



“You say *Household* and I say *Ménage*”

« Vous dites *Household* et moi je dis *Ménage* »

Éva Lelièvre (LiLi & HH-MM)

Sara Randall (HH-MM)

# AIMS of the day

Bring together 2 research teams (HH-MM and LiLi)  
+ ONS researchers to discuss / identify:

- **emerging issues** around households in UK and France
- **differences and similarities** in the ways that terms *ménage / household* are used AND operationalised in UK and France
- **ways** the concepts can accommodate ‘difficult’ populations AND the extent to which the ways these ‘difficult’ populations are harmonized / comparable between the two countries
- **gaps** in knowledge and understanding future research directions and brain-storm research projects and collaborations to follow on from HH\_MM and LiLi

# AIMS of the day

Bring together 2 research teams (HH-MM and LiLi)  
+ ONS researchers to:

Foster creative discussion.....

Focus on:

brainstorming / ideas / concerns

Think about ways forward...future research

# ménage

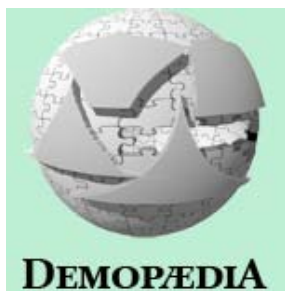
DICTIONNAIRE  
DE LA  
LANGUE FRANÇAISE

PAR E. LITTRÉ  
DE L'ACADÉMIE FRANÇAISE

*mesnage* XIIIe, d'apr. a. fr. *maisnie* « famille » (lat. pop. ° *mansionata*, du class. *mansio* « maison »);

*manage* v. 1150, de l'a. v. *manoir*, lat. *manere* « demeurer, séjourner »

1. L'ordre et la dépense d'une maison, ou, dans le langage scientifique, **l'économie domestique**.
2. Ensemble de plats, de vases, **d'ustensiles** de cuisine et autres, nécessaires...
3. Soins qu'on donne à l'arrangement et à la **propreté** des meubles d'un appart.
4. Conduite économique tenue dans **l'administration des biens**, de l'argent.
5. **Toutes les personnes dont une famille est composée.**
6. **L'association d'un homme et d'une femme mariés ensemble.**



\* Note: le mot **ménage** est souvent synonyme de **couple marié** (501-8) dans le langage courant, p. ex. dans les expressions : jeune ménage, vieux ménage, ménage sans enfant, **faux ménage** (503-4\*), **en ménage** (d°), **ménage dissocié** (512-7).

To live in a union

Living Apart Together

Unmarried cohabiting couple



Editions : Bordeaux Grenoble Lille Lyon Marseille Montpellier Nantes Nice Paris Rennes Strasbourg Toulouse France



## Scènes de ménage chez les sans-abri

Publié le 31 janvier 2007.

**LOGEMENT - La propreté est une bataille du quotidien pour Les Enfants de Don Quichotte. Avec une soixantaine de tentes, le camp prend des allures de village**

La propreté est une bataille du quotidien pour Les Enfants de Don Quichotte, quai Jacques Sturm. Avec une soixantaine de tentes, le camp prend désormais des allures de village dans la ville. Et si des palettes et quelques débris jonchent le sol, l'ensemble est plutôt bien tenu. « On martèle l'importance de garder le site

- A domestic quarrel in the street?

**NO**

- An article about **clean housekeeping** in a village of 60 tents for the homeless set up by the charity «Les enfants de Don Quichotte »...

# Household

1. a. The inhabitants of a house considered collectively; a group of people (esp. a family) **living together as a unit**; a domestic establishment (including any servants, attendants, etc.). (since 1377)
  - b. *spec.* With *the*. Freq. with capital initial. A royal or imperial household.
2. The action of maintaining a house or family; housekeeping; domestic economy. (*since 1388*)
3. The contents or appurtenances of a house considered collectively; household goods or furniture. (*since 1420*)

## **Then lots of uses as compound**

- With the sense ‘of belonging to a household, appropriate to the household’, as household furniture, household pet, household utensil, etc.
- With the sense ‘used or intended for use in a household context’, as household bleach, household coal, household flour, household soap, etc
- With the sense ‘performed or carried on within the household; domestic’, as household chore, household task, household work, etc

Firefox  
Staff WTS 2010 - Citrix XenApp Plugins for Hosted Apps  
Homelessness jumps by 14% in a year | Society | The Guardian - Windows Internet Explorer  
http://www.guardian.co.uk/society/2012/mar/08/homelessness-jumps-repossession-unemployment  
Homelessness jumps by 14% in a year | Society | The...

