WHAT EXPLAINS THE GENDER GAP IN SCHLEPPING?

TESTING VARIOUS EXPLANATIONS FOR GENDER DIFFERENCES IN HOUSEHOLD-SERVING TRAVEL

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Overview

Why this question?

What did we do?

What does this mean for travel?

What did we find?
Why this question?

Gender differences in travel

Gender division of household labor

HH-serving travel = 2x the person miles of commutes

Transportation scholars: Travel?
Why this question?

Gender differences in travel

Gender differences in household-serving travel

Gender division of household labor
Three perspectives on dividing household labor

- **Time-Availability**: The partner with more time available will do more housework.
- **Micro-economic**: Utility maximization, rational specialization, and exchange.
- **Gender Socialization**: Attitudes about gender identities and associated behaviors/roles.
Research Questions

How is HH-serving travel divided now?

Women still do more HH-serving travel.

What explains the division of HH-serving travel?

Most support: Attitudes about gender roles
Some support: earnings, hours worked, and employment.

What does the division of HH-serving trips mean for travel?

Household-serving trips are additional
→ trip-chaining → automobiles
WHAT DID WE DO?
American Time Use Survey

- By The Bureau of Labor Statistics
- Subsample of Current Population Survey
- 24-hour activity diary for a single person
- Years: 2003-2012

- Ages 18-65
- Sample size ≈ 76,000 individuals
- Four types of households
Comparison Households

- Single adults no children
- Couples no children
- Single parents
- Couples with children
Comparison Households

- Single adults no children
- Couples no children
- Single parents
- Couples with children
Which trips?

- Child-serving trips
  - Trips made to serve a child regardless of whether or not a child was present

- Grocery trips
  - Trips every household type makes
Link to labor force participation

• An insight similar to Madden (1981)
  – If we do not account for difference in employment we may overstate gender difference in travel

• What does labor force participation look like?
  – Women are still less likely than men to be employed full-time.
Labor force participation

38% - Both partners work full-time

46% - Only the man works full-time

Women in these households

51% - not in labor force

41% - part-time

8% - looking for work
We find:

- Consistent with both micro-economic and gender identity perspectives.

**Presence of Children**

**Proportion working full-time**

- Share of 28-year-old women employed full-time
  - No kids: 80%
  - With kids: 40%

**Hours worked (among full-time workers)**

- Share working 9 or more hours
  - Men: 22%
  - Women: 14%
WHAT DID WE FIND?
Child-serving trips

For every child-serving trip by a man, women make ___ child-serving trips.

- Single adults no children: 1.4
- Couples with children: 2.0
- Couples no children: 1.6
- Single parents: 1.4
A closer look

For every child-serving trip by a man, women make ___ child-serving trips.

Couples with children

Mother not in labor force

Mother works part-time

Mother works full-time

For every child-serving trip by a man, women make ___ child-serving trips.
What do the theories suggest?

For every child-serving trip by a man, women make ___ child-serving trips.

Mother works full time

1.6

Hours worked in paid labor (time availability)

Relative earnings (micro-economic)

Attitudes about gender (gender socialization)
Testing the theories

For every child-serving trip by a man, women make ___ child-serving trips.

Mother works full time 1.6

When women work eight hours (time availability) 1.5

Woman earns more than partner (micro-economic) 1.5
Results in brief: Grocery trips

- Smaller gap for grocery trips

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Grocery</th>
<th>(Child-serving)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Single adult:</td>
<td>1.1</td>
<td>(1.4)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Single parent:</td>
<td>1.1</td>
<td>(1.4)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Couple no kids:</td>
<td>1.4</td>
<td>(1.6)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Couple w/kids</td>
<td>1.7</td>
<td>(2.0)</td>
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Results in brief: Grocery trips

• The gap persists when the woman:
  – Works full time: 1.5
  – Earns more than her partner: 1.5
  – Is better educated than her partner: 1.6
  – Also works 8 hours: 1.4
Evidence for Gender Socialization

The gender gap:

- Exists in single adult and single parent households
- Persists when both partners work full-time and work equal hours
- Persists even when women earn more and are better educated than their partners
What does this mean for travel?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Travel characteristics of women by type of trip made, ATUS (2003-2012)</th>
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<td>4.8</td>
<td>8.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
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<td>56%</td>
<td>86%</td>
<td>78%</td>
<td>92%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Used auto</strong></td>
<td>76%</td>
<td>96%</td>
<td>97%</td>
<td>98%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Transit</strong></td>
<td>2%</td>
<td>1%</td>
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Travel trends

Since the 1980’s relative to men, women’s:

• Trip-chaining increased faster
• Private vehicle use increased faster
• Transit use decreased faster

(Pisarski, 2006 and McGuckin, N. and E. Murakami. 1999)
Takeaways

Women make more child-serving and household-serving trips than their male partners.

The influence of gender socialization is remarkably strong.

The gender gap in household-serving travel will likely persist.
Thank you.

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