



HHS Public Access

Author manuscript

Soc Indic Res. Author manuscript; available in PMC 2016 June 16.

Published in final edited form as:

Soc Indic Res. 2007 May ; 82(1): 1–33. doi:10.1007/s11205-006-9017-y.

GENDER CONVERGENCE IN THE AMERICAN HERITAGE TIME USE STUDY (AHTUS)

KIMBERLY FISHER,

Institute for Social and Economic Research, University of Essex, Colchester, Essex, UK

MURIEL EGERTON,

Institute for Social and Economic Research, University of Essex, Colchester, Essex, UK

JONATHAN I. GERSHUNY, and

Institute for Social and Economic Research, University of Essex, Colchester, Essex, UK

JOHN P. ROBINSON

Sociology, University of Maryland, 2112 Art Sociology Bldg, College Park, MD 20742, USA,
robinson@socy.umd.edu

Abstract

We present evidence from a new comprehensive database of harmonized national time-diary data that standardizes information on almost 40 years of daily life in America. The advantages of the diary method over other ways of calculating how time is spent are reviewed, along with its ability to generate more reliable and accurate measures of productive activity than respondent estimates or other alternatives. We then discuss the various procedures used to develop these harmonized data, both to standardize reporting detail and to match with Census Bureau population characteristics. We then use these data to document historical shifts in Americans' use of time, particularly focusing on gendered change in paid and unpaid work. We explore these data to find new and more complex evidence of continuing gender convergence, not just in aggregated totals of hours worked, but also in (1) the distributions of activity through the day and the week, (2) the sorts of activities that marital partners do together, as well as (3) the processes of construction of the diary accounts themselves.

Keywords

gender time; social change; national time diaries; work time

1. INTRODUCTION

This article introduces the American Heritage Time Use Study (AHTUS), developed by the Centre for Time Use Research (CTUR) at the Institute for Social and Economic Research at the University of Essex, UK. The AHTUS merges the new American Time Use Survey, collected on a continuous basis beginning in 2003 by the US Bureau of Labor Statistics

(BLS) with four previous national time-use studies collected by two academic survey centers, in a harmonized format appropriate for a wide range of economic and sociological analyses.¹ We use it, in this article, to identify several dimensions of *gender convergence* in the US across the latter half of the 20th century. We focus on changes in the distribution of paid and unpaid work tasks over the period 1965–2003, looking not simply at total time devoted to these activities, but at changes in the underlying “time-profiles” of activities through the day, and how husbands and wives arrange their time together.

One major advantage of time diary-based evidence is that time spent in different sorts of activities (paid work, unpaid work, personal care and so forth) can be *added together* to sum to *exactly* the 1440 minutes of the day. Previous studies (for instance Robinson and Godbey, 1999; Bianchi, 2000; Aguiar and Hurst, 2006) have focused on overall averages of time devoted to each activity, ignoring the rich contextual information available in these historical diary accounts, concerning who else was present during an activity, and when or where the activity occurred. The analysis in this article moves beyond previous assessments of patterns of historical change, both in terms of the quality of data employed and the complexity of time questions examined.

This article begins with a brief review of the previous national U.S. time-use surveys on which the AHTUS archive is based. Our substantive analyses first concentrate on the overall changes in paid and unpaid work. They show an overall reduction in the total productive work time (the sum of paid and unpaid work), a virtual diachronic constancy of time devoted to sleep and personal care, and a relative increase in time for activities outside production (including leisure and consumption). The general direction of this activity change suggests that women and men lead more similar lives now than 40 years ago, although women’s time patterns have been altered more considerably than men’s. Moreover, these data illustrate the persistence of gender difference in the time when partners are together – when there is unpaid labor to be done during leisure time, women still remain more likely to be the people who carry out the chores.

2. MEASURING TIME USE IN THE USA

The Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) initiated the first continuous time-use data collection (the American Time Use Survey – ATUS), interviewing a sub-sample of more than 20,000 respondents aged 15+ from the last wave of the Current Population Survey (CPS) across all months from the start of 2003. This provided the impetus behind the Glaser Foundation’s funding of the systematic harmonization of previous US time-diary use materials for analysis alongside the new ATUS data. The archive draws on the experience of the University of Essex time use group in harmonizing earlier European and other diary studies.

Much of what has been previously surmised about time use in the USA came from time estimate questions – questionnaire items that asked respondents to estimate how much time they spend on some activity over a particular time period, such as per year or in a “usual”

¹The project was funded at Essex as the outcome of a competitive tender awarded by the Glaser Progress Foundation, as a contribution to the program on the valuation of household production directed by Professor William Nordhaus of Yale University. From October 2006, the Centre for Time Use Research will be relocated to the Department of Sociology, University of Oxford, UK.

week. Among the activities on which national historical data used such estimates include time spent working, doing voluntary work, attending religious services, traveling, socializing, and watching television, as in the General Social Survey (GSS) of the University of Chicago.

Probably the most widely used time-estimate questions have been for market work hours (also collected for BLS in the CPS), in which survey respondents are asked to report how many hours they worked last week and provide an estimate of the usual hours per week they worked in the preceding year. This CPS question has been considered the “gold standard” for assessing change in the work patterns of men and women. One great advantage of CPS estimate questions is that they usually take a respondent less than 10 seconds to answer, in contrast to the full time diary, which can take from 10 to 40 minutes to complete (depending on the degree of detail requested). This makes it far more cost-effective to ask estimate questions in the CPS, which surveys all workers in about 50,000 households every month across the full year. In contrast, time-diary studies have in the past been based on samples of 1000–10,000 respondents, with fresh diary samples typically collected only every 10 years. Another advantage of the paid work estimate question is that it has been administered since the late 1940s, with parallel data going back much earlier, whereas the first US national diary study was only first conducted in 1965 and had notably lower response rates than the estimate surveys. The size of the CPS sample also makes it possible to examine quite detailed breakdowns of work hour estimates by gender, marital status, presence and ages of children, and other household and personal characteristics.

Estimate questions have drawbacks, however. Recalling details about time spent in an activity involves complicated calculations. Asking someone “How many hours did you work last week?” assumes that each respondent interprets “work” the same way, searches memory for all episodes of work, and is able to correctly identify and sum all the episode lengths across the day or across days in the last week. Obtaining accurate responses regarding time use is particularly difficult in the survey context, in which respondents are expected to provide on-the-spot answers in a few seconds. What seems at first to be a simple estimate task turns out to involve several steps that are quite difficult to perform, even for a respondent with regular and clear work hours and a repetitive daily routine. One consequence is that, when asked to provide daily and weekly estimates of several activities, survey respondents give estimates that add up to considerably more than the 168 hours of time each week (Hawes et al., 1975; Verbrugge and Gruber-Baldine, 1993).

The appeal of the time-diary approach is that respondents are not asked to make complex yet vague calculations, but to simply recall their activities sequentially for a specific period, usually the previous day. In that way, it becomes possible to reduce the respondents’ recall period and reporting task, first to cover all daily activities, and second to ensure that the resulting account preserves the “zero-sum” property of time – that the activities total exactly 24 hours in a day. That means that if one activity increases across time, it must be compensated-for by a decrease in other ways of spending time.

Diaries² are well-established tools for social scientists. By the time Sorokin and Berger (1939) introduced “time budget” analysis to American sociologists, time diaries has been

deployed in a variety of contexts,³ from studies of farm households (Vanek, 1974; Walker and Woods, 1976), unemployed industrial workers in 1930s' Austria (Jahoda et al., 1972), low paid workers' families in London and Liverpool (Pember-Reeves, 1913; Jones, 1934) as well as measures of national productivity in the USSR (Strumilin, referenced in Zuzanek, 1980, pp. 10–14). An extensive literature confirms the reliability and validity of diary data (Juster and Stafford, 1985; Robinson and Godbey, 1999; Michelson, 2005).

Research comparing diary methods with questionnaire estimates of paid work vary from articles favoring diary-based estimates (Niemi, 1983; Robinson and Bostrom, 1994; Robinson and Gershuny, 1994) – in terms of work estimates being higher than work time reported in diaries – to those finding only slight advantages to the diary approach (Bonke, 2005). However, there is less research comparing diaries with other methods of estimating hours of unpaid work. Studies which have collected both diary and questionnaire estimates at the same time demonstrate that diaries produce more defensible estimates. However, the nature of systematic differences between diary and questionnaire estimates may be inter-related with other factors, with Danish data suggesting that women's diary and questionnaire estimates of unpaid work being more divergent than men's (Bonke, 2005), the reverse pattern emerging in British data (Kan, 2006), and no gender-related divergence, but varying degrees of disparity in the estimates of different age groups in Norway (Kitterød and Lyngstad, 2005). In the U.S, both men and women overestimate their housework by about 50% (Marini and Shelton, 1993; Press and Townsley, 1998; Robinson and Presser, 2000). Some contributors to this literature suggest that aggregate estimates generated by the far less expensive direct questions and the more expensive diaries are sufficiently similar that for research questions where the simple aggregate of time in work is central, either diaries or estimates may suffice (e.g. Bonke, 2005). However, diaries hold the clear advantage where the dynamics or context of work is central to the research (such as examining work episodes in relation to time spent with household members as in Figure 6, the spread of work across the day (as in Figure 7), how work is associated with travel or time at home, and the integration of work life with leisure time) (Gershuny, 2000; Fisher and Layte, 2004; Michelson, 2005).

