Abughul Philip

Women's Involvement in Household Financial Decisions: How Advanced Is the Gender Revolution in Urban East Africa?

Despite significant advances in women's education and employment in East Africa, qualitative studies indicate that progress toward gender equality within households remains complex and uneven. Using quantitative data from the Remaking of the Family in East Africa (FamilEA) survey collected in 2024, our goal is to identify and describe distinct configurations of couples in Nairobi and Kampala and to assess the degree of gender equity within each, examining how work, family, and financial arrangements as well as gender ideologies shape the distribution of power and responsibility inside households. The FamilEA survey was conducted among 4013 men and women aged 18–64 living in Nairobi (n = 2013) and Kampala (n = 2000). The analysis draws on a sample of 1,986 cohabiting couples (Nairobi: 956; Kampala: 1,030). The variables used are: age and sex of the respondent, type of partnership (cohabiting, customary formalization, civil/religious marriage), number of children below 13 in the household, educational level of partners, wealth quintile of household, main occupation of partners (employed formal section, employed informal sector, self-employed informal, not employed), number of working hours of partners, mode of financial management in the household (joint / independent/ household head), who pays for food, who pays for healthcare, and two attitudinal variables (woman are entitled to work, child suffers when mother works). We apply a combined factorial-clustering strategy, using first Factorial Analysis of Mixed Data (FAMD) to reduce multidimensional household, gender, economic and demographic information into three factors. We then apply to these three factors K-means clustering to identify distinct configurations of couple gender equality arrangements. Across both cities, a four-cluster solution offered the most stable and interpretable structure. In Nairobi, the clusters are: (1) traditional male-breadwinner couples, (2) mature dual self-employed couples (independent management), (3) highly educated dual-earner couples (joint management), and (4) younger, financially constrained cohabiting couples. Kampala shows parallel patterns with distinct emphases: more widespread independent income management across clusters, stronger male financial authority among the self-employed, more cohabitation across clusters as well as children. The findings illustrate that pathways toward equalitarian financial practices are nonlinear, shaped by intersecting gender norms, labour market structures, and life-course trajectories. While an emergent urban middle-class model of joint management appears in both cities with more progressive attitudes, an alternative more aligned on the customary gender empowerment model appears (dual self-employed independent earners, conservative attitudes). Moreover, entrenched gendered hierarchies persist, particularly among economically vulnerable couples. A subsequent stage of the study will use only financial management variables to form clusters, and multinomial logistic regression to evaluate the weight of the varied factors that determine cluster membership. This will enable us to quantify the extent to which gender ideology, partners' resources and family life course factors predict the likelihood of belonging to each couple configuration.

Alesci Ludovica

Healthcare and Caregiving Inequalities Between Natives and Immigrants in Switzerland

Switzerland is known for successfully integrating a large foreign population while maintaining social cohesion and economic stability: by the end of 2024, there were almost 2,4 Mio permanent foreign residents for a population of about 9 Mio people1. Despite being economically integrated immigrants sometimes face different conditions than Swiss natives when it comes to accessing and using healthcare services, as well as managing care responsibilities. This doctoral proposal aims to explore immigrants' experiences and trajectories across both formal healthcare and informal caregiving throughout the lifespan. The three proposed chapters aim to measure disparities in healthcare and informal caregiving between immigrants and Swiss, understanding how they accrue and whether they differ across the life course. The first chapter explores differences between immigrants and Swiss nationals in patient outcomes during and after emergency department visits. It examines hospital admissions, unplanned reattendances and mortality within 30 days as indicators of quality and continuity of care. The analysis will study whether immigrants face higher risks of fragmented follow-up or repeated reliance on emergency services, reflecting barriers in system navigation, access to primary care, or understanding of discharge instructions. By zooming into different age-groups, the study will shed light on disparities between immigrants and Swiss nationals at various stages of life. This lens links acute episodes of emergency care with longer-term patterns of inequality, highlighting how structural constraints and individual resources shape migrants' health opportunities. In addition, depending on data availability, sequence analysis will be explored as a tool to capture longitudinal patterns of healthcare use and follow-up trajectories. The second chapter will examine the role of linguistic and cultural borders in shaping immigrants' healthcare utilization. Language is conceptualized not only as a medium of communication, but also as a carrier of norms, values, and expectations around health and institutional trust. Immigrants whose cultural background differs from that of the dominant community may face barriers that increase the risk of delayed or inappropriate care. Leveraging Switzerland's multilingual setting, the analysis applies a spatial regression discontinuity design to administrative hospital and health insurance claims data to estimate the causal effect of linguistic-cultural context on healthcare utilisation across various settings (primary care, other ambulatory care, hospitals). The study will focus on unpicking heterogeneous effects of linguistic and cultural borders on healthcare utilization for immigrants with matching or diverging linguistic backgrounds compared to the one prevailing in the region. Sequence analysis may also be employed to uncover typical pathways of healthcare utilization across linguistic and cultural borders. The third chapter will examine differences in the burden of informal care between immigrants and Swiss natives across their life course. The chapter will explore inequalities for young adults caring for older relatives, individuals balancing care for children and elderly parents, and older couples supporting each other. Using Swiss Household Panel data, the study will use longitudinal regression approaches to study patterns of caregiving over time, the role of sociodemographic factors such as age, gender, and migration status, and their potential impact on well-being. The analysis aims to identify structural inequalities in caregiving responsibilities and their potential impact on well-being. The project emphasizes the interactions between structural, cultural, and sociodemographic factors in creating and perpetuating inequalities. By integrating

analyses of patient outcomes, cultural barriers, and the burden of informal care, it provides a comprehensive perspective on migrants' vulnerabilities and shows how inequalities emerge and reproduce across both formal healthcare and informal caregiving trajectories. This integrated view has important implications for policy measures aimed at promoting greater equity in healthcare and caregiving.

Baltes-Kallas Verena

Housing as an Old-Age Emigration Factor

This thesis investigates the emigration of Swiss citizens and foreign nationals aged 55 to 74 from Switzerland. A literature review and a mapping exercise using publicly available population statistics identified the country-specific context, target demographic, types of old-age emigration, and influencing factors. These factors comprise individual characteristics, structural elements, and macro-level influences. Individual factors comprise personality, age, health, gender, family and social networks, nationality, prior migration experience, and financial resources. Life events, such as changes in professional status, health, civil status, or nationality, are also considered. One or a series of such events can trigger a person's emigration decision. Structural factors that shape emigration decisions, trajectories and timing include the Swiss old-age benefits system, migration laws and policies, the housing market, as well as the health system. These are analysed using the concepts of (de)standardization, canalization, agency, and cumulative (dis)advantages. In addition, push factors in the canton of departure and pull factors in the destination country are examined through Lee's theory of migration. Macro-level factors also influence who emigrates and when. These factors are categorized into longitudinal cohort effects, which reflect generational changes, and transversal period effects, such as economic crises, the COVID-19 pandemic, and socio-political conditions. A study of these factors using a mixed-methods approach is underway. Quantitative methods center on survival analysis of matched longitudinal data from administrative registers of the resident population and state pensions from 2010 to 2023. As a qualitative method, I use semi-structured interviews with individuals aged 55 to 74 who have left Switzerland or are considering doing so. The presentation focuses on the financial, structural, and symbolic dimensions of housing as a driver of old-age emigration, alongside the resulting patterns and directions of migration.

Financial considerations are the main motivation for elderly emigrants. Many anticipate that, in retirement, their income will no longer cover expenses. Pension income grows only marginally, while living costs - especially for health and housing, the latter being the largest household expense - rise much faster. The Swiss housing market, marked by scarcity, high prices, and a low homeownership rate, exacerbates these pressures. Restrictions on the use of second-pillar assets and on mortgage financing particularly affect people over 50 and recent immigrants, making a home purchase more challenging. Beyond material needs, housing carries strong symbolic and emotional meaning. As well as an investment and a mark of social status, the home is a place of identity and self-expression. In old age, it becomes the main center of daily activity, rest, and family life. Emigration patterns show clear regional differentiation. EU and EFTA countries, along with the UK, are the main destinations, supported by existing mobility agreements. Moves to neighboring countries are most common among residents of border cantons, where proximity allows continued contact with family and professional networks in Switzerland. Nationality further shapes emigration direction: foreign nationals predominantly return to their countries of origin, while Swiss citizens display more diverse destination choices. These qualitative and quantitative findings highlight housing as an important economic and social factor in later-life migration decisions.

