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# **The Level and Determinants of Multimodal Travel Behavior: Does Trip Purpose Make a Difference?**

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## **The Level and Determinants of Multimodal Travel Behavior: Does Trip Purpose Make a Difference?**

**Abstract:** Multimodality refers to the phenomenon of using more than one mode of transport in a given period. Encouraging multimodality potentially provides an effective solution to reduce CO<sub>2</sub> emissions and induce modal shifts towards sustainable transport. This research investigates the extent to which the level and correlates of multimodality differ by trip purpose. We used one-week travel diaries of the English National Travel Survey. Our analyses showed that the level of multimodality varied by trip purpose and the associated time-space variability as well as by the number of trip stages. We found that the level of variability in departure time and travel distance was greater for leisure trips than for maintenance trips, which was in turn greater than for work trips. Trips that were more variable in departure time and travel distance showed on average higher levels of individual multimodality, but only if sufficient stages (at least 3) were made. Moreover, we detected cross-purpose disparities in correlates of multimodality in terms of significance and variance explained. This research may provide support to the development of trip purpose-specific policies aiming to increase multimodality.

**Keywords:** multimodality; trip purpose; Heckman selection model; travel behavior; constraint

## 1 **1 Introduction**

2 In recent years, the notion of multimodality has attracted increasing attention in  
3 transport practices (e.g., [EC \(2014\)](#)) and research (e.g., [An, Heinen, and Watling](#)  
4 [\(2020\)](#)). Multimodality is defined as the phenomenon of using more than one mode of  
5 transport in a given period ([Kuhnimhof et al., 2012](#)). Existing studies suggest that  
6 encouraging multimodality is an effective measure to promote a more sustainable  
7 transport system. For example, multimodal travelers, under the same travel distance,  
8 emit less CO<sub>2</sub> than less multimodal or monomodal travelers (e.g., [Heinen and Mattioli](#)  
9 [\(2019b\)](#)). Moreover, travelers with more multimodal patterns are more likely to alter  
10 their mode use over time (e.g., [Kroesen \(2014\)](#)), to be more susceptible to transport  
11 infrastructure interventions (e.g., [Heinen and Ogilvie \(2016\)](#)), and to be more willing  
12 to adopt new transport services (e.g., [Diana \(2010\)](#)). Facilitating multimodality may  
13 therefore allow policymakers to induce modal shifts towards sustainable transport.

14 The scientific debate regards individual multimodality as a characteristic of  
15 individuals' travel patterns ([Heinen & Mattioli, 2019a](#)). Existing studies have revealed  
16 various correlates of multimodality, such as sociodemographic characteristics, features  
17 of the (residential) built environment, and life events (e.g., [An, et al. \(2020\)](#); [Scheiner,](#)  
18 [Chatterjee, and Heinen \(2016\)](#); [Molin, Mokhtarian, and Kroesen \(2016\)](#); [Buehler and](#)  
19 [Hamre \(2014\)](#); [Nobis \(2007\)](#)). Studies have also suggested that multimodality is widely  
20 present in developed societies (e.g., [Kuhnimhof, et al. \(2012\)](#); [Ralph \(2016\)](#)) and that  
21 there is an upward trend in recent decades (e.g., [Kuhnimhof, et al. \(2012\)](#); [Streit, Allier,](#)  
22 [Weiss, Chlond, and Vortisch \(2015\)](#)). However, British studies contradicted this and  
23 demonstrated that individual multimodality decreased between 1995 and 2015 ([Heinen](#)  
24 [& Mattioli, 2019a](#)) and from cohorts born in 1985 onwards ([An, et al., 2020](#)).

25 Despite these useful insights, we know relatively little beyond the understanding  
26 of individual multimodality based on *undifferentiated* or *exclusive* trip purposes. The  
27 vast majority of existing studies share one shortcoming: they investigated  
28 multimodality for all trips combined, independent of trip purpose, or for trips with only  
29 one specific purpose – in most cases, commuting. As a consequence, there is hardly any  
30 information about the extent to which multimodality varies by trip purpose. Moreover,  
31 although a plethora of literature has looked into correlates of multimodality, disparities  
32 in the effects of such correlates across trip purposes remain unknown.

33 This paper aims to investigate the differences in levels of individual multimodality  
34 across trip purposes and to explore the disparities in correlates of multimodality across  
35 trip purposes. We used data from the National Travel Survey (NTS) for England (2016).  
36 The large sample size and 7-day travel diaries of NTS allow us to differentiate  
37 individual multimodality by trip purpose for a national representative sample.

## 38 **2 Background**

39 This section discusses two topics. We first discuss the potential mechanism by which  
40 travel behavior may vary by trip purpose. We then provide a review on how levels and  
41 correlates of multimodality differ by trip purpose.

### 42 **2.1 Travel Behavior-Trip Purpose Nexus**

43 People perform activities and corresponding trips with different levels of time-space  
44 variability. Early time-geographic studies found that individuals had greater flexibility  
45 both in allocating time and in selecting locations when making discretionary activities  
46 than when performing obligatory ones (e.g., [Jones \(1977\)](#)). [Ås'\(1978\)](#) conceptualization  
47 elucidated a bigger picture of this issue. [Ås\(1978\)](#) categorized activities into four groups

48 according to the time constraints and freedom of choice in performing activities:  
49 activities in (1) necessary time; (2) contracted time; (3) committed time; and (4) free  
50 time (**Table 1**). Activities in necessary time are made to satisfy physiological needs  
51 (e.g., sleeping), which require no (or very limited) travel. The majority of travel demand  
52 derives from the need to participate in activities in contracted, committed, and free time.

53 Contracted time refers to the time allocated to activities for paid work. Activities  
54 in contracted time are subject to strong space fixity constraints ([Eldér, 2014](#)), whilst  
55 they exhibit larger fluctuations in time use, due to the potential for variations in  
56 departure times and working hours (e.g., [Shen, Kwan, and Chai \(2013\)](#)). Activities in  
57 committed time represent those that are bound to others through promise, such as  
58 household responsibilities ([Reinseth, Kjekken, Uhlig, & Espnes, 2012](#)). Committed-time  
59 activities potentially have a more flexible time budget than those conducted in  
60 contracted time, since they can be undertaken by other household members or be  
61 postponed. Travel distance also less likely constrains the engagement in committed-  
62 time activities. For example, regarding consumer behavior in grocery shopping, several  
63 attributes of shops, e.g., price and service, are as comparably important as the location  
64 of shops (e.g., [Schenk, Löffler, and Rauh \(2007\)](#)). Finally, free time is the time spent  
65 away from the aforementioned activities, and can be planned as well as on the spur of  
66 the moment (e.g., [M. S. Lee and McNally \(2003\)](#)). Given the multiplicity of free time  
67 activities, people have a greater opportunity to visit various locations. Free time  
68 activities are therefore considered the least time- and space-bound.

69 [Table 1 about here]

## 70 **2.2 Multimodality and Trip Purpose**

71 A few studies have investigated disparities in levels of individual multimodality across

72 trip purposes. Most of these studies were conducted by adopting aggregate, cluster-  
73 level analyses (**Table 2**), and the findings suggest trips made for discretionary activities  
74 may be more multimodal than those made for oblationary activities. For example, [Vij,](#)  
75 [Carrel, and Walker \(2011\)](#) analyzed modality styles in 226 Germany travelers and  
76 found that multimodal travelers (defined as if share of trips made by the primary mode  
77 was less than 90%) were less common among individuals who frequently made work  
78 trips (43%) than among those who frequently made non-work trips (70%). Similarly,  
79 [Buehler and Hamre \(2015\)](#) using the US National Household Travel Survey (NHTS)  
80 found that the share of multimodal car users (i.e., individuals who used a car and at least  
81 one other mode) decreased by 6% if recreational trips were excluded. [Ralph \(2016\)](#) also  
82 found by employing a latent class model on the NHTS that roughly 60% of  
83 'Multimodals' made at least one errand/social trip on the survey day, whilst only less  
84 than 30% of this group ran a commute trip.

85 [Table 2 about here]

86 Despite that these studies offer insights in the varying prevalence of multimodality  
87 by trip purposes, these studies are limited in several ways. First, it is inconclusive  
88 whether the findings can be ascribed to intergroup differences in trip shares or to  
89 characteristics of group members. Existing studies mainly used descriptive analyses of  
90 the prevalence of trips made for different purposes, comparing monomodal and  
91 multimodal groups to draw conclusions. Given the absence of statistical control for  
92 multimodality correlates, such descriptive analyses could induce confounding bias.  
93 Second, the discussed studies considered relatively few trip purposes, which may not  
94 reflect the multiplicity of human activities. Finally, these studies applied methods for  
95 evaluating multimodality were only able to capture intrapersonal modal variability in a

96 simplified way. They defined multimodality using aggregate measures, based on pre-  
97 defined ([Buehler & Hamre, 2015](#); [Vij, et al., 2011](#)) or data-driven ([Ralph, 2016](#)) groups.  
98 Such measures do not allow the investigation of levels of intrapersonal modal  
99 variability in a quantitative way, meaning that there is no insight into the extent to which  
100 multimodality differs by members within and between groups; this in turn potentially  
101 exaggerates intragroup homogeneity and intergroup heterogeneity.

