

Automation, import competition, and intra-household labor supply

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Abstract

This paper examines how industrial automation and import competition—two forces that raise women’s wages relative to men’s—reshape household time allocation. Linking the American Time Use Survey to commuting-zone exposure to robot adoption and Chinese import penetration, I find that greater exposure is associated with women reallocating time out of market work and into leisure and childcare, while men increase market hours and reduce leisure. These patterns are consistent with hypotheses about identity norms that discourage wives from out-earning their husbands. To quantify the norm’s effect on time use, I estimate a household model that imposes a disutility cost when the wife’s earnings exceed the husband’s; the model replicates nonlinearities in time use and implies that the norm approximately doubles the gender gap in market hours relative to an identity-neutral benchmark.

Keywords: Family norms; Childcare; Labor supply; Relative wages; Robots; Trade.

JEL Codes: J16, J22, J31, D13, O33, F16.

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1 Introduction

Over the last few decades, technological adoption and global integration have rebalanced the task content of jobs in advanced economies. As firms install industrial robots, demand tilts toward cognitive and interpersonal tasks, while routine manual work is displaced (de Vries et al., 2020). Greater exposure to international trade has further compressed manufacturing employment and accelerated the reallocation of labor into services (Autor and Dorn, 2013). These shifts line up with long-standing gender differences in occupational sorting: many of the at-risk, manual-intensive occupations are male-dominated, whereas a large swath of service jobs—comparatively insulated from automation—employs more women. Figure 1 shows these patterns using data from Flood et al. (2024), merged with task measures from Webb (2019), proxying risk of robot-driven displacement, and Autor and Dorn (2013), capturing manual-task intensity. Occupations in the upper-right of the plot—high in both automation risk and manufacturing content—are predominantly male, whereas those in the lower-left are female-led.

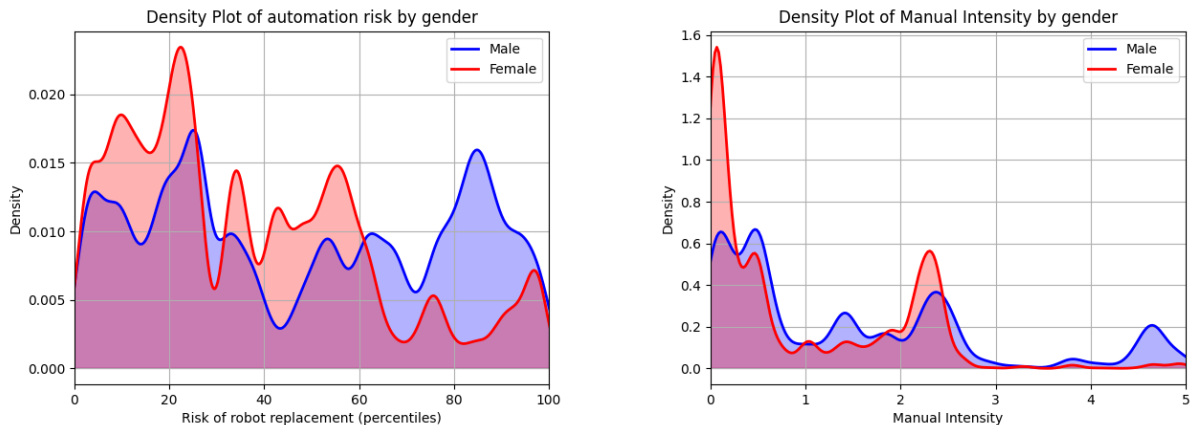


Figure 1: Current Population Survey (Flood et al. 2024) merged with Webb (2019) and Autor and Dorn (2013) data on automation risk and manual intensity scores by occupation, year 2010.

This study traces the consequences of these structural shifts for intra-household time allocation, focusing on how automation and trade expansion, by raising women’s relative wages (Ge and Zhou, 2020; Anelli et al., 2021; Besedeš et al., 2021; Autor et al., 2019), reshape the balance between market labor and household production. Unitary and collective models that impose Pareto-efficient household allocations predict that when a spouse’s wage rises, that spouse shifts time toward market work and away from home production (Becker, 1965; Gronau, 1977; Chiappori, 1992). A complementary literature argues that social norms and identity concerns can distort these choices, especially when wives approach or surpass

husbands’ earnings (Bertrand et al., 2015; Bursztyn et al., 2017; Folke and Rickne, 2020).

To understand how changes in the labor market driven by robots and import competition affect households’ time use, the empirical design links the American Time Use Survey (ATUS) to commuting–zone measures of exposure to industrial robots and to import competition from China. Both shocks are built as shift–share measures that link historical industry composition in each local labor market with sectoral robot intensity and Chinese import penetration in the US, following Acemoglu and Restrepo (2020) and Autor et al. (2013).

Endogeneity can arise when baseline industry shares correlate with unobserved drivers of time use (e.g., union history, child–care supply, gender norms); when national shifters partly reflect local conditions (e.g., U.S. demand booms raising Chinese exports; tight local labor markets prompting robot adoption); from common industry trends that affect both trade and automation; and from policy confounds. To strengthen identification, I instrument U.S. industry–level robot adoption with contemporaneous changes in European adoption at the same industry level, and U.S. industry–level import penetration from China with Chinese export growth to other high–income markets. Intuitively, these instruments shift households’ potential wage shares without directly affecting how couples allocate time.

Greater exposure to either robots or Chinese import competition is associated with a reallocation of time within couples: women reduce market hours and increase time in leisure and childcare, while men increase market hours and reduce leisure. Quantitatively, a one–unit higher stock of robots per 1,000 workers reallocates about one hour per week at the household level across market work, childcare, and leisure. An additional \$1,000 of Chinese imports per worker reduces women’s market time by roughly three hours per week, with a corresponding rise in childcare. These results point towards hypotheses about social norms that discourage wives from out-earning their husbands: because these shocks disproportionately depress men’s earnings in the lower half of the wage distribution, the largest shifts in within-couple wage shares occur in households where women already contribute a relatively high share of income, i.e. where the identity norm is most likely to induce reductions in their market work.

To rationalize the evidence, I build a structural model of household time allocation with shared consumption, child quality as a public good produced by parental time, and leisure as a private good. A penalty term—defined as a function of the wife’s earnings relative to the husband’s—captures the disutility from violating the breadwinner norm. Parameters are estimated by the Simulated Method of Moments to match the non-monotonic time–use profiles in the ATUS. The gender gap in time use roughly doubles relative to a model without the norm, rising from 14% to 24% for market work and from 5% to 10% for childcare.

Counterfactuals that reduce the share of low-wage men or increase the share of high-wage women show that, once the norm is introduced, the divergence grows as the gender

wage gap narrows. The simulations highlight three facts: (i) the norm induces a kink at the equal-earnings threshold, generating the inverse-U in women’s market hours (and the mirror pattern in childcare); (ii) aggregate effects scale nonlinearly with the distribution of relative wages—shifts that move couples beyond parity disproportionately increase the fraction of households for which the norm binds; and (iii) the norm depresses welfare relative to the efficient benchmark by reallocating time away from market work even when wives’ market productivity is high.

The paper makes three distinct contributions to the literature. First, it examines how industrial automation and trade reshape family dynamics. [Autor et al. \(2019\)](#) and [Anelli et al. \(2021\)](#) document that these shocks reduce marriage rates while increasing cohabitation and divorce due to a decline in men’s marriage-market value. [Costanzo \(2025\)](#) and [Keller and Utar \(2022\)](#) link the two forces to fertility choices. Here, the focus is on how automation and trade alters spouses’ joint decision-making over the allocation of their time between market and non-market activities.

Second, by exploiting variation in spouses’ relative potential wages induced by the adoption of industrial robots and exposure to import competition, it addresses criticisms made of [Bertrand et al. \(2015\)](#) regarding irregularities in time allocation when spouses’ wages converge. On the one hand, [Getik \(2024\)](#) finds that women who outearn their husbands experience a decline in mental health, thus supporting the hypothesis of an anomalous behavior after wage parity; on the other hand, [Heggeness and Murray-Close \(2019\)](#); [Rosenberg \(2021\)](#) warn that reported spousal earnings may be endogenous, with reporting bias especially likely when partners are interviewed jointly. Moreover, [Zinovyeva and Tverdostup \(2021\)](#) argue that the observed discontinuity in couple counts beyond the point of equal earnings reflects a convergence effect—women reduce their work hours to align their earnings with their spouses’. Industrial automation and trade thus serve as exogenous sources of wage variation and change the probability that women become the household’s primary earners.

Third, it estimates a structural household time–use model that reproduces the observed non-linear relationship between time allocation and spouses’ wage shares. While prior structural time-use models study wage shocks ([Blundell et al. 2018](#)) and the link between parental education and childcare time ([Gobbi 2018](#)), the framework here captures how shifts in women’s wage shares—such as those driven by automation and trade expansion—reshape the allocation of time between market work, childcare, and leisure.

Section 2 describes the data, sample restrictions, and the construction of the shift–share exposures to robots and Chinese import competition, together with the external instruments. Section 3 lays out the empirical specification and presents OLS and 2SLS estimates for both

shocks—including the gender-oriented decomposition of the trade exposure—plus robustness exercises (weekly hours, automotive controls, and AKM shock-level inference). Section 4 first documents stylized facts on wage shares and time use (Section 4.1), then develops and estimates a structural household model with an identity wedge and reports counterfactuals. Finally, Section 5 concludes.

2 Data, sample, and measurement

The main data for the analysis are gathered from the American Time Use Survey (ATUS), the International Federation of Robotics (IFR), and the UN Comtrade Database on U.S. imports.

ATUS sample. ATUS provides nationally representative, diary-based measures of minutes spent on activities over a 24-hour day. The survey has run continuously since 2003, drawing one respondent (age 15+) from households that recently completed the CPS. The analysis sample consists of married or cohabiting households with at least one employed spouse and at least one child aged 10 or younger (following [Blundell et al., 2018](#)). Market work corresponds to ATUS “work and work-related activities,” childcare to “caring for and helping household children,” and leisure to standard leisure categories.

Table 1 provides summary statistics for the sample population, while Appendix Table A1 reports information for the general population. With young children present, couples reallocate time away from leisure and toward childcare: for men, leisure averages 262 minutes/day in the sample vs. 357 minutes in the general population. For women, leisure falls from 310 to 227 minutes. Men in the sample also record more market work time (262 vs. 191 minutes/day), while women’s remains stable (132 vs. 127 minutes/day). Consistent with these diary measures, usual weekly hours are higher for men in the sample (44.0 vs. 30.9) and similar for women (23.6 vs. 21.2). The sample is younger and more educated than the general population, while hourly wages are comparable across groups.

Table 1: Descriptive statistics: ATUS analysis sample (households with young children)

Variable	Females			Males		
	Obs	Mean	Std. Dev.	Obs	Mean	Std. Dev.
Leisure (min/day)	24,748	226.80	164.97	22,021	262.00	195.74
Childcare (min/day)	24,748	142.94	147.38	22,021	79.19	113.27
Market work (min/day)	24,748	132.19	215.60	22,021	261.95	277.40
Age	24,748	35.49	6.78	22,021	38.05	7.54
Hourly wage (USD)	7,381	16.45	10.49	7,839	18.68	10.21
Weekly earnings (USD)	14,013	757.96	534.22	16,666	1,086.80	594.43
Usual work hours per week	23,048	23.56	19.61	20,463	44.00	14.24
Less than secondary (%)	24,748	7.85	26.90	22,021	8.72	28.22
Secondary (%)	24,748	19.12	39.33	22,021	22.17	41.54
Some college (%)	24,748	26.54	44.16	22,021	24.83	43.20
Tertiary (%)	24,748	46.48	49.88	22,021	44.28	49.67

Notes: The sample is restricted to married/cohabiting households with at least one employed spouse and at least one child aged ≤ 10 . Leisure, childcare, and market work are ATUS diary minutes/day. Hourly wage, weekly earnings, and usual hours come from the linked CPS. Education rows report the share (%) with each attainment category.

Exposure to robots and import competition can affect marriage and fertility (Autor et al., 2019; Anelli et al., 2021), so conditioning on couples with young children may raise selection concerns. This issue is addressed at the end of Section 3.2 suggesting that, under the proposed causal mechanism, any resulting selection would, if anything, attenuate rather than inflate the estimated responses.

Local exposure to robots. Data on the stock of industrial robots at the country–year–sector level are provided by the International Federation of Robotics (IFR), which conducts annual surveys on the number of robots sold in each country across various industries, covering 1993–2019. The IFR defines industrial robots as “automatically controlled, reprogrammable, and multipurpose machines” that are fully autonomous, do not require human operators, and are capable of performing repetitive tasks. The evolution of robots usage in the US is shown in Figure 2. Adoption began to rise markedly around 1990 and kept accelerating thereafter.

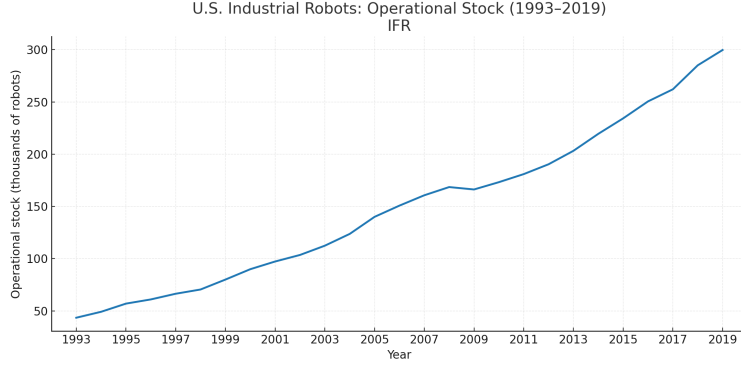


Figure 2: U.S. industrial robot operational stock, 1993–2019 (IFR).

The dataset presents some limitations. Sectoral information for the United States is only available from 2004 onward. While the data for manufacturing industries are detailed, information on other sectors is aggregated. The dataset includes the number of robots used in 13 manufacturing sectors and six non-manufacturing categories: Agriculture and Fishery, automotive, construction, electronics, food, furniture, basic metals, machinery, metal products, mineral, mining, paper, petrochemicals, research, services, textiles, utilities, non-automotive vehicles, and the remaining manufacturing sectors aggregated. Additionally, the dataset only provides data at the country level, lacking finer geographical details within countries.

The explanatory variable measures local labor market exposure to industrial robotics at the commuting-zone level using a Bartik-style instrument, following [Acemoglu and Restrepo \(2020\)](#). This approach assumes a uniform distribution of robots across industries within a commuting zone, exploiting variation in pre-sample local employment distribution by sector and the evolution of robot stocks by sector in the country.

In line with standard shift-share measures, the variable is based on the industrial composition of local labor markets before the surge in industrial automation. By using historical differences in the industrial specializations of regions, it addresses endogeneity concerns arising from the possibility that current employment levels are influenced by the same unobserved factors that drive robot adoption. The historical specialization is represented by the 1990 employment share, retrieved from census data, in the commuting zone. The measure of exposure in a given industry is obtained by multiplying the baseline employment share in the region by the ratio of robots to employed workers in the country.¹ After that, the industry-specific scores are summed to obtain the commuting-zone exposure to industrial robotics:

$$Robots_{ct} = \sum_s \frac{Empl_{sc}^{90}}{Empl_c^{90}} \frac{StockRobots_{st}}{Empl_s^{90}}, \quad (1)$$

¹Approximately a third of the industrial robots are not classified by sector; these are allocated proportionally based on the classified data, as in [Acemoglu and Restrepo \(2020\)](#).

where the subscripts s , c , and t denote industry, commuting zone, and year, respectively. $Empl_{sc}^{1990}$ represents the number of employed workers in industry s and commuting zone c , and $Empl_c^{1990}$ is the total employment in the commuting zone. $\frac{StockRobots_{st}}{Empl_s^{1990}}$ denotes the number of robots per thousand workers relative to the 1990 level.

Endogeneity concerns may arise from several sources. For instance, some local labor markets may have stronger employment protection legislation than others, which increases the cost of labor and would incentivize firms to install more robots. This concern is mitigated by including a set of state-year fixed effects, since laws are typically enacted at the state level. However, another possible concern is that certain labor markets may have stronger labor unions locally, which could similarly increase the cost of human labor for firms. In addition, labor supply decisions may be influenced by economic conditions, which are in turn correlated with the adoption of robots in the industry.

To address endogeneity issues, the usage of robots in other European economies is used as an instrument for the adoption in the U.S. The variable is defined as follows:

$$Robots_{ct}^{IV} = \frac{1}{5} \sum_{j \in EU5} \left(\sum_s \frac{Empl_{sc}^{70}}{Empl_c^{70}} \frac{StockRobots_{st}^j}{Empl_s^{j,90}} \right), \quad (2)$$

where $j \in EU5$ refers to Denmark, Finland, France, Italy, and Sweden. These countries are ahead of the U.S. in the use of robots². The instrument involves multiplying the historical industrial specialization of the labor market in 1970, to avoid mechanical correlation with any pre-1990 robot adoption, by the penetration of robots in the same industry per thousand workers in the European country j in the baseline year. The number of workers in 1990 for the five European countries is retrieved from EUKLEMS (van Ark and Jäger 2017). The instrument is designed to exploit common industry-specific trends in automation, driven by shared technological innovations between countries. Since there are few international companies that provide industrial robots and, hence, drive the global trend in automation, we can reasonably assume the relevance of $Exposure_{ct}^{IV}$. Validity requires that European industry-level automation affects U.S. time use only via its impact on U.S. robot adoption—i.e., not through concurrent global industry shocks, trade linkages, or macro conditions after controls and fixed effects.

