

**Overcoming vulnerability:
Life course perspectives
Final conference of the NCCR LIVES**

2022
LIVES 
CELEBRATIONS

**Campus Biotech, Geneva, Switzerland
17-18 November 2022**

The Directors Word

The Swiss National Centre of Competence in Research LIVES – Overcoming vulnerability: Life course perspectives (NCCR LIVES) is a multidisciplinary research program launched by the Swiss National Science Foundation and the Universities of Lausanne and Geneva in 2011. The NCCR LIVES examines life course factors of vulnerability as well as possible ways by which dealing with it. In a large number of research projects, social scientists have worked together to understand which challenges and new opportunities for life courses current societal trends entail. By the end of 2022, the NCCR LIVES will bring its research program to a close, while the LIVES CENTER is going to move forward as an international center dedicated to life course research. The aim of the final conference is to take stock of the NCCR's research and exchange with colleagues on the factors of vulnerability and resilience in the life course, while envisioning future research and collaborations.

We wish you all a fruitful conference!

Dario Spini and Eric Widmer (NCCR's director and co-director)

Daniel Oesch and Clémentine Rossier (LIVES Center's director and co-director)

Thursday 17 November

9:00 - 9:30	Registration (lobby entrance) and welcome coffee (hall 8)
9:30 - 10:30	Introduction Auditorium <i>Taking stock of NCCR LIVES research</i> Dario Spini and Eric Widmer
10:30 - 11:00	Coffee Break - Hall 8
11:00 - 12:30	Parallel Sessions I : <div> Partnership & separation Auditorium Chair: Marieke Voorpostel Dimitri Mortelmans <i>Singlehood across time and space. Defining and measuring 'the single' in family studies</i> Gaëlle Aeby <i>The negotiation of divorce agreements from the perspective of the divorcee</i> Clémentine Rossier <i>Individual social capital of divorcees: Cross-national evidence of the gendered association with well-being?</i> Fei Bian <i>How do family policies and gender culture moderate the partner's influence on mothers' working hours?</i> </div> <div> Personal networks H402A Chair: Davide Morselli Anna Baranowska-Rataj <i>Growing educational inequalities in subjective wellbeing across the life course: The role of differential risks and consequences of couples' unemployment</i> Mattia Vacchiano <i>Multilevel networks and status attainment</i> Jacques-Antoine Gauthier <i>Let's go together. The effects of visits to family and friends on couple satisfaction</i> Souleymane Sanogo <i>Family solidarity norms and the salience of family relationships for individual social support in a comparative perspective</i> </div>
	<div> Labour market H801D Chair: Michele Pellizzari Martin Ehlert <i>Does lifelong learning help workers affected by technological change? Further training and job mobility in Germany and the United Kingdom</i> Marco Giesselmann <i>Corroding resilience: Income poverty and longitudinal patterns of deprivation</i> Daniel Oesch <i>The myth of the middle class squeeze: Household income by class in six western countries, 1980-2020</i> Thomas Meyer <i>Education and labor market trajectories of young women and men in Switzerland: The emergence of gendered life courses through the lens of the TREE panel study</i> </div> <div> Longitudinal data & methods Atelier des saveurs Chair: Paolo Ghisletta Jacques Babel <i>10 years of register-based longitudinal education data in Switzerland</i> Kevin Emery <i>Handling missing data in life courses</i> Matthias Studer <i>Sequence analysis for large databases</i> Gianinna Vaccaro <i>Measuring labour market transitions using a life-course perspective in selected developed and developing countries – An inventory of existing panel data and methods of analysis</i> </div>
12:30 - 13:30	Lunch - Hall 8
13:30 - 15:15	Keynote lectures I Auditorium Chair: Eric Widmer Annette Fassang , WZB, Berlin Social Science Centre, Germany <i>Young adult life courses and political protest in the Global South</i> Claire Bidart , CNRS, LEST, laboratoire d'économie et de la sociologie du travail, France <i>Personal networks along life: Strengths and vulnerabilities</i>
15:15 - 15:45	Coffee Break - Hall 8

15:45 - 17:15

Parallel Sessions II :

Mobility, gender and migration

H402A

Chair: **Matthias Studer**

Gil Viry

Migration patterns among couples living in Switzerland: Impact on the division of employment and income between partners

Shawn Bauldry

Racial-ethnic disparities in dual-function life expectancy

Flavia Cangia & Eric Davoine

Gender and the career trajectories of highly skilled Syrian refugees in Switzerland

Liala Consoli

Does a change in the institutional context that provides individuals with new opportunities trigger a shift in their worldviews and a re-interpretation of their past ? Evidence from a qualitative longitudinal study

Reserves & new frontiers

Atelier des saveurs

Chair: **Clémentine Rossier**

Marcos Jose Bernal Marco

Sense-making in crises: Diaries as window on experiences of vulnerability across the lifecourse

Andreas Ihle

Lifespan development of reserves and vulnerability

Michel Oris

The accumulation of disadvantages: A critical assessment

Laura Bernardi

Relative time and life course research

Family, gender, & work

H801D

Chair: **Anna Baranowska-Rataj**

Pia Schober

Gendered work values and occupational preferences of immigrant and native youth: Findings from Germany, England, the Netherlands, and Sweden

Vanessa Gash

An empirical examination of the effects of exposure to violence and fear of violence on women and men's labour market outcomes

Valeria Insarauto

A Matter of incongruence: Attitudes toward women's voluntary childlessness and their relation to occupational sex segregation

Leen Vandecasteele

Changing attitudes about the impact of women's employment on families: The COVID-19 pandemic effect

Health I

Auditorium

Chair: **Jürgen Maurer**

Michael Shanahan

Application of models of life course epidemiology to gene expression data

Jan Paul Heisig

Female political representation and parental well-being

Luana Marx

How does couple's pre-unemployment relative income division moderate the effect of job loss on mental health?

