August 2025 - July 2026

ANNUAL REPORT

Interdisciplinary Research Centre on the Life Course and Vulnerabilities (CIR LIVES)



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01

Foreword

The highlight of the past year at LIVES was the Swiss National Science Foundation's decision to fund two large collaborative research projects, both of which started in September 2026. The first examines the social stratification of time use and will conduct a large-scale time-use survey within the Swiss Household Panel (CHF 2.7 million). The second studies how subjective well-being develops over the life course, drawing on more than 200 panel datasets from 90 countries (CHF 1.9 million). LIVES researchers from different disciplines and institutions developed both projects jointly, with six research teams involved in the first and four in the second.

A third collective initiative of 2025–2026 was the Good Life Data Challenge, which invited researchers to propose studies on what makes a life happy, meaningful and interesting. From 71 proposals, we selected 32 teams, bringing together 95 researchers from Switzerland, other European countries, the United States and Asia. They all work with the same data: the Swiss Household Panel, whose 2025 wave includes three new questions on "the good life". Like the two projects, this data challenge has benefited from close collaboration with our colleagues at LIVES Geneva and, crucially, with FORS, which runs the panel on which both the time-use survey and the data challenge rely.

In parallel, LIVES has succeeded in further increasing the number of externally funded assistant professorships. In 2023, Michael Grätz's SNSF Starting Grant led to the first assistant professorship. In 2025, the State Secretariat for Education, Research and Innovation funded a six-year assistant professorship in vocational education and training, allowing us to recruit Annatina Aerne to LIVES. More recently, the ERC Consolidator Grant obtained by Nicolas Sommet has led to a third assistant professorship, starting in 2026. Thanks to the strong support of the Faculty of Social and Political Sciences and the Rectorate, all three positions are tenure-track. Together, they decisively strengthen our capacity for research and teaching on the life course.

Beyond these developments, the LIVES Centre's regular activities continued. CIR LIVES now counts 189 members and 31 associated projects. Our doctoral programme, organised jointly with LIVES Geneva, continues to attract young researchers and currently trains 34 doctoral students in two cohorts. In addition, grants for young scholars and international visitors, a writing retreat and the LIVES Day complement our programme. We are particularly excited that the thematic workshops held in November 2025 have since evolved into the LIVES International Research Days. This is a bottom-up conference at which researchers develop the programme together by organising thematic panels. Each year, it brings 150 researchers from across Europe to Lausanne for two days of exchange on the life course and vulnerability.

The LIVES Centre benefits from an active research community whose members enjoy working together across disciplines and institutions. We look forward to continuing along this path.

Daniel Oesch, Director of the LIVES Centre

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Mission and objectives

The LIVES Centre develops innovative theories, methods, and empirical studies to promote research on the life course and to understand vulnerability throughout life. Science, training, and society are at the heart of the LIVES Centre's activities.

SCIENCE – Positioning the LIVES Centre as a national and international reference in interdisciplinary research on the life course and vulnerability

To promote collaboration among researchers and the development of new projects, the LIVES Centre organizes research seminars, international conferences, and networking events. We also support working groups and have offered funding to eight visiting international researchers in 2026.

In addition, the LIVES Centre team is actively engaged in setting up ambitious interdisciplinary projects capable of bringing together researchers from varied backgrounds. In 2025–2026, we launched an international data challenge with FORS and obtained SNSF funding for two major cross-cutting projects (>1,900,000 CHF).

TRAINING – Preparing the next generation of highly qualified researchers in life course analysis

Our doctoral program continues to attract new cohorts of researchers each year, with 16 PhD students for 2024-2026 and 18 PhD students for 2025-2027. The LIVES Centre's commitment to the professional development of researchers is also reflected in our funding for doctoral and postdoctoral researchers (with three LIVES Young Scholar Grant awarded in 2026) and in our efforts to develop a supportive research environment (through seminars, conferences, networking events, a writing retreat, etc.).

SOCIETY – Transferring and co-constructing knowledge on the life course and vulnerability to/with professionals and the general public

The LIVES Centre puts its research at the service of society. We regularly publish policy briefs (LIVES Impact), as well as Social Change in Switzerland, a series documenting the evolution of Swiss social structure for the general public. We also support researchers interested in developing partnerships with non-academic actors through a "science-society" grant.

Our new communication strategy, developed in 2025, strengthens the visibility of our research among the media and creates more content accessible to the public.

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LIVES in numbers

	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024-2025	2025-2026
Members (CIR LIVES)	132	129		163	179	189
Associated projects (CIR LIVES)	23	26	15	23	32	30
Projects' financial volume (mio CHF/year, CIR LIVES)	5	5,6	4	4,4	5	5,8
Scientific publications (CIR LIVES)	132	124	109	147	164 (2024)	139 (2025)
Visiting scholars (CIR LIVES)	3	2	0	9	7 & 6	8 (2026)
Participants in the doctoral programme (2 cohorts)	16	25	9	20	34	34
Events (LIVES Centre)	15	26	46	36	39	67
Participants LIVES International Conference / Research Days			141	165	160	150
LIVES Impact (LIVES Centre)	5	0	5	0	2	1
Social Change in Switzerland (LIVES Centre & FORS)	4	4	4	4	4	2
Media interventions (LIVES Centre)	67	79	84	59	55	91