Local exposure to import competition. Following the extensive literature on trade shocks, exposure to import competition is measured by the rise in imports from China. The

²Germany is the leading country in terms of automation. It is excluded from the construction of the instrument because it is far ahead of the other countries and may not be as relevant to U.S. patterns as the EU5.

focus on China stems from its role in the expansion of U.S. imports from low-income countries since the early 1990s, driven by market reforms, large-scale rural-to-urban migration, and enhanced access to foreign technology and capital. These domestic transformations, together with China’s accession to the WTO—which granted it most-favored-nation status—have markedly increased its export capacity. Over time, imports from China began rising in the 1990s, then entered a phase of exponential growth starting with its 2001 WTO accession, and finally leveled off in 2014, as shown in Figure 3.³



Figure 3: U.S. goods imports from China, 1990–2024 (Census basis, nominal).

Autor et al. (2013) extract annual bilateral export flows from China by product to the United States and to other high-income destinations. Product-level values are mapped to U.S. industries using standard NAICS concordances and aggregated to construct industry-level Chinese import exposure.

Using information on U.S. imports from China, domestic absorption, and local labor market sectoral employment, the trade liberalization shock takes the following shift-share form:

$$\text{Trade}_{ct} = \sum_s \left(\frac{\text{Empl}_{sc,91}}{\text{Empl}_{c,1991}} \right) \frac{\text{Import}_{st}^{Ch \rightarrow US}}{\text{Domestic Absorption}_{s,91}} \quad (3)$$

where employment shares across 397 four-digit SIC manufacturing industries are multiplied by the dollar amount of imports from China in the U.S., divided by the domestic production in the sector.

Bias can arise if baseline industry shares correlate with slow-moving local traits (union strength, child-care supply, gender norms); if shifters reflect U.S.-specific conditions (demand booms, offshoring by multinationals, tariff changes); or from anticipation and policy timing. To address endogeneity concerns, an instrumental variable is constructed by substituting U.S. import penetration from China with the industry-level growth of Chinese exports to

³The ATUS sample when investigating the effect of import competition therefore spans 2003–2014.

eight other developed countries.⁴ Formally:

$$\text{Trade}_{ct}^{iv} = \sum_j \left(\frac{\text{Empl}_{sc,88}}{\text{Empl}_{c,88}} \right) \frac{\text{Import}_{st}^{Ch \rightarrow Others}}{\text{Domestic Absorption}_{s,88}}. \quad (4)$$

Baseline employment shares are taken from an earlier year with respect to the early 1990s surge in Chinese exports and any contemporaneous U.S. industry reallocation, to reduce mechanical correlation between the weights and the shift. The instrument uses Chinese exports to other high-income destinations to isolate supply-driven variation; validity requires that, conditional on controls and fixed effects, these foreign export surges affect U.S. time use only through U.S. import competition, not via global industry shocks or re-routing unrelated to U.S. demand.

Decomposing the trade shock. Whereas industrial automation differentially affects wages and employment according to task content, trade shocks vary in intensity across sectors. This distinction allows us to break down the overall trade exposure into components that are more pronounced in female- or male-dominated industries. To do so, we can introduce an extra dimension of variation: the historical female share of employment in each industry–commuting-zone pair, $f_{cs,90}$, and its complement, $1 - f_{cs,90}$. We can therefore express the overall exposure as the sum of shocks weighted by these gender-industry shares, yielding the following decomposition:

$$\text{Trade}_{ct}^g = \sum_s s_{cs,90}^g \left(\frac{\text{Empl}_{cs,91}}{\text{Empl}_{c,1991}} \right) \frac{\text{Import}_{st}^{Ch \rightarrow US}}{\text{Domestic Absorption}_{s,91}}, \quad g \in \{f, m\},$$

where

$$s_{cs,90}^f = f_{cs,90}, \quad s_{cs,90}^m = 1 - f_{cs,90},$$

denoting trade shocks that comparatively decrease wages for women and men, respectively. The instrumental variable is constructed analogously as the main measure.

Descriptive statistics for local exposures Table 2 reports summary statistics for the two shift–share measures. Robot exposure has a mean of 3.218 (SD 4.122); by construction, one unit corresponds approximately to one additional robot per 1,000 workers (shift–share aggregated). Trade exposure has a mean of 0.006 and a standard deviation of 0.01. Because it is an import-penetration ratio, a value of 0.01 corresponds to a one–percentage–point increase in Chinese import penetration.

⁴Namely: Australia, Denmark, Finland, Germany, Japan, New Zealand, Spain, and Switzerland.

Table 2: Summary statistics of robot and trade shift-share measures.

Variable	Mean	Std. Dev.	Min.	Max.	N
Robots	3.218	4.122	0.816	33.704	80635
Trade	0.006	0.01	0	0.163	168414

3 The effect of robots and trade on time use

This section describes the pooled cross-section model used to examine the relationship between the exposure to automation and trade with household time use choices. It then presents the OLS and 2SLS⁵ results and robustness checks.

3.1 Empirical model

The baseline specification is:

$$T_{ict} = \alpha + \beta \text{Exposure}_{ct} + \eta' X_{ict} + \gamma_c + \delta_{s(c) \times t} + \varepsilon_{ict}, \quad (5)$$

where T_{ict} represents minutes/day in market work, leisure, and childcare spent by individual i ; Exposure_{ct} is the shift-share measure (robots or trade) for commuting zone c in year t ; and X_{ict} includes temporal, demographic, and economic controls (day of week, month, holiday; number of children; respondent's and spouse's age and education; indicators for children under 5; ages of youngest and oldest child; and family-income category).⁶ γ_c are commuting-zone fixed effects and $\delta_{s(c) \times t}$ are state-by-year fixed effects. β represents the change in T for one additional robot per 1,000 workers in the robots specification, and the change in T for a one-unit increase in Chinese import penetration in the trade specification (so a 1 p.p. increase implies 0.01β). Regressions use ATUS survey weights and standard errors are clustered at the commuting-zone-year level. Active job seekers (time spent looking for a job greater than zero) are excluded in order to reduce the bias driven by unemployment effects of the shocks.

To address endogeneity, I estimate two-stage least squares (2SLS), instrumenting Exposure_{ct} with its external shifter:

$$\text{Exposure}_{ct} = \pi \text{Exposure}_{ct}^{IV} + \gamma_c + \delta_{s(c) \times t} + u_{ct}, \quad (6)$$

which yields the fitted value $\widehat{\text{Exposure}_{ct}}$. The second stage replaces the endogenous regressor

⁵Throughout the 2SLS analyses, the Kleibergen and Paap (2006) F-Statistics hover around a value of 300.

⁶Family income in ATUS is categorized into 16 levels from less than \$5,000 to \$150,000 and over.

with this fitted value:

$$T_{ict} = \alpha + \beta \widehat{\text{Exposure}}_{ct} + \eta' X_{ict} + \gamma_c + \delta_{s(c) \times t} + \varepsilon_{ict}. \quad (7)$$

3.2 Results

The estimates are reported on three subsamples defined by spouses' employment: households in which the spouse of the respondent works, households in which the respondent works, and households in which both spouses work. This setup allows me to consider both intensive and extensive margins in time allocation. Each table reports *OLS* and *2SLS* estimates; in the latter, Exposure_{ct} is instrumented with the corresponding external shifter (EU5 industry robot adoption for robots; Chinese exports to other high-income destinations for trade).⁷

Exposure to robots. Table 3 shows the response of daily time use to a one-unit increase in robot exposure (roughly one additional robot per 1,000 workers, shift-share aggregated). For men, market work rises by about 14 minutes when including corner solutions (column 1), by 7–8 minutes for respondent-employed individuals (column 2), and by 16–18 minutes in two-earner households (column 3), with slightly larger magnitudes in 2SLS. Men's leisure falls by 10–12 minutes in two-earner households. For women, market work declines by about 10–15 minutes per day. On the intensive margin, childcare rises by about 4–5 minutes in OLS and about 8 minutes in 2SLS (columns 5–6). Leisure increases for women by about 7–11 minutes. Given the exposure standard deviation of about 4, a one-standard-deviation increase scales these per-unit effects by roughly four.

Overall, robot exposure reallocates time within couples: women shift out of market work into childcare and leisure, while men shift into market work (and out of leisure), especially in two-earner households. 2SLS estimates are typically larger in absolute value than OLS, consistent with attenuation or endogenous adjustments that bias OLS toward zero.

⁷First-stage strength is high throughout (Kleibergen-Paap $F \approx 300$).

Table 3: Effect of robots on time spent working, childcaring, and leisuring per day.

	Males			Females		
	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)
Daily minutes work						
Robots	14.06*** (4.669)	6.633* (3.421)	16.06*** (5.409)	-9.726** (3.883)	-13.05*** (4.471)	-10.74** (4.910)
Robots ^{2SLS}	13.92** (6.598)	8.376* (4.618)	18.02** (7.384)	-15.40*** (5.073)	-18.76*** (5.899)	-15.26** (6.628)
Observations	6,795	6,582	3,905	7,668	4,974	4,546
R-squared	0.426	0.455	0.529	0.297	0.430	0.476
Daily minutes childcare						
Robots	-0.490 (1.818)	0.703 (1.417)	-0.407 (1.900)	1.988 (2.019)	4.624** (1.963)	4.912** (2.434)
Robots ^{2SLS}	0.160 (2.533)	1.687 (2.111)	-0.773 (2.707)	5.579* (2.975)	8.220*** (2.701)	8.455** (3.383)
Observations	6,795	6,582	3,905	7,668	4,974	4,546
R-squared	0.170	0.179	0.323	0.230	0.232	0.290
Daily minutes leisure						
Robots	-4.724* (2.663)	-3.646 (2.699)	-9.912*** (3.449)	7.247*** (2.159)	9.145*** (2.389)	8.891*** (2.789)
Robots ^{2SLS}	-4.019 (3.400)	-3.869 (3.365)	-11.87*** (3.818)	7.214** (2.968)	10.13*** (3.186)	10.67*** (3.918)
Observations	6,795	6,582	3,905	7,668	4,974	4,546
R-squared	0.251	0.262	0.362	0.215	0.310	0.353
Spouse employed	✓		✓	✓		✓
Respondent employed		✓	✓		✓	✓

Sample: married or cohabiting couples with at least a spouse working and children aged 10 or less. Control variables in all specifications include state*year-level fixed effects, spouses' age and education, number of children (total and under age 5), ages of the youngest and oldest child, family-income classification, day-of-week and month-of-survey fixed effects, and a holiday indicator. Standard errors clustered at the commuting-zone-year level are in parentheses. *** $p < 0.01$, ** $p < 0.05$, * $p < 0.1$.

Exposure to trade. Table 4 reports effects of Chinese import competition. Coefficients are per unit of the import-penetration ratio; per one percentage point effects correspond to 0.01 the coefficient, as the trade exposure is a ratio in 0–1 units. For men, a 1 pp increase reduces daily work time by about 32–41 minutes in OLS and about 51–65 minutes

in 2SLS (columns 1–3). For women, work time falls on the intensive margin by about 27–33 minutes in OLS (columns 5–6) and by about 29 minutes in 2SLS (column 6), while the spouse–employed sample (column 4) shows a small positive OLS effect (about 10 minutes per 1 pp). Childcare moves in the same direction as in the robot analysis: on the intensive margin, women devote about 14–22 minutes per 1 pp more to childcare (OLS columns 5–6; 2SLS column 6). Leisure shows no consistent pattern, apart from a modest decline for women whose spouses are employed (2SLS, column 4, around 15 minutes per 1 pp).

Unlike robots, the China shock depresses market time for both spouses on the intensive margin. Women substitute toward childcare as market work falls. 2SLS magnitudes exceed OLS, again suggesting attenuation or endogenous adjustments in OLS.

Table 4: Effect of China shock on time spent working, childcaring, and leisuring per day.

	Males			Females		
	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)
Daily minutes work						
Trade	-4,108*** (1,263)	-3,364** (1,711)	-3,221*** (1,115)	1,015 (1,020)	-2,648** (1,257)	-3,343*** (1,208)
Trade ^{2SLS}	-6,464*** (1,809)	-5,944** (2,391)	-5,106*** (1,550)	1,907 (1,192)	-2,062 (1,380)	-2,940** (1,433)
Observations	3,507	5,726	3,305	6,324	4,300	3,899
R-squared	0.431	0.431	0.512	0.272	0.402	0.460
Daily minutes childcare						
Trade	876.3 (796.8)	904.7 (887.9)	633.2 (774.1)	-379.3 (563.3)	1,356** (665.8)	2,170*** (670.7)
Trade ^{2SLS}	1,127 (873.1)	2,054 (1,477)	605.2 (825.9)	138.9 (656.8)	967.3 (795.3)	2,067** (853.1)
Observations	3,507	5,726	3,305	6,324	4,300	3,899
R-squared	0.225	0.171	0.316	0.227	0.226	0.283
Daily minutes leisure						
Trade	-1,267 (913.7)	8.253 (1,012)	-955.6 (949.0)	-748.3 (736.8)	-27.14 (793.3)	385.9 (952.5)
Trade ^{2SLS}	-389.9 (1,145)	469.2 (1,200)	-168.8 (1,235)	-1,453* (869.9)	-784.9 (977.6)	-362.8 (1,112)
Observations	3,507	5,726	3,305	6,324	4,300	3,899
R-squared	0.312	0.270	0.378	0.208	0.289	0.338
Spouse employed	✓		✓	✓		✓
Respondent employed		✓	✓		✓	✓

Sample: married or cohabiting couples with at least a spouse working and children aged 10 or less. Control variables in all specifications include state*year-level fixed effects, spouses' age and education, number of children (total and under age 5), ages of the youngest and oldest child, family-income classification, day-of-week and month-of-survey fixed effects, and a holiday indicator. Standard errors clustered at the commuting-zone-year level are in parentheses. *** $p < 0.01$, ** $p < 0.05$, * $p < 0.1$.

Gender-oriented trade shocks. Table 5 decomposes exposure by historical gender intensity. By construction, Trade_{Male} loads on male-dominated industries and lowers men's wages relative to women's (raising women's relative wage), mirroring the direction of the robot shock; conversely, Trade_{Fem} loads on female-dominated industries and lowers women's

wages relative to men's. Focusing on coefficients that are statistically significant in both OLS and 2SLS, the robust patterns are concentrated on men: under Trade_{Male} , male leisure falls by about 173 to 176 minutes per day per one percentage point in the spouse-employed and two-earner samples. Under Trade_{Fem} , male work falls by roughly 212 to 343 minutes per day per one percentage point, and male leisure rises by about 216 to 256 minutes per day per one percentage point. With a standard deviation of about 0.01, a one standard deviation change corresponds approximately to the per percentage point numbers reported. Female coefficients are smaller and typically not jointly significant across OLS and 2SLS.

These patterns align with the robot results and point to within-couple reallocation consistent with a breadwinner norm.

Table 5: Effect of China shock on time spent working, childcaring, and leisuring per day.

	Males			Females		
	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)
Daily minutes work						
Trade _{Male}	11,834** (5,204)	7,191** (3,529)	12,396** (5,054)	3,715 (3,301)	1,100 (5,077)	-930.8 (4,886)
Trade _{Male} ^{2SLS}	12,104 (8,036)	3,581 (5,805)	8,834 (7,418)	3,027 (5,362)	-1,340 (7,632)	-4,278 (8,164)
Trade _{Fem}	-30,002*** (7,940)	-21,226*** (6,127)	-30,241*** (7,971)	-3,601 (5,279)	-9,162 (8,447)	-7,905 (8,484)
Trade _{Fem} ^{2SLS}	-34,282*** (12,443)	-20,546** (9,692)	-27,758** (12,004)	-476.7 (8,515)	-3,874 (12,102)	-1,475 (13,134)
Daily minutes childcare						
Trade _{Male}	100.0 (2,873)	1,270 (1,844)	1,793 (2,793)	1,050 (1,925)	1,695 (1,949)	2,479 (2,182)
Trade _{Male} ^{2SLS}	6,228 (3,924)	4,300 (2,843)	7,127* (3,655)	-2,684 (3,261)	-1,603 (3,590)	-2,293 (4,392)
Trade _{Fem}	2,026 (4,039)	174.6 (2,602)	-1,326 (4,036)	-2,471 (2,982)	987.8 (3,573)	1,826 (3,963)
Trade _{Fem} ^{2SLS}	-6,492 (5,678)	-1,309 (4,613)	-9,280 (5,695)	4,910 (5,229)	5,079 (5,832)	8,939 (7,029)
Daily minutes leisure						
Trade _{Male}	-17,278*** (3,547)	-6,121** (2,538)	-17,629*** (3,437)	-4,089 (3,217)	-1,090 (3,170)	-1,633 (3,502)
Trade _{Male} ^{2SLS}	-17,611*** (5,484)	-5,883 (3,835)	-14,711*** (5,416)	-809.3 (4,216)	2,043 (4,775)	426.1 (5,188)
Trade _{Fem}	24,825*** (5,888)	10,479** (4,448)	25,588*** (5,819)	4,590 (5,433)	1,679 (5,689)	3,201 (6,094)
Trade _{Fem} ^{2SLS}	25,302*** (8,742)	10,115 (6,177)	21,618** (8,664)	-2,451 (6,495)	-5,012 (7,639)	-1,888 (8,234)
Spouse employed	✓		✓	✓		✓
Respondent employed		✓	✓		✓	✓

Sample: married or cohabiting couples with at least a spouse working and children aged 10 or less. Control variables in all specifications include state*year-level fixed effects, spouses' age and education, number of children (total and under age 5), ages of the youngest and oldest child, family-income classification, day-of-week and month-of-survey fixed effects, and a holiday indicator. Standard errors clustered at the commuting-zone-year level are in parentheses. *** $p < 0.01$, ** $p < 0.05$, * $p < 0.1$.

