

Economic exchange and gender identities: Housework division and wives' economic dependency across welfare regimes

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The relationship between division of housework and economic contribution – two opposing dynamics

Economic Dynamic

Reflects bargaining power and economic exchange

- "Relative resources"
- "Economic dependency"
- "Time availability"

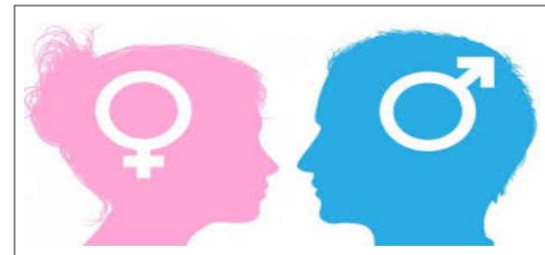


(Aassve, Fuochi, and Mencarini 2014; Blood and Wolfe 1960; Brines 1994; Procher, Ritter, and Vance 2017; Sorensen and McLanahan 1987).

Cultural Dynamic

Confirms and reinforces the gendered identity

- "Doing gender" ("Gender display")
- "Compensation"



(Bittman et al. (2003; Brines 1994; Greenstein ; 2000 ; Sevilla-Sanz, Gimenez-Nadal, and Fernandez 2010; South and Spitze 1994; West and Zimmerman 1987)

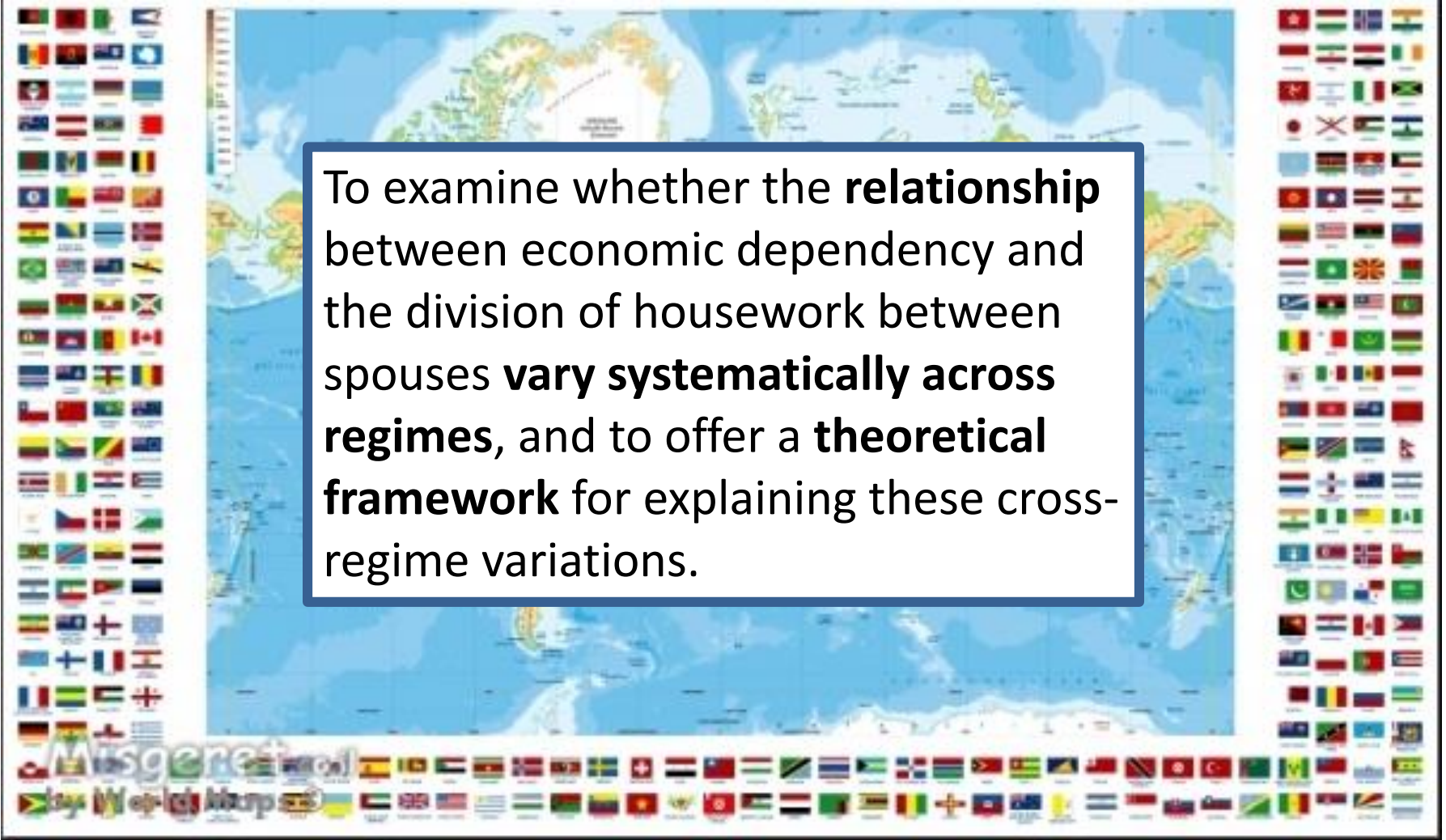
The gendered division of household labor is omnipresent



BUT

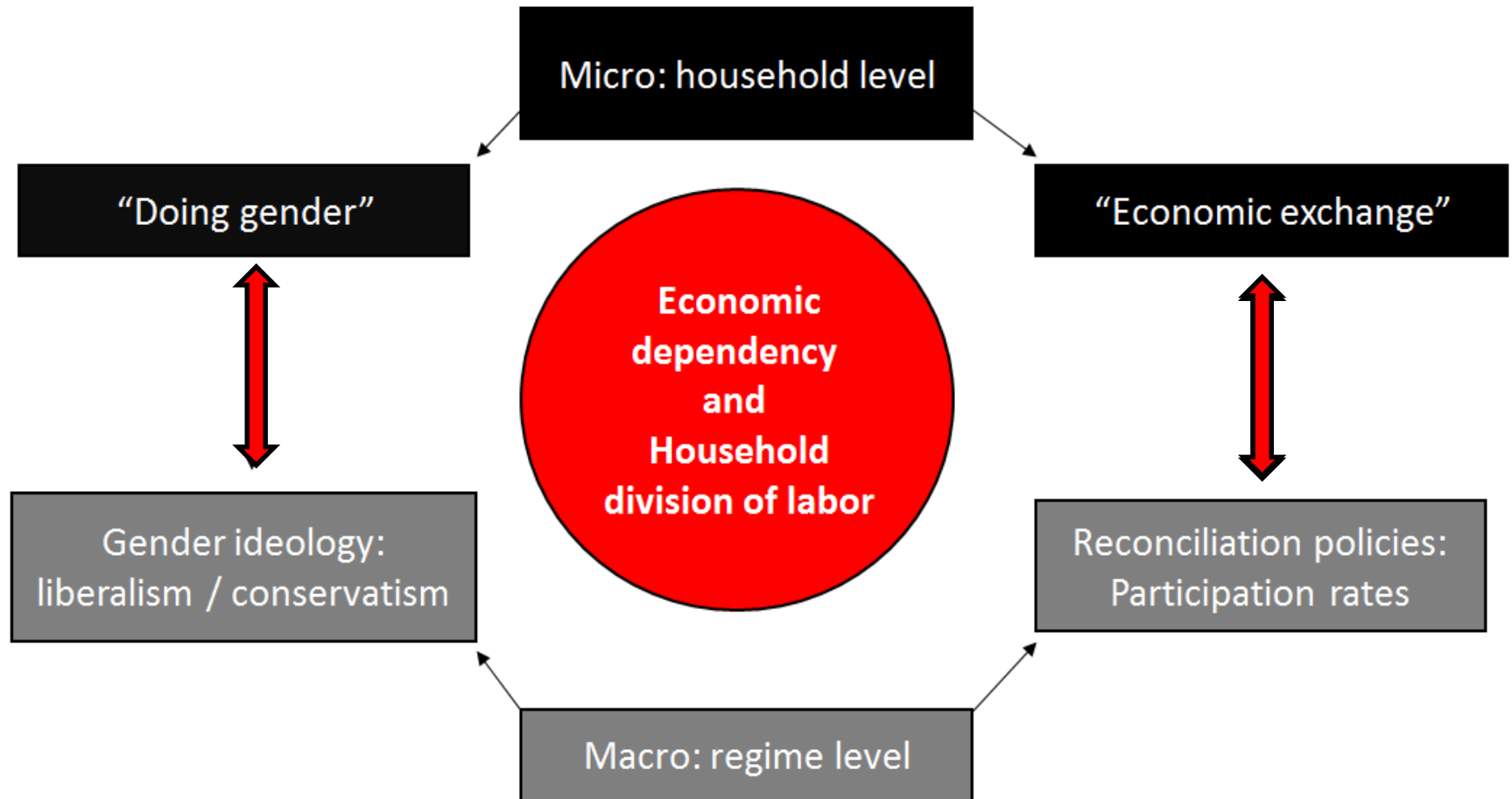
There are non-trivial differences between countries in both the **household division of labor**, as well as in **levels of wives' economic dependency**.