Stefan Sieber

Links between subjective and objective health trajectories: A sequence analysis approach

17:30 - 19:00

Poster session - Hall 8

André Oliveira Borges

Sustainable careers in dirty work: Occupational stigma, well-being and career trajectories of vulnerable workers

Lisa Bornscheuer

Adulthood outcome trajectories after experience of childhood adversity: Differences between men and women in a Swedish birth cohort using group-based multi-trajectory modelling

Guillaume Fernandez

A configurational and situational language

Eduardo Guichard

When national origins equal socio-economic background: The effect of the parental background on the education of children coming of age in Switzerland

Hannah S. Klaas

The Swiss household panel study: Observing social change since 1999

Dimitrios Lampropoulos

Cause commune: Communicating health and social quality in the community through participatory action-research

Yang Li

Social inclusion from an intersectional perspective: Quantitative evidence from a municipality in Switzerland

Xavier Salamin

Specific work-life issues of single and childless female expatriates: an exploratory study in the Swiss context

Rita Schmutz

Inequality of educational opportunity and the role of education policy in Switzerland

Paul Schuler

Analysing social support and the influence of personal networks and residential areas using cross-classified multilevel models

Leonhard Unterlerchner

Grouping pathways: A cluster algorithms review for studying life courses

Maud Wieczorek

Multiple chronic conditions and insufficient health literacy: A possible path to vulnerability for older adults in Switzerland

19:00

Conference dinner - Forum

Friday 18th November

9:00 - 10:30

Parallel Sessions III :

Job insecurity and job loss

H402A

Chair: **Koroosh Massoudi**

Ella Cohn-Schwartz

Employment histories and later-life social relationships: A gendered perspective

Fiona Köster

Long-term effects of plant closures: What explains subjective career success among industrial workers?

Ieva Urbanaviciute

Job insecurity and (un)sustainable career development: Findings from a 7-year panel study in Switzerland

Ethnic discrimination

Atelier des saveurs

Chair: **Claudine Burton-Jeangros**

Nicky Le Feuvre

When mobility meets gender in the transnational life-course

Laia Becares

Ethnic inequalities over the life course: the central role of racism

Zsolt Temesvary

Destitution among Central and Eastern European citizens from a life course perspective

Julien Fakhoury

The moderating effects of migration trajectories on the association between residence status regularization and mental health: A cohort-study

Family formation & childhood

H801D

Chair: **Laura Bernardi**

Benoit Laplante

Family formation and family policies in changing times. The case of the Quebec parental insurance plan

Anna-Majia Castren

Women's life course trajectories to a non-conjugal family: Couple norm and beyond

Olga Ganjour

The development of conjugal interactions over time: A longitudinal exploration in a sample of Swiss couples

Vulnerability and the life course

Auditorium

Chair: **Michel Oris**

Richard Settersten

Overcoming vulnerability in the life course: Reflections on a research program

Louis Chauvel

The long arm of wealth: Health and the effects of intergenerational wealth resources in the U.S. over the last three decades

Myriam Girardin

Feeling lonely while embedded in one's family. How do family conflict structures and loneliness feed each other in old age?

Patrick McDonald

Vulnerability and equity in life course research

11:00 - 12:30

Parallel Sessions IV :

Aging

Auditorium

Chair: **Matthias Kliegel**

Mariano Sánchez

From 'age segregation' to 'generational segregation'. Broadening the life-course approach to time vulnerability?

Ariane Froidevaux

Changes in perceived age discrimination over time: Patterns, predictors, and outcomes

Adrien Remund

What does it take to become a centenarian?

Daniela Jopp

Swiss centenarians: Life at 100 between vulnerability and resilience

Education

H801D

Chair: **Leen Vandecasteele**

Sandra Hupka-Brunner

Life course perspectives on transitions from education to employment – Overcoming vulnerability?

Benita Combet

The role of preferences and stereotypes in gendered STEM field choice

Marie Baeriswyl

A reserve perspective on education over recent historical times

Michael Grätz

The effects of female education on child education: A prospective analysis

Spatial comparison of vulnerability

H402A

Chair: **Felix Bühlmann**

Ignacio Cabib

The diversity of life course patterns among the post-war generation across liberal regime countries

Katy Morris

The paradox of local inequality: Meritocratic beliefs in unequal localities

Denis Mongin

Neighbourhood socio-economic vulnerability, gender and COVID-19 in Geneva

Vida Česnuitytė

The problem of non-take-up of social benefits in Lithuania: Causes and relation with the personal social networks

Health II

Atelier des saveurs

Chair: **Jean-Michel Bonvin**

Hannah Klaas

A dynamic perspective on the evolution of perceived stress levels in Switzerland – Drivers before and during the Covid-19 pandemic

Charikleia Lampraki

Coping during Covid19: Impact on interindividual differences and intraindividual change in depressive symptoms.

Sabrina Roduit

Access to healthcare: How Life course indicators are used to sort uninsured patients

Valérie-Anne Ryser

Health literacy across personality traits among older adults: A tool to identify the most vulnerable

12:30 - 13:30 Lunch - Hall 8

13:30 - 15:15 **Keynote lecture II**

Auditorium

Chair: **Dario Spini**

Francesco Billari, University Bocconi, Italy

Lives, fast and slow

Lidia Panico, Institut National d'Etudes Démographiques, France

The (re)production of inequalities across generations: Birth health, early child outcomes, and parental investments

Keynotes

Claire Bidart



Claire Bidart is a sociologist, research director at CNRS in Aix en Provence, France. She has been working on the dynamics of personal networks and life course. She designed and conducted a longitudinal survey, the "Panel of Caen", which followed over time the stages of entry into adult life of a population of young people re-interviewed every three years, between 1995 and 2015. The aim is to analyse the pathways and transitions to adulthood, to examine in detail the relational dynamics and changes in personal networks, and to explore the links between these different processes. Her approach combines qualitative and quantitative longitudinal methods. Her works with Michel Grossetti and Alain Degenne have resulted in the publication of the book "Living in Networks: The Dynamics of Social Relations", Cambridge University Press, 2020, as well as various exploratory works, in particular methodological ones. She has also worked on youth, life courses, biographical temporalities, bifurcations, professional integration, the relationship to work and its evolution, and socialization processes more generally. She is currently involved in a large longitudinal panel study on the impacts of the covid 19 pandemic and confinements on social, family and professional relationships.

Francesco Billari



Francesco C. Billari is Bocconi's Dean of the Faculty. Professor of Demography with the Department of Policy Analysis and Public Management, President of the Dondeña Centre for Research on Social Dynamics and Public Policies. He joined the Bocconi faculty in 2017.

His main interest is the study of population change, family and the life course. More specifically, he has worked on fertility and family change, the transition to adulthood, life course analysis, population forecasting, agent-based modelling. He has collaborated in designing comparative survey-based studies, namely the Generations and Gender Programme and a rotating module for the European Social Survey. He is the Principal Investigator of the European Research Council Advanced Investigator Grant Discont (2017-2022).

