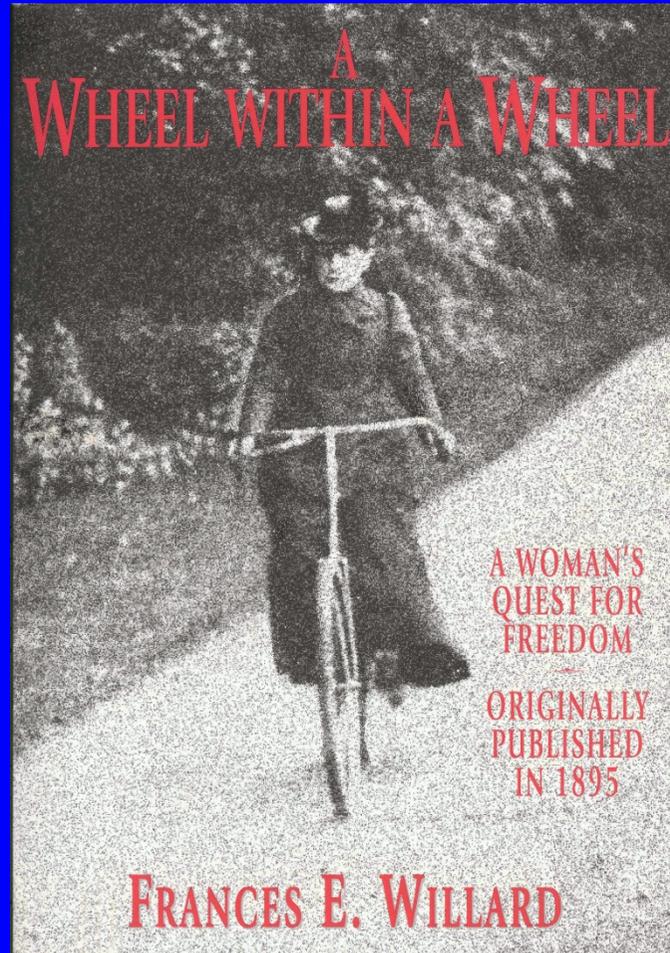


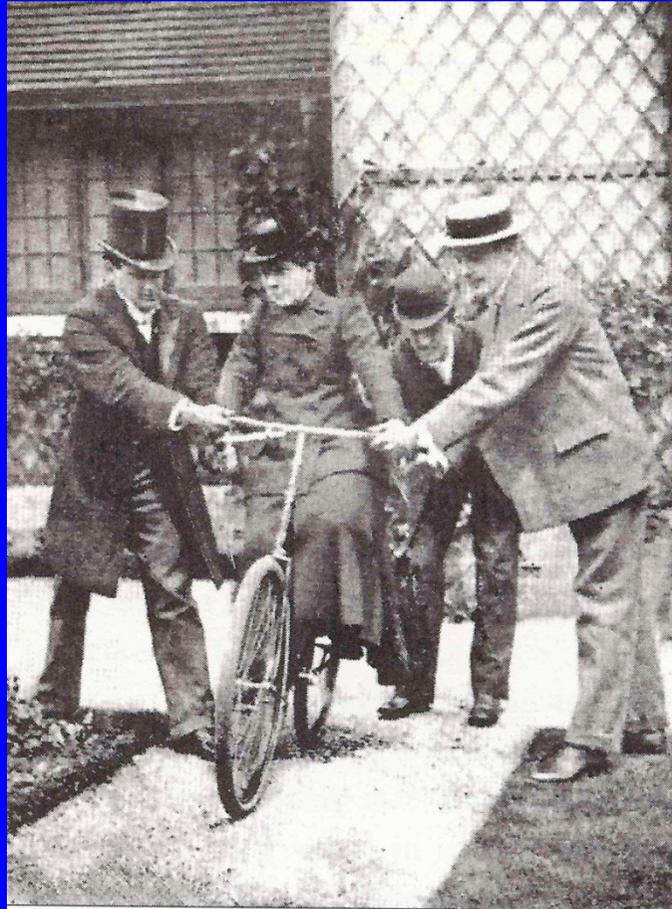
Gender and Mobility

Implications for Sustainability

Suffragette meets bicycle



Why master this machine?



A LACK OF BALANCE.

So much more than mobility!



"AT LAST."

