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Forschungsinstitut Freie Berufe (FFB)

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FFB Discussion Paper No. 32  
April 2002



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# **Time Use Research and Time Use Data – Actual Topics and New Frontiers**

**Joachim Merz\***

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## **Time Use Research and Time Use Data – Actual Topics and New Frontiers**

**Joachim Merz**

FFB-Discussion Paper No. 32, April 2002

### **Summary**

This paper is asking about the actual used and appropriate data for recent substantive time use research. Emphasis is laid on both, macroanalytic and microanalytic approaches. However, the focus is on microeconomic approaches with topics on time use in the labour market (labour supply) and household production including the shadow pricing of unpaid work. Based on a structured survey about time use research and their data, actual topics, advantages and disadvantages of the data connected with the requirements on the research frontier and hints for further needs and developments are discussed.

*Keywords:* Time use research, time use data, time budget, macro- and micronalytic approaches

### **Zusammenfassung**

Diese Studie thematisiert den Gebrauch und die geeigneten Daten für die aktuelle inhaltlich ausgerichtete Forschung zur Zeitverwendung. Betrachtet werden sowohl makro- als auch mikroanalytische Ansätze. Allerdings liegt der Schwerpunkt auf mikroökonomischen Ansätzen mit den Topics: Arbeitsmarkt (Arbeitsangebot) und Haushaltsproduktion einschließlich der Schattenpreisgestaltung unbezahlter Arbeit. Auf der Basis eines strukturierten Überblicks über die Zeitverwendungsforschung und ihren Daten, werden aktuelle Schwerpunkte, Vor- und Nachteile der Daten verbunden mit den Erfordernissen der Forschungsfront und Hinweisen für weiteren Bedarf und Entwicklungen diskutiert.

*Schlagwörter:* Zeitverwendungsforschung, Zeitverwendungsdaten, Zeitbudget, makro- und mikroanalytische Ansätze

# **Time Use Research and Time Use Data – Actual Topics and New Frontiers**

**Joachim Merz**

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# Time Use Research and Time Use Data – Actual Topics and New Frontiers<sup>1</sup>

**Joachim Merz**

## **1 Introduction**

The time use topic is of increased importance and there are many good reasons why: "Time" is more universal and more fundamental than many other topics of current scientific discussion. No matter where and in what specific way we may experience something, it will always be experienced in terms of time. Time is *the* encompassing dimension and resource of the various activities of the individual living arrangements.

The topic of my talk is "Time Use Research and Time Use Data –Actual Topics and New Frontiers". From a substantive research point of view I want to talk about the interconnections and requirements of recent time use research approaches and their appropriate time use data. So, to some sense and the idea when organising the conference, my talk and this topic should serve something like a bracket where within new technologies in survey research with application to time use – our conference topic - shall be discussed.

For my topic today and contribution here, the main source will be the contributions to our International Conference on Time Use (ICTU). This International Conference on Time Use was held here at our University of Lüneburg two years ago. The organisers, Joachim Merz, University of Lüneburg, Research Institute on Professions (Forschungsinstitut Freie Berufe, FFB) and Manfred Ehling, German Federal Statistical Office, with their team could welcome more than 100 participants from 16 countries worldwide. Above all, you could evaluate this conference interest as a further indicator of a growing interest to the time use topic within the last decades worldwide.

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<sup>1</sup> This is a revised version of my respective paper presented at the International Workshop "New Technologies in Survey Research – Applications for Time use Studies (NT-Quest), University of Lüneburg, Lüneburg, June 14-15, 2000

Objective of the international conference was on a theoretical and empirical base to describe, to explain and to analyse policies regarding the multiple individual time use in its compoundness and interdependency from a socioeconomic perspective. The conference contributions is in my view an excellent source for our topic today, because it is a source which provides an overall international and actual gathering of the state of the art concerning time use research, data and policy showing the framework for which new technologies in survey research with application to time use in particular should serve.

As a footnote: To some extent this conference and the conference volume (Merz and Ehling 1999) marks the end of our Lüneburg FFB-research project on "Time use in gainful employment and household production - Dynamic microanalyses with paneldata" (Merz, Lang and Rauberger), which was supported by the German National Science Foundation (DFG).

## **2 Time Use – General Research Concern, Topics and Analytical Gain**

Dealing with time use, according to my point of view it is to enhance the traditional, particular, view, where labour force participation - with new forms of its flexible arrangements - , unemployment in connection with the further individual activities in the household, leisure and education area, in voluntary work, in social networks etc. *jointly* were to be regarded. Last but not least, the sovereignty about the amount and arrangement of the used time - to address only one of these areas of concern - is essential for the labour market and characterises e.g. (liberal) professionals and self-employed in particular (allowing to touch the concern of our Research Institute on Professions, FFB).

Further keywords of the time use topic in general are: formal and informal economy, new self-employed, new forms of working hours arrangements, paid and unpaid labour supply of women, shadow economy, valuing of household production, welfare analyses and distributional aspects of extended incomes, microsimulation of economic and social policies, macro importance of the informal economy, environmental aspects of individual acting ... and all the aspects concerning the whole life cycle with its impacts to old age security, or broader, with philosophical aspects of time in general.

