

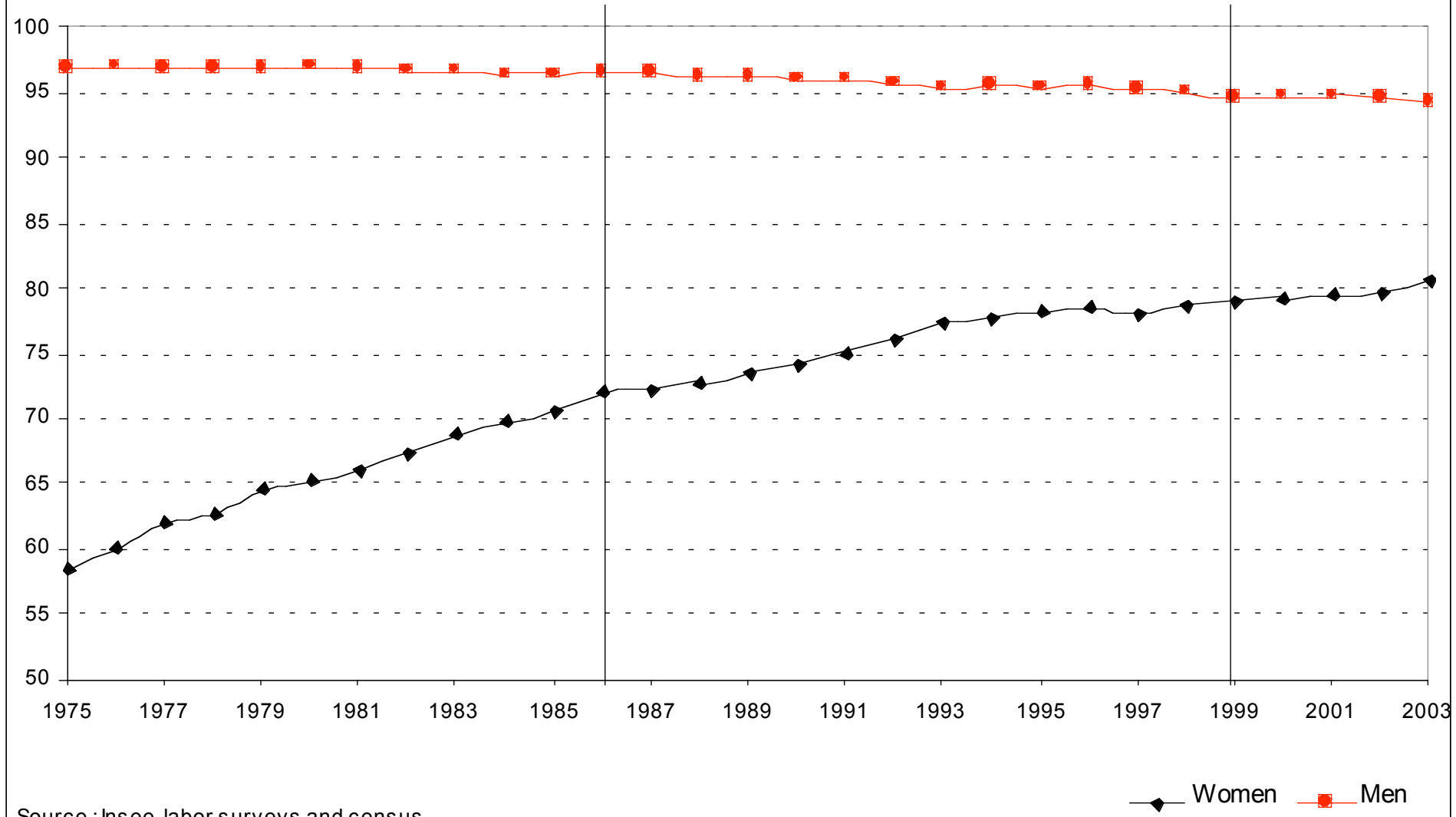
# The effects of the family work day on family time

Laurent Lesnard

Observatoire sociologique du changement  
(Sciences-po & CNRS)

Laboratoire de sociologie quantitative  
(Crest - Insee)

