

Researching Food Practices: some empirical examples and challenges

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Understanding Domestic Practices and their Dynamic
across the Nexus 15th October, 2015



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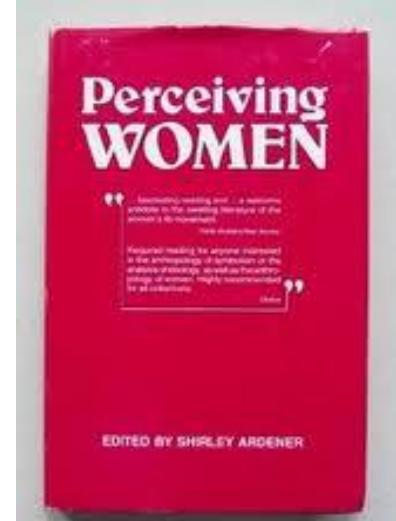
Outline

- 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

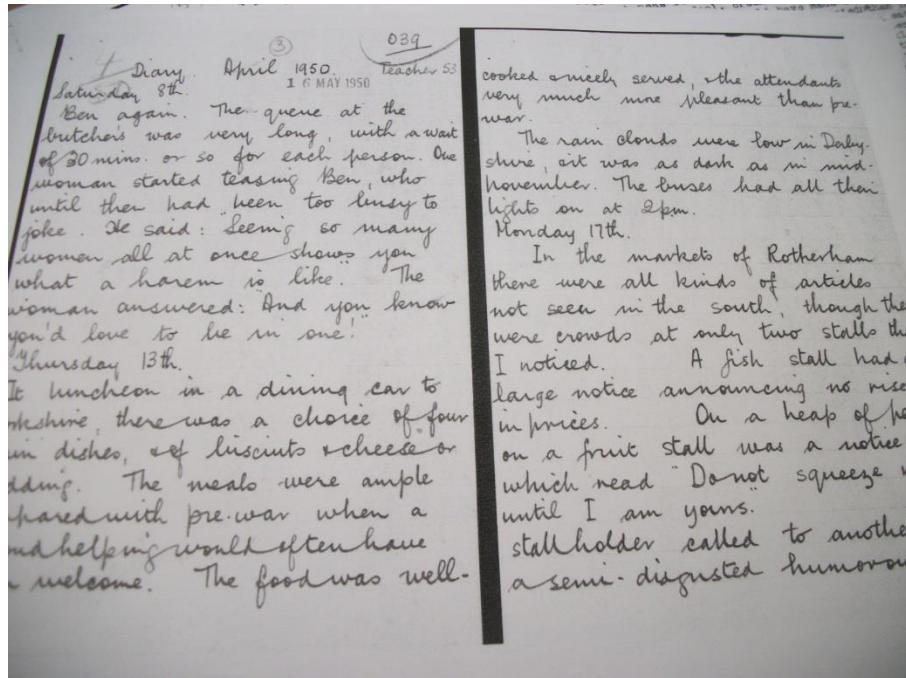


Also: Dynamics, continuity and change

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



Monday 17th.
 In the markets of Rotherham there were all kinds of articles not seen in the south, though there were crowds at only two stalls that I noticed. A fish stall had a large notice announcing no rise in prices. On a heap of peaches on a fruit stall was a notice which read "Do not squeeze me until I am yours." A stallholder called to another a semi-disgusted humorously



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

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 (Birmingham 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

