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The spread of the dual-breadwinner/ dual-carer model in European countries

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Introduction

Dual-breadwinner/dual-carer model is the most gender equal option and promoted as ideal by some scholars:

Gornick/Meyers envision a society that

“supports equal opportunities for men and women in employment, equal contributions from mothers and fathers at home, and high-quality care for children provided both by parents and well-qualified and well-compensated nonparental caregivers” (2008: 314-315)

Esping-Andersen et al. expect societies to move towards a gender egalitarian equilibrium:

“‘Ideal typically’, this entails partnerships based on two full-time employed spouses who engage in a gender-symmetric allocation of child care and housework.” (2013: 3)



Research questions

The aim of this study is to examine the spread and the prevalence of the dual-breadwinner/dual-carer model across 5 European countries

- (1) Trace the development of dual-breadwinner families from 1998-2010
- (2) Study the distribution of care work among dual-breadwinner parents and assess determinants



Prior studies (1)

Few studies include paid and care work simultaneously (e.g. Hall & MacDermid 2009), but one may not sensibly be considered without the other (Lewis 1992)

Pfau-Effinger's (2000) typology of dual-breadwinners:

- dual-breadwinner/**external-carer**
- dual-breadwinner/**dual-carer**

Empirically, two more models likely exist:

- dual-breadwinner/**female-carer**
- dual-breadwinner/**male-carer**



Prior studies (2)

- Dual-breadwinner parents share care more equally than other work arrangements (Craig & Mullan 2011)
- But women tend to earn (and work?) less in dual-breadwinner couples (Smith 2005), they might be less committed (Bielby & Bielby 1989) and more apt to reduce their working hours
- Mothers put in more care hours and it is country specific if fathers compensate for their partners' working hours (Kitterød & Pettersen 2006)
- Men tend not to adapt their work schedules but provide childcare during time off work (Maume 2008)



Data and methods (1)

Countries: Austria, France, Germany, Spain, UK

(1) European labour force surveys 1998-2010

Dual-breadwinner model: both work 30+ actual usual weekly working hours

Non-employed include unemployed and parental leave

(2) Time use surveys (household level)

AT 2008, FR 1998, GE 2001, ES 2003, UK 2001



Data and methods (2)

Distribution of primary childcare time:

Care model	Mother	Father
Dual carer	41-59%	41-59%
Female carer	60-100%	0-40%
Male carer	0-40%	60-100%
External carer	Total childcare time < 30 min/day	

Life-course perspective: all analyses decomposed by age of youngest child (0-2, 3-5, 6-14)

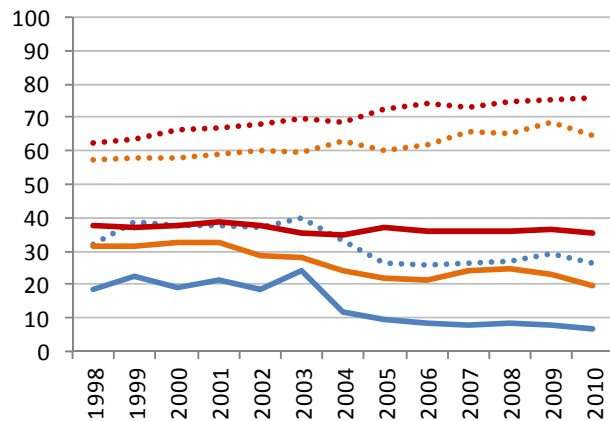
Logistic regression models: Dual-breadwinner/dual-carer model (1) vs. dual-breadwinner/other-carer (0)



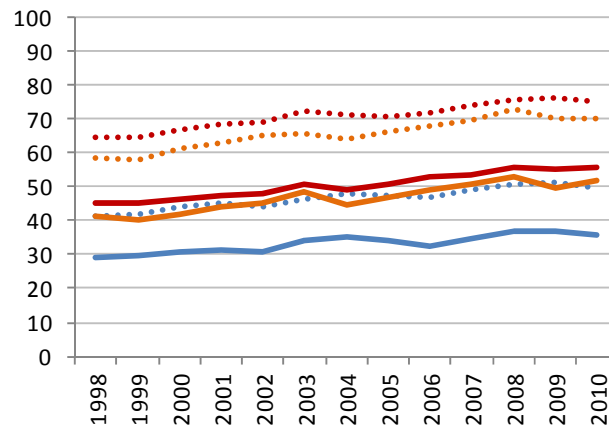
Results: Dual-breadwinner model (1)

Dual-breadwinners (both full-time) and dual-earners (both working) by age of the youngest child, 1998-2010

