

The Covid Inequality Project

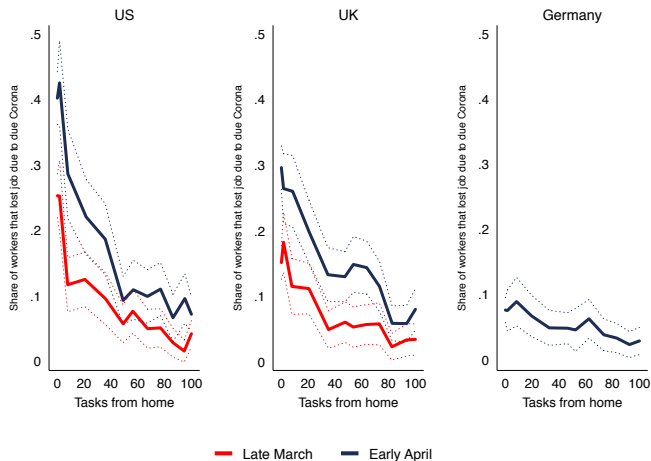
Real-Time Survey Evidence

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Collecting real time data to fill in the gaps

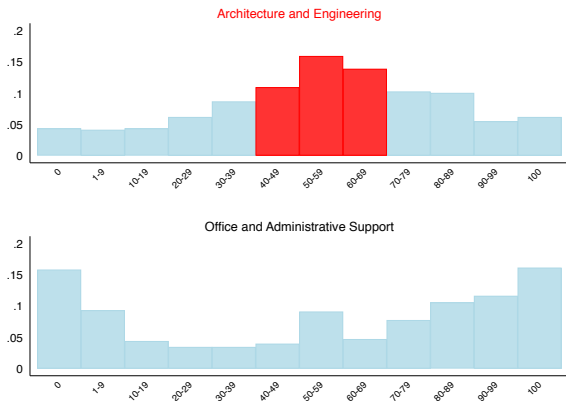
- ▶ Rapid response with up to 4 waves of geographically representative surveys totalling 30,000+ workers in UK, US, Germany.
- ▶ Specifics to this crisis not considered in conventional surveys:
 - ▶ New policies (e.g. furloughing)
 - ▶ Working from home (WFH)

Tasks from home & job loss (2020)



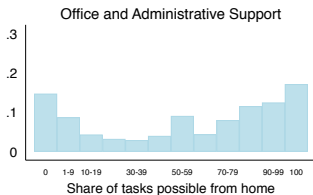
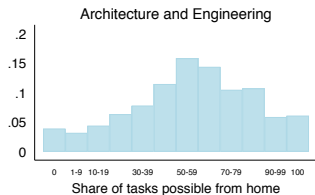
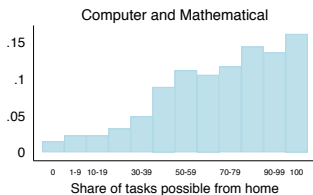
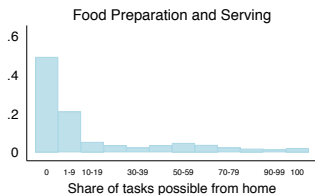
Job losses highly related to ability to work from home and much lower in Germany.

Short-time work would make more sense than furlough



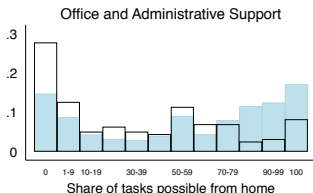
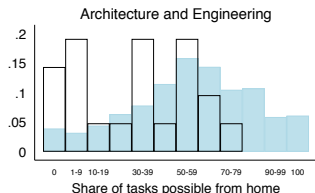
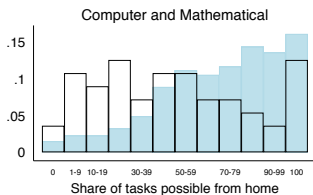
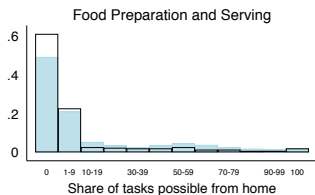
- ▶ Both occupations have same mean share of tasks that can be done from home.
- ▶ 'Architecture and Engineering': Intermediate WFH possible so binary furloughing scheme not appropriate.

