

Consequences of the reversal of the gender gap in education in the couples' allocation of time

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The Reversal of the Gender gap in Education (RGE)

- Women are achieving higher levels of education than men
- For the first time in history, there are more couples in which women have a higher level of education than their male partner (hypogamy) than vice versa (hypergamy)
- Consequences on family life
 - Union formation
 - Stability
 - Division of roles in the couples
- RGE has not translated into a better economic position for women within the household



RGE and couples' allocation of time

- ❑ Theories to explain the division of the domestic labor
 - ❑ Relative resources
 - ❑ Time availability
 - ❑ Doing gender

- ❑ According to the firsts 2 perspectives, RGE should produce a reduction in the gender gap in housework

- ❑ The goal of fully closing this gender gap remains elusive

- ❑ Gender gap is also significant in paid work, leisure and childcare



Objectives

- ❑ Evaluate the prevalence of the RGE in Spanish heterosexual couples
- ❑ Explore if the RGE is translated in a better status of the woman
 - ❑ Factors with an influence in the negotiation of gender roles: earnings and occupational prestige
- ❑ Effect of the RGE in the couples' allocation of time (unpaid work, paid work, leisure, childcare)
 - ❑ Variation in the effect when factors of negotiation are considered



Data & Measures

Spanish Time Use Survey 2009-2010

- Couples where both members are ages 15-64 and not retired
- Sample size: 3,665 couples
- Dependent variables: gender gap (man-woman) in housework, paid work, leisure, care for children
- Control variables in OLS models:
 - Age of the woman. Less than 30, 30-49, 50 and more
 - Type of union: Cohabiting or married
 - Number of children: childless, 1, 2, 3 or more
 - Age of the youngest child: childless, 3 or less, 4-9, 10-17
 - Employment: Dual-earner, male-breadwinner, female breadwinner, none



Data & Measures: Individual level

Education:

- Secondary or less
- High school or basic vocational
- Superior vocational or 1r grade college
- College, master and PhD

Occupational prestige (ESEG)

- (7-9) Lower status employees, not employed
- (5-6) Clerks and skilled services employees, skilled industrial employees
- (3-4) Technicians and associated professionals employees and small entrepreneurs
- (1-2) Managers and professionals

Earnings

- Not employed or 600€ or less
- 601-1200
- 1201-2000
- 2001 or more



Data & Measures: Couple level



Homogamy low

- Occupations: Lower status employees, not employed
- Earnings: Not employed or 1200€ or less
- Education: Secondary or less



Homogamy high

- Occupations: Categories 2-4
- Income: 1201 or more
- Education: HS, Superior vocational or tertiary



Hypergamy: Man's status is better



Hypogamy: Woman's status is better



Results: Prevalence of RGE

	Education
Homogamy low	32.2
Homogamy high	21.6
Hypergamy	22.3
Hypogamy	23.9



Results: Prevalence of RGE

	Education				
Occupation	hypergamy	homogamy low	homogamy high	hypogamy	All
hypergamy	62.7	46.3	40.3	33.6	45.6
homogamy low	15.0	37.8	13.2	15.0	22.0
homogamy high	14.8	8.6	28.9	18.5	16.7
hypogamy	7.5	7.2	17.7	33.0	15.7

