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When you are born matters: An age-period-cohort analysis of multimodality

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Abstract

Multimodality – the behavioural phenomenon of using multiple modes of transport – has been suggested to be a useful indicator of an individual’s willingness to adopt more sustainable transport alternatives. Analysing temporal patterns in multimodality provides the opportunity to understand the formation of multimodal practices. Yet the existing studies on this topic share one limitation: they fail to simultaneously incorporate into their analysis the three interconnected temporal dimensions: age, period, and (birth) cohort. Given that age, period, and cohort are mathematically intertwined, the omission of any of these three variables may lead to biased explanations.

Using the National Travel Survey in England, from 2001 to 2017, this research explored the extent to which individual multimodality varied by age, period, and cohort. We adopted the hierarchical age-period-cohort model to estimate the net effects of age, period, and cohort on multimodality. Our analyses showed that travellers tend to be less multimodal as they get older. The age effects may be moderated by work or physical mobility constraints, which accelerate the decrease in multimodality before or after reaching 30 years old, respectively. Individual multimodality exhibited significant variation across periods and cohorts. The total variance in multimodality accounted for by cohorts was larger than that explained by periods. Multimodality reached the lowest level for cohorts born between 1945 and 1969. This may be partially explained by the joint influence of multiple spatial mobility constraints as well as by the distinctive early life conditions and formative experience of baby boomers in terms of driving.

Keywords: Multimodality; Intrapersonal modal variability; Age-period-cohort analysis; Generation; Temporal Pattern; Travel behaviour

1. Introduction

Making transport more sustainable has been on the policy agenda for decades and is gaining momentum in light of current climate change awareness and the link with transport emissions. To achieve this, multimodality – the behavioural phenomenon of using multiple modes of transport – has recently emerged in academic discourses (e.g., [Nobis \(2007\)](#); [Heinen and Chatterjee \(2015\)](#); [Klinger \(2017\)](#)). Although being multimodal does not necessarily result in less car use, indications of the nexus between multimodality and more sustainable transport could be drawn from the existing literature. Studies revealed that individuals with more multimodal travel behaviour patterns are more likely to change their travel behaviour over time (e.g., [Heinen \(2018\)](#); [Heinen and Ogilvie \(2016\)](#); [Kroesen \(2014\)](#)), which allows an easier transition to sustainable transport if the right conditions are provided ([Heinen and Ogilvie \(2016\)](#)). It has also been highlighted that a higher level of multimodality may be conducive to reducing CO2 emissions if travel distance remains constant (e.g., [Heinen and Mattioli \(2019b\)](#)).

The majority of the literature on multimodality has shed light on its correlates. It has been demonstrated that multimodality is unequally distributed across subpopulations in terms of their sociodemographic characteristics and residential environments (e.g., [Heinen and Mattioli \(2019a\)](#); [Lee et al. \(2019\)](#); [Mehdizadeh and Ermagun \(2018\)](#); [Scheiner et al. \(2016\)](#); [Heinen and Chatterjee \(2015\)](#); [Diana and Mokhtarian \(2009\)](#); [Nobis \(2007\)](#)). Briefly, multimodal travellers are more prevalent amongst women, white ethnic groups, young people, students, part-time employees, people with limited car availability, people who do not hold a car license, individuals with higher income, individuals living in urban areas, and individuals who travel more often. Nevertheless, these findings have been primarily drawn from cross-sectional studies (see [Heinen and Mattioli \(2019a\)](#) and [Scheiner et al. \(2016\)](#) for exceptions). Less is known about how multimodality is distributed across different points in time. The understanding of temporal patterns in multimodality could provide useful information for policy-making to encourage multimodal transport. Recently, several longitudinal works have sought to fill this gap. Most of these studies have found that travellers/car users were more multimodal over past decades in developed countries (e.g., [Kuhnimhof et al. \(2012a\)](#); [Kuhnimhof et al. \(2012b\)](#); [Streit et al. \(2015\)](#); [Buehler and Hamre \(2016\)](#)), the exception being [Heinen and Mattioli \(2019a\)](#) who observed a shift towards more monomodal daily travel between 1995 and 2015 in England.

Yet, the existing studies on temporal patterns in multimodality share one limitation: they fail to *simultaneously* incorporate three interconnected temporal dimensions, namely, age, period, and (birth) cohort into the temporal analysis. The existing literature has explicitly associated multimodality with age (e.g., [Nobis \(2007\)](#); [Scheiner et al. \(2016\)](#); [Buehler and Hamre \(2014\)](#)) or period (e.g., [Kuhnimhof et al. \(2012b\)](#); [Streit et al. \(2015\)](#); [Heinen and Mattioli \(2019a\)](#)), whilst the nexus between cohort and multimodality still remains unclear. Evidence has suggested that cohort effects could contribute to the intergenerational disparity in multimodality-associated factors, such as levels of daily mobility (e.g., [Frändberg and Vilhelmson \(2011\)](#)), driver license acquisition (e.g., [Delbosc and Currie \(2013\)](#)), and availability/use of cars (e.g., [Kuhnimhof et al. \(2011\)](#)). It is, therefore, reasonable to hypothesise that multimodality may vary between cohorts. Given that age, period, and cohort are mathematically intertwined (e.g., age plus cohort is equal to period), the omission of any of these three variables may lead to biased explanations ([Yang and Land, 2016](#)). For instance, changes in historical contexts are inevitably accompanied by generational membership replacement. The variations in multimodality reported by previous studies could, therefore, potentially be attributable to cohort rather than period effects.

This paper aims to explore the extent to which individual multimodality varies by age, period, and cohort. To this end, we adopted the hierarchical age-period-cohort (HAPC) model, which allows us to estimate the net effects of age, period, and cohort on multimodality. We used data from the National Travel Survey (NTS) for England that spans 17 consecutive years, from 2001 to 2017. The consistency of the travel surveys over the years of observation, the large sample size, and the collection of a 7-day travel diary are three elements of the NTS that allow us to infer a relatively comprehensive picture of the levels of multimodality over time in England. The research findings and methods may be used to help policymakers monitor temporal patterns in multimodality, make ex-post evaluations of policies, and, thereby, craft targeted strategies for promoting multimodal transport.

The remainder of the paper is organised as follows. **Section 2** clarifies the definitions of the

57 effects of age, period, and cohort, followed by the review of the studies on the nexus between
58 multimodality and these three time-related variables. The data source and analytical approaches are
59 expounded in **Section 3**. **Section 4** is dedicated to the findings drawn from the HAPC models,
60 followed by **Section 5** in which these findings are further discussed.

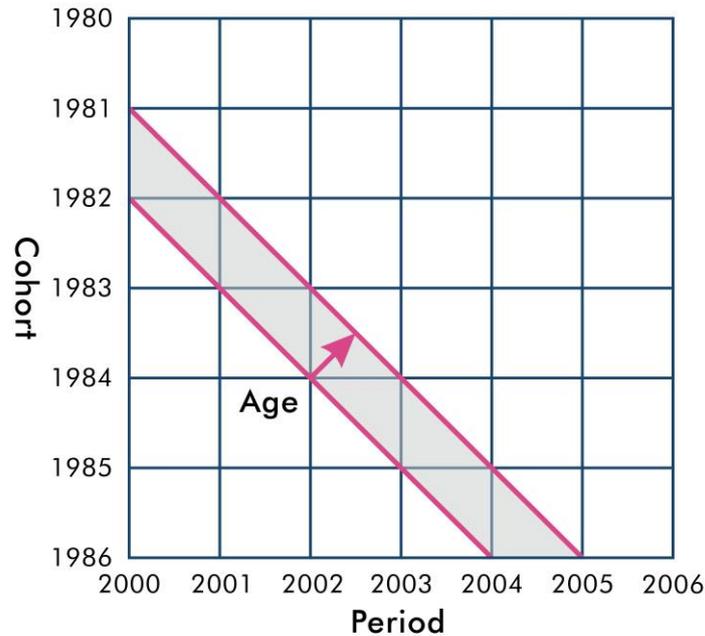
61 **2. Definitions and interrelationships between age, period and cohort effects** 62 **and their relationship with multimodality**

63 *Age effects*, also called life-course effects ([Robinson and Jackson, 2001](#)), refer to the changes in
64 individuals during ageing in any given length of time period, regardless of which (birth) cohort
65 groups they appertain to ([Blanchard et al., 1977](#)). These changes subsume a series of social and
66 biological transformation processes ([Yang and Land, 2016](#)). Some of them are deemed to be
67 associated with the variability in individual mode choices, such as the occurrence of key age-
68 associated life events (e.g., driving license acquisition, education-to-employment transition, new
69 household formation, and childbirth) (e.g., [Scheiner et al. \(2016\)](#)) and the decline in physical
70 mobility (e.g., [Heinen and Chatterjee \(2015\)](#); [Heinen and Mattioli \(2019a\)](#)).

71 *Period effects* refer to the consequences of changes in contextual factors over time that
72 simultaneously influence individuals with different age and cohort groups ([Yang and Land, 2016](#)).
73 The changes in contextual factors contain a complex set of economic, social, and environmental
74 dimensions, within which individuals are embedded, such as economic fluctuations, expansions and
75 contractions of the labour market, urban growth and shrinkage, and in recent decades, the
76 introduction of new mobilities. Against this backdrop, individuals correspondingly respond to these
77 changes in terms of their income, employment status, size/density of residential settlement, and
78 mode choice set, which in turn potentially contribute to variations in individual multimodality (e.g.,
79 [Blumenberg and Pierce \(2013\)](#); [Buehler and Hamre \(2014\)](#); [Heinen and Mattioli \(2019a\)](#); [Heinen](#)
80 [and Chatterjee \(2015\)](#)).

81 *(Birth) cohort effects* represent temporal variations across groups of individuals whose births
82 fall in the same interval ([Blanchard et al., 1977](#)). In demography, a cohort is defined as a collection
83 of people who experience a certain event in a given time period ([Newell, 1990](#)). Individuals with
84 the same birth cohort move through life together and are confronted by the same historical, social,
85 and economic events at the same age and same point in time. Accordingly, cohort effects are deemed
86 to reflect the effects of formative experience acquired via the influence of early life conditions and
87 via the continuous exposure to these events in the remainder of the lifespan ([Yang, 2008](#)). Because
88 older cohorts die off and are replaced by younger cohorts with different birth background and life
89 trajectories – a phenomenon termed 'demographic metabolism' by [Ryder \(1965\)](#) – society
90 continuously renews its population composition, and thereby maintains its flexibility, and may, on
91 these bases, experience induced changes ([Ryder, 1965](#)). Along this line, insights into cohort effects
92 help to understand not only current pictures of different subpopulations but also future trends in
93 society. The substantive influence of cohorts largely underlines the necessity of an age-period-cohort
94 (APC) analysis. To date, very little is known about how multimodality varies by cohort, yet as we
95 explain later in **Section 2.3**, variations in some of the correlates of multimodality could be strongly
96 embedded in cohort succession.

97 **Figure 1** illustrates the structural relationship between the effects of age, period, and cohort.
98 The vertical and horizontal axes represent a series of cohorts and periods, respectively. At each point
99 on the same diagonal line (i.e., the pink line), same-aged individuals may belong to different periods
100 and cohorts. The shaded area bounded by pink lines reflects the 18-19 age group, and the pink arrow,
101 therefore, indicates the effect of age from 18 to 19 averaged over periods and cohorts (supposing
102 our diagram could be extended indefinitely). Likewise, the effects of period and cohort can be
103 depicted by changing the vertical and horizontal axes.



104
105 **Figure 1** Nexus between age, period, and cohort (based on [Yang and Land \(2016\)](#)).

