



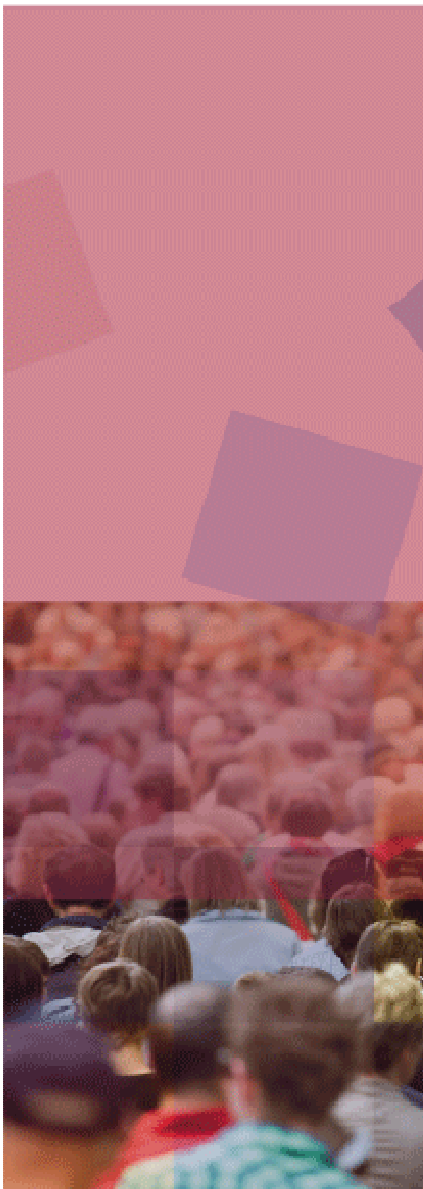
Swiss National Centre of Competence in Research

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LIVES Doctoriales, 2nd Edition

February, 11-12, 2013,

Geneva (Uni Mail)



We want to thank all the colleagues and friends who have accepted to act as experts for those second LIVES Doctoriales. Your contribution will be without any doubt greatly appreciated by the doctoral students.

We also want to congratulate all of the PhD students who engaged themselves in this exercise. We hope you will get the best!

Michel Oris, LIVES co-director
Delphine Fagot, LIVES Doctoral Program Officer
Claire Johnston, PhD Student
Emmanuel Rousseaux, PhD Student



February, 11



9h00-9h30: Arrival coffee



9h30-10h00: Welcome- Opening Session (Room MR070)



10h00-12h30: Parallel sessions I

Session 1 Room M1130

10h00-10h30: Bertrand Anne-Laure. *Life courses of refugees in Switzerland.*

10h30-11h00: Gomensoro Andrés. *Methodological issues in the qualitative study of the second generation from Kosovo in Switzerland*

11h00-11h30: Kaeser Laure. *Surveying and Representing Elderly Immigrants: Lessons from a Large-Scale Survey on Ageing in Switzerland*

11h30-12h00: Barbeiro Ana. *Calendar interviewing – a mixed methods device for a life-course approach to immigration*

Experts: Rosita Fibbi, Guy Elcheroth

Session 2 Room M1140

10h00-10h30: Baeriswyl Marie. *Social participation and gender roles in retirement: Evolutions, tensions and current issues.*

10h30-11h00: Pin Stephanie. *The fall and its prevention in the elderly: to cope with events during the life course*

11h00-11h30: Rosciano Alessandra. *The interrelationships between depressive symptoms and functional disability among Swiss elderly*

11h30-12h00: Tholomier Aude. *Entering into the old age*

Expert: Cornelia Hummel, Delphine Fagot

Session 3 Room M1150

10h00-10h30: Dasoki Nora. *Well-being among the elderly: appraisal of the past in the process of coping*

10h30-11h00: Guichard Eduardo. *Crises memories in South America. The history viewed by their actors*

11h00-11h30: Martenot Aude. *Life course, History and Generational Memory in India: Individual and Socio-historical Remembering in a Developing Country*

Experts: Floriane Demont, Alain Clemence



12h30–13h30 LUNCH



13h30-16h00: Parallel sessions II

Session 4 Room M1160

13h30-14h00: Bakouri Mouna. *Coping with structural disadvantage: Overcoming negative effects of perceived barriers through collective self-definitions*

14h00-14h30: Guarin Andrés. *Access to the labour market among second-generation immigrants in Switzerland*

14h30-15h00: Johnston Claire. *The experience of work stress: An investigation of personal resources and buffers*

15h00-15h30: Eberhard Jakob. *Social origin, psychological resources and educational trajectories in Switzerland*

Experts: Davide Morselli, Philippe Wanner

Session 5 Room M1130

13h30-14h00: Bauman Isabel. *How to avoid endogeneity by using plant closure data*

14h00-14h30: Madero Cabib Ignacio. *Becoming an Old Worker in Switzerland: On the Labour Pre-Retirement Careers and Its Life Course Determinants*

14h30-15h00: Murphy Emily. *New careers in later life? A comparison of older workers' career trajectories in declining and growing occupations*

Experts: Rafael Lalive, Michel Oris

Session 6 Room M1140

13h30-14h00: Cairo Notari Sarah. *Psychological adjustment to breast cancer in women and their partners: the role of social support in couples*

14h00-14h30: Humbel Andrea. *Co-development as resource for partnership satisfaction in long-term marriages*

14h30-15h00: Knoepfli Bina. *Time Heals Some Wounds: Psychological Adjustment To Marital Breakup*

15h00-15h30: Spahni Stefanie. *Psychological adaptation to spousal loss in old age – the role of psychosocial resources and context*

Experts: Paolo Ghisletta, Peter Hilpert



16h00–16h30 COFFEE BREAK



16h30-18h30: Parallel sessions III

Session 7 Room M1150

16h30-17h00: Gabriel Rainer. *Life course transformations, social mobility and the construction of inequalities in old-age - The case of cohorts born between 1907 and 1947 in Switzerland*

17h00-17h30: Falcon Julie. *Are there cumulative and compensatory effects in the intergenerational social mobility process?*

17h30-18h00: Karen Brändle. *Interviewer effects in life calendar data*

Experts: Michèle Ernst-Staehli, Jean-François Bickel

Session 8 Room M1160

16h30-17h00: Brandelesi Vanessa. *Normative motherhood Its implications in the life course of women without children*

17h00-17h30: Duvoisin Aline. *Social differentials during the baby boom in Switzerland*

17h30-18h00: Girardin Nadia. *Transition to parenthood in French speaking Switzerland: Intentions and practices of working hours before/after the birth of the first child*

Experts: Philippe Wanner, Eric Widmer

Session 9 Room M1130

16h30-17h00: Henke Julia. *Aging in Switzerland, 1979 – 2012: Dimensions of Vulnerability in Old Age*

17h00-17h30: Nicolet Marthe. *At the death's door, social inequalities and palliative care : a comparative study in Geneva and Valais*

17h30-18h00: Masotti Barbara. *Transitions in later life. A study of homecare receivers in Ticino*

Experts: Henriette Engelhardt-Woelfler, Anik de Ribaupierre



19h30 Dinner Altogether at “Café Restaurant du Parc des Bastions”



February, 12



9h00-9h30: Arrival coffee



9h30-12h00: Parallel sessions IV

Session 10 Room M1140

9h30-10h00: Bigotta Maurizio. *Evaluation of the abolition of the law prioritising Swiss resident workers on unemployment*

10h00-10h30: Galhano Laura. *Plurality of work and evaluations: consequences for job seeking strategies and unemployment policies*

10h30-11h00: Perriard Anne. *Social age, employment norms and the life course*

11h00-11h30: Vaccaro Giannina. *Occupational change, schooling decisions, and its implications for gender segregation*

Experts: Michelle Pellizzari, Michel Oris

Session 11 Room M1150

9h30-10h00: Carvalho Barbosa Marlène. *Categorical and ideological norms across life course.*

10h00-10h30: Burgos Paredes Raul. *The impact of legal status on the social worlds of undocumented Ecuadorian immigrants in Switzerland and ethical aspects concerning research on irregular migration*

10h30-11h00: Carvalho Arruda Carolina. *Professional aspirations of teenagers in Switzerland: on the crossroad of gender, class and national origin*

11h00-11h30: Glaeser Stéphanie. *Social capital – a collective good or a tool of exclusion? Investigating the multidimensionality of community climates across Europe*

Experts: Olivier Desrichard, Felix Bühlman



12h00–13h00 LUNCH



13h00-15h30: Parallel sessions V

Session 12 Room M1160

13h00-13h30: Aeby Gaelle. *Personal relationships and social capital in Switzerland*

13h30-14h00: Turttschi Nicolas. *Les réseaux sociaux comme moyen d'accès à l'emploi pour les chômeurs à faible employabilité*

14h00-14h30: von Ow Anna. *The role of social contacts in finding a way out of unemployment*

Experts: Laura Bernardi, René Levy

Session 13 Room M1130

13h00-13h30: Cullati Stephane. *Socioeconomic inequalities in health trajectories in Switzerland: are there divergent paths over time?*

13h30-14h00: Gabadinho Alexis. *Sequence analysis with Variable Length Markov Chains*

14h00-14h30: Remund Adrien. *Is young adults' excess mortality a universal phenomenon?*

14h30-15h00: Zufferey Jonathan. *Mortality differentials among migrants in Switzerland, 1990-2010: First results*

Experts: Henriette Engelhardt-Woelfler, André Berchtold, Reto Schumacher

Session 14 Room M1140

13h00-13h30: Schicka Manuela. *The Impact of Critical Events and Life Transitions on the Conjugal Quality: A Configurational Approach*

13h30-14h00: Girardin Myriam. *Who are my family members? The pluralization of family configurations in old age.*

14h00-14h30: Veselà Jana. *Overcoming social vulnerabilities in family: a configurational approach*

14h30-15h00: Ganjour Olga. *Family solidarity practices and family solidarity norms in various types of welfare states: A quantitative approach*

Experts: Marianne Modak, Jean Kellerhals

15h30–16h00 COFFEE BREAK



16h00-18h00: Parallel sessions VI

Session 15 Room M1150

16h00-16h30: Burgin Reto. *Random Coefficient Model Trees for Ordinal Longitudinal Data*

16h30-17h00: Bolano Danilo. *Hidden Mixture Transition Distribution Model for continuous variables*

17h00-17h30: Rousseaux Emmanuel. *First steps towards a software framework for handling life course survey data in R*

Experts: Dominique Joye, Oliver Lipps

Session 16 Room M1160

16h00-16h30: Salamin Xavier. *Women on international assignments: a state of the art of research*

16h30-17h00: Ravasi Claudio. *International mobility of dual career couples: preliminary results of an expatriate survey*

17h00-17h30: Bataille Pierre. *Is a scientific path more meritocratic? How disciplines shape inequalities among French educational elite over the life course.*

Experts: Doris Hanappi, Marylène Lieber

Session 17 Room M1130

16h00-16h30: Araujo Pedro. *Elites and Occupational Careers in the Swiss Banking Industry (1980-2010)*

16h30-17h00: Zinn Isabelle. *Male Florists: Between Transgression and (de-) Naturalization of Gender Categories*

17h00-17h30: Rosenstein Emilie. *Individualising Welfare Policies and its Impact on Social Citizenship: a Swiss Case Study*

Experts: Jean-François Bickel, Michel Oris



Session 1. Room M1130.

Chairman: Rosita Fibbi

10h00-10h30: Bertrand Anne-Laure

Life courses of refugees in Switzerland

Abstract. Refugees in Switzerland, i.e. people who immigrated into the country to seek asylum and obtained the right to stay in the country, has not often been studied. First, because the research on the field of migration focuses mainly on asylum seekers, paying few or no attention to those who obtained the status of refugees after a long procedure. Second, because refugees are „statistically mixed” with people beneficiaries of a B or C permit for other reasons than asylum, which makes them difficult to identify. This explains why most of the research on the subject is of qualitative nature. However, the increasing number of refugees and their specificities in terms of life courses and their impact on structural integration justify further studies among this population.

My thesis project aims at describing the life courses of refugees established in Switzerland for a few years. I will therefore conduct a retrospective survey, using the life calendar approach, in order to get information on the individuals’ life before and after the migration. The longitudinal perspective will allow me to see if their situation (in terms of social network, occupation, income, health, educational level, etc.) improves over time or, on the contrary, if they remain vulnerable after having spent several years in Switzerland. Factors of vulnerability will also be investigated. After having set up the questionnaire and collected the data, I will use the tools provided by the TraMineR package in R to run sequences analyses.

10h30-11h00: Gomensoro Andrés

Methodological issues in the qualitative study of the second generation from Kosovo in Switzerland

Abstract. Sociologists and social scientists can face multiple difficulties in the study of the transition to adulthood of the second generation immigrants in Switzerland. Some of these problems are, for example, the identification of potential participants, the access to a young population composed of both nationals and foreigners and the recruitment of participants. In this presentation we introduce the main methodological issues related to the qualitative study of the second generation from Kosovo in the cantons of Geneva and Vaud: from the identification of the population, the recruitment of participants and the use of a “snowball strategy” to the combination of two methodological tools to collect the data, biographical calendars (Swiss Panel LIVES Calendar) and in-depth retrospective interviews.

