

# Analysing the Effect of Family Migration on Women's Labour Market Experiences in Britain

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# Social Geography & Migration

- Central position for social geographers is that migration is a fundamental aspect of people's time-space behaviour (medium-term, rather than daily)
- Much research has focussed on the role of family migration in influencing women's labour market status
  - The concepts of 'tied migrants' or 'trailing spouses'

- Empirically informed general position is that
  - migration enhances men's careers
  - migration has a negative effects on women's careers

“[family] migration tends to reduce the unemployment of men and to increase the unemployment of women, since women tend to be tied movers” (Mincer 1978)

- Most previous 'tied migration' studies have been cross-sectional
- They also focus on long-distance migration in the absence of 'reason for move' information

# Sociology

- Generally, we've not investigated the potential role of family migration in terms of stratification
- Women's employment and family migration  
(comment on panel data and modelling)
- Occupational Advantage
- Working hours
- Annual income

# Some cultural sociology?

“In the list of the ten most stressful events, moving to a new apartment or home is near the top. How can such a joyful event be so stressful?” (Pagewise.com)

“Your recent move has undoubtedly put you in the midst of one of life's more challenging transitions. Moving definitely puts a strain on our emotional life, drains our energy, and creates many highs and lows. We have to part with people, places and things that are emotionally important to us. Meanwhile, looking forward can be exciting, if a little scary. Will things go well? Will you like the people you meet? Will you be able to successfully meet the challenges in front of you? Are you going to be lonely? Are you going to be scared?” (Welcome Home Magazine)

# Data (BHPS)

- 29,349 observations
- 4,491 women (in couples)
- Observed from wave(B) 1992 – wave(K) 2001
- Max waves 11
- Approx. 2,600 women per wave
- Essex Originals
- Age 16 – 64 (mode 40)
- Special access to a distance moved variable

# Migration

- Generally, 10% households move each year
- In BHPS overall 10% move (mix 8%; max 11)
- Mean distance moved 29km;  
(25% =1km; 50%=4km; 75%=15km)  
Max 747km (Banff to Somerset)



# Household Employment

- Women overall 70%
- (min 67% wave 2)
- (max 72% wave 11)
  
- Men overall 82%
- (min 79% wave 4)
- (max 84% wave 11)

# Household Employment

## Overall

- 63% both partners work
- 19% man only works
- 7% woman only
- 11% neither work

# Summary % of Household Types

	Sample	Working Women	Working Men	Working Both
No dependent children	45	73	77	58
Youngest child aged 0-4	20	<b>57</b>	88	<b>51</b>
Youngest child aged 5-10	13	73	88	63
Youngest child aged 11-16	8	81	89	68
Non-dependent children	14	71	79	56

# The Trailing Spouse / Tied Migrant

Reason for move (all movers)

Moved for both partners jobs	3%
Moved for the woman's job	4%
Moved for the man's job	7%
Moved for other reason	85%

Not overwhelming evidence of trailing spouses in the Britain in the 1990s!

# Women's Employment

	No Move	Residential Move
Not Employed	30%	31%
Employed	70%	69%

$p=.23$

No evidence that moving house *per se* (including short distance residential moves) affects the female partners participation in employment

# 50km+ Move

- Much previous work in social geography has relied on a 50km+ move variable. Proxy, which assumes that place of employment will change because of the move

# Women's Employment and Migration

	No Move/ Short Distance	Long Distance (50km+) Move (between waves)
Not Employed	30%	39%
Employed	70%	61%

*p<.01*

Some evidence of a long distance move effect

- The panel element of the BHPS facilitates analyses of previous employment status



		<i>Time t-1</i>	
		Not Employed	Employed
<i>Time t</i>			
Non / short distance movers	Not Employed	84	7
	Employed	16	93
Long distance (50km+) movers	Not Employed	72	25
	Employed	28	75