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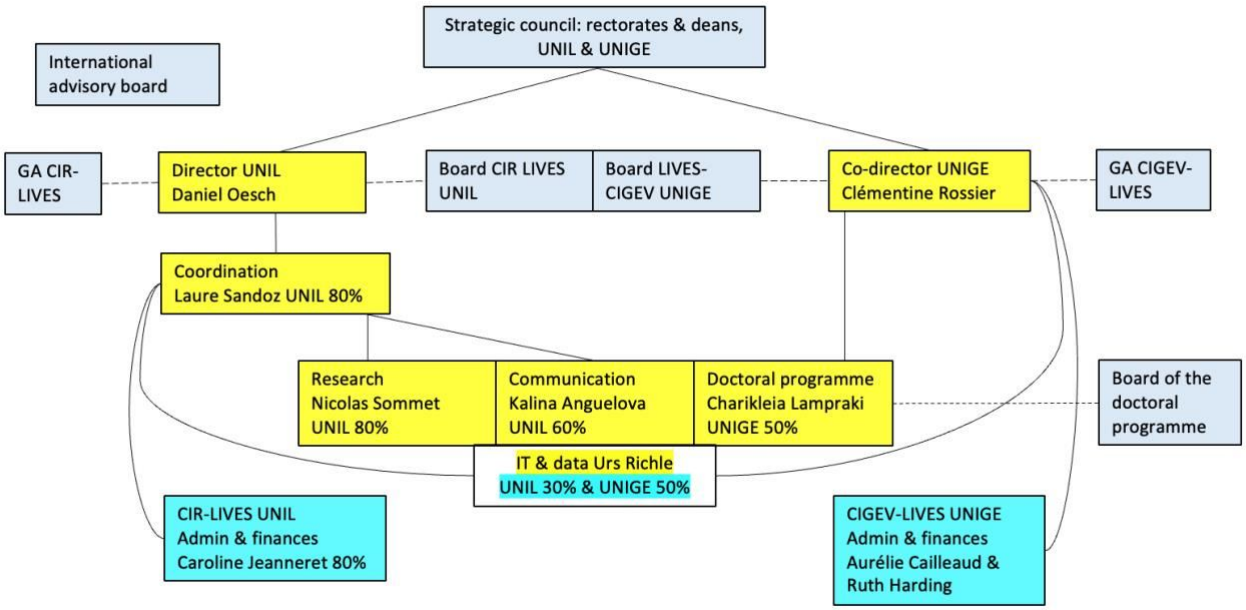
Governance

The Interdisciplinary Research Centre on the Life Course and Vulnerabilities (CIR LIVES) has been based at the Faculty of Social and Political Sciences (SSP) since 2019. It is one of the two hubs of the Swiss Centre of Expertise in Life Course Research (LIVES Centre), hosted by the Universities of Lausanne and Geneva. The decision-making bodies of CIR LIVES are:

- A Director: Professor Daniel Oesch
- A General Assembly, which meets once a year and is composed of all LIVES members at the University of Lausanne.
- A Board, which meets three times a year and supports the director in his strategic decisions. It is composed of 11 professors, representing each of the five constituent faculties of CIR LIVES:
  - SSP – Social and Political Sciences (Laura Bernardi, Felix Bühlmann, Peter Gelius, Daniela Jopp, Koorosh Massoudi, Dario Spini, Leen Vandecasteele)
  - HEC – Economics (Rafael Lalive)
  - FDCA – Law, Criminal Sciences and Public Administration (Giuliano Bonoli)
  - FTSR – Theology and Religious Studies (Jörg Stolz)
  - FBM – Biology and Medicine (Patrick Bodenmann)

A similar structure exists at the University of Geneva, headed by Professor Clémentine Rossier. Although the Lausanne and Geneva hubs operate independently in terms of finances and administration, the two co-directors jointly plan the scientific activities of the LIVES Centre. They are guided by an international advisory board composed of six experts in life course research and overseen by a strategic council, which includes a member of the rectorate and a dean from each partner university.



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Members and team

The CIR LIVES team is made up of a director (Daniel Oesch), a coordinator (Laure Sandoz, 80%), a research officer (Nicolas Sommet, 80%), a communication officer (Kalina Anguelova, 60%), an IT and data management specialist (Urs Richle, 30%), and an executive secretary (Caroline Jeanneret, 80%). CIR LIVES also brings together a network of 189 members (researchers and administrative staff).

LIVES administrative team



Daniel Oesch



Laure Sandoz



Nicolas Sommet



Caroline Jeanneret



Urs Richle



Kalina Anguelova

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Associated projects

Between August 1, 2025 and July 31, 2026, CIR LIVES hosted 29 research projects based at the University of Lausanne and 1 project based at the HES-SO, for a total of approximately 5,8 million CHF in external funding for the period.

Major interdisciplinary projects in 2025-2026 include **(Un)changing gender relations and family diversity in Switzerland: causes, consequences, and challenges from a comparative perspective (GenFam)**, directed by Stephanie Steinmetz and financed by the SNSF with 2,5 mio CHF for four years, starting in January 2026. The Sinergia project **Family Custody Arrangements and Child Well-Being in Switzerland** (3,2 mio), led by the psychologist Joëlle Darwiche and the demographer Laura Bernardi from LIVES, in collaboration with the jurist Sabrina Burgat and the architect Elli Mosayebi is entering its final phase, ending in August 2027.

