

Changing men changing times

Fathers and sons from the Work-sharing Couples Study

Margunn Bjørnholt

Center for feminist studies Örebro University, 27.Aug 2013

The Work-sharing Couples Study (1969)1971-1975

- Initiated by Ola Rokkones, The Norwegian Family Council, led by Erik Grønseth, Dept of Sociology, University of Oslo
- 16 couples with children below school age
- Action research: both spouses to work part-time and share child-care and domestic work

30 years Follow-up study of Work-Sharing Couples and adult children 2005-2009

- 15 of the original couples traced, 14 participated
- 11 children, 7 sons 4 daughters
- Longitudinal follow-up study

Fathers, sons and intergenerational transmission

Untraditional fathers:

- active role in initiating and implementing egalitarian work-fam arr.

Neo-traditional sons:

- lack of inter-generational transmission of egalitarian work-fam. arr.

Cohort

Structures of opportunity and masculinities

Gender relations/Meopportunity

Work-family adaptation

Intergenerational biography/socialisation

Personal biography/trance, knowledge

Cohort

Fathers
1970s

Genealogy, discourse, mission

Historical change

Sons
2000s

Conceptual framework

Political appeals

Scientific
truth regimes



Work - family
adaptation

Personal
biography

Structures of
opportunity

Work-sharing men's work-family adaptation

Justice, re-
distribution
feminism

Scand sosial constructivist
sex role theory new
masculinities



Part-time
and sharing
of household

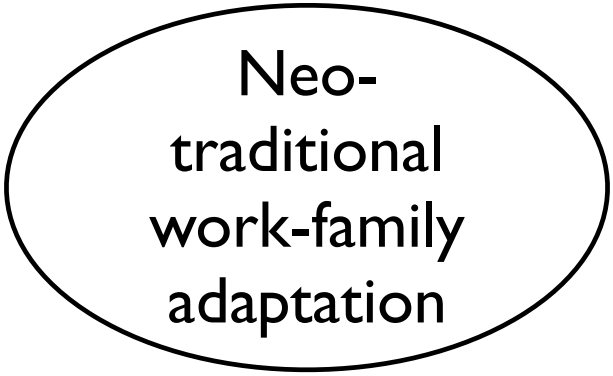
Experiences of loss,
early responsibility
working mothers

Short maternal leave,
shortage of childcare, no
part time rights, male full
time norm, male power in
the family

Son's work-family adaptation

Individualism,
recognition

Gender equality/
sameness childoriented
masculinity



Neo-
traditional
work-family
adaptation

Egalitarian parents,
well-functioning
families

Long parental leave, paternal
quota part time rights, male
full time norm, involved
fatherhood, more egalitarian
couple relations

Fathers & Sons

Fathers

Sons

Justice, re-distribution feminism

Individualism, recognition

Experiences of loss, early responsibility working mothers

Egalitarian parents, well-functioning families

Scandinavian social constructivist-sex role theory/new masculinities

Gender equality/sameness, child oriented masculinity

Short maternal leave, shortage of childcare, no part time rights, male full time norm, male power in the family

Long parental leave, paternal quota part time rights, male full time norm, involved fatherhood, more egalitarian couple relations

Work sharing

Neo-traditional work/family arrangement

1970s

2000s

Changing men, changing times —what can we learn?

- Structures are important, but so is the personal factor, in shaping behaviour
- The importance of timing (to iron or not to iron)
- The complex interplay of the personal, the social, the discursive and the material