### Labor participation rates for French women and men aged 25 - 49



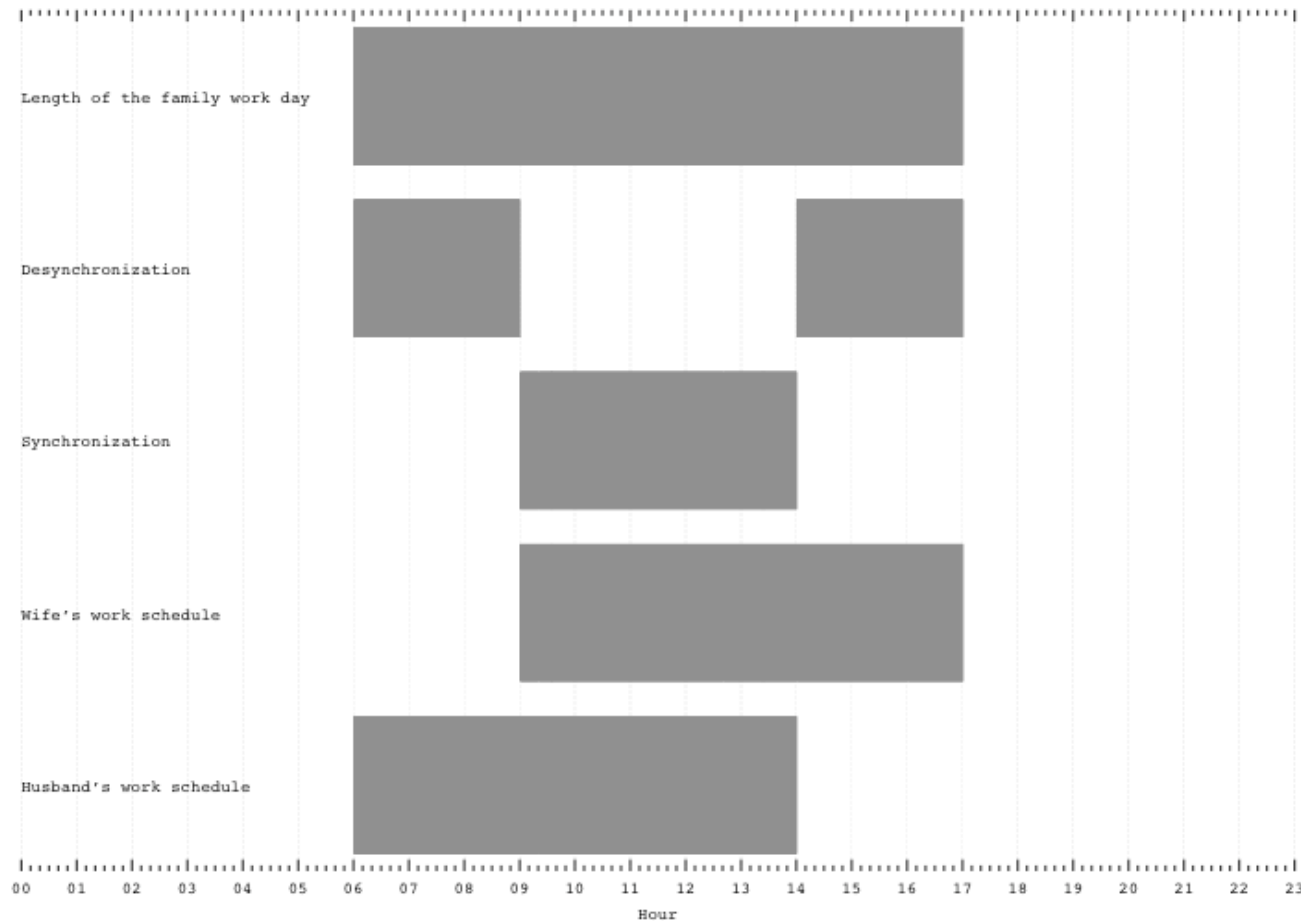
Source : Insee, labor surveys and census.

—◆— Women —■— Men

# Dual-earner couples and synchronicity

- General increase in the female labor force participation rate
  - 80% in 2003 in France (25-49)*
- Dual-earner couples
  - 70% of couples in 2002 in France*
- Dual-earner couples' work schedules can be desynchronized

# Dual-Earner Couples' Daily Temporal Equation



# How dual-earner couples balance work and family in everyday life?

- What is the extent of desynchronization?
- Is desynchronization a choice?
- What family time is made of?

What are the effects of desynchronization on family time?

