

The development of children's housework performance

Evidence from German time use data, 1991–2013

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Objectives • Background • Context

Trend analysis of children's participation in and time use for housework in Germany over the past 20 years (1991/1992 – 2012/2013)

GAPS OF KNOWLEDGE & RESEARCH QUESTIONS

- Overall: Research on children's contributions to housework is scarce.
- How have girls' and boys' participation in and time budgets for housework changed over time? Do these trends resemble those of adult women and men?
- How are parents' and children's time budgets for housework related? Has this association changed over time?

BACKGROUND

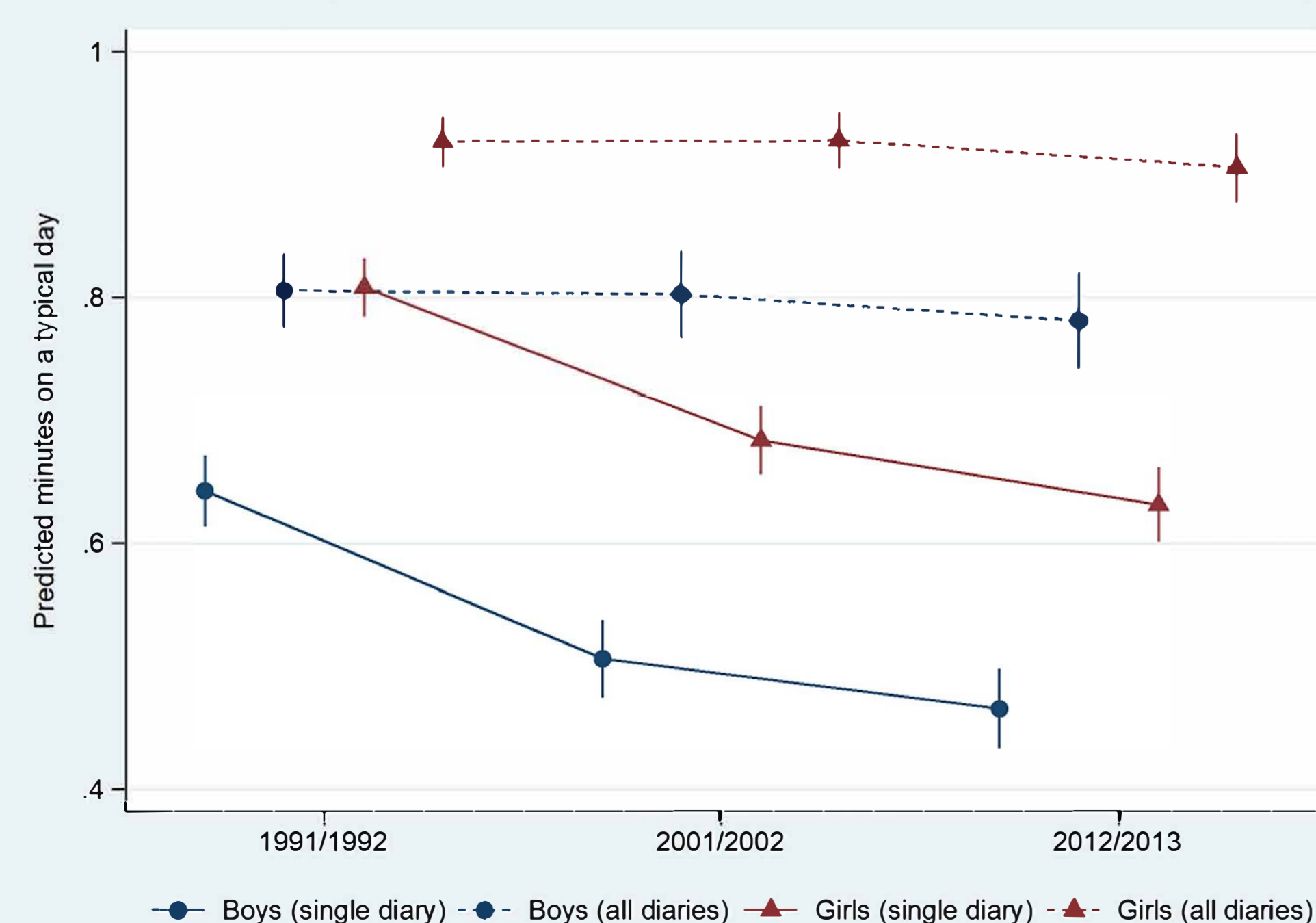
- **Gender convergence** in housework time over recent decades
 - Time of women/mothers declined, time of men/fathers slightly increased
- **Children** are parts of their households and, thus, not only cause housework but also **do housework**
- **"Transmission"** of housework performance from parents to their children, and dependence of parental and children's time budgets for housework