Annette Fassang



Anette Eva Fasang is Professor of Sociology at Humboldt University of Berlin and headed a research group on Demography and Inequality at the WZB Berlin Social Science Center from 2011-2019. Before coming to Berlin she obtained her PhD from Jacobs University Bremen and conducted postdoctoral research at Yale University and Columbia University. She is a Principle Investigator of the Cluster of Excellence „Contestations of the Liberal Script (SCRIPTS)“ and the graduate training program „The Dynamics of Demographic Change, Political Processes and Public Policy (DYNAMICS)“ at Humboldt University of Berlin. Her research interests include family demography, stratification, life course sociology, comparative welfare state analysis, and quantitative methods for longitudinal data analysis.

Lidia Panico



Lidia Panico is a tenured researcher at the Institut National d'Etudes Démographiques (Ined) in Paris, France. She is part of the Fertility, Families and Couples and the Economic Demography research units and, at Ined, (co-)responsible for two key research strands: the Children and their families and the Construction of inequalities in childhood and youth projects. She is also an adjunct lecturer at Sciences Po, Paris.

Previously, she was an ESRC Post-Doctoral Research Fellow at the London School of Economics & Political Sciences (LSE), and Research Fellow at University College London (UCL). She obtained her PhD in 2012 from UCL. Her broader interests are describing and explaining socio-economic inequalities in well-being, with a focus on child outcomes and family processes. In particular, her research makes use of longitudinal methods and data, notably birth cohorts such as the UK Millennium Cohort Study, and the French birth cohort Elfe.

Abstracts

Gaëlle Aeby, Bindu Sahdeva, Michelle Cottier and Eric Widmer

The negotiation of divorce agreements from the perspective of the divorcee

Divorce is a key transition in an individual's life course, especially when children are involved. While the gender dynamics following the transition to parenthood have been extensively studied, there is less research on gender dynamics during a divorce process. Divorcing individuals have to settle on a series of decisions such as the child's residence, custody arrangements, matrimonial property, and maintenance payments. Three dimensions of gender are considered to be of particular importance: conceptions of gender equality existing in written law; attitudes of lawyers towards post-divorce gender relations when interpreting the law; and divorcees' personal life trajectories and previous gendered labor division. When considering the interplay of these three dimensions, the negotiation of a divorce agreement can be seen as an example of "institutional doing gender" in the sense that all three dimensions come into play in the shaping of divorce agreements. Our project tackles the process of negotiation of divorce agreements between different-sex couples with children in Switzerland with a mixed methods approach. The present paper will focus on the interviews with (recently) divorced men and women (n=30), and uncover the gender dynamics at stake previous to the divorce, in the negotiation process, and in the divorce agreement. While a divorce may be idealized as a new start and an opportunity for gender equality, our preliminary results show the lasting impact of the male breadwinner / female care-giver model prevalent in Switzerland which results into gendered inequalities post divorce.

Jacques Babel

10 years of register-based longitudinal education data in Switzerland

In 2014, the Swiss Federal Statistical Office (FSO) launched the LABB program to take advantage of the new potentialities offered by the introduction between 2010 and 2012 of the Social Security Number (AHV-Number) as Personal Identification Number in Swiss administrative data and FSO surveys. LABB is constantly developing and is currently following several axes: it links increasingly and in a standardised way many data sources; it produces harmonized longitudinal files as well as tailor-made datasets and makes them available to the scientific community and the public administration.

The past decade has thus witnessed major developments in the field of data for Swiss education. Not only it is possible to follow individuals years after years to build longitudinal analysis of their life course, but also with data linkage additional information can be integrated to the analysis, either through linkages with other registers or through linkages with survey data either from the FSO (e.g. Structural Survey), international (e.g. PISA), national (e.g. ÜGK) or specific to research projects.

By 2022, LABB is already enable to follow 10 years trajectory but also 10 cohorts of pupils or students and therefore to compare cohorts changes over a decade. We can draw trends for instance on topics like labour market entry (FSO 2018, 2020), migration and education (FSO 2021a), as well as income development (FSO 2021b, OFS 2021c) and measure how contextual and/or structural changes can affect some transitions or trajectories (FSO 2021d, e).

I will describe the methodology implemented, the data linkages already developed and present some innovative results based on either the extreme geographical detail obtained for given indicators or the potentialities of data-linkages to study specific topics.

This work is a collaboration of the entire LABB team at the FSO which is composed of Francesco Laganà, Julie Falcon, Jana Veselá (all three former NCCR Lives researchers), as well as Laurent Gaillard, Pascal Strübi and Joanna Amos.

Marie Baeriswyl, Michel Oris and Eric Widmer

A reserve perspective on education over recent historical times

This presentation proposes a review of the issues of education in relation to vulnerability across the life courses and over recent historical times, using the concept of reserve. The importance of education for life chances has been widely acknowledged. The reserve concept highlights the protective and time-oriented dimensions of resources to deal with vulnerability over the life course, in particular by stressing their dynamics of constitution, activation and reconstitution, in order to avoid, cope with, or recover from critical life events (Cullati et al., 2018). The life course theory stresses the influence of historical time on individual development. Based on these previous works, we propose to review education as a crucial reserve for the entire life course through its socioeconomic implications while considering its changing role in relation with recent socio-historical changes that affect contemporary Western societies. In order to make sense of the historical changes of reserves, we use the standardization/destandardization framework proposed by Kohli in 1986. Through this synthesis, we will stress how education as a social setting became a crucial determinant to secure individual life course during the historical phase of life course standardization, and how its function has evolved in recent decades to favor more agency and less institutionalized security through individualized paths of (re)constitution and activation. The highlighted trends confirm the relevance of adopting a reserve perspective to understanding vulnerability across the life course

Anna Baranowska-Rataj and Jonas Voßemer

Growing educational inequalities in subjective wellbeing across the life course: The role of differential risks and consequences of couples unemployment

Differences in subjective wellbeing between people with distinct levels of education raise questions about the mechanisms that generate this gap and allow it to grow over individual family and labour market trajectories. These mechanisms may be related to the differential risks and consequences of negative life events such as unemployment.

We examine differential risks and consequences of unemployment, extending previous research by considering a so far undiscussed mechanism, namely the crossover effects within couples. Conceptually, we draw on the spillover-crossover model and the theories of assortative mating. Empirically, we use data on couples from the German Socio-Economic Panel for the period 1995-2017. To examine differential risks of personal and partner unemployment, we use binary logistic regression models. To analyse differential consequences of personal and partner unemployment, we apply linear fixed-effects regression models.