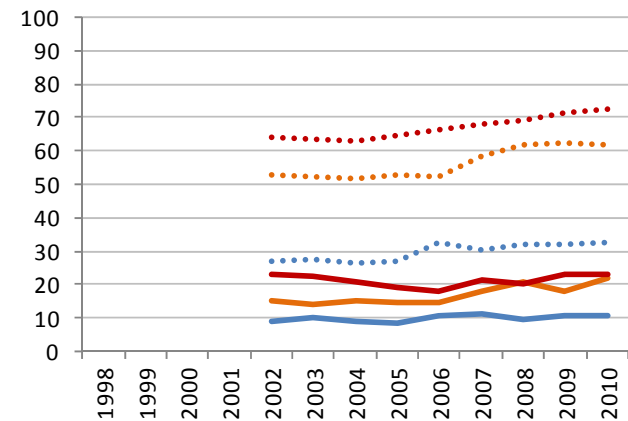
(A) Austria



(B) France



(C) Germany



— Dual breadwinner 0-2 years Dual earner 0-2 years
— Dual breadwinner 3-5 years Dual earner 3-5 years
— Dual breadwinner 6-14 years Dual earner 6-14 years

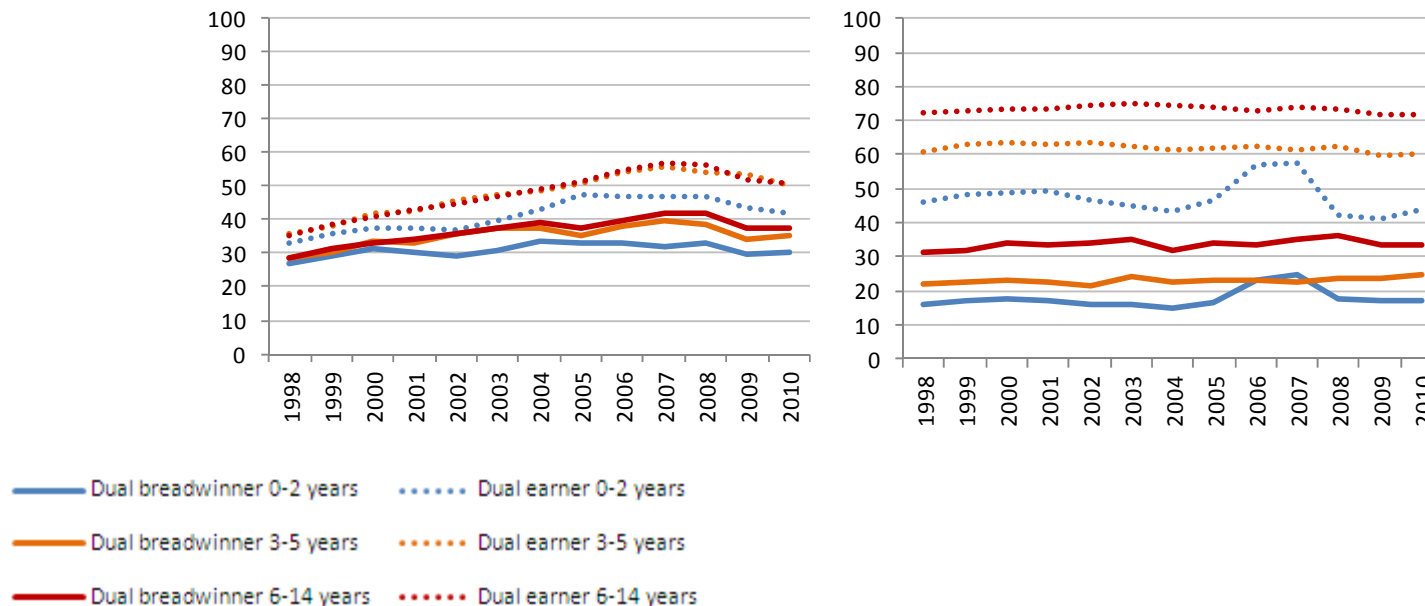


Results: Dual-breadwinner model (2)

Dual-breadwinners (both full-time) and dual-earners (both working) by age of the youngest child, 1998-2010

(D) Spain

(E) United Kingdom





Results: Dual-breadwinner model (3)

