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## Children and parents time use: empirical evidence on investment in human capital in France, Italy and Germany

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Empirical Evidence on Investment in Human  
Capital in France, Italy and Germany**

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November 2008

# **Children and Parents Time Use: Empirical Evidence on Investment in Human Capital in France, Italy and Germany**

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## ABSTRACT

### **Children and Parents Time Use: Empirical Evidence on Investment in Human Capital in France, Italy and Germany\***

We analyze a mechanism that has been disregarded in the literature on parental investment in children, as little attention has been devoted to the choices made by children themselves. We model directly time use by youngsters into activities related to the acquisition of human capital, considering not just the decision on study time, but also on socialization/networking at young age, which can enhance personal interaction skills. We provide new empirical evidence for three European countries (France, Italy and Germany) on the link between time allocation by parents and time allocation by youngsters, highlighting country-specific patterns as well as cross-country differences. We run fractional regression models and double hurdle models on multi-member household micro data on time use. Countries diverge concerning the association between parents and youngsters allocation of time to socializing and to reading and studying activities, with Italy standing out as the country where that association, in particular between youngster and mother, is strongest. Our results are consistent with different mechanisms: parental role model directly influencing children behavior, intergenerational transmission of preferences, or network effects, as individuals adapt their behavior to social patterns.

JEL Classification: J22, J24, J13, C21, C24

Keywords: study time, socializing, networking, youth, intergenerational transmission of preferences, fractional regression models, double hurdle models

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## 1. Introduction

Children's attainment is influenced by family decisions such as residential location, family stability, and amount of resources allocated to children (see Haveman and Wolfe (1995) for an overview of empirical work on this issue). Parental time is one of the resources that deserved particular attention in the literature, which documented a positive association between parental time and children outcomes later in life (see for example Leibowitz (1974)).

However, the mechanisms linking parental time to children's outcomes are harder to pin down. Indeed, a wide array of unobservable genetic and environmental factors are potentially associated with both the parental decision on time allocated to their children and children's outcomes, thus precluding any causal statement on the impact of parental time on children outcomes. In Price's words, "providing a convincing causal link between parental time inputs and child outcomes has been an elusive search for researchers" (Price, 2008: 243). The attempt to use maternal employment as a proxy for child-care time has been struggling to disentangle the influence of time quantity versus time quality versus changing income on children outcomes.<sup>1</sup> Confronted with the lack of a reliable identification strategy, the literature has followed a less ambitious line. Price (2008) departs from the result that first born children tend to have better outcomes in life than later siblings, to compare children of the same age but different birth order within similar families, finding that the first-born are allocated more time interacting directly with the parents than the second born. He therefore identifies a potential mechanism for their better outcomes. Other studies have documented the link between the frequency of certain parental activities and children outcomes. For example, indicators of parental time reading to children have been shown to be associated with better children outcomes (Leibowitz, 1977) (Sénéchal and LeFevre, 2002) and time spent having meals together in the family is associated with better adolescent health and well-being (Eisenberg et al, 2004) (Taveras et al, 2005).

The current paper adds to this line of literature by exploring a different link through which parental time use may impact on children outcomes. We focus on the link between time use by parents and time use by their adolescent children into activities related to the acquisition of human capital by the child. We adopt a cross-country perspective that takes advantage of the harmonization of time use data provided by the Multinational Time Use

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<sup>1</sup> See the results by Ermisch and Francesconi (2002) and Neidell (2000), versus those by O'Brien and Jones (1999), Haveman, Wolfe and Spaulding (1991), Leibowitz (1977), Blau and Grossberg (1992) or Datcher-Loury (1988), and the discussion in Cawley and Liu (2007). Ichino and Sanz-de-Galdeano (2005) have called attention to the role of institutions (namely, child care and working time arrangements) as mediators between female labor supply and time devoted to children.

Study (MTUS) project.

We introduce two novel aspects in the analysis. First of all, research has most frequently relied on available data on children's outcomes (such as biometrical and health parameters, school attainment or income later in life) and adults/parents choices, while constrained by lack of information on the children's choices and their own inputs into investment in human capital. Our work models directly time use by young students, a crucial input into the production of their own human capital. By modeling directly time use by young students, we address a major criticism to the literature on the determinants of children's attainment, which states that it has been too focused on the impact of family decisions and circumstances, while not taking into due consideration the impact of "the choices that children make given the investments in and opportunities available to them" (Haveman and Wolfe, 1995: 1836). The relevance of focusing more on the children's actions themselves is also highlighted by O'Brien and Jones (1999), and Bianchi, Robinson and Milkie (2006). Work related to this issue, though from the quite different perspective of parents' decision on time allocation, includes Sttaford and Yeung (2005), who modelled young children's time spent in certain activities in the company of their parent(s) and the intra-household allocation of time with the children.

Secondly, we take into account specific components of human capital that have recently been documented in the literature as relevant. A traditional view of the allocation of time by students would consider that time outside "compulsory activities" such as school attendance and personal tasks (care, sleeping, etc.) could simply be split into time spent usefully –i.e. doing homework and studying—and the remaining time, all assigned to leisure or not directly useful activities. However, both intuition and scientific evidence highlight that human capital includes components other than formal knowledge, namely personal interaction skills and other non-cognitive skills (see extensive work by Heckman and co-authors, namely Heckman, Stixrud and Urzua (2006)). We therefore concentrate on decisions on the allocation of time into study time and socialization/networking at young age. We also consider allocation of time into an activity most often portrayed as having a negative impact on children outcomes: TV watching (see for instance Frey, Benesch and Stutzer (2007) and Vandewater, Bickham and Lee (2006)).

Section 2 searches the literature to address the question "why does parental time allocation impact children's time allocation?" Section 3 presents the data source and section 4 provides descriptive statistics. Section 5 presents the empirical model and section 6 discusses its results, before concluding comments in section 7.

## **2. Why parental time allocation may impact children time allocation**

There may be an association between time spent by parents in certain activities and time spent by their adolescent children in those activities, with positive (or negative) consequences for the acquisition of human capital by the child. The theoretical literature on time use has seldom dealt with youth decisions. Indeed, the initial and largest strand of this literature has concentrated on the choice between labor and leisure, implicitly having in mind an adult individual. Going beyond the static labor-leisure choice, it has later modeled non-market activities, joint production within the household and inter-temporal choices, though without explicit consideration of interactions between parents and adolescents' time use (see the overview in Juster and Stafford, 1991). One must thus turn to other strands of analysis to disentangle the mechanisms that may lead parents' decisions on time use to impact those of their children.

Parents may have a direct influence on the children's behavior by, first of all, influencing preference formation by the child. Theoretical models of intergenerational transmission of preferences have been developed for example by Hill and O'Neill (1994), who refer to the transmission of cultural orientation towards achievement (or preference for investment in human capital), or Lindbeck and Nyberg (2006), who model the transmission of work norms. The work by Fernandez, Fogli and Olivetti (2004) is, to our knowledge, a notable exception that addressed the role model that time allocation by parents may have on children, even though the aim of their analysis is quite distant from the current one. They aim at adding a new channel to explain the rising female labor force participation. According to their model, the allocation of time by mothers would impact on the preferences of the sons—with those whose mother worked being more prone to marry a working woman—, which in turn would lead more women to invest in market skills and participate in the market. On the empirical front, different studies have analyzed intergenerational transmission of preferences, though not focusing on time use. Recent examples include Booth and Kee (2006) on fertility patterns, Loureiro, Sanz-de-Galdeano and Vuri (2006) on smoking habits, Wilhelm et al (2004) on generosity and charity giving, and Bleakley and Chin (2008) on language skills in immigrant families.

