

Is G. Becker right?

The Division of Labor in Households reexamined

Peter Kriwy

Institute of Social Sciences / Sociology

Christian-Albrechts-Universität zu Kiel

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Agenda

1. Introduction
2. Theoretical considerations
3. Data
4. Results
5. Summary

1. Introduction

- There is a vast number of classical studies investigating male and female income: Mincer und Polachek 1974; Polachek 1975; Mincer und Polachek 1978; Marini 1989
- ...and lots of current work: Albrecht et al. 2003; Gardeazabal und Ugidos 2005; Keene und Reynolds 2005; Mandel und Semyonov 2005; Weichselbaumer und Winter-Ebmer 2005; Tomaskovic-Devey et al. 2006; Arulampalam et al. 2007
- But what about job market participation in the course of time?

2. Theoretical considerations

- „sex-role-specialization“ stabilizes marriages (Parsons 1968)
- Following Becker (1981) in an efficient household only the one spouse showing comparatively greater advantages in the market specializes completely, e.g. in earning income from employment.
- Relative advantages in human capital should enhance the probability of being employed.
- However, traditional gender-specific role models may prohibit rational decisions concerning the division of labor in households.

2. Theoretical considerations

- gender-specific role models in the course of time:
From traditional roles to gender equality
(Inglehart/Norris 2005)
 - gross domestic product / gender equality scale, pooled
WVS 1995-2001, $R^2=0.54$
 - Current most egalitarian countries: Finland, Sweden,
West Germany, Canada
 - Attitudes towards traditional roles: Poland, Turkey,
Morocco
 - In postindustrial countries attitudes towards gender
equality increase faster compared to agrarian countries

2. Theoretical considerations

- gender-specific role models in the course of time in Germany:
 - Most radical changes occurred in the 1980`s (German Federal Ministry of Family Affairs, Senior Citizens, Women and Youth 2007)
 - Traditional male role concepts diminish, female self-confidence rises (Volz/Zulehner 2009)
 - Women`s educational expansion (Blossfeld 1992)
 - mothers` employment, MZ 1976-2004 (Konietzka/Kreyenfeld 2009, forthcoming)
 - educational expansion and marriage, VZ 1970, MZ 1997 (Wirth/Schmidt 2003)

2. Theoretical considerations

- H1:
Relative advantages in human capital increase the probability to be employed.
- H2:
Due to changing attitudes towards gender equity, especially for women this mechanism asserts only with time.

3. Data

- This topic is part of the project “Social and economic change in (West) Germany “
 - managed by Christof Wolf (German Microdata Lab)
 - third party funding: Leibniz-Gesellschaft
- The German Mikrozensus: 1 percent of the German resident population is randomly selected
- One wave contains about 800,000 cases, 70% are for scientific use (Scientific Use Files). The cumulated file (1962-2005) contains more than 13 million cases
- Data has been collected every year since 1957 (since 1991 “East” Germany is included as well)
- Only parts of the questionnaire are to be answered voluntarily
- Predominantly face-to-face design (14% of the data are collected by postal questionnaires)

3. Data

- Number of cases: 3.4 million married individuals, private households, age 21-63, W-Germany (13 waves, 1976-2005)
- ILO-concept to measure employment is not used,
 - because it mixes full-time, part-time and marginal employment
 - and maternity leave means being occupied (since 1996)
- Definition of being employed:
Everybody who works 15 or more hours a week and is getting paid.

