Feminist scholars have long demonstrated the invisibility of women’s reproductive labour, performed in bearing and raising children, maintaining households and socially sustaining male labour. Mainstream international economic institutions acknowledge unpaid care work as an obstacle to women’s economic empowerment. Sustainable Development Goal 5.4 requires that unpaid care and domestic work be recognised through provision of public services and shared responsibility in the family. However the world faces a growing care deficit even as states and international institutions fail to commit to systemic reforms and criminalise women’s economic choices. Anchored in the global South context of India, the project offers a cutting-edge, inter-disciplinary lens to retheorise the normative, empirical, regulatory and policy dimensions of the law’s regulation of social reproduction. The project
broadly conceptualises female reproductive labour to include unpaid domestic work as well as sex work, erotic dancing, commercial surrogacy and paid domestic work. Placing varied forms of reproductive labour along the market-marriage continuum, the proposed project offers four main work packages: (1) Normative: Articulates a materialist feminist theory of reproductive labour, revitalises feminist legal theory on the economy through a distributional analysis of the laws of social reproduction (2) Empirical: Consolidates and supplements through new empirical research the study of the political economies and legal ethnographies of sex work, bar dancing, commercial surrogacy and paid domestic work to improve women’s economic bargaining power (3) Regulatory/Policy: Catalogues for each sector innovative economic models, legal and governance tools, policy proposals (including local experimental measures and radical blue-sky ideas) to enhance women’s economic bargaining power and (4) Political Impact: Shifts political sensibilities by dissolving discursive and policy silos between these sectors.

Fields of science

- social sciences
  - sociology
  - governance
  - public services
- social sciences
  - sociology
  - gender studies
  - women’s studies
- social sciences
  - economics and business
  - economics
  - political economy
- social sciences
  - law

Programme(s)

H2020-EU.1.1. - EXCELLENT SCIENCE - European Research Council (ERC)

Topic(s)

ERC-2017-COG - ERC Consolidator Grant

Call for proposal

ERC-2017-COG

See other projects for this call

Funding Scheme
Coordinator

KING’S COLLEGE LONDON

Net EU contribution
€ 1 568 699,46

Address
Strand
WC2R 2LS London
United Kingdom

Region
London > Inner London — West > Westminster

Activity type
Higher or Secondary Education Establishments

Links
Contact the organisation  Website
Participation in EU R&I programmes
HORIZON collaboration network

Other funding
€ 0,00

Beneficiaries (3)
CENTRE FOR WOMEN'S DEVELOPMENT STUDIES

India

Net EU contribution

€ 103 220,79

Address

25 bhai vir singh marg gole market
110001 New delhi

SME

Yes

Activity type

Research Organisations

INSTITUTE FOR FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT AND RESEARCH

India

Net EU contribution

€ 327 621,75

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196 ttk road parthasarathy gardens nungambakkam
600018 Chennai

Activity type
Other

Links
Contact the organisation
Participation in EU R&I programmes
HORIZON collaboration network

Other funding
€ 0.00

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