

# Is the feeling “rushed” contagious?

Timo Toivonen

University of Turku

A paper presented in 40<sup>th</sup> International Association for  
Time Use Research Conference Budapest October 24-  
24-26 2018

# Background

- Recently, the accelerating pace of life has been discussed as “time-squeeze society”, “speed-up society” “rushed society” etc. it was assumed that this is due, for instance, to multi-tasking, fragmentation of day into ever shorter periods and requirements to learn new things because of new information technologies.
- Inspiration for this presentation came from the article Sullivan, Oriel & Gershuny, Jonathan (2018) Speed-Up Society? Evidence from the UK 2000 and 2015 Time Use Diary Surveys. *Sociology* 2018, Vol. 52(1) 20–38.
- The main result of the above mentioned article was that the percentage of feeling always rushed has in fact **decreased** in UK between 2000 and 2015.

# Background c'd

- However, there are almost no studies on the possible importance of spousal influence on the feeling of being rushed, although it has been observed that in many activities spousal influence is an important factor.
- In general, the samples of of the most time use studies have been structural in the 2000s, i.e. consist all members of household aged 10 and over. However, this possibility has not been used very often in studies.

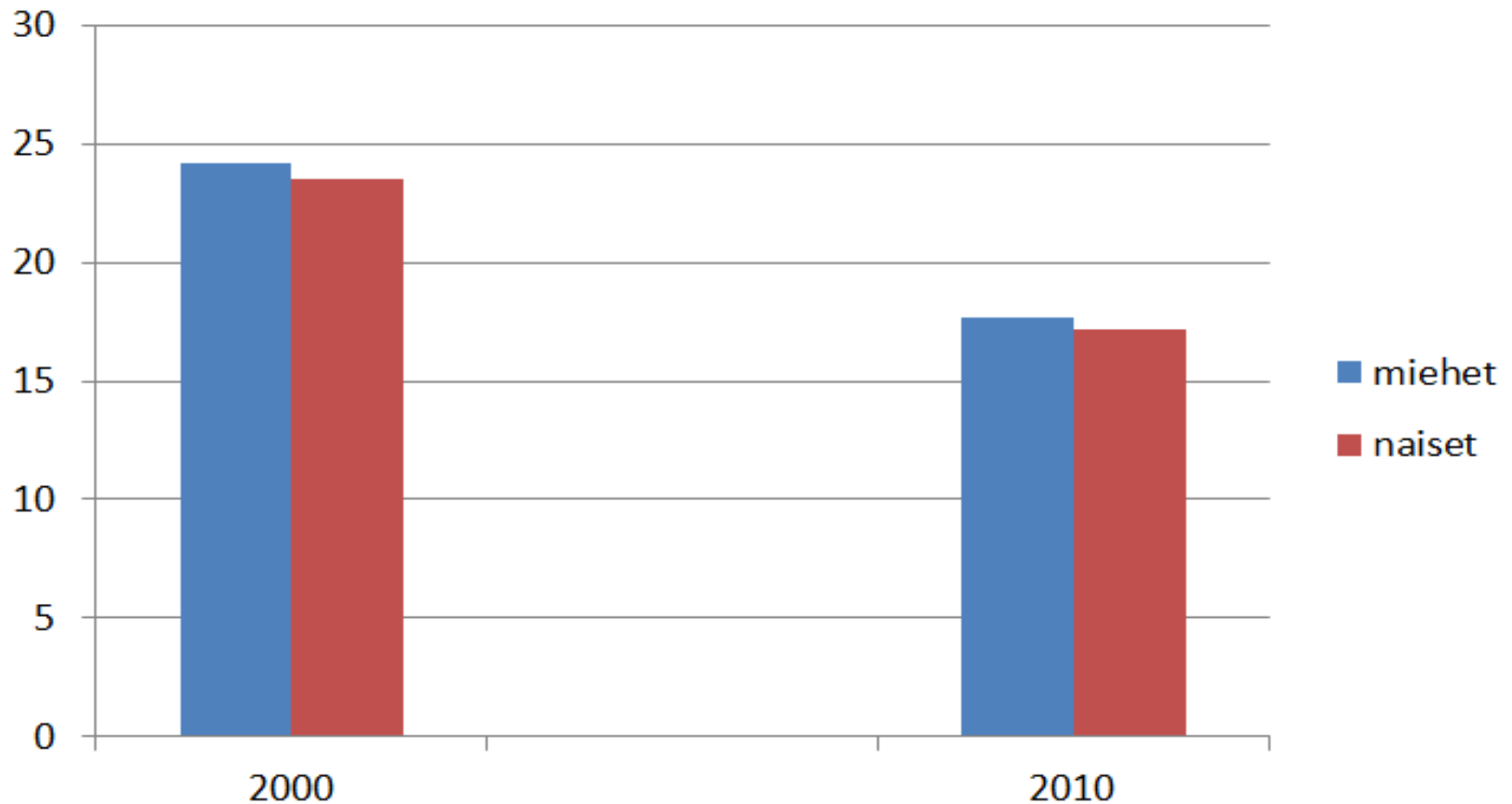
# Research questions

- Which is the significance spousal influence in feeling always rushed?
  - Females and males differently
- Which is the significance of sociodemographic factors?
  - Females and males differently