That is not to say the diary method is without flaws. Respondents can still embellish accounts, but in order to portray themselves as hard workers or light television viewers, respondents must fabricate the activities that precede and follow the one they want to exaggerate. As diaries cover only a short period, respondents probably realize that they may

²The instruments used in time-diary surveys often contain less vivid detail and may not be as readable as literary diaries. But by an extraordinary coincidence, one of the first literary diary keepers in the English language, Samuel Pepys, was also, in his professional capacity as Clerk of the Acts of the Navy Office, responsible for the specification and implementation of the original requirement that all Royal Navy ships maintain a Captain's Log, which continuously registers the times of all changes of sails, heading and wind direction. This log – a class of document which thus links 17th century Restoration London directly to the opening sequence of the original Star Trek television series – with its vertically ruled "fields" for the continuous recording of distinct attributes of timed event sequences, is the true progenitor of the "diary" instrument used by modern social scientists.

³Sorokin (1937) provides a footnote containing more than half a page of references to previous time diary studies. Kahneman and colleagues (2004) are certainly mistaken in their recent suggestion (in the pages of *Science*) that their use of a diary methodology for measuring happiness or enjoyment of particular activities is an innovative one. Elchardus and Glorieux (1987) for example, made extensive use of just this methodology in various articles from the 1980s, as did Robinson and Godbey (1999); moreover, Erlich (1989) carried out an 850-person survey in which respondents recorded their sequences of activities continuously over a 5-day period, while also rating their degree of enjoyment of each activity, and the extent of time pressure they experienced: this material is used in Gershuny and Halpin (1996) as the basis of an ordinal measure of enjoyment of various activities.

work less or watch television more than usual on any given day, so the incentive to distort is reduced (though certain activities, particularly criminal or violent activities seldom explicitly appear in time-diary accounts). Diary keepers who simply cannot remember what they did at a particular time may substitute a habitual activity for what actually took place. Even so, the diary still presents us with a far richer and more persuasive source of individual and family activity patterns than any present alternative (Robinson and Godbey, 1999; Gershuny, 2000; Michelson, 2005).

2.1. Time-diary Methodology in the USA

Most time-diary studies in the United States retain elements of the first national-scale USA diary study, one carried out as part of the most extensive comparative time-diary studies of its time – the 1965 Multinational Time Budget Study (Szalai, 1972). That survey collected a single-day 24-hour time diary registering main activity, simultaneous activity, location, and who else was present, as reported in the respondent's own words and were coded using a harmonized coding frame. Diaries were collected from one person aged 19–65 in urban households in which at least one member was employed and from each of 12 different countries. Until the 2003 ATUS, which collected half of diaries on weekend days and half on weekdays, studies were designed to collect diaries from an even distribution of days of the week. Since the 1975–76 study, the national USA studies have spread the collected data across all seasons of the year. Except for 1965, survey weights balance the distribution of AHTUS diaries by season and day of the week. A schematic comparison of methodological differences across the surveys is provided by Table I, with more detail outlined in the Appendix.

2.2. Producing the AHTUS

The harmonization exercise was designed to retain the highest level of accurate detail possible that could be found across the various surveys.⁴ Though the activity information was not always collected in the same way in each survey (as is evident in Table I), the activity variables are consistent enough across studies to be used for cross-time analysis (Egerton et al., 2005) – with the exception of the 2003 ATUS secondary childcare estimates, which are starkly out of line with secondary care recorded in the earlier surveys (Bianchi et al., 2005; Fisher, 2005). This harmonization effort revealed the significance of using all the variables in the diary when classifying activities, rather than simply relying in the entry in the main activity column (Fisher, 2006). We did not over-write information recorded in the original surveys, though we have corrected a number of data-entry errors in the time diary episode files of some of the older datasets.

We conducted filtering and consistency checks for all variables, and for the same variables across waves for respondents in longitudinal 1975–76 survey. We have included a number of flag variables that mark cases of inconsistent information. Though error levels for demographic variables were low in most surveys, we encountered a number of problems

⁴It consists, therefore, of a “lowest common denominator” dataset covering all five decades, enhanced with additional detail available from a subset of the original studies, and with supplementary files covering diaries collected from people younger than 18 in 1992–94 and 2003 and the spouses of main respondents who were asked to complete a reduced version of the main diary in 1975–76.

from corrupted episode data files from the 1985 survey (that may be corrected in the future by matching them with the apparently uncorrupted simple time-in-activity files).

We made a number of adjustments to the diary files, imputing activity codes in short gaps for cases where we could make logical inferences of the unrecorded activity by using information respondents recorded in the location and social partner columns, as well as from constraints imposed by the combinations of activities before and after these short gaps. We also used information in these other fields in the diary to disaggregate some original “primary” activity codes,⁵ in order to construct the activity codes for the harmonized file. These imputed time activities have separate codes, and thus are easily distinguished from the originally coded activities.

We amended original survey weights to match CPS age and sex profiles and to balance the distribution of diaries by day of the week and season after excluding poor quality diaries,⁶ and also to compensate for attrition in the 1975–76 survey. These weights ensure an appropriate cell distribution of days-of-the-week for each sex and age group in each of the component surveys after the exclusion of the low quality diaries. The resulting AHTUS variable distributions did not differ markedly from population statistics, with the important exception that larger proportions of the AHTUS respondents were well educated than found in the population (Egerton et al., 2005) – a typical problem in U.S. surveys, particularly those conducted by telephone. More detail appears in Appendix, with full documentation and the data available at <http://www.timeuse.org/ahtus/>.

3. CHANGES IN THE DAILY ACTIVITIES OF WOMEN AND MEN IN THE USA

Our tabulation of change in the allocation of productive time is for US adults aged 19–64, an age range used both because the 1965–66 samples only collected diaries from working age people and because trends in the changes in *total* work are most plainly evident amongst the population for the ages that perform the majority of *paid* work. We focus on the evolution of work, in the broadest sense – following the conceptualizations of Walker and Woods (1976) and Hawrylyshn (1977) – of activities that someone might commission a “third party” to carry out for pay without losing the main sorts of direct utility derived from that activity.⁷

3.1. Trends in Paid and Unpaid Work

The AHTUS dataset produces striking pictures of change in total work time, and of continuing convergence between the different sorts of work undertaken by men and women in the USA, which are, even after the extensive recoding and standardization described above, not dissimilar to those reported in Robinson and Godbey (1999). The first sequence

⁵The five imputed codes cover *sleep and rest* (main activity only); *unspecified personal or household care* (main activity only); *unspecified social activity* (main activity only for 1965–66, 1992–94 and 2003; some cases of secondary activity for 1975–76 and 1985); *unspecified time away from home* (main activity only); and *imputed travel* (main and secondary activity).

⁶We applied a more standardized and detailed definition of a poor quality diary than has conventionally been employed in previously published research using the time-diary studies from the USA. We 0-weighted diaries meeting any of the following criteria: (1) sex or age of the diarist missing; (2) day of the week the diary was recorded missing; (3) more than 90 minutes of main activity time (after making the imputation adjustments) missing; (4) fewer than 7 activities recorded in the diary; and (5) no minutes recorded in two or more of the following 4 broad categories of activity which people perform daily except in exceptional circumstances: (a) some form of sleep, rest or time out; (b) some form of eating or drinking or smoking; (c) some form of personal care; and (d) travel.

⁷Using a version of the Ås (1978) 4-category time-use classification.

of diachronic graphs (Figures 1, 4, and 5) traces trends in work for men and women aged 19–64 separately, showing trend averages and their 95% confidence intervals. Figure 1 first shows time in paid work, education, training, and other activities associated with work or education (commuting, applying for jobs or courses) from 1965 to 2003. Figure 4 then displays time devoted all unpaid work (including yard work and shopping but excluding – for reasons explained below – child care). Figure 5 then sums Figures 1 and 2, and additionally includes time in child care (as a “primary activity”), to show patterns of total work time.

Figure 1 shows the statistically significant decline in men’s time devoted to paid work along with other activities in the workplace and activities which enhance or facilitate work prospects (job applications, training) over the first three decades. The second two decades show a small, but probably not statistically significant increase, which still leaves the men’s 2003 mean time in activities associated with paid work and education substantially (and significantly) below the 1965 estimate. The women of this age group show a partially opposing trend, with an initial rise in paid work and related time, but with the major statistically significant increase concentrated during the 1985–1995 decade, as significantly more women entered the labor force.