3. Data

Descriptive Statistics

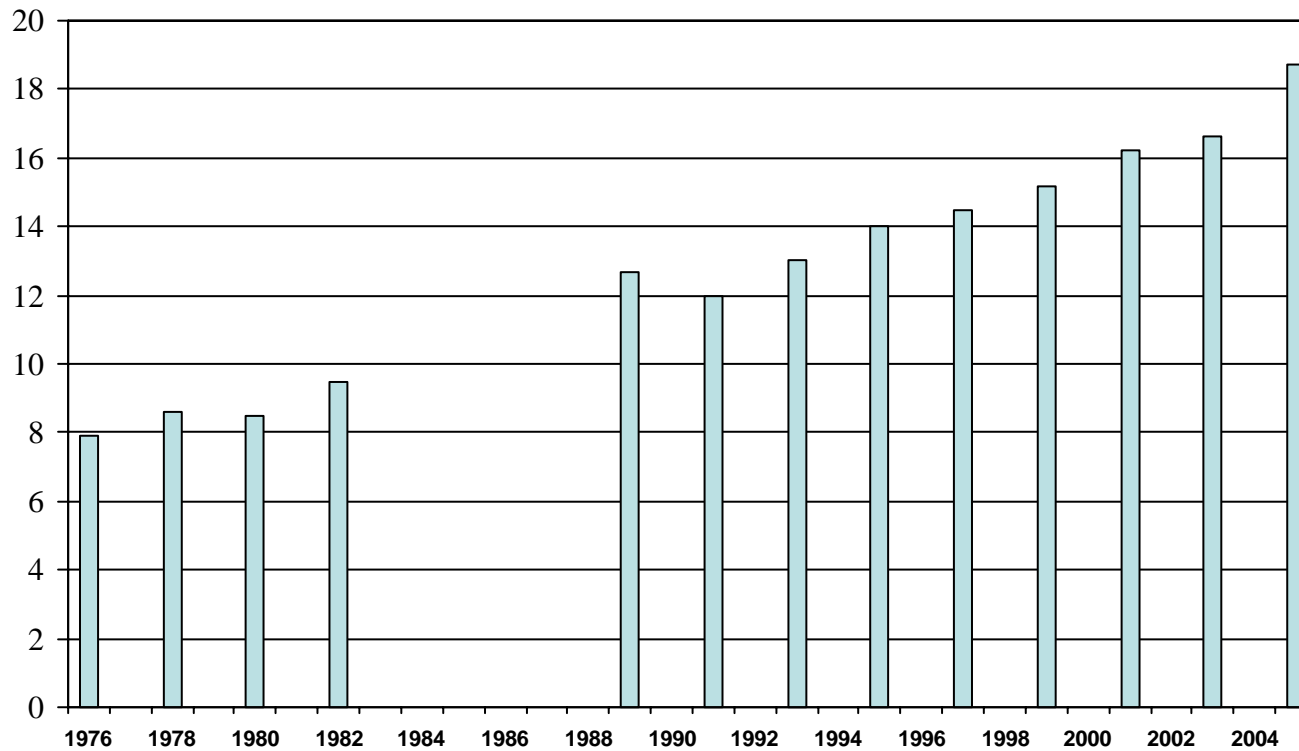
	N	Mean	Std-Dev,	Min,	Max,
employment (15 hours and more)	3396155	0,62	0,49	0	1
age	3396155	41,63	12,08	21	63
women	3396155	0,50	0,50	0	1
children 0-3	3396155	0,11	0,31	0	1
children 0-3 * women	3396155	0,06	0,23	0	1
children 4-6	3396155	0,09	0,29	0	1
children 4-6 * women	3396155	0,05	0,22	0	1
children 7-10	3396155	0,13	0,34	0	1
children 7-10 * women	3396155	0,07	0,25	0	1
educational gap to spouse	3218652	0,00	1,74	-10	10
educational advantage to husband	3218652	-0,21	1,21	-10	10

