Institut für Arbeitsmarktund Berufsforschung

Die Forschungseinrichtung der Bundesagentur für Arbeit



IAB-Colloquium

zur Arbeitsmarkt- und Berufsforschung

Gender role conflict and bargaining over housework: The hidden effect of relative resources among couples

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This paper examines the gendered division of housework among couples in Germany and tests a possible intra-couple mechanism which may be driving it. We extend the literature on the effects of socio-economic resources and gender ideology on the division of housework by investigating whether relative resources may have a differential impact on how partners divide housework contingent on the partners' agreement on gender ideology. Using growth curve modeling and data from the Panel Analysis of Intimate Relationships and Family Dynamics (pairfam), we address the question of whether relative resources may only display an effect on the division of housework among couples who disagree on ideal gender roles (egalitarian versus traditional ideology). Our first findings, however, indicate that this appears not to be the case, as the interaction effects between partners' ideology disagreement and their relative resources are insignificant. Future models will test alternative modeling strategies.

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