How domestic roles are equally distributed

## Ann Oakley:

* She wrote a book called ‘Sociology of housework’; she discovered that the middle class were more symmetrical than the working class.

## Peter Wilmot and Michael Young:

* They announced the arrival of the symmetrical family.
* They claimed that conjugal roles are becoming more similar.
* Both partners help with domestic chores, paid work and decisions within the family.
* Their idea was picked up by social commentators who suggested that the ‘**new man’** (the optimistic version of a husband) would be the saviour of a modern day family.
* They found out that some women choose to be a housewife because they like the “man to be a man.”

## Silver and Schor:

* Argued that roles are now more symmetrical because housework is more commercialised for the consumers of society, there are many products which make housework easier, the things that housewives previously had to produce are now readily available today.
* Women are working in paid employment with the responsibilities that require sharing roles.

## Elizabeth Bott:

* She claimed that many tasks are carried out together with little differentiation between husband and wife and separation of interests.
* Joint conjugal roles depend on class. She expressed her views on symmetrical roles being carried out by the nuclear family.
* She also quoted the **residential principle**- The more geographical mobility the greater likelihood of joint conjugal roles.

## Johnathan Gershuny:

* He explains this trend towards greater equality in terms in gradual changes in social values.
* Role models are also important: couples whose parents have had a more equal relationship were more likely to share housework equally themselves.

## Lone parent families:

* Parents who are living on their own often have to carry out conjugal roles by themselves; this could include men/women doing fulltime jobs and domestic labour.

## The future foundation: A survey conducted on 1000 UK adults

* Men now have an average of 50mins a day doing chores
* Women are in paid employment with an average of 90mins a day
* 60% of men claimed to do more housework than their father
* 75% of women claimed to do less housework than their mother

Men who are paid less than their wives are often more involved in housework, women also tell their husbands that they should be doing more to equalise conjugal roles.