We shall discuss particularly some important questions such as the definition of a population poorly represented in official statistics (Kosovo is a new State), or the access to the most vulnerable part of this population, that is young people with no post-compulsory education or short vocational and educational trainings.

11h00-11h30: Kaeser Laure

Surveying and Representing Elderly Immigrants: Lessons from a Large-Scale Survey on Ageing in Switzerland

Abstract. During the twentieth century, large migratory movements have led to an increasing diversity of the European population. Individual mobility affects all age groups including the elderly people. Currently, more and more people age elsewhere than in their home countries. In Switzerland, a great deal of immigrants arrived in the second half of the twentieth century and have chosen to spend the last stage of their lives in their host country (Warnes et al., 2004; Ruspini, 2010). Elderly immigrants mainly came from Italy in the fifties, from Spain in the sixties and from Portugal and former Yugoslavia in the eighties and early nineties (Piguet, 2004; D’Amato, 2008). These changes highlight the need for a more detailed picture of living conditions, resources and requests of these populations aging now in Switzerland. Indeed, there have been no studies comparing national elderly to elderly immigrants until nowadays (Bolzman et al., 1993; 2001; 2003; 2008).

Migration issues represent a challenge for social science surveys, especially when researchers address the question of the representation of minority groups such as ethnonational minority communities: “The inclusion/exclusion of minority groups in/from general social surveys might be one of the most challenging and understudied issues in contemporary survey research” (Elcherot et al., 2011: 1). The probability that all individuals are equally represented is the stated objective of most surveys, but this probability may not be random. Indeed, numerous bias in methods

induce the underrepresentation of certain minority groups such as ethno-national communities. Existing literature reveals that there are various barriers that make these people hard to reach by standard procedures. One of the main obstacle is not speaking the language of the survey. Having living conditions that make someone reachable by standard procedures or having a system of beliefs and values that make the questions asked understandable constitute additional difficulties. Surveys excluding ethno-national groups can then produce questionable results because they might tend to underrepresent and underestimate certain characteristics of minority groups and provide conclusions from biased estimations (Wimmer & Schiller, 2002 ; Chernillo, 2006 ; Vandecasteele & Debels, 2007 ; Lipps et al., 2011; Elcherot et al., 2011).

This article (1) explores the causes of inclusion and exclusion of ethno-national minorities in a large-scale survey on ageing in Switzerland, (2) evaluates the impacts of the adaptations of standard procedures on the representation of ethno-national minorities, and (3) shows that surveying elderly immigrants is an indicative of their life trajectories and requires to adapt standard procedures by maintaining a constant dialogue between scientific demands and realities from the field.

11h30-12h00: Barbeiro Ana

Calendar interviewing – a mixed methods device for a life-course approach to immigration

Abstract. Biographic research relates to different disciplinary and epistemological orientations. Through the XX century and on, micro-sociology has developed a rich tradition on qualitative research, in which “ethnobiographies” (Poirier et al., 1983) have an important place. The voices of social actors and the meaning production through the narration of their lives are central in this approach (Ferrarotti, 1983). Narratives are considered simultaneously as statements of social practices and as social practices themselves (Bertaux, 1980; 1997). Hence, this research approach is characterised by in-depth interviewing and articulation with other qualitative research approaches, such as ethnography or document analysis. The interpretative work of the researcher is also a core feature.

On the other hand, the life-course research paradigm (Elder, 1995) also considers biographies under a different approach: here, the aim is the quantification and comparison of trajectories in different domains of life. In this sense, it is important to distinguish and locate in time the life-events with precision. One technique that has been successfully developed is the use of life calendars (Axinn et al, 1999; Belli et al, 2009).

Following the suggestion of Belli and Callegaro (2009), on the potential of life calendars for doing (also) qualitative research, a mixed methods instrument has been designed. It consists of a life-calendar for collecting life-stories and trajectories through open-ended interviews. The interviews are centred on the relationship of immigrants and institutions and on the experiences of injustice and violence within this relationship.

This paper focuses mainly in the process of interviewing while using this instrument. Parts of the interview transcript are presented to exemplify the ways the calendar has been used by the interviewees to build their narratives about their lives. The visual “space” of the calendar provides a virtual map that facilitates the recalling of events in time, as well as the relating of different domains of life. Thus, the calendar structures the narratives, although meanings are not assigned à priori. Personal and cultural meanings are provided by the narrator, giving the “flesh” to the idiosyncratic life story that he is telling.

This combination results in two types of data: (1) a calendar that locates events in time and across different institutional trajectories, containing standardised data; (2) a tape-recorded narrative allowing for qualitative analysis. The two types of data analysis can thus be combined into an innovative mixed methods approach to life-course research.

12h00-12h30: General discussion

Experts: Rosita Fibbi & Guy Elcherot



Session 2. Room M1140.

Chairman: Cornelia Hummel

10h00-10h30: Baeriswyl Marie

Social participation and gender roles in retirement: Evolutions, tensions and current issues.

Abstract. In my thesis I am concerned by the social participation of the elderly and its evolution in a gender perspective. This research is embedded in a larger reflection on the changes and continuities of the gendered life course and the retirement.

In the new context surrounding ageing process, the social participation of retired people has become a key issue. In parallel, the last decades have been a period of important changes for the women; despite of this evolution, the life “choice” of the women seem always guided by a “master status” (Krüger and Levy, 2001) emphasizing the persistent importance of gendered roles and statuses structuring the individual “choices”. These two phenomena raise questions about the participation practices of the new cohorts of retired women and men. In this perspective, I will focus on three main lines of investigation: the gender differences and inequalities and their relationships with the differential role assignments between private and public spheres; the continuities and changes that take place both through the historical time, and along the individual life course; the implications in terms of individual well-being.

To achieve these aims, I have chosen a large and plural definition of the social participation, considering jointly private and public spheres and different participation practices. Indeed, the various participation settings have different significations (e.g. Raymond et al., 2008) and their own structural issues (e.g. Bidart et al., 2001); further the participation to one “social circle” must be considered as conditioning the participation to the others (e.g. Pennec, 2004). In my thesis I want precisely to study of the extent to which and how various participation practices are articulated, the logics of these configurations, their evolutions and the potential complementarity or tension they induct, especially according to the private/public distinction but also in reference to the care work. In summary, this perspective must allow to better understand the dynamics between structures and individuals, changes and continuity. It must also critically evaluate the conditions of self-realization in the retirement in a society in which “be active to be happy” is the new motto.

Empirically, the first step of the analysis will be to construct profiles of participation based on the data of a large Survey on the living and health conditions of individuals aged 65 and older in five Swiss regions (2011). The first results will be presented during the “doctoriales”. The second stage of the empirical analysis will be dedicated to deepen their logics, taking into account various factors, individual and structural. In a third stage, I will adopt a more dynamic approach and investigate how the participation profiles evolve along the individual life courses, as well as historically through a comparison of three periods of time, taking advantage of the data of two previous transversal surveys (1979/1994) with a similar design and same questions as 2011. Finally, the participation profiles will be analysed as potential resources in relation with indicators of subjective well-being.

10h30-11h00: Pin Stéphanie

The fall and its prevention in the elderly: to cope with events during the life course

Abstract. Introduction. Falls in the elderly were recognized as a priority public health problem, but were most often seen as a minor phenomenon. My research was based on the concept of vulnerability derived from environmental science and from the life course paradigm: it sought to better understand how the fall was embedded in the trajectories of life of older people and to analyze resources mobilized by people to cope with this event.

Methods. Continuing the literature review on the psychosocial factors of falling undertaken in the first year of my Ph.D., I deepened the psychosocial dynamics of fall and the perception of fall by the elderly. Moreover, using the first three waves of the Survey of Health, Ageing, Retirement in Europe (SHARE), a biennial European panel on people aged 50 and older, I used a sample of 13,328 individuals aged 50 to 94 for performing descriptive analysis on the characteristics of fallers and the consequences of falling on health indicators.

Results. The analysis of the literature review confirmed the lack of theoretical background among researches on the topic. Psychosocial factors were discussed most often as risk factors or consequences of falls. Few studies investigated their role as moderators or mediators of the negative consequences of fall on the well-being, depression or functional health. Falls seems to be perceived as stressful and uncontrollable events, closely linked to autonomy. Descriptive analysis conducted from the SHARE survey confirmed the significant links between falls and several demographic and health-related indicators. Our initial analysis showed the impact of falls on subjective health; they

revealed a specific effect of socio-economic and psychosocial resources among fallers according to their level of subjective health.

Discussion. These first results tended to confirm the importance of studying falls in the elderly as a stressful event and of referring to models of vulnerability or stress. They should be compared with data gathered during the evaluation of a fall prevention program.

11h00-11h30: Rosciano Alessandra

The interrelationships between depressive symptoms and functional disability among Swiss elderly

Abstract. The continuing increase of the aging population raises concerns about the quality of life of the elderly. Prolonged life expectancy may be accompanied by increased morbidity and decline in functioning during old age (Bee & Boyd, 2003; Richard & Mateev-Dirkx, 2004). Levels of depressive symptoms are reported as generally high during old age (Blazer, 2003). Functional disability can increase the risk of depressive symptoms and outcome of depressive symptoms can lead to the decline of physical ability (Blazer, 2003; Yang, 2006). Social and psychological resources impact the relationship between functional disability and depressive symptoms. These “impacting factors” can have a moderating or a mediating role (Rasclé & Irachabal, 2001; Yang, 2006).

The aim of my project is to elucidate the interrelationships between depressive symptoms, intervening factors and functional disability among Swiss elderly. Data for the analyses is based on those participants without cognitive impairment from the Vivre/Leben/Vivere (VLV) survey, an interdisciplinary survey addressing the living and health conditions of people aged 65 and older living in Switzerland. Around 3600 elderly people aged 65 and older, randomly selected in the cantonal and federal Swiss administrative records, were asked to answer a self-assessed and a face-to-face questionnaire. Questions are about different fields like socio-demographics aspects, physical health, depression symptoms, social support, and social activities.

Studies support the hypothesis that functional disability is associated with depressive symptoms, as well as the reverse. However, between these two variables, there are additional « impacting factors » that play a role in the process in which depression affects functional disability and vice versa. In order to better understand the different ways in which these impacting factors can interact with depressive symptoms and functional disability, I will study these factors and separate the mediators from the moderators. The presence or the lack of these impacting factors has a relative importance in reducing or incrementing the relations between depression and functional disability. Medical, psychological and social interventions will be more effective if they also target the protection of these relevant resources, and not exclusively the treatment of psychological and physical symptoms.

11h30-12h00: Tholomier Aude

Entering into the old age

Abstract. This presentation focuses on the transition to old age as reality and as physical and social perception in Switzerland. In other words, what does it mean to grow old nowadays? How such a transition can be defined by the researcher and by the ageing person him/herself? This project focuses on changes in social relationships and activities and changes in health status, including transitions between independence, frailty, and dependence (Lalivé d'Epinay, Spini and als, 2008). Inscribing this research in a life course perspective, taking into account several institutionalized steps, but also the diversity of individual life trajectories, we aim to understand how, when, why individuals move from one status to the other, questioning dimensions of social relations and physical health that are named in the gerontological literature and/or by the elderly themselves. It is indeed also important to understand the relationship between this transition on one side, perceptions of the elderly and the social pressure exerted on this population on the other side.

Our investigations are based on data from a quantitative interdisciplinary survey, Vivre-Leben-Vivere, which scrutinizes the living and health conditions of some 4'000 persons aged 65 and over, a sample which is stratified by sex and five-years age groups in five cantons of Switzerland (Geneva, central Wallis, Bern, Basel City / Country, Ticino) showing a high linguistic, political and socioeconomic diversity.

12h00-12h30: General discussion

Experts: Cornelia Hummel & Delphine Fagot



Session 3. Room M1150.

Chairman: Floriane Demont

10h00-10h30: Dasoki Nora

Well-being among the elderly: appraisal of the past in the process of coping

Abstract. The aim of this project is to understand differences in perceptions of well-being among the elderly by explaining them through retrospective perceptions of their life course and the resources they have.

In the literature, models of coping explain the impact of stressful events on well-being taking in to account the resources that the individuals have. In this manner they define, often a priori, if the event is stressful and they consider only one specific event. However, according to appraisal theory, individuals may perceive in different ways the same events. Or the same event may be stressful today but not in 30 years when looking back. Therefore, we would like to understand the differences in well-being among the elderly by investigating the way they judge, retrospectively, the events which have marked their lives, taking into account the role of resources stemming from their different life domains. In this regard, we consider the total life course, the subjectivity of events and periods of life.

