

PhD Abstract

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Preliminary Title

Gender Time Inequality in Switzerland: Macro and Micro Level Evidence from Swiss Cantons and Fathers' Engagement¹

Abstract

We use 'gender time inequality' to denote the temporal dimension of the gendered division of labour – the difference in how women and men allot their time to paid work, housework, and family work. Despite substantial increases in women's labour market attachment, gender time inequality has proven rather resilient. The reasons lie, among other things, in the political, economic and cultural context and in the lack of increase in fathers' family engagement. My research relates to these two aspects.

At the *macro-level*, we use the 26 Swiss cantons that vary substantially in political, economic, and cultural features. Using Qualitative Comparative Analysis, we explain gender time inequality by configurations of such cantonal features. In a related project, we contribute to the debate about inclusion-equality trade-offs by testing its core assumptions on a cantonal level. Specifically, it is debated whether policies to increase women's inclusion in the labour market may aggravate household time squeezes and gender segregation in the labour market.

At the *micro-level*, our research focuses on one particular element of gender time inequality: the persistently low level of fathers' engagement in family work. In a first study, we resort to well-established explanations, such as time availability and relative resources. This approaches fathers' engagement from the family side. In a second study, we take a different angle and study it from the work side – specifically focusing on the links between status, flexibility, work hours, and engagement.

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