Others who looked at change in the four broadest categories of time use (paid work and related, unpaid work, sleep and personal care, non-committed time) noted this trend before the release of the 2003 ATUS (for instance Robinson and Bostrom, 1994; Robinson and Godbey, 1999). The finding has raised some controversy from other researchers with a particular interest in hours in paid work, who argue that life in the United States has grown more harried with passing decades, but who base their conclusions on the BLS work estimate data rather than diary data. Schor (1993) argued that work estimate data between 1979 and 1991 showed that hours actually increased significantly, that peculiarities of the smaller diary samples offer a better explanation than a actual behavior change for this drop; and that the general expansion of women’s participation in the labor force mean that hours worked by the population of the USA as a whole have risen. Jacobs and Gerson (2004) argue that estimate hours worked have held roughly constant over the last four decades, but that the proportion of people working has increased and the total number of holidays taken by Americans has remained constant or even fallen, meaning that the total time committed by the population to paid work has increased (29–31). However, Figure 1 confirms that men’s work time has been roughly constant – but over the last *two (not four)* decades, while women’s has obviously increased as more of them have entered the labor force. In that way, the findings presented here do not necessarily conflict with the conclusions of Jacobs and Gerson.

This article considers the broad domain of activity associated with paid work, education and training for work among people of working age – a somewhat broader category than the specific matter of hours of paid work of interest to Schor and Jacobs and Gerson. Hidden *within* this summary pattern lies a range of divergent social changes, including the early retirement in some industries, the longer work-days now undertaken by the better educated, both of which are outside the scope of the present article. While the figures here do support the suggestion that the 1965–66 sample is somewhat idiosyncratic (reflecting the special

sample selection criteria of the Szalai study), nevertheless Figure 1 indicates trends from 1975–76 onwards which are generally consistent with those from the 1965–66 data.

Figure 2 examines paid work time more closely by age and indicates that women's hours of paid work (plus commuting) only increased from 1975–76, then leveled from the mid 1990s. Figure 3 lends more support for the work intensification hypothesis. The relatively level proportion of time dedicated to paid employment tasks in Figure 2 contrasts sharply with the time taking a break at work (as opposed to doing something else, like making private phone calls or going to the bank during break time). Figure 3, which shows the average minutes on break while at paid work (only among workers reporting some paid work activity in their diaries) has dropped steadily from 20 minutes in 1965–66 to roughly only half a minute in 2003. Correspondingly, the proportion of workers taking a work break dropped from over half in 1965–66, to under half in 1975–76, around a third in 1985, less than 7% in 1992–94, and less than 2% in 2003. While some of this decline may be a function of fewer activities reported in later surveys (so that short episode activities like breaks would be less likely to be reported) or that work breaks are less formal and scheduled, this is the clearest possible diary evidence of a more harried work life.

Figures 1 to 4 also show how the increasing proportion of women in the workplace has increased the total daily participation rate of paid work in the United States. While people are at the workplace, women's hours of paid work – and thus total hours of paid work for the whole population – have slightly increased, as “down time” at work in (i.e. breaks not involving other activities), has faded from the conscious daily life of people in the USA. Taking the whole range of activities associated with paid work and training for or applying for work (i.e. including this “down time”), the overall time devoted by men has declined and by women has increased. That is the reverse of the pattern for unpaid work examined in Figure 4.

Figure 4 charts the trends for all unpaid domestic work (including cooking, cleaning, yard work and shopping, but excluding childcare) over the period. Men's unpaid work rose significantly during the first half of the period, and showed a (non-significant) decline – perhaps best interpreted for the moment as “no change” – during the second half of the period. Men of all ages performed an average of two episodes of unpaid work per day, and between 85% and 90% of men participated in unpaid work on any given day.

In contrast, nearly 100% of women engaged in some form of domestic work each day. In contrast with men, as Figure 4 suggests, women's total time in unpaid work declined significantly across the period essentially offsetting their increased time in paid work. Though this drop primarily results from reduction in women's time food preparation and cooking (Hamermesh, 2005), the average number of episodes of unpaid work for women of all ages dropped from 5 in 1965–66, to 4 in the 1970s and 1980s, to 3 in the 1990s and in 2003.

The AHTUS data do exhibit a surprising increase in time main activity childcare – an apparent doubling for women and a tripling for men (not shown here). Bianchi et al. (2005) compare main activity care time in the ATUS with two more recent USA time-use studies

not presently included in the AHTUS (that is 1998–1999 and 1999–2001) that show a similar jump in childcare time at the end of the century. Perhaps increased concern with children’s safety prompted by events such as Columbine and September 11 may partially account for this rise,⁸ though we cannot at present exclude the possibility that these results are also influenced by the 2003 ATUS instrument itself.

Irrespective of these concerns, childcare clearly falls within the “third person” criterion of work, so, in the estimates of the trends in the totals of work given in Figure 5, we have added in childcare to the paid and unpaid work estimates set out in the previous two figures. We see what can only be described as a striking reaffirmation of the almost 15% fall in total work time from 1965 to 1985. That decline, as well as the amount of total productive activity, is remarkably similar for both men and women – especially so given the different composition in terms of paid and unpaid ratios for men and women. The small increase in the total of work time since the mid-1980s is plainly not statistically significant. But this aggregate view of the trend in the two more recent decades again masks the substantial changes in these distributions (particularly of paid work participation rates and work times, among both men and women): those with higher levels of educational or career attainment work more, and those with lower levels of attainment work less.

3.2. Daily Sequences in 1965 and 2003

So far we have considered the simple averages of time in “primary” activities. But diary evidence presented in this way masks much of its unique information about the times of day that the various activities are undertaken by different sorts of people. Figure 6 presents just the very simplest sorts of comparisons, of primary activities through the course of weekdays during 1965 and 2003, for the same population aged 19–64.⁹ Reading from left to right through each of these four charts, one can see that the bottom band, representing sleep and personal care, diminishes rapidly from 7 AM (at which time around 40% of men and 50% of women are still asleep). By 10 AM much the largest part of the society’s time is devoted to the two central bands of activity of paid and unpaid work. Thereafter the top band, representing leisure, rather continuously increases through the day, reaching its maximum at around 9 PM, after which an increasing proportion of the population goes to bed – an activity which approaches 90% of the population by midnight.

Comparing first the pairs of charts vertically, we find a considerable difference between men’s and women’s activities in the 1960s in terms of the relative thickness of the bands representing paid and unpaid work. For women as a group, we can see that paid work

⁸Fisher (2005) found that diarists in the USA report childcare activity differently depending on whether the diary collected main activity only or main and secondary activity. When given the chance to report simultaneous activities, diarists report some childcare activities (such as reading to children) more often as a secondary activity than as a main activity. When given the chance to report only one activity, diarists recorded more main activity time in reading to children, but less total time reading to children compared with estimates that count time when reading to children as a main or secondary activity. It may be that parents read to children in conjunction with other child care or other activities (like travel), but recognize that good parents are expected to read to their children, and report more main activity reading to children to ensure that their diary contains an episode of reading to their children.

⁹We chose to characterize the weekday by the four days Monday to Thursday, because the profile of leisure activities on Friday evenings more closely resembles Saturday evenings than Thursdays – and similarly Sunday evenings resemble Mondays rather than Saturdays. Changes visible in US weekend activity profiles over the 40-year-period (not illustrated here) include the virtual ending of Saturday paid work (other than in consumer service industries), which in turn means an even closer gender convergence in day-profiles during weekends than on weekdays; and the “spikes” of consumption activity on weekend days (particularly Sundays), previously noticeable around 9 AM, midday and 6 PM, and representing family mealtimes, have quite disappeared.

represented a little less than half of all work activity throughout the majority of the day, whereas for men it represents something more like 90%–95% until mid-evening, and unpaid work – at no point more than about one-fifth of all work. Considering this difference in types of work activity, it is perhaps surprising that the overall width of the two central bands is quite similar, so that men’s and women’s daily leisure profiles in 1965 resemble each other quite closely.

The changes in men’s activities through the weekday from 1965 to 2003 reffect exactly what we have already seen in the aggregate time-trends in Figures 1 and 6. Men have substantially reduced their paid work – reffected in Figure 6 as a reduced width band throughout the day. Their increase in unpaid work is also distributed throughout the day, although in this case apparently concentrated more in the evening. Still, the changes remain relatively minor: men in 2003 behaved in their weekdays pretty much as men in 1965.

But the change is far more dramatic for women. By 2003, their unpaid work in the middle of the day had diminished to occupy less than one quarter of the total of work time. Women in 2003 still do more unpaid work – more than twice as much unpaid work as men at any point in the day. Nonetheless, as much as the men of 2003 still look like the men of 1965, the profile of a woman’s day in 2003 resembles the men’s 2003 daily profile more than it does the women’s day-profile in 1965.

3.3. Multiple Activities from Event Data: Spouse Co-presence and Housework

Figure 7 compares the profile of co-presence with marital or cohabiting partners throughout the day for 1965 and 2003, separately for husbands and for wives. We see that the male and female accounts correspond reasonably well with each other, with some small divergences in reported levels of copresence (in both years, and for the moment unexplained) emerging only around midnight. There is a clear historical change in the profile during the afternoon and early evening, which is explored further by combining activity and co-presence data in Table II.

