



Annex A – Studentship Application Form

Title of proposed research – Economic & Social History pathway
<u>Work, Leisure, and Gender: A Time-use Study of England, 1700-1850</u>
Your research proposal.
IMPORTANT: There is a strict 1300-word limit, fully inclusive of everything except references. This includes all the written text, quotes, in-line citations, section headers, captions, the contents of tables and any foot-/endnotes. Each figure/graphic should be counted as equivalent to 200 words. Tables should be counted as the number of words they contain. Proposals that are found to be overlength will be rejected. Remember that if you are applying to one of our interdisciplinary programmes, a clearly articulated interdisciplinary approach should be evident.
<p><u>Introduction</u></p> <p>This thesis will use an innovative methodology to study time use in England 1700-1850. Data will be collected on individuals and the activities they were performing at specific moments. These data will be analysed to understand how activities and time were gendered. It will be the first detailed time use study for eighteenth- and nineteenth-century England. Its methodology will expand on other attempts to quantify time-use, work, and leisure. It will contribute with urgency to debates about the meaning and value of work and leisure, centring around gender inequality and the under-valued contributions of unpaid labour.</p> <p><u>Existing Research and Rationale</u></p> <p>This thesis will address three key research areas. Firstly, it will quantify the gendering of work and leisure activities. Women’s work has been significantly debated, with Clark ([1919]1968), Pinchbeck ([1930] 1981), Richards (1974), Snell (1985), and Hill (2005) arguing women were increasingly excluded from paid work in this era, and Vickery (1993), Humphries and Sarasúa (2012), and Sharpe (1996) dissenting. However, quantification of gender participation in work has rarely been attempted and sometimes thought impossible. Snell (1985: 18) wrote that the ‘relative size of the male and female work force...particularly in the eighteenth century’ is ‘largely beyond the reach of historians’ and Richards (1974: 340) that it is ‘exceedingly difficult to give a quantitative dimension to women’s work’ before 1750. Women’s role in leisure is similarly debated; Parratt (2001) found evidence of participation in many leisure activities, while Cunningham (2014: 204) argued that women participated ‘only on the margins’. This thesis will show that incidental references to work in court records are an overlooked source which can quantify gender participation in work and leisure in a way not previously thought possible.</p> <p>Second, amounts of work and leisure time have been debated but rarely quantified. Borsay (2006: 194) regarded early modern working hours as difficult to establish, while Cunningham (2014: 31-60) argued working hours increased and leisure decreased c.1700-1850 but regarded understanding of women’s time as ‘patchy at best’. Burnette (1998) argued women spent less time at paid employment than men and more at unpaid housework. De Vries (2008) argued without quantification that working hours increased in a process he called the industrious revolution. Voth (2000) made the best attempt at quantification, but used a small dataset of twenty-one years to represent a period of eighty. Additionally, he focused on occupation and paid work, briefly considering unpaid work. Hailwood (2020) has shown how, for the period</p>



1500-1700, a similar methodology to that of this thesis can establish a fuller picture of working hours by including unpaid work. This thesis will establish working and leisure hours with a great precision regarding the activities performed.

Third, it has been argued that women were increasingly confined to the home in this era, a point sometimes offered to explain declining paid work (Clark [1919] 1968: 296; Hill 2005: 48). Humphries and Sarusúa (2012: 47) claim ‘every early modern European moral treatise’ prescribed a home-based role for women, centred around child-raising and care, and support this argument with one example. This argument makes the mistake of conflating the ideas that women should work at home and that they should perform certain work (Whittle 2019). Furthermore, as Vickery’s (1993: 387-393) historiography review shows, research on nineteenth-century women suggests they did not perform roles prescribed in moral treatises. This thesis will quantify the time women spent in and out of the home with regard to where specific activities took place.

Similar methodology to this thesis was used by Hailwood and Whittle (2020) to analyse the gender division of labour in England 1500-1700, while Ågren (2017) and Ogilvie (2003) took a similar approach to other European countries. Voth (2000) used a similar approach for England 1750-1830. This thesis will adapt and expand these approaches as explained below. Ongoing research (Whittle *et al.* 2019) is expanding the approach to cover several aspects of work in England 1300-1700. The work of those historians who have written about other periods and locations will allow for comparisons to be made. In particular, the works on similar topics in early modern England will allow this thesis to contribute to a very long-term perspective on work.

Methodology

The UN (2005: 8) recommends time-use studies for understanding how activities interrelate. Crucially, they are key to understanding unpaid work (Antonopoulos and Hirway 2010: 9). This thesis must understand unpaid work, because it is anachronistic to define it as non-work (Whittle 2019: 35), and because it is key to the economy and ‘dynamics of gender inequality’ (Antonopoulos and Hirway 2010: 1-9; Hirway 2010: 252). Reid’s (1934: 11) definition of work as activities substitutable for paid goods/services will be used. The definition of leisure will build on the UN (2016: 13) classification of personal activities, and include all non-work activities which only benefit the person doing them excluding activities meeting a basic need, e.g. sleeping.

The core methodology of this project is to collect examples of time-use and their context from the records of church and criminal courts (quarter sessions and assizes). This will include urban and rural areas, with precise locations determined when Covid-19 restrictions allow the necessary archive work and travel. This thesis will follow Hailwood’s and Whittle’s (ca. 2016) methodology in recording each work activity alongside details of the person undertaking it, time and location, and the type of court case. This thesis will develop the methodology by applying the same recording principles to leisure activities. Recorded activities will be categorised according to whether they are work or leisure and further subcategorised, for example as agricultural or care work. This approach simulates a ‘random spot’ time use survey, which involves observing participants only at specific moments during the study period (UN 2005: 16).

This database will be used to address the research questions, for instance examining the gender balance in different activities, the time spent at work and leisure by men and women, and the proportion of time spent at home by women and men. The period will be divided into



quarter-centuries to study change over time. This is vital to many of the historiographical issues of this period.

Research Plan and Impact

I am writing a Masters dissertation this year using a smaller sample of sources and refining the method, particularly regarding the most effective sources and the categorisation of leisure activities. The PhD will further develop this method and consider different geographical areas. In the first year I will write a literature review, develop a chapter-by-chapter thesis plan, begin to develop the database, and conduct interim analysis. In the second year I will complete data collection and the database. In the third year I will complete data analysis and write up the thesis. I will use Professor Whittle's contacts to collaborate with Maria Ågren's team using a similar method for the *Gender and Work* project at the University of Uppsala.

The potential impact of this research is twofold. Firstly, work and time-use are of enormous contemporary relevance. The definition of work is highly contested, increasingly so as communication technology erodes the divide between paid and unpaid work. Extra unpaid caring and housework created by the pandemic have been disproportionately undertaken by women, bringing gendered work and time-use to the forefront of public debate (e.g. see ONS 2020a and 2020b). Time-use research remains of vital importance (e.g. see Gershuny *et al.* 2020). By studying time-use historically, this thesis will show how it can be understood from challenging evidence and a variety of research perspectives. Secondly, this thesis will make an important contribution to the history of gender in the eighteenth- and nineteenth-centuries as outlined above. Furthermore, it will cross the boundaries between the AHRC and ESRC by combining quantitative and qualitative methods and by studying the cultural meanings and value of work and leisure alongside participation rates in work and the economy.

Word count (please complete): 1298

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