# 85 Years of US Women's Time Use

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### **Outline of presentation**

- 1. Background to 1925 Purnell Act studies
- 2. Data recovered (and unrecovered)
- 3. What we have done so far
- 4. How well we did!
- 5. What we found: a few 'taster' tables
- 6. Conclusions
- 7. Next steps

### **Background to study**

- The Morrill Land Grant College Act of 1862 supported the establishment of US state colleges for agriculture and the Hatch Act (1887) the development of state agricultural experiment stations. The Smith-Lever Act (1914) created a Cooperative Extension Service associated with each US land-grant institution.
- The 1925 *Purnell Act,* with a focus on agricultural economics and rural sociology, enabled the US Department of Agriculture (USDA) to collect evidence of farm women's time use across a number of state agricultural experiment stations.
- Dr Hildegard Kneeland, a Home Economist employed by the US Bureau of Economics conducted diary surveys from 'farm', 'town' and 'college' women for comparative purposes. Her 1929 *Annals* article sets out a modern case for accounting extensions to recognise women's unpaid domestic work.
- These data are cited from the original USDA researcher-produced summary tabular results (Vanek 1974, 1978; Ramey 2009) but have not been re-coded and analysed. This is one of the tasks of the current study.

## Cooperating State Experiment Station studies: Unrecovered raw data

- Anne Effland, a Social Science Analyst at the USDA, located some surviving records in the US National Archives II (Maryland) and brought these to the attention of the time use research community.
- Although findings from many studies are published in Agricultural Experiment Station Bulletins, the primary data are missing:
  - Nebraska (1919, 1924, 1926)
  - Idaho (1926)
  - Washington (1926)
  - South Dakota (1926)
  - Oregon (1926-1927)
  - Rhode Island (1926-1929)
  - South Carolina (1927-1929)
  - Montana (1929-1931)

### Materials so far recovered

- Originally >1500 women 'farm' and 'town' were surveyed across the United States. The recovered material includes:
  - Researcher-produced diary-based weekly minutes summary tables in 60 activities, plus weekly help totals in various specific household tasks) for 566 'farm' women mainly from New York, California and Michigan States.
  - Seven-day own-words diaries, supplementary questionnaires (household composition and characteristics, appliances, equipment) and researcher-produced summary sheets for 77 'College' women (Kneeland's study).
- We have digitised <u>all</u> of the recovered records by scanning them and entering the data into a large database ready for quantitative analysis (SPSS, STATA).

### Questions

- How do the Purnell studies relate to each other?
  - research design, sampling frames, instruments, coding frames, etc.
  - which samples do the diaries recovered to date come from: towns or farms?
- How can we uncover further information about the diary respondents and their households in the recovered materials?
- What does the 'College' women study represent? This was an elite sample recruited by Kneeland from the 'Seven Sisters' liberal arts women's colleges (Barnard, Bryn Mawr, Mount Holyoake, Radcliffe, Smith, Vassar & Wellesley).
- What can we learn from these data?

## Example of USDA researcher-produced summary record (aggregates)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE BUREAU OF HOME ECONOMICS WASHINGTON, D. C. SUMMARY OF WEEK'S TIME RECORD Name Goodchild, Barbara Address Route 1, Box 34-B, Santa Faria, Date of record Jan. 26 - Feb. 1, 1928 Santa Barbara Co., California TIME SPENT IN ALL ACTIVITIES BY HOMEMAKER DARY AVERSON 78 05 11 09 Homemaking (For details see page 2)... 72 55 10 25 5 10 Farm work..... 44 Gardening and fruit growing. Positry .... Dalry work... 20 Livertock Field rrops ... Other farm work... Other work..... CARE OF SELF ..... Sleep and rest-night... Esting-breakfast .... dinner ..... 30 39 5 35 40 support or booch. other ..... Care of person... 34 30 Going and returning... 1.5 LEISURE 17 40 Reading 35 Mortings and study... Work for organizations. Care of persons not members of horsehold 35 Informal social life ... Social affairs and entertainments Outlings and sport... 20 Going and returning... 30 04

SUMMARY OF WEEK'S TIME RECORD

Page 2

Name Goodchild, Barbara Address Boute 1, Box 54-B, Santa Baria, Calif.

