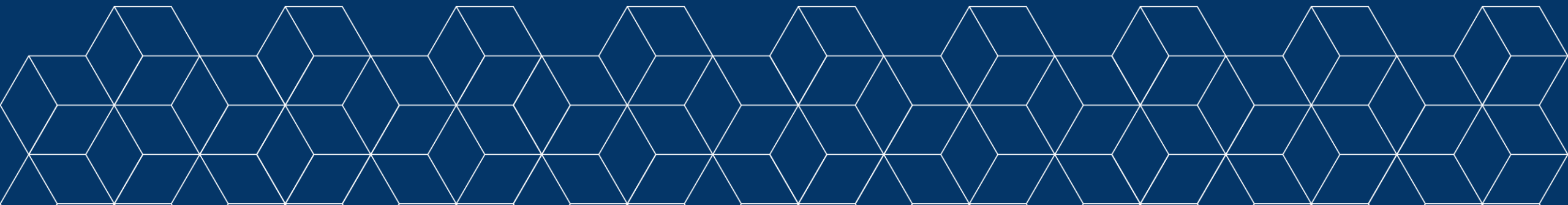


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# **BADANTI BETWEEN TWO CRISES: AN INTERSECTIONAL ANALYSIS**

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## Badanti between regularizations and crises: a systemic perspective

90's

Decline in birth rate and progressive aging of the population: care market concerns the elderly above all-> the '**Badanti**' phenomenon takes place in Italy.

- The migratory projects of family assistants (mostly from Eastern Europe) had the goal of returning home as soon as possible (Pasquinelli and Rusmini 2013). According to their role as breadwinner they accepted job of 24-hour commitment and cohabitation with the elderly to maximize earnings.
- Families have compensated for the reduced availability of female time and work by hiring domestic help. Women remain socially required to take on many services concerning the domestic sphere, but they ease the burden by employing other women work. If on the one hand the delegation of care and domestic work to migrant women relieves Italian women from a task that has traditionally been assigned to them, on the other it facilitates male lack of responsibility, and the State delay in conceiving real welfare measures (Andall, 2000).



## Badanti between regularizations and crises: a systemic perspective

**2000s**      **Law 189/2002 (Bossi-Fini)** – "Legalization of illegal work of non-EU citizens": possibility of hiring a domestic worker or a non-EU family assistant already legally present in Italy and in possession of a residence permit suitable for working.

**Decree-Law 102/2009 (Tremonti):** The first major sanatorium provision dedicated exclusively to workers employed in the domestic sector (possibility of requesting the legalization of their employees as domestic assistants with the payment of € 500). Failure of the measure: not even the quota of 300,000 reached, due to the complexity of the procedure.

**2012**      Further "regularization" aimed at all irregularly immigrant workers in our country: employers who illegally employed an immigrant could regularize their situation and that of the foreign citizen by paying € 1,000, plus contributions, and taxes relating to the previous six months, and hiring the worker. 86% of the requests concerned domestic workers and badanti.



## Badanti between regularizations and crises: a systemic perspective

- 2019** **Decree-Law 113/2018** : it provides for the possibility of limiting or prohibiting the entry of ships in the territorial sea "for security reasons, if it is believed that there has been" aiding and abetting of illegal immigration. Migrants are reduced to a problem of public order (ideologization). Tolerance towards employment in the sector of the care of unauthorized migrants (Ambrosini, 2013).
- 2020** **Decree-Law 34/202**: urgent measures concerning health, work and economy support, as well as social policies related to the epidemiological emergency of COVID-19. (20G00052) (GU Serie Generale n.128 del 19-05-2020 - Suppl. Ordinario n. 21).



## The Economic Crisis of 2008

The economic crisis of 2008 had heavy effects especially on foreign employment. Between 2009 and 2010, INPS data recorded a drop in this sector, equal to 71,690 registrations. But if we compare Istat data on employees recorded an increase of 73,162 units (Pasquinelli, 2012). The difference between the two figures is due to the increase of an absolutely common phenomenon in this sector: undeclared work.

