unemployment rates by gender, EU, seasonally adjusted, January 2000 - March 2014



A he-cession?

Unemployment rates by gender in Spain 2008Q1-2014Q3.



Source: Own elaborations based on data from Labour Force Survey

Economic stimulus packages

- ▶ **8,000 million euro to municipalities in Plan E**
 - ▶ No gender analysis
 - ▶ 95% went to construction
 - ▶ 426,195 persons were employed, not disaggregated by gender
- ▶ Subsidies to male dominated industries (car manufacturing)
- ▶ Spanish banking rescue (108 billion euro – 2,700 euro per capita)

Austerity policies

1. Prioritizing fiscal balances over employment
 2. Cuts in public services and employment
 3. Elimination or reduction of subsidies
 4. Wage cuts, including the salaries of education, health and other public sector workers
 5. Increasing consumption taxes, such as value added taxes (VATs), on basic products that are disproportionately consumed by poor households
 6. Pension and healthcare reform
 7. Rationalizing and further targeting of safety nets
 8. Labour reforms: less bargaining power of workers, collective agreements and trade unions, collective dismissals
 9. Local administration reform
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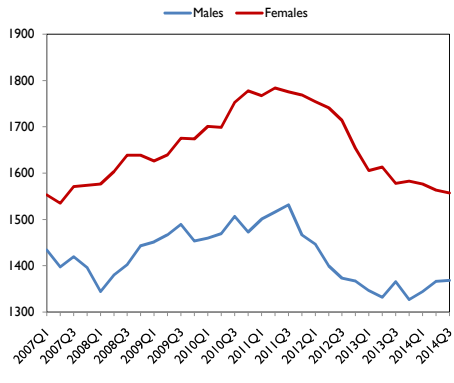
Austerity: the triple jeopardy for women

- ▶ Jobs - women make up the majority of the public sector workforce, so cuts to this sector hit them harder.
 - ▶ Services – rolling back public services affects women disproportionately as they are main complementary carers and main substitutes for care. **In Spain, budget cuts in LTC by more than 25% of its initial budget**
 - ▶ Benefits – caps and cuts to benefits and tax credits such as housing benefit and carers allowance hitting women disproportionately hard.
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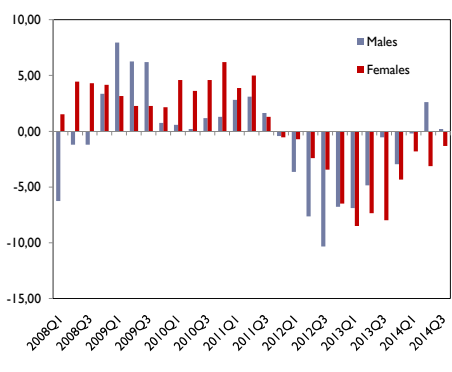


Public employment

Public employment by gender in Spain, 2007 Q1-2014 Q3 (thousands).



Interannual variation in public employment by gender in Spain, 2008 Q1-2014 Q3

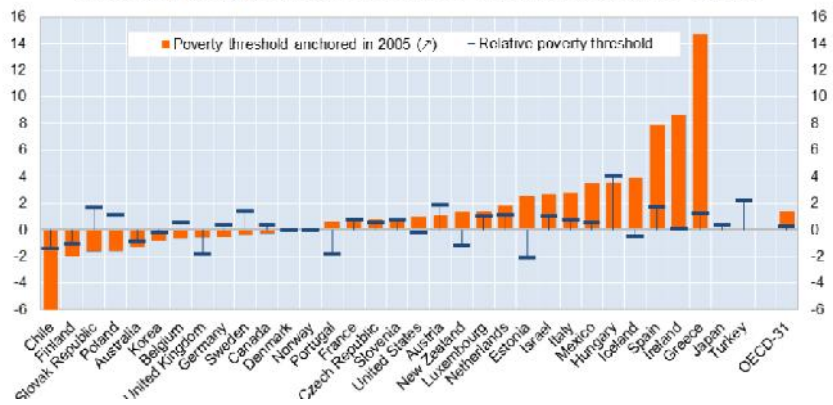


Source: Own elaborations based on data from Labour Force Survey



Poverty & Inequality

Percentage point changes in relative and "anchored" poverty rates between 2007 and 2011



