

Children's Time Use and Parents' Work Schedules

Evidence from the Spanish case

Joan García Román, University of Minnesota / Pablo Gracia, European University Institute



UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA

Motivation

- ✓ Investigate how parents' work schedules influence children's time use.
- ✓ Studying children's daily activities, and whether parents supervise these activities, is critical to understand child wellbeing.
- ✓ Spain represents an excellent case of study, as many parents in this country have a work schedule that brings them to engage in paid work until late in the evening (Gracia & Kalmijn, 2015).

Data & Methods

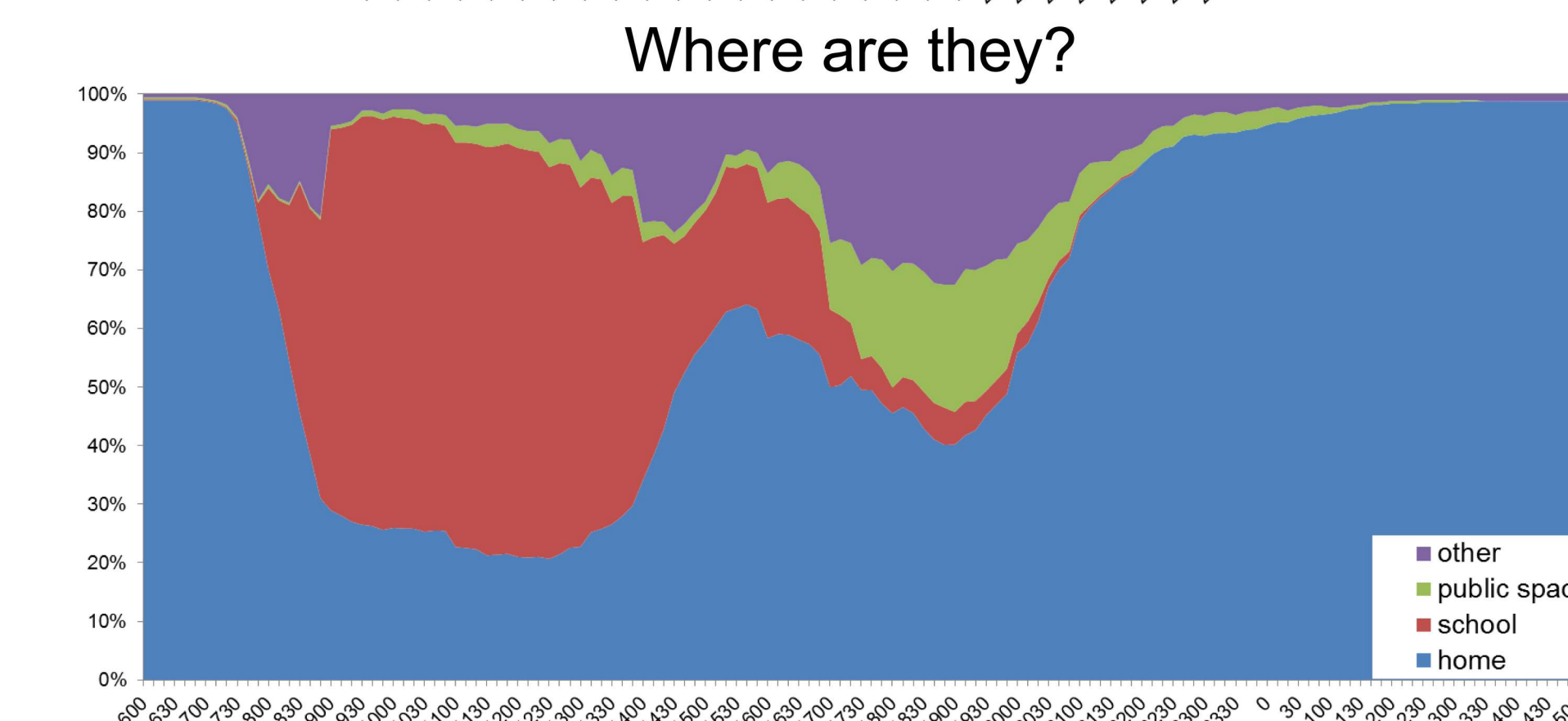
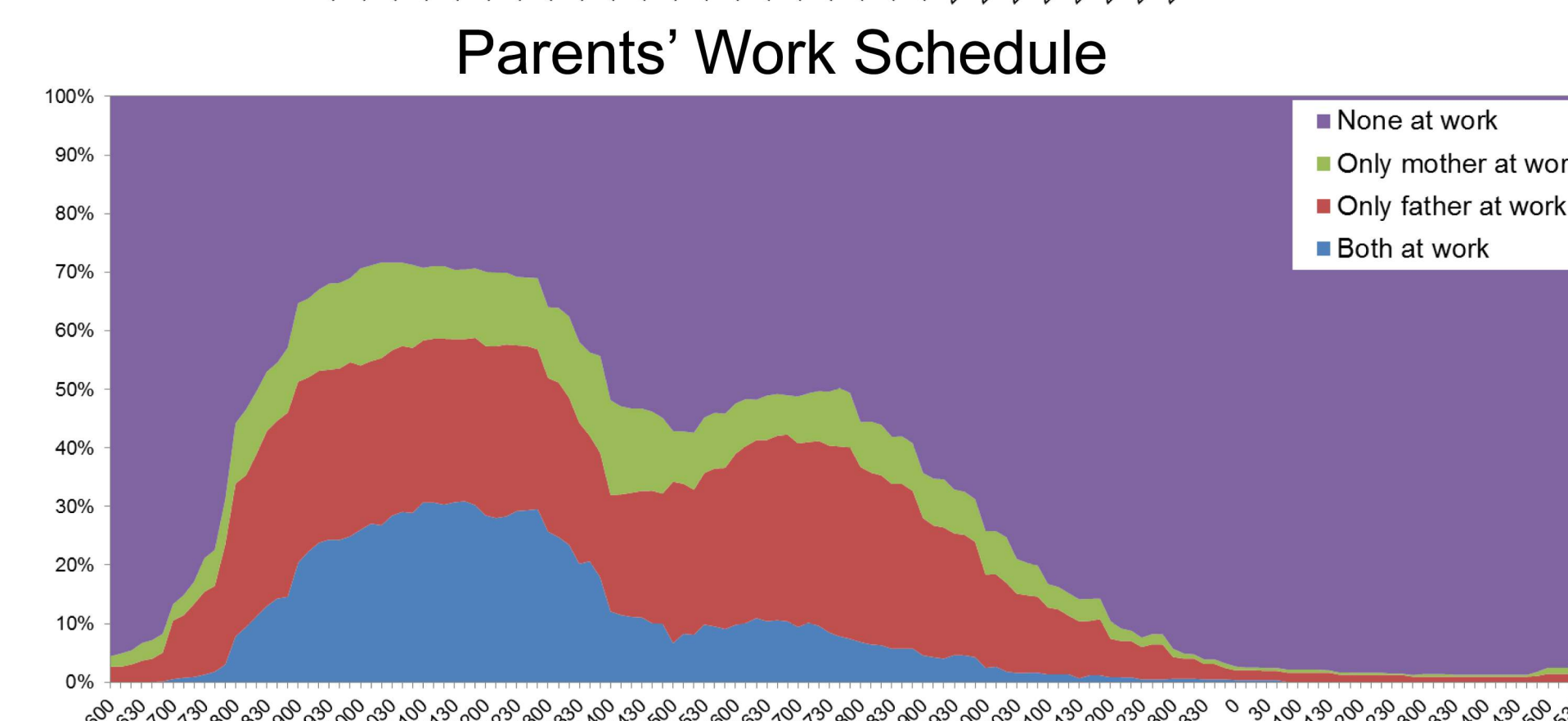
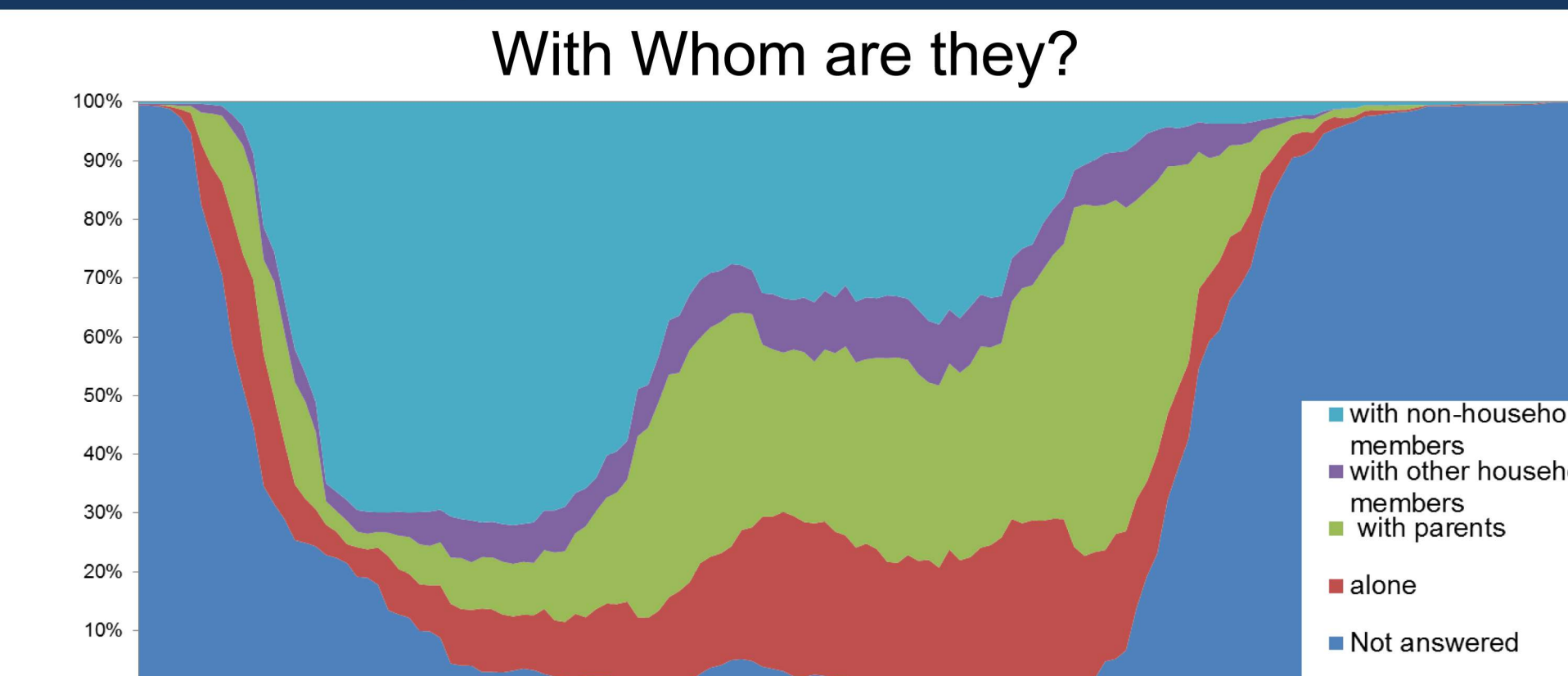