106 **2.1. Age**

107 A plethora of studies has observed the significant association between age and multimodality. The
 108 majority of the studies found evidence that was supportive of the belief that younger travellers tend
 109 to be more multimodal (e.g., [Heinen and Mattioli \(2019a\)](#); [Heinen \(2018\)](#); [Klinger \(2017\)](#); [Molin et al. \(2016\)](#);
 110 [Buehler and Hamre \(2016\)](#); [Circella et al. \(2019\)](#)). Yet the age-multimodality relation
 111 appears to be more complicated; it may not be depicted by linear or even monotonic relationships.
 112 The findings on this topic also seem to vary by countries. For example, [Heinen and Mattioli \(2019a\)](#)
 113 categorised individuals into three groups according to their age (i.e., 16 to 30, 31 to 64, and over 65
 114 years old) and found that individuals in the older age group were associated with a lower level of
 115 multimodality in England. Moreover, the difference in multimodality between the 16-30 and 31-64
 116 age groups was more pronounced than that between the 31-64 and over 65 age groups. [Buehler and
 117 Hamre \(2014\)](#)'s research in the US observed that, compared with their older counterparts (aged over
 118 65), younger travellers were more likely to be multimodal car users than monomodal car users.
 119 However, they also showed that there were no regularities within the younger age groups in terms
 120 of the relation between age and the propensity of being multimodal or monomodal car users.
 121 Moreover, using the data from Mobility in Germany (MiD) and German Mobility Panel (MOP),
 122 [Nobis \(2007\)](#) investigated the prevalence of various predefined multimodal groups in different life
 123 stages in Germany and found a steep decline in the percentage of multimodal travellers during the
 124 education-to-employment transition. Nevertheless, it was also shown that this trend was largely
 125 reversed in older adults, even amongst those with a high car availability. This research is partially
 126 in line with the research by [Streit et al. \(2015\)](#), which observed that multimodality was the lowest
 127 for 26-35, 36-50, and 51-60 age groups. Thus, multimodality may not necessarily decrease with age.
 128 [Nobis \(2007\)](#) and [Streit et al. \(2015\)](#) suggested that there is a U-shaped association between age and
 129 multimodality, while some studies did not find a relationship (for example, [Blumenberg and Pierce
 130 \(2013\)](#), reported an insignificant correlation between age and the probability of multimodal travel
 131 in the US).

132 **2.2. Period**

133 Limited studies to date have focused on the temporal trends in multimodality over time. Two studies,
 134 which we describe in detail below, have looked into trends in the modal share shift from car use to
 135 other modes over the decades. On this basis, they made a conclusion as to whether there had been
 136 changes in multimodality over a long period, yet the degree of such changes remained relatively

137 unclear. The multi-country research by [Kuhnimhof et al. \(2012a\)](#) analysed trends in the travel
138 behaviour amongst young adults in six developed countries (i.e., Germany, France, Great Britain,
139 Japan, Norway, and the US) by use of national travel surveys. Four years extracted from each of the
140 1970s, 1980s, 1990s, and middle 2000s were compared. The authors concluded that all countries
141 except Japan had experienced a slightly shift in the modal share from the car to public transport
142 since the 1990s, which may have been indicative of an increase in multimodality in those countries.
143 However, for young adults with car availability, the long-term upward trends in multimodality were
144 only observed in Germany and Great Britain. [Kuhnimhof et al. \(2012b\)](#) explored travel trends
145 among young German adults (18 to 29 years) using the Kontiv (i.e., Kontinuierliche
146 Verkehrserhebung) 1976 survey and the MOP 1999-2008. They compared three discontinuous years,
147 i.e., 1976, 1997, and 2007. For travellers with a car available, a dramatic decline was observed in
148 the share of trips made by driving, whilst the use of public transport and non-motorised modes
149 escalated, albeit to varying degrees. Nevertheless, only the share in car passengers showed a stable
150 downward trend for those without car access. On this basis, the authors concluded that
151 multimodality had increased among young adults with car availability in Germany.

152 Another three studies have shed light on the trends in multimodality characterised by
153 predefined groups or indices. Indicated by the changes in the indices and shares of groups, these
154 studies reveal the extent to which the level of multimodality has changed over time. However, due
155 to data restrictions, the time span and waves of the data are limited (exception: [Heinen and Mattioli](#)
156 [\(2017\)](#)). [Buehler and Hamre \(2014\)](#) looked into the differences in shares of multimodal/monomodal
157 groups between 2001 and 2009 using the US National Household Travel Surveys. Three groups,
158 namely, multimodal car users, monomodal car users, and travellers who do not use cars, were
159 differentiated at the chained trip, day, and week levels. The authors found that monomodal car users
160 accounted for a smaller share at all three levels in 2009 relative to 2001; the share in travellers who
161 do not use cars and multimodal car users increased between 2001 and 2009, yet the magnitude of
162 changes was fairly small. [Streit et al. \(2015\)](#) used the MOP data to study variability in individual
163 travel behaviour between two time slices (1998-2002 and 2010-2012) in Germany. Indicated by the
164 changes in customised multimodal indicators (MM), they concluded that multimodality increased
165 for young adults aged between 18 and 35, regardless of their gender. For travellers between 35 and
166 50 years old and living in big cities, men tended to become multimodal, whereas women showed
167 an inverse trend. [Heinen and Mattioli \(2017\)](#) made a substantial contribution to this topic by looking
168 at a relatively large number of years and adopting various multimodality indices. They investigated
169 trends in multimodality across various socioeconomic groups in England over 21 consecutive years
170 (1995-2015) by use of the NTS. Looking at changes in multimodality indicators and estimating
171 multivariate models (with year treated as a continuous variable), they concluded that multimodality
172 decreased in England between 1995 and 2015.

173 **2.3. Cohort**

174 To the best of our knowledge, the notion of a cohort had been largely untouched in relation to the
175 topic of multimodality until the recent research by [Lee et al. \(2019\)](#). They looked into the
176 discrepancies in daily travel patterns between millennials and GenXers using the California
177 Millennials Dataset 2015. Treating age as an inactive covariate in their latent analysis, the authors
178 analysed the estimated distributions of travel patterns across ages, *ceteris paribus*. It was observed
179 that monomodal drivers were disproportionately prevalent in the 46–50 age group, whilst the share
180 of transit riders and active travellers peaked before reaching an age of 40 years and then decreased.
181 On this basis, a conclusion was drawn that millennials tend to be, on average, more multimodal than
182 GenXers. Nevertheless, this research used cross-sectional data, and thus it was unable to distinguish
183 whether the findings were attributable to a generational shift or ageing *itself*.

184 The existing literature has also shed light on the intergenerational differences in general travel
185 behaviour, particularly in availability and the use of a car (see, e.g., [Goodwin and Van Dender \(2013\)](#)
186 and [Van Wee \(2015\)](#) for the review and discussion on peak car). In light of the dominant role of the
187 car in daily travel in developed societies, studies on this topic may provide us with a deeper
188 understanding of the cohort-multimodality nexus.

189 For example, [Kuhnimhof et al. \(2011\)](#) observed that young Germans born in the late 60s, 70s,
190 and early 80s were, relative to the earliest cohort (born 1955-1964), associated with a higher level
191 of car ownership, more intensive car use, and a greater growth rate in car travel before reaching their

192 middle adulthood (i.e., 30 years old). In contrast, the post-1985 cohort noticeably lagged behind the
193 older cohorts in terms of car ownership and car travel distance. Similarly, [Garikapati et al. \(2016\)](#)
194 found that, in early adulthood (18-24 years old), 'younger' American millennials (born 1988-1994),
195 compared to the 'older' millennials (born 1979-1985), spent considerably less time on car travel and
196 outdoor activities. Although millennials exhibited increasing similarities as they aged with their
197 same-aged predecessors (i.e., GenXers) in terms of their activity-time use patterns, millennials
198 remained less car-oriented. The generational decline in car use was also recognised in the non-
199 western context. [Zhou and Wang \(2019\)](#) used a propensity score matching method to compare the
200 daily travel patterns of similar-aged individuals between 2002 and 2011 in Hong Kong. The authors
201 found that younger generations, compared to the older counterparts with similar socioeconomic
202 characteristics, undertook fewer car trips and spent less time on travel. Some studies have tried to
203 shed light on the causes behind these observations. For example, [Grimal \(2020\)](#) looked into the
204 potential mechanism by which French millennials became less car-oriented (characterised by more
205 regular transit use and less car ownership) and found that the generational differences in cars could
206 be mainly attributed to the shift in residential patterns and to some extent to increasing work pressure,
207 degraded transport conditions, and changes in desired lifestyles over recent decades.

208 It is not only in car use and ownership that we may see evidence of such patterns, but also in
209 the acquisition of a driving license, with this tending to become less prevalent for more recent
210 generations. [Delbosch and Currie \(2013\)](#) summarised the existing empirical evidence on international
211 trends in driver license acquisition amongst same-aged young adults (18-30 years old) over time
212 (1983-2010). It was found that the percentage of youth licensing universally decreased in nine out
213 of fourteen analysed countries – Australia, the US, Canada, Norway, Sweden, Great Britain,
214 Germany, France, and Japan – with an average annual rate of decline of 0.6%.

215 It appears that recent generations, particularly millennials and subsequent generations, have
216 seen a decline in car availability and car use. Nevertheless, recent research by [Krueger et al. \(2019\)](#)
217 suggested that cohort succession (or the replacement of generations) may not play a critical role in
218 explaining the observed downward trend in car use in young Germans. Using a hierarchical
219 Bayesian model, [Krueger et al. \(2019\)](#) analysed the trend in frequencies of using different modes,
220 from 1996 to 2016, whilst simultaneously taking into account both period and cohort effects.
221 Though in line with most studies, in that young Germans were found to make fewer daily trips by
222 car in 2016 than their counterparts 20 years ago, they found that only one-sixth of such a decline
223 could be ascribed to cohort effects. By contrast, period effects explained two-thirds of the decline
224 in car use between 1996 and 2016.

225 Finally, going beyond car use, [Frändberg and Vilhelmson \(2011\)](#) explored spatial mobility
226 across cohorts over a period of 28 years (i.e., 1976-2008) using data from the Swedish National
227 Travel Survey. Since the level of daily mobility is closely connected with opportunities to use
228 different modes, their research potentially provides a novel perspective into the understanding of
229 the cohort-multimodality relation. The authors found that the more recent cohorts of young males
230 showed a substantial decline in the daily travelled distance. The authors discussed that the reduction
231 in daily mobility for new-cohort young males might be attributed to their distinct life trajectory (e.g.,
232 a longer study time before entering into the labour market) and increased 'virtualisation' (i.e.,
233 spending more time on activities conducted through the internet).

234 **2.4. Research gaps**

235 In summary, it appears that multimodality increased in most developed countries over the last
236 decades, especially for young travellers. England seems to be an exception. Nevertheless, limitations
237 exist in the methodology and data used by most of the aforementioned studies on temporal patterns
238 in multimodality. The majority of these studies are descriptive, focusing on the temporal patterns
239 across the population or specific subpopulations. Given the mathematical coupling between age,
240 period, and cohort, it follows that the conclusions of these studies may not be robust. Moreover,
241 although some look at a relatively long-time span, the majority of studies were conducted based on
242 longitudinal data with limited waves of observations, which limits the ability to investigate cohort
243 effects.

244 **3. Research Design**

245 **3.1. Data**

246 The research reported in this paper was based on data extracted from the special licensed National
247 Travel Survey (NTS) for England, 2001 to 2017 ([Department for Transport, 2019a, b](#)). The NTS is
248 a nationwide repeated cross-sectional survey designed to monitor trends in travel behaviour within
249 England¹ ([NatCen Social Research, 2018](#)). The NTS was firstly conducted in 1965/1966, and it
250 became an annual survey in 1988. From 2002 onwards, the NTS used weights to offset the influence
251 of non-response bias; the weighting methodology was retrospectively applied to data back to 1995.

252 The NTS has several strengths for investigating temporal patterns in multimodality across age,
253 periods, and cohorts. Firstly, the data structure of the NTS is well-suited for our purpose. The
254 repeated cross-sectional survey, owing to its high representativeness, can be applied to the synthetic
255 cohort approach that traces essentially the life trajectories of groups of people born in the same year
256 or range of years ([Preston and Guillot, 2000](#)). Compared to a panel survey, such a survey also has
257 the advantage that it spans a longer period with more waves, due to its robustness against drop-out
258 of samples ([Crossley and Ostrovsky, 2003](#)). These advantages enabled us to disentangle the
259 confounding effects of age, period, and cohort. Secondly, this survey has adopted a relatively
260 consistent sampling method and survey technique since 1995 (see [NatCen Social Research \(2018\)](#)
261 for detailed information). Thirdly, the NTS uses high-quality seven-day travel diaries to collect
262 personal travel information that covers a wide range of modes and the intensity of using these modes,
263 which allows us to accurately capture individual multimodality. Fourthly, the NTS is highly
264 representative of the population of England, allowing us to draw conclusions for the entire country.

265 We limited our analyses to the years 2001 to 2017 in order to ensure the consistency of
266 weighting methodologies and the considered variables². Our research was restricted to the
267 individuals living in England, as Scotland and Wales were no longer covered by the NTS from 2013
268 onwards. We restricted our main analyses to the individuals aged 16 and over ($n=203,329$).
269 Alternative sample sets with different age groups were also used for our sensitivity analyses (see
270 **Section 3.4**).