102 For a disaggregate level analysis, [Susilo and Axhausen \(2014\)](#) made a substantial  
103 contribution to the topic by studying the individual day-to-day repetition of activity-  
104 travel patterns, using the Mobidrive and Thurgau travel diary surveys. They examined  
105 the stability/variability of combinations of four travel attributes (i.e., mode use, trip  
106 purposes, departure time, and location) over six weeks, considering nine trip purposes,  
107 using a continuous indicator (the Herfindahl–Hirschman Index (HHI)), to measure  
108 multimodality. Their results nonetheless had a similar outcome as the studies discussed  
109 above, and showed that leisure and private business trips, compared to trips made for  
110 obligatory activities (e.g., work, school, and pick up/drop off trips), had higher  
111 variability in location, departure time, and mode choice.

112 Yet, similar to the other discussed studies, this research was mostly descriptive,  
113 and the sample size of the study was relatively small (317 individuals in Mobidrive;  
114 230 individuals in Thurgau). The small sample size increases the risk of selection bias.  
115 Since not each individual in question made all defined types of trips and since the study  
116 considered a large number of trip purposes, the selection bias might be aggravated. The  
117 reason is that when analyzing specific purposes, this research excluded individuals with  
118 a missing value of the HHI. The calculation (and statistical comparisons) of average  
119 purpose-specific multimodality may not be reliable without considering the fact that



120 some individuals could have made the 'missing' trips, but due to self-selection or the  
121 limit of survey duration, they did not do so (see, [Heckman \(1979\)](#)). The overlooking of  
122 missing values also contributes to non-random censored sampling, and consequently  
123 makes the analyzed samples inconsistent between trip purposes. Thus, it is inconclusive  
124 whether the trip purpose itself contributed to the observed differences in multimodality,  
125 without population-representative data and analytical approaches to tackle the 'missing  
126 not at random' (MNAR) problem.

127 A large number of studies on multimodality have looked into its correlates. These  
128 studies have predominantly investigated all trips together, without differentiating by  
129 purpose. Existing literature has found that multimodality varies by individual  
130 sociodemographic characteristics. Multimodal individuals (and multimodal groups) are  
131 more likely female (e.g., [Vij, et al. \(2011\)](#)), in part-time employment, have a higher  
132 educational attainment (e.g., [Molin, et al. \(2016\)](#)), earn a higher income (e.g., [Buehler  
133 and Hamre \(2015\)](#)). Life trajectories have also been linked to multimodality. [An, et al.  
134 \(2020\)](#) observed that baby boomers who were born between 1960 and 1964 presented,  
135 on average, a lower level of multimodality than other cohorts. [Scheiner, et al. \(2016\)](#)  
136 found that individuals became more multimodal after their child moved out, whilst  
137 entering a labor market reduced multimodality. In addition, several studies have looked  
138 into factors that could be directly influenced by transport policies, e.g., mobility  
139 resources and spatial accessibility factors. Panel studies showed that acquiring a driving  
140 license and increasing car availability may decrease multimodality (e.g., [Scheiner, et al.  
141 \(2016\)](#)); by contrast, moving to cycling- and public transport-friendly cities may  
142 increase multimodal patterns (e.g., [Klinger \(2017\)](#)). Cross-sectional studies have also  
143 showed that multimodal travelers more likely live in areas with a larger population (e.g.,

144 [Heinen and Chatterjee \(2015\)](#)) and a greater population density (e.g., [Blumenberg and](#)  
145 [Pierce \(2014\)](#)).

146 Very few studies have focused specifically on one single purpose; if so, they have  
147 mainly focused on commuting. While there appear to be similarities with studies using  
148 undifferentiated trips, [Heinen \(2018\)](#) found that multimodal commuters were more  
149 likely to have less income and to have a car and bicycle available occasionally (rather  
150 than always or never). Contrary to most studies looking at all trips independent of trip  
151 purpose, [Chatterjee, Clark, and Bartle \(2016\)](#) observed that working part-time was more  
152 prevalent for travelers who did not or only partially used cars to commute (compared  
153 to car-only travelers). The authors also showed that travelers who partially used cars  
154 for commuting were more likely to work in multiple locations, which was not revealed  
155 in research looking at all trips together (e.g., [Heinen and Chatterjee \(2015\)](#)).

156 In summary, existing studies suggest that multimodality is not necessarily equally  
157 distributed for each purpose. There is evidence that trips for discretionary activities may  
158 be linked with higher levels of multimodality than those made for obligatory activities.  
159 The few studies available also suggest that correlates of multimodality for all trips differ  
160 from those that relate to trips for a specific purpose, such as commuting. However,  
161 shortcomings exist in the methodology and data used by the discussed studies limit the  
162 robustness of the findings and the ability to investigate the relationship between  
163 multimodal behavioral patterns and trip purposes.

### 164 **3 Method**

165 This research investigates the heterogeneity in multimodality across trip purposes. To  
166 better understand how and why levels and correlates of multimodality may vary by trip

167 purpose, we identify four major issues yet to be sufficiently tackled and address them  
168 in our research. Firstly, we use population-representative data with a large sample size,  
169 which ensures more reliable estimates for the entire population. Secondly, we adopt  
170 multivariate sample-selection statistical methods to reduce confounding and selection  
171 bias, which allows us to draw stronger statistical inference. Thirdly, we apply  
172 disaggregate-level measures to capture intrapersonal modal variability. Fourthly, we  
173 establish a set of explanatory models that, while separated by trip purpose, share unified  
174 specifications. This allows us to conduct systematic comparisons of the effects of  
175 multimodality correlates between purposes.

### 176 **3.1 Data**

177 We used the NTS for England (2016) ([Department for Transport, 2019c](#)). The NTS is  
178 a repeated cross-sectional survey of households. It is a nationwide survey, which since  
179 2013 has been restricted to only the residents in England. The NTS holds several  
180 particular strengths related to our research. First, it has records on the trip purpose of  
181 each trip – with a large variety of purposes –, which allows us to differentiate individual  
182 multimodality by purpose. Second, the applied seven-day travel diaries cover a  
183 relatively long data collection period, which allows us to calculate multimodality  
184 indicators for various trip purposes, and makes it more effective in capturing occasional  
185 trip purposes. Third, the NTS is representative of the population of England  
186 ([Department for Transport, 2019b](#)).

187 The NTS collects personal/household information and week-long travel behavior  
188 by face-to-face interviews and self-administered travel diaries, respectively. The NTS  
189 contains multiple data sets. We used four of these data sets: (1) personal characteristics  
190 extracted from the *Individuals* file; (2) household characteristics extracted from the

191 *Households* file; and (3&4) seven-day stage-/trip-level travel behaviors extracted from  
192 the *Stages* and *Trips* files. We limit our analyses to individuals aged 16 and over,  
193 corresponding with existing works on variability in travel behavior using the NTS (e.g.,  
194 [Heinen and Chatterjee \(2015\)](#); [Crawford \(2020\)](#)).

### 195 **3.2 Measuring Purpose-specific Multimodality**

196 In the NTS, a trip refers to a one-way course of travel with one purpose. We classified  
197 trips by seven types of trip purpose: Commuting/Education; Business; Shopping;  
198 Personal business; Social; Recreation; and Other. There are 12023 individuals who  
199 made at least one trip during the survey week in the 2016 NTS. The number of  
200 individuals who made at least one trip for the aforementioned seven purposes is 6487,  
201 2583, 9078, 5076, 7256, 5812, and 3837, respectively. The NTS contains escorting trips  
202 (i.e., travelers have no purpose of their own other than to accompany another person)  
203 for the commuting/education, business, and shopping purposes. We allocated those  
204 trips to their respective trip purpose, but also conducted a sensitivity analysis in which  
205 they were excluded. Following the conceptualization from [Ås \(1978\)](#), we categorized  
206 the aforementioned trips into three groups: (1) work trips (commuting/education and  
207 business trips); (2) maintenance trips (shopping and personal business trips); and (3)  
208 leisure trips (social and recreation trips). There are 7089, 9912, and 9242 individuals  
209 who made at least one trip for these purposes, respectively.

210 Existing works measured individual multimodality in three categories: (1) pre-  
211 defined characterizations, (2) data-driven approaches, and (3) continuous indicators.  
212 The pre-defined characterization approach focuses on the inherent duality of the  
213 concept of 'mixture.' Individuals can, therefore, be defined as either multimodal or  
214 unimodal according to their primary travel mode, and to whether they use other/specific

215 modes, without sufficient consideration of the intensity of using these modes (e.g., [Vij,](#)  
216 [et al. \(2011\)](#); [Buehler and Hamre \(2016\)](#); [Nobis \(2007\)](#)). Data-driven approaches  
217 building on unsupervised classification methods are also widely used for measuring  
218 multimodality (e.g., [Ralph \(2016\)](#); [Heinen \(2018\)](#)). In contrast to pre-defined  
219 characterizations, data-driven approaches incorporate multidimensional travel  
220 characteristics (including but not limited to mode uses and modal intensities) into the  
221 measurement. Nevertheless, both pre-defined characterizations and data-driven  
222 approaches are limited in capturing the intrapersonal variability of mode use. These two  
223 measurements aim to categorize travelers into non-overlapping groups, but they do not  
224 gauge the level of individual multimodality ([Heinen & Mattioli, 2019a](#)).