Bermúdez Plaza Neili Carolina

Gender Inequalities in Health and Human Capital Across the Life Course: Three Cross-National Studies in Low- and Middle-Income Countries

Gender and sex powerfully shape individual's health outcomes across the life-course. Compared to men, women have higher life expectancy (Cambois et al., 2023) but are more likely to experience both physical and mental health problems across the life course (Farhane-Medina et al., 2022; Kiely et al., 2019; Leach et al., 2008). These disparities are not only confined to health outcomes but extend to other measures of well-being including human capital accumulation. In particular, women live less healthy and poverty-free years (Aranco et al., 2022), have higher prevalence of chronic mortality, disability and mental health problems (Bora & Saikia, 2015), and accumulate less years of schooling and have worse labour market outcomes than men. While much research focuses on differences between men and women in health in older age, gender inequalities in health and human capital emerge already during childhood and young adulthood, particularly in low-and-middle-income countries. In support of this view, results from the 2021 Global Burden Disease study indicate that disparities in depressive and anxiety disorders between women and men begin at a young age and grow throughout the life course (Patwardhan et al., 2024). Cross-national analyses in adolescent and young populations show that young women report higher levels of depressive and anxiety disorders than men (Campbell et al., 2021), which negatively impact future labour market and socioeconomic outcomes (Winding et al., 2023). In turn, reduced human capital accumulation, namely less schooling and employment, are strongly associated with increased risk of future mental health disorders in youth populations (Díaz et al., 2022). These inequalities in health and ageing trajectories do not occur in a vacuum but are strongly shaped by gender policies and gender social norms across country contexts. In environments of high gender inequality, women may face more barriers to succeed in education and the labour market, which may contribute to late-life differences in physical, mental and cognitive functioning in later life (Jain et al., 2022). Despite some research on these questions in high-income countries, there is limited evidence on how inequalities in health and human capital accumulation between women and men evolve across the life course in low- and middle-income countries, and how they are influenced by policy contexts. My PhD project aims to contribute to addressing this gap by (i) examining how gender differences in physical and mental health outcomes across the life-course relate to Gender Inequality and Gender Social Norms Indexes across low-and-middle-income countries. To do so, I will link cross-sectional data from the Gateway to Global Aging to data on national-level indicators of gender inequality and gender social norms; (ii) conducting descriptive analysis to understand how gender differences in educational and labour market aspirations and expectations relate to gender differences in the prevalence of depression, anxiety and post-traumatic stress disorder among vulnerable young university students in Colombia. I will use data from a major Randomised Controlled Trial (n=14,700) among vulnerable university students aged 18-29 years participating in a conditional cash transfer program to promote human capital accumulation for youth in Colombia; and (iii) assessing whether gender equality policies can contribute to reducing gender inequalities in healthy ageing among young and middle-aged adults. Exploiting variations across regions in the implementation of the reform, I will use a quasi-experimental approach to assess the impact of a gender equality policy on gender inequalities in

health, education and employment using cross-sectional data from the Demographic and Health Surveys in Colombia between 2005 and 2015. My research agenda aims to provide insights into how gender inequalities influence health and human capital accumulation outcomes across different life stages, offering evidence-based policy recommendations to create more gender equal environments for women in low- and middle-income countries.

Bonelli Flavien

Gendered Paid and Unpaid Task Division Patterns Among Swiss Dual-Earner Couples: a Longitudinal Analysis

Despite notable progress in recent decades, balancing professional and personal commitments in dual-earner relationships continues to pose a significant challenge. Gender disparities in career advancement, income distribution, and domestic responsibilities remain deeply entrenched in Switzerland, where traditional labor divisions continue to obstruct the realization of a truly gender-balanced workforce. This imbalance not only perpetuates in paid employment but also reinforces gendered expectations surrounding unpaid domestic and caregiving work. While a substantial body of international literature has examined the division of paid and unpaid labor in dual-earner couples, longitudinal evidence on how these dynamics evolve in Switzerland remains limited. Addressing this gap, the present study analyzes couples rather than individuals, oGering a comprehensive view of hwop men's and women's paid and unpaid work patterns interact and evolve over time. Drawing on data from the Swiss Household Panel (SHP), the analysis includes 900 heterosexual dual-earner couples observed for at least seven consecutive years. Using multichannel sequence analysis, distinct trajectories of paid and unpaid labor division are identified, allowing for a nuanced understanding of both stability and change in household arrangements. The results reveal four main clusters of labor division patterns: (1) one-and-a-half earner – more equal housework, where men typically work full-time and women part-time but men contribute somewhat more to domestic work; (2) dual full-time, where both partners work full-time yet women still perform the bulk of unpaid labor, illustrating the persistence of the "second shift"; (3) one-and-a-half earner – unequal housework, representing the most traditional model, with women working part-time and shouldering most domestic duties; and (4) dual part-time, where both partners reduce paid work hours and share housework more equally, though inequalities remain. Regression analyses highlight children as the strongest driver of unequal divisions, with the transition to parenthood, and particularly the arrival of two or more children, reinforcing traditional arrangements. Marital status, women's education, and men's access to flexible work arrangements further diGerentiate between egalitarian and traditional models: highly educated women are less likely to adopt part-time, housework-intensive roles, while couples with flexible male work schedules are more likely to pursue dual part-time arrangements. Overall, the findings confirm that even in dual-earner settings, unpaid work remains heavily gendered. The persistence of the male breadwinner model, even in modified forms, supports the view that the "gender revolution" has stalled. Women have entered the labor force in large numbers, but men's engagement in domestic work has not kept pace. By integrating longitudinal data and couple-level analysis, this study contributes to debates on gender equality, demonstrating how family structure, institutional context, and work flexibility shape enduring patterns of inequality in Switzerland.

Cerf Julien

Socio-Health Trajectories of Unaccompanied Minor Asylum Seekers in Geneva During the Transition to Adulthood: Forms and Functions of an Integrated Multidisciplinary Care Approach

This doctoral research explores the healthcare and social trajectories of unaccompanied minor asylum seekers (UMAS) in Geneva, within the context of an interprofessional platform coordinated at the cantonal level. The study aims to understand how these trajectories are constructed, experienced, and represented – both by the young refugees themselves and by the professionals who accompany them – through a multi-layered approach that integrates clinical and sociocultural perspectives. From a clinical standpoint, the project seeks to examine the processes of symbolization and psychic metabolization of lived experience of transition to adulthood in contexts marked by migration history. These processes are considered not only for UMAS, but also for the professionals involved, whose practice draws upon a complex interprofessional coordination et collaboration. Complementarily, the research is grounded in sociocultural psychology, particularly in a dialogical approach. This framework emphasizes the situated nature of psychological processes, conceived as embedded in and shaped by overlapping sociocultural contexts that interacts with one another. The study employs a mixed-methods design. First, a quantitative analysis of anonymized medical records from UMAS who entered the Geneva healthcare since 2023 will be conducted. This phase aims to model patterns of care trajectories (e.g., continuity vs. discontinuity) through sequence analysis, typology construction, and composite scoring, based on indicators such as number and type of consultations, missed appointments, psychiatric diagnoses, and use of emergency or inpatient services. Second, qualitative data will be collected through a series of focus groups with professionals from various sectors involved in the care of UMAS, including healthcare providers, social workers, educators, and legal representatives. These discussions will be informed by the care trajectory typologies developed in the first phase. Third, longitudinal individual interviews will be conducted with a small sample of UMAS, using the photovoice method, in which participants take and discuss photographs of their living environments. These interviews, carried out over the course of one year around the 18th anniversary, will offer access to the subjective dimension of migration and integration experiences. Both the focus groups and the interviews data will be analyzed through a dual framework: dialogical discourse analysis and psychoanalytic group process reading. This two-fold analysis will allow first to build a dialogical analysis within each, and between the two sets of data. Second, the psychoanalytical standpoint will allow a clinical analysis of the lived experience of UMAS and professionals. Ethnographic fieldwork in a reception center for newly arrived minors will provide further contextual grounding through participant observation and researcher fieldnotes. The overall aim of the study is to articulate the affective, symbolic, and institutional dimensions that shape care relationships in a migratory context marked by rupture and transition. The thesis will be structured around three peer-reviewed articles, each aligned with a different methodological component, and together contributing to a nuanced understanding of the coconstruction of care trajectories within complex psychosocial and institutional environments.