Objectives



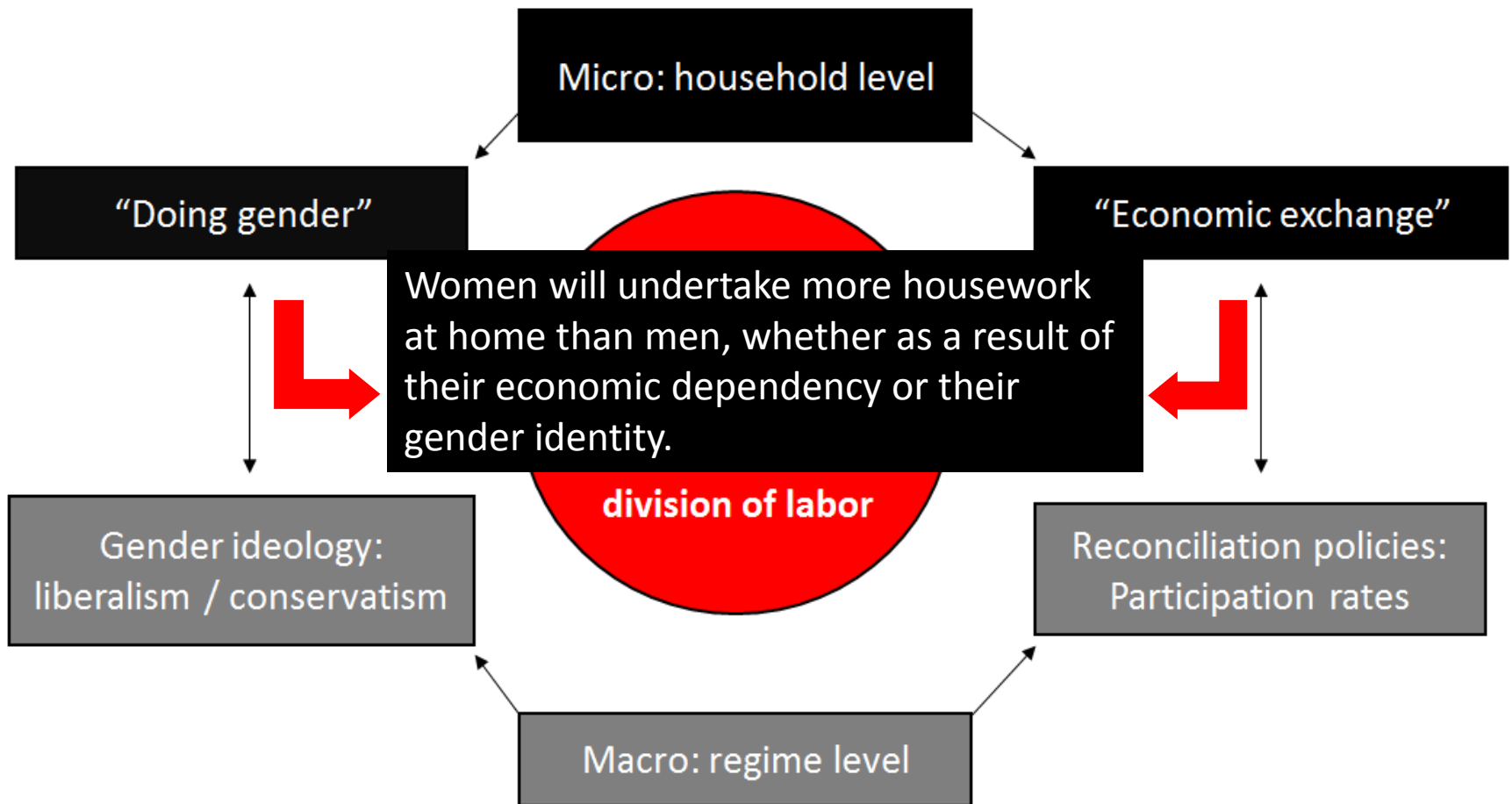
To examine whether the **relationship** between economic dependency and the division of housework between spouses **vary systematically across regimes**, and to offer a **theoretical framework** for explaining these cross-regime variations.

Our analytical framework (in a nutshell)



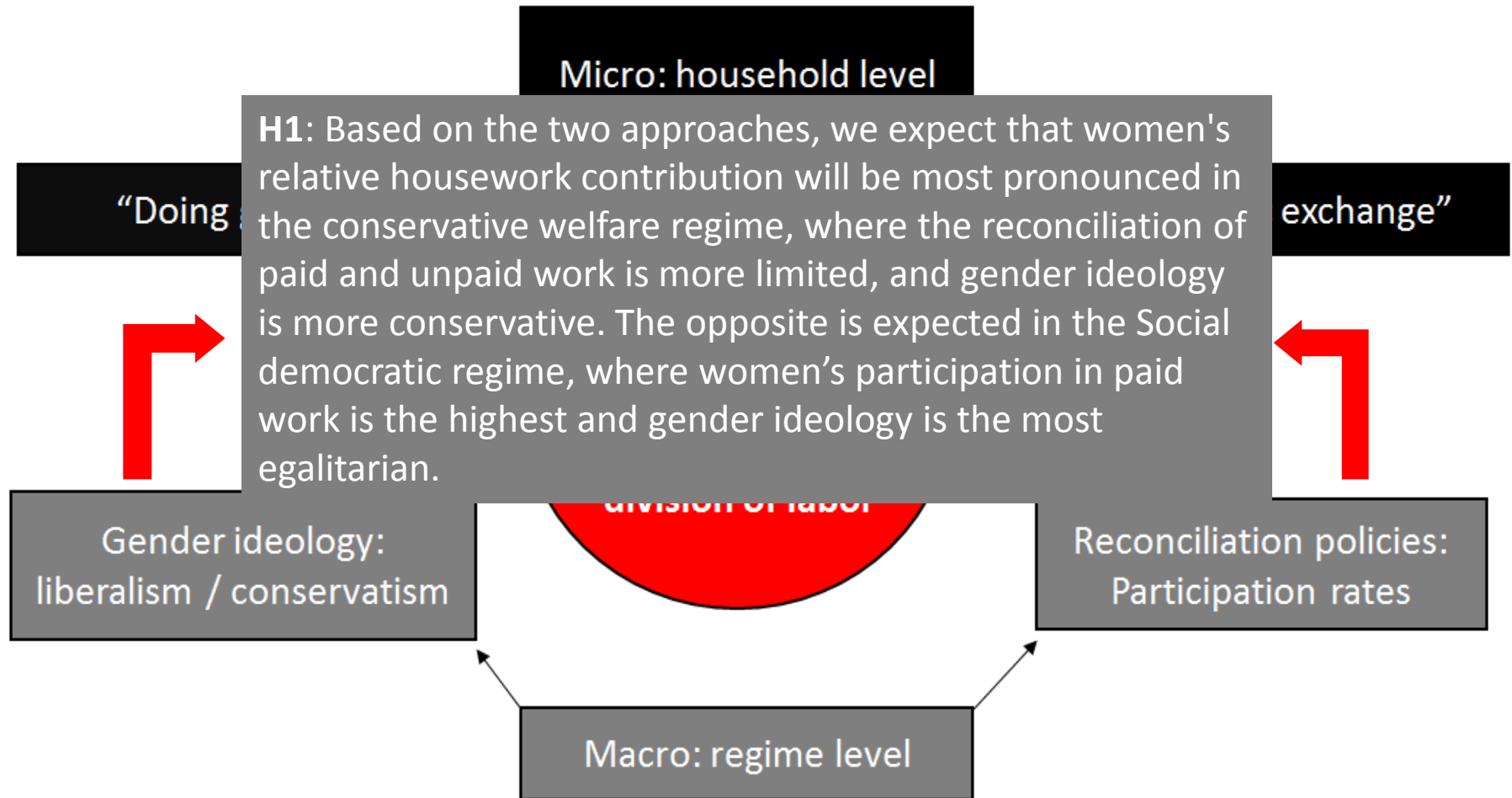
Micro- and macro-level mechanisms influencing the relationship between economic dependency and household division of labor

Based on the principles of the two theories:



