SURVEY PARTICIPATION ‘UNDER PRESSURE’: DO WORK-FAMILY CONFLICT AND TIME SQUEEZE AFFECT THE CONTACTABILITY OF RESPONDENTS?

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Some observations

- INCREASE IN SURVEY NONRESPONSE

- INCREASE IN TIME PRESSURE
  - mostly due to combined workloads
  - dual earner families

- INCREASE WORK-FAMILY CONFLICTS
  - time-based conflicts
  - women > men
CAN NONRESPONSE BE RELATED TO TIME SQUEEZE?

IF YES, DO WE UNDERESTIMATE TIME SQUEEZE?
NON-RESPONSE BIAS?

- NONRESPONSE = NON-CONTACT + REFUSAL

- REFUSAL contingent CONTACT

- SURVEY VARIABLE CAUSE MODEL?
  => NOT MISSING AT RANDOM
NON-RESPONSE BIAS?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Hypothesis</th>
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<tr>
<td>OPPORTUNITY COST HYPOTHESIS</td>
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<td>competing demands</td>
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<tr>
<td>=&gt; chronic time pressure</td>
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<tr>
<td>=&gt; underrepresentation</td>
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<tr>
<td>BAD TIMING HYPOTHESIS</td>
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<tr>
<td>temporary time pressure</td>
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<td>NEWTONIAN HYPOTHESIS</td>
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<td>“bodies in motion stay in motion”</td>
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DETECTING NR BIAS

• Direct measurement of NR BIAS:
  - Basic Question Approach
  - Pre-Emptive Doorstep Administration of Key Survey Items

• Seldom
  - no significant effect of “feeling rushed”
PARADATA TO DETECT BIAS

• TIME USE STUDIES:
  - SOCIO-DEMOGRAPHICS
  - PROCESS DATA

• STUDIES ON WORK-FAMILY CONFLICT
PARADATA TO DETECT BIAS

• SOCIO-DEMOGRAPHICS and “BUSYNESS”:
  - Types of data
  - Weighting adjustment

• CONSISTENT for CONTACTABILITY ISSUES
  - # adults // effects on work-family conflicts
  - young children ⇔ effects on work-family conflicts
  - contact ≠ cooperation

• INCONSISTENT RESULTS for “BUSYNESS”
  employment status / work hours
  => crude measure
PARADATA TO DETECT BIAS

• PROCESS DATA: CONTACT HISTORY
  - Doorstep reactions
e.g. “too busy”
  - Break-offs
  - Number of contact attempts
    continuum of resistance
    “proxy” or “interim” non-respondents
OUR STUDY

• DATA
  - Socio-Cultural Changes in the Flemish region and in Brussels (SCV)

• CONTINUUM OF RESISTANCE for CONTACTABILITY
  - FREE TIME on week and weekend days (2004 - 2008)
    HARD-TO-CONTACT > 5 attempts until cooperation
  
  - WORK-FAMILY CONFLICTS (2002)
    HARD-TO-CONTACT > 4 attempts until cooperation
RESULTS

HOURS FREE TIME WEEK/WORK DAY

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Contacts</th>
<th>Hours</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>5.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>4.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>3.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>3.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>2.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>&gt;5</td>
<td>2.0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
RESULTS

HOURS FREE TIME WEEKEND/NON-WORK DAY

1 contact  2  3  4  5  > 5 contacts
RESULTS

- FREE TIME
  - Robust effect on contactability in poison regression
  - Socio-demographics:
    - working singles < dual earners
    - dual earners < non-working couples
    - dual earners < non-working resp. with working partner
    - No effects sex

- WORK-FAMILY CONFLICTS
  - Effect on contactability not robust
• TIME PRESSURE of NON-CONTACTS?
  “very-hard-to-contact” even busier?

• TIME PRESSURE of REFUSALS?
  44% stating “too busy”, “no time”
  9% stating “return at more convenient time”

• NONRESPONSE BIAS?
• UNDERESTIMATION OF TIME SQUEEZE?
THANK YOU FOR YOUR ATTENTION

Questions?