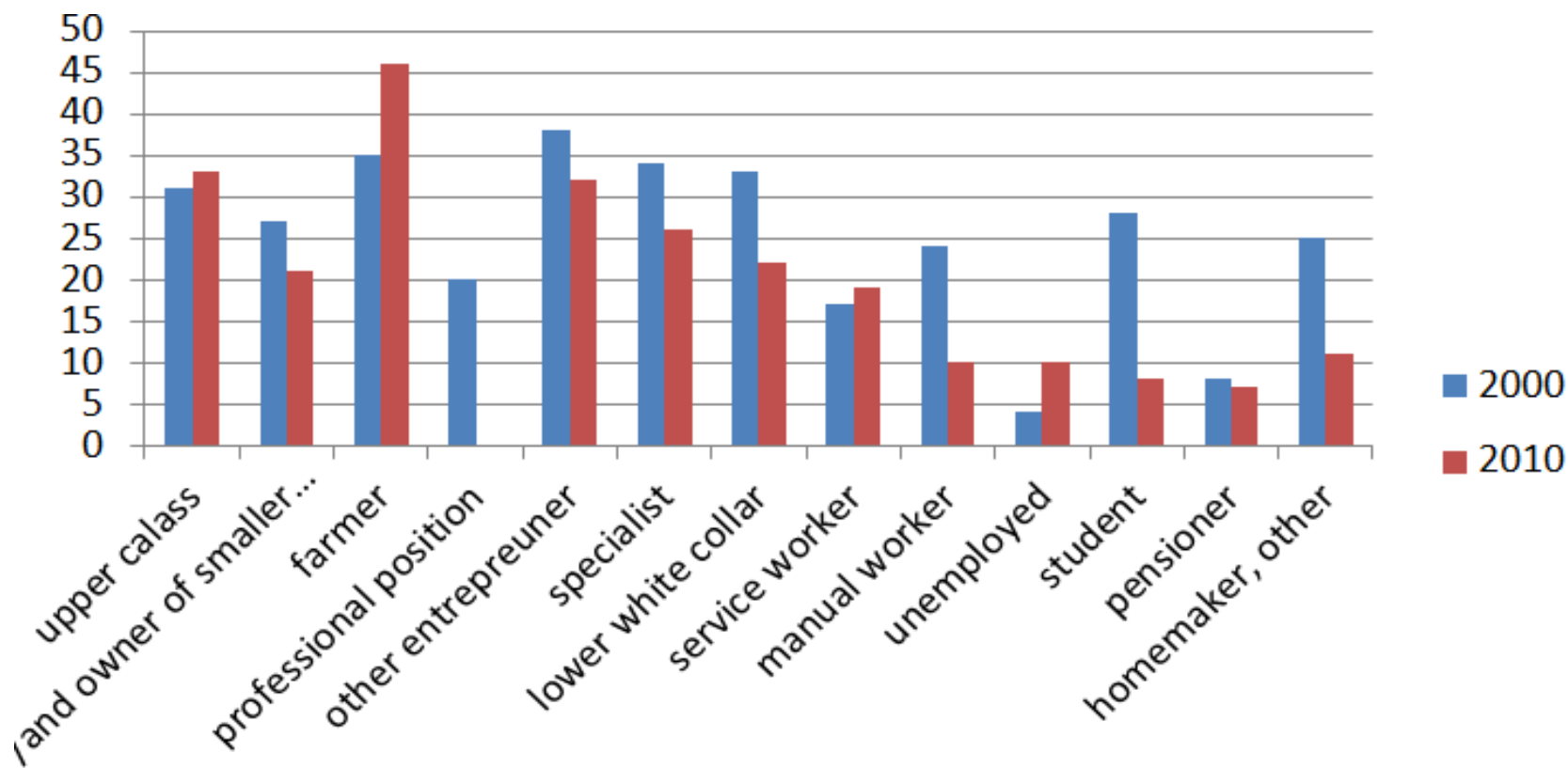
# Data

- Finnish Time Use Surveys from years 1999-2000 and 2009-2010
- Answers to the question: How often do you feel you are rushed?