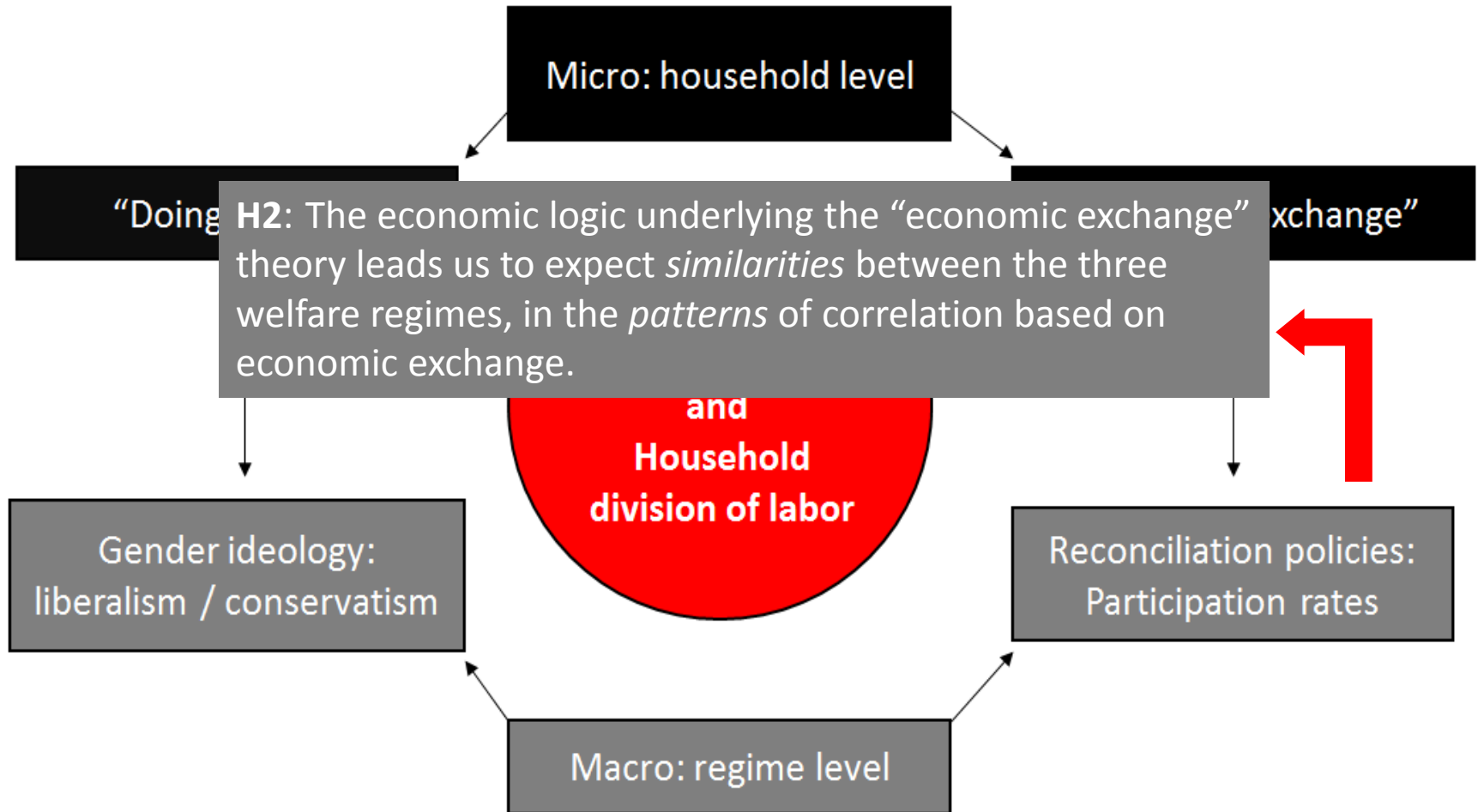
Micro- and macro-level mechanisms influencing the relationship between economic dependency and household division of labor

Based on the principles of the two theories we frame 3 Hypotheses:



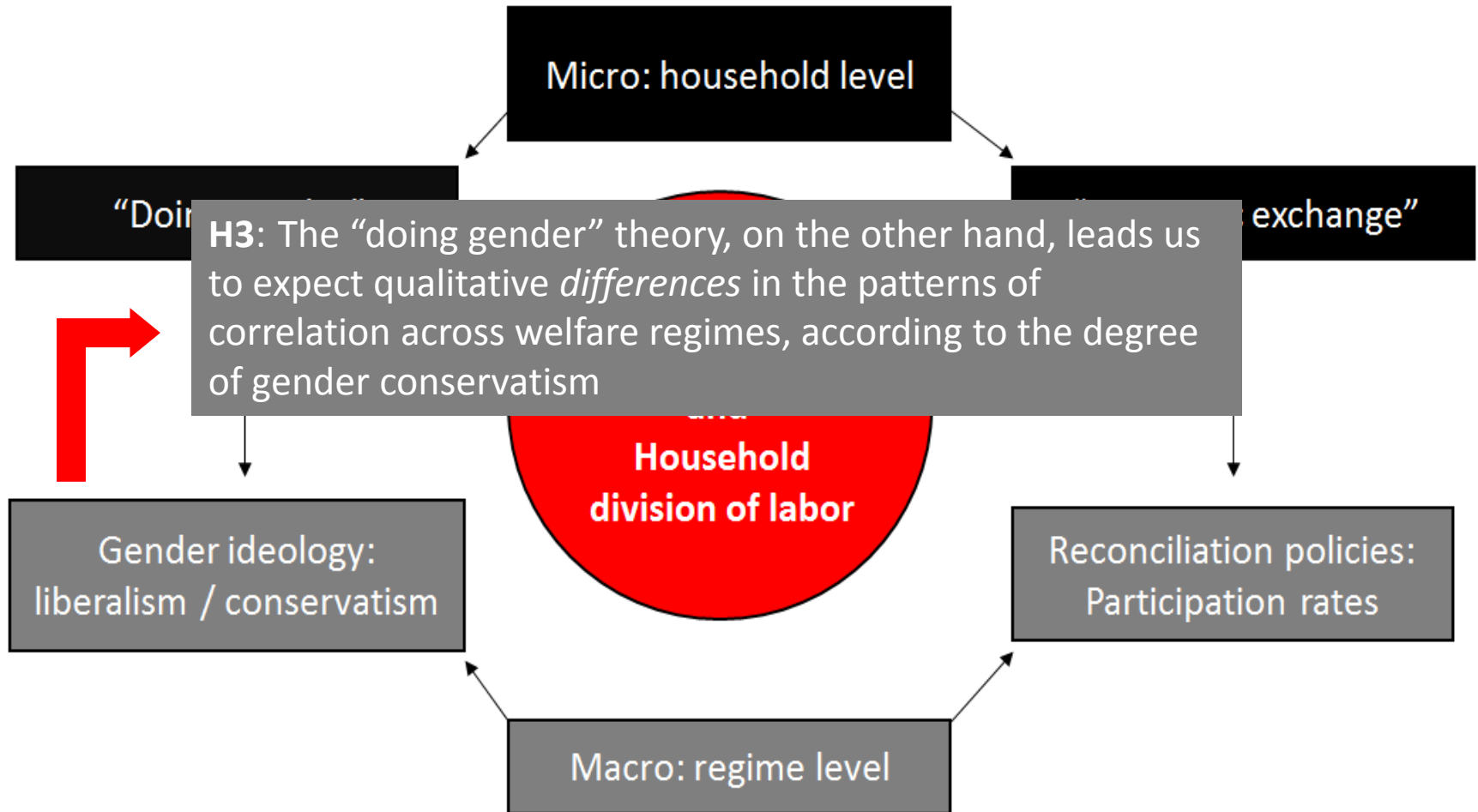
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Micro- and macro-level mechanisms influencing the relationship between economic dependency and household division of labor

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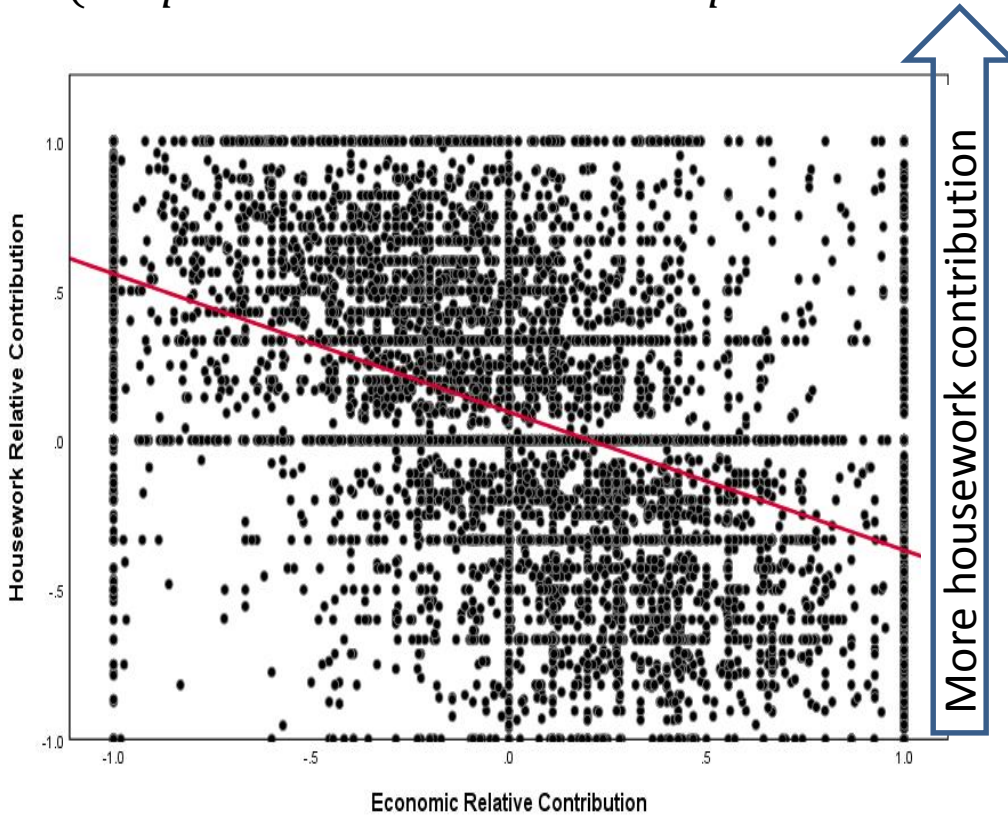
Micro- and macro-level mechanisms influencing the relationship between economic dependency and household division of labor