Job keepers within occupations



Kept job Lost job

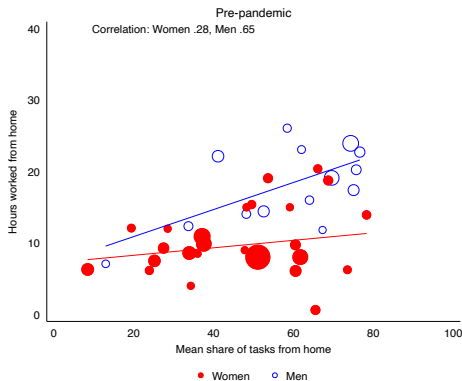
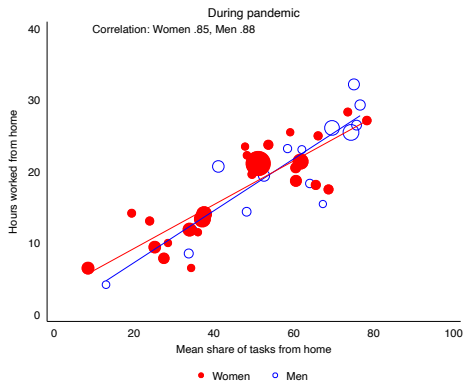
Job keepers and losers within occupations



Kept job Lost job

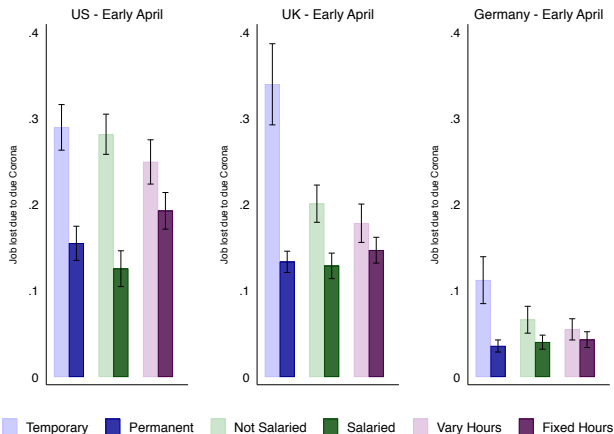
Ability to work from home saved workers compared to those who could not within same occupations.

Hours worked from home during and before pandemic



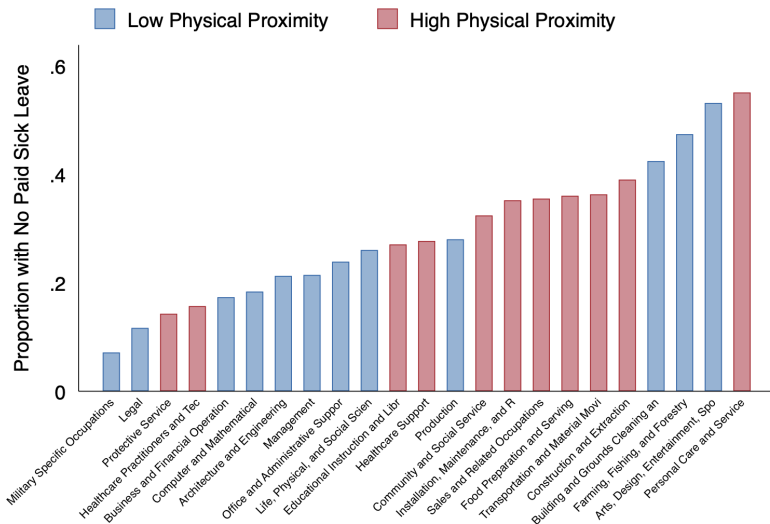
- ▶ During pandemic: Ability to WFH strongly predicts hours worked from home across occupation-industry pairs.
- ▶ Before pandemic: Only weak relationship, especially for women.