Secondly, parental allocation of time may have a direct impact changing children's endowments (which in turn could influence their choices on time allocation). Models of parental investment in children invariably stress the change in children endowments, in particular their human capital, material assets and social capital (see Becker and Tomes, 1986, Leibowitz, 1974 or, more recently, Cunha and Heckman, 2007). Apps and Rees (2002) explicitly underline the role of time invested by parents in shaping the children's

endowments. Also in the model by Fernandez et al (2004), a working mother can shape the son's skills to perform household work.<sup>2</sup>

Both chains of parental influence on children behavior described above —transmission of preferences or changing endowments— describe a direct impact of parents' behavior on the offsprings' behavior. In particular, the intergenerational transmission of preferences portrays the parental role model directly shaping children's choices. The correlation between parents and children behavior may result from a third —indirect— impact. Calvó-Armengol and Jackson (forthcoming) address this point in a model where network externalities are the source of common patterns of behavior for parents and children, as individuals conform to the state of their social community, enjoying higher utility when adopting a behavior that is shared by a large number of their neighbors.

Disentangling which of these channels leads parents' time allocation to have an impact on adolescents' time allocation, using the available data, is not a feasible endeavor. Blow et al (2005) provide a clear review of the econometric methods used to detect the causal impact of parental income on children's outcomes and, while most of the problems they review are pertinent to the analysis of the impact of parental time as well, the solutions reviewed are, in this case, unfeasible.<sup>3</sup> This work aims instead at documenting that there exists a link between parental time allocation and youngsters' time allocation, which moreover varies across countries, with implications for human capital acquisition by the children.

### **3. Data set**

Data from the Time Use Surveys (TUS) for France, Germany and Italy, originally collected by the respective statistical institutes and made available by the Multinational Time Use Survey project (MTUS), are used in this study.<sup>4</sup> The requirement to match adolescents with their parents living in the same household constrains the set of countries we can study, as several TUS only survey one member of the household.

The TUS contain time allocation variables collected through diaries, as well as demographic and economic variables (for technical characteristics of the three main data

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<sup>2</sup> The empirical literature on intergenerational mobility has most often concentrated on transmission of education (for a recent overview, see Holmlund, Lindahl and Plug (2008)).

<sup>3</sup> To distinguish the social environment from parental direct influence on children behavior (investment in education), Calvó-Armengol and Jackson (forthcoming) propose using longitudinal data on the social surrounding or data on grand-parents behavior. Beyond the shortcomings that the authors themselves point out (namely, grand-parents behavior could also have a direct effect on the children) and leaving aside the discussion on whether the parental impact thus captured would be due to a role model or some other effect (genetics, for instance), the approach is still not feasible for our analysis of time use behavior, given lack of adequate data.

<sup>4</sup> We have used the dataset version 5.5.2.



sources, see Table A.1 in appendix<sup>5</sup>). Most of these data are harmonized by MTUS, allowing comparability across countries. Particularly relevant for our study is the consistency across countries in the codes of activities performed. More than one hundred categories of activities were aggregated by MTUS into 41 activity codes, listed in Table A.2 in appendix.

The analysis focuses on students aged 15-19. Two main reasons justify this choice. On one hand, at this stage of childhood, individuals are able to make their own choices to a much larger extent than during earlier periods in the lifecycle. On the other hand, by considering this later stage of childhood we can more clearly concentrate on the link between parents' activities and the allocation of time by youngsters, as opposed to earlier periods, when the amount of time spent on child care is a crucial component of parents' time use. To define the border of this late childhood stage we also took into consideration the legal framework, which defines the minimum legal working age in France as 16 years and in Italy and Germany as 15 years, therefore defining a change in the rights and duties of citizens at that age. The sample is further restricted to individuals who are students, not married or cohabiting, without children, living in parental home and with time diary for at least one parent.

Only the time allocated as primary activity is considered.<sup>6</sup> Only weekdays are considered in the analysis, given the large difference of time allocation patterns between weekdays and weekend days.<sup>7</sup> The match of the data on youngsters and their parents relied on the household identification code and the relationship between the respondent and the reference person in each household.

The sample sizes are presented in Table A.3 in appendix. The unit of observation is the student and the total sample consists of 2132 students: 846 for France, 650 for Germany and 655 for Italy. For a share of these students, we have data on both parents' time diaries: 81% in France, and 86% in Italy and Germany. For the remaining cases, only one of the parents is included in the dataset.

We consider three types of activities, given their impact on human capital formation by students and the potential influence received from parents' behavior: studying and reading; socialization; and watching television. Aggregating from the 41 categories

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<sup>5</sup> For further documentation, see <http://www.timeuse.org/mtus/documentation/>.

<sup>6</sup> Data on secondary activities are also collected by some time use surveys. Secondary activity is an activity that is executed at the same time as another (the primary), and is reported as secondary by the respondents, such as reading as primary activity and listening to music as secondary activity. However, child care is often an individual's "secondary" activity.

<sup>7</sup> For France and Italy, only one diary per person exists in the original data. For Germany there are two diaries per person in MTUS data. For cross country comparison reasons, only one day was selected from the MTUS German data. Since available observations on weekend and week days does not refer to the same individual, we cannot properly investigate any time use substitution pattern between the two kinds of days.

defined by MTUS, we have defined the composition of our categories as follows: studying and reading includes study at home and reading books and newspapers; socializing includes six activities (active sports, civic activities, excursions, cinema and theatre, visiting friends and entertaining friends<sup>8</sup>); television watching. Table A.4 in appendix presents in detail the contents of the three categories for children and parents in each country surveyed.

#### 4. Overview of time allocation by parents and youngsters across countries

The average time spent daily in each of the three activities by students and their parents is reported in Table 1. Time spent socializing exhibits the lowest average values for each family member in Italy: 38 minutes for students, 26 for the mothers and 19 for the fathers. The German sample presents, on the other hand, the highest values: 72, 48 and 46 minutes per day, respectively for students, mothers and fathers. Similarly, when it comes to time spent watching TV, the ranking of countries is consistent across the three types of individuals: students, mothers and fathers. In this case, France presents the highest values, whereas Germany presents the lowest average values. The fact that the ranking of countries in the allocation of time to an activity is the same, irrespective of whether we consider the students, the mothers or the fathers, suggests a consistency in their pattern of behavior, which could be driven by transmission of preferences within the family or conformity to social norms operating within each country.<sup>9</sup>

**Table 1. Time allocation (minutes per day), students and their parents**

		FRANCE		ITALY		GERMANY	
		Mean	SD	Mean	SD	Mean	SD
Studying and Reading	Students	92.7	(112.8)	154.3	(107.9)	31.0	(49.5)
	Mothers	20.5	(41.2)	15.5	(36.4)	44.9	(83.4)
	Fathers	17.9	(40.6)	24.4	(46.0)	36.4	(63.7)
Socializing	Students	52.2	(91.4)	37.7	(67.7)	72.1	(101.6)
	Mothers	30.9	(63.7)	26.0	(55.6)	47.9	(88.1)
	Fathers	28.7	(65.2)	18.7	(55.2)	45.6	(81.8)
TV Watching	Students	118.1	(106.6)	99.1	(75.2)	89.8	(90.0)
	Mothers	95.5	(92.8)	87.8	(68.3)	74.9	(72.7)
	Fathers	116.7	(100.6)	105.6	(76.8)	91.7	(81.3)

Source: Authors' computation based on MTUS. For the contents of each activity, see Table A.4 in appendix.