3.3 Robustness

The following robustness checks address some criticalities that may arise in the main specification.

Weekly hours worked ATUS diaries capture a single day and feature many zero-work diaries (e.g., full-time workers sampled on a day off), which raises outcome noise and makes estimates sensitive to functional-form assumptions in the presence of corner solutions (Hamer-mesh et al., 2005; Stewart, 2013). To verify that the findings are not an artifact of this one-day snapshot, Table A2 re-estimates the baseline using respondents’ *usual weekly hours at the main job* from the CPS interview that precedes the ATUS—a measure that averages over day-to-day variation and exhibits far fewer zeros. Because usual hours are collected for workers, these regressions condition on employment; results are similar when aligning the diary sample accordingly. The coefficients remain tightly aligned with the diary-based estimates—if anything, slightly larger in magnitude: a one-unit increase in robot exposure reduces women’s working time by about one hour per week, on average; a one-standard-deviation increase in the China-shock regressor is associated with roughly four fewer hours per week for women. In the decomposed trade specifications, the male-oriented shock raises men’s weekly hours by about 7 hours per standard-deviation increase, whereas the female-oriented shock lowers men’s hours by about 12 hours, consistent with the within-household reallocation documented above.

Accounting for the automotive industry A common concern with shift-share measures of robot exposure, emphasised by Goldsmith-Pinkham et al. (2020), is that their variation may be driven by sector-specific trends, potentially undermining causal interpretation. The vehicle sector is especially problematic, because the automotive industry has been the largest adopter of robots across the US.⁸ Appendix Table A3 reports the Rotemberg weights used to construct the Bartik measure and shows that the vehicle sector receives a disproportionately large weight compared with other industries.

To address the issue, Table A4 in the appendix re-estimates the models after excluding the automotive sector from the exposure variable and entering it separately as a control, following Acemoglu and Restrepo (2020). The loss of variation reduces statistical power for most coefficients, yet the qualitative pattern of the results is unchanged. The OLS estimates indicate that men’s working time increases by roughly 40 minutes per day at the intensive margin, while both OLS and 2SLS show a decline in their childcare time of about 15 minutes

⁸See Figure 2 in Acemoglu and Restrepo (2020) on the faster rise in robot penetration in this sector relative to other industries in both the US and European labor markets between 1993 and 2007.

and 30–40 minutes per day, respectively, for a unit increase the regressor. For leisure, the OLS estimates imply an equivalent reduction for men, whereas the 2SLS estimates suggest an increase for women at the intensive margin.

Appendix Table A5 adjusts for commuting zone-specific trends across quartiles of employment share in the vehicle sector. The coefficients remain consistent with the primary findings, with a slight decrease in statistical significance for the intensive margin of work on the women’s side.

Shock-based standard errors (AKM). In a Bartik design, all individuals in a commuting zone (CZ) share the same exposure, a weighted combination of sector-year shocks. Clustering at the CZ level can miss correlation induced by common shocks, especially when CZ sizes differ. The AKM1 estimator treats shocks as the sampling units: it allows arbitrary dependence within a sector and assumes independence across sectors [Adão et al. \(2019\)](#).

Let i index individuals, s sectors, and j Bartik regressors. Let w_{is} be the pre-sample employment share of sector s in individual i ’s CZ. Denote sampling weights by v_i , to distinguish them from shares w_{is} .

Step (I): residualization. Estimate the main specification (OLS or 2SLS) with the full set of controls and fixed effects, using weights v_i if applicable. Save outcome residuals \hat{e}_i . For each Bartik regressor x_{ji} , compute the residual \tilde{x}_{ji} from regressing x_{ji} on the same controls and fixed effects (weighted if used in the main specification).

Step (II): weighting. Define $u_{yi} = \sqrt{v_i} \hat{e}_i$ and $\tilde{x}_{ji} = \sqrt{v_i} \tilde{x}_{ji}$. Form the weighted share matrix \tilde{W} with entries $\tilde{w}_{is} = \sqrt{v_i} w_{is}$.

Step (III): collapse to the shock level. Project the residualized Bartik regressor onto the shock space,

$$\hat{X}_{js} = [(\tilde{W}'\tilde{W})^{-1}\tilde{W}'\tilde{x}_j]_s,$$

and aggregate outcome residuals to shocks,

$$R_s = \sum_i \tilde{w}_{is} u_{yi} = \sum_i v_i w_{is} \hat{e}_i.$$

Step (IV): AKM1 variance. For a single Bartik regressor j ,

$$\widehat{\text{Var}}(\hat{\beta}_j) = \frac{\sum_s (\hat{X}_{js} R_s)^2}{(\sum_i \tilde{x}_{ji}^2)}, \quad \text{SE}_j = \sqrt{\widehat{\text{Var}}(\hat{\beta}_j)}.$$

This is a shock-level EHW estimator: within-sector correlation is unrestricted; shocks are assumed independent across s .

2SLS with one endogenous regressor and one Bartik instrument. Let $\hat{\alpha}$ be the 2SLS coefficient, m_i the endogenous regressor, and \ddot{m}_i its residual after partialing out the controls (weighted). Replace u_{yi} with the structural residual $u_{\Delta i} = \sqrt{v_i} (Y_i - \hat{\alpha} m_i)$ when forming R_s . Define the first-stage slope

$$\hat{\beta}_{\text{FS}} = \frac{\sum_i \tilde{x}_{ji} \ddot{m}_i}{\sum_i \tilde{x}_{ji}^2}.$$

The standard error for $\hat{\alpha}$ is

$$\text{SE}(\hat{\alpha}) = \frac{\sqrt{\sum_s (\hat{X}_{js} R_s)^2}}{|\hat{\beta}_{\text{FS}}| \sum_i \tilde{x}_{ji}^2}.$$

AKM standard errors for the robot exposure. Applying the AKM estimator of [Adão et al. \(2019\)](#) to the robot exposures leaves the qualitative patterns intact. In Table A6, men’s work remains positive and statistically significant in OLS across samples, while men’s leisure remains negative and significant in OLS. For women, work remains negative and significant in both OLS and 2SLS, and leisure remains positive and significant in OLS and in 2SLS. For childcare, women’s intensive-margin effects are robust: OLS shows increases of 4.62 to 4.91 minutes per day (columns 5–6), and 2SLS shows 8.45 minutes per day (column 6). By contrast, most male 2SLS coefficients are not statistically different from zero under AKM (for work in columns 1–2 and for leisure in columns 1–2), reflecting the more conservative shock-level inference. Overall, AKM confirms a within-household reallocation toward more male market work and less male leisure, and toward less female market work with offsetting increases in female childcare and leisure, while indicating lower 2SLS precision when inference is based on sectoral shocks.

AKM1 standard errors for the decomposed trade exposure. Using AKM1 shock-level inference for the gender-oriented trade measures leaves most dynamics consistent with the reference estimation, with statistical significance more strong compared to Table 5. Results for work and leisure largely match the expected gender contrast, while childcare moves in the opposite direction under 2SLS.

When looking at $\text{Trade}_{\text{Male}}$, for men, work rises and leisure falls in all samples, both OLS and 2SLS. For women, 2SLS shows work falling in two of three samples (columns 5–6) and rising in one (column 4); leisure rises in two of three samples (columns 5–6) but falls in one (column 4). OLS for women moves the other way (work mostly increases and leisure falls), so the clearest support comes from 2SLS. For childcare, 2SLS shows the opposite of the proposed mechanism: men’s childcare rises and women’s falls across all samples; OLS has weaker and mixed patterns. Magnitudes generally favor the gender contrast even when signs disagree within a sample: male effects on work and leisure are much larger than female

effects, so the net reallocation still align with the main results.

In the case of Trade_{Fem} , for men, work falls and leisure rises across all samples and estimators. For women, leisure falls in all three 2SLS specifications (columns 4–6), in line with the hypothesis, but work does not increase: it is near zero in one case and negative in the other two (both OLS and 2SLS). Childcare again goes against the proposed mechanism under 2SLS: men’s childcare falls and women’s rises in all samples, while OLS mostly shows increases for both. The relative magnitudes are informative even when signs match across genders: the decline in men’s work under Trade_{Fem} is large compared to the smaller decline for women.

Causal mechanism and selection. A consistent interpretation of the results is that exposure to automation and import competition disproportionately compresses men’s earnings toward the lower–middle of the distribution, moving many couples closer to the region of (near-)equal earnings where breadwinner norms are most likely to bind. In that region, small shifts in relative earning potential translate into the asymmetric time reallocations documented above (women shift out of market work and into childcare/leisure; men move in the opposite direction).

A possible concern is that our estimation sample conditions on couples with young children, while marriage and fertility margins are themselves affected by these shocks. Under the proposed mechanism, selection into our estimation sample (couples with young children) should work against finding large effects rather than generate them: if exposure also reduces marriage or childbearing among precisely those low-earning men, high-exposure labor markets will contain fewer couples in which the wife would be near or above parity—the very cases where the mechanism suggests the strongest within-household response. Conditioning on families with young children therefore removes many “high-intensity” cases, implying that the coefficients are attenuated rather than inflated by selection.

4 A structural household model of time use

Starting from showing stylized facts on nonlinearities between women wage shares and households’ time use as a potential mechanism, along with the non-uniform distribution of robot and trade shock along the wage distribution, for the findings in Section 3. This section elaborates a collective household model to reproduce the kink in time allocation and formalize the causal intuition of the empirical results. Individuals choose how much time to allocate to market work, leisure, and childcare in a model based on the semi-cooperative framework of [Gobbi \(2018\)](#).

4.1 Stylized facts on wage shares and time use

This section presents descriptive evidence on how relative wages shape household time allocation. When a woman’s share of total household wages surpasses her partner’s, both spouses reallocate their time between work, childcare, and leisure in distinct ways. Appendix Section B shows that ISSP data reveal that this non-monotonic pattern extends to family-oriented beliefs. Finally, on the basis of these stylized facts, the section explores a potential causal mechanism underlying the empirical patterns documented in Section 3.

Data from the ATUS are used to examine the relationship between spouses’ wage shares and household time allocation. The sample is restricted to married or cohabiting couples under age 64 with at least one child aged ten or younger. Following [Bertrand et al. \(2015\)](#), hourly wages are calculated by dividing weekly earnings by weekly hours worked⁹. For non-workers, a potential wage is imputed as the mean wage of employed individuals sharing the same education level, five-year age bracket, state of residence, and survey year. Including non-workers permits consideration of adjustments on both the intensive and extensive margins of labor supply.

Figure 4 plots average daily minutes spent working, providing childcare, and engaging in leisure against a wife’s wage share¹⁰, with separate linear trends fitted on either side of the parity point. As the wife’s wage share rises toward parity, her working time increases up to 0.5 and then declines, while childcare—and, to a lesser extent, leisure—move in the opposite direction. A specular pattern is observed for men: their working time decreases as the wife’s share approaches 0.5 and then jumps once she becomes the higher earner, with childcare exhibiting a corresponding break in slope. The discontinuity in leisure is clear for men but much less pronounced for women.¹¹

⁹Observations implying hourly wages above 100 are dropped, as the variable is truncated.

¹⁰The wage-share variable is trimmed to the interval (0.25, 0.75) to avoid sparse extreme observations.

¹¹Leisure dynamics are more complex than work or childcare. On one hand, higher relative wages reduce leisure by increasing work hours; on the other, a higher Pareto weight raises the consumption of private goods, including leisure itself ([Blundell et al. 2018](#)).

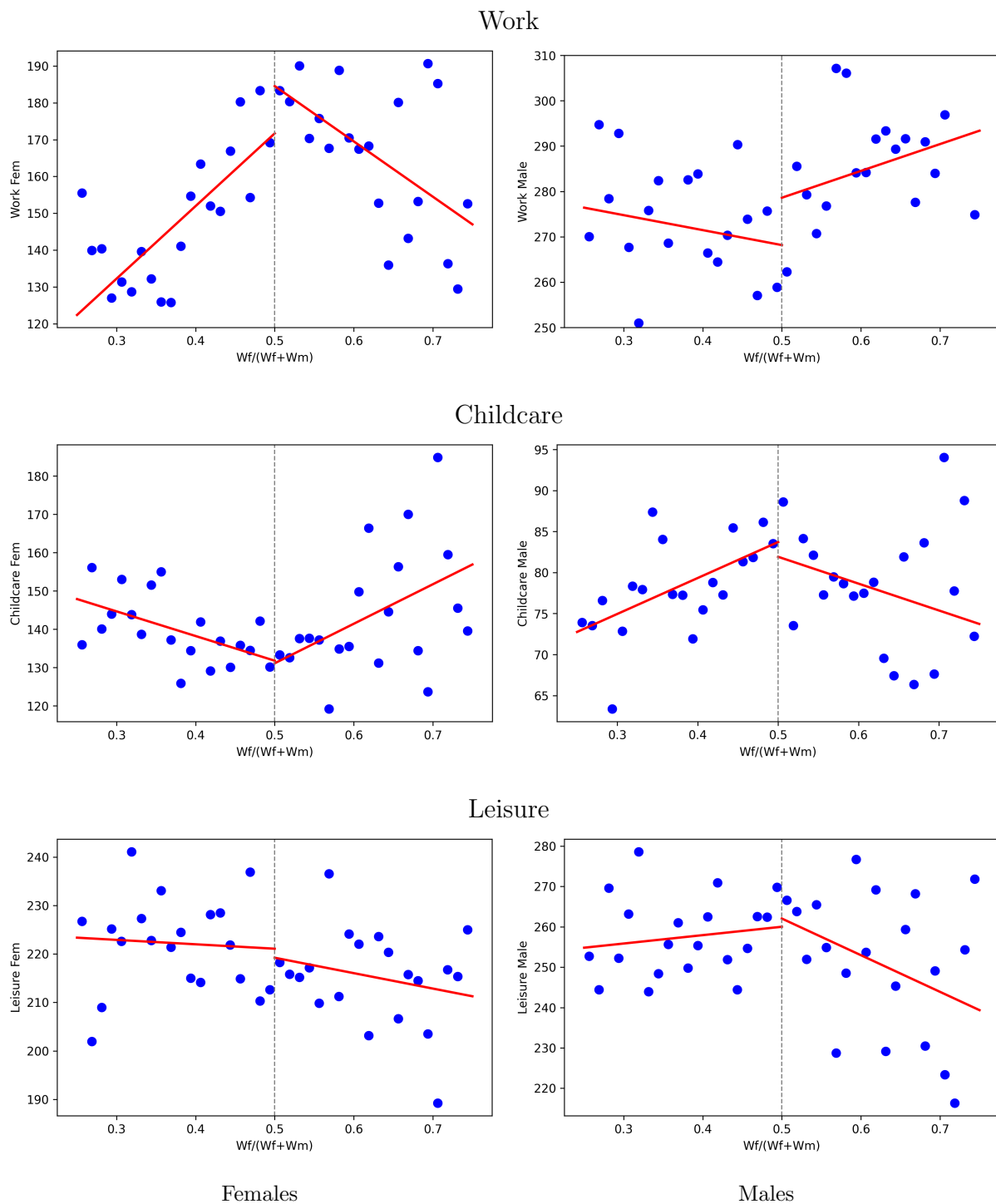


Figure 4: Relationship between a wife's wage share and average daily minutes devoted to work, childcare, and leisure.

4.2 Model set-up

The model is based on a semi-cooperative framework. This stems from the fact that the data show a kink at equal wages and frequent childcare corners (one parent does none on the diary day). A fully cooperative model tends to smooth these away unless ad-hoc frictions are added. A semi-cooperative setup instead treats market hours as contractible and jointly chosen, and childcare as a non-contractible, privately provided public good chosen non-cooperatively. Each spouse's childcare best response has a flat zero region (free-riding when the other invests enough) which lines up with the measurements and reproduces the kink and the corners with minimal extra structure.

A household consists of two members, $i \in \{f, m\}$, each characterized by a market wage rate w_i , caring for n children, and endowed with one unit of time. Family members engage in a two-stage game. In the first stage, they jointly determine their optimal market labor supply; in the second stage, each individually chooses the time allocated to childcare.

Time budget. Each individual faces the time constraint

$$h_i + l_i + (t_i + \tilde{t}_i) n \leq 1, \quad h_i > 0, l_i > 0, t_i > 0, \tilde{t}_i > 0, \quad (8)$$

where h_i denotes market work time, l_i leisure time, t_i parental time invested per child in human capital, \tilde{t}_i the fixed (non-quality) childcare time cost per child, and n the number of children.