GERMANY

- Conservative welfare regime, prevailing traditional gender ideologies and gendered behavior in the family
- Evidence of intergenerational transmission of gender roles and housework behavior

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Development of children's participation in housework activities



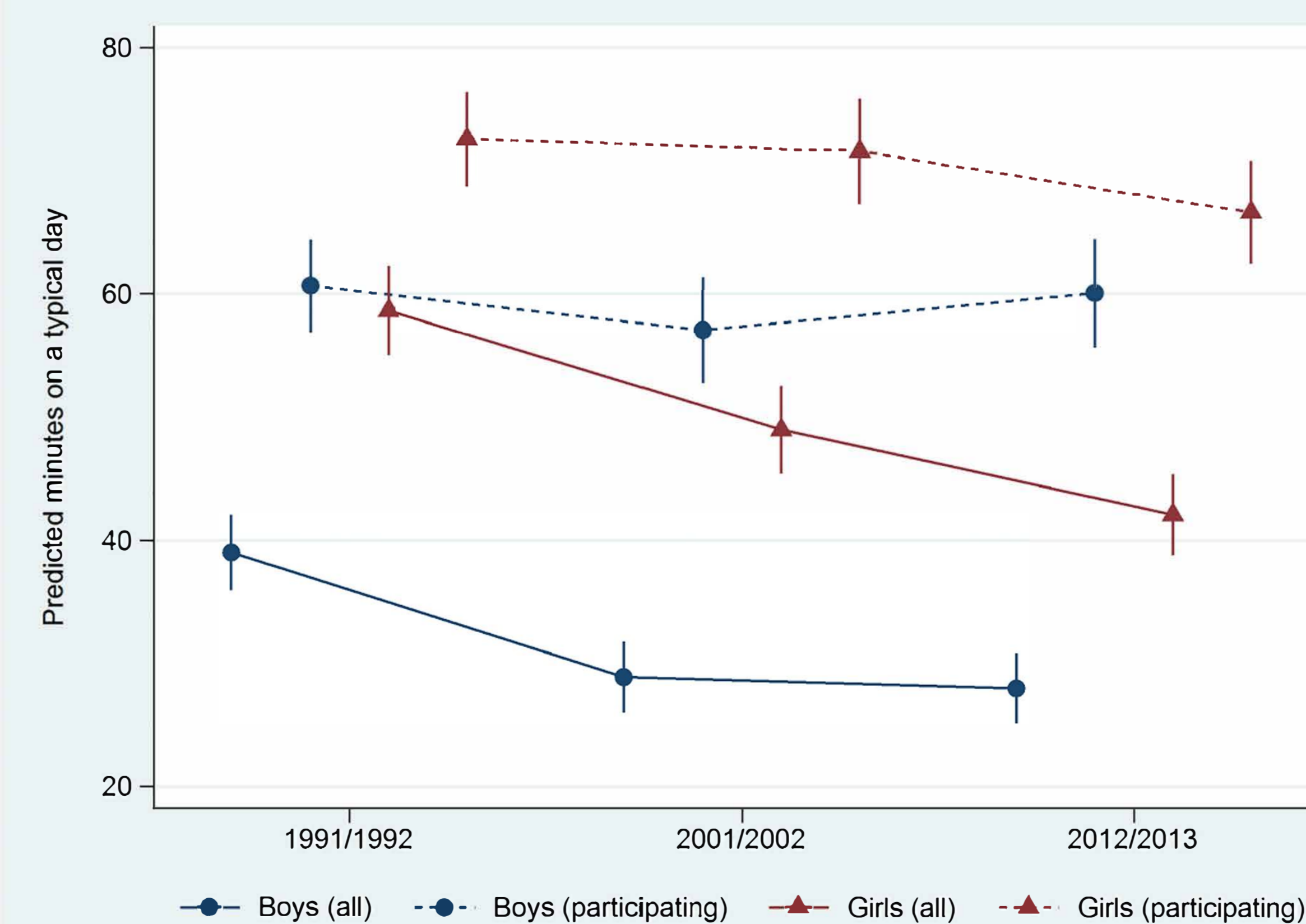
- Girls participate more often in housework activities than boys
- Girls' and boys' daily participation declined similarly over the last 20 years
 - Girls: 81% ↘ 0.63%
 - Boys: 64% ↘ 0.47%
- Still, 81% of the boys and 93% of the girls do any kind of housework at any time over the week

Data and Method

- German Time Use Study, time series data
- Three surveys: 1991/1992, 2001/2002, and 2012/2013; each sample > 5000 households
- Time diary study, two/three days for each respondent
- Sample: Children aged 12 – 17
 - Living in parental household, two heterosexual parents, no 'third persons' or siblings aged 18+ in household
- 1455 girls and 1481 boys, 3761/3815 diaries for all days of the week
- Outcomes: Participation in and time use for housework
 - Participation: calculated from diaries and over all diaries of each child
 - Time is truncated at 240 minutes per day, for all and for participants
- Main variables: survey year, children's gender and mothers' and fathers' time for housework (+ standard controls)
- Modeling: Logistic and OLS regression, predictive margins
 - Separate models by survey year and children's gender

