Segregated Domestic Labor and Gender Inequality: A Cross-national Perspective

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Background

- In all countries women do more housework than men (Kan et al, 2011; Pailhé et al, 2021)

- Last decades, the gender gap in housework has decreased (Kan et al, 2011; Altintas & Sullivan, 2016)
  - Women do less
  - Men’s contribution has increased, but not to compensate women’s reduction

- Recent studies points out a general slow down in the convergence’s process (England, 2010)

- More egalitarian societies have a more equal distribution of household labour (Geist & Cohen, 2011; Kan et al, 2022)

- Housework continues to be segregated (Kan et al, 2011)
  - Women investing more time in routine “female-typed” tasks, such as cleaning or cooking
  - In comparison, men invest more time in non-routine “male-typed” tasks, such as repairs

- Level of housework segregation was associated with partners’ perception of relationship quality and egalitarian division of labor (Carlsson et al, 2022)
Objectives & Research questions

Objectives:

1) Provide the most recent estimates of time investment in domestic labor across 15 countries, detailed by task

2) Investigate the levels of sex segregation by type of task across countries and its relationship to gender inequality in unpaid work and overall gender inequality

Research questions:

1) How does gender inequality in specific tasks are associated with overall gender inequality in housework

2) How does overall investment in total housework is associated with sex segregation in housework

3) How do levels of sex segregation of housework tasks are associated with overall gender inequality
Data & Methods

- Harmonized European Time Use Survey (HETUS)
- 2010 Round. Surveys conducted between 2008-2015
- 15 countries: Austria (AT), Belgium (BE), Estonia (EE), Finland (FI), France (FR), Germany (DE), Greece (GR), Hungary (HU), Italy (IT), Norway (NO), Poland (PL), Romania (RO), Serbia (RS) Spain (ES), United Kingdom (UK)
- We select population younger than 65 years all who are in couples living with children under age 18.
  - HHTYPE=6 or 7
  - N=74,630
- Questionnaires
  - Household questionnaire
  - Individual questionnaire
  - Diary of activities: All activities carried out during 24 hours in 10-minutes interval
## Data & Methods: Diary of Activities

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>What were you doing?</th>
<th>What else were you doing?</th>
<th>Where were you?</th>
<th>Were you alone or together with somebody you know?</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>07:00-07:10</td>
<td>Woke up the children</td>
<td></td>
<td>At home</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>07:10-07:20</td>
<td>Had breakfast</td>
<td>Talked with my family</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>07:20-07:30</td>
<td>&quot;&quot;</td>
<td>&quot;&quot;</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>07:30-07:40</td>
<td>Cleared the table</td>
<td>Listened to the radio</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>07:40-07:50</td>
<td>Helped the children dress</td>
<td>Talked with my children</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>07:50-08:00</td>
<td>Went to the daycare centre</td>
<td></td>
<td>On foot</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>08:00-08:10</td>
<td>Went to work</td>
<td>Read the newspaper</td>
<td>Bus</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>08:10-08:20</td>
<td>&quot;&quot;</td>
<td>&quot;&quot;</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>08:20-08:30</td>
<td>Work</td>
<td></td>
<td>Workplace</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Data & Methods: Activities

Housework (311-371)

- Food (311): Food preparation, baking and preserving
- Clean (312-322): Dish washing, cleaning dwelling, cleaning garden
- Laundry (330-339): Laundry, ironing, handicraft and producing textiles, etc.
- Repair and maintain (323-329, 351-359): heating and water, arranging households good and materials, house construction and reparations, making, repairing and maintaining equipment, vehicle maintenance, etc.
- Gardening and pet care (341-399): Gardening, caring for pets, walking the dog, etc.
- Household Administration (361-371): Shopping, commercial and administrative services, household management, etc.
Data & Methods: Measures

- Estimates of total time spent on housework and time spent in each tasks by women and men
- Standardize score for each tasks and gender

\[ Z_{score_{xyz}} = \frac{Time_{xyz} - Mean_{yz}}{sd_{yz}} \]

- Inequality Indicator for each task by country

\[ \text{Inequality Indicator}_{xy} = \frac{\text{Women's Time}_{xy} - \text{Men's time}_{xy}}{\text{TimeWomen's Time}_{xy} + \text{Men's time}_{xy}} \]
- Segregation Index by country

\[
Segregation\ Index_x = \sum_{y=task}^{\text{Abs}(\text{Inequality Index}_{xy} \cdot \frac{\text{Time}_{xy}}{\text{Total\ Hw}_x}))}
\]
Results: Total housework

![Bar chart showing the comparison of total housework minutes per day between men and women across different countries.](image_url)
Results: Zscores by task and gender

Food

$y = 8.48 \times 10^{-17} - 0.694 x, R^2 = 0.48$

Clean

$y = -2.75 \times 10^{-18} - 0.576 x, R^2 = 0.33$

Laundry

$y = -1.51 \times 10^{-16} - 0.214 x, R^2 = 0.05$

Repair & Maintain

$y = 2.29 \times 10^{-17} - 0.35 x, R^2 = 0.12$

Garden & Pet

$y = 8.6 \times 10^{-17} + 0.463 x, R^2 = 0.21$

Household administration

$y = -3.7 \times 10^{-16} + 0.89 x, R^2 = 0.79$
Results: Inequality indicators and Segregation Index
Results: Segregation Index and total time on housework

\[
y = -0.61 + 0.00331x, \quad R^2 = 0.41
\]
Results: Segregation Index and Global Gender Gap Index (GGI)
Conclusions

- Large differences in total housework by country, and also by task
- More segregation in tasks in which women do more. Lower inequalities in tasks that men do more
- Segregation is higher in countries where individuals spent more time in housework
- Segregation is higher in less egalitarian countries
- Segregation is higher in Southern and Eastern Europe, with the exception of Spain and Poland. Lower in Nordic countries (except Estonia), Belgium and Germany
- Meaning of segregation. ‘Masculine task’ have become more neutral, ‘feminine tasks’ are still segregated
Thank you

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Results: Time spent by task and gender