Can we have it all?

How reconcilability of career pursuits and life satisfaction differs between women and men

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Contents

1 Descriptive results

In this section we explore the variation in some of the main variables used in the analysis and illustrates correlations between reported happiness and survey-respondent characteristics that motivates the regression analyses.

1.1 Life-satisfaction measures in the GSS

Two of the central variables in the analysis are reported overall happiness and happiness of marriage, which are based on the two questions: *"Taken all together, how would you say things are these days?"* and *"Taking things all together, how would you desribe your marriage?"*. Figure 1 shows the distribution of answers to the two questions. Both are measured on a three point scale where higher is better. Panel A shows that approximately 40 % of the sample report high overall happiness, whereas panel B shows that a majority of the sample reports high marriage happiness.

In the remainder of the paper we use binary variables to capture whether respondents report the highest happiness score or not on both measures. This eases interpretation, and as only a small portion of respondents report low-happiness on both measures, we do not disregard a substantial share of the variation in the variables.

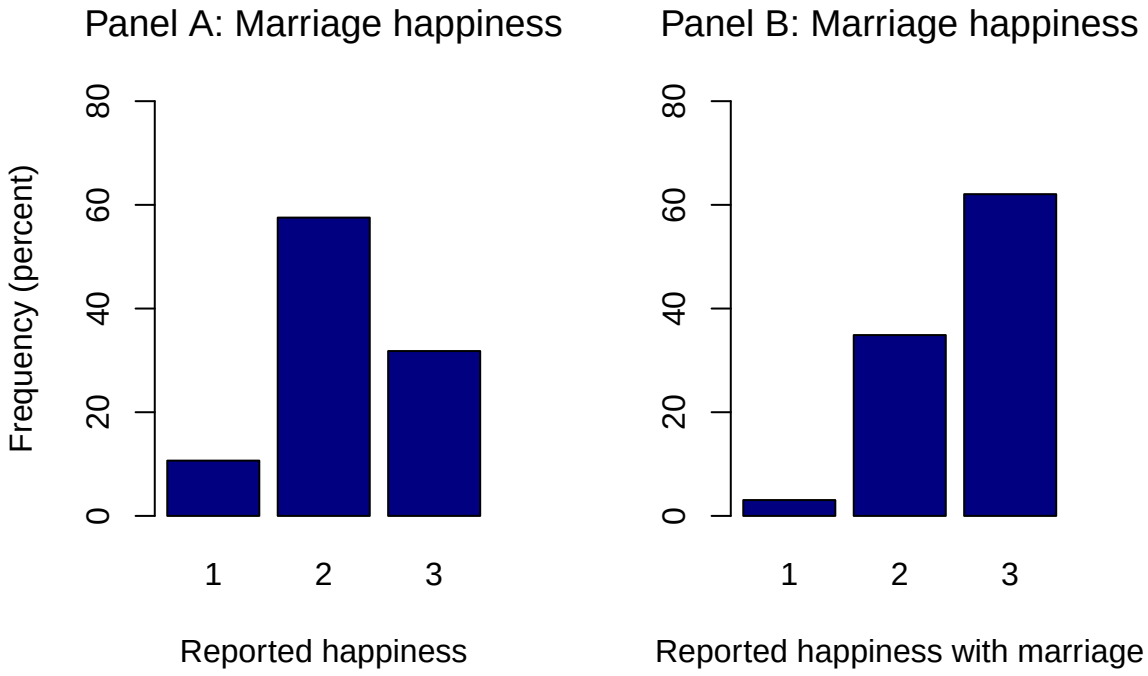


Figure 1: Distribution of reported happiness and job-satisfaction

1.2 Reported happiness in different survey years

The GSS is conducted every or every other year between 1972 and 2014. Due to year specific events, unintended differences in the implementation of the survey or trends in overall happiness, there can be non-random, year-specific differences. Figure 2 shows the average share of the sample population who reports to be very happy across the survey years.

