

Can we have it all?

Philip Unger & Philipp Staender

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Intro

Research Question

"Are career pursuits reconcilable with a happy life?"

The debate

'I still strongly believe that women can "have it all" (and that men can too). ... But not today, not with the way America's economy and society are currently structured.'

Anne-Marie Slaughter - Former director of policy planning for the U.S. State Department

Research Design

Data

General Social Survey

- Cross-sectional survey of the adult population in the United States
- Conducted between 1972 to 2014
- Sample size around 60,000

Current Population Survey

- used to generate income percentiles in age and educational groups (reference group income)

Personal Consumption Expenditure (price-deflator)

Research Design

Methodology

- Graphical analysis
- Linear Probability Model

Operationalization

- Defining career
- Sample heterogeneity

Descriptive statistics

Measures of happiness

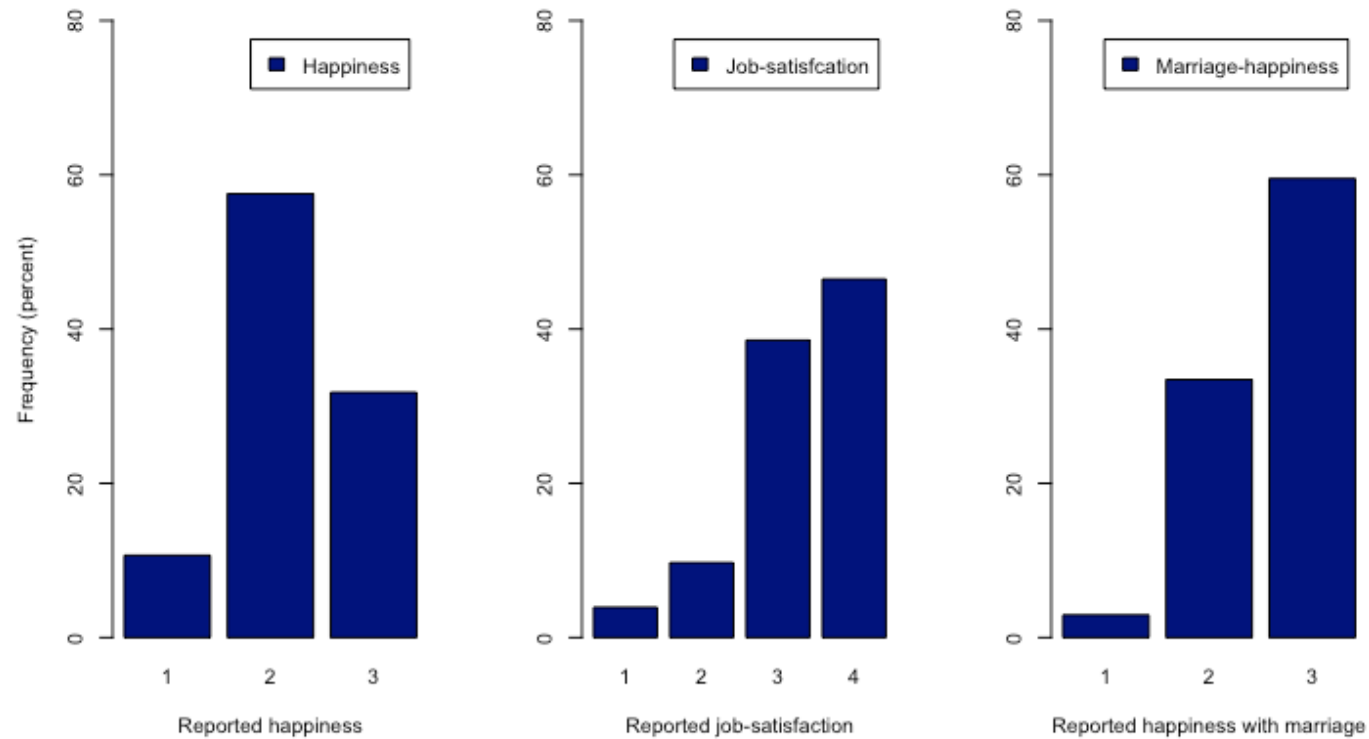


Figure 1: Distribution of reported happiness, job-satisfaction and happiness with marriage