The above table refers to the whole population (participants and non participants in an activity), and may hide that some individuals do not engage at all in some activities. A finer analysis would consider separately the participation in an activity and, if participating, the time allocated (see table A.5 in appendix). Watching television is the most participated activity in the three countries, while socialization presents a lower

<sup>8</sup> The selection of activities to be included was constrained by data comparability (see table A.4 in appendix).

<sup>9</sup> The comparison across countries of the magnitude of time spent reading and studying is rendered difficult, given the difference in concepts used (note, as described in table A.4, that in Germany this activity does not include time doing homework, thus explaining the lower value in Table 1, whereas it includes time spent with computers).

participation rate. The rate of participation in studying and reading activities is somewhat surprising, as 14% of the students in Italy declare not to read or study at home; non-participation is even higher in France (at 33%) and in Germany (at 48%, which could in this case result from the difference in activities included in this category, as described in Table A.4 in appendix). Notice that given the sampling design (observation of one diary per person), the observed participation rates are likely to be affected by the occurrence of “sampling zeros” (people not observed engaging in a given activity in the sampled day). When considering just those individuals who do engage in an activity, we find a rather homogenous share of time allocated to each of the activities, ranging between 4% and 12%, in every country and for every group of family members. This might suggest that the participation decision and the decision on how much time to allocate are the outcome of two different processes, and must therefore be modeled separately.

Turning to some descriptives that might reveal preliminary evidence on the association pattern between parents and children time use choices, we compare the average share of time allocated by the student into a specific activity splitting the sample of students into two groups: those whose father (mother) allocates into the activity a high share of time (higher than the average time share over that parent) versus the group of students whose father (mother) allocate into the activity a low share of his time (lower than the average). Table 2 shows that the differences between the student group means are always positive and generally statistically different from zero for the three countries. The exception is the socializing activity, where a significant difference of the mean across the two groups emerges only for Italian fathers and German mothers. In general these descriptives therefore suggest that children of parents who allocate a high (low) share of their time to an activity, allocate themselves a high (low) share of their time to that activity. The aim of the multivariate econometric analysis in the following section is to find out whether this positive association between student and parents time use is driven by a set of individual and family characteristics that we can observe in our sample.

**Table 2 – Student time use: comparison of means across groups of parents' time allocation**

	France		Germany		Italy	
<b>STUDY AND READING</b>						
<b>Father time use group</b>	<b>obs</b>	<b>Student time use mean</b>	<b>obs</b>	<b>Student time use mean</b>	<b>obs</b>	<b>Student time use mean</b>
Time allocated low	517	0.062	408	0.020	400	0.104
Time allocated high	206	0.076	168	0.027	183	0.115
Difference		0.014		0.007		0.011
p-value		0.0256		0.0388		0.0968
<b>Mother time use group</b>	<b>obs</b>	<b>Student time use mean</b>	<b>obs</b>	<b>Student time use mean</b>	<b>obs</b>	<b>Student time use mean</b>
Time allocated low	587	0.060	456	0.020	494	0.105
Time allocated high	218	0.079	173	0.026	141	0.116
Difference		0.019		0.006		0.011
p-value		0.0010		0.0325		0.1146
<b>SOCIALIZING</b>						
<b>Father time use group</b>	<b>obs</b>	<b>Student time use mean</b>	<b>obs</b>	<b>Student time use mean</b>	<b>obs</b>	<b>Student time use mean</b>
Time allocated low	547	0.034	410	0.049	484	0.024
Time allocated high	176	0.042	166	0.054	99	0.039
Difference		0.008		0.005		0.015
p-value		0.1511		0.4133		0.0039
<b>Mother time use group</b>	<b>obs</b>	<b>Student time use mean</b>	<b>obs</b>	<b>Student time use mean</b>	<b>obs</b>	<b>Student time use mean</b>
Time allocated low	601	0.035	445	0.045	470	0.025
Time allocated high	204	0.039	184	0.063	165	0.030
Difference		0.004		0.018		0.005
p-value		0.4180		0.0027		0.2631
<b>WATCHING TV</b>						
<b>Father time use group</b>	<b>obs</b>	<b>Student time use mean</b>	<b>obs</b>	<b>Student time use mean</b>	<b>obs</b>	<b>Student time use mean</b>
Time allocated low	375	0.075	323	0.054	299	0.055
Time allocated high	348	0.088	253	0.071	284	0.079
Difference		0.013		0.017		0.024
p-value		0.0259		0.0009		0.0000
<b>Mother time use group</b>	<b>obs</b>	<b>Student time use mean</b>	<b>obs</b>	<b>Student time use mean</b>	<b>obs</b>	<b>Student time use mean</b>
Time allocated low	455	0.074	344	0.048	294	0.060
Time allocated high	350	0.094	285	0.079	341	0.077
Difference		0.020		0.031		0.017
p-value		0.0001		0.0000		0.0000

Source: Authors' computations from Time Use Surveys.

(i) Father (mother) time use group are defined as follows: "Time allocated high", includes students whose father (mother) allocates to a specific activity a time share higher than the average time share (allocated by fathers /mothers to that activity). The group "Time allocated low" is its complement.

(ii) *p-values from two sample t test.*

## 5. Econometric modeling of time use shares

We estimate different models for the share dedicated by child  $i$  to each of the relevant activities: studying and reading ( $sh\_studread$ ), socializing ( $sh\_social$ ), watching TV ( $sh\_tv$ ):

$$s_i^l = \frac{t_i^l}{T_i}$$

where  $l=1,\dots,L$  denotes a specific category of time use;  $T_i = 1440$  is the total amount of time in minutes available within one day. In this framework, the dependent variable is a fraction bounded between zero and one:  $0 \leq s_i^l < 1$ . Notice that in a typical sample of time diaries, the lower bound will be observed for a non negligible part of the individuals, while the upper bound will never be observed.

Empirical models of time use often specify tobit regressions to tackle the first issue. However, for modeling time use choices, the appeal of the tobit model can be questioned, as the zeros are not the outcome of a censoring mechanism, but they are either due to the sampling process or represent corner solutions. To take into account the share nature of our time use dependent variable, we adopt the fractional regression model proposed by Papke and Wooldridge (1996). This way, we set up a modeling context that can be naturally generalized to allow for the joint analysis of the different time shares. Moreover, the fractional logit presents an important advantage over the tobit specification: it relies on a quasi maximum likelihood estimator, which does not require full normal distributional assumption for consistency. The model builds on the assumptions of correct specification of the conditional mean:

$$E(s_i^l | X_i) = G(X_i\beta) \quad (1)$$

where  $G(z)$ ,  $0 < G(z) < 1$ , is any cumulative distribution function and  $X_i$  represents a set of regressors. Choosing the logistic function as we do leads to the fractional logit model, but other choices are possible and can be subject to RESET-type specification tests. The proposed estimator for  $\beta$  is the Quasi Maximum Likelihood Estimator (QMLE; see Gourieroux, Monfort, Trognon, 1984), which maximizes the following Bernoulli quasi-loglikelihood function:

$$l_i(\beta) = s_i \log[G(X_i\beta)] + (1 - s_i) \log[1 - G(X_i\beta)]$$

The QMLE is consistent under the conditional mean assumption above, and efficient in the class of QMLEs based on linear exponential family distributions under the additional

assumption that  $Var(s_i^l | X_i)$  is proportional to  $G(X_i\beta)[1 - G(X_i\beta)]$ .