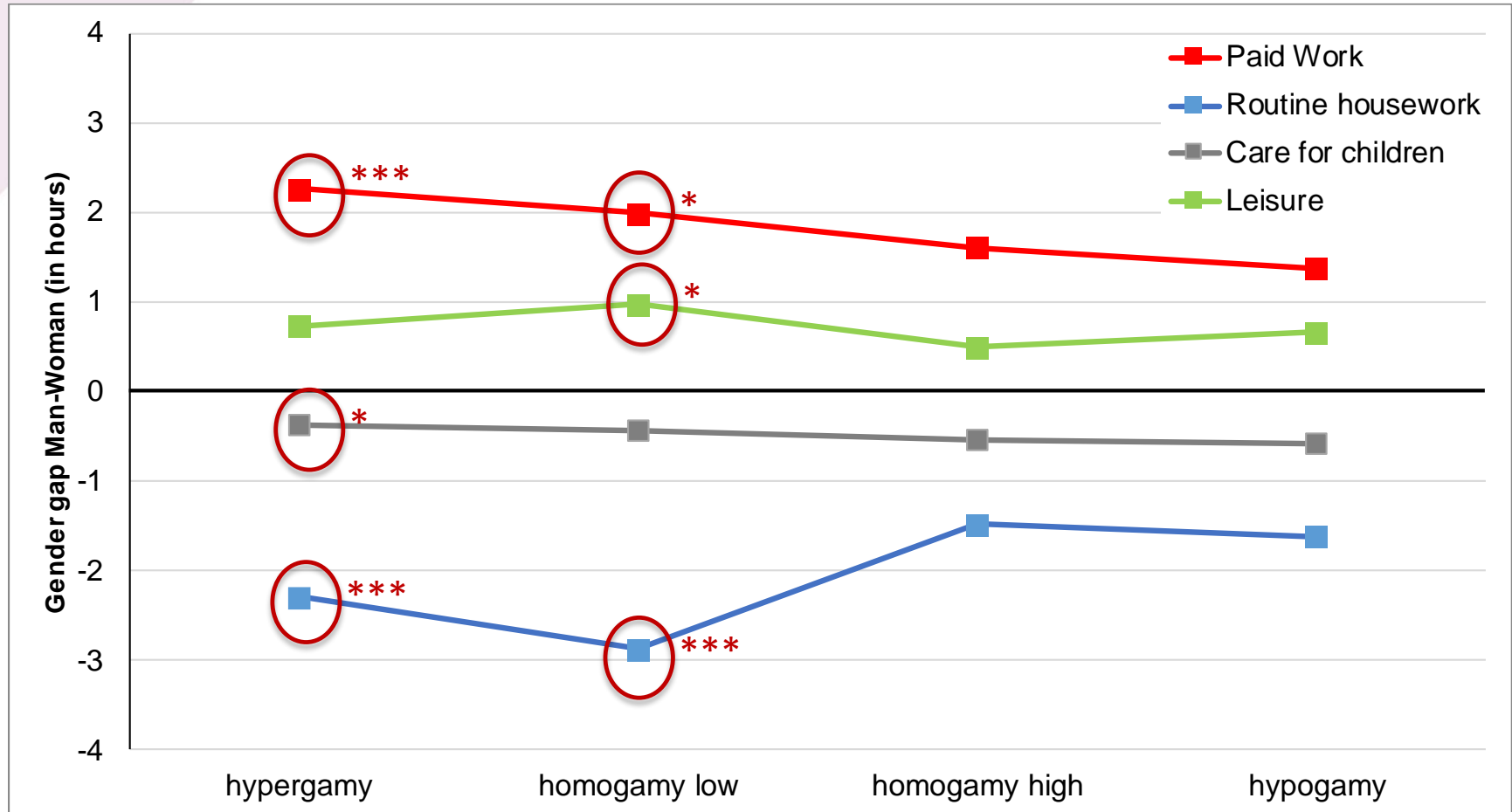


Results: Prevalence of RGE

	Education				
Earnings	hypergamy	homogamy low	homogamy high	hypogamy	All
hypergamy	66.7	57.1	47.7	44.4	54.2
homogamy low	13.9	30.1	11.4	16.3	19.2
homogamy high	12.1	3.1	27.6	20.0	14.4
hypogamy	7.2	9.7	13.3	19.3	12.2