Chervinskii Igor

Changes in Parenting Intentions and Transitions to Parenthood Among Same-Gender Couples in Switzerland over Time: A Population-Register-Based Study

The number of same-gender couples with children living in Switzerland increased almost four times between 2010 and 2023, according to the Swiss Federal Statistical Office. This is likely an underestimation of a bigger phenomenon of LGBTQ-parented families, given SFSO's narrow definition of such families as "same-sex couples with children" and reliance on imperfect administrative records. Nevertheless, LGBTQ-parented families are clearly gaining ground and becoming more visible in the public space over the past decade in Switzerland, known to be a conservative country compared to its Western-European neighbours. These trends suggest the prensence of underlying changes in LGBTQ-persons' views of and intentions about parenting, as well as in their life goals and strategies with regard to familymaking taking place in Switzerland. Adressing these societal changes, this PhD project examines the following research question: "What kind of life paths and circumstances (such as economic conditions, shifts in legal recognition, and place of residence) account for same-gender couples becoming parents in the context of Switzerland?" Most of the existing research is focused on exploring subjective motivations of the LGBTIQ+ people for becoming parents, the strategies they put in place to have children, and the lived experiences of prospective and actual LGBTQ-parents. However, little research has been carried out in the European context on the long-term configurations of life events and circumstances that typically lead persons in same-gender couples to becoming parents, in part due to the lack of relevant longitudinal data. The thesis project aims at leveraging opportunities offered by the Swiss population register for the identification and longitudinal follow-up of same-gender couples, both childless and with children. It addresses three sub-questions: how intentions to become parents shifted over time among same-gender couples, as the legal context became more favourable for them; what kind of life course trajectories typically lead to parenthood among same-gender couples; and how the place of residence matters in facilitating or restraining same-gender parenthood in Switzerland. Exploring these research questions necessitates the use of longitudinal methodology, such as "difference-in-differences", event-history, sequence and time-to-event analyses. I am also planning to use mixed-methods to study the role of the place of residence for same-gender parenthood. The main data sources are the Swiss population register, three waves of the "Families and Generations Survey", and SFSO Structural Surveys. This PhD project aims to connect life course research on family formation and transition to parenthood with the scholarly work on LGBTIQ+ and "rainbow family" studies, integrating perspectives from both fields. Furthermore, it contributes to increasing the visibility of samegender-parented families and holds potential to inform more inclusive family policies in Switzerland and beyond.

Ciaravino Gäetane

Assessing Resilience: A Systematic Review of Measure Instruments and their Psychometric Properties

Over the past years, a growing number of instruments have been developed to assess resilience across different populations and contexts. Although several review papers have examined the psychometric quality of specific questionnaires or focused on particular populations, no recent work has provided an overarching synthesis of all available resilience measures. This project aims to conduct an updated and comprehensive systematic review of resilience questionnaires, therefore seeking to fill this gap by synthesizing and critically appraising available evidence on the psychometric properties of resilience questionnaires currently in use. This systematic review, still ongoing, represents the first stage of a broader doctoral project aiming to enhance the methodological understanding and assessment of resilience. In a subsequent phase, new data will be collected to examine the psychometric properties of the French version of the Connor-Davidson Resilience Scale (CD-RISC-25), which is the most frequently used questionnaire on resilience and has only been partially validated to date. The review protocol is pre-registered on PROSPERO and follows the PRISMA 2020 guidelines to ensure methodological rigor and transparency. Literature searches were conducted in PsycINFO, PubMed, and Web of Science. Inclusion criteria focused on empirical studies published in English or French that evaluated at least one psychometric property such as validity, reliability, or factor structure of a resilience questionnaire. A total of 5,407 articles were retrieved across the three databases. Screening was carried out independently by two reviewers using Rayyan, a dedicated platform for systematic reviews. All duplicate records were identified and removed before screening, resulting in a total of 3,675 unique articles. Both reviewers independently screened all titles and abstracts, and full texts were consulted when necessary. Approximately 287 conflicts (7.8%) were identified and reviewed individually until agreement was reached. In cases of persistent disagreement, a third reviewer made the final decision. At the end of this process, around 490 articles were included for full data extraction. As the next step, data extraction (also referred to as coding) will be performed in Rayyan. Extracted information will include questionnaire characteristics (e.g., name, language), sample details, theoretical conceptualization of resilience, and psychometric indicators such as convergent, discriminant, criterion, and predictive validity, internal consistency (e.g., Cronbach's alpha, omega), reliability (e.g, test-retest reliability), and factor structure (including the method used, such as principal component analysis or confirmatory factor analysis, and the reported outcomes, such as the number of factors or goodness of fit indices). Studies using Item Response Theory will also be included, even if they might not report all the indicators mentioned above. This systematic review will provide an updated synthesis of the methodological quality of resilience questionnaires and highlight key strengths, weaknesses, and gaps in the current literature. The results will offer methodological guidance for future research and contribute to improving the measurement of resilience, with particular attention given to instruments available in French, which are essential for studies involving French-speaking Swiss populations.

Farhat Hania

Cognitive Reserve Accumulation Pathways and Pathological Cognitive Development: a Detailed Lifespan Perspective

With aging populations, dementia cases are expected to rise sharply, threatening well-being in later life. The concept of cognitive reserve suggests that lifelong experiences such as education, occupation, and leisure activities help build resilience that enables individuals to better cope with cognitive pathologies in older age. Yet, studies examining how individual characteristics across the lifespan contribute to the development of cognitive reserve and its role in coping with pathological cognitive decline remain limited. Therefore, this project aims to integrate cognitive reserve and lifespan research to examine how contextual factors and major life events shape the accumulation of cognitive reserve across the lifespan, drawing on detailed retrospective life history data. Moreover, the project will investigate how these modulation mechanisms influence individuals' ability to cope with pathological cognitive development in later life, incorporating longitudinal pathology and brain data, including preclinical states, and examining their impact on related outcomes such as well-being during this stage. Thereby, in three subprojects we will exploit available large-scale longitudinal interdisciplinary datasets using advanced modeling techniques, such as sequence analyses, growth curve models, mixed-effects models, joint models, and dynamic structural equation models. Specifically, in subproject A we will investigate how contextual factors, such as demographic, economic, and societal characteristics of the surrounding environments in which individuals grew up and spent their adulthood, influence in detail the pathways of cognitive reserve accumulation and how this finally affects individuals' capacity to deal with pathological cognitive development in later life. A special focus will be given on differential effects depending on the contextual level (country versus federal state / region versus neighborhood) and the specific life phase in which the respective environments affect individuals' trajectories (childhood, adolescence, young adulthood, midlife, late and very late adulthood). In subproject B we will examine how major life events in individuals' lives influence in detail the pathways of cognitive reserve accumulation and how this finally affects individuals' capacity to deal with pathological cognitive development in later life. A detailed focus will be taken on differential effects depending on the type of event (positive versus negative) and the specific life phase in which the respective event periods affect individuals' trajectories. In subproject C we will investigate how the detailed modulations of cognitive reserve accumulation pathways across the lifespan through contextual factors and major life events emerging during individuals' lives determine in detail the trajectories in related outcomes such as well-being when facing pathological cognitive development in later life. A particular focus will be given on differential effects depending on the contextual level, the type of event, and the specific life phase in which the respective environments and the respective event periods affect individuals' trajectories. The present interdisciplinary proposal has huge conceptual significance as it will help to conceptualize lifespan models of cognitive reserve in particular and gerontological research in general. Moreover, it will be of great significance for social prevention policies and may provide the basis for designing evidence-based intervention programs for aging societies.

