

Social protection during the CoViD-19 crisis: A view from Western Europe

Hans-Martin v. Gaudecker

Story

- Inequality impact low compared to Anglo-Saxon
- No trade-off economy / pandemic. Short lockdowns useful when it comes to inequality impact
- Option value of functioning social insurance systems

Background

- LISS: Online Panel in the Netherlands, running since 2007
- Based on probability sample
- Roughly 5,000 households / 7,500 individuals
- Each month, respondents get 30 minutes of questionnaires
 - Background data on Work, Health, Income, ...
 - Questionnaires designed by researchers (~85c / minute / respondent)
- Around 85% of respondents can be linked to administrative microdata

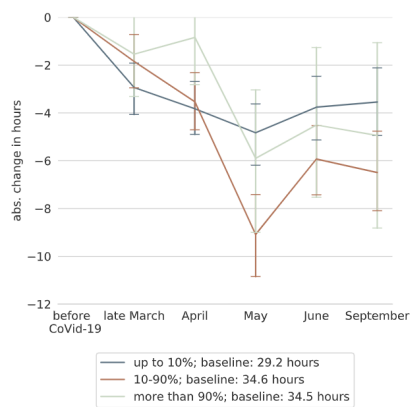
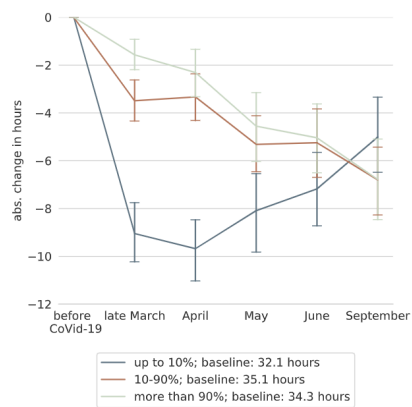
CoViD-19 surveys

- See <https://liss-covid-19-questionnaires-documentation.readthedocs.io/>
- **March 20-31:** Risk perceptions, behavioural reactions and preferences re social distancing policies, changes in the work and childcare situation, intentions and expectations regarding consumption/savings decisions, mental health
- **April 6-28:** Risk perceptions, number of personal contacts, changes in the work situation, income and macro expectations
- **May** Mostly labour, some health, home schooling
- **June** Mostly labour, lots of job search, how do parents deal with opening of daycares / primary schools?
- **September:** Risk perceptions, support for policies, changes in the work situation, income and macro expectations

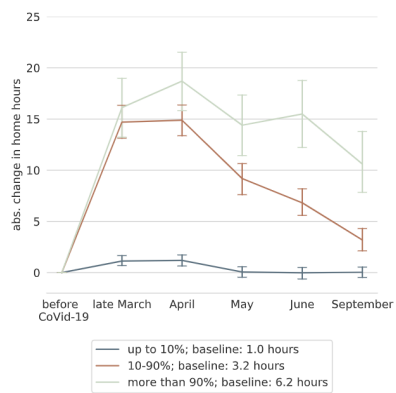
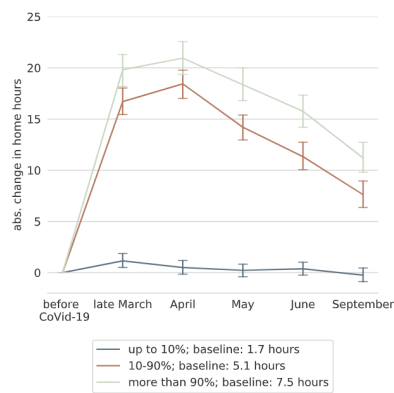
(CoViD-19) Time use & consumption

- **November 2019:** Baseline, helped redesign survey
- **April 21-28:** Similar to November 2019 edition, adapted to lockdown situation
- **November:** Similar to November 2019, adapted to current situation

