

FORSCHUNGSKOLLOQUIUM



“A house is not a home? Gender, housework and housemates in young adulthood”

Decades of sociological research consistently find that women do more housework than men. However, existing research almost exclusively focuses on families and couples, thus overlooking non-familial households and the life stage of young adulthood. In this paper, I offer an alternative setting for studying gender inequality in housework - shared living households where people live together but do not share romantic or kinship relationships (i.e., "roommates").

Using a nationally representative sample from the American Time Use Survey (2003-2019), I describe housework investment by type of living arrangement, paying particular attention to the household's gender composition and type of housework task. Specifically, I ask whether living with men roommates is associated with more housework investment for young adult women in the US. The results suggest that gender organizes housework time for young adults, mainly cleaning. However, the results are mixed about the role of the household's gender composition. I discuss the implications of these results for our understanding of gender inequality in households more broadly.

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Online, via Zoom

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