MZ 76-05

3. Data

Descriptive Statistics

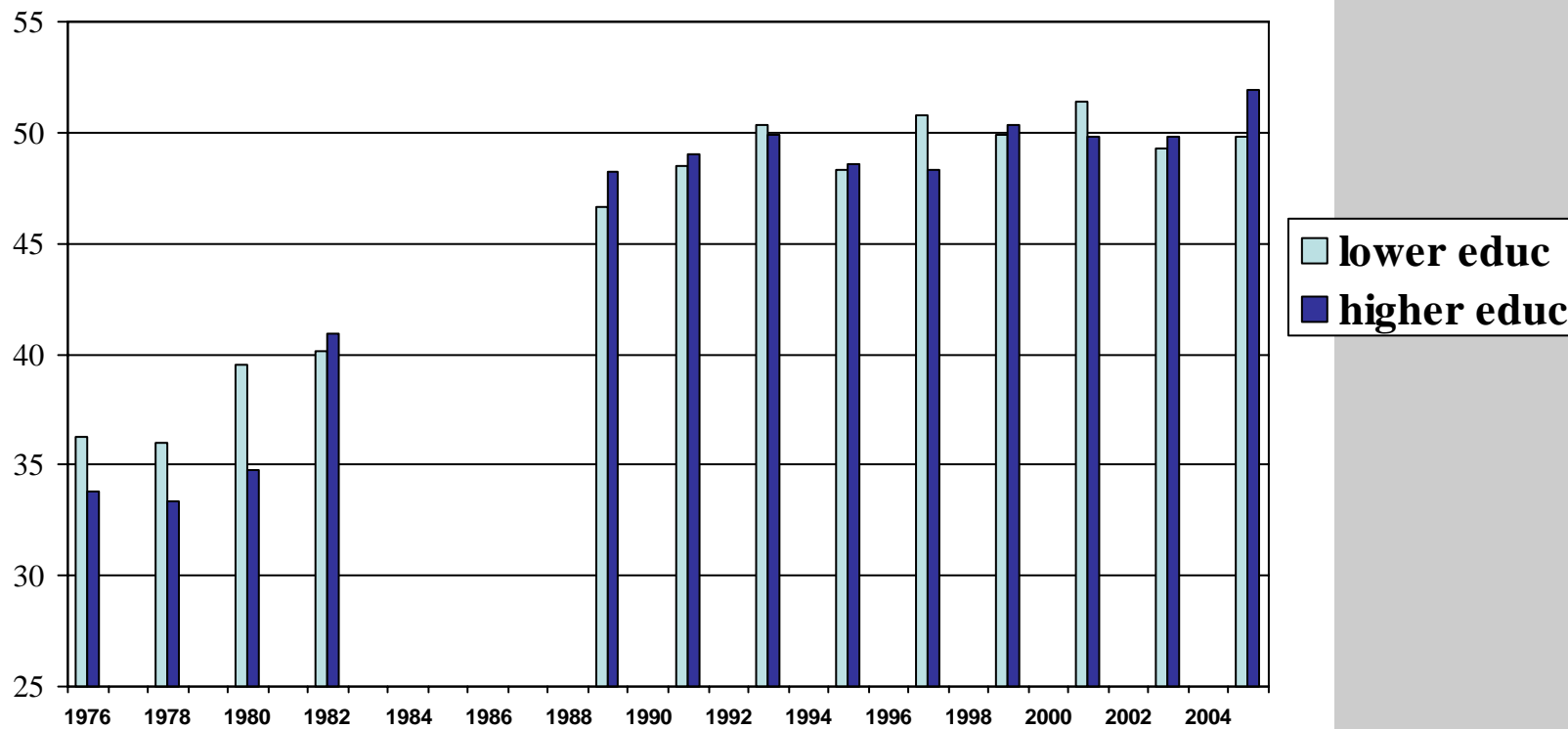
Share of women showing higher education:



3. Data

Descriptive Statistics

Women, age 26-33 and children (0-3 years)



4. Results

Logistic Regression, DV=employment

	1976/78		1980/82		1989/91/93		1995/97/99		2001/03/05	
	Coeff.	z	Coeff.	z	Coeff.	z	Coeff.	z	Coeff.	z
age	-0,059	-142,51*	-0,062	-148,24*	-0,057	-203,48*	-0,057	-217,09*	-0,050	-186,69*
women	-1,767	-172,03*	-1,755	-179,14*	-1,063	-161,50*	-0,748	-125,09*	-0,638	-106,80*
children 0-3	-0,116	-4,88*	-0,082	-3,25*	0,055	3,34*	0,091	5,88*	0,120	7,63*
children 0-3* women	-1,321	-46,02*	-1,326	-44,48*	-1,404	-71,48*	-1,453	-76,97*	-1,313	-67,90*
children 4-6	-0,129	-5,24*	0,066	2,41	0,229	12,11*	0,244	14,50*	0,247	14,23*
children 4-6* women	-1,072	-36,31*	-1,007	-30,94*	-0,973	-42,98*	-1,097	-53,31*	-0,975	-45,51*
children 7-10	-0,410	-20,91*	0,397	17,85*	0,495	29,73*	0,507	35,34*	0,493	32,79*
children 7-10* women	-1,268	-54,00*	-1,241	-47,00*	-1,029	-51,71*	-1,052	-60,02*	-1,146	-62,02*
educational gap to spouse	0,151	36,30*	0,119	30,56*	0,093	36,41*	0,073	32,60*	0,065	28,19*
educational advantage to husband	0,004	0,72	0,033	6,77*	0,027	7,97*	0,025	8,21*	0,032	10,14*
Cons	4,161	192,27*	4,349	199,48*	3,732	257,25*	3,498	260,20*	3,185	233,78*
Pseudo R ²	0,262		0,241		0,152		0,124		0,098	
N	381219		379409		676039		741195		697066	

* p < 0.007 (Bonferroni adjustment)

5. Summary

- Marriage partners showing educational advantages are more likely to be employed.
- Especially for women this mechanism asserts only with time.
- Traditional role models inhibit rational decisions concerning the division of labor in households.
- So G. Becker was ahead of the times...

Thanks for your attention!

Contact:
pkriwy@soziologie.uni-kiel.de