271 **3.2. Multimodality measurement**

272 We used a continuous index, namely, the objective mobility personal index (OM_PI), to measure
273 multimodality. The existing literature has developed a relatively wide range of multimodality
274 measurements, which can be generally distinguished into several categories of individual
275 multimodality: (1) predefined categorisations (e.g., [Klinger \(2017\)](#)); (2) data-driven classifications
276 (e.g., [Kroesen \(2014\)](#)); and (3) continuous indices (e.g., [Heinen and Mattioli \(2019a\)](#)). The former
277 two measurements provide intuitive results by categorising individuals into distinct groups
278 regarding multimodality. However, they overlook, to a certain extent, the intragroup differences and
279 the levels of variability. The continuous indices, while not explicitly able to describe the use of a
280 specific mode, are more effective in gauging the level of individual multimodality ([Heinen, 2018](#)).
281 This is well-suited to the aim of our research by enabling us to capture the changes in the level of
282 multimodality at the individual level.

283 The OM_PI, as proposed by [Diana and Mokhtarian \(2007\)](#), is regarded as one of the
284 potentially desirable continuous indices for measuring multimodality. This index is developed based
285 on the Shannon entropy formula, which has been extensively acknowledged as a reliable measure
286 of diversity and inequality. Moreover, [Diana and Pirra \(2016\)](#) suggested that the OM_PI is preferable
287 in depicting multimodality in cases where individuals in question are not equally accessible to
288 specific modes. The OM_PI ranges from 0 to 1; a value of 0 indicates the exclusive use of only one
289 mode, whilst a value of 1 stands for the circumstance where all modes in the considered mode choice
290 set are equally used at the same intensity. The OM_PI is calculated based on the modal share by
291 considered modes.

¹ The NTS only covers England for the full time span (2001-2017) we studied.

² Several potential correlates of multimodality, e.g., ethnicity, bicycle ownership, and locations of work, are not consistently available for the 1995-2000 NTS data.

292

$$OM_PI = \sum_{i=1}^n \left[\frac{f_i}{\sum_{j=1}^n f_j} \ln \left(\frac{\sum_{j=1}^n f_j}{f_i} \right) \frac{1}{\ln n} \right] \quad (1)$$

293 In **Eq. (1)** n stands for the total number of modes considered, and f_i denotes the number of trip
294 stages made by mode i by a given individual during the travel diary week.

295 In the NTS, a *trip* refers to a one-way course of travel with one main purpose. A trip can be
296 constituted of several trip stages, for example, for one commute trip, someone could cycle to the
297 train station, use the train, and walk to work from the train station. To include the full individual
298 modal mix, we use the mode choice data at a *trip stage* level.

299 Following the existing studies on multimodality using the NTS (e.g., [Heinen and Mattioli](#)
300 [\(2019b\)](#); [Heinen and Chatterjee \(2015\)](#)), we considered a total of eight modes for measuring the
301 OM_PI: (1) walk; (2) bicycle; (3) car driver; (4) car passenger; (5) bus³; (6) railway⁴; (7) taxi; and
302 (8) other⁵. Since the calculated level of multimodality is connected with the definition of the mode
303 choice set, a more aggregated three-mode-based choice set was also considered for the purpose of
304 sensitivity analysis, with the composite modes defined as: car transport (car driver and car
305 passenger), and public transport (bus, railway, taxi, and other) and active travel (walk and bicycle).
306 As suggested by the NTS Data Extract User Guide ([Department for Transport, 2018a](#)), we applied
307 weights to calibrate the number of trip stages made by different modes. For short walks (i.e., walking
308 trip stages of less than one mile) a weight known as SSXSC was used to adjust for the fact that such
309 trips were only recorded on the last day of the survey week. Also, a trip/stage weight known as W5
310 was applied to offset the 'drop-off' phenomenon of the recorded number of trips/stages declining
311 over time during the week⁶. These weighting methodologies have been applied consistently across
312 the NTS surveys from 1995 onwards ([NatCen Social Research, 2018](#)).

313 In the 2001-2017 NTS data, individuals made on average 23.3 (S.D.=16.6) trips stages during
314 the travel diary week. Car driver trip stages accounted for the largest share 45%, whilst walk (20%),
315 car passenger (19%), and bus (8%) trip stages made up most of the remainder. We examined the
316 correlations between the (eight-modal-based) OM_PI and the shares in mode choice. Car driver
317 modal share was negatively correlated ($r=-0.393$) with OM_PI at a significance level of 0.01. By
318 contrast, significantly positive correlations were observed between OM_PI and the shares in trip
319 stages made by walking ($r=0.328$), cycling ($r=0.102$), bus ($r=0.117$), rail ($r=0.248$), taxi ($r=0.069$),
320 and other modes ($r=0.044$). Car passenger modal share was not significantly correlated with OM_PI
321 ($|r|<0.001$; $p=0.909$). Our examinations indicated that travellers with a higher level of multimodality,
322 *on average*, drove less; this is in the context of England, where driving is the dominant mode of
323 transport.

324 3.3. Correlates

325 [Heinen and Chatterjee \(2015\)](#) applied a systematic framework of correlates of individual
326 multimodality, derived from the perspective of spatial mobility constraints of [Hägerstrand \(1970\)](#),
327 and found that multimodality can be simultaneously shaped by multiple types of such constraints.
328 Drawing on their conceptual framework, we focused on the correlates of multimodality that covered
329 six dimensions of mobility constraints as follows: (1) social role constraints; (2) physical mobility
330 constraints; (3) work constraints; (4) economic constraints; (5) accessibility constraints; and (6)
331 mobility resource constraints. The descriptive statistics for these variables in different age, period,
332 and cohort groups is provided in **Appendix A**.

³ 'Bus' covers bus in London as well as other local and non-local (coach) services.

⁴ 'Railway' covers London Underground and surface rail.

⁵ 'Other' covers motorcycle, other private (mostly private hire bus) and other public transport (mostly light rail).

⁶ Short walks weight (SSXSC) multiplies the number of short walk trip stages by seven to ensure a representative weekly report. This is to control for the fact that such trip stages are only asked to be reported in the last day of the survey week to reduce the burden for the respondents (NatCen Social Research, 2018). Similar to other multiday travel diary surveys, in the NTS, there is a gradual reduction in the number of trips reported during the travel diary week. To reduce the drop-off bias, the trip/stage weight (W5) is developed. The drop-off rates differ slightly across the survey years; detailed information on this issue can be found in the NTS technical report of each year.

333 **3.4. Statistical analyses**

334 This research adopted a contextual approach – the HAPC model (Yang and Land, 2006) – to explore
 335 the age, period, and cohort effects on multimodality. The principle of the APC analysis is to
 336 statistically partition age, period, and cohort, and estimate the net effects of these three variables
 337 (Smith, 2008). Nevertheless, there exists a well-known 'identification problem' that these three time-
 338 related variables necessarily fall in perfect multicollinearity, e.g., cohort plus age equals period,
 339 which makes it impossible to use classic linear regression in the estimation. Yang and Land (2016)
 340 systematically summarise conventional approaches to this identification problem that have been
 341 developed since the 1970s, such as the reduced two-factor models, constrained generalised linear
 342 models, nonlinear parametric transformations, and proxy variable approaches (see, e.g., Kupper et
 343 al. (1983), Fienberg and Mason (1979), and O'Brien et al. (1999) for applications and reviews). Yang
 344 and Land (2016) argue that each of these approaches has its own drawbacks. Most importantly, they
 345 note, such approaches fail to conceptualise and quantify the contextual effects of social-historical
 346 transformations embedded in the changes of time periods and birth cohorts.

347 The HAPC method can be seen as an extension of the mixed effects model to the APC analysis.
 348 In light of the multihierarchical nature of such a method, it does not trigger the identification
 349 problem, and so is able to explicitly distinguish in the estimation the contextual (random) effects of
 350 periods/cohorts from the (fixed) effects of individual attributes. Specifically, the HAPC herein
 351 consists of two levels as follows:

352 Level 1, namely the within-group model, which is adopted for the fixed effect estimation of all
 353 individual-level correlates:

354
$$Y_{ijk} = \alpha_{jk} + \beta_1 AGE_{ijk} + \beta_2 AGE_{ijk}^2 + \sum_{n=3} \beta_n X_{nijk} + e_{ijk} \quad (2)$$

355 where Y_{ijk} denotes the level of multimodality (measured by the OM-PI) for individual i within the
 356 j th period and k th cohort. AGE and AGE^2 represent the age and age squared, respectively. Following
 357 Bell (2014), we centred the age of each individual around the grand mean (i.e., 48.3 years old) to
 358 reduce potential multicollinearity. As AGE and AGE^2 can be disproportionately large in relation to
 359 the other correlates, the original value of centred age was divided by 10 to calculate these two
 360 variables. X_{nijk} stands for the other correlates of multimodality. α_{jk} is the intercept at level one; it
 361 reflects the average level of multimodality in the j th period and k th birth cohort when the values of
 362 all correlates are zero. β_{nj} is the coefficient of the corresponding correlate X_{nijk} . e_{ijk} stands for the
 363 random error at level 1.

364 Level 2 is the between-group model, wherein the level-1 intercept is assumed to vary across
 365 periods and cohorts:

366
$$\alpha_{jk} = \gamma_0 + u_{0j} + v_{0k} \quad (3)$$

367
$$u_{nj} \sim N(0, \tau^2), v_{nk} \sim N(0, \psi^2), n \geq 1. \quad (4)$$

368 In Eq. (3), γ_0 is the grand mean of the level of individual multimodality across all periods and
 369 birth cohorts when the values of all level-1 correlates are zero. Periods are defined by the seventeen
 370 waves of the NTS between 2001 to 2017; cohorts are defined by five-year intervals (except the pre-
 371 1930 and post-1990 cohorts based on the consideration of the sample size of each cohort) of the
 372 birth year. u_{0j} is the slope of the j th period that explains the residual random effect of the j th period
 373 averaged over all cohorts. v_{0k} is the slope of the k th cohort that explains the residual random effect
 374 of the k th cohort averaged over all periods. u_{nj} and v_{nk} follow a normal distribution with variance τ^2
 375 and ψ^2 , respectively (Eq. (4)).

376 According to Eqs. (2)-(4), the combined model is established as follows:

377
$$Y_{ijk} = \gamma_0 + \beta_{1,jk} AGE_{ijk} + \beta_{2,jk} AGE_{ijk}^2 + \sum_{n=3} \beta_{nj} X_{nijk} + u_{0j} + v_{0k} + e_{ijk} \quad (5)$$

378 A multistep estimation strategy was used to improve the interpretability of our results. We
 379 changed level-1 components (spatial mobility constraints except for social role constraints) for
 380 different estimations, yet kept the level-2 components (period and cohort) constant. The social role
 381 constraints (i.e., age, gender, and ethnicity) were retained in each estimation, as these constraints
 382 (except for age) are relatively stable over the life course for most individuals. First, we estimated

383 the maximally adjusted model with all spatial mobility constraints accounted for. Second, five
 384 models – with the spatial mobility constraints excluded one type at a time from the maximally
 385 adjusted model – were tested. Third, the spatial mobility constraints (except for social role
 386 constraints) were removed one at a time from the maximally adjusted model. As such, a total of 26
 387 (i.e., $C_5^2 + C_5^3 + C_5^4 + C_5^5$) models were examined in this step. We report the maximally adjusted
 388 model as the main model to interpret the changes in multimodality across ages, periods, and cohorts.
 389 By comparing all models, we looked into the extent to which the age-, period-, and cohort-specific
 390 changes in multimodality could be moderated by spatial mobility constraints. Given the richness of
 391 the potential input variables, we assessed the multicollinearity of the HAPC models using the classic
 392 variance inflation factors (VIFs). The VIF values of all variables lay within an acceptable range
 393 ($VIF < 4$; see, e.g., [Hair et al. \(2010\)](#)), indicating the absence of problematic multicollinearity.

394 Sensitivity analyses were conducted to ensure the interpretability and robustness of the results.
 395 First, we included the number of trip stages in the main model as an explanatory variable
 396 (**Sensitivity test 1**), as more trip stages travelled potentially offer more opportunities to use
 397 different modes ([Heinen, 2018](#)). Second, we repeated the analyses adopting the three-mode-based
 398 OM_PI as the dependent variable (**Sensitivity test 2**). Third, the HAPC models were separately
 399 estimated using three additional sets of samples aged 30 and over (Alternative Sample Set A), 35
 400 and over (Alternative Sample Set B), and between 30 and 70 (Alternative Sample Set C) (**Sensitivity**
 401 **tests 3-5**). The reason is that repeated cross-sectional data are necessarily unbalanced in the age-by-
 402 cohort (or cohort-by-period) distribution. Therefore, individuals in some recent cohorts, such as
 403 1980-1984, 1985-1989, and post-1990 cohorts, are associated with younger-than-average ages. In
 404 light of the correlations between multimodality and age and between multimodality and some age-
 405 related attributes, the estimated effects of these cohorts could be potentially overstated, despite the
 406 fact that the HAPC model is able to peel the age effect off the cohort effect effectively.