The quality of children is given by

$$q = (1 + t_f)^\alpha (1 + t_m)^{1-\alpha}, \quad (9)$$

with $\alpha \in [0, 1]$ governing the relative effectiveness of maternal versus paternal time inputs. Following [Del Boca et al. \(2013\)](#), consumption goods are assumed to have a negligible effect on child quality, so only time inputs enter this production function, which allows for corner solutions in optimal childcare supply.

Utility and identity norm. Individual i 's baseline utility is

$$u_i = \log(c) + \mu_i \log(l_i) + \gamma_i \log(qn). \quad (10)$$

Following the social-norm tax frameworks of [Greenwood et al. \(2016\)](#)¹² and [Doepke and](#)

¹²They specify household resources as $c = (1 - \tau_t)w_f h_f + w_m h_m$, where τ_t is an exogenous, time-varying tax that captures gradually weakening anti-work norms against women; a decline in τ_t over time drives the

Kindermann (2019)¹³, consumable income is adjusted by a norm-dependent tax on the wife's earnings:

$$c = \phi(s) w_f h_f + w_m h_m, \quad s = \frac{w_f}{w_f + w_m}. \quad (11)$$

In this model, the backlash emerges as the wife's share of household income approaches that of her husband. Accordingly, the social-norm tax is specified as a nonlinear, endogenous function of the wife's relative income:

$$\phi(s) = \exp[-\chi s^\kappa], \quad \chi > 0, \kappa > 1.$$

Unlike previous formulations, the tax rate here depends non-linearly on s , ensuring that social costs only materialize once the wife's wage share crosses a threshold determined by χ and κ , while keeping consumption strictly positive.

Stages. Agents play a two-stage semi-cooperative game à la Cournot. The problem is solved by backward induction. In the second stage, each individual chooses the amount of childcare provision by maximizing the following objective function:

$$v_i = \log(c) + \mu_i \log(1 - h_i - (t_i + \tilde{t}_i)n) + \gamma_i \log((1 + t_f)^\alpha (1 + t_m)^{1-\alpha} n), \quad (12)$$

with h_i given from the first stage. There are four possible regimes: both, one, or neither spouse provides childcare.

Under mild regularity conditions the two-stage semi-cooperative game admits a unique subgame perfect equilibrium. In particular, since each spouse's time-allocation choice in stage 2 solves a strictly concave maximization over the compact, convex set

$$\{t_i \geq 0 : h_i + l_i + (t_i + \tilde{t}_i)n \leq 1\},$$

and the induced household payoff in stage 1, where the agents maximize the household utility function, given by the weighted sum of the individuals'

$$u_h = \theta u_m + (1 - \theta) u_f,$$

where $\theta \in (0, 1)$ denotes the bargaining power of the wife. Since the utility is continuous in (h_f, h_m) and diagonally strictly concave, Brouwer's fixed-point theorem ensures existence,

post-1960 rise in female labour supply.

¹³They model fertility bargaining by assigning the wife a constant cost share $\chi^f > 0$ of child-rearing expenditures, so her effective resources are $(1 - \chi^f)w_f h_f$; a larger χ^f , interpreted as a stricter gender norm, reduces her outside option, acting like a multiplicative wedge on her earnings.

while Rosen (1965) diagonal strict concavity argument guarantees uniqueness of the profile $(h_f^*, h_m^*, t_f^*, t_m^*)$. Hence the model admits one equilibrium. Depending on the second-stage outcome, either both spouses work or only one does, yielding the twelve solution profiles reported in Appendix Section C.

Assumptions. A1 (Primitives). Preferences are as in (10) with $\mu_i > 0$, $\gamma_i > 0$, $\alpha \in (0, 1)$, wages $w_i > 0$, number of children $n \in \mathbb{N}$, and fixed time costs $\tilde{t}_i \geq 0$ such that $1 - n\tilde{t}_i > 0$ for $i \in \{f, m\}$.

A2 (Norm wedge). $\phi : [0, 1] \rightarrow (0, 1]$ is C^2 , strictly decreasing and log-convex in s (e.g. $\phi(s) = \exp[-\chi s^\kappa]$ with $\chi > 0$, $\kappa > 1$). When s is defined on *earnings* $s = \frac{w_f h_f}{w_f h_f + w_m h_m}$, the map $(h_f, h_m) \mapsto \log(\phi(s) w_f h_f + w_m h_m)$ is strictly concave on the feasible set.¹⁴

A3 (Feasible sets). For any (h_f, h_m) with $0 \leq h_i \leq 1 - n\tilde{t}_i$, each player's second-stage choice set for t_i is nonempty, convex, and compact; the joint feasible set for (h_f, h_m, t_f, t_m) is nonempty, convex, and compact.

Proposition 1 (Existence and uniqueness). *Under A1–A3:*

- (i) **Stage 2 (childcare).** *For any (h_f, h_m) , the second-stage game in (t_f, t_m) is a diagonally strictly concave game; hence it admits a unique Nash equilibrium (t_f^*, t_m^*) (Rosen's theorem). The equilibrium correspondence $(t_f^*, t_m^*)(h_f, h_m)$ is single-valued and continuous.*
- (ii) **Stage 1 (market work).** *Let $V(h_f, h_m) = \theta v_f(h_f, h_m, t^*(h_f, h_m)) + (1 - \theta) v_m(h_f, h_m, t^*(h_f, h_m))$ denote the household objective induced by the unique stage-2 equilibrium. Under A2, V is strictly concave on the feasible set of (h_f, h_m) ; therefore the stage-1 problem has a unique maximizer (h_f^*, h_m^*) .*

Consequently, the two-stage semi-cooperative problem has a unique subgame-perfect equilibrium $(h_f^, h_m^*, t_f^*, t_m^*)$.*

4.3 Estimation

The model is calibrated to replicate stylized facts about the relationship between women's market work, childcare time, and their share of household wages. Wages and the number of children are drawn from log-normal distributions using summary statistics from the ATUS sample (Table 6).¹⁵

¹⁴A sufficient condition (proved in Appendix C.1) is $\chi \leq \bar{\chi}(\kappa, w_f, w_m, \underline{h}, \bar{h})$ for bounds $0 < \underline{h} \leq h_i \leq \bar{h} < 1$ implied by the time constraint. If s is defined on *potential shares*, ϕ is independent of (h_f, h_m) and strict concavity is immediate.

¹⁵Nominal wages are deflated to constant-2000 dollars.

Table 6: Summary statistics

Variable	Mean	Std. Dev.
Female wages	16.309	9.366
Male wages	18.904	10.084
Number of children	2.105	0.978

The bargaining power parameter θ_i is assumed to follow a logistic-normal distribution:

$$\theta_i = \frac{1}{1 + \exp(-z_i)}, \quad z_i \sim \mathcal{N}(\bar{\theta}, \sigma^2),$$

so that $\theta_i \in (0, 1)$, and where $\bar{\theta}$ and σ^2 denote the mean and variance of the underlying normal distribution, respectively.

Preference for consumption is normalized to one. With log utility, only the *ratios* between the preference weights on consumption, leisure, and child quality are identified by time–use moments; scaling all utility weights by a constant leaves choices unchanged. Since we do not observe consumption quantities, fixing the consumption weight pins down the utility scale and avoids weak identification of levels. The child-quality productivity parameter, α , is set to 0.5, following [Del Boca et al. \(2013\)](#) and [Gobbi \(2018\)](#). The remaining parameters

$$(\gamma_f, \gamma_m, \mu_f, \mu_m, \tilde{t}_f, \tilde{t}_m, \bar{\theta}, \sigma, \chi, \kappa)$$

are estimated via the Method of Simulated Moments. Specifically, we solve

$$\hat{p} = \arg \min_p \left(\frac{m - \hat{m}(p)}{m} \right)' I \left(\frac{m - \hat{m}(p)}{m} \right), \quad (13)$$

where m stacks mean market–work and childcare shares in five bins of the wife’s wage share $\frac{w_f}{w_f + w_m} \in (0.25, 0.75)$ (20 moments total). The identity weighting matrix I is used for three reasons: (i) the targeted moments are already scale–standardized (squared percentage gaps), so equal weighting is close to efficient; (ii) ATUS diary measures are zero–inflated and heteroskedastic with thin bins, making the sample moment covariance noisy and potentially ill–conditioned; and (iii) The minimization proceeds in two stages: a Differential Evolution search provides a candidate minimum, which seeds a local quadratic–approximation routine. $W = I$ yields a smoother, well–conditioned objective that improves stability for a global–plus–local optimizer.

Table 7 presents the parameter estimated by simulating 50,000 households, both with and without the family social norm. The coefficients on childcare quality exceed those on leisure, with the quality weight for women being slightly lower. By contrast, the fixed childcare

share is higher for women (0.09) than for men (0.05). The logistic-normal specification for bargaining power implies an average female Pareto weight of approximately 0.43. Estimating the model without the norm does not substantially alter the parameters’ orders of magnitude: fixed childcare costs remain higher for women and vice-versa for the weight on quality care, while the variable childcare time and leisure preference parameters stay slightly above one.

Table 7: Estimates for the parameters

Parameters	Description	Estimates	
		$\phi \neq 1$	$\phi = 1$
γ_f, γ_m	Preferences for child quality	3.67, 4.48	1.49, 4.02
\tilde{t}_f, \tilde{t}_m	Share of fixed childcare	0.09, 0.05	0.08, 0.06
μ_f, μ_m	Preferences for leisure	1.19, 1.11	1.15, 1.37
$\bar{\theta}, \sigma$	Moments of bargaining power distrib.	-0.45, 1.98	0.35, 1.75
κ, χ_f	Female labor-supply distortion	4.19, 7.27	

4.4 Numerical results

Using the estimated parameters, this section first compares the simulated moments with those used for estimation. It then presents counterfactual analyses showing how households respond to wage shocks at different points in the income distribution.

4.4.1 Comparison with data

Table 8 compares empirical averages for time spent working, childcare, and employment rates with those generated by the model using the parameters in Table 7. The model reproduces the observed averages closely: men allocate approximately half of their time budget to market work and 13% to childcare, while women allocate about one quarter to market work and 23% to childcare. Employment rates—excluded from the SMM objective—also align reasonably well: the model predicts nearly 100% male employment (similarly to the data) and 57% female employment (versus 68% in the data).

Figure 5 shows the simulated values for working and childcaring time, for different bins in the relative wages of women. The values exhibit a change in direction around the wage equalization point, with ranges that are fairly close to those observed in the ATUS sample.

4.4.2 Counterfactuals

Empirical studies of both the U.S. robot wave and the China import shock show that the observed narrowing of the gender wage gap is driven primarily by declining earnings—or

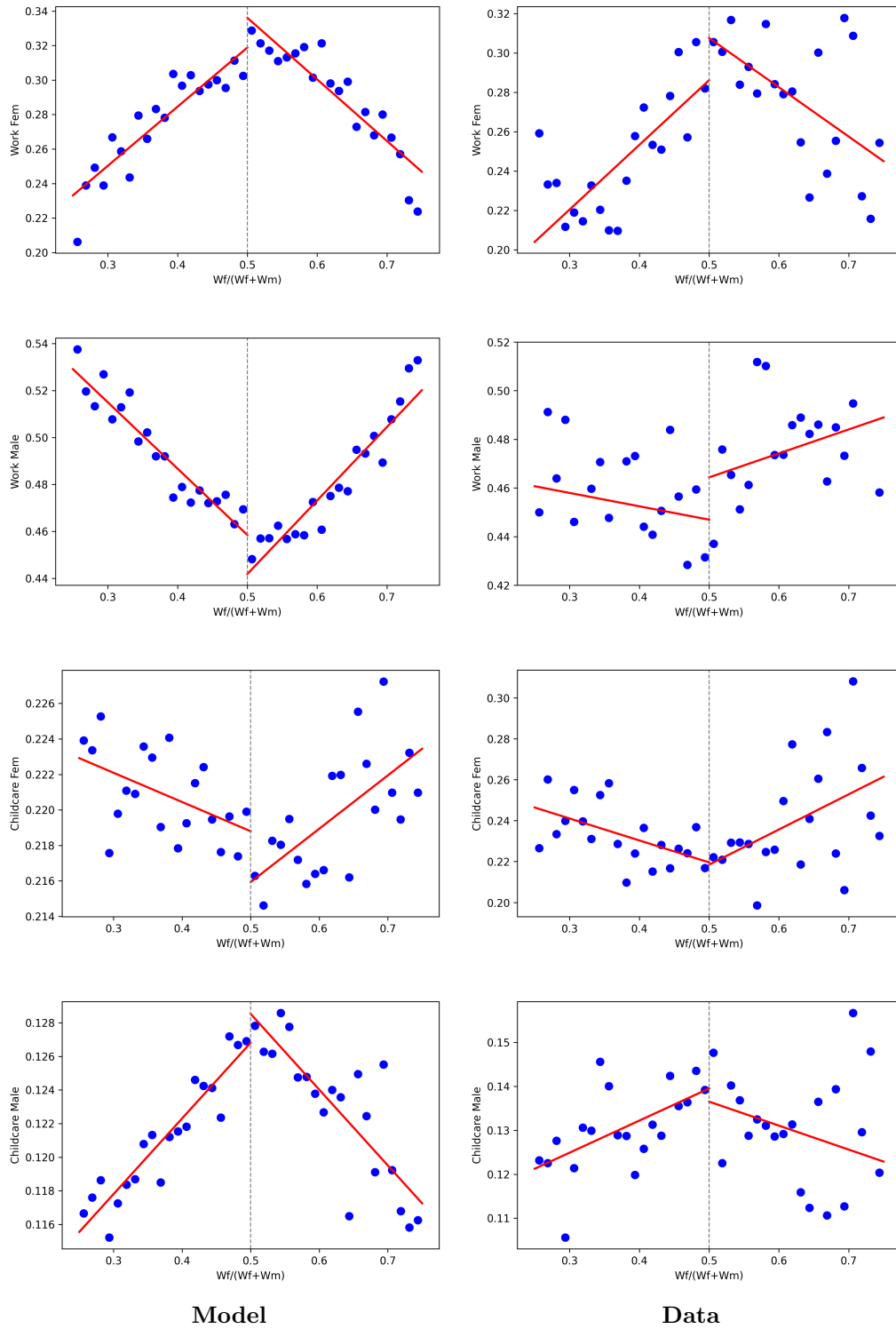


Figure 5: Simulated and data work and childcare time shares.

Table 8: Comparison of model and data averages

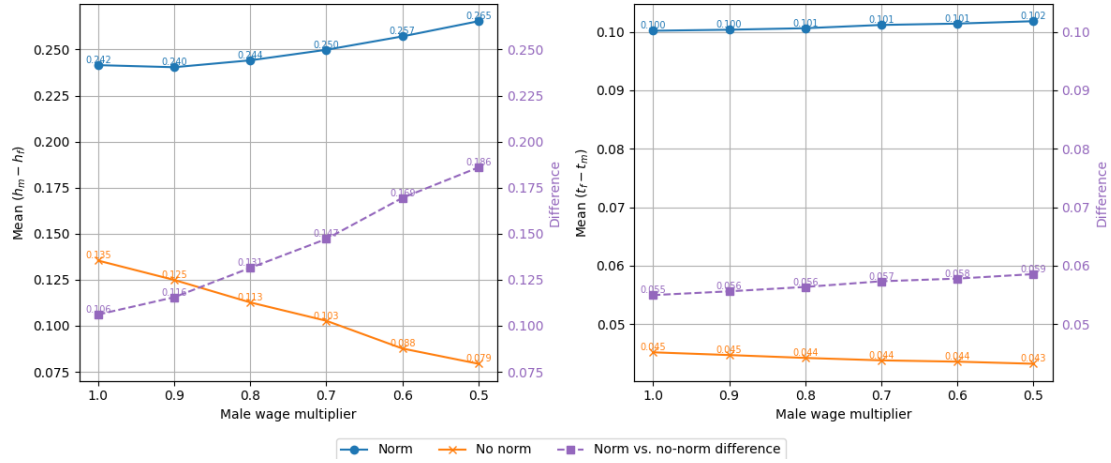
Sex	Moment	Model mean	Data mean
Internal moments			
Male	Work	0.4989	0.4709
	Childcare	0.1207	0.1280
Female	Work	0.2608	0.2443
	Childcare	0.2210	0.2342
External moments			
Male	Employment	0.9999	0.9715
Female	Employment	0.5663	0.6775

outright job loss—among men in the bottom-to-middle terciles, whereas compression on the female side arises from modest gains concentrated in the upper terciles of women’s distribution (see, e.g., [Acemoglu and Restrepo, 2020](#); [Autor et al., 2013](#); [Cortes et al., 2024](#)).