# A simple question... not that easy to answer

## Family work day

- Traditional time-budget perspective: work time is reduced to durations
- Other solution: indicators (night work, Sunday work, etc.)
- Better solution: typology which takes into account both the number of hours worked and their scheduling
- *Family* work day: the combined durations and scheduling and their possible non-overlap must be analyzed

## Family time

- Traditional time-budget perspective: primary activities
- But only direct care is registered (what about family dinners?)
- Other approaches:
  - Secondary activities
  - Interaction perspective: 'with whom' information

# Literature

## **The family work day and synchronicity**

- Harriet Presser (1984, 1987)
- Nock & Kingston (1984)
- Hamermesh (2002)

## **Data and method problem**

## **Family time**

- Stone (in Szalai, 1972), Robinson (1977)
- Kingston & Nock (1987)
- Hamermesh (2002)
- Sayer, Bianchi, and Robinson (2004)
- Folbre and Bittman (2004)

## **Concept problem**

# Data and method (1)

- French time use surveys of 1985-86 and 1998-99
- Diary for both spouses
- Response rates: 64% and 80%

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Type of dual-earner couple	1985-86	1998-99
Childless	425	330
With children	1,038	781
Sub-total	1,463	1,111
Total	2,574	

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# Data and method (2)

- Family work days as sequences in a 4-state space:
  - Neither spouses work
  - Only the husband works
  - Only the wife works
  - Both spouses work
- A variant of Optimal Matching Analysis is used to build a typology of family work days (a Stata plugin is available)
- Distance matrix reduced with cluster analysis (WPGMA)

# Data and method (3)

- ‘With whom’ information used to measure family time
- Three categories of family time :
  1. Conjugal time: each spouse declares to be with the other
  2. Parents-child time: each spouse says to be with the other and with at least one child
  3. Parent-child time, which is composed of father- and mother-child time: each spouse claims to be alone with at least one child
- Less details in 1998-99

# The family work days

		1985-86				1998-99			
		%	Duration of the husband's work day	Duration of the wife's work day	Synchronicity (%)	%	Duration of the husband's work day	Duration of the wife's work day	Synchronicity (%)
Type of family work day									
Standard	Double standard work day	49	8:36	7:54	72,8	44	9:02	8:20	70,1
	Atypical	With long hours	8	11:04	8:51	57,7	10	11:15	9:36
	With shifted schedules	14	7:05	7:07	23,9	15	7:06	7:16	23,3
	- in the morning for men	8	6:34	6:48	31	8	7:01	7:02	29,9
	- in the evening for men	4	7:21	7:39	22,1	4	6:34	8:08	23,4
	- perfectly shifted	3	8:15	7:16	5,4	3	8:02	6:56	4,2
	With a partially worked day by women	12	8:54	4:49	36,9	16	9:07	5:18	36,5
	With short/irregular work hours	17	5:47	4:15	27	15	6:45	4:46	31,9
<b>Total</b>		<b>100</b>	<b>8:09</b>	<b>6:53</b>	<b>52,4</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>8:39</b>	<b>7:18</b>	<b>50,5</b>



# The family work days

		Determination of each spouse's work day				Total
		Imposed on both spouses (51%)	Imposed on one spouse (27%)	Decided by both spouses (10 %)	Other (12%)	
Type of family work day						
Standard	Double standard work day	43	51	79	38	48
	Atypical					
	With long hours	4	7	5	9	6
	With shifted schedules	21	16	4	12	17
	With a partially worked day by women	19	15	8	18	17
	With short/irregular work hours	14	11	5	22	13
<b>Total</b>		100	100	100	100	100

# Families without children

- 1985
  - Conjugal time = 3:23
  - Three main activities:
    - Meals (55 min)
    - TV (54 min)
    - Other leisure (44 min)
- 1998
  - Conjugal time = 4:11
  - Three main activities:
    - Meals (1:09)
    - TV (1:16)
    - Other leisure (59 min)

