The effects of the family work day on family time

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

Source: Insee, labor surveys and census.
Dual-earner couples and synchronicity

• General increase in the female labor force participation rate
  \textit{80\% in 2003 in France (25-49)}

• Dual-earner couples
  \textit{70\% of couples in 2002 in France}

• Dual-earner couples' work schedules can be desynchronized
Dual-Earner Couples' Daily Temporal Equation

- Length of the family work day
- Resynchronization
- Synchronization
- Wife's work schedule
- Husband's work schedule
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
- Nock & Kingston (1984)
- Hamermesh (2002)

Data and method problem

Family time
- Stone (in Szalai, 1972), Robinson (1977)
- Kingston & Nock (1987)
- Hamermesh (2002)
- 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%

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Type of dual-earner couple</th>
<th>1985-86</th>
<th>1998-99</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Childless</td>
<td>425</td>
<td>330</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>With children</td>
<td>1,038</td>
<td>781</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sub-total</td>
<td>1,463</td>
<td>1,111</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>2,574</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Type of family work day</th>
<th>1985-86</th>
<th>1998-99</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Standard</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Double standard work day</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>49</td>
<td>44</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>8:36</td>
<td>9:02</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>7:54</td>
<td>8:20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>72.8%</td>
<td>70.1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>With long hours</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>With shifted schedules</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- in the morning for men</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- in the evening for men</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- perfectly shifted</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>With a partially worked day by women</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>With short/irregular work hours</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>8:09</td>
<td>8:39</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>6:53</td>
<td>7:18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>52.4%</td>
<td>50.5%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- Synchronicity (%): The percentage of the overlap between the duration of the husband's and wife's work day.
The family work days

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Type of family work day</th>
<th>Social position of the husband</th>
<th>Cadres</th>
<th>Self-employed</th>
<th>Executives</th>
<th>Media and culture positions</th>
<th>Head clerks</th>
<th>Salesmen and domestic service occupations</th>
<th>Clerks</th>
<th>Health, workers, drivers, police officers</th>
<th>Factory workers</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Standard</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Double standard work day</td>
<td>34</td>
<td>66</td>
<td>43</td>
<td>55</td>
<td>43</td>
<td>65</td>
<td>34</td>
<td>37</td>
<td>46</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>With long hours</td>
<td>27</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>10</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>With shifted schedules</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>28</td>
<td>28</td>
<td>15</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>With a partially worked day by women</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>16</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>With short/irregular work hours</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>34</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>14</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Atypical</td>
<td></td>
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<td></td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>100</td>
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<td>100</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>100</td>
<td></td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
## The family work days

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Type of family work day</th>
<th>Determination of each spouse's work day</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Imposed on both spouses (51%)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Double standard work day</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Imposed on one spouse (27%)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>With long hours</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>With shifted schedules</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>With a partially worked day by women</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>With short/irregular work hours</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td></td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The table above shows the distribution of different types of family work days and the determination of each spouse's work day. The percentages indicate how often each type of work day and determination method is observed.
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
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)
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Paper, slides and Stata plugin:

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