225       Continuous indicators jointly consider both the diversity of modes used and their  
226 intensity (see, e.g., [Diana and Pirra \(2016\)](#)). On this basis, drawing on classic  
227 interdisciplinary studies on measures of diversity, inequality, and heterogeneity,  
228 continuous indicators are able to quantify multimodality for *each* individual. [Diana and](#)  
229 [Pirra \(2016\)](#) systematically examined the existing potential continuous indicators, in  
230 terms of their properties and applicability. Following [Cowell \(2011\)](#), a total of nine  
231 indicators, either measuring concentration or variation, were assessed in terms of  
232 properties that should belong to desirable inequality indexes. They concluded that there  
233 is no indicator that mathematically outperforms others in all situations, and that their  
234 suitability for application varies by case. In particular, three indicators (a modified  
235 Herfindahl–Hirschman index (HHm), and an original and modified objective mobility  
236 personal index (OM\_PI)) were recommended for applications in which some  
237 individuals are unable to use certain modes due to constraints.

238       We measured purpose-specific individual multimodality through four indicators:

239 (1) number of modes used (NMU); (2) difference between the share of primary and  
 240 secondary modes used (DSPS), where for a given individual, the primary and secondary  
 241 modes are those that respectively account for the largest and second largest share; (3)  
 242 HHI, as applied by [Susilo and Axhausen \(2014\)](#); and (4) OM\_PI, as proposed by [Diana](#)  
 243 [and Mokhtarian \(2009\)](#). We computed these indicators based on the stage level  
 244 information. In the NTS, a trip may have several constituent stages, which are  
 245 differentiated by a modal transfer. The NMU provides an intuitive representation of the  
 246 multiplicity of modes used by a traveler. Second, DSPS measures the degree of an  
 247 individual's dependence on a specific mode of transport. Third, the HHI and OM\_PI are  
 248 well-suited to capture intrapersonal variability by simultaneously taking into account  
 249 both the diversity of modes used and their intensity. The HHI can serve well as a  
 250 measure of concentration, as it emphasizes the importance of modes with large shares  
 251 ([Susilo & Axhausen, 2014](#)). Because the OM\_PI is 'replication variant' (i.e., the  
 252 multimodality index will not remain the same when replicating given modes with their  
 253 corresponding intensities), this indicator can be fitted to circumstances where specific  
 254 modes are not accessible to some individuals ([Diana & Pirra, 2016](#)). We used the  
 255 OM\_PI for our main analyses and investigated the others in sensitivity analyses (see  
 256 **Section 3.4**).

257 The purpose-specific HHI and OM\_PI were measured as follows:

$$258 \quad HHI_{im} = \sum_{k=1}^{N_{im}} S_{imk}^2 \quad (1)$$

$$259 \quad OM\_PI_{im} = \sum_{k=1}^{N_{im}} \left( S_{imk} \ln \frac{1}{S_{imk}} \frac{1}{\ln N_{im}} \right) \quad (2)$$

$$260 \quad S_{imk} = f_{imk} / f_{im} \quad (3)$$

261 where  $HHI_{im}$  and  $OM\_PI_{im}$  respectively represent the values of HHI and OM\_PI for  
 262 individual  $i$  whilst travelling for purpose  $m$ .  $N_{im}$  indicates the total number of modes

263 used by individual  $i$  for purpose  $m$ .  $S_{imk}$  denotes the share of specific mode  $k$  within this  
264 context; it was quantified based on the number of stages undertaken by mode  $k$  (i.e.,  
265  $f_{imk}$ ) and the total number of stages (i.e.,  $f_{im}$ ) individual  $i$  made for purpose  $m$  within the  
266 travel diary week. The HHI and OM\_PI indicators take a value between 0 and 1. A  
267 smaller value of the HHI and a greater value of the OM\_PI reflects a higher level of  
268 multimodality, respectively.

269 The NMU, DSPS, HHI, and OM\_PI indicators were generated for both seven- and  
270 three-mode based choice sets (hereafter denoted by the abbreviations NMU-7/3, DSPS-  
271 7/3, HHI-7/3, OM\_PI-7/3). These mode choice sets, which considered both data  
272 availability and prevalence of different mode use in England, were defined based on  
273 existing studies and DfT reports on multimodality using the NTS (e.g., [Heinen and](#)  
274 [Mattioli \(2019b\)](#); [Heinen and Chatterjee \(2015\)](#); [Department for Transport \(2019a\)](#)).  
275 Specifically, the seven-mode indicator considered: walk, bicycle, private car, bus (local  
276 and non-local coach services), rail (surface rail and London underground), taxi, and  
277 other (motorcycle and other private/public transport); the three-mode indicator: private  
278 car, public transport (bus, rail, taxi, and other), and active travel (walk and bicycle). In  
279 the calculation of the indicators, we applied weights for the travel diary data according  
280 to NTS guidance ([Department for Transport, 2018](#)). A short walks weight (referred to  
281 as SSXSC in the guidance) was applied to account for the fact that those trips are only  
282 measured for one day of the travel diary. A trip/stage travel weight (referred to as W5)  
283 was used to account for the fact that individuals tend to drop their level of reporting  
284 over time, during the survey week.

### 285 **3.3 Measuring Purpose-specific Time-space Variability**

286 We applied the HHI to characterize individual variability in departure time of purpose-

287 specific trips, following [Susilo and Axhausen \(2014\)](#). This measure is similar to that  
288 used for multimodality (**Eq. (2)**), the only difference being the use of classified  
289 departure time (using a one-hour interval) in place of the mode used for each trip. We  
290 used the coefficient of variation (ratio of standard deviation to mean) to reflect  
291 individual variability in distance travelled for specific purposes, following [Rietveld,](#)  
292 [Zwart, van Wee, and van den Hoorn \(1999\)](#).

### 293 *3.4 Correlates*

294 Drawing on [Hägerstrand's \(1970\)](#) research on constraints of spatial travel behavior, the  
295 study of [Heinen and Chatterjee \(2015\)](#) revealed that constraints in various domains have  
296 an impact on intrapersonal modal variability, albeit varying in the strengths of their  
297 effects. In the current research, we considered the following six domains of  
298 multimodality correlates (**Appendix A**):

- 299 1. Social role constraints, covering age, gender, and (not) having a child in the  
300 household.
- 301 2. Physical mobility constraints, covering (not) having walking difficulties.
- 302 3. Work constraints, covering economic status and (not) working in multiple  
303 locations.
- 304 4. Economic constraints, covering household income.
- 305 5. Accessibility constraints, covering settlement population density, settlement  
306 land-use mix, housing tenure.
- 307 6. Mobility resource constraints, covering access to household vehicles, acquisition  
308 of a full car license, bicycle ownership, driver status; and (not) holding a public  
309 transport season ticket.



## 310 3.5 *Statistical Analyses*

### 311 3.5.1 *Multiple Comparisons*

312 We applied an analysis of covariance (ANCOVA) to examine whether there were  
313 significant differences in the level of multimodality across trip purposes, accounting for  
314 multimodality correlates (see **Section 3.3**). We first looked into the OM\_PI-7 indicator  
315 for all individuals who traveled at least one stage during the survey week. We conducted  
316 multiple comparisons of each pairwise group to determine relative levels of purpose-  
317 specific multimodality. However, this procedure is associated with a higher probability  
318 of accumulating false positives, as the overall type I error depends on the number of  
319 comparisons made ([Armstrong, 2014](#)). To reduce potential type I errors, we conducted  
320 Tukey-Kramer tests. The Tukey-Kramer test uses the  $q$  statistic adjusted by the  
321 harmonic mean of the cell sizes to control type I errors and simultaneously takes into  
322 account the circumstances where group sample sizes are unequal ([S. Lee & Lee, 2018](#)).  
323 According to the comparison results, we categorized all the groups in question into  
324 several possible overlapping subsets. For the interpretation, groups within the same  
325 subset do not significantly differ from each other regarding multimodality, whereas  
326 groups within different non-overlapping subsets show significant differences.

327 We conducted sensitivity analyses by repeating our analyses (1) using different  
328 indicators; (2) adopting a three-mode-based choice set; (3) excluding escort trips; and  
329 (4) considering individuals who lived outside Greater London. Existing evidence  
330 revealed that the number of stages is closely connected with multimodality ([An, et al.,](#)  
331 [2020](#)). The larger the number of stages, the greater the potential opportunity of using  
332 different modes. For NTS data, the number of stages significantly differs by trip  
333 purpose, ranging from 11.3 for commuting trips to 4.1 for personal business trips. We

334 thus implemented sensitivity analyses by increasing the minimum threshold of number  
335 of stages. Despite the representativeness of the NTS data as a whole, the omission of  
336 individuals who have not travelled for specific purposes during the travel diary week  
337 and the exclusion of individuals with insufficient number of stages for the sensitivity  
338 analyses may result in non-randomly selected samples. As such, we applied corrections  
339 to the ANCOVA to reduce the potential impact of selection bias, by adopting the  
340 Heckman selection model, as explained in the following sub-section.

### 341 3.5.2 *Heckman Selection Models*

342 We estimated multivariate regressions to explore the disparities in multimodality  
343 correlates across trip purposes. Because individuals may not travel for some purposes  
344 during the survey week, multimodality is not necessarily observed for all purposes for  
345 each individual. However, the censored estimation models that exclude individuals with  
346 a missing value of multimodality may contribute to selection bias, which in turn, results  
347 in both biased and inconsistent estimations. The reason is that in such models, the actual  
348 sample used may not be a random population sample and thus the residuals may be  
349 correlated with the independent variables, which violates the exogeneity assumption of  
350 least squares estimators ([Heckman, 1979](#)). We therefore applied the two-step Heckman  
351 selection model ([Heckman, 1976](#)), which has been widely adopted in travel behavior  
352 studies (e.g., [Holz-Rau, Scheiner, and Sicks \(2014\)](#); [Kaplan, Nielsen, and Prato \(2016\)](#)),  
353 to reduce selection bias.