# Families with children (1985)

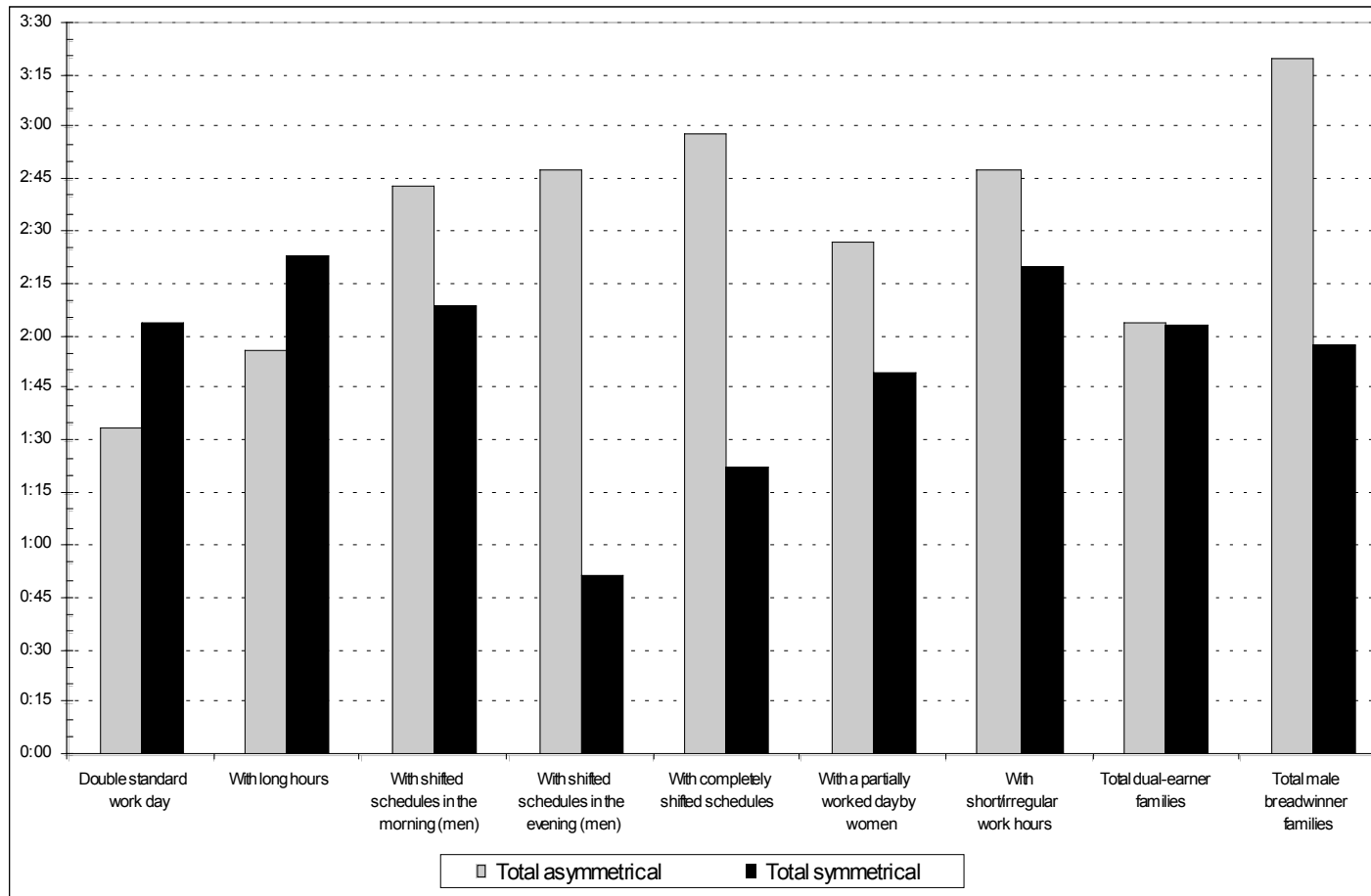
- Conjugal time = 44 min (mainly TV)
- Parents and children = 1:06
  - Meals (27 min)
  - Leisure (15 min) and TV (12 min)
- Mothers alone with children = 1:57
  - Unpaid work (37 min)
  - Care (35 min)
- Fathers alone with children = 29 min
  - TV (6 min) and other leisure (5 min)
  - Care (6 min)

# Families with children (1998)

- Conjugal time and parents and children time = 3:04
- Mothers alone with children = 3:04
  - Unpaid work (53 min)
  - Care (40 min)
- Fathers alone with children = 1:26 min
  - TV (20 min) and other leisure (14 min)
  - Care (10 min)



