

Pitt, Richard and Elizabeth Borland. 2008. "Bachelorhood and Men's Attitudes About Gender Roles." *Journal of Men's Studies* 16:140-157

PRIMARY ARGUMENT: The authors argue that the amount of time that a man lives completely independently has a direct effect on the likelihood that he agrees or disagrees with the notions that men should share housework and that a woman's role is fulfilled in the household.

IMPORTANT DEFINED CONCEPTS:

- Bachelorhood: a period of time in a man's life where he is not married, not cohabiting with an intimate partner, and not living at home or in a place where he is not completely independent and responsible for himself.
- Division of Household Labor: the manner in which married or cohabitating couples separate their household responsibilities.
- Traditional Gender Role Ideologies: traditionally the division of household labor would not be divided equally or equitably, rather men are meant to follow male-typical responsibilities while women are meant to follow female-typical responsibilities.
- "Role Hiatus": a period of time after men or women leave their traditional son and daughter roles, however, before they are subjected to enduring their roles as a husband or a wife.

PRIMARY FINDINGS:

1. Bachelorhood's effect on attitudes towards gender roles is largely driven by the fact that there is no division of labor in their household; they are expected to maintain their home by themselves.
2. In order for bachelorhood to have the observed effect, men must sustain four conditions: not being married, not cohabitating with a romantic partner, not living with their family, and not living in an institution like the military or prison.
3. If the male remains a bachelor for a longer period, he is less likely to agree that a woman's place is in the home and not in the workplace, even controlling for his values before he lived independently.
4. If the male remains a bachelor for a longer period, he is likely exposed to doing housework and is, therefore, less likely to believe that men should not share housework responsibilities.

KEY QUOTE: "Therefore, the most repetitive and pressing of all household duties, those tasks normally viewed as gender-typical and relegated to women—doing laundry, preparing meals, grocery shopping, and washing dishes—are practiced by men who live independently as bachelors. As a result of this hiatus from the male gender role expectations and norms, bachelors gain practical experience doing household labor." (154)

QUESTION: In Mexico, machismo culture is central to everyday living. How does bachelorhood affect machismo men or do they still have the same old thinking of women needing to cook and clean for their husbands and children?