354 The Heckman selection model uses a control function idea. This model computes  
355 a selection parameter, namely, the inverse Mills ratio (IMR), based on the likelihood of  
356 whether a dependent variable can be observed and then incorporates the IMR into an  
357 explanatory regression model. By doing so, this model allows us to make full use of the

358 random-sampled population-representative NTS data when modeling each considered  
 359 trip purpose and avoid an arbitrary (re)selection of individuals. On this basis, we could  
 360 also compare the variance explained by specific variables across trip purposes, as the  
 361 models for these purposes were estimated based on a consistent sample. This provides  
 362 quantitative insights into the magnitude of effects of multimodality correlates in  
 363 different trips. The first step of the Heckman selection model estimates the so-called  
 364 *equations of interest* (**Eq. (4)**):

$$365 \quad E(\mathbf{y}) = \mathbf{X}\boldsymbol{\beta} + \mathbf{u}; \mathbf{u} \sim N(0, \sigma^2) \quad (4)$$

366 where in this case  $\mathbf{y}$  denotes the OM\_PI-7 for travelling for the purpose of interest.  $y_i$   
 367 can only be observed if  $y_i \geq 0$ . Otherwise,  $y_i$  is said to be *censored*.  $\mathbf{X}$  and  $\boldsymbol{\beta}$  respectively  
 368 denote the correlates and coefficients. Residuals  $\mathbf{u}$  follow a normal distribution with a  
 369 mean of 0 and a standard deviation of  $\sigma$ . Whether  $y_{im}$  is censored is related to the latent  
 370 process, i.e., the second step of the Heckman model – given by the *selection equations*  
 371 (**Eq. (5)**):

$$372 \quad w_i \begin{cases} 1, & \text{if } w_i^* = \mathbf{z}_i\boldsymbol{\gamma} + v_i \geq 0 \\ 0, & \text{if } w_i^* < 0 \end{cases} \quad (5)$$

373 where  $w_i$  indicates whether individual  $i$  made at least one trip ( $w_i=1$ ) for the purpose of  
 374 interest or not ( $w_i=0$ ).  $w_i$  is determined by a latent variable  $w_i^*$ , which is a function of  
 375 correlates ( $\mathbf{z}_i$ ) related to the occurrence of the trip.  $\boldsymbol{\gamma}$  refers to coefficients of  $\mathbf{z}_i$ .  $v_i$  is a  
 376 residual. Following [Hägerstrand's \(1970\)](#)'s framework for the constraints of travel  
 377 behavior, we initially set  $\mathbf{z}_i$  as the variables listed in **Appendix A**. To avoid potential  
 378 multicollinearity issues, the Heckman selection model commonly requires an exclusion  
 379 restriction: at least one variable that appears in the selection equation is excluded in the  
 380 equation of interest ([Ogundimu, 2021](#)). We excluded housing tenure, as it may be

381 closely correlated with the occurrence of various trips (e.g., [Dias et al. \(2020\)](#); [Sturgis](#)  
382 [and Jackson \(2003\)](#)) but may not significantly affect multimodality (e.g., [Heinen and](#)  
383 [Chatterjee \(2015\)](#)). We established the combined Heckman selection model as follows:

$$384 \quad E(\mathbf{y}|y_i \geq 0) = \mathbf{X}\boldsymbol{\beta} + \boldsymbol{\varphi}\lambda(\mathbf{z}_i\boldsymbol{\gamma}); \boldsymbol{\varphi} = \sigma\boldsymbol{\rho}; \boldsymbol{\rho} = cov(\mathbf{u}, \mathbf{v}) \quad (6)$$

385 where  $\lambda(\mathbf{z}_i\boldsymbol{\gamma})$  refers to the IMR evaluated at  $\mathbf{z}_i\boldsymbol{\gamma}$  and  $\boldsymbol{\varphi}$  is the corresponding coefficient.

386 The IMR is defined as the ratio of the standard normal density to the standard normal  
387 cumulative distribution function. A significantly non-zero value for the IMR coefficient  
388 (i.e.,  $\boldsymbol{\varphi}$ ) indicates the presence of selection bias and that the Heckman selection model  
389 statistically outperforms the censored least squares model ([Scott, 2019](#)).

390 We applied the Heckman correction to the ANCOVA. Unlike **Eq. (4)**, we  
391 simultaneously took into account all considered types of purposes in the equation of  
392 interest of the Heckman correction-based ANCOVA. We adopted two treatments in the  
393 selection equation. For each purpose, we defined an individual to be censored when  
394 travelling with zero stages (in the main analysis) or an insufficient number of stages (in  
395 the sensitivity analysis). We added trip purposes, correlates related to the  
396 occurrence/frequency of trips, and their interaction terms in the equation. This  
397 adjustment is applied to control for the purpose-specific missingness of multimodality  
398 in multiple comparisons.

399 We estimated three independent regressions focusing on work, maintenance, and  
400 leisure trips. We removed highly correlated variables from the selection equations; there  
401 was no high-level multicollinearity (the variance inflation factor < 5) amongst the input  
402 variables in the equations of interest after we recategorized age dummy variables. We  
403 adopted the HC1 robust standard error, as proposed by [MacKinnon and White \(1985\)](#),  
404 to tackle potential heteroskedasticity. The large sample size largely ensures that our

405 models are relatively robust against non-normal residuals ([Goldberger, 1983](#)). We  
406 conducted six sensitivity analyses: (1) adopting different indicators as dependent  
407 variables; (2) using the OM\_PI-3 as dependent variables; (3) including the number of  
408 stages as an additional explanatory variable; (4) considering only individuals who had  
409 made at least three purpose-specific stages; (5) not considering escort trips; and (6)  
410 considering only individuals living outside Greater London (i.e., excluding those living  
411 in Greater London).

## 412 **4 Results**

### 413 *4.1 Descriptive analyses*

414 Individuals made on average 26 trips (45 trip stages) during the survey week. Work,  
415 maintenance, and leisure trips respectively accounted for 39%, 24%, and 23% of these  
416 trips. Individuals used the private car most frequently on average 63%, followed by  
417 walking (20%), bus (8%), and rail (3%). These figures are, to a certain extent,  
418 comparable with the distribution of mode share in several other European countries,  
419 such as Germany, Norway, and Belgium (see, [Kuhnimhof, et al. \(2012\)](#); [Fountas, Sun,](#)  
420 [Akizu-Gardoki, and Pomponi \(2020\)](#))

421 59% of the individuals were multimodal, as they had used more than one mode of  
422 transport. However, individuals used on average only 1.89 modes. The difference in  
423 share between the primary and secondary modes was large (67%). Overall, individuals  
424 had a relatively low level of mode choice variability (OM\_PI: 0.198; HHI: 0.763).

425 The trips exhibited a large variation in travel distance. The standard deviation of  
426 trip distance (19.2 miles) was more than twice as large as the mean value of trip distance  
427 (9.5 miles). The distribution of departure times of trips was relatively even; 5.8% to 8.2%

428 of trips happened per hour from 9am to 5pm. Leisure trips were associated with the  
429 highest level of variability in travel distance and departure time, followed by  
430 maintenance trips and work trips (**Table 3**). The patterns for more detailed classification  
431 of trip purposes were similar.

432 [Table 3 is about here]

#### 433 **4.2 Multimodality Levels across Trip Purposes**

434 We examined whether there were significant differences in levels of individual  
435 multimodality across trip purposes using ANCOVA with the Heckman correction. The  
436 IMR coefficient was significantly different from zero ( $-0.052; p < 0.001$ ), which suggests  
437 the necessity of correcting selection bias. Individual levels of multimodality (OM\_PI-  
438 7) significantly varied by trip purpose ( $p < 0.001$ ), and descended in order of the level of  
439 multimodality from commuting/education, social, recreation, business, shopping, to  
440 personal business trips (**Table 4**). This was for individuals with at least one stage.

441 [Table 4 about here]

442 We then conducted Tukey-Kramer tests to determine the relative level of  
443 multimodality concerning different purposes (**Table 5**). Multimodality descended from  
444 commuting/education and social trips (Subset 1), social and recreation trips (Subset 2),  
445 shopping and business trips (Subset 3), to personal business trips (Subset 4). This  
446 indicated that leisure trips presented a higher level of multimodality than most other  
447 purposes, except commuting/education trips. In contrast, maintenance trips were  
448 associated with a lower level of multimodality than the others, except for business trips.

449 [Table 5 about here]

450 Our sensitivity tests showed highly consistent results (see, **Tables 1, 2, and 3** in  
451 **Supplementary Material**). When using another indicator, the main difference was that

452 business, shopping, and personal business trips no longer significantly differed from  
453 each other using the DSPS-7 and HHI-7 indicators. The results for the seven- and three-  
454 mode-based OM\_PI were largely similar, except shopping and business trips no longer  
455 remained in the same subset after using the OM\_PI-3 (**Table 5**). These examinations  
456 indicated a relatively high robustness of our findings to the definition of multimodality.  
457 The division of subsets also remained similar after we excluded escort trips or  
458 individuals who lived in Greater London.