Data

- **Source:** ISSP 2012, “Family and changing gender roles” module.
- **15 Countries:** Norway, Sweden, Denmark, Finland, West Germany, Austria, France, Spain, Israel, Czech Republic, Switzerland, USA, Great Britain, Australia, Ireland.
 - * All countries’ samples are weighted, so that each country contributes equally.
- **Selections:**
 - Married or cohabiting couples
 - Prime working age (25-64).
 - Good health condition for highly or fully economically dependent husbands (“compensation” notion)

Results

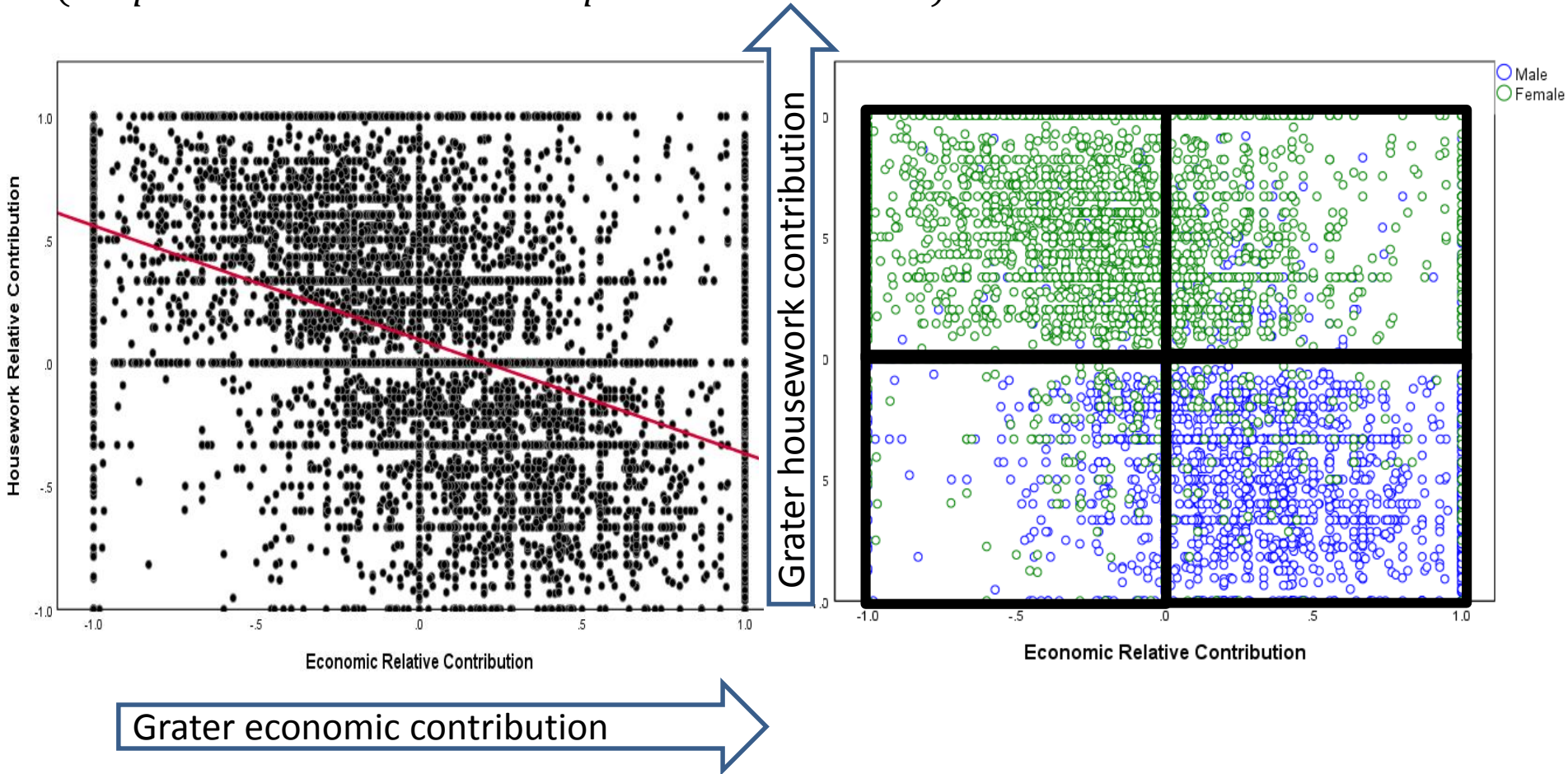
$$\frac{(\text{Respondent's housework} - \text{spouse's housework})}{(\text{Respondent's housework} + \text{spouse's housework})}$$



Grater economic contribution

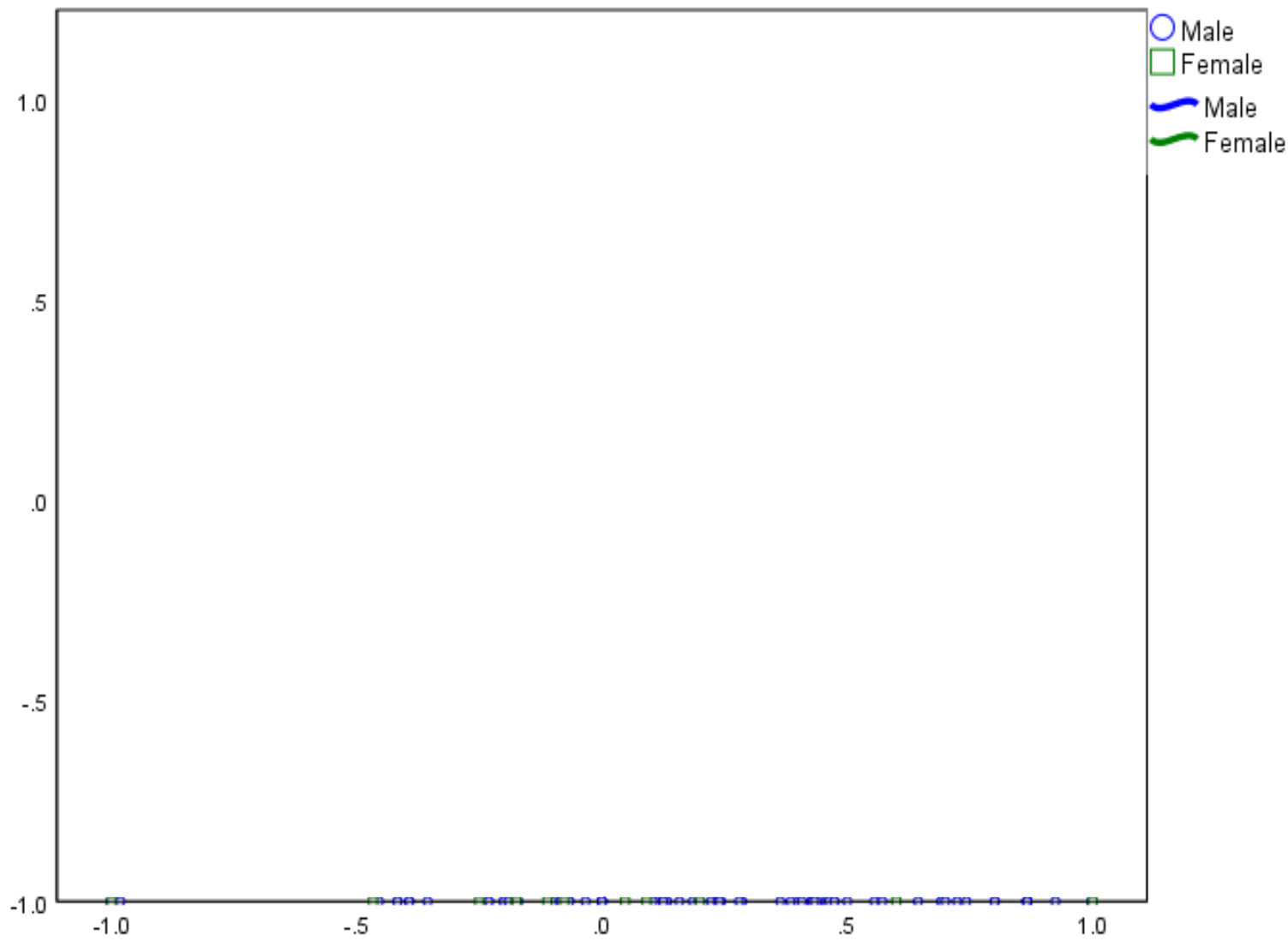
Results

$$\frac{(\text{Respondent's housework} - \text{spouse's housework})}{(\text{Respondent's housework} + \text{spouse's housework})}$$



