

1988 and all that...

By Michael Bittman



My association with IATUR

- ❖ 1979-85 --Genesis of my interest in Time Use
- ❖ 1986 --First tangential contact with group that would become IATUR
 - Ad Hoc group at World Congress of Sociology, New Delhi
- ❖ 1988 Budapest – where the Association got its current name
 - Generosity of András Hegedüs
 - Coincidence official pilot survey
 - Meeting with Jonathan Gershuny
 - Chinese meal leads to release of Pilot survey confidential unit record data
- ❖ 1989 – Presenting at a Summer School Organised by Duncan Ironmonger together with Marilyn Waring (author of *Counting for Nothing* known as *If Women Counted* in the USA) approached by the Office of the Status of Women to analyse unit record file of Pilot survey.

Indirect outcomes of 1988 for Time Use in Australia

- 1990—IATUR meets at World Congress of Sociology
- 1991 --Labor government in Australia ratifies ILO Convention 156 Workers with Family Responsibilities, wants exhibit activity on this issue
 - decides on 'community education campaign' based on publishing my analysis of the Pilot survey in a report called *Juggling Time* and more importantly produces illustrated pamphlet called *Selected Findings from Juggling Time*.
 - Findings back-up art historian Pat Mainardi dialogue with her husband about sharing housework

"I don't mind sharing the housework, but I don't do it very well. We should each do the things we're best at." MEANING: Unfortunately I'm no good at things like washing dishes or cooking. What I do best is a little light carpentry, changing light bulbs, moving furniture (how often do you move furniture?).

Jenny Coupes' visual commentary on findings

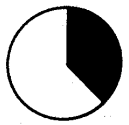


Marriage:
a bigger step for some.



Unpaid work:
a family responsibility...





Having children: the great leveller...

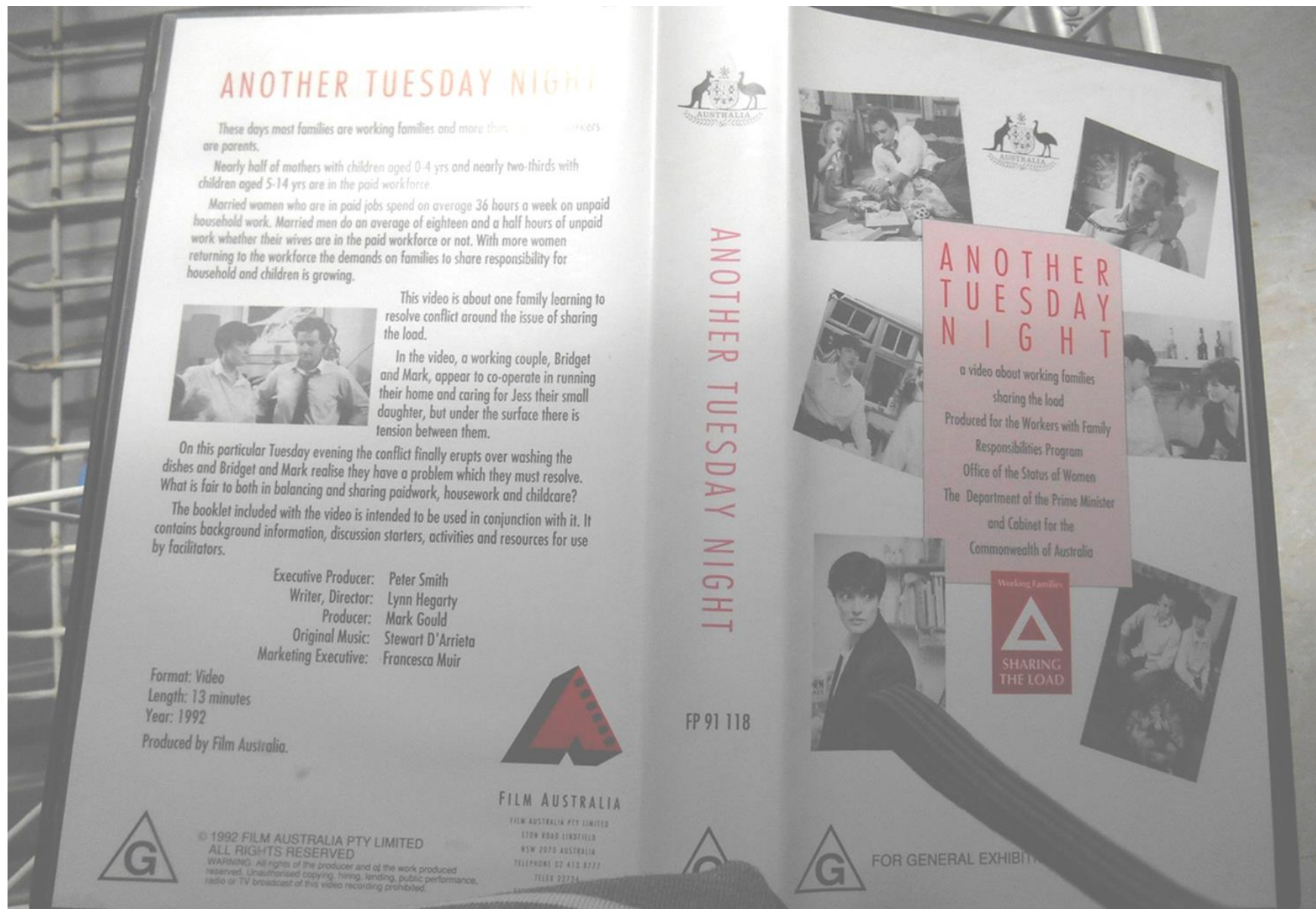
Technology has yet to
invent children with
an 'off' switch!



