

The Impact of Austerity on Gender Inequality in Time Allocation

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Motivation

- Steep declines in state revenues in the US during the Great Recession
- Spending cuts in essential services, reduction in state workforce (McNichol et al., 2010; Johnson et al., 2011)
- Focus on macroeconomic implications of austerity
- Asymmetric gender effects of austerity (Albelda, 2014; Périvier, 2018)
- Relevance to the ongoing pandemic

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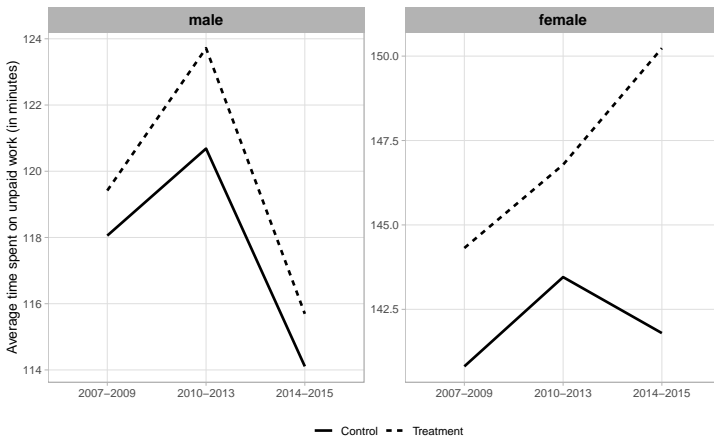
Research Question

- Do austerity policies increase the gender inequality in time allocated for unpaid work?
 - ▶ Focus on education spending
 - ▶ Potential impact on unpaid work time

Data

- Time use and demographic data for 2005-2015 from American Time Use Survey (ATUS)
 - ▶ Sample includes individuals between 18-64 who are not enrolled in high school, college or university
- Information on state fiscal spending from Johnson (2011)

Trends in time use across genders



Empirical Strategy

- Baseline Specification

$$\begin{aligned} unpaidwork_{itj} = & \beta_1 female_i + \beta_2 child_i + \beta_3 austerity_{tj} \\ & + \beta_4 female_i * austerity_{tj} + \beta_5 female_i * child_i \\ & + \beta_6 child_i * austerity_{tj} + \beta_7 female_i * child_i * austerity_{tj} \\ & + \beta_8 X_{itj} + \alpha_j + \theta_t + \epsilon_{itj} \end{aligned}$$

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Preliminary Results

	Unpaid Work
Female	5.346 (3.888)
Child	29.811*** (3.381)
Austerity	6.339 (4.981)
Income	0.870*** (0.175)
Employment Status	-57.891*** (1.550)
Female*Austerity	-6.520 (5.203)
Child*Austerity	-8.322* (4.540)
Female*Child	18.649*** (4.515)
Female*Child*Austerity	11.960** (6.063)
Observations	33,141

Note:

* $p < 0.1$; ** $p < 0.05$; *** $p < 0.01$

Concluding Remarks

- Initial results show that austerity policies can have unequal effects across genders
- Modify static specification to dynamic event study specification to estimate effects over time

Thank You! :)