459 To investigate how multimodality could be impacted by the number of stages, we  
460 looked at the extent to which the levels of multimodality by trip purpose changed when  
461 increasing the minimum threshold of the number of stages that needed to be made by  
462 an individual to be included in the calculations (**Figure 1**). As the threshold increased,  
463 the level of multimodality also increased for most trip purposes. Only for  
464 commuting/education did the level not substantially change. The order of relative levels  
465 of purpose-specific multimodality was seen to depend on the number of trip stages. If  
466 only considering a few (<3) stages, commuting/education, social, and recreation trips  
467 were more multimodal than business, shopping, and personal business trips. When there  
468 is a higher threshold of number of stages, social and recreation trips remained the  
469 highest level of multimodality. However, as the threshold increased,  
470 commuting/education trips gradually became less multimodal than the remaining types  
471 of trips.

472 We repeated the Tukey-Kramer tests with a threshold of three and seven stages.  
473 Theoretically, using three- or seven-mode-based indicators, only individuals who  
474 travelled at least three or seven stages could be fully multimodal. For the threshold of  
475 three stages, unlike in our examinations of all individuals, multimodality for

476 commuting/education was no longer different from that for business, shopping, and  
477 personal business trips (**Table 5**). For the threshold of seven stages,  
478 commuting/education trips were found to be significantly less multimodal than  
479 shopping, personal business, and business trips. The Tukey-Kramer tests on trip  
480 purposes classified by time-space variability (i.e., work, maintenance, and leisure trips)  
481 yielded largely similar results to those with the more detailed classification of purposes  
482 (**Figure 1**). Most noticeable was that the level of multimodality in work trips was the  
483 lowest, with a relatively low threshold (i.e., 3).

484 [Figure 1 about here]

#### 485 **4.3 Correlates of Multimodality across Trip Purposes**

486 We applied Heckman selection models to explore the disparities in correlates of  
487 multimodality across trip purposes. The IMR coefficient for all the established models  
488 differed from zero (-0.05, -0.05, and -0.13 when modeling work, maintenance, and  
489 leisure trips, respectively) at the significance level of 0.01. This suggests that, for our  
490 data, the Heckman selection model is more desirable than the censored least squares  
491 model in terms of producing unbiased estimates of multimodality correlates. Eight  
492 correlates were significantly associated with multimodality for all three considered trip  
493 purposes (**Table 6**). Higher levels of multimodality for work, maintenance, and leisure  
494 trips were all associated with working part-time, higher household income, greater  
495 residential land use-mix, more limited availability to household vehicles, holding a full  
496 car license, owning a bicycle, being the main driver of the household vehicle, and  
497 holding a public transport season ticket.

498 [Table 6 about here]

499 Nevertheless, there were also differences between the models. First, several



500 correlates were only significantly associated with multimodality for specific trip  
501 purposes: being female and working in multiple locations (only for work trips); having  
502 walking difficulties (for maintenance and leisure trips, but not for work trips);  
503 settlement population density (for work and maintenance trips, but not for leisure trips);  
504 having a child in the household and being 65 and over (for leisure and work trips, but  
505 not for maintenance trips).

506 A second difference was that there were variations in the R-Squared across the  
507 regression equations (see, **Eq. (6)**). This indicates that the total explained variance  
508 varied by trip purpose. Estimations for work trips were associated with the highest R-  
509 Squared, regardless of the multimodality indicators we adopted. In contrast, the R-  
510 Squared values for modelling maintenance and leisure trips were lower, which were  
511 approximately half of those obtained when estimating work trips. These issues revealed  
512 that, compared with maintenance and leisure trips, the correlates we considered have  
513 more explanatory power in accounting for the level of multimodality regarding work  
514 trips.

515 A third difference was presented in the variance explained by each domain of  
516 mobility constraints (**Table 7**). Of all constraints, mobility resource constraints  
517 accounted for the largest share of explained variance when modelling all three  
518 considered types of trips. However, the share of total variance explained by mobility  
519 resource constraints meanwhile exhibited the largest difference across purposes. The  
520 corresponding share was the largest for modelling work trips (11.28%), followed by the  
521 model using maintenance trips (5.34%), and the smallest for modelling leisure trips  
522 (4.22%). It was also shown that mobility resource constraints failed to account for only  
523 23.55% (i.e., 100%-76.45%) of all explained variance (see figures in parentheses in

524 **Table 7**) in multimodality of work trips, whilst this figure was 38.09% and 42.21% for  
525 multimodality in maintenance and leisure trips, respectively. The other constraints were  
526 less explanatory for multimodality, accounting for 0.08%-1.14% of the total variance.  
527 The across-purpose disparities in the share of total variance explained by such  
528 constraints were also smaller, ranging from  $\pm 0.03\%$  to  $\pm 0.95\%$ . Nevertheless,  
529 constraints presenting relatively high explanatory power were found to be different  
530 across purposes. Most notable was that work and accessibility constraints predicted,  
531 compared to the others, a larger share of variance (1.25% and 1.11%) in the estimations  
532 for maintenance and leisure trips, respectively. These figures may seem small, yet in  
533 the corresponding estimations, work and accessibility constraints respectively consisted  
534 of 14.30% and 14.75% of all explained variance, which were 1.3-8.8 times as large as  
535 those accounted for by constraints in other domains.

536 [Table 7 about here]

537 Our sensitivity analysis showed generally similar findings. Nevertheless, there  
538 were some differences. The analysis performed by changing indicators (**Tables 4, 5,**  
539 **and 6 in Supplementary Material**) and choice sets to measure multimodality showed  
540 similar results, and no substantial change in the variance explained by various mobility  
541 constraints. The main differences were found when modelling leisure trips; owning a  
542 bicycle and working part-time came to be insignificant for the leisure trip models using  
543 the NOM-7 and DSPS-7. When we additionally adjusted for the number of stages,  
544 several variables changed their significance: working part-time, having a child, and  
545 working in multiple locations (for work trips); working part-time and household income  
546 (for maintenance trips); and being retired/students as well as owning a bicycle (for  
547 leisure trips). This suggests that the association between multimodality and these

548 variables may be mediated by the difference in the number of stages travelled for  
549 specific purposes. When we looked at only individuals who had made at least 3 stages,  
550 the R-squared in the models for work, maintenance, and leisure trips increased to 0.156,  
551 0.127, and 0.122, respectively. When we excluded escort trips, the relationship between  
552 having a child and multimodality for work trips became insignificant, suggesting that  
553 escort trips may mediate such a relationship. When we only considered individuals who  
554 lived outside Greater London, our results remained fairly similar in terms of the  
555 direction and significance of multimodality correlates.

## 556 **5 Discussion and Conclusions**

### 557 *5.1 Discussions on Principal Findings*

558 Going beyond an extensive focus on multimodality for undifferentiated and exclusive  
559 trips, this study explored how multimodality differs by trip purpose. We analyzed the  
560 level of purpose-specific multimodality from the standpoint of time-space variability of  
561 corresponding trips. Our results indicated that in general, the level of individual  
562 multimodality is positively linked with the time-space variability of trips (i.e.,  
563 variability in travel distance and departure time), but only if sufficient travel stages (at  
564 least three) are made for specific purposes. This means that multimodality is the highest  
565 for leisure trips, followed by maintenance trips, and the lowest for work trips. However,  
566 if individuals with limited stages are also included, higher time-space variability of trips  
567 do not necessarily result in a higher level of multimodality.

568 This research offers new insights into the disparities in correlates of multimodality  
569 across trip purposes. Firstly, we identified several correlates that correspond to  
570 multimodality for only specific trip purposes. For example, working in multiple

571 locations and being female tended to increase multimodality for work trips, but not in  
572 the case of other trips. One explanation may be that multiple locations contribute to  
573 higher space-variability in work trips; travelers may diversify their mode use to cope  
574 with different spatial constraints. Studies have found that women are less dependent on  
575 private cars compared to men and instead use public and active transport more for work-  
576 related activities, as women, on average, travel a shorter distance and make more trip  
577 stages (e.g., [Hjorthol \(2000\)](#); [Root and Schintler \(1999\)](#)). This is also supported by our  
578 data. For each work trip on average, women travel 7.2 km and make 1.8 stages, whilst  
579 men travel 12.3 km and make 1.6 stages. The share in the use of private cars, public  
580 transport, and active transport for women are respectively 63%, 22%, and 15%, whilst  
581 these figures are respectively 68%, 18%, and 14% for men. Some studies indicate the  
582 gender difference in mode use may be ascribed to the uneven distribution of domestic  
583 responsibilities, although the reasons remain uncertain ([Hatamzadeh, Habibian, &](#)  
584 [Khodaii, 2020](#)).

585 We also found that travelers with no walking difficulties were more multimodal for  
586 all but work trips. This could be explained by the fact that, compared with other trips,  
587 people make work trips with a higher frequency and a lower level of time-space  
588 variability. Travelers may thus be more familiar with transport settings and  
589 environmental contexts during work trips. This helps to ease the burden of using public  
590 and active transport for travelers who have walking difficulties when they travel to work.  
591 Correspondingly, walking difficulties may have less of an effect on multimodality for  
592 work trips.