Gender and age

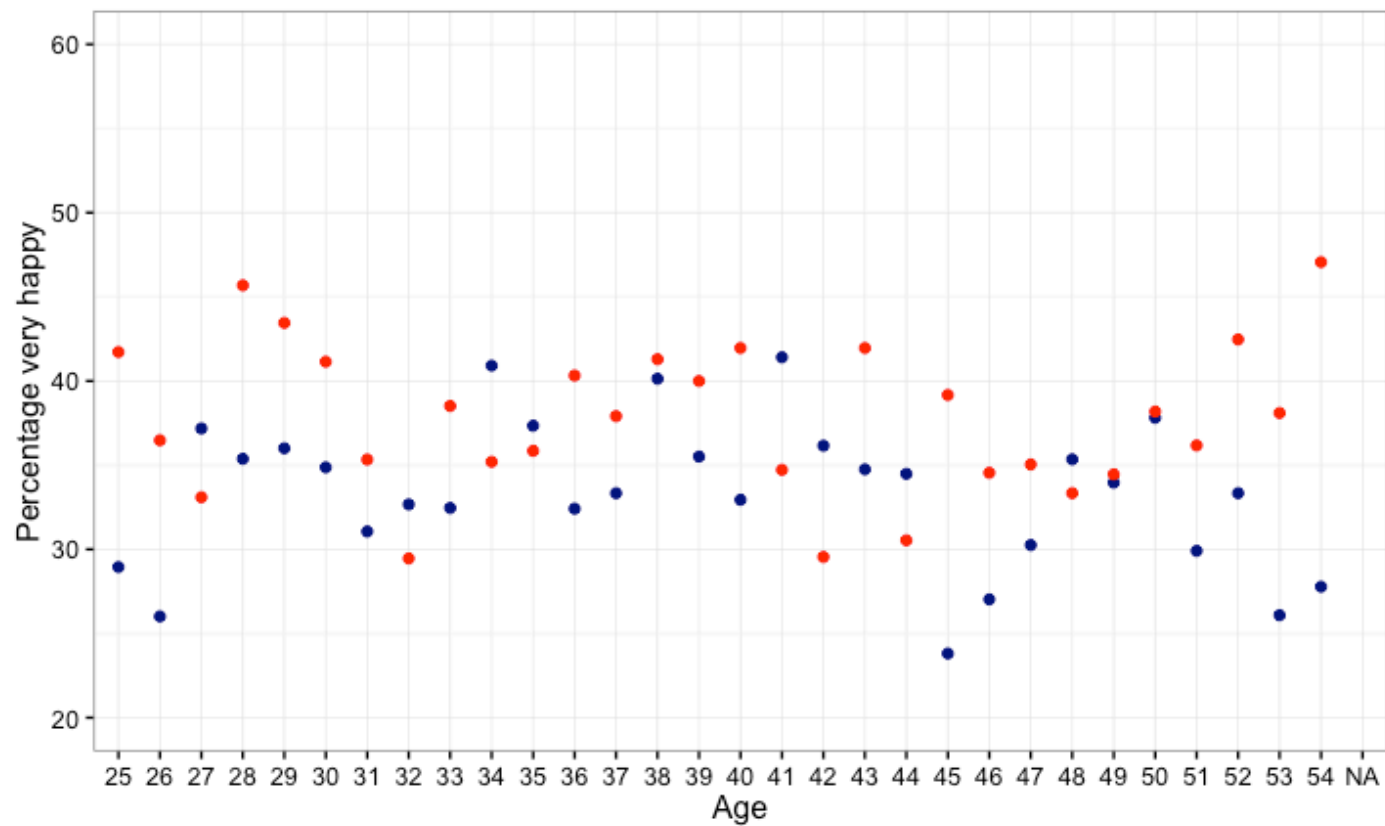


Figure 2: Happiness and age, men (blue) and women (red)