Three cheers for the leisure revolution...



Cover of video trigger material



NSW Trigger package



Australia acquires an official national time use survey

- 1992 First nationally representative time use conducted.
- Parliamentary Standing Committee on Legal and Constitutional Affairs tables report on inquiry into *Equal Opportunity and Equal Status for Women* adopting my recommendation that a national time use survey ever five years.
- 1993-4 I am seconded to the Australian Bureau of Statistics help in the analysis of first national survey.
- 1997 2nd national survey conducted
- 2006 More conservative government (elected 1996) delays 3rd national
- Date next survey unclear because of 'efficiency dividend' (cuts to funds)
- Developmental changes in time use partially captured in Longitudinal Survey of Australian Children (LSAC)

Beyond Australia – United Nations, Full National Accounts, ICATUS , ATUS, Sida grant and now UNESCAP Training Manual

- 1993 UN revision of the System of National Accounts (SNA) recognises economic production beyond the boundary of conventional SNA.
- 1992 to present Duncan Ironmonger and Luisella Goldschmidt-Clermont make great progress on 'Full National Accounts' by valuing outputs of unpaid production



International Classification of Activities for Time Use Statistics (ICATUS)

- 1997-1999 UN Statistics Department build on the earlier work Andy Harvey and Iiris Niemi to develop a classification of activities that would be appropriate everywhere in the world.
- The problem was that the practical experience of standardising activity classifications is concentrated in advanced economies while the UN's ambition extends all economies, the majority of which are developing or transitional economies. For example, in India 95% of the labour force is unregistered (no clear hours of work, rate of pay) – informal labour is important but not well captured by activity categories used in advanced economies, nor is there a consistent set of that constitute a weekend. So as studies become available (see the great work published by Indira Hirway and Valeria Esquivel) the ICATUS been revised.
- I had the honour being there as a representative of Australia and even chaired some of the Expert Meetings which were expanded beyond classification issues to guidelines for conducting time use surveys.
- Currently there have time-diaries use surveys conducted - notably in six Indian states (1998-99), and in Santiago, Chile (1999), Mongolia (2000), South Africa (2000, 2010), Thailand (2000-01), Madagascar (2001), Armenia (2004), Buenos Aires, Argentina (2005), Turkey (2006, 2011-12), China (2008), Ghana (2009). Brazil (2010), Mexico (2010), Venezuela (2011-12). A remarkable global diffusion.

The development of the American Time Use (ATUS)

- Prior to 2003 there was no official time use survey in USA... there were national surveys but they were conducted by universities.
- 1997 Being in the USA for ICATUS meeting, I arranged to meet with Nancy Folbre only to discover that she arranging a conference on time use, co-sponsored the McArthur Foundation *Research Initiative the Family and the Economy* and U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS). This conference was a stepping-stone on the pathway to an official time use survey to be conducted by the BLS.
- A remarkable aspect of this conference was the disinterest in utilizing the experience of specialists working outside the U.S.A. I was there by accident and although Klas Rydenstam (with vast experience via Eurostat) was invited, he was only given a few minutes to present. In other words, the accumulated expertise of IATUR was overlooked.
- The next phase was a workshop of National Research Council's Committee on National Statistics, which made a similar assumption that most of the world's expertise about time use could be found in the U.S.A. and Lorna Bailie from Statistics Canada and myself were the only foreigners invited . I was there because there was a belief in North America that the Australian Surveys were "Mercedes of time-use surveys".
- The key to nature of the ATUS methodology adopted were the costs of fieldwork (telephone administration) and winning support in Congress (continuous collection) – both beyond my direct expertise and clearly a design that is, in some respects cheaper than 'Mercedes' quality, incorporating some distinct limitations because of ignorance of alternatives available. More cooperation with IATUR might been useful.

Sida Workshops and ESCAP 'Training Manual' –IATUR expands and consolidates its influence

- Between 2011 and 2013 volunteer trainers drawn mostly from IATUR ran 3-4 day workshop in making policy-relevant analyses time use data, especially in the context of developing and transitional economies.
- This plan arose from Klas Rydenstam experience as a consultant to the Swedish International Development Agency (Sida). Klas noted that many nations were collecting time use data for the first time but lacked the capacity to analyse this data in a way that was useful to policy-makers.
- Workshops were conducted in computer labs supplied the hosts and included hands-on analysis of real time use data. Four workshops were held in Beijing, New Delhi, Rio de Janeiro and Durban.
- A regional body of the United Nations – The Economic and Social Commission for Asia and Pacific (ESCAP) is funding a Web-publication edited by Maria Floro and myself, based on the Sida workshop material with the addition of some illustrative policy applications. Self-training will be perpetually available, to anyone, anywhere in the world who has the desire and commitment to build this capacity.
- As a result of these activities IATUR has extended its reach to every continent, expanding Szalai's achievement and influence. IATUR has consolidating the knowledge of time use held by national statistical offices and academics. **A great achievement, in a mere 40 years.**