Non/ short distance movers  $V=.76$ ; Long distance mover  $V=.46$

# Probability of Employment

		Probit
Non/Short distance mover	Non-employed (t-1) married	<b>.15</b>
	Non-employed (t-1) cohabiter	
	Employed (t-1) married	
	Employed (t-1) cohabiter	
Long distance (50km+) mover	Non-employed (t-1) married	<b>.08</b>
	Non-employed (t-1) cohabiter	
	Employed (t-1) married	
	Employed (t-1) cohabiter	

# Probability of Employment

		Probit
Non/Short distance mover	Non-employed (t-1) married	.15
	Non-employed (t-1) cohabiter	<b>.19</b>
	Employed (t-1) married	
	Employed (t-1) cohabiter	
Long distance (50km+ mover)	Non-employed (t-1) married	.08
	Non-employed (t-1) cohabiter	<b>.11</b>
	Employed (t-1) married	
	Employed (t-1) cohabiter	

# Probability of Employment

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Non/Short distance mover	Non-employed (t-1) married	.15
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Long distance (50km+ mover)	Non-employed (t-1) married	.08
	Non-employed (t-1) cohabiter	.11
	Employed (t-1) married	<b>.86</b>
	Employed (t-1) cohabiter	

# Probability of Employment

		Probit
Non/Short distance mover	Non-employed (t-1) married	.15
	Non-employed (t-1) cohabiter	.19
	Employed (t-1) married	.93
	Employed (t-1) cohabiter	<b>.95</b>
Long distance (50km+ mover)	Non-employed (t-1) married	.08
	Non-employed (t-1) cohabiter	.11
	Employed (t-1) married	.86
	Employed (t-1) cohabiter	<b>.89</b>

- Overall, this naïve ‘pooled’ cross-sectional analysis concurs with the general finding theoretical idea that a long distance move lowers the woman’s probability of being employed

# Probability of Employment

		Probit	R.E. Probit
Non/Short distance mover	Non-employed (t-1) married	.15	.21
	Non-employed (t-1) cohabiter	.19	.25
	Employed (t-1) married	.93	.91
	Employed (t-1) cohabiter	.95	.93
Long distance (50km+ mover)	Non-employed (t-1) married	.08	.12
	Non-employed (t-1) cohabiter	.11	.15
	Employed (t-1) married	.86	.83
	Employed (t-1) cohabiter	.89	.87

- Overall, the result from the panel model (random effects probit) concur with the general theoretical idea that a long distance move lowers the woman's probability of being employed
- There are methodological issues



# Initial Conditions

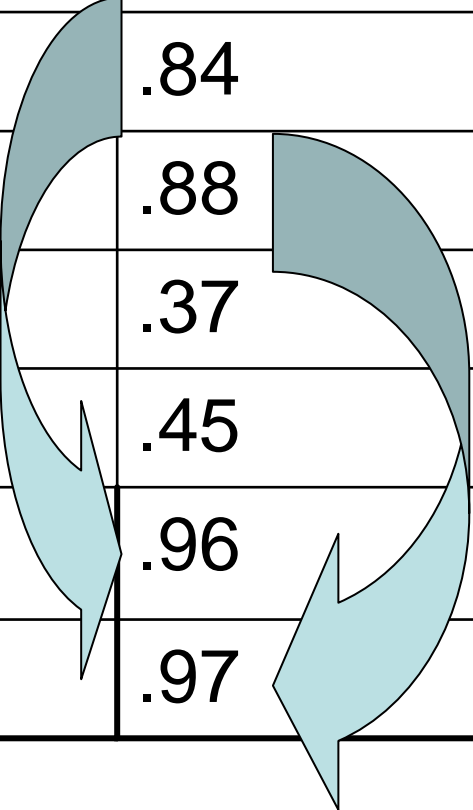
- Originally noted by Heckman (1981) less familiar in sociology than in economics
- The problem arises when the observation period (or data window) interrupts an ongoing process – as in this application
- Fotouhi (1996) provides encouraging simulation evidence that the problem declines with length of sequence

