

Gendered Division of Domestic Work and Childcare in Albania and Serbia

A Comparative Study of National Time Use Surveys

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Background

Objectives

- Reveal how domestic labor and childcare are divided along gendered lines according to levels of education, employment status, marital status and parental status in Albania and Serbia.
- Compare and contrast two culturally different countries but with a similar past and geographical proximity.
- Open and intensify an academic debate on the process of the gendered division of domestic work and childcare in Albania and Serbia.

Background

Research Questions

- 1) How do individual men and women spend time differently on unpaid work and routine work across educational lines, employment status, marital status and parental status in Albania and Serbia?
- 2) How is domestic work and childcare shared among couples in Albania and Serbia and which characteristics matter the most (education, employment, or age of children)?
- 3) What contextual factors are more important in explaining time use among men and women and couples in Albania and Serbia?

Definition of Terms: Domestic Work and Childcare

- Domestic work → the sum of all physical, mental, emotional and spiritual tasks that are performed for one's own or someone else's household and that maintain the daily life of those one has responsibility for (Eichler and Albanese, 2007).
- “If a third person could hypothetically be paid to do the activity, it is considered to be work” (Miranda, 2011: p. 7).
- Childcare, → "the set of unpaid tasks performed to satisfy the needs of one's child or children” (Lachance-Grzela and Bouchard, 2010, p. 769) and it includes activities such supervising the child, feeding and dressing them, ensuring safety, helping with housework when they need it, monitor them and transport them to events or school (Jung and O'brien, 2017).

In this thesis:

- Domestic work = total of routine and non-routine activities.
- Total unpaid work = total domestic labor + childcare,
 - Shopping, adult care, home maintenance, routine and non-routine work
 - Routine work = housework which is done on daily basis

Theoretical and Literature Review

- Micro-level Theoretical Perspectives
 - Economic Perspectives
 - Gender perspectives

Mixed results on which individual factors matter more when it comes to the time men and women spend on domestic work and Childcare

- Macro-level Theoretical Perspectives
 - Welfare State and Family Policies
 - National levels of gender equity and Women's empowerment

Macro-level gender equality as an important determinant on the amount of time and partner's share in domestic work and childcare

- Domestic Work and Childcare in Marriage and Across the Transition to Parenthood
- Gendered Division of Domestic Work and Childcare: The effect of education

Context of Two countries

- Albania and Serbia two post-socialist countries
- Gender relations re-traditionalized after the collapse of State Socialism both in Albania and Serbia
- Serbia economically in a better position than Albania
- Serbia's gender indicators more in favor of women than in Albania
- Albania more traditional than Serbia
- Serbian men and women are more in favor of modern gender roles and more in favor of gender equality, compared to Albanian women and men

Data & Methods

- Quantitative analysis of secondary data
- Diary data → National Time Use Survey data (2010) (HETUS guidelines)
 - Diary data provided by the institutes of statistics of each Albania (INSTAT) and Serbia (SORS).
 - Data in the form of episode for each individual.
 - Data management work in order to link the activity data with the individual questionnaire file (individual characteristics).
 - A day weight was used to correctly ponder weekdays and weekend days and obtain weekly average hours.
- Descriptive analysis
- Regression Analysis (Ordinary Least Squared (OLS) Regressions)

Samples, Regression Models and Variables

Table 3: Sample Characteristics

		Albania Observations	Serbia Observations
Sample 1	Individuals 18-64 years old	Male: 1610 Female: 1940	Male: 1218 Female: 1362
Sample 2	Couples (Male 18-64)	1146	681
Sample 3	Couples with at least 1 child 0-18 (Male 18-64)	560	258

Table 7: Analytic Strategy Sample 1

Model 1		Model 2		Model 3	
Dependent Variable	Control and Independent variables	Dependent variable	Control and Independent variables	Dependent Variable	Control and Independent variables
-Total unpaid work (women/men) -Routine housework (women/men)	-Age categories -Household size -Region of residence -Parental status -Couple status -Educational level -Employment status	-Total unpaid work (women/men) -Routine housework (women/men)	-Age categories - Household size - Region of residence -Couple status -Educational level -Employment status - Educational level * Couple status	-Total unpaid work (women/men) -Routine housework (women/men)	-Age categories - Household size - Region of residence -Couple status -Educational level -Employment status - Educational level * Parental status