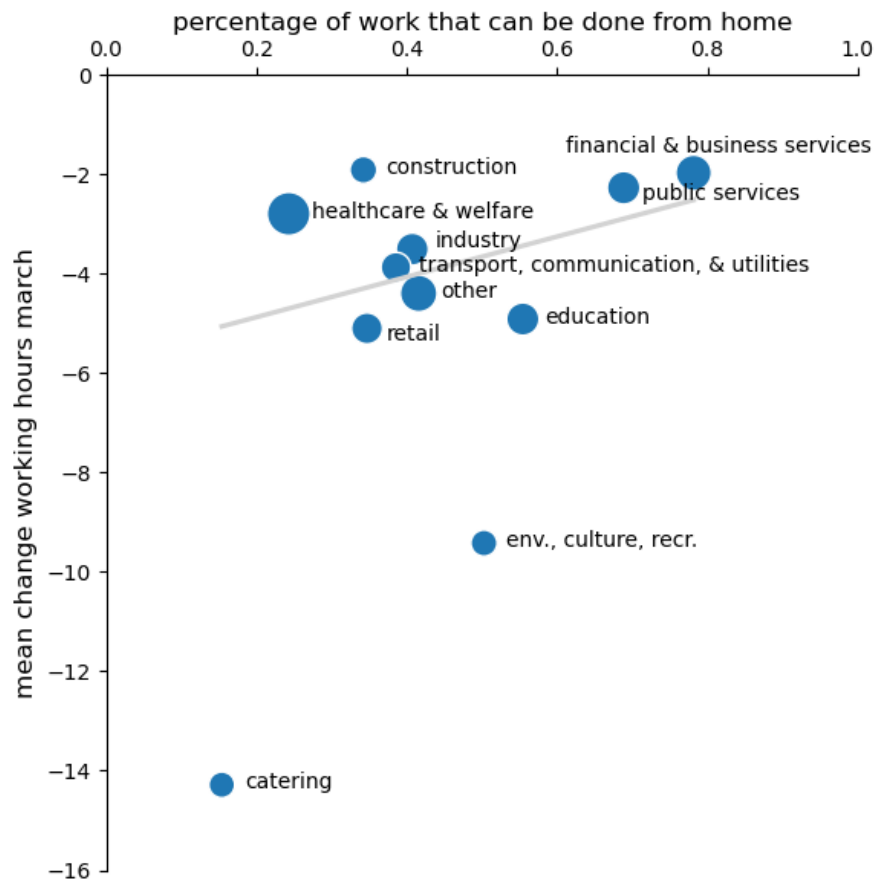
Hours worked



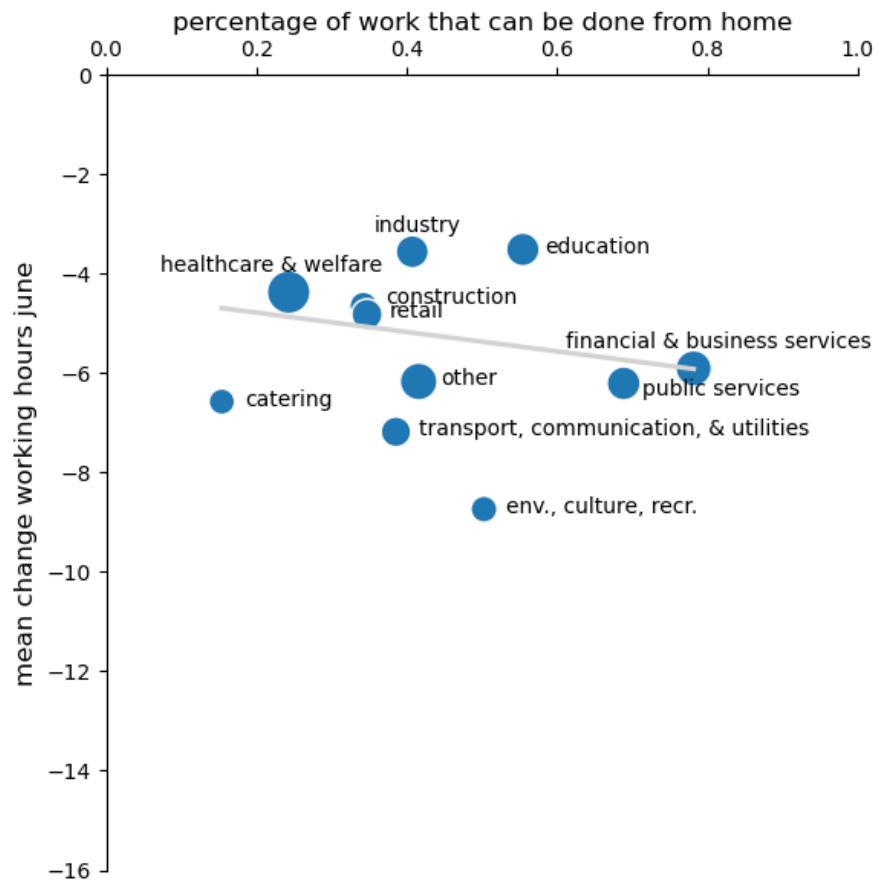
Hours worked from home