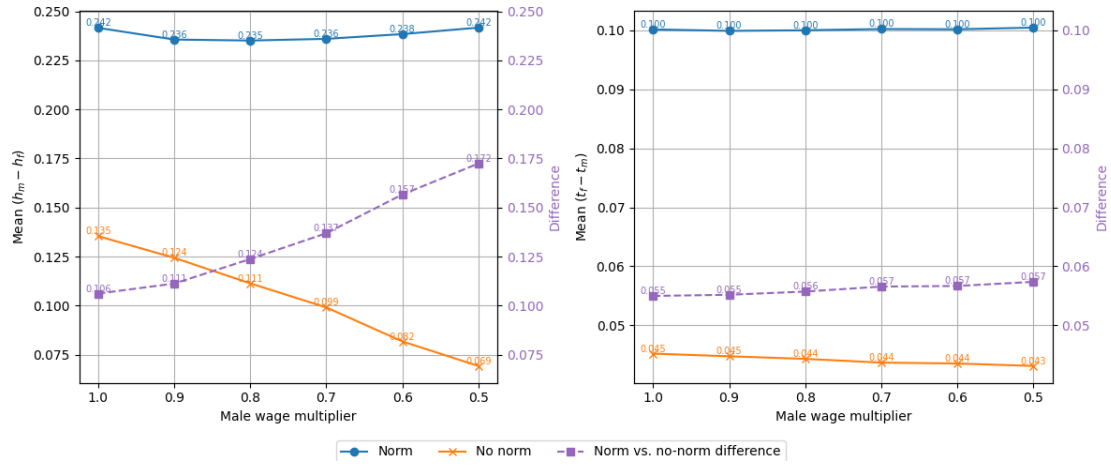
To replicate this pattern quantitatively, simulations impose wage shocks on different terciles of the male and female wage distributions. Figure 6 plots the resulting differences in time use between spouses—namely, men’s work time minus women’s work time, and women’s childcare time minus men’s childcare time—under both the baseline model (including the social norm $\phi(w_f, w_m)$) and the counterfactual without the norm, as well as their difference.

A strong increase in women’s potential wages in the top tercile leads to a rise in the work-time differential: a 1% increase in the differential when women’s market wages increase by half. Conversely, reductions in men’s wages in the bottom tercile produce a more pronounced effect, yielding a 2% increase in the differential when men’s wages are halved. These shocks also induce moderate changes in the childcare-time differential.

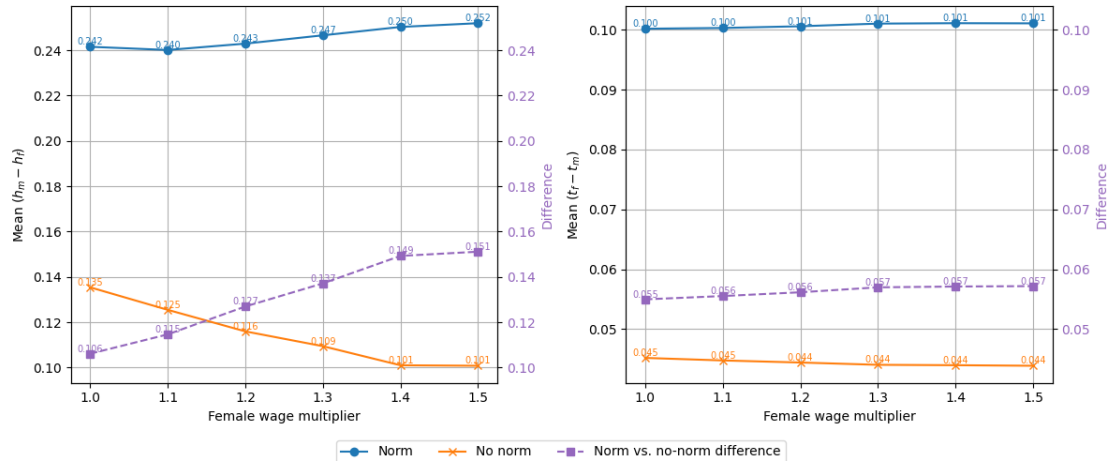
Relative to the no-norm counterfactual, the presence of the social norm amplifies these differentials by just over 10% for work time and about 5% for childcare time. Moreover, the gap between the two simulations widens as wage variations are applied across all three terciles of the distribution.



Negative shock to men's wages in the first tercile



Negative shock to men's wages in the second tercile



Positive shock to women's wages in the third tercile

Figure 6: Simulated time use divergence in relation to market wage variations at different terciles.

The calibrated semi-cooperative model formalises the causal intuition for the results presented in Section 3. A negative shock to men’s wages raises the wife’s wage share and, through the identity cost embedded in the consumption aggregator, creates an endogenous threshold s^* around equal earnings. Below s^* , standard labor-supply forces dominate and women’s market hours rise with their relative wage; above s^* , the identity cost reduces the marginal payoff to additional female market hours, flipping the slope and shifting time into childcare and leisure, with mirror responses for men. Because the size of the wage-share shift is greatest near or above parity, aggregate effects scale nonlinearly with the cross-household distribution of relative wages: counterfactuals show that (i) declines in men’s wages in the lower terciles move more couples past s^* than equivalent gains at the top of the women’s distribution, and (ii) the share of couples for which the norm binds increases when shocks compress the gender wage gap, amplifying gaps in time use. In short, the model reproduces the kink at parity, the inverse-U in women’s market hours (and the mirror in childcare), and the distributional scaling of these effects documented in the data.

5 Conclusion

This paper asks how two pervasive forces in modern labor markets—industrial automation and import competition—map into the allocation of time within households. Linking ATUS time diaries to commuting-zone exposure to robots and to the China shock, and addressing endogeneity with external industry shifters, I find systematic within-couple reallocations. Greater exposure to robots leads women to shift time out of market work and into childcare and leisure, while men increase market work and reduce leisure. Quantitatively, one additional robot per 1,000 workers reallocates roughly one hour per week at the household level across work, childcare, and leisure. Exposure to Chinese import penetration similarly pushes couples toward the non-market margin for women—an extra \$1,000 of imports per worker lowers women’s market hours by about three hours per week.

A stylized fact showed by ATUS data is that the wife’s wage share generates non-linear time-use responses: women’s market hours rise with their wage share up to parity and fall thereafter, with childcare tracing the mirror image and men adjusting in the opposite direction. A structural household model with shared consumption, child quality as a public good, and an identity cost that activates when the wife’s earnings approach or exceed the husband’s replicates these patterns. The model produces the kink at equal earnings, matches the inverse-U in women’s market time, and implies welfare losses relative to a no-norm benchmark. In the calibrated economy, the norm roughly doubles the gender gap in market hours and amplifies aggregate effects as the cross-household distribution of relative wages

shifts more in favour of women.

Taken together, the results suggest that shocks which compress the gender wage gap do not necessarily tighten gaps in time use if they move many couples into the region where breadwinner norms bind. This is the case of automation and trade: when men’s potential wages fall in occupation at the low-to-mid ladder of the wage distribution, more couples surpass the identity threshold, and wives’ hours adjust downward even when their own market productivity is high.

The findings carry several policy implications. First, adjustment policies targeted solely at displaced workers (training, wage insurance) may underestimate household spillovers if they ignore endogenous time reallocation by spouses. Second, child-care subsidies and high-quality early-education slots may attenuate the shift from market work to home production when couples cross the parity threshold, especially in local labor markets disproportionately hit by automation or import competition.

Several limitations point to next steps. Empirically, ATUS provides one-day time diaries cross-sections; panel time-use data would sharpen identification of dynamics and persistence. External validity would benefit from applications to countries with different gender norms or policy environments. On the modeling side, embedding the identity cost in a dynamic framework with human-capital accumulation, fertility, and explicit bargaining would allow the welfare and distributional consequences of automation and trade to be evaluated over the life cycle and across cohorts.

In sum, automation and trade do not only reallocate tasks across firms and workers; they also reallocate time within households. When relative wages move couples toward earnings parity, social norms can redirect women’s labor supply away from the market, amplifying gender gaps in time use even as wage gaps narrow. Recognizing and quantifying this interaction is essential for designing technology and trade policies that advance efficiency in the distribution of work.

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Data availability The following data sources have been used for the analysis in this article:

- **American Time Use Survey (ATUS)** – U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, 2003–2023.
- **Current Population Survey (CPS)** – ASEC and basic monthly files, via IPUMS-CPS (Flood et al. 2024 release); 1990–2023.
- **ISSP “Family and Changing Gender Roles IV”** – 2012 U.S. subsample.
- Patent-based automation-risk scores – Webb (2020, *American Economic Review: Insights* 2(3): 300-17).
- O*NET manual-task intensity scores – Autor & Dorn (2013, *AER* 103(5): 1553-97).
- 1990 commuting-zone \times industry employment shares – Acemoglu & Restrepo (2020, *JPE* 128(6): 2188-2244).
- 1970 commuting-zone \times industry employment shares – Decennial IPUMS data.
- Industrial-robot stocks (country \times industry, 1993-2019) – International Federation of Robotics, *World Robotics* database.
- 1990 industry employment for EU-5 (used in the robot instrument) – EU KLEMS Growth & Productivity Accounts, 2017 edition.
- U.S. import-exposure, domestic absorption and baseline instrument files – Autor, Dorn & Hanson (2013, “The China Syndrome,” *AER* 103(6): 2121-68).
- Chinese exports to eight alternative OECD markets (trade instrument) – UN Comtrade extraction following Autor–Dorn–Hanson.
- Commuting-zone boundaries and county cross-walks – Autor, Dorn & Hanson replication materials (2013).

Declarations

Conflict of interest The author declares that he has no conflict of interest.

Appendix

A Supplementary tables

Table A1: Descriptive statistics: ATUS general population

Variable	Females			Males		
	Obs	Mean	Std. Dev.	Obs	Mean	Std. Dev.
Leisure (min/day)	122,710	310.07	208.33	96,658	356.87	235.57
Childcare (min/day)	122,710	43.10	101.62	96,658	22.34	69.34
Market work (min/day)	122,710	126.61	217.06	96,658	191.39	261.12
Age	122,710	48.37	18.15	96,658	46.77	17.44
Hourly wage (USD)	35,769	15.08	9.23	29,080	17.52	10.25
Weekly earnings (USD)	61,698	709.03	513.95	54,518	951.10	596.42
Usual work hours per week	113,670	21.20	20.66	88,373	30.94	22.49
Less than secondary (%)	122,710	14.37	35.08	96,658	15.69	36.37
Secondary (%)	122,710	25.91	43.81	96,658	25.52	43.60
Some college (%)	122,710	27.95	44.87	96,658	25.39	43.52
Tertiary (%)	122,710	31.77	46.56	96,658	33.40	47.17

Notes: “General population” includes all ATUS respondents by sex. Variable definitions as in Table 1.

Table A2: Effect of robot and trade shock on hours worked per week.

Weekly hours worked	Males			Females		
	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)
Robots						
Robots	-0.0355 (0.221)	-0.189 (0.140)	-0.0340 (0.222)	-0.722** (0.342)	-1.070*** (0.276)	-0.872*** (0.288)
Robots ^{2SLS}	-0.168 (0.316)	-0.0430 (0.203)	-0.159 (0.286)	-1.010** (0.464)	-1.345*** (0.390)	-1.026** (0.421)
China shock						
Trade	-173.3 (112.6)	-57.03 (67.36)	-109.6 (81.76)	145.1 (105.7)	-193.0* (100.8)	-237.1** (100.4)
Trade ^{2SLS}	-33.14 (73.58)	-72.17 (50.73)	-44.72 (65.94)	89.82 (99.10)	-182.7** (86.06)	-234.4*** (84.99)
Decomposed China shock						
Trade _{Male}	718.0** (306.4)	64.80 (167.7)	664.0*** (249.7)	320.8 (269.1)	17.70 (209.3)	-40.96 (220.2)
Trade _{Fem}	-1,258** (504.4)	-303.0 (303.3)	-1,196*** (439.8)	-301.9 (424.3)	-513.0 (381.7)	-558.4 (416.8)
Trade _{Male} ^{2SLS}	607.7 (497.7)	326.8 (274.3)	699.4* (371.3)	809.8* (473.9)	190.9 (388.9)	242.7 (423.2)
Trade _{Fem} ^{2SLS}	-1,350* (792.2)	-637.9 (479.0)	-1,325** (596.3)	-933.1 (708.5)	-787.4 (604.8)	-995.7 (668.4)
Spouse employed	✓		✓	✓		✓
Respondent employed		✓	✓		✓	✓

Controls include state×year FE, spouse age/education, number of children (incl. under 5), children's age range, family income class, day, month, holiday. SEs clustered at CZ×year. *** $p < 0.01$, ** $p < 0.05$, * $p < 0.1$.

Table A3: Rotemberg Weights by Industry

Industry	Weight	Industry	Weight
Services	1.96e-10	Furniture	0.0099169
Metal Machinery	0.0084876	Vehicles Other	0.0130258
Agriculture	0.0084876	Mineral	0.0172633
Manufacturing, other	0.0084876	Metal Prod	0.0193203
Metal Products	0.0084876	Machinery	0.0229153
Construction	0.0086587	Food	0.0385796
Agriculture	0.0087799	Petrochemicals	0.0475847
Mining	0.0088249	Metal Basic	0.0813695
Research	0.0090184	Electronics	0.0836088
Textiles	0.0091325	Manufact Other	0.1217105
Utilities	0.0093328	Automotive	0.4475678
Paper	0.0094399		

Table A4: Effect of robots, with exposure net of the automotive industry, on time spent working, child-caring, and leisuring per day.

	Males			Females		
	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)
Daily minutes work						
Robots	26.62*	3.766	37.65**	2.119	-8.446	-13.14
	(15.78)	(13.84)	(15.88)	(12.78)	(13.87)	(14.57)
Robots ^{2SLS}	40.87	36.65	63.55	-29.01	-47.33	-39.74
	(42.46)	(43.88)	(43.38)	(31.08)	(34.93)	(36.65)
Daily minutes childcare						
Robots	-14.40**	0.785	-14.06*	8.914	10.39	16.47
	(7.304)	(7.140)	(7.644)	(10.61)	(10.53)	(13.91)
Robots ^{2SLS}	-29.79*	3.174	-40.76**	34.96	29.66	29.90
	(17.54)	(21.28)	(18.61)	(25.47)	(24.42)	(30.14)
Daily minutes leisure						
Robots	-38.20***	-17.48*	-38.14***	6.446	3.732	8.911*
	(11.98)	(9.644)	(12.49)	(8.195)	(7.618)	(9.443)
Robots ^{2SLS}	-0.0818	2.521	-20.64	14.81	23.07	40.73*
	(27.91)	(29.26)	(27.31)	(18.79)	(18.92)	(22.10)
Spouse employed	✓		✓	✓		✓
Respondent employed		✓	✓		✓	✓

Control variables as in all specifications as in Table A2.

Table A5: Effect of robots on time spent working, childcaring, and leisuring per day, adjusting for commuting-zone-specific trends across quartiles of employment share in the automotive sector.

	Males			Females		
	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)
Daily minutes work						
Robots	13.26*** (5.097)	8.315** (3.313)	14.04** (6.078)	-8.584** (4.054)	-12.22** (4.850)	-9.007* (5.274)
Robots ^{2SLS}	14.44** (6.968)	10.29** (4.514)	16.99** (7.935)	-11.32** (5.224)	-13.49** (6.300)	-10.65 (6.768)
Daily minutes childcare						
Robots	1.675 (1.727)	1.172 (1.338)	2.077 (1.807)	2.102 (2.214)	5.555** (2.277)	5.864** (2.758)
Robots ^{2SLS}	1.913 (2.503)	2.307 (1.976)	1.212 (2.645)	3.918 (3.094)	9.218*** (2.873)	9.417*** (3.644)
Daily minutes leisure						
Robots	-8.512*** (2.759)	-3.907 (2.801)	-9.641*** (3.591)	7.299*** (2.467)	9.962*** (2.675)	8.305*** (3.060)
Robots ^{2SLS}	-9.457*** (3.413)	-5.544* (3.277)	-12.87*** (3.969)	7.294** (3.565)	9.601*** (3.524)	9.024** (4.149)
Spouse employed	✓		✓	✓		✓
Respondent employed		✓	✓		✓	✓

Controls as in Table A2.

Table A6: Effect of robots on time spent working, childcaring, and leisuring per day. [Adão et al. \(2019\)](#) test for standard errors.

	Males			Females		
	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)
Daily minutes work						
Robots	14.06*** (0.89)	6.63* (3.56)	13.93*** (0.42)	-9.73* (5.10)	-13.05*** (2.34)	-12.08*** (3.28)
Robots ^{2SLS}	13.92 (18.82)	8.38 (22.65)	18.02*** (3.21)	-15.40*** (5.44)	-18.91*** (1.87)	-15.26*** (4.49)
Daily minutes childcare						
Robots	-0.49 (0.76)	0.70** (0.36)	-0.41 (1.16)	1.99 (4.65)	4.62** (2.14)	4.91*** (1.72)
Robots ^{2SLS}	0.16 (1.30)	1.69 (15.66)	-0.77 (6.88)	6.61 (5.27)	8.22 (6.12)	8.45*** (1.43)
Daily minutes leisure						
Robots	-9.43*** (0.91)	-3.65*** (1.27)	-9.91*** (1.00)	7.09** (3.47)	9.14** (4.11)	8.89** (3.62)
Robots ^{2SLS}	-8.79 (17.21)	-3.87 (9.70)	-11.87 (7.89)	6.75*** (1.89)	10.13*** (0.48)	9.41*** (0.99)
Spouse employed	✓		✓	✓		✓
Respondent employed		✓	✓		✓	✓

Controls as in Table [A2](#).