593 Travelers who have a child in their household were associated with a lower level  
594 of multimodality only for leisure trips but a higher level of multimodality only for work

595 trips. A plausible reason for our findings is that, different from work and maintenance  
596 trips, the selection of destinations for leisure trips may be restricted because of child  
597 care responsibilities. By contrast, as indicated by our sensitivity analysis, having a child  
598 leads to more escort (education) trips on average, which provides travelers with more  
599 opportunities to use different modes.

600 Travelers aged 65 and over, compared to their younger counterparts, were less  
601 multimodal for work and leisure trip activities, but not for maintenance trips. On the  
602 one hand, older adults are more likely to have physical difficulties using certain modes,  
603 e.g., walking and cycling, which in turn may reduce their mode choice sets and the  
604 possibility to be fully multimodal. On the other hand, they are generally under less time  
605 pressure than younger respondents. This allows older adults a more flexible time-  
606 budget to make daily household responsibilities and provides more location alternatives  
607 to conduct maintenance activities (e.g., [O'Hern and Oxley \(2015\)](#)), which potentially  
608 increases the multiplicity of modes.

609 Secondly, we found that the total variance explained for maintenance and leisure  
610 trips was low, and roughly half of that for work trips. A possible reason is that although  
611 we adopted a rich set of explanatory variables in this research, the selection of variables  
612 was based on the literature focusing on undifferentiated and commuting trips. We might  
613 thus have omitted variables correlated with multimodality for maintenance and leisure  
614 trips. The low explained variance for maintenance and leisure trips may also be  
615 attributable to the fact that individuals' self-selection plays a more important role in  
616 determining to (not) make trips for discretionary activities. This is because demand for  
617 discretionary activities is generally lower than that for obligatory activities;  
618 discretionary activities are also scheduled with less priority than obligatory ones are

619 ([Buliung & Kanaroglou, 2007](#)). As a consequence, there is a large gap in the number of  
620 trips made for work (10.1), maintenance (6.2), and leisure (6.0) purposes. This reduces  
621 the interpersonal differences in observed multimodality for maintenance and leisure  
622 trips and the ability of correlates to capture such differences. Our speculation can be  
623 partially corroborated by our sensitivity analyses, with the R-squared values becoming  
624 similar for modelling all three types of trips after the exclusion of individuals with  
625 limited number of stages travelled.

626 Thirdly, we observed that the variance explained by mobility resource constraints  
627 substantially decreased from modelling work, to maintenance, then to leisure trips. This  
628 indicates that mobility resource constraints may have less explanatory power for  
629 multimodality in trips with a higher level of time-space variability. We speculate that  
630 although mobility resource constraints may reduce the choice set, performing trips with  
631 high time-space variability may be less likely to be restricted by using specific modes  
632 as a result of high flexibility of these trips. Apart from mobility resource constraints,  
633 we found that work and accessibility constraints explained a larger share of variance  
634 than the other (social role, physical mobility, and economic) constraints for respectively  
635 modelling maintenance and leisure trips. Moreover, existing literature has suggested  
636 that trips with higher time-space variability are less susceptible to the effect of  
637 residential contexts on travel intensities, such as travel distance and frequency (e.g.,  
638 [Eldér \(2014\)](#); [Dieleman, Dijst, and Burghouwt \(2002\)](#); [Krizek \(2003\)](#); see, [Gim \(2011\)](#)  
639 and [Tran, Chikaraishi, Zhang, and Fujiwara \(2012\)](#) for exceptions). This is partially  
640 contradicted by our results on multimodality, which showed that the variance explained  
641 by accessibility constraints was similar, regardless of trip purposes.

642 **5.2 *Discussions on Policy Implications***

643 This research could help to develop policies to encourage multimodal travel behavior.  
644 Firstly, the between-purpose differences in correlates we found could inform trip  
645 purpose-based policy prioritization to reduce inequalities in multimodality. For  
646 example, [Heinen and Chatterjee \(2015\)](#) tried to explain their finding that women are  
647 more multimodal overall, and speculated that women make more maintenance trips.  
648 However, we showed that work trips potentially contribute more to this difference.  
649 Improving spatial accessibility to employment rather than shopping may thus be more  
650 effective to reduce the gender gap in multimodality. This strategy helps to balance  
651 commuting distance between men and women, and in turn, the gender difference in car-  
652 dependence during commuting. Similarly, developing age-friendly public transport in  
653 recreational areas and around workplaces may help to reduce existing age-differences  
654 in multimodality, as this is largely present in leisure and work trips.

655 Secondly, our findings may help to inform policies that increase multimodality for  
656 as large a population as possible. We suggest that policies targeted at mobility resource  
657 constraints should be given a higher priority in the policy agenda, as such constraints  
658 influence multimodality most, regardless of trip purposes. For example, policymakers  
659 could expand subsidies for public transport passes, raise vehicle tax rates to restrict the  
660 purchase of cars, and increase public investments in bicycle networks/shelters to  
661 encourage bicycle ownership. However, unlike studies that have made similar  
662 recommendations (e.g., [Klinger \(2017\)](#)), we argue that policies targeted at altering  
663 mobility resources constraints alone may not be sufficient to promote multimodality  
664 over a wide population. Our argument may particularly be true for people who have a  
665 great demand for carrying out discretionary activities, as mobility resource constraints

666 are less influential on multimodality for trips with higher time-space variability. Our  
667 work suggests therefore that these policies need to be accompanied by measures  
668 specifically aimed at encouraging multimodality in maintenance and leisure trips.  
669 Against this backdrop, implementing measures to change work and accessibility  
670 constraints, such as encouraging flexible work hours and promoting settlement land use  
671 diversity, could potentially be fruitful. This is because, as our analyses revealed, work  
672 and accessibility constraints may have a greater impact on multimodality in  
673 maintenance and leisure trips than for other trip purposes.

### 674 **5.3 Limitations**

675 We used high-quality, national-representative, one-week travel diaries well suited for  
676 analyzing multimodality, but our research has nevertheless several limitations. Firstly,  
677 we considered seven types of typical trip purposes to capture human activities in a  
678 systematic way. Despite this large number, it is still limited in reflecting the  
679 comprehensiveness of activities due to their miscellaneous nature and thus, in turn, in  
680 characterizing the subtle differences in the time-space variability between specific  
681 activities (see e.g., [Buliung and Kanaroglou \(2007\)](#) for reviews). Future studies could  
682 use data sets that simultaneously cover sufficient trip stages and a more diversified  
683 classification of trip purposes. Secondly, we conducted this research based on English  
684 data, and thus our findings are England specific and generalization should be made with  
685 care. Similarities in findings are likely to be greater with similar high-income countries.  
686 Thirdly, our analyses can only reveal correlations as we used cross-sectional data and  
687 Heckman selection models. Longitudinal designs in combination with more  
688 sophisticated statistical methods (e.g., propensity score matching) could be applied to  
689 better understand the causal relationship between multimodality and its determinants.



690 **Declaration of Interest**

691 The authors declare that they have no competing financial, professional, or personal  
692 interests that might have influenced the performance or presentation of the work  
693 described in this manuscript.

694

695 Table 1. Characteristics of human activities and corresponding trips.

Classifications of activities	Typical activities	Flexibility in the degree of time allocation	Flexibility in the degree of location selection
Activities in contracted time	Work-related (e.g., paid work and education)	Low	Very low
Activities in committed time	Maintenance (e.g., shopping and other family/personal affairs)	Medium	Medium
Activities in free time	Leisure (e.g., social and recreation)	High	High

696

697

698 Table 2. Literature of the relationship between trip purposes and multimodality.

	Data	Multimodality measurements	Trip purposes considered	Analytical approaches	Main findings
Vij, Carrel, and Walker (2011)	Mobidrive data set	Predefined groups: quasi-unimodal (QU) Bike/Walk; QU Auto; QU Transit; multimodal Green; multimodal All	Work; non-work	Comparing the share of multimodal travelers between individuals who had made >5 work trips (work trip group) during the survey weeks and those who had made >5 non-work trips (non-work trip group)	Multimodal travelers were more prevalent in the work trip group than in the non-work trip group
Buehler and Hamre (2015)	US NHTS	Predefined groups: monomodal car users; multimodal car users; walk, bicycle, public transportation (WBT) only users	Recreational; utilitarian	Comparing the change in share of different travelers after excluding utilitarian and recreational trips	Multimodal car users decreased by 6.1% if recreational trips were excluded, whilst excluding utilitarian trips lead to 1.3% drop in the share of such users
Ralph (2016)	US NHTS	Groups from latent class models: Driver; Long-distance Trekker; Multimodal; Car-less	Commute; shop; errand; social; other	Comparing the share of trip purposes across different travelers	Multimodal travelers made a larger share of errands and social trips than the others
Susilo and Axhausen (2014)	Mobidrive and Thurgau data sets	Continuous index: HHI	Leisure; daily shopping; long-term shopping; private business; pick-up/drop-off; work; work-related business; school; other	Comparing the average value of the HHI across trip purposes	Leisure and private business trips had higher variability in mode choice than trips for obligatory activities (e.g., work, school, and pick-up/drop-off)

699

700

701 Table 3. Time-space variability of trips across purposes.

	Work	Maintenance	Leisure	ANCOVA			
Departure time	3.089 (1.503)	3.388 (1.633)	3.814 (1.994)	$p < 0.001$			
Travel distance	0.268 (0.429)	0.516 (0.463)	0.574 (0.565)	$p < 0.001$			
Number of stages	12.549 (9.548)	7.708 (6.828)	7.016 (6.359)	$p < 0.001$			
	C/E	Business	Shopping	PB	Social	Recreation	ANCOVA
Departure time	2.768 (1.212)	2.941 (1.782)	2.922 (1.375)	2.299 (1.270)	3.085 (1.581)	2.931 (1.639)	$p < 0.001$
Travel distance	0.158 (0.328)	0.359 (0.444)	0.428 (0.439)	0.290 (0.411)	0.418 (0.485)	0.400 (0.527)	$p < 0.001$
Number of stages	11.293 (8.890)	6.079 (6.795)	6.147 (5.578)	4.059 (4.160)	5.028 (4.806)	4.879 (4.787)	$p < 0.001$

702 *Note:* we reported mean values and standard deviations (in parentheses). We reported the reciprocal of the HHI (departure time variability) so that a greater  
703 value of the HHI reflects a higher level of variability.