The analysis of differential risks reveals that individuals with lower education not only face a higher risk of their own unemployment, but are also more often exposed to unemployment of a partner. At the same time, an individual's unemployment exerts slightly stronger negative effects on subjective wellbeing among more highly educated individuals. In addition, we find relevant crossover effects of unemployment on individual subjective wellbeing and show that these effects are somewhat larger for the less educated individuals. Overall, both differential risks and differential consequences of unemployment lead to growing educational inequalities in subjective wellbeing. This adds nuance to debates on the role of partners as insurers against life course risks. Our results highlight the importance of the concept of "linked lives" for understanding how interdependence of labour market careers within partnerships contributes to the accumulation of risks and shapes wellbeing trajectories over the life course.

Shawn Bauldry

Racial-ethnic disparities in dual-function life expectancy

Older adult quality of life is often compromised by the presence of physical or cognitive limitations, each of which threatens the ability to remain living independently. Models of disability-free or dementia-free life expectancy, however, focus on either physical or cognitive health, neglecting the importance of both domains for full functionality and providing a biased assessment of health disparities. In this study we develop a measure of life expectancy based on maintaining both physical and cognitive functioning, which we refer to as dual functionality, and estimate racial-ethnic disparities in dual-function life expectancy (2FLE) to provide a more complete picture of contemporary functional health disparities. Using data from the National Health Interview Study Linked Mortality Files and the Health and Retirement Study, we construct Sullivan life tables that allow us to estimate age-50 total life expectancy and age-50 dual-function life expectancy for women and men across four racial, ethnic, and nativity groups. We find substantial racial-ethnic disparities in percentages remaining dual functional across age groups. At ages 50 to 54, between 63% and 67% of (non-Hispanic) Black, foreign-born Hispanic, and US-born Hispanic women and men remain dual functional as compared with 84% of (non-Hispanic) White women and 83% of (non-Hispanic) White men. These racial-ethnic disparities in dual functionality, which continue to be observed through ages 80 to 85, result in stark differences in age-50 2FLEs. The Black-White gap in 2FLE at age 50 is 8.6 years for men and 9.6 years for women; the US-born Hispanic-White gap is 6.4 years for men and 7.9 years for women; and the foreign-born Hispanic-White gap is 5.9 years for men and 9.1 years for women. These results reveal the utility of the concept and an urgent need to address racial-ethnic disparities in dual-function longevity, which have compelling implications for caregiving, residential care, and health care needs.

Laia Becares

Ethnic inequalities over the life course : The central role of racism

Ethnic inequalities in health have been globally documented. In the UK, the body of evidence is well-established for patterns of inequality during the early and mid-life course, but the prevalence and persistence of ethnic inequalities in later life, as well as the drivers of ethnic inequalities over the life course, is less well known. This presentation combines findings from different projects that together present a consistent account of the role of racism as the fundamental cause of ethnic inequalities in health over the life course. Using data from the UK Census, the UK Household Longitudinal Study, and the Evidence for Equality National Survey, and framed around theories of accumulated exposure to disadvantage and experienced racial discrimination, the weathering hypothesis, and the principle of linked lives, the different studies explore the persistence of ethnic health inequalities over time; the life course exposure to racial discrimination across different domains; and the central role of longstanding exposure to racism in leading to poor health of minoritised ethnic groups both directly and indirectly by patterning socioeconomic inequality.

Laura Bernardi and Núria Sánchez-Mira

Relative time and life course research

Mainstream life course studies often draw on a conventional understanding of time as a unidirectional clock-based entity, which proceeds in a uniform and linear manner. This paper argues that, in order to understand the social, relational and psychological processes of change and continuity that characterise life course processes, we need to adopt a more comprehensive and explicit conceptualisation of time – a conceptualisation that goes beyond an absolute (linear, chronological, uniform) definition – to incorporate the notion of relative time. Drawing on insights from narrative and biographical research, discussions of the temporal embeddedness of human agency and multidisciplinary research on time perceptions and time perspectives, we propose a definition of relative time based on three main characteristics: its multidirectional, elastic and telescopic nature. The paper promotes the integration of absolute and relative time in the study of life course processes, and the important role of prospective qualitative research in this respect, and outlines future avenues for research in this direction.

Marcos Jose Bernal Marco, Tania Zittoun and Alex Gillespie

Sense-making in crises: Diaries as window on experiences of vulnerability across the lifecourse

Vulnerability designates the fact that, following a given rupture, a person lacks resources (after Spini, Bernardi & Oris, 2017). Rather than asking who is vulnerable in the course of a life, we examine how specific experiences of ruptures may, or may not, become vulnerabilising events; we argue that it depends on the sense conferred to these ruptures. Our longitudinal corpus is constituted by online diaries written by three persons, each during twenty years, identified out of a selection of 200. Each was analysed by a combination of quantitative automatised language analysis, and by a qualitative analysis. Hence, we will speak of Ernst, a single man retiring while he is the main caregiver of his mother; of Jeanne, who committed a suicide attempt in her youth, realised she had been abused as a child, and became an author; and of Ken, who studied to become a film maker and experienced a 20-years long unemployment trajectory. We will show that (i) collective crises, such as 9/11 or the subprime crises, are rarely experienced as personal crises, or ruptures in themselves, yet it is the accumulation of personal ruptures that seems to be vulnerabilising; (ii) the same rupture changes meaning over time in the course of a person: once positively anticipated they may become major vulnerabilising events, and later reassessed as providing resources; (iii) what constitutes a resource for a person, to avoid or to overcome a vulnerabilising event, may change over time. Altogether, we hope to provide new insights for both quantitative and qualitative understandings of vulnerabilities in the course of life, and to open new routes for the study of development in the lifecourse.

Ignacio Cabib

The diversity of life course patterns among the post-war generation across liberal regime countries

Despite some issues of the analytical category “welfare state regime”, increasing studies have disentangled how the two main policy axes of welfare regimes, that is, decommodification (measures to protect against labor market risks) and defamilization (measures promoting the public provision of care), shape work and family life-course patterns and their interaction.

Life course scholars have stressed the comparatively high diversity and complexity of employment and family life courses of baby boomers both across liberal contexts, and among socially disadvantaged groups within these settings. The explanation provided for these patterns has relied on decommodification and familization trends in liberal settings.

However, despite this evidence is robust, to our knowledge most cross-national studies so far have analyzed only one liberal country (typically the United States or England), while only two studies have compared two liberal settings. As a result, what we often assume to be the life patterns associated with liberal welfare regimes derives not from empirical comparisons but from the extrapolation of an analytical construct.

