

Researching Food Practices: some empirical examples and challenges

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Understanding Domestic Practices and their Dynamic
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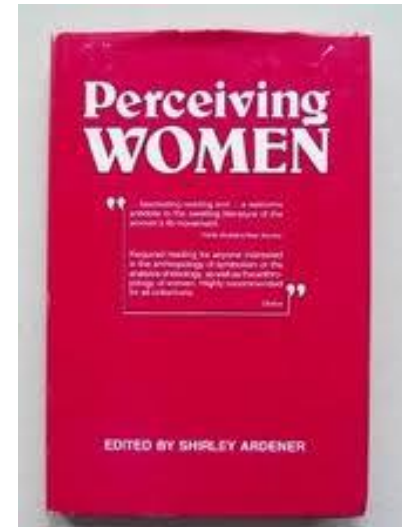
Outline

- Food practices – meanings and challenges
- Recent studies with an explicitly temporal dimension
 - Historical time
 - Generation
 - Life course
- Reflections

Food Practices

- Definitions (or not)
- Soc of consumption/ Soc of family/Childhood studies/Geography
- Waste, food safety, eating and eating events (meals, snacks) cooking, washing up, shopping, growing ...
- Families' and children's food practices
- Practice as a focus and/or a lens
- Different emphases/ connections to theories of practice
- Similar methodological challenges

Methodological challenges for researchers

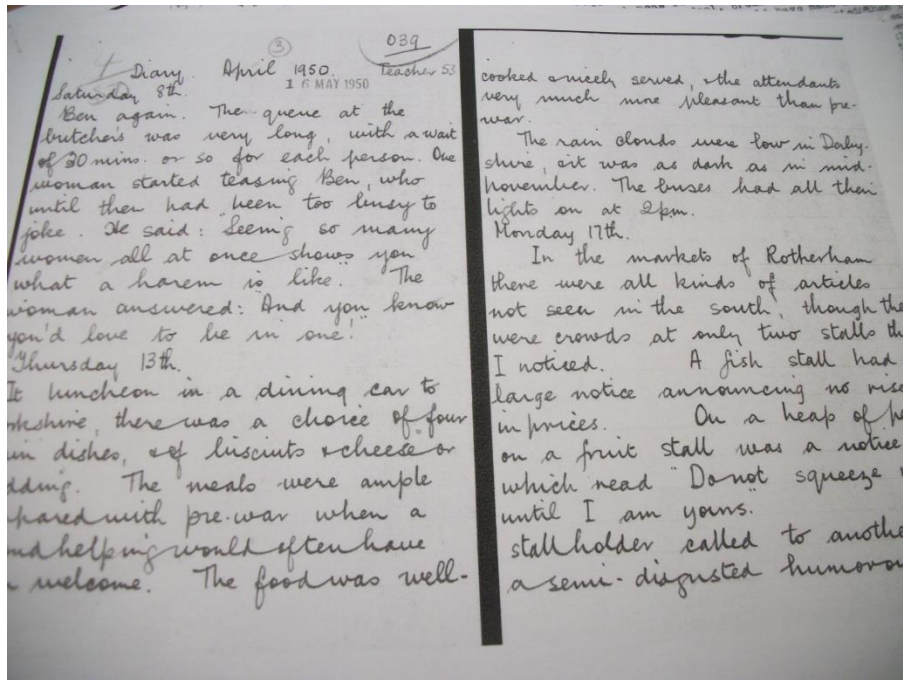


Also: Dynamics, continuity and change

Historical time

- Topics/concepts
 - **Timing, location, content and meaning of eating and eating events e.g. meals** (Cheng et al., 2007; Kahma et al., 2014; Yates & Warde, 2015; Jackson et al., 2009; Nettleton and Uprichard, 2011)
 - **Food preparation** (Warde et al., 2007)
 - **Domestic food provisioning** (Knight et al., 2015; O'Connell et. al, 2015)