704 Table 4. Variations in levels of individual multimodality across purposes.

<b>Minimum Number of Stages: 1</b>							
	Work		Maintenance		Leisure		ANCOVA
OM_PI-7	0.103 (0.173)		0.087 (0.154)		0.111 (0.180)		$p<0.001$
OM_PI-3	0.157 (0.271)		0.140 (0.253)		0.170 (0.278)		$p<0.001$
Number of stages	12.5 (9.5)		7.7 (6.8)		7.0 (6.4)		$p<0.001$
Number of observations	7089		9912		9242		
	C/E	Business	Shopping	PB	Social	Recreation	ANCOVA
OM_PI-7	0.088 (0.162)	0.067 (0.148)	0.067 (0.138)	0.047 (0.121)	0.083 (0.159)	0.079 (0.159)	$p<0.001$
OM_PI-3	0.134 (0.256)	0.098 (0.225)	0.109 (0.228)	0.072 (0.193)	0.127 (0.249)	0.118 (0.243)	$p<0.001$
Number of stages	11.3 (8.9)	6.1 (6.8)	6.1 (5.6)	4.1 (4.2)	5.0 (4.8)	4.9 (4.8)	$p<0.001$
Number of observations	6487	2583	9078	5076	7256	5812	
<b>Minimum Number of Stages: 3</b>							
	Work		Maintenance		Leisure		ANCOVA
OM_PI-7	0.110 (0.177)		0.110 (0.166)		0.147 (0.194)		$p<0.001$
OM_PI-3	0.169 (0.277)		0.178 (0.273)		0.225 (0.299)		$p<0.001$
Number of stages	13.59 (9.49)		9.5 (6.9)		8.9 (6.5)		$p<0.001$
Number of observations	6537		7558		6733		
	C/E	Business	Shopping	PB	Social	Recreation	ANCOVA
OM_PI-7	0.095 (0.166)	0.102 (0.173)	0.093 (0.154)	0.086 (0.153)	0.127 (0.183)	0.130 (0.188)	$p<0.001$
OM_PI-3	0.146 (0.264)	0.150 (0.263)	0.152 (0.257)	0.133 (0.244)	0.194 (0.285)	0.196 (0.287)	$p<0.001$
Number of stages	12.2 (8.8)	9.0 (7.3)	8.1 (5.8)	6.7 (4.9)	7.2 (5.2)	7.315 (5.220)	$p<0.001$
Number of observations	5902	1582	6241	2364	4338	3257	
<b>Minimum Number of Stages: 7</b>							
	Work		Maintenance		Leisure		ANCOVA
OM_PI-7	0.123 (0.183)		0.137 (0.173)		0.183 (0.203)		$p<0.001$
OM_PI-3	0.189 (0.288)		0.225 (0.284)		0.283 (0.308)		$p<0.001$
Number of stages	15.41 (9.3)		13.6 (7.0)		12.9 (6.8)		$p<0.001$
Number of observations	5328		4155		3547		
	C/E	Business	Shopping	PB	Social	Recreation	ANCOVA
OM_PI-7	0.109 (0.174)	0.133 (0.182)	0.126 (0.164)	0.124 (0.163)	0.173 (0.194)	0.166 (0.196)	$p<0.001$
OM_PI-3	0.168 (0.277)	0.208 (0.289)	0.211 (0.273)	0.199 (0.259)	0.270 (0.296)	0.259 (0.298)	$p<0.001$
Number of stages	14.4 (8.8)	13.2 (8.1)	12.7 (6.1)	12.5 (5.5)	12.1 (6.0)	12.1 (5.8)	$p<0.001$
Number of observations	4557	822	2716	704	1557	1225	

705 *Note:* we reported mean values and standard deviations (in parentheses). Abbreviations: Commuting/Education (C/E); Personal business (PB).

706 Table 5. Relative level of individual multimodality pertaining to different purposes.

Indicators	Seven modes	Three modes
<b>Minimum number of stages: 1</b>		
OM_PI	S1: {Commuting/Education}; {Social} S2: {Social}; {Recreation} S3: {Business}; {Shopping} S4: {Personal Business}	S1: {Commuting/Education}; {Social} S2: {Social}; {Recreation} S3: {Shopping} S3: {Business} S5: {Personal Business}
<b>Minimum number of stages: 3</b>		
OM_PI	S1: {Recreation}; {Social} S2: {Business}; {Commuting/Education}; {Shopping} S3: {Commuting/Education}; {Shopping}; {Personal Business}	S1: {Recreation}; {Social} S2: {Shopping}; {Business}; {Commuting/Education} S3: {Commuting/Education}; {Personal Business}
<b>Minimum number of stages: 7</b>		
OM_PI	S1: {Social}; {Recreation} S2: {Shopping}; {Business}; {Personal Business} S3: {Commuting/Education}	S1: {Social}; {Recreation} S2: {Shopping}; {Business}; {Personal Business} S3: {Commuting/Education}

707 *Note:* S1-S4 denotes the subsets derived by the multiple comparisons; there is no significant difference  
708 between trips in the same subset regarding multimodality. A smaller sequence number of a subset  
709 indicates a higher level of multimodality for trips within this subset (e.g., S1> S2); within each subset,  
710 trips are sorted in descending order regarding multimodality.  
711

712 Table 6. Correlates of multimodality by trip purposes.

	Work Trips	Maintenance Trips	Leisure Trips
	Coef. (robust SE)	Coef. (robust SE)	Coef. (robust SE)
<b><i>Social Role Constraints</i></b>			
Age			
>65	-0.050 (0.011) ***	-0.008 (0.006)	-0.036 (0.006) ***
16-64 (Ref)			
Gender			
Female	0.009 (0.004) *	0.003 (0.004)	-0.005 (0.005)
Male (Ref)			
Having a Child in Household			
Yes	0.010 (0.005) *	-0.001 (0.004)	-0.033 (0.005) ***
No (Ref)			
<b><i>Physical Mobility Constraints</i></b>			
Having Walking Difficulties			
Yes (Ref)			
No	0.014 (0.011)	0.041 (0.006) ***	0.035 (0.010) ***
<b><i>Work Constraints</i></b>			
Economic Status			
Full time (Ref)			
Part time	0.011 (0.005) *	0.015 (0.005) **	0.012 (0.007) $\Psi$
Unemployed	0.000 (0.020)	0.029 (0.014) *	0.003 (0.016)
Retired and other (including students)	-0.013 (0.012)	0.022 (0.005) ***	-0.010 (0.008)
Multiple Work Locations			
Yes	0.013 (0.006) *	-0.005 (0.005)	-0.004 (0.006)
No (Ref)			
<b><i>Economic Constraints</i></b>			
Household Income			
£50,000 and over	0.041 (0.005) ***	0.008 (0.004) $\Psi$	0.022 (0.006) ***
£25,000 to £49,999	0.019 (0.005) ***	0.005 (0.004)	0.005 (0.005)
Less than £25,000 (Ref)			
<b><i>Accessibility Constraints</i></b>			
Settlement Population Density			
Population density	1.733E-4 (8.779E-5) *	1.487E-4 (6.581E-5) *	2.461E-6 (7.993E-5)
Settlement Land-use Mix			
Entropy index	0.053 (0.010) ***	0.056 (0.008) ***	0.081 (0.010) ***
<b><i>Mobility Resource Constraints</i></b>			
Access to Vehicles			
No household vehicle	0.033 (0.009) ***	0.061 (0.007) ***	0.098 (0.011) ***
1 household vehicle	0.022 (0.005) ***	0.021 (0.004) ***	0.022 (0.005) ***
>2 household vehicle (Ref)			
Holding Full Car License			
Yes	-0.084 (0.007) ***	-0.038 (0.006) ***	-0.050 (0.010) ***
No (Ref)			
Owning a Bicycle			
Yes	0.019 (0.004) ***	0.012 (0.003) ***	0.012 (0.007) ***
No (Ref)			
Driver Status			
Main household car driver	-0.077 (0.008) ***	-0.025 (0.006) ***	-0.027 (0.007) ***
Not a main household car driver (Ref)			
Holding PT Pass			
Yes	0.092 (0.006) ***	0.043 (0.004) ***	0.039 (0.007) ***
No (Ref)			
Intercept	0.135 (0.019) ***	0.024 (0.016)	0.109 (0.040) ***

IMR Coefficient	-0.049 (0.013) ***	-0.050 (0.018) **	-0.131 (0.044) **
Number of Observations	7089	9912	9242
R <sup>2</sup>	0.154	0.090	0.077

