

# Male preferences and female labor supply - A comment

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Daniel Graeber

# Theoretical background

**Research question:** “Does a new type of men exist and does this new type of men increase female labor supply?”

**New type of men** (Fernandez et al., 2004): Men who prefer (dislike less) working women or who are more productive in home production.

⇒ Increase in wife's labor supply at the extensive and intensive margin (Fernandez et al., 2004).

Existence of the new type of men:

- Correlational evidence that the new type of men exists.
- Suggestive evidence pointing towards intrahousehold bargaining.

**Suggestion:** Try mother/family fixed effects.

Planned IV strategy:

- Instrumentation of location of migrants by destroyed housing wealth after WW2.
- 1945-1961: Expellees and refugees were allocated in regions with intact housing stock.
- 1989: Migrants from East Germany followed their social ties.

Conjecture:  $\text{Cov}(\text{Wartime destruction}, \epsilon_{it}) = 0$ .

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- No omitted variable that drives both wartime destruction and differential changes in female employment growth.
- Wartime destruction in 1946 has no effect on changes in the growth rate of female employment after 1989 other than through its effect on the settlement of migrants who have social ties to the East.

Use of three data sources which are perfect for the analysis:

- Pairfam: Designed to analyze couple and family dynamics.
- SOEP: Rich household data over a long time horizon.
- Mikrozensus: Large cross-sectional data.

**Suggestion:** Use information about division of labor in relationship.

- Did young females invest more in their education?
- Did young males become more productive in home production?
- Frictions: Institutional setting may hinder women to increase labor supply (e.g. childcare availability).

# Thank you for your attention!

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DIW Berlin – Deutsches Institut  
für Wirtschaftsforschung e.V.  
Mohrenstraße 58, 10117 Berlin  
[www.diw.de](http://www.diw.de)