Fontanellaz Sarah

The Reciprocal Links between Personal Networks and Social Identities: Evidence from Young Adults in Switzerland

This thesis is part of the Swiss National Science Foundation (SNSF) project n. 10000349, titled Turbulent times: Personal Networks and Social Identities of Swiss Young Adults (IdNet) (01.02.2025 – 31.01.2029). This project links sociology and social psychology by using Social Network Analysis (SNA) to study psychosocial processes, in particular social identities. It investigates the reciprocal relationship between personal networks and social identities among young adults in Switzerland, with a focus on two mechanisms: consensualisation, the formation of consensus within networks that shapes the development and salience of social identities (age, gender, generation, nationality, and culture), and consolidation, the selection of network members based on these identities. The thesis also examines how these network – identity dynamics impact engagement in social change, analyzing both its forms and directions. Empirically, the research relies on the 2020 – 2023 Swiss Federal Surveys of Adolescents (ch-x), a national dataset covering nearly all Swiss men aged 18–21 and a representative sample of young women, complemented by a planned second wave with 5,000 respondents across 250 municipalities. Methodologically, the project combines cross-sectional, longitudinal, and exploratory approaches: (1) cross-sectional analyses of network – identity links, (2) in-depth analyses of consensualisation and consolidation with wave 2 data, (3) longitudinal models testing reciprocal effects between networks and identities, and (4) exploratory analysis of links between network – identity nexus and socio-political engagement. Beyond theoretical advances, this thesis also offers policyrelevant insights into youth identity formation and social connectedness in a context of social change, diversity, and digitalization, highlighting both risks (isolation, marginalization) and opportunities (empowerment, engagement) in personal networks.

Gafner Morgane

Digital trust: Understanding and Addressing its Impact on Digital Data Collection in Surveys

Surveys remain a crucial part of social science research, widely used by academic researchers to gain insight into people's behaviours, attitudes, and opinions. However, survey participation has been declining for decades, raising concerns about data quality and representativeness. Attempts to leverage mobile technologies for data collection appear particularly affected. Digital data collection (DDC) refers to the use of digital platforms and technological tools for data collection, and offers the opportunity to collect novel forms of data. Although DDC offers clear benefits (e.g., reduced costs, integration of sensor data, lower respondent burden), many individuals remain reluctant to participate, resulting in low uptake and potential nonresponse bias. Key barriers to participation are privacy concerns and lack of trust in digital technologies and institutions that collect and use data. They belong to the broader construct of "digital trust" (DT), defined as "the confidence in people, processes, and technology aimed at ensuring a secure digital environment, with data protection and privacy playing critical roles" (Saveljeva and Volkova, 2025). Despite growing recognition of its importance, there is still limited knowledge about how DT should be measured, how it varies across population subgroups, and to what extent it predicts actual behaviour in DDC contexts. My thesis addresses these gaps by investigating the role of DT in willingness to participate in DDC, with a particular focus on app-based data collection. It has three main objectives: (1) to develop a conceptual and empirical framework for measuring DT in the context of surveys, distinguishing between the two key concepts of "mechanical trust" (security, privacy, reliability) and "relational trust" (trust in institutions and actors); (2) to explore how DT varies across sociodemographic and attitudinal groups of adults in Switzerland, identifying those most likely to be skeptical about digital participation; (3) to examine how DT influences both stated willingness and actual behaviour when respondents are invited to download and use a smartphone application for a time use study. Empirically, I will draw on data from MOSAiCH 2024, which is a nationally representative, mixedmode survey of the Swiss population conducted in two waves. The survey includes a unique module on DT and hypothetical willingness to participate in DDC, created for the project my thesis is part of. A follow-up wave invites respondents to download and use a smartphone app for a Time Use Survey. This will provide an opportunity to compare hypothetical willingness with actual participation in an app-based survey. Taking an integrated approach that combines conceptual, measurement and behavioural perspectives, my thesis will study DT as a multidimensional construct, clarifying its role in participation decisions. The findings will contribute to the development of strategies to increase the uptake of DDC methods, improve the quality of survey data, and enhance researchers' ability to collect high-quality data. This is particularly important for life course research, as understanding who participates and who does not, and the reasons behind this, is essential for ensuring that findings accurately reflect people's lives over time.

Gallinari Safar Pierre

Co-listening, Sharing, Transmission? Understanding Patterns of Musical Listening Proximity in Families Sharing a Streaming "Family Account"

Sociological studies of family cultural transmission often remain reliant on a top-down conception of socialization, in which intergenerational dynamics are framed through the metaphor of "inheritance" received by children from their parents. This approach has mostly focused on legitimate cultural practices and their presumed impact on academic success. Yet very few quantitative studies have jointly examined the practices of different family members and their evolution over time. The few comparative family-based studies that do exist have nevertheless play a key role in our understanding of these process, showing that transmission is not a linear reproduction of parental habits but a negotiated and relational process shaped by children's reappropriation and by the differentiated roles, positions, and affective ties of family members. However, these studies rely on declarative data collected at an aggregated level, often limited to childhood or adolescence, and partially ignore the transformations brought by digitization. Such large-scale approaches often overstate the persistence of vertical transmission and overlook the transactional, reciprocal, and gradated nature of cultural exchanges within families. This may be particulary evident in everyday digitized practices such as music streaming, where platformed environments reshape cultural circulation and may allow children to actively redefine collective tastes. While familial sharing of music listening has received little attention from quantitative research, recent qualitative studies have shown that music circulates within families through complex, multidirectional, and non-linear dynamics. By combining multi-year observational listening data from Deezer's paid "family accounts" (n = 3,500 individuals, representing around 1000 seemingly family-based units) with survey data from the corresponding parental accounts, this study investigates patterns of cultural proximity within families in a digitized context. It examines the extent to which family members share listening habits, both in content and in modes of consumption, how these proximities vary by social position and gender, and how they evolve throughout the transition from adolescence to adulthood. Preliminary analyses suggest that a substantial share of families sharing a "family account" maintain specific proximities in both the content and the diversity of what they listen to—proximities that cannot be fully explained by social position. We identify different forms of inter- and intra-generational musical influence, which are multidirectional and vary in nature according to social background. Moreover, the proximity between younger users and their "parental" accounts evolves in a non-linear way across the life course. These results invite us to rethink family cultural transmission in the digital age as a process of circulation and negotiation rather than inheritance.

Gschwend Anja

Getting Ahead – or Thinking You Did? Perceptions of Intergenerational Mobility and Political Preferences

Intergenerational mobility is thought to inform individuals' views about fairness and the role of effort, which in turn shape preferences for redistribution. Despite strong theoretical predictions, empirical evidence on the link between mobility beliefs and policy preferences remains inconclusive. Moreover, existing experimental work has focused primarily on perceptions of societal mobility, while the causal effect of an individual's beliefs about their own mobility has received little attention. This project addresses these gaps through a large-scale survey experiment among Swiss adults linked to administrative data covering both respondents and their parents. We employ a parallel experimental design with two different tracks to disentangle the effects of beliefs about personal and societal mobility, respectively. In the individual track, participants report their perceived position in the income distribution relative to their parents, allowing us to measure both the magnitude and the origin of biases in perceived personal income mobility. Participants are randomly informed of their observed mobility to identify the causal effect of a shock to their beliefs. In the societal track, a separate group of respondents provides and randomly receives information about intergenerational income mobility in Switzerland as a whole. We then compare how updated beliefs in each track affect (i) the attribution of economic success to effort (rather than luck); (ii) preferences for redistributive policies promoting either equality of opportunity or equality of outcomes; and (iii) intended participation in votes on national referenda. By combining experimental variation in individual- and society-level mobility beliefs with administrative data, this project will provide novel evidence on the relationship between intergenerational mobility and redistributive preferences. The findings also speak to the theoretical framework established by Piketty (1995), which links voting patterns in differentially mobile groups to dynastic learning processes on the importance of effort over luck. Note concerning the stage of the project: By February 2026, we will have finalised the questionnaire and be in the process of drafting a pre-analysis plan. The survey will only be fielded in 2026. Given this early stage, I would be grateful for feedback on the general structure and framing of the paper as well as the concrete hypotheses.