Source: OECD

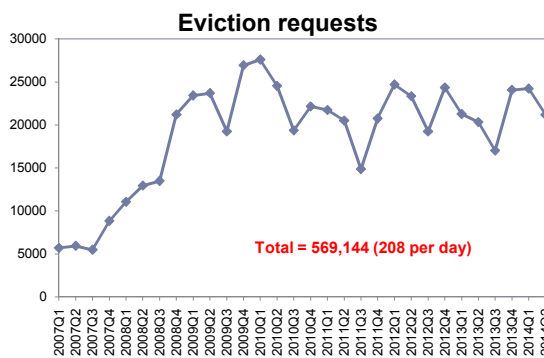


Poverty & Social exclusion

- ▶ 11,746,000 people in Spain under social exclusion (1 out of 5).
- ▶ According to AROPE's criteria, 24.8% of the total population in the EU lives below the poverty line. In Spain, 28.2% of the population lives below the poverty line.
- ▶ In the EU, 28% of minors (0-17) are at risk of poverty and social exclusion. Spain heads the ranking, with 33.8% of children affected by AROPE's poverty criteria. Public spending on family benefits: only 1.7% GDP (3% in EU)
- ▶ 12.3 % of workers are poor (3rd country after Romania & Greece)
- ▶ 1.789.400 households with all active members unemployed



Evictions



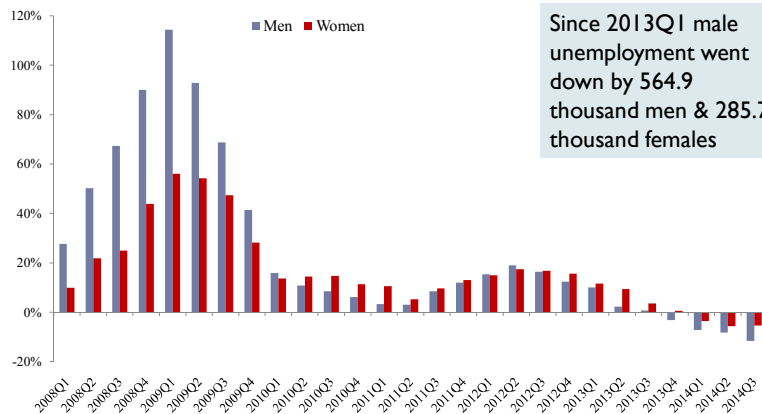
Unequal impacts of the crisis & austerity policies for women & men regarding work

- ▶ Later recovery: Male employment recovers before once the crisis has “theoretically” ended
- ▶ Work intensification
 - ▶ In the labour market (added worker effect)
 - ▶ Unpaid work
 - ▶ Decreasing family income
 - ▶ Social cuts
- ▶ More precarious employment
- ▶ Steps back on gender equality



Later recovery of employment

Interannual variation in unemployed population by gender in Spain, 2008Q1-2014Q3.



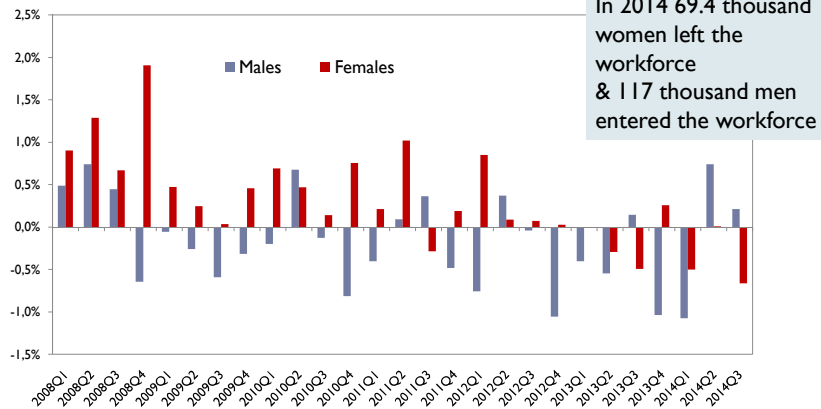
Since 2013Q1 male unemployment went down by 564.9 thousand men & 285.7 thousand females

Source: Own elaborations based on data from Labour Force Survey



+ work: added worker effect

Variation last quarter in economically active population by gender, Spain 2008Q1 - 2014Q3.