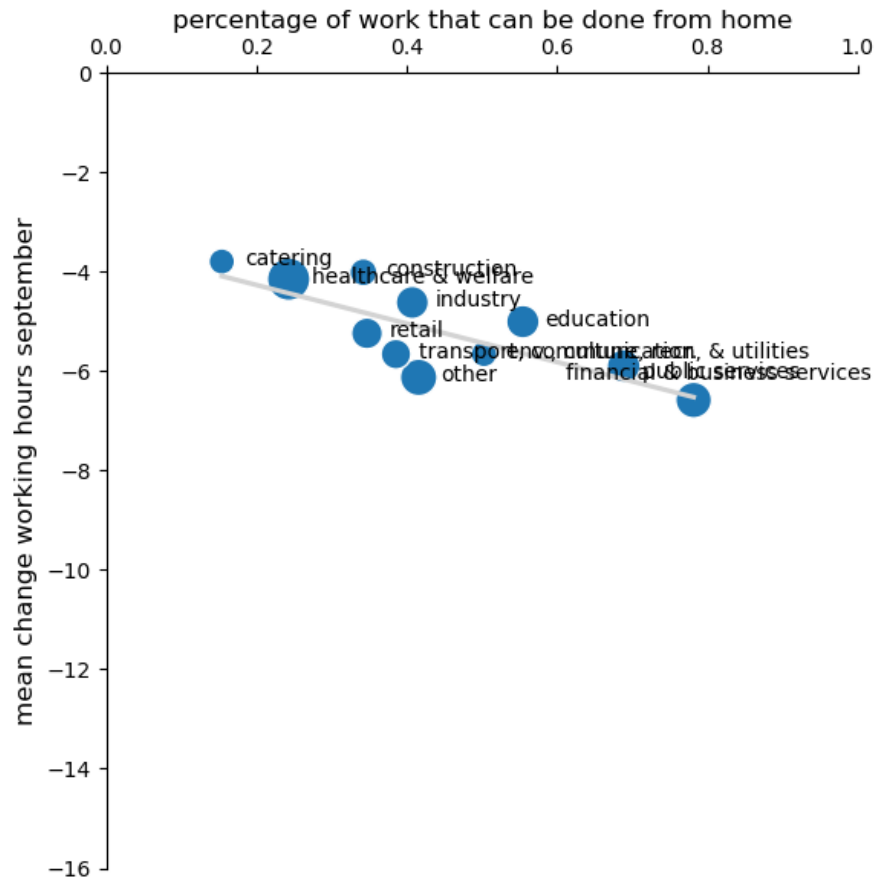
Hours worked by sector (March)



Hours worked by sector (June)