With regard to all of these keywords, time use indeed is *the* encompassing dimension of a multitude of individual activities and living arrangements.

A very pronounced, in-depth and very informative survey about "Time Use Research: The Roots to the Future" is given by Andy Harvey in our conference volume (Harvey 1999). He discusses this topics according to many dimensions. Decent time use surveys are provided also by Juster and Stafford (1985, 1991) and Klevmarken (1999). Merz (1990) is about the need and use of time use data in socioeconomic research and modeling.

**Analytical gain from analysis of time use data from a socioeconomic point of view**

Let us concentrate our discussion to the socioeconomic point of view. Thomas F. Juster (1999) – based more on the sociological approach – focus on five distinct areas in which time use data can make a substantial contribution to our understanding of the way in which economic and social systems function:

- first: in improving our understanding of the change over time in patterns of work and leisure, and of the distribution of work and leisure between members of the household
- second: in assessing the level of overall well-being
- third: in understanding differences in economic systems characterised by different institutional arrangements
- fourth: in examining a much broader concept of societal investment in the future, particularly investment represented by resources devoted to the education and training of the children
- fifth: in achieving a better understanding of distribution issues, both the distribution of total product among households in the population and across demographic groups, and the distribution of product among individuals within households.

The appropriate time use study approach then depends on the type of activities for which data are sought, the type and accuracy of the data required, the funds available, and the literacy level of the subjects of the survey.

With emphasis on applied microeconomics Klevmarken (1999) expect the following gains from time use measurements:

- give better measures of market work,
- improve the analysis of labour supply by explicitly including competing activities in the home,
- make feasible studies of gender differences in market and nonmarket work and thus also improve our understanding of female labour supply,
- improve our understanding of the demand for consumer goods by permitting the estimation of joint demand and time use models,
- give better measures of economic well-being and further our knowledge of its distribution.

Thus, with both foci on sociological and economic aspects, the overall importance of our time use topic for the society as a whole will be evident.



### 3 Time Use Research and Time Use Data – Actual Topics and New Frontiers

Based on the substantial part of research topics I want to discuss the interdependencies of research topic and appropriate data. So, let me start – based to some extent on our International Conference on Time Use (ICTU) concept (Merz and Ehling 1999a, 1999b) - with a brief sketch of the following main substantive research areas with examples:

- Labour Market
- Household Production, Valuing Time Use, Extended Welfare Analyses
- Market and Non-Market Activities
- International Time Use Statistics and Applications
- Survey Methodology, Time Use Classification, Combining National Accounts and Individual Time Use Data and Scientific and Public Use Files
- Time Use and Economic and Social Research and Policy – A General View

#### Labour Market

Time used for paid working activities is in the centre of economic and social concern. Recent approaches and results encompass structural models of labour supply, the situation of dependent self-employment (Scheinselbständigkeit, at least in Germany an actual concern of labour market issues), desired versus actual working hours, joint labour supply decisions of couples, microsimulation impacts of tax and benefit reforms on labour supply. The labour market part of time use with the following papers as examples, in particular combines theoretical economic modelling and microeconomic as well as microsimulation results – the entire range of empirical economics.

*Arthur van Soest (1999) (Tilburg University, The Netherlands), Structural Discrete Choice Models of Labour Supply:* This paper presents a discrete choice static neo-classical fixed cost labour supply model for married or cohabiting couples in the Netherlands. It simultaneously explains the participation decision and the desired number of hours worked. Based on microeconomic results first order labour supply effects of a proposed reform of the Dutch income tax system are analysed. It is shown that the reform would have a substantial negative effect on the number of married females who prefer a small part-time job.

*Hans Dietrich (1999) (Institut für Arbeitsmarkt und Berufsforschung (IAB), Nürnberg, Germany), Freelancer and Contract Worker in Germany - Enterprise Perspectives from the IAB Establishment Panel:* The paper deals with forms of employment that belong to the grey area between dependent employment and self-employment. Based on the IAB Establishment Panel this paper is about personal and company-related aspects with: the development in the use of freelance and contract workers; kind of enterprise requesting freelance or contract workers and specific pattern of freelance and contract workers in companies.

*Joachim Merz and Rainer Lang (1999) (University of Lüneburg, Germany), Working Hour Tension Dynamics – Professions, Entrepreneurs and Employees in a Ten Years Panelanalysis of Desired vs. Actual Working Hours Incorporating Non-Market Influences:* In this study labour market dynamics according the individual working hour tension (desired working hours versus actual working hours) – as an important dimension of the labour market and individual well-being - of active people with focus on the self-employed, as professions and entrepreneurs, and employees are analysed with German Socioeconomic Panel (GSOEP) ten years data. Overall the tension has raised to more than 62% in the mid 90s who want to work less (overemployed), a remarkable result which should encourage economic and social policy and policy makers.

*Elke Wolf (1999) (Zentrum für Europäische Wirtschaftsforschung (ZEW), Mannheim, Germany), Joint Labour Supply Decisions of Couples:* The labour supply of West German married and cohabiting couples is analysed using a discrete choice model with endogenous wages and hours restrictions. Heterogeneity of preferences and the German tax and benefit system are taken into account within this panelanalysis for Germany. Her extended model with hours restrictions fits the data pretty well.

