

Fathers sharing solo care in Spain: he is *available*, or she *is not*?

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The problem

- ▶ ‘traditionalization’ in division of unpaid work & care after first child (Craig & Mullan, 2011; González, Domínguez-Folgueras, & Baizán, 2010; Sayer, Bianchi, & Robinson, 2004)
- ▶ however, some couples manage to ‘thwart the forces’ that sustain inequality (Deutsch, 1999, p.5)
- ▶ *who are these couples (‘equal sharers’) in Spain?*



Empirical evidence

- ▶ **domestic work:** father's pro-active attitudes, flexible standards on housework, schedule flexibility or women's higher orientation to paid work (Domínguez-Folgueras et al., 2017)
- ▶ **routine childcare:** involved fathers tend to earn less than others, have more egalitarian gender attitudes and work in family friendly companies (only region of Madrid) (Fernández-Cornejo, Escot, Del-Pozo, & Castellanos-Serrano, 2016)
- ▶ **long work hours during the evening** particularly costly in terms of father-child time (Gracia Kalmijn, 2016; Gutiérrez-Domènech, 2010; Nock & Kingston, 1988).



The focus of this study

Fathers are sometimes ‘dependent caregivers’, i.e., ‘overanxious’ when taking responsibility of sole caregiving (Meil, Romero-Balsas, & Rogero-García, 2017, p.118).



The focus of this study

Percentage of time (Craig & Mullan, 2011)
devoted by fathers and mothers to

Routine, solo childcare,
i.e. ‘physical care’ or ‘supervising children’ *not in the*
presence of the other parent



The focus of this study

Total time in routine childcare by parents=

time doing solo routine care by father (DV1) +

time doing solo routine care by mother (DV2) +

*time performing routine care by any (or both) in the presence
of the other (DV3)*

=100

(Craig & Mullan, 2011)



Theoretical framework

Time availability

Father's time availability 8 a.m. 5 p.m., M F
Father's time availability after 5 p.m., M F
Father's time availability on weekends

Bargaining power

Mother has a higher educational level
Mother has greater income
Only mother is a manager or professional

Need (Deutsch, 1999)

Mother's time availability 8 a.m. 5 p.m., M F
Mother's time availability after 5 p.m., M F
Mother's time availability on weekends

Status

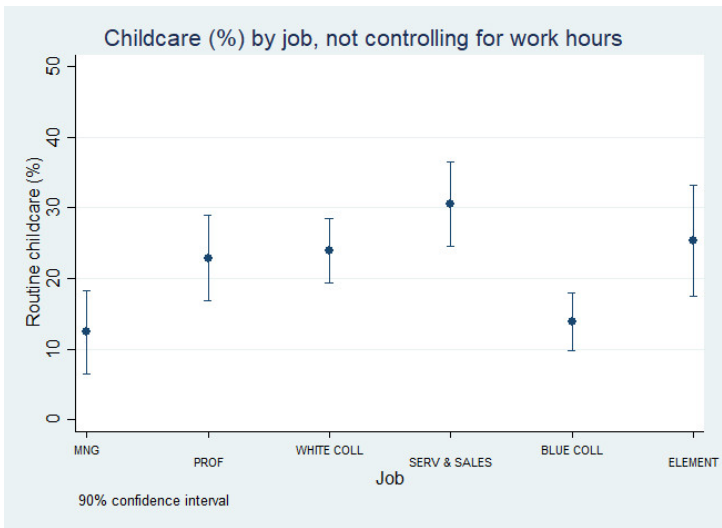
Father has a college degree
Managers vs white collar employees & technicians



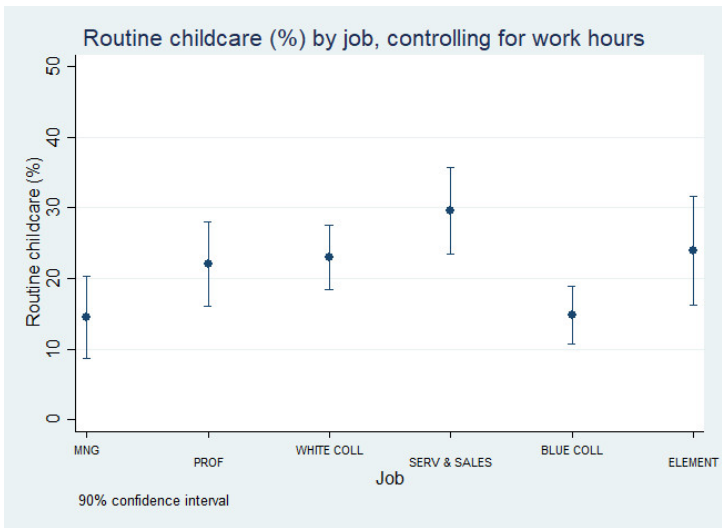
Results

	Father's solo care (%)			
	Model 1	Model 2	Model 3	Model 4
	β	β	β	β
Managers	-11.5*	-8.7*	-11.9*	-8.5†
Professionals	-1.0	-0.5	-1.5	-1.0
<i>Middle level employees (technicians, clerical workers) (ref)</i>
Services and sales workers (includes armed forces)	6.6	6.8	6.3	6.6
Blue collar workers	-10.0**	-9.3**	-9.3*	-8.2*
Elementary occupations	1.5	1.0	1.5	0.9
College degree	0.4	-1.0	0.4	-1.2
Educational hypogamy	0.2	-0.1	0.2	0.0
Occupational hypogamy	-4.4	-3.8	-3.7	-3.0
Economic hypogamy	10.1*	10.0**	8.7*	8.0*
Father's weekly available hours M-F (8 a.m.-5p.m.)		0.2*		0.3*
Father's weekly available hours M-F after 5 p.m.		0.3**		0.4**
Father's weekly available hours weekends		0.2		0.4
Mother's weekly available hours M-F (8 a.m.-5p.m.)			-0.3*	-0.4**
Mother's weekly available hours M-F after 5 p.m.			-0.7***	-0.7***
Mother's weekly available hours weekends			0.0	-0.2
Constant	26.0**	-4.8	78.4***	49.9**
R ²	8.0%	9.3%	10.8%	12.9%
Adj R ²	6.0%	6.8%	8.4%	10.1%
n	655			

Results



Results



Conclusions. In egalitarian couples...

- ▶ **she earns more**, *irrespective of* how much he (& she) works
- ▶ **he does not work in a masculinized occupation** (i.e. manager or blue collar), *irrespective of* how much they work
- ▶ **father is available after 5 p.m.**
- ▶ (more importantly) **mother *is not* available after 5 p.m.** (higher predicting power)
- ▶ **(the ‘myth’ of status)**: if he has college degree or is a professional, not particularly egalitarian



