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Changes in childcare availability and parental time use between 1996 and 2006 in Japan

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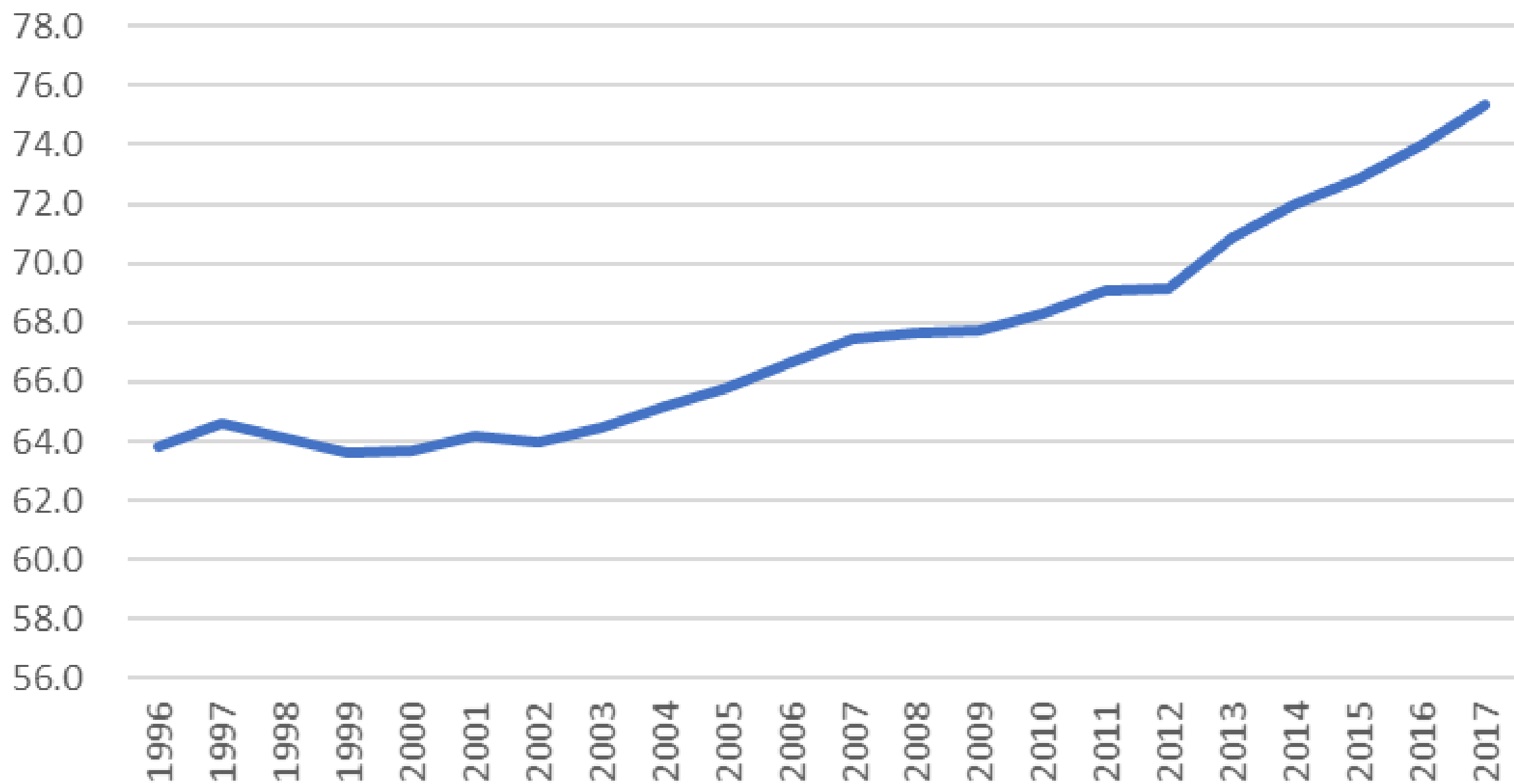
Introduction

- Across the world, women undertake the major share of domestic work.
- “Gender revolution” in public and private spaces (Goldscheider, Bernhardt and Lappegard 2015)
 - First Phase: Public Sphere (i.e., education, labor market)
 - Second Phase: Private Sphere (i.e., gender attitude, domestic sphere)
- The “double shift” that results is often associated with women’s reluctance to have children

Gender division of labour in Japan

- In Japan, the change in the public and private spheres has been slow and patchy
- Public
 - In post war years women's access to education expanded dramatically (48% of university graduates today are women)
 - The growing educational opportunities are reflected in unmarried women's growing aspirations to combine work and family (NIPSSR 2010)
 - Women's participation in the labour force has increased (OECD database)
 - Persistent structural obstacles to women's careers (Nemoto 2016)
- Private
 - Men's contribution of time to domestic work has been growing slowly since 1990ies, but the gap between men and women remains substantial and a large proportion of men still report spending no time at all on domestic work (e.g. Watanabe 2017)
 - Regular employees are expected to work very long hours. 22% of employees say they work 50 or more hours a week

