Abstract title: Socioeconomic background and children’s alternating residence in Sweden

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The emergent complexity of family forms in the past decades has got a lot of attention within the social sciences. One aspect that has largely been overlooked is children with alternating residence after parental union dissolution. The proposed paper analyzes the association between socio-economic background and the likelihood of living with alternating residence for Swedish children. Sweden is often considered a fore-runner in development of new family life patterns that are soon followed by other industrialized countries. Children living alternately with separated parents is a relatively new phenomenon in Sweden, but becoming increasingly common. Whereas shared custody only gives both parents the legal right to decisions about the child’s upbringing alternating residence means that the child actually lives equal, or near equal, time in with both parents in separate households. This makes it possible for both parents to engage in active parenting and giving children the possibility to have ongoing contact with both parents after separation. Children’s alternating residence, and how this phenomenon is distributed over
socio-economic groups, has not yet been widely analyzed.

Data and methods
The analysis is cross-sectional using logistic regression analysis and it is based on pooled data from the Swedish Level of Living Survey (LNU) from 2000 and the Survey of Living Conditions (ULF) from 2001, 2002 and 2003. These are rich datasets where information has been collected from both parents and children and containing a wide variety of relevant control variables such as parental labor market- and occupational status, educational attainment, income, housing status etc.

Results
The tentative results show an increased likelihood of living alternately in separate households for children from white collar families compared to blue collar families after controlling for income and education. There is also a clear age gradient with the youngest children having the highest likelihood of living in two separate households.