# Random Effect Dynamic Probit

- Mark Stewart's Stata ado file
- Suggested by Stephen Jenkins

- Initial conditions model identified by attitude towards women working
- Significant theta
- Exogenous initial conditions models should be rejected in favour of the dynamic model with initial conditions

		R.E. Probit	Dynamic R.E. Probit interactions
<b>Non/Short distance mover</b>	Non-employed (t-1) married	.21	.37
	Non-employed (t-1) cohabiter	.25	.45
	Employed (t-1) married	.91	.84
	Employed (t-1) cohabiter	.93	.88
<b>Long distance (50km+ mover)</b>	Non-employed (t-1) married	.12	.37
	Non-employed (t-1) cohabiter	.15	.45
	Employed (t-1) married	.83	.96
	Employed (t-1) cohabiter	.87	.97



## When

- appropriate model for panel data applied
- dynamic effects (state dependence)
- initial conditions
- the interaction effect  
(previous employment\*migration)

Overall long distance migration effect diminishes  
(there is small positive effect but only for women  
who were previously employed)

Beware cross-sectional analyses!

# Is the 50km+ a good proxy for employment related move?

50km+ movers

Moved for both partners jobs	10%
Moved for the woman's job	10%
Moved for the man's job	19%
Moved for other reason	60%

Probably not the best proxy measure

# Occupational Advantage and Migration

- What effect does family migration have on the woman's occupational advantage?

# Cambridge Scale

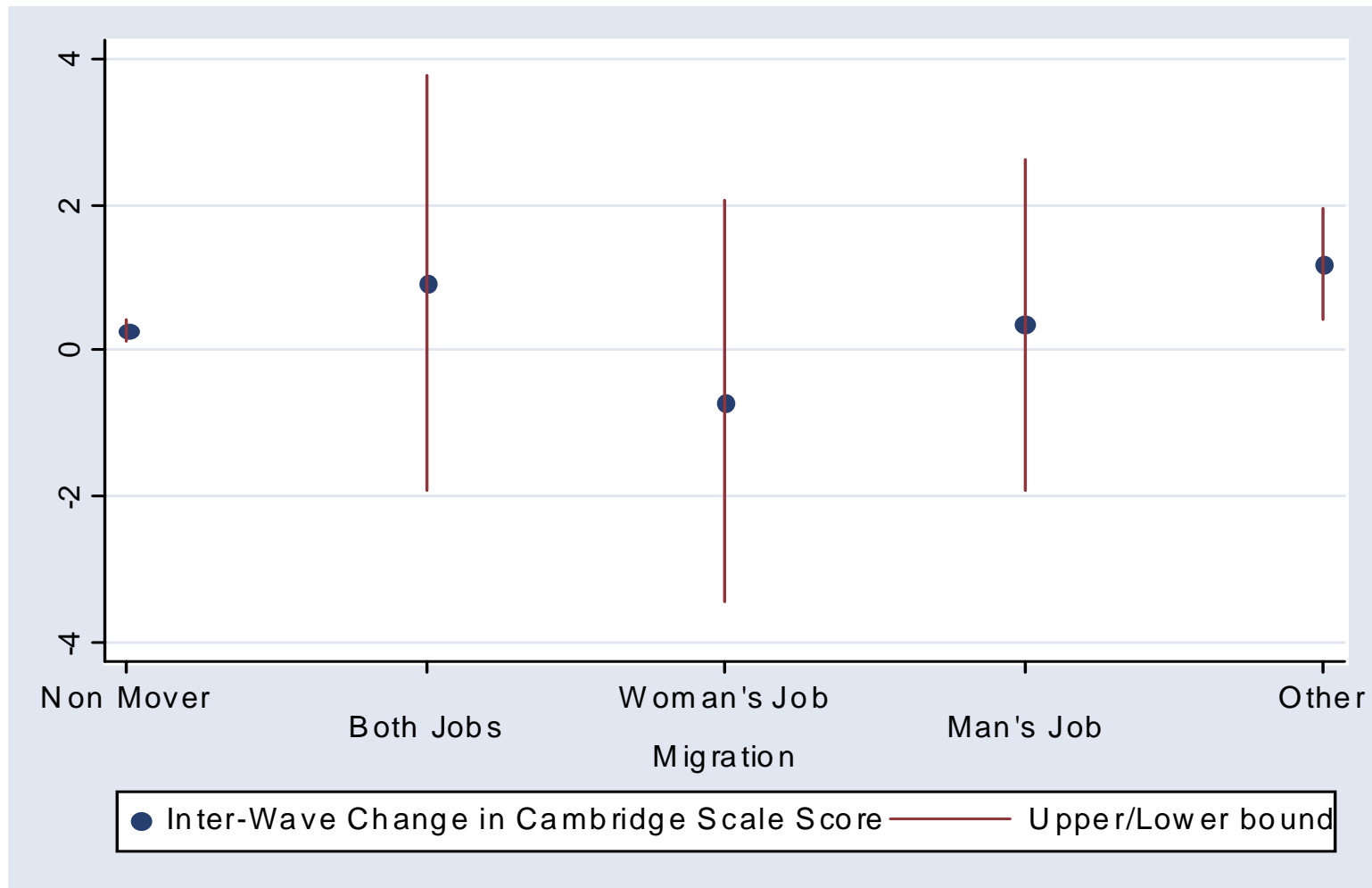
## Female's Present Job (wJBCSSF)