407 **4. Results**

408 The HAPC models were applied to examine the net effects of age, period, and cohort on
 409 multimodality. We first examined the fixed effects (**Table 1**). In the maximally adjusted model (main
 410 Model, **Model 1**), age was negatively associated with multimodality, whilst age squared has only
 411 an insignificant effect on multimodality. As the ageing process involves a wide range of social and
 412 biological changes, we then examined the extent to which spatial mobility constraints may impact
 413 the age-multimodality relation. The age effects were, therefore, tested by removing one type of these
 414 constraints at a time from the main model. As indicated by the changes in coefficients of age and
 415 age squared (**Model 2-6**), we found that all types of spatial mobility constraints might potentially
 416 moderate the association between age and multimodality, albeit to a varying extent. In particular,
 417 the negative effect of age squared turned to be significant after the physical mobility, work, and
 418 economic constraints were excluded. This is similar to the examination of the extent to which the
 419 combinations of these constraints were related to the temporal patterns in multimodality across ages.
 420 It was found that after the data were simultaneously uncontrolled for physical mobility, work, and
 421 economic constraints, the age-squared variable became significant (results were not shown for
 422 brevity).

423 To illustrate the degree of age-specific changes in multimodality, we calculated the predicted
 424 mean value of OM_PI according to the aforementioned models⁷. The OM_PI predicted by Model 1
 425 dropped from 0.276 to 0.183 from the age of 16 to 80, *ceteris paribus*. To intuitively illustrate this,
 426 consider a traveller who makes 100 trips a week, with driving, walking, and the use of public
 427 transport accounting for 50, 25, and 25 trips, respectively. The decrease of 0.093 in the OM_PI
 428 indicates roughly 10 trips made by either walking or public transport will turn to driving trips, and
 429 such a 10% mode change would be a considerable effect if replicated across the population⁸. We

⁷ The predicted OM_PI for specific age i averaged over periods and cohorts is calculated based on Eq. (5), when other variables are set to zero: $\hat{y} = \hat{\gamma}_0 + \hat{\beta}_1((Age_i - 48.3)/10) + \hat{\beta}_2((Age_i - 48.3)/10)^2$

⁸ This hypothetical case was posed considering the average level of modal shares in England. It should be noted that a lower level of multimodality does not necessarily mean more car trips/use. For example, the decrease of 0.093 in the OM_PI can also indicate roughly 10 trips made by either walking or driving will turn to public transport trips for an individual who had 50, 25, and 25 trips that are respectively made by public transport, driving, and walking.

430 then successively compared the temporal patterns in the predicted OM_PI across ages between
431 Model 1 and Models 2-6 (**Figure 2**). **Figure 2** contains five subfigures (A-E), each of which
432 successively displays the comparison between the OM_PIs predicted by Models 2-6 (purple-to-pink
433 lines) and Model 1 (blue lines). By examining the slope of these predicted lines, it was suggested
434 that physical mobility and work constraints, compared to other constraints, might have a stronger
435 influence in moderating the age-multimodality nexus, particularly in specific age groups (work
436 constraints for age under 30 and above 60; physical mobility constraints for age above 30). **Figure**
437 **3** shows the difference in the predicted value of OM_PI between the maximally adjusted model and
438 the model with only physical mobility and work constraints excluded. The value of OM_PI predicted
439 by the latter model is greater yet decreases faster than that predicted by the former one, before the
440 two predicted lines intersect at the age of 30. After the age of 30, the two predicted lines diverge at
441 first and then converge. Combining these findings, it appears that changes in work constraints (e.g.,
442 the change from student to full-time employee) and physical mobility constraints (e.g., developing
443 walking difficulties) has accelerated the decline in multimodality before and after reaching middle
444 adulthood, respectively.

445 In addition to age, we also found that multimodality was associated with the vast majority of
446 the variables we considered, at a significance level of 0.05 (**Model 1**). These identified correlates
447 belong to different domains of mobility constraints. In summary, it was observed that females,
448 Asian/Asian British, students, people who do not have walking difficulties, do not have a full-time
449 job, work at one location, do not work at home, have higher household income, live in self-owned
450 housing, live in a densely populated urban area, and those who do not have access to a vehicle in
451 the household, own a bicycle, and do not hold a full car license, tended to be more multimodal.

452 We then focused on the random effects. It was found that individual multimodality exhibited
453 significant variation ($p < 0.05$) across periods and cohorts (**Table 2**). It was also observed that the
454 variance for the cohort was larger than that for the period, regardless of models, 0.000121 and
455 0.000016, respectively. This implies that the total variance in individual multimodality accounted
456 for by differences in cohort is more than six times of that accounted for by differences in period.
457 Therefore, the cohort effects, compared to the period effects, more effectively explain the observed
458 changes in multimodality over time.

459 **Figure 4** illustrates the predicted mean value of OM_PI across periods after the effects of age
460 and cohort were accounted for⁹. The solid blue, solid grey, and dash red lines represent the predicted
461 mean value of OM_PI, grand mean of OM_PI, and 95% confidence interval, respectively. From
462 2001 to 2009, the OM_PI showed a gentle increase of 0.006, followed by a decrease between 2009
463 and 2010 (from 0.239 to 0.230). This figure remained rather stable since 2010, except for the slight
464 rebound in 2017. It should be noted that, in addition to the decrease between 2009 and 2010, the
465 magnitude of changes in the predicted OM_PI over the entire observed period and over specific
466 consecutive years is rather small. The predicted OM_PI in 2017 (0.231) was fairly similar as in 2001
467 (0.232), and it fell between 0.238 and 0.228 over the past 18 years (except for 2009 and 2010).

468 **Figure 5** displays the predicted mean value of OM_PI across cohorts after the effects of age
469 and period have been accounted for¹⁰. The solid blue, solid grey, and dash red lines represent the
470 predicted mean value of OM_PI, grand mean of OM_PI, and 95% confidence interval, respectively.
471 The overall temporal pattern in multimodality could be roughly divided into three stages. At first,
472 along with the replacement of generational membership, earlier cohorts have exhibited a continuous
473 increase in individual multimodality until peaking for the cohort born between 1945 and 1949
474 (predicted OM_PI: 0.251). Subsequently, there was a slump in multimodality before the OM_PI
475 reaches its minimum of 0.222 at the cohort born between 1965 and 1969. This figure dropped by
476 0.029 from 1945-1949 to 1965-1969 cohort. This decline is quite substantial; if we compare it with
477 the age effects, 0.029 is almost equivalent to the level of decline in multimodality during the
478 transition from adolescence to middle adulthood (from 16 to 38 years old; estimated by **Model 1**).

⁹ The predicted OM_PI for a specific period j averaged over ages and cohorts is calculated based on Eq. (5), when the other variables are set to zero: $\hat{y} = \hat{\gamma}_0 + \hat{u}_{0j}$

¹⁰ The predicted OM_PI for a specific cohort k averaged over ages and periods is calculated based on Eq. (5), when the other variables are set to zero: $\hat{y} = \hat{\gamma}_0 + \hat{v}_{0k}$

479 In other words, a 16-year-old traveller born in 1965 would be at the same level of multimodality as
480 a 38-year-old traveller born in 1945, if they could exist in an identical year. Finally, multimodality
481 rose slightly for the remaining cohorts, followed by a falling trend for the cohort born in or after
482 1980. Furthermore, our multistep analyses showed that when one specific type of spatial mobility
483 constraint was removed from the main model, the magnitude of the changes in cohort variance
484 components was quite similar across models (except the model with work constraints excluded),
485 ranging from 0.000046 to 0.000071 (**Model 2-5**). This indicates that the cohort-specific changes in
486 multimodality could be partially explained by the joint influence of multiple spatial mobility
487 constraints, with the exception of work constraints.

488 Finally, our sensitivity test 1 (including the number of trip stages; **Model 7**) resulted in a
489 decrease in the magnitude of the estimated random coefficients for specific periods and cohorts
490 (particularly the cohort born at and after 1980). This implies that the number of trip stages may
491 partially explain the estimated temporal patterns in multimodality across periods and cohorts. The
492 sensitivity analysis performed by adopting the three-mode-based OM_PI as a dependent variable
493 (sensitivity test 2) showed similar findings to our main model (**Table 1** and **Table 2** in
494 **Supplementary Material**). We found that, similar to our findings derived from the estimations
495 using the eight-mode-based choice set, the total variance in multimodality accounted for by cohorts
496 was larger than that explained by periods, although the gap between them was smaller (**Model 1** in
497 **Table 2** in **Supplementary Material**). The patterns in multimodality across periods and cohorts
498 also remained fairly similar using the more aggregated choice set. Sensitivity tests 3-5 (using the
499 alternative sample sets A, B, and C) produced results that were largely consistent with the those
500 derived from the original sample set in terms of the significance of correlates (**Table 3, 5, 7** in
501 **Supplementary Material**) and the temporal patterns in multimodality (**Appendix B**).

Table 1 Results from hierarchical age-period-cohort model of multimodality (fixed-effect parts).

Fixed Effects	Model 1	Model 2	Model 3	Model 4	Model 5	Model 6	Model 7
	Coef. (SE)						
<i>Social Role Constraints</i>							
Age	-1.460E-02 (1.132E-03) ***	-1.783E-02 (1.184E-03) ***	-1.155E-02 (1.108E-03) ***	-1.365E-02 (9.540E-04) ***	-1.532E-02 (1.282E-03) ***	-1.355E-02 (9.490E-04) ***	-8.290E-03 (1.096E-03) ***
Age squared	-3.000E-04 (2.540E-04)	-5.400E-04 (2.580E-04) *	1.701E-03 (2.450E-04) ***	-5.600E-04 (2.490E-04) *	-1.500E-04 (2.590E-04)	1.170E-04 (2.470E-04)	6.350E-04 (2.440E-04) **
Gender							
Female	3.778E-02 (9.020E-04) ***	3.851E-02 (9.060E-04) ***	4.436E-02 (8.580E-04) ***	3.842E-02 (9.040E-04) ***	3.829E-02 (9.080E-04) ***	3.589E-02 (8.950E-04) ***	3.664E-02 (8.650E-04) ***
Male (reference)							
Ethnicity							
White	-1.304E-02 (4.399E-03) **	-1.198E-02 (4.418E-03) **	-1.143E-02 (4.412E-03) **	-1.343E-02 (4.411E-03) **	3.490E-04 (4.422E-03)	-1.170E-02 (4.440E-03) **	-1.304E-02 (4.219E-03) **
Mixed Multiple Ethnic	-5.476E-02 (1.996E-03) ***	-5.324E-02 (2.004E-03) ***	-5.344E-02 (1.996E-03) ***	-5.518E-02 (2.001E-03) ***	-3.089E-02 (1.956E-03) ***	-6.496E-02 (2.000E-03) ***	-4.686E-02 (1.915E-03) ***
Groups							
Asian/Asian British							
(reference)							
Black/African/Caribbean/Black	-2.394E-02 (2.869E-03) ***	-2.197E-02 (2.881E-03) ***	-2.268E-02 (2.875E-03) ***	-2.631E-02 (2.875E-03) ***	2.032E-03 (2.823E-03)	-2.545E-02 (2.890E-03) ***	-1.843E-02 (2.752E-03) ***
British							
Other Ethnic Group	-3.090E-02 (4.107E-03) ***	-2.927E-02 (4.125E-03) ***	-2.978E-02 (4.118E-03) ***	-3.239E-02 (4.118E-03) ***	-1.173E-02 (4.112E-03) **	-3.360E-02 (4.145E-03) ***	-2.614E-02 (3.940E-03) ***
<i>Physical Mobility Constraints</i>							
Having Walking Difficulties							
Yes	-6.300E-02 (1.485E-03) ***		-6.534E-02 (1.464E-03) ***	-6.397E-02 (1.489E-03) ***	-6.603E-02 (1.495E-03) ***	-6.348E-02 (1.494E-03) ***	-5.100E-02 (1.428E-03) ***
No (reference)							
<i>Work Constraints</i>							
Economic Status							
Full-time (reference)							
Part-time	3.066E-02 (1.329E-03) ***	3.065E-02 (1.335E-03) ***		2.513E-02 (1.322E-03) ***	3.021E-02 (1.340E-03) ***	3.105E-02 (1.340E-03) ***	2.205E-02 (1.277E-03) ***
Unemployed	1.770E-02 (2.834E-03) ***	1.804E-02 (2.846E-03) ***		6.865E-03 (2.819E-03) *	1.474E-02 (2.855E-03) ***	2.450E-02 (2.854E-03) ***	2.312E-02 (2.719E-03) ***
Retired	4.193E-02 (1.887E-03) ***	3.861E-02 (1.895E-03) ***		3.289E-02 (1.867E-03) ***	4.184E-02 (1.903E-03) ***	4.285E-02 (1.901E-03) ***	4.392E-02 (1.810E-03) ***
Student	3.635E-02 (2.579E-03) ***	3.551E-02 (2.592E-03) ***		2.915E-02 (2.572E-03) ***	3.999E-02 (2.600E-03) ***	4.380E-02 (2.588E-03) ***	3.743E-02 (2.474E-03) ***
Other inactive employment	-3.980E-03 (1.594E-03) *	-1.581E-02 (1.576E-03) ***		-1.347E-02 (1.567E-03) ***	-7.510E-03 (1.602E-03) ***	-1.950E-03 (1.597E-03)	5.095E-03 (1.530E-03) ***
Multiple Work Locations							
Yes	-2.079E-02 (1.575E-03) ***	-2.047E-02 (1.582E-03) ***		-2.155E-02 (1.579E-03) ***	-1.991E-02 (1.587E-03) ***	-2.381E-02 (1.588E-03) ***	-1.006E-02 (1.513E-03) ***
No (reference)							
Work from Home							
Yes	-1.520E-03 (2.700E-03)	-2.110E-03 (2.712E-03)		-1.700E-04 (2.707E-03)	-1.710E-03 (2.719E-03)	-1.950E-03 (2.726E-03)	4.731E-03 (2.590E-03)
No (reference)							
<i>Economic Constraints</i>							
Household Income							
£50,000 and over (reference)							
£25,000 to £49,999	-4.317E-02 (1.295E-03) ***	-4.424E-02 (1.300E-03) ***	-3.806E-02 (1.264E-03) ***		-5.596E-02 (1.280E-03) ***	-3.185E-02 (1.243E-03) ***	-3.275E-02 (1.245E-03) ***