The first panel of Table II (labeled All Co-presence) simply calculates time spent with the spouse or partner through the whole day. The men’s and women’s totals differ only insignificantly – by less than 5 minutes per day. There does seem to have been a small and but statistically significant increase in partner co-presence of about 20 minutes per day over the almost 40-year period. The “partner co-presence ratio”, (defined as the proportion of available time spent in the company of the partner) only rises from .17 in 1965 to .18 or .19 in 2003.

By calculating the product of the co-presence and the primary activity fields, the three lower panels in Table II relate the three broad categories of unpaid work, paid work and consumption time to the partner’s co-presence. These three scores very nearly sum to the total of partner co-presence (the fourth general category, personal care and sleep, is omitted because very little co-presence is reported). In these lower panels we see more evidence both of historical change and some considerable gender differences. This latter phenomenon is quite remarkable, and potentially revealing of the process through which the diary accounts are constructed.

While the surveys in the AHTUS dataset do not allow us to directly test the co-presence reports of spouses/partners,¹⁰ we can compare the accounts given by women in couples of their time with husbands with the accounts given by men of their time with their wives. Consider the 1965 entries for partner co-presence in the unpaid work panel. The sample of “wife” diarists report spending 47 minutes engaged in domestic work while with their male partners, whereas the sample of “husband” diarists report spending only 20 minutes engaged in domestic work with their partners. Most of this 27-minute difference could be accounted for by the 21 extra minutes that men account for as *leisure* with their spouse present. This implies that when couples were together in 1965, the husband often took leisure while the wife spent her time doing housework (as for example where he sits in front of the television, perhaps talking with her while she sets the table and finishes food preparation).

More important for our present purpose is the historical convergence in the two columns of male/female co-presence ratios. This difference between the partners, while still evident in 2003, is much reduced in scale: the processes of personal representation within the social construction of time use appear to become more similar, just as men’s and women’s overall patterns of time use come to resemble each other more closely.

4. CONCLUSIONS

We have documented the reduction in American men’s paid work over the period 1965–2003, which was accompanied by a smaller increase in their unpaid work, a change that was concentrated within the first three decades of the five-decade period. We saw an even more substantial decrease in women’s unpaid work, again concentrated mostly in the first three decades of the period, more or less offset by their increases in paid work. Women’s and men’s aggregate allocation of time – and also the sequential organization of their days – look more similar over time. But differences still remain; earlier convergence processes appear to have stalled. And this process was disproportionately that of women’s activities coming to look like men’s, rather than the reverse.

The new harmonized cross-time dataset provides, in addition to standardized demographic variables, a new activity-coding scheme – intended to constitute benchmark categories for future comparisons of US time allocation studies. Together with the other diary fields, harmonized for the first time within the AHTUS, these provide a much more flexible and comprehensive approach to time-use research, one in which analysts can exploit all the features of the diary instrument, rather than the almost exclusive focus on averages of primary activities that characterizes previous time-diary research. The provision of the harmonized, diachronically comparative, episode-file data, including primary and secondary activities, location and co-presence, now allows analysts to reconceptualize the daily activity focus, combining evidence from different diary fields to make use of the extensive sequence and time-of-day information recorded in the original diary instruments – factors entirely lost in the traditional time-diary analyses to date.

¹⁰The 1965–66, 1992–94, and 2003 datasets covered only one person per household. The 1975–76 survey did collect diaries from both spouses, however, while the main respondent’s diary included who else was present, the spouse’s reduced diary did not include this diary column. The 1985 dataset collected diaries from all adult household members, but sadly problems matching the episode level information to the background data following corruption of the original datafiles make this analysis problematic.

This new data archive also provides a major opportunity for international comparisons with the new Harmonized European Time Use Study (HETUS) coordinated by Eurostat, with harmonized diary studies from more than a dozen EU states collected around 2000, and with the Multinational Time Use Study (MTUS) which allows international comparisons with more than 20 countries, stretching back to the 1960s. Our group is presently working to merge the MTUS and the HETUS with the AHTUS to further extend the range of national coverage, with the goal of providing a source of micro-level information on time use similar to the information on money resources provided by the widely used Luxembourg Income Study.

Since the ATUS is now established as a continuous survey; and the HETUS exercise is scheduled for a new round of data collection around 2010, the international comparative time-use research framework, as envisioned in the pioneering UNESCO-funded Szalai study more than a half-century ago, now moves much closer to reality.

APPENDIX – BRIEF INTRODUCTION TO THE AHTUS

Summary Description

This appendix covers additional information on the AHTUS. AHTUS data and documentation may be downloaded from <http://www.timeuse.org/ahtus/>.¹¹

The open-ended diary reports from each of the original USA surveys were coded using a standard activity coding scheme, largely based on the code list developed for the 1965 Szalai (1972) project, consisting of about 100 (or which 85 are available in surviving datasets) general (“2-digit”) activity codes, and sometimes broken down into a more detailed “3-digit” classification with approximately 250 activity categories. The designers of the BLS survey devised a new classification scheme, influenced by the Eurostat (2004) 167 category activity classification from the HETUS and the Australian Bureau of Statistics code frame (215 activity codes), but which also reflected the priorities of various US government agencies, such as time spent completing security procedures. The ATUS code includes 564 categories, which have been reduced in the AHTUS to 92 categories which appear in the majority of the surveys (detailed below).

In addition to making the harmonization programs available to researchers, the dataset includes three harmonized data files for each original survey:

- a respondent-level file with harmonized information about individuals and households
- a diary-level file coded into 92 main activity categories
- an episode-level file in which each row contains each activity recorded by each diarist

¹¹The AHTUS is one of a range of time-use resources available from the CTUR including the MTUS, a comprehensive database of all time-use studies carried out around the world, to lists of and links to time-use publications, and information on related conferences and courses (<http://www.timeuse.org/>).

The episode level file contains the full breakdown of context information (to the extent recorded) for each episode – the main activity, any simultaneous secondary activity, its location (see below), mode of transport (see below), and who else was present.

The AHTUS' provision of this episode-level data is unique among harmonized comparative time-use archives. The diary-level file with its aggregated totals of time devoted to primary activities is made available for the simplest sorts of summary statistical calculations, but we expect that a growing proportion of analysts will start with the episode file, using relevant context information to construct a summary file appropriate to the analyst's needs. The episode file also allows analysis of patterns of activity and timing of activities through the day.

Surveys Currently Included in the AHTUS

1965–1966 Time-use survey

The oldest dataset included in the AHTUS is the 1965 survey collected by the Survey Research Center at the University of Michigan. This study has two relatively small samples, one which followed the Szalai survey methodology (to sample a typical industrial mid-sized urban location), and a second national sample of all urban areas (with 2021 diaries collected across both samples). Both surveys sampled households where at least one member was employed in an industry other than agriculture, then selected one adult aged 19–65 to keep a single-day diary of activities. Respondents in this 1965 survey completed “tomorrow” diaries, that is respondents were visited by an interviewer who explained and left the diary to be filled out for the following day; the interviewer then returned on the day after that “diary day” to check over, correct and collect the completed diary (Robinson, 1977). Sayer et al. (2004) compared the 1965 sample characteristics with parallel characteristics from the March 1965 CPS, and concluded that its sample closely approximates U.S. population characteristics. An analysis of the full national sample of 1975 diaries indicated that the activities reported by that full sample matched those who would have met the 1965 criteria (Juster and Stafford, 1985).

1975–1976 American's use of time: time use in economic and social accounts survey

In 1975, the Survey Research Center, University of Michigan, personally interviewed 1519 adult respondents aged 18 and over, who reported diaries for the previous day in the Fall of that year (Robinson, 1976); in addition, diaries were obtained from 887 spouses of these designated respondents, which increased the sample size to 2406 respondents. These respondents became part of a panel, who were subsequently re-interviewed in the Winter, Spring, and Summer months of 1976.¹² High levels of attrition in the later panel waves and problems in using the original file (which is not at all user-friendly, and contains some hitherto unidentified major errors¹³) explain why virtually all previous analyses (including

¹²Fewer than half (45%) of the original 2406 respondents completed all four waves, though many more completed at least one further wave. The resulting panel attrition bias is compensated for by the weights provided for the AHTUS. Some respondents (and some new spouses – 667 people in total) were re-interviewed in 1981 (Juster and Stafford, 1985). The 1981 re-interview materials were not used in the AHTUS dataset.

¹³Such as the accidental combination of respondents' secondary activities with their spouses diary data (where the spouse diary failed to include any secondary activity field)!

followed a similar methodology (for people aged 18 and older) but asked the income and marital status questions. This is not currently included in the AHTUS, but may be added in the future.