Sample restrictions: college educated men and women

Labour-market affiliation

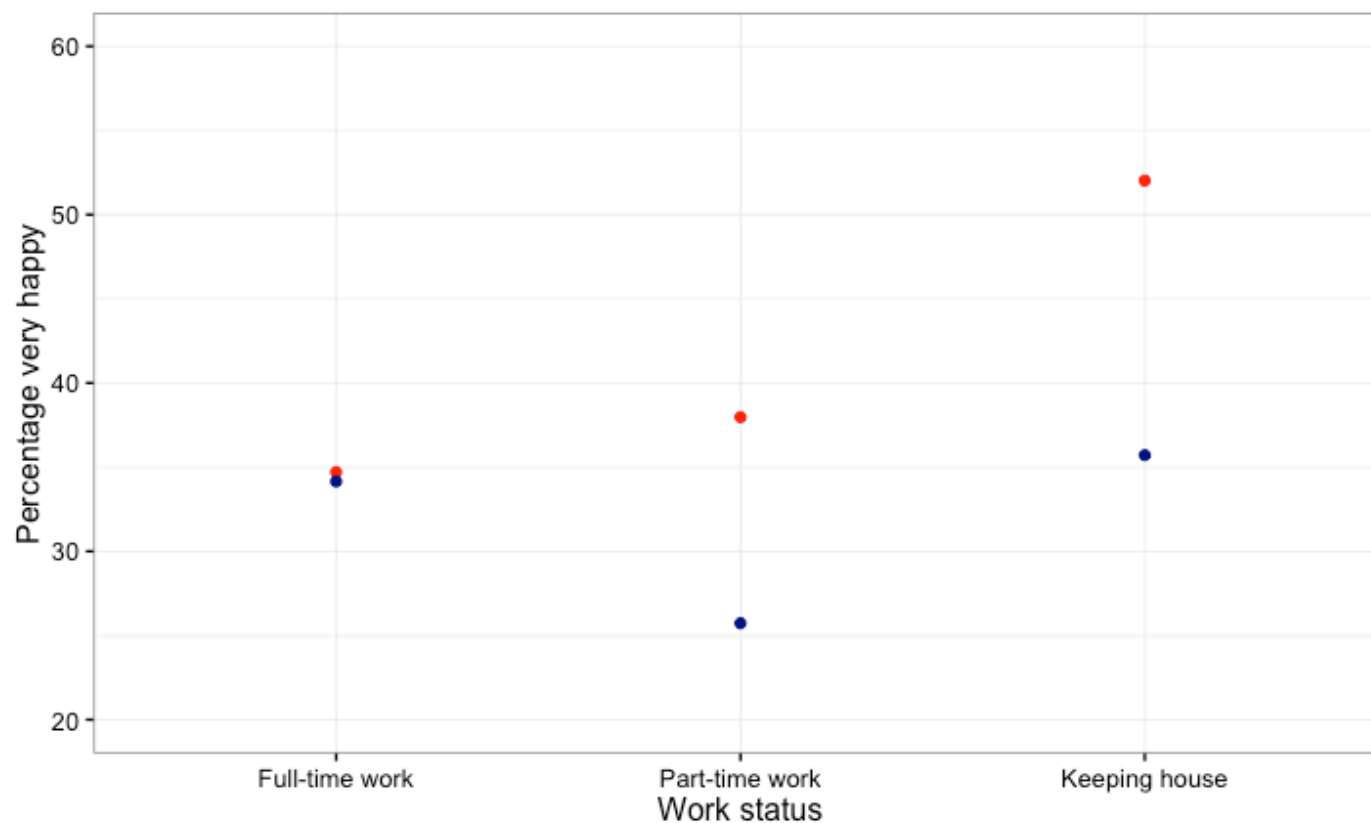


Figure 3: Happiness and labour-market affiliation, men (blue) and women (red)

