

Who Does the Housework

Sociology

What time-use evidence shows about unpaid work, and what it does not settle.

The distribution of unpaid domestic and care work between household members, measured by time-use diaries rather than by self-report.

BEST METHOD
time-use diaries

TREND
converging, slowly

- Diaries and self-reports diverge systematically.
- Women's share has fallen but remains larger.
- Tasks split by type as well as by hours.
- Routine, non-deferrable work skews to women.
- Hochschild: the second shift after paid work.
- Emotional and mental load are hard to measure.

LOOK FOR IT

Cooking daily is not deferrable; mowing a lawn is. Equal task counts can still mean unequal constraint.

Educational reference. Trends vary by country and cohort; the pace of convergence is contested in the literature.