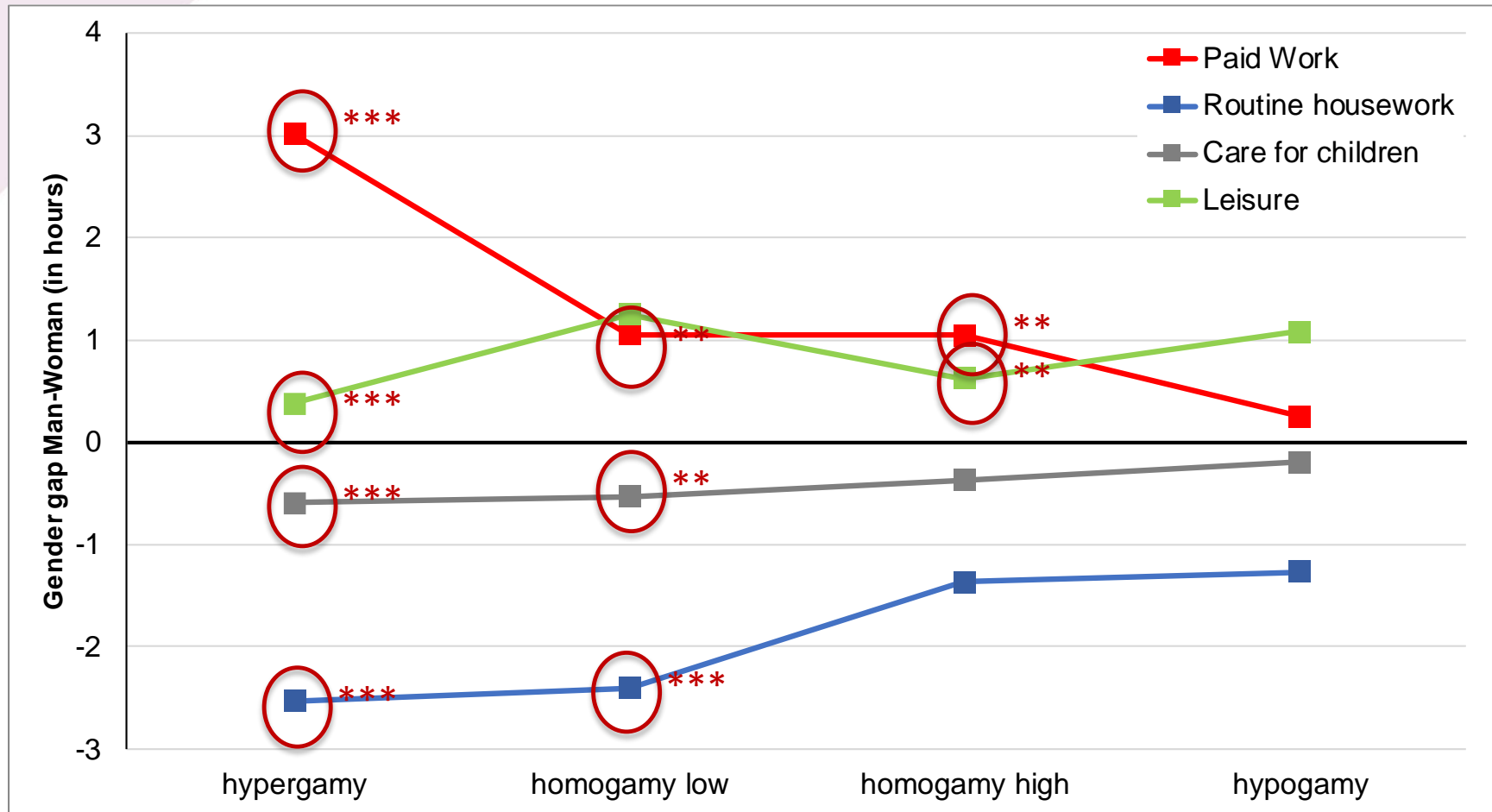
Results: Gender gap by couples' education



