

WORK HOME INTERFERENCE IN SEVEN EUROPEAN COUNTRIES

Tanja van der Lippe

**Presentation prepared for the IATUR
conference:**

**Work Time and Leisure Time: Dynamics and
Convergence in Changing Contexts
Lisbon, October 15-18, 2002**

BACKGROUND

- **More common in Western countries that both partners have a paid job, also when they have children**
- **In East European countries too?**
- **Employers demand increasing commitment from their employees**
- **Being busy implies feeling busy?**

RESEARCH PROBLEM

How can we explain the work home interference of working couples in seven European countries

THEORY AND HYPOTHESES

Hypotheses only on household level:

Availability argument:

More time for paid work implies less time for care activities

- **actual paid working hours,**
- **working overtime**

Demand argument:

The more time is needed for care activities, the more time will be spent into caring tasks

- **Presence of children**
- **Actual working hours of partner**
- **responsible for the domestic and caring tasks**

Agreement with partner

DATA

Household, work and flexibility

8 Western and Eastern European countries

Stoas Wageningen; Wallace in Austria

EU financed

Table 1. A comparison of the balance in work and care between men and women (in percentages)

		Often
My work makes it difficult for me to do household tasks	M	16,4
	W	15,4
My work makes it difficult to fulfil my responsibilities towards my family	M	6,4
	W	4,4
My responsibilities towards my family prevent me from doing my work adequately	M	0,7
	W	1,1
I have to take work from employment home to finish	M	14,2
	W	11,3
I prefer to spend more time at work than at home	M	2,0
	W	7,0

Table 2. Regression to explain time pressure

	Men	Woman
<u>Work situation</u>		
Paid hours	0,11	0,19*
Over time in afternoon	0,02	0,09
Overtime in evening	0,21*	-0,01
Overtime in weekend	-.01	0,29**
<u>Home situation</u>		
Paid hours of partner	0,16*	0,03
Responsible household	-0,05	-0,13+
Children < 7	0,11	0,28**
Children 7-14	-0,06	-.02
Agree with partner	-0,25**	-0,17**
<u>Controls</u>		
Education	0,18*	0,15*
Age	-.03	0,02
<u>Interactions</u>		
Paid and domestic work	0,23*	-0,11+
Paid work an children	0,01	0,13
Paid work and agreement	-0,02	-0,12+
Adjusted R-square	0,24	0,33

Table 3 Work and home characteristics of cohabiting and married men and women in several European countries (in percentages)

		NL	UK	Sw	Slo	CZR	Bul	Roe
Hours of paid work of	M	41	47	43	46	46	47	41
	W	24	30	37	41	41	42	40
Hours of paid work of partner of	M	26	30	37	39	29	37	41
	W	41	44	43	43	45	45	42
Share in domestic work of women (%)		70	70	64	66	75	76	76

Table 4 A comparison of the balance in work and care between men and women in several European countries (in percentages)

		NL	UK	Sw	Slov	CZR	Bul	Roe
My work makes it	M	16	35	23	12	15	10	16
difficult for me to do								
household tasks	W	15	32	28	20	13	15	11
My responsibilities	M	1	9	2	2	1	1	3
towards my family								
prevent me from doing	W	1	6	1	2	2	1	3
my work adequately								
I have to take work from	M	14	28	17	7	10	2	6
employment home to								
finish	W	11	18	13	12	11	6	9

