

Time with Children: Do Fathers and Mothers Substitute Each Other When One is Unemployed?

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This article aims to study the exchanges of parental time between the mother and the father. Taking the “experience” of unemployment as a release of time constraint, we analyze time transfers between partners in such a situation.

A bivariate tobit model is applied on the French time-use data. It shows that parents exchange quite rarely their time devoted to children, but some parental activities such as child transportation and child care are substitutable. Parents wish to preserve their parental activities, which are reflecting both their bargaining power and their desire to contribute to the child education.

Keywords: parental time, child care, unemployment, family time use, household division of labor