Grater housework contribution

Housework Relative Contribution



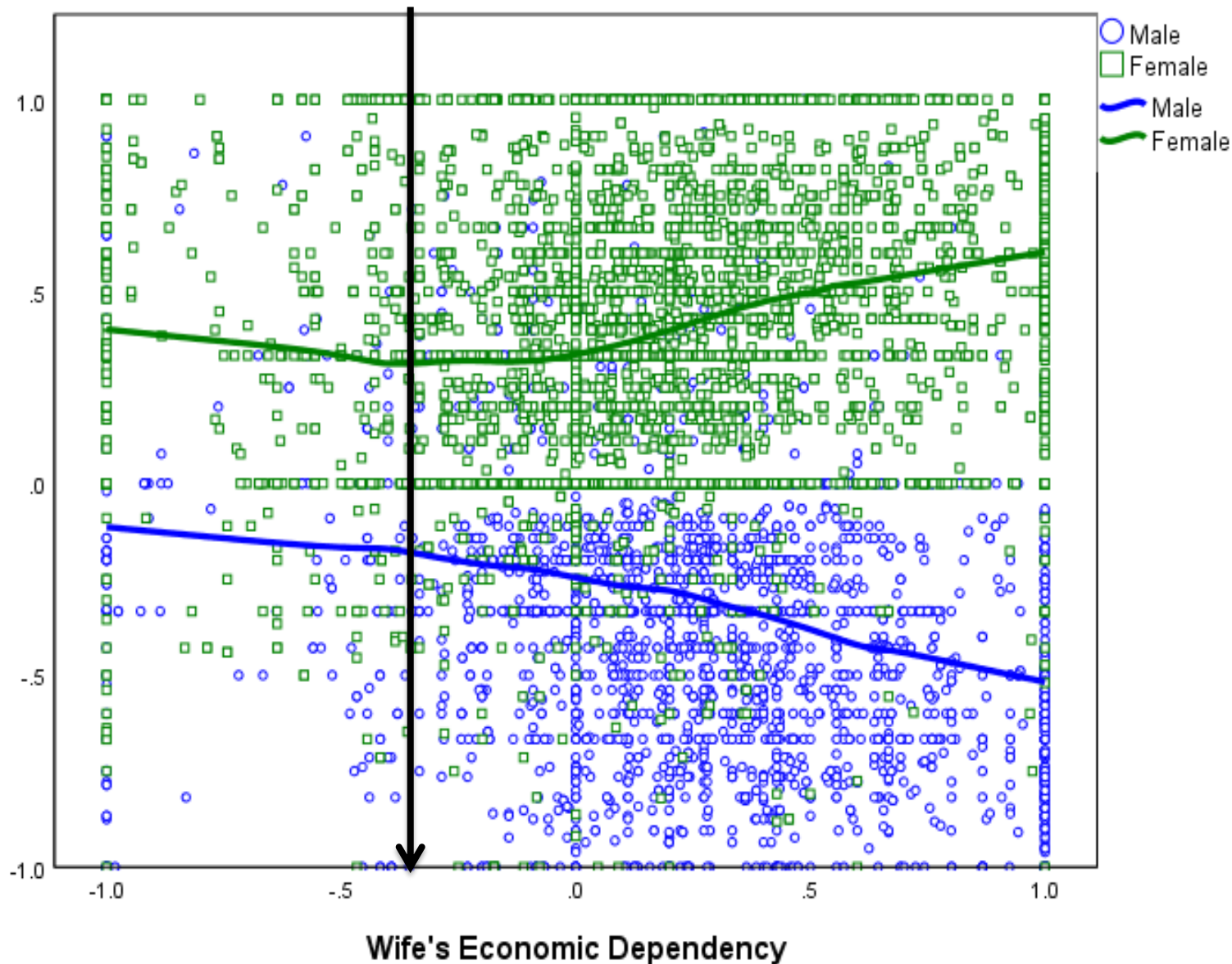
Husband is fully dependent

Equal dependency

Wife is fully dependent

Grater housework contribution

Housework Relative Contribution

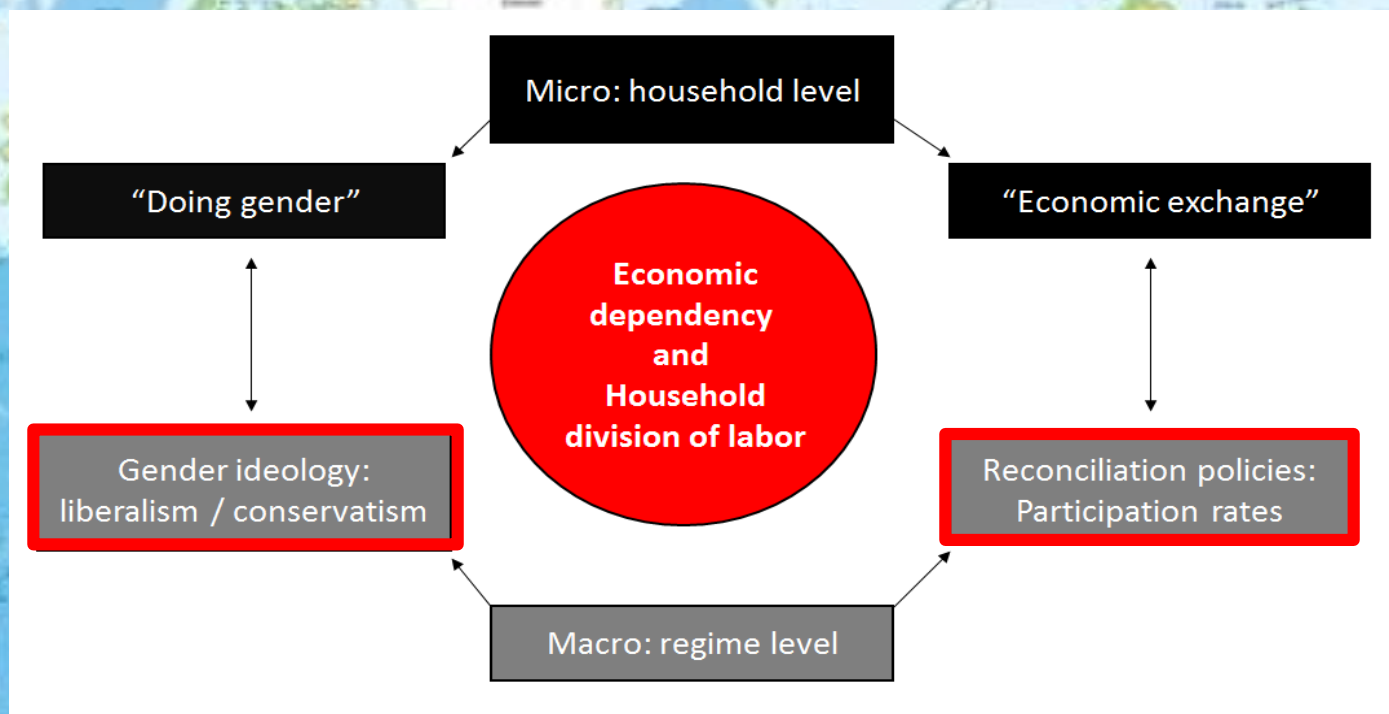


Husband is fully dependent

Equal dependency

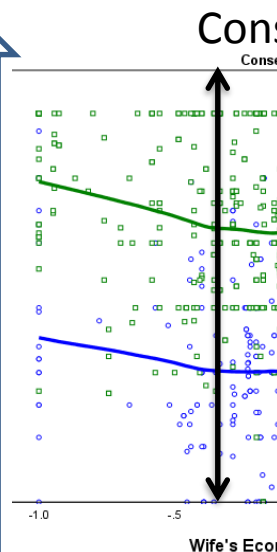
Wife is fully dependent

Cross-country variation



Cross-clusters variation: Gender role attitudes

Grater housework contribution



Conservative

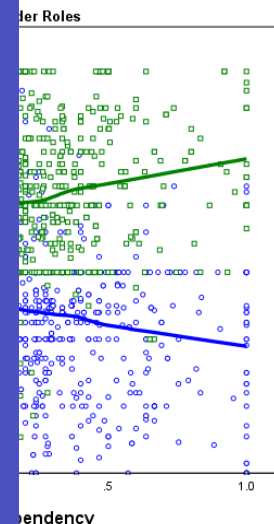
Intermediate

Egalitarian

Index of gender role attitudes , based on 5 items such as:

- “A pre-school child is likely to suffer if his or her mother works.”
- “All in all, family life suffers when the woman has a full-time job.”
- etc.

Countries were classified to three groups by their average values on that index



Spain
Czech Republic
Austria
Israel
Switzerland

United States
Great Britain
Australia
Ireland
France
West- Germany

Finland
Denmark
Sweden
Norway

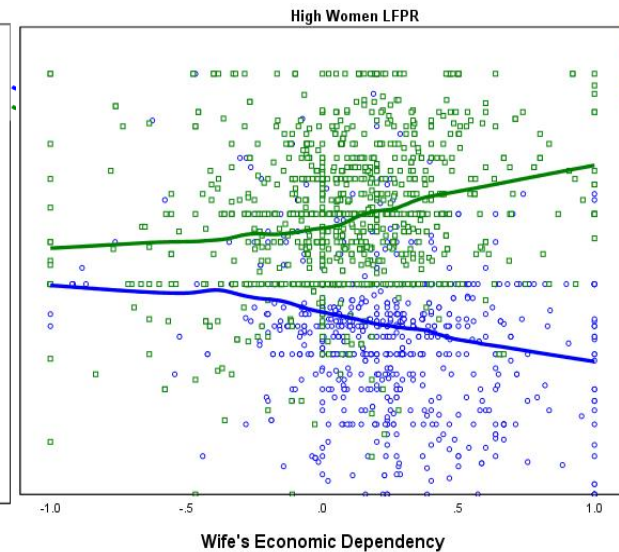
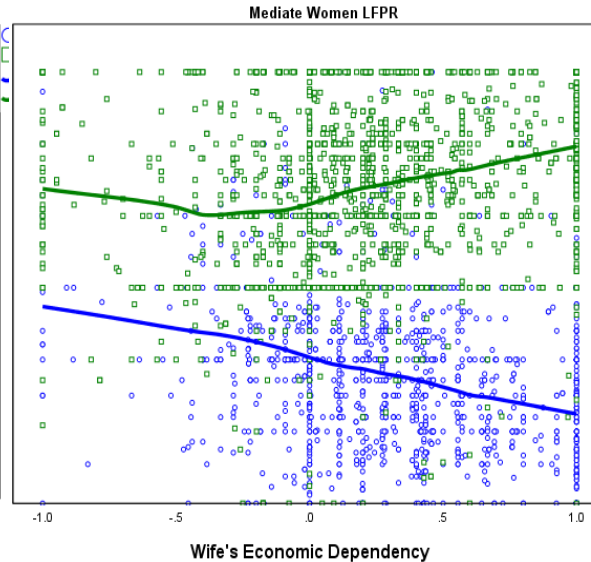
Cross-clusters variation: Women participation in paid work