£24,999 and less	-2.315E-02 (1.145E-03) ***	-2.303E-02 (1.150E-03) ***	-2.117E-02 (1.146E-03) ***		-2.999E-02 (1.147E-03) ***	-2.122E-02 (1.142E-03) ***	-1.779E-02 (1.099E-03) ***
<i>Accessibility Constraints</i>							
<i>Settlement Type</i>							
London Boroughs	6.853E-02 (2.230E-03) ***	6.972E-02 (2.239E-03) ***	6.834E-02 (2.237E-03) ***	7.433E-02 (2.229E-03) ***		7.252E-02 (2.239E-03) ***	5.244E-02 (2.143E-03) ***
Metropolitan Built-up Areas	1.226E-02 (2.076E-03) ***	1.196E-02 (2.084E-03) ***	1.239E-02 (2.082E-03) ***	1.193E-02 (2.081E-03) ***		1.283E-02 (2.088E-03) ***	5.106E-03 (1.992E-03) *
Urban over 250 population	1.760E-02 (2.005E-03) ***	1.731E-02 (2.013E-03) ***	1.764E-02 (2.011E-03) ***	1.812E-02 (2.010E-03) ***		1.907E-02 (2.023E-03) ***	7.733E-03 (1.925E-03) ***
Urban with 25k to 250k population	9.867E-03 (1.821E-03) ***	9.689E-03 (1.828E-03) ***	9.618E-03 (1.826E-03) ***	9.816E-03 (1.825E-03) ***		1.201E-02 (1.836E-03) ***	3.641E-03 (1.747E-03) *
Urban with 3k to 25k population	6.933E-03 (1.647E-03) ***	6.832E-03 (1.654E-03) ***	6.777E-03 (1.652E-03) ***	6.484E-03 (1.651E-03) ***		8.665E-03 (1.662E-03) ***	4.045E-03 (1.580E-03) *
Rural (reference)							
<i>Population Density (Persons/ha)</i>							
40 and over	1.392E-02 (1.779E-03) ***	1.349E-02 (1.787E-03) ***	1.365E-02 (1.785E-03) ***	1.350E-02 (1.784E-03) ***		1.970E-02 (1.786E-03) ***	8.148E-03 (1.708E-03) ***
20 to 39.99	7.866E-03 (1.592E-03) ***	7.467E-03 (1.599E-03) ***	7.756E-03 (1.598E-03) ***	7.207E-03 (1.596E-03) ***		9.943E-03 (1.604E-03) ***	5.505E-03 (1.528E-03) ***
5 to 19.99	3.754E-03 (1.451E-03) **	3.305E-03 (1.457E-03) *	3.734E-03 (1.456E-03) *	3.392E-03 (1.455E-03) *		4.264E-03 (1.464E-03) **	2.108E-03 (1.392E-03)
4.99 and less (reference)							
<i>Housing Tenure</i>							
Owns/Buying	2.831E-02 (1.107E-03) ***	3.058E-02 (1.111E-03) ***	3.028E-02 (1.106E-03) ***	3.385E-02 (1.097E-03) ***		1.629E-02 (1.054E-03) ***	3.002E-02 (1.062E-03) ***
Rents and other (reference)							
<i>Mobility Resources Constraints</i>							
<i>Number of Household Vehicles</i>							
2 and over	-6.520E-02 (1.661E-03) ***	-6.427E-02 (1.668E-03) ***	-6.435E-02 (1.662E-03) ***	-5.224E-02 (1.613E-03) ***	-7.032E-02 (1.571E-03) ***		-5.680E-02 (1.594E-03) ***
1	-4.154E-02 (1.426E-03) ***	-4.078E-02 (1.432E-03) ***	-4.003E-02 (1.429E-03) ***	-3.808E-02 (1.421E-03) ***	-4.225E-02 (1.388E-03) ***		-3.609E-02 (1.368E-03) ***
0 (reference)							
<i>Owning a Bicycle</i>							
Yes	4.220E-02 (9.460E-04) ***	4.437E-02 (9.490E-04) ***	4.365E-02 (9.470E-04) ***	4.365E-02 (9.480E-04) ***	4.009E-02 (9.440E-04) ***		3.711E-02 (9.080E-04) ***
No (reference)							
<i>Holding Full Car License</i>							
Yes	-8.340E-03 (1.229E-03) ***	-5.750E-03 (1.233E-03) ***	-9.610E-03 (1.222E-03) ***	-9.010E-03 (1.232E-03) ***	-6.210E-03 (1.237E-03) ***		-2.350E-02 (1.185E-03) ***
No (reference)							
<i>Number of Trip Stages</i>							
Intercept	2.318E-01 (3.954E-03) ***	2.228E-01 (4.327E-03) ***	2.319E-01 (3.908E-03) ***	1.997E-01 (3.259E-03) ***	2.836E-01 (4.355E-03) ***	1.955E-01 (3.097E-03) ***	3.399E-03 (2.600E-05) ***
<i>Number of observations</i>	203329	203329	203329	203329	203329	203329	203329

Note: Model 1: the maximally adjusted model. Model 2-6: the models that respectively excluded physical mobility, work, economic, accessibility, and mobility resources constraints from the maximally adjusted model. Model 7: sensitivity analysis 1 (including the number of trip stages).

OM_PI-8 was used as the dependent variables.

*, **, and *** denotes significant at the significance level of 0.05, 0.01, and 0.001, respectively.

Table 2 Results from hierarchical age-period-cohort model of multimodality (random-effect parts).

