illegal employment in domestic services and create real, properly compensated jobs; it also helps to end working women’s double shifts and advance gender equality in the home.

But current cultural struggles about who exactly should be doing the housework go well beyond concerns about equality for women. The United States faces global competition in science, while at the same time highly trained women scientists at top research universities invest talent, time, and energy managing households. Is this a use of resources that we can afford? Are there ways that universities might better capture the talents of women scientists for science?

Who Does What?
This article draws on the rich data collected in the Managing Academic Careers Survey, administered by Stanford University’s Michelle R. Clayman Institute for Gender Research to full-time faculty at thirteen leading research universities across the United States. Our larger report, *Dual-Career Academic Couples: What Universities Need to Know*, provides details about sampling and survey methodology. Here, we focus on the 1,222 tenured and tenure-track faculty respondents in the natural sciences who indicated that they are partnered with someone of the other sex (910 men and 312 women). While we collected data for same-sex couples, the number of scientists with same-sex partners is too small for extensive quantitative analysis. Previous literature suggests that same-sex couples may have more egalitarian divisions of labor relative to their heterosexual peers; this topic, along with issues of household labor for faculty members who are single, is worthy of future research.

Among several survey items relating to partnerships and households, respondents were asked to report their percent share, their partner’s percent share, and “paid help/other’s” percent share of seven household tasks, parenting, and elder care. Findings indicate that scientists’ homes reflect a traditional division of domestic labor. Women scientists at elite research universities, like most women across the United States, continue to do the lion’s share of housework (figure 1). Their share of core household tasks (defined as cooking

![Figure 1: Division of Household Labor in Scientists' Homes](image-url)

Note: For each task, respondents reported their own share of labor, paid help/other’s share, and their partner’s share. In all figures, percentages may not add to 100 due to rounding.

Women scientists do 54 percent of core household tasks (cooking, cleaning, and laundry) in their homes. Men scientists do 28 percent. These tasks consume an average of 19.3 hours a week. Men contribute more to yard and car care, house repair, and finance, but these tasks are periodic and estimated to take on average about 4.7 hours a week.