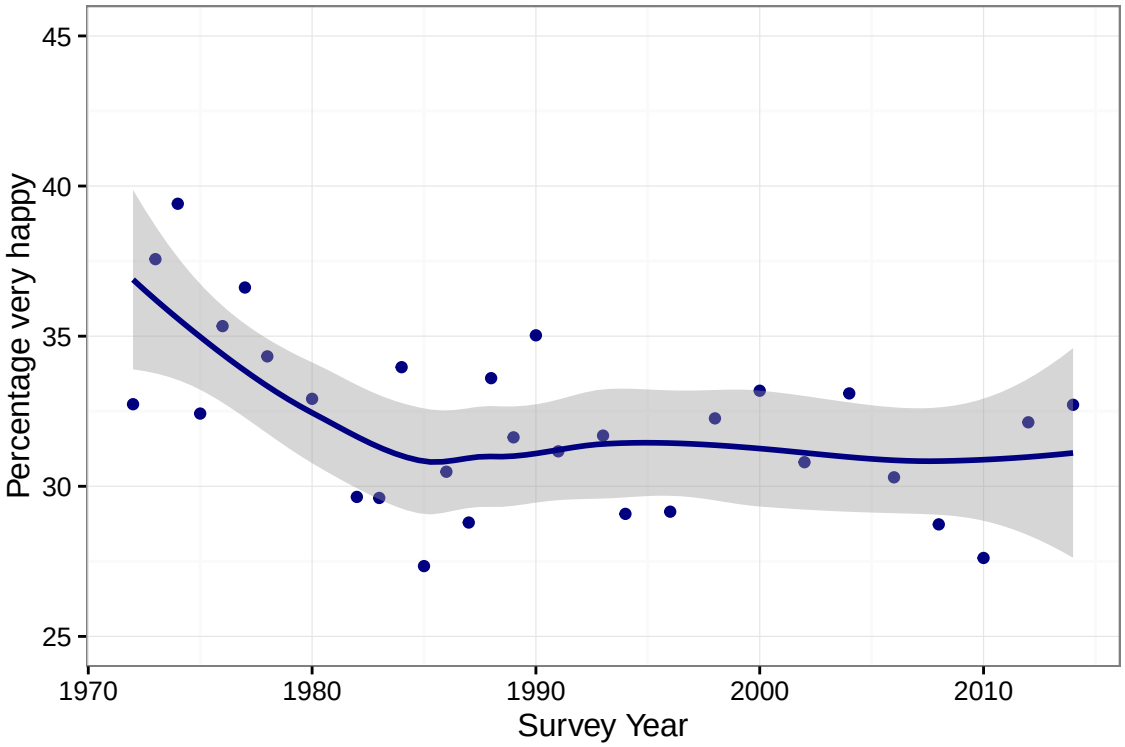


Figure 2: Average reported happiness over survey year, 1972-2014

Figure 2 shows that there is considerable variation between years. Furthermore, there appears to be a negative trend between 1972 and 1985. It is not directly possible to disentangle what can be attributed to random noise and what is caused by structural changes, however, it signifies that it is pragmatic to control for survey year in the regression models.

1.3 Happiness and age

Figure 3 illustrates the relationship between reported happiness and age for college educated men and women. In the GSS there is no apparent structural relationship between the share of respondents who report being very happy and age. Furthermore, college educated women have a slightly higher average reported happiness level relative to men (38% vs. 34%).

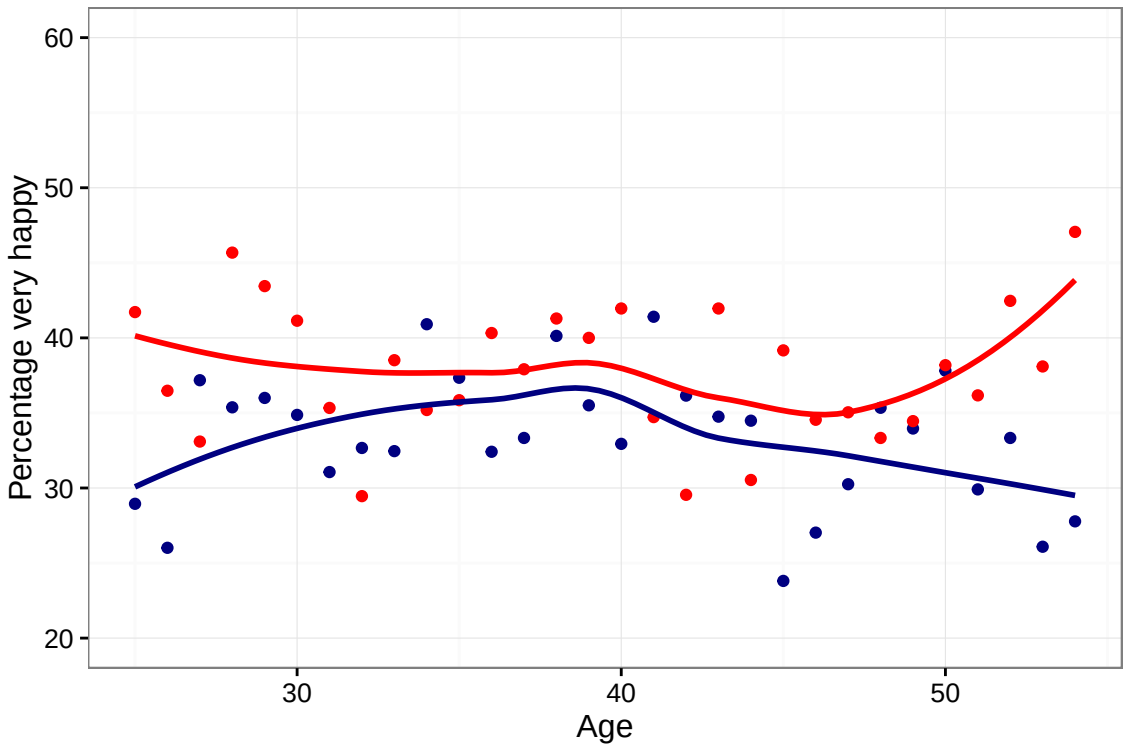


Figure 3: Happiness and age (college educated men and women)