In addition, the LIVES Centre co-ordinated the submission of two successful grant applications to the SNSF for projects worth CHF 2 million and more, starting in September 2026: **The Social Stratification of Time: Investigating Inequalities in Time Use through a Swiss Diary Study** (2,7 mio), led by Caroline Roberts, with 6 research teams from the LIVES network; and **Subjective Well-Being Across the Life Course: A Global Research Program With 200+ Panel Datasets From 90 Countries** (1,9 mio), led by Nicolas Sommet, with 4 research teams from the LIVES network.

Finally, LIVES Head of research Nicolas Sommet obtained an ERC consolidator grant for his project **The Vicious Cycle of Inequality: How Economic Inequality Perpetuates Itself by Creating a Culture of Competitiveness in Schools** staring in August 2026. This is the third ERC grant obtained by a member of the LIVES Centre, after Michael Grätz and Stephanie Steinmetz. In parallel, Nicolas Sommet is coordinating the **LIVES Good Life Data Challenge** in collaboration with FORS, a large-scale collaboration to identify the predictors of a good life. Following a call for participation, we received 71 submissions and selected 32 teams (8 from Switzerland, 13 from Europe, 8 from the US, and 3 from Asia). A large collaborative paper is planned for 2027.

Focus on LIVES new major collaborative projects

The Social Stratification of Time: Investigating Inequalities in Time Use through a Swiss Diary Study

The social sciences have traditionally studied how access to material resources is socially stratified, but a growing body of research highlights a non-material resource essential to quality of life: time. Time availability, particularly time poverty, varies widely across socio-economic groups and between men and women, making time use a crucial lens for understanding social stratification. Yet these inequalities remain under-researched, especially in Switzerland, where high-quality time use data is lacking.

This project will generate novel time-use data to analyse how social class, gender, and life stage shape the quantity and quality of time spent on paid and unpaid work, leisure, sleep, parenting, and post-retirement activities. Six interdisciplinary work packages will collect harmonised time-diary data to disentangle socio-economic inequalities in time availability and their consequences, catalysing future research on this overlooked dimension of social inequality.

Read more

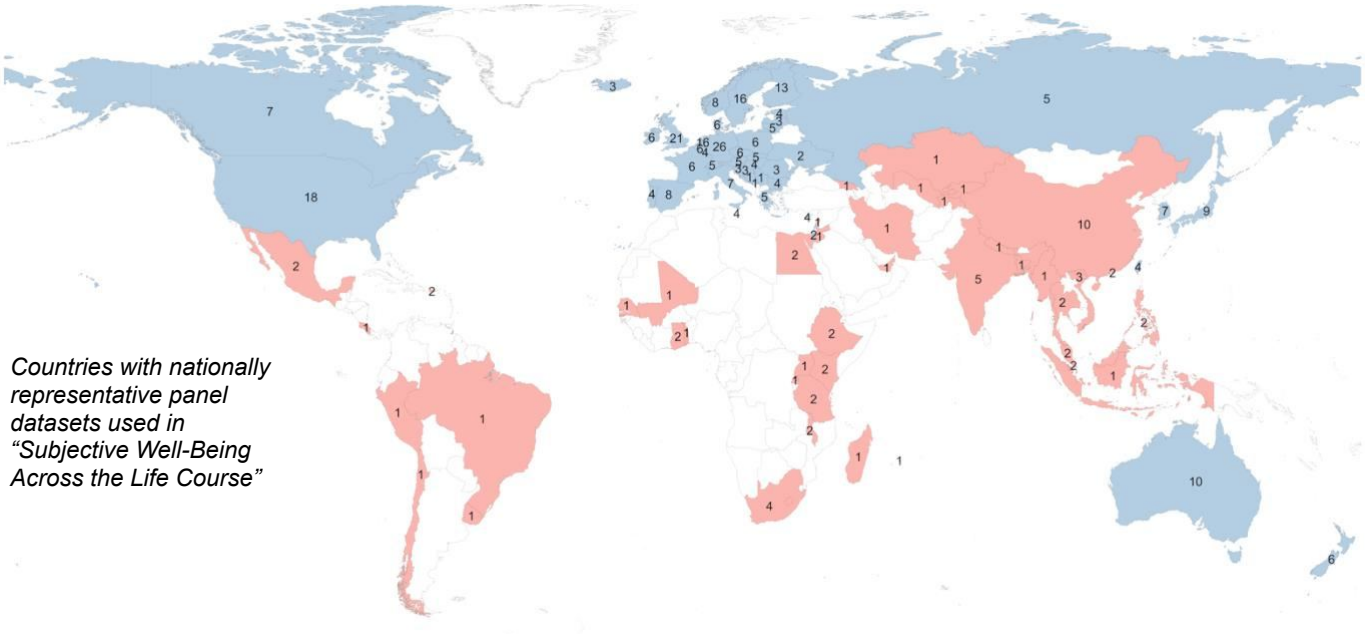
Subjective Well-Being Across the Life Course: A Global Research Program With 200+ Panel Datasets From 90 Countries

Subjective well-being, meaning life satisfaction or happiness, is a central indicator of human development. Influential theories hold that well-being follows a universal trajectory across the lifespan, declining until middle adulthood and rising thereafter, and that major life events affect it only temporarily.