Employment rate, Japanese women 25-54



Domestic Division of Labour in Japan

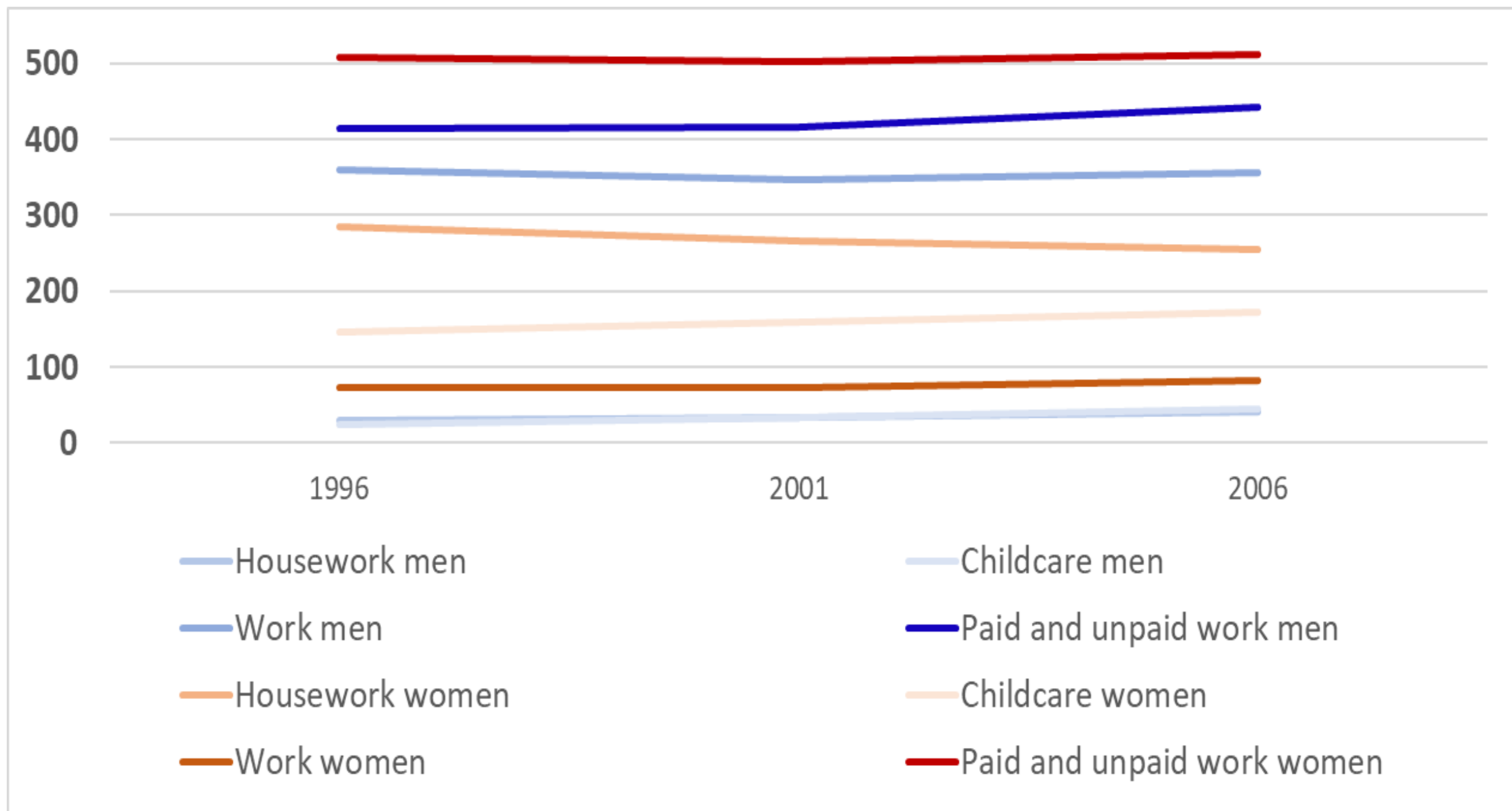
- Gender gap in domestic work participation is very large in Japan (Tsuya et al 2010) even in comparison with other East Asian countries, excluding South Korea (Kan and Hertog 2017).
- Wives report doing between 80% and 90% of domestic work.
- Marriage dramatically increases women's housework time but produces little change in men's time (Tsuya et al 2010)
- Wives' housework time decreases as their employment time increases and husbands contribute somewhat more time on average if their wife is in full-time employment (Kobayashi et al 2016).
- Having children increases husband's share of domestic work (Kobayashi et al 2016)