Guarnerio Mattia

Revisiting the Double Devaluation Hypothesis: An Intersectional Analysis of Over Time Changes and Cross-Country Differences in the Relationship Between Occupational Composition and Wages

This doctoral thesis investigates how occupational composition by gender and migration background drives wage inequality across European and comparable high-income labour markets. Extending Busch's model of gendered occupational devaluation through an intersectional lens, it contrasts a double devaluation hypothesis, where feminized and immigrant-typed occupations are systematically undervalued, with a double valorisation hypothesis, in which masculinized and native-dominated occupations are over-rewarded. By embedding micro-level demographic and human capital characteristics alongside mesolevel occupational attributes and macro-level institutional conditions, it further advances a multi-dimensional understanding of intersectional pay differentials. The dissertation addresses three key gaps in the extant literature. First, most prior research examines gender or migration-related wage inequalities in isolation, leaving the intersectional dimension underexplored. Second, theoretical and empirical work has largely overlooked the mechanisms underlying double devaluation or valorisation, including whether observed pay differentials reflect personal characteristics, occupational features, or institutional contexts. Third, prior studies rarely consider how these dynamics evolve over the life course, leaving open questions about the influence of career stages and ageing trajectories on wage disparities. To address these gaps, four empirical papers are designed, combining data drawn from the European Union Statistics on Income and Living Conditions (EU-SILC), the EU Labour Force Survey (EU-LFS), the European Working Conditions Survey (EWCS), and the Comparative Panel File (CPF). The first contribution maps a continuum of doubly devaluated and valorised occupations, linking occupational gender-migration composition to median wages, prestige, and task profiles across 23 European countries. The second delves into causal mechanisms, comparing devaluation-based accounts with human capital explanations, using longitudinal data on 21 European nations. The third investigates cross-national variation, exploring how institutional configurations shape the extent of double devaluation and valorisation, covering 21 European labour markets. The fourth adopts a life-course perspective, analysing harmonised panel data from six high-income countries to assess how career stages and life events influence wage trajectories in occupations exhibiting the most pronounced double devaluation or valorisation. Integrating inter-categorical intersectionality with a multi-level analytical approach, this research project situates gender and migration background as linked social identities that jointly shape occupational segregation and pay differentials. By combining descriptive mapping, causal inference, and comparative longitudinal analysis, it also sheds new light on the degree to which structural and occupational mechanisms jointly reproduce intersectional wage inequalities in contemporary European and analogous high-income labour markets.

Latifi Tina

Inequalities in Knowledge of and Willingness to Use Assisted Reproductive Technologies (ARTs) in Switzerland

Infertility affects a significant portion of the population globally, yet studies in high-income countries reveal a widespread lack of awareness about this issue. Existing research on awareness of Assisted Reproductive Technologies (ARTs) primarily examines general fertility knowledge (e.g., fertile periods, age-related pregnancy probabilities) or focuses narrowly on in vitro fertilization (IVF). Using 2022 MOSAÏCH data from Switzerland, this study expands the scope by investigating 1) a broader range of infertility treatments; 2) knowledge, but also willingness to use ARTs; and 3) varied possible sources of inequalities in awareness and potential usage of ARTs. Preliminary findings highlight the significant role of gender, age, language spoken and family formation stage, as well as family conservatism in shaping ART awareness. Individual socioeconomic variables do not matter for ART knowledge, but residing in an urban area emerges as a key factor. In contrast, willingness to use ARTs, while also being strongly associated with conservatism and gender and prior knowledge of the procedures, is not significantly related to living in an urban area. These results underscore the need for targeted public health strategies to address barriers to ART access.

Marx Esperanza

Allocation and Impact of Curriculum Modifications in Inclusive Mainstream Classrooms

Students with special educational needs are increasingly taught in inclusive settings in Switzerland and internationally (OECD, 2023). To address to the growing diversity of students' prerequisites and needs, various integrative measures have been established. One of the most widespread measures is curriculum modifications, whereby low-achieving pupils are taught with reduced curricular goals and adapted content in one or more subjects (Sahli Lozano et al., 2021). Despite their high relevance in everyday school life, little scientific research has been conducted on this topic to date. The planned dissertation seeks to address this gap by examining the allocation and effects of curriculum modifications. The following three central questions guide the project. First, the criteria used to assign curriculum modifications are investigated. To uncover potential mechanisms of social selectivity, particular attention is paid to social characteristics such as gender, migration background, and social background. Secondly, the impact of receiving curriculum modifications on pupils' learning trajectories is examined. Emphasis is laid on whether curriculum modifications as a form of internal differentiation have comparable negative consequences to external differentiation (e.g. tracking). Thirdly, educational transitions to lower- and upper-secondary education are explored to assess whether the label of "curriculum modifications" entails a negative signalling effect that may shape educational pathways and opportunities. The analyses are based on large-scale data from standardized school performance tests ("checks") conducted annually since 2013 in four cantons in north-western Switzerland (BR NWCH, 2025). These tests assess students' performance in several subjects at different stages of compulsory schooling (3rd, 5th/6th, 8th and 9th grade) and contain information on the school context as well as the allocation of curriculum modifications. As participation in the checks is generally compulsory, the data not only covers almost the entire population of students in North-western Switzerland (Nobservations ≈ 489'000, Nstudents ≈ 226'000, Nschools ≈ 1'200) but also allows for longitudinal inquiries. By linking these data to administrative register data, information on educational trajectories and socio-demographic characteristics is obtained. Various quantitative methods, including propensity score matching, multilevel models, structural equation modelling and sequence analysis, are used to analyse the data. The aim of the dissertation is to provide a comprehensive account of the allocation and impact of curriculum modifications, thereby contributing to a deeper understanding of integrative support measures. Particular emphasis is placed on the cumulative effects of these measures and whether there is variation across different social groups. In doing so, the dissertation contributes to research on educational inequality and differentiation and provides practical insights for education policy.

Moruzzi Chiara

Breaking the Cycle of Disadvantage: A Cross-National Analysis of the Intergenerational Persistence of Poverty

The intergenerational transmission of poverty (IGPov) describes how children from poor families face a significantly higher likelihood of experiencing poverty as adults compared to their more advantaged peers. While a large body of research has documented this persistence, evidence remains fragmented, often confined to single-country studies and limited datasets. This project investigates the extent, nature, and mechanisms of IGPov in high-income countries, exploring to what degree poverty persists across generations and how national institutions, welfare regimes, and socioeconomic contexts shape its dynamics. The project unfolds in three parts: first, extending previous research by incorporating understudied industrialized non-Western countries (Japan, Russia, Korea) to evaluate cross-national and temporal variation in IGPov; second, analyzing European countries through EU-SILC to assess the role of welfare regimes, policies, and macroeconomic conditions, with a focus on methodological challenges in using retrospective data; and third, conducting a country-specific analysis of Italy, a context marked by high persistent poverty, pronounced territorial divides, and weak welfare protections. Thus, the study draws on three main data sources, respectively: harmonized longitudinal data from the Cross-National Equivalent File (CNEF), retrospective modules from the European Union Statistics on Income and Living Conditions (EU-SILC), and national panel data from Italy's Survey on Household Income and Wealth (SHIW). The project adopts a decomposition framework to disentangle family background, education, employment, welfare policies, and regional dynamics in shaping poverty persistence, while comparing income-based and multidimensional poverty measures. By addressing critical measurement and comparability challenges, this research contributes to both theory and policy, offering new insights into how and why poverty persists across generations, and which interventions may be most effective in breaking cycles of disadvantage.