TIME SPENT IN HOMEMAKING ACTIVITIES BY HOMEMAKER AND HELP

			TOTAL F	OR WEE	K			DAILY	AVERAG	E
ACTIVITIES	Номи	EXHER	31	nte	HOME	MAKER HELP	HOME	MAKER	HOME	MAKER
	Hrs.	Min.	Hrs.	Min.	Hrs.	Min.	Hrs.	Min.	Hrs.	Mir
FOOD	32	25	1		33	25	4	38	4	46
Preparing meals.	20	10	1	mone	21	10	2	53	3	01
Breakfast	4	55	1	AMEN .	5	55	-	42		51
Dinner	7	-	-		7	1900	1		1	-
Supper or lunch	7	10			7	10	1	02	1	01
Other	1	05			1	05	-	09		09
Clearing away meals	12	15			12	15	1	45	1	45
Breakfast	4	25	-		4	25		38		38
Dinner	3	05			5	0.5	-	26		26
Supper or lunch	4	4.5		-	- 4	45	-	41		41
Other			1100		-			Mds		-71A
Other food										
HOUSE	12	50	2	-	14	50				
Cleaning and straightening	7	35			7	35	1	05	3	05
Care of fires	3	35	2	men	5	35		Ub		05
Care of water supply				// Time	. 56.	.NN				
				-						
Making, installing, repairing	1	40		Portine.	3					
Care of house surroundings.	-	.40			L	.40				
Other house										
CLOTHING AND TEXTILES	10	45			10	45				
Laundering	- 5				6	-				
Regular washing	.3	. 20			3	.20				
Regular ironing	2	40			2	40				
Extra laundering		-								
Laundry sent out	-									
Mending		30				30				
Sewing and fancy work	4	10			4	-10				
Other clothing and textiles		05				05				
o this committee and control of		0.0				05				
CARE OF MENBERS OF HOUSEHOLD	. 7	35			7	35	1	05	1	0.5
HOMEMAKING MANAGEMENT	. 7	20	1	10	8	30				
Food purchasing	2	15	. 1	-10		25				
Other purchasing		55				55				
Planning and recording	4	10			4	10				
Other management										
OTHER HOMEMAKING		45				45				
GOING AND RETURNING	1	15	2	20	3.	35				
									LINUMAN	******
TOTAL HOMEMAKING	72	55	6	30	79	25				

## Methods for identifying 'farm' women's individual and household characteristics

- Family and given names/initials and address were attached to the 566 USDA researcher-prepared aggregate summaries.
- These were matched to records in 'Ancestry.com' including:
  - US Federal Census micro-data to 1940 (70-year embargo in US)
  - Birth, Death & Marriage Indexes
  - Voting Registers (mainly Californian)
  - Social Security Numbers
  - City Directories
  - Military records (including drafts)
  - Immigration & travel documents (passport applications, etc.)
  - Other material (obituaries, newspaper articles, photographs, etc.)

### USDA activity codes (1924–1929)

#### **WORK**

- Homemaking
- Farm work (Gardening and fruit growing, Poultry, Dairy work, Livestock, Field crops, Farm management, Other farm work, Going and returning)
- Other work

#### **CARE OF SELF**

- Sleep and rest (Night, Day)
- Eating (breakfast, dinner, supper or lunch, other)
- Care of person
- Other care of self
- Going and returning

#### **LEISURE**

- Reading
- Meetings and study
- Work for organizations
- Care of persons not members of household
- Listening over radio
- Informal social life
- Social affairs and entertainments
- Outings and sport
- Other leisure
- Going and returning

#### **OTHER**

#### **FOOD**

- Preparing meals (Breakfast, Dinner, Supper or lunch, Other)
- Clearing away meals (Breakfast, Dinner, Supper or lunch, Other)
- Other food