Mobility

- People
- Essential to daily life
- Central to energy consumption, carbon emissions, settlement patterns → Sustainability

Mobility

- Embedded in household/family, neighborhood/ community, larger society
- Importance of social and geographic context

Gender

- Not just a binary variable
- Based in perceived differences...
- Signifies unequal power relations based in those perceived differences

Gender

process through which differences based on presumed biological sex are defined, imagined, and become significant in specific contexts (Andrea Nightingale)

Gender

- Develops through everyday practices in place
- Varies from place to place
- Importance of social and geographic context

Gender

Alternate (structural) view:
an innate source of fixed, universal
male/ female difference



Sustainability

- The 7 generations principle
- 3 dimensions
 - Environmental
 - Economic
 - Social justice/ equity
- Dependent on context

Context

- Place/ time specificity
- Geography matters!
- e.g., Geneva vs Zurich

Overview/ Bare bones argument

- Large literature on gender and mobility
- BUT, not useful for sustainable transport (ST)...literature is divided
- Women's travel looks more like ST than men's

Overview/ Bare bones argument

- But we don't know why; don't know how to interpret
- Reason: lack context-specific understanding
- Need to address these gaps to inform ST policy

Overview/ Bare bones argument

- Will require synthesizing along 3 lines
 - Gender and mobility
 - Quantitative and qualitative
 - Across places
- Make context central; how to do this

Basic division within literature

1. **Mobility** → **Gender**? How does mobility shape gender?
2. **Gender** → **Mobility**? How does gender shape mobility?

(Mobility) → Gender?

How do patterns of mobility/
immobility create, reinforce, and
disrupt gender norms?



Mobility at core of traditional gender ideologies

Women = home, the private, domestic spaces, restricted mobility (the quotidian, familiar, routine)

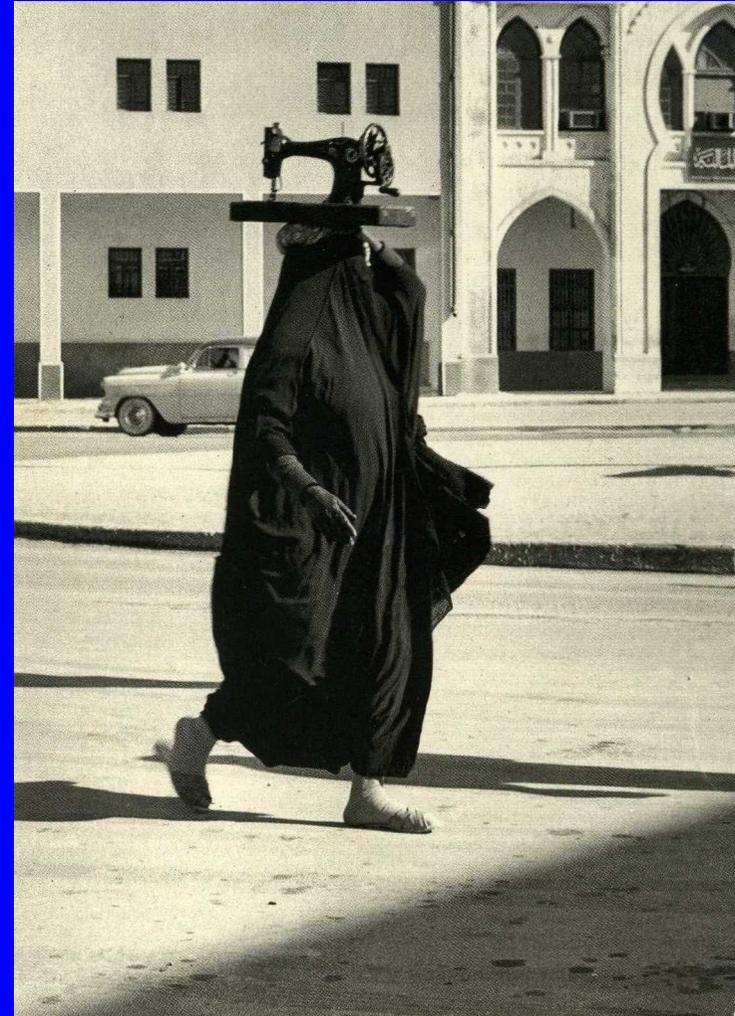
Men = not-home, public, urban spaces, extensive mobility (excitement, the new/unknown, risk, personal growth)

Mobility empowers



"IT'S DOGGED AS DOES IT."

Yorkshire Proverb.



Mobility as empowering

Denial of mobility is used to oppress women, keep women in their place

On the other hand...Mobility
not necessarily empowering

Long bus ride
to a low-wage
job



In sum -- (Mobility) → Gender?

