Educational Heterogamy and the Division of Paid Labour in the Family: A Comparison of Present-day Belgium and Sweden

Mieke C.W. Eeckhaut*, Maria A. Stanfors** & Bart Van de Putte*

*Department of Sociology, Ghent University **Center for Economic Demography, Lund University

Parameter Estimates for the Diagonal Reference Model with Control Variables, the Presence of Young Children, and Educational Heterogamy, for Woman’s Share of Couple Working Hours (ref.cat. 41-59%)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Belgium</th>
<th>Sweden</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>0%</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>1-40%</td>
<td>2.481 *</td>
<td>1.740 *</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>41-59%</td>
<td>1.064</td>
<td>1.653 *</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>&gt;59%</td>
<td>2.143</td>
<td>1.566 *</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Note: The odds for the homogamous couples and the control variables are omitted from this table.
*p < 0.05.

Results

Education & Relative Female Labour Market Participation:
Belgium: Strong positive link (exception: >59%)
Education ↓ is 29.3 times more important than education ↑
Sweden: Strong positive link (exception: >59%)
Education ↓ is 3.6 times more important than education ↑

Educational Heterogamy & Relative Female Labour Market Participation:
Belgium: No heterogamy effect
Sweden: Specialization effect (limited to binary choice: 0% vs. 41-59%)

The Presence of (Young) Children & Relative Female Labour Market Participation:
Belgium: No direct effect
Sweden: Specialization effect (especially of children <6 years on not-working in Sweden)

Discussion

Couple Effects?

Educational Heterogamy:
Very limited (!)
only specialization effect for not-working vs. working in Sweden
Strong effect of education (especially in Belgium)

The Presence of (Young) Children:
Strong direct effect
especially of children <6 years on not-working in Sweden
in Sweden: also positive odds for working >59% of couple working hours
Limited indirect effect
in Sweden: Specialization of dependent child >> Specialization of child <6 years

Mieke.Eeckhaut@UGent.be