1.4 Respondent's income and reported happiness

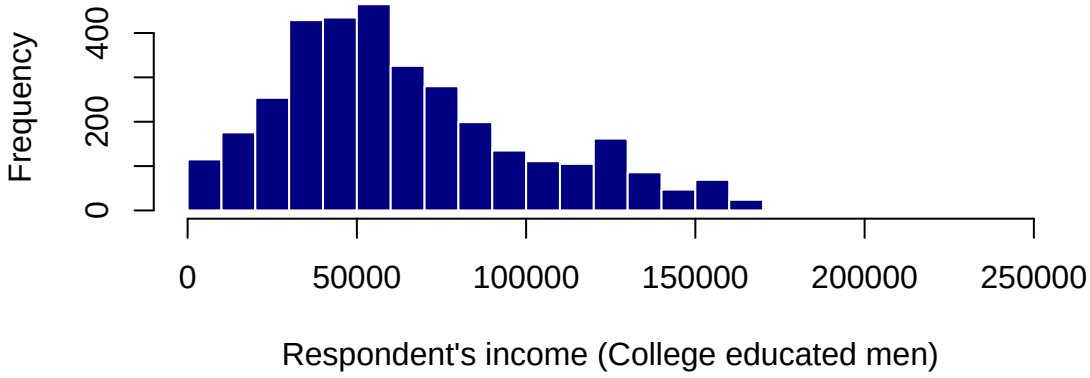
Figure 4 shows the distribution of respondents' annual income in 2009 USD for college educated men and women. We can deduce that more men than women report high income. Furthermore, it shows that more women than men report no income at all, either due to unemployment or because they voluntarily keep house.

Figure 5 shows the correlation between respondents income and the propensity to report high happiness for college educated women and men. For both genders there are a positive trend, which aligns with the majority of reserach on income and happiness [INSERT A REF]. A large share of women with very low or no income, however, also report high happiness. This reflects that married women who keeps house tend to report high happiness, which we will return to in the analysis.

1.5 Work, household constallations and gender

In this section we explore how reported happiness depend on labour market affiliation and family constellation for women and men, and discern gender differences. All figures are restricted to college educated women and men.

Figure 6 shows how reported happiness depends on labour-market affiliation for men (blue) and women (red)



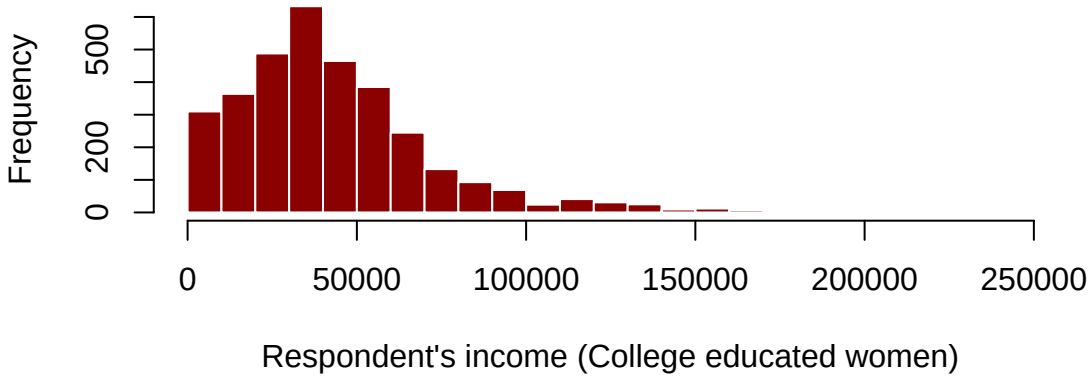


Figure 4: Distribution of income

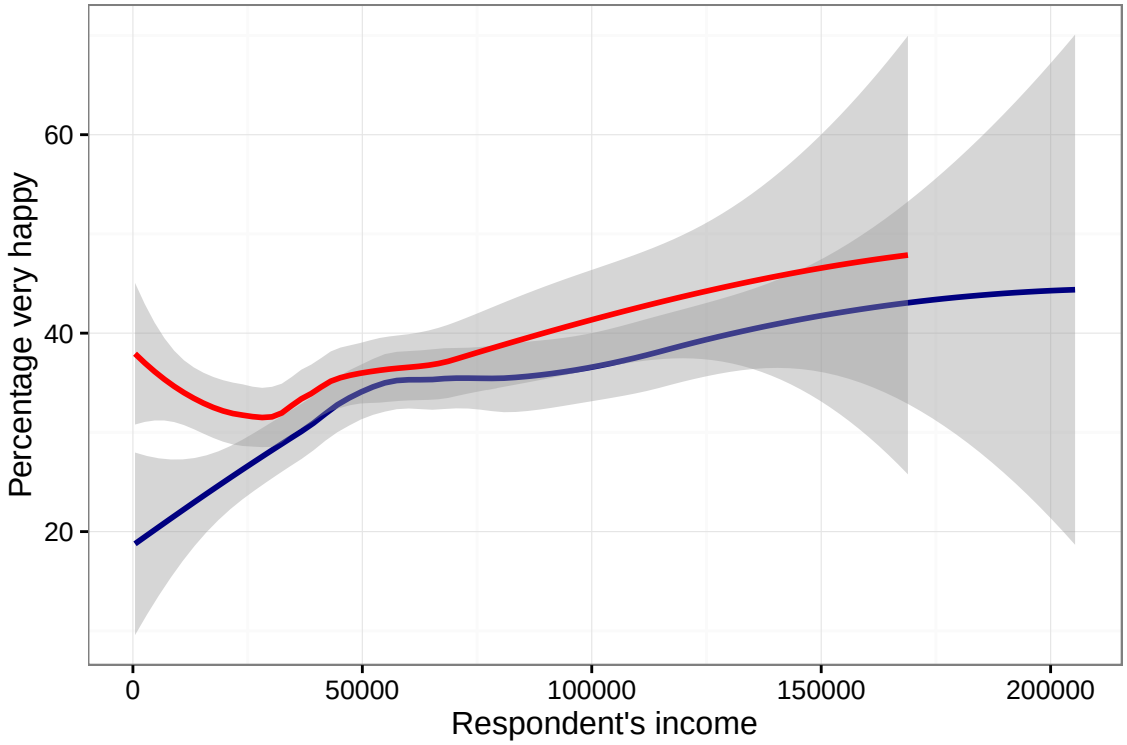


Figure 5: Happiness and respondent's income (college educated men and women)

