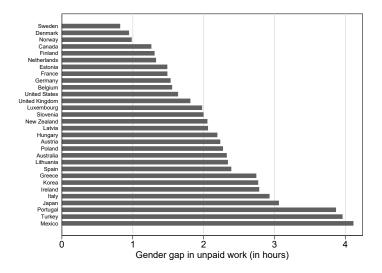
Suddenly a Stay-At-Home Dad? Short- and Long-term Consequences of Fathers' Job Loss on Time Investment in the Household

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# Gender Gap in Unpaid Work



Source: OECD Time-Use Database, 2015 or nearest year.

# Motivation

- Persistent gender difference in domestic work in virtually all countries, despite strong increase in female (and maternal) labor force participation and public child care coverage
- Changes in paternity leave regulation induced limited shifts in fathers' time investments + selection issue of paternity leave policies
- Little evidence on causal factors that actually shape and change the intra-household allocation of unpaid work

**Q**: How do negative employment shocks change paternal time investments?

# Related Literature

## Gender differences in time allocation:

 Coltrane (2000); Hook (2010); Sanchez and Thomson (1997); Bianchi (2000); Samtleben (2019)

### Paternity leave and time investment:

Bünning (2015); Schober (2014); Ekberg et al. (2013); Tamm (2019); Patnaik (2019); Pailhé et al. (2018)

### Economic shocks and allocation of housework:

- Foster and Stratton (2018): parental unemployment and promotion, HLFS
- Fauser (2019) and Voßemer and Heyne (2019): male unemployment, SOEP

Negative consequences of parental unemployment on children's outcomes:

 Financial constraints and psychological distress: Mörk et al. (2014); Coelli (2011); Schaller and Zerpa (2019); Peter (2016)

# Theory and Channels

### 1. Time availability and financial constraints

▶ Job loss → more time available → partly directed to child care and housework → especially in the face of financial constraints

#### 2. Bargaining power

▶ Job loss → lower bargaining power in division of domestic duties → relatively more domestic duties

#### 3. Gender role attitudes

 $\blacktriangleright$  Job loss  $\rightarrow$  exposure to nontraditional division of labor  $\rightarrow$  change in gender attitudes  $\rightarrow$  more equal division of domestic work

#### 4. Emotional bonding

▶ Job loss → father spends more time with child(ren) → stronger emotional bond → permanent change in time investment

# This Paper: Contributions

We study the **effect of paternal involuntary unemployment** on time allocated to **child care** and **housework** 

1. Focus on child care:

To the best of our knowledge we are the first to do so

2. Exogenous variation in paternal availability over entire child upbringing:

Paternity leave literature provides evindence on fathers with very young children only

3. Event study approach with individual fixed effects: We analyze short- and long-run effects

### 4. Mechanisms:

We calculate heterogenous effects and differentiate between weekdays and weekends, and analyze partner spillovers and household investments

# Results in a Nutshell

- Paternal involuntary job loss increases average domestic work in the short run
- Long term effects are
  - Positive for fathers who remain unemployed
  - Negative for fathers who return to employment (and have a not working partner)
- Mothers react to changed paternal time allocation:
  - Working mothers reduce domestic time investments
  - Not working mothers increase domestic time investments
- Households increase domestic time investment if both partners are not working and decrease it when both are in employment

## Data

- German Socio-Economic Panel, SOEP, waves 1992-2018
- Outcome: Time use on weekdays (annually) and weekends (bienially)
  - What is a typical day like for you? How many hours do you spend on the following activities on a typical weekday, Saturday, and Sunday?
    - Job, apprenticeship, second job
    - Errands
    - Housework
    - Child care
    - Care and support for persons in need of care
    - Education or further training
    - Repairs on and around the house, car repairs, garden work
    - Physical activities
    - Other leisure activities and hobbies



## Data cont.

Unemployment due to an involuntary job loss How did that job end?