Our hypothesis is that the appraisal of the life course and the resources that the individuals have today can influence the level of current well-being in two different ways: through a moderation and mediation effect.

More specifically, at first, we will identify typical profiles based on frequency, duration, time, sequence and timing of perception to reduce the heterogeneity of responses. On one hand the aim of this method is to create “trajectories of perceptions” and use them to explain the changes in well-being. On the other hand the interest is to understand their relationship with various life domains (family and couple, health, activities, residence, nationality). Secondly, we would like understand how the inequalities of resources may change the perception of events. And finally we will attempt to explain the influence of the appraisal of the past on well-being.

10h30-11h00: Guichard Eduardo

Crises memories in South America. The history viewed by their actors

Abstract. In my thesis I will inquire me about the way that individuals located in various moments of their life course and in three countries of Latin America (Argentina, Chile and Uruguay), perceive the main events and socio historical changes that might be defined as “crises” into the national history of those countries. Crises are the ruptures of the historical plot that impacts the individuals until their everyday life and it cause emotional reactions in their memory. Among those socio historical events, I will interest me particularly at dictatorships, natural disasters and economical crises, which are remembered by a significant portion of the population concerned as markers events into their own life, considering those events as “turbulent” moments into the history of those countries. Which differences are between a dictatorship, a natural disaster and an economical crisis into the historical memory of individuals? Individuals of different cohorts remember those events in the same way? Results are based in the data of the international survey CEVI (Changes and events across the life course), which studies the perception that have adults of several countries about the changes happened across their own lives and also in their social environment after their birth. In each country, the survey treat a sample around the 600 cases, stratified by sex and five age classes. Data was collected at 2004 at Buenos Aires (Argentina), in 2009 at Concepción (Chile) and in 2012 at Montevideo (Uruguay).

11h00-11h30: Martenot Aude

*Life course, History and Generational Memory in India: Individual and Socio-historical
Remembering in a Developing Country*

Abstract. India, as many developing countries, has been experiencing fast social changes during the last decades. G. H. Elder, in his book “Children of the great depression” (1974), assessed the influence of a major socio-historical change (an economic crisis) on the life course of Americans over two generations. What is the impact on the life course of Indians of a crucial economic, social but also demographic transition? According to social psychologists as James Liu, there is a collective memory about world history of the last century, with a Eurocentric outlook; nevertheless, the prevalence of national events is still important, particularly within the “big states”. Is it really the case in India?

The originality of my approach is to focus on the subjective perception of changes. I will not analyze the concrete life courses or official history, but the interpretation made by individuals.

What are the main personal and socio-historical changes that struck people who are at different points in their life course (belonging to various cohorts, gender and religions)? Is there a difference between age groups in the personal and socio-historical memory?

In terms of timing, what was the age of the individuals when personal and socio-historical changes happened? Can we identify specific periods in the life course for which more events are mentioned?

To answer my questions, I use data compiled under the CEVI – Changements et événements au cours de la vie – international research program (cf. <http://cigev.unige.ch/recherches/cevi.html>) that focuses on how adults (male and female) perceive changes and events across the life course. CEVI takes place in 13 countries and in each country data were collected for approximately 600 individuals from five age groups (20-24, 35-39, 50-54, 65-69 and 80-84 years old). In my case, I will analyze data from the survey conducted in India in early 2012 (N = 646). The data collection took place in a slum area of Mumbai, therefore the sample is constituted by urban migrants with a very low standard of living.

11h30-12h00: General discussion

Experts: Floriane Demont & Alain Clemence



Session 4. Room M1160.

Chairman: Davide Morselli

13h30-14h00: Bakouri Mouna

Coping with structural disadvantage: Overcoming negative effects of perceived barriers through collective self-definitions

Abstract. Members of socially disadvantaged groups are more likely to face systemic stressors such as devaluation and discrimination (Turner, Wheaton, & Lloyd, 1995). However, the social identity approach of coping (social identity and self-categorization theories) showed that the subjective experience as a group member can, on the other hand, buffer the negative effects of stressors on health and well-being (Haslam, Jetten, Postmes, & Haslam, 2009). When concerned specifically with socially disadvantaged groups (Leach, Mosquera, Vliek, & Hirt, 2010), this approach mainly focused on effects of actual discrimination and devaluation. However, membership in socially disadvantaged groups can also have direct and lasting effects on life trajectories and life course choices more generally. During critical life transitions, for example, choices and opportunities can be restricted because of one's group's status. This paper aims to combine the group-based approach of coping with the life course perspective. Using developmental researchers' concept of personal projects (Little, 1983; Salmela-Aro & Philips, 2007) and perceived barriers (Lent, Brown, & Hackett, 2000; McWhirter, 1997), we test the hypothesis that, depending on the availability of meaningful collective self-definitions, perceived barriers to one's project can be experienced either as insurmountable and harm one's self-esteem and coping resources, or as a challenge that may even enhance one's coping potential.

Using data of young apprentices and employees from two institutions, we found that participants without Swiss nationality perceived higher barriers to their life course projects compared to Swiss participants. However, for those of them who relied on collective self-definitions, higher perceived barriers did not decrease their judgement of their coping potential and did not harm their self-esteem. For participants without collective definition, in contrast, perceived barriers decreased coping potential. Different potential explanations of this buffering effect are discussed.

14h00-14h30: Guarin Andrés

Access to the labour market among second-generation immigrants in Switzerland

Abstract. In general terms, in my thesis, I am particularly interested in how immigrants' children and Swiss youth mobilize resources through the use of social capital during the transition to professional life. The primary concern of this research is to identify the mechanisms by which young adults' social networks influence the direction of their paths in life. Thus, using a life course theoretical framework, I test the role that social networks play in determining the professional trajectories of our target population.

In this document I will present a part of my thesis project, part that focuses on access to the labour market of migrants' children compared to young Swiss. Several researchers have shown that first-generation immigrants with Kosovar origins have a higher likelihood of experiencing difficulties when entering their professional life compared to first-generation immigrants of different nationalities and Swiss natives. But what can we say about the children of immigrants? Are they more vulnerable when entering the working life? To answer this question I investigate if: a) second-generation immigrants from several geographic backgrounds suffer from **disadvantages in the access to labour market**; b) if the **social class** of parents (educational level of parents) explains a part of these disadvantages; and c) if there is a specific "**ethnic penalty**" for the children of immigrants with Kosovar origins.

In order to do this, I use data from the Swiss Labour Force Survey (SLFS) to identify professional transition to working life of youth, and to identify the differences and similarities between children of immigrants and Swiss youth. Here I apply regression models for categorical variables. This survey has three main characteristics of foremost interest for the first part of my research. Firstly, since 2003 an additional sample of foreigners has been added to the standard sample. This aspect of SLFS addresses the problem of small sample size that generally affects surveys on immigrant populations and minorities. Secondly, the sample has a longitudinal component allowing for the of studying changes over time. Thirdly, in 2009 the Swiss Statistical Office included a module on "further training" and on "entry of young people into the labour market" as complement to the standard survey.

14h30-15h00: Johnston Claire

The experience of work stress: An investigation of personal resources and buffers

Abstract. This research explores the role of resources in work stress, simultaneously investigating general (just world beliefs) and context-specific (occupational self-efficacy) factors. Just world beliefs are implicated in cognitive appraisal (Tomaka & Blascovich, 1994) and coping with daily hassles and tasks (Otto & Schmidt, 2007) and are predictors of life satisfaction (Sutton & Douglas, 2005). Further, they are implicated in work related outcomes such as job satisfaction and job involvement (Otto, Glaser, & Dalbert, 2009). Yet, the ways in which just world beliefs, both general and personal, may help to cope with work stress are still unknown. This research had two aims in relation to the prediction of general work stress (de Bruin & Taylor, 2005); 1) to investigate the potential effects of general and personal BJW (Dalbert, 1999; Lerner, 1965) and 2) to examine the contribution of occupational self-efficacy, comprised of employees' confidence to manage workplace tasks (Schyns & von Collani, 2002). A representative sample (N =1894, 49.2% male) consisted of Swiss working adults (Mage= 42). Participants responded to online or paper-pencil self-report questionnaires of study variables using, amongst others, the belief in a just world scale (Dalbert, 1999), occupational self-efficacy scale (Schyns & von Collani, 2002) and the general work stress scale (de Bruin & Taylor, 2005). Hierarchical multiple regression showed that general belief in a just world reduced work stress; whereas personal belief in a just world had no effect. Occupational self-efficacy had a direct effect on stress but also acted as a buffer, lowering stress levels under conditions of high job demands. This study extends the positive contribution of just world beliefs beyond that of only personal belief in a just world. It highlights the adaptive capacity of general belief in a just world. Also, domain specific self-efficacy can act as a buffer, particularly in the management of situational job demands. Just world beliefs are related to lower stress levels independent of context, whereas the protective function of occupational self-efficacy appears to be more context based.

15h00-15h30. Eberhard Jakob

Social origin, psychological resources and educational trajectories in Switzerland

Abstract. My PhD project focuses on the relationships between social origin, psychological resources and the educational trajectories after compulsory school in Switzerland. The project is structured into three parts. In the first one, a typology of the post-compulsory educational trajectories is created by means of sequence analyses. In the second part, the determinants of the trajectories are analysed. At this stage, the typology of educational trajectories is treated as dependent variable and the social origin and psychological resources, such as the academic self-concept and the perceived self-efficacy, as predictors. One of the main purposes of these analyses is to show whether disadvantages related to the social origin can be buffered with psychological resources. In the third part, the outcomes of the educational trajectories are investigated. The analyses will mainly focus on the development of the psychological resources under the influence of the educational trajectories and the social origin. I will possibly also analyse the impact of the educational trajectories on the labour market integration. All analyses are based on the data from the panel study TREE. The presentation at the "Doctoriales 2013" will be centered on part one of the project (the establishment of the typology of post-compulsory educational trajectories) and on some results of part two (the role of social origin and psychological resources as predictors of the educational trajectories).

15h30-16h00: General discussion

Experts: Philippe Wanner & Davide Morselli



Session 5. Room M1130.

Chairman: Rafael Lalive

13h30-14h00: Bauman Isabel

How to avoid endogeneity by using plant closure data

Abstract. Endogeneity is a critical methodological issue in social sciences since it undermines causal inference. Studying labor market transitions from unemployment to re-employment entails the problem that the reason why an individual is unemployed might be the same like why she is not able to find a new job – for instance poor health. To circumvent this dilemma, we use data of workers who were displaced as a consequence of a plant closure. The advantage of this quasi-experimental survey design is that the reason of job loss is exogenous. This implies first, that the entire workforce of a company lost their job and second, that all of the affected workers were formerly employed and able to work. We are thus able to study the net effect of a range of socio-demographic and institutional factors on the workers' re-employment prospects. Our paper not only gives an overview on our survey design but also presents some aspects of the survey process. Moreover, it discusses the encountered challenges and some possible factors of success. Finally we show some preliminary results of the displaced workers' labor market transitions.

14h00-14h30: Madero Cabib Ignacio

Becoming an Old Worker in Switzerland: On the Labour Pre-Retirement Careers and Its Life Course Determinants

Abstract. A substantial body of life course research on occupational trajectories in Switzerland, focuses either on early or middle adulthood careers. However, given the emergence of declining birth rates associated to an aging population, a high proportion of active old workers, and continuous changes on the timing and variability of retirements in Switzerland, the issue of labour pre-retirement careers is given increasing attention. Moving forward on this topic, present sociological thesis aims to offer new insights on the dynamic of pre-retirement careers in Switzerland (centered between 50 and 70 years), through a life course schema.

I concentrate in three life course notions in order to study pre-retirement careers: the sequentialization, the variation, and the social vulnerability faced during such life transition. Given the complexity of the life course schema I propose an improvement of the current framework of social vulnerability, integrating ideas from a social inclusion/exclusion approach. Then, according to the theoretical framework, I show my research proposal about labour pre-retirement careers in Switzerland. Optimal Matching Models and Event History Models are the longitudinal methods used, whilst the data comes primarily from the Survey of Health, Aging and Retirement in Europe (SHARE). Preliminary scheduling and a conclusion highlighting eventual contributions of my thesis, conform the last two sections of the current thesis project.

14h30-15h00: Murphy Emily

New careers in later life? A comparison of older workers' career trajectories in declining and growing occupations

Abstract. This second paper aims to extend our first paper, which looked at probabilities of exits for different types of workers in declining occupations. Here we analyse longterm work trajectories and focus specifically on middle-aged and older workers coming from declining and growing occupations in Germany, Great Britain and Switzerland. Our goal is to compare diverging employment-courses for mid-to latecareer workers. We aim to understand whether intra-generational occupational changes between declining and growing occupations are 1) short-lived switches, such that workers who move soon return to their origin occupations; 2) signal new career paths; 3) are short duration 'bridge jobs' to (early) retirement. This has a secondary point of seeing when inter-

generational cohort renewal, above intra-generational mobility, is the forerunner in bringing about aggregate employment change. We use a range of descriptive methods that allow for graphical representations of career typologies. Our analysis draws on longitudinal data from the Swiss and British Household Panels, and the German Socio-Economic Panel. A combination of optimal matching, sequential cluster analysis and correspondence analysis is applied. This enables us to identify systematic patterns across the three countries on three allied dimensions: timing, ordering and duration of spells.