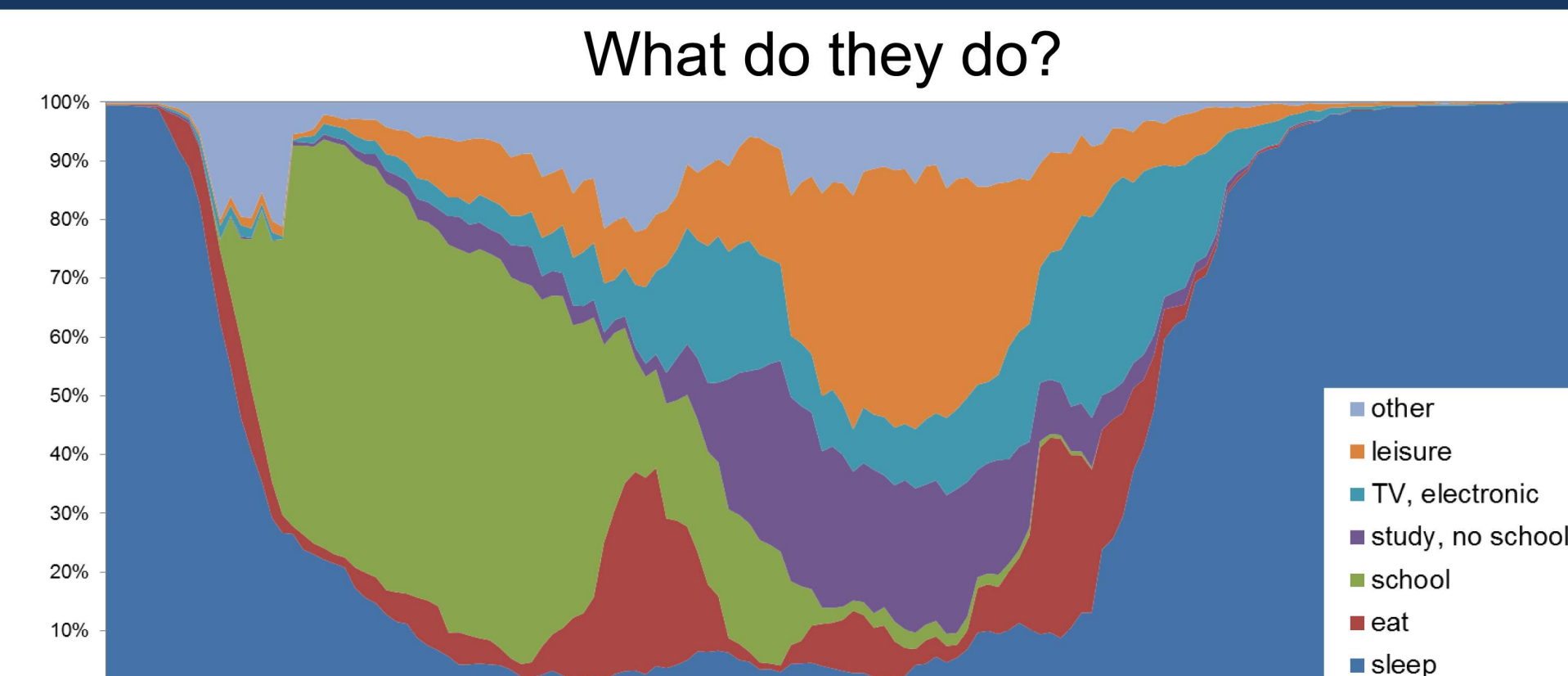
- ✓ Data from the Spanish Time Use Survey 2009-2010
- ✓ Information collected by a diary of activities from 6am to 6am
- ✓ All members of the household aged over 9 years filled the diary
- ✓ Sample Selection: Children 10-16 years old who live with two parents and filled a diary during a weekday. N=593
- ✓ Dependent variables:

- *Total time with parents: hours with presence of at least one parent
- *Family Interactions: hours in meals or family socializing with at least one parent
- *Educational Activities: hours of homework and reading after schooling time
- *Unsupervised TV: hours watching television without any parent present
- *Unsupervised Electronics: hours in electronic activities without any parent
- *Unsupervised Internet: hours using internet without presence of any parent

Hypotheses

- ✓ **Hypothesis 1:** Parents' evening work has negative effects on children's time supervised by parents and interactive family time.
- ✓ **Hypothesis 2:** Parents' evening work has negative effects on children's time in educational activities.
- ✓ **Hypothesis 3:** Parents' evening work has positive effects on children's time in electronic, watching TV and internet without supervision.
- ✓ **Hypothesis 4:** The effects of evening work on the different measures of children's time use are significant for low-educated parents, but not for high-educated parents.

Children During the Day



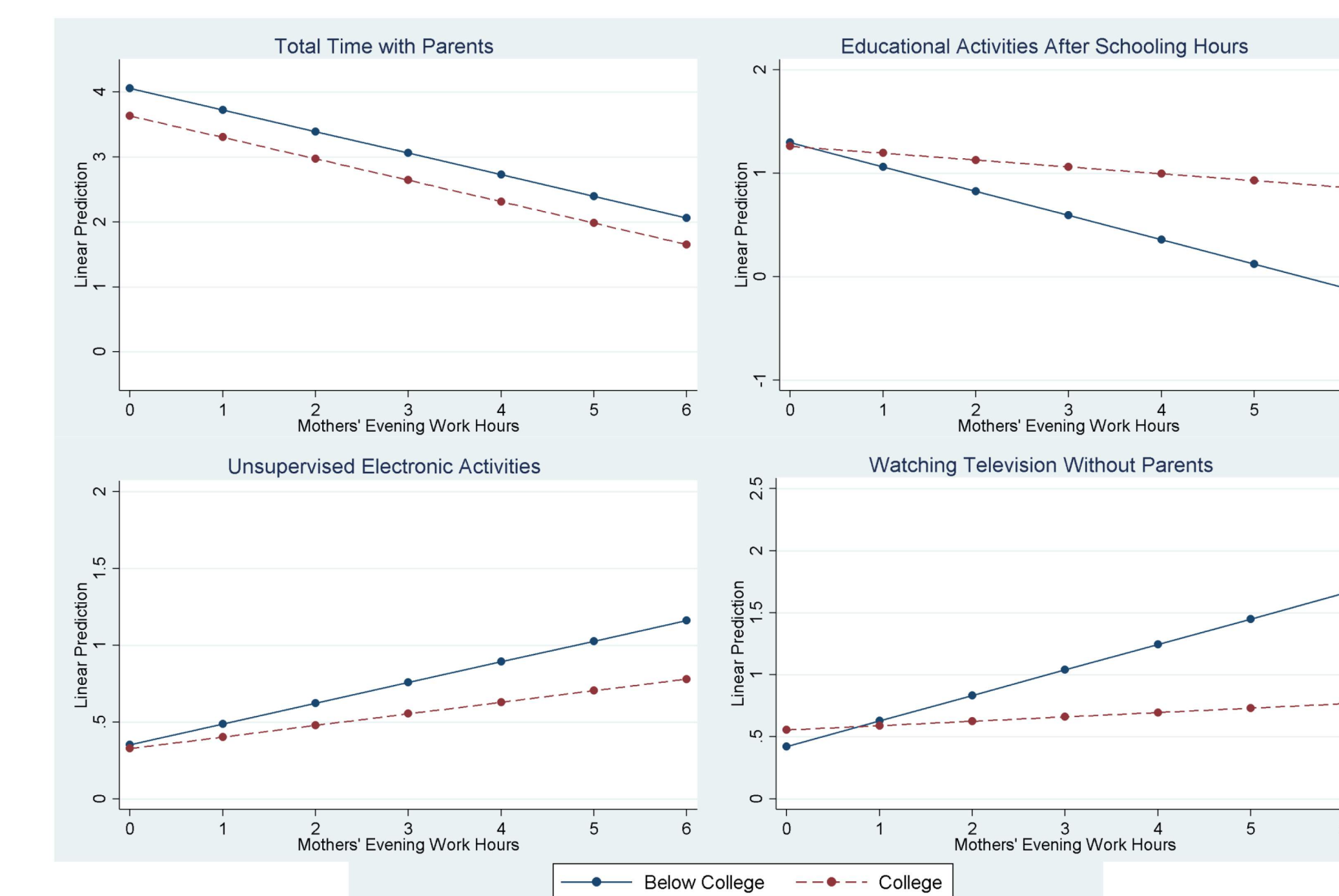
OLS Models. Children's Time in Selected Activities

	Time with Parents	Family Interaction	Educational Activities	Unsupervised Television	Unsupervised Electronics	Unsupervised Internet
	b	b	b	b	b	b
# Hours mother works 7am-6pm	-0.19	-0.06	-0.16*	0.07	0.08	0.04*
# Hours mother works 6pm-Midnight	-0.31*	-0.16*	-0.19**	0.11*	0.16**	0.08***
# Hours father works 7am-6pm	-0.16*	-0.02	0.01	0.03	-0.01	0.01
# Hours father works 6pm-Midnight	-0.11	-0.02	0.05	0.03	0.03	0.01
Mother Hours of Work No Work	-0.55	-0.31	-1.35**	0.69*	0.65	0.35*