*** p<0.001, ** p<0.01, * p<0.05



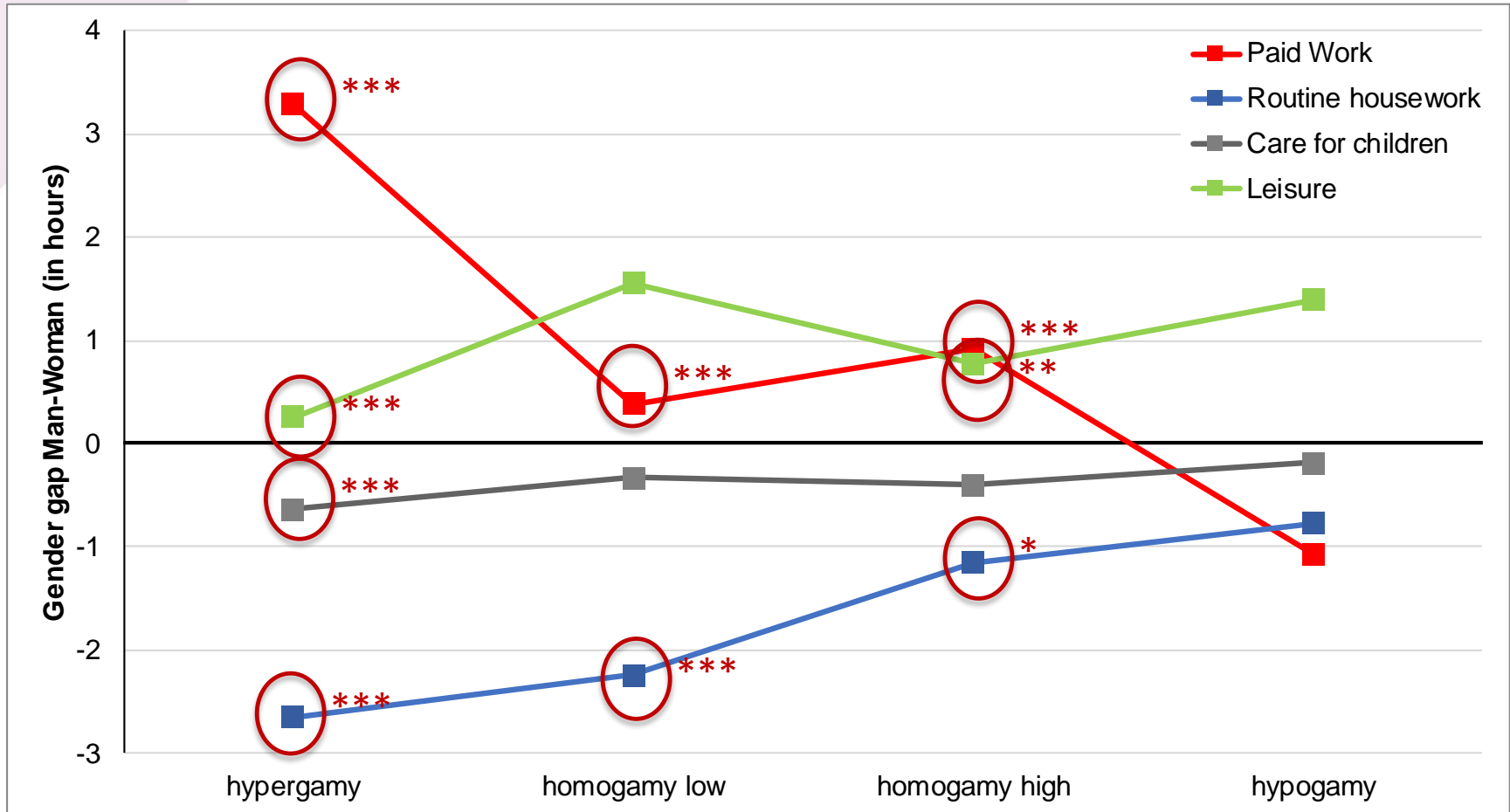
Results: Gender gap by couples' occupation