Motivation of this paper

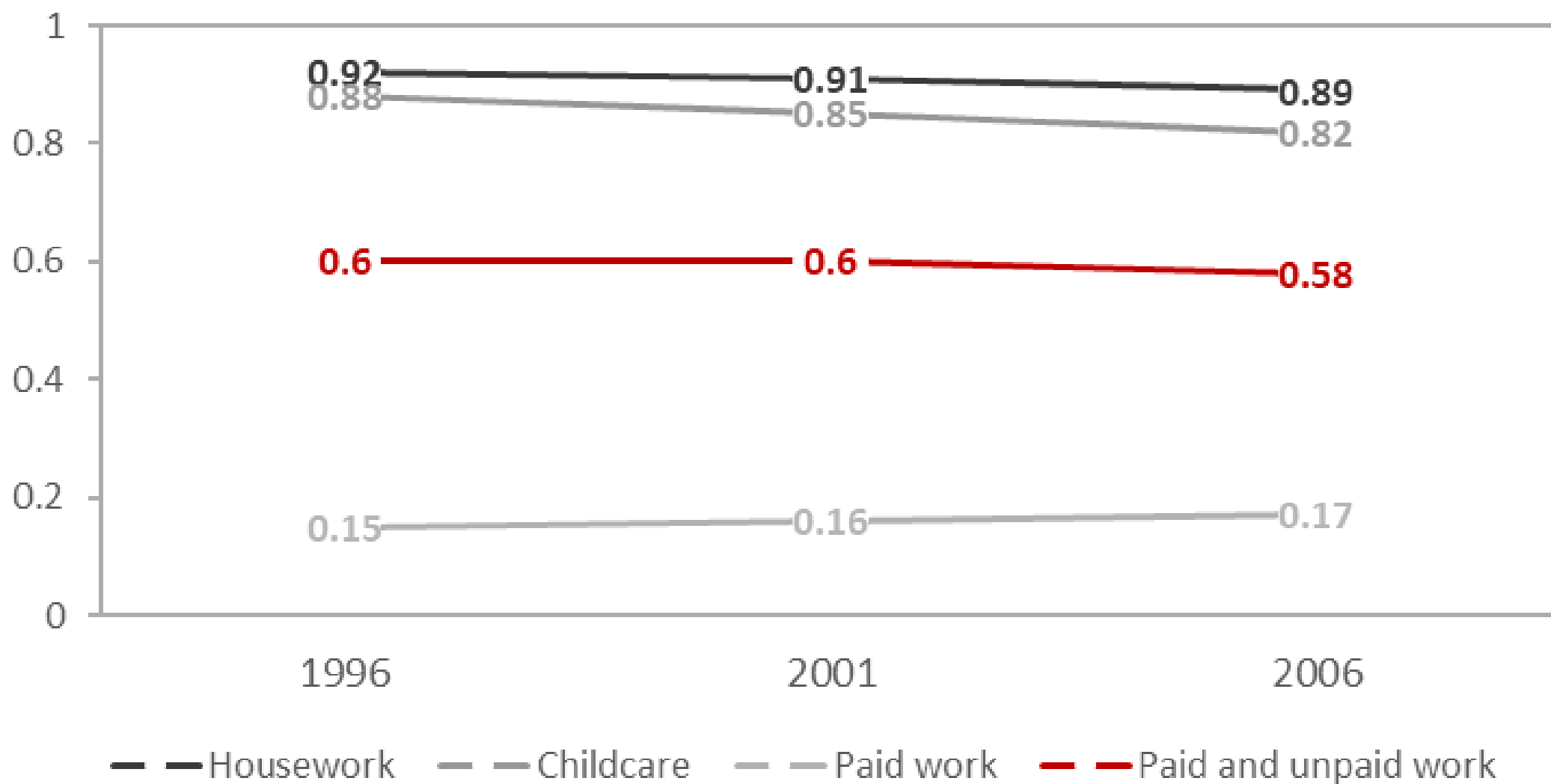
- The Japanese state has rolled out numerous policies to assist *women* in balancing work and family
 - Large increase in childcare provision
 - Greater gender equality?
 - Better work-family balance?
-
- For the first time present a picture of shifts in men's and women's committed time as they make use of childcare in Japan
 - Track the changes in the trends between 1996 and 2006

Data, methods, and variables

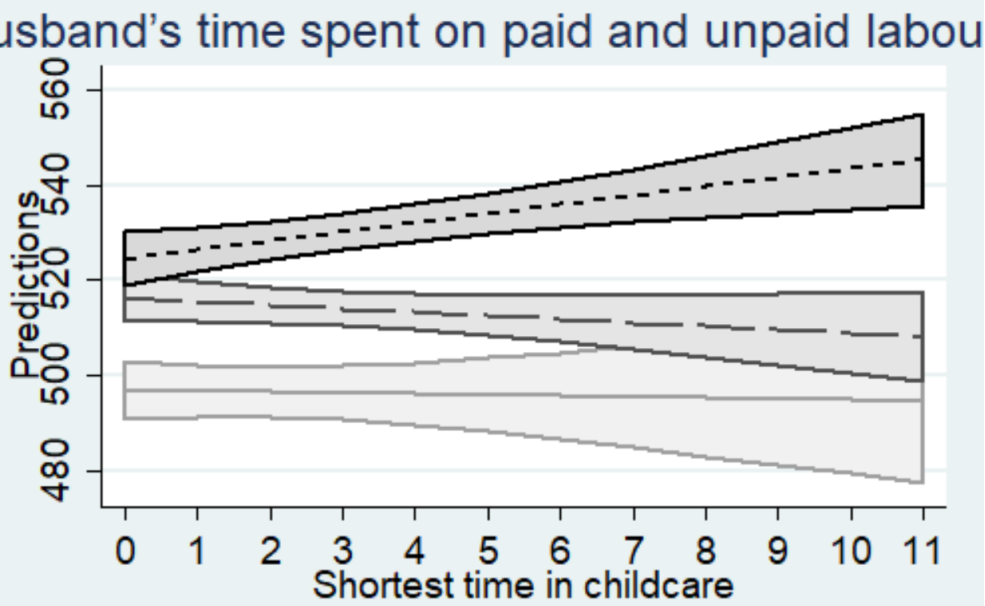
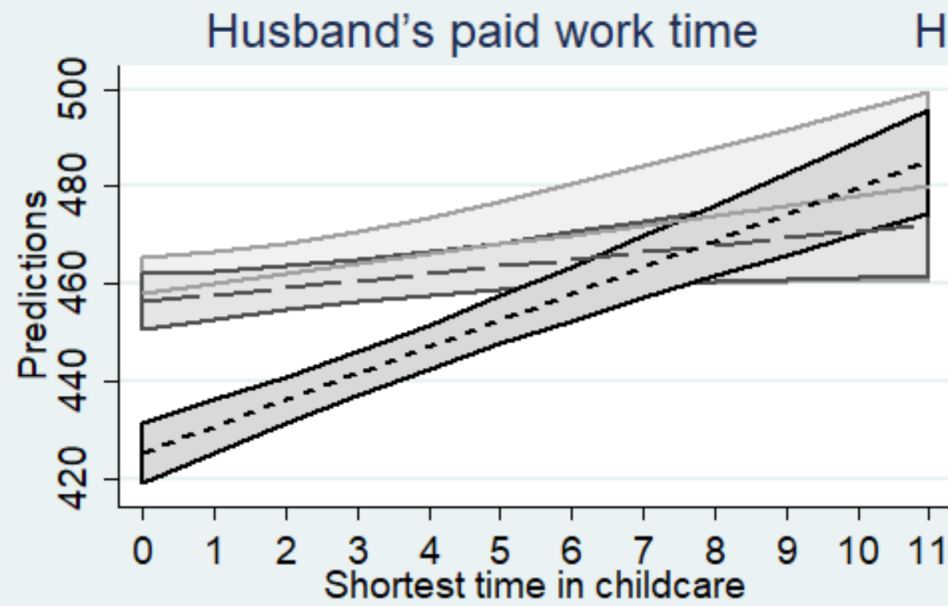
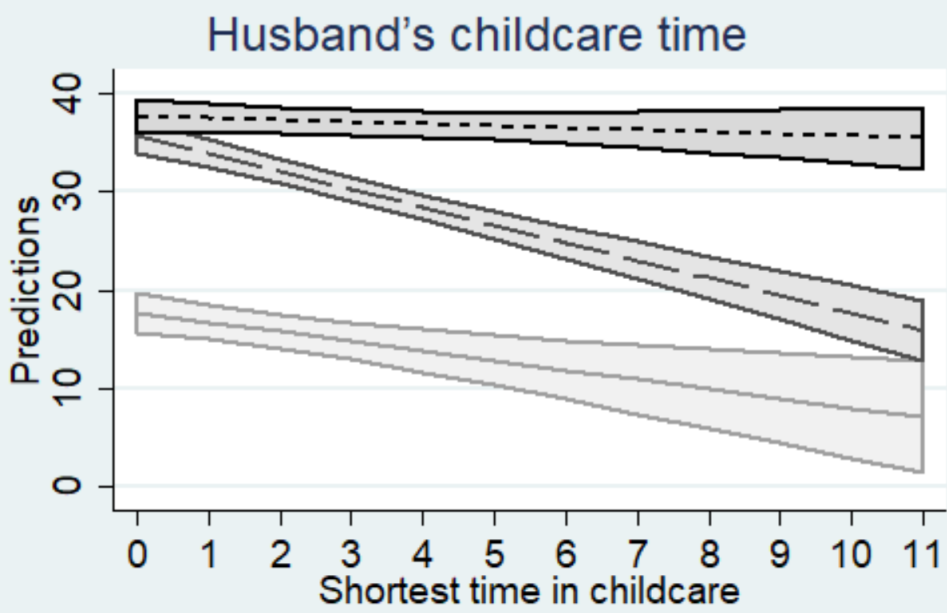
- Data
 - Japanese Time Use Surveys (JTUS, Shakai Seikatsu Kihon Chōsa) 1996, 2001, 2006.
- Sample
 - Married couples with co-resident spouses aged between 20 and 60
 - Only families where the youngest child is under 6 years old
 - For most people 2 diary entries on 2 adjacent days are collected (a few cases with only 1 entry)
 - N = 83,614 (only primary activities are analyzed)
- Dependent Variables
 - Time in housework
 - Time in care work
 - Work time
 - Committed (paid + unpaid work) time
- Independent Variables: hours in childcare, year of the survey
- Control variables: years in education, spouse's years in education, weekend/weekday, age of the youngest child, number of children under 20, number of adults in the household, household income, age group