Variance Components	Model 1	Model 2	Model 3	Model 4	Model 5	Model 6	Model 7
	Variance	Variance	Variance	Variance	Variance	Variance	Variance
Period	0.000016 **	0.000012 *	0.000020 Ψ	0.000013 *	0.000019 *	0.000018 *	0.000016 **
Cohort	0.000121 *	0.000167 *	0.000116 ***	0.000067 *	0.000192 Ψ	0.000062 *	0.000113 *
Random Effects	Coef. (SE)	Coef. (SE)	Coef. (SE)	Coef. (SE)	Coef. (SE)	Coef. (SE)	Coef. (SE)
Period							
2001	6.600E-04 (2.365E-03)	-5.500E-04 (2.235E-03)	5.260E-04 (2.496E-03)	-1.040E-03 (2.247E-03)	1.944E-03 (2.486E-03)	9.320E-04 (2.419E-03)	-1.430E-03 (2.308E-03)
2002	2.244E-03 (1.952E-03)	5.990E-04 (1.863E-03)	1.680E-03 (2.054E-03)	-2.200E-04 (1.850E-03)	3.103E-03 (2.057E-03)	2.744E-03 (1.981E-03)	-3.500E-03 (1.903E-03)
2003	-1.800E-04 (1.870E-03)	-1.970E-03 (1.783E-03)	-6.500E-04 (1.969E-03)	-2.470E-03 (1.777E-03)	-8.060E-06 (1.961E-03)	4.820E-04 (1.904E-03)	-2.700E-03 (1.823E-03)
2004	-3.150E-03 (1.847E-03)	-4.290E-03 (1.759E-03) *	-3.690E-03 (1.945E-03)	-4.700E-03 (1.762E-03) **	-2.510E-03 (1.937E-03)	-3.020E-03 (1.887E-03)	-5.730E-03 (1.800E-03) **
2005	2.849E-03 (1.808E-03)	1.277E-03 (1.720E-03)	2.897E-03 (1.906E-03)	1.737E-03 (1.731E-03)	3.355E-03 (1.892E-03)	3.297E-03 (1.854E-03)	-7.200E-04 (1.762E-03)
2006	1.776E-03 (1.795E-03)	5.330E-04 (1.706E-03)	1.348E-03 (1.892E-03)	8.410E-04 (1.724E-03)	2.630E-03 (1.874E-03)	2.015E-03 (1.847E-03)	-1.780E-03 (1.750E-03)
2007	4.176E-03 (1.780E-03) *	3.704E-03 (1.690E-03) *	3.975E-03 (1.877E-03) *	3.733E-03 (1.713E-03) *	5.112E-03 (1.855E-03) **	4.802E-03 (1.835E-03) **	4.747E-03 (1.734E-03) **
2008	6.445E-03 (1.786E-03) ***	5.840E-03 (1.696E-03) ***	6.595E-03 (1.883E-03) ***	6.382E-03 (1.721E-03) ***	5.977E-03 (1.858E-03) **	6.734E-03 (1.844E-03) ***	5.945E-03 (1.740E-03) ***
2009	7.047E-03 (1.760E-03) ***	6.735E-03 (1.670E-03) ***	7.298E-03 (1.856E-03) ***	6.931E-03 (1.696E-03) ***	6.894E-03 (1.832E-03) ***	7.119E-03 (1.818E-03) ***	9.127E-03 (1.715E-03) ***
2010	-2.010E-03 (1.784E-03)	-1.780E-03 (1.693E-03)	-1.700E-03 (1.880E-03)	-1.310E-03 (1.718E-03)	-2.160E-03 (1.857E-03)	-2.010E-03 (1.842E-03)	-3.400E-04 (1.738E-03)
2011	-1.140E-03 (1.810E-03)	-9.400E-04 (1.719E-03)	-6.300E-04 (1.907E-03)	-5.700E-04 (1.742E-03)	-1.520E-03 (1.886E-03)	-1.100E-03 (1.866E-03)	1.648E-03 (1.763E-03)
2012	-4.090E-03 (1.790E-03) *	-3.740E-03 (1.700E-03) *	-3.580E-03 (1.887E-03)	-3.160E-03 (1.718E-03)	-5.650E-03 (1.868E-03) **	-4.010E-03 (1.841E-03) *	-1.940E-03 (1.744E-03)
2013	-3.500E-03 (1.826E-03)	-1.630E-03 (1.736E-03)	-3.170E-03 (1.924E-03)	-2.730E-03 (1.749E-03)	-4.230E-03 (1.910E-03) *	-3.680E-03 (1.874E-03) *	-4.000E-05 (1.780E-03)
2014	-3.390E-03 (1.839E-03)	-1.540E-03 (1.750E-03)	-3.370E-03 (1.938E-03)	-1.950E-03 (1.756E-03)	-4.070E-03 (1.928E-03) *	-3.670E-03 (1.881E-03)	-1.000E-05 (1.793E-03)
2015	-4.290E-03 (1.884E-03) *	-2.380E-03 (1.795E-03)	-4.000E-03 (1.985E-03) *	-2.100E-03 (1.793E-03)	-4.730E-03 (1.980E-03) *	-4.890E-03 (1.921E-03) *	-3.400E-04 (1.837E-03)
2016	-3.070E-03 (1.907E-03)	-1.130E-03 (1.819E-03)	-3.280E-03 (2.008E-03)	-9.800E-04 (1.807E-03)	-3.300E-03 (2.011E-03)	-4.220E-03 (1.934E-03) *	-1.810E-03 (1.859E-03)
2017	-3.700E-04 (1.973E-03)	1.258E-03 (1.883E-03)	-2.400E-04 (2.077E-03)	1.588E-03 (1.864E-03)	-8.500E-04 (2.085E-03)	-1.520E-03 (1.995E-03)	-1.110E-03 (1.924E-03)
Cohort							
Pre-1930	-6.060E-03 (5.200E-03)	-1.130E-02 (5.655E-03) *	-9.350E-03 (5.189E-03)	-9.760E-03 (4.298E-03) *	-2.620E-03 (6.056E-03)	-5.900E-03 (4.246E-03)	-1.174E-02 (5.023E-03) *
1930-1934	1.469E-03 (4.547E-03)	1.487E-03 (5.005E-03)	7.482E-03 (4.514E-03)	-3.550E-03 (3.729E-03)	5.482E-03 (5.345E-03)	-3.260E-03 (3.672E-03)	-1.670E-03 (4.389E-03)
1935-1939	1.049E-02 (4.137E-03) *	1.260E-02 (4.597E-03) **	2.063E-02 (4.085E-03) ***	4.866E-03 (3.362E-03)	1.418E-02 (4.908E-03) **	4.663E-03 (3.304E-03)	7.932E-03 (3.992E-03) *
1940-1944	1.535E-02 (3.828E-03) ***	1.825E-02 (4.290E-03) ***	2.486E-02 (3.772E-03) ***	1.010E-02 (3.097E-03) **	1.885E-02 (4.572E-03) ***	9.361E-03 (3.038E-03) **	1.658E-02 (3.692E-03) ***
1945-1949	1.895E-02 (3.567E-03) ***	2.175E-02 (4.033E-03) ***	2.415E-02 (3.513E-03) ***	1.525E-02 (2.867E-03) ***	2.171E-02 (4.293E-03) ***	1.409E-02 (2.804E-03) **	2.015E-02 (3.439E-03) ***
1950-1954	9.545E-03 (3.474E-03) **	1.173E-02 (3.936E-03) **	8.622E-03 (3.414E-03) *	7.672E-03 (2.814E-03) **	1.143E-02 (4.176E-03) **	6.803E-03 (2.752E-03) *	9.950E-03 (3.347E-03) **
1955-1959	4.941E-03 (3.410E-03)	6.406E-03 (3.872E-03)	4.690E-04 (3.343E-03)	4.666E-03 (2.769E-03)	6.125E-03 (4.100E-03)	4.525E-03 (2.706E-03)	4.207E-03 (3.285E-03)
1960-1964	-2.110E-03 (3.366E-03)	-1.390E-03 (3.833E-03)	-6.480E-03 (3.303E-03) *	-1.510E-03 (2.718E-03)	-1.340E-03 (4.062E-03)	5.580E-04 (2.653E-03)	-1.620E-03 (3.242E-03)
1965-1969	-9.740E-03 (3.405E-03) **	-9.610E-03 (3.874E-03) *	-1.365E-02 (3.349E-03) ***	-8.290E-03 (2.736E-03) **	-9.960E-03 (4.114E-03) *	-5.330E-03 (2.670E-03) *	-1.126E-02 (3.281E-03) ***
1970-1974	-8.290E-03 (3.542E-03) *	-8.690E-03 (4.011E-03) *	-1.234E-02 (3.489E-03) ***	-5.910E-03 (2.841E-03) *	-9.760E-03 (4.270E-03) *	-3.600E-03 (2.776E-03)	-9.140E-03 (3.414E-03) **
1975-1979	-5.440E-03 (3.795E-03)	-6.190E-03 (4.260E-03)	-1.050E-02 (3.745E-03) **	-1.760E-03 (3.058E-03)	-7.850E-03 (4.545E-03)	-1.100E-03 (2.993E-03)	-5.420E-03 (3.661E-03)
1980-1984	-3.930E-03 (4.105E-03)	-4.940E-03 (4.569E-03)	-9.490E-03 (4.059E-03) *	7.340E-04 (3.317E-03)	-8.570E-03 (4.884E-03)	-1.340E-03 (3.255E-03)	-5.990E-03 (3.962E-03)
1985-1990	-6.300E-03 (4.523E-03)	-7.990E-03 (4.984E-03)	-9.080E-03 (4.493E-03) *	-9.000E-04 (3.684E-03)	-1.201E-02 (5.333E-03) *	-3.750E-03 (3.628E-03)	-3.390E-03 (4.367E-03)

Post-1990	-1.888E-02 (5.071E-03) ***	-2.211E-02 (5.525E-03) ***	-1.532E-02 (5.063E-03) **	-1.161E-02 (4.155E-03) **	-2.566E-02 (5.935E-03) ***	-1.572E-02 (4.109E-03) ***	-8.600E-03 (4.901E-03)
Model Fit							
AIC	-103524	-101745	-102270	-102441	-100357	-99641	-122427
BIC	-103522	-101742	-102267	-102438	-100354	-99638	-122425

Note: OM_PI-8 was used as the dependent variables.

Model 1: the maximally adjusted model. Model 2-6: the models that respectively excluded physical mobility, work, economic, accessibility, and mobility resources constraints from the maximally adjusted model. Model 7: sensitivity analysis 1 (including the number of trip stages).

ψ, *, **, and *** denotes significant at the significance level of 0.10, 0.05, 0.01, and 0.001, respectively.

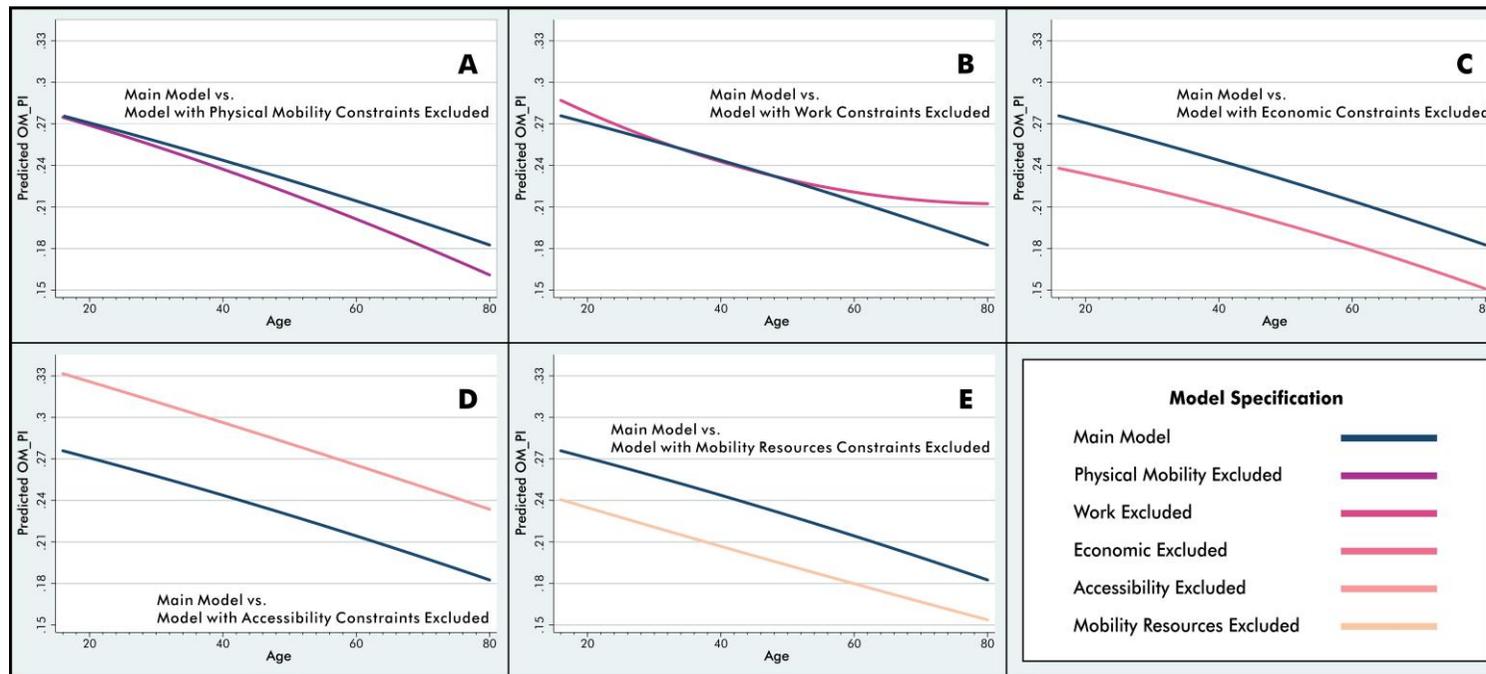


Figure 2 The extent to which a specific type of spatial mobility constraint moderates the age-multimodality relation.

Note: subfigures A-E successively display the comparison between OM_PI predicted by Model 1 (the maximally adjusted model; blue lines) and Model 2-6 (the models that respectively excluded physical mobility, work, economic, accessibility, and mobility resources constraints from the maximally adjusted model; purple-to-pink lines).

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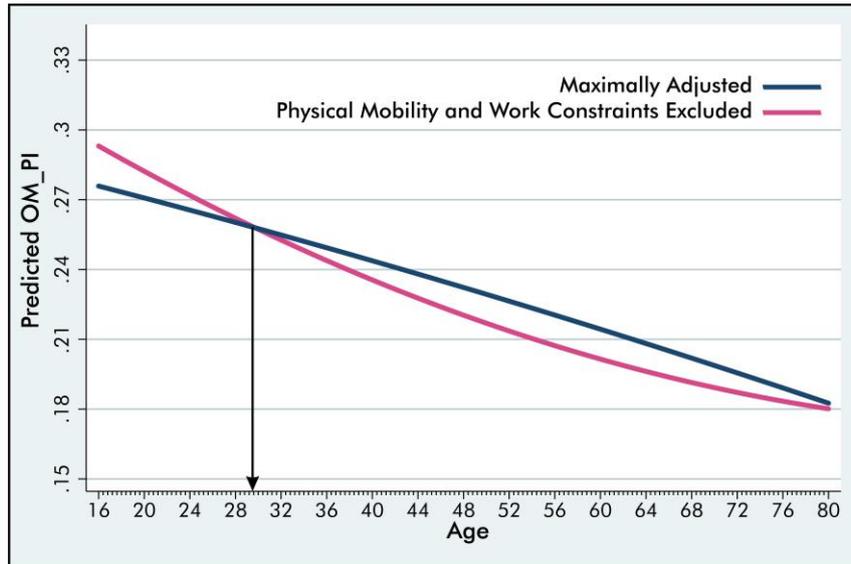


Figure 3 The extent to which physical mobility and work constraints moderate the age-multimodality relation.

Note: the predicted mean value of OM_PI-8 was calculated according to Model 1 (the blue line) and the model that excluded physical mobility and work constraints from the maximally adjusted model (the purple line).

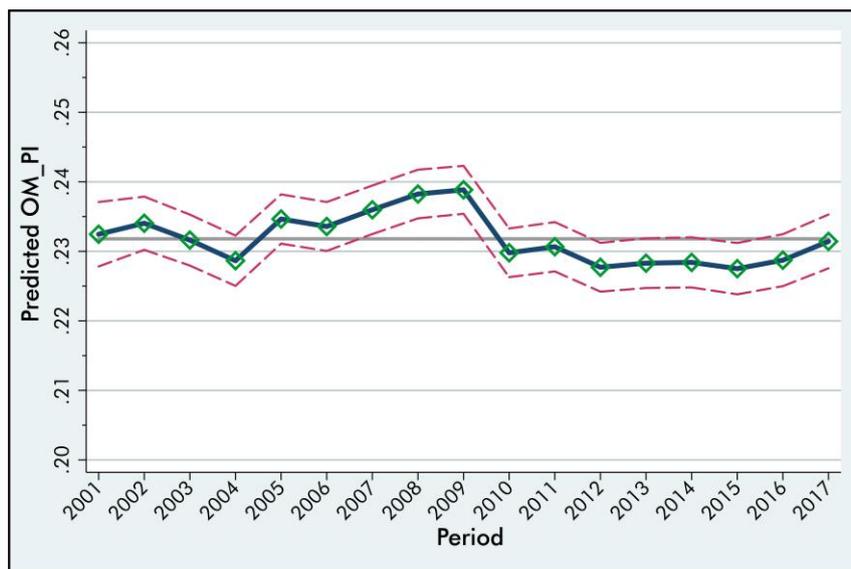


Figure 4 Predicted mean values of OM_PI across periods.