Table 1: Gender, income (p50) and spouse work status (row percentages)

		Full-time	Part-time	Keeping house	n
Female	High-income	92.45	4.15	3.4	265
	Low-income	95.62	0.99	3.39	1713
Male	High-income	42.28	33.56	24.16	745
	Low-income	54.86	25.06	20.08	1285

with a college degree. It shows that men are substantially more likely to report being very happy when in full-time employment relative to part-time employment, which is not the case for women. Furthermore, both men and women report high happiness levels when keeping house. Note, however, that there are only 35 college educated men in the full sample who keep house, whereas there are 650 women. When looking at all men, the average share who reports being very happy while keeping house is only 24 %.

An important measure in our analysis is whether individuals have a high-income. Figure 7 shows the share of college educated men and women who report being very happy depending on whether they earn more than the 25th (panel A) or 50th (panel B) income percentile of college educated men in their age cohort. The graph suggests that women have the same propensity to be very happe regardless of whether they are high earners or not, whereas the difference is substantial for men. The difference for men is even more pronounced when the threshold is set at the 50th percentile.

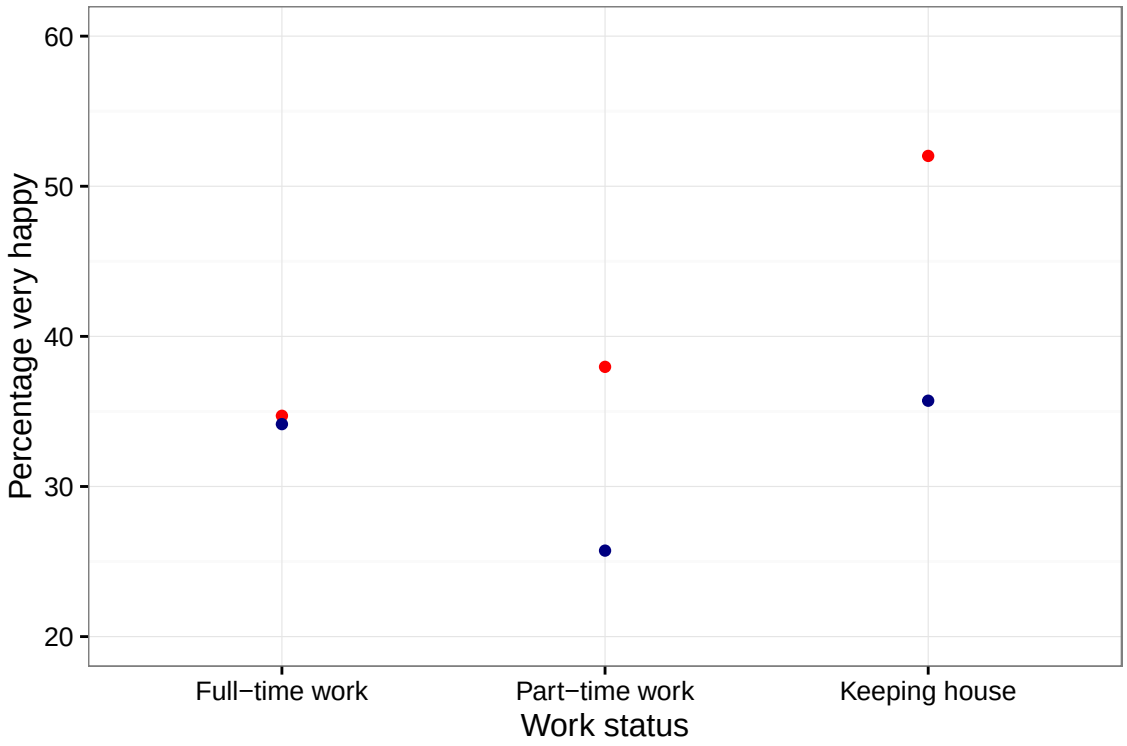


Figure 6: Happiness and labour-market affiliation (college educated men and women)