Table 1 Means of the variables used in the analysis

	Netherlands		United Kingdom		Sweden		Slovenia		Czech Republic		Hungary		Bulgaria		Romania	
	Men	Women	men	Women	men	Women	men	Women	Men	women	men	women	men	women	men	Women
Work-home interference	.91	.81	1.15	.82	1.05	1.04	.87	1.08	.88	.85			.50	.73	.77	.75
Paid hours	41.18	24.40	47.27	42.03	43.07	37.02	45.54	40.39	45.91	40.98			40.99	39.51	47.66	42.03
Overtime evening	3.79	3.02			3.28	2.60	2.24	1.73	2.38	1.73			2.39	1.84	1.73	1.59
Overtime weekend	2.59	2.23	2.65	2.23	2.36	2.14	2.48	2.21	2.41	1.95			2.59	2.06	2.65	1.86
Paid hours spouse	25.73	40.98	30.20	44.09	36.90	42.59	39.47	43.49	29.48	45.14			40.59	42.05	36.63	45.09
Responsible domestic tasks	.84	1.96	.99	2.43	1.07	1.77	1.08	2.52	.94	2.81			.95	2.55	.91	2.56
Youngest child 0-6	.32	.24	.29	.23	.27	.23	.20	.28	.23	.17			.23	.14	.25	.14
Youngest child 7-14	.16	.22	.24	.31	.25	.20	.28	.25	.26	.30			.20	.25	.27	.30
Size of the household	3.35	3.10	3.46	3.38	3.23	3.09	3.72	3.68	3.29	3.30			3.71	3.68	3.35	3.75
Agreement	16.56	16.31	15.90	15.59	16.55	16.67	15.42	18.37	15.13	15.25			18.56	18.37	16.56	18.07
Education	3.72	3.57	3.42	3.21	4.04	4.02	3.24	3.25	3.00	2.95			3.26	3.60	3.43	3.55
Age	42.27	39.49	43.36	40.62	42.54	40.77	43.88	39.66	42.57	39.90			41.99	41.22	43.36	39.46
N	301	277	115	131	459	450	193	166	379	296			357	338	303	273

Table 2 A comparison of the work-home interference of men and women in 7 European countries (in percentages, with 'often' as the answer category)

		NL	UK	SW	SLO	CZR	HUN	BUL	ROE
My work makes it difficult for me to do some of the household tasks that need to be done	Men	16.4	34.8	22.9	11.3	14.8		9.8	15.5
	Women	15.3	32.1	28.1	19.9	12.5		15.1	11.0
My work makes it difficult to fulfil my responsibilities towards my family	Men	7.4	17.4	15.5	13,4	11,7		7,0	12,6
	Women	4.7	19.9	16,2	17,5	7,4		10,5	9,9
My responsibilities towards my family prevent me from doing my work adequately	Men	0,7	8,7	1,7	1,5	1,3		0,6	2,7
	Women	1,1	6,2	1,3	1,8	2,0		1,2	2,9
I have to take work from my employment home to finish	Men	14,2	27,8	17,0	6,8	9,5		1,7	5,8
	Women	11,3	18,8	12,5	11,5	10,8		5,9	8,5

Table 3 Regression analysis to explain the work-home interference of men and women in seven European countries

	Netherlands		United Kingdom		Sweden		Slovenia		Czech Republic		Hungary		Bulgaria		Romania	
	Men	Women	men	Women	Men	Women	men	Women	Men	women	men	women	men	women	men	Women
Paid hours	.20**	.26**	.19	.15	.21**	.29**	.16**	.13	.14**	.06			.02	.23**	.13	.11
Overtime evening	.20**	-.07			.11*	.06	.13**	.18*	.23**	.19**			-.01	.12	-.12	-.21**
Overtime weekend	.03	.33**	.30*	.16**	.10*	.14**	.02	-.10	.07	.21**			.19+	.20**	-.04	.26**
Paid hours spouse	.06	-.12+	-.10	-.01	-.07	-.03	.03	.04	-.01	.03			-.05	-.08	.19*	-.01
Responsible domestic tasks	-.08	-.04	.03	-.04	.01	-.04	.08	-.16*	.04	-.05			-.08	-.02	.01	-.08
Youngest child 0-6	.17+	.07	.22	-.05	.20**	.06	.06	.10	-.01	-.13*			-.08	.07	-.07	-.03
Youngest child 7-14	.11	-.07	.29*	.02	.15*	.04	.02	-.05	.10*	.07			-.05	.12+	.08	.04
Size of the household	-.05	.18*	-.14	.29*	.01	.13*	-.02	.03	-.04	-.06			.06	.07	.03	.02
Agreement	-.16*	-.12+	-.27*	-.02	-.21**	-.18**	-.21**	-.19*	-.14**	-.22**			-.10	-.17**	-.19*	-.22**
Education	.16*	.23**	.10	.34**	.16**	.24**	.29**	.29**	.21**	.28**			.07	.11+	.17*	.30**
Age	.07	-.01	.18	.03	.05	.07	-.04	-.03	-.10*	-.12+			-.10	-.11+	-.02	.04
Adjusted R-square	.18	.28	.15	.19	.26	.30	.17	.17	.20	.29			.02	.20	.12	.15