Note: the predicted mean value of OM_PI-8 was calculated using coefficients in Model 1. The solid blue, solid grey, and dash red lines represented the predicted mean value of OM_PI, grand mean of OM_PI, and 95% confidence interval, respectively.

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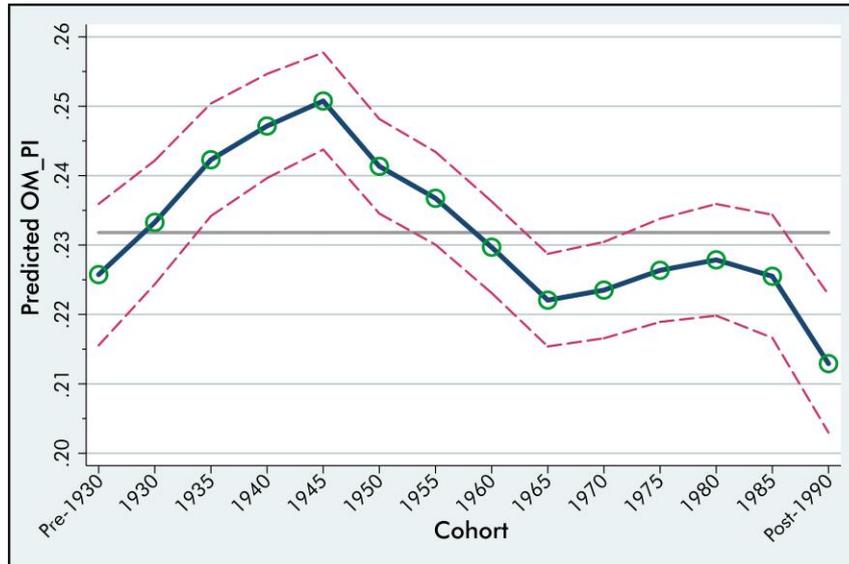


Figure 5 Predicted mean values of OM_PI across cohorts.

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Note: the predicted mean value of OM_PI-8 was calculated using coefficients in Model 1. The solid blue, solid grey, and dash red lines represented the predicted mean value of OM_PI, grand mean of OM_PI, and 95% confidence interval, respectively.

536 5. Discussion and conclusion

537 The research reported in this paper investigated the extent to which individual multimodality varies
538 by age, period, and cohort, using 17 consecutive waves of the NTS in England, 2001 to 2017. In
539 light of the mathematical coupling between age, period, and cohort, the HAPC model was used to
540 disentangle the confounding effects between these three variables. Our analyses showed that the
541 effects of age, period, and cohort on multimodality were significant and independent of each other.

542 Our results showed that travellers tend to be, on average, less multimodal as they age, which is
543 in line with prior studies (e.g., [Heinen and Mattioli \(2019a\)](#); [Klinger \(2017\)](#); [Molin et al. \(2016\)](#)).
544 As indicated by our multistep analyses, the effect of age might be moderated by multiple spatial
545 mobility constraints – work and physical mobility constraints in particular – which largely accelerate
546 the falling of multimodality before and after reaching middle adulthood, respectively. A plausible
547 explanation is that, during the adolescence-to-adulthood transition, changes in employment status
548 are universally catalysed. Moving from student to full-time employee contributes to the tight budget
549 of discretionary time as well as to more commuting/business trips that are characterised by strong
550 temporal and spatial fixity ([Eldér, 2014](#)). These changes may result in fewer opportunities to use a
551 variety of modes and higher repeatability of daily mode choices. Subsequently, for the remainder of
552 their lifespan, people are more likely to undergo a deterioration in their physical performance and
553 experience a decline in mobility ([Morgan et al., 2014](#)). Within this context, individuals are, to a
554 large extent, restricted from using active modes, e.g., walking, cycling, and the use of public transit,
555 thereby reducing the richness of their mode choice sets.

556 We found that the overall temporal pattern in multimodality remained relatively stable from
557 2001 to 2017 in England, despite the fluctuations. Our findings were, to a certain extent, inconsistent
558 with the previous studies, which reported an increase in multimodality between two time periods
559 after 2000 (see: [Buehler and Hamre \(2014\)](#) for trends between 2001 and 2009; and [Streit et al. \(2015\)](#)
560 for trends between 1998-2002 and 2010-2012). We also compared our results with the research by
561 [Heinen and Mattioli \(2019a\)](#). They used the NTS data and multivariable linear regressions that
562 simultaneously accounted for age and period; a significant downward trend in England between
563 2002 to 2015 was found. In contrast, for our research, the OM_PI slightly decreased by only 0.006
564 during the same period. This comparison suggests the necessity of incorporating the cohort effect
565 into the surveillance of temporal patterns in multimodality. Moreover, we saw a decline in
566 multimodality between 2009 and 2010. These changes were not as salient as the fluctuations in
567 ageing and cohort succession. This decline in 2009 happened shortly after the 2008-09 financial
568 crisis. Comparing 2007 with 2009, 1.3% of trip stages shifted from car driver to bus, walk, and
569 bicycle. In 2010, the car driver modal share rebounded by 1.5% on average, at the cost of a fall in
570 walk and bicycle modal shares.

571 This research yielded new insights into the nexus between multimodality and birth cohort. We
572 revealed that multimodality was unequally distributed across cohorts. The cohort-specific changes
573 in multimodality could be partially explained by the variations in multiple spatial mobility
574 constraints in relation to the cohort succession. It was also observed that compared to period effects,
575 cohort effects, which have been largely overlooked by previous studies, substantially explain the
576 observed changes in multimodality over time. One of the most intriguing findings for cohort effects
577 is that multimodality reached the lowest levels for the cohort born between 1945 and 1969, even
578 when controlling for all covariates. This may largely be attributed to the surge in driving share
579 shaped by *baby boomers'* distinctive early life conditions and formative experience. Baby boomers
580 refer to the demographic cohort born between 1946 and 1964 during the post-war population
581 explosion ([Eggebeen and Sturgeon, 2014](#)). According to the 2001-2017 NTS data (**Figure 6-A**), the
582 share in car driver trip stages, being at the highest levels (0.56) for baby boomers, followed an
583 inverted U-shaped curve according to cohort succession. By contrast, reversed patterns were noticed
584 for bus and car passenger modal share, which continued to decrease for cohorts born before 1965
585 and rebounded thereafter. In the early years of baby boomers, the end of World War II enabled
586 industrialised countries, such as the US and Western European countries, to usher the 'golden age of
587 capitalism,' marked by two decades of economic growth, high levels of productivity, and low
588 unemployment ([Marglin and Schor, 1991](#)). The lifestyles were, therefore, dramatically changed. In
589 particular, due to the prosperity of automobile industries, termination of petrol rationing, and a more

590 affluent life, people were more able to afford private cars and were more prone to drive (e.g., [Gunn](#)
591 [\(2018\)](#); [Thompson et al. \(2012\)](#)). Between the 1950s and the mid-1960s, the number of households
592 with at least one car roughly tripled in Great Britain ([Leibling, 2008](#)), and the share in total car use
593 (including travel as driver and passenger) surged by 40% (**Figure 6-B**). Studies have suggested that
594 youth is an impressionable period when individuals are highly susceptible to the influence of social
595 context, and on this basis, their worldviews, values, and beliefs can be substantially shaped (e.g.,
596 [Down and Wilson \(2013\)](#); [Wray-Lake et al. \(2010\)](#)). Therefore, baby boomers might have developed
597 strong pro-car and pro-driving attitudes in their youth (see, e.g., [Chatterjee et al. \(2018\)](#); [Owram](#)
598 [\(1997\)](#)). It is also reasonable to believe that these attitudes could be maintained and lead to a large
599 driving share when baby boomers reach the minimum age for a driver's license (circa 1960-1980
600 onwards) and onwards. This could be partially reflected on the fact that the modal share in car travel
601 rose by 30% between 1960 and the mid-1990s (**Figure 6-B**). This, as well as the lack of effective
602 supportive policies for other modes of transport (see, e.g., [Gunn \(2018\)](#)), potentially contributed to
603 the decline in multimodality for the cohorts born between 1945 and 1969.

604 From a demographic standpoint, our analyses were unable to support the view of a long-term
605 increase in multimodality. It was found that following the cohorts of the mild upward trend,
606 multimodality started to decrease for the cohort born at and after 1985. This finding is potentially
607 related to the distinctive growth process of the post-1985 cohort, during which the use of the internet
608 came to be prevalent. Studies have suggested that increasing 'virtualisation' has largely contributed
609 to the decline in daily mobility in recent generations (e.g., [Frändberg and Vilhelmson \(2011\)](#)).
610 Travelling less, the post-1985 cohort may, therefore, have fewer opportunities to use specific modes,
611 which in turn, results in a less multimodal travel pattern. Our speculation is supported by our
612 sensitivity analysis (S1) that the salient decline for the post-1985 cohort was hardly present after
613 controlling for the number of trip stages. This finding is of importance for policy-making, as it, to a
614 certain extent, indicates a future trend of multimodality.

615 Going beyond our specific findings, we believe that the HAPC method employed is of a wider
616 application value, in the *ex post* evaluation of long-range policies on improvements of sustainable
617 transport. For evaluating long-range policies targeted at either specific cohorts or a part of the
618 (sub-)population at one point in time, it is necessary to regularly trace travel patterns of the target
619 groups over a long period, and compare them with the baseline ones. However, ageing of individuals,
620 changes in social contexts, and cohort succession are necessarily intertwined. The observed effects
621 of such policies inevitably contain some time-related confounding effects that are not within the
622 original aim of the policies. As illustrated in our analyses, the HAPC model is able to disentangle
623 the confounding effects between age, period, and cohort, thereby providing an effective and
624 comprehensive tool for *ex post* policy evaluation.

625 This research also has several limitations. First, the continuous indicator we applied to measure
626 multimodality does not explicitly provide insight into the modes used. As such, we cannot draw
627 strong conclusions on variation in specific modes from our analyses. Our interpretations and the
628 implications of our findings should be, therefore, treated with caution. For example, changes in
629 multimodality do not necessarily correspond with changes in car use (despite the dominant role of
630 car use in our country of study), especially at the disaggregate level. We used descriptive analyses
631 and existing literature on the post-war socioeconomic transformation to speculate on the causes of
632 the observed patterns. This enabled us to suggest that decreased levels of multimodality for baby
633 boomers may be attributed to increased levels of driving. However, resulting from the measurement
634 of multimodality and the interconnection between age, period, and cohort, we cannot be absolutely
635 certain of this interpretation, nor can we automatically draw similar conclusions related to car use
636 for other observed patterns (e.g. for other cohorts). APC analyses on the exclusive use of various
637 modes would be an important supplement to our findings. Second, the time span (17 years) of our
638 data may not be sufficiently long, although, to our best knowledge, the NTS data is the only data
639 currently available with national-wide population representativeness and high-quality multiday
640 travel diaries. Due to the potential 'peak car' phenomenon in recent decades in England (e.g.,
641 [Headicar \(2013\)](#)), looking at the data with a longer time span may reveal more salient changes in
642 multimodality across periods. Third, individual multimodality showed a decline for the cohort born
643 in or after 1985, yet our sensitivity analyses were not able to verify the robustness of the temporal
644 pattern for the post-1990 cohort. A revisit to this finding in the future is recommended.