The crisis in family budgets and economic difficulties lead families to:

- return to family ties, **reduction of the "outsourcing"** of the care burden to family assistants and greater self-employment;
- preference for **hourly work** to co-residency;
- increase in **Italian women** workers in this sector (concentrated in the hourly segment), enrolled in training courses for family assistants.



## The impact of Covid-19 and the Matthew Effect

«COVID-19 and related lockdowns have posed a specific set of challenges to migrant domestic workers. For some, **workload has increased**, and free Sundays have been denied as the whole family is staying at home and is demanding more constant assistance. Others **have been let go** by employers confined at home, refusing contact with outsiders and/or have tested positive to COVID-19. Other domestic workers have reported being **abused** by employers sending them for errands without adequate protective equipment or withholding salaries and documents» (Jordan and Dickerson, 2020).

“They are doubly affected as migrants (the object of a real war on migration for years) and workers (the long-time target of an attack on labor). They often carry out the jobs considered essential for our everyday life: nurses, basic social and health workers, care workers (...) etc. That is, humble, poorly paid, precarious laborers, often working without contracts and protections, **highly exposed to the risk of contagion**. Yet, despite their essential role in production processes, during the pandemic, they have often undergone an **invisibilization process**, they have been made invisible; yet they were talked about when propaganda used them as a scapegoat, pointing at them as contaminated, infected with the virus, a threat to national health safety. (...) forced to work despite health risks and made invisible to the public discourse, forgotten by public policies and discriminated against in their access to prevention or treatment, impoverished and more exploited in the labor market, accused of carrying the virus or being immune from it, **segregated in the homes of the dependent elderly they assist**, they are one of the most vulnerable groups at risk of suffering the heaviest consequences of this double crisis” (Guadagno e Lorenzo 2020).



## The impact of Covid-19 on Domestic Work

“More domestic workers than other employees have lost their jobs or are seeing a dramatic reduction in working hours and correspondingly lower wages. (...) **Job losses** have been higher among domestic workers in **informal employment** than those observed for all domestic workers and systematically higher than for other employees. Live-in migrant domestic workers are facing especially extreme scenarios. Despite providing essential services for clients who are often vulnerable, domestic workers frequently **do not have adequate access to personal protective equipment (PPE)**. Informal domestic workers are the least likely to have access to income support or other emergency measures adopted to address the COVID-19 pandemic (...).

Between the fourth quarter of 2019 and the second quarter of 2020, available data from national statistics shows a **decrease in the number of domestic workers** of (...) 13% in Italy. For those who remained in employment, domestic workers faced a significant impact on **their working hours** (...) 21% in Italy.

The pandemic **has exacerbated pre-existing issues**. Only 10 per cent of domestic workers have access to social security (...). Many domestic workers earn as little as 25% of average wages, leaving them without savings in case of a financial emergency.

In some countries, where migrant domestic workers are required to live with their employers, some have been found on the streets after their employers dismissed them for fear of catching the virus. This puts them at risk of **trafficking**“ (ILO 2020).