- Emphasizes **gender** to neglect of mobility
- Mostly qualitative studies
- Emphasizes social and cultural contexts (less re spatial)
- Does delve into meanings

(Gender) → Mobility?

- Most studies are from Europe or Anglo world
- Gender simple M/F



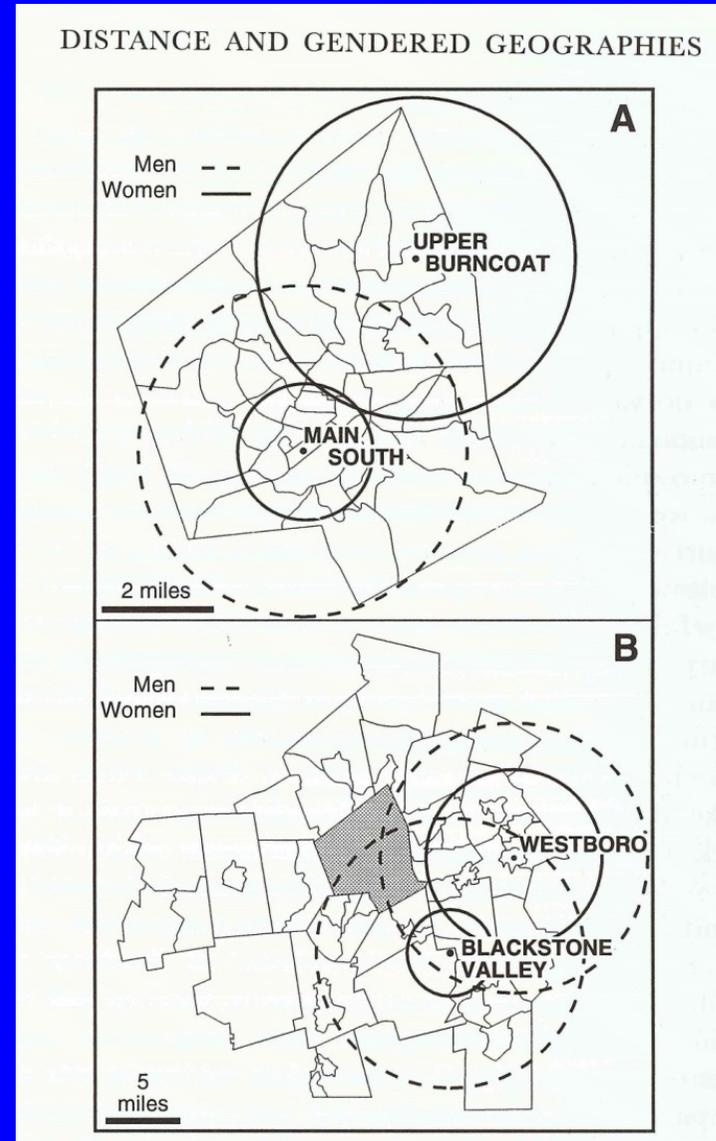
(Gender) → **Mobility?**

Types of data (quantitative)

- National samples; little about context
- Travel-activity diaries—usually for one metro area

Big Generalization

Women's
spatial range
is smaller
than men's



More evidence for the Big Generalization

- Less likely to have mobile workplace or extreme commutes (> 90 minutes)
- Less overnight travel for business
- Start businesses closer to home
- True for kids too

(Gender) → mobility

Women more likely
to run errands,
serve
passengers (!),
link trips



The Big Generalization challenged

- By studies that disaggregate the population by race/ ethnicity
- By recent studies of certain places (Quebec; Bay Area)

(Gender) → **Mobility**

- Big Generalization re women's spatial containment
- Countervailing evidence re specific times, places, groups → importance of context

(Gender) → **Mobility?**

What about causes? How *does* **Gender** affect mobility?

Measures of gendered processes are over-simplified or absent

(Gender) → Mobility?

- For example, measures of ‘intra-household social relations’
 - Marital status
 - Number of children at home

In sum -- (Gender) → **Mobility**

- Emphasizes **mobility** to neglect of gender
- Mostly quantitative approaches
- Sees context mainly as urban spatial structure and built environment
- Ignores identities & meanings

Synthesizing for Sustainability



Synthesizing for sustainability

- Shared view of women's greater spatial containment
- Interpreted as less mobility not good
- Because we lack contextualized knowledge re choice vs constraint

Gender, mobility & sustainability



Women's mobility looks more like sustainable transport (ST)

- Travel shorter distances; activities more local
- Use car less, public transit & walk more

Gender, mobility & sustainability

- → Women contribute fewer VMT (VKT)
- Reducing VMT (VKT) as ST goal?