Flavia Cangia, Eric Davoine and Sima Tashtish

Gender and the career trajectories of highly skilled Syrian refugees in Switzerland

This article looks at the role of gender relations and norms in the (re)making of career trajectories of highly skilled Syrian refugees in Switzerland. We explore how refugees encounter gender regimes while making sense of their present work situation vis-à-vis their career plans. We draw upon a qualitative study conducted with 26 highly skilled Syrian refugees in Switzerland. How do refugees encounter different gender regimes in Switzerland? What is the significance of gender in their transition to a new labour market? How do they re-negotiate gender meanings and roles following the displacement? Our findings show that refugees (re)make sense of gender norms, roles and meanings across space and time vis-à-vis their career trajectories. The gender regimes these people refer to are highly diversified and shape people’s negotiation of family roles and identities in complex and at times ambivalent ways, also along multiple lines of belonging.

Our study shows how migration affects gender as a process, rather than merely as a differentiation category (e.g., by influencing the career and life paths of women and men differently) (Elliot, 2016). It is through movement, at times, that refugees with high qualifications and a well- established professional life before migration encounter the issue of gender in new ways or even for the first time. Others stress the different gender regimes that have had different implications for their everyday life in Syria and now in Switzerland. Our contribution is threefold and tackles three major aspects of migration: gender as a process; career life and migrants’ categories; and life-course and career trajectories

Anna-Maija Castren

Women's life course trajectories to a non-conjugal family: Couple norm and beyond

The paper explores the life course trajectories of unmarried Finnish mothers and draws from qualitative interviews of 30 women who have one or more children and who live with or without a partner. The perspective is life historical and the paper maps women's trajectories from childhood to the present with a focus on their union history and transition to motherhood. While Finnish society is influenced by the "couple-norm" (Roseneil et al. 2020) when it comes to aspects coined in the concept of intimate citizenship regimes (ibid.), for example, or to the family conception inscribed in the legislation and social regulation, the analysed life trajectories highlight variation in how having a baby and becoming a mother can take place. Of 30 research participants, at the time of the interviews, 14 mothers lived with a partner (9 male, 5 female) while 16 mothers did not have a live-in partner. Most participants were of Finnish origin with varied educational backgrounds. The participants had conceived and got pregnant "naturally" (8 intended, 7 unintended) or with fertility treatments (15). Results highlight the emerging reproductive pluralism in Finnish society connected to the diversification of family life more generally.

Vida Česnuitytė

The Problem of non-take-up of social benefits in Lithuania: Causes and relation with the personal social networks

The problem of social benefits' non-take-up is defined as a situation when a person who is entitled to monetary social assistance by law does not receive it. Researchers in different countries identified the following groups of causes of such phenomenon occurring: socio-psychological, socio-informational, socio-cultural and public administration. Other authors suggest primary and secondary, permanent and temporary, complete or partial non-take-up of social benefits.

The aim of the presentation is to discuss research results on social benefits' non-take-up in Lithuania. The research object is monetary social assistance for the poor. In 2021, a representative quantitative survey (age 18+; N=1015), and qualitative focus groups with experts in counties of the country (N=10) conducted at Mykolas Romeris University. The research results expose four main groups of social benefits' non-take-up social: lack of information, complexity of procedures, shadow income, social barriers / stigma. To be noted, opinions of the population and experts on the non-take-up of social benefits differed. Regional differentiation of the social benefits' non-take-up causes are evident: in small towns and rural areas where communication between habitants is more resilient, poverty and inequality are higher, but information about possible monetary social assistance is disseminated rather effectively. Meanwhile, in cities where communication between the habitants is more closed, there are a number of people who do not have access to information about possible financial social support. The information provided by social security institutions does not reach them due to their low digital literacy and lack of previous connection with the social security system. Relevant information is not available to such persons through personal social networks either, as their personal networks usually did not and do not have persons with links to the social security system.

Louis Chauvel, Francisco Ceròn, Emily Murphy and Jason Settels

The long arm of wealth: Health and the effects of intergenerational wealth resources in the U.S. over the last three decades

Health inequalities result from multidimensional socioeconomic inequalities (income, education, wealth, etc.). A time dimension is also brought into sharp focus with contra indications for wealth and health over a lifetime. Over time, health deteriorates, whereas wealth, more so than income, acts either as a compounding resource through time. We therefore expect wealth to affect health, beyond other factors. How far the reach of wealth is on one's health? Does wealth promote health across generations? The Panel Study of Income Dynamics (PSID; 1984-2019) confirm the effects of intergenerational wealth, net of current generational wealth, on age-adjusted self-assessed health (ASAH) across the life course. Both current and parental generational wealth bring greater ASAH, net of other socioeconomic health compounders. Findings suggest that for every higher strata of parental wealth, better relative health is maintained. Notably, wealth-induced health gradients are shown to increase over the life course. It is in later life stages when health is on a downward trajectory over time – from age 50 onwards – that an upward trajectory of health gains from intergenerational wealth is most pronounced. This study thus encourages social scientists to pay greater attention to wealth inequalities, despite difficulties in their accurate measurement.

Ella Cohn-Schwartz

Employment histories and later-life social relationships: A gendered perspective

The present study examines how different lifelong employment patterns are related to social relationships in old age in Israel, and whether there are gender differences in the impact of lifelong employment patterns.

Method: The study was based on data collected among Israeli adults aged 50+ as part of the Health, Aging and Retirement Survey in Europe (SHARE). It combines data on social relationships, collected in 2015, with retrospective data on their employment history (number of jobs and years of employment) collected in 2017.

Findings: Women had larger social networks and were more likely to mention friends and children as close people, while men were more likely to mention their spouses. People who worked in more jobs over their lives had larger social networks and were closer with friends and children. We found gender differences in these associations - women who worked in more places had more social ties in the present, especially with friends, while among men there was a weaker relationship between number of jobs and social ties and even a negative relationship between years in employment and a close relationship with their spouse.

Conclusions: The study may indicate that women "benefit" more from involvement in the labor market compared to men. It is possible that women who were more involved in the labor market are accustomed to social activity and act similarly in their social life in later life.