- My place of work or office closed
- I resigned
- I was dismissed by my employer
- Mutual agreement with my employer
- I completed a temporary job or apprenticeship
- I reached retirement age / retired
- I took a leave of absence (Beurlaubung) / maternity leave (Mutterschutz) / parental leave (Elternzeit)
- I gave up self-employment / closed my business

## Data cont.

### Sample restrictions:

- Paternal age 18-65 living with one dependent child up to the age of 14
- Observed for at least two periods
- Non-missing information on main variables
- Exclusion of hours larger than 16

#### Final sample:

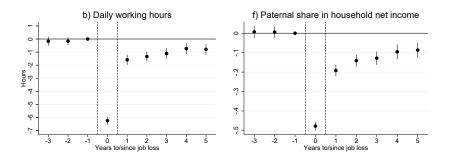
- 59,438 father-year combinations from 6,928 fathers observed for 8.5 years
- 1,210 involuntary job losses

# Event Study Approach

$$y_{it} = \sum_{j=j}^{j} \beta_j b_{it}^{j} + \alpha_i + \alpha_t + \sum_a \delta_a \times \mathbb{1}_{age\,group_{i=a}} + \sum_c \delta_c \times \mathbb{1}_{child\,age\,group_{i=c}} + I_{it} + \varepsilon_{it}$$
(1)

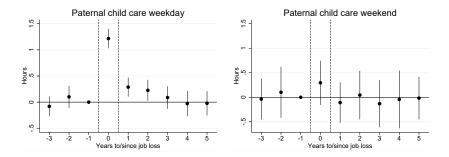
- y<sub>it</sub> Outcome y of individual i at time t
- ▶  $b_{it}^{j}$  Treatment indicator for an event happening  $j \in [\underline{j}, \overline{j}]$  periods away from t
- $\triangleright \alpha_i$  Individual fixed effects
- $\theta_t$  Time fixed effects
- $\delta_a, \delta_c$  Paternal and child age group fixed effects
- *I<sub>it</sub>* Interview characteristics
- $\triangleright$   $\varepsilon_{it}$  Standard errors clustered on the individual level

# First Stage: Hours and Share in Household Income



Notes: The figure plots coefficient estimates from an interaction of the involuntary job loss with indicators on the time difference to the event. The regressions include individual and year fixed effects and interview controls. The dashed lines indicate the timing of the job loss. Confidence intervals are based on standard errors clustered on the individual level and refer to the 95 percentile. Source: Own calculations based on SOEP v35.

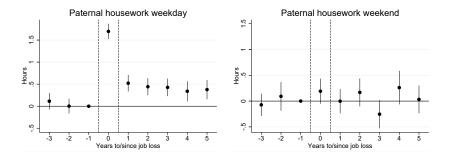
# Main Results: Child Care



Notes: The figure plots coefficient estimates from an interaction of the involuntary job loss with indicators on the time difference to the event. The regressions include individual and year fixed effects and interview controls. The dashed lines indicate the timing of the job loss. Confidence intervals are based on standard errors clustered on the individual level and refer to the 95 percentile. Source: Own calculations based on SOEP v35.

Regression results

# Main Results: Housework



Notes: The figure plots coefficient estimates from an interaction of the involuntary job loss with indicators on the time difference to the event. The regressions include individual and year fixed effects and interview controls. The dashed lines indicate the timing of the job loss. Confidence intervals are based on standard errors clustered on the individual level and refer to the 95 percentile. Source: Own calculations based on SOEP v35.

Regression results

# Heterogeneity: Employment Status and Partner Interaction

	Estimated treatment effect of job loss				
	Child		Housework		
	Weekday	Weekend	Weekday	Weekend	
Job loss					
Both not working	1.239***	0.062	1.361***	-0.040	
0	(0.131)	(0.265)	(0.111)	(0.143)	
Mother working	1.111***	0.405	2.088***	0.303*	
	(0.119)	(0.268)	(0.129)	(0.151)	
1-2 periods post					
Both not working	0.791***	0.152	1.025***	-0.158	
0	(0.166)	(0.291)	(0.141)	(0.144)	
Father working	-0.510***	-0.892**	-0.327**	-0.331*	
	(0.115)	(0.307)	(0.113)	(0.163)	
Mother working	0.806***	0.413	1.437***	0.116	
	(0.148)	(0.286)	(0.169)	(0.202)	
Both working	-0.231*	0.029	-0.048	0.259	
	(0.103)	(0.259)	(0.101)	(0.149)	

# Further Heterogeneities

### Child age: Results

Effects are larger when the youngest child is under age six and when the child is not in daycare

#### Education: Results

Effects on child care are more pronounced among the highly educated

Pre-treatment levels: Results More persistent effects for those with low pre-treatment levels

East-West: Results

Effects on child care larger in the West

# Robustness Checks

Robustness Checks Child Care

- Robustness Checks Housework
- 1. Plant closures only
- 2. Job loss 3 month pre-interview
- Excl. untreated fathers
- 4. Excl. fathers living without partner
- 5. Excl. fathers with multiple job losses
- Tobit model (no fixed effects)
- 7. Robust two-way fixed effects estimation Results
- 8. Controlling for co-determined controls (channels)



