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EPISTEMOLOGICAL INNOVATIONS AND EMERGING PARADIGMS IN THE
CONTEMPORARY CONTEXT

**PRACTICE-BASED APPLICATION OF A TRAVEL DIARY IN RURAL
SASKATCHEWAN, CANADA**

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Time-use research has brought the issue of people's use of 'time' into social inquiry for over a hundred years. Historically, researchers have related "time use" to issues such as labour and gendered practices, as well as explored contemporary topics such as vehicle dashboard/GPS use, urban planning, marketing, shopping, and public health. Generally focussed on individual behaviour, time-use methods are not yet robustly conceptualized for assessing elements of social practices performed in daily life. Moreover, time-use methods are often mobilized in urban contexts. This paper will explore the preliminary findings and lessons learned through the process of creating, carrying out, and analyzing five-day time-use travel-diaries conducted in October 2025 in rural

Saskatchewan, Canada as part of a broader project on the sociology of rural transportation. This paper presents reflections on time-use methods related to rural transportation that have been created to be attentive to the social relations of rural people and places. As opposed to urban residents who often have multiple transport options and taken-for-granted infrastructure, many rural Saskatchewanians face longer trip times to accomplish the requirements of daily living and have fewer transportation options, often spending more on personal vehicle operation and maintenance, or lacking access altogether. These conditions of disadvantage are distributed unequally across intersections of race, class, gender, age, ability, and location—moving the inquiry from individualized behaviour to transportation practices allows us to focus on questions of inequality, disadvantage, and exclusion as they are actualized socially through economic, infrastructural, and political relations. Initial analysis of the travel diaries indicates that the practice of transportation relies heavily on personal automobility, including owning and operating personal vehicles. As it is enacted, it is also being anchored to the accomplishment of other practices that constitute parenting, caregiving, gendered expressions and relations, hobbies and leisure time, employment, and community involvement.

Palavras-chave: travel diary; rural transportation; practice theory; daily life; canadian prairies.