2003 ATUS

The BLS began collecting time diaries from one person per household in a sub-sample of households that completed the eighth and final wave of the CPS. The survey collects diaries throughout the year. This sub-sample over-samples households with young children and only included people aged 15 and older. All diaries are collected over the telephone (with people in households without a phone sent a voucher to call and complete the diary from a pay phone) about the previous day's activities. Half of diaries were collected on weekdays and the other half on weekend days. The large sample size permits breakdown of time by more detailed population groups than is possible in the smaller and older datasets. While the ATUS is a continuous and on-going study, only the 2003 data are included at this time.

Harmonized Activity Categories in the AHTUS

| | 1965–66 | 1975–76 | 1985 | 1992–94 | 2003 |
|---|---------|---------|------|---------|------|
| Harmonized activity categories in the AHTUS | | | | | |
| -8 Item missing | × | × | × | × | × |
| 1 General or other personal care | × | × | × | × | × |
| 2 Imputed personal or household care | × | × | × | × | × |
| 3 Sleep | × | × | × | × | × |
| 4 Imputed sleep | × | × | × | × | × |
| 5 Naps and rest | × | × | × | NO | × |
| 6 Wash, dress, personal care | × | × | × | × | × |
| 7 Personal medical care | × | × | × | × | × |
| 8 Meals at work | × | × | × | NO | × |
| 9 Other meals & snacks | × | × | × | × | × |
| 10 Main paid work (not at home) | × | × | × | × | × |
| 11 Paid work at home | × | × | × | × | × |
| 12 Second job, other paid work | × | × | × | × | × |
| 13 Work breaks | × | × | × | × | × |
| 14 Other time at workplace | × | × | × | NO | × |
| 15 Time looking for work | NO | × | × | × | × |
| 16 Regular schooling, education | × | × | × | × | × |
| 17 Homework | × | × | × | × | × |
| 18 Short course or training | × | × | × | × | × |
| 19 Occasional or other education/training | × | × | × | × | × |
| 20 Food preparation, cooking | × | × | × | × | × |
| 21 Set table, wash/put away dishes | × | × | × | × | × |
| 22 Cleaning | × | × | × | × | × |
| 23 Laundry, ironing, clothing repair | × | × | × | × | × |
| 24 Home repairs, maintain vehicle | × | × | × | × | × |

| | | 1965–66 | 1975–76 | 1985 | 1992–94 | 2003 |
|----|--------------------------------------|---------|---------|------|---------|------|
| 25 | Other domestic work | × | × | × | × | × |
| 26 | Purchase routine goods | × | × | × | × | × |
| 27 | Purchase consumer durables | × | × | × | × | × |
| 28 | Purchase personal services | × | × | × | × | × |
| 29 | Purchase medical services | × | × | × | × | × |
| 30 | Purchase repair, laundry services | × | × | × | × | × |
| 31 | Financial/government services | × | × | × | × | × |
| 32 | Purchase other services | × | × | × | × | × |
| 33 | Care of infants | × | × | × | × | × |
| 34 | General care of older children | × | × | × | × | × |
| 35 | Medical care of children | × | × | × | × | × |
| 36 | Play with children | × | × | × | × | × |
| 37 | Supervise child or help with | × | × | × | × | × |
| 38 | Homework | × | × | × | × | × |
| 39 | Read to, talk with child | × | × | × | × | × |
| 40 | Adult care | × | × | × | × | × |
| 41 | General voluntary acts | × | × | × | × | × |
| 42 | Political and civic activity | × | × | × | × | × |
| 43 | Union and professional activities | NO | × | × | × | NO |
| 44 | Volunteer child/family organization | NO | × | × | × | NO |
| 45 | Volunteer fraternal organization | NO | × | × | × | NO |
| 46 | Other formal volunteering | × | × | × | × | NO |
| 48 | Acts for religious organization | × | × | × | × | NO |
| 49 | Worship and religious acts | × | × | × | × | × |
| 50 | General out-of-home leisure | × | × | × | NO | × |
| 51 | Attend sporting event | × | × | × | × | × |
| 52 | Go to cinema | × | × | × | × | × |
| 53 | Theater, concert, opera | × | × | × | × | × |
| 54 | Museums, exhibitions | × | × | × | × | × |
| 55 | Attend other public event | × | × | × | × | NO |
| 56 | Restaurant, cafe bar | × | × | × | × | × |
| 57 | Parties or receptions | × | × | × | × | × |
| 58 | Imputed time away from home | × | × | × | × | × |
| 60 | Sports & exercise | × | × | × | × | × |
| 62 | Walking | × | × | × | × | × |
| 63 | Cycling | NO | × | × | × | × |
| 64 | Outdoor recreation | NO | × | × | × | × |
| 65 | Physical activity, sports with child | × | × | × | × | × |
| 66 | Hunting, fishing, boating, hiking | × | × | × | NO | × |
| 67 | Gardening | × | × | × | × | × |
| 68 | Pet care, walk dogs | × | × | × | × | × |
| 70 | General indoor leisure | × | × | × | × | × |

| | 1965–66 | 1975–76 | 1985 | 1992–94 | 2003 |
|---|---|---------|------|---------|------|
| 71 | Imputed in-home social | × | × | × | × |
| 72 | Receive or visit friends | × | × | × | × |
| 73 | Other in-home social, games | × | × | × | × |
| 74 | Play musical instrument, sing, act | × | × | × | NO |
| 75 | Artistic activity | × | × | × | × |
| 76 | Crafts | × | × | × | × |
| 77 | Hobbies | × | × | × | × |
| 78 | Relax, think, do nothing | × | × | × | × |
| 81 | Read books | × | × | × | × |
| 82 | Read periodicals | × | × | × | NO |
| 83 | Read newspapers | × | × | × | NO |
| 84 | Listen to music (CD etc.) | × | × | × | × |
| 85 | Listen to radio | × | × | × | × |
| 86 | Watch television, video | × | × | × | × |
| 87 | Writing by hand | × | × | × | × |
| 88 | Conversation, phone, texting | × | × | × | × |
| 89 | Use computer | NO | NO | × | × |
| 90 | Imputed travel | × | × | × | × |
| 91 | Personal or adult care travel | × | × | × | × |
| 92 | Travel as part of paid work | NO | NO | NO | × |
| 93 | Travel to/from work + other work travel | × | × | × | × |
| 94 | Travel related to education | × | × | × | × |
| 95 | Travel related to consumption | × | × | × | × |
| 96 | Travel related to child care | × | × | × | × |
| 97 | Travel for volunteering or worship | × | × | × | × |
| 98 | Other travel | × | × | × | × |
| Location variables and category codes in the AHTUS | | | | | |
| <i>INOUT – outside, inside or in vehicle</i> | | | | | |
| –8 | Location unknown | × | × | × | × |
| 1 | Outside | × | × | × | × |
| 2 | Inside | × | × | × | × |
| 3 | In a vehicle | × | × | × | × |
| <i>ELOC – location, includes implied from activity codes as well as diary columns</i> | | | | | |
| –8 | Location unknown | × | × | no | × |
| 1 | Own home | × | × | × | × |
| 2 | Other home | × | × | × | × |
| 3 | Workplace | × | × | × | × |
| 4 | School | × | × | × | × |
| 5 | Services or shops | × | × | × | × |
| 6 | Restaurant, café, bar | × | × | × | × |
| 7 | Place of worship | × | × | × | × |

| | | 1965–66 | 1975–76 | 1985 | 1992–94 | 2003 |
|-------------------------------|--------------------------------|-------------|-------------|---------|---------|------|
| 8 | Traveling | × | × | × | × | × |
| 9 | Other | × | × | × | × | × |
| <i>MTRAV – mode of travel</i> | | | | | | |
| –8 | Not answered | Not present | Not present | × | × | No |
| –7 | Not traveling | | | × | × | × |
| 1 | Car, truck, motorcycle | | | × | × | × |
| 2 | Public, mass transport | | | × | × | × |
| 3 | Walk (including child carried) | | | × | × | × |
| 4 | Cycle | | | Limited | × | × |
| 5 | Other or unspecified mode | | | × | × | × |

Sample Distribution by Selected Classificatory Characteristic AHTUS

Weighted distribution (frequency and column %) of age by survey

| | | 1960s | 1970s | 1980s | 1990s | 2003 |
|--------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|--------|
| 18–24 | Count | 337 | 850 | 403 | 856 | 2205 |
| | % | 16.95 | 19.45 | 15.79 | 12.39 | 12.49 |
| 25–34 | Count | 418 | 936 | 605 | 1472 | 3288 |
| | % | 21.03 | 21.41 | 23.7 | 21.3 | 18.63 |
| 35–44 | Count | 470 | 579 | 475 | 1514 | 3685 |
| | % | 23.64 | 13.25 | 18.61 | 21.91 | 20.88 |
| 45–54 | Count | 437 | 659 | 339 | 1135 | 3409 |
| | % | 21.98 | 15.08 | 13.28 | 16.42 | 19.32 |
| 55–64 | Count | 298 | 589 | 331 | 767 | 2331 |
| | % | 14.99 | 13.48 | 12.97 | 11.10 | 13.21 |
| 65plus | Count | 28 | 758 | 400 | 1167 | 2731 |
| | % | 1.41 | 17.34 | 15.67 | 16.89 | 15.47 |
| All | Count | 1988 | 4371 | 2553 | 6911 | 17,649 |
| | % | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 |