Table A7: Effect of trade shock on time spent working, childcaring, and leisuring per day. [Adão et al. \(2019\)](#) test for standard errors.

	Males			Females		
	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)
Daily minutes work						
Trade _{Male}	11834.03*** (846.46)	7191.37*** (398.87)	12395.89*** (1315.58)	3714.85** (1648.58)	1100.47*** (27.16)	-930.76*** (120.72)
Trade _{Fem}	-30001.94*** (1043.44)	-21226.07*** (581.50)	-30240.78*** (1759.87)	-3600.64 (2341.59)	-9161.62*** (51.54)	-7904.86*** (226.24)
Trade _{Male} ^{2SLS}	12103.87*** (737.76)	3581.22*** (286.58)	8834.44*** (996.64)	3026.82*** (819.53)	-1077.93*** (53.03)	-4277.59*** (47.24)
Trade _{Fem} ^{2SLS}	-34282.03*** (863.96)	-20546.21*** (217.17)	-27757.79*** (1323.30)	-476.73 (1331.99)	-4555.91*** (37.70)	-1475.08*** (80.52)
Daily minutes childcare						
Trade _{Male}	100.02 (624.05)	1269.73*** (139.28)	148.11 (768.43)	1050.38 (1104.46)	1695.18*** (342.40)	1319.85*** (484.47)
Trade _{Fem}	2025.60** (801.75)	174.59*** (2.76)	1517.54 (1034.06)	-2470.68 (1509.15)	987.82*** (352.91)	2669.73*** (448.49)
Trade _{Male} ^{2SLS}	6227.80*** (403.65)	4300.34*** (7.17)	6249.09*** (486.18)	-4137.86*** (576.21)	-1602.89*** (275.52)	-3066.27*** (323.10)
Trade _{Fem} ^{2SLS}	-6492.01*** (463.67)	-1308.75** (539.79)	-7128.48*** (603.02)	5139.55*** (843.79)	5078.61*** (317.67)	8927.54*** (258.93)
Daily minutes leisure						
Trade _{Male}	-17277.88*** (1278.91)	-6120.81*** (72.30)	-17629.25*** (1221.32)	-4088.89*** (752.45)	-1090.27*** (240.88)	-1632.79*** (197.01)
Trade _{Fem}	24825.47*** (1469.43)	10478.77*** (135.92)	25587.85*** (1573.75)	4590.21*** (1045.45)	1678.92*** (260.38)	3200.83*** (193.99)
Trade _{Male} ^{2SLS}	-17611.39*** (1002.36)	-5882.89*** (11.86)	-14710.59*** (876.70)	-809.26** (352.92)	2043.17*** (155.61)	426.15*** (122.67)
Trade _{Fem} ^{2SLS}	25301.63*** (1278.20)	10115.26*** (41.19)	21617.73*** (1280.18)	-2450.91*** (538.33)	-5011.65*** (141.53)	-1887.51*** (82.25)
Spouse employed	✓		✓	✓		✓
Respondent employed		✓	✓		✓	✓

Controls as in Table A2.

B Relative earnings and family beliefs

Additional stylised facts can be drawn from the *Family and Changing Gender Roles IV* module of the ISSP survey described in [ISSP Research Group \(2016\)](#). Respondents report their earnings relative to their spouse on a seven-point scale ranging from “My spouse/partner has no income” to “I have no income” and express agreement with six statements on family norms, such as “A preschool child is likely to suffer when the mother works” and “Family life suffers when a woman has a full-time job.”¹⁶

Restricting the sample to U.S. couples and excluding the extreme points of the earnings distribution¹⁷, We can estimate

$$\text{Belief}_i = \alpha + \sum \beta_j \text{RelEarn}_i + \mu X_i + \varepsilon_i, \quad (14)$$

where the dependent variable is the agreement score for a given family-norm statement; RelEarn_i is a vector of dummies indicating the wife’s earnings position relative to her husband; and X_i controls for respondent sex, both spouses’ ages and education levels, and marriage duration. Standard errors are clustered by respondent and spouse education. Appendix Figure [A1](#) presents the resulting marginal-effects plots.

Across statements, a distinct non-linearity emerges. For items stressing the disadvantages of maternal employment or endorsing traditional spousal roles, agreement follows an inverse-U pattern: respondents move from agreement when the wife earns far less, to disagreement near earnings parity, then back toward agreement once the wife clearly out-earns the husband. By contrast, attitudes toward maternal employment during a child’s school years trace a U-shape, and responses on preschool-age children display a weaker pattern.

¹⁶Two additional items—“Being a housewife is as fulfilling as working for pay” and “Both partners should contribute to household income”—were dropped because their directional interpretation is ambiguous.

¹⁷Including them strengthens the dynamics, but may capture involuntarily unemployed individuals.

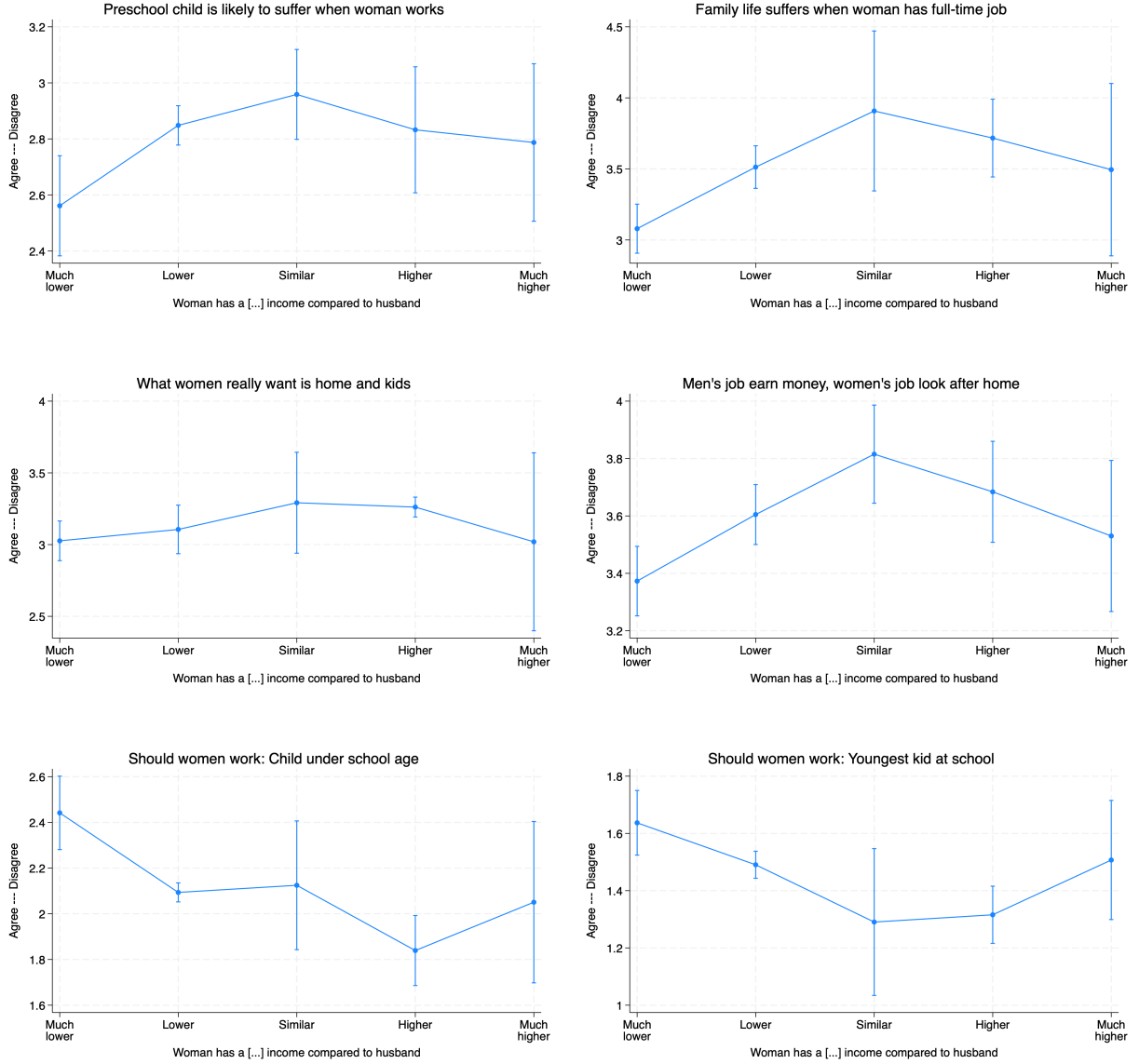


Figure A1: Marginal effects of the wife earning more than the husband on agreement with family-norm statements.

C Solution of the semi-cooperative model

The Lagrangian of the second stage problem is:

$$L_i = \delta_i \log(c) + \mu_i \log(1 - (t_i + \tilde{t})n - h_i) + \gamma_i \log(n(1 + t_i)^\alpha (1 + t_{-i})^{1-\alpha}) + \eta t_i + \sigma t_{-i}$$

where η and σ are the Kuhn-Tucker multipliers associated to the non-negativity constraints on childcare time. The optimal solution satisfies $\eta t_f = \sigma t_m = 0$. The Nash Equilibrium of the second stage of the game can be in four regions, namely: $(\eta > 0, \sigma > 0)$, $(\eta = 0, \sigma = 0)$, $(\eta > 0, \sigma = 0)$, $(\eta = 0, \sigma > 0)$.

The Lagrangian for the maximization of the first stage problem is

$$L = \theta(\delta_f \log(c) + \mu_f \log(1 - (t_f + \tilde{t})n - h_f) + \gamma_f \log(n(1 + t_f)^\alpha (1 + t_m)^{1-\alpha})) \\ + (1 - \theta)(\delta_m \log(c) + \mu_m \log(1 - (t_m + \tilde{t}m)n - h_m) + \gamma_m \log(n(1 + t_f)^\alpha (1 + t_m)^{1-\alpha})) + \tau h_f + \nu h_m,$$

where τ and ν are the Kuhn-Tucker multipliers associated to the non-negativity constraints on working time. The optimal solution satisfies $\tau h_f = \nu h_m = 0$, with the exception of the case $h_f = h_m = 0$. We get three possible solutions for each of the four regions defined in the second stage, for a total of 12 possible time allocation regimes, listed below.

Regime 1a: $\eta > 0, \sigma > 0, \tau = 0, \nu = 0$

$$h_m = \frac{\begin{aligned} & \left((\theta - 1)nw_f + (1 - \theta)\phi n \right) \tilde{t}_f + (1 - \theta)w_f + (\theta - 1)\phi \mu_m \\ & + (\theta nw_m \tilde{t}_m - \theta w_m) \mu_f \\ & + \left((1 - \theta)nw_m \tilde{t}_m + (\theta - 1)w_m \right) \delta_m \\ & + (\theta nw_m \tilde{t}_m - \theta w_m) \delta_f \end{aligned}}{(\theta - 1)w_m \mu_m - \theta w_m \mu_f + (\theta - 1)w_m \delta_m - \theta w_m \delta_f}$$

$$h_f = - \frac{\begin{aligned} & \left((\theta - 1)nw_f + (1 - \theta)\phi n \right) \tilde{t}_f + (1 - \theta)w_f + (\theta - 1)\phi \mu_m \\ & + (\theta nw_m \tilde{t}_m - \theta w_m) \mu_f \\ & + \left((\theta - 1)nw_f + (1 - \theta)\phi n \right) \tilde{t}_f + (1 - \theta)w_f + (\theta - 1)\phi \delta_m \\ & + \left((\theta \phi n - \theta nw_f) \tilde{t}_f + \theta w_f - \theta \phi \right) \delta_f \end{aligned}}{\begin{aligned} & \left((\theta - 1)w_f + (1 - \theta)\phi \right) \mu_m + (\theta \phi - \theta w_f) \mu_f \\ & + \left((\theta - 1)w_f + (1 - \theta)\phi \right) \delta_m + (\theta \phi - \theta w_f) \delta_f \end{aligned}}$$

$$t_m = 0$$

$$t_f = 0$$

Regime 1b: $\eta > 0, \sigma > 0, \tau = 0, \nu > 0$

$$h_m = 0$$

$$h_f = \frac{((\theta - 1)n\tilde{t}_f - \theta + 1)\delta_m + (\theta - \theta n\tilde{t}_f)\delta_f}{\theta\mu_f + (1 - \theta)\delta_m + \theta\delta_f}$$

$$t_m = 0$$

$$t_f = 0$$

Regime 1c: $\eta > 0, \sigma > 0, \tau > 0, \nu = 0$

$$h_m = -\frac{((\theta - 1)n\tilde{t}_m - \theta + 1)\delta_m + (\theta - \theta n\tilde{t}_m)\delta_f}{(\theta - 1)\mu_m + (\theta - 1)\delta_m - \theta\delta_f}$$