- Mean=39; s.d.=18; Max=99; Min=1;
- 86% with a lagged Cambridge Scale Score
- (Mean=39; s.d.=18; Max=99; Min=1;)
- Correlation  $r=.85$



# Between wave differences

- Mean=.32; s.d.=10;
- Max positive change=+62;
- Max negative change=-65;)
  
- Change from 7 to 69 in construction industry
- Change from 73 to 7 from social worker to factory worker



No overall differences –

a very small significant increase for others

Based on cross-sectional regression (panel model rho=0)

# Occupational Advantage and Migration

- What effect does family migration have on the woman's occupational advantage?
- There is no obvious effect!

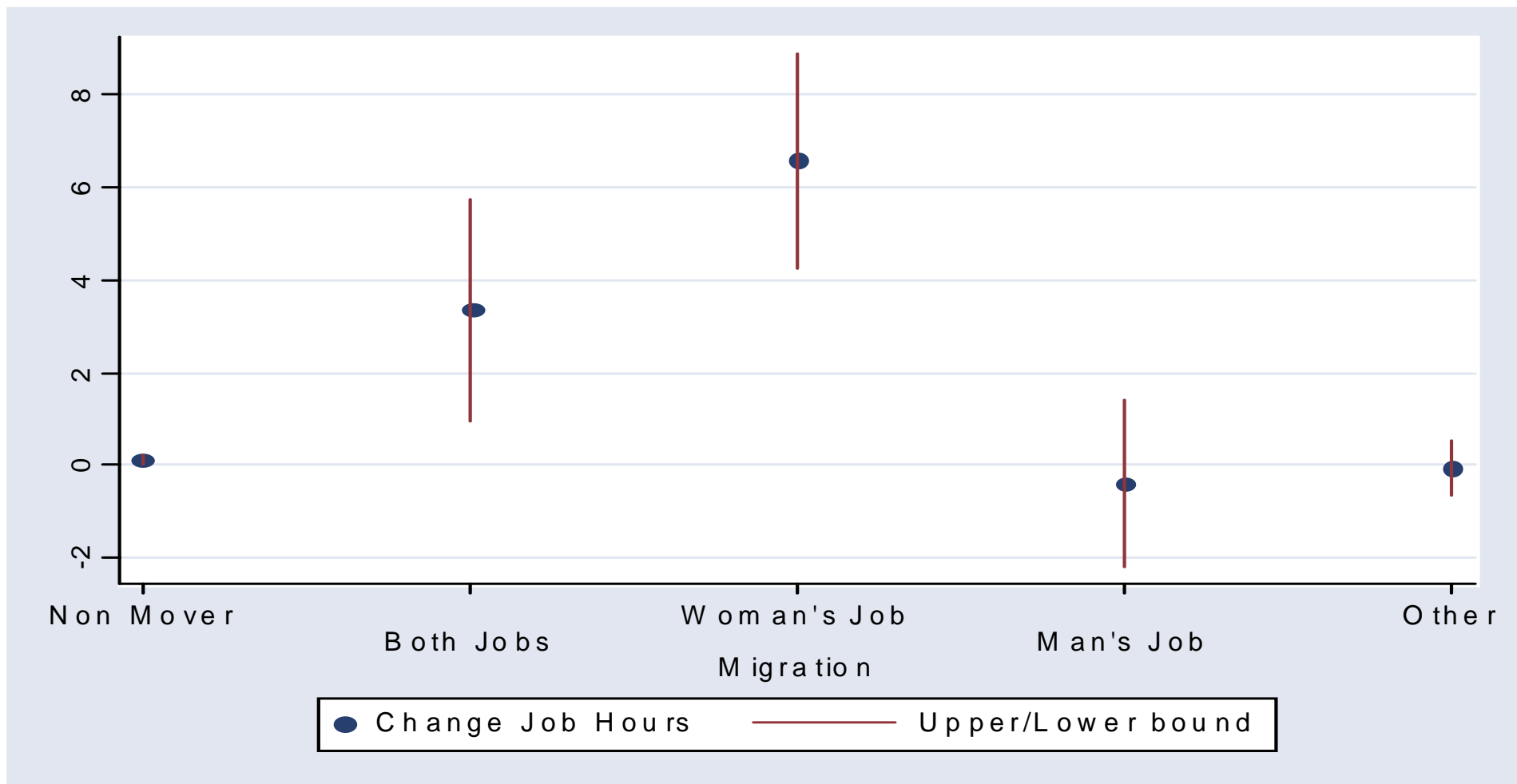
# Woman's Working Hours

- Could the woman's working hours be affected by the move?

Mean working hours =28 (s.d.=12)  
(25%=20; 50%=32; 75%=37)

Change in working hours between waves  
Mean=.14 hours (s.d.=7.4)

$r=.79$



Moving for both partners jobs and moving for the woman's job both significantly increase working hours.

Based on cross-sectional regression (panel model  $\rho = .06$ )

# Woman's Annual Income

- Adjusted into wave specific quintiles
- Stability between waves ( $\gamma=.80$ )
- Focus on staying in the same quintile, moving up or moving down

# Annual Income (wave quintiles)

	Change to lower Quintile	Change to higher Quintile
Non Mover	(.24)	(.40)
Moved for both partners jobs	N/S	N/S
Moved for the woman's job	N/S	.81
Moved for the man's job	.38 ↓	.53
Moved for other reason	.31	.56

Multinomial logit no change as base category (adjusted standard errors for clustering)

# Conclusions

- Migration and the movement of population is a key concept in social geography
- ‘Trailing spouses’?  
(changes in family life and the labour market)



# Conclusions

- Much evidence that long distance family migration affects the employment of women in couples
- No clear evidence when panel data and appropriate methods are applied
- The 50km+ might not be a particularly good variable (but is available e.g. in the SARs)

# Conclusions

- Migration has no real effect on occupational advantage
- Some evidence working hours increase but only when the move is related to the both or the woman's employment
- Small amount of evidence that location in the income distribution is affected by family migration

# Conclusions

- This analysis of couples in the last decade fails to convince me that family migration plays an important role in social stratification – However I remain open minded