15h00-15h30: General discussion

Experts: Rafael Lalive & Michel Oris



Session 6. Room M1140

Chairman: Peter Hilpert

13h30-14h00: Cairo Notari Sarah

Psychological adjustment to breast cancer in women and their partners: the role of social support in couples

Abstract. Theoretical background. Breast cancer is diagnosed in 5'250 women in Switzerland each year (Office Fédéral de la Statistique, 2011). Patients suffering from this disease have to cope with somatic symptoms, emotional consequences, and difficulties related to their body image (Montazeri, 2008). The 30-50% of patients report depression, anxiety, and negative body image which can persist many years after diagnosis. The illness and the associated medical treatments represent an important source of stress. The adjustment to this challenging situation depends on individual coping resources and on relational factors like social support. According to women who are engaged in a relationship, the partner is the main source of emotional and instrumental support. Studies have shown that a supportive relationship is linked to better psychological adjustment and lower distress (Hasson-Ohayon et al., 2010; Manne et al., 2004). But even if there are many researches on social support and breast cancer, studies are still lacking on the following topics: 1) the link between a woman's coping strategies and partner's support, 2) the origin of differences between received and perceived social support in a couple, and 3) the impact of the illness on the partner's well-being which will in turn determine his ability to provide support to the patient.

Aim and hypothesis. The aim of this research is to study the impact of breast cancer on women and their partners as well as the role of social support in their psychological adjustment to the illness. In particular, it will concentrate on the above-mentioned three aspects that are still unexplored, with the following hypothesis:

1. Partner's support determines woman's coping strategies which allow to reduce her level of distress.
2. Dysfunctional relationship in a couple results in a distorted perception of the provided social support.
3. Social support given by the patient and the entourage to the partner determines his level of burden which is linked to his own ability to provide support.

Method. Women with a diagnosis of breast cancer are recruited at the Breast Centre of the University Hospital of Lausanne to participate in a longitudinal study about social support. We assess data at four measurement time points: 2 weeks, 3 months, 12 months, and 24 months after surgery. We combine self-reported and observational data as well as semi-structured interviews. All instruments are validated and frequently used in psychosocial and medical studies.

Clinical implications. A better understanding of the mechanisms involved in social support between partners would contribute to create more appropriate psychosocial and psychological interventions to help couples cope with breast cancer.

14h00-14h30: Humbel Andrea

Co-development as resource for partnership satisfaction in long-term marriages

Abstract. Due to the increase in life expectancy, couples are now faced with a longer potential common life span than ever before. While some couples successfully stay together for many decades, other relationships break up and

result in separation or divorce. The aim of this study is to investigate predictors of a long lasting marital relationship with the explanatory focus on positive aspects - from the angle of relationship resources - in contrast to the mainstream of research, where there is a tendency to view marriage from the point of dissolution and relationship break down. In addition, a great deal of studies on marital relationship focus on critical life events like the embarkment towards marriage as newlyweds or the transition to parenthood, despite the reality that marriages last for decades.

Taking into account the fact that most research in this field has been carried out with younger individuals, with a shorter time of shared biographies, the intention of the present study is to investigate the determinants of long lasting relationships in a sample of 456 persons (233 women, 223 men) between 65 and 89 years ($M = 76.6$, $SD = 6.6$) who were married more than 40 years ($M = 50.9$ years, $SD = 6.3$). Preliminary analyses were realized with group comparisons by gender and multiple regression analyses. The following predictors of marital satisfaction were considered for the statistical analysis: personality, co-development, satisfaction with sexuality, life satisfaction, subjective health, and socio-demographic variables.

Results from gender comparison, focusing on the psychological and physical well-being, show that men report significant higher rates of life satisfaction and subjective health than women. Findings from multiple regression analyses with regard to intra- and interpersonal resources, psychological and physical well-being as well as demography mainly show that partner's support in co-development is associated with a higher marital satisfaction. Future analyses with further predictors of marital satisfaction such as family of origin, satisfaction with early childhood and experience of parental separation are intended.

14h30-15h00: Knoepfli Bina

Time Heals Some Wounds: Psychological Adjustment To Marital Breakup

Abstract. The breakup of an intimate relationship is among the most common but also most incisive psychological and social stressors in adult life. While the negative effects of divorce on well-being are well documented in research literature, the large interindividual differences in psychological adaptation to this critical life event over time are still not well understood. Particularly the question, whether marital breakup represents a temporary crisis or rather turns out to be a chronic strain, is still controversially discussed.

Against this empirical and theoretical background and considering the fact that most research in this field has been carried out with younger individuals with under-age children, the aim of this study is to investigate the psychological adaptation to marital breakup in a sample of 289 middle-aged persons ($M = 50.2$ years) who were partnered at least 10 years ($M = 23.5$ years). The presented data was gathered in the first wave of the LIVES IP12 questionnaire study. We compared two groups: one with a separation within the last 12 months (58 women, 25 men), another with a separation within the last 2-5 years (97 women, 38 men). A group of 441 age-matched married people served as control group. Psychological adaptation was assessed with various indicators, namely depression, perceived stress and life satisfaction. Data analyses were realized with group comparisons by means and hierarchical regression analyses.

Findings from group comparison reveal that time passed since separation is indeed associated with better psychological adaptation (lower depression and perceived stress rates). Results from regression analyses show that differences in psychological adaptation are a function of neuroticism, resilience, new partnership and time passed since separation. These results provide support for the crisis approach and offer important insights into the process of adaptation to marital breakup.

15h00-15h30: Spahni Stefanie

Psychological adaptation to spousal loss in old age – the role of psychosocial resources and context

Abstract. Spousal bereavement is the most common critical life event in old age with a high potential for vulnerabilisation. The loss of a spouse leads to stressful changes in daily life and is associated with an increased risk for a decline in psychological and physical well-being. Numerous studies show that spousal bereavement in old age is characterised by lower life satisfaction, higher rates of loneliness, global stress, more depressive symptoms, and physical health problems – particularly in men – compared to married peers. While the negative impact of widowhood is well documented in literature, the differential role of psychosocial resources and contextual factors for the psychological adaptation to the loss is discussed controversially.

Based on empirical and theoretical work on risk and protective factors in bereavement, the aims of this research are a) to compare widowed individuals with married counterparts; b) to investigate the predictive power of intra- and interpersonal resources, and circumstances of loss for psychological adaptation in terms of life satisfaction, loneliness and depression.

Data from the first wave of the LIVES IP12 questionnaire study are reported. The sample consists of 351 widowed (39% men) and 605 married (50% men) persons, aged 60 - 89 years, living in the German- or French-speaking part of Switzerland. Group comparisons reveal the detrimental impact of bereavement on all indicators of psychological adaptation, especially for men. Results show that widowers have significantly lower life satisfaction, more loneliness and higher depression rates than same age married men, whereas widows differ only with regard to depression significantly from married women. Results from hierarchical regression analyses show furthermore, that life satisfaction, loneliness and depression after spousal loss are in general best predicted by personality factors, followed by loss circumstances, and the experienced positivity of childhood. Our results demonstrate the differential negative impact of spousal loss in old age and shed light on the complex role of resources and life experiences when examining the large variability in psychological adaptation.

15h30-16h00: General discussion

Experts: Paolo Ghisletta & Peter Hilpert



Session 7. Room M1150.

Chairman: Michèle Ernst-Staehli

16h30-17h00: Gabriel Rainer

Life course transformations, social mobility and the construction of inequalities in old-age - The case of cohorts born between 1907 and 1947 in Switzerland

Abstract. This PhD thesis is about life courses of individuals living in Switzerland who were born between 1907 and 1947 and who were interviewed for the survey Vivre-Leben-Vivere (VLV) in 2011/2012. These generations have all lived through a large part of the 20th century and have thus seen significant socio-structural, economic and institutional changes. Also, they constitute a population who – at different ages, of course – have lived through the period, which economic historians have come to call the Glorious Thirty Years (*les trentes glorieuses*). This thesis has two main aims: First, it seeks to explore whether and how these structural changes and the historical context of the Glorious Thirty Years have imprinted themselves on the life courses of these generations. Secondly, it asks to what extent the inequalities in terms of socio-economic status and health observed for age and sex-specific subgroups in 2011/2012 are the result of the initial social status (given by the parents' social status and education), social policies (specific to the canton where an individual has been living), particular aspects and events during an individual's life (for example whether and when an individual got married, had children or left the parental household) or even the totality of an individual's life course (which can be anything from relatively “linear” to highly fragmented and turbulent).

17h00-17h30: Falcon Julie

Are there cumulative and compensatory effects in the intergenerational social mobility process?

Abstract. While intergenerational social mobility research has predominantly focused on modeling the association between social origin, education and social destination to assess the degree of openness of modern societies, effects of individual's trajectory on intergenerational social mobility outcome has so far been rather neglected by scholars. Therefore, this research aims to fill this gap by proposing a holistic approach to the study of social mobility trajectories inspired by the life course paradigm, in particular by the principles of timing and linked lives, and by concepts of cumulative and compensatory effects. Using the Swiss Household Panel retrospective data collected in 2001/2002, I will combine sequence analysis and event history analysis to analyse individual's occupational and cohabitational trajectory, as well as their partner's occupational trajectory. In the end, I will be able to answer the following research question: whether there exist or not cumulative and compensatory effects in the intergenerational social mobility process?

17h30-18h00: Brändle Karen

Interviewer effects in life calendar data

Abstract. Interviewer effects can compromise data quality by increasing the model variance. Even small interviewer effects can have large impacts on the variance of the model if the interviewer workload is high. Studies on interviewer effects in survey data collected with standardized questionnaires are numerous. However, this topic is still under-explored for life calendar data. Since life calendar instruments require a certain flexibility of the interview situation running counter to the strict protocol used to reduce biases in standardized questionnaire, this issue is of particular importance when it comes to the knowledge on the implications of this type of instruments. Using data from the French study “Biographies et entourages” (INED, 2001), my current work aims at identifying effects of interviewers on answer patterns and item non response.

Using multilevel models, we test the influence of interviewer and respondent characteristics on the odds of not reporting any important events during the biographical interview, the number of events reported by the persons who answered the question on important events, as well as the number of periods the respondents distinguished in their lives and the evaluation of these periods.

The results show a significant impact of the interviewer on each one of these aspects. Interestingly, the interviewer ICC for the most subjective part of the questionnaire, namely the evaluation of the periods, is lower than for the three other dependent variables. The complete models explain between 25 and 30% of the interviewer level variance for the linear models (number of periods and evaluation of periods), but only about 5% for the logistic model testing the odds of item non response. However, none of the available information on interviewers (age, sex, number of interviews), nor has the interaction of any of the interviewer variables with respondent variables turned out to have a systematic effect.

18h00-18h30: General discussion

Experts: Michel Ernst-Staehli & Jean-François Bickel



Session 8. Room M1160.

Chairman: Philippe Wanner

16h30-17h00: Brandelesi Vanessa

Normative motherhood Its implications in the life course of women without children

Abstract. I am interested in women without children and the implication of their condition for their life course. For approaching this subject I decided to use three sociological perspectives that are, complementary and essential for the comprehension of this question: gender perspective, life course paradigm and social networks.

Many Western feminists have described the existence of a normative motherhood applies to women. This norm implies that women who are between 25 and 35 years old, who are in heterosexual stable couple, who have sufficient material resources and “biological” maternal instinct have to be mother. So these women live a non-normative event. Non-normative event defines as this for three reasons. First, women who do not have children beyond reproductive age are still a minority, though a growing minority. They go against the “normal” life course in a statistical sense. Second, women without children live against social expectations of motherhood. Their status is not normative in the sense that they “should have children”. Third, women without children do not realize their biological potential. They go against their natural function of mothering. So, my research question is: “How women who did not have children negotiate their life course condition in contexts of normative motherhood in Switzerland”?

For answering this question, I use for my research, three perspectives that are complementary and allow analysing this object at three levels: individual, couple and social networks. Life course perspective offers the advantage to conceptualize childless not as one-point in time choice but as a process. The life course perspective also refers to the concept of the linked lives. Studying how normative motherhood acts on women means also to investigate the woman’s partner role. The gender perspective adds to it that the roles and the interactions within the couple are gendered. Finally, the social networks perspective will allow me to tackle peer groups influence on childbearing.

My data are semi-structured interviews with couples, and each partner separately. My sample is composed of heterosexual couples where the woman is childless. These couples are extracted from a 10-year longitudinal survey – Couples contemporains – Cohésion, conflit et régulation. The pilot will take place in the Fall 2012 and the main fieldwork in Winter and Spring 2013.

