

The Dynamics of Allocating Household Labor: How Spouses Induce Compliance and the  
Consequences for their Marriage

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### Abstract

This study examines the dynamics of spousal influence in the division of household labor. Dyadic data of 211 married couples in China were analyzed. Cluster analysis suggested a typology of four different couple types defined by their usage frequencies of various influence tactics: the heavily, the moderately and the lightly influencing couples, as well as the disjunctive couples (with the husbands portraying themselves as heavy influencers but the wives as light). A mediation model was built linking the couples' frequency of dyadic influencing, their justice appraisals of the interactions, and marital satisfaction. Specifically, EFA extracted two components from the measures of justice appraisals, labeled as Respect and Dismissal. These two dimensions both carried substantive impact on the couples' marital satisfaction, but only Dismissal was significantly related to the frequency of dyadic influencing, negatively. In contrast, distributive justice, i.e., appraisal of the distributive outcome rather than the interaction per se, a more commonly explored construct in the field, was found to matter only to the wives but not to the husbands. These findings were discussed in the light of how daily exchanges between couples could affect the quality of their relationships.

## 中文摘要

本研究探索在家務分配上夫婦的互動，分析了從 211 對中國夫妻得來的數據。群集分析模型建議，按照夫婦二人互動的頻率可分成 4 種不同互動模式：經常性互為影響的，中度互為影響的，很少互為影響的，和不對稱的互動模式（丈夫形容夫婦二人互動的頻率為高，但妻子側認為屬於低）。結構方程模式顯示，夫婦二人互動的頻率和他們在互動過程中對對方的公平度判斷，都與夫婦二人的婚姻滿意度有關聯。其中，探索性因素分析從二人互動的公平度判斷中，提取出兩個主要因素，命名為“尊敬”及“忽略”。這兩個因素對夫婦二人的婚姻滿意度都有直接影響，但只有“忽略”與二人互動的頻率有關。一般有關家務的研究只集中在分配性公正上，即檢視從分配的結果中所得出的公平度判斷，而不注重互動過程本身，本研究顯示分配性公正只對妻子來說重要，而對丈夫無關。本文詳細探討夫婦在家務上的互動如何影響二人之間關係的質量。