The fractional logit model is compatible with the existence of a large number of zero values in the dependent variable, but does not explicitly consider the possibility that the process describing the decision to engage in a given activity might be different from that determining how much time to spend on it. In order to overcome this limitation, we also estimate a two part model (or double hurdle model) where the two decisions are described by different processes. The double hurdle model was introduced originally by Cragg (1971) to model variables having a non-negligible proportion of zero values as the outcome of two different, but possibly related, processes: a participation decision (i.e. whether or not to consume) and a consumption decision (i.e. the level of consumption). Different versions of the model proposed since then in the literature assume different interdependence patterns between the two decision processes (see Jones (1989) for an example modeling cigarette consumption).

Usually, the first part of the model is a binary equation, while the distribution characterizing the second part varies according to the nature of the dependent variable.<sup>10</sup>

In our application, we specify the first part of the model as a logit regression determining the probability that the student  $i$  engages in activity  $l$ :

$$\Pr(d_i^l = 1 | X_i) = \Lambda(X_i\delta) \quad (2a)$$

where  $d_i^l = 1$  if  $s_i^l > 0$ , 0 otherwise.

Through the double hurdle specification, we mainly want to allow the two processes to be different. To this aim, we make the following simplifying assumptions: a) the decision on the amount of time allocated to activity  $l$  is independent from the participation decision<sup>11</sup>; b) the observed zeros —i.e. no time spent on a given activity— are only determined by the participation decision, and not by the process determining how much time to spend (first hurdle dominance). Given the fractional nature of our dependent variable, the natural choice for the second part of the model is the fractional logit model presented above:<sup>12</sup>

$$E(s_i^l | X_i, s_i^l > 0) = \Lambda(X_i\gamma) \quad (2b)$$

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<sup>10</sup> In models of expenditure, the second part is typically a truncated regression. In health economics there are many applications of two part models where the dependent variables is a count measure describing the use of medical services (see for example Deb and Trivedi (2002)).

<sup>11</sup> We cannot relax this stringent assumption due to the limited information set we have in our data. Estimation of a correlation coefficient would require some exclusion restrictions, to avoid that identification would rely only on functional form.

<sup>12</sup> The resulting model is used by Ramalho and Silva (2007) to explain the capital structure decisions of firms (first part: to issue or not debt; second part: how much debt to issue).

With the assumptions of independence and dominance, the first and the second part of the model enter multiplicatively into the likelihood function:

$$\begin{aligned}
L_i(\delta, \gamma) &= \prod_0 [1 - \Lambda(X_i \delta)] \prod_{>0} \Lambda(X_i \delta) \Lambda(X_i \gamma)^{s_i} [1 - \Lambda(X_i \gamma)]^{1-s_i} \\
&= \prod_i [1 - \Lambda(X_i \delta)] \Lambda(X_i \delta) \prod_{>0} \Lambda(X_i \gamma)^{s_i} [1 - \Lambda(X_i \gamma)]^{1-s_i}
\end{aligned}$$

so that the two parts of the model can be estimated separately: the participation process by a logit regression on the whole sample; the second part using the fractional logit QML estimation approach on the sub-sample of positive observations of  $s_i^l$ .

## 6. Parents and youngsters allocation of time

Bianchi, Robinson and Milkie (2006: 152) detected a positive association between parents, in particular mothers, allocation of time, and the child's allocation of time (to fitness, reading, housework, and TV watching). However, their analysis relied simply on raw correlations. In our econometric model, the parameters of interest are the partial effects of time allocation by parents on time allocation by youngsters, controlling for a number of observable individual and family characteristics. In the fractional logit models we specify the vector of explanatory variables as  $X_i = (Z_i, H_i, P_i, TIME\_P_i^l)$ , where:  $Z_i$  collects characteristics of the child (sex, age, education);  $H_i$  includes characteristics of the household (size, single parent household, presence of siblings);  $P_i$  are controls for parents' age, education and working status (see table A.6 for a description of the control variables). By  $TIME\_P_i^l$  we denote variables describing parents (mother, farther) time allocation into activity  $l$ , our variables of interest. In the fractional logit model, corresponding to equation (1) of the previous section, we set  $TIME\_P_i^l = sP_i^l$ , where  $sP_i^l$  is the share of time allocated by the parent to activity  $l$ . In the first part of the double hurdle model (equation 2.a) we let the decision to engage in activity  $l$  depend on whether parents engage in the same activity, i.e. we set  $TIME\_P_i^l = dP_i^l$ , where  $dP_i^l$  is a dummy indicating whether  $sP_i^l > 0$ . In the second part (equation 2.b), we let the amount of time allocated by the student be determined also by the amount of time spent by each of the parents, setting  $TIME\_P_i^l = (dP_i^l, sP_i^l)$ .

In the text below, we concentrate on commenting the estimated partial effects (see

Tables 3 to 8).<sup>13</sup> Two representative individuals, a male and a female youngster student, are considered when reporting the partial effects.<sup>14</sup> They share the following attributes: they did not complete secondary education, live in a two parent household, with siblings, mother and father hold secondary education, the father works outside home, and the mother does so in France and Germany, while in Italy she does not work (the modal value). The remaining variables are considered at their mean value within each country. In order to detect possible collinearity problems, we estimate three alternative specifications of the model: with mother characteristics (column headed specification 1), father characteristics (spec 2) and with the characteristics of both parents (spec 3).

Results in Table 5 point to the similarity across countries in the association between parents and children allocation of time to TV watching. Indeed, in every country, both the mother's and the father's share of time spent watching TV has a positive impact on the share of time the youngster allocates to that activity.<sup>15</sup> This could be the outcome of the synchronization of that activity that often takes place inside the household.

Countries diverge, on the other hand, concerning the influence that parents' have on youngsters when it comes to socializing and to reading and study time (tables 3 and 4). Italy stands out as the country where the influence of parents is more pronounced, in particular that of the mother. Note that in this country, the association between mother's and adolescent child's time allocation extends to every activity considered. In France, mother's share of time reading is associated with more time reading and studying by the youngster (with no influence identified from the father's side), whereas in Germany the father's influence on the reading activity is the relevant one.<sup>16</sup> Curiously, in terms of socialization, the reverse holds: in Germany, mother's influence is the relevant one when it comes to socializing, while in France it is the father's.

The double hurdle model allows a finer analysis, handling two different processes: whether to engage in the activity and, if so, how much time to allocate it. Again, similarities across countries are highlighted concerning parents' association with youngster's time devoted to watching TV (first part of the double hurdle model in table 8). This could simply reflect the availability or not of a TV set in the household. Progressing to the second stage, where we model how much time youngsters devote to TV watching (given that they watch it), we find across countries a robust association between mother's

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<sup>13</sup> The full set of estimation results of the fractional logit model and the double hurdle model is available from the authors upon request.

<sup>14</sup> The non linear models estimated allow the partial effect of parents' time use to depend on youngster's gender. We also experimented with a specification including the interaction of youngster's gender with parents' time use variables, which turned out not to be significant.

<sup>15</sup> Even though in France and Germany the significance of the impact of the father's allocation of time is not robust to the introduction of controls for the mother's allocation of time.

<sup>16</sup> Possibly due to the inclusion in this category of time using computers (excluding computer games).



time devoted to TV watching and the adolescent's time devoted to that activity.