Benita Combet

The role of preferences and stereotypes in gendered STEM field choice

Previous research on gender segregation in fields of study has struggled to explain, why “mathematics-capable women disproportionately choose non-mathematic fields” (Ceci et al. 2009: 251). In fact, gender differences can only be explained to a small extent by individual characteristics (e.g., Barone and Assirelli, 2021, Morgan et al. 2013, Ochsenfeld 2016). In this presentation, I will report on my research that investigates the question from a different angle by looking at gendered preferences for (stereotyped) subject characteristics (e.g., math intensity, required reasoning style, competitive environment). To disentangle these often co-occurring characteristics (e.g., STEM fields are math-intense, are said to require logical thinking and have a competitive environment), I conducted a choice experiment in the Swiss longitudinal dataset TREE with prospective students who had to choose their preferred subject from two artificial subjects with varying characteristics. The largest gender differences are found in preferences for characteristics related to reasoning style (abstract versus creative) and affinity for work tasks (technical versus social), and smaller differences for math intensity, competitive climate, and work–family compatibility. Kitagawa-Blinder-Oaxaca decompositions shows that mathematical ability, previous grades, and mathematical self-concept can fully explain the small gender difference in preference for math-intense fields. However, the same is not true for reasoning styles and work task affinity, although common stereotypes would portray these preferences as depending on mathematical ability. Therefore, this study shows that stereotypical expectations of skills required to study specific fields can explain gender segregation in STEM field choice.

Liala Consoli and Parchemin's research group

Does a change in the institutional context that provides individuals with new opportunities trigger a shift in their worldviews and a re-interpretation of their past ? Evidence from a qualitative longitudinal study

The institutional context in which individual life courses are embedded affects the opportunities people can access and, thus, the aspirations that guide their important life choices. Many individuals face so many constraints that their aspirations are limited to what they can imagine and adapted to what they perceive as possible. Sociologists describe this as the 'internalization of structural constraints' or 'adaptive preferences'.

An institutional context change can provide individuals with many new opportunities. This paper investigates whether such a change might trigger a shift in their worldviews and a re-interpretation of their past.

We have studied this phenomenon through the experiences of migrant workers who have been illegalized for decades, then given access to an extraordinary legal status regularization (the 'Operation Papyrus' implemented in Geneva, Switzerland, between 2017 and 2018). As a part of the Parchemins research project, 39 of those migrants were qualitatively interviewed for the first time when they were still illegalized, then re-interviewed after 1.5 and 3 years of 'regularized life'. Recursive interviewing and analysis techniques were used.

These data reveal how regularized life provided migrants with a new standpoint to reinterpret their past opportunities and constraints. They better realized how far illegalization was affecting their life choices, aspirations, and worldviews, as well as some previously unperceived stressors they were exposed to while undocumented.

These findings underline that legal status regularization must be considered a significant turning point and they encourage the use of qualitative longitudinal methods to study situations of expanding opportunities. Indeed, such studies might provide new insights into situations of vulnerability experienced before contextual changes.

Martin Ehlert

Does lifelong learning help workers affected by technological change? Further training and job mobility in Germany and the United Kingdom

Politicians and pundits regularly point to the importance of investments in education and training for individuals and the society at large. Given the recent pace of technological change, training even becomes more important because it may help workers adapting to new tasks or even transition from declining to emerging occupations. Yet so far, we lack knowledge about the actual influence of training participation for transitions from declining to emerging jobs. Also, we do not know which role country specific institutions play for this. We aim to close these research gaps by answering two research questions: First, does the impact of non-formal further training on job mobility vary between occupations that are at different risk of substitution through technology? Second, does the institutional setup moderate the impact of training on job mobility? To study these questions, we use high-quality panel data from two countries with a distinct institutional setup: NEPS data from Germany as a prime example of a system geared towards occupation-specific skills and UHLS data from the United Kingdom where the focus is more on general skills. The core findings of our analysis suggest that job-related training prevents unemployment in both Germany and the UK. Only in the UK, job-related training is associated with increased within- or between firm mobility. This is mainly driven by workers at high risk of substitution through technology. Thus, in the UK training facilitates moves out of vulnerable jobs while this is not the case in Germany.

Kevin Emery, Matthias Studer and André Berchtold

Handling missing data in life courses

The life-course paradigm has gained increasing importance in the social sciences over the last decades and proved its contributions in numerous disciplines ranging from sociology, demography, gerontology, and medicine to psychology (Elder et al., 2003; Bernardi et al., 2019). This paradigm insists on the need to study, not only the situation at a given time point, but also its evolution over the life course in the medium or the long run. These trajectories are then often described with categorical data. For instance, the school-to-work literature focuses on professional integration trajectories following compulsory education, distinguishing between education, employment or unemployment (e.g. Brzinsky-Fay and Solga, 2016).

This life-course perspective therefore implies the use of longitudinal data over the medium to the long run. This data requirement is highly sensitive to missingness, because it multiplies missing data occasions and retrospective questions tend to be more difficult to answer. The lack of a commonly accepted solution to handle missing data is one of the major challenge faced by life-course methodology (Piccarreta and Studer, 2018). This paper aims to review the solutions proposed so far, and to assess their practical relevance using real data on which we simulate missing data. In the meantime, we also explore several extensions of these methods. By doing so, we aim to provide clear methodological guidelines and to strengthen missing data handling in life-course research.

Multiple imputations, and more precisely the mict algorithm (Halpin, 2016), appears as the most suitable choice.

Julien Fakhoury and Parchemin's Study Group

The moderating effects of migration trajectories on the association between residence status regularization and mental health: A cohort-study

Background: Undocumented migrants are exposed to various sources of stress in the host country that may cumulate with previous exposures to stressors before and while migrating. In this paper, we aim at evaluating whether residence status regularization is positively associated with undocumented migrants' mental health and if the strength of the association depends on their migration trajectories.

Methods: This three-wave longitudinal study followed 314 undocumented migrants living in Geneva in a historical period of regularization. Baseline data were collected in 2017/2018, second and third wave data in 2019/2020 and 2020/2021 respectively. At each time point, participants reported their residence status (undocumented vs. regularized) and were asked to self-assess their depressive and anxiety symptoms, as measured by the Patient Health Questionnaire and the Generalized Anxiety Disorder. At the time of the third data collection, participants were also asked to fill in a life calendar retracing their migration trajectories. Based on participants' life calendars, we use sequence analysis tools to identify typologies of migration trajectories among undocumented migrants. In a second step, we estimate linear mixed models to examine 1) whether regularization and typologies of migration trajectories are associated with mental health and 2) if typologies of migration trajectories moderate the association between regularization and mental health. **Expected results:** Based on preliminary analyses, we expect residence status regularization and less complex migration trajectories in terms of sequencing (i.e. trajectories with fewer international migrations) to be associated with reduced levels of depressive and anxiety symptoms. We also postulate a stronger association between residence status and mental health among undocumented migrants with more complex migration trajectories.

