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Student Attitudes Toward Housework

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Oral Presentation O1.3

STUDENT ATTITUDES TOWARD HOUSEWORK

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This study explores how race and ethnicity, social class, college education, and cultural backgrounds all have different levels of influence over the formation of attitudes and behaviors around housework. Utilizing approximately 250 survey responses from the Illinois Wesleyan University student body, and supplementing with in-depth interviews, I find that most students have an egalitarian perspective toward housework, although there is a persistent gendered division in the households where they were raised. Student attitudes toward housework reflect student perceptions of gendered work, and provide a basis to study the socialization process for these perceptions. Further, the division of labor and gender ideologies from parents affects children's development and their own perceptions on gendered housework later in their lives. The implications of these findings for changing gender and work norms will also be discussed.