

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

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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

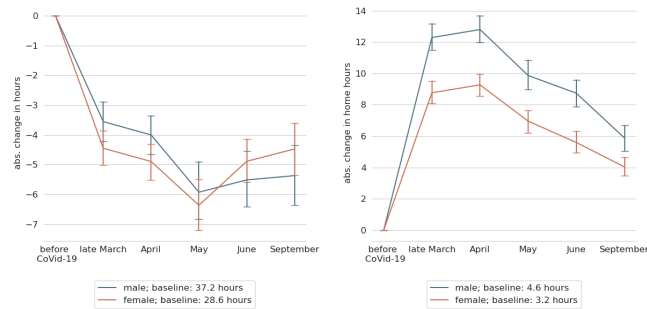
Data: Background

- 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 (mild lockdown), April 6-28 (mild lockdown), May (day-care / primary schools started reopening), June, September
 - See <https://liss-covid-19-questionnaires-documentation.readthedocs.io/>
 - Will mostly use hours of work
- Time use & consumption questionnaires
 - November 2019: Baseline
 - April 2020: Similar to November 2019 edition, adapted to lockdown situation
 - November 2020: Similar to November 2019, adapted to current situation

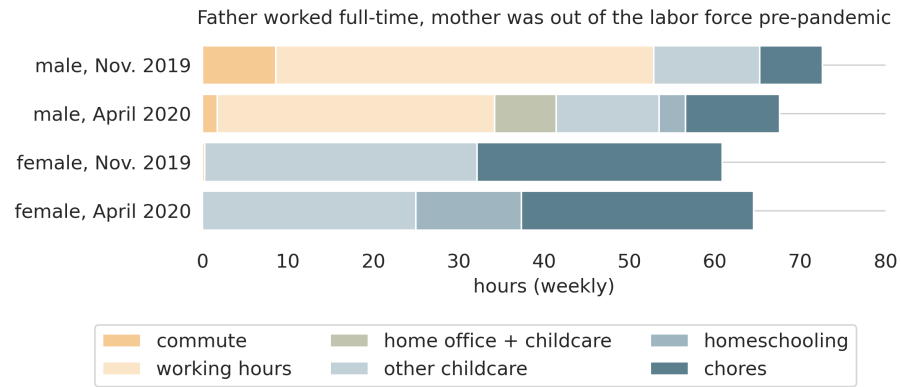
Hours worked / worked from home



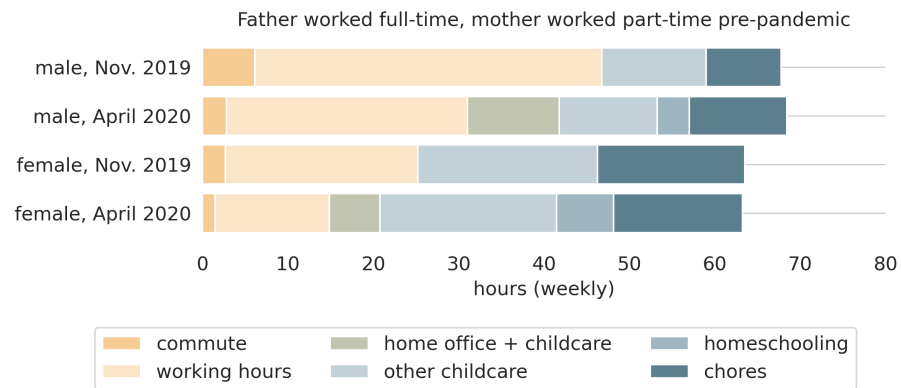
Fixed effects regressions

- Hours of work on gender \times month, controls
- Large heterogeneity
 - Non-essential FT women reduce **3 more** hours during lockdown than non-essential men
 - Essential FT women reduce 1.5 hours **less** than non-essential men
- Rich controls on RHS, exact set does not matter:
 - month \times gender \times (1, part time, essential worker, age)
 - month \times (age, percentage of work doable from home, self-employment, profession, sector)
- Add gender \times month \times children under 12 at home
 - No change (precise zero or hours slightly **better** preserved among parents)
 - Coefficients very similar when restricting sample to 2-parent families

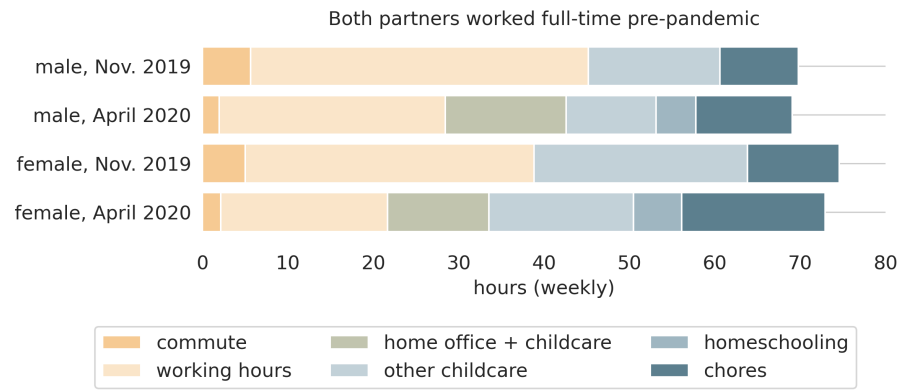
Full-time / Non-working couples



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?
 - Short school closures (2-3 months) very likely key
- Glimpse of hope in the long run via changed norms?
 - Home office acceptance rises for men, less hindrance on career path
 - No long commute on 2-3 days → available for childcare / emergencies