

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

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 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”
- 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 “Digital Geographies”, “Labour Geographies”, and “Feminist Geographies”
- Think tank „Denknetz“, member of working group on precarity
- Research Network “Labour Geography” of the German Research Community (DFG)

Other academic activities

Committee work (* at the University of Zurich)

- 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 Federal Commission for Women’s Issues
- since 2020 Co-Lead of the Digital Society Initiative’s community “Work”*
- since 2015 Gender studies commission of the University of Zurich*
- 2018-2021 Library advisory board of the Department of Geography*
- 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 (previous 5 years only)

- 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 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

Reviews for academic journals

Member of the advisory board of:

Geographica Helvetica

Served as reviewer for:

Annals of the American Association of Geographers

Antipode

Community, Work and Family

Critical Policy Studies

Digital Geography and Society

Environment and Planning A

Equality, Diversity, Inclusion

Erdkunde

Gender, Place and Culture

Gender, Work and Organization

Geoforum

Geographische Zeitschrift

Journal of Economic Geography

Journal of Ethnic and Migration Studies

Political Geography

Population, Space and Place

Progress in Human Geography

Social and Cultural Geography

Swiss Journal of Sociology

Suburban

Transactions of the Institute of British Geographers

Zeitschrift für Wirtschaftsgeographie

(13 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), 2022-2024

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

Funding history

2022	Digital Society Initiative of the University of Zurich Project: Assessing the scale of place-based platform labour in Switzerland Contribution: Co-author of grant application with Prof. Dr. Aniko Hannak	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. Dr. Sybille Bauriedl (Flensburg) and Prof. Dr. Anke Strüver (Graz), supervision of 1 PhD student	€ 792'000 in total (CHF 259'993 as PI)
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: 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 & workshopleaders 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 arrangem. 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 in total (CHF 316'383 as PI)
2017 9 months	Innovation Pool of UZHs Department of Geography Project: Science down to earth: Creating diverse and caring academic work environments Contribution: Co-author of grant application and co-project leader	CHF 3,200

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

Teaching

Overview of courses taught¹

	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
Work, gender 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	120	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

¹ Unless otherwise indicated, the courses were taught at the Department of Geography, University of Zurich.

Advising

Current PhD advising

Marisol Keller, PhD start in 2019, main advisor & head of PhD committee

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

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

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

Lara Landolt, PhD start in 2021, committee member

Hiaohui Jiang, PhD start in 2023, committee member

Past PhD advising

Katharina Pelzelmayer, PhD received in 2017, main advisor

Huey Shy Chau, PhD received in 2018, main advisor

Isabella Stingl, PhD received in 2021, main advisor

Jennifer Steiner, PhD received in 2021, main advisor

Xavier Balaguer Rasillo, PhD received in 2022, committee member

Master and bachelor student advising

Advisor of 29 master and 30 bachelor theses

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

Presentations at scientific conferences

- 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»
- 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, Thübingen: “(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?“

Invited lectures

- 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: “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“

Continuing education workshops (all invited)

- 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”
- 09 Nov. 2018 Training course “Safety and Field Education”, University of Zurich: “Ethics and positionality in the field”

Outreach presentations (all invited)

- 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”
- 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, Zürich: “Neue Formen von Migration und Arbeit im Privathaushalt”

Public panel discussions (all invited)

- 16 Oct. 2022 Video-postcast series of the think tank Denknetz: “Pflege 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”

- 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"