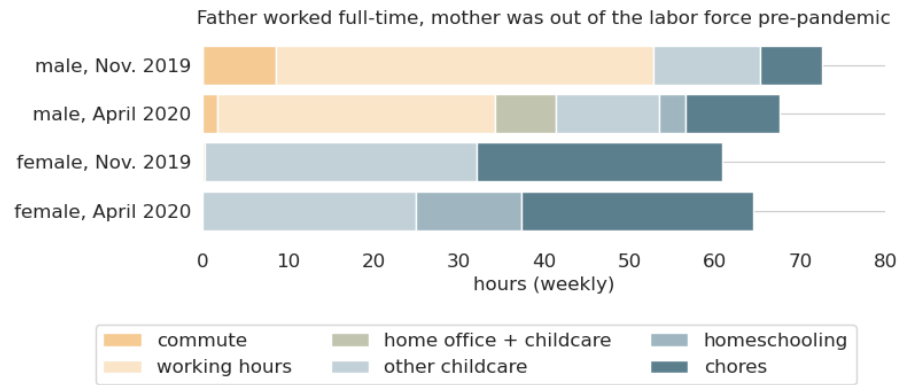
Hours worked by sector (September)



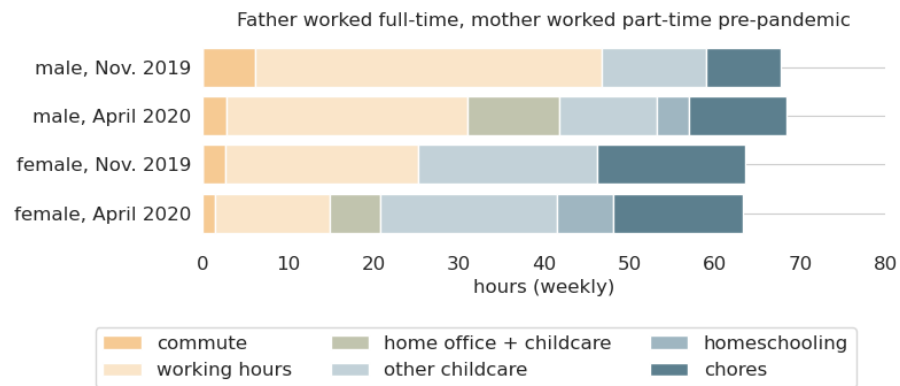
Gender division of tasks

- 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!
- If both parents work full-time before pandemic: roughly equal shares of additional childcare
 - Typically 37 + 32 hours than 45 + 45
- Combinations FT / PT or FT / no work: Gender care gap increases

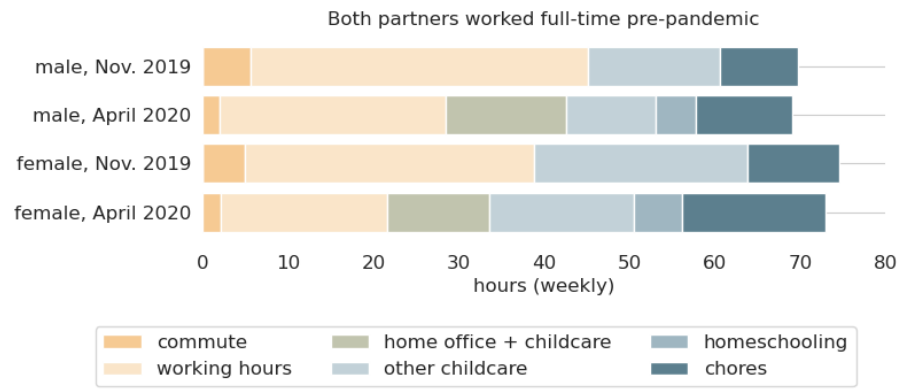
Full-time / Non-working couples



Full-time / Part-time couples



Full-time x2 couples



Overall conclusions

- Cross-country evidence: No effect of restrictions on aggregate economic activity
- Inequality impact
 - mitigated by keeping lockdowns short
 - employment / income protection crucial in the short run
- Gender division: Heterogeneous
 - Not back to the 1950s
 - Western European model more resilient during crisis than Anglo-Saxon one
 - Some glimpses of hope by changed norms in long run (home office days also for men)