Sample restrictions: college educated men and women

Family status and income

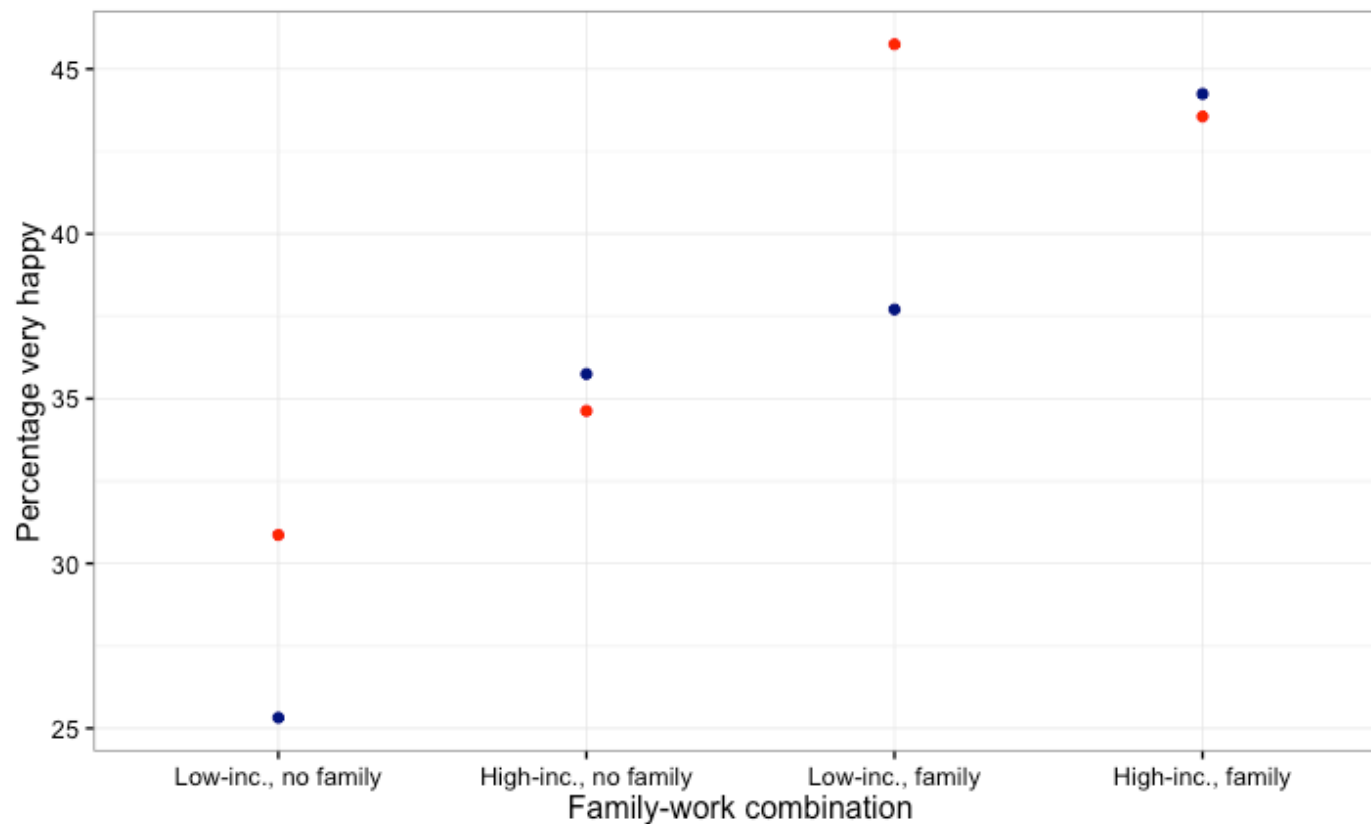


Figure 4: Happiness and family constellation, men (blue) and women (red)

Sample restrictions: college educated men and women

Regression analysis

Model 1: Interaction effects of marriage and job income

	<i>Dependent variable:</i>	
	Very happy	
	Women (1)	Men (2)
High-income	8.030** (3.587)	7.849** (3.125)
Married	20.892*** (1.670)	18.986*** (1.856)
High-income*Married	-9.705** (4.786)	-0.200 (3.719)
Constant	83.524** (34.495)	-13.145 (29.980)
Age	Yes	Yes
Age-squared	Yes	Yes
Year	Yes	Yes
Race	Yes	Yes
Cohort	Yes	Yes
Observations	4,014	3,850
R ²	0.061	0.055
Adjusted R ²	0.051	0.044
Residual Std. Error	47.229 (df = 3970)	46.217 (df = 3806)
F Statistic	6.035*** (df = 43; 3970)	5.164*** (df = 43; 3806)