Pereira da Silva Sayonara

Lifelong Determinants of Cognitive Reserve and Their Influence on Biological and Cognitive Outcomes in Later Life Across APOE Genotypes

Aging involves a series of changes across different aspects of life. This process can be influenced by cognitive reserve (CR). However, the mechanisms through which CR develops over the life course and the role of APOE genetic vulnerability are not yet fully understood. In this study, we investigated the impact of sociodemographic conditions during infancy on the development of CR, and how this reserve subsequently affects global cognitive performance and insulin-like growth factor 1 (IGF-1) serum concentrations in later life across different APOE genotypes. Data from 1,247 cognitively unimpaired volunteers were obtained from visits 5 and 7 of The Rancho Bernardo Study of Healthy Aging open-access database. An initial analysis using linear mixed-effects models was conducted to examine the relationship between CR proxies, childhood socioeconomic conditions, APOE genotype, longitudinal serum IGF-1 levels, and MMSE scores. The results indicated that older age was associated with lower levels of IGF-1 (β = -0.58, SE = 0.15, $p < 0.001$) and lower MMSE scores (β = -0.05, SE = 0.004, $p < 0.001$). Males had higher IGF-1 levels than females (β = 18.36, SE = 2.86, $p < 0.001$), but displayed lower MMSE scores (β = -0.35, SE = 0.07, $p < 0.001$). Participants with higher cognitively demanding occupations had higher MMSE scores (β = 0.38, SE = 0.09, $p < 0.001$), but there was no effect on IGF-1 levels. Furthermore, no significant differences in baseline IGF-1 levels were observed across APOE genotypes, although ε2 carriers showed a borderline association with IGF-1 (β = -8.31, SE = 4.38, $p = 0.058$) and significant interactions were found between APOE status and visits (ε2 carriers: β = 8.82, SE = 3.96, $p = 0.026$; ε4 carriers: β = 6.88, SE = 3.22, $p = 0.033$). Notably, APOE ε4 carriers exhibited lower MMSE scores (β = -0.21, SE = 0.1, $p = 0.049$) compared to ε3 carriers. These novel findings contribute to the understanding of the interplay among sociodemographic characteristics, global cognitive performance, and IGF-1 serum concentrations across different APOE genotypes. More advanced analyses are still being implemented, including interactions among CR proxies and childhood sociodemographic factors, as well as cross-lagged reciprocal effects between IGF-1 and MMSE scores.

Perneger Emma

Aging in the Shadows: Health and Living Conditions in the Life Trajectories of Older Adults Without Legal Status

The health of undocumented migrants is a major public health issue. This population is particularly exposed to health risks, has limited economic resources to deal with them, and faces significant barriers to access healthcare. Upon reaching retirement age, undocumented migrants (including migrants with precarious legal status, i.e. without legal documentation or at risk of losing it) are affected by social and health inequalities accumulated throughout their lives, in a context of non-recognition of social rights. By adopting a life course approach and a critical perspective on vulnerability, this research aims to understand how legal status, living conditions, and health are interrelated across the life courses of these individuals. The thesis is based on a methodology combining a synthesis of scientific knowledge and a qualitative study, which triangulates several methods and fields:

1) A scoping review will assess knowledge on health and living conditions of elderly undocumented migrants.

2) As part of the GRACE project entitled "Growing and aging in the shadows: undocumented children and elderly migrants in European cities", semi-structured interviews will be conducted with key informants (from community and social organizations) part of the social and health network working with undocumented migrants in Geneva. Documentary research and participant observation within this network will complete this initial exploratory phase, which aims to document the living conditions and health issues of the elderly undocumented migrants as perceived by social workers and healthcare professionals.

3) Narrative life-history interviews will be conducted with undocumented migrants over the age of 60 in Geneva.

4) A smaller-scale comparative field study will be carried out in a European city participating in the GRACE project, mainly with key informants working in contact with undocumented elderly migrants.

Rebien Thea

Organisational Diversity Policies and Management: Firm-Level Commitment, Implementation and Impacts of Diversity Charters at the Intersection of Gender and Migration Background

Vertical, horizontal and hierarchical sectoral and occupational segregation along gendered and migrational lines are main forces driving labour market inequalities. The salient intersection of gender and migration background has in many instances been found to result in double devaluation, where occupations that are both feminised, and immigrant-typed are often especially low-paid and precarious. From the demand-side, organisations can play an important role in de-segregating the labour market. In Europe, firms have since 2004 been able to sign national Diversity Charters, which underline the commitment of the organisation to implement policies aiming to promote diversity and equal opportunities in the workplace, regardless of diverse employee characteristics. However, considerable theoretical unclarity remains on the concept of diversity charters, their implementation, and impacts on diversity and de-segregation. The present thesis aims to explore three interrelated research puzzles, focusing mainly on the diversity dimensions of gender, migration background and their intersection. Firstly, why do firms choose to commit to diversity policies? Secondly, how are diversity policies implemented, and do they take into consideration the intersection of multiple structures of inequality amongst diverse employees? And finally, what are the impacts of diversity policies on occupational de-segregation? To answer these questions, the thesis will adopt a mixed-methods approach to analyse novel data qualitative as well as quantitative data from four to six European countries representing different segregation regimes. Semi-structured interviews will be conducted with employers and analyzed through either a structured coding approach using Atlas.ti, or computational social science approaches. The analysis of the semi-structured interviews aims to uncover the motivations and implementation strategies of employers who commit to Diversity Charters. Complimenting the qualitative analysis, a factorial survey experiment investigates the impact of diversity policies on employers' intentions and opinions on diversity (and discrimination) practices regarding recruitment and evaluations at the intersection of migration background and sex, taking into consideration workplace and employer characteristics.

Roque Sidonie

Dimensions of Childhood Adversity and Midlife Heart Rate Variability in the 1946 British Birth Cohort

Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs) are known to influence long-term physiological and psychological stress regulation, including subtle alterations in autonomic nervous system (ANS) functioning. Emerging research has shifted from cumulative ACE scores to dimensional models—such as deprivation, threat, and unpredictability—to capture better the neurodevelopmental pathways linking early adversity to later health outcomes. However, few studies have examined how these dimensions relate to ANS regulation, particularly heart rate variability (HRV), a biomarker of vagal tone and emotional regulation. This study investigates the associations between two adversity dimensions—(1) cognitive and social deprivation and (2) material deprivation—and midlife HRV in participants from the 1946 UK National Study of Health and Development. Among the 5,362 original cohort members, the analytical sample was restricted to 1,377 individuals (25.7%) with non-missing HRV data collected during the age 60–64 clinic visit, as HRV was the primary outcome of interest. HRV was assessed using high-frequency normalised units (HFnu) as a marker of parasympathetic activity. Missing data were addressed using multiple imputation by chained equations, and linear regression models were adjusted for early life factors, additional adversity dimensions, resting heart rate, and medication use. Findings revealed no significant association between childhood cognitive and social deprivation and midlife vagal tone. In contrast, higher levels of material deprivation were associated with a relative shift toward parasympathetic dominance (HFnu, β = 7.73, 95% CI: 0.78, 14.69), independent of confounders. No evidence was found linking either deprivation dimension to absolute HRV magnitude. These results suggest that distinct dimensions of childhood adversity may differentially influence ANS regulation in midlife. The observed parasympathetic shift associated with material deprivation may reflect adaptive or compensatory mechanisms, though further research is needed to clarify underlying pathways. Future studies should explore the roles of threat and unpredictability to deepen understanding of how early adversity shapes physiological and emotional development across the life course.

Rossier Amélie

Transition to Adulthood: A Relational Process of Making-Decisions

During the transition to adulthood, young people with intellectual disability are faced with decisions making that have major consequences for their lives. Understanding the decision-making process and its influencing factors is complex. Most research has adopted an individual, social or structural approach to understanding the decision-making process for people with an intellectual disability (eg. Jacobs et al., 2020; Shogren et Wehmeyer, 2015; Tiedmann et al., 2023). In addition, few studies have focused on the decision-making process specifically during the transition to adulthood and adopting a relational approach. In this thesis, through a literature review covering the period of 2014-2025, the aim is to provide a critical review of existing knowledge on the decision-making process of young people with an intellectual disability during the transition to adulthood, drawing on the life course paradigm of linked lives (Landes et Settersten, 2019) and disability theories (Cudré-Mauroux et al., 2020) in which the relational dimension with the social environment plays a central role. The findings show that social factors have a strong influence on decision-making. However, adopting a relational perspective requires also taking into account the influence of individual and structural factors in order to identify their interdependence with the social factors and thus fully grasp the complexity of this process.