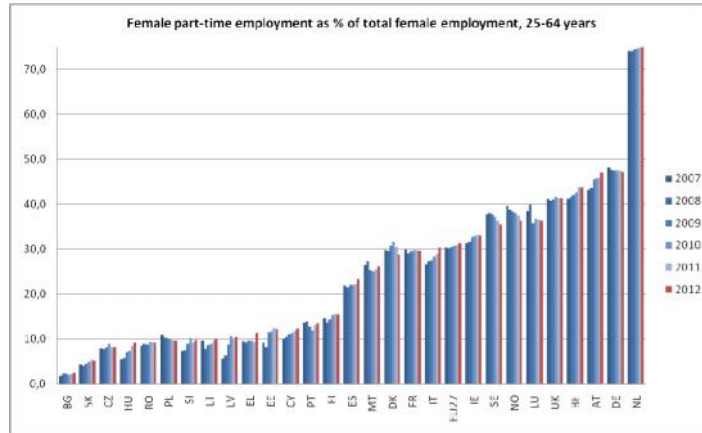
Source: Own elaborations based on data from Labour Force Survey

Employment conditions by gender

- ▶ More precarious employment
 - ▶ Temporary or fixed time
 - ▶ Part-time
 - ▶ Under-employed
 - ▶ More turnover
 - ▶ Lower wages
 - ▶ Working two jobs, extra hours, moonlighting

Part-time employment

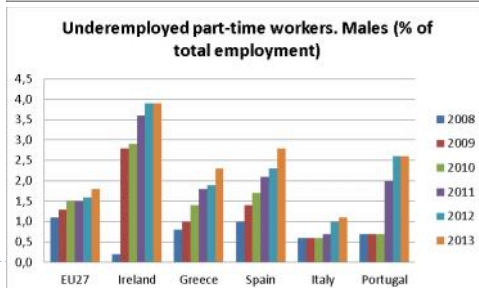
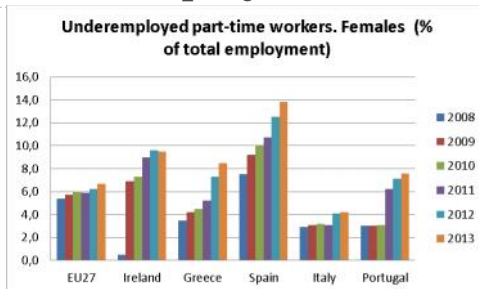
74 % of all part-time workers in the EU-28 in 2013 were women.
 In Spain, 70% are involuntary part-timers



Source: Own elaborations based on data from Labour Force Survey



Under-employment



2/3 of underemployed persons are women (66.3 %) in the EU-28 in 2013: 6.6 million women compared with 3.3 million men.

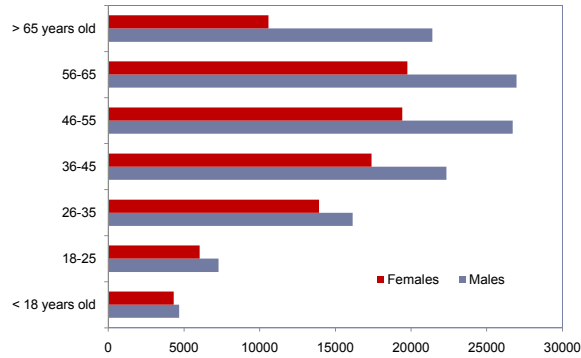
There is a majority of women among persons seeking work but not immediately available (54.9 % i.e. 1.2 million women compared with 1.0 million men), and among persons available for work but not seeking it (57.3 %, i.e. 5.3 million women and 4.0 million men).

Source: Own elaborations based on data from Labour Force Survey



Poverty & Inequality

Average wages in Spain by sex and age, 2012



Source: Spanish Fiscal Agency



Is gender equality relevant any longer?

Budget for gender equality policies in Spain (2008-2014)

	Budget (thousands euro)	Annual Variation (%)
2008	43,240	2.3
2009	37,697	-12.82
2010	33,597	-10.88
2011	31,160	-7.25
2012	24,970	-19.86
2013	18,952	-24.10
2014	19,073	+0.64

Source: Own elaborations based on data from Ministry of Finance and Public Administration



Conclusions

- ▶ Re-privatization of care
 - ▶ The responsibility is transferred onto the individual
 - ▶ Negative effects especially for women
 - ▶ Feminized “precariat” within the debt tramp
 - ▶ Gender stereotypes are being reinforced? Going back to a new “old” gender order? A new sexual division of labour?
 - ▶ Will women be sent totally or partially back home or a re-segregation of employment and work?
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- ▶

Alternatives

- ▶ Stop deflationary policies, credit squeeze, limits to public debts, and deficits
 - ▶ Fighting inequality (also gender) should be central to economic policy and policies in general (not only gender inequalities)
 - ▶ A new order and international regulation (regulation of financial markets, introduction of global taxes to finance global public goods, the cancellation of the debt of developing countries, fair trade, and the implementation of limits to free trade and capital flows)
 - ▶ Other incentives, other values... another power
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