



Classification Systems: The PST System

Jacob F. Field (Cambridge Group for the History of
Population and Social Structure)

Women's Work in Early Modern Europe

Cambridge, 24 September, 2010

The 3 Sector Hypothesis

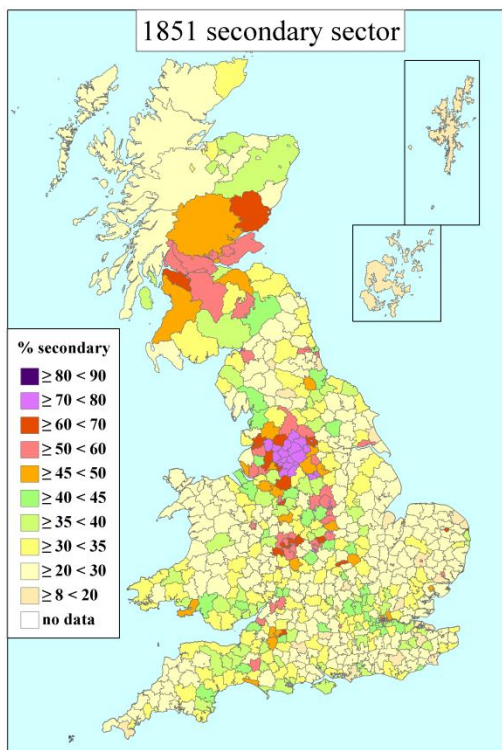
- Primary (extraction of raw materials); Secondary (manufacturing); Tertiary (services)
- Devised by Colin Clark in the 1950s
- Focus of an economy's activity is shift through sectors; progress is positive
- Relative size of each sector determined by real income, which governs aggregate demand for product of each sector

The PST System

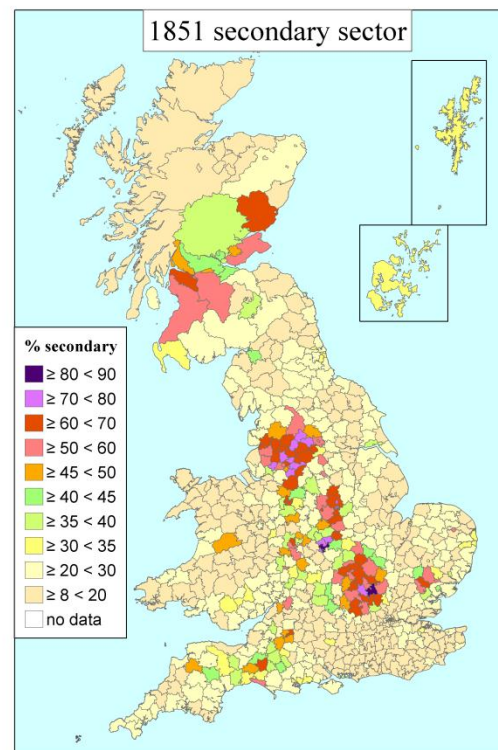
- Devised by Tony Wrigley for the *Occupational Structure of Britain 1379-1911* Project
- Codes raw occupational descriptors (26,000) into distinct systematic categories (3,000)
- Each has a 4-digit classification
- <http://www.hpss.geog.cam.ac.uk/research/projects/occupations/categorisation/pst.pdf>
- Easy to follow cross-sectoral links
- Can be interfaced with other systems (e.g. HISCO)

PST in Action: 1851 Census

Male



Female



PST and Women's Work

- Straightforward descriptors not a problem, but sources often vague about female occupational descriptors
- The 'housewife'
- The 'Farmer's Wife': what does the husband's occupation say about the wife's?
- Multiple occupations
- Childcare and domestic work: where to put it?
- Is a o^{ry} Sector needed for women's unpaid reproductive work / domestic work?