Families and food: methodological innovations



Imperial War Museum

Families and food: methodological innovations

- Diaries: 'Strive to record an ever-changing present' (Plummer 2001:48)
- Avoid imposed structure - but genre and gender
- MO diaries – limitations of sample
- Secondary analysis/ data reuse and 'fit' between RQs and data
- Comparison and contextualisation

Generation, intergenerational family relations & transmission

Topics/concepts

- **Memory, migration and diaspora** (Lupton, 1994; Blake et al., 2009)
- **Eating and embodiment** (Curtis et al., 2011; Warin et al., 2008)
- **Domestic cooking, homemade and ‘convenience’ food** (Meah & Watson, 2011; Meah & Jackson, 2013; Moisio et al, 2004; Bishop, 2007)
- **Childhood and familial relations** (Curtis et al, 2009; James, et al., 2009; Knight et al.)

Food practices in employed families with younger children



‘Grandma cooking’, Jenny, age 10 years

ESRC & FSA 2009-2011

Food practices in employed families with younger children

- Qualitative approach
- Influence:
 - Direct (grandparents' care)
 - Indirect (parents' food practices)
- Past practices – resource in accounting for behaviour
- Limitations - retrospective accounts; uneven coverage

Life course

Topics/concepts:

Age e.g. young children's food practices at home and daycare (Vaghi, forthcoming); children and shopping (Marshall, 2014); teenagers' food practices (Wills et al, 2008; O'Connell et al, 2014); young adults' commensality (Danesi, 2015); older peoples use of kitchens (Dickinson et al., 2014)

Transitions, trajectories & turning points e.g. pregnancy (Burningham et al., 2014); motherhood (Murphy et al., 1998); to secondary school (Brannen & Storey, 1997) and from secondary school (Wills, 2005); later life (Sydner et al., 2007)

Life events e.g. marriage (Kemmer, 1999); employment change (Paddock, 2015)