This project challenges these assumptions. It hypothesizes that both the course of well-being and the impact of life events depend strongly on country, and examines how far support from the state, the labour market, the family, and the community explains these variations.

To test this, 206 longitudinal surveys from 90 countries, spanning seven decades, will be harmonized. They comprise 25 million observations from 3.5 million individuals, covering over 90% of the world's population, including understudied countries such as Bangladesh, Ethiopia, and Peru. An interdisciplinary team will carry out the project, and the resulting database will be made available to the scientific community.

Read more



Countries with nationally representative panel datasets used in "Subjective Well-Being Across the Life Course"

CIR LIVES – Associated projects (August 2025 to July 2026)

Project leaders	Title	Start date	End date	Funding in CHF	Funding source	Institutions
Davide Morselli, Kevin Durrheim	PONs - People-Opinion Networks: A study of polarization in word embeddings and social networks in Switzerland and Southern Africa	01.11.2021	28.02.2026	603,353	SNSF Division I	University of Lausanne, School of Applied Human Sciences University of KwaZulu-Natal
Rafael Lalive	Helpline calls, job finding and interview training in the Covid-19 crisis	01.04.2022	30.09.2025	600,000	SNSF Division I	University of Lausanne
Daniel Oesch	Unequal shifts in regions' job structure and the rise of cultural grievances	01.08.2022	30.09.2026	564,251	SNSF Division I	University of Lausanne
Marion Repetti	Poverty in Later Life in Rural Switzerland and United States: A Comparative Case Study	01.01.2023	28.02.2027	560,066	SNSF Division I	HES-SO
Giuliano Bonoli	European welfare states and the challenge of platform work	01.01.2023	31.08.2027	621,047	SNSF Division I	University of Lausanne
Stephanie Steinmetz	EQUALSRENGTH	05.01.2023	30.04.2026	300,000	EU-Horizon	University of Lausanne
Rafael Lalive, Fabrizio Colella	Impacts of Covid-19 and policy measures on trade, labor demand, and job finding	01.03.2023	28.02.2026	482,395	SNSF - NRP 80	University of Lausanne, Università della Svizzera italiana
Marieke Voorpostel, Leen Vandecasteele, Nuria Sanchez, Stephanie Steinmetz	The COVID generation: Identifying risks and protective factors for young people's pathways through the COVID-19 pandemic in Switzerland	01.04.2023	31.10.2026	473,510	SNSF - NRP 80	University of Lausanne, FORS, University of Neuchâtel
Stephanie Steinmetz	Improving Female Migrants' Labour Market Positioning – An Intersectional Approach to Occupational Segregation Processes Across Countries and Over Time	01.06.2023	31.05.2028	2,100,000	ERC Consolidator Grant (SEFRI)	University of Lausanne
Flavia Fossati	The politics of equal-opportunity policy in compulsory education in Switzerland	01.08.2023	31.07.2026	283,123	SNSF Division I	University of Lausanne
Joëlle Darwiche, Laura Bernardi, Sabrina Burgat, Elli Mosayebi	FamyCH: Family Custody Arrangements and Child Well-Being in Switzerland	01.09.2023	31.08.2027	3,213,356	SNSF - Sinergia	University of Lausanne, University of Neuchâtel, ETH Zurich
Michael Grätz	Liberal and Radical Equality of Opportunity (EQUALOPP)	01.09.2023	31.08.2028	1,752,943	SNSF Starting Grant	University of Lausanne
Felix Bühlmann	Transformation of Swiss Finance: an Analysis of three Power Configurations	01.10.2023	30.09.2027	586,216	SNSF Project funding	University of Lausanne
Stéphanie Baggio	Benefits of in-prison OROS-methylphenidate vs. placebo treatment in detained people with attention-deficit/hyperactivity disorder: A randomized controlled trial	01.10.2023	30.09.2027	969,805	SNSF Project funding	University of Lausanne
Jürgen Maurer	How did COVID-19 reframe end-of-life planning of older adults in Switzerland? Preferences, Communication, Knowledge, and Behaviors Regarding End of Life and End-of-life Planning before and during the COVID-19 crisis	01.02.2024	31.01.2027	591,840	SNSF Project funding	University of Lausanne
Laura Bernardi	LEARN - Longitudinal Educational Achievements: Reducing iNequalities	01.04.2024	31.03.2027	232,668	Horizon Europe	University of Lausanne
Roberta Antonini Philippe, Fabrice Brodard, Jacques-Antoine Gauthier	Violences dans le sport vaudois - Focus sur les jeunes sportives·sportifs (VSV)	01.08.2024	31.07.2027	679,500	Administration Cantonale Vaudoise (PEJ, DGS, Fonds d'utilité publique)	University of Lausanne
Jonas Masdonati	The Unfolding of Involuntary Career Change: A Longitudinal, Plural, and Idiographic Perspective	01.09.2024	31.08.2028	575,714	SNSF Project funding	University of Lausanne
Anatolia Batruch	Social Class Intergroup Model: An Identity-Based Framework to Reduce Anti-Immigration Attitudes	01.09.2024	31.08.2028	683,661	SNSF Ambizione	University of Lausanne
Rafael Lalive, Svitlana Tsymbaliuk	Improving Job Search and Occupational Matching in a Turbulent Labor Market in Ukraine	01.10.2024	30.09.2027	388,516	SNSF, Ukrainian-Swiss Joint Research Programme	University of Lausanne
Caroline Roberts	AIQDET: Harnessing Generative AI for questionnaire design, evaluation and testing	01.10.2024	31.03.2026	32,169	UK Economic and Social Research Council (ESRC), Survey Futures Phase II Project	London School of Economics and Political Science, University of Lausanne, Verian Group (London)
Stéphanie Baggio, Katia Iglesias	Evaluating primary suicide prevention in adolescents with risk factors (ESPAIR)	01.10.2024	30.09.2028	598,196	SNSF Project funding	University of Lausanne
Olivier Fillieule, Davide Morselli	TIDE - What happens when the tide recedes? Transformations and Impacts of the Dynamics of Engagement	01.11.2024	31.10.2028	933,646	SNSF Project funding	University of Lausanne
Guy Elcheroth	Lives after residential youth care: dealing with the past of harmful treatment in state institutions	01.01.2025	31.12.2028	568,993	SNSF Project funding	University of Lausanne
Dario Spini	Cause commune	01.01.2025	31.12.2026	150,000	Canton of Vaud, Interface-UNIL	Canton of Vaud, University of Lausanne
Stéphanie Baggio	Social Prescribing to promote and improve access to health and care services for people in vulnerable situations in Europe	01.01.2025	31.12.2029	916,299	Horizon Europe (SEFRI)	University of Lausanne
Caroline Roberts	Digital Trust: Understanding and addressing its impact on digital data collection in surveys	01.03.2025	28.02.2029	661,405	SNSF Project funding	University of Lausanne
Isabelle Zinn, Nicky LeFeuvre	HAWK - Health & Ageing at Work: A Study of Menopause in Switzerland	01.04.2025	31.03.2028	657,125	SNSF Project funding	University of Lausanne, Berner Fachhochschule
Daniela Jopp, Anna-Rita Stoffel	Welcome to your future: Centenarians of Switzerland	01.05.2025	31.10.2026	199,576	SNSF Agora	University of Lausanne
Stephanie Steinmetz, Gesine Fuchs, Marco Giesselmann, Irene Kriesi, Jean-Marie Le Goff, Jörg Rössel, Clementine Rossier, Katja Rost, Núria Sánchez Mira, Isabelle Zinn	(Un)changing gender relations and family diversity in Switzerland: causes, consequences, and challenges from a comparative perspective (GenFam)	01.01.2026	31.12.2029	2,585,211	SNSF Project funding	University of Lausanne, University of Geneva, Hochschule Luzern, Universität Zürich, Eidgenössische Hochschule für Berufsbildung, Université de Neuchâtel, Berner Fachhochschule