Other outcomes

# Cumulative Time Investments, Outsourcing and Spillovers

- Cumulative time investments increase when both spouses remain at home and decrease if both return to employment Results
- Female partners decrease their time investments if they are employed and increase them if they stay at home Results

# Conclusion

- Paternal involuntary job loss increases average domestic work in the short run
- Long-term effects **positive** only for fathers who remain unemployed and **negative** for fathers who return to employment
  - $\rightarrow$  Time availability
  - $\rightarrow\,$  No emotional bonding or gender role attitude changes
- Working mothers reduce domestic time investments, while not working mothers increase time investments

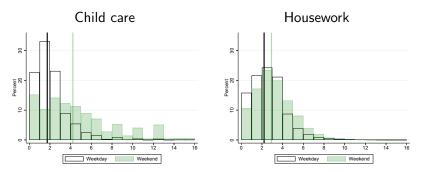
#### $\rightarrow$ Bargaining

- Households increase domestic time investment if both partners are not working and decrease it when both are in employment
  - $\rightarrow\,$  Financial constraints and outsourcing

### Thank you for your comments.

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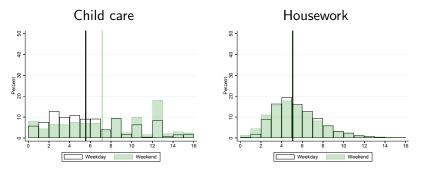
# Paternal Time Spent on Child Care and Housework



Notes: The figure plots the distribution of the maternal time use variables. The vertical lines indicate the sample mean.

Source: Own calculations based on SOEP (2019).

# Maternal Time Spent on Child Care and Housework



Notes: The figure plots the distribution of the maternal time use variables. The vertical lines indicate the sample mean.

Source: Own calculations based on SOEP (2019).

# Descriptives

		Sample			
	Inv. job le	oss	No inv. job loss		
	Sample mean	Ν	Sample mean	Ν	Difference
Paternal characteristics (time invariant)					
Age	38.78	7,117	40.63	52,321	1.85***
Migration background (D)	0.34	7,117	0.25	52,321	-0.09***
No degree (D)	0.21	7,117	0.10	52,321	-0.11***
Vocational degree (D)	0.71	7,117	0.71	52,321	-0.01
Academic degree (D)	0.10	7,117	0.28	52,321	0.18***
Child characteristics					
Total number of children up to age 18	1.96	7,117	1.88	52,321	-0.08***
Age youngest child	6.26	7,117	6.40	52,321	0.13*
Partner characteristics (for those with a	partner)				
Age	35.79	6,801	37.67	49,919	1.88***
In labor force (D)	0.68	6.801	0.70	49,919	0.02**
Working (D)	0.48	6,801	0.53	49,919	0.05***
Income and health					
Net household income (month)	2621.61	6,937	3575.16	50,314	953.56***
Mental health	50.34	4,078	51.25	30,281	0.91***
Physical health	51.01	4,078	53.06	30,281	2.05***

Notes: The table provides descriptive statistics for fathers experiencing an involuntary job loss and fathers who do not. Column (6) reports the difference between the two groups. Dummy variables are marked with a D. \* p < 0.05, \*\* p < 0.01.

Source: Own calculations based on SOEP v35.

# Regression Results

	Estimated treatment effect of job loss				
	Child	care	Housework		
	Weekday	Weekend	Weekday	Weekend	
3 periods pre	-0.066	-0.106	0.136	-0.072	
	(0.100)	(0.220)	(0.096)	(0.112)	
2 periods pre	0.103	0.055	0.008	0.060	
	(0.111)	(0.267)	(0.086)	(0.142)	
Job loss	1.200***	0.230	1.708***	0.147	
	(0.098)	(0.231)	(0.091)	(0.126)	
1 period post	0.254**	-0.201	0.526***	-0.034	
	(0.095)	(0.213)	(0.096)	(0.121)	
2 periods post	0.189	0.010	0.437***	0.114	
	(0.104)	(0.253)	(0.098)	(0.139)	
3 periods post	0.081	-0.217	0.425***	-0.289*	
	(0.112)	(0.250)	(0.103)	(0.141)	
4 periods post	-0.053	-0.111	0.325**	0.355*	
	(0.127)	(0.311)	(0.116)	(0.173)	
5 periods post	-0.040	-0.144	0.371**	0.012	
	(0.124)	(0.226)	(0.113)	(0.141)	
Pre-treatment mean	2.01	4.52	2.15	2.74	
Obs.	56,393	28,262	56,393	28,262	

Notes: The table reports treatment effect estimates of an involuntary job loss on paternal time allocation. Regressions include individual and time fixed effects and interview controls. \* p < 0.05, \*\* p < 0.01, \*\*\* p < 0.001. Source: Own calculations based on SOEP v35.