WIFE'S SHARE

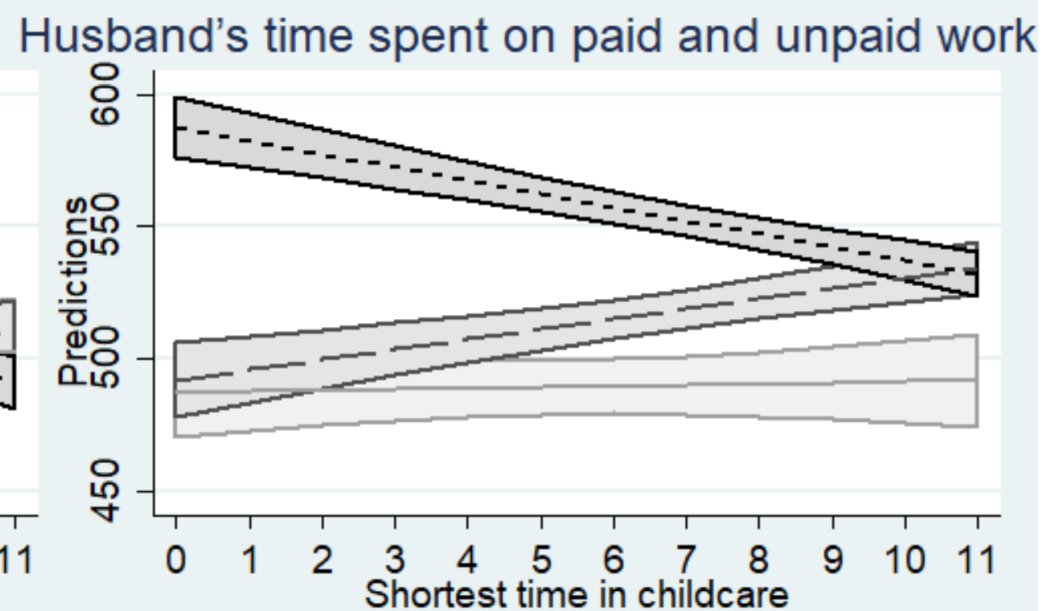
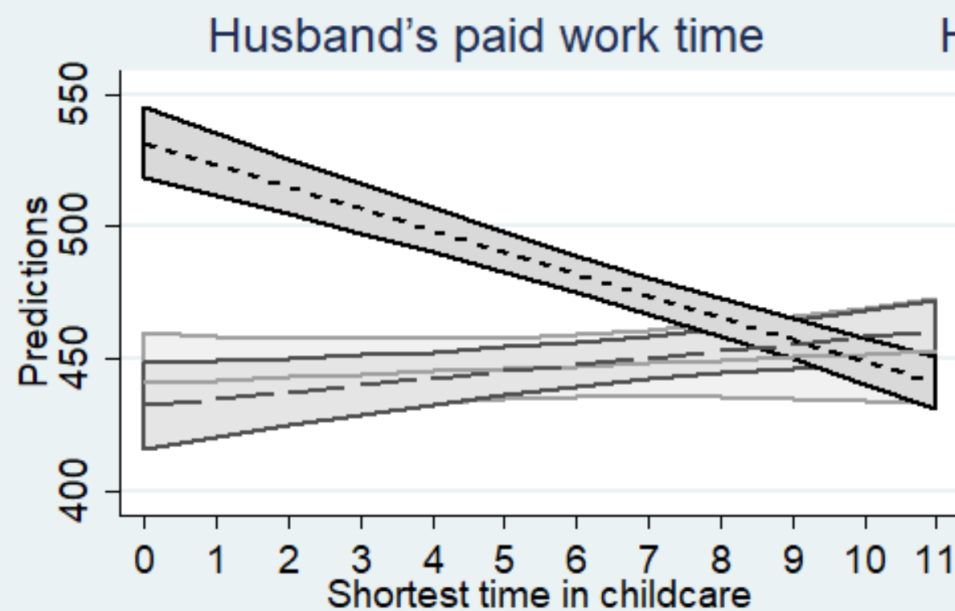
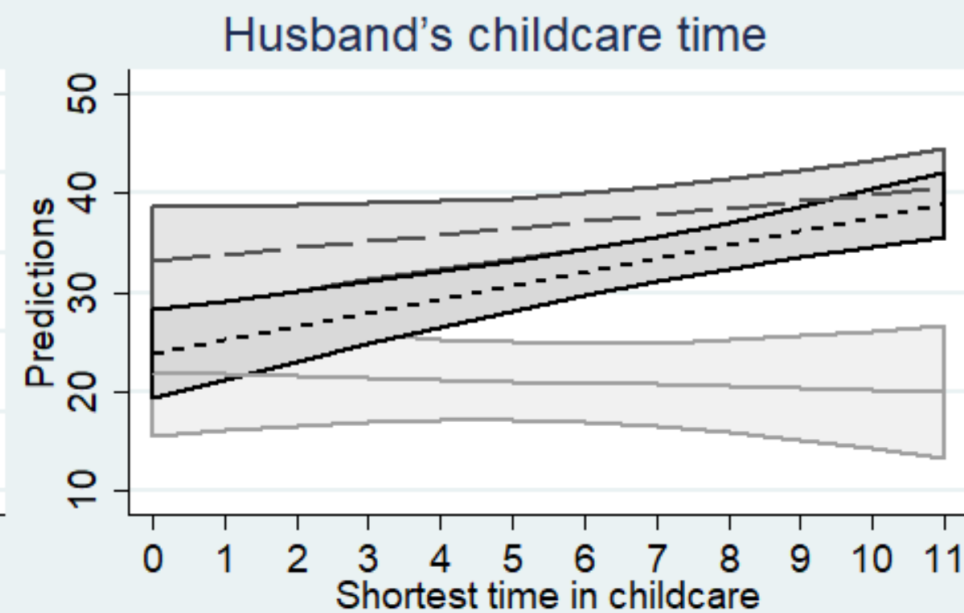