*** p<0.001, ** p<0.01, * p<0.05



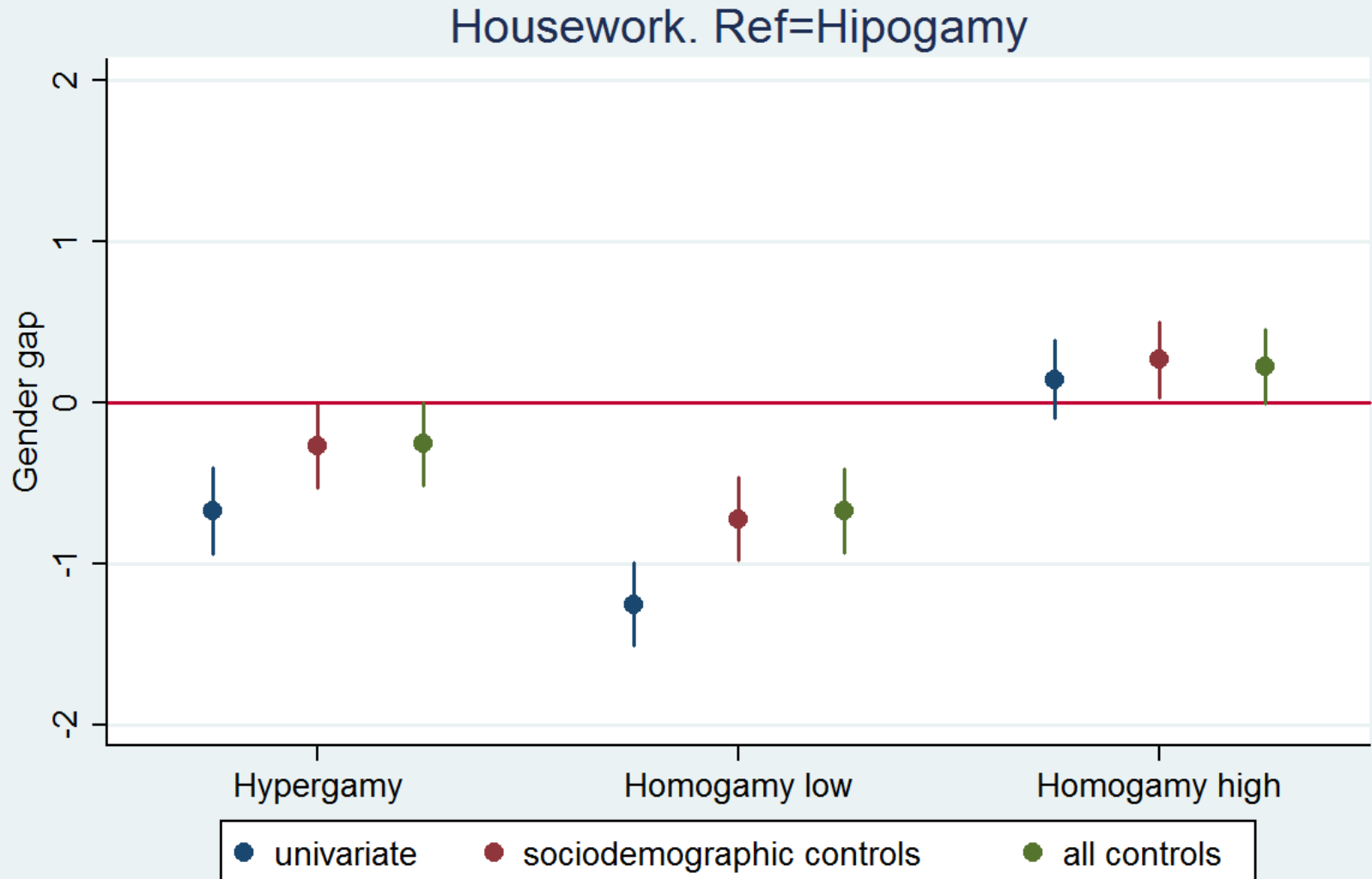
Results: Gender gap by couples' earnings



