

Meaning, Perception and Decision-Making: Examining Divisions of Housework in Newly Cohabiting Dual-Earner Couples

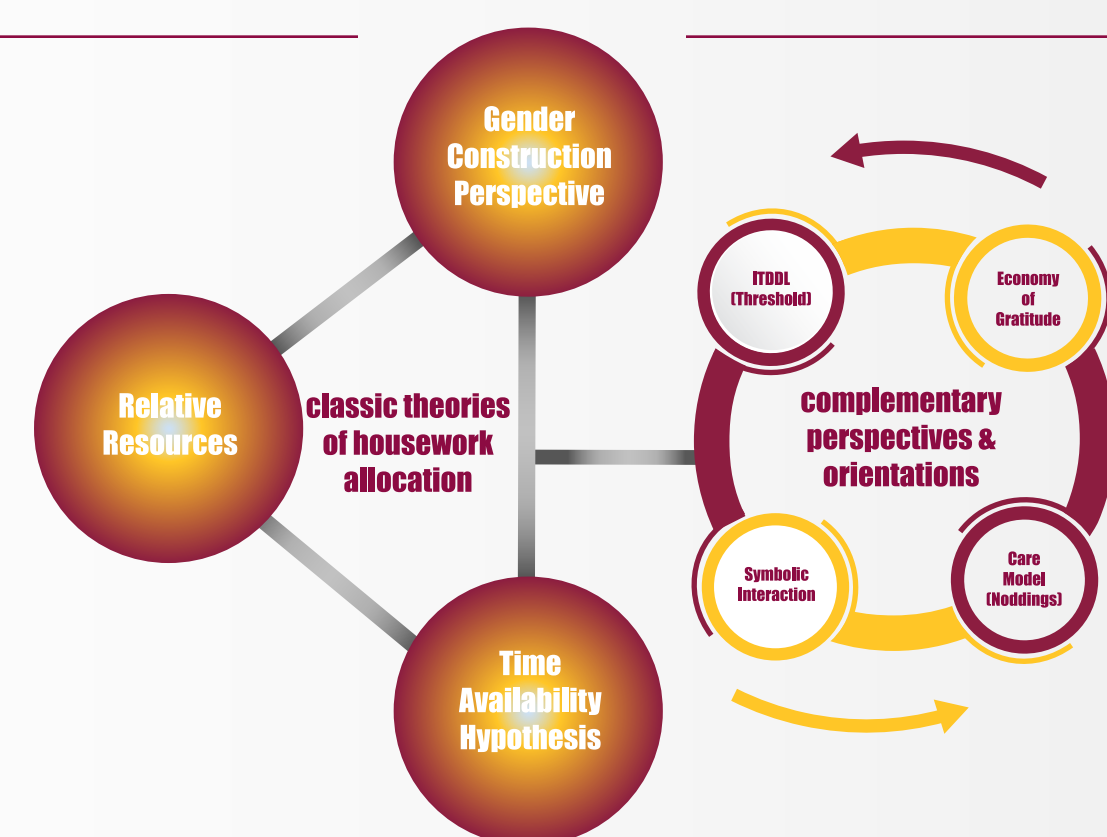
Jameien Taylor



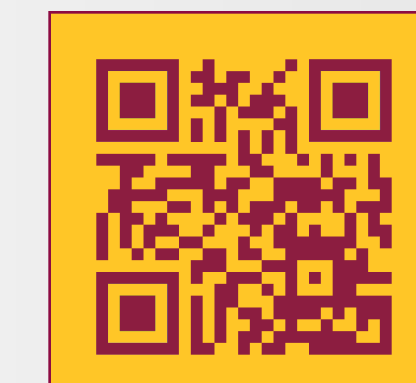
Introduction

The unequal division of household labor has been well researched over the past several decades. Women have been shown to perform the majority of housework despite their amount of paid work outside of the home. Various theories have developed to help explain this discrepancy, along with many experimental studies aimed at testing these theories. There is little housework research on the meaning-making process of individuals. This proposed research aims to fill this gap by providing a descriptive account of how individuals in cohabitation define housework and the division of household tasks therein.