07

Research support

The LIVES Centre offers several types of grants to foster the development of innovative projects and encourage the development of interdisciplinary collaborations.

Young scholar grants

This grant provides funding of up to 6,000 CHF to enable doctoral and postdoctoral researchers to conduct innovative research on the life course. It can be used to write an article or to develop a project.

2026 beneficiaries

- Naomi Downes – The division of labour between coparents and its association with children's socio-emotional outcomes across diverse family structures in Switzerland
- Paola Sillitti – Inequalities in long-term and end-of-life care among older Europeans
- Jinfeng Xu – The economic role of in-laws and their effect on earnings and employment

Visitor grants

This grant provides funding of up to 3,000 CHF to enable international researchers to visit the LIVES Centre for a minimum duration of two months.

2026 beneficiaries

- Franco Bonomi Bezzo, Postdoctoral researcher at the University of Milan and University of Aix-Marseille
- Wenxuan Liu, a PhD candidate in Psychology at Beijing Normal University
- Liam O'Farrell, Marie Curie Fellow at the University of Latvia
- Costanzo Ranci Professor of Economic Sociology at the Polytechnic of Milan
- Marc Scott, Professor of Applied Statistics at New York University
- Maria Vaalavuo, Chief researcher at the Finnish Institute for Health and Welfare
- Álvaro Suárez Vergne, Postdoctoral researcher at the Institute for Economics Geography and Demography of the National Research Council (CSIC) in Madrid
- Mengxuan Suri Li, Postdoctoral Research Fellow at the Institute for Social Science Research at the University of Queensland and the Centre of Excellence for Children and Families over the Life Course



Grant for interdisciplinary projects on life course research

This grant aimed to stimulate innovative interdisciplinary research on the life course and vulnerability at the University of Lausanne with financial support of up to CHF 15,000. The project “Home environment and its influence on adolescent sleep quality” by LIVES psychologists Joëlle Darwiche and Nadine Messerli-Bürgy, in collaboration with architect Elli Mosayebi, was supported in 2025.



Seed money grant

In 2026, the CIR LIVES supported with 10,000 CHF the submission of a Horizon Europe project on “Basic skills, cognitive capacities and productivity pathways for inclusive growth” by LIVES UNIL economists Rafael Lalive and Olena Iarmosh, in collaboration with LIVES UNIGE psychologist Matthias Kliegel.



LIVES Working groups

Working groups serve as spaces for reflection and research, open to members of the LIVES Centre. LIVES supports them financially for activities that contribute to new collaborations and benefit the LIVES community.

