

THE GENDER GAP IN WORK-FAMILY ROLE BLURRING

Scott Schieman, PhD, University of Toronto, Marisa C. Young, PhD, McMaster University

We examine the gender gap in two forms of work-family role blurring: engaging in work- and family-related tasks simultaneously while at home (“multitasking”) and contact with family members during work hours (“family contact”). Data from a 2011 national sample of working adults (N=5,668) find no gender gap in overall levels of multitasking and family contact. However, a gender gap does emerge under different family and work conditions—and, more importantly, in divergent ways for the two forms of role blurring. Our findings elaborate on gendered experiences of work-family role blurring and shed light on new discoveries about the nuanced associations between family and work contexts.

CORRESPONDING AUTHOR: Scott Schieman, PhD., Department of Sociology, University of Toronto, ON, M5S 2J4, Canada.