#### **HOUSE**

- Cleaning and straightening
- Care of fires
- Making, installing, repairing
- Care of house surroundings
- Other house

#### **CLOTHING AND TEXTILES**

- Laundering (Regular washing, Regular ironing, Extra laundering, Laundry sent out)
- Mending
- Sewing and fancy work
- Other clothing and textiles

#### **CARE OF MEMBERS OF HOUSEHOLD**

#### **HOMEMAKING MANAGEMENT**

- Food purchasing
- Other purchasing
- Planning and recording
- Other management

#### **OTHER HOMEMAKING**

#### **GOING AND RETURNING**

### **Example of 7-day own-words diary (1930)**

United States Department of	Agricult	ure		649	HUMBER (	OF PERS	ONS		
Bureau of Home Econo		-			A GREAT S		als (inc	ludi	3,5
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Description	Time	Tie		Descri	otion		Time	Ti	
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Slept	7:35	7	35	Prepared		-	6:40	-	10
Dressed	7:50	-	15	Ate dinne	c		7:10	-	30
Went to town	7:55		5	West to	city_	-	7:45	-	35
Bought bread etc	8:00		5	Bought gr	ocerie	5	8:05	-	20
Returned home	8:05		5	Went to m	ovie		9:50	1	45
Prepared busbands lunch	8:50		25	Returned	bome		10:20	-	30
Prepared breakfast	8:50		201	Prepared :	cad di	inte	10:30		10
Ate breakfast	9:10		20	Washed di		isheal	10: 40		10
Washed dishes	9:20		10	Got ready		-d	11: 00		26
Took down and	1			Slept			12:00-		
Washed light globes	9:45		25				:		
Made beds Changed sheets			130				:		
Checked house occupits	10: 25		10				1		
	12 20	1	55				:		
Dusted and swept house	12:30	1	10				1		
Read newspaper		-	1				- :	1	
Prepared bundry	12:50	-	20				1		
Put pajamas To scak	12:55	-	5			-	:	1	
Prepared lunch	1:15	-	20				1		
Atz lunch	1:30	-	15			-	-:	1	-
Washed dushes	1:35	1	5				:	1	-
Washed out pajamas	1:45	-	10					-	-
West for mail	1:50	-	5				-	-	-
Refurned home	1:55	-	5				-	1	-
Read mail	2:15	-	20					-	-
Read newsmagazine	3:20	16	0.5				-	-	-
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Friend called	5:20	-		17			-:	-	-
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Prepared vegetables	5:55	-	10				- 1	-	+-
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86 (6-1-26)

### 1930 US Federal Census variables

- ADDRESS (name of the street, avenue, or road; house number)
- OCCUPANT (name of each person and their relationship to head of family)
- RESIDENCE (whether home is owned or rented; value of home; whether home is farm residence; whether home has a radio)
- PERSONAL (sex, race, age, marital status, college attendance, ability to read and write, birthplace, and birthplace of parents)
- CITIZENSHIP (language spoken before coming to the United States; year of immigration; whether naturalized or alien; ability to speak English)
- OCCUPATION (trade or profession; industry or business working in; class of worker; whether worked the previous day; line number of unemployment schedule)
- MILITARY (whether veteran or not; war or expedition participated in)

### 1930 US Federal Census template

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POPULATION SCHEDULE

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ABBREVIATION'S TO HE USED
IN COLUMNS INDICATED:
(Do no abbreviation for faint or county of both
for matther target (Columns 14, 13, 2, and 14))

Columns indicated (Columns 14, 13, 2, and 14))

### Census database variables (current project)

- For diarist and husband data from two censuses (mainly 1920 & 1930).
- 'Farm' & 'town' women's family characteristics derived from household census record (husband head of household in 1920 census).
- 94% of aggregate records matched to census records.