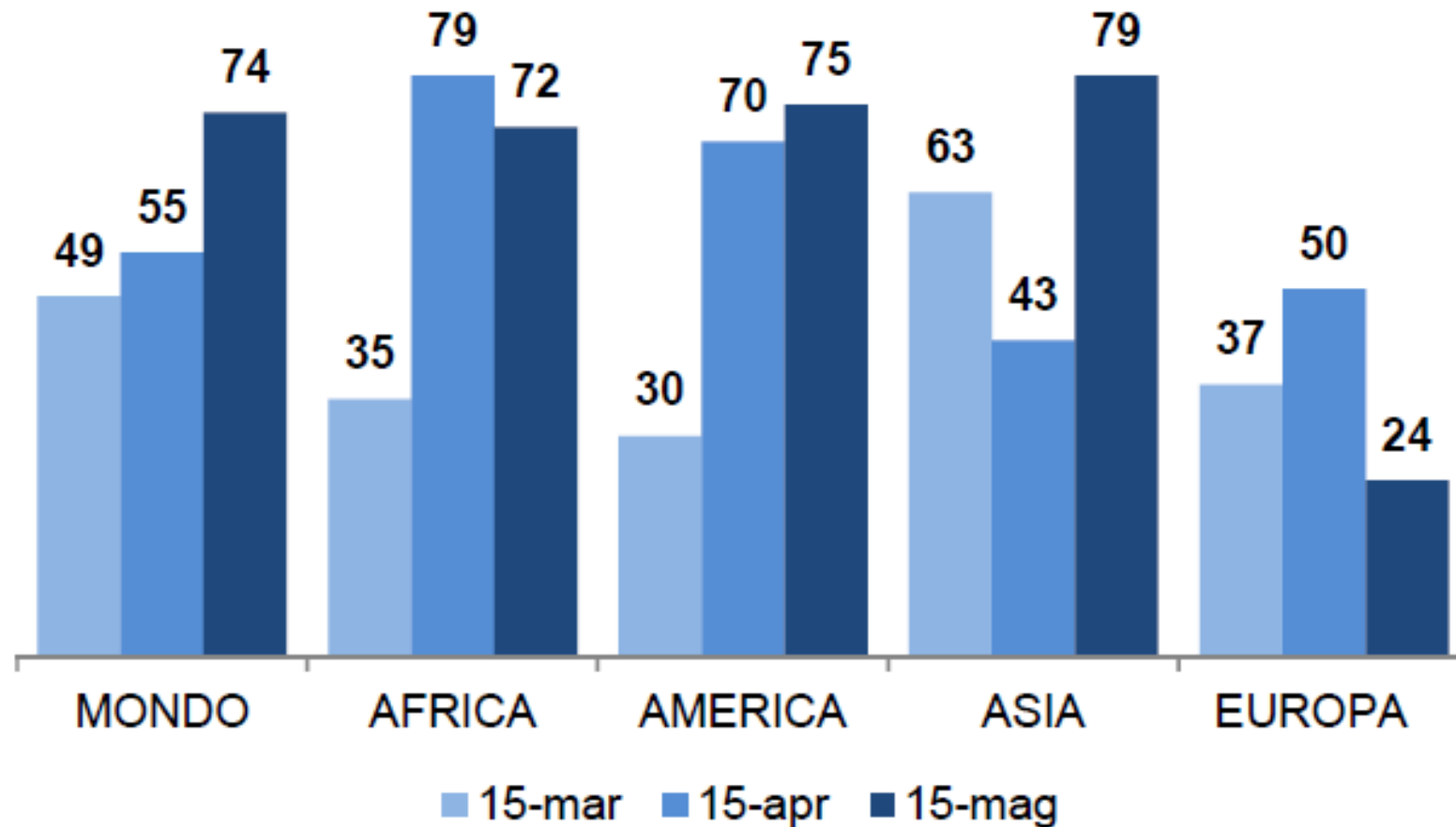
## The impact of Covid-19 on Domestic Work

- In Italy ISS (Italian National Institute of Health) data on Covid-19 patients from 20 February to 22 April 2020: although sick immigrants were younger than Italians, they had a **greater risk of hospitalization**, probably due to the delay in using health services, the difficult access to services (general practitioner) but also to informal barriers such as linguistic, cultural and social ones (Della Puppa et al. 2020). Furthermore, some migrants may have delayed the diagnosis for fear of having to limit work activities (Moressa 2021 foundation). Among immigrants there is a greater risk of hospitalization and therefore of clinical severity and hospitalization in intensive care, compared to a lower number of recorded cases of Covid-19 (Declich et al 2021).
- Increased risk of burnout and other pathologies related to the specific work activity, especially if in a cohabitation regime.