Wife works 40% or less of the total couple's time in paid work



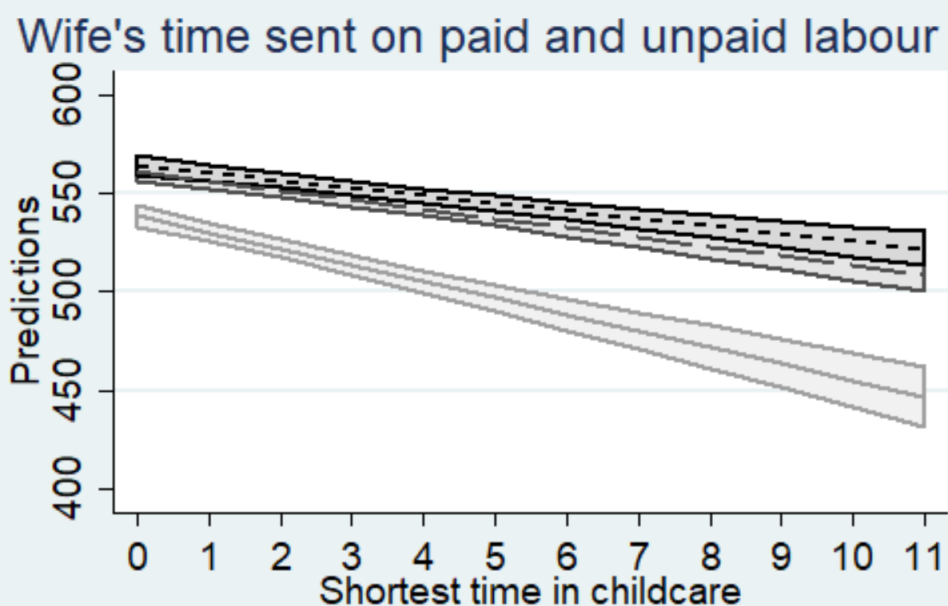
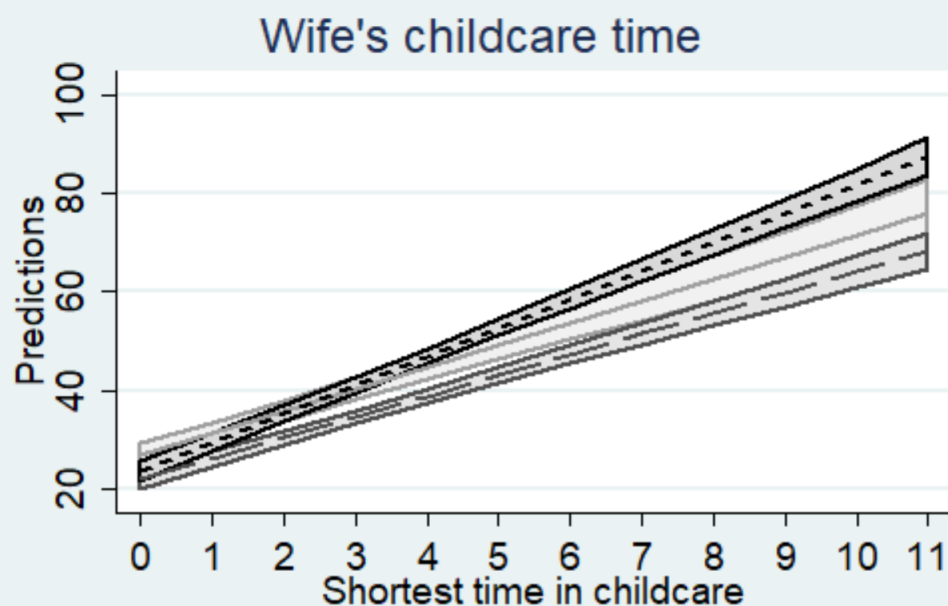
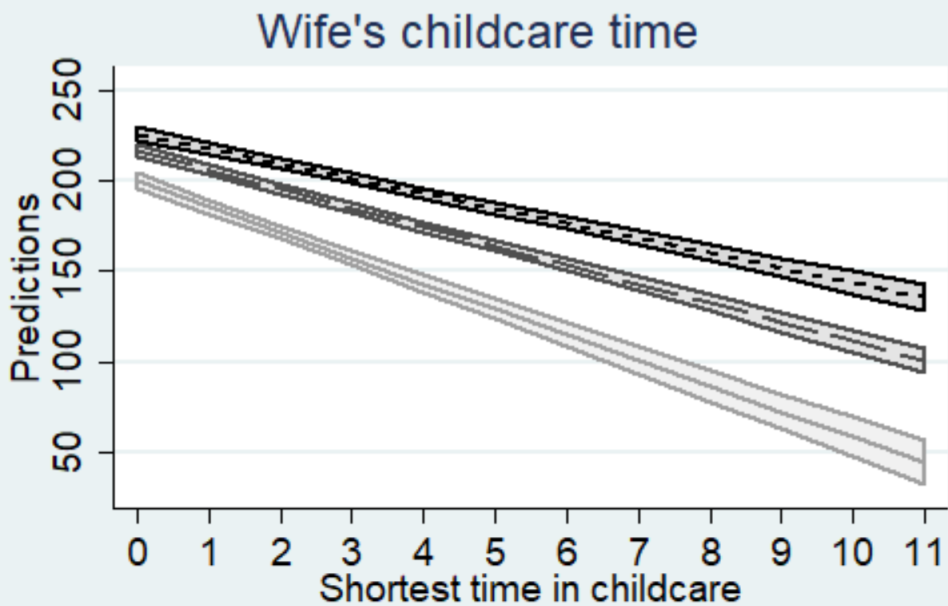
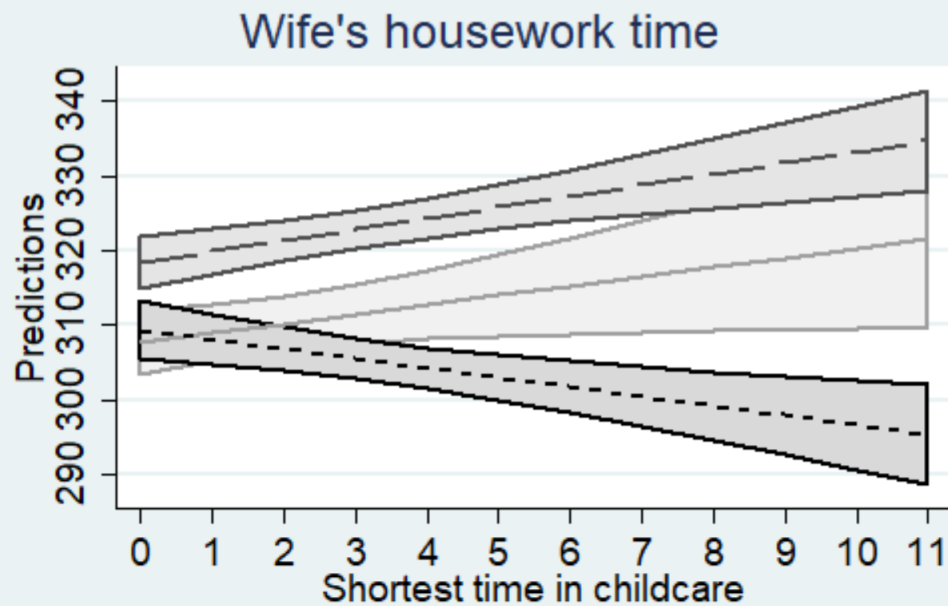
— 1996 - - - 2001 . . . 2006