Conclusion: Regularization may have beneficial consequences for undocumented migrants' mental health, especially among those who previously experienced multiple international migrations. More results are needed to confirm these hypotheses.

Ariane Froidevaux, Ieva Urbanaviciute, Yiduo Shao, Serge da Motta Veiga, Mo Wang and Franciska Krings

Changes in perceived age discrimination over time: Patterns, predictors, and outcomes

Age discrimination represents a major challenge with detrimental impacts on both employees and organizations. Although age discrimination theories suggest that workers will experience increasing age discrimination at work over time, this prediction remains insufficiently tested, and prior empirical evidence suggests the potential existence of heterogeneity in workers' perceived age discrimination over time. Conceptualizing age discrimination at work as a stressor and drawing on the model of exposure and reactivity to stressors, the current study enhances the understanding of how employees perceive and react to the experience of age discrimination over time. Adopting a person-centered approach, we provide a progressive examination of our research questions with two studies based on a nationally representative archival dataset from Switzerland (N = 1,110) using a prospective design over seven years. To be specific, the present paper uses the longitudinal Professional Paths Survey dataset collected by the Swiss National Centre of Competence in Research—Overcoming Vulnerabilities: Life Course Perspectives (LIVES)—Project 7 “Career Paths.” In the first study (n1 = 555), our results revealed three change patterns (i.e., increasing, decreasing, and stable nonexistent) of perceived age discrimination at work. In the second study (n2 = 555), we replicated these three patterns and further found that the heterogeneity in change patterns was predicted by employees' age and belief in a just world, but not neuroticism. In addition, we found that these change patterns were associated with job satisfaction, work strain, and perceived employability. The theoretical and practical implications of these findings are discussed.

Olga Ganjour and Eric Widmer

The development of conjugal interactions over time: A longitudinal exploration in a sample of Swiss couples

This paper intends to uncover various models by which conjugal relationships are developed over the life course. The development of conjugal relationships over time has not given rise to many sociological studies to date. Based on a longitudinal survey of Swiss couples “Social Stratification, Cohesion and Conflict in Contemporary Families” (Widmer, Kellerhals, Levy, Ernst Stähli & Hammer 2003) gathered on three waves in 1998, in 2011 and in 2017, this paper sheds light on the development of conjugal interactions over time. Focusing on couples which stay together across three waves of observation we use a typological approach and assess whether or not styles of conjugal interactions persist over time. Methods of sequence analysis (SA), such as parallel coordinate plots designed for longitudinal data (Bürgin & Ritschard, 2014) are used to identify representative trajectories grouping the styles of conjugal interactions along the three waves. The analyses reveal the presence of six representative trajectories of conjugal interactions. Logit regressions are then used to link the representative trajectories of conjugal interactions with explanatory factors. Results show that conjugal interactions move in the long run towards open, close knight and equality- oriented interactions, with consequences for marital quality. External factors associated with the life course and social participation of partners exert a discreet but nevertheless significant effect on such trajectories.

Vanessa Gash

An empirical examination of the effects of exposure to violence and fear of violence on women and men's labour market outcomes.

There is a large body of work which has examined the effects of violence on both psychological and physical well-being, with both short and longer- term effects frequently found, see for example (Hughes et al. 2017; Yon et al. 2019) for systematic reviews. These studies are often used to underscore the importance of various crime prevention strategies, and to monitor their effectiveness (e.g. Mikton et al. 2016). This paper contributes to the field in its assessment of the consequence of violence and fear of violence on the wages and the labour market attachment of victims, a field which is comparatively under researched (MacMillian 2016). The paper uses six waves of the United Kingdom Household Panel Survey (UKHLS), a nationally representative panel, and establishes remarkably high rates of fear of violence amongst both women, 40%, and men, 28%. The paper also establishes pay penalties to fear of violence and to violence exposure in a series of regressions, with similar penalties found for both women and men. Long-term effects of violence experience on labour market outcomes are also established, using a cumulative measure of violence exposure overtime. Here pay penalties and market attachment effects were more pronounced, though, there was some evidence of differential effects by sex, with violence experience increasing some women's labour market attachment. Finally, the effects of violence exposure at the household level was also tested, with cross-over effects found for family members who have experienced violence.

Jacques-Antoine Gauthier, Guillaume Drevon, Gil Viry, Florian Mass, Vincent Kaufmann and Alexis Gummy

Let's go together. The effects of visits to family and friends on couple satisfaction

The determinants of marital satisfaction are multidimensional. They include the social position, the norms, values and projects of the couple. However, in a field that has not yet been fully explored, the literature shows that marital satisfaction is also influenced by the overlap of the spouses' personal networks and by their respective activities. To measure the joint effect of these two dimensions, we test the influence of shared visits to family and friends on marital satisfaction using a structural equation modeling approach. The analyses are based on data from 962 individuals with a partner, collected in a representative survey of the Swiss resident population. The main result suggests that visiting activities to family and friends made jointly by both partners are associated with greater marital satisfaction. In contrast, when visiting activities to family, to family in law and to friends are done by each partner separately, results show no significant effects on marital satisfaction. At this stage, joint visits can therefore be understood as transitive dynamics, which promote the overlap of personal networks and maintain different forms of emotional and practical supports that are beneficial for marital satisfaction.

Marco Giesselmann

Corroding Resilience: Income poverty and longitudinal patterns of deprivation

Income poverty is a pivotal individual risk in modern economies, globally on the increase and widely held as major social problem. While its determinants are largely known and thoroughly examined, research on the individual-level implications of income poverty are still scarce. Therefore, we analyse its impact on different dimensions of deprivation: material deprivation, overcrowded housing, deprivation in social participation, and mental and physical health. Using data from more than 50.000 households in the German Socio-economic Panel 2000-2019, we analyze fixed effects models of exclusion patterns before and after poverty entry. This panel event design allows us to model deprivation as a function of income poverty duration, and to control for selection into poverty, to account for person-specific baseline deprivation levels, and to adjust for age-graded effects. Besides testing hypotheses on the effects of income poverty on the different dimensions of deprivation, we seek to describe the higher-order mechanism of how income poverty becomes manifest in actual living conditions. Furthermore, our contribution can also be read as test of the validity of the traditional, income-based poverty measurement.