Low levels

Intermediate levels

High levels

Grater household contribution



Great Britain
United States
West Germany
Israel
Ireland

Austria
Australia
Spain
Czech Republic
Switzerland
France

Finland
Denmark
Sweden
Norway

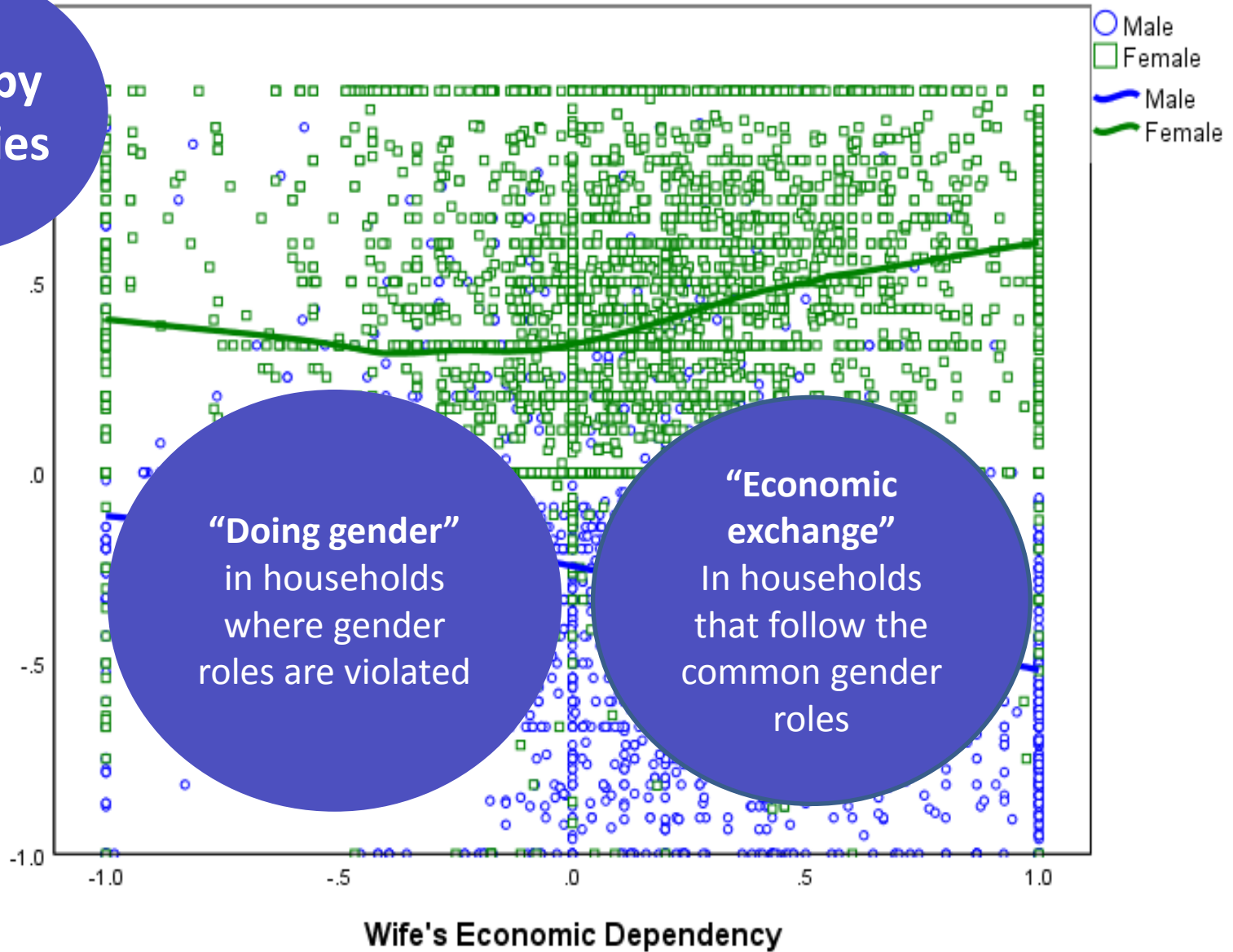
Summary and Conclusion



Vary by families

Grater housework contribution

Housework Relative Contribution



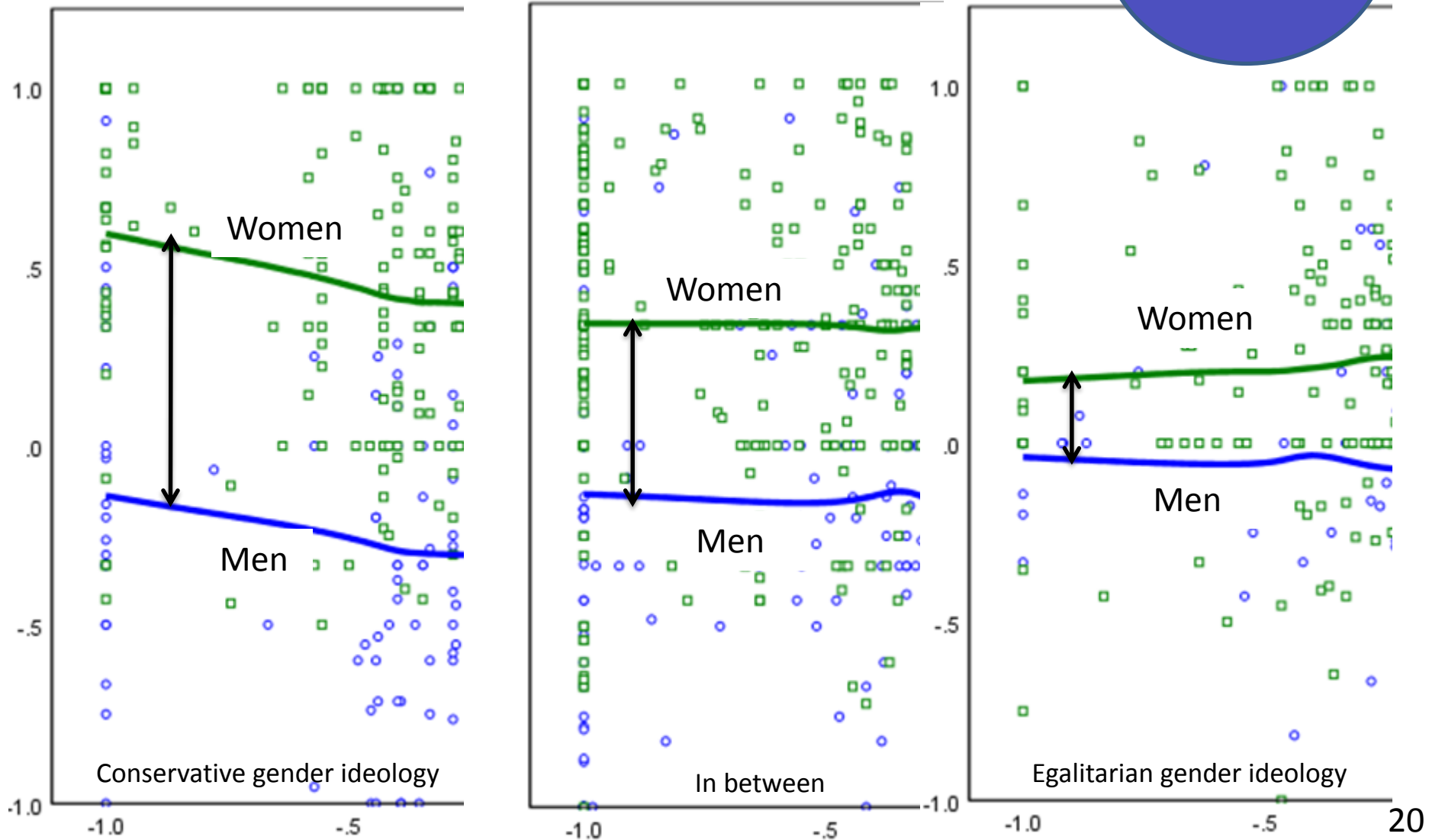
Husband is fully
dependent

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The gaps in housework in families where the wife is the main or the sole breadwinner, by regimes

Vary by societies



The gaps in housework in families where the wife is the main or the sole breadwinner, by regimes