*Gerhard Wagenhals (University of Hohenheim, Germany), Analysing the Impact of German Tax and Benefit Reforms on Labour Supply - A Microsimulation Approach:* The paper introduces GMOD, a microsimulation model for tax and social policy recommendations in Germany. It is shown (1) how the model can be used to generate important determinants of labour supply, (2) how it can be used to construct budget sets for families living in Germany, (3) how it can be used to simulate the impact of proposed tax-benefit changes on labour supply.

### **Household Production, Valuing Time Use, Extended Welfare Analyses**

Whereas the labour market part was on the market side of individual activities, this part is on the non-market, household production side with valuing approaches and extended welfare analyses of time used in the household area. The focus of our examples is on intra-household redistribution of time and money by household production, financial management within the household, extended income panelanalysis with different valuation approaches for professions, self-employed and employees, a contingent valuation approach of unpaid work and on the labour contribution of volunteers in the provision of welfare services in Australia.

*Barbara Seel (1999) (University of Hohenheim, Germany), Intra-Household Redistribution of Time and Money by Household Production:* This paper deals with the relationships between analyses and valuations of household production on the one hand and distributional issues on the other. Besides some pros and cons of the production theoretic approach, conclusions about the valuation of individual time and household production, a simple Lancaster-type model of household activities is used to show how values placed on individual time and household production vary with the patterns of distribution within the household.

*Peter Kooreman and Simone Dobbelsteen (1999) (Groningen University, Ministry of Social Affairs and Employment, The Netherlands): Financial Management, Bargaining and Efficiency within the Household; an Empirical Analysis:* This paper analyses data from the British Household Panel Survey on households' financial management and financial decision making. Based on direct subjective questions two competing models explaining how finances are organised are considered: the household production model and a game theoretic approach reflecting the bargaining power of the partners.

*Joachim Merz and Dagmar Kirsten (1999) (FFB, University of Lüneburg, FERI, Bad Homburg, Germany): Extended Income Dynamics: Valuing Household Production and its Distributional Impacts – A Ten Years Panelanalysis for Professions, Entrepreneurs and Employees in Germany:* Individual impacts of market and non-market (unpaid work) on the distribution of extended income dynamics accounting for household socio-demographics by a broad range of equivalent scales is the focus of this paper. With GSOEP-paneldata from the mid 80s to the mid 90s two cross-sectional snapshots and a longitudinal panelanalysis distributional impacts are investigated for professionals, entrepreneurs and employees. One result: Household production in particular is able or has to circumvent (relative) poverty and over time is more equalising the extended income distribution.

*Mobinul Huq (1999) (University of Saskatchewan, Canada), The Existence Value of Unpaid Work: A Contingent Valuation (CV) Approach:* Unpaid work may have an option value as well as non-use benefits which are ignored in the valuation of unpaid work based on input or output measures. The option value can be estimated from observed behaviour while contingent valuation method can be used to estimate the non-use benefits.

*Hao Yan, Tony Hynes and Maneerat Pinyopusarek (1999) (Australian Institute of Health and Welfare, Canberra, Australia), Estimating Value of Household Production and the Labour Contribution of Volunteers in the Provision of Welfare Services in Australia:* Household production and volunteer work play an indispensable role in the provision of welfare services in Australia. This paper aims at appraising an economic value for the contributions made by households and volunteers by way of time spent in unpaid work on welfare services type activities or on work supporting non-government community services organisations.

### **Market and Non-Market Activities**

After having pinpointed the market (labour market) and the non-market (household production) area in their own perspective, a combined treatment of multiple individual activities in market and non-market activities – a particular topic of my earlier “Habilitation” Merz (1989) or Merz (1991, 1996) regarding policy impacts both on market and non-market activities, too - are regarded now. The examples here: an overview article of microeconomic analyses of time use data, an advanced regression analysis comparing different microeconomic approaches with the Swedish HUS data, an approach modelling time allocation in internet-based marketing and production, a sequence alignment analysis of daily activities and an analysis of accessibility and time uses in a post-Fordist urban system shows the broad spectrum of actual multiple time use analyses.

*Anders Klevmarken (1999) (Uppsala University, Sweden), Microeconomic Analysis of Time Use Data: Did We Reach the Promised Land?* This paper surveys the last decade of microeconomic research with time use data. Focusing on the household production model, time use as an investment activity, and the distribution of extended income, issues of data collection, measurement errors, model specification and estimation as well as substantive results are reviewed and discussed.

*Lennart Flood and Urban Gråsjö (1999) (Göteborg University, Sweden), Regression Analysis and Time Use Data - A Comparison of Microeconometric Approaches with Data from the Swedish Time Use Survey (HUS):* This study focuses on a comparison and evaluation of different models and estimators appropriate for time use data. According to our findings, a simple Tobit I method can produce results that are similar and in some cases even better to the much more sophisticated methods. This is especially true if the participation or index equation is incorrectly specified.