Rostekova Adriana

The Longitudinal Links Between Pet Ownership and Changes in Depressive Symptoms in Older Adults

Cross-sectional research has consistently shown that pet owners tend to report poorer mental health outcomes than non-owners, including higher levels of depressive symptoms. This pattern appears paradoxical, considering that companion animals are also associated with numerous psychosocial and physiological correlates of better mental health, such as reduced stress levels and loneliness, increase in physical activity and enhanced social connectedness. This disparity points to a critical gap in the literature tied to the lack of longitudinal investigations that could characterise how pet ownership related to changes in mental health over time. Furthermore, this question may be particularly relevant for older adults, who oftentimes face the loss of social connections due to factors such as retirement and bereavement, and for whom pets could provide meaningful emotional companionship. The present study therefore investigates the longitudinal associations between pet ownership and depressive symptoms among adults aged 50 years and older. Drawing on 18 years of data from nine waves of the Survey of Health, Ageing and Retirement in Europe (SHARE), we apply multilevel modeling to examine (1) the relationship between pet ownership and changes in depressive symptoms over time (2) the potential differences across age subgroups (younger-old vs. older-old adults), and (3) the distinctions between pet species, including dogs, cats, birds, and fish. Further analyses might then potentially examine differences between individuals whose depressive symptoms exceed clinically relevant thresholds and those who remain below them over time, as well as whether these associations vary across sociodemographic characteristics (e.g., gender, income, and living arrangements), physical health and cognitive functioning, as well as national contexts. By characterising longitudinal patterns of depressive symptoms in relation to ownership of different pet species, this study aims to refine our understanding of human-animal interactions in relation to mental health in later life, thus contributing to a broader understanding of factors linked to emotional well-being and resilience across the lifespan.

Strebel Rebecca

Inclusive Policies and Professional Identities: Tensions and Experiences of Teachers in the Canton of Vaud

In 2019, the Canton of Vaud introduced the Concept 360°, a policy framework intended to foster inclusive schooling. Presented as an ideal of social justice and supported by both political (État de Vaud, 2019) and academic communities (Ebersold, 2009), this reform nevertheless remains challenging to translate into daily school practices. Its implementation reveals enduring contradictions: teachers are encouraged to adapt to student diversity while collaborating with multiple professionals within asymmetric power relations (Bovey et al., 2025). These transformations reshape the teaching profession and, for many, raise questions about their sense of professional identity. Grounded in life-course research and sociology of education, this paper investigates how teachers in the Canton of Vaud interpret and appropriate the notion of inclusive education in its political, scientific, and practical dimensions. The analysis builds on a qualitative corpus of 60 semi-structured interviews conducted with teachers from various levels of compulsory schooling. These narratives are examined in relation to teachers' individual trajectories and institutional contexts, with attention to how personal and professional experiences over time shape their positioning toward inclusive schooling. Preliminary results reveal tensions between inclusive policy ideals and the realities of professional life. Teachers frequently express a lack of institutional support, limited access to specific training, and a pervasive sense of fatigue. However, attitudes toward inclusion vary depending on career stage, level of education taught, and the local school culture. These findings point to the internal diversity of the teaching profession – diversity of paths, experiences, and representations – as a central factor in understanding how inclusion is conceived and enacted. Ongoing analysis seeks to articulate how biographical and institutional dimensions interact in shaping teachers' engagement with inclusion. By examining the tensions between policy discourse, professional norms, and lived experience, this research aims to shed light on the social conditions under which inclusive education becomes both a challenge and a horizon of meaning within teachers' professional lives. In doing so, it contributes to broader debates on how educational institutions can recognize diversity not only among students but also among teachers themselves, thereby aligning with recent work on inclusive professional development and the role of diversity in teacher education (Potvin, 2017; Radhouane & Akkari, 2024).

Tauch Marlène

When Fathers' Lives Don't Change: Rethinking Fatherhood in the Context of Work and Family

Teixeira Rodrigues Sara

Trauma, Vulnerability and Resilience: Advanced Statistical and Network Approaches to Understanding Mental Health Trajectories Across the Lifespan

This thesis project investigates the psychological consequences of traumatic life events with a dual emphasis on vulnerability and resilience. Using longitudinal data, systematic reviews, and advanced statistical modeling, the project aims to identify heterogeneous trajectories of adaptation, clarify how different trauma types shape outcomes, and apply innovative methods such as network analysis to better understand the interplay between risk and protective factors across the lifespan. The ultimate goal is to produce at least three scientific papers suitable for publication. The first paper will focus on identifying and characterizing distinct trajectories of psychological adaptation after trauma (Alisic, et al. 2011). Using advanced statistical approaches, we will investigate ranging from chronic distress to delayed onset, recovery, or sustained resilience (Galatzer-Levy and al., 2018). These trajectories will be examined in relation to key explanatory factors, including individual differences (e.g., emotion regulation, cognitive flexibility) and characteristics of the traumatic event itself (e.g., type, severity, timing, cumulative exposure). The aim is to move beyond average group-level effects and instead highlight the heterogeneity of trauma responses, thereby providing a more nuanced understanding of what predicts vulnerability versus resilience. The second article will examine whether trajectories of psychological adaptation differ by type of traumatic event (Bonanno and al., 2013). Although outcomes are known to vary between trauma categories (Santiago and al., 2013), few studies have compared trajectories across types within a single analytic framework using advanced statistical approaches (e.g. growth mixture modeling). We will therefore investigate how different patterns of resilience and vulnerability emerge across trauma categories and the role of other predictors such as emotion regulation, self-esteem, and cognitive flexibility in these effects. The goal of this paper is to capture a more complete picture by exploring overall functioning and specific links between types of events and specific symptoms. The third article will focus on trauma-related trajectories, with a particular interest in how resilience and vulnerability unfold across life stages. The goal is to examine the interconnections between trauma, resilience and vulnerability factors through a network approach, which has already been applied in other studies to show how system components interact to maintain or reduce resilience (Koivunen and al., 2024). We will consider variables such as the type, number, and severity of traumatic events, developmental stage (adolescence, adulthood, and older age) (Spini and al., 2017), as well as relevant resilience and vulnerability factors identified in previous research (Cullati and al., 2018). Network analysis will capture the psychological adaptation after trauma as emerging from these interdependencies. This thesis investigates the psychological consequences of traumatic life events with a focus on resilience and vulnerability. Using advanced statistical and network approaches, it will identify heterogeneous trajectories of adaptation and examine individual and contextual predictors. The project will compare trajectories across trauma types and developmental stages (Kok and al., 2017), while analyzing how risk and protective factors are interconnected. This project will contribute to a more nuanced understanding of resilience and vulnerability by clarifying the role of life events, individual, contextual factors and the complex interplay among these factors.

Torres Esté

Understanding Processes of Marginalization, Identification, and Norm Reproduction Through Personal Network Analysis Among Young Swiss Adults

The proposed thesis aims to shed light on processes of marginalization, identification, and norm reproduction among Swiss Youth by focusing on their personal networks – the social relations in which they are embedded and where they engage as actors of their social reality. The tradition to adulthood can be fraught with many challenges, including building a stable sense of identity in a context where previously dominant norms and ways of being have been called into question. How individual actors deal with such challenges may be informed, in large part, by the relational resources they have access to and that they can activate – their personal networks composed of family, friends, colleagues, mentors, mental health professionals, and other important people that contribute to their lives. The first objective of this thesis is to interrogate how individuals with marginalized social identities – who find themselves outside of dominant norms and socio-economic structures (gender, sexuality, nationality, class, etc.) – shape their personal networks and make sense of their social identities. Secondly, the thesis will examine the interplay between social norms and personal network composition (e.g., gender homophily, proportion of kin relations), structure (bonding and bridging), and dynamics (support, conflict, and ambivalence) to better understand the interactive and relational process that drives norm and power reproduction. The thesis will also analyze the transformations that have taken place in the personal networks of marginalized individuals between the first wave and second wave of the IDNET research project. In addition, a qualitative component will also be carried out to delve into the meanings and interpretations that marginalized and diverse social actors give to their networks as well as the strategies that they use to transform them. The data used will be the CH-x Swiss Federal Survey of Young Adults focusing on personal networks (Wave 1) as well as a follow-up study that will be implemented by the IDNET research team in 2026 (Wave 2). Methodologies that will be deployed include logistic regressions and multi-level analysis, multiple correspondence analysis, and mixed methods integrating in-depth interviews.

