


The domestic division of labour

The background of the slide is a solid light beige color. In the bottom right corner, there are several overlapping, wavy, light grey lines that create a sense of movement or depth, resembling stylized waves or a decorative flourish.

Parsons (1955)

- Clear division of labour between men and women
 - Husband – instrumental role
 - Wife – expressive role
- Division of labour is natural

Bott (1957)

- 2 types of conjugal roles
 - Segregated conjugal roles
 - Joint conjugal roles
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- The slide features a light beige background with several decorative, wavy, greyish lines in the lower right quadrant, creating a sense of movement or flow.

Young & Wilmott

- 1950s London's East end – segregated conjugal roles existed within traditional w/class families
 - men worked and spent leisure time with workmates outside the home
 - Women were full-time housewives, leisure and work time was spent with female relatives

Young & Wilmott (1973)

- Changes in family life
- Shift from segregated to joint conjugal roles – emergence of the “symmetrical family”
 - Women go out to work
 - Men help with housework & childcare
 - Couples spend leisure time together
 - “Privatisation of the family”
- Symmetrical family more common among younger couples living away from home

Feminist views

- Ann Oakley (1974)
- Family is not symmetrical
- Criticises Y&W's findings – “helping” at least once a week is not evidence of symmetry
- Some evidence of husbands helping but no trend towards symmetry
- Husbands more likely to help with childcare especially playing with children

Boulton (1983)

- Less than 20% of husbands have major role in childcare – husbands may help but women have responsibility

Warde & Hetherington (1993)

- Continuance of gendering of tasks
- But younger men starting to shift in attitudes – felt they should be doing more

Oakley (1984)

“Housewife”

- Industrialisation created role of housewife
 - Separation of home from work
 - Exclusion of women from the workplace
 - Enforced economic dependency on men
- Housewife role remains primary role of women despite the fact that more women work today
 - Women often have low paid jobs which relate to their role as housewives