# Article information:

Fathers’ Changing Contributions to Child Care and Domestic Work in Very Low–Fertility Countries: The Effect of Education - Oriel Sullivan, Francesco C. Billari, Evrim Altintas, 2014  
<https://journals-sagepub-com.proxy.lib.uwaterloo.ca/doi/full/10.1177/0192513X14522241>

# Article summary:

1. The article explores the connection between fathers' increasing participation in unpaid work and fertility behavior in very low-fertility countries.

2. Using cross-national time use data, the study finds significant evidence of recent increases in the contribution of younger, more highly educated fathers to child care and core domestic work in these countries.

3. The authors interpret these findings as suggestive evidence for a process of cross-national social diffusion of more egalitarian domestic gender relations, which may facilitate a turnaround in the pattern of postponed and foregone fertility.

# Article rating:

May be slightly imbalanced: The article presents the information in a generally reliable way, but there are minor points of consideration that could be explored further or claims that are not fully backed by appropriate evidence. Some perspectives may also be omitted, and you are encouraged to use the research topics section to explore the topic further.

# Article analysis:

The article "Fathers’ Changing Contributions to Child Care and Domestic Work in Very Low–Fertility Countries: The Effect of Education" by Oriel Sullivan, Francesco C. Billari, and Evrim Altintas explores the connection between fathers' participation in unpaid work and fertility behavior in European countries that have recently experienced very low fertility rates. The authors hypothesize that a process of cross-national social diffusion of more egalitarian domestic gender relations, particularly among highly educated fathers, is facilitating a turnaround in the pattern of postponed and foregone fertility.

The article provides a comprehensive background on the second demographic transition theory and its limitations regarding gender perspectives. It also highlights the stalled revolution in gender equality and emphasizes the need for men to adapt to women's new engagement in the labor force to continue moving towards gender equality.

The authors use cross-national time use data to compare trends in father's contributions to child care and core domestic work by educational level in very low-fertility countries with those from liberal and Nordic clusters. They find significant evidence of recent increases in the contribution of younger, more highly educated fathers to child care and core domestic work in very low-fertility countries that have recently experienced upturns in fertility. However, they do not provide enough evidence or analysis on how these changes are affecting women's employment opportunities or how they are impacting other aspects of family life.

One potential bias is that the study focuses only on European countries, which may limit its generalizability to other regions with different cultural norms and values regarding gender roles. Additionally, while the authors acknowledge that their findings are suggestive rather than direct evidence for a process of cross-national social diffusion of more egalitarian domestic gender relations, they do not explore alternative explanations for their results.

Overall, this article provides valuable insights into the relationship between fathers' participation in unpaid work and fertility behavior but could benefit from further exploration of potential biases and limitations.

# Topics for further research:

* Impact of fathers' increased participation in unpaid work on women's employment opportunities
* Effects of changing gender roles on family dynamics in low-fertility countries
* Cultural norms and values regarding gender roles in different regions
* Alternative explanations for the increase in fathers' contributions to child care and domestic work
* Intersectionality of education level and gender in relation to unpaid work and fertility behavior
* Policy implications for promoting gender equality in the household and increasing fertility rates.

# Report location:

<https://www.fullpicture.app/item/c383c239e6f9abb1188105002999fd93>