Blended Housework Allocation Model (BHAM)



Smartphone users:
Scan the QR code
for more information



Requires a free barcode
scanner app

Methods

Data collection and analysis:
Grounded Theory Methodology
(Glaser and Strauss, 1967; Strauss and Corbin, 1990; Charmaz, 2006)

Sampling:
Convenience with the possibility
of snowball as the iterative
process of data collection and
analysis dictates

Participants:
Undergraduate students from
a large, public university
(15 projected couples)

Procedure:
Semi-structured in-depth
interviews with each participant
separately, and possibly
paired-depth interviews
(Houssart & Evens, 2011)

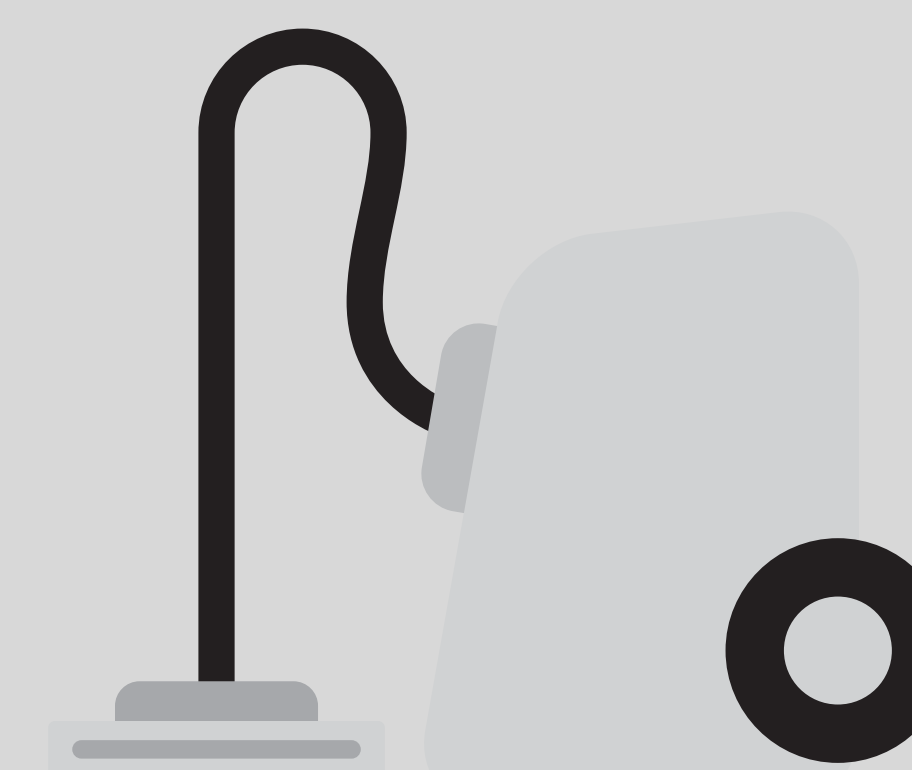
Research Questions

Q1: What does housework mean for newly cohabiting couples?

Q2: Are certain domains of housework more or less important for newly cohabiting couples?

Q3: How do newly cohabiting couples conceptualize allocation of household tasks?

Q4: How do newly cohabiting couples make sense of possible conflict over housework in their specific circumstances?



Possible Contributions/ Limitations

➔ Add to the existing literature on housework with particular emphasis on theory-building and methodological development

➔ Offer an enhanced stock of language related to housework that could serve as practical direction in the decrease of inequity and conflict as it relates to divisions of housework

➔ Possible limitations include the inability to generalize beyond the participant pool, and rigor is more difficult to assess and demonstrate.