Census Roll and Enumeration District	Children living in household (name/age/sex)
Address at Censuses and USDA Survey	Other household members (parents/step-children/other family/servants/lodgers)
Rent/own/live in parents' or relatives' home/other	Place of birth (diarist, husband and parents)
Live on farm?	Race/immigrant/dates of immigration/naturalised?/ mother tongue
Own radio? (1930 census)	War veteran (WW1/Spanish American War)
Occupation & industry	Birth & Death Index
Employed at Census?	Maiden name of diarist
Attended College at Census?	Remarks 14

### Farm or town households?

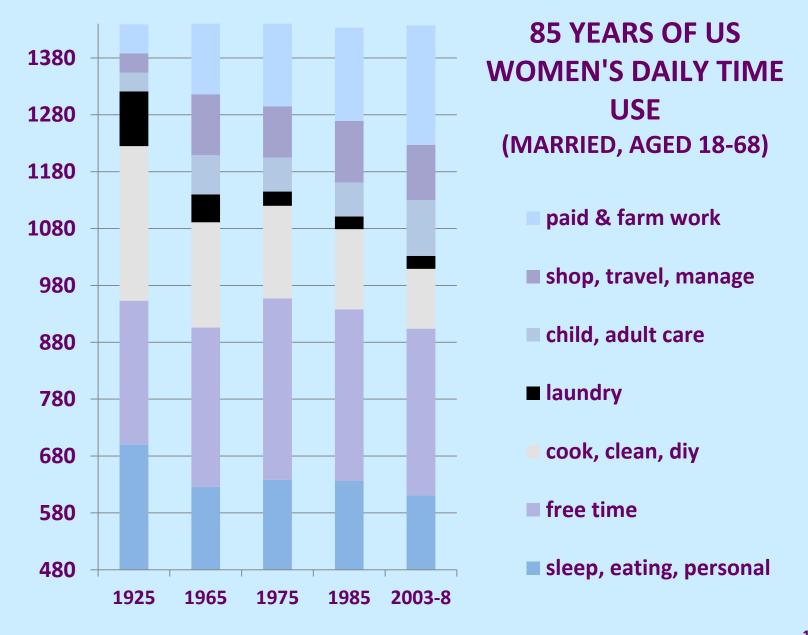
HUSBAND'S OCCUPA (From census nearest to da		ary)
	N	%
Managerial, professional	30	5.7
Health, education, social care	3	0.6
Clerical, office support	10	1.9
Security/armed force	1	0.2
Sales, services, arts	40	7.5
Construction, manufacturing, etc.	38	7.2
Farm, forestry, worker	337	63.5
Non-farm, not yet classified	72	13.6
TOTAL	531	100

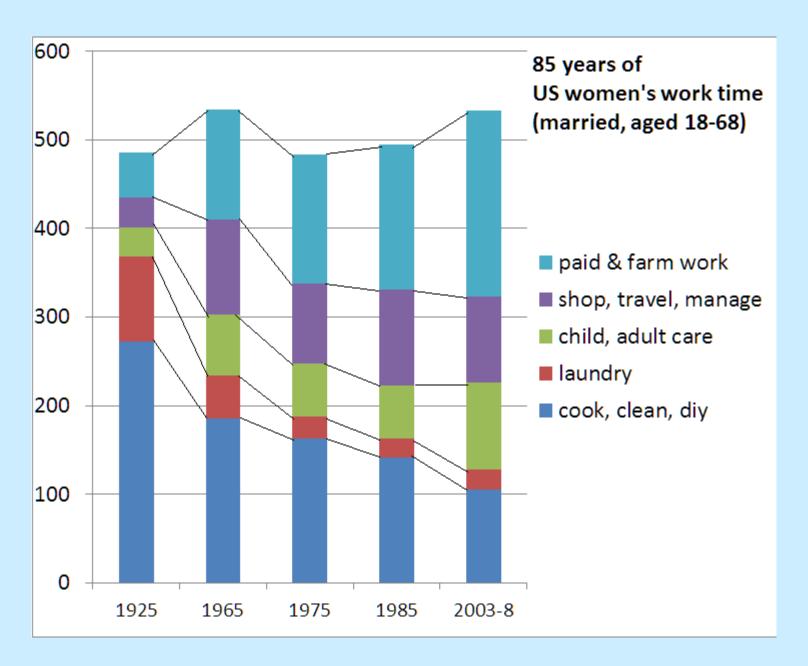
### Farm or town?