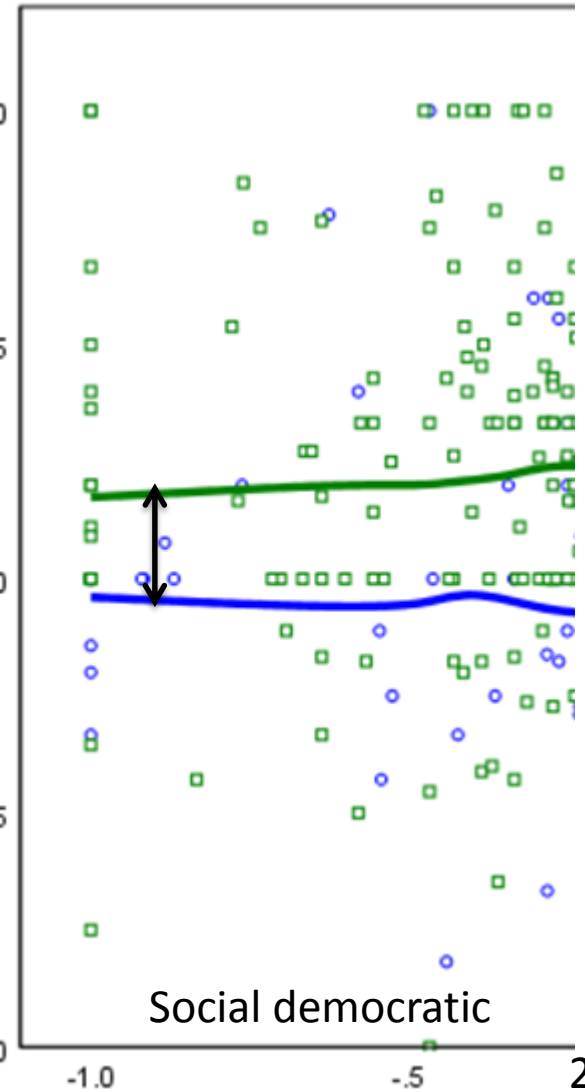
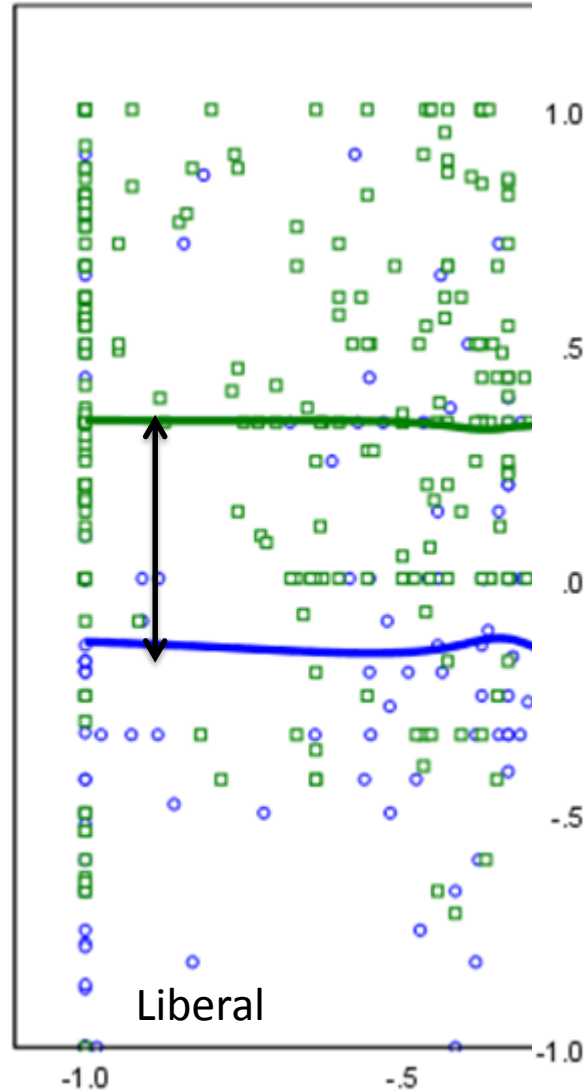
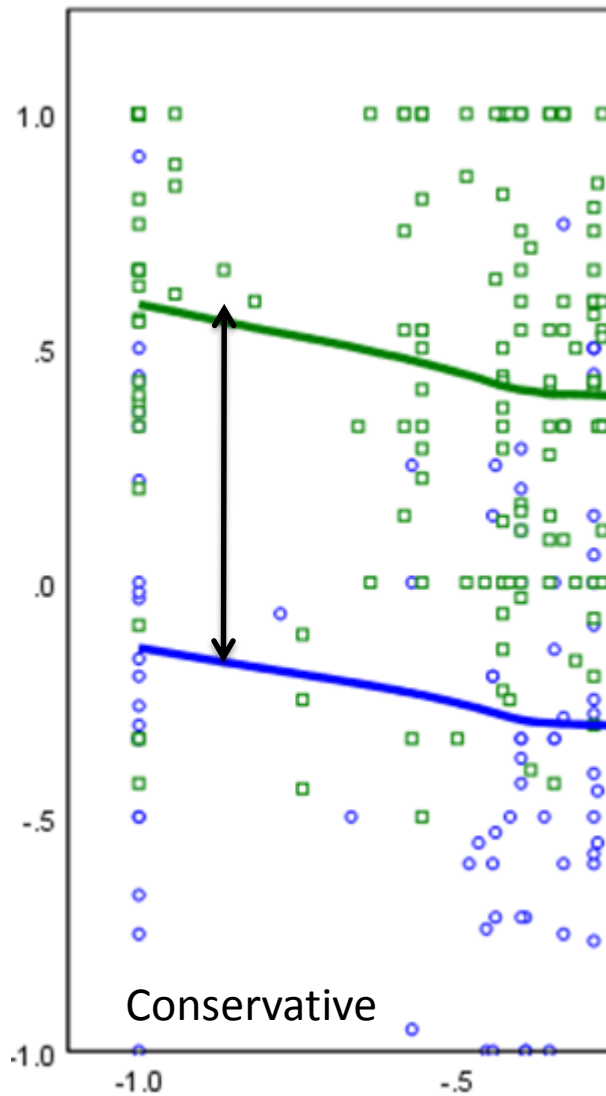
Vary by families

Cross-country variations in the spousal dynamic of paid and unpaid work stress the significance of gender ideology more than women's labor market participation rates.

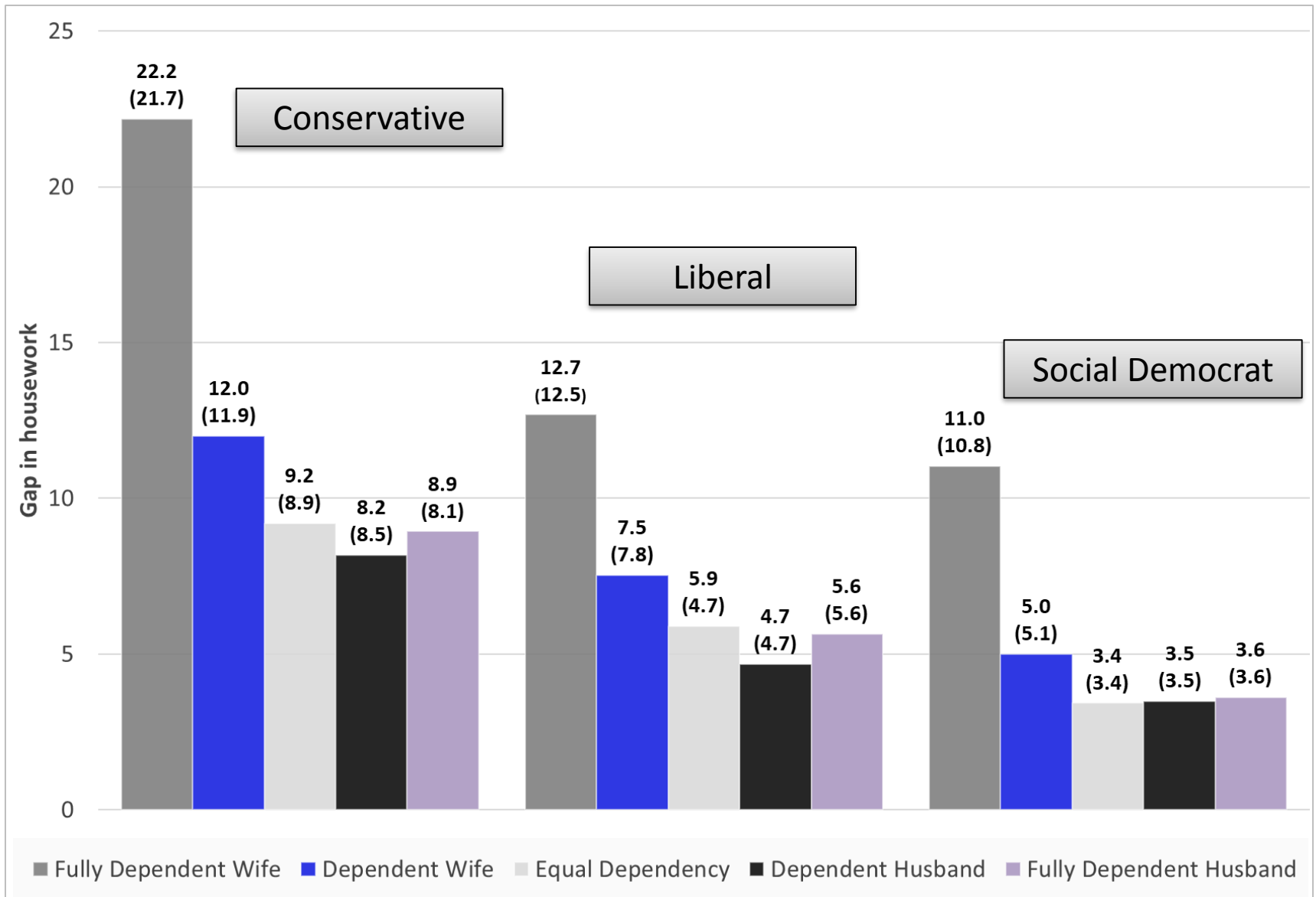
- Participation rates only partially correlate with the economic contribution, when many women work part-time
- Policy reforms may increase paid employment among women, but their effect on interfamily spousal dynamics may take longer time.
- The effect of reforms on gender relations may be restricted when driven by economic and political forces (Fleckenstein), rather than gender equalitarian ideological climate .