The WG on elites and inequalities organised a workshop entitled “Education and Training of the Entrepreneurial Elite: Life Paths and World Views” on 16-17 October 2025, as well as a public conference on the book “Vers le haut – enquêter sur les élites au pouvoir” on 23 March 2026. The WG on family dynamics launched the webinar series “Families in Flux” in 2026 and invited two speakers – Zachary Van Winkle from Sciences Po Paris and Michaela Kreyenfeld from Hertie School – to present their latest research.

08

Scientific events

14th Annual conference of the Society for Longitudinal and Life Course Studies (SLLS)

The LIVES Centre supported the 14th annual conference of the Society for Longitudinal and Life Course Studies (SLLS), entitled “Life Course Transitions & Patterns: Stronger Evidence for Better Policies”, held at the University of Fribourg from 8 to 10 September 2025. Co-organised by LIVES member Stéphane Cullati (PopHealthLab), the conference brought together nearly 300 participants and featured a rich programme including keynote lectures, symposium sessions, and numerous paper and poster presentations. LIVES was one of the main sponsors of the event. The opening keynote was delivered by Claudine Burton-Jeangros (LIVES UNIGE), contributing to a stimulating international exchange on life course research and policy.

LIVES Thematic workshops

On 5-6 November 2025, more than 150 researchers took part in six international thematic workshops organised by the LIVES Centre at the University of Lausanne. Structured around three sessions each, the programme fostered dynamic discussions on key topics related to the life course and vulnerability with internal and external speakers. The event also included two keynote speeches by Valentina di Stasio (EUI: *The long shadow of employment discrimination: results from longitudinal field experiments*) and Kelly Musick (Cornell University: *What shapes gendered family dynamics at the transition to parenthood?*).

LIVES Writing retreat

For the third consecutive year, on February 2-5, 2026, the LIVES Centre organised a writing retreat at Schwarzsee (Fribourg) to support the development of interdisciplinary articles and research projects on the life course and vulnerability. Around 30 researchers from the LIVES network took part in four intensive days of collective work and exchange in a pleasant setting, away from everyday distractions.

LIVES Day 2026

This annual meeting, held on 2 June, brought together more than 80 members of the LIVES Centre from the Universities of Lausanne, Geneva, and beyond for an afternoon of scientific exchange. The programme included 36 short presentations of research findings. Two keynote talks by Nicolas Sommet (UNIL), on inequality and mental health, and by Anahita Mehrpour (UNIGE), on the social networks of young adults, opened and closed the event.

CIR LIVES Science, sports & drinks

As part of the CIR LIVES general assembly on 21 August 2025, members from the University of Lausanne were invited to an afternoon combining a presentation of the centre's activities, scientific talks, sports by the lake, and a social gathering over drinks. In their presentations, Stephanie Steinmetz, Nicolas Sommet and Daniel Oesch discussed collaborative research practices in the context of LIVES projects.

LIVES comes alive

LIVES organises a series of seminars at the University of Lausanne, open to the public, in which LIVES researchers present their work.

- 2 October 2025: **Anatolia Batruch**, SSP, UNIL, "Advancing the psychology of social class with large-scale replications in four countries"
- 13 November 2025: **Dawid Gondek**, FORS, "Is youth wellbeing in Europe in crisis?"
- 11 December 2025: **Michael Lund**, SSP, UNIL, "Liberal and radical inequality of opportunity in low- and middle-income countries"
- 26 March 2026: **Giuseppe Sorrenti**, HEC, UNIL, "It Takes a Village: The Economics of Parenting with New Data and Evidence"
- 23 April 2026: **Eva Green**, SSP, UNIL, "Normative Climates and Immigration: A Societal Psychology Approach"
- 11 June 2026: **Ursina Kuhn**, FORS, "Household Types, Labour Market Outcomes and Unemployment: Insights from Registry Data"



LIVES Colloquium on the life course and social inequality

LIVES at the UNIL Institute of Social Sciences organises a series of research colloquia and invites researchers from outside the LIVES network to present their work.

- 23 September 2025: **Marco Cozzani**, University of Florence, "The effect of local biased sex-ratio on female labor market participation"
- 11 November 2025: **Carla Rowold**, Hertie School, "Decomposing the Gender Wealth Gap in Late Working Age Based on the Most Relevant Family and Work Life Course Aspects"
- 18 November 2025: **Gundula Zoch**, University of Oldenburg, "Altered Political Trust during Crisis"
- 2 December 2025: **Tobias Ebert**, University of St. Gallen, "The Legacies of the Dead: Studying the Causes and Consequences of Religiosity via Gravestones"
- 3 February 2026: **Marc Scott**, New York University, "Ties that Bind? Cluster-Based Models for Life Course Sequences and Outcomes"
- 24 February 2026: **Herman van de Werfhorst**, European University Institute, "Does Politics Matter? Politics, Policies and Inter-generational Social Mobility"

- 3 March 2026: **Juliana Chueri**, Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam, “AI, Future of Work, and the Politics of the Welfare State”
- 24 March 2026: **Nadia Steiber**, University of Vienna, “Educational Hypogamy and the Dynamics of Partner Selection und Family Formation”
- 14 April 2026: **Maria Vaalavuo**, Finnish Institute for Health and Welfare, “Mental Health and Social Disadvantage over the Early Life Course: Investigation into Genes, Families and Living Conditions”
- 28 April 2026: **Torkild H. Lyngstad**, University of Oslo, “Evocative Effects on Family Dynamics”
- 12 May 2026: **Jan Skopek**, Trinity College Dublin, “Engines of (In-)Equality? The Role of Schools for Social Inequality in Learning in Cross-National Perspective”