  1. Never
  2. Now and then
  3. Always
- Heterosexual couples  $n = 2\ 655$

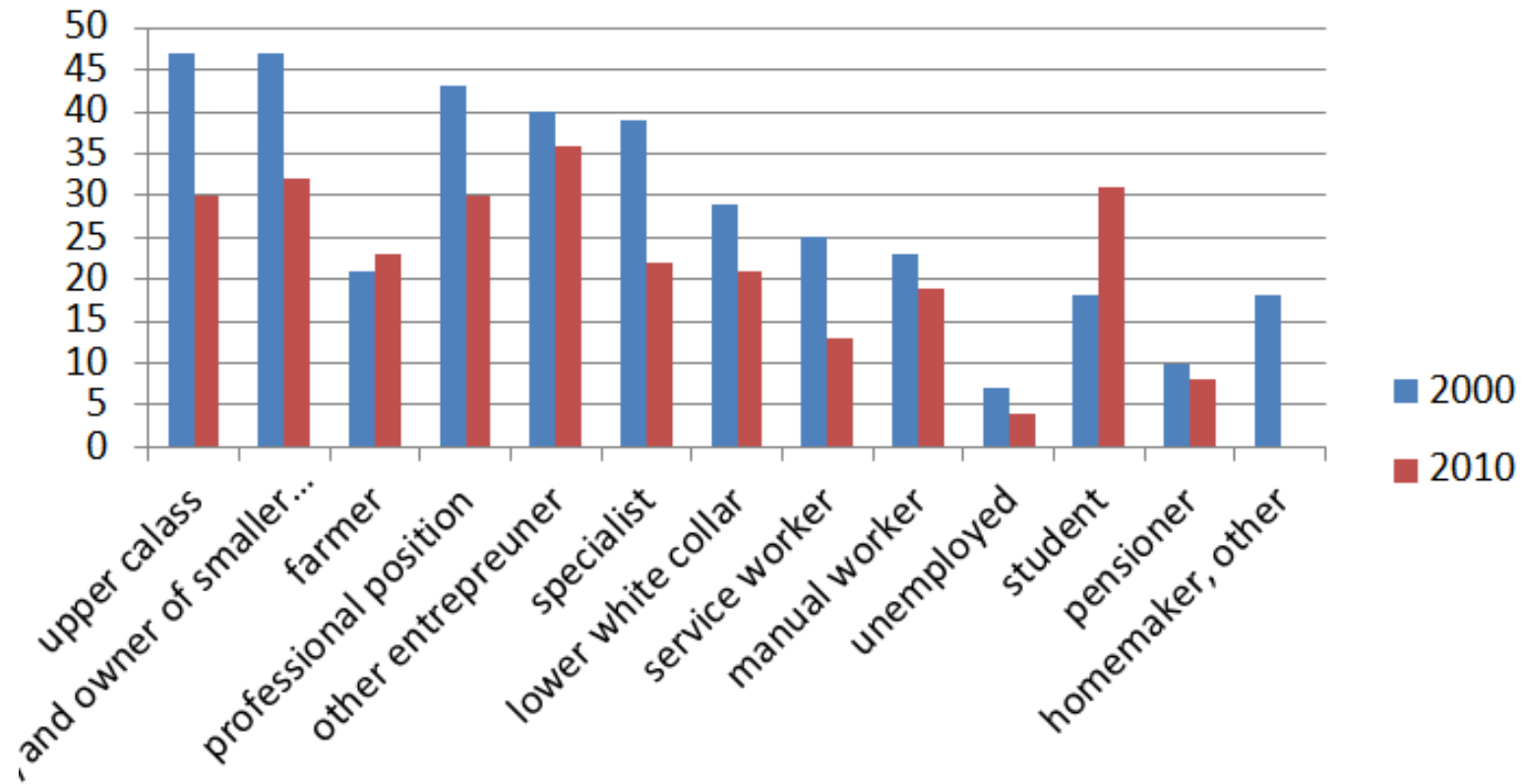
# The percentage of the feeling always rushed by gender