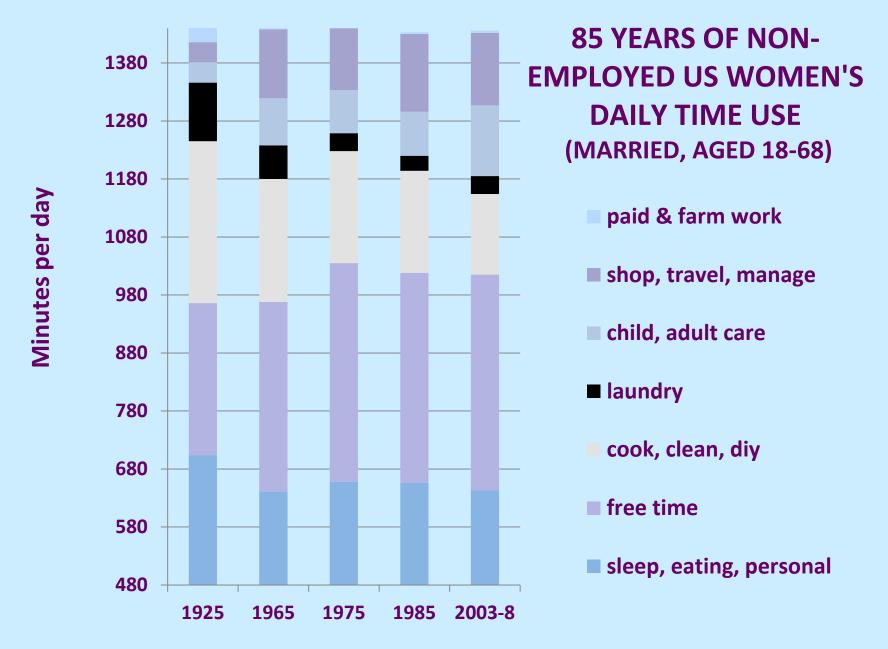
	HUSBAN	D'S OCCUPA	ATIONS AT	CENSUS
	Farmer in neither census	Farmer in one census	Farmer in two censuses	TOTAL
ADDRESS TYPE				
Not recorded		1		1
Not on farm	111	53	10	174
Lives on farm	35	150	170	355
TOTAL	146	204	180	530