LIVES researchers’ initiatives

In addition to the previous events, several initiatives have emerged thanks to the commitment of CIR LIVES network researchers at UNIL: The **WHISPER seminars**, coordinated by Michael Grätz and Stephanie Steinmetz, aim to collectively review manuscripts nearing submission; **Ctrl+R: Refresh Your Coding**, coordinated by Claire Mariano and Sonia Petrini, offers a friendly space to share skills and knowledge related to R coding; the **WIP (Work in Progress) seminars**, coordinated by Jil Zanolin and Flavien Bonnelli, allow LIVES researchers to present ongoing work that can benefit from feedback and discussion. Finally, we organise a **LIVES lunch** once a month where LIVES members can get to know each other better in an informal context.



09

Publications

LIVES UNIL researchers have produced 139 high-quality publications in top-tier journals in 2025. These include contributions in leading interdisciplinary journals such as Nature, Nature Human Behaviour and Nature Communications, as well as leading journals in economics (Review of Economic Studies), sociology (British Journal of Sociology), public health (Lancet Public Health) and gender studies (Gender & Society). These publications illustrate the Centre's continued leadership in advancing life course research across disciplines. Below is a selection of ten highlight publications:

- Batruch, A., Sommet, N., & Autin, F. (2025). Advancing the psychology of social class with large scale replications in four countries. *Nature Human Behaviour*, *9*(11), 2382-2403.
- Bornatici, C., & Zinn, I. (2025). Beyond tradition? How Gender Ideology Impacts Employment and Family Arrangements in Swiss Couples. *Gender & Society*, *39*(2), 285-320.
- Bühlmann, F., Christesen, C. A., Cousin, B., Denord, F., Ellersgaard, C. H., Lagneau-Ymonet, P., ... & Yu, X. (2025). Varieties of economic elites? Preliminary results from the World Elite Database (WED). *The British Journal of Sociology*, *76*(3), 663-673.
- Card, D., Colella, F., & Lalive, R. (2025). Gender Preferences in Job Vacancies and Workplace Gender Diversity. *The Review of Economic Studies, 92*(4), 2437–2471.
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Training

LIVES Doctoral programme

Through its doctoral programme, the LIVES Centre trains 34 doctoral students divided into two cohorts that began in 2024 and 2025. The latter cohort is shown below.

During their two-year curriculum, these young researchers are introduced to quantitative and qualitative methods, longitudinal analysis, interdisciplinarity, and the study of the life course.

Modules in 2025-2026:

- 1-3 September 2025, UNIL: “Social policies in a life course perspective”
- 1-3 December 2025, UNIL: “Introduction to life course theories, life span theories and life course methods”
- 9 February 2026, UNIGE: Doctoriales
- 10-11 February 2026, UNIGE: “Resources and well-being in a life course perspective”
- 4-5 June 2026, UNIGE: “Qualitative and mixed methods for life course research”
- 18-19 June 2026, UNIL: “Causal analysis and Open Science”

Master’s in social sciences, specialisation “Life course, inequalities and social policies”

Drawing on the expertise of CIR LIVES researchers, the University of Lausanne’s Master’s in Social Sciences offers a specialisation on how inequalities of class, gender and ethnicity deepen over the life course. Some 10 students enrolled in this specialization in 2025-2026. The courses in the core module are:

- Comparaison internationale des inégalités sociales, Michael Grätz
- Genre et orientations scolaires et professionnelles, Lavinia Gianettoni
- Les familles en Europe: formes, tendances et défis sociaux, Laura Bernardi
- Parcours de vie et méthodes computationnelles, Davide Morselli
- Politique de l'emploi et du marché du travail, Daniel Oesch
- Problèmes sociaux et politiques sociales au travers des étapes de vie, Leen Vandecasteele



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Society

Research briefs

The LIVES Centre publishes LIVES Impact, a series of policy briefs in French, German and English that present research findings relevant to public and social policy. With FORS, it also produces Social Change in Switzerland, a series that explains changes in the country's social structure to a broader audience.

Social Change in Switzerland:

- February 2026: "La durée du mandat des élites économiques suisses, 1890-2020", Emil D. Böhme & Felix Bühlmann
- May 2026: "Confiance sociale en Suisse (2002-2024): les aînés progressent, les jeunes stagnent", Claire Janssen, Ursina Kuhn & Marieke Voorpostel

LIVES Impact:

- "Living Beyond 100: Insights from the SWISS100 Study", Daniela Jopp & Adar Hoffman



Financial support

In 2025, the LIVES Centre launched a call for projects offering up to CHF 2,500 to CIR LIVES members interested in sharing their research findings with a wider audience and engaging with non-academic stakeholders. The following initiatives were selected:

- André Borges: Workshop "Working with Clients Facing Precarity: A Participatory Action Research Among Career Counsellors in Switzerland"
- Naomi Downes: Participatory intervention with midwives on couples' emotional well-being during the transition to parenthood
- Olena Iarmosh: Organisation of the second "Job Fair for Migrants and Refugees" on September 8, 2026, at the University of Lausanne
- Daniela Jopp: Book project "Welcome to your future: Centenarians of Switzerland"
- Clément Meier: Workshop "Co-creating Compassionate Schools through death education, arts, and dialogues in the French-speaking part of Switzerland"
- Daniel Oesch: An online tool for the public to visualise the earning potential of occupations in Switzerland
- Leen Vandecasteele: Public event "Résilience des jeunes en temps de crise" on September 1, 2026, in Bern

Exhibitions

"Welcome to your future: Centenarians of Switzerland", Basel, Zurich, Geneva and Lausanne, 10.02-4.7 2026:

Led by LIVES member Daniela Jopp in collaboration with art director Anna-Rita Stoffel, photographer Jos Schmid and the UNIL Scientific Mediation team, this travelling exhibition presents findings from the SWISS100 study to the general public and puts faces to individual centenarians and their life stories. Each opening was accompanied by a public event featuring presentations by researchers, practitioners and policymakers.