Taking a Long View in Understanding Children's and Families' Food Practices

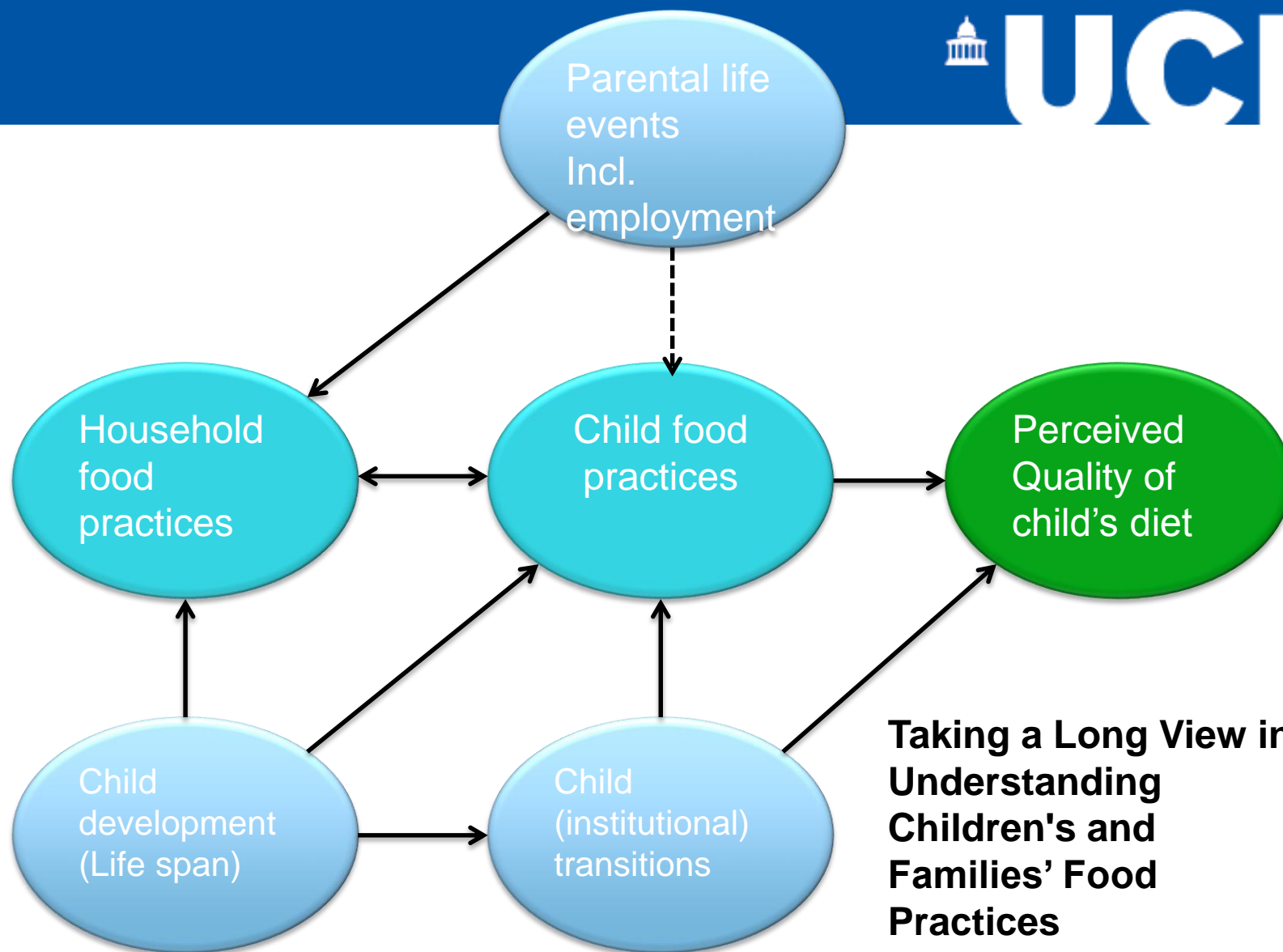


‘Alisha’. ‘Indian food’ (age 10 years), Wave 1 and ‘Western meal’, (age 12 years), Wave 2

Taking a Long View...

Change and continuity:

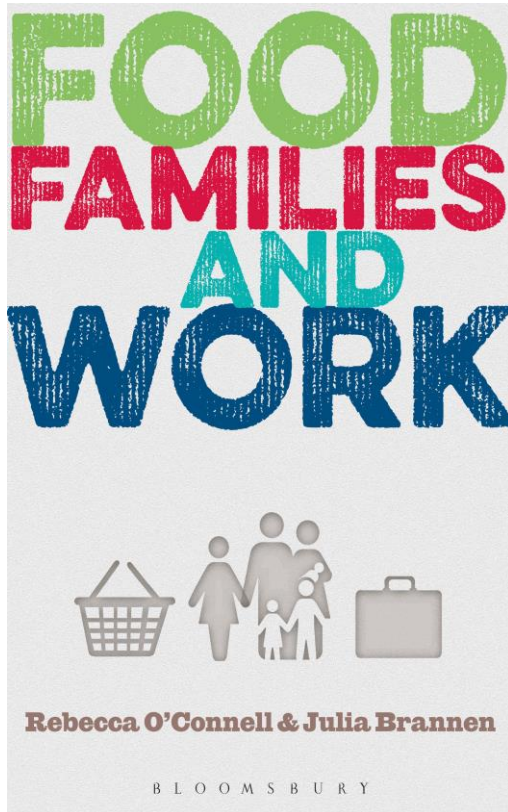
- Gender division of foodwork
- Families and meals
- Eating in settings outside the home
- Control over children's food
- Children's diet intakes



Taking a Long View in Understanding Children's and Families' Food Practices

Reflections

- Conceptions and experiences of time
- Range of designs and data
- Clarity of concepts
- Level/unit of analysis



Bloomsbury, April 2016

Thank you



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References

See handout