

The CoViD-19 crisis and the gender division of market and household work

Hans-Martin von Gaudecker, Radost Holler, Lena Janys, Bettina Siflinger, Christian Zimpel

Introduction

- Data from the Netherlands
 - Hours of work: February — September 2020
 - Time use: November 2019, April 2020
- On average, women reduce one hour extra during lockdown, effect vanishes by June
- No additional effect of children being present in the household on either parent!
- Allocation of additional childcare depends on hours of work pre-CoViD:
 - If both parents work full-time before pandemic: roughly equal shares
 - Combinations FT / PT or FT / no work: Gender care gap increases

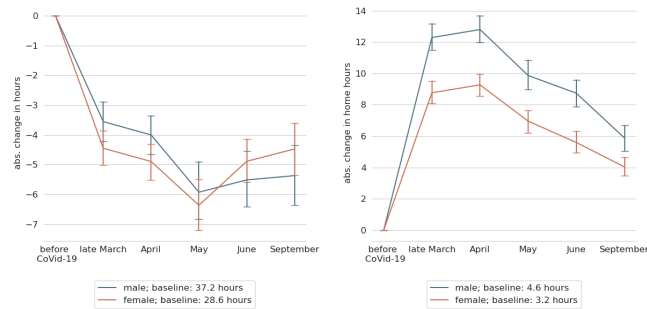
Data: Background

- LISS: Online Panel in the Netherlands, running since 2007
- Sibling of UAS
 - Descendant of CentERpanel
 - Joint usage via Open Probability-Based Panel Alliance
- Roughly 5,000 households / 7,500 individuals
- Each month, respondents get 30 minutes of questionnaires
- Around 85% of respondents can be linked to administrative microdata (not today)

Data: CoViD-19 surveys, Time Use

- CoViD-19 questionnaires
 - March 20-31, April 6-28, May, June, September
 - See <https://liss-covid-19-questionnaires-documentation.readthedocs.io/>
 - Will mostly use hours of work
- Time use & consumption questionnaires
 - Baseline: November 2019
 - **April 21-28:** Similar to November 2019 edition, adapted to lock-down situation
- **November:** Similar to November 2019, adapted to current situation

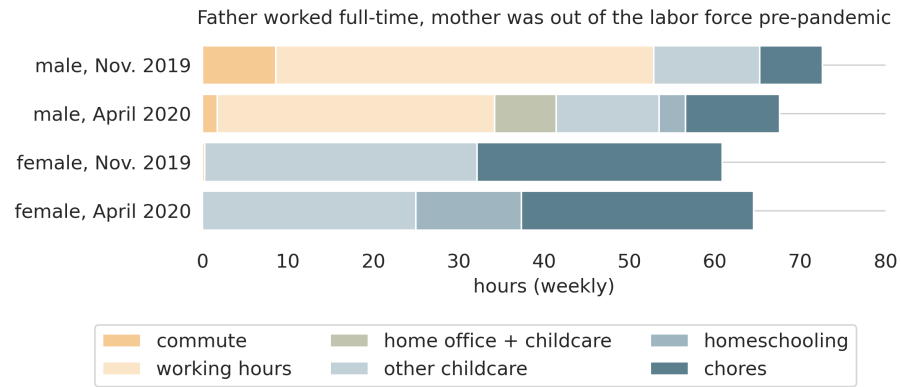
Hours worked / worked from home



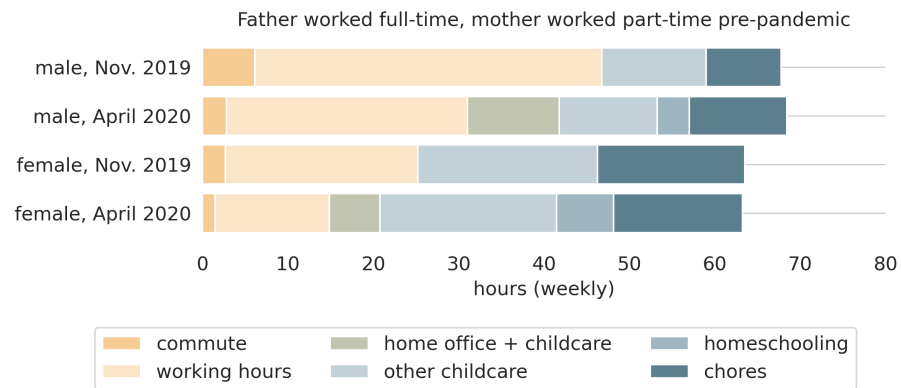
Fixed effects regressions: Full sample

- LHS: Hours of work
- RHS: Gender \times month \times (1, part time, essential worker, age), month \times age
 - Non-essential, FT women: 3 hours addt'l reduction during lockdown relative to men, gone by June
 - Partial effect of essential for females: 4.4 hours, gone quickly
- RHS: Add month \times (percentage of work doable from home, self-employment, profession, sector)
 - No change
- RHS: Add gender \times month \times children under 12 at home
 - No change
 - If anything, hours are better preserved among (both) parents
 - Other coefficients very similar when restricting sample to 2-parent families

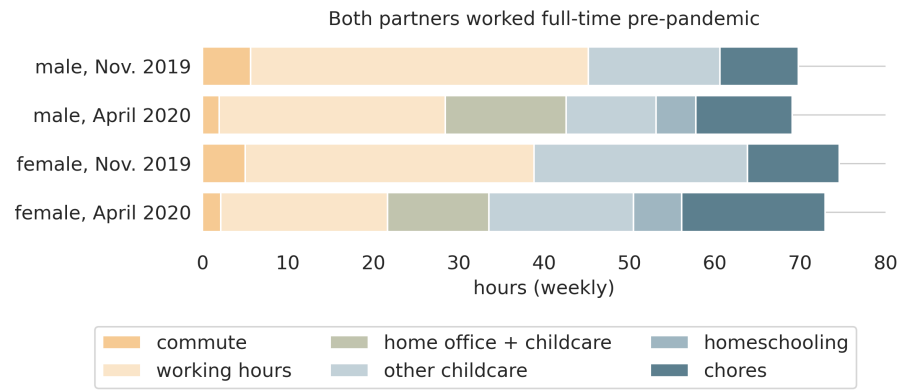
Full-time / Non-working couples



Full-time / Part-time couples



Full-time x2 couples



Takeaways

- Gender division of tasks during CoViD-19: Very heterogeneous
 - Not back to the 1950s
 - Not the great equalizer
 - Pre-existing patterns re-inforced
- Western Europe: Work hours of women (relatively) well preserved
 - Consequence of highly subsidised daycare with comparably short hours?
- Glimpse of hope in the long run via changed norms?
 - Home office accepted for men
 - No long commute on 2-3 days
 - Available for childcare emergencies?