The double hurdle model enables clarifications over the fractional logit previously estimated, illustrated in table 6 on the time allocated to study and reading. We find that the father's influence on reading and studying in Germany previously detected operates mostly via the amount of time he devotes to that activity, while in France the relevant factor is whether the mother reads or not. In Italy, how much the mother reads is positively associated with the youngster's behavior.

When modeling time devoted to socializing (Table 7), it is interesting to note again how Italy stands out as the country where parents play the strongest role, in particular the mother. Indeed, whether the father and mother socialize has an impact on whether the youngster socializes. If socializing, the amount of time the youngster devotes to that activity is influenced by the amount of time the mother devotes to the same activity. In Germany, the mother's influence stands out, at both levels of the decision process: whether to socialize and how much time to devote to it.

As stressed in the initial sections, these estimates should not be given a causal interpretation. An endogeneity problem is likely to prevent such an interpretation, due to omitted variables that determine time allocation by children and are at the same time correlated with time allocation by parents. An example of such a variable is the time spent by parents in active care with the child in his early childhood: a parent who likes reading is likely to have spent more time reading to his little child and as a result we will observe the adolescent reading more, even though this is not due to the example of his parent. Also, there might be genetic and environmental unobserved factors that influence the behavior of both the parent and the child. In these situations, our estimates are likely to be over-estimating the causal effect of interest and we are thus emphasizing the comparative analysis across countries through the MTUS datasets. The estimates we show can only be interpreted as partial effects of time use by parents keeping fixed all the observed variables we control for in the model and provide evidence on the existence of an intergenerational transmission of patterns of time allocation, which could be driven by common influences, preference transmission or a role model of parental behavior influencing directly children's behavior.

**Table 3. Partial effects on the share of time allocated to studying and reading, fractional logit model**

100xΔ E(student share time reading)						
<b>ITALY</b>						
	FEMALE			MALE		
	(spec 1)	(spec 2)	(spec 3)	(spec 1)	(spec 2)	(spec 3)
mother share time reading	0.283** (0.131)		0.256* (0.140)	0.245** (0.113)		0.219* (0.121)
father share time reading		0.012 (0.097)	0.030 (0.101)		0.010 (0.083)	0.026 (0.087)
Predicted share	0.112	0.113	0.114	0.095	0.096	0.095
<b>FRANCE</b>						
	FEMALE			MALE		
	(spec 1)	(spec 2)	(spec 3)	(spec 1)	(spec 2)	(spec 3)
mother share time reading	0.189** (0.080)		0.131* (0.078)	0.147** (0.063)		0.099* (0.059)
father share time reading		-0.021 (0.102)	-0.082 (0.101)		-0.016 (0.078)	-0.063 (0.077)
Predicted share	0.069	0.064	0.061	0.053	0.048	0.046
<b>GERMANY</b>						
	FEMALE			MALE		
	(spec 1)	(spec 2)	(spec 3)	(spec 1)	(spec 2)	(spec 3)
mother share time reading	0.026 (0.018)		0.020 (0.022)	0.027 (0.018)		0.021 (0.024)
father share time reading		0.049* (0.029)	0.035 (0.032)		0.051* (0.029)	0.038 (0.034)
Predicted share	0.019	0.021	0.021	0.019	0.022	0.023

(i) Three specifications are considered, including respectively: mother characteristics (spec 1), father characteristics (spec 2) and characteristics of both parents (spec 3).

(ii) The reported partial effect is 100 times the variation of the expected share due to a 0.01 (1 percentage point) increase in the parent's share.

(iii) The two reference students did not complete secondary education, live in a two parent household, with siblings, mother and father hold secondary education, the father works and in Germany and France the mother works. The other controls are considered at their mean values in each country.

(iv) Significance levels: \*\*\* 1%; \*\* 5%; \* 10%.

**Table 4. Partial effects on the share of time allocated to socializing, fractional logit model**

100x Δ E(student share time socializing)						
<b>ITALY</b>						
	FEMALE			MALE		
	(spec 1)	(spec 2)	(spec 3)	(spec 1)	(spec 2)	(spec 3)
mother share time socializing	0.088** (0.041)		0.067** (0.029)	0.156** (0.070)		0.131** (0.054)
father share time socializing		0.049*** (0.019)	0.051*** (0.019)		0.089*** (0.033)	0.099*** (0.036)
Predicted share	0.019	0.015	0.016	0.034	0.027	0.031
<b>FRANCE</b>						
	FEMALE			MALE		
	(spec 1)	(spec 2)	(spec 3)	(spec 1)	(spec 2)	(spec 3)
mother share time socializing	0.045 (0.034)		0.018 (0.042)	0.073 (0.053)		0.028 (0.065)
father share time socializing		0.050* (0.028)	0.055* (0.030)		0.079* (0.044)	0.087* (0.047)
Predicted share	0.024	0.026	0.026	0.040	0.041	0.041
<b>GERMANY</b>						
	FEMALE			MALE		
	(spec 1)	(spec 2)	(spec 3)	(spec 1)	(spec 2)	(spec 3)
mother share time socializing	0.143*** (0.031)		0.134*** (0.030)	0.182*** (0.040)		0.179*** (0.040)
father share time socializing		0.014 (0.040)	-0.028 (0.035)		0.018 (0.054)	-0.038 (0.046)
Predicted share	0.038	0.039	0.035	0.049	0.054	0.047

See notes to Table 3.

**Table 5. Partial effects on the share of time allocated to watching TV, fractional logit model**

100x Δ E(student share time TV watching)						
<b>ITALY</b>						
	FEMALE			MALE		
	(spec 1)	(spec 2)	(spec 3)	(spec 1)	(spec 2)	(spec 3)
mother share TV watch time	0.201*** (0.049)		0.159*** (0.059)	0.189*** (0.046)		0.153*** (0.056)
father share TV watch time		0.207*** (0.050)	0.164*** (0.055)		0.198*** (0.048)	0.158*** (0.053)
Predicted share	0.069	0.069	0.068	0.065	0.066	0.066
<b>FRANCE</b>						
	FEMALE			MALE		
	(spec 1)	(spec 2)	(spec 3)	(spec 1)	(spec 2)	(spec 3)
mother share TV watch time	0.150*** (0.037)		0.119** (0.048)	0.159*** (0.039)		0.128** (0.050)
father share TV watch time		0.097** (0.041)	0.043 (0.044)		0.106** (0.044)	0.046 (0.047)
Predicted share	0.077	0.085	0.080	0.081	0.094	0.087
<b>GERMANY</b>						
	FEMALE			MALE		
	(spec 1)	(spec 2)	(spec 3)	(spec 1)	(spec 2)	(spec 3)
mother share TV watch time	0.252*** (0.041)		0.207*** (0.045)	0.319*** (0.052)		0.250*** (0.052)
father share TV watch time		0.145*** (0.043)	0.060 (0.042)		0.181*** (0.054)	0.072 (0.050)
Predicted share	0.055	0.055	0.054	0.071	0.070	0.067

See notes to Table 3.