Gender, mobility, & sustainability

Two Problems

(1) Linkage of women's mobility to ST along two dimensions

- Environmental
- Economic

What about social (equity)?

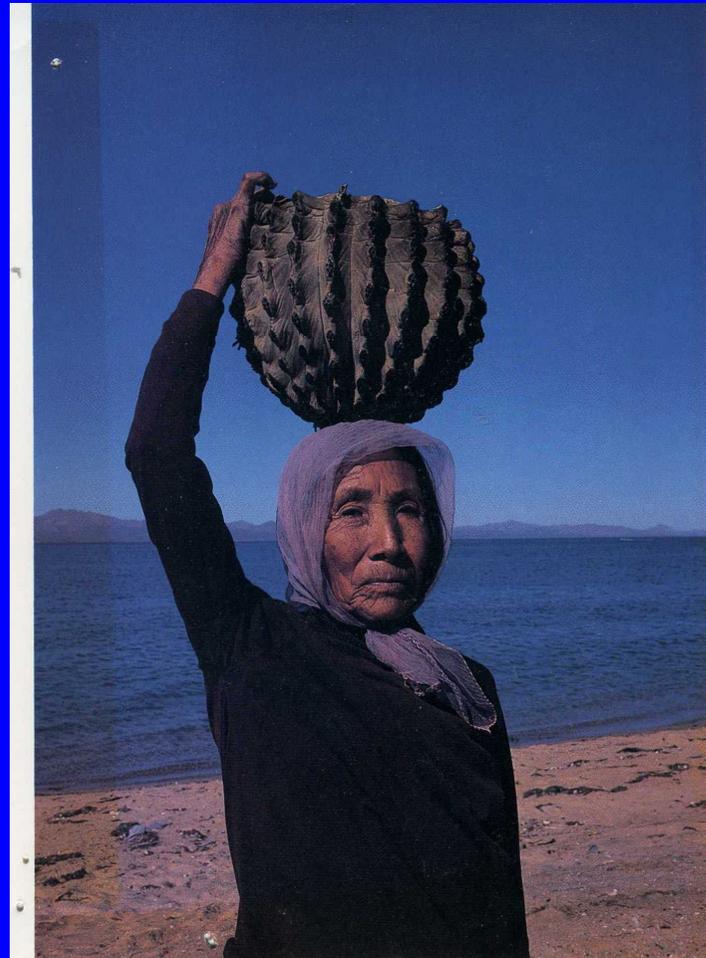
Gender, mobility, & sustainability

(2) How to assess the gendered social/equity dimension of ST?

- Choice or constraint (When? Where?)
- Empowering or oppressive? (When? Where?)

Gender, mobility, & sustainability

Need to complicate things



Gender, mobility, & sustainability

Answering these questions very tricky

–Issues of identity and meaning

AND

–Details re mobility patterns

Because of split in the literature, at present no answers

Gender, mobility, & sustainability

Example: How to reduce VKT?

- Increase vehicle occupancy
- Reduce number/ length of trips
- Shift to transit, bike, or walk
- Change land use patterns

Gender, mobility, & sustainability

- Poor understanding of how different groups of people change their mobility practices in response to changing circumstances
- → Currently lack knowledge re potential policy impacts

Gender, mobility, & sustainability

To move toward sustainability:

- **Gender...and**
- **Mobility...as embedded in...**
- **Social, cultural, and spatial context**

How to do this?

Need in-depth, place-based,
contextualized studies (qual & quant)