## % Domestic workers involved in Covid-19 in the world (2020)



Source: DOMINA and Fondazione Leone Moressa (ILO's data)



## The Covid-19 Crisis and the regularization measures

- The **regularization measure**, following the health crisis, was created to ensure adequate levels of health care (as well as to ensure available manpower for the agricultural sector), to cope with the strong demand caused by the pandemic emergency. There has been a real rush to regularization for those workers who, having to move for "proven work needs", had to self-certify their work condition (risking to self-report their condition of irregularity) (De Martino 2021).
- Out of **207,870 applications** only **32,524** received a call from the Prefecture (16%) and 26,114 were able to apply for a residence permit (13%). In the main cities, the call rate in the Prefecture was very low: 2% in Milan and Naples, just 2 calls out of 17,369 in Rome (Ero Straniero, 2021).
- Most of the workers in the domestic sector in Italy are still of foreign origin, especially from Eastern Europe (38%), yet the number of Italians who have decided to undertake this type of work has increased (13% of new recruits) (Domina, 2021).



## Green pass and balance between rights and duties...



**BADANTI COLF STRANIERE**

PENSIONIEFISCO.IT

**Badanti: obbligo Green pass impossibile da applicare, ecco perché, la storia di Irina ed Elena**

Perché non controllate ,quante badante lavorano a nero ,e sono costrette a lavorare ,per un pezzo di panne,vergogna ,che noi le badante lavoriamo come li schiave ,e ora venite a controllare grenn pass? 🙄🙄

Tutti i commenti

Controrale badanti come voi governo no vergonia. Noi badante lavoro come schiavo 24 a 24 per poco soldi a vafancullo pas

Mi piace · Rispondi · Condividi · 5 sett.

La legge chiede vaccinul va bene....Pero perche non avete controllato come lavora queste badante....sfruttate sul ore...sul mangiare ...non vengano pagate le giornate libere etc....

BASTAAAAA VACCINE GREEN PASS TAMPONI MANDATE TUTTO BIL GEIOOOO E SORAS NOI NON SIAMO TOPI GIOCARE CON NOSTRO SALUTE

MEGLIO CONTROLLATE CONTRATTO DI LAVORO....GIORNI LIBERI...CHÉ MANGIA UNA BADANTE....NO VI INTERESSA...

Mi piace · Rispondi · Condividi · 5 sett.

Vai in paese tua

ndividi · 5 sett.

La Badante che lavora in famiglia e obbligatorio,per sbarchi che entrano e camminano per tutta la città nulla. Trattate tutti con stesso legge.

Prima una legge anche per le badante perche lavoriamo senza regola ....

Mi piace · Rispondi · Condividi · 5 sett.

si vero sono ladri

Buonasera, per favore dimmi informazione su questo. Sto lavorando come badante, e oggi mio figlio in corantine perche suo classe maestre infettate. lo non posso andare a lavorare con questa situazione. Quali sono le regole del mio lavoro. Ho informato la mia signora e mi hanno detto, fai il tampone e vieni a lavorare. Grazie mille.

dimentica che è un obbligo di legge per il dipendente regolarmente dichiarato e per il datore di lavoro. Tutto il resto, è fantasia in libertà.

Mi piace · Rispondi · Condividi · 5 sett. · Modificato

una badante non può stare sempre in casa impazzisce. Avrà giorni liberi per la sua vita privata. Quei giorni liberi può incontrare persone quindi può contaminarsi Siamo attenti noi è anche chi ci assume

essere vaccinati , dovrebbe

essere libera scelta e non obbligatorio

Mi piace · Rispondi · Condividi · 5 sett. · Modificato

se ne torni a casa 1

Mi piace · Rispondi · Condividi · 5 sett.

no xche non vogliono prendere la responsabilità...qualcosa non torna vero??

Mi piace · Rispondi · Condividi · 5 sett.

anche se celai grenpass ti dice devi fare tampone ce 2 terze pfizer no ha efecto contro covid19 alla fine ti prende per culo

Mi piace · Rispondi · Condividi · 5 sett.