**Table 6. Partial effects on time allocated to studying and reading, double hurdle model**

ITALY						
FIRST PART: 100x $\Delta$ prob(share>0)	FEMALE			MALE		
	(spec 1)	(spec 2)	(spec 3)	(spec 1)	(spec 2)	(spec 3)
mother reading time (dummy)	0.042 (0.025)		-0.003 (0.035)	0.055 (0.033)		-0.004 (0.048)
father reading time (dummy)		0.035 (0.027)	0.033 (0.024)		0.046 (0.036)	0.047 (0.033)
Predicted prob(positive share)	0.879	0.868	0.890	0.838	0.817	0.840
SECOND PART:100x $\Delta$ E(share share>0)						
mother share time reading	0.465*** (0.148)		0.593*** (0.129)	0.420*** (0.131)		0.533*** (0.116)
father share time reading		-0.214 (0.131)	-0.117 (0.133)		-0.191 (0.118)	-0.106 (0.120)
Predicted share	0.124	0.131	0.124	0.110	0.115	0.110
FRANCE						
FIRST PART: 100x $\Delta$ prob(share>0)	FEMALE			MALE		
	(spec 1)	(spec 2)	(spec 3)	(spec 1)	(spec 2)	(spec 3)
mother reading time (dummy)	0.112*** (0.033)		0.096** (0.040)	0.138*** (0.041)		0.122** (0.051)
father reading time (dummy)		0.028 (0.039)	0.013 (0.045)		0.035 (0.049)	0.015 (0.054)
Predicted prob(positive share)	0.704	0.720	0.696	0.590	0.575	0.537
SECOND PART:100x $\Delta$ E(share share>0)						
mother share time reading	0.116 (0.166)		0.038 (0.160)	0.106 (0.151)		0.035 (0.147)
father share time reading		0.107 (0.197)	0.114 (0.190)		0.098 (0.179)	0.105 (0.174)
Predicted share	0.093	0.094	0.087	0.084	0.085	0.079
GERMANY						
FIRST PART:100x $\Delta$ prob(share>0)	FEMALE			MALE		
	(spec 1)	(spec 2)	(spec 3)	(spec 1)	(spec 2)	(spec 3)
mother reading time (dummy)	0.101** (0.043)		0.117** (0.047)	0.100** (0.043)		0.116** (0.047)
father reading time (dummy)		0.037 (0.045)	0.008 (0.047)		0.037 (0.045)	0.008 (0.046)
Predicted prob(positive share)	0.449	0.506	0.441	0.414	0.459	0.407
SECOND PART:100x $\Delta$ E(share share>0)						
mother share time reading	0.046 (0.039)		0.028 (0.045)	0.049 (0.042)		0.032 (0.052)
father share time reading		0.079* (0.046)	0.063 (0.053)		0.089* (0.053)	0.072 (0.061)
Predicted share	0.039	0.039	0.039	0.042	0.044	0.044

(i) FIRST PART: partial effect is 100 times the variation of the probability due to a 0.01 (1 percentage point) increase in the parent's share.

(ii) SECOND PART: partial effect is 100 times the variation of the expected conditional share due to a 0.01 (1 percentage point) increase in the parent's share.

(iii) the two reference students did not complete secondary education, live in a two parent household, with siblings, mother and father hold secondary education, both parents works (only in Italy the mother does not). The other controls are considered at their mean value for each country.

(iv) The dummy indicating parents' activity is set to 0 in the prediction of the probability of positive share.

(v) The partial effect of the parents share is conditional on that share being positive (and evaluated at the mean of the positive values).

(vi) Significance levels: \*\*\* 1%; \*\* 5%; \* 10%.

(vii) Three specifications are considered, including respectively: mother characteristics (spec 1), father characteristics (spec 2) and characteristics of both parents (spec 3).

**Table 7. Partial effects on time allocated to socializing, double hurdle model**

ITALY						
FIRST PART: 100x Δprob(share>0)	FEMALE			MALE		
	(spec 1)	(spec 2)	(spec 3)	(spec 1)	(spec 2)	(spec 3)
mother socializing time (dummy)	0.132*** (0.040)		0.073* (0.040)	0.153*** (0.045)		0.095* (0.050)
father socializing time (dummy)		0.192*** (0.055)	0.170*** (0.058)		0.229*** (0.057)	0.207*** (0.061)
Predicted prob(positive share)	0.236	0.201	0.200	0.343	0.330	0.336
SECOND PART: 100xΔE(share share>0)						
mother share time socializing	0.273*** (0.068)		0.239*** (0.064)	0.350*** (0.086)		0.306*** (0.082)
father share time socializing		-0.019 (0.060)	0.004 (0.048)		-0.023 (0.072)	0.005 (0.061)
Predicted share	0.067	0.062	0.058	0.087	0.076	0.076
FRANCE						
FIRST PART: 100x Δprob(share>0)	FEMALE			MALE		
	(spec 1)	(spec 2)	(spec 3)	(spec 1)	(spec 2)	(spec 3)
mother socializing time (dummy)	0.070** (0.036)		0.027 (0.040)	0.079** (0.040)		0.030 (0.044)
father socializing time (dummy)		0.072* (0.042)	0.070 (0.044)		0.078* (0.045)	0.077 (0.047)
Predicted prob(positive share)	0.288	0.329	0.312	0.410	0.448	0.430
SECOND PART: 100xΔE(share share>0)						
mother share time socializing	0.168 (0.113)		0.255* (0.152)	0.197 (0.134)		0.298* (0.179)
father share time socializing		-0.105 (0.102)	-0.155 (0.115)		-0.121 (0.116)	-0.180 (0.131)
Predicted share	0.073	0.077	0.078	0.086	0.090	0.092
GERMANY						
FIRST PART: 100x Δprob(share>0)	FEMALE			MALE		
	(spec 1)	(spec 2)	(spec 3)	(spec 1)	(spec 2)	(spec 3)
mother socializing time (dummy)	0.078* (0.042)		0.089** (0.045)	0.078* (0.042)		0.089** (0.045)
father socializing time (dummy)		0.030 (0.044)	0.014 (0.046)		0.029 (0.044)	0.014 (0.047)
Predicted prob(positive share)	0.479	0.509	0.465	0.496	0.543	0.493
SECOND PART: 100xΔE(share share>0)						
mother share time socializing	0.223*** (0.058)		0.170*** (0.056)	0.274*** (0.074)		0.213*** (0.071)
father share time socializing		0.171** (0.079)	0.109 (0.067)		0.213** (0.095)	0.136 (0.083)
Predicted share	0.075	0.068	0.064	0.094	0.087	0.082

See Notes to Table 6.