(ref: 6-9 hours) Less Than 6	-0.27	-0.1	-0.48	0.33	0.06	0.15
More than 9	-0.25	0.16	0.62*	-0.1	-0.45*	-0.06
Father Hours of Work No Work	-0.06	-0.01	-0.24	0.05	0.01	0.04
(ref: 0-9 Hours) More than 9	0.26	0.01	-0.17	-0.11	-0.01	-0.01
Mother has College Degree	0.06	-0.06	0.04	-0.09	0.01	-0.01
Father has College Degree	-0.05	-0.11	0.02	0.09	0.11	0.03
Constant	7.22***	2.39***	2.57***	0.6	0.49	0.25

* $p < 0.05$, ** $p < 0.01$, *** $p < 0.001$

Controls include: Sex, Age, Number of children under 18, number of other adults in household, period of the year, and day of the week.

Linear Prediction. Mothers' Evening Work and Education



For Time with parents both levels of education are significant ($p < 0.05$).
For other activities only below college has significant effects ($p < 0.01$)

Conclusions

- ✓ We contribute to previous studies by analyzing the links between parents' evening work and children's time use.
- ✓ Mothers' evening work hours, but not fathers', are negatively associated with children spending time in activities with parents, interactive family time, and educational activities.
- ✓ Mothers' evening work hours, by contrast, are positively associated with children's time in electronic activities, internet using, and watching television without receiving parental supervision.
- ✓ The negative effects of maternal evening work on children's developmental activities only apply to less-educated families; highly-educated families seem to owe high resources to ensure that their children engage in more developmental activities.
- ✓ The study has general implications for broad debates on how parents' work schedules influence child well-being.