Weighted distribution (frequency and column %) of sex by survey

| | | 1960s | 1970s | 1980s | 1990s | 2003 |
|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|--------|
| Men | Count | 942 | 1991 | 1179 | 3074 | 8407 |
| | % | 47.38 | 45.55 | 46.16 | 44.47 | 47.63 |
| Women | Count | 1046 | 2380 | 1375 | 3839 | 9242 |
| | % | 52.62 | 54.45 | 53.84 | 55.53 | 52.37 |
| All | Count | 1988 | 4371 | 2554 | 6913 | 17,649 |
| | % | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 |

Weighted distribution (frequency and column %) of education level by survey

| | | 1960s | 1970s | 1980s | 1990s | 2003 |
|----------------------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|--------|
| 0–8th grade | Count | 257 | 618 | 163 | 200 | 726 |
| | % | 13.01 | 14.21 | 6.44 | 2.91 | 4.11 |
| 9–11th grade | Count | 403 | 629 | 241 | 513 | 1464 |
| | % | 20.39 | 14.47 | 9.53 | 7.46 | 8.29 |
| High school graduate | Count | 775 | 1677 | 1094 | 2371 | 5101 |
| | % | 39.22 | 38.57 | 43.24 | 34.5 | 28.9 |
| Some college | Count | 289 | 687 | 455 | 1731 | 3549 |
| | % | 14.63 | 15.80 | 17.98 | 25.19 | 20.11 |
| College graduate | Count | 206 | 391 | 393 | 1182 | 4921 |
| | % | 10.43 | 8.99 | 15.53 | 17.2 | 27.88 |
| Post college | Count | 46 | 346 | 184 | 876 | 1889 |
| | % | 2.33 | 7.96 | 7.27 | 12.75 | 10.7 |
| All | Count | 1976 | 4348 | 2530 | 6873 | 17,650 |
| | % | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 |

Weighted distribution (frequency and column %) of economic activity by survey

| | | 1960s | 1970s | 1980s | 1990s | 2003 |
|--------------------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|--------|
| Employed full-time | Count | 1368 | 2370 | 1349 | 3887 | 9822 |
| | % | 69.41 | 54.91 | 53.94 | 56.51 | 55.65 |
| Employed part-time | Count | 54 | 269 | 234 | 738 | 2335 |
| | % | 2.74 | 6.23 | 9.36 | 10.73 | 13.23 |
| Not employed | Count | 549 | 1677 | 918 | 2253 | 5492 |
| | % | 27.85 | 38.86 | 36.71 | 32.76 | 31.12 |
| All | Count | 1971 | 4316 | 2501 | 6878 | 17,649 |
| | % | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 |

Weighted distribution (frequency and column %) of marital status by survey

| | | 1960s | 1970s | 1980s | 2003 |
|---------------------|-------|-------|-------|-------|--------|
| Married | Count | 1594 | 2796 | 1636 | 10,181 |
| | % | 80.18 | 64.07 | 64.43 | 57.68 |
| Separated, divorced | Count | 109 | 418 | 200 | 2261 |
| | % | 5.48 | 9.58 | 7.88 | 12.81 |
| Widowed | Count | 83 | 483 | 183 | 1269 |
| | % | 4.18 | 11.07 | 7.21 | 7.19 |
| Never married | Count | 202 | 667 | 520 | 3939 |
| | % | 10.16 | 15.28 | 20.48 | 22.32 |

| | | 1960s | 1970s | 1980s | 2003 |
|-----|-------|-------|-------|-------|--------|
| All | Count | 1988 | 4364 | 2539 | 17,650 |

REFERENCES

- Aguiar, M.; Hurst, E. Measuring trends in leisure: The allocation of time over five decades. Federal Reserve Bank of Boston, Working Paper 06–2. 2006. <http://www.bos.frb.org/economic/wp/wp2006/wp0602.pdf>; also appears as National Bureau of Economic Research (NBER), Working Paper 12082: <http://www.bos.frb.org/economic/wp/wp2006/wp0602.pdf>
- Ås D. Studies of time use problems and prospects. *Acta Sociologica*. 1978; 15(2):124–141.
- Bianchi SM. Maternal employment and time with children: Dramatic change or surprising continuity? *Demography*. 2000; 37(November):139–154. [PubMed: 10836173]
- Bianchi, SM.; Wight, V.; Raley, SB. Maternal employment and family caregiving: Rethinking time with children in the ATUS; Paper presented at the American Time Use; 2005.
- Survey Early Results Conference. Washington DC, USA: Dec 8–9. 2005 <http://www.atususers.umd.edu/papers/atusconference/authors/Bianchi.pdf>
- Bonke J. Paid work and unpaid work: Diary information versus questionnaire information. *Social Indicators Research*. 2005; 70:349–368.
- Egerton, M.; Fisher, K.; Gershuny, J. Institute for Social and Economic Research Working Paper 2005–28. Colchester: 2005a. American time use 1965–2003: The construction of a historical comparative file, and consideration of its usefulness in the construction of extended national accounts for the USA. <http://www.iser.essex.ac.uk/search/publications.php>
- Egerton, M.; Fisher, K.; Gershuny, J.; Pollmann, A.; Torres, N. US historical time use data file production: Report on activities February to October 2004. Report to the Glaser Progress Foundation. 2005b. <http://www.timeuse.org/ahtus/reports/>
- Elchardus M, Glorieux I. De Tijd Als Zingeveer: Onderzoek Naar de Gevolgen van Deverdaaglijksing van de Uurwerktijd. *Tijdschrift voor Sociologie*. 1987; 8(4):53–87.
- Erlich, A. Time Allocation Part 2 Preliminary Analysis. Unilever House; London: 1989. TIS (G89002)
- Eurostat. Guidelines on Harmonised European Time Use Surveys. Eurostat; Luxembourg: 2004. http://epp.eurostat.cec.eu.int/portal/page?_pageid=1073,1135281,1073_1135295&_dad=portal&_schema=PORTAL&p_product_code=KS-CC-04-007
- Fisher, K. Comments on “Maternal employment and family caregiving: rethinking time with children in the ATUS”; Discussant comments at the American Time Use Survey Early Results Conference; Washington DC, USA. Dec 8–9. 2005 2005 <http://www.atususers.umd.edu/papers/atusconference/discussants/FisherComments.pdf>
- Fisher, K. Institute for Social and Economic Research Working Paper 2006. Colchester: 2006. More than the sum of parts: Why treating time diaries as holistic units matters in time use analysis. <http://www.iser.essex.ac.uk/search/publications.php>
- Fisher K, Layte R. Measuring work-life balance using time diary data. *Electronic International Journal of Time Use Research*. 2004; 1:1–13.
- Gershuny, J. *Changing Times: Work and Leisure in Postindustrial Society*. Oxford University Press; Oxford: 2000.
- Gershuny, J. Comment on Landefeld, Fraumeni and Vojtech; Discussant comments at the American Time Use Survey Early Results Conference; Washington DC, USA. Dec 8–9. 2005 2005 <http://www.atususers.umd.edu/papers/atusconference/discussants/GershunySlides2.pdf>
- Gershuny, J.; Halpin, B. Time use, quality of life and process benefits. In: Offer, A., editor. *Pursuit of the Quality of Life*. Clarendon Press; Oxford: 1996. p. 188–211.
- Hamermesh, DS. Time to eat: household production under increasing income inequality; Paper presented at the American Time Use Survey Early Results Conference; Washington DC, USA. Dec 8–9. 2005 2005 <http://www.atususers.umd.edu/papers/atusconference/authors/Hamermesh.pdf>