# Heterogeneity: Child Age and Daycare

	Child	care	House	ework
	Weekday	Weekend	Weekday	Weekend
Job loss				
Children $> 6$	0.699***	0.071	1.849***	0.339
Child <= 6 not in daycare	(0.122) 1.867***	(0.301) 0.040	(0.145) 1.561***	(0.190) -0.252
Child $<= 6$ in daycare	(0.194) 1.215*** (0.153)	(0.337) 0.539 (0.325)	(0.156) 1.688*** (0.142)	(0.191) 0.103 (0.161)
1-2 periods post				
Children > 6	0.315* (0.123)	-0.145 (0.261)	0.676*** (0.133)	0.238 (0.182)
Child $<= 6$ not in daycare	0.277 (0.150)	-0.082 (0.285)	0.411** (0.145)	-0.128
Child $\leq$ = 6 in daycare	0.158 (0.133)	-0.083 (0.284)	0.424** (0.130)	-0.047 (0.144)

Notes: The table reports treatment effect estimates of an involuntary job loss on paternal time allocation. Standard errors clustered on the individual level in parantheses. \* p<0.05, \*\* p<0.01, \*\*\* p<0.001.

Source: own calculations based on SOEP v35.

# Heterogeneity: Education

	Child	care	Hous	ework
	Weekday	Weekend	Weekday	Weekend
Job loss				
Voc. or academic degree	1.450***	0.490	1.092***	-0.128
No degree	(0.209) 1.160*** (0.104)	(0.379) 0.200 (0.239)	(0.148) 1.886*** (0.100)	(0.204) 0.150 (0.131)
1-2 periods post				
Voc. or academic degree	0.398* (0.165)	0.263 (0.315)	0.558*** (0.160)	-0.209 (0.189)
No degree	0.186* (0.094)	-0.202 (0.207)	0.491*** (0.094)	0.085 (0.117)
3-4 periods post				
Voc. or academic degree	0.204 (0.203)	-0.003 (0.402)	0.433** (0.147)	-0.060 (0.223)
No degree	-0.023 (0.105)	-0.213 (0.234)	(0.147) 0.394*** (0.105)	-0.084 (0.132)
Obs.	59,438	29,782	59,438	29,782
005.	35,430	25,102	55,450	25,102

# Heterogeneity: Pre-Treatment Time Investments

	Child	care	House	ework
	Weekday	Weekend	Weekday	Weekend
Job loss				
Low	1.051***	0.216	1.944***	0.042
High	(0.120) 1.291*** (0.130)	(0.276) 0.230 (0.276)	(0.138) 1.540*** (0.110)	(0.167) 0.135 (0.145)
1-2 periods post				
Low	0.538***	0.261	0.790***	-0.030
High	(0.114) 0.038 (0.109)	(0.223) -0.373 (0.242)	(0.121) 0.311** (0.107)	(0.144) 0.071 (0.133)
3-4 periods post				
Low	0.339** (0.125)	0.046 (0.266)	0.631*** (0.121)	-0.138 (0.173)
High	-0.161 (0.122)	-0.359 (0.274)	0.243* (0.115)	-0.028 (0.145)
Obs.	59,438	29,782	59,438	29,782

# Heterogeneity: East-West

	Child	care	House	ework
	Weekday	Weekend	Weekday	Weekend
Job loss				
East	1.057***	0.522	2.159***	-0.001
West	(0.147) 1.311*** (0.117)	(0.310) 0.088 (0.252)	(0.160) 1.473*** (0.099)	(0.160) 0.140 (0.144)
1-2 periods post				
East	0.217 (0.131)	-0.171 (0.274)	0.504*** (0.143)	-0.093 (0.142)
West	0.236* (0.100)	-0.078 (0.211)	0.515*** (0.097)	0.084 (0.130)
3-4 periods post				
East	0.067 (0.151)	-0.281 (0.333)	0.364** (0.141)	-0.222 (0.176)
West	-0.000 (0.111)	-0.116 (0.237)	(0.141) 0.430*** (0.107)	-0.005 (0.142)
Obs.	59,438	29,782	59,438	29,782

