

PROPOSITIONS
Attached to the thesis

A Matter of Choice? Cash Transfers and Narratives of Dependence in the
Lives of Women in Southern Ecuador

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1. The association of conditional cash transfers with higher rates of informality among mostly women recipients in comparison to non-recipients does not represent a perverse incentive caused by cash transfers, but is a reflection of structural impediments in the labour market faced by those recipients. *This thesis.*
2. Part-time informal work allows poor women in Ecuador to manage care and paid work, and social cash transfers can play a role in helping them to mediate this balancing act although they do not resolve the structural factors that socially reproduce the pervasive informality that characterises such forms of work. *This thesis.*
3. Cash transfer programmes fail to address problems of discrimination and marginalisation in the labour market, in part owing to their exclusive focus on the poor. *This thesis.*
4. The conditional cash transfer model tends to reinforce traditional gender roles for women in the household and in the labour market. *This thesis.*
5. The stratification of the social protection system is related to the unequal distribution of employment opportunities and social rights across gender, age and ethnic background. *This thesis.*
6. Universalism in social policy is a key foundation for social equality and cohesion.
7. The perception of solutions depends on the way problems are cognised.
8. Fear plays a significant role in determining patterns of social behaviour.
9. The choice of analytical method should be scrutinised for its possible political implications.
10. Inaction perpetuates discrimination.
11. 'It's a sad and beautiful world'. [Roberto Benigni (*Bob*) in *Down by Law*, 1986].