*Miriam Beblo (1999) (Free University of Berlin, Germany), Intrafamily Time Allocation: A Panel-Econometric Analysis:* To investigate whether the division of housework among German couples can be explained by factors identified in the theoretical approaches to intra-family time allocation, a three-regression model with fixed and random individual-specific effects is estimated with data from the GSOEP. The empirical results reveal that gender-specific household activity is also influenced by the age difference between spouses that serves as an indicator for a strategic advantage in family decision making.

*Benedict G.C. Dellaert (1999) (Tilburg University, The Netherlands) Consumer Time Allocation in Internet-Based Marketing and Production:* The Internet may facilitate shifts in the traditional division of labour between producers and consumers in the production and marketing channel. Therefore it is relevant to understand if consumers will choose to interact with producers on the Internet and if so, in which production functions these interactions can take place. Some implications of the developed framework based on household production theory are illustrated and analysed in the area of Internet-based travel services.

*Clarke Wilson (1999) (Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation, Canada), Sequence Alignment Analysis of Daily Activities:* Sequence alignment is a technique developed in mathematics and biology for measuring the similarity or difference between event sequences recorded as characters. We illustrate its application in time use research using diaries collected by the 1992 Canadian national time use survey. After a brief introduction to the methods this paper examines the effect of including certain contextual variables, such as the presence of other people and location, on the description of activity patterns of women with children.

*Sylvie Occelli (1999) (Istituto di Ricerche Economico Sociali del Piemonte (IHRES), Italy), Accessibility and Time Use in a Post-Fordist Urban System. Some Notes for a Research Agenda:* In this paper, firstly the classical notions of accessibility are discussed. It is argued that the current changes in the modern city require a revisitation of these notions. Some empirical evidence on certain aspects of accessibility for the Piedmont region and Turin Metropolitan Area are presented. Lastly, some suggestions are

made for future research aimed at deepening our understanding of time-space accessibility.

### **International Time Use Statistics and Applications**

This part is about the international state of time use statistics and their applications. The range and examples encompass international recognition of non-market household production and unpaid housework and national accounts aspects, the European pilot studies on time use, time budget studies in Russia, temporal structures and cultures in Europe, the German time use survey and a study on temporal obligations based on this time use data.

*Ann Chadeau (1999) (OECD, France), Towards International Recognition of Non-Market Household Production and Unpaid Housework:* She draws a broad outline of the way in which research on the measurement of non-market household production has developed over the past decades and how different measurement methods have been conceived and implemented in most OECD countries. Wider international and national recognition of the need for information in this field is noticeable. Efforts to improve the quality and comparability of estimates of non-market household production must be pursued.

*Klas Rydenstam (1999) (Statistics Sweden), The Eurostat Project on Harmonising Time Use Statistics:* Since the early 1990s EUROSTAT runs a promising project aiming at harmonising future time use statistics in Europe. The development and the experiences of European time use pilot survey data from twelve countries are discussed. With a few exceptions there are no indications of critical deficiencies in the international time use data, the pilots came out reasonably well.

*Victor Artemov and Olga Artemova (1999) (Institute of Economics and Industrial Engineering, Russia): Comparative Time Budget Studies in Russia - The 1920-1990s: Studies and Results:* Three basic types of comparative dynamic time use studies in Russia are identified: A longitudinal study, a roughly dynamic study and a "literary" study. Major changes in the use of time by the working population of Russia in the 1920s-1930s, 1960s-1970s and 1980s-1990s and their factors are considered on the data from longitudinal studies of the first and second type.

*Manfred Garhammer (1999) (University of Bamberg, Germany), Time Structures in the European Union A Comparison of West Germany, UK, Spain and Sweden:* He provides a description and sociological interpretation of time structures and cultures and the way in which these are changing in four societies of the European Union, particularly in the 1990s. He argues that we are witnessing the end of an era.

*Manfred Ehling (1999), The German Time Use Survey – Methods and Results:* The Federal Statistical Office of Germany conducted in 1991/92 its first and till now (1999) latest time use survey. The paper first describes the survey and sample design. In the second part selected results on time stress and time crunch are presented

*Christine Küster and Iris Meyer (1999) (University of Giessen, Germany), Temporal Obligations in Private Households - Evaluation Approaches for Data of the German Time Use Survey in 1991/92:* Temporal obligations regulate the use of time and determine its availability. The German time use survey of 1991/92 describes the extent of personal and institutional time obligations within the home economic research context.

### **Survey Methodology, Time Use Classification, Combining National Accounts and Individual Time Use Data and Scientific and Public Use Files**

The following is about underlying aspects of all research topics: survey methodology, classification of time use activities, combination of national accounts and individual time use data with environmental perspectives and problems and solutions in accessing time use microdata for research.

*Grace Bediako, Joann Vanek (1999) (United Nations, New York, USA), Trial International Classification of Activities for Time-use Statistics:* This paper presents a two-digit classification that forms the basis of the trial international classification currently being developed to fit in the conceptual framework of the System of National Accounts (SNA) serving both developing and developed countries production of time-use statistics.

