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FROM SUN TO SUN - DAILY OBLIGATIONS AND COMMUNITY STRUCTURE IN THE LIVES OF EMPLOYED WOMEN AND THEIR FAMILIES - MICHELSON,W

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From Data to Data

William Michelson
From Sun to Sun: Daily Obligations and Community Structure in the Lives of Employed Women and Their Families
Totowa, NJ: Rowman & Allanheld, 1985. 227 pp. \$28.95

Review by
Denise D. Bielby

William Michelson is professor of sociology at the University of Toronto. ■ Denise D. Bielby is lecturer in the Department of Sociology at the University of California, Santa Barbara. She has been a visiting scholar at the Center for Research on Women at Stanford University and her research focuses on men's and women's commitment to work and family.

According to the author, *From Sun to Sun* is the study of maternal employment approached as a "problematique." Viewed as such, maternal employment can be analyzed broadly in a multidimensional way "... without casting aspersion on the phenomenon itself" (p. 3). The author, therefore, views maternal employment as a phenomenon worthy of detailed scrutiny but not as a problem per se.

Inspired by questions about the kinds of lives children lead when both parents decide to work, the author examines the positive and negative life-style consequences when mothers, both married and single, take outside employment. More specifically, the project on which this book is based sought "to assess, in as great detail as possible, the linkages among women's everyday commitments, their resultant patterns of activities, what others in their families do and experience in consequence, and what personal outcomes and problems occur in given contexts" (p. xvi). With funding from Canada's Ministry of National Health and Welfare, a survey of 544 metropolitan Toronto families with children was conducted as part of a multiphase research project in 1980. Most of the data were generated through time-use questionnaires, administered to all family mem-

bers simultaneously (in modified form for young children) and completed in the presence of the interviewer, that asked the respondent to detail the previous day's activities. Records covered a 24-hour weekday. Methodological care was taken to ensure reliability; for example, 91% of both husbands and wives of the 434 two-parent families studied completed time-use protocols. Subjective items also were included in the survey to measure perceived stress, tension, and compulsion about various activities.

The results presented in this book are a blend of old facts and new colorations that, if nothing else, capture the balancing act employed mothers perform every day. Counseling and social psychologists will be especially interested in some of the major findings. We learn, for example, that although single mothers lack a partner to assume household responsibility, they mobilize personal resources to compensate at least partially for the lack of one. On the other hand, the author "re-discovers" that spouses add significant time to household labor, and so there are benefits accrued in the form of labor saved by the absence of a partner. We also learn that subjectively perceived time pressures and tensions are no greater among single working mothers. In other chapters we are informed that although full-time employment dramatically reduces time available for housework, perceived time pressures, tensions, and satisfactions do not always vary as expected by employment status (full time or part time or not in the labor force). But without tests of statistical significance, it is impossible to discern how reliable the differences really are. Elsewhere in the book, the author reports findings on the use of time by children of working mothers. Reported sex differences in, for example, use of friends' homes should interest developmental psychologists, but the results are not linked to conceptual issues.

Unfortunately, most analyses in this volume never rise above the level of description, although this is a common problem in research based on time-use data. Simple bivariate relations are endlessly reported, and findings begin to run together. This situation is aggravated by the absence of a conceptual model to guide questions and to interpret answers. Consequently, despite its approach to maternal employment as a problematique, this book offers little in the way of theoretical insight. Curiously absent is any reference to, or use of, Hartmann's (1981) article based on time-use data for

an analysis of the relations among gender, class, and housework. Without sufficient theoretical interpretation and explanation, the interesting findings that do exist in *From Sun to Sun* are nearly impossible to locate and use.

In sum, for those new to the topic of maternal employment and household labor, this book describes the complexity of a working mother's life. It makes a far more limited contribution to those already conducting research in this area.

Reference

Hartmann, H. (1981). The family as the locus of gender, class, and political struggle: The example of housework. *Signs*, 6, 365-394.

Crisis Intervention: Two Very Different Approaches

James E. Hendricks
Crisis Intervention: Contemporary Issues for On-Site Interveners
Springfield, IL: Charles C Thomas, 1985. 216 pp. \$24.75

Lee Ann Hoff
People in Crisis: Understanding and Helping (2nd ed.)
Menlo Park, CA: Addison-Wesley, 1984. 411 pp. \$18.95 paperback

Review by
Charles Patrick Ewing

James E. Hendricks is on leave from the Department of Criminal Justice and Criminology at Ball State University (Indiana) and currently chief deputy of the Delaware County (Indiana) Police Department and president of the National Academy of Crisis Interveners. ■ Lee Ann Hoff is chief certification examiner of the American Association of Suicidology. The first edition of this book won the American Journal of Nursing Book of the Year Award (1979). ■ Charles Patrick Ewing is associate professor of law and psychology at the State University of New York at Buffalo and author of *Crisis Intervention as Psychotherapy*.

Although each of these books is about crisis intervention, they really have very little in common. *Crisis Intervention* is, by the author's own account, directed primarily at "criminal justice personnel" (p. vii). *People in Crisis*, on the other hand, is aimed at a much wider audience,