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# Homelessness jumps by 14% in a year

Almost 50,000 households across England accepted as homeless as repossession rates and unemployment rise

**Simon Rogers**  
guardian.co.uk, Thursday 8 March 2012 13.05 GMT  
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Guardian: 8<sup>th</sup> March 2012

Across England, 48,510 households were accepted as homeless by local authorities in 2011, according to [figures published by the Department for Communities and Local Government on Thursday](#).

The data shows 69,460 children or expected children are in homeless households, with three-quarters of the households accepted containing children.



# Rules for harmonisation

1. Find a common definition of what is to be measured
2. Make sure that this common definition works in each of the countries surveyed .....
3. Find a word that represents (more or less) that concept in the local language
  - Herein lies the problem
4. Decide whether the variable of interest should be measured by the same instrument in every country or culture (***input harmonisation***) or whether it should be measured using country or culture specific instruments which would yield data which are harmonised after data collection (***output harmonisation***)

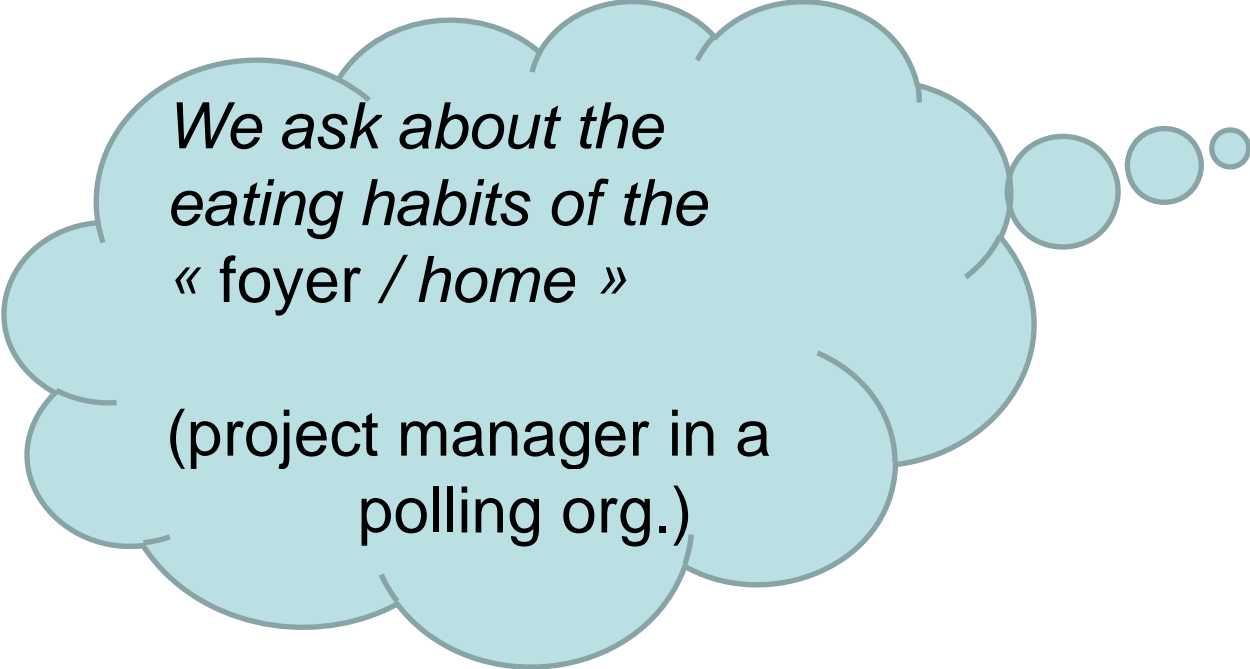
# Qualitative interviews with key informants

- The *ménage* of *data analysts* and *users*

a 'guideline' }  
a 'reality' } tension

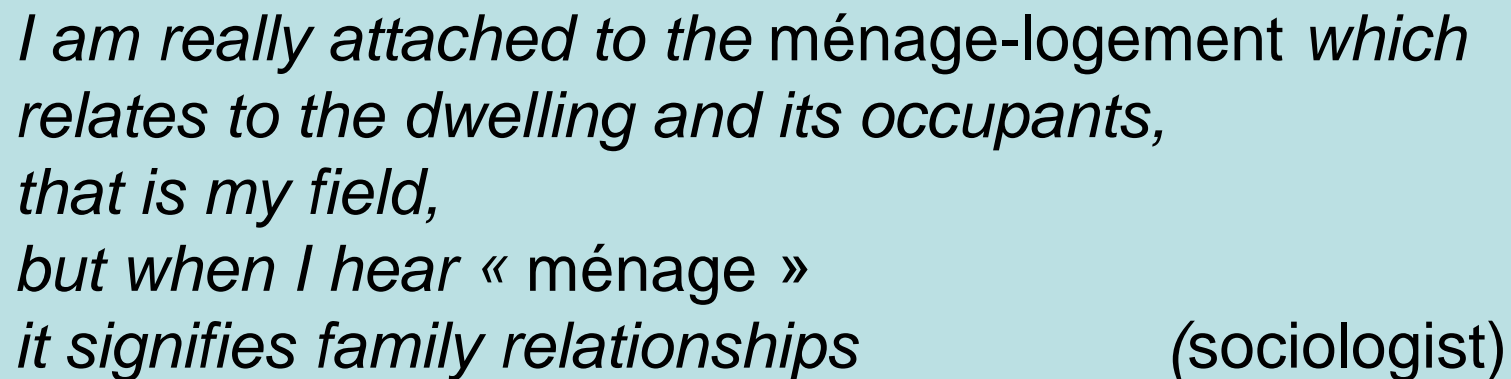
« one simple definition » satisfies no-one