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Development of children's time use for housework



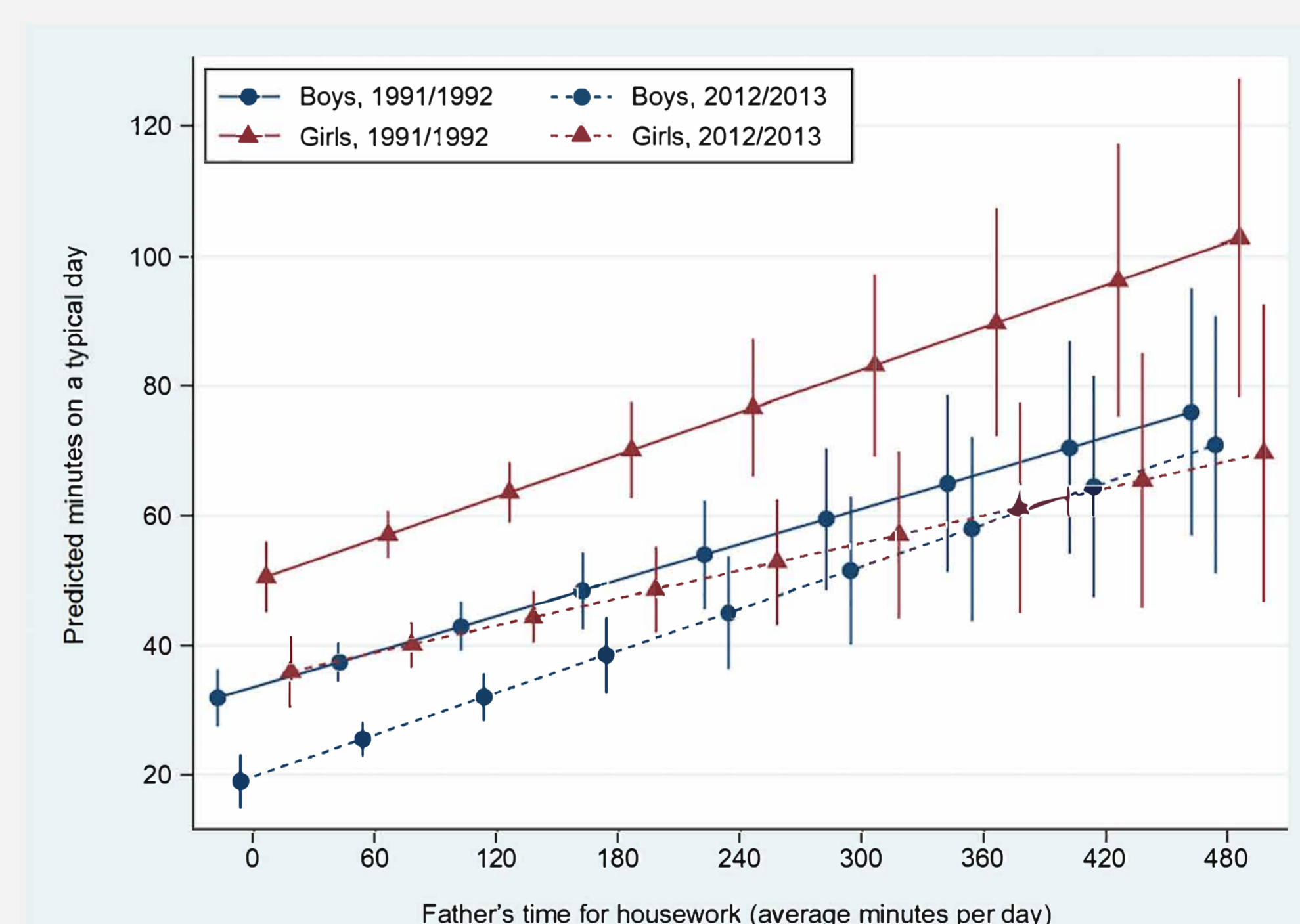
- Girls spend more time doing housework than boys, approx. 15 minutes more per day in 2012/2013, this gender gap has narrowed slightly
- Girls' and boys' time for housework declined by almost 30%, from 59 to 42 minutes and from 39 to 28 minutes per day, respectively
- Time use of participating girls and boys, however, has not changed significantly (note: no significant gender differences in 2012/2013)