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

Sample restrictions: college educated men and women

Illustration of interaction effect

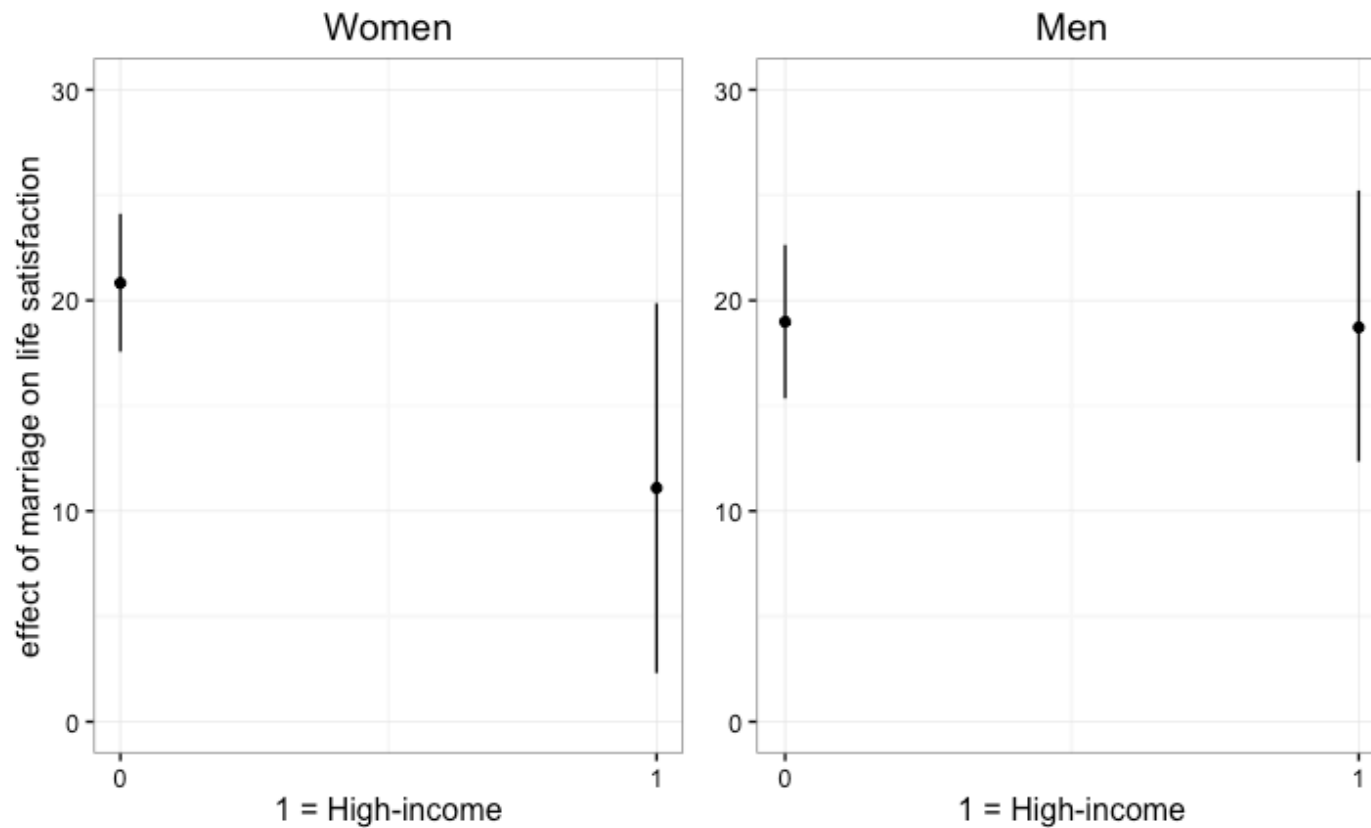


Figure 5: Interaction effects of marriage and job income on life satisfaction

Model 2: Double-click on married individuals

	<i>Dependent variable:</i>	
	Very happy	
	Women (1)	Men (2)
High-income	1.864 (3.823)	8.483*** (2.748)
Keeping house	6.110** (3.064)	-3.897 (11.620)
Constant	151.317*** (46.158)	7.694 (39.116)
Partner's income	Yes	Yes
Age	Yes	Yes
Age-squared	Yes	Yes
Year	Yes	Yes
Race	Yes	Yes
Cohort	Yes	Yes
Observations	2,362	2,446
R ²	0.049	0.040
Adjusted R ²	0.024	0.017
Residual Std. Error	49.268 (df = 2300)	48.653 (df = 2388)
F Statistic	1.939*** (df = 61; 2300)	1.725*** (df = 57; 2388)

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

Sample restrictions: married, college educated men and women

Outlook

- Investigate drivers of when overall happiness and work satisfaction differ
- Regression design where sample is limited to individuals reporting high job-satisfaction
- Investigate effects of work intensity