*Eivind Hoffmann and Adriana Mata (1999) (International Labour Office, ILO, Geneva, Switzerland), Measuring Working Time: An Alternative Approach to Classifying Time Use:* The proposed approach results in an alternative Conventional Classifications of Time Use Activities (ACTUAs) which, based on a unique approach, incorporates e.g. the description of paid activities on the same basis as unpaid activities, and therefore allows reliable and valid measurement of actual time worked.

*Martin Wenke (1999) (Fachhochschule Niederrhein, Mönchengladbach, Germany), Time Use, Sustainable Consumption and Environmental Protection Measures of Private Households - Some Aspects of Combining National Accounts and Time Use Data:* The aim of the paper is to show the possibilities of the description of sustainable consumption within the household production framework, regarding to the multitude of relationships between all the input factors of the households' production process by utilising time use- and national account data.

*Erlend Holz (1999) (Statistisches Bundesamt, Germany), Time Use and Microdata Access: Scientific and Public Use Files – Problems and International Solutions:* A compromise between data privacy protection and availability of official microdata for scientific purposes has to be found. The solution proposed is “de facto anonymity” demonstrated in this paper for the German time use scientific use file.

### **Time Use and Economic and Social Research and Policy – A General View**

Economic and social research and policy – a general view – describe the aspects with examples of gender and time poverty with social policy implications of gendered time, transport and travel, the overall importance of the informal economy with a “great day” illustration, a time use research overview from the roots up to today and results of the general ICTU-panel.

*Margaret Grieco and Jeff Turner (1999) (University of North London, University of Manchester, UK), Gender and Time Poverty: The Neglected Social Policy Implications of Gendered Time, Transport and Travel:* This paper will identify gaps in current social policy development around getting single mothers from welfare into work. It will suggest a range of information technology based solutions which could assist single mothers in accomplishing the complex co-ordinatory task set them by the new policy, solutions which need to be accompanied by improvements in the transport circumstances of this low income group if the new found welfare to work policy is to be successful.

*Jonathan Gershuny (1999) (University of Essex, UK), Informal Economic Activity and Time Use Evidence:* His ICTU opening address on the "Great Day", which includes all the paid, unpaid work, consumption or leisure time of everyone in the society, is dealing with problems of collecting time use evidence, the importance of the "informal economy", and a more comprehensive approach to the use of time in understanding the historical dynamics of economic activity.

Andrew S. Harvey (International Association on Time Use Research (IATUR), Halifax, Canada): *Time-Use Research: The Roots to the Future: What people do and how people spend their time is of endless fascination. This paper examines the roots from which time-use research has emerged, how it has been employed, related initiatives, important variants and design extensions, and suggests future directions.*

*F. Thomas Juster (1999) (University of Michigan, USA), The Future of Research on Time Use:* The research potential of data on time use is enormous, but that potential has barely been tapped in the research done to date. This summary of the panel discussion concluding the International Conference on Time Use (ICTU) notes the areas where there are substantial gains from analysis of time use data, discusses methodological issues that influence the types of time use data that are available, and identifies some of the considerations that help to explain why the analysis of time use data is less far along than might be expected. This summary also examines the critical difference in time use data and analysis depending on whether analysis is focused on modelling household behaviour at the micro level or on developing national accounts data at the macro level.

Table 1 provides a summary of the above divided by research topic, research method, kind of data, country/period and investigator/source.

**Table 1: Time Use Research and Time Use Data – Actual Topics and New Frontiers**

Research Topic	Research Method	Kind of Data	Country / Period	Investigator/ Source
<b>General Societal Aspects</b>				
The 'Great Day', General Importance of the Informal Economy	Macro-Sociological	Time diary data	Britain, 1961 and 1984	Gershuny 1999
<b>International Time Use Studies</b>				
Non-market household production	Macro, Household Satellite Account	System of National Accounts SNA(93)	OECD	Chadeau 1999
Harmonising European Time Use Statistics	EUROSTAT Time Use Pilot Study	Household and individual questionnaire, Day diary left behind for two randomly selected day (weekday and a weekend day), primary & secondary activities, for whom, with whom, location Week Diary Coding System	European Community, 90s, 00s	EUROSTAT, Rydenstam 1999
Comparative Time Budget Studies	Comparison of 1920-1990 Russian Studies	Longitudinal, panel roughly dynamic by repeated surveys literary study comparing main results from the literature	Russia, 1920 until 1990	Artemov and Artemova 1999
Time Structures in the European Union	Multi-Level Sociological Analysis: Macro (Time Structure and Culture) Meso-Level (Organisation) Micro-Level (Individual)	Diary data combined with social indicators, interview with typical (normal) use of time	West Germany, UK, Spain, Sweden, 1985-1996	Garhammer 1999