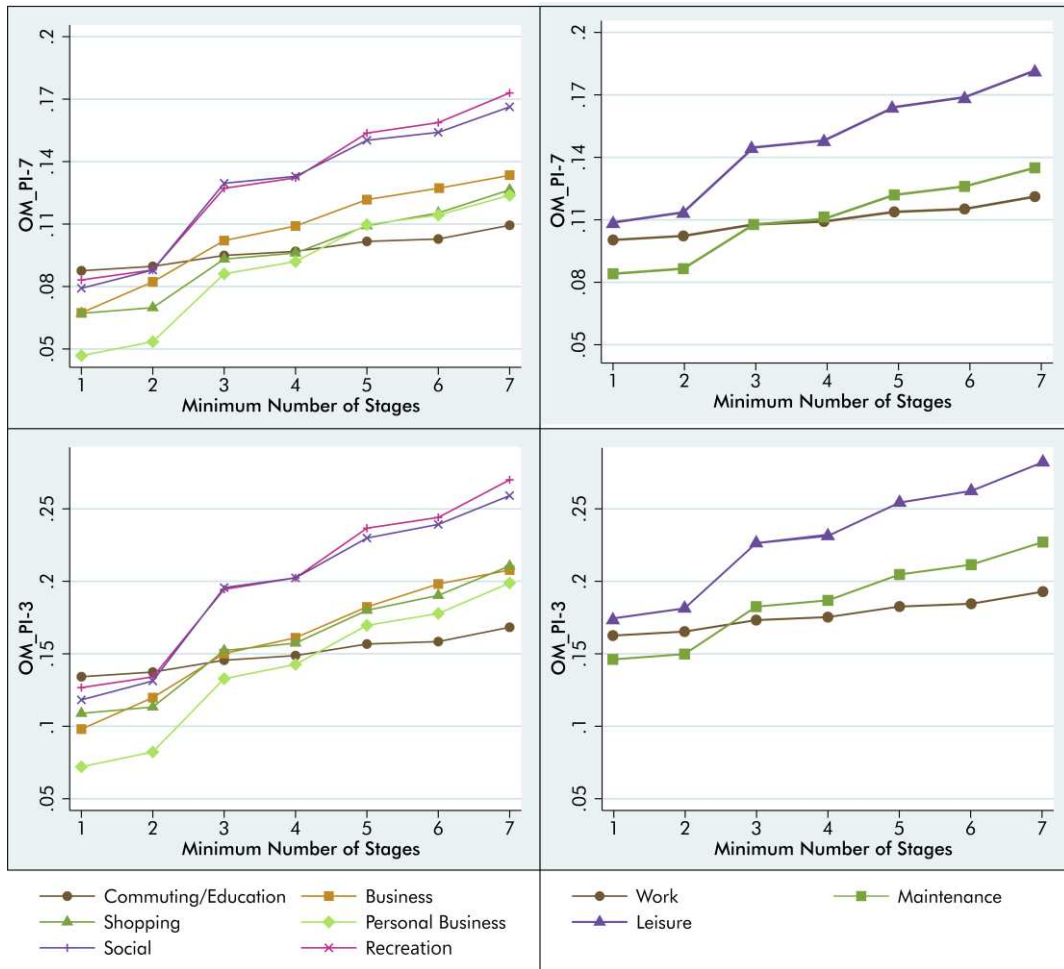
713 *Note:*  $\psi$ , \*, \*\*, and \*\*\* denotes  $p < 0.10$ ,  $p < 0.05$ ,  $p < 0.01$ , and  $p < 0.001$ , respectively. The OM\_PI-7 was  
714 used as the dependent variables.  
715



716 Table 7. Percentage of variance explained by different mobility constraints.

Constraints	Work Trips	Maintenance Trips	Leisure Trips
Social Role	1.14% (7.69%)	0.61% (7.05%)	0.72% (9.92%)
Physical Mobility	0.08% (0.58%)	0.14% (1.65%)	0.60% (8.21%)
Work	0.51% (3.44%)	1.25% (14.54%)	0.30% (4.10%)
Economic	0.63% (4.25%)	0.32% (3.68%)	0.35% (4.78%)
Accessibility	1.12% (7.60%)	0.96% (11.17%)	1.11% (15.20%)
Mobility Resource	11.28% (76.45%)	5.34% (61.91%)	4.22% (57.79%)
Total variance explained	14.76%	8.63%	7.30%

717 *Note:* figures reported are the percentage of (1) total variance accounted for by specific mobility  
718 constraints; and (b) explained variance accounted for by specific mobility constraints (in parentheses).  
719 The sum of the percentages of variance explained approaches, but does not equal, the R-squared of the  
720 corresponding model, since the variance explained by the IMR is not reported.  
721



722

723 Figure 1. Patterns in relative levels of purpose-specific multimodality as a function of the  
 724 minimum number of stages. *Note:* multimodality is measured by OM\_PI-3/7.

Appendix A. Overview of the variables in analyses.

	Undifferentiated	Commuting /Education	Business	Shopping	Personal Business	Social	Recreation	Other
<b>Age</b>								
>65	24.9%	5.6%	5.1%	28.9%	35.4%	25.9%	25.7%	21.4%
31-64	57.2%	70.3%	80.4%	57.6%	54.1%	56.1%	57.9%	66.1%
<30	17.9%	24.1%	14.5%	13.5%	10.5%	18.0%	16.4%	12.5%
<b>Gender</b>								
Female	52.7%	50.7%	49.3%	56.3%	55.5%	54.9%	52.4%	55.5%
Male	47.3%	49.3%	50.7%	43.7%	44.5%	45.1%	47.6%	44.5%
<b>Having a Child in Household</b>								
Yes	16.5%	22.7%	23.1%	16.0%	14.1%	15.1%	17.7%	22.7%
No	83.5%	77.3%	76.9%	84.0%	85.9%	84.9%	82.3%	77.3%
<b>Having Walking Difficulties</b>								
Yes	8.1%	2.2%	1.7%	8.3%	11.2%	6.9%	5.6%	4.0%
No	91.9%	97.8%	98.3%	91.7%	88.8%	93.1%	94.4%	96.0%
<b>Economic Status</b>								
Full time	65.00%	70.90%	39.50%	33.00%	42.00%	43.30%	44.10%	46.20%
Part time	19.50%	22.90%	15.20%	14.60%	15.90%	16.10%	19.50%	17.00%
Unemployed	1.00%	0.90%	1.70%	2.10%	1.90%	1.60%	1.70%	1.60%
Retired and other (including student)	14.50%	5.30%	43.60%	50.30%	40.20%	39.00%	34.70%	35.20%
<b>Multiple Work Locations</b>								
Yes	10.1%	9.6%	21.9%	9.1%	8.6%	9.5%	10.4%	11.3%
No	89.9%	90.4%	78.1%	90.9%	91.4%	90.5%	89.6%	88.7%
<b>Household Income</b>								
£50,000 and over	33.6%	44.1%	50.4%	31.5%	30.0%	34.2%	38.2%	38.2%
£25,000 to £49,999	32.5%	34.8%	33.5%	32.7%	32.1%	32.6%	33.3%	34.2%
Less than £25,000	33.9%	21.1%	16.1%	35.8%	37.9%	33.2%	28.5%	27.6%
<b>Settlement Population Density</b>								
Population density (persons/ha; mean)	22.437	22.678	21.621	21.880	21.551	21.619	21.808	20.888
<b>Settlement Land-use Mix</b>								
Entropy index (mean)	0.668	0.678	0.656	0.657	0.647	0.662	0.650	0.639
<b>Housing Tenure</b>								
Owns/buying	70.7%	69.9%	78.4%	72.2%	75.6%	74.3%	78.3%	78.8%

Rents/other	29.3%	30.1%	21.6%	27.8%	24.4%	25.7%	21.7%	21.2%
Access to Vehicles								
No household vehicle	16.2%	11.1%	5.8%	14.9%	14.2%	13.5%	9.9%	6.9%
1 household vehicle	38.9%	34.9%	31.8%	41.3%	41.4%	39.0%	38.7%	40.5%
>2 household vehicle	44.9%	54.0%	62.4%	43.8%	44.4%	47.5%	51.4%	52.6%
Holding Full Car License								
Yes	74.4%	79.1%	91.5%	76.9%	78.5%	78.0%	82.4%	86.6%
No (Ref)	25.6%	20.9%	8.5%	23.1%	21.5%	22.0%	17.6%	13.4%
Owning a Bicycle								
Yes	35.9%	43.0%	51.6%	35.4%	34.8%	37.8%	44.7%	46.0%
No (Ref)	64.1%	57.0%	48.4%	64.6%	65.2%	62.2%	55.3%	54.0%
Driver Status								
Main household car driver	89.2%	89.8%	91.5%	89.6%	89.8%	89.6%	89.1%	89.1%
Not a main household car driver	10.8%	10.2%	8.5%	10.4%	10.2%	10.4%	10.9%	10.9%
Holding a PT Season Ticket								
Yes	33.4%	20.9%	18.3%	35.4%	41.0%	35.3%	35.3%	30.3%
No	66.6%	79.1%	81.7%	64.6%	59.0%	64.7%	64.7%	69.7%
Number of Observations	12023	6487	2583	9078	5076	7256	5812	3837

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