Using Passive Data to Supplement or Replace Survey Data

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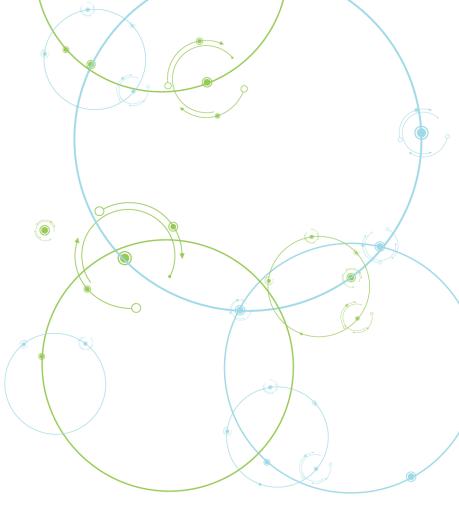




### **Book in Preparation**

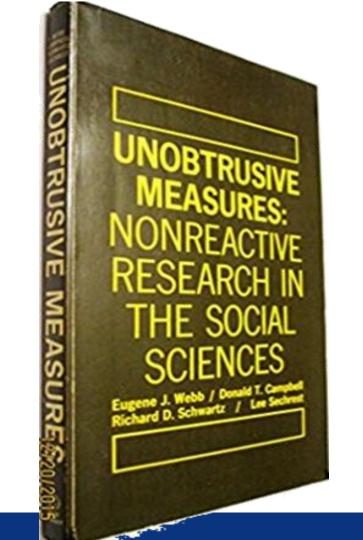
 Data Collection with Wearables, Apps, and Sensors

- Florian Keusch, University of Mannheim
- Bella Struminskaya, Utrecht University
- Heidi Guyer, RTI International



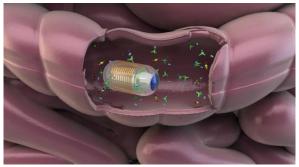
#### Passive Data – Macro Level

- Unobtrusive Measures:
   Nonreactive Research in the Social Sciences (1971)
- Drinking in dry town
- Popularity of museum exhibits
- Traffic counters



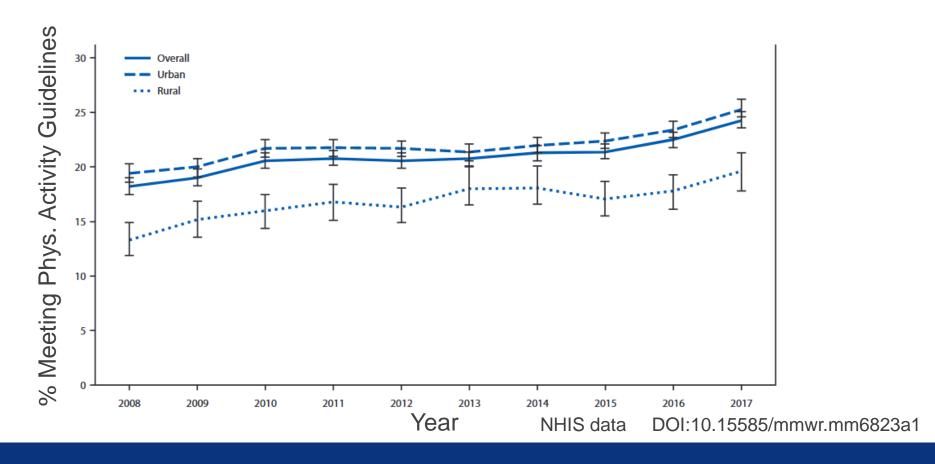
#### Passive Data – Micro Level







### US Adults Meeting Physical Activity Guidelines, by Year



### Comparison of Passive & Survey Measures

- Physical activity (NHIS 2017):
  - How often do you do VIGOROUS leisure-time physical activities for at least 10 minutes that cause heavy sweating or large increases in breathing or heart rate?