German Time Use Survey, General Living Arrangements Example on time stress and time crunch	Socio-economic Microanalyses	Nationwide Time Budget Survey, Initial Interview (basic socio-demographics for all household members) Time diaries with 5 minute intervals, for whom, where, with whom, three digit activity coding of 32.000 diaries Final interview (need of care, voluntary and community work etc.)	West Germany 1991/92	Ehling 1999
Temporal Obligations	Home Economic Research Public, Familial and Personal Time	Time diaries, German Time Budget Study	West Germany 1991/92	Küster and Meyer 1999
<b>Time Use Research, Survey Methodology, Scientific and Public Use Files</b>				
Time Use Research: The Roots to the Future	Overview of research activities	Micro and Macro, Enriched Time Use Studies	ca. 1920 until the future	Harvey 1999
Trial International Classification of Activities for Time Use Statistics	Developing a classification Structure consistent with the SNA	Individual data, time diaries	UN, general	Bediako and Vanek 1999
Measuring Working Time: An Alternative Approach to Classifying Time Use	Unique approach for paid and unpaid work, context variables	Individual data, time diaries	ILO, general	Hoffmann and Mata 1999
Time Use, Sustainable Consumption and Environmental Protection Measures	Combining National Accounts and individual time use data Household production framework	Macro and microdata	Germany	Wenke 1999

Time Use and Microdata Access: Scientific and Public Use Files	Anonymisation of microdata, data privacy, de facto anonymization	Individual data	Germany, general	Holz 1999
<b>The Labour Market</b>				
Structural Discrete Choice Models of Labour Supply	Discrete choice static neo-classical fixed cost labour supply, microeconomics, microeconometrics, policy impacts	Two Dutch cross-section data, Dutch Socio-Economic Panel	The Netherlands, 1995	van Soest 1999
Freelance and Contract Workers in Germany	Microanalyses with description of firm data	IAB Establishment Panel, working and operation hours, short time and overtime plus context variables	Germany, 1994-1997	Dietrich 1999
Working Hour Tension Dynamics	Paneleconometric analysis of desired vs. actual data for employees, entrepreneurs and professions	German Socio-Economic Panel (GSOEP) data, 10 waves	West Germany, 1985-1994	Merz and Lang 1999
Joint Labour Supply Decisions of Couples	Microeconomics, hours restrictions, discrete choice modelling	German Socio-Economic Panel (GSOEP) data for 1995	West-Germany 1995	Wolf 1999
Analysing the Impact of German Tax and Benefit Reforms on Labour Supply – A Microsimulation Approach	Labour supply estimates within a microsimulation approach	German Socio-Economic Panel (GSOEP) data for 1998	Germany 1998	Wagenhals 1999
<b>Household Production, Valuing Time Use, Extended Welfare Analysis</b>				
Intra-Household Redistribution of Time and Money by Household Production	Microeconomic household production approach with a Lancaster-type linear technology; shadow pricing	Individual example data	(Germany)	Seel 1999

Financial Management, Bargaining and Efficiency within the Household	Microeconomic household production approach, game theoretical model reflecting bargaining power	British Household Panel Survey	UK 1991-1992	Kooreman and Dobbelsteen 1999
Extended Income Dynamics: Valuing Household Production and its Distributional Impacts – A Ten Years Panelanalysis for Professions, Entrepreneurs and Employees in Germany	Cross-sectional and longitudinal microanalyses with different shadow prices for unpaid work	German Socio-Economic Panel (GSOEP)	West Germany 1985 until 1994	Merz and Kirsten 1999
The Existence Value of Unpaid Work – A Contingent Valuation (CV) Approach	Microeconomic theoretical analysis	Individual data	General	Huq 1999
Estimating Value of Household Production and the Labour Contribution of Volunteers in the Provision of Welfare Services in Australia	Microanalyses with socio-demographic groupings, Aggregated macro results	Australian Time Use Survey Survey of Voluntary Work	Australia 1992-1993, 1995	Yan, Hynes and Pinyopusarek 1999
<b>Market and Non-Market Activities</b>				
Microeconomic Analysis of Time Use Data: Did We Reach the Promised Land?	Microeconomic based overview, household production and evaluated results	Microdata in general, microdata of specific studies	General	Klevmarken 1999
Regression Analysis and Time Use Data – A Comparison of Microeconomic Approaches with Data from the Swedish Time Use Survey (HUS)	Microeconomic (Tobit type I and generalizations) approaches, Monte carlo simulations	Swedish Time Use Survey (HUS)	Sweden 1993	Flood and Grasjö 1999

Intrafamily Time Allocation: A Panel-Econometric Analysis	Microeconomic approaches, new home economics and bargaining, paneleconometric estimates	German Socio-Economic Panel (GSOEP)	West Germany 1985 until 1994	Beblo 1999
Consumer Time Allocation in Internet-Based Marketing and Production	Household production approach with consumer producer interaction	Consumer panel	The Netherlands 1998	Dellaert 1999
Sequence Alignment Analysis of Daily Activities	Sequence alignment techniques from mathematics and biology (CLUSTAL)	Canadian National Time Use Survey	Canada 1992	Wilson 1999
Accessibility and Time Use in a Post-Fordist Urban System	Accessibility indicators, log-linear regression analysis	Piedmont Household Survey, Turin Metropolitan Area	Italy 1994, 1995	Ocelli 1999
<b>Sociology of Time Use, Economic and Social Policy Aspects</b>				
Gender and Time Poverty: The Neglected Social Policy Implications of Gendered Time, Transport and Travel	Sociological approach based on literary results	Secondary statistics	UK and other countries	Grieco and Turner 1999
The Future of Research on Time Use	Socio-economic based overview	Micro- and macrodata in general	General	Juster 1999

Source: Merz, J. and M. Ehling (Eds.), 1999, Time Use – Research, Data and Policy, Publications of the Research Institute on Professions (FFB), Volume 10, Baden-Baden: Nomos-Verlagsgesellschaft, own structuring

## 4 What Do We Learn From Recent Time Use Research Topics and their Time Use Data

The above broad variety of recent time use research interests might be re-structured. We choose a point of view, which wants to understand individual behaviour by theoretically and empirically based socioeconomic and socioeconometric approaches and models.