$$h_f = 0$$

$$t_m = 0$$

$$t_f = 0$$

Regime 2a: $\eta = 0, \sigma = 0, \tau = 0, \nu = 0$

$$\begin{aligned} & \left((\theta - 1)nw_f + (1 - \theta)\phi n \right) \tilde{t}_f + \left(((1 - \theta)n - \theta + 1)w_f + (\theta - 1)\phi n + (\theta - 1)\phi \right) \mu_m \\ & + \left(\theta nw_m \tilde{t}_m + (-\theta n - \theta)w_m \right) \mu_f \\ & + \left((1 - \theta)nw_m \tilde{t}_m + ((\theta - 1)n + \theta - 1)w_m \right) \delta_m \\ & + \left(\theta nw_m \tilde{t}_m + (-\theta n - \theta)w_m \right) \delta_f \\ & + \left((\alpha - \alpha\theta)nw_m \tilde{t}_m + ((1 - \alpha)\theta + \alpha - 1)nw_f \tilde{t}_f + ((\alpha - 1)\theta - \alpha + 1)\phi n \tilde{t}_f \right. \\ & \quad + (\alpha\theta - \alpha)nw_m + (((\alpha - 1)\theta - \alpha + 1)n + (\alpha - 1)\theta - \alpha + 1)w_f \\ & \quad \left. + ((1 - \alpha)\theta + \alpha - 1)\phi n + ((1 - \alpha)\theta + \alpha - 1)\phi \right) \gamma_m \\ & + \left(\alpha\theta nw_m \tilde{t}_m + ((\alpha - 1)\theta nw_f + (1 - \alpha)\theta\phi n) \tilde{t}_f \right. \\ & \quad \left. + (-\alpha\theta n - \alpha\theta)w_m + ((1 - \alpha)\theta n + (1 - \alpha)\theta)w_f + (\alpha - 1)\theta\phi n + (\alpha - 1)\theta\phi \right) \gamma_f \\ h_m = & \frac{\quad}{(\theta - 1)w_m \mu_m - \theta w_m \mu_f + (\theta - 1)w_m \delta_m - \theta w_m \delta_f} \\ & + (\theta - 1)w_m \gamma_m - \theta w_m \gamma_f \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned}
& \left((\theta - 1)nw_f + (1 - \theta)\phi n \right) \tilde{t}_f + \left((1 - \theta)n - \theta + 1 \right) w_f + (\theta - 1)\phi n + (\theta - 1)\phi \Big) \mu_m \\
& + \left(\theta n w_m \tilde{t}_m + (-\theta n - \theta)w_m \right) \mu_f \\
& + \left((\theta - 1)nw_f + (1 - \theta)\phi n \right) \tilde{t}_f + \left((1 - \theta)n - \theta + 1 \right) w_f + (\theta - 1)\phi n + (\theta - 1)\phi \Big) \delta_m \\
& + \left((\theta\phi n - \theta n w_f) \tilde{t}_f + (\theta n + \theta)w_f - \theta\phi n - \theta\phi \right) \delta_f \\
& + \left((\alpha - \alpha\theta)nw_m \tilde{t}_m + ((1 - \alpha)\theta + \alpha - 1)nw_f \tilde{t}_f + ((\alpha - 1)\theta - \alpha + 1)\phi n \tilde{t}_f \right. \\
& \quad + (\alpha\theta - \alpha)nw_m + (((\alpha - 1)\theta - \alpha + 1)n + (\alpha - 1)\theta - \alpha + 1)w_f \\
& \quad + ((1 - \alpha)\theta + \alpha - 1)\phi n + ((1 - \alpha)\theta + \alpha - 1)\phi \Big) \gamma_m \\
& + \left(\alpha\theta n w_m \tilde{t}_m + ((\alpha - 1)\theta n w_f + (1 - \alpha)\theta\phi n) \tilde{t}_f \right. \\
& \quad + (-\alpha\theta n - \alpha\theta)w_m + ((1 - \alpha)\theta n + (1 - \alpha)\theta)w_f + (\alpha - 1)\theta\phi n + (\alpha - 1)\theta\phi \Big) \gamma_f \\
h_f = & - \frac{
\begin{aligned}
& \left((\theta - 1)w_f + (1 - \theta)\phi \right) \mu_m + (\theta\phi - \theta w_f) \mu_f \\
& + \left((\theta - 1)w_f + (1 - \theta)\phi \right) \delta_m + (\theta\phi - \theta w_f) \delta_f \\
& + \left((\theta - 1)w_f + (1 - \theta)\phi \right) \gamma_m + (\theta\phi - \theta w_f) \gamma_f
\end{aligned}
}{
}
\end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned}
& (\theta - 1)nw_m \mu_m^2 \\
& + \left(-\theta nw_m \mu_f + (\theta - 1)nw_m \delta_m - \theta nw_m \delta_f \right. \\
& + \left(((1 - \alpha)\theta + \alpha - 1)nw_m \tilde{t}_m + ((1 - \alpha)\theta + \alpha - 1)nw_f \tilde{t}_f \right. \\
& + ((\alpha - 1)\theta - \alpha + 1)\phi n \tilde{t}_f + ((\theta - 1)n + (\alpha - 1)\theta - \alpha + 1)w_m \\
& + (((\alpha - 1)\theta - \alpha + 1)n + (\alpha - 1)\theta - \alpha + 1)w_f \\
& \left. \left. + ((1 - \alpha)\theta + \alpha - 1)\phi n + ((1 - \alpha)\theta + \alpha - 1)\phi \right) \gamma_m - \theta nw_m \gamma_f \right) \mu_m \\
& + \alpha - 1) \theta nw_m \gamma_m \mu_f \\
& + ((1 - \alpha)\theta + \alpha - 1)nw_m \gamma_m \delta_m + (\alpha - 1)\theta nw_m \gamma_m \delta_f \\
& + \left(((\alpha^2 - 2\alpha + 1)\theta - \alpha^2 + 2\alpha - 1)nw_m \tilde{t}_m \right. \\
& + ((\alpha^2 - 2\alpha + 1)\theta - \alpha^2 + 2\alpha - 1)nw_f \tilde{t}_f \\
& + ((-\alpha^2 + 2\alpha - 1)\theta + \alpha^2 - 2\alpha + 1)\phi n \tilde{t}_f \\
& + (((\alpha - \alpha^2)\theta + \alpha^2 - \alpha)n + (-\alpha^2 + 2\alpha - 1)\theta + \alpha^2 - 2\alpha + 1)w_m \\
& + ((-\alpha^2 + 2\alpha - 1)\theta n + (-\alpha^2 + 2\alpha - 1)\theta)w_f \\
& + ((\alpha^2 - 2\alpha + 1)\theta - \alpha^2 + 2\alpha - 1)\phi n + ((\alpha^2 - 2\alpha + 1)\theta - \alpha^2 + 2\alpha - 1)\phi \Big) \gamma_m^2 \\
& + \left((-\alpha^2 + 2\alpha - 1)\theta nw_m \tilde{t}_m + ((-\alpha^2 + 2\alpha - 1)\theta nw_f + (\alpha^2 - 2\alpha + 1)\theta \phi n) \tilde{t}_f \right. \\
& + ((\alpha^2 - \alpha)\theta n + (\alpha^2 - 2\alpha + 1)\theta)w_m + ((\alpha^2 - 2\alpha + 1)\theta n + (\alpha^2 - 2\alpha + 1)\theta)w_f \\
& \left. + (-\alpha^2 + 2\alpha - 1)\theta \phi n + (-\alpha^2 + 2\alpha - 1)\theta \phi \right) \gamma_f \gamma_m \\
t_m = & - \frac{
\begin{aligned}
& (\theta - 1)nw_m \mu_m^2 \\
& + \left(-\theta nw_m \mu_f + (\theta - 1)nw_m \delta_m - \theta nw_m \delta_f \right. \\
& + \left((2 - 2\alpha)\theta + 2\alpha - 2 \right) nw_m \gamma_m - \theta nw_m \gamma_f \Big) \mu_m \\
& + \alpha - 1) \theta nw_m \gamma_m \mu_f \\
& + ((1 - \alpha)\theta + \alpha - 1)nw_m \gamma_m \delta_m + (\alpha - 1)\theta nw_m \gamma_m \delta_f \\
& + ((\alpha^2 - 2\alpha + 1)\theta - \alpha^2 + 2\alpha - 1)nw_m \gamma_m^2 \\
& + (-\alpha^2 + 2\alpha - 1)\theta nw_m \gamma_f \gamma_m
\end{aligned}
}{
\begin{aligned}
& (\theta - 1)nw_m \mu_m^2 \\
& + \left(-\theta nw_m \mu_f + (\theta - 1)nw_m \delta_m - \theta nw_m \delta_f \right. \\
& + \left((2 - 2\alpha)\theta + 2\alpha - 2 \right) nw_m \gamma_m - \theta nw_m \gamma_f \Big) \mu_m \\
& + \alpha - 1) \theta nw_m \gamma_m \mu_f \\
& + ((1 - \alpha)\theta + \alpha - 1)nw_m \gamma_m \delta_m + (\alpha - 1)\theta nw_m \gamma_m \delta_f \\
& + ((\alpha^2 - 2\alpha + 1)\theta - \alpha^2 + 2\alpha - 1)nw_m \gamma_m^2 \\
& + (-\alpha^2 + 2\alpha - 1)\theta nw_m \gamma_f \gamma_m
\end{aligned}
}
\end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned}
& ((\theta - 1)nw_f + (1 - \theta)\phi n)\mu_f \mu_m + ((\alpha\theta - \alpha)nw_f + (\alpha - \alpha\theta)\phi n)\gamma_f \mu_m \\
& + (\theta\phi n - \theta nw_f)\mu_f^2 \\
& + ((\theta - 1)nw_f + (1 - \theta)\phi n)\delta_m + (\theta\phi n - \theta nw_f)\delta_f \\
& + ((\alpha\theta - \alpha)nw_f + (\alpha - \alpha\theta)\phi n)\gamma_m \\
& + \left(-\alpha\theta nw_m \tilde{t}_m + (\alpha\theta\phi n - \alpha\theta nw_f)\tilde{t}_f + \alpha\theta w_m + (\alpha\theta - \alpha\theta n)w_f + \alpha\theta\phi n - \alpha\theta\phi\right)\gamma_f \\
& + ((\alpha\theta - \alpha)nw_f + (\alpha - \alpha\theta)\phi n)\gamma_f \delta_m + (\alpha\theta\phi n - \alpha\theta nw_f)\gamma_f \delta_f \\
& + \left((\alpha^2\theta - \alpha^2)nw_m \tilde{t}_m + ((\alpha^2\theta - \alpha^2)nw_f\right. \\
& + (\alpha^2 - \alpha^2\theta)\phi n)\tilde{t}_f + (\alpha^2 - \alpha^2\theta)(w_m + w_f) + (\alpha^2\theta - \alpha^2)\phi\left.)\gamma_f \gamma_m\right. \\
& + \left(-\alpha^2\theta nw_m \tilde{t}_m + (\alpha^2\theta\phi n - \alpha^2\theta nw_f)\tilde{t}_f + \alpha^2\theta(w_m + w_f) - \alpha^2\theta\phi\right)\gamma_f^2 \\
t_f = & - \frac{((\theta - 1)nw_f + (1 - \theta)\phi n)\mu_f \mu_m + ((\alpha\theta - \alpha)nw_f + (\alpha - \alpha\theta)\phi n)\gamma_f \mu_m}{((\theta - 1)nw_f + (1 - \theta)\phi n)\mu_f \mu_m + ((\alpha\theta - \alpha)nw_f + (\alpha - \alpha\theta)\phi n)\gamma_f \mu_m} \\
& + (\theta\phi n - \theta nw_f)\mu_f^2 \\
& + ((\theta - 1)nw_f + (1 - \theta)\phi n)\delta_m + (\theta\phi n - \theta nw_f)\delta_f \\
& + ((\alpha\theta - \alpha)nw_f + (\alpha - \alpha\theta)\phi n)\gamma_m \\
& + (2\alpha\theta\phi n - 2\alpha\theta nw_f)\gamma_f \\
& + ((\alpha\theta - \alpha)nw_f + (\alpha - \alpha\theta)\phi n)\gamma_f \delta_m + (\alpha\theta\phi n - \alpha\theta nw_f)\gamma_f \delta_f \\
& + ((\alpha\theta - \alpha)nw_f + (\alpha - \alpha\theta)\phi n)\gamma_f \gamma_m + (\alpha\theta\phi n - \alpha\theta nw_f)\gamma_f^2
\end{aligned}$$

Regime 2b: $\eta = 0, \sigma = 0, \tau = 0, \nu > 0$

$$h_m = 0$$

$$h_f = \frac{((\theta - 1)n\tilde{t}_f + (1 - \theta)n - \theta + 1)\delta_m + (-\theta n\tilde{t}_f + \theta n + \theta)\delta_f}{\theta\mu_f + (1 - \theta)\delta_m + \theta\delta_f + (\alpha - \alpha\theta)\gamma_m + \alpha\theta\gamma_f}$$

$$t_m = - \frac{n\mu_m + ((1 - \alpha)n\tilde{t}_m + \alpha - 1)\gamma_m}{n\mu_m + (1 - \alpha)n\gamma_m}$$

$$\begin{aligned}
& \theta n \mu_f^2 \\
& + \left((1 - \theta) n \delta_m + \theta n \delta_f + (\alpha - \alpha \theta) n \gamma_m + (\alpha \theta n \tilde{t}_f + \alpha \theta n - \alpha \theta) \gamma_f \right) \mu_f \\
& + (\alpha - \alpha \theta) n \gamma_f \delta_m + \alpha \theta n \gamma_f \delta_f \\
& + \left((\alpha^2 - \alpha^2 \theta) n \tilde{t}_f + \alpha^2 \theta - \alpha^2 \right) \gamma_f \gamma_m + (\alpha^2 \theta n \tilde{t}_f - \alpha^2 \theta) \gamma_f^2 \\
t_f = & - \frac{\theta n \mu_f^2}{\theta n \mu_f^2} \\
& + \left((1 - \theta) n \delta_m + \theta n \delta_f + (\alpha - \alpha \theta) n \gamma_m + 2 \alpha \theta n \gamma_f \right) \mu_f \\
& + (\alpha - \alpha \theta) n \gamma_f \delta_m + \alpha \theta n \gamma_f \delta_f \\
& + (\alpha^2 - \alpha^2 \theta) n \gamma_f \gamma_m + \alpha^2 \theta n \gamma_f^2
\end{aligned}$$

Regime 2c: $\eta = 0, \sigma = 0, \tau > 0, \nu = 0$

$$h_m = - \frac{((\theta - 1) n \tilde{t}_m + (1 - \theta) n - \theta + 1) \delta_m + (-\theta n \tilde{t}_m + \theta n + \theta) \delta_f}{(\theta - 1) \mu_m + (\theta - 1) \delta_m - \theta \delta_f + ((1 - \alpha) \theta + \alpha - 1) \gamma_m + (\alpha - 1) \theta \gamma_f}$$

$$h_f = 0$$

$$\begin{aligned}
& (\theta - 1) n \mu_m^2 \\
& + \left((\theta - 1) n \delta_m - \theta n \delta_f + (((1 - \alpha) \theta + \alpha - 1) n \tilde{t}_m \right. \\
& + ((1 - \alpha) \theta + \alpha - 1) n + (\alpha - 1) \theta - \alpha + 1) \gamma_m \quad \left. + (\alpha - 1) \theta n \gamma_f \right) \mu_m \\
& + ((1 - \alpha) \theta + \alpha - 1) n \gamma_m \delta_m + (\alpha - 1) \theta n \gamma_m \delta_f \\
& + \left(((\alpha^2 - 2\alpha + 1) \theta - \alpha^2 + 2\alpha - 1) n \tilde{t}_m + (-\alpha^2 + 2\alpha - 1) \theta + \alpha^2 - 2\alpha + 1 \right) \gamma_m^2 \\
& + \left((-\alpha^2 + 2\alpha - 1) \theta n \tilde{t}_m + (\alpha^2 - 2\alpha + 1) \theta \right) \gamma_f \gamma_m \\
t_m = & - \frac{(\theta - 1) n \mu_m^2}{(\theta - 1) n \mu_m^2} \\
& + \left((\theta - 1) n \delta_m - \theta n \delta_f + ((2 - 2\alpha) \theta + 2\alpha - 2) n \gamma_m + (\alpha - 1) \theta n \gamma_f \right) \mu_m \\
& + ((1 - \alpha) \theta + \alpha - 1) n \gamma_m \delta_m + (\alpha - 1) \theta n \gamma_m \delta_f \\
& + ((\alpha^2 - 2\alpha + 1) \theta - \alpha^2 + 2\alpha - 1) n \gamma_m^2 + (-\alpha^2 + 2\alpha - 1) \theta n \gamma_f \gamma_m
\end{aligned}$$

$$t_f = - \frac{n \mu_f + (\alpha n \tilde{t}_f - \alpha) \gamma_f}{n \mu_f + \alpha n \gamma_f}$$

Regime 3a: $\eta > 0, \sigma = 0, \tau = 0, \nu = 0$

$$\begin{aligned}
& \left((\theta - 1)nw_f + (1 - \theta)\phi n \right) \tilde{t}_f + (1 - \theta)w_f + (\theta - 1)\phi \mu_m \\
& + \left(\theta nw_m \tilde{t}_m + (-\theta n - \theta)w_m \right) \mu_f \\
& + \left((1 - \theta)nw_m \tilde{t}_m + ((\theta - 1)n + \theta - 1)w_m \right) \delta_m \\
& + \left(\theta nw_m \tilde{t}_m + (-\theta n - \theta)w_m \right) \delta_f \\
& + \left(((1 - \alpha)\theta + \alpha - 1)nw_f + ((\alpha - 1)\theta - \alpha + 1)\phi n \right) \tilde{t}_f \\
& + ((\alpha - 1)\theta - \alpha + 1)w_f + ((1 - \alpha)\theta + \alpha - 1)\phi \gamma_m \\
& + \left(((\alpha - 1)\theta nw_f + (1 - \alpha)\theta \phi n) \tilde{t}_f + (1 - \alpha)\theta w_f + (\alpha - 1)\theta \phi \right) \gamma_f \\
h_m = & \frac{\quad}{(\theta - 1)w_m \mu_m - \theta w_m \mu_f} \\
& + ((\theta - 1)w_m - \theta w_m) \delta_m - \theta w_m \delta_f \\
& + ((1 - \alpha)\theta + \alpha - 1)w_m \gamma_m + (\alpha - 1)\theta w_m \gamma_f
\end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned}
& \left((\theta - 1)nw_f + (1 - \theta)\phi n \right) \tilde{t}_f + (1 - \theta)w_f + (\theta - 1)\phi \mu_m \\
& + \left(\theta nw_m \tilde{t}_m + (-\theta n - \theta)w_m \right) \mu_f \\
& + \left((\theta - 1)nw_f + (1 - \theta)\phi n \right) \tilde{t}_f + (1 - \theta)w_f + (\theta - 1)\phi \delta_m \\
& + \left((\theta \phi n - \theta nw_f) \tilde{t}_f + \theta w_f - \theta \phi \right) \delta_f \\
& + \left(((1 - \alpha)\theta + \alpha - 1)nw_f + ((\alpha - 1)\theta - \alpha + 1)\phi n \right) \tilde{t}_f + ((\alpha - 1)\theta - \alpha + 1)w_f + ((1 - \alpha)\theta \\
& + \alpha - 1)\phi \gamma_m + \left(((\alpha - 1)\theta nw_f + (1 - \alpha)\theta \phi n) \tilde{t}_f + (1 - \alpha)\theta w_f + (\alpha - 1)\theta \phi \right) \gamma_f \\
h_f = - & \frac{\quad}{\left((\theta - 1)w_f + (1 - \theta)\phi \right) \mu_m + (\theta \phi - \theta w_f) \mu_f} \\
& + \left((\theta - 1)w_f + (1 - \theta)\phi \right) \delta_m + (\theta \phi - \theta w_f) \delta_f \\
& + ((1 - \alpha)\theta + \alpha - 1)w_f + ((\alpha - 1)\theta - \alpha + 1)\phi \gamma_m \\
& + ((\alpha - 1)\theta w_f + (1 - \alpha)\theta \phi) \gamma_f
\end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned}
& (\theta - 1)nw_m \mu_m^2 \\
& + \left(-\theta nw_m \mu_f + (\theta - 1)nw_m \delta_m - \theta nw_m \delta_f \right. \\
& + \left(((1 - \alpha)\theta + \alpha - 1)nw_m \tilde{t}_m + ((1 - \alpha)\theta + \alpha - 1)nw_f \tilde{t}_f \right. \\
& + ((\alpha - 1)\theta - \alpha + 1)\phi n \tilde{t}_f + (((1 - \theta) + \alpha - 1)n + (\alpha - 1)\theta - \alpha + 1)w_m \\
& + ((\alpha - 1)\theta - \alpha + 1)w_f + ((1 - \alpha)\theta + \alpha - 1)\phi \Big) \gamma_m + (\alpha - 1)\theta nw_m \gamma_f \Big) \mu_m \\
& + (\alpha - 1)\theta nw_m \gamma_m \mu_f \\
& + ((1 - \alpha)\theta + \alpha - 1)nw_m \gamma_m \delta_m + (\alpha - 1)\theta nw_m \gamma_m \delta_f \\
& + \left(((\alpha^2 - 2\alpha + 1)\theta - \alpha^2 + 2\alpha - 1)nw_m \tilde{t}_m \right. \\
& + ((\alpha^2 - 2\alpha + 1)\theta - \alpha^2 + 2\alpha - 1)nw_f \tilde{t}_f \\
& + ((-\alpha^2 + 2\alpha - 1)\theta + \alpha^2 - 2\alpha + 1)\phi n \tilde{t}_f \\
& + ((-\alpha^2 + 2\alpha - 1)\theta + \alpha^2 - 2\alpha + 1)w_m \\
& + ((-\alpha^2 + 2\alpha - 1)\theta + \alpha^2 - 2\alpha + 1)w_f \\
& + ((\alpha^2 - 2\alpha + 1)\theta - \alpha^2 + 2\alpha - 1)\phi \Big) \gamma_m^2 \\
& + \left((-\alpha^2 + 2\alpha - 1)\theta nw_m \tilde{t}_m + ((-\alpha^2 + 2\alpha - 1)\theta nw_f + (\alpha^2 - 2\alpha + 1)\theta \phi n) \tilde{t}_f \right. \\
& + ((\alpha^2 - 2\alpha + 1)\theta + \alpha^2 - 2\alpha + 1)w_m \\
& + ((\alpha^2 - 2\alpha + 1)\theta + \alpha^2 - 2\alpha + 1)w_f + (-\alpha^2 + 2\alpha - 1)\theta \phi \Big) \gamma_f \gamma_m \\
t_m = & - \frac{(\theta - 1)nw_m \mu_m^2}{(\theta - 1)nw_m \mu_m^2} \\
& + \left(-\theta nw_m \mu_f + (\theta - 1)nw_m \delta_m - \theta nw_m \delta_f \right. \\
& + ((2 - 2\alpha)\theta + 2\alpha - 2)nw_m \gamma_m + (\alpha - 1)\theta nw_m \gamma_f \Big) \mu_m \\
& + (\alpha - 1)\theta nw_m \gamma_m \mu_f \\
& + ((1 - \alpha)\theta + \alpha - 1)nw_m \gamma_m \delta_m + (\alpha - 1)\theta nw_m \gamma_m \delta_f \\
& + ((\alpha^2 - 2\alpha + 1)\theta - \alpha^2 + 2\alpha - 1)nw_m \gamma_m^2 + (-\alpha^2 + 2\alpha - 1)\theta nw_m \gamma_f \gamma_m
\end{aligned}$$