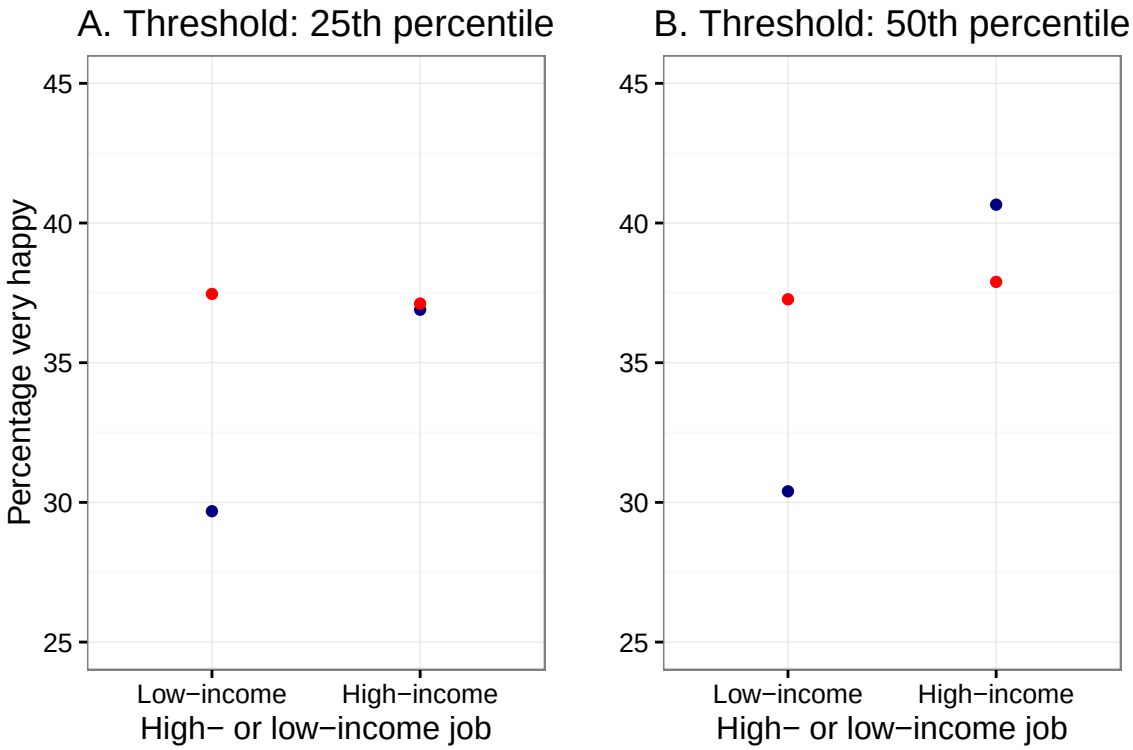


Figure 7: Happiness and income level

Table 2: Gender, income (p25) and spouse work status (row percentages)

		Full-time	Part-time	Keeping house	n
Female	High-income	94.1	3.04	2.86	559
	Low-income	95.63	0.78	3.59	1419
Male	High-income	47.71	28.98	23.31	1201
	Low-income	53.92	27.02	19.06	829

2 Analysis

I think we should start our analysis section here. But we of course needs a real analysis introduction.

2.1 Marriage / family constellation, income and happiness

Figure 7 differentiates between the four possible combinations of having a family (married and children) and having a high- or low-income job (defined as earning more than the 25th income percentile of college educated men in the respondent's cohort). Both college educated men and women report substantially higher happiness levels when having a family. When not having a family, higher income improves life satisfaction for both genders although the increase is larger for men. Gender differences become more pronounced when people have a family. With a family, women are happier when they are not in a high-income job, whereas the opposite is true for men.

These descriptive results suggest that on average married couples with kids are best-off when following a male bread-winner model, which conflicts with more progressive gender norms. Note, however, that the results could be driven by omitted factors such as assymetric total family income or age across the family constellations which also could affect subjective well-being. In our final analysis we seek to identify the factors that are driving these results.

Figure: Happiness and marriage/income constellation.

2.2 Interaction effects of marriage and job income for working men and women

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The correlations shown in Figure X-Y are influenced by omitted factors. To control for some of the confounding factors that are observable, we replicate a linear probability model by Bertrand (2013) and estimate the effect of marriage and the interaction effect of marriage and having a high-paid job (career) on the binary variable

