

GENDER, SOCIAL CLASS, AND PARENTING IN THE UK AND IN FRANCE: PARENTAL EXPECTATIONS, FAMILY RESOURCES, AND DIVISION OF LABOUR

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Rueil-Malmaison, France, 1990s



Gateshead, England, 1950s



Glasgow, Scotland, 1960s-1970s



Paris School of Economics, 2018-2020



European Doctoral School of Demography, 2024-2025



MOTIVATION

WHY LOOK AT PARENTING AND GENDER IN EARLY CHILDHOOD

Persisting gender stereotypes that shape opportunities and constraints (Berscheid, 1993)

Young children already show **gendered behaviour** (Paechter, 2007)

Parents delimit the possibilities and experiences available to their children (Durkheim, 1922; Lahire, 2019)

However, parenting is embedded in a **larger social environment**, which imposes its own constraints on parenting

THREE PAPERS

| | | Data | Methods |
|---|--|--|---|
| 1 | RQ1 Do parents raise boys and girls differently? RQ2 How does the reproduction of gender intersect with the reproduction of social class? | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• French Longitudinal Study of Children (Elfe) | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Latent class analysis |
| 2 | RQ3 Does parenting mediate the gender gaps in academic achievement? in socio-emotional skills? RQ4 Is the mediation highest in certain socioeconomic backgrounds? | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Millenium Cohort Study (MCS) | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Decomposition techniques |
| 3 | RQ5 Does a sudden constraint on family resources (reduced child benefits) change a parental behaviour (take-up of formal childcare) differently for boys and girls? | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Survey on Resources and Living Conditions (SRCV) | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Regression discontinuity design using the 2013 <i>allocations familiales</i> reform in France |

WHAT THE LITERATURE SAYS ON Gender and Parenting



Mixed evidence: does it depend on **how we define and measure parenting** (Mesman and Groeneveld, 2017)? **Time** (Baker and Milligan, 2016), **practices** (Martin et al., 2002), **dimensions** (Endendijk et al., 2016), **styles** (Lytton and Romney, 1991)

Nevertheless, evidence that parents tend to:

- Foster **different expectations** for their sons' and daughters (Garside and Klimes-Dougan, 2002; Root and Rubin, 2010; Yee and Eccles, 1988)
- **Split labour in the home unequally** (Sullivan, 2013)
- **Spend more time with boys** than girls, in particular fathers (Raley and Bianchi, 2006) and **do different things** with them (Baker and Milligan, 2016)

RESULTS ON GENDER AND PARENTING SNEAK PEAK



Note: Confidence intervals and significance reflect Bonferroni-adjusted p-values ($\alpha = 0.05$).

WHAT THE LITERATURE SAYS ON Gender and Parenting... and Social Class

JOURNAL ARTICLE

Social Class, Gender, and Contemporary Parenting Standards in the United States: Evidence from a National Survey Experiment [Get access >](#)

Patrick Ishizuka ✉

Social Forces, Volume 98, Issue 1, September 2019, Pages 31–58,
<https://doi.org/10.1093/sf/soy107>

Compared with lower-class parents, upper-middle-class parents tend to:

- Display **less traditional gender values** (Knight and Brinton, 2017)
- **Distribute labour in the home more equally** (Sullivan, 2010)
- **Live together** more frequently (McLanahan and Percheski, 2008)

They also practice “**concerted cultivation**”, as opposed to fostering “**natural growth**” (Lareau, 2003)

But across social classes: same aspirations, different resources? (Ishikuza, 2019)



THANK YOU!

Alex Sheridan, supervised by Lidia Panico (Cris) and Anne Solaz (Ined)
<https://alextranslatus.github.io/>