$$t_f = 0$$

Regime 3b: $\eta > 0, \sigma = 0, \tau = 0, \nu > 0$

$$h_m = 0$$

$$h_f = \frac{((\theta - 1)n\tilde{t}_f - \theta + 1)\delta_m + (\theta - \theta n\tilde{t}_f)\delta_f}{\theta\mu_f + (1 - \theta)\delta_m + \theta\delta_f}$$

$$t_m = -\frac{n\mu_m + ((1 - \alpha)n\tilde{t}_m + \alpha - 1)\gamma_m}{n\mu_m + (1 - \alpha)n\gamma_m}$$

Regime 3c: $\eta > 0, \sigma = 0, \tau > 0, \nu = 0$

$$h_m = -\frac{((\theta - 1)n\tilde{t}_m + (1 - \theta)n - \theta + 1)\delta_m + (-\theta n\tilde{t}_m + \theta n + \theta)\delta_f}{(\theta - 1)\mu_m + (\theta - 1)\delta_m - \theta\delta_f + ((1 - \alpha)\theta + \alpha - 1)\gamma_m + (\alpha - 1)\theta\gamma_f}$$

$$h_f = 0$$

$$\begin{aligned} & (\theta - 1)n\mu_m^2 \\ & + \left((\theta - 1)n\delta_m - \theta n\delta_f + ((1 - \alpha)\theta + \alpha - 1)n\tilde{t}_m + ((1 - \alpha)\theta + \alpha - 1)n \right. \\ & \quad \left. + (\alpha - 1)\theta - \alpha + 1 \right) \gamma_m + (\alpha - 1)\theta n\gamma_f \mu_m \\ & + ((1 - \alpha)\theta + \alpha - 1)n\gamma_m\delta_m + (\alpha - 1)\theta n\gamma_m\delta_f \\ & + ((\alpha^2 - 2\alpha + 1)\theta - \alpha^2 + 2\alpha - 1)n\tilde{t}_m + (-\alpha^2 + 2\alpha - 1)\theta + \alpha^2 - 2\alpha + 1 \gamma_m^2 \\ & + \left((-\alpha^2 + 2\alpha - 1)\theta n\tilde{t}_m + (\alpha^2 - 2\alpha + 1)\theta \right) \gamma_f\gamma_m \\ t_m = & -\frac{\text{above terms}}{(\theta - 1)n\mu_m^2} \\ & + \left((\theta - 1)n\delta_m - \theta n\delta_f + ((2 - 2\alpha)\theta + 2\alpha - 2)n\gamma_m + (\alpha - 1)\theta n\gamma_f \right) \mu_m \\ & + ((1 - \alpha)\theta + \alpha - 1)n\gamma_m\delta_m + (\alpha - 1)\theta n\gamma_m\delta_f \\ & + ((\alpha^2 - 2\alpha + 1)\theta - \alpha^2 + 2\alpha - 1)n\gamma_m^2 + (-\alpha^2 + 2\alpha - 1)\theta n\gamma_f\gamma_m \end{aligned}$$

$$t_f = 0$$

Regime 4a: $\eta = 0, \sigma > 0, \tau = 0, \nu = 0$

$$\begin{aligned}
& \left((\theta - 1)nw_f + (1 - \theta)\phi n \right) \tilde{t}_f + \left((1 - \theta)n - \theta + 1 \right) w_f + (\theta - 1)\phi n + (\theta - 1)\phi \mu_m \\
& + \left(\theta n w_m \tilde{t}_m - \theta w_m \right) \mu_f \\
& + \left((1 - \theta)n w_m \tilde{t}_m + (\theta - 1)w_m \right) \delta_m \\
& + \left(\theta n w_m \tilde{t}_m - \theta w_m \right) \delta_f \\
& + \left((\alpha - \alpha\theta)n w_m \tilde{t}_m + (\alpha\theta - \alpha)w_m \right) \gamma_m \\
& + \left(\alpha\theta n w_m \tilde{t}_m - \alpha\theta w_m \right) \gamma_f \\
h_m = & \frac{\quad}{(\theta - 1)w_m \mu_m - \theta w_m \mu_f + (\theta - 1)w_m \delta_m - \theta w_m \delta_f} \\
& + (\alpha\theta - \alpha)w_m \gamma_m - \alpha\theta w_m \gamma_f \\
& \left((\theta - 1)nw_f + (1 - \theta)\phi n \right) \tilde{t}_f + \left((1 - \theta)n - \theta + 1 \right) w_f + (\theta - 1)\phi n + (\theta - 1)\phi \mu_m \\
& + \left(\theta n w_m \tilde{t}_m - \theta w_m \right) \mu_f \\
& + \left((\theta - 1)nw_f + (1 - \theta)\phi n \right) \tilde{t}_f + \left((1 - \theta)n - \theta + 1 \right) w_f + (\theta - 1)\phi n + (\theta - 1)\phi \delta_m \\
& + \left((\theta\phi n - \theta n w_f) \tilde{t}_f + (\theta n + \theta)w_f - \theta\phi n - \theta\phi \right) \delta_f \\
& + \left((\alpha - \alpha\theta)n w_m \tilde{t}_m + (\alpha\theta - \alpha)w_m \right) \gamma_m \\
& + \left(\alpha\theta n w_m \tilde{t}_m - \alpha\theta w_m \right) \gamma_f \\
h_f = & - \frac{\quad}{\left((\theta - 1)w_f + (1 - \theta)\phi \right) \mu_m + (\theta\phi - \theta w_f) \mu_f} \\
& + \left((\theta - 1)w_f + (1 - \theta)\phi \right) \delta_m + (\theta\phi - \theta w_f) \delta_f \\
& + \left((\alpha\theta - \alpha)w_f + (\alpha - \alpha\theta)\phi \right) \gamma_m + (\alpha\theta\phi - \alpha\theta w_f) \gamma_f \\
& t_m = 0
\end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned}
& \left((\theta - 1)nw_f + (1 - \theta)\phi n \right) \mu_f + \left((\alpha\theta - \alpha)nw_f + (\alpha - \alpha\theta)\phi n \right) \gamma_f \mu_m \\
& + (\theta\phi n - \theta nw_f) \mu_f^2 \\
& + \left((\theta - 1)nw_f + (1 - \theta)\phi n \right) \delta_m + (\theta\phi n - \theta nw_f) \delta_f \\
& + \left((\theta - 1)nw_f + (1 - \theta)\phi n \right) \gamma_m \\
& + \left(-\alpha\theta nw_m \tilde{t}_m + (\alpha\theta\phi n - \alpha\theta nw_f) \tilde{t}_f + (\alpha\theta n + \alpha\theta)w_m + (\alpha\theta - \theta n)w_f + \theta\phi n - \alpha\theta\phi \right) \gamma_f \\
& + \left((\alpha\theta - \alpha)nw_f + (\alpha - \alpha\theta)\phi n \right) \gamma_f \delta_m + (\alpha\theta\phi n - \alpha\theta nw_f) \gamma_f \delta_f \\
& + \left((\alpha^2\theta - \alpha^2)nw_m \tilde{t}_m + ((\alpha^2\theta - \alpha^2)nw_f \right. \\
& + (\alpha^2 - \alpha^2\theta)\phi n) \tilde{t}_f + (\alpha^2 - \alpha^2\theta)(w_m + w_f) + (\alpha^2\theta - \alpha^2)\phi \left. \right) \gamma_f \gamma_m \\
& + \left(-\alpha^2\theta nw_m \tilde{t}_m + (\alpha^2\theta\phi n - \alpha^2\theta nw_f) \tilde{t}_f + \alpha^2\theta(w_m + w_f) - \alpha^2\theta\phi \right) \gamma_f^2 \\
t_f = & - \frac{
\begin{aligned}
& \left((\theta - 1)nw_f + (1 - \theta)\phi n \right) \mu_f + \left((\alpha\theta - \alpha)nw_f + (\alpha - \alpha\theta)\phi n \right) \gamma_f \mu_m \\
& + (\theta\phi n - \theta nw_f) \mu_f^2 \\
& + \left((\theta - 1)nw_f + (1 - \theta)\phi n \right) \delta_m + (\theta\phi n - \theta nw_f) \delta_f \\
& + \left((\theta - 1)nw_f + (1 - \theta)\phi n \right) \gamma_m \\
& + ((-\alpha - 1)\theta nw_f + (\alpha + 1)\theta\phi n) \gamma_f \mu_f \\
& + ((\alpha\theta - \alpha)nw_f + (\alpha - \alpha\theta)\phi n) \gamma_f \delta_m + (\alpha\theta\phi n - \alpha\theta nw_f) \gamma_f \delta_f \\
& + ((\alpha\theta - \alpha)nw_f + (\alpha - \alpha\theta)\phi n) \gamma_f \gamma_m + (\alpha\theta\phi n - \alpha\theta nw_f) \gamma_f^2
\end{aligned}
}{
\begin{aligned}
& \left((\theta - 1)nw_f + (1 - \theta)\phi n \right) \mu_f + \left((\alpha\theta - \alpha)nw_f + (\alpha - \alpha\theta)\phi n \right) \gamma_f \mu_m \\
& + (\theta\phi n - \theta nw_f) \mu_f^2 \\
& + \left((\theta - 1)nw_f + (1 - \theta)\phi n \right) \delta_m + (\theta\phi n - \theta nw_f) \delta_f \\
& + \left((\theta - 1)nw_f + (1 - \theta)\phi n \right) \gamma_m \\
& + ((-\alpha - 1)\theta nw_f + (\alpha + 1)\theta\phi n) \gamma_f \mu_f \\
& + ((\alpha\theta - \alpha)nw_f + (\alpha - \alpha\theta)\phi n) \gamma_f \delta_m + (\alpha\theta\phi n - \alpha\theta nw_f) \gamma_f \delta_f \\
& + ((\alpha\theta - \alpha)nw_f + (\alpha - \alpha\theta)\phi n) \gamma_f \gamma_m + (\alpha\theta\phi n - \alpha\theta nw_f) \gamma_f^2
\end{aligned}
}
\end{aligned}$$

Regime 4b: $\eta = 0, \sigma > 0, \tau = 0, \nu > 0$

$$h_m = 0$$

$$h_f = \frac{((\theta - 1)n\tilde{t}_f + (1 - \theta)n - \theta + 1) \delta_m + (-\theta n\tilde{t}_f + \theta n + \theta) \delta_f}{\theta \mu_f + (1 - \theta)\delta_m + \theta\delta_f + (\alpha - \alpha\theta)\gamma_m + \alpha\theta\gamma_f}$$

$$t_m = 0$$

$$\begin{aligned}
t_f = - \frac{
& \theta n \mu_f^2 + \left((1 - \theta) n \delta_m + \theta n \delta_f + (\alpha - \alpha \theta) n \gamma_m + (\alpha \theta n \tilde{t}_f + \alpha \theta n - \alpha \theta) \gamma_f \right) \mu_f \\
& + (\alpha - \alpha \theta) n \gamma_f \delta_m + \alpha \theta n \gamma_f \delta_f \\
& + \left((\alpha^2 - \alpha^2 \theta) n \tilde{t}_f + \alpha^2 \theta - \alpha^2 \right) \gamma_f \gamma_m + (\alpha^2 \theta n \tilde{t}_f - \alpha^2 \theta) \gamma_f^2
}{
& \theta n \mu_f^2 + \left((1 - \theta) n \delta_m + \theta n \delta_f + (\alpha - \alpha \theta) n \gamma_m + 2 \alpha \theta n \gamma_f \right) \mu_f \\
& + (\alpha - \alpha \theta) n \gamma_f \delta_m + \alpha \theta n \gamma_f \delta_f \\
& + (\alpha^2 - \alpha^2 \theta) n \gamma_f \gamma_m + \alpha^2 \theta n \gamma_f^2
}
\end{aligned}$$

Regime 4c: $\eta = 0, \sigma > 0, \tau > 0, \nu = 0$

$$h_m = - \frac{((\theta - 1) n \tilde{t}_m - \theta + 1) \delta_m + (\theta - \theta n \tilde{t}_m) \delta_f}{(\theta - 1) \mu_m + (\theta - 1) \delta_m - \theta \delta_f}$$

$$h_f = 0$$

$$t_m = 0$$

$$t_f = - \frac{n \mu_f + (\alpha n \tilde{t}_f - \alpha) \gamma_f}{n \mu_f + \alpha n \gamma_f}$$

C.1 Proof of Proposition 1

Stage 2. Fix (h_f, h_m) . Player i solves a strictly concave problem in t_i :

$$v_i(t_i; t_{-i}, h_f, h_m) = \log(c) + \mu_i \log(1 - h_i - (t_i + \tilde{t}_i)n) + \gamma_i \log((1 + t_f)^\alpha (1 + t_m)^{1-\alpha} n),$$

over a nonempty, convex, compact interval for t_i (A3). The second derivative in own strategy,

$$\frac{\partial^2 v_i}{\partial t_i^2} = - \frac{\mu_i n^2}{(1 - h_i - (t_i + \tilde{t}_i)n)^2} - \frac{\gamma_i}{(1 + t_i)^2} \times \begin{cases} \alpha & \text{if } i = f, \\ 1 - \alpha & \text{if } i = m, \end{cases}$$

is strictly negative, so each payoff is strictly concave in own action. The Jacobian of first-order conditions has a symmetric part whose diagonal entries dominate the off-diagonal terms (the cross-partial from $\log q$), implying diagonal strict concavity (DSC). By Rosen's (1965) theorem, a unique Nash equilibrium (t_f^*, t_m^*) exists; by the implicit function theorem and DSC, (t_f^*, t_m^*) is continuous in (h_f, h_m) .

Stage 1. Define $V(h_f, h_m) = \theta v_f(h_f, h_m, t^*(h)) + (1 - \theta)v_m(h_f, h_m, t^*(h))$. The feasible set for (h_f, h_m) is convex/compact (A3). The only non-affine term in (h_f, h_m) is $\log c$ with $c = \phi(s)w_f h_f + w_m h_m$. Under A2, the mapping $(h_f, h_m) \mapsto \log c$ is strictly concave on the feasible set.¹⁸ All remaining terms in V are (strictly) concave in (h_f, h_m) , and composition with the single-valued continuous correspondence $t^*(h)$ preserves concavity. Hence V is strictly concave and attains a unique maximizer (h_f^*, h_m^*) . Combining with the unique (t_f^*, t_m^*) from Stage 2 yields a unique subgame-perfect equilibrium.

□

¹⁸For $\phi(s) = \exp[-\chi s^\kappa]$ with $s = \frac{w_f h_f}{w_f h_f + w_m h_m}$ the Hessian of $\log c$ is negative definite whenever $\chi \leq \bar{\chi}(\kappa, w_f, w_m, \underline{h}, \bar{h})$; an explicit bound is obtained by comparing $|\partial^2 \log c / \partial h_i \partial h_j|$ with the diagonal terms and using the fact that $h_i \in [\underline{h}, \bar{h}]$. If s is defined on *potential* shares $w_f/(w_f + w_m)$, $\log c$ is strictly concave without any restriction on χ .