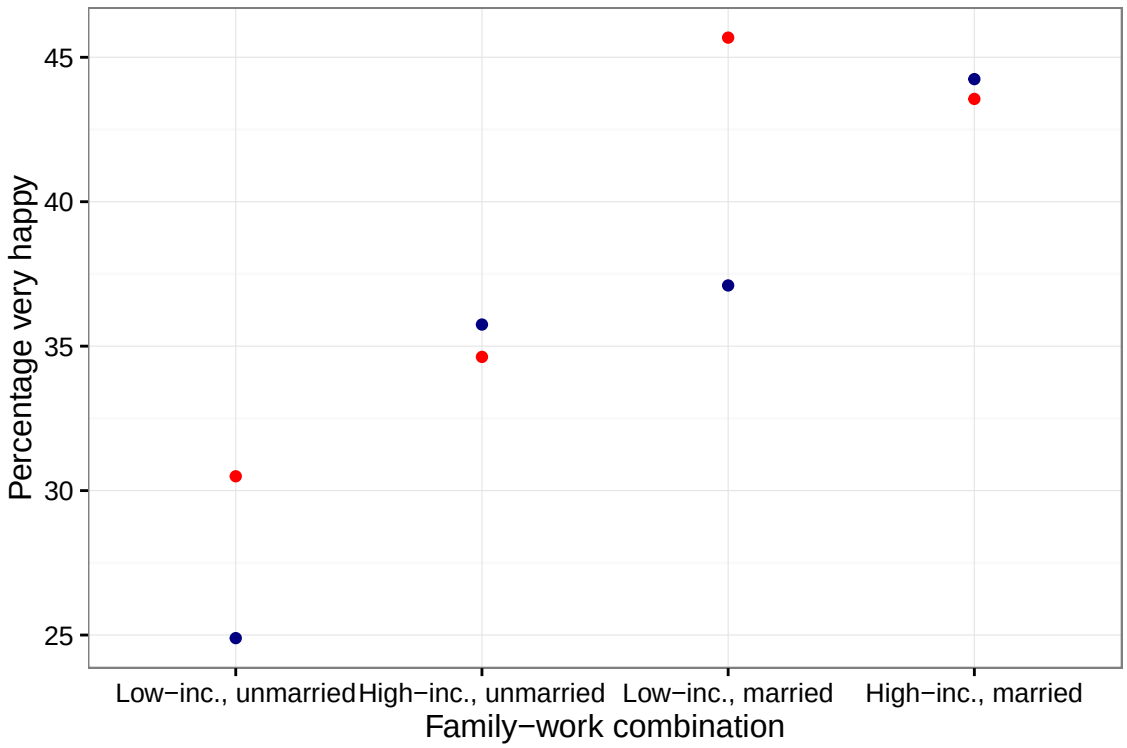

Figure 8: Happiness and marriage constellation (college educated subsample)

of being very happy. While Bertrand (2013) limits her analysis to college-educated women who are working, we also compare these findings to college educated men. The model controls for age, age-squared, the survey year, race and decade of birth.

Figure 9 shows the effect of marriage on the probability of being very happy for college educated men and women depending on job income. First, the effect of marriage is positive and significantly different from zero regardless of respondents' income level. The left panel shows that the effect of marriage on reported happiness is stronger for women who do not have a high-income job compared to women who do, as the interaction term between marriage and high job income is -0.07. Although this difference only is significant at the 10% level, job income seem to be much more important for the happiness of women compared to men, where having a high-paying job or not hardly influences the effect of marriage on happiness.

Table 1: Happiness, marriage and high-income

NOTE: Table1: There is a problem with the omit.labels function.

Figure: Interaction between marriage and high-income

Table 3: Happiness, marriage and income for college educated men and women

	Dependent variable:			
			Very happy	
	Women	Men	Women	Men
	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)
High-income	7.79**	8.00**	6.92*	8.10***
	(3.17)	(3.61)	(3.53)	(3.11)
Married	18.98***	21.00***	21.61***	17.46***
	(2.09)	(1.84)	(1.79)	(2.03)
High-income*Married	0.02	−9.94**	−9.96**	0.18
	(3.84)	(4.84)	(4.83)	(3.81)
Constant	21.55	105.73***	24.84***	20.22***
	(26.01)	(25.99)	(1.36)	(1.55)
Age	Yes	Yes	No	No
Age-squared	Yes	Yes	No	No
Year	Yes	Yes	No	No
Race	Yes	Yes	No	No
Cohort	Yes	Yes	No	No
Observations	3,119	3,309	3,309	3,119
Adjusted R^2	0.05	0.05	0.04	0.04

Note: *p<0.1; **p<0.05; ***p<0.01
Models are restricted to college educated men and women