Model 1		Model 2	
Dependent Variable	Control and independent variables	Dependent Variable	Control and independent variables
-Wife's share of total unpaid work -Wife's share of routine housework	-Age of wife -Household size -Region of residence -Parental status -Couple's educational level -Wife's employment	-Wife's share of total unpaid work -Wife's share of routine housework	-Age of wife -Household size -Region of residence -Parental status -Couple's educational level -Wife's employment -Couple's educational level*parental status

Table 9: Analytic Strategy Sample 3

Model 1		Model 2	
Dependent Variable	Control and independent variables	Dependent Variable	Control and independent variables
-Wives share of childcare	-Age of wife -Household size -Region of residence -Couple's educational level -Wife's employment	-Wife's share of childcare -Wife's share of routine housework	-Age of wife -Household size -Region of residence -Couple's educational level -Wife's employment -Couple's educational level*parental status

Hypothesis

Albanian women, in all life stages, perform more unpaid work (in absolute minutes), compared to Serbian women in all life stages

Men in Serbia in all life stages perform more unpaid work (in absolute minutes) when compared to Albanian men in all life stages

The difference in time use between highly and poorly educated men and women is stronger in Albania than in Serbia

Higher education level is associated with less minutes spent on unpaid work and routine housework for women

Higher education level is associated with more minutes spent on unpaid work and routine housework for men

A higher educational level of couple predicts a lower share of wife's unpaid work and routine work

Mother's share of childcare decreases when fathers have a higher level of education

Example of Regression Results

Table 11: Sample 1 OLS regression results of daily unpaid work (Albanian women)

Variables	Model 1		Model 2		Model 3	
	C	SE	C	SE	C	SE
Total unpaid work						
Age categories						
25-34	66.8***	11.7	62.6***	11.7	59.9***	11.7
35-44	90.3***	14.1	87.0***	14.0	79.0***	14.1
45-54	53.4***	14.5	48.7***	14.4	41.5**	14.5
55-64	52.5***	14.7	48.8***	14.6	40.1**	14.7
O.C 18-24						
Region						
Rural	77.4***	7.5	75.4***	7.4	73.5***	7.5
O.C Urban						
Household size	-11.4***	2.3	-11.8***	2.3	-12.4***	2.3
Education						
Secondary	-38.8***	8.0	-110.5***	14.3	-103.3***	14.1
Tertiary or above	-79.2***	13.5	-104.1***	18.3	-90.1***	18.3
O.C Elementary+						
Employment status						
Unemployed	189.1***	12.6	190.2***	14.3	189.3***	12.4
Inactive	157.8***	7.7	160.1***	7.7	158.9***	20.8
O.C Employed						
Couple status						
In couple	58.6***	10.0	26.3*	11.5	60.2***	9.8
O.C Single						
Parental status						
At least one child 0-3	201.8***	13.6	199.6***	13.6	188.7***	16.2
At least one child 4-6	126.7***	14.7	126.6***	14.6	98.5***	17.0
At least one child 7+	41.3***	11.1	39.3***	11.0	13.3	12.4
O.C No child						
Education*Couple						
Secondary*in couple			98.5***	16.4		
Tertiary *in couple			31.9	24.8		
Education*Parent						
Secondary*Child 0-3					55.7*	25.3
Secondary*Child 4-6					126.9***	28.3
Secondary*Child 7+					93.0***	17.2
Tertiary*Child 0-3					-51.4	34.8
Tertiary*Child 4-6					-82.6	46.1
Tertiary*Child 7+					65*	30.1
Constant	134.3***	15.9	165.0***	16.6	166.6***	16.9
N. Observation	1940		1940		1940	
Root-Squared	0.44		0.45		0.44	
Root MSE	146.9		145.6		145.2	

O.C-Omitted Category; C-Coefficient; SE-Standard error; *P≤0.05 ** P≤0.01. *** P≤0.001

Table 15: Sample 1 OLS regression results of daily unpaid work (Serbian women)