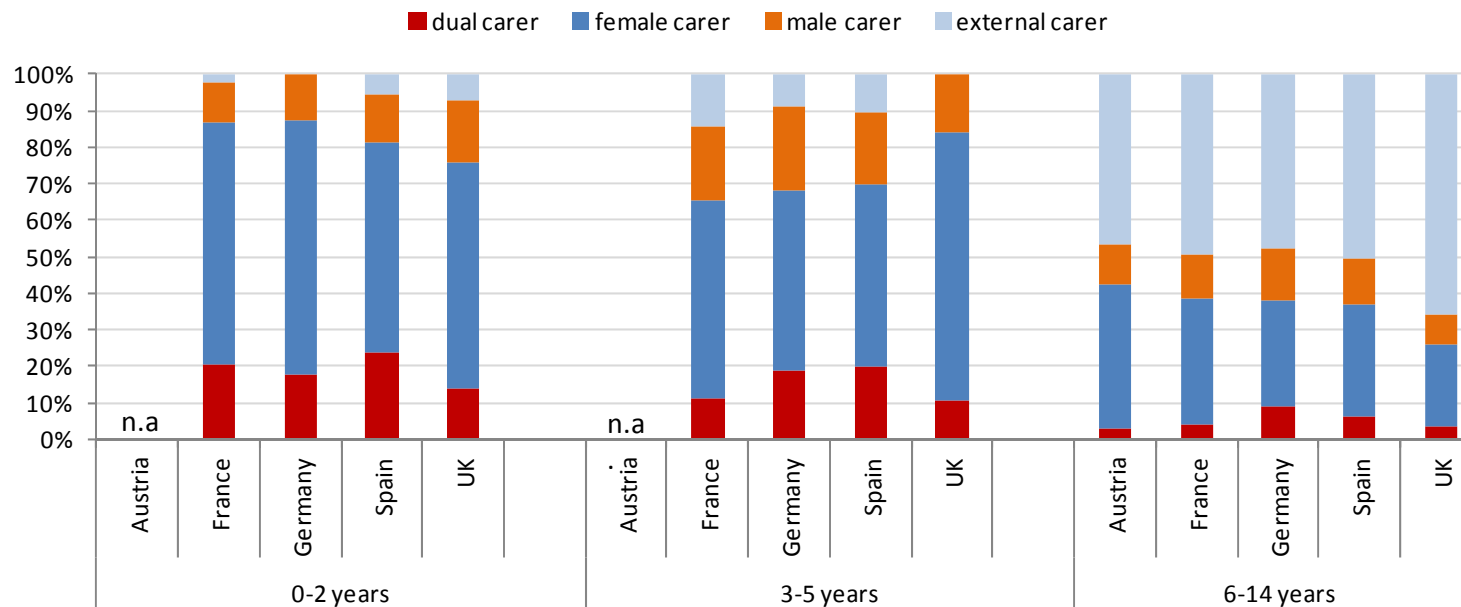
	% change between 1998* and 2010			Change over the life course 2010			Share of dual-breadwinners among dual-earners 2010		
	0-2	3-5	6-14	0-2	6-14	x-fold	0-2	3-5	6-14
Austria	- 62%	- 38%	- 7%	7%	35%	5.0	26	30	47
France	+ 25%	+ 26%	+ 23%	36%	56%	1.5	73	74	74
Germany	+ 16%	+ 43%	- 2%	10%	23%	2.2	32	36	32
Spain	+ 11%	+ 24%	+ 31%	30%	38%	1.3	72	71	74
UK	+ 7%	+ 12%	+ 7%	17%	33%	2.0	39	41	47

* Germany 2002



Results: Dual-breadwinner/dual-carer (1)

Types of carer models among dual-breadwinners by age of youngest child



Logistic regression: **Dual-breadwinner/dual-carer (1) vs. dual-breadwinner/other-carer (0)**

		Odds Ratios
Mother's age		0.95 ***
Age gap between partners (ref. Similar age)	Man younger	1.56 #
	Man older	0.96
Couple's education (ref. Both below tertiary)	Man tertiary educated, woman lower	1.00
	Woman tertiary educated, man lower	1.05
	Both tertiary educated	1.31 #
Woman's occupation (ref. Professional)	Qualified service occupation	0.85
	Low-qualified service occupation	0.58 **
	Low-qualified and qual. manual labor	0.51 *
Number of children (ref. 1 child)	2+ children	1.25 #
Age of youngest child (ref. 0-5 years)	6-14 years	0.38 ***
Day of week (ref. Weekday)	Weekend	1.29 *
Country (ref. Austria)	France	0.99
	Germany	1.62
	Spain	1.59
	United Kingdom	0.65

Number of cases: 3154; Nagelkerke R²: 0.12; Significance levels: *** p<0.001; ** p<0.01; * p<0.05, # p<0.10

Data source: Multinational time use study (FR 1998, GE 2001, ES 2003, UK 2001) and Austrian time use survey (2008)



Summary

- No uniform development towards the dual-breadwinner model: decline in AT, stagnation in Germany and UK
- Low prevalence of dual-carer model among dual-breadwinners: 17% with child < 6, 6% with schoolchild; instead: mothers' "second shift" (Hochschild 1989)
- No country differences after controlling for structural characteristics
- More established among higher SES families (both tertiary educated) and in couples where woman has higher resources (higher occupational status, higher age)



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Questions? Comments?

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Results: Dual-breadwinner/dual-carer (1)

Dual versus male breadwinners: relative chance for a certain care model by age of youngest child

	France	Germany	Spain	UK
0-2 years				
State carer	2.34	<i>n.a.</i>	0.48	0.24
Male carer	0.56	0.54	0.35	0.42
Female carer	1.24	1.16	1.38	1.30
Dual carer	0.32	0.71	0.55	0.74
3-5 years				
State carer	0.78	0.62	0.71	<i>n.a.</i>
Male carer	0.33	0.32	0.34	1.00
Female carer	1.44	1.45	1.52	0.97
Dual carer	0.34	0.83	0.51	0.62



Results: Dual-breadwinner/dual-carer (2)

Types of carer models among dual-breadwinners by age of youngest child (includes childcare and housework)