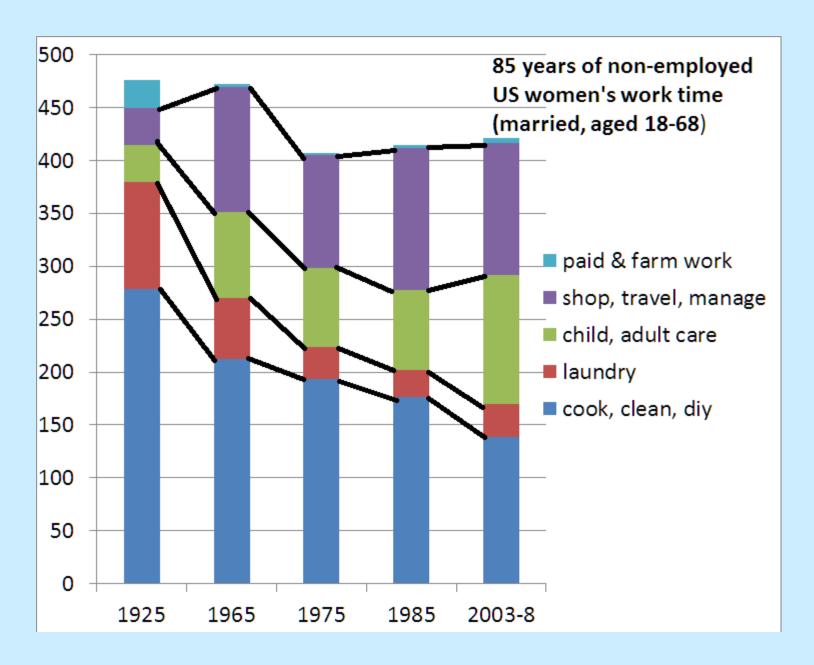
### Age and family size

AGE GRO	UP BY CHIL	D STATUS	(colu	(column percentages)							
Age group	No child	One child	2+ children none <5	2+ children incl. <5	N	%					
18-29	21.6	43.2	6.8	28.4	74	15.0					
30-34	12.0	24.1	24.1	39.8	83	16.8					
35-39	14.4	18.3	45.2	22.1	104	21.1					
40-44	24.4	18.6	47.7	9.3	86	17.4					
45-49	43.1	30.8	24.6	1.5	65	13.2					
50-68	78.0	15.9	6.1		82	16.6					
N	154	120	134	86	494						
%	31.2	24.3	27.1	17.4	100						

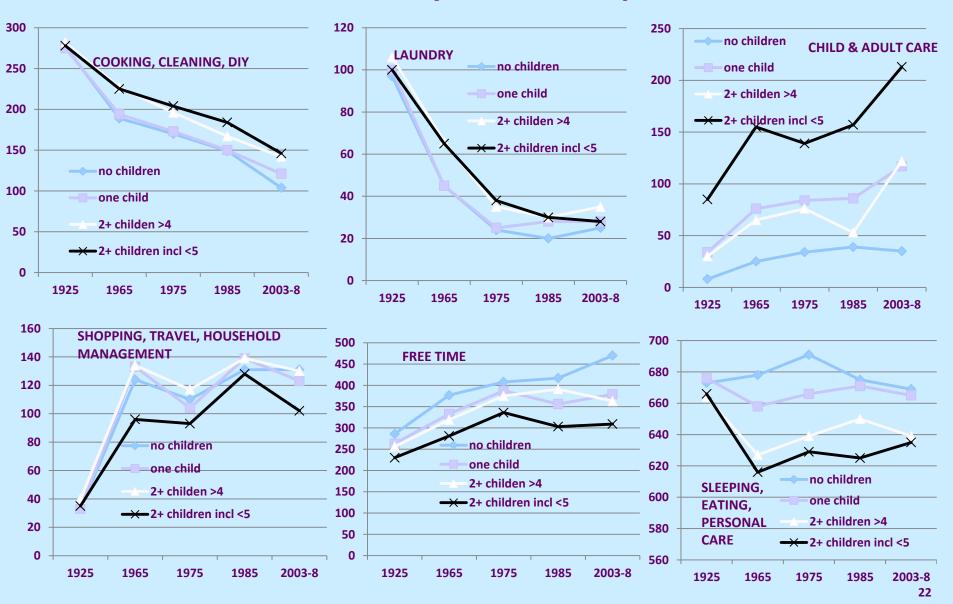








## US women, married <90 minutes/day of farm or paid work</p>



### **Next steps**

- Re-weight 'farm' and 'town' women respondents to reproduce 1930s age census age distributions.
- Code 'College' women's own-words diary records to AHTUS/HETUS codes and compare to researcherproduced aggregates.
- Search for more *Purnell Study* and associated USDA data (refer to slide 4).
- Work on similar/comparative material (e.g. 1930s UK 'Mass Observation' diaries).

### **Conclusions**

- This project takes the women's half of the US time diary evidence back another 40 years from current data, including women's work trends:
  - Declining cooking, cleaning, laundry time
  - Increasing, child/elder care, shopping time
- Contradicts previous assertions about consequences of household technology (e.g. Bittman et al. 2004; Cowan 1983; Vanek 1974).
- Is consistent with more recent international (developed country) trends from MTUS.

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