**Table 8. Partial effects on time allocated to TV watching double hurdle model**

<b>ITALY</b>						
FIRST PART: 100x $\Delta$ prob(share>0)	FEMALE			MALE		
	(spec 1)	(spec 2)	(spec 3)	(spec 1)	(spec 2)	(spec 3)
mother TV watch time (dummy)	0.151*** (0.049)		0.192*** (0.065)	0.186*** (0.056)		0.205*** (0.067)
father TV watch time (dummy)		0.192*** (0.059)	0.229*** (0.073)		0.234*** (0.064)	0.249*** (0.072)
Predicted prob(positive share)	0.720	0.681	0.545	0.634	0.588	0.463
<b>SECOND PART: 100x<math>\Delta</math>E(share share&gt;0)</b>						
mother share time TV watch	0.222*** (0.065)		0.227*** (0.074)	0.222*** (0.064)		0.229*** (0.072)
father share time TV watch		0.099* (0.057)	0.051 (0.066)	0.100* (0.058)	0.051 (0.058)	0.066 (0.066)
Predicted share	0.086	0.084	0.087	0.086	0.085	0.087
<b>FRANCE</b>						
FIRST PART: 100x $\Delta$ prob(share>0)	FEMALE			MALE		
	(spec 1)	(spec 2)	(spec 3)	(spec 1)	(spec 2)	(spec 3)
mother TV watch time (dummy)	0.156*** (0.043)		0.134** (0.052)	0.131*** (0.038)		0.117** (0.048)
father TV watch time (dummy)		0.204*** (0.050)	0.160*** (0.057)		0.166*** (0.044)	0.139*** (0.052)
Predicted prob(positive share)	0.648	0.590	0.547	0.722	0.689	0.644
<b>SECOND PART: 100x<math>\Delta</math>E(share share&gt;0)</b>						
mother share time TV watch	0.118** (0.050)		0.105* (0.059)	0.116** (0.050)		0.104* (0.060)
father share time TV watch		0.047 (0.050)	0.005 (0.054)		0.047 (0.051)	0.005 (0.053)
Predicted share	0.101	0.111	0.105	0.100	0.111	0.104
<b>GERMANY</b>						
FIRST PART: 100x $\Delta$ prob(share>0)	FEMALE			MALE		
	(spec 1)	(spec 2)	(spec 3)	(spec 1)	(spec 2)	(spec 3)
mother TV watch time (dummy)	0.172*** (0.053)		0.143** (0.061)	0.151*** (0.050)		0.128** (0.058)
father TV watch time (dummy)		0.186*** (0.053)	0.183*** (0.060)		0.143*** (0.042)	0.161*** (0.055)
Predicted prob(positive share)	0.634	0.639	0.539	0.692	0.740	0.630
<b>SECOND PART: 100x<math>\Delta</math>E(share share&gt;0)</b>						
mother share time TV watch	0.200*** (0.056)		0.187*** (0.061)	0.238*** (0.069)		0.208*** (0.068)
father share time TV watch		0.141** (0.057)	0.061 (0.058)		0.160** (0.064)	0.068 (0.065)
Predicted share						

See Notes to Table 6.

## 7. Conclusion

We have modeled the allocation of time by young students, considering three different types of activities: studying and reading; socializing; watching TV. We provided an analysis of three countries (Italy, France and Germany) in a comparative framework.

Results indicate considerable similarity across countries in the association between parents and youngsters in the allocation of time to TV watching, possibly due to the synchronization of that activity within the household. Countries diverge, on the other hand, on the influence that parents' may have on youngsters time devoted to socializing and to reading and studying. Italy stands out as the country where the role of parents is more pronounced, in particular that of the mother.

Our analysis illustrates the operation of one channel so far disregarded when analyzing parental investment in children. Actions by the adolescents themselves in terms of the allocation of their time have implications for acquisition of human capital. Disentangling whether this association between parents and children time use results from a direct role model that parents play, from the transmission of preferences across generations, from the transmission of endowments/abilities, or from outside common influences, is beyond the scope of this paper, constrained as it is by the current data limitations.

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## APPENDIX

**Table A.1. Technical description of the Time Use Surveys, France (1998/1999), Germany (1991/1992) and Italy (1988/1989)**

	<b>FRANCE</b>	<b>GERMANY</b>	<b>ITALY</b>
<b>Age range</b>	15 and over	12-75	3-98
<b>Response rate</b>	91.1% household response rate; 88.3% individual response rate	quota sample	70%
<b>Number of diary days</b>	1-day	2-day	1-day
<b>Survey period</b>	16 February 1998 to 14 February 1999	October, November 1991; January, February, March, April, June, July 1992	June 1988 May 1989
<b>Multi-member household survey</b>	Yes	Yes	Yes
<b>Type of diary</b>	Fixed time slot completed on the day the activities were performed	Fresh	Fresh
<b>Mode of data collection</b>	Two household visits	Self-completed diary	Self-administered
<b>Time interval in the diary</b>	10 minutes	5-minutes	Free
<b>Data on secondary activities</b>	Yes	Yes	Yes
<b>Data on where the activity was carried out</b>	Yes	Yes	Yes
<b>Data on who else was present</b>	Yes	Yes	No
<b>Number of activities coded</b>	139	231	150
<b>Number of cases in the original file</b>	15,441	25,812	38,110
<b>Number of valid diaries in the World5.5 file</b>	15,318	25,775	37,764

Sources: Technical Description on MTUS documentation (retrieved July 30, 2007); Gauthier *et al.* (2006).

**Table A.2. Time allocation activity codes (MTUS)**

MTUS Code	Content	MTUS Code	Content
AV1	Formal work	AV21	Walks
AV2	Paid work at home	AV22	At church
AV3	Second job	AV23	Civic organizations
AV4	School/classes	AV24	Cinema/theatre
AV5	Travel to/from work	AV25	Dance/party, etc.
AV6	Cooking/washing up	AV26	Social clubs
AV7	Housework	AV27	Pubs
AV8	Odd jobs	AV28	Restaurants
AV9	Gardening	AV29	Visiting friends
AV10	Shopping	AV30	Listening to radio
AV11	Child care	AV31	Watching TV
AV12	Domestic travel	AV32	Listening to music, etc.
AV13	Dressing/toilet	AV33	Study
AV14	Receiving personal services	AV34	Reading books
AV15	Meals/snacks	AV35	Reading papers/magazines
AV16	Sleep/naps	AV36	Relaxing
AV17	Leisure travel	AV37	Conversation
AV18	Excursions, trips	AV38	Entertaining friends
AV19	Playing sport	AV39	Knitting/sewing
AV20	Watching sport	AV40	Pastimes/hobbies
		AV41	Unknown activity

Source: Gauthier *et al.* (2006).

**Table A.3. Sample sizes**

	FRANCE	GERMANY	ITALY
Student Diary	846	650	655
Student Mother's Diary	805	629	635
Student Father's Diary	723	576	583
Student and both Parents Diary	682	555	563
Households	708	553	566

Source: Authors' computation from Time Use Surveys.

**Table A.4. Activity contents and codes for the variables: studying and reading, socialization and TV watching, in France, Germany and Italy**

	ACTIVITY GROUP	Original and transformed Codes of MTUS	Time Use Survey specificities by country		
			France	Germany	Italy
<b>STUDYING AND READING</b>					
<b>STUDENTS</b>					
<i>ststrdng</i>	study at home	AV33	AV33	AV33	AV33
	reading books and newspapers	AV34 AV35	AV34 AV35	AV34 AV35	AV34 AV35
<b>PARENTS</b>					
<i>mstrdng</i> <i>fstrdng</i>	studying reading books and newspapers	AV33 AV34 AV35 AV4	AV34 AV35 AV4 AV33	AV34 AV35 AV4 AV33	AV34 AV35 AV4 AV33
<b>SOCIALIZING</b>					
<b>STUDENTS</b>					
<i>stsocial</i>	active sports	AV18	AV18	AV18	AV18
	civic activities	AV19	AV19	AV19	AV19
	excursions	AV23	AV23	AV23	AV23
	cinema theater	AV24	AV24	AV24	AV24
	visiting friends	AV29	AV29	AV29	AV29
	entertaining friends	AV38	AV38	[AV38 n.a.]	AV38
<b>PARENTS</b>					
<i>msocial</i> <i>fsocial</i>	active sports	AV18	AV18	AV18	AV18
	civic activities	AV19	AV19	AV19	AV19
	excursions	AV23	AV23	AV23	AV23
	cinema theater	AV24	AV24	AV24	AV24
	visiting friends	AV29	AV29	AV29	AV29
	entertaining friends	AV38	AV38	[AV38 n.a.]	AV38
<b>TV WATCHING</b>					
<b>STUDENTS</b>					
<i>sttv</i>	TV watching	AV31	AV31	AV31	AV31
<b>PARENTS</b>					
<i>mtv</i> <i>ftv</i>	TV watching	AV31	AV31	AV31	AV31

Notes: in the variable names, the prefix *f* refers to the father, *m* to the mother, and *st* to the student. The AV references report the MTUS original codes (see Table A.2). The category *Studying and Reading* does not include, in the case of Germany, homework time (which is reported together with school time); on the other hand, it includes computer use (excluding computer games).