Non diciamo sciocchezze. Il tampone in farmacia viene supportato da GP in tempo reale con data e ora in cartaceo, di validità di 48-72 ore. Poi, se le condizioni di rapporto di lavoro non sono più rispondenti alla necessità del badato, è secondo norma di legge, possibile licenziare la badante. Le complicazioni sono dettate dalla libera scelta della badante

Rimanete senza badante com'è rimasta Inghilterra senza e autisti 🙄🙄🙄🙄🙄

Mi piace · Rispondi · Condividi · 5 sett.

e voi senza lavoro 3



## Badanti and families

- The badanti phenomenon remain an **essential response** to non-self-sufficiency in this country, they made it possible to make up for the many deficiencies of the assistance system. The demand has always remained high, also considering the need for assistance of an elderly population like ours.
- **Recruitment channel:** from the latest Censis-Assindatcolf survey on associates, word of mouth among family members and acquaintances is considered as a channel for finding care workers by a percentage of 70,8% respondents, while only about 16% turn to employment agencies.
- **Fulfilment of care work expectations** among family members: 33.8% found a distance between what was their expectations and what the care work instead turned out to be, but at the same time finds it impossible to replace the worker (Assindatcolf, 2022).



## Prospects in the non-self-sufficient elderly assistance

- The National Recovery and Resilience Plan provides for the implementation of a reform that introduces "an organic system of assistance to non-self-sufficient elderly" in Italy.
- A proposal of the Pact for a new welfare on non-self-sufficiency (which brings together a large part of the civil society organizations involved in assistance to the elderly) is the **National Elderly Assistance System (SNA)**; based on unitary governance and on the joint implementation of measures aimed at non self-sufficient elderly; it provides for close coordination between the State, Regions and Municipalities (respecting the competences of each one) with the aim of defining a single, clear and shared path for the integration of social and health services and for the non self-sufficient elderly people and their families.
- The System provides for the remuneration of family assistants regularly hired by a **Universal Benefit** for non-self-sufficient people (the appropriate use of the money transfer received must be documented). For those who do not receive it, a simplified and enhanced tax relief is provided compared to the current ones, to support the cost of the family assistant's work. A **national professional profile** of "Family Assistant" is also defined, which describes the set of skills of this figure and the related training process.



## The badanti phenomenon

- “To whom it may serve? Definitely to the families, but also to the State: in fact raises families from increasingly difficult tasks and allows the State to leave things as they are, that is to put on the shoulders of the women, in the first place, the responsibility to treat and assist children and the elderly” (Sgritta, 2009).
- There could be “a possible paradigm shift of the mandate towards care professions: from individualized policies, based on a diagnostic-rehabilitative and substitutive-compensatory approach, towards an integrative and community-oriented approach to the questions posed by non-self-sufficiency” (Fefè, 2019)
- the **National Elderly Assistance System** can be a partial response to the family needs, but also on the worker’s side, making care work more professional, setting the workers’ skills.



La Signora conta le malattie  
e io i suoi anni.  
Lei chiede consolazioni  
*e io almeno un po' di gioia*  
di veder attraverso la sua finestra  
la *lontananza azzurra...*  
Ma la signora ha paura del sole  
e non prova pietà per me  
che sempre sono dietro le tapparelle chiuse  
come un uccello acchiappato.  
La Signora ha paura dei sussurri  
ed io custodisco il silenzio.  
Io mi prendo cura della sua vecchiaia,  
lei ripete sempre  
che le rimane poco da vivere,  
ma non le fa male niente!  
Solo che la sua anima non è tranquilla  
perché è rimasta da sola.  
Lei è intrappolata da longevità,  
*e in questo c'è anche la mia colpa,*  
perché la tratto bene,  
come se fossi la sua figlia.

Dice che non ha più forza di vivere  
ed io non voglio aiutarla!  
E dice anche che sono furbissima:  
non voglio perdere il mio lavoro!  
Ma io mi comporto da saggia,  
non giudico le sue parole.  
Tutti mi lodano per la mitezza,  
ma che vita è questa?  
Lei trattiene la mia giovinezza,  
io cullo la sua vecchiaia.

Tetyana Kocherygova  
Poetessa e badante





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THANKS FOR YOUR ATTENTION



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