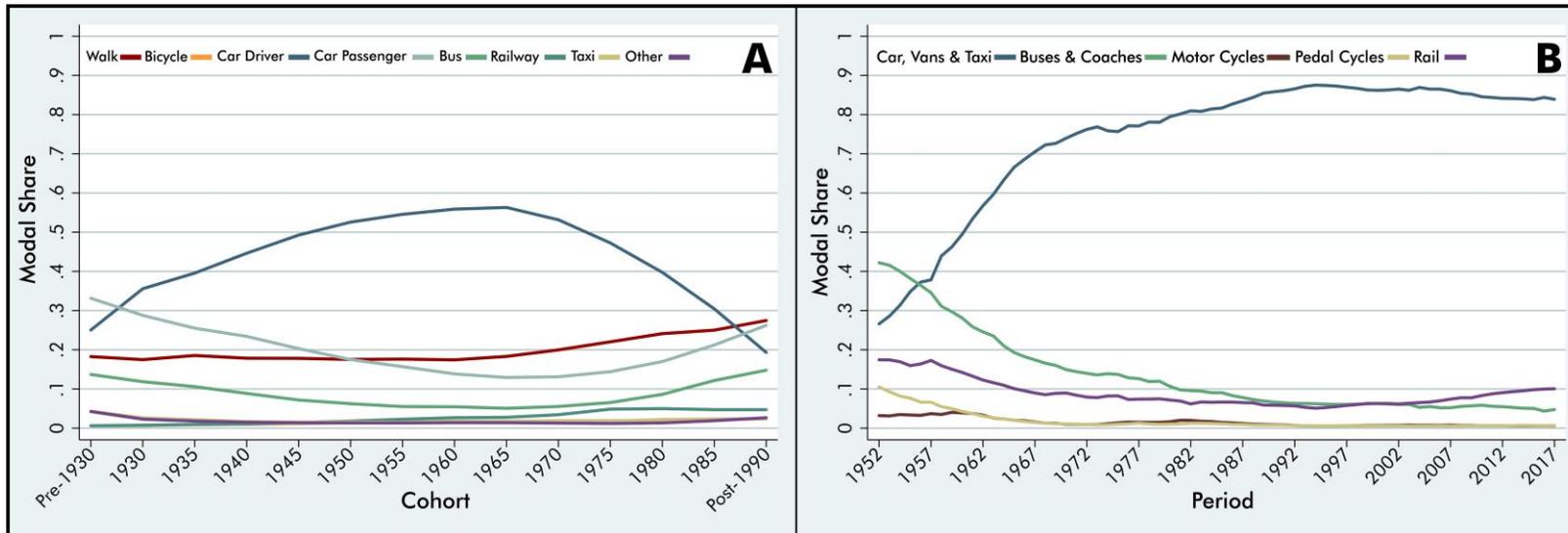


Figure 6 Trends in (A) the modal share in England across cohorts (based on the 2001-2017 NTS data) and (B) the modal share in Great Britain from 1952 to 2017 (based on [Department for Transport \(2018b\)](#)).

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Appendix A. Descriptive statistic of the considered correlates

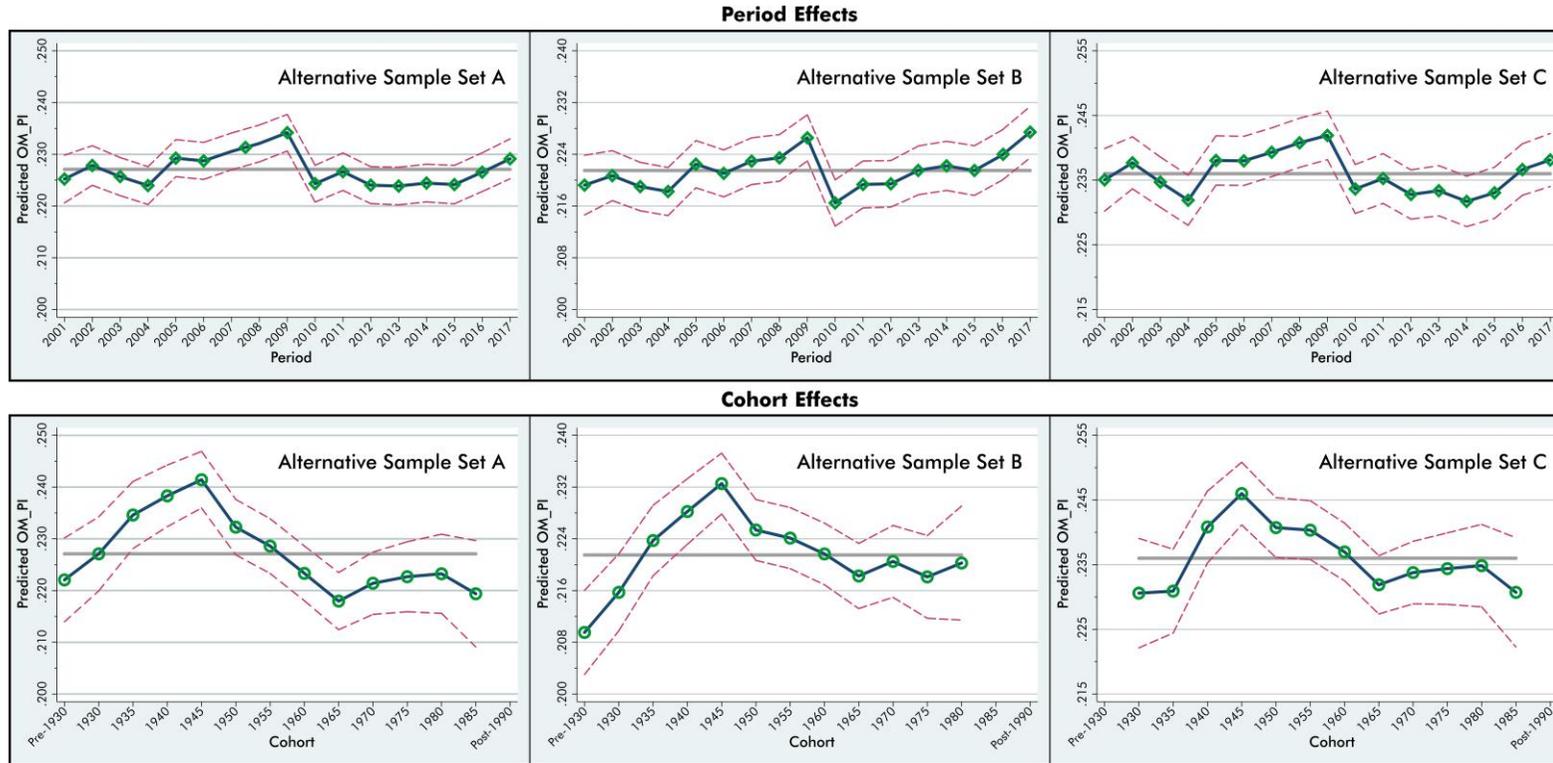
Correlates	Age			Period			Cohort		
	16-40	41-60	61 and over	2001-2006	2007-2012	2013-2017	Pre-1945	1945-1970	Post-1970
<i>Social Role Constraints</i>									
Age	28.8	50.2	72.1	47.1	48.2	49.2	73.5	51.2	28.2
Gender									
Female	52.6%	51.9%	53.1%	52.6%	52.5%	52.4%	53.6%	51.8%	52.7%
Male	47.4%	48.1%	46.9%	47.4%	47.5%	47.6%	46.4%	48.2%	47.3%
Ethnicity									
White	85.2%	91.6%	96.4%	92.4%	90.3%	88.9%	96.8%	92.1%	84.5%
Mixed Multiple Ethnic Groups	1.6%	0.7%	0.2%	0.8%	1.0%	0.9%	0.2%	0.7%	1.7%
Asian/Asian British (reference)	8.2%	4.4%	1.9%	3.9%	5.2%	6.4%	1.6%	4.1%	8.8%
Black/African/Caribbean/Black British	3.3%	2.3%	1.0%	2.0%	2.4%	2.6%	1.0%	2.2%	3.3%
Other Ethnic Group	1.6%	0.9%	0.4%	0.9%	1.1%	1.1%	0.4%	0.9%	1.7%
<i>Physical Mobility Constraints</i>									
Having Walking Difficulties									
Yes	2.7%	8.0%	25.4%	13.8%	10.9%	8.1%	29.5%	8.4%	2.4%
No	97.3%	92.0%	74.6%	86.2%	89.1%	91.9%	70.5%	91.6%	97.6%
<i>Work Constraints</i>									
Economic Status									
Full-time	55.4%	60.6%	8.0%	44.3%	42.9%	43.5%	5.2%	53.9%	54.8%
Part-time	17.3%	18.4%	7.6%	15.0%	15.1%	14.6%	5.8%	17.7%	17.1%
Unemployed	4.4%	2.1%	0.2%	1.9%	3.0%	2.3%	0.1%	1.9%	4.6%
Retired	0.0%	4.7%	79.2%	23.2%	24.2%	25.8%	84.1%	13.4%	0.0%
Student	10.6%	0.3%	0.0%	3.5%	4.3%	4.3%	0.0%	0.3%	11.6%
Other inactive employment	12.3%	13.9%	5.0%	12.1%	10.6%	9.5%	4.8%	12.8%	11.8%
Multiple Work Locations									
Yes	9.0%	12.4%	3.1%	7.4%	8.4%	9.5%	1.9%	11.2%	9.0%
No	91.0%	87.6%	96.9%	92.6%	91.6%	90.5%	98.1%	88.8%	91.0%
Work from Home									
Yes	1.9%	3.9%	1.8%	2.0%	2.7%	2.9%	1.3%	3.7%	1.9%
No	98.1%	96.1%	98.2%	98.0%	97.3%	97.1%	98.7%	96.3%	98.1%
<i>Economic Constraints</i>									
Household Income ^a									
£50,000 and over	30.0%	32.4%	9.4%	17.6%	26.0%	31.7%	6.3%	28.8%	31.7%

£25,000 to £49,999	33.0%	31.8%	67.5%	48.9%	42.0%	36.0%	73.7%	34.9%	32.4%
£24,999 and less	37.0%	35.8%	23.1%	33.5%	32.0%	32.3%	20.0%	36.3%	35.9%
<i>Accessibility Constraints</i>									
Settlement Type									
London Boroughs	17.5%	12.9%	10.1%	13.0%	13.8%	14.8%	10.2%	12.6%	17.8%
Metropolitan Built-up Areas (Urban over 250 population)	16.2%	14.2%	13.8%	15.2%	14.9%	14.3%	14.0%	14.2%	16.3%
Urban with 25k to 250k population	16.1%	15.6%	15.1%	16.5%	15.1%	15.4%	15.2%	15.6%	16.0%
Urban with 3k to 25k population	27.0%	26.3%	26.6%	26.5%	26.9%	26.6%	26.3%	26.6%	26.9%
Rural	13.6%	17.0%	18.8%	17.8%	15.8%	14.9%	19.5%	16.9%	13.2%
Population Density (Persons/ha)	9.6%	14.0%	15.6%	11.0%	13.5%	14.0%	14.8%	14.1%	9.8%
40 and over	28.2%	20.8%	17.3%	21.3%	21.8%	25.1%	17.1%	20.4%	29.0%
20 to 39.99	26.6%	25.4%	25.3%	24.4%	26.6%	26.5%	25.1%	25.4%	26.9%
5 to 19.99	24.4%	26.0%	27.2%	25.8%	26.5%	24.6%	27.3%	26.1%	24.2%
4.99 and less	20.8%	27.7%	30.2%	28.5%	25.1%	23.8%	30.5%	28.1%	19.9%
Housing Tenure									
Owns/Buying	61.7%	78.8%	80.9%	75.8%	72.6%	70.3%	80.4%	79.3%	59.8%
Rents and other	38.4%	21.2%	19.2%	24.2%	27.4%	29.7%	19.6%	20.7%	40.2%
<i>Mobility Resources Constraints</i>									
Number of Household Vehicles									
2 and over	45.7%	53.5%	24.6%	40.5%	42.8%	43.7%	19.6%	51.0%	45.5%
1	36.4%	35.3%	51.4%	41.5%	39.9%	39.5%	52.7%	37.6%	35.9%
0	17.9%	11.2%	24.0%	18.0%	17.3%	16.8%	27.7%	11.4%	18.6%
Owning a Bicycle									
Yes	41.9%	44.1%	19.9%	35.3%	37.1%	36.5%	16.5%	42.3%	41.3%
No	58.1%	55.9%	80.1%	64.7%	62.9%	63.5%	83.5%	57.7%	58.7%
Holding Full Car License									
Yes	65.9%	84.2%	68.7%	71.3%	73.1%	74.5%	64.4%	83.9%	63.9%
No	34.1%	15.8%	31.3%	28.7%	26.9%	25.5%	35.6%	16.1%	36.1%

^a Household income was deflated to 1990 values using the Retail Price Index (RPI).

Note: the statistics of variables were grouped based on the rough tertile for individuals' age, periods, and cohorts.

Appendix B. Predicted OM_PI across periods and cohorts using alternative sample sets



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