Conclusions

- Girls and boys do less housework than 20 years ago
 - Participation declined, and (logically) average housework time declined
 - But: housework time for participants did not change
- Children's housework behavior is gendered
 - Girls' continue spending approx. 50% more time for housework activities
- Fathers' and mothers' housework time is positively associated with boys' and girls' time housework time
 - Evidence for **"intergenerational transmission"**

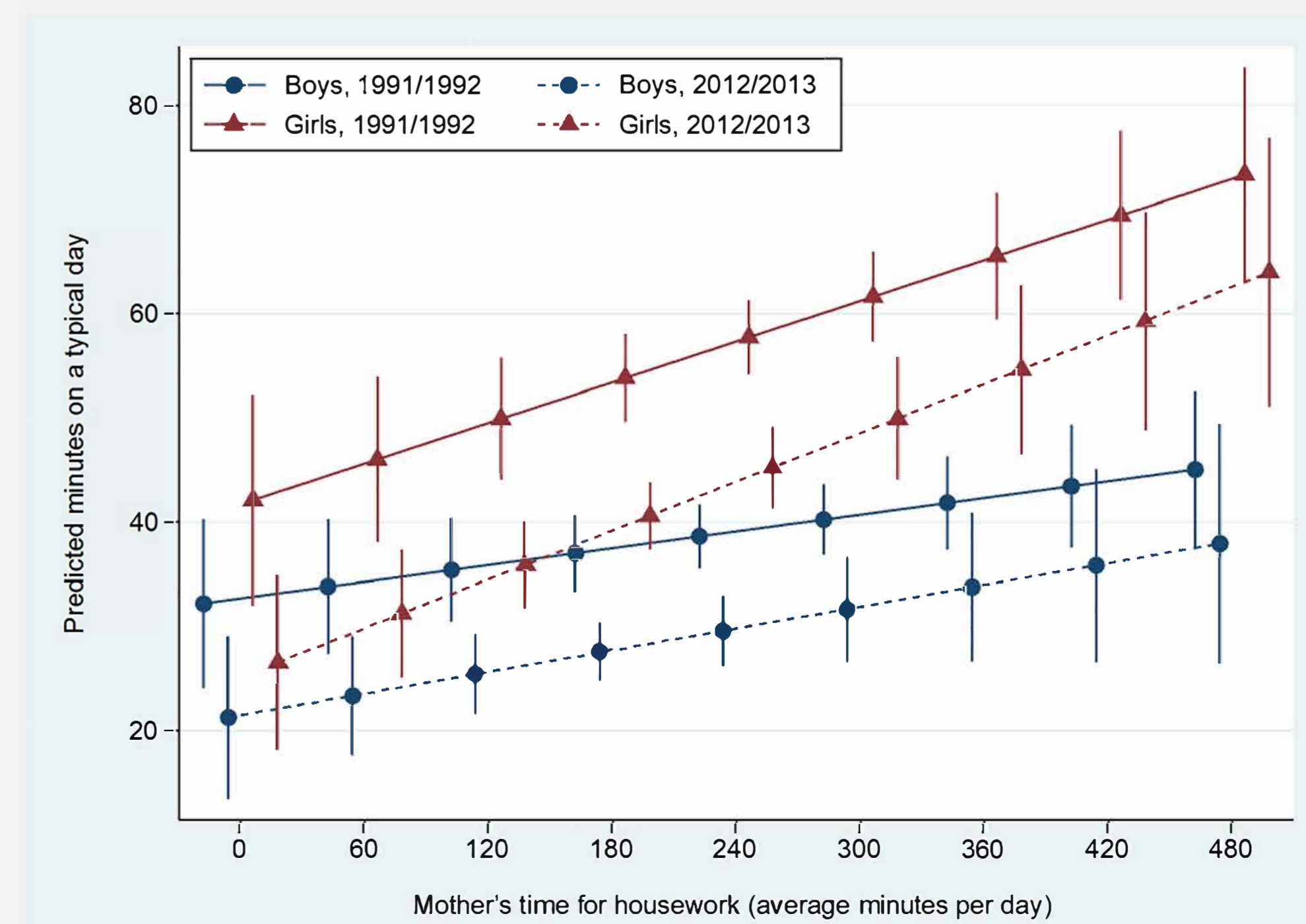
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Associations between parents' and children's time for housework



Fathers and ...

- **Sons**
 - Positive and slightly increasing assoc.
 - Housework time decreases more strongly between 1991 and 2013 in households in which fathers do less housework
- **Daughters**
 - Positive and slightly decreasing assoc.
 - Housework time decreases more strongly in households in which fathers do more housework



Mothers and ...

- **Sons**
 - Positive and slightly increasing assoc. (not significant)
 - Housework time decreases more strongly between 1991 and 2013 in households in which mothers do less housework
- **Daughters**
 - Positive and slightly increasing assoc.
 - Housework time decreases more strongly in households in which mothers do less housework