

Makiko Fuwa, in the *American Sociological Review* published article “Macro-level Gender Inequality and the Division of Household Labor in 22 Countries” discusses the gender differences in household labor from a macro, structural level. Many previous studies have looked at individual level and couple level differences, but this study utilizes the International Social Survey Programme to understand these inequalities at the country level. The framework of this analysis is based upon Bloomberg’s “nesting” concept, in which the author argues that “women’s power is ‘nested’ in the gender power relationship of the macro-level” (Fuwa, 751; 2004).

Using the ISSP, the author looks at 22 countries on their overall responses about relative resources, time availability, and gender ideology (which are used as the independent variables in analysis). Control variables in the analysis are both age and age squared, dummy variables for male respondent and some college education, a dummy coded variable for respondents who have ever had a child, and a dummy variable for those respondents who cohabitated before marriage. Individual country’s gender equality was determined based on the UN created Gender Empowerment Measure (GEM) which is constructed from “the percentage of parliamentary seats held by women, the percentage of administrators and managers who are women, the percentage of professional and technical workers who are women, and women’s share of earned income compared to that of men” (Fuwa, 756; 2004).

Results from this study rank Canada highest in terms of the division of housework with an average score of 3.70, the US is next in line with a score of 3.72, and Norway ranking third with a score of 3.73. The lowest two scores represented from this analysis are from Ireland with a score of 4.14, Italy at 4.24, and Japan ranking last with a score of 4.49. The two strongest indicators of macro-level gender inequality, from this analysis, are time availability and gender ideology.