*** $p < 0.001$, ** $p < 0.01$, * $p < 0.05$

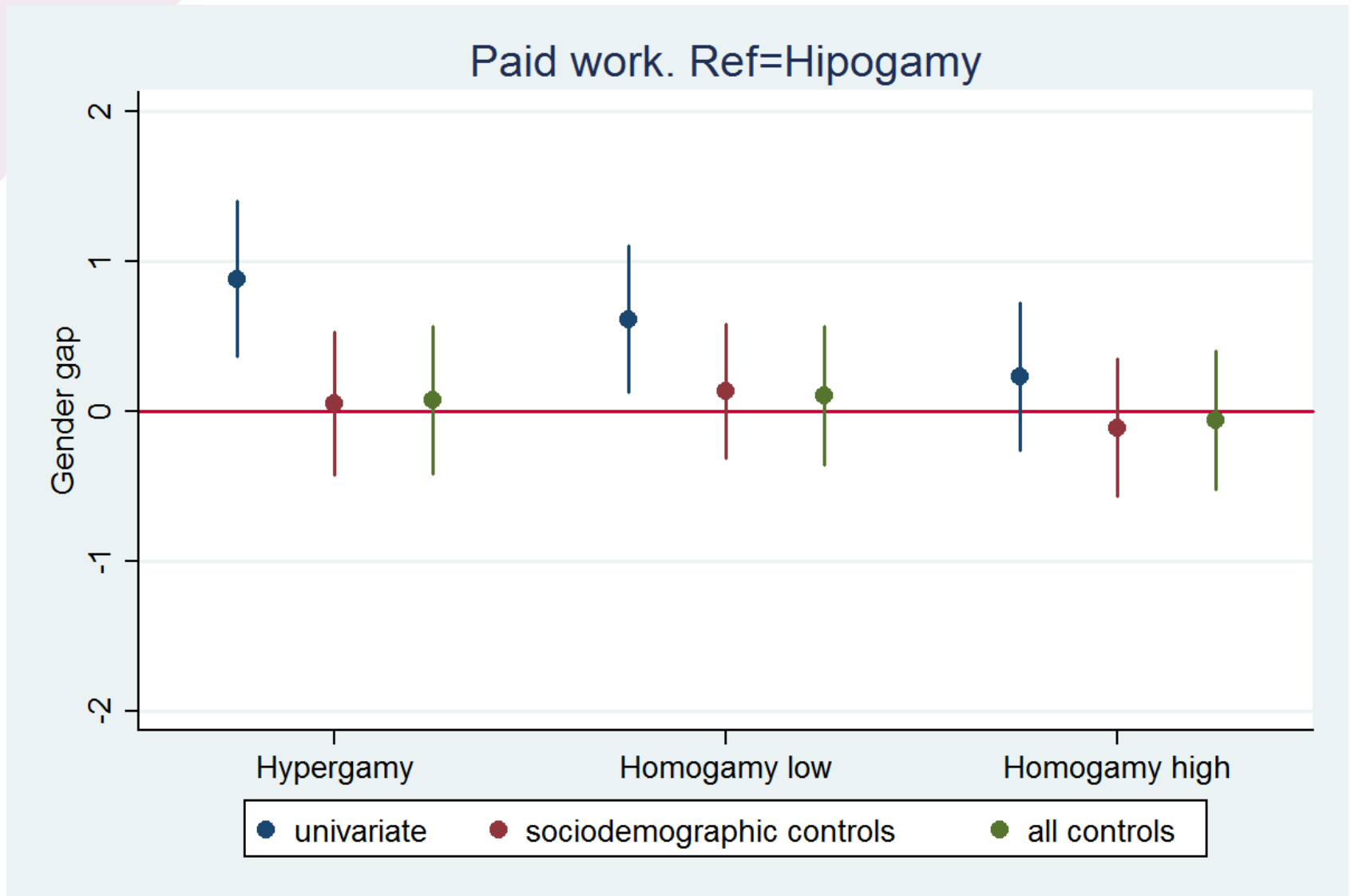


Results: Gender gap in Housework



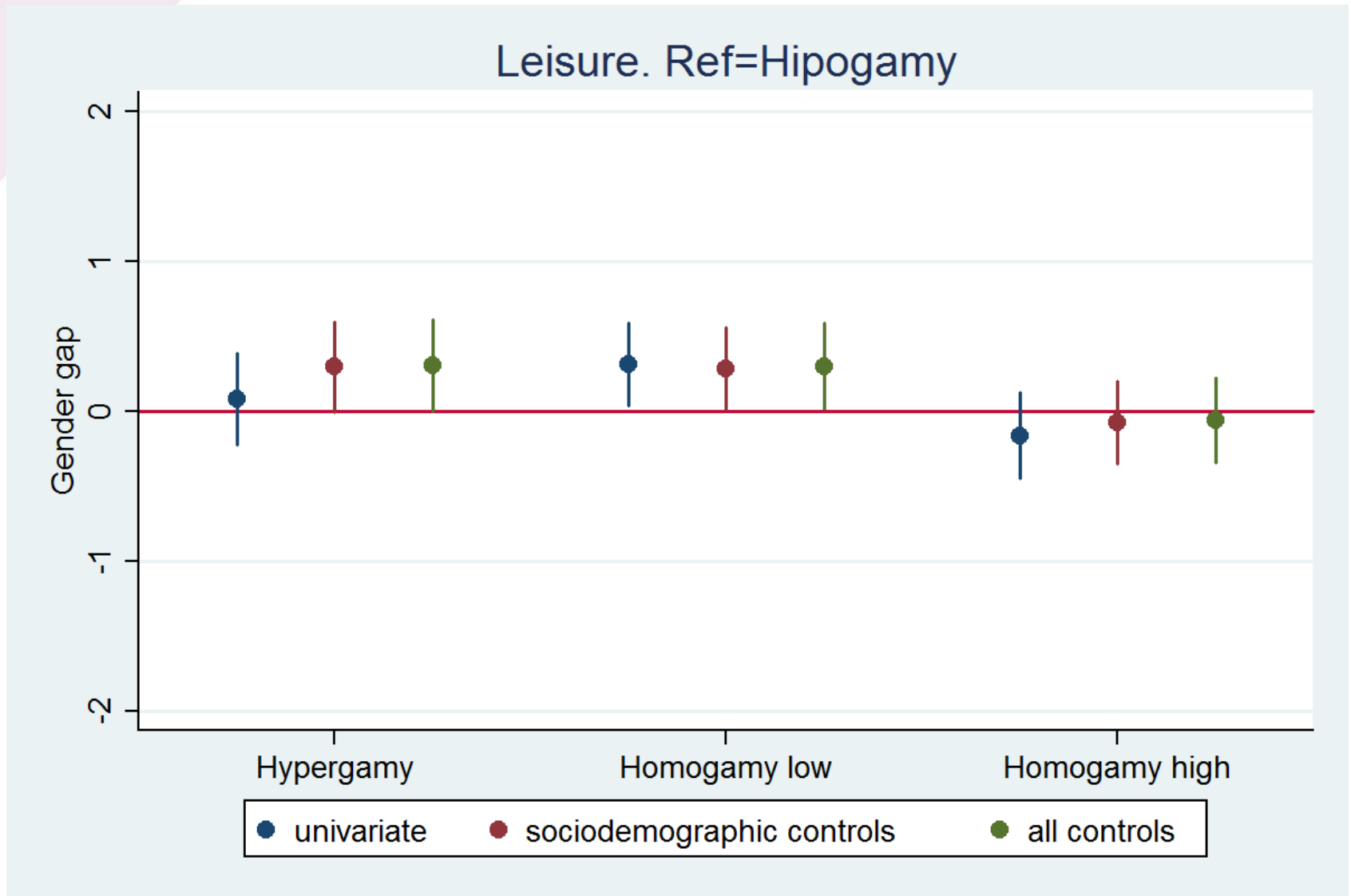


Results: Gender gap in Paid work





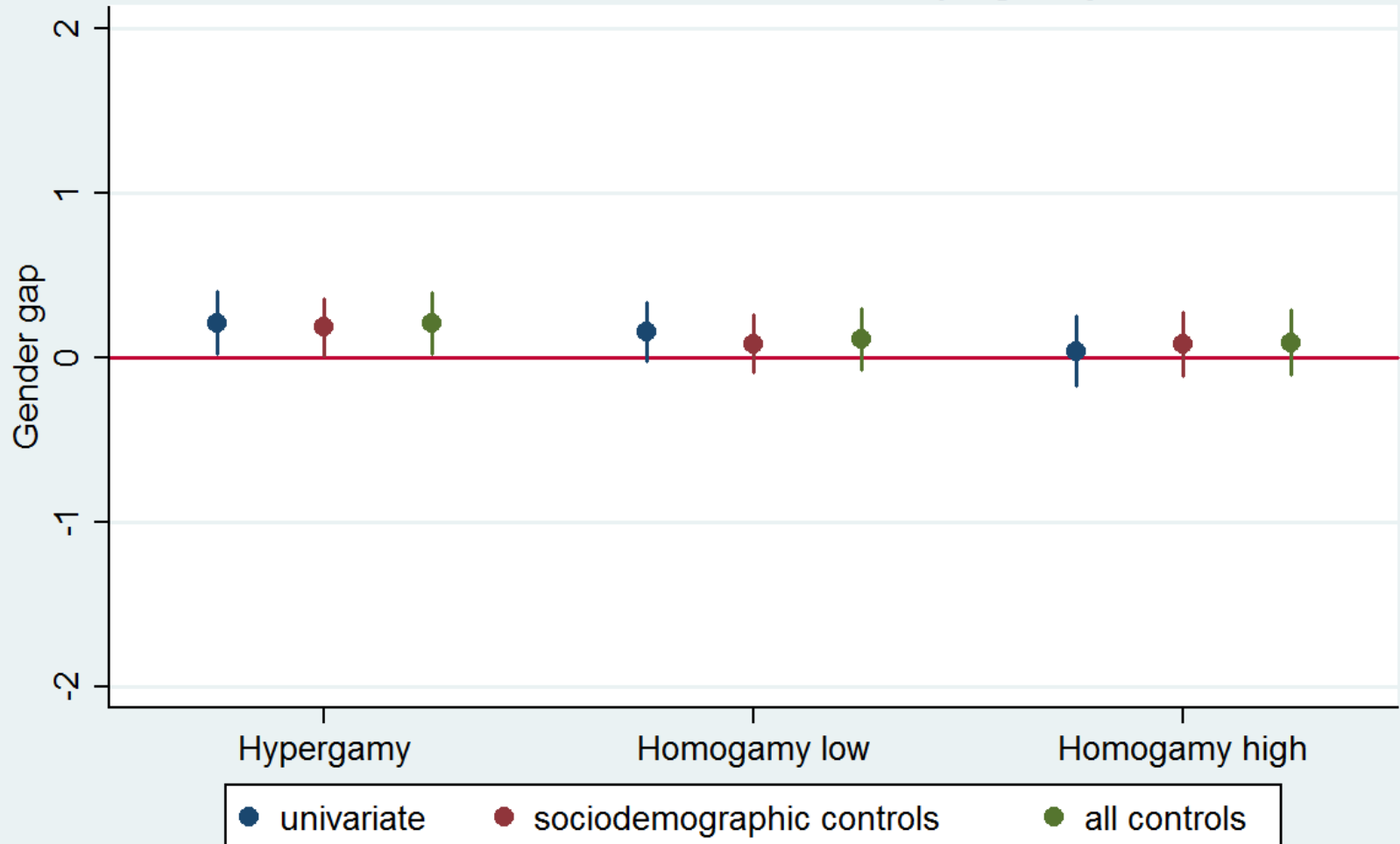
Results: Gender gap in Leisure





Results: Gender gap in Care for children

Care for children. Ref=Hipogamy





Conclusions

- ▶ About one quarter of the couples are hypogamous in terms of the education of both members
- ▶ It is not always reflected in the same situation in terms of occupation or earnings
- ▶ Hypogamous couples have a more egalitarian allocation of time compared to hypergamous and homogamous with low level of education



Conclusions

- ▶ However, even in hipogamous couples, women do more housework than men
- ▶ Differences with homogamous couples with high education are not significant in housework
- ▶ Differences decreases when sociodemographic characteristics of the couple are considered

Thank you!

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