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"Households: Changing Forms and Functions", *Households Comparative and Historical Studies of the Domestic Group*, ured. R. McC. Netting, R. R. Wilk i E. J. Arnould. Berkeley: University of California Press, str. 1-28.

AN ETHNOLOGIST'S APPROACH TO STUDYING HOUSEHOLDS FROM QUANTITATIVE SOURCES

SUMMARY

The author has integrated theoretical considerations and methodological advice and applied them to a set of Croatian data on households. Critical propositions of the interpretive model used are:

1.) Different census takers have different classificatory systems of households (proposition taken from the above mentioned literature, especially Berkner, Hammel and Verdon).

2) Differences between their classificatory systems of households stem from the different concepts of the household that census takers hold.

3) Concepts, furthermore, depend on which function (production, reproduction, consumption, transmission, coresidence, etc., see Verdon, Wilk and Netting) of the household a census taker chooses as focal to his interests.

4) The function chosen as dominant depends on the purpose of the enumeration (e.g. tax, economic, residential etc.).

5) The same purpose can result in a different household list depending on the way this purpose is organized and realised (e.g. two lists made for tax purposes which differ in the way of levying tax may result in a different number of households).

6) The level of administration at which the list is drawn up also has an influence on the result insofar as we may assume that a local administrator has a better overview of households.

7) Finally and on a more general level the functioning of administration - its objectivity, efficiency, and accuracy - has an impact on the result of enumeration. Also informants can provide false information.

It is evident from this model that a knowledge of the context in which a document was made is crucial for the interpretation of the document especially if criteria for the delineation of households are not made explicit in the document. Contextualization implies both socio-historical and ethnographic investigation. It is also evident that a larger numerous documents from different sources are preferable.

The application of the model to a set of Croatian data on households - about the 18th century estate of Cernik, and the use of ethnographic information has enabled the author to analyze and compare different sources about households - county tax lists, estate corvée lists and church lists. She has hypothesized that estate corvée lists actually report the number of economic units while tax county and church lists report residential units.