Do Stay-at-Home Fathers "Keep House"? Housework Participation among Men Who Care Full-Time

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While the predictors and implications of men's participation in housework in heterosexual households have been studied in great detail, less is known about the nuanced divisions of housework for a subset of couples: stay-at-home father/female breadwinner families. Using a combination of housework time diary data and in-depth interviews with 40 fathers, I overcome this limitation by empirically evaluating stay-at-home fathers' participation in unpaid labor, the predictors of their participation, and the ways male caregivers socially construct and attach meaning to specific kinds of household chores. Findings divide full-time caregiving men into three groups: low, moderate and high participating fathers. I conclude by discussing how traditional gendered divisions of housework tend to endure in stay-at-home father households, sustaining mothers' "second shift" even when they become a family's breadwinner.

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