# The effects of the family work days on family time

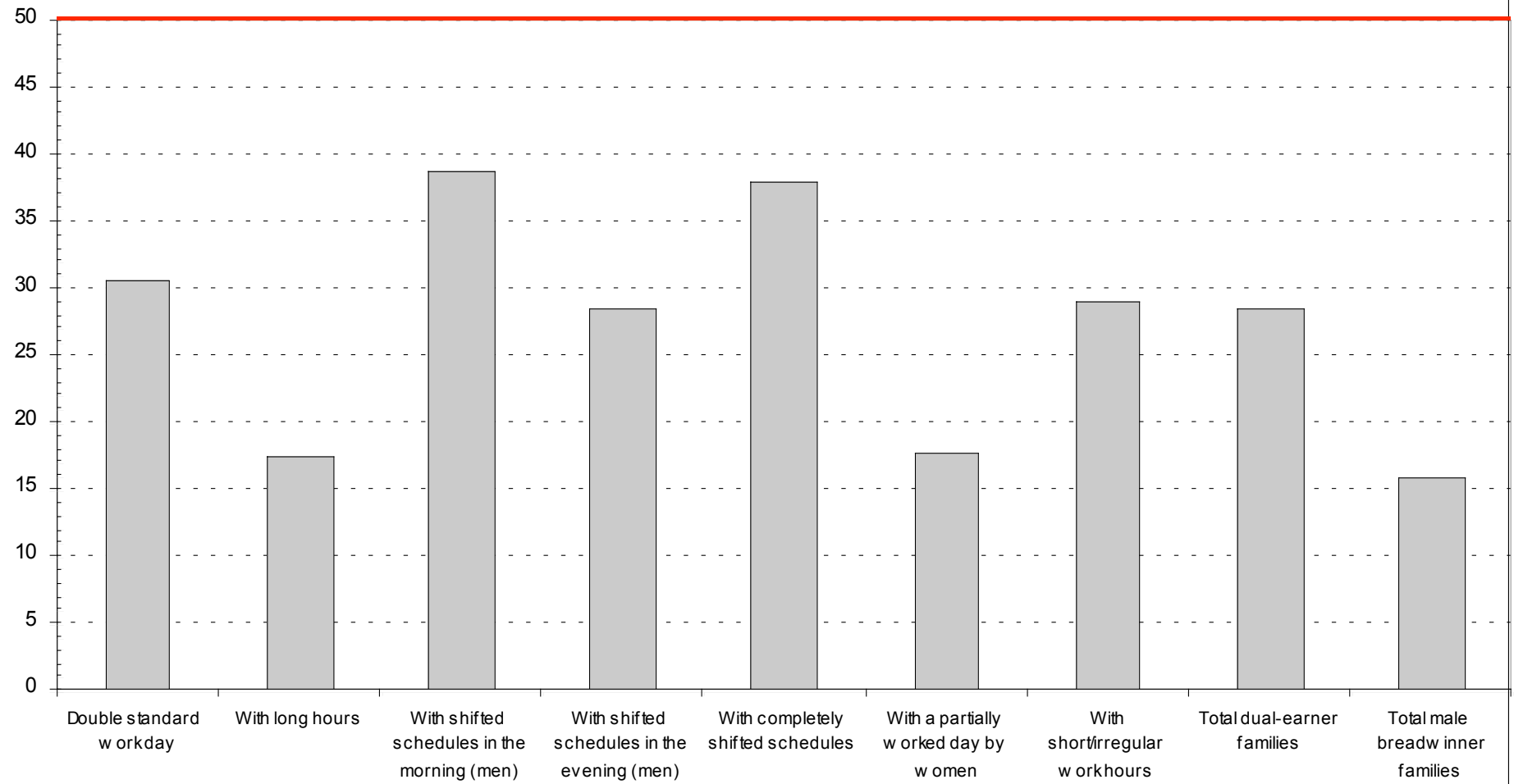


**Asymmetrical family time = father- and mother-child time**

**Symmetrical family time = conjugal and parents-child time**

## Fathers' share of parental work

in %



# The effects of the family work days on family time (1)

- Desynchronization reduces conjugal time and parents with children time (symmetrical family time)
- Desynchronization increases fathers' share of parental work (asymmetrical family time)

## Consequently

- Dual earner work schedules' synchronicity has striking consequences on families' daily life
- Parental work/presence is shared more equally in dual-earner families than in male breadwinner families
- But the 'new father', if he is ever to be found, is not in the well-off families but rather in the subordinate ones as a result of desynchronization: inequalities in the economic field counterbalance gender inequalities in the family

# The effects of the family work days on family time (2)

**But**

- Father time is mainly a recreational time
- Mother- and father-child time are gendered and not perfectly substitutable
- Lower class fathers are more egalitarian because they are forced to
- Desynchronization as a firms' *externality*:
  - *Positive* for the division of parental time (but gender issue)
  - *Negative* for symmetrical family time (conjugal and parents-child time)
- Instantaneous effect of desynchronization on parental time: what about long term effects?
  - Parents' gender *dispositions*
  - Children's gender *dispositions* (see Chodorow, 1978)

Contact:

[Laurent.lesnard@sciences-po.fr](mailto:Laurent.lesnard@sciences-po.fr)

Paper, slides and Stata plugin:

<http://laurent.lesnard.free.fr>