# Percentage of the feeling always rushed by socioeconomic position, females



# Percentage of the feeling always rushed by socioeconomic position, males





- Response rate in the 1999-2000 survey was 51.7 %, and in the 2009-2010 survey 59.4 %.
- So, the explanation of the drop in the percentage “feeling always rushed” cannot be that the most rushed people do not respond for the time use survey.

# The impact of year and spouse on feeling rushed on the feeling rushed. Linear models

	males		females	
	B	SD	B	SD
intercept	19.85***	5.56	9.62*	1.89
year	-.01***	.00	-.00	.00
SFR	.26***	.02	.22***	.02
100R <sup>2</sup>	6.1		5.7	

SFR = spouse feeling rushed (1=never, 2=now and then, 3=always)

- Spousal influence highly significant.
- No remarkable differences between males and females.
- The higher explanation percentage in the case of males is due to the decreasing feeling to be rushed between 2000 and 2010 among males.

# Spousal influence and sociodemographic factors on the feeling rushed. Linear models

	males		females	
	B	SD	B	SD
intercept	13.90**	5.23	5.57	4.93
year	-.01*	.00	-.00	.00
SFR	.16***	.02	.14***	.02
age squared	-.00***	.00	-.00***	.00
paid work	.00***	.00	.00***	.00
dom work	.00***	.00	.00**	.00
dir or/and ent	.29***	.04	.10*	.05
man worker	-.03	.03	-.04	.04
unemployed	-.38***	.06	-.40***	.05
100R <sup>2</sup>	19.2		13.2	

# Results 1

- Sociodemographic factors increase remarkable explanation percentages.
- The impact of age squared, time used on paid work and time used on domestic work is positive and very significant.
- The impact of unemployment is very significant and negative.
- The impact of membership in upper class on feeling rushed is stronger among males than females, why?
- But these socioeconomic factors does not eat away the impact of the spousal influence, because it is still statistically highly significant (at .001 level).

# The explanation of the spousal influence?

- Many studies have shown that individuals choose mates partly on the basis of similarity, homogenously.
- Same age, same socioeconomic position etc
- Therefore, also spouse feels to be rushed, or feelings correlate but correlation is only spurious?
- Therefore, corresponding sociodemographic factors of spouse were added to the Model.

# Results 2

- In both female and male cases sociodemographic factors of **spouse** do not increase explanation percentages, are not significant and do not eat impact of spouse feeling always rushed.
- The coefficient of males .16 and that of females .14 are exactly same as in the Model without sociodemographic factors of spouse .

# Discussion

- What is then the explanation, mental homogamy?