- Hawes, D.; Talarzyk, W.; Blackwell, R. Consumer satisfactions from leisure time pursuits. In: Schlinger, M., editor. *Advances in Consumer Research*. Association for Consumer Research; Chicago: 1975.
- Hawrylyshn O. Towards a definition of non-market activities. *Review of Income and Wealth*. 1977; 23(1):79–96.
- Jacobs, JA.; Gerson, K. Understanding changes in American working time: A synthesis. In: Epstein, CF.; Kalleberg, A., editors. *Fighting for Time: Shifting Boundaries of Work and Social Life*. Russell Sage Foundation; New York: 2004. p. 25-45.
- Jahoda, M.; Lazarsfeld, PF.; Zeisel, H. *Marienthal: The Sociology of an Unemployed Community*. Tavistock Publications; London: 1972.
- Jones, DC. *The Social Survey of Merseyside*. Vol. i, ii, and iii. University of Liverpool Press; Liverpool: 1934.
- Juster, FT.; Stafford, FP. *Time, Goods, and Well-Being*. Survey Research Center, Institute for Social Research, University of Michigan; Ann Arbor: 1985.
- Kahneman D, Krueger AB, Schkade DA, Schwarz N, Stone AA. A survey method for characterizing daily life experience: the day reconstruction method. *Science*. 2004; 306(5702):1776–1780. [PubMed: 15576620]
- Kan, MY. Joint Empirical Social Science Seminar. Institute for Social and Economic Research; Colchester: Feb 8. 2006 Measuring housework participation: The gap between ‘stylised’ questionnaire estimates and diary-based estimates. <http://www.iser.essex.ac.uk/seminars/jess/>
- Kitterød RH, Lyngstad TH. Diary versus questionnaire information on time spent on housework – the case of Norway. *Electronic International Journal of Time Use Research*. 2005; 2:13–32.
- Marini MM, Shelton BA. Measuring household work: Recent experience in the United States. *Social Science Research*. 1993; 22:361–382.
- Michelson, W. *Time Use: Expanding the Explanatory Power of the Social Sciences* Boulder. Paradigm Publishers; Boulder, Colorado/London: 2005.
- Niemi, I. *Time Use Study in Finland*. Central Statistical Office; Finland: 1983.
- Pember-Reeves, M. *Round About a Pound a Week*. Virago; London: 1913.
- Press JE, Townsley E. Wives’ and husbands’ housework reporting: Gender, class, and social desirability. *Gender & Society*. 1998; 12:188–218.
- Robinson, JP. *Changes in Americans’ Use of Time, 1965–1975*. Communication Research Center; Cleveland: 1976.
- Robinson, JP. *How Americans Use Time: A Social-Psychological Analysis of Everyday Behavior*. Praeger Publishers; 1977.
- Robinson JP, Bostrom A. The overestimated workweek? What time diary measures suggest. *Monthly Labor Review*. 1994; 117(8):11–23.
- Robinson, JP.; Godbey, G. *Time for Life: The Surprising Ways Americans Use Their Time*. 2nd. Pennsylvania Sate University Press; University Park, PA: 1999.
- Robinson, JP.; Gershuny, JI. *Bulletin of Labour Statistics*. International Labour Office; Geneva: 1994. Measuring hours of paid work: Time diary vs. estimate questions; p. xi-xvii.
- Robinson, JP.; Presser, S. Estimating daily activity times; Paper presented at the American Association of Public Opinion Research; Portland, Oregon. May. 2000 2000
- Sayer L, Bianchi SM, Robinson J. Are parents investing less in children? Trends in mothers’ and fathers’ time with children. *American Journal of Sociology*. 2004; 110:1–43.
- Schor, JB. *The Overworked American: The Unexpected Decline of Leisure*. Basic Books; New York: 1993. originally published 1992
- Sorokin, PA. *Social and Cultural Dynamics*. Bedminster Press; New York: 1962. originally 1937
- Sorokin, PA.; Berger, CQ. *Time Budgets of Human Behavior*. Harvard University Press; Cambridge: MA: 1939.
- Szalai, A., editor. *The Use of Time: Daily Activities of Urban and Suburban Populations in Twelve Countries*. Mouton; The Hague, Paris: 1972.
- Vanek J. Time spent in housework. *Scientific American*. 1974; 11:116–120.

- Verbrugge, L.; Gruber-Baldine, D. Baltimore Study of Activity Patterns. Institute of Gerontology, University of Michigan; Ann Arbor: 1993.
- Walker, KE.; Woods, ME. Time Use: A Measure of Household Production of Family Goods and Services. Center for the Family of the American Home Economics Association; Washington, D.C: 1976.
- Zuzanek, J. Work and Leisure in the Soviet Union: A Time-Budget Analysis. Praeger; New York: 1980.

Author Manuscript

Author Manuscript

Author Manuscript

Author Manuscript

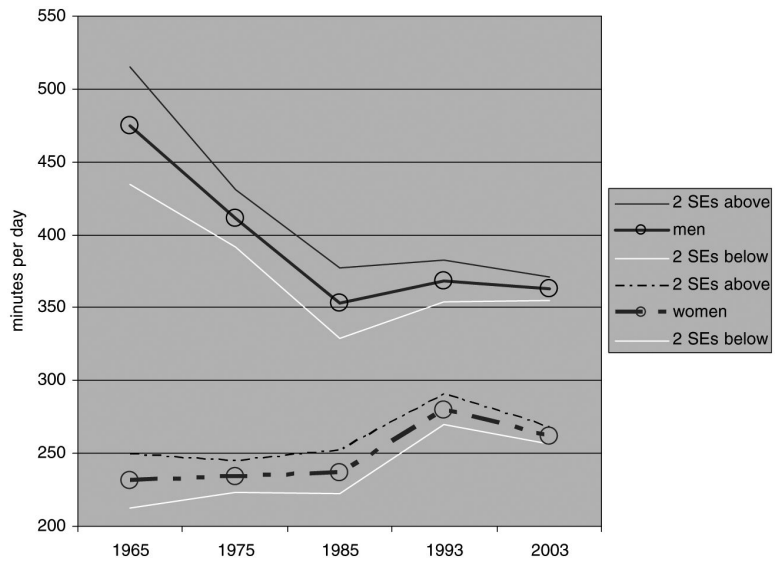


Fig. 1. Paid work: 95% confidence. Source: AHTUS data released 2006.

Author Manuscript

Author Manuscript

Author Manuscript

Author Manuscript

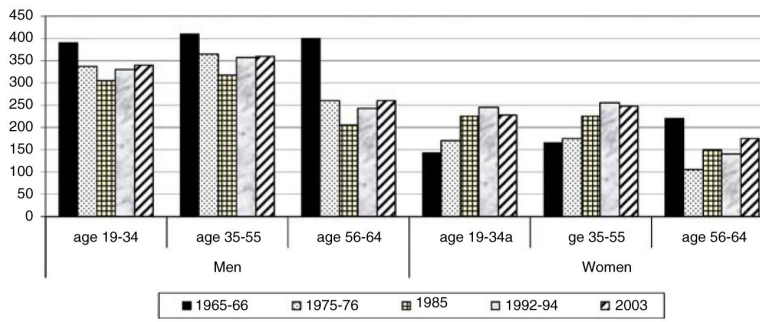


Fig. 2. Mean minutes of paid work and commuting – excluding breaks at work (weighted). Source: AHTUS data release 2006.

Author Manuscript

Author Manuscript

Author Manuscript

Author Manuscript

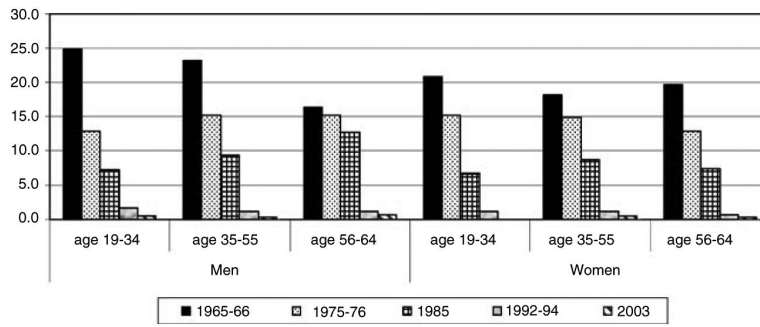


Fig. 3. Mean minutes of breaks at work (weighted). Source: AHTUS data release 2006.

Author Manuscript

Author Manuscript

Author Manuscript

Author Manuscript

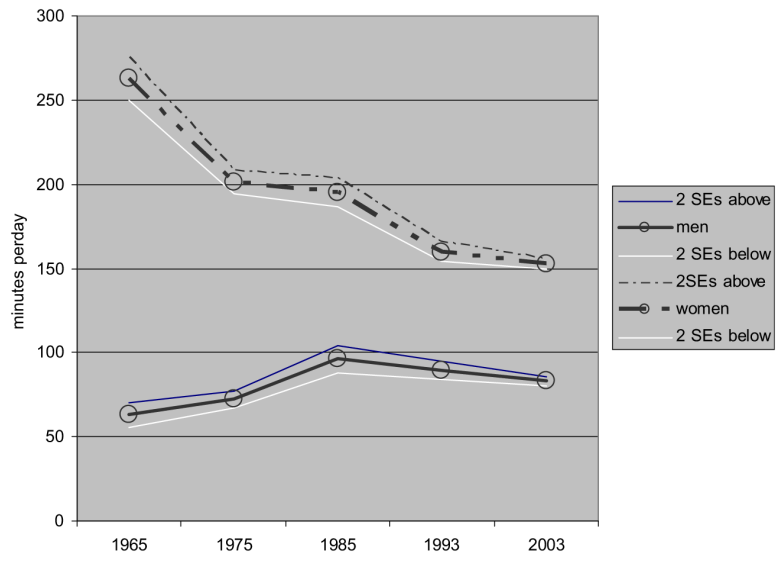


Fig. 4. All domestic work: 95% confidence. Source: AHTUS data released 2006.