"Alea. Des parcours de vie", Musée Romain Lausanne-Vidy, 18.9.2025-6.4.2026:

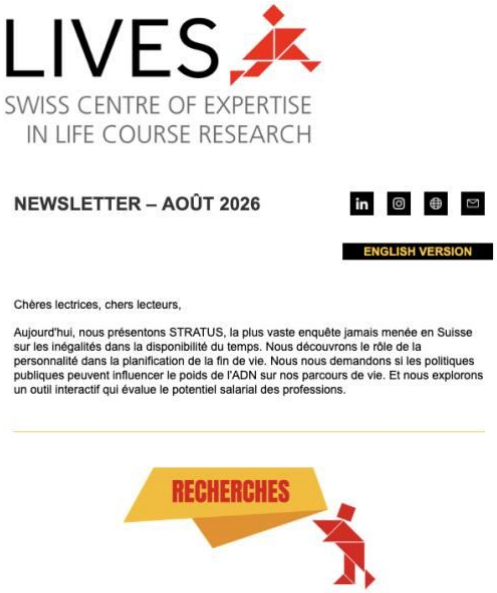
The Roman Museum of Lausanne-Vidy invited the LIVES Centre to contribute to its temporary exhibition on life courses in antiquity. In the final section, a short video featured former LIVES Director Dario Spini presenting current approaches to the life course. Dario Spini and Laure Sandoz were also invited to lead a guided tour and give a talk on 13 November 2025, exploring life courses from antiquity to today.



Media and communication

Since the arrival of Kalina Anguelova as communication officer in May 2025, the LIVES Centre has renewed its communication strategy to give its research greater visibility among a broader audience:

- *Editorial content:* A former journalist, Kalina Anguelova regularly publishes articles on the Centre's latest research and has introduced new formats, including video interviews.
- *Newsletter:* The external newsletter has been redesigned, with three newsletters sent during the reporting period to a list of about 2000 contacts.
- *Social media:* Activity on LinkedIn has picked up (2,500 followers). Instagram is expanding our audience: most of our videos reach well beyond our existing community.
- *Website:* The homepage of the LIVES website has been revamped to better showcase the Centre's research and events.




Caroline Roberts, méthodologue à l'Université de Lausanne © KA

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Finances

All amounts in CHF. Reporting period: 1 August 2025 – 31 July 2026.

Programme	Activities	Budget 2025–2026	Spending 01.08.25 – 31.07.26	Budget 2026–2027
Scientific	International Conference (SLLS)	3'300	3'300	0
	LIVES Day	1'800	16	1'500
	Writing Retreat	15'000	13'409	15'000
	LIVES Comes alive	300	380	300
	GA CIR-LIVES "Science, Sports & Drinks"	1'500	1'353	1'500
	Thematic Workshops / International Research Days	14'000	12'027	10'000
	Advisory Board	0	0	0
	Top-down projects	20'000	8'884	40'000
	LIVES Interdisciplinary Grant / Seed Money	10'000	5'103	15'000
	Visitor Grants	20'000	21'216	20'000
	Young Scholar Grants	40'000	25'640	25'000
	Working Groups	10'000	2'869	5'000
	Support for attending conferences	2'000	0	0
	Sponsoring of activities, colloquia, workshops LIVES	3'000	775	1'000
	Subtotal	**140'900**	**94'972**	**134'300**
ProDoc	Modules & Doctoriales	20'000	25'028	25'000
	Subtotal	**20'000**	**25'028**	**25'000**
Science-Society	Support to Science-Society activities (Call)	7'000	8'099	7'000
	Science-Society / Alumni Events	2'000	0	2'000
	Policy briefs (LIVES Impact)	400	744	200
	Subtotal	**9'400**	**8'843**	**9'200**
Comm	Communication & Website	7'700	11'573	7'000
	Subtotal	**7'700**	**11'573**	**7'000**
Office	Board CIR LIVES & Miscellaneous	2'000	480	1'000
	Travel (admin team)	1'000	143	500
	Subtotal	**3'000**	**623**	**1'500**
TOTAL		**181'000**	**141'039**	**177'000**
Available resources (Cash UNIL)		384'442	384'442	353'403
Available resources (operating budget)		110'000	110'000	110'000
Estimated balance		**313'442**	**353'403**	**286'403**

IMPRESSUM

EDITING
Laure Sandoz, Scientific Coordinator
Daniel Oesch, Director of LIVES

LAYOUT
Laure Sandoz, Scientific Coordinator
Kalina Anguelova, Communication Officer
Caroline Jeanneret, Secretary

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