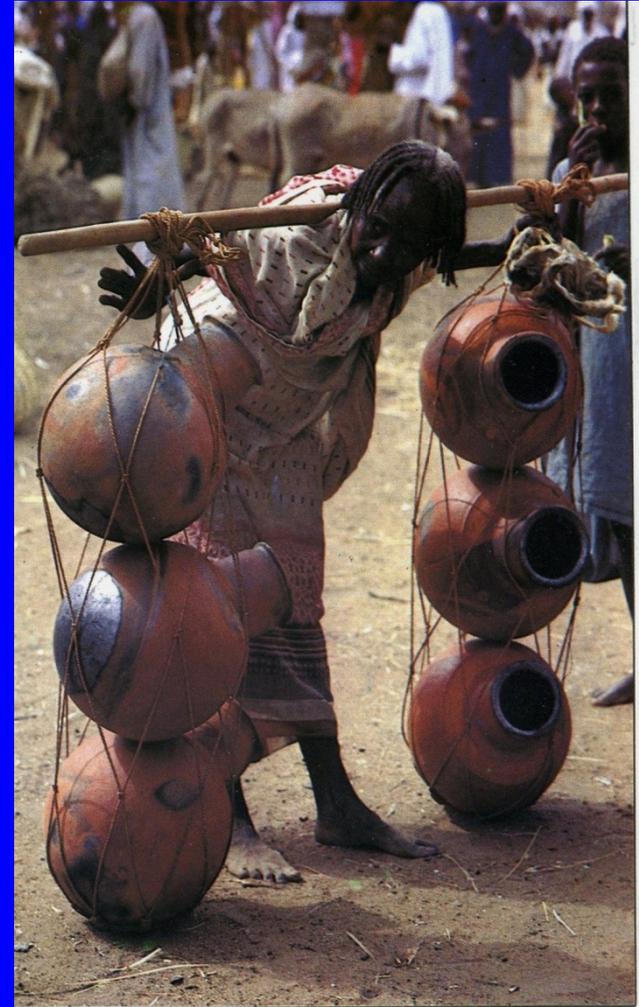
How to pull these together to sort out
general and specific?

How to do this?

Goal: insights that are...

- contextualized *and*
- (somewhat) portable

Need studies that take
context seriously



What aspects of context...?

- Household/ family/ social networks
- Geographic context at various scales
- Cultural norms/ expectations
- Institutions



How to make sense of disparate studies...?

- Make context **central** to analysis
- Link details about context to details about gender and mobility →
 - Improved understanding/ explanation
 - Easier links to policy

Concluding thoughts & questions

- Masculine mobility all that desirable?
- Equity questions remain
- ...and remain cloudy, unknown

Concluding thoughts & questions

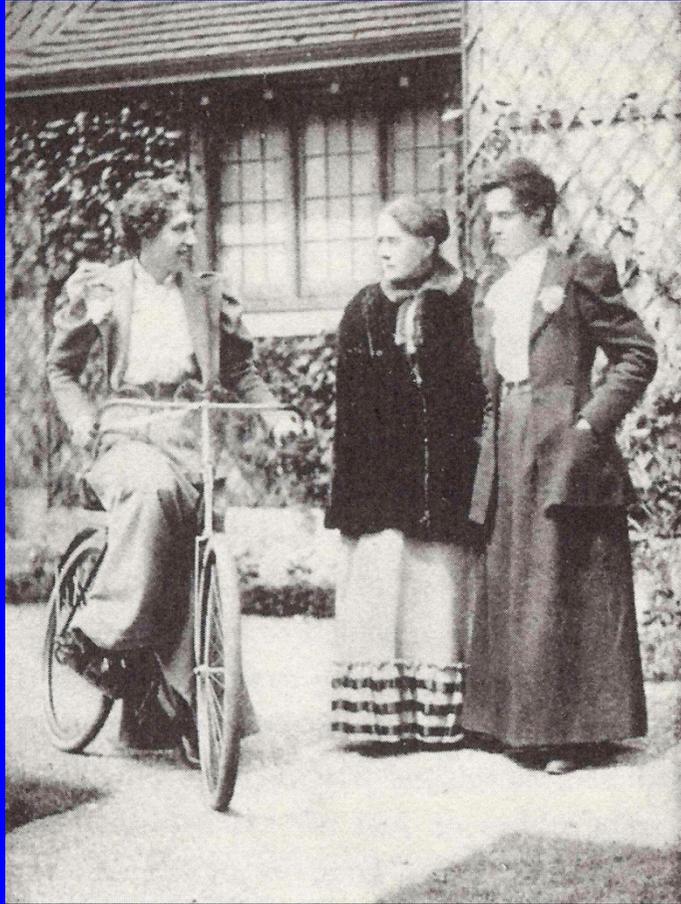
Need studies that bring together...

- the two strands; **Mobility and Gender**
- quantitative & qualitative approaches
- context-sensitive studies from different places

Concluding thoughts & questions

- **Mobility → Gender:** How can [sustainable] mobility be an agent of change in gender relations?
- **Gender → Mobility:** How can gender be an agent of change toward sustainable mobility?

Ride on!



"SO EASY—WHEN YOU KNOW HOW."