Myriam Girardin, Eric Widmer and Oana Ciobanu

Feeling lonely while embedded in one's family. How do family conflict structures and loneliness feed each other in old age?

Little is currently known about the consequences of negative family interactions for loneliness in old age. The aim of this study is therefore to investigate how conflict in family networks of older adults is related to loneliness feelings in old age. It hypothesizes that dense conflict family networks is related with increasing feelings of loneliness in old age. The paper draws on the Vivre/Leben/Vivere survey which studied family life and health conditions of persons aged 65+ residing in Switzerland. Analyses focused on 1050 participants who were surveyed in the first wave in 2011–2012 and responded also in the second wave in 2017–2018. The information was gathered by means of face-to-face interviews. Data on family networks was collected in both waves, and feelings of loneliness were measured in the second wave using the loneliness scale developed by de Jong Gierveld. Findings revealed that conflict in family networks has a lasting and detrimental effect on loneliness feelings in old age because of its association with increased stress experienced by individuals within their family. This study stresses that it is important to assess not only supportive but also negative relationships within family networks of older adults for the understanding of loneliness in old age.

Andreas Ihle and Matthias Kliegel

Lifespan development of reserves and vulnerability

Some individuals are able to maintain a relatively high level of health and functioning across the lifespan, while others show a vulnerable development and are more susceptible to severe impairments. In this presentation, we elaborate on our conceptual view on vulnerability being the result of insufficient reserve build-up across the lifespan in various domains (e.g., cognitive reserve and relational reserve). Specifically, we propose that certain individuals are more vulnerable (than other, less vulnerable individuals) to impairments in human functioning because of insufficient reserves accumulated over their lifespan, which consequently exposes those individuals to greater difficulty to deal with threatening situations in later life in order to offset or prevent negative outcomes. To illustrate our conceptual perspective with empirical examples of our interdisciplinary research, we focus on cognitive and relational reserve domains and their role for cognitive health and well-being as outcomes. We elaborate on the build-up of these reserve domains across the lifespan, with a special focus on inter-individual differences in the pathways of reserve accumulation and the interplay with other individual-difference characteristics such as personality and gender. Moreover, we concentrate on the role of reserves for human functioning in different groups of individuals in vulnerabilising situations (such as chronic diseases, metabolic syndromes, stress, etc.). We elaborate on the interplay of different reserve domains and their potential joint effects on health outcomes. Furthermore, we discuss the role of major life events and transitions across the lifespan, and contextual environments in which development happens for the accumulation of reserves and their effects on health outcomes. Finally, we conclude with an outlook for future research

Valeria Insarauto and Danilo Bolano

A matter of incongruence: Attitudes toward women's voluntary childlessness and their relation to occupational sex segregation

Research on attitudes toward childlessness has yet to conclusively establish why more egalitarian attitudes are found among women than men. In this article, we explore the drivers behind this gender gap by addressing the role of occupational sex segregation on attitudes toward women's voluntary childlessness. We argue that the differing allocation of men and women to sex-typed occupations carries gender-specific pressures toward gender congruence which are likely to shape the perceived costs of motherhood, and hence attitudes toward female voluntary childlessness, differently. We test this argument within the European context by drawing on European Social Survey data, finding that women's more favorable attitudes are explained by their gender incongruence with respect to their occupational domain and attainment. Voluntary childlessness is more acceptable to women in male-dominated occupations, especially when they hold high-status positions. In these cases, women are most likely to be expected to perform like men to succeed in their job role, making motherhood less salient for their identity and more costly for their career. These findings contribute to the understanding of the mechanisms that underpin stereotypical gendered expectations in society as they address how attitudes toward female voluntary childlessness are related to structural gender inequalities in the work system.

Daniela Jopp, Stefan Cavalli, François Hermann, Armin Von Gunten, Mike Martin and Kim Uitenhove

Swiss centenarians: Life at 100 between vulnerability and resilience

Centenarians are part of the group of the very old, which represent the fastest growing segment of our population. Nevertheless, there is little know about centenarians in Switzerland, requiring the investigation of the characteristics of these exceptionally long-lived individuals as well as their experience of life at age 100. In this presentation, we report findings from the first nation-wide Swiss centenarian study SWISS100, more specifically, a telephone study which we conducted with centenarians and family member as proxy informant in 2020-21. Using a mixed-methods approach, we investigate centenarians' characteristics, their life circumstances, and their experience during the pandemic in order to examine their vulnerability and resilience. Recruitment was conducted with the help of the national address registry. A total of 96 centenarians and 112 family members participated, leading to data for 171 centenarian cases. Centenarians were on average 102 years old, with a range of 100 to 110 years. In line with higher survival rates in females, 75% were women and 25% were men. Most centenarians had received basic education and had completed an apprenticeship. Concerning their residence, 40% live in private homes and 60% lived in institutions. Regarding social resources, 75% were widowed. Three-fourth of the centenarians had children, and were socially quite well embedded. Although 70% of the centenarians reported health restrictions, they rated their health as good. Despite substantial COVID-19-related restrictions, life-satisfaction was high – 93% evaluated their life as moderately to very satisfactory. In sum, Swiss centenarians show health-related vulnerability but also social and psychological resilience.

Fiona Köster

Long-term effects of plant closures: What explains subjective career success among industrial workers?

This paper examines the factors that predict long-term subjective career success for a sample of industrial workers a decade after mass displacement. The determinants of career success are analysed based on a tailor-made survey of industrial workers in Switzerland who lost their employment in the wake of the financial crisis of 2008. We notably investigate the effect of socio-demographic attributes such as age, gender and nationality, acquired resources such as education and occupational class, as well as the psychological trait of locus of control. An initial survey was carried out two years after workers faced this critical life event in 2011 and was followed by a second survey in 2020. Contrary to our expectations, age did not have a strong impact on workers' long-term subjective career success. Workers who were close to the retirement age at the moment of displacement experienced the layoff as less severe, but a reliable difference between younger and middle-aged workers could not be observed. The nationality of workers (Swiss vs. non-Swiss) did not impact the subjective career success and neither did gender, education nor occupational class. Although compulsory education seems to predict a more negative assessment of subjective career success following plant closure, the small number of workers in our sample in that category prevents us from drawing strong conclusions. However, the higher a worker's internal locus of control was, hence, the perception that they are self-determined and can influence outcomes in their lives, the higher was their assessment of subjective career success following plant closure.

Charikleia