\_\_\_ times per day, per week, per month, or per year



Ubiquity myth



Ubiquity myth

Mobility misconception



Ubiquity myth

Mobility misconception

Passive fantasy



Ubiquity myth

Mobility misconception

Passive fantasy

Privacy is passé



- Ubiquity myth
- Mobility misconception
- Passive fantasy
- Privacy is passé
- Passive measurements are error free

#### **Surveys**

- Comprehension problems
- Motivated misreporting
- Socially desirability

#### **Passive Data**

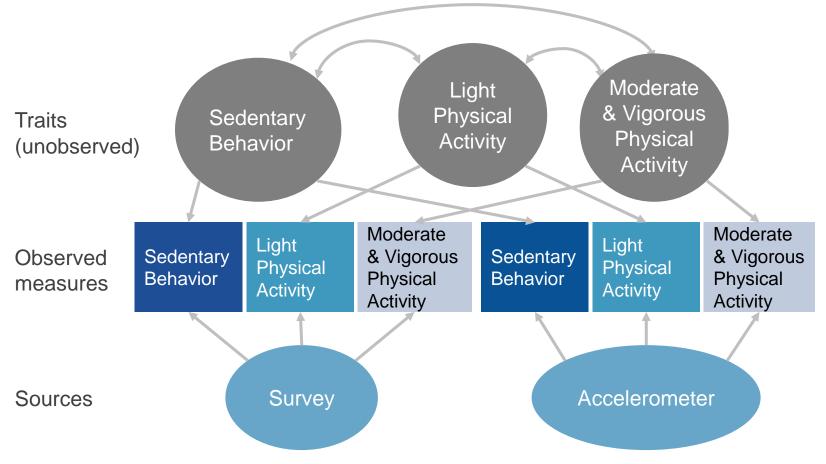
- · Battery died
- Use patterns
- Processing error



#### Comparison of Passive & Survey Measures

- Physical activity (NHIS 2017):
  - How often do you do VIGOROUS leisure-time physical activities for at least 10 minutes that cause heavy sweating or large increases in breathing or heart rate?



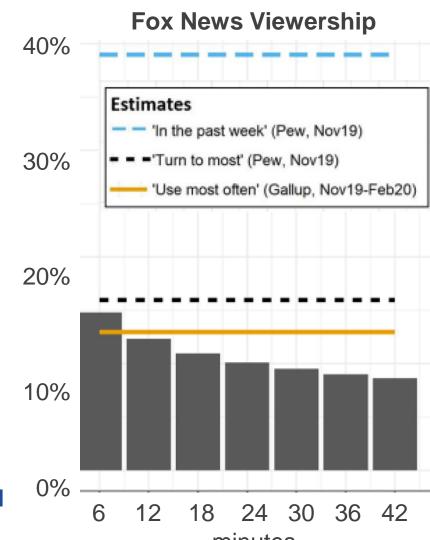


Adapted from Oberski et al JASA, 2017

### Comparison of Passive & Survey

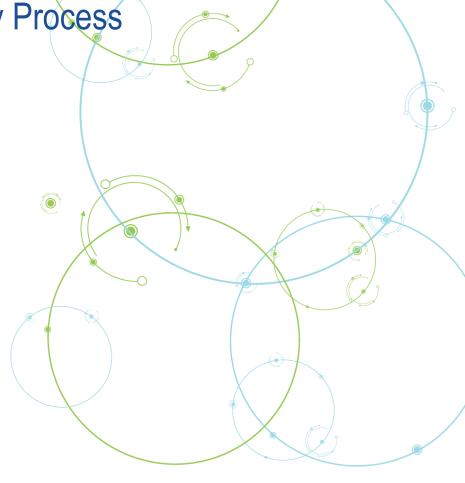
- o News consumption:
  - Please click on all of the sources that you got political and election news from in the past week (Pew)
  - What news source do you turn to most often for political and election news? (Pew)
  - Please write the name of the specific news source you use most often (Gallup)
- Passive sources: Nielsen TV panel

Konitzer et al POQ, 2021



Passive Data Affects Entire Survey Process

- Sampling
  - Passive data often naturally longitudinal
  - May see more longitudinal studies
- Data Processing
  - Passive data often big data
  - Raw or pre-processed



#### Conclusion

# Short run: supplement surveys with passive data

- Combine surveys and passive measures
- Preserve trends

# Long run: replace some measures with passive data

- Much more research needed:
  - Measurement
  - Consent
  - Sampling
  - Processing

## **Thank You**

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# Thank You, Lasse!

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