# Robustness Checks: Child Care

	Estimated treatment effect of job loss							
	Plant closures	Job loss 3 month pre- interview	Incl. not treated fathers	Excl. fathers w/o partner	Excl. mult job losses	Tobit model (no fe)		
	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(10 10)		
Child care weekday								
2 periods pre	-0.099 (0.140)	-0.044 (0.146)	0.083 (0.109)	0.035 (0.105)	0.044 (0.123)	0.086 (0.129)		
Job loss	0.956*** (0.191)	1.185*** (0.143)	1.224*** (0.097)	1.174*** (0.096)	1.156*** (0.119)	1.376***		
1 to 2 periods post	-0.104 (0.165)	0.097 (0.125)	0.258** (0.093)	0.179*	0.200 (0.107)	0.369**		
3 to 4 periods post	-0.131 (0.160)	-0.110 (0.142)	0.069 (0.119)	0.009 (0.095)	-0.086 (0.115)	0.199 (0.111)		
Number of obs.	54,242	55,483	7,117	56,720	57,612	59,438		

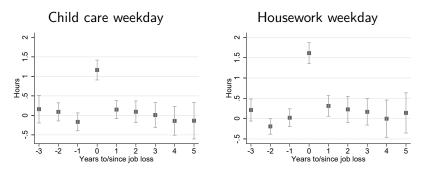
Notes: The table reports treatment effect estimates of an involuntary job loss on paternal time allocation. The regressions include individual and year fixed effects and interview and age-group controls. Standard errors clustered on the individual level in parentheses. \*p < 0.05, \*\* p < 0.01, \*\*\* p < 0.001. Source: Own calculations based on SOEP v35.

# Robustness Checks: Housework

		Estimated treatment effect of job loss						
	Plant closures	Job loss 3 month pre- interview	Incl. not treated fathers	Excl. fathers	Excl. mult job losses	Tobit model		
	(1)	(2)	(3)	w/o partner (4)	(5)	(no fe) (6)		
Housework weekday								
2 periods pre	-0.161 (0.139)	-0.006 (0.135)	0.023 (0.087)	-0.001 (0.085)	-0.056 (0.095)	-0.007 (0.121)		
Job loss	1.766*** (0.184)	1.800*** (0.137)	1.705*** (0.090)	1.709*** (0.090)	(0.055) 1.590*** (0.104)	1.892*** (0.096)		
1 to 2 periods post	0.251 (0.166)	0.370**	0.499***	0.470*** (0.084)	0.392***	0.590***		
3 to 4 periods post	-0.004 (0.167)	0.152 (0.141)	0.381*** (0.109)	0.358*** (0.093)	0.271*	0.453*** (0.104)		
Number of obs.	54,242	55,483	7,117	56,720	57,612	59,438		

*Notes*: The table reports treatment effect estimates of an involuntary job loss on paternal time allocation. The regressions include individual and year fixed effects and interview and age-group controls. Standard errors clustered on the individual level in parentheses. \* p < 0.05, \*\* p < 0.01, \*\*\* p < 0.001. *Source:* Own calculations based on SOEP v35

## Robust Two-Way Fixed Effects Estimation



Notes: The figure plots the distribution of the maternal time use variables. The vertical lines indicate the sample mean.

Source: Own calculations based on SOEP (2019).

# Channels Child Care

	Estimated treatment effect of job loss					
	Baseline	Partner controls	Child controls	Health controls		
	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)		
Child care weekday						
2 periods pre	0.097 (0.107)	0.096 (0.106)	0.129 (0.119)	0.102 (0.194)		
Job loss	(0.107) 1.223*** (0.095)	(0.100) 1.210*** (0.095)	(0.119) 1.215*** (0.100)	(0.194) 1.308*** (0.131)		
1 to 2 periods post	0.231** (0.085)	0.221** (0.084)	0.223*	0.107 (0.111)		
3 to 4 periods post	0.025	0.019	0.014 (0.103)	-0.080 (0.138)		
Number of obs.	59,438	59,438	55,171	33,592		

Notes: The table reports treatment effect estimates of an involuntary job loss on paternal time allocation. The regressions include individual and year fixed effects and interview and age-group controls. Standard errors clustered on the individual level in parentheses. \* p < 0.05, \*\*\* p < 0.01. Source: Own calculations based on SOEP v35.

