

Domestic division of labour

- Parsons: instrumental and expensive roles
- Husband has an instrumental role -> providing for the family, breadwinner, geared towards work success
- Wife has an expressive role -> geared towards primary socialisation, homemakers, full-time housewife

Criticised:

- Young and Willmott - men are doing more domestic tasks, and more wives are becoming wage earners
- Feminists reject Parson’s view that it’s ‘natural’
- Bott: joint and segregated conjugal roles
- Segregated -> couple have separate roles
- Joint -> couples share tasks
- Young and Willmott: symmetrical family
- March of progress view - family life is improving as it’s becoming more equal (technology, women, standards)
- Oakley: feminist view - argues Young and Willmott’s view is exaggerated

Are couples more equal?

- March of progress - Young and Willmott’s symmetrical family states women working is leading to a more equal division of labour
- Gershuny - full time leads to more equal division
- Feminist - little signs of the ‘new man’, women now carry a dual burden
- Responsibility for children - Boulton states fathers help but the mother takes responsibility for the child’s security and well being
- Ferri and Smith: found fathers took responsibility in less than 4% families
- Dunscombe and Marsden - ‘triple shift’ (house, paid, emotion)
- ‘Quality time’ - responsibility falls on mother according to Southerton
- Crompton and Lyonette: explaining division - cultural and material
- Cultural - gender norms must change, Gershuny - parental role models, Dunne - lesbians have more equal, no ‘gender shifts’
- Material - Kan - women earn significantly less than men, Sullivan - working full-time makes a big difference

Couples

Resources and decision making

- Money management - Pahl and Vogler have two main types of money control: allowance system (men give wife an allowance), pooling (joint responsibility)
- Decision making - Edgell’s study found: very important decisions (finance, jobs) was the husband, important decisions (education) was the wife, less important decisions (food, clothes) made by the wife
- Cultural vs material explanations - feminists argue that inequalities in decisions is that the cultural definition of men as decision-makers is instilled through socialisation
- Meaning of money - pooling doesn't necessarily mean there is equality (Pahl) e.g Vogler found cohabiting couples were less likely to pool, remain independent
- Nyman states money’s meaning is different for every couple, it’s defined differently
- ‘Personal life’ perspective - focuses on people’s meanings of who controls the money
- Smart found same sex couples attached no importance to who controls the money, it’s essential to start with personal meanings

Domestic violence

- “Any incident of controlling, coercive or threatening behaviour, violence or abuse between those who have been intimate partners or family members”
- A few ‘sick’ individuals - not the case because:
 - it’s too widespread - between a sixth and a quarter of all recorded violent crime (Women’s Aid Federation)
 - Does not occur randomly - follow particular social patterns (usually men against women)
- Russel and Dobash’s research shows this, can be set off by challenges to husbands authority

Official statistics:

- Yearnshire - on average women suffer 35 assaults before reporting it (victims may be unwilling)
- Police reluctant to record, Cheal - this is due to not being prepared to be involved in the family

Explanations of domestic violence:

- Radical feminists - men are the enemy, family main source of oppression, male domination helps police
- Materialist explanation - income inequalities, Wilkinson and Pickett - result of family stress