Zanolin Jil

From School to Work: Gender, Migration, and the Dynamics of Occupational Segregation in a Cross-Country Perspective

Occupational segregation begins early in life and influences educational attainment, educational stream choice, and soft skills development through multiple mechanisms such as gendered personal and parental aspirations. Women's under-representation in mathematics, IT and physical sciences is known to contribute to their exclusion from higher level male-dominated jobs. At the same time, the recent feminization of fields like medicine and the diversification of choices in tertiary education complicate the picture and underline the evolving nature of gendered educational and occupational patterns. In this context, it is crucial to study both horizontal (between fields) and vertical (by status level) inequalities in education, and their influence on school-to-work transitions. The limited findings regarding the intersecting effect of gender and migration background highlight the need to include a migrant dimension in the analysis. Existing research finds that migrant girls often face a double disadvantage when seeking to access STEM fields. However, it remains unclear whether these educational disadvantages translate into similar patterns in the labour market, and whether this varies across countries and over time. This project first plans to investigates variations in occupational aspirations among young pupils, with particular attention to the intersection of gender and migration-related factors. In addition, a central aim is to contribute to the understanding of how different measures of migration background influence the relationship between migration status and educational outcomes. By examining and comparing multiple operationalisations of migration, such as generational status, country of birth, and language spoken at home, the project seeks to clarify how measurement choices shape findings in educational inequality research. Lastly, longitudinal analyses will be employed to trace individual educational and occupational trajectories over time. These dynamic approaches will allow for a comparative assessment of segregation patterns and pathway divergence, offering insights into long-term social stratification processes. A comparative approach is essential, as countries differ in how they match the output of educational outcomes with labour market demands, and in the extent to which they implement policy measures. Nevertheless, there exists no systematic insight on whether such initiatives effectively improve female representation in STEM education and related occupations. Drawing on both cross-sectional and longitudinal datasets such as PISA and CILS4EU, this thesis aims to examine to what extend horizontal and vertical gender-migrational occupational differences are the result of different vertical and horizontal educational choices.

Zhang Heyi

Gendered Employment Lifecourse Trajectories and Cardiovascular Disease in England

Cardiovascular disease (CVD) is a major public health challenge in England, with 6.4 million people living with the condition and responsible for over a quarter of all deaths (British Heart Foundation, 2024). This problem exists within a wider context of gender inequalities, where women with CVD remain understudied, underdiagnosed, and undertreated (WHO, 2021). Employment status is a well-established social determinant of health. From a life course perspective, a substantial body of research demonstrates that disadvantaged employment trajectories are linked to poorer health outcomes (e.g., frailty, quality of life, depression) in later life. However, limited research has examined the relationship between employment trajectories and cardiovascular disease. This gap is particularly significant as few studies account for "caregiving" as a distinct status, despite it being a major driver of the differences between men's and women's employment trajectories. Thus, this PhD aims to investigate how gender-specific employment trajectories are linked to CVD risk in later-life among people in England. The study uses data drawn from the English Longitudinal Study of Ageing (ELSA), employing sequence analysis to construct employment typologies and survival analysis to model CVD risk. The analysis will compare older cohorts (born 1910-1950) with younger cohorts as more recent data becomes available. In addition to this primary aim, the study will test for effect modification by cohort on the association between trajectories and CVD risk, and explore potential mediators (e.g., material, psychological, behavioural, and biological factors).

Ziegler Cyrill

Narrative Identity and the Cybernetic Pursuit of Value Fulfillment

My PhD explores how individuals construct and experience their narrative identity in response to the challenges of a rapidly changing world. Narrative identity, described by McAdams and McLean (2013) as one's internalized and continually evolving life story, provides unity and purpose by integrating the reconstructed past with the imagined future. Within the Cybernetic Big Five Theory (DeYoung, 2015), narrative identity can be understood as a characteristic adaptation that supports individuals in identifying, pursuing, and adjusting their values, interpretations, and strategies. Cybernetic Value Fulfillment (DeYoung & Tiberius, 2023) emphasizes the importance the meta-traits Stability and Plasticity whose interplay enables the pursuit of psychologically integrated values. Yet how the tension between the known and the unknown (as the major dilemma of every cybernetic system) is actually perceived in an individual life and personally coped with remains an interesting field of exploration that could benefit from a more holistic and idiographic perspective to enrich the mainly quantitative research field. Adopting an (mainly) idiographic and qualitative approach, this project investigates how people perceive and cope with the tension between known and unknown within their narrative identity. The research focuses on how narrative identity supports or hinders this balancing act, and how external influences such as cultural master narratives, as well as potential AI enhanced interventions, further shape lived identity. The project consists of three mainly qualitative studies (Studies 2 and 3 remain in planning, and their study design and main research questions could still change):

1. Older working adults in Switzerland: Two narrative case studies explore how the tension between the known and the unknown is perceived within participants lived narrative identity and how they cope with it. The study examines how individuals succeed or struggle in constructing a meaningful narrative identity (using the Life Story Interview from McAdams) that allows them to pursue values over time while accounting for cultural influences. The study has an idiographic outlook and Narrative identity as well as cybernetic value fulfillment theory as a theoretical, methodological as well as analytical framework for a qualitative investigation of the two individuals' life stories. The data analysis method will be a qualitative content analysis as described by Kuckartz (2012) with an idiographic focus.

2. Individuals with limited access to the labor market: This study investigates how people facing significant life and work challenges construct and experience their narrative identity and which highly personal strategies they develop to cope with disruption in their pursuit of their personal values. The focus is on how individuals form characteristic (mal)adaptations and how the tension between known and unknown is perceived. Again an (mainly) idiographic outlook will be applied.

3. Formative evaluation of the online platform "Meaning at Work": Pre- and post-interviews explore whether AI-guided narrative interventions help participants deal with uncertainty and assess the opportunities and limitations of such interventions.

Together, these studies aim to provide an in depth understanding of narrative identity as a phenomenologically lived process. The findings are expected to enrich theoretical perspectives on cybernetic value fulfillment theory and well-being while also informing the development of practical interventions to help individuals better cope with the uncertainties of modern life.

Ziino Davide

Couple-Level Economic Inequalities and Union Dissolution in a Life Course perspective

This doctoral project investigates how economic inequalities within couples shape the risk of union dissolution. A substantial body of research has shown that disparities in education, employment, and income between partners are key determinants of family stability. Building on this literature, the project makes three contributions: it examines how different forms of intra-couple inequality affect separation risks, it explores the mechanisms through which these effects operate, and it considers how welfare institutions buffer couples against economic vulnerabilities. The first part revisits the long-standing debate on the role of women's relative income share in predicting union dissolution. While existing studies provide mixed evidence on whether female breadwinning destabilises unions, two distinct mechanisms remain insufficiently examined in combination: women's individual economic resources, which may enable exit from unsatisfying relationships, and the opportunity cost of leaving, which may deter separation by making divorce financially prohibitive. This project proposes to test both, comparing measures of female individual poverty thresholds with new operationalisations of opportunity costs. Using panel data from SOEP and UKHLS, it assesses whether female breadwinning is destabilising primarily when opportunity costs are low, and whether women's resources amplify or offset these risks. The second part turns to wealth, an increasingly recognised but still underexplored dimension of socioeconomic inequality within couples. Wealth is typically more unequally distributed than income, more stable across the life course, and not always pooled at the household level. Drawing on the German SOEP (2002–2022) and the UK-WAS (2006–2022), the project examines how intracouple wealth configurations (male-dominant, equal, female-dominant) relate to union dissolution. It further distinguishes between portfolio composition (liquid vs. illiquid assets, secured vs. unsecured debt) and ownership structure (joint vs. individual holdings). In this way, the analysis develops a relational perspective on wealth, conceptualising it as both a buffer against shocks and a marker of bargaining power, commitment, and symbolic status within the couple. Finally, the project incorporates the institutional dimension by investigating how welfare states moderate the link between economic insecurity and family dissolution. Moving beyond unemployment alone, it considers multiple forms of job precarity, including job loss, fixed-term contracts, and low wages. It then tests how macro-level generosity in welfare provision – through unemployment benefits, active labour market policies, and broader social spending – conditions dissolution risks. Using EU-SILC data linked with various macro-level indicators, and applying event-history and multilevel methods, the study evaluates whether more generous welfare states buffer the destabilising effects of economic insecurity, and whether these effects vary by gender and couple type. Taken together, this thesis advances theoretical debates and provides novel European evidence from high-quality longitudinal data, contributing to a deeper understanding of how economic inequality and vulnerability shape family dynamics across the life course.