# Channels Housework

	Estim	Estimated treatment effect of job loss					
	Baseline (1)	Partner controls (2)	Child controls (3)	Health controls (4)			
Housework weekday							
2 periods pre	0.010 (0.084)	0.009 (0.084)	-0.031 (0.090)	-0.052 (0.115)			
Job loss	1.710*** (0.089)	1.701*** (0.089)	1.656*** (0.092)	1.631*** (0.114)			
1 to 2 periods post	0.509*** (0.086)	0.501*** (0.086)	0.514*** (0.092)	0.563*** (0.119)			
3 to 4 periods post	0.403*** (0.094)	0.398*** (0.094)	0.421*** (0.096)	0.356** (0.128)			
Number of obs.	59,438	59,438	55,171	33,592			

Notes: The table reports treatment effect estimates of an involuntary job loss on paternal time allocation. The regressions include individual and year fixed effects and interview and age-group controls. Standard errors clustered on the individual level in parentheses. \* p < 0.05, \*\*\* p < 0.01, \*\*\* p < 0.001. Source: Own calculations based on SOEP v35.

# Other Outcomes

	Estimated treatment effect of job loss					
		Maternal	outcomes	Household outcomes		
	Paternal wellbeing (log.) (1)	Working (2)	Full-time (3)	Birth bio. child (4)	State change (5)	
2 periods pre	-0.005 (0.015)	0.001 (0.020)	0.003 (0.016)	-0.019 (0.015)	-0.001 (0.007)	
Job loss	-0.105* <sup>**</sup>	0.034*́	0.030*	-0.001	-0.001	
1 to 2 periods post	(0.012) -0.046*** (0.012)	(0.016) 0.034 (0.018)	(0.013) 0.019 (0.014)	(0.013) -0.008 (0.011)	(0.003) -0.002 (0.006)	
3 to 4 periods post	-0.009 (0.015)	0.022	(0.014) 0.040* (0.018)	-0.009 (0.012)	-0.002 (0.009)	
Obs.	58,972	56,720	56,720	59,438	59,438	

*Notes*: The table reports treatment effect estimates of an involuntary job loss on paternal time allocation. The regressions include individual and year fixed effects and interview and age-group controls. Standard errors clustered on the individual level in parentheses. \* p < 0.05, \*\* p < 0.01, \*\*\* p < 0.001. *Source*: Own calculations based on SOEP v35.

# Cumulative Household Investments

	Estimated treatment effect of job loss on partner				
	Partner		Household		
	Weekday	Weekend	Weekday	Weekend	
Job loss					
Both NW	2.093***	0.843	1.792***	0.202	
	(0.285)	(1.072)	(0.172)	(0.590)	
Mother W	-0.241	-0.809	1.505***	-0.102	
	(0.247)	(0.988)	(0.155)	(0.480)	
1-2 periods post					
Both NW	1.780***	2.237*	1.238***	-0.690	
	(0.349)	(1.112)	(0.210)	(0.550)	
Father W	0.521	-0.569	0.149	-0.536	
	(0.306)	(1.197)	(0.192)	(0.626)	
Mother W	-0.148	0.619	0.621**	0.122	
	(0.285)	(1.134)	(0.198)	(0.550)	
Both W	-0.709**	0.056	-0.540***	0.174	
	(0.263)	(1.001)	(0.153)	(0.435)	

# Spousal Spillovers

	Estimated treatment effect of job loss on partner				
	Partner		Household		
	Weekday	Weekend	Weekday	Weekend	
Job loss					
Both NW	0.854***	0.360	0.431***	0.141	
Mother W	(0.236) -1.352*** (0.204)	(0.407) -0.809* (0.358)	(0.109) -0.583*** (0.098)	(0.228) -0.354 (0.181)	
1-2 periods post					
Both NW	0.989***	0.967*	0.213	-0.187	
Father W	(0.282) 1.031*** (0.283)	(0.404) 0.608 (0.469)	(0.135) 0.476** (0.153)	(0.203) 0.063 (0.251)	
Mother W	-0.954*** (0.252)	-0.103	-0.816*** (0.129)	-0.054 (0.231)	
Both W	-0.478* (0.228)	-0.001 (0.369)	-0.493*** (0.113)	-0.173 (0.164)	

Notes: The table reports treatment effect estimates of an involuntary job loss on paternal time allocation. Standard errors clustered on the individual level in parantheses. \* p < 0.05, \*\* p < 0.01, \*\*\* p < 0.001. Source: own calculations based on SOEP v35.

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