17h00-17h30: Duvoisin Aline

Social differentials during the baby boom in Switzerland

Abstract. The first generations of baby boomers are now retiring and there is a general concern about the consequences (mainly the economic impacts) of this phenomenon. However, the causes of the baby boom still remain unclear (Calot, Sardon, 1998). There are indeed no widely accepted theories and most of them are economic explanations (Easterlin, 1961 for example) that approach this demographic phenomenon from a global perspective, at a macro level. Furthermore, “it is not clear whether or not all social groups participated equally in the trend towards higher fertility” (Reher, Van Bavel, 2012) that is observed in many European countries since the mid 1930s (Monnier, 2006).

In this context, after a description of the Swiss demographic trends, the objectives of my research are:

Firstly, to define the timing, the strength and the length of the baby boom dynamics that marked the trend of fertility in Switzerland in the 1930s, 40s and 50s.

Secondly, to explore the social differentials during this period of change in fertility’s behaviour.

I will use the data of a large survey done in 2011/12 on some 4000 elderly living in Switzerland: Vivre-Leben-Vivere, which is part of the NCCR LIVES – overcoming vulnerability: life course perspectives. This database is very useful since it contains a lot of information about the baby boomers’ parents. Moreover, it also offers information about the background of each individual, their accumulated human and social capitals, and their family, residential and professional life trajectories. This will also enable me to study the vulnerabilities and the inequalities among the baby boomers’ generation and among the cohorts of their parents, in a life course perspective.

17h30-18h00: Girardin Nadia

Transition to parenthood in French speaking Switzerland: Intentions and practices of working hours before/after the birth of the first child

Abstract. The transition to parenthood dramatically increases the gender gap. For Krüger and Levy (2001) institutional constraints and social norms are the reasons for the traditionalization of roles, in spite of egalitarian norms. For these authors, people participate in different domains of the life course (work, family, etc.) but one domain takes precedence over the others. The two authors call gender master status the main participation profile, which is the occupational area for men and the familial area for women. Both men and women can participate in other areas as long as it does not encroach upon the main area. The factors that lead to gender master status, and its consequences, are already well documented. However, little is known about each partner’s anticipation (or not) of this traditionalization process. Earlier results show that couples do not necessarily behave according to their intentions and we wish to investigate the links between intentions and practices. In this study, intentions of expecting heterosexual couples regarding childcare, working hours and day care are analysed and linked to their actual practices after the birth of their first child. This study also focuses on factors, such as gender and family attitudes, income, job characteristics, and prior division of housework, that affect both intentions and practices and the connection between the two. We use data from the quantitative part of the Becoming a parent survey, which were collected by the PaVie Centre between 2005 and 2009 in the French-speaking Switzerland. After a short theoretical introduction on intentions and anticipation and the kind of connections that bind intentions and practices, we present some of our first results on intentions and practices regarding working hours. Links with previous results on partner’s childcare intentions and practices will be explored.

18h00-18h30: General discussion

Experts: Philippe Wanner & Eric Widmer



Session 9. Room M1130.

Chairman: Anik de Ribaupierre

16h30-17h00: Henke Julia

Aging in Switzerland, 1979 – 2012: Dimensions of Vulnerability in Old Age

Abstract. In the past, the terms ‘vulnerability’ and ‘elderly people’ have often been mentioned in one breath. In recent decades, the perspective on aging has become increasingly positive but tends to portray “the” elderly as one homogeneous group. However, important compositional changes in today’s elderly population intersecting with the history of a century marked by drastic and ungoing transformations is bound to produce very diverse aging experiences. This thesis project aims at revisiting the question of vulnerability to low levels of social, economic and health-related well-being among today’s elderly. Based on the cross-sectional survey ‘Vivre / Leben / Vivere’ 2011-12 we will start out by developing a typology of vulnerability that is relevant in the Swiss contexts, taking into account three angles of measurement (perceived, self-assessed and objective). We will then study the individual and contextual characteristics of high-risk groups on the one hand, and the potential of individual- and social-level coping capacity on the other hand. The consistency of the relationship between explanatory factors and vulnerability type will be tested on data from the two previous waves (1979; 1994-95) of the same survey. Finally, we will attempt to make projections on future vulnerability trends.

17h00-17h30: Nicolet Marthe

At the death's door, social inequalities and palliative care : a comparative study in Geneva and Valais

Abstract. During the last century, life expectancy at birth has increased by over 30 years in Switzerland. The proportion of people aged 65 and older has tripled and the percentage of people 80 years and older has increased times eight. In 2012, Federal Office of Public Health estimates that the number of death is 60'000 and that almost two-thirds need palliative care.

Elderly are living longer and longer old and they are living longer and longer with chronic and complex diseases. How the palliative care can deal these evolutions. How do the families and beloved and the patient live the different steps and decisions before the death. This PhD proposal aims to understand the new management of palliative care for elderly people as well as life at the end of life.

First a socio-economic analysis of the elderly people’s death in Geneva and Valais will be realised to see who die, when, where and the causes of death. To do so, I will use the mortality data base from the Swiss National Cohort.

Secondly I will study obituaries and death notices, to see whether families express their gratitude to the hospice palliative care or team. Comparing the whole population of elder deaths with the death notices, different profiles will be identified (no death notice, notice without gratitude and notice with) at an aggregate level.

Third in using the different profiles, in this public source that are the death notices, I will interview families and beloved to make a retrospective analysis on the course of the person who died and how the last chapter of life was managed, with or without palliative care. The aim is clearly to identify the “good practices” from the point of view of the survivors and the socio-medical teams.

With the population ageing and evolving patterns of mortality and morbidity, care for people at the end of life will become a pressing humanitarian issue. Through these different steps and using a mixed methods approach, a new light on the present condition could be possible.

17h30-18h00: Masotti Barbara

Transitions in later life. A study of homecare receivers in Ticino

Abstract. With the ageing of the population in Western societies, help in daily life activities is increasingly needed by elderly living at home, especially by “old-old people”. In connection with a policy in favor of the “keeping at home”, formal sources of support such as those provided by professional care services, have gained importance and often complement the traditional assistance offered by families. While existing studies have focused more on informal care, mainly from the caregivers perspective, the here presented study will focus on the use of these emerging types of support, but starting from the care receiver’s point of view, in our case the elderly living at home. Furthermore, I adopt a Life-course perspective and assume that, like other “life transitions” typical of the old age

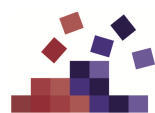
(retirement, widowhood, institutionalization), the mobilization of a formal network of care marks a critical shift in the life of the elderly, asking him/her for significant efforts of adaptation.

The purpose of my research is therefore primarily to clarify how the use of formal care services takes place in the life trajectory of elderly and how, with all its implications, it is experienced and perceived by the directly concerned parties. The study starts from data collected through the cross-sectional survey “Vivre-Leben-Vivere” (IP 13) on life and health conditions of people aged 65 and over living in Switzerland (n=3600) and focus on over 80 years old people living at home in the Italian speaking region Ticino (n=240). The method aims to combine quantitative use of the VLV data with a more qualitative one, developed through in-depth interviews.

The presentation will start from the project thesis (background, research questions, data and adopted methods) and move on to discuss some preliminary findings related to the quantitative part (analysis of VLV questionnaires data) and/or to the qualitative part (collected in-depth interviews with homecare receivers). The development of this second part of the presentation will strictly depend on the progress of the research field at that time (both the analysis of questionnaires data and in-depth interviews began in November 2012).

18h00-18h30: General discussion

Experts: Henriette Engelhardt-Wölfer & Anik de Ribaupierre



Session 10. Room 1140

Chairman: Michel Pellizzari

9h30-10h00: Bigotta Maurizio

Evaluation of the abolition of the law prioritising Swiss resident workers on unemployment

Abstract. Unemployment is the most striking form of vulnerability in the labour market. Unemployed individuals are faced with the challenge of finding employment and exposure to critical events (e.g. personal events, structural changes in the labour market, etc.) can have a strong impact on their access to jobs.

Increased competition in the labour market with migrant workers can be seen as one obstacle to finding a job. In 2004, as part of the bilateral agreements on the free movement of persons between CH and EU, Switzerland abolished the law prioritising nationals over new immigrants in allocating jobs, increasing the pressure on the labour market.

This project evaluates the consequences of this specific aspect of liberalization and the resulting increases in competition in the labour market, unemployment and returns to employment. The quotas on the number of residency permits issued by the Swiss government were never achieved, as a consequence, this liberalization affected almost exclusively cross-border workers; as such this study will focus on the impact of the increased competition generated by this group of migrants.

Municipalities in the centre of Switzerland were not allowed by law to hire cross-border workers until 2007, providing a natural control group that allows for a counterfactual evaluation of the policy using the difference-in-differences methodology. Using a matching procedure I created a control group that differs from the population in the bordering area of Switzerland (treated), where cross-border workers can be hired, only by the change of policy. The difference between the evolution of the control group, also called the counterfactual, and the actual observed evolution is the effect solely of the change of policy.

10h00-10h30: Galhano Laura

Plurality of work and evaluations: consequences for job seeking strategies and unemployment policies

Abstract. This research assumes that there is a plurality of labor markets (Marchal, 2007). Every organization of work has its characteristics and logics of functioning. My purpose is to analyze the evaluations of work and the values of employment that are behind these mechanisms. This analyze would consider a plurality of organizations' requisites and evaluations of work that come into play in recruitment procedures. I want to identify the tests imposed by economics organizations and experienced by job seekers. These tests might have consequences in the

life course and in the professional trajectory, as well as in the evaluation of work by unemployed. The purpose is on their impact: how the evaluations of work and unemployment behind the tests do limit or improve the individuals' capacity to work and to choose a job they value?

In this context, I wonder whether the requisites, values and testes imposed by public institutions are in agreement with the selection operated by the economics organizations. The analyze will therefore focus on job seekers strategies and how unemployed use the public devices in their strategies. My aim is to analyze these strategies in relation with individual biographies, personal resources and the way people live and evaluate work and unemployment. I am interested in what extent they are appropriate to the functioning and evaluations of labor markets and public organizations. How are they influenced by tests people are put to? To what extent do public devices limit or improve the capacity to choose and live a life people value? It is about the resources unemployed have access through employment policies and how they use them according to the degrees of centrality work have in their existence. More broadly, this includes questioning the social bound and all these components.

10h30-11h00: Perriard Anne

Social age, employment norms and the life course

Abstract. The intersectional approach intermingles unequal power relations based on gender, race and class to understand how social inequalities occur. However, if age is quoted in the majority of the scholars as a category, it is only too rarely questioned as the product of a social relation in the same way as social relations based on gender, race and class.

Nevertheless, the discourses on « the young people ... », « the old people... », with chronological age as the sole determinant, lie on normative standards related to specific moments of the life course.

In my thesis, which field work is the welfare-to-work policies, I try to understand, on the one side, what are the employment norms attributed to the different age categories, and, on the other side, the influence of age, constituted as a social relation, on hierarchical social positions: are the normative standards of (un)employment and activity the same for a woman as for a man of similar chronological age? Does everyone socially age in the same way? Which are the constituent attributes of youth, adulthood or old age in each of these situations from a social policies point of view?

The presentation will concern the choice of a conceptual frame, which takes into account the heuristic quality of social age as well as the application of this frame to the field of welfare-to-work policies.

11h00-11h30: Vaccaro Giannina

Occupational change, schooling decisions, and its implications for gender segregation

Abstract. As part of my PhD thesis on Education and Labour Economics, I present here a preliminary work of my first paper. This paper will analyze the determinants of job polarization and it will focus on the labor supply side. I will study occupational mobility and its relationship with the fact that people choose to learn particular occupations. Finally, I will examine the effects of divergent occupational patterns on the distribution of wages of women and men.

11h30-12h00: General discussion

Experts: Michele Pellizzari & Michel Oris



Session 11. Room M1150.

Chairman: Olivier Desrichard

9h30-10h00: Carvalho Barbosa Marlène

Categorical and ideological norms across life course.

Abstract. In life course studies, norms have often been associated with temporality of life events. We suggest that this perspective has to be widened in order to understand more deeply their impact on vulnerability and life course regulation. In this text, we will distinguish two kinds of norms: categorical norms and ideological norms. More

precisely, we will show the incidence of 1) gender norms and 2) meritocratic and justification ideologies, on life choices and related achievement strategies, and on different aspects of vulnerability. In order to do so, we have developed a relational model of vulnerability that organizes vulnerability as a function of personal worries (material and interpersonal), the quality of relations with close others (social support and recognition) and the quality of relations with distant others (anomy and social contribution). Results of a study carried out with high school students (N = 340) first reveal the gendered nature of vulnerability: Women feel more worried about relations than men, and feel like contributing less to society. Men in turn perceive less external rules and feel less social support from pairs. These findings suggest the different components of vulnerability match social gender roles: Female vulnerabilities show a predominance of vulnerability in the private sphere, whereas male vulnerability is related to individualistic male norms. A second set of results shows the palliative impact of ideological beliefs: both meritocracy and justification of the system are related with lower levels of vulnerability concerning recognition, social contribution and anomy. These results provide support for the palliative function of justification beliefs. Overall, the results suggest that these two kinds of norms have a differential impact on vulnerability. Further analyses have to be done in order to understand more precisely the underlying mechanisms.