Variables	Model 1		Model 2		Model 3	
	C	SE	C	SE	C	SE
Total unpaid work						
Age categories						
25-34	100.1***	14.9	99.4***	15.0	96.9***	15.0
35-44	139.2***	16.0	138.6***	16.1	133.4***	16.1
45-54	173.1***	15.9	172.6***	16.0	168.3***	16.0
55-64	163.8***	15.2	163.3***	15.3	156.8***	15.3
O.C 18-24						
Region						
Rural	32.9***	7.5	32.8***	7.5	31.1***	7.5
O.C Urban						
Household size	-4.3	3.2	-4.3	3.2	-3.8	3.1
Education						
Secondary	-22.9**	8.5	-24.1	15.5	-51.5***	12.2
Tertiary or above	-42.8***	11.6	-39.9	20.6	-63.0***	17.8
O.C Elementary+						
Employment status						
Unemployed	104.9***	11.0	104.8***	11.0	104.7***	11.0
Inactive	85.8***	8.3	85.9***	8.3	87.2***	8.3
O.C Employed						
Couple status						
In couple	60.5***	8.8	60.2***	3.9	58.6***	8.9
O.C Single						
Parental status						
At least one child 0-3	238.7***	15.4	238.7***	15.6	186.5***	32.7
At least one child 4-6	155.9***	17.4	155.9***	17.4	87.8*	37.9
At least one child 7+	40.5***	9.7	40.5***	9.8	11.2	14.7
O.C No child						
Education*Couple						
Secondary*in couple			1.8	17.9		
Tertiary *in couple			-4.2	23.7		
Education*Parent						
Secondary*Child 0-3					59.2	35.7
Secondary*Child 4-6					105.8*	41.5
Secondary*Child 7+					46.7**	16.8
Tertiary*Child 0-3					92.4*	45.1
Tertiary*Child 4-6					31.3	50.0
Tertiary*Child 7+					33.1	23.0
Constant	41.1*	18.9	41.8	21.5	63.4**	20.0
N. Observation	1362		1362		1362	
Root-Squared	0.41		0.41		0.41	
Root MSE	123.9		124.0		123.4	

O.C-Omitted Category; C-Coefficient; SE-Standard error; *P≤0.05 ** P≤0.01. *** P≤0.001

Results

- Huge gender inequality in the domestic sphere in both Albania and Serbia; Albania much more traditional than Serbia
- Albanian women more unpaid work than Serbian women (in absolute terms), and Serbian men more unpaid work than Albanian men (in absolute terms)
- Education, marriage parenthood and employment → impact on time Albanian and Serbian women spend on unpaid work
- Mixed results for men → Education and marriage no impact
- Parenthood and employment have a small effect on the amount of time both Albanian and Serbian men spend on these activities
- Higher educational levels → less time spent on unpaid work and routine work for women both in Albania and in Serbia
- The effect of education stronger for Albanian women than for Serbian women
- Education no impact on time men spent on unpaid work or routine work for men in both countries
- Employed women → less unpaid work than unemployed or inactive women

Results

- Unemployed and inactive men in Serbia are predicted to do more unpaid work, than employed men in Serbia
- In Albania, however, only inactive men are predicted to do more unpaid work, compared to employed men
- Presence of small children associated with a large increase in the amount of time in total unpaid work for women, both in Albania and in Serbia
- Presence of young children also linked to a small increase in Albanian men's time in total unpaid work, and to a considerable increase in Serbian men's time in unpaid work
- The results indicated that in Serbian households, husbands share more unpaid work and routine work, compared to Albanian households
- Higher educational levels for women partners were associated with a decrease in unpaid work and routine work among couples in Serbia, but not in Albania

Hypothesis Revisited

Albanian women, in all life stages, perform more unpaid work (in absolute minutes), compared to Serbian women in all life stages (Supported)

Men in Serbia in all life stages perform more unpaid work (in absolute minutes) when compared to Albanian men in all life stages (Supported)

The difference in time use between highly and poorly educated men and women is stronger in Albania than in Serbia (Partially supported for Albanian women)

Higher education level is associated with less minutes spent on unpaid work and routine housework for women (Supported)

Higher education level is associated with more minutes spent on unpaid work and routine housework for men (Not supported)

A higher educational level of couple predicts a lower share of wife's unpaid work and routine work (Partially supported for Serbia)

Mother's share of childcare decreases when fathers have a higher level of education (ILH8) (Not supported)

Implications

- ❑ Traditional gender ideology → gender mainstreaming
- ❑ Proper functionality of policies in place in both countries
- ❑ Maternity leaves, paternity leaves, flexible work hours for fathers
- ❑ Radically reform the childcare system by offering free or cheap high-quality childcare
- ❑ Aim for high employment of women-cautious of precarity of outsourced domestic work

Future Research

- Compare and contrast more countries in the region
- Richer, in-depth qualitative research
- Compare forthcoming national time use survey to the one in 2010 to see the change in 10 years
- Explore normative ideologies of masculinity and femininity in these contexts and how they relate