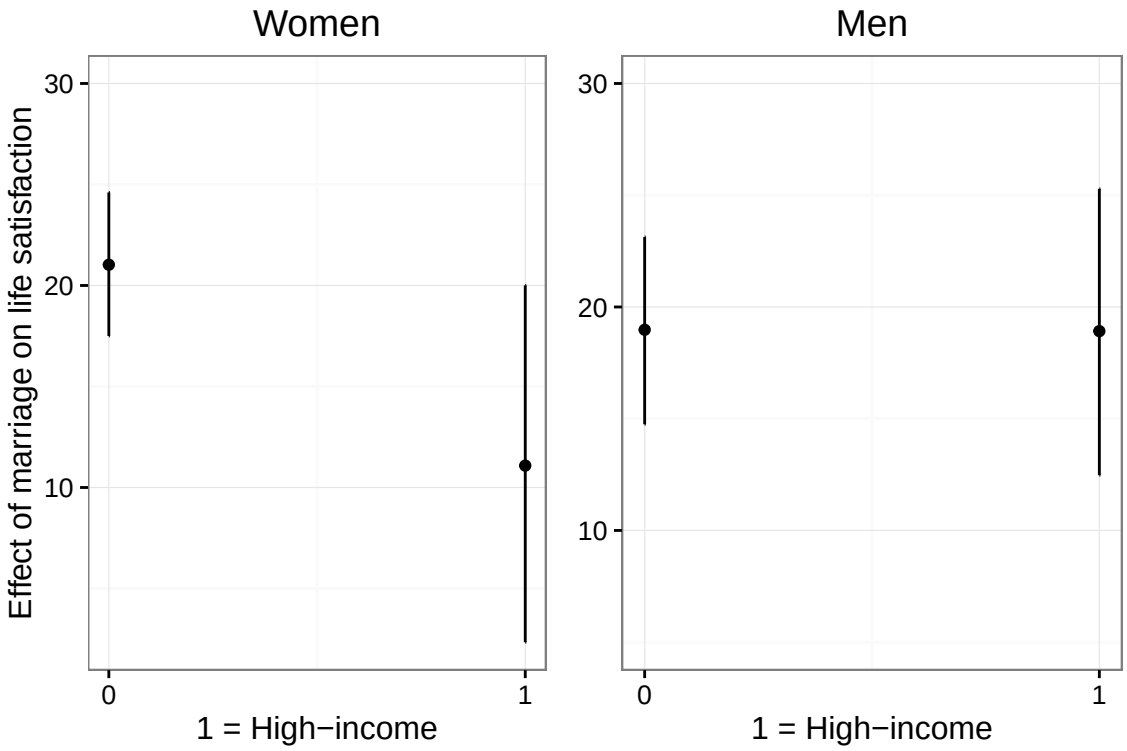

Figure 9: Interaction effects of marriage and job income on life satisfaction

2.3 Double-click on married respondent's: How does high-income differ between genders?

Table 2: Double-click on married individuals

{Models include married, college educated men and women}

Table 2: The omit.label function is still bugging!!!!!!!!

2.4 Effect on happiness of young children

Table 3: Happiness and young children

Needs to be populated

There story remains relatively weak. We don't have a significant negative interaction term, partly because we have less than 50 individuals that have both career1 and a young child.

Nonetheless, we can argue that at least it seems to be the career individuals with a young child that reports low life hapiness.

Do we have a problem of maternity leave? I guess they are excluded as they wont earn much.

2.5 Satisfaction with marriage and family constellation.

Table 4: Marriage happiness and spouse working conditions

We need to shine up the table and indicate (3) and (4) is for career1 == 1

Text: The story needs to be pushed here again. Problem is that people presumably choose the career constellations they believe they will be happy in.

We should probably add the contingency tables here.

Table 4: Happiness and work-status for married, college educated women and men

	Dependent variable:			
			Very happy	
	Women	Men	Women	Men
	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)
High-income	−0.55	8.34***	2.19	8.37***
	(3.51)	(2.34)	(3.86)	(2.79)
Keeping house	14.46***	−4.52	7.27*	−1.91
	(2.91)	(14.20)	(3.75)	(14.65)
Child	−5.40*	−4.65*	−2.16	−2.41
	(2.76)	(2.76)	(3.01)	(3.04)
Constant	47.32***	41.34***	171.03***	47.75
	(2.47)	(2.56)	(37.68)	(37.45)
Partner's income	No	No	No	No
Age	No	No	No	No
Age-squared	No	No	No	No
Year	No	No	No	No
Race	No	No	No	No
Cohort	No	No	No	No
Observations	1,881	1,928	1,881	1,928
Adjusted R^2	0.01	0.01	0.03	0.02

Note: *p<0.1; **p<0.05; ***p<0.01
Models include married, college educated men and women

Table 5: Happiness and young children, college educated women and men with a family

	Dependent variable:					
	Very happy					
	Women	Men	Women	Men	Women	Men
	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)
High-income	1.39	7.11***	6.33	6.04*	9.40*	5.69
	(4.18)	(2.60)	(4.64)	(3.15)	(5.35)	(3.58)
Keeping house	14.40***	−3.80	6.61	−3.07	5.29	
	(3.06)	(16.36)	(4.12)	(16.62)	(4.86)	
Young child					4.82	1.90
					(4.44)	(3.82)
Keeping House*Young child					1.89	
					(6.49)	
High-income*Young child					−11.13	1.51
					(9.63)	(5.95)
Constant	41.72***	37.14***	119.85**	34.88	99.94**	27.75
	(1.62)	(1.57)	(46.79)	(46.47)	(49.15)	(47.55)
Partner's income	No	No	No	No	No	No
Age	No	No	No	No	No	No
Age-squared	No	No	No	No	No	No
Year	No	No	No	No	No	No
Race	No	No	No	No	No	No
Cohort	No	No	No	No	No	No
Observations	1,448	1,529	1,448	1,529	1,448	1,529
Adjusted R^2	0.01	0.004	0.02	0.02	0.02	0.02

Note: *p<0.1; **p<0.05; ***p<0.01

Models are restricted to married + child, college educated men and women

Table 6: Marriage happiness and spouse's work-status

	Dependent variable:					
	Very happy (marriage)					
	Women	Men	Women	Men	Women	Men
	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)
Spouse FT	6.44	−0.97	14.03	−8.42*	15.87	−10.12*
	(5.26)	(2.89)	(11.93)	(4.85)	(12.69)	(5.35)
Spouse Home		2.17		4.03		4.99
		(3.16)		(4.95)		(5.23)
Children	−8.09***	−1.67	3.31	−3.21		
	(2.93)	(3.09)	(7.97)	(5.46)		
Constant	150.03***	154.04***	145.45	231.51**	163.19	244.38**
	(38.23)	(37.79)	(133.90)	(93.70)	(166.64)	(110.32)
Family income	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Age	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Age-squared	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Year	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Race	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Cohort	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Observations	1,746	1,830	222	646	156	535
Adjusted R^2	0.03	0.02	0.04	0.04	0.06	0.05

Note: *p<0.1; **p<0.05; ***p<0.01
Models are restricted to married, college educated men and women

Question to be answered: Do we also report life happiness and family constellation? Problem is that career women actually prefer their husband to not work full-time :/ It could work as a story, but does hardly align with the lower marriage happiness.