Thank You!



Housework Gap in Hours Between Women and Men (F-M) by Economic Dependency

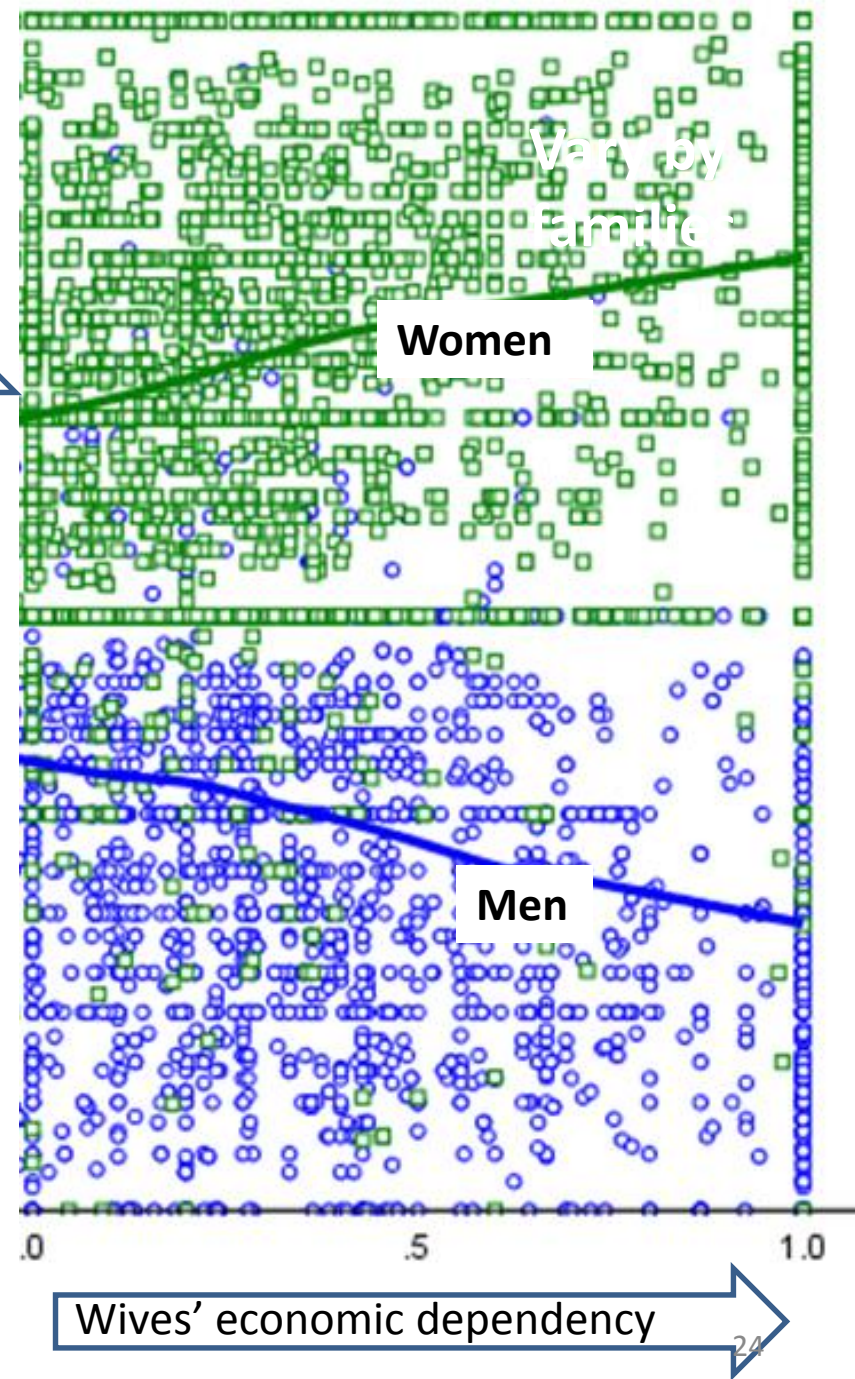


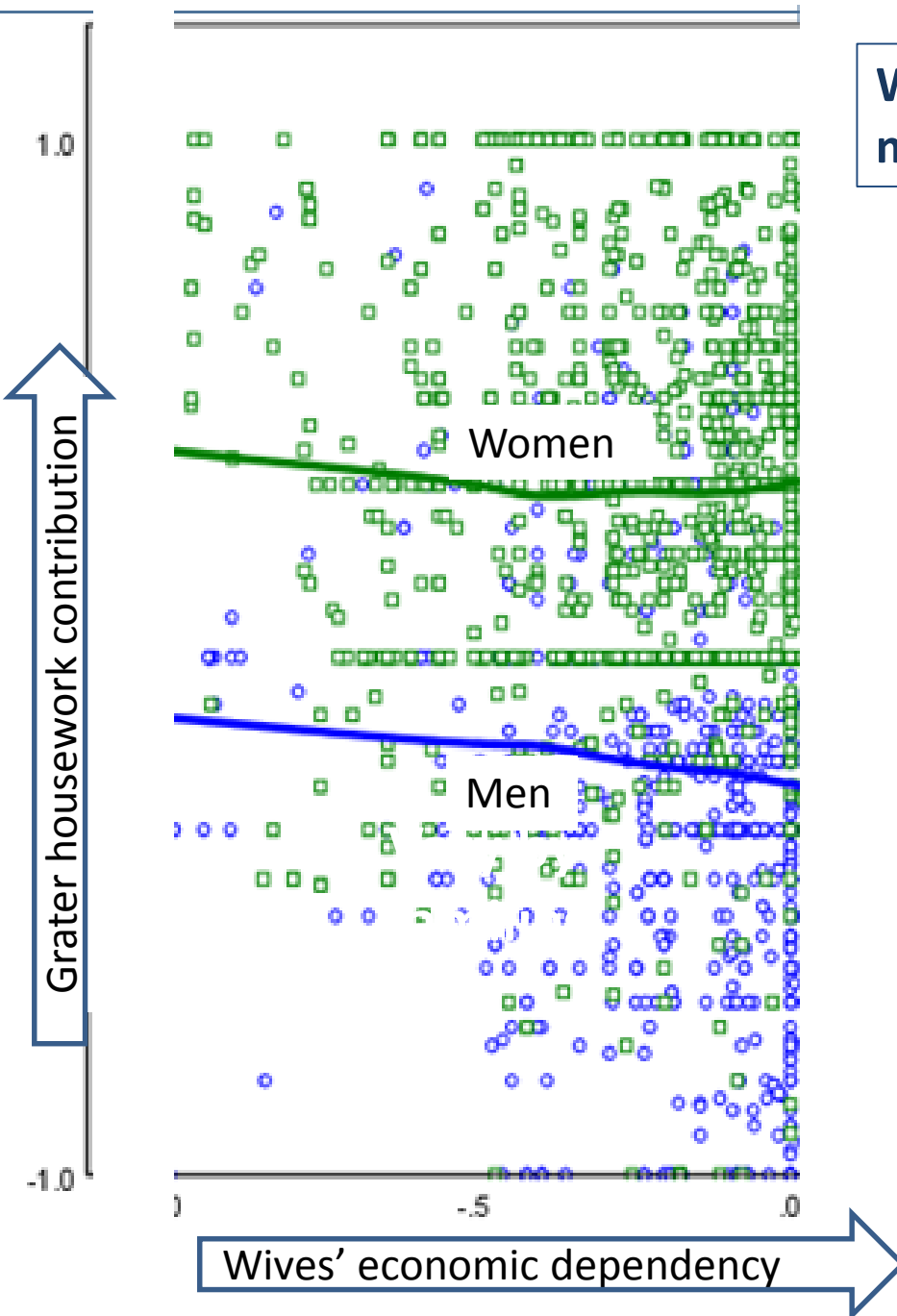
**Vary by
families**

**Where the husband is
the main/sole
breadwinner**

Where gender- normative roles
are not violated, the economic
exchange model describes the
relationship between paid and
unpaid work quite successfully.

Grater housework contribution





Where the wife the
main/sole breadwinner

Vary by
families

Where gender relations within
the family are challenged....
spousal dynamics are governed
by gender identity rather than
economic consideration