Author Manuscript

Author Manuscript

Author Manuscript

Author Manuscript

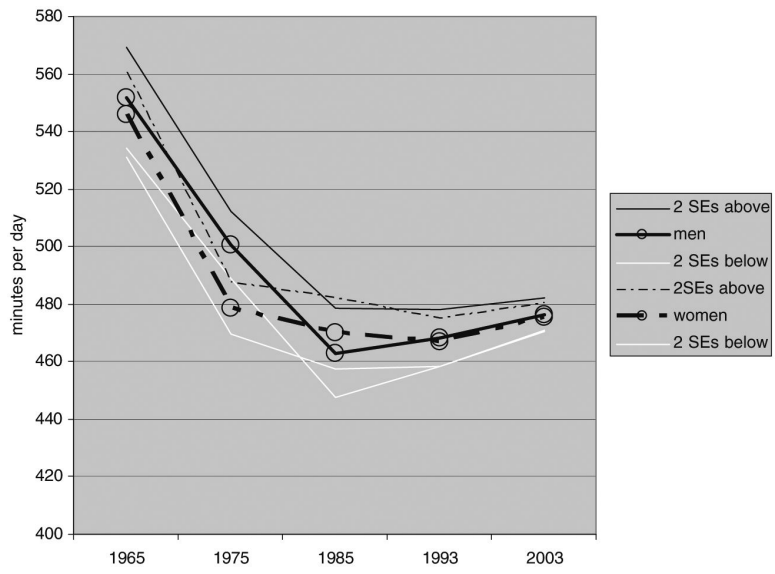


Fig. 5. Total work including childcare: 95% confidence. Source: AHTUS data released 2006.

Author Manuscript

Author Manuscript

Author Manuscript

Author Manuscript

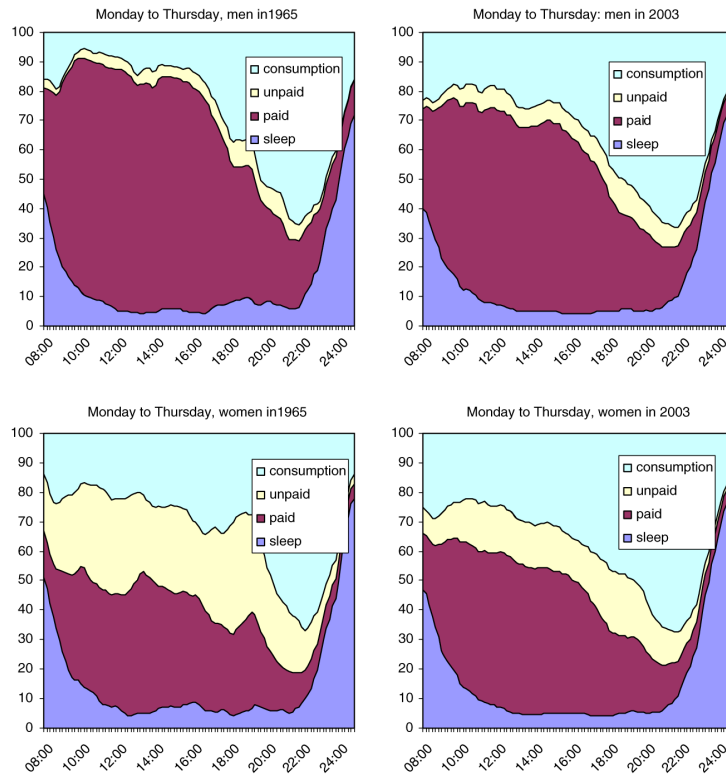


Fig. 6. Change in activities through the day, weekdays, 1965 and 2003. Source: AHTUS data released 2006.

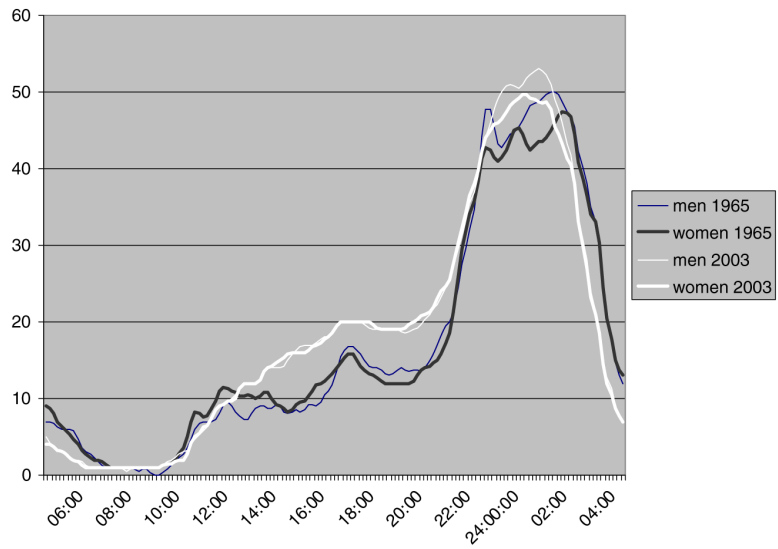


Fig. 7. Married or cohabiting: co-presence with partner, 1965 and 2003. Source: 2003 vs. 1965 AHTUS data.

TABLE I

Methodological details of surveys currently in the AHTUS database

| | 1965–66 | 1975–1976 | 1985 | 1992–1994 | 2003 |
|---------------------|--|--|--|--|--|
| Survey organization | Survey Research Center, University of Michigan, | Survey Research Center, University of Michigan | Survey Research Center, University of Maryland | Survey Research Center, University of Maryland | United States Bureau of Labor Statistics and United States Census Bureau |
| Funder | National Science Foundation (NSF) | NSF, US Department of Health, Education, & Welfare | NSF, ATT | Environmental Protection Agency | USA Department of Labor |
| Sample | Jackson 759 diaries; National 1262 diaries | 4584 diaries (main respondent only) | 2636 diaries | 7514 diaries | 19,663 diaries |
| Age range | 19–65 (some up to 69) | 18 + | 12+ (18+ in AHTUS) | 0+ (18+ in AHTUS) | 15+ (18+ in AHTUS) |
| Months | November–December 1965; January–February; March–May 1966 | October–November 1975; February–March; May–July; September–October 1976 | January–December 1985 | September 1992–October 1994 | January–December 2003 |
| Response rate | 82% Jackson; 74% national sample | 72% first wave; 45% did all 4 waves | 55% overall, 51% for mail back sample | 63% | 58% |
| Mode of collection | Self-completion with guidance from interviewer | Self-report waves 1&4; phone waves 2–3 | 3 samples: CATI; self-completion, personal interview (only self-completed in AHTUS) | CATI | CATI |
| Diary type | Mostly designated day | Previous day | Designated day | Previous day | Previous day |
| Notes on sample | Sample of urban households having at least one employed member; separate national and Jackson MI samples | Sample of all households; longitudinal–4 waves; reduced diaries for spouses (if married) | Sample of telephone households; all eligible household members asked to keep diaries | Sample of telephone households | Sample of all households; former respondents in CPS Wave 8; Parents with dependent children over-sampled |

TABLE II

Minutes per day of co-presence, ages 18–64, married or cohabiting: 1965–2003

| | Means | | | | | | Standard errors | | | | | |
|------------------|-------|--------------|--------------|-------|--------------|--------------|-----------------|--------------|-----|------|--------------|-----|
| | 1965 | | | 2003 | | | 1965 | | | 2003 | | |
| | Total | With partner | CoPres Ratio | Total | With partner | CoPres Ratio | All | With partner | All | All | With partner | All |
| All co-presence | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Men | 1440 | 249 | 0.17 | 1439 | 271 | 0.19 | | 6.4 | | | 3.4 | |
| Women | 1440 | 245 | 0.17 | 1439 | 266 | 0.18 | | 6.3 | | | 3.3 | |
| Unpaid work | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Men | 65 | 20 | 0.31 | 88 | 33 | 0.38 | | 3.2 | 1.4 | | 1.8 | 1 |
| Women | 293 | 47 | 0.16 | 176 | 45 | 0.25 | | 5.4 | 2.2 | | 2.1 | 1.2 |
| <i>M/F ratio</i> | 0.22 | 0.42 | 1.9 | 0.5 | 0.75 | 1.49 | | | | | | |
| Paid work | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Men | 489 | 55 | 0.11 | 394 | 35 | 0.09 | | 8.5 | 1.8 | | 3.9 | 0.6 |
| Women | 200 | 47 | 0.23 | 257 | 32 | 0.12 | | 7.3 | 1.4 | | 3.5 | 0.6 |
| <i>M/F ratio</i> | 2.44 | 1.19 | 0.49 | 1.54 | 1.09 | 0.71 | | | | | | |
| Consumption | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Men | 363 | 169 | 0.47 | 435 | 201 | 0.46 | | 6.6 | 5.3 | | 3.1 | 2.8 |
| Women | 394 | 148 | 0.38 | 451 | 188 | 0.42 | | 5.9 | 4.7 | | 2.8 | 2.6 |
| <i>M/F ratio</i> | 0.92 | 1.14 | 1.24 | 0.96 | 1.07 | 1.11 | | | | | | |