This re-structuring refers to the above section and discussion but with emphasis on their appropriate and used kind of time use data:

- Survey methodology (sampling procedures) itself, providing results for survey research in general
- Substantive socioeconomic macro description, national accounting
- Substantive socioeconomic micro description
- Substantive socioeconometric modelling for explanation (hypothesis testing) and extrapolation
- Policy implication analyses by microsimulation approaches based on institutional and behavioural relations.

This structuring itself learns us where and how time use research is focused and is the basis for what we might have learned from recent time use research topics and their time use data.

### **Survey methodology (sampling procedures) itself, providing results for survey research in general**

Example:

The topic of our NT-QUEST workshop and volume.

### **Substantive socioeconomic macro description, national accounting**

Examples:

SNA, satellite system of household production, non-market household production and unpaid housework (Chadeau 1999);

### **Substantive socioeconomic micro description**

Examples I, Static:

Time structures in a comparative multi-national framework (EU, Garhammer 1999);

Comparative studies within a country (Russia, Artemov and Artemova 1999);

International classification (UN, Bediako and Vanek 1999, ILO Hoffmann and Mata 1999);

Existence value of unpaid work (Huq 1999);

Home economic research, time use obligations (Küster and Meyer 1999);

Intra-Household Redistribution of Time and Money by Household Production and Bargaining Models (Seel 1999, Kooreman and Dobbelsteen 1999);

Sustainable consumption and environmental protection measures (Wenke 1999);  
'Scheinselbständigkeit': in between freelance and contract work (IAB Establishment Panel, Dietrich 1999);  
Household production and labour contributions of volunteers in the provision of welfare services (Australia, Yan, Hynes and Pinyopusarek 1999);  
Microeconomic analysis of time use data (An overview, Klevmarken 1999);  
Consumer Time Allocation in Internet-Based Marketing and Production (Dellaert 1999);  
Sequence alignment analysis of daily activities (Wilson 1999);  
Accessibility and Time Use in a Post-Fordist Urban System (Italy, Occelli 1999);  
Gender and Time Poverty: The neglected social policy implications of gendered time, transport and travel (Grieco and Turner 1999)

Examples II, Dynamics:

Extended income dynamics: Valuing household production and its distributional impacts (Merz and Kirsten 1999);  
Microeconomic analysis of time use data (An overview, Klevmarken 1999)

**Substantive socioeconometric modelling for explanation (hypothesis testing) and extrapolation**

Examples I, Statics:

Structural discrete choice models of labour supply (van Soest 1999);  
Joint labour supply of couples (Wolf 1999);

Examples II, Dynamics:

Working hour tension dynamics – Professions, Entrepreneurs and Employees in a Ten Years Panelanalysis of Desired vs. Actual Working Hours Incorporating non-market influences (GSOEP-data, Merz and Lang 1999);  
Regression analysis and time use data – A comparison of microeconomic approaches (HUS-data, Flood and Grasjö 1999);  
Intrafamily time allocation: A paneleconometric analysis (GSOEP-data, Beblo 1999)

**Policy implication analyses by microsimulation approaches based on institutional and behavioural relations**

Examples:

Tax and benefit reforms and its distributional impacts on labour supply (Wagenhals 1999);  
Distributional impacts on market and non-market activities of private households (Merz 1996)

All the above substantive approaches and research areas are based on the following underlying methods and instruments (Harvey 1999):

- direct questions (stylized approach) about number of times to participate, or the amount of time denoted for a certain activity in a typical day
  - time constrained (must cover a defined time period)
  - time unconstrained
- activity lists, typically selective rather than exhaustive mostly time-unconstrained, activity matrix: time-constrained
- beeper, for subjective information that is context sensitive
- time diary, exhaustive, all activities and patterns of associations between people, location, allows sequence analyses; highly recommended

When we look to all the above time use research topics – where our selection is for sure not exhaustive - and asks what kind of time use data are used we see many diary and many stylized data. Certainly, there are some beeper data based results, like those of the ISR-Michigan group, but beeper data is not the dominant used time use data. Though diary data has to be favoured and is a prerequisite for various analyses – see its need for sequence analyses or the timing and time arrangement of activities (work) – but scarce resources often allows only stylized information. On the other hand, stylized information disregard the randomness of a certain day situation, and combined with additional features, like the availability in a panel (repeated) design, has certainly their own value in time use research.