*Insee provides the measure of the ménage-logement  
what I am really interested in is the ménage-budget...  
so as long as they accept that  
**we** belong to more than **one** ménage  
it is ok for me!* (demographer)



*We ask about the  
eating habits of the  
« foyer / home »*

*(project manager in a  
polling org.)*



*I am really attached to the ménage-logement which  
relates to the dwelling and its occupants,  
that is my field,  
but when I hear « ménage »  
it signifies family relationships* (sociologist)

*We have no use for the  
« ménage-logement » !  
We take into account the  
ties/relationships a person  
has: la notion de groupe*

*(Homeless NGO chargé  
d'études)*

*The allowances vary depending on the  
**dossier allocataire** which is built around  
**mothers** mostly, taking into account either  
the matrimonial status, the dwelling  
occupancy, the mother's activity,  
sometimes the age of the children  
depending on the kind of stipend*

*(CAF –Family Allowances Admin. Officer)*

# Data producers UK

Tension between

Accommodation and sharing SPACE

Catering and sharing BUDGET

and in the UK actually the most critical thing is whether or not you share some common living space

...

... that isn't the kitchen ...

ONS

by default we would tend to follow whatever the ONS line is at any given time, but of course you've got essentially a catering definition on the one hand and accommodation based definition on the other and they get complicated at the margins when you get into things like housing surveys.

*Natcen*

If you've got something like say a complicated situation of flat sharing students, they might very well all cook for themselves individually but if they sat down in front of the telly of an evening in a shared living room they were a single household.

*Natcen*

Even just accommodation is not that simple.....

And actually the survey of British housing was a survey of households and the accommodation that they lived in and the English house conditions survey was essentially a sample of dwellings and whether or not they were occupied, and they don't quite meet up you know.

*Natcen*

People who ....share ...the accommodation can make quite a bit of difference to something like the family expenditure survey I think, which was very much interested in... catering units stuck to the old definition of the household through thick and thin for quite a long time after lots of other surveys had switched to an accommodation sharing basis. But that became interesting on something like the family resources survey when you were interested really in benefit units, in other words groups of people who were units entitled ...NATCEN

So it might actually be about, meeting needs or about resources. So for example, my daughter lives in London and studying... in some ways, she is certainly part of my household finance so even if she is not actually part of it.

I: She is part of your economic unit.

RES: Economic unit yes exactly.  
(professional understanding different from personal)

Household are defined um... , almost by the dwelling in terms of sharing living quarters and perhaps a sit-down meal and not having locked doors between, within the properties

*Department Work and Pensions*

When it comes to USERS or the actual REALITY of people ....

What does the census / survey household really say?

if you have a child in the household according to these rules, then they have got to be in a family with somebody else in the household

*Department Work and Pensions*

A non-standard household, like it's a student, a group of students are they 4 students living at home? Are they 4 households or 1 household? And you can think about all sorts of...yeah, do they commonly cook together? That might define it more as a household, commonly cook, commonly share bills

Department for Energy & climate change

...is the best measure we have, because... if you went up from households you would be kind of looking at, kind of, streets. And that doesn't make any sense cos' there's no decision maker attached to that and if you went down to the individual level, well actually they've got to make, most of the decision that we really need them to make are decisions about the fabric of their building, whether they change their heating source, whether they as a...whether they as a household as a family unit, however you define that, change their...change the amount of time they have their heating on, or how high they have they have their thermostat up so...actually if go you either smaller or bigger it doesn't really...

Department for Energy & climate change



# When it comes to

*Le ménage au quotidien* / the everyday HH

the objective of the collection  
the respondent understanding } worlds apart

- *You are not a ménage* ! Travellers, bargee, gypsies ...
- *Conflicts of interest*: the 'feasibility' to declare certain occupant/situations
- *Conflicts of interest*: the 'desirability' to declare others