Unstable work relationships lead to more job losses

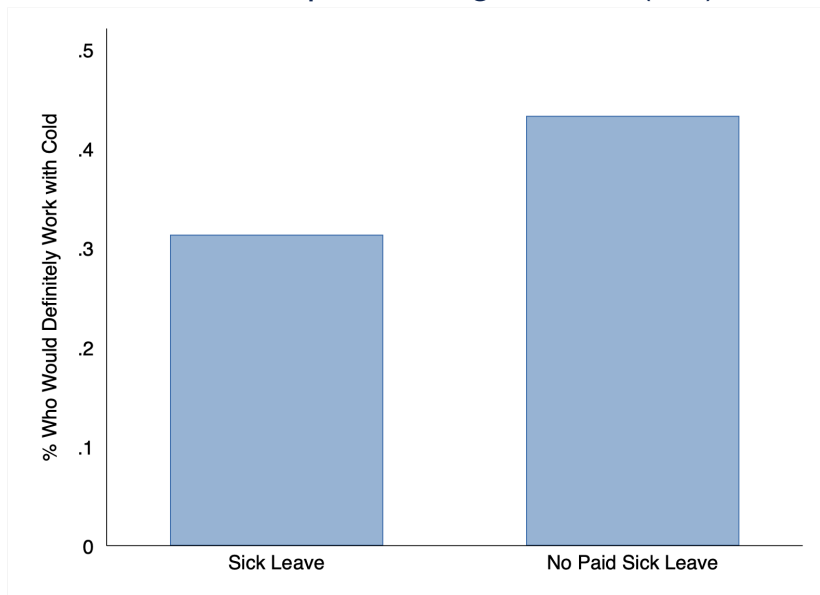


- ▶ Workers on temporary contracts, or non-salaried, or with varying hours are much more likely to have lost job.

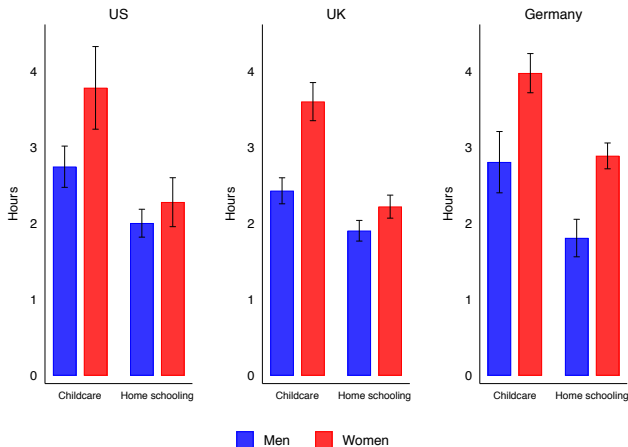
Workers close to customers have less paid sick leave (UK)



Who would work despite having a cold? (UK)



Closed schools as a bottleneck for women working from home?



Amongst men and women WFH, women spent more time on childcare and home schooling.

Summary

- ▶ New work arrangements:
 - ▶ created new inequalities (e.g., working from home)
 - ▶ exacerbated old inequalities (e.g., gender gaps).
- ▶ Cross-country comparisons indicate that policy matters during sudden downturn.
 - ▶ Furloughing scheme in the UK forbid working while furloughed which was largely ignored.
 - ▶ Much more jobs were lost and the scheme cost about twice as much (>US\$80bn) as Germany's short-time work scheme.
 - ▶ Short-time work scheme also takes pressure off of local unemployment agencies and streamlines interactions (government - employer - employee)
 - ▶ Systematic lack of access to paid sick leave can contribute to spread of viruses.

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