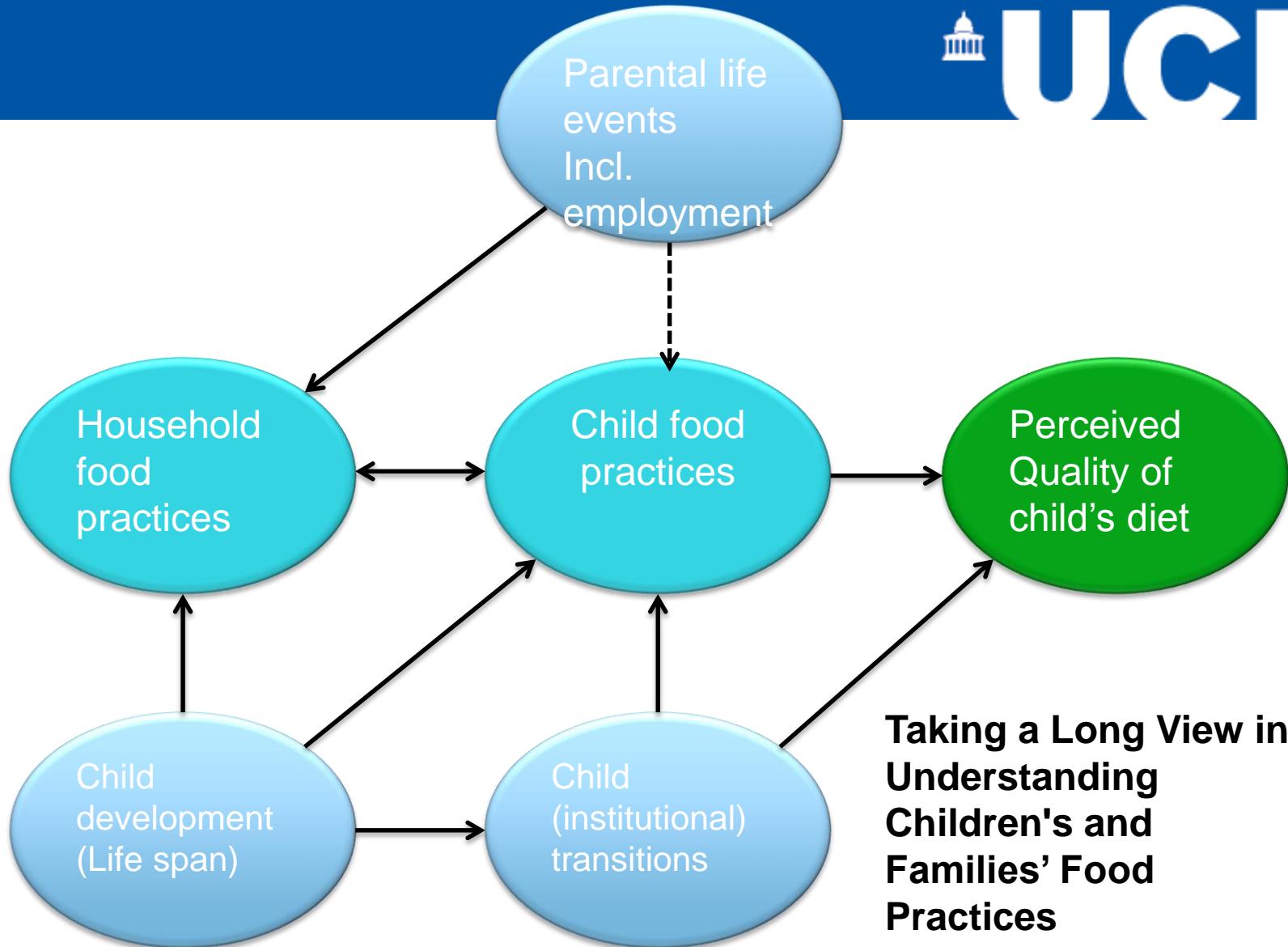


'Alisha'. 'Indian food' (age 10 years), Wave 1 and 'Western meal', (age 12 years), Wave 2

Taking a Long View...

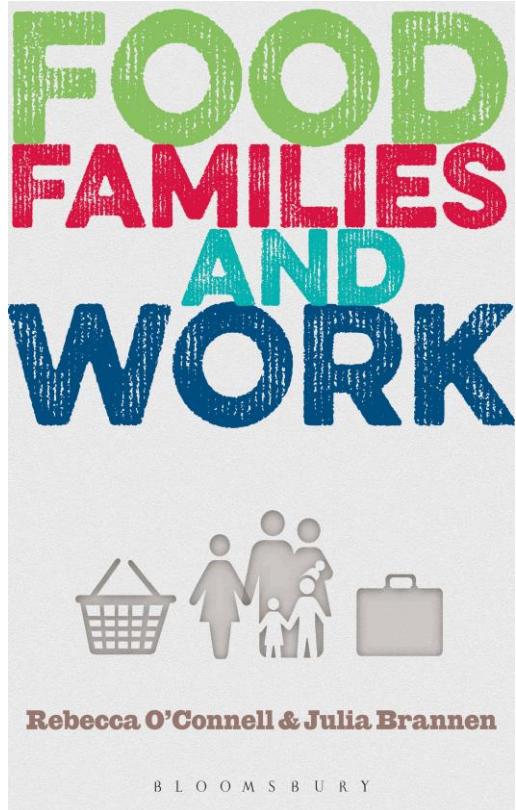
Change and continuity:

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



Reflections

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



Bloomsbury, April 2016

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Thank you

The screenshot shows the homepage of the 'Families and Food in Hard Times' website. The header features the Institute of Education logo and the UCL logo. The main title 'Families and Food in Hard Times' is displayed above the subtitle 'EUROPEAN FOOD PRACTICES IN AN AGE OF AUSTERITY'. A call-to-action button 'Find out more about this study' is visible. The main content area contains text about the study's focus on young people and families in Portugal, the UK, and Norway. It also mentions a paper published in the Journal of Biogeography Research Online. Below this is a section for 'Latest news articles' with a link to 'Questioning Time - Food and Social Justice, UEL 19th March 2015'.

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References

See handout