Wife works more than 40% of the total couple's time in paid work



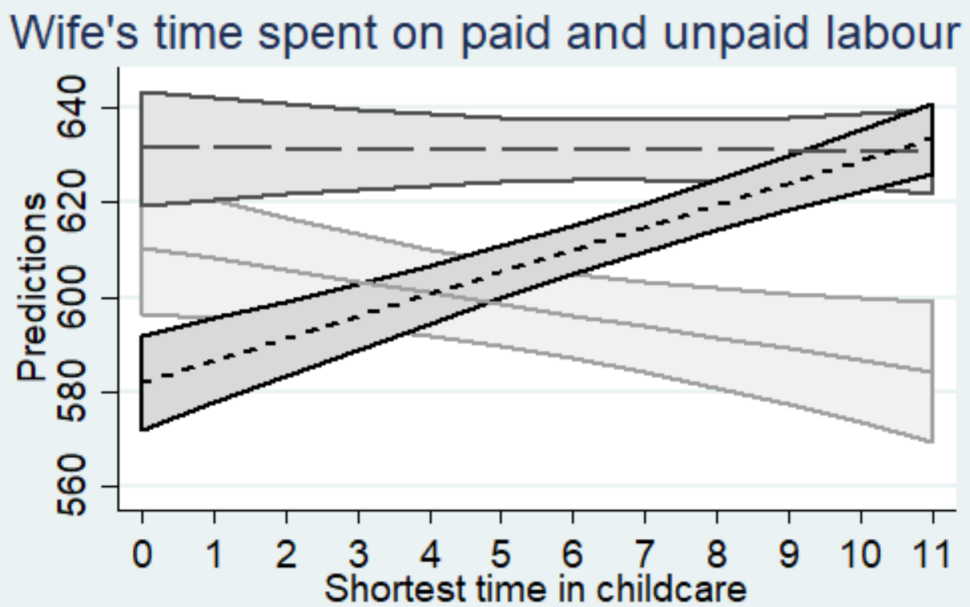
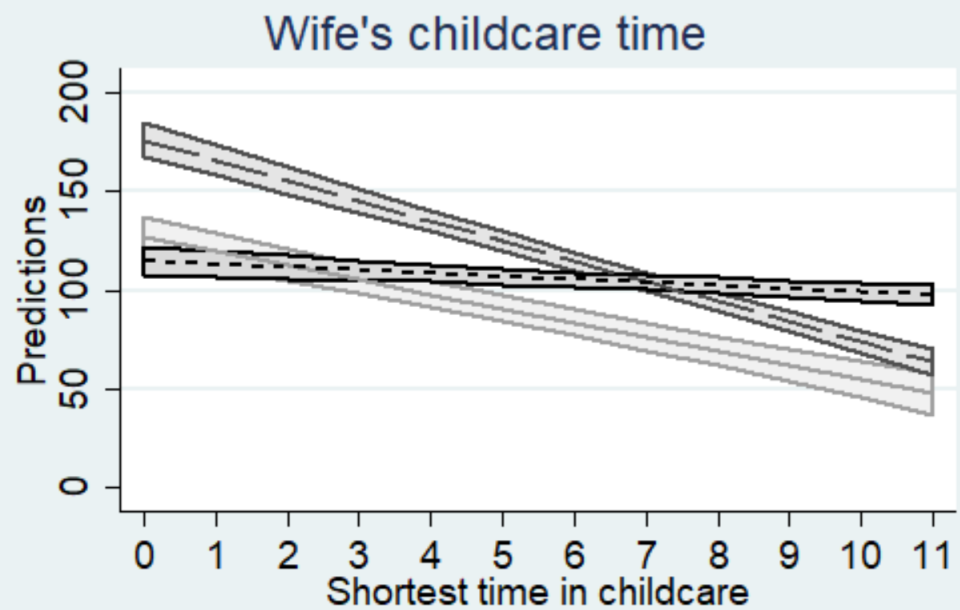
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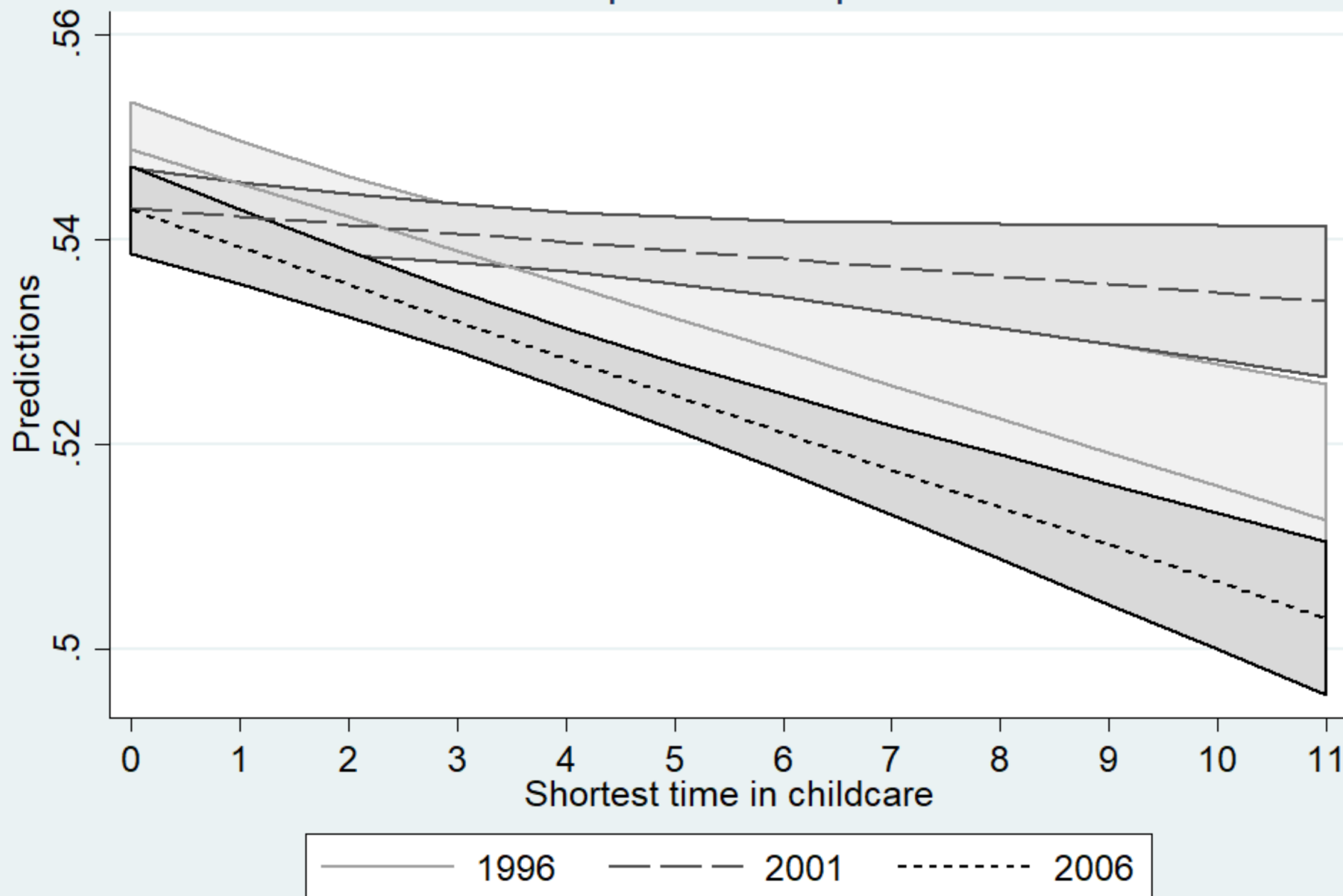
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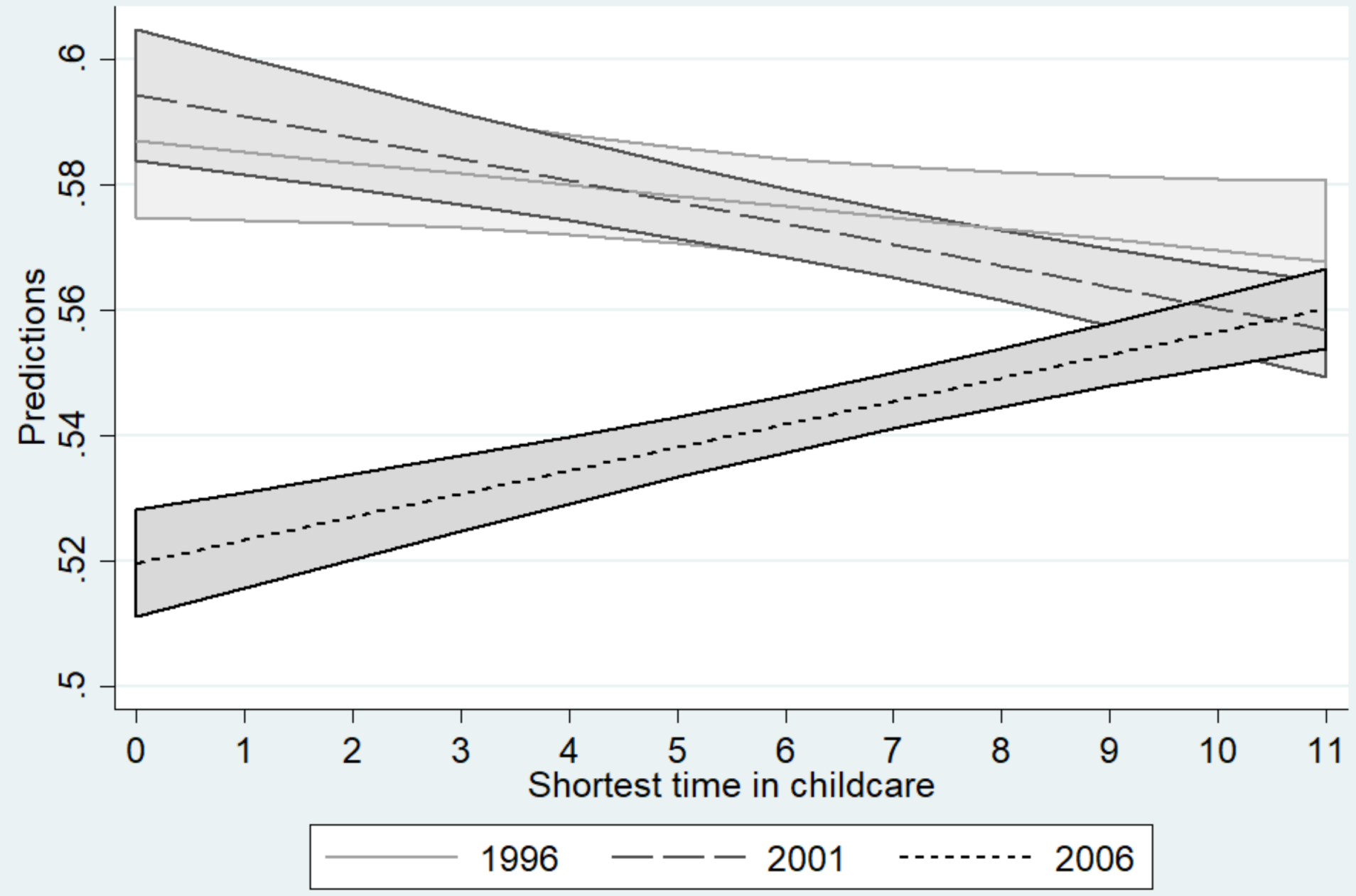
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Wife's share of paid and unpaid labour



Wife works more than 40% of the total couple's time in paid work

Wife's share of paid and unpaid labour



Summary and Conclusion

- The change in division of labour at home in Japan has been slow.
- Full time working mothers of young children and their husbands are under the most severe time pressure
- Access to longer childcare hours relieves time pressures on all husbands and on part-time working wives.
- In 2006 part time working women with access to long childcare hours were able to achieve gender equality in terms of committed time within their families.
- However, longer childcare hours are associated with worse time crunch when it comes to full-time employed women, and lower gender equality when it comes to committed time