## **5 Lessons and advices for new technologies in survey research with application to time use data**

Time use data have certain properties and special features, which is a challenge for data collection procedures and is making their analysis difficult. With Klevmarken (1999) they include

- noisy data because we get very short spells of data,
- frequent "zero observations", respondents have not done an activity on the designated day,
- events of short duration and rare events are missing or underreported,
- systematic differences in time use due to day of the week and season of the year,
- depending on survey design, dependencies on past behaviour of longer duration than a day are not observed,
- the quality of the data are much dependent on the interviewers (interviewer effects),
- quality also depends on consistent coding of activities,
- selective non-response is likely because people who are rarely at home, or who are very busy either at work or at home more frequently leave no or an incomplete diary,
- members of the same household are not always observed in the same day,
- needed supplementary data are often missing, for instance, wage rates, incomes, expenditures and child care arrangements.

An extended discussion of these points is given in Klevmarken (1999, 440 pp.). To conclude to some extent, however, new technologies in survey research are able and should try to diminish the above difficulties for various kinds of analysis approaches.

Taken this background into account let me conclude now this paper with (my) lessons and advices for new technologies in survey research with application to time use data.

Regardless what kind of new measure and technique is proposed to follow the diaries or stylized, typical day or random access (beeper) approach, they should provide and/or support the following items for substantive socioeconomic research:

- to find new structures and to test a variety of hypotheses prefer open questions about the single activities, classifications should be a matter of the next analyzing steps
- to allow intra-family analyses and ask all persons (from a certain age on, may be over 16 years) within a household/family
- to better understand the interdependencies incorporate the ‘environmental setting’ with regard to: for whom, with whom, location
- provide context variables
  - of the interviewed person itself
  - of other persons in the household/family, household/family variables, regional indicators this is of overwhelming importance for any socioeconomic modelling (like extended labour supply in the household context with labour demand (regional) indicators), explanation (hypothesis testing) and extrapolation including microsimulation to analyse the impacts of economic and social policy on an individual level.

Context variables and stylized questions: context variables are normally available and main concern of a study (for example: (German) Socio-Economic Panel (GSOEP))

Context variables, diaries and beepers: (further) context variables have to be provided by additional interviews

Context variables within new internet/palm top based technologies: additional interviews (motivation) are necessary

- though randomized sampling with different people to cover a whole week, say, might save money for the interviewer and time for the interviewed people: but then you have to re-interpret the cross-sectional data with difficult substantial success
- therefore allow ‘longitudinal’ and sequential analyses to model the arrangement of time using activities over a week (day), say, for each single individuals
- more general: try to organize from the beginning true panel analyses on the micro-level and diminish the multi-period cross-sectional approach for time use surveys



## 6 Research Network on Time Use (RNTU)

To further discuss the topic of this paper “Time Use Research and Time Use Data – Actual Topics and New Frontiers” and research on time use in general, an international *Research Network on Time Use (RNTU)* was started within the environment of the conference and its preparation. It was initiated and is supported by the German Federal Ministry of Education, Science, Research and Technology (bmb+f) and is further supported by the German Federal Statistical Office.

The RNTU objective is to support researchers who are interested in time use with questions and answers considering survey statistics, methods and results of analyses and explanation of macro- and micro-behaviour as well as policy matters. An internet information system and network about time use research is offered. The system encompasses information on the researcher, their subjects, data bases, methods, results, references, available (rare) literature, tips and suggestions ...

RNTU is working together with IATUR, the International Association on Time Use Research (Prof. Andrew S. Harvey, Halifax, Canada) and further institutes and driving persons. RNTU is co-ordinated by Joachim Merz, University of Lüneburg, Department of Economics and Social Sciences, Research Institute on Professions (FFB) (internet: [www.uni-lueneburg.de/fb2/ffb](http://www.uni-lueneburg.de/fb2/ffb)).

To support and to be supported by this network please, have a look to our RNTU-website and its research safe at

**<http://ffb.uni-lueneburg.de/timeuse>**

fill out the questionnaire and take up the info you need. Some further RNTU-information can be find in the Appendix of this volume.

## 7 Conclusions

Time Use Research and Time Use Data –Actual Topics and New Frontiers: It was my concern to pinpoint the connection and requirements of appropriate data with its appropriate methods with substantive research and questions about time use.

Time use, so far were regarded mainly from a socioeconomic view, but time use and living conditions in general have a much more broader scope, like time stress and health, time and the philosophy of being etc. There are so many additional aspects and areas which I didn't address in my talk; the greater is the importance to further focus efforts on time use in particular and in general.

Not able even to give a first glance to all of these dimensions, let me close with a more philosophical remark:

It is not only the general research concern to deal with time use to better understand individual behaviour and societal arrangements: time use and its interdependent areas of concern also is important for the individual's consciousness and course and sense of life. From a small booklet about time by Kim Pickin and Nicky Singer (2000), allow to transmit the following advice to gain a satisfied way of life:

**Pull down the inner borderline between work and leisure (“Reißen Sie die inneren Grenzen zwischen Arbeit und Freizeit nieder”).**

From my point of view, that is the central idea and fascination of time use research and concern: regard the interdependency of the multitude of individual activities (paid, unpaid, etc.) and transport it into your personal, own way of thinking and dealing to achieve the full flavour of your sense of life.

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