

Call for Papers

Workshop: “Time Use – Gender – Unpaid Work: Perspectives on Living Standards”

Time is an essential factor in the quality of life of individuals and households. Time use reveals social inequalities in the distribution of unpaid and paid work as well as free time and plays a central role in the analysis of poverty, prosperity, and social participation. An analytical examination of time use also reveals the gendered distribution of resources in society.

Unpaid care work significantly contributes to the welfare of households, ensuring their social and often also ecological sustainability, and thus makes a fundamental contribution to achieving and maintaining our standard of living. At the same time, it limits time resources and opportunities for social participation for people, still disproportionately often women, who perform a large part of the unpaid care work in society.

How we measure living standards, and whether time use is taken into account, is therefore crucial to the question of to what extent and in what way socio-economic development can contribute to a gender-equitable and socio-ecologically sustainable transformation of our society. Including time use in poverty and standard of living analysis, uncovers the economic and socio-ecological value of unpaid work, deepening our understanding of existing gender inequalities. This enables a well-founded analysis of the gender-specific effects of labor and family policies as well as gender roles in the labor market and the provision of unpaid care work.

The workshop “Time Use – Gender – Unpaid Work: Perspectives on Living Standards” therefore focuses on the importance of time use, in particular its limitation by unpaid work, to further develop its measurement and evaluation methodologically and theoretically. The workshop aims to provide an interdisciplinary space to discuss the methodological and theoretical integration of time use into measures of living standards. The focus is on how time use contributes to individual and social welfare and what implications this has for the measurement of living standards, the design of social and labor market policies, and the role of public infrastructure.

The workshop is designed as an interactive format, featuring roundtables with 5–7-minute inputs from participants, aimed at raising open questions and enabling discussion. Contributions at various stages are welcome – from initial ideas and concepts to ongoing or completed projects and papers. We encourage doctoral students and postdocs to actively contribute by presenting their work. The aim is to develop new perspectives across career stages and promote interdisciplinary exchange.

During the workshop, there will be an opportunity to discuss and classify the workshop results with regard to economic policy practice in a panel discussion with Prof. Dr. Achim Truger, member of the German Council of Economic Experts.

Examples of possible topics:

- International and national concepts for measuring time use
- Integration of time use into (multidimensional) measures of living standards and poverty
- Global perspectives on time use and its interaction with other aspects of social stratification
- Effects of unpaid work on individual and collective welfare
- Time use and environmental sustainability
- Working time models

Submission & deadlines:

Please submit an abstract (in German or English) for short presentations (max. 400 words) by August 15, 2025 to franziska.dorn@uni-due.de. Please also include a specific question that you would like to bring up for discussion at the workshop. Feedback on participation will be provided by October 2025. If you have any questions, please contact: franziska.dorn@uni-due.de.

Date of the workshop: December 9-10, 2025

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Location: Gerhard Mercator House, University of Duisburg-Essen, Duisburg Campus

Languages: German & English

The interdisciplinary workshop is organized by the Institute for Socioeconomics (IfSO) and the Essen College of Gender Research (EKfG) at the University of Duisburg-Essen in cooperation with efas – Das Ökonominen Netzwerk.