Another meth. problem: A full-time job is not necessarily intensive. 40 hours a week is not unmanageble. Problem is that we don't have a better variable.

2.6 Cohorts and norms

Populate with text.

Figure: Cohortian differences

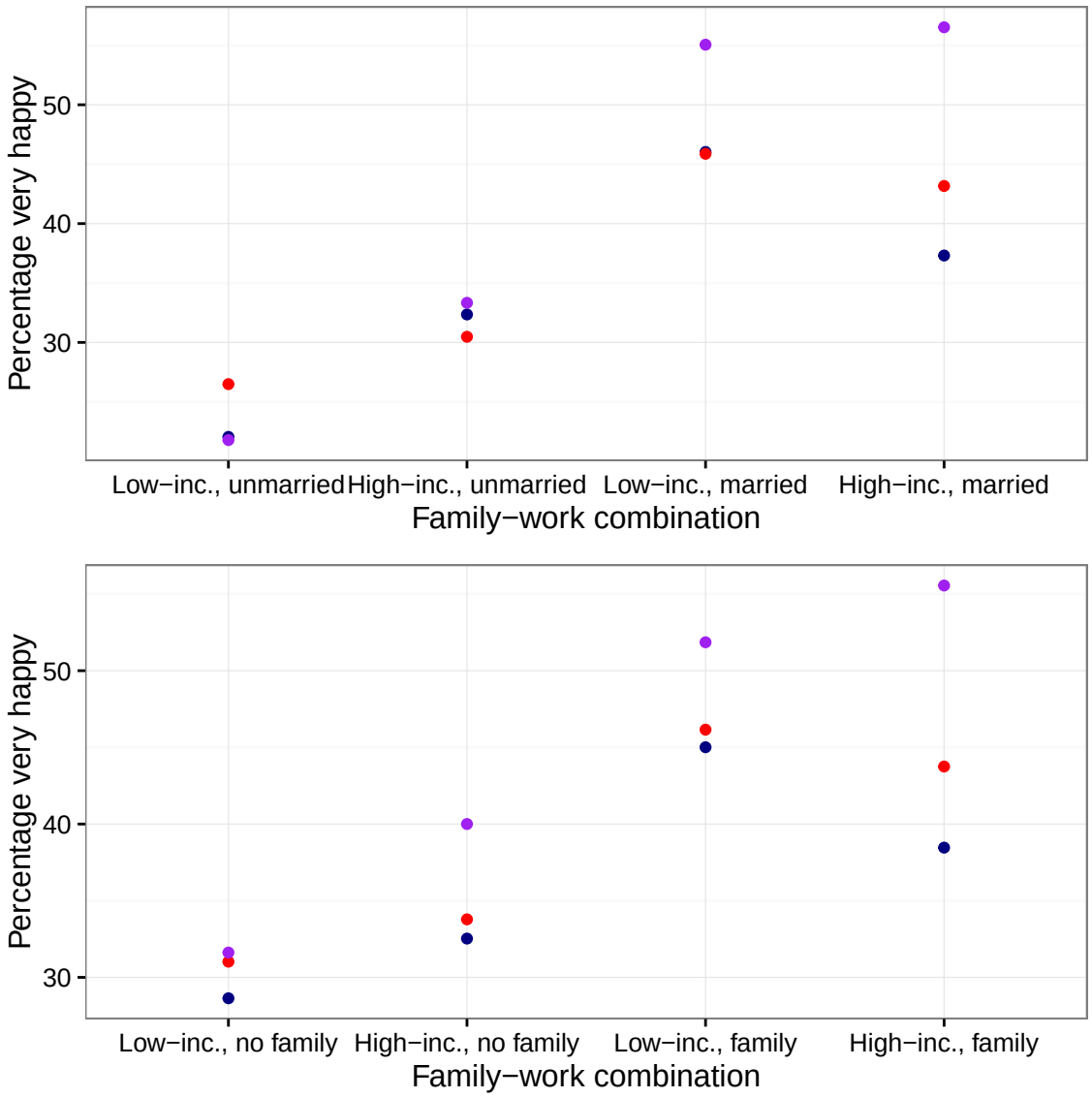

Figure 10: Happiness and family constellation (college educated women)

3 Discussion

4 Conclusion

The preliminary analyses indicate that some variation in reported happiness is associated with job-affiliation and gender. Further, our descriptive results suggest that determinants for happiness, such as having a family or high job-income, differ in magnitude and direction between genders. This supports our initial assumption of differences in reconcilability of a career pursuit and a happy life. However, it remains a challenge to construct models which can attenuate problems of confounding factors. For the final project we intend to investigate in more detail how the intensity of work influences happiness and whether there is a trade-off between job satisfaction and overall hapiness.

5 Software and packages used for the analysis

The analysis is done in R (R Core Team 2015b) with the use of the following packages: "ggplot2" (Wickham and Chang 2015), "repmis" (Gandrud 2016), "plyr" (Wickham 2015), "dplyr" (Wickham and Francois 2015), "MASS" (Ripley 2015), "Hmisc" (Harrell 2016), "interplot" (Solt and Hu 2016), "gridExtra" (Auguie 2016), "car" (Fox and Weisberg 2016), "foreign" (R Core Team 2015a), "gmodels" (Warnes et al. 2015), "quantmod" (Ryan 2015) and "reshape" (Wickham 2014).

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