**Table A.5. Time use variables definition and descriptive statistics**

Name of variable	Definition	FRANCE			GERMANY			ITALY		
		N	Mean	SD	N	Mean	SD	N	Mean	SD
<b>Time use of student</b>										
<i>sh_strdng</i>	share time spent in study and reading	846	0,06	0,08	650	0,02	0,03	655	0,11	0,07
<i>d_strdng</i>	=1 if share in study and reading is positive (0 otherwise)	846	0,67	0,47	650	0,52	0,50	655	0,86	0,35
<i>sh_strdng_pos</i>	share study reading defined only if >0	563	0,10	0,08	339	0,04	0,04	562	0,12	0,07
<i>sh_social</i>	share time spent socializing	846	0,04	0,06	650	0,05	0,07	655	0,03	0,05
<i>d_social</i>	=1 if share socializing positive (0 otherw.)	846	0,38	0,49	650	0,57	0,50	655	0,34	0,47
<i>sh_social_pos</i>	share socializing defined only if >0	325	0,09	0,07	370	0,09	0,07	222	0,08	0,05
<i>sh_tv</i>	share time spent watching TV	846	0,08	0,07	650	0,06	0,06	655	0,07	0,05
<i>d_tv</i>	=1 if share watching TV is positive (0 otherwise)	846	0,79	0,41	650	0,77	0,41	655	0,83	0,38
<i>sh_tv_pos</i>	share watching TV defined only if >0	670	0,10	0,07	503	0,08	0,06	543	0,08	0,46
<b>Time use of mother</b>										
<i>msh_strdng</i>	share time spent reading	805	0,01	0,03	629	0,03	0,06	635	0,01	0,03
<i>md_strdng</i>	=1 if share reading positive (0 otherwise)	805	0,33	0,48	629	0,63	0,48	655	0,28	0,45
<i>msh_strdng_pos</i>	share of reading defined only if >0	262	0,04	0,04	398	0,05	0,06	163	0,04	0,04
<i>msh_social</i>	share time spent watching TV	789	0,07	0,06	629	0,05	0,05	635	0,06	0,05
<i>md_social</i>	=1 if share watch TV positive (0 otherw.)	805	0,72	0,45	629	0,75	0,43	635	0,80	0,40
<i>msh_social_pos</i>	share watching TV defined only if >0	576	0,09	0,06	474	0,07	0,05	506	0,08	0,04
<i>msh_tv</i>	share time spent socializing	805	0,02	0,04	629	0,03	0,06	635	0,02	0,04
<i>md_tv</i>	=1 if share socializing positive (0 otherw.)	805	0,34	0,47	629	0,45	0,50	635	0,29	0,46
<i>msh_tv_pos</i>	share socializing defined only if >0	276	0,06	0,06	281	0,07	0,07	181	0,06	0,05
<b>Time use of father</b>										
<i>fsh_strdng</i>	share time spent reading	723	0,01	0,03	576	0,03	0,04	583	0,02	0,03
<i>fd_strdng</i>	=1 if share reading is positive (0 otherwise)	723	0,30	0,46	576	0,60	0,49	655	0,44	0,50
<i>fsh_strdng_pos</i>	share of reading defined only if >0	216	0,04	0,04	346	0,04	0,05	214	0,05	0,04
<i>fsh_social</i>	share time spent watching TV	723	0,08	0,07	576	0,06	0,06	583	0,07	0,05
<i>fd_social</i>	=1 if share watch TV positive (0 otherw.)	723	0,81	0,39	576	0,82	0,39	655	0,86	0,34
<i>fsh_social_pos</i>	share watching TV defined only if >0	586	0,10	0,06	470	0,08	0,05	494	0,09	0,05
<i>fsh_tv</i>	share time spent socializing	723	0,02	0,05	576	0,03	0,06	583	0,01	0,04
<i>fd_tv</i>	=1 if share socializing positive (0 otherw.)	723	0,28	0,45	576	0,38	0,49	655	0,27	0,44
<i>fsh_tv_pos</i>	share socializing defined only if >0	203	0,07	0,06	218	0,08	0,07	102	0,07	0,06

Source: Authors' computations from Time Use Surveys.

**Table A.6. Description of additional covariates used in regression analysis**

Name of variable	Definition	FRANCE			GERMANY			ITALY		
		N	Mean	SD	N	Mean	SD	N	Mean	SD
<b>Characteristics of students (Z)</b>										
<i>female</i>	=1 if female (0 otherwise)	846	0.50	0.50	650	0.49	0.50	655	0.51	0.50
<i>age</i>	age of the student (years)	846	16.8	1.3	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	655	17.7	1.4
<i>higheduc</i>	above secondary education	846	0.09	0.28	650	0.06	0.23	655	0.15	0.36
<b>Characteristics of mother and father (P)</b>										
<i>mage</i>	mother's age	805	43.74	5.42	629	43.50	5.61	635	44.03	5.69
<i>mwork</i>	=1 if mother work (part or full time)	805	0.56	0.50	629	0.66	0.48	635	0.45	0.50
<i>mwork_sh</i>	share spent by mother working	805	0.17	0.18	629	0.15	0.17	635	0.10	0.14
<i>mseceduc</i>	mother completed secondary educ	805	0.48	0.5	629	0.62	0.49	635	0.68	0.47
<i>mhigheduc</i>	mother above secondary education	805	0.30	0.46	629	0.30	0.46	635	0.23	0.42
<i>fage</i>	father's age	723	46.07	6.26	576	46.99	6.25	583	48.11	6.07
<i>fwork</i>	=1 if father work (part or full time)	723	0.72	0.45	576	0.93	0.25	583	0.88	0.33
<i>fwork_sh</i>	share spent by father working	723	0.31	0.19	576	0.35	0.16	583	0.29	0.15
<i>fseceduc</i>	father completed secondary educ	723	0.54	0.50	576	0.44	0.49	583	0.65	0.48
<i>fhigheduc</i>	father above secondary educ	723	0.27	0.44	576	0.52	0.50	583	0.23	0.42
<b>Characteristics of the household (H)</b>										
<i>nosibl</i>	=1 student with no siblings (0 otherwise)	846	0.27	0.45	650	0.29	0.46	655	0.41	0.49
<i>ncompgt3</i>	=1 hh. w/ more than 3 components (0 otherw.)	846	0.74	0.44	650	0.71	0.45	655	0.83	0.38
<i>msingpar</i>	=1 mother single parent (0 otherwise)	805	0.13	0.33	629	0.10	0.29	635	0.06	0.23
<i>fsingpar</i>	=1 father single parent (0 otherwise)	723	0.03	0.17	576	0.02	0.15	583	0.01	0.11

Source: Authors' computations from Time Use Surveys.

Notes: For Germany age is not a continuous variable; the original variable in MTUS takes only two values: 15 and 19: Therefore, the mean is not presented and the variable is excluded from the set of regressors.