10h00-10h30: Burgos Paredes Raul

The impact of legal status on the social worlds of undocumented Ecuadorian immigrants in Switzerland and ethical aspects concerning research on irregular migration

Abstract. By building on three methodological tools which are: in-depth qualitative interviews, a life-calendar, and free-style social network drawing, this paper aims to show how the condition of “illegality” impacts undocumented Ecuadorian immigrants’ social worlds, the formation of social networks and their involvement in transnational activities. I will also discuss how the impact of the current economic crisis in Spain is influencing the arrival of Ecuadorians in Switzerland and how their condition of “semi-legality” impacts their life and the way they are exposed to vulnerabilities like those undocumented Ecuadorians who have been in Switzerland for more than ten years. A cross-cutting theme throughout this topic is that of the ethical aspects that research on irregular immigration involves. The two main concepts usually evoked in the ethical practice of migration research are those of vulnerability and sensitivity and as well the aspect of ethics at work, that is, in the field. When researching irregular migration the question whether social benefits will outweigh potential social harms is crucial. Another concern is the kind of message that research on irregular migration pass to the civic society: ideally it should not contribute to discrimination, but rather improve the appreciation of the vulnerabilities this particular group suffers. All this involves convincing immigrants that my study does not represent any harm. A third aspect concerns the expectations for support that the contact between the researcher and the interviewee may raise later.

10h30-11h00: Carvalho Arruda Carolina

Professional aspirations of teenagers in Switzerland: on the crossroad of gender, class and national origin

Abstract. In my thesis, I aim to analyse the different causes of teenagers’ occupational aspirations in Switzerland. More precisely, the purpose of this research is to understand the structural mechanisms contributing to gender-atypical professional aspirations. The focus is put on the importance of gender identities and the influence of Gender in this matter. This explaining factor will be confronted to two others: social class and national origin.

To do so, I adopt a three-fold approach. Firstly, the materialist feminist perspective – which defines Gender as a social system cross-cutting all other systems and based on two main principals of division and hierarchical – allows me to understand the (re)production of gender identities and the impact of gender norms on teenagers’ self-image and projections. Secondly, the life course perspective reveals the connection between individuals and the historical and socioeconomic context in which these individuals live. Using this approach, it becomes more understandable what means to choose one’s professional future in such early age. Finally, the intersectional perspective takes Gender, Social class and National origin as three hierarchical systems, which interact to create a complex matrix of domination. This intersection of systems takes place within the social institutions.

My hypothesis is that the configuration of social class and national origin systems modifies pupils’ attachment to gender roles and identities, and creates a new set of rules to define who are those targeting a gender-atypical profession in his/hers early teens.

In order to verify this hypothesis, I use the results from the « PNR 60 - Professional aspirations and orientations of girls and boys towards the end of compulsory school: what determinants for more equality? » survey. This research is financed by the SNF and carried out among a sample of more than 3000 pupils between the ages of 13 and 15, as well as their parents and their teachers.

11h00-11h30: Glaeser Stephanie

Social capital – a collective good or a tool of exclusion? Investigating the multidimensionality of community climates across Europe

Abstract. This PhD project aims to investigate the links between social inequalities, social capital and collective well-being. In this framework, the present research focuses on clarifying concepts like social capital and cohesion by investigating their multidimensionality and the potential negative aspects implied by these often-idealized conceptions of community. Putnam (2000) defined social capital as “a public good - the amount of participatory potential, civic orientation and trust in others available to cities, states or nations” (Portes & Vickstrom, 2011). According to Portes and Vickstrom, this conception of social capital, used by a host of studies to qualify the cohesion of societies or neighborhoods, is based on an ideal of homogeneity and communitarianism that might not be compatible with the challenges modern societies face.

Furthermore, as previous analyses of the Swiss context realized in the framework of this PhD project show, higher levels of generalized trust (one of the most important and idealized components of social capital) in cantons are linked to lower willingness to engage in equality-enhancing collective protest and lower approval of the inclusion of foreigners. These findings also suggest the importance of a more complex conceptualization and operationalization of the various dimensions affecting social cohesion and community climates.

Thus, instead of defining one-directional scores of social capital measured as the characteristic of arbitrarily defined contextual units, the present study suggests the consideration of multidimensional configurations related to community involvement, social trust, civic engagement, solidarity and exclusion, taking into account potentially paradoxical configurations within contexts that might be influenced by underlying, historically anchored conceptions of solidarity.

Analyses examine different potential configurations and clusters of the different dimensions of social capital, aiming to construct a typology of community climates and their spatial distribution across Europe.

The results will be discussed considering potential dark sides of social capital related to dimensions such as inequalities, diversity and social change.

11h30-12h00: General discussion

Experts: Olivier Desrichard & Felix Bühlman



Session 12. Room M1160.

Chairman: Laura Bernardi

13h00-13h30: Aeby Gaelle

Personal relationships and social capital in Switzerland

Abstract. Individuals are involved in different social circles encompassing a wide arena of significant others met throughout the life course (family, friends, colleagues, neighbors, etc.). Networks of personal relationships provide essential relational resources for individuals on a daily basis or in case of need. Those networks show structural variability, some are based primarily on kinship ties, whereas others appear to be dominated by friendship ties. Depending on their composition, they do not provide identical resources. Networks composed of family members are more likely to be densely connected (everyone knowing everyone) and to favor the development of bonding social capital in comparison to other kind networks which are more likely to be centralized and create bridging social capital. Using a representative sample of 803 individuals living in Switzerland and belonging to two distinct birth cohorts (1950-55 and 1970-75), this study examines the association between network composition and network relational structure (social capital). Firstly, eight types of personal configurations are identified, based on the composition of the inter-individual ties. Secondly, sociometric measures for interactions and emotional support (network density, centralization and centrality) are computed to study the structure of personal relationships in which respondents are involved. Control variables such as gender, birth cohort and level of education are also taken into account.

Results confirm the strong association between network composition and the social capital that is being developed. Results are discussed in light of the theories on the pluralization of personal relationships.

13h30-14h00: Turttschi Nicolas

Les réseaux sociaux comme moyen d'accès à l'emploi pour les chômeurs à faible employabilité

Abstract. La réinsertion des chômeurs est une thématique qui mobilise les milieux scientifiques et politiques, donnant lieu à des analyses et à des mesures diverses depuis des décennies. Cet objectif de réinsertion conduit à de nombreuses pistes de réflexion et, depuis l'étude de Granovetter en 1974 sur leur rôle en matière de circulation de l'information, les réseaux sociaux sont arrivés sur le devant de la scène.

Cependant, si le constat de l'utilité du réseau est à présent unanimement partagé par les professionnels et les théoriciens du domaine, et si on conseille à juste titre aux chômeurs de « mobiliser leur réseau », les raisons de cette importance nous restent encore en partie méconnues. Nous avons décidé d'explorer ces raisons, en nous concentrant sur la population la plus difficile à réinsérer parmi les chômeurs.

Notre question de recherche sera donc la suivante : Quel rôle jouent les réseaux sociaux des chômeurs à faible employabilité dans leur réinsertion professionnelle ?

Le projet se divise en plusieurs phases, dont la principale est le suivi longitudinal d'une population de plus de 4'500 chômeurs durant une année, lequel suivi a débuté en février 2012 et se terminera en mai 2013. Ce suivi a débuté par l'administration d'un questionnaire à tous les nouveaux chômeurs du canton de Vaud qui ont assisté à une séance d'information obligatoire entre février, mars et avril 2012. Par la suite, chaque chômeur qui trouve un emploi reçoit un second questionnaire interrogeant sa réinsertion et ses causes (contact, annonce officielle, etc.). Ce second questionnaire sera également envoyé, sous une forme quelque peu modifiée, à tous les chômeurs encore inscrits au chômage une année après le début de leur suivi, ce qui clôturera l'enquête.

Outre l'utilisation de la base de données pour dessiner les tendances générales en matière d'utilisation des réseaux sociaux par les chômeurs à faible employabilité, nous visons à réaliser une série d'entretiens qualitatifs avec des chômeurs à faible employabilité, de manière à expliciter leur perception de leur réseau social. Ces entretiens nous permettront de détailler leur vision de cette ressource. Il nous semble en effet important de comprendre le point de vue des individus que nous étudions pour pouvoir saisir les enjeux complets de la thématique.

14h00-14h30: von Ow Anna

The role of social contacts in finding a way out of unemployment

Abstract. This contribution sketches out the theoretical context of the PhD thesis. It is part of a research project which explores the role of social contacts as a job search strategy for the unemployed, on the basis of a large-scale Swiss survey. Our goal is to examine the role of unemployed job seekers' social contacts and resources in helping them find employment. It is widely known that informal 'connections' cannot be underestimated in the allocation process between employers looking to fill their vacancies most appropriately and job seekers looking for jobs that match their skills best. The relative numbers of jobs found via social contacts differ with the sample analyzed and the measurement used. Nevertheless, the range - from 30% to 70% of jobs found - shows that social contacts are an important resource in job search (e.g. Granovetter 1995). This is especially the case when it comes to unemployed people who are, as the duration of their unemployment increases, more and more in danger that their unemployment is interpreted by the employers as a signal of low ability or low effort in job search (Blau & Robins 1990). In such a situation it is crucial to be as well informed as possible about different search strategies and their effectiveness.

We assume that the role social contacts can play in job search is not the same for every job seeker. It depends on the characteristics of the social contacts, on the kind of job searched (occupation, industry, educational requirements of the job) and the individual attributes of the job seeker. We are interested in exploring how the relation between the job seeker's characteristics and the attributes of his social contact's characteristics affects his job search outcome. This is done by partly referring to network measures as heterogeneity, but also compositional quality (Borgatti & Everett 1998: 30). We also take into account the procedural character of the job search process, which has been emphasized in the literature (e.g. Lin 1999b: 35). We want to explore whether the active use of social contacts as a search strategy increases the likelihood of finding a job by means of social contacts – and this in shorter time and with higher quality.

14h30-15h00: General discussion

Experts: Laura Bernardi & René Levy



Session 13. Room M1130.

Chairman: André Berchtold

13h00-13h30: Cullati Stephane

Socioeconomic inequalities in health trajectories in Switzerland: are there divergent paths over time?

Abstract. Background: Do socioeconomic differences in health status increases over time, leading to cumulative advantaged or disadvantaged health trajectories? Researches in life course health emphasized the Cumulative Advantaging model as the underlying social process driving inequalities over time. Longitudinal researches suggested that individuals in low socioeconomic positions tend to experience stronger decline in their health status over time compared to those in high socioeconomic positions, in terms of self-rated health, body mass index, mental health, physical functioning and other health outcomes. A number of studies confirmed such associations in countries like the United States and the United Kingdom, however evidence is more mixed among other European countries. In Switzerland, studies examining socioeconomic inequalities in health trajectories are scarce.

Objectives: To assess if Swiss residents follow divergent health trajectories over time according to their socioeconomic positions.

Methods: A random sample of 3665 respondents living in Switzerland (Swiss Household Panel, 2004-2011) was used to examine socioeconomic inequalities in trajectories of self-rated health, body mass index, depression and functioning, with multi-level linear mixed models, separately for women and men. To assess if socioeconomic factors (education and occupation status) were associated with distinctive health trajectories, interaction terms between age and the socioeconomic covariates were tested.

Results: In terms of education, women with low education (compulsory) experienced accelerated decline (compared to those with university degrees) in their depression trajectories but less rapid decline in their self-rated health status. Men with general education reported accelerated rate of growth in their BMI trajectories. In terms of occupation status, the unemployed experienced accelerated decline (compared to respondents working in full-time) in their self-rated health status (both women and men) and functioning levels (men only); however, unemployed men reported lower rate of increase in their depression levels. Retired women reported higher deteriorating rate in their functioning status. However, the retired (both women and men) reported lower rate of increase in their BMI trajectories. Respondents "at home" and in education reported accelerated decline in their self-rated health status (men only) but lower rate of increase in their BMI trajectories (women only). Handicapped respondents reported advantaging self-rated health, BMI and depression trajectories over time, for both women and men. Handicapped men, too, experienced slower functioning decline over time.

Conclusion: According to their socioeconomic positions, Swiss women and men experienced distinctive paths in their long-term health, resulting both in accelerated (disadvantaging) and decelerated (advantaging) differences over time.

13h30-14h00: Gabadinho Alexis

Sequence analysis with Variable Length Markov Chains

Abstract. In the social sciences, the privileged approach for the analysis of whole categorical time series representing careers or life trajectories was originally promoted by Abbott [1]. It relies on the computation of pairwise distances (e.g. Optimal Matching) that measure the resemblance between individual sequences. Once a pairwise distance matrix is obtained, it can be submitted to a clustering procedure or to the more recently introduced procedures for discrepancy analysis [9]. Abbott motivated his method by distinguishing between approaches that treat sequences step by step and the metric approach based on Optimal Matching that consider sequences as whole units. The latter is aimed at finding (typical) patterns in sets of individual trajectories and studying how these patterns are influenced by covariates.

Markov chain models are classified by Abbott in the "step by step" methods. These models have been used for longitudinal data analysis for a long time [7, 8, 2]. In this framework, categorical sequences encoding life histories can be seen as the result of a stochastic process in which the probability of occurrence of one state depends on a given amount of the past states, called the order of the model. This theoretical framework is intuitive for and fits most of the social processes considered in the social sciences.

Standard, fixed length Markov chain models suffer however from important drawbacks. One of them is the exponentially increasing complexity of the model when its order, that is the amount of considered past states, increases. Another drawback is the stationarity assumption that is usually made to gain analytic simplicity. This assumption restricts the transition probabilities to be fixed in time, which proves unrealistic in many applications [6].

We present a class of models called Variable Length Markov Chains (VLMC) [4, 5, 3] that overcome the complexity problem of fixed length Markov Chains by allowing the amount of considered past states (the memory) to vary according to a particular context. The gain in flexibility together with the ease of estimation of VLMC allow to model high order dependencies that may exist in many social sciences sequences. Although the original framework for such models assumes stationarity, we also show that it is possible to extend the framework to model non stationary processes.

VLMC allow to easily extract typical patterns as well as outlier from sets of individual sequences. Moreover, the influence of covariates on patterns can be analysed by fitting separate or segmented models for sub-populations, defined for instance by age, sex or socio-economic level. Other possible usages of VLMC include imputation of missing states and sequence clustering. Variable Length Markov Chains models therefore escape Abbott's dichotomous classification between step by step and whole sequence methods and can be a model oriented alternative to the dominant 'metric approach', which has suffered and is still suffering many criticism.

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14h00-14h30: Remund Adrien

Is young adults' excess mortality a universal phenomenon?

Abstract. This study aims to test the respective relevance of different theories of adolescence that picture this age as either intrinsically dangerous, or as vulnerable to the socioeconomic context. By studying the evolution of young adults' excess mortality with the help of mortality models, it becomes clear that this phenomenon is strongly dependant on the historical context. The post-WWII period (women) and the 1930 generation (men) benefited from particular socioeconomic conditions that made the mortality hump disappear. Furthermore, by adapting the Potential Gains in Life Expectancy (PGLE) method that allows to ignore the overall mortality context, it is possible to estimate the loss of life expectancy due uniquely to the hump. PGLE peaked during the early twentieth century, and then decreased, but only to start a dramatic increase in the last years. These results highlight the socioeconomic nature of young adults' excess mortality and the need to consider this issue in today's public health agendas.

14h30-15h00: Zufferey Jonathan

Mortality differentials among migrants in Switzerland, 1990-2010: First results

Abstract. Many studies have tried to understand migrant health and mortality in Western countries with not always satisfying results. A major paradox emerges in the literature, a lower mortality among migrants although they have a lower socioeconomic status too (and we all know the high significance of socioeconomic position in respect to mortality). Researchers sought if the migrant mortality advantage was real, namely if some direct or indirect factors could explain it, or if it has to be explained by biases in the data or in the measurement. It still remains today difficulties to have the last word and the good answer is probably nuanced. Actually, there are some important biases in selective migration for in-migration as much as out-migration but these biases are not sufficient to explain the mortality advantage.

On the other hand, the usual individual determinants of mortality can't explain the whole heterogeneity we observe among migrants. There is a large variability among individuals which experienced a migration so to understand we have to widen the explanatory factors i.e. by including other dimensions. The aim of my PhD is to provide a comprehensive analysis of migrant inequalities in longevity through a multilevel approach, considering the individual but also the place where he/she is living. My preliminary works showed the relevance of the environment at a local scale for explaining migrant health. The context is key feature for migrant populations with a high variability among places while spatial effect isn't that important for the natives: the migrant seems to be more vulnerable toward his/her environment.

Firstly, this paper presents the background of my PhD, the theory, the data and the methods. Secondly, I focus on the migrants living in Switzerland in 1990 and 2000, trying to have an overview of these populations and to make a typology defining consistent migrant groups in regard to sociodemographic characteristics and migratory trajectories. Finally, we propose some preliminary analysis on migrant mortality differentials based on the groups we just build.

15h00-15h30: General discussion

Experts: Henriette Engelhardt-Wölfer, André Berchtold & Reto Schumacher



Session 14. Room M1140.

Chairman: Marianne Modak

13h00-13h30: Schicka Manuela

The Impact of Critical Events and Life Transitions on the Conjugal Quality: A Configurational Approach

Abstract. My PhD project aims at investigating the impact of critical life events (e.g. unemployment, financial problems, health problems etc) and life transitions (e.g. transitions to parenthood, to empty nest, to retirement etc) on the couples' relationship. I hypothesize that couples are affected by these life events differently regarding their style of interaction.

The couples' interaction style for this project is orientated on two dimensions: cohesion and regulation (Widmer et al. 2003). The concept of cohesion refers to the extent to which both partners value their own autonomy. Regulation concerns the way couples organize their daily life and the distribution of tasks.

The Parallel interaction style is characterized by a low degree of fusion and a high degree of closure. Relational and functional roles are highly differentiated. Companionship couples show very high levels of fusion and low levels of closure. Roles are not highly differentiated and the routinisation is low. Bastion couples feature a high level of fusion, a low level of closure for men and a high level of closure for women. Roles are highly differentiated, the master status is affirmed and routinisation is also high. The Cocoon style of interaction has similar levels of cohesion than the Bastion type. In its case, however, roles are much less gendered. The last type is called Associative and is characterized by low levels of fusion and closure. Partners of these couples are very autonomous and open towards the environment. Roles are not highly differentiated and routinisation is low.

It is supposed that autonomous couples (Parallel and Associative) will be affected negatively by the occurrence of critical life events as they are characterized by a low level of interaction with each other. The research literature showed already that spousal support and interaction mediates or lowers the negative impact of critical life events. Companionship couples are supposed to be less affected as they are fusional and open at the same time. The low degree of routinisation and the low differentiation of roles are helpful to adapt to new situations over the common life course.

Data for this project comes from the Study: "Social Stratification, Cohesion and Conflict in Contemporary Families" (Widmer et al. 2003). This three wave dataset contains information about both partners of the couple. I can investigate the development of 721 couples who stayed with the same partner for the observation period of 13 years (1998-2011).

First results show already that autonomous couples (Parallel and Associative) experienced more conjugal conflicts and are less satisfied with their relationship. As a next step I will analyze which impact do critical life events have on conjugal quality among the different styles of interaction.

13h30-14h00: Girardin Myriam

Who are my family members? The pluralization of family configurations in old age.

Abstract. My dissertation focuses on family configurations in old age. The term "configuration" refers to a network of people who are dependent on each other through the exchanges of various resources (practical and emotional). In the configurational approach these interdependencies are organized differently according to the particular structure of each configuration. Therefore, the family configurations will be approached from the point of view of their structure (size and composition) and will be assumed to diversify as a function of the socio-demographic characteristics of the elderly individuals and their life courses. Indeed, the pluralization of the life courses that has characterized the experience of currently young adults cohorts (as divorce, non marital cohabitation, childlessness, family recomposition, etc) affects directly but also indirectly old cohorts in family configurations. Therefore, I posit that family configurations are diverse even in the last stages of life. Preliminary results indeed show diversity in size and in composition of family configurations in old age. A majority of elderly individuals include as "family" their most intimate family ties (spouse or adult children), but others also include a wide range of significant family members, including in-laws, distant relatives, and even friends. Socio-demographic profiles and life courses explain these differences. Data presented here are based on a sample of 580 individuals aged 65 years and above, living at home or in institutions, and able to answer the questions by themselves.

14h00-14h30: Veselà Jana

Overcoming social vulnerabilities in family: a configurational approach

Abstract. In my thesis I stress the dynamic of conjugal dyads' relationships within the personal network of family members and friends living in proximity of both partners – partners' configurations. The objective is to examine in a sociological perspective the impact of life-course adversity on the couples' life and well-being using a longitudinal study. The main research question is what types of configurations allow the couple to overcome the vulnerabilities related to life-course adversity. Alternatively, I am also interested in what types of partners' configurations make couples more vulnerable. The vulnerability is considered in terms of satisfaction with conjugal relationships, thinking of separation, perception of stress and depressive symptoms of partners. I proceed with the construction of empirical typologies of partners' configurations over time. My data are based on the first and third waves of the representative survey of Swiss couples (Widmer, Kellerhals, Levy; 2004). I run descriptive analyse on the critical life events reported by partners in wave 1 and 3. The results underscore that couples with large personal networks, a high level of sociability and of potential of support, better adjust to life-course adversity. On the contrary, couples with a high level of interference of kin in conjugal relationships, as well as these with very poor personal networks, are the most vulnerable.

14h30-15h00: Ganjour Olga

Family solidarity practices and family solidarity norms in various types of welfare states: A quantitative approach

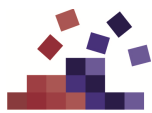
Abstract. This paper explores the links existing between State policy, family solidarity practices and family solidarity norms. We assume that the content of family solidarity is changed. Some reasons of that are demographic shift, increasing of woman participation in labor market and expansion of the social policy. Currently the family solidarity is expanded and includes not only intergenerational solidarity, but also friends, colleagues, associations, etc. The form of family social capital is also changed from bonding, family oriented, to bridging, oriented to family members and others relatives. The comparative study of different groups of countries with respect to Esping-

Andersen typology allows us to see the change of family social capital across countries and to fix the impact of Welfare State on it. We assume that in conservative and post-communist regime countries family solidarities are family oriented at practical and normative levels. Hence, the family social capital meets a bonding form. In contrast, we suppose a bridging form of family social capital in social-democratic and liberal regime countries.

We use data from the International Social Survey Program (ISSP) from respondents living in countries classified in four groups according to Esping-Andersen typology: conservative regime countries (France, Germany and Spain), liberal regime countries (USA, Canada, Switzerland and Great Britain), social-democratic regime countries (Denmark, Finland and Norway) and post-communist regime countries (Russia). Based on cluster analysis, we confirm that social policies interact with family social capital. Individuals living in countries with a conservative and post-communist Welfare regime are involved in family solidarity practices which are characterized by family oriented network. They share State or mixed (between State and family) normative support. They dispose a bonding form of family social capital. Individuals from social-democratic Welfare regime are frequently oriented towards State normative support and focus on association's contacts rather than on family contacts. They dispose a bridging form of family social capital. Individuals in liberal Welfare regime are similar to individuals in social-democratic regime in terms of social network, but at the normative level, they are either orientated towards no support (autonomy) or towards family support. Results are discussed in relation with the configurational perspective of families.

15h00-15h30: General discussion

Experts: Marianne Modak & Jean Kellerhals



Session 15. Room M1150.

Chairman: Oliver Lipps

16h00-16h30: Burgin Reto

Random Coefficient Model Trees for Ordinal Longitudinal Data

Abstract. Analysing longitudinal ordinal data reflecting individual life quality along time, such as self-rated health- or life-satisfaction trajectories, is a common approach to study vulnerability processes. An interesting focus in such analyses is on distinguishing or comparing between favourable life contexts (associated with increasing or permanent good life quality) and critical life contexts (associated with decline, chronic distress or turbulence). For example, stable working conditions or having a long-term partner might be favourable contexts and the live after a divorce a critical context. My doctoral project aims at developing a statistical method for

1. discovering life contexts by means of covariates describing individual life circumstances and
2. statistically characterising the individual evolution of life quality within this contexts.

Random coefficient models are a widespread and model-based approach to longitudinal data. More specifically, the outcome is modelled as a function along time while individual specific coefficients allow for departure from the central trajectory. Random coefficient models have originally been developed for interval data, but later developments have enabled to apply them nowadays to ordinal data in a corresponding way. On ordinal random coefficient models, the concept of peculiar evolution along time by life context can be formalised by interactions between covariates and the time model. The natural formalisation would be a separate time model for each combination of the values of covariates, possibly resulting with bulks of coefficients of ambiguous interpretation. My problem is to develop a method decomposing the covariate space into segments – the essential ones with respect to evolution along time. The proposed method combines recursive partitioning and ordinal random coefficient models. This heuristic approach is not only supposed to provide parsimonious models, it is also easy to access as results can be visualised by decision trees. The upcoming presentation introduces this statistical framework and is accompanied with first results from simulation studies and applications on real data.

16h30-17h00: Bolano Danilo

Hidden Mixture Transition Distribution Model for continuous variables

Abstract. One of the central concerns of longitudinal research revolves around the description of patterns of stability and change, and the explanation of how and why change does or does not take place. My thesis will focus on the comparison and the integration of two relevant approaches for understanding change over time, the Hidden Markov Model and the Latent Curve Model.

These two models are particularly relevant in a life course perspective due to they provide insight into how outcomes of interest change overtime (e.g. the evolution of the health condition of an individual) analyzing simultaneously intra-individual change and interindividual growth trajectories and recognizing similar patterns among a specific population.

These two techniques allow also to model and analyze latent phenomena: hypothetical constructs specified as part of a hypothesis but for which no direct measures are available. In the framework of the NCCR LIVES, we can consider the vulnerability as an unobserved individual characteristic that influences the change between observed states. For example, studying the health condition of an individual overtime (our observed sequence), part of the changing we observe should be determined by the evolution of its (latent) vulnerability level.

To model such phenomena and to reach the objective of the integration of the two approaches, the first step of the thesis (that I will present during the Doctoriales 2013) has been the development of a new (double chain) hidden Markov model for continuous variables: the Hidden Mixture Transition Distribution Model.

In many fields researchers face longitudinal data showing non homogeneous behaviors. For example in health studies analyzing biometrical measures or psychological scales, in demography and social sciences (mortality rate), in finance with the stock market fluctuation and so on. For this reason the model has been developed for variables with non-Gaussian features. The HMTD model, in fact, makes the assumption that this observed heterogeneity can be induced by one or several latent factors and each level of these factors (e.g. different vulnerability levels) is related to a different modeling of the observed process. The observed time series is then seen as a weighted mixture of different submodels and the relation between successive submodels is governed by a latent transition process. This model belongs to the "family" of the Mixture Transition Distribution introduced by Raftery (1985) for the modeling of high-order Markov Chain.

During the presentation, the model will be shown both theoretically in its general framework (the modeling of its visible and latent part as well as the estimation procedure) and in a practical way providing applications from different sources.

17h00-17h30: Rousseaux Emmanuel

First steps towards a software framework for handling life course survey data in R

Abstract. Population studies strongly rely on survey data and much time is needed to prepare the data. The job is even harder for longitudinal data and network data. From a general point of view, the Dataset project aims at facilitating the management of survey data by providing researchers in social sciences with high-level tools for storing, sharing, exploring and recoding survey data in a secure and efficient way. The objective pursued is to reduce the time spent in data preparation to let more time to the scientist for analysis and results interpretation. Another main objective is to facilitate reproducible research. The toolbox comes as a series of R packages. The software allows to store detailed descriptions for each variable and variable values and then can generate a full codebook directly exported as a PDF file that proves particularly useful for sharing data with others. As key functionalities, the toolbox accepts user-defined missing values, natively account for weights, helps to search for specific variables accross the whole data base, and process automatic checks to prevent the loss of representativeness when filtering out cases. The software also provides some specific data-analysis tools such as bivariate association measures, front-end to tree-based methods and a logistic regression method. For all methods provided the toolbox generates nice summary tables easily exportable in a PDF file with a "ready-to-publish" formatting.

In this presentation we introduce the main functionalities of the Dataset toolbox, and discuss the functionalities forthcoming for specific handling of panel data, especially for life course analysis. We will use data from the Swiss Household Panel.

17h30-18h00: General discussion

Experts: Dominique Joye & Oliver Lipps



Session 16. Room M1160.

Chairman: Doris Hanappi

16h00-16h30: Salamin Xavier

Women on international assignments: a state of the art of research

Abstract. As firms expand internationally in response to the intensification of global competition, international assignments have become increasingly essential in developing a pool of managers with international knowledge, experience and networks. While women have long been quasi absent from expatriate positions, their proportion has significantly increased over the past decades, a situation that has been mirrored by expatriate research which traditionally relied almost exclusively on male samples before broadening its focus of investigation and increasingly taking female expatriates into account. While the very first studies on female expatriates – or adopting a gender comparative perspective - were published in the 70s, a veritable research field really emerged in the 80s and continuously expanded since then, covering a broad range of topics, such as the issue of women's underrepresentation on expatriate assignments, the adjustment and success in the host country, the willingness to relocate, work-life balance and dual-career couple issues, etc. Hence, undeniably, much progress has been made in understanding issues associated with women's international experiences. However, as stressed by several authors, the research field remains fragmented and there is a need to integrate previous contributions in order to gain a clear understanding of what has been done up until now and what remains unexplored. In order to contribute to fill this gap, we draw on a comprehensive review of the literature on women's participation on international assignments and analyze the abstracts of the 140 identified and read articles using textual statistics (Lebart et al. 1998), leading to correspondence analysis of lexical tables and enabling an original graphical representation of the research field (based on key-words) in a two-dimensional map. This literature review provides a precise and thin overview – and picture – of the research on women on international assignments. Important areas for further research are suggested based on the outcome of our analysis. (*Project conducted in cooperation with Dr. Doris Hanappi*)

16h30-17h00: Ravasi Claudio

International mobility of dual career couples: preliminary results of an expatriate survey.

Abstract. The number of expatriates has been continuously increasing over the past decades even if international transfers cause a disruption of social ties and routines and can have negative impacts on the expatriate and, often in a more severe manner, the partner. In a new cultural environment expatriate partners are likely to experience negative feelings like loneliness, isolation, roles alteration and loss of identity and self-worth. With the emergence of dual career couples (couples in which both partners are psychologically committed to their respective careers) expatriate partners often have to resign from their job and abandon a potential career. Partners forced to abandon their career are in a more fragile psychological state, which is not only due to the career interruption, but also to the exclusive focus on the partner's career at the expense of their own professional interests. For the second LIVES Doctoriales (2013), I intend to focus on the specific situation of dual career couples who experience international mobility by presenting the first results of a survey on expatriate couples' adjustment issues conducted in Switzerland. So far, 150 questionnaires were completed and returned by expatriate couples living in the Suisse Romande (the French speaking part of Switzerland). In this study several variables have been measured: the degree of expatriate and partner adjustment, the partner's involvement in the decision to accept the international assignment, the change in the partner's employment status, the partner's support received by the expatriate or the professional and personal concerns expressed by the partner. Furthermore, dual career support practices offered by the international companies that participated to our survey have been investigated: the availability of these practices as well as their effective use and perceived (by expatriates and partners) satisfaction have been measured.

17h00-17h30: Bataille Pierre

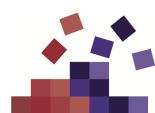
Is a scientific path more meritocratic? How disciplines shape inequalities among French educational elite over the life course.

Abstract. In their seminal study on student's social origins and representation, P. Bourdieu et J-C. Passeron showed that students of art and humanities, in comparison to science students, more often come from a Parisian family with highly educated parents (Bourdieu and Passeron, 1964). To explain these strong differences between art and science

students, they formulate the well-known hypothesis of “cultural capital”. Chances of following art or humanities courses in higher education are much higher for those with a higher social class background than for students who come from lower class families. This is due to the greater difficulty in acquiring relevant cultural references in their upbringing. A recent survey of Oxford admissions shows that even in a highly selective educational pathway, access to the scientific path still seems to be more meritocratic – i.e. less biased by the familial and cultural background – than in the case of arts or humanities (Zidmar et al., 2009). This survey also points out in both sciences and humanities there are no cultural capital differences according to gender. As with many surveys that analyze disciplinary inequalities in recruitment, Zidmar’s work only focuses on access to these different courses. Using a longitudinal and gendered perspective, we propose to analyze the articulation between inequalities of access and inequalities of educational and professional achievement in relation to student’s choice of disciplinary path. Our presentation will focus on life course analysis of a cohort of alumni from a renowned French “Grande Ecole”: the “Ecoles Normales Supérieures” of Saint Cloud, Fontenay and Lyon.

17h30-18h00: General discussion

Experts: Marylène Lieber & Doris Hanappi



Session 17. Room M1130.

Chairman: Jean-François Bickel

16h00-16h30: Araujo Pedro

Elites and Occupational Careers in the Swiss Banking Industry (1980-2010)

Abstract. This study endeavours to understand the evolution of the Swiss Banking Industry between 1980 and 2010 from a life course perspective. It concentrates on two groups of actors: Elites and Young professionals. Since the 1980s, this field has experienced an unprecedented growth and a profound transformation of its social structures. This can be observed through the internationalisation of labour market, the depreciation of traditional banking activities to the benefit of financially-oriented careers and the valorisation of new resources. Considering these changes, this dissertation will address the two following research questions.

Firstly, we want to explore how the historical development of the Swiss banking field has affected the composition of its elites. What type of resources do the banking elites possess? How have they been acquired and how have they evolved across the two selected periods?

Secondly, we seek to examine what are the careers patterns and the representations of a cohort of young banking professionals. What are their educational and occupational trajectories? How do they differ in terms of resources? To what extent do the careers of elites and young professionals share common characteristics?

In order to tackle these questions we use an innovative mixed method design that combines sequential analysis, multiple correspondence analysis and biographical interviews. For the first group of questions we use an already existing database on Swiss elites in the 20th century that we will extend by the collection of additional data on banking elites. Regarding the second group of questions, we will conduct a micro-survey with young professionals working for less than 10 years in the bank field.

16h30-17h00: Zinn Isabelle

Male Florists: Between Transgression and (de-) Naturalization of Gender Categories

Abstract. The aim of this presentation¹ is to investigate the ways in which male florists talk about the minority presence of men within their occupation, as a means to analyze the meanings they attribute, more generally, to gender categories. I intend to use this focus in order to explore when and how, and to what extent Swiss florists mobilize gender stereotypes in the course of their daily activities. Although I will describe the vertical segregation that places men in the most rewarding positions of this highly feminized occupation, our main interest lies in the

¹ This presentation is based on an on-going PhD research project on the accomplishment of “masculinities” in two occupations (florists and butchers). It more specifically refers to an article that Nicky Le Feuvre and I are co-editing.

idea that sex and gender categories (being a man or a woman, being masculine or feminine, etc.) are invested with varying levels of salience by individuals in the course of their working lives. In order to do this, I will focus here on the ways in which florists describe their professional activities in gendered or non-gendered ways, and the meanings they attribute to the minority presence of men within this occupation.

This project uses a variety of methods (formal and informal interviews with florists, discussions with their occupational representatives and floral school teachers, and participant observation in different occupational settings, e.g. flower markets, florist shops, training sessions), which I also draw on here. The aim is to study the way respondents talk about their job and their everyday activities, in order to understand how individuals relate to existing gender categories and to analyze the effects this may have for men's experiences in occupations that are numerically dominated, either by women or by men.

In this presentation, I am interested in exactly how Swiss florists "gender" (or not) their daily professional activities, in a context where men represent a small minority (6%) of the occupation. I propose to explore the extent to which giving a client advice about wedding flowers or preparing any other floral arrangement are portrayed as specifically gendered activities. Whilst investigating under what circumstances gender categories become salient for individuals, I am also interested in exploring the extent to which gender categories might eventually be perceived as irrelevant to the interactions taking place in a given workplace situation. I thus focus on the situated use of what Robert Emerson and his colleagues call "member-recognized categories" (Emerson, Fretz, and Shaw 1995: 130-140), in order to explore the significance florists attach - explicitly or implicitly - to gender.

17h00-17h30: Rosenstein Emilie

Individualising Welfare Policies and its Impact on Social Citizenship: a Swiss Case Study

Abstract. Since the 80's, the trend towards activation has deeply transformed welfare policies. Social policies turned into social and professional integration policies. This new conception of social protection impacts the entitlement to social rights as well as the very meaning of social citizenship. Indeed, activating welfare recipients requires the individualisation of welfare benefits and procedures. The objective is to find a new way to organise and deliver welfare protection in a context of destandardisation of the life course, characterised by the end of full employment and the multiplication of non linear professional trajectories. But, as many authors pointed out, individualisation within welfare policies is an ambivalent concept. On the one hand, it promises more successful and tailor-made solutions. On the other hand, it opens the way towards more constraining and conditional approaches of social protection.

My objective is to question the consequences of this ambivalent movement towards individualised active labour market policies and its impact on social citizenship and on the balance between individual and social responsibility. To investigate this issue, I will analyse the recent reforms of the Swiss disability insurance (DI) to see how the logic of activation and individualisation are interpreted in this specific framework. More precisely, I will study the impact of these reforms on various target groups (according to their age and their type of disability) and see to what extent DI promotes different tools and approaches of social protection and professional integration according to the life course stages.

The methodologies that will be used are the following:

Firstly, a documentary survey (laws and others legal documents, federal directives, official reports and evaluations, etc.) to capture the official discourse and its underlying cognitive and normative foundations. It will also contribute to find out the resources made available to the various target groups (i.e. which services or allowances are provided, to whom, in what form, on what conditions? etc.).

Secondly, semi-structured in-depth interviews with DI recipients and professionals (directors, managers, case managers, psychologists, doctors, etc.) in two Swiss cantons.

17h30-18h00: General discussion

Experts: Jean-François Bickel & Michel Oris



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