

This paper presents two tables which reconstruct the 24-year household life cycle in Gallant's *Risk and Survival in Ancient Greece* (1991), by using recent FAO data (2001). The tables provide the exact composition of the model household across the 24 years, together with figures for calorific consumption. For example, the household in year 3 of the cycle contains a father, mother, uncle, grandmother and two infants of specific ages, consuming 12,551 kcal per day or 4,581,115 kcal per year in total.

Gallant's study was a key contribution to scholarship on the Greek agricultural economy and the risks of food-shortage faced by the peasantry (Cartledge 1993, Garnsey 1998: 106). However, the exact age-composition of the model household used, and its breakdown of calorific consumption, are never stated (though Gallant's Figures 2.1 and 2.2 provide some rough indication). This shortage of information hampers the work of later scholars, who are left to take Gallant's base numbers on faith. The problem is compounded by the fact that there are errors in the numbers Gallant does present (Hodkinson 2000: 391-2, 397). This paper presents a reconstruction of the base numbers, and would be useful to scholars seeking to further adjust model household size in the light of recent scholarship (e.g. Hansen 2006).

I am unable to obtain results which match Gallant's exactly, returning slightly different numbers for total calorific consumption (e.g. 4,581,115 kcal vs. Gallant's 4,310,650 kcal for year 3). However, the differences are not serious enough to call Gallant's overall conclusions into question. The discrepancies arise primarily because Gallant's textual descriptions of the household members do not always match the ages indicated in his Figures 2.1 and 2.2. The father is purportedly 'in his middle to late twenties' during the formation of the household in year 0. However, in year 24 his eldest son begins a new 24-year cycle at age twenty-four, by becoming the father figure in a new household. Since the new household 'seamlessly merges' with the original one (Gallant 1991: 27), the original father's age in year 0 must also have been twenty-four. The younger brother's starting age is also problematic. In Gallant's Figure 2.1, at year 0 in the life cycle there are four adults. Yet in the textual description the younger brother is 'a teenage younger sibling.' Making the younger brother twenty-one in year 0 is the most satisfactory solution. Starting the grandmother at age thirty-nine in year 0 matches well with the age of the third, female child in the household. Since this daughter marries at fifteen, she is the right age (thirty-nine) in year 24 as the mother figure of her new household. At that point she herself assumes the role of the grandmother figure when her own eldest son takes a bride in year 24/0, to begin the cycle anew.

There has been a call for quantified models for the ancient economy (Morris 2005: 124) which can aid in measuring comparative 'performance' in the ancient economy to that of other societies (Scheidel, Morris and Saller 2007: 1-2). This paper thus provides a small but critical component of that task, building on other recent studies which similarly quantify specific aspects of the Greek agricultural economy (Amemiya 2007, Foxhall 2007, Moreno 2007).