

Gender Inequality in a comparative perspective

HUMVIB meeting Dublin 2-3/10



The Equality Team

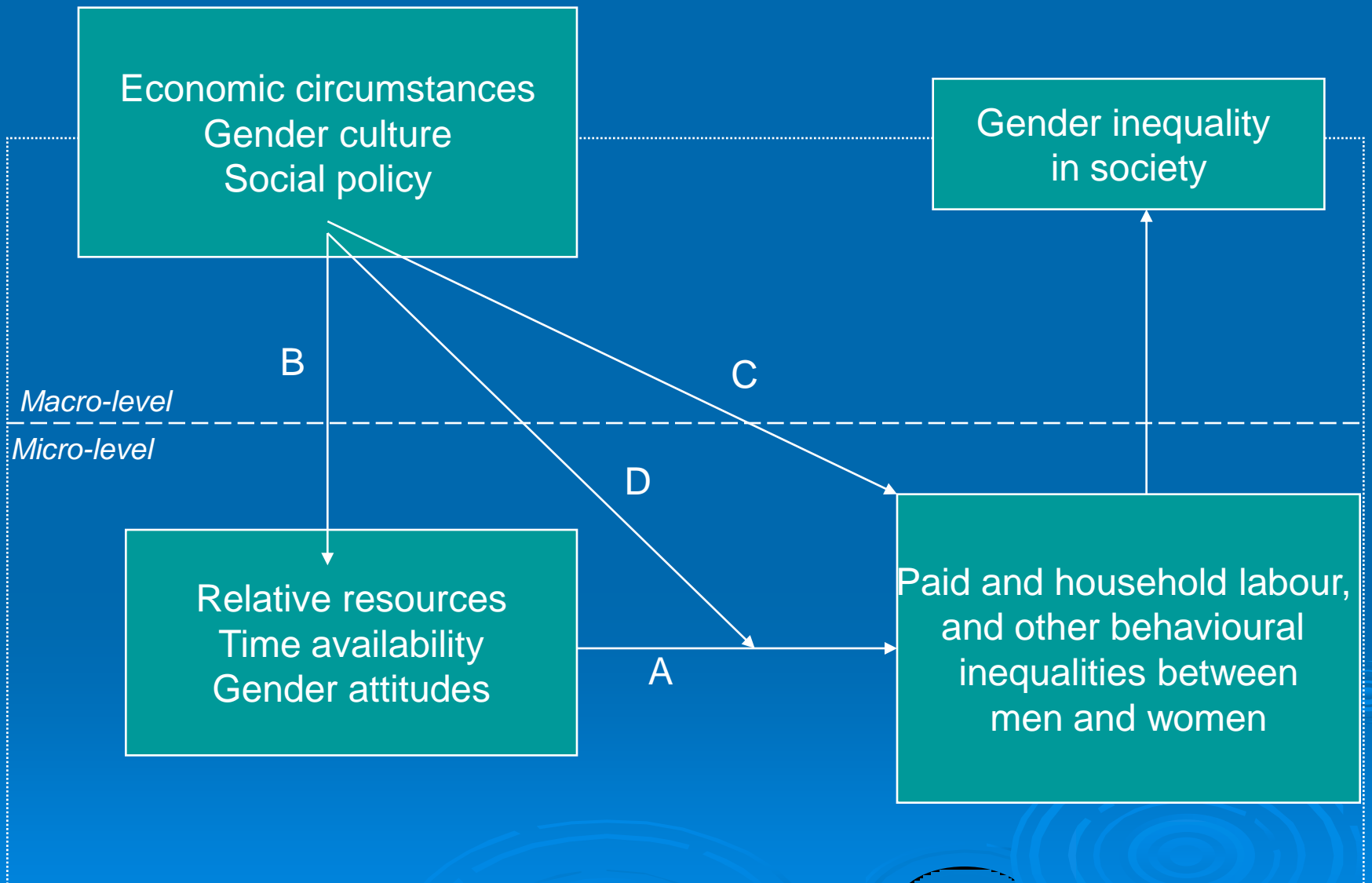
- Ineke Maas, Utrecht University, The Netherlands
 - Judith Treas, University of California, USA
 - Sonja Drobic, University of Hamburg, Germany
 - Eva Fodor, Central European University, Hungary
 - Tanja van der Lippe, Utrecht University, The Netherlands
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Background

- Gender inequalities are persistent:
 - Women are underrepresented in management,
 - assume most domestic responsibilities,
 - have higher poverty rates,
 - belong to different types of associations, more deeply embedded in informal social networks.
- These 'gender gaps' differ between countries
- Research problem:
how does the social context directly impact and/or indirectly modify inequality between men and women?

Aims

- A. To integrate sociological, demographic, and economic insights to increase understanding of the persistent inequality between men and women in Europe and the US;
- B. To unravel relevant societal contexts, including gender culture, policy and economic indicators;
- C. To increase understanding of the direct, indirect, and interaction effects of societal contexts in relation to individual-level gender inequality;
- D. To apply innovative multi-level modelling to increase understanding of gender in society;
- E. To expand knowledge of conditions for achieving sustainable, equal participation of men and women.



Work plan: four individual projects

- 1. Why are women *disadvantaged in the labour market*? What explains differences between countries and over time? (Maas & Van der Lippe)
- 2. What explains cross-national gender differences in *household management responsibilities and in time spent on housework*? (Treas)
- 3. Do men and women differ in their *embeddedness in social networks in family, neighbourhoods, and voluntary associations*? (Drobnic)
- 4 How much do *poverty rates* differ between men and women over time and between countries? How can this be explained by the societal context? (Fodor)

Micro-Data

- European Social Survey 26 countries 2002-2008
- European Community Household panel 15 countries 1994-2001
- European Union Statistics on Income and Living Conditions 27 countries 1994-2001
- International Social Survey program 34 countries 2002
- European Quality of Life Survey 28 countries 2003
- Racialization and Feminization of Poverty in Eastern Europe 5 countries 2000

Macro-data

- *Cultural* indicators
 - gender empowerment measure
 - norms approving working mothers, norms on gender equality
 - per capita spending on cleaning products,
 - mean household appliances
 - generalized trust
- *Policy* indicators
 - parent leave (months), public child care
 - tax incentives for part-time work
 - affirmative action, discriminatory employment policy
- *Economic* indicators
 - Gross Domestic Product,
 - minimum wage related to average wage, mean tax rate
- Meso level data - neighbourhood and regional level
 - association/church membership
 - organisational level

Funding Status

- Project 1: PhD student Sept 2008
- Project 2: Post-doc Sept 2008
- Project 3: Difficulties at start: DFG cut down half of requested budget (based on misunderstanding but not willing to reconsider the decision)
- Project 4: Recruiting staff

Teaming arrangements

- Overlapping phases in our cooperation:
 - Collection of macro level data + exploration of individual datasets – resulting in online database
 - Writing of the papers for each IP (3-4 per IP)
 - Yearly workshops for the PIs, PhD students + post docs
 - Capstone conference + book
- Management and coordination
 - Monitoring progress of work
 - Approving deliverables
 - Providing a forum for discussion

Intra-CRP networking activities

- Yearly scientific meetings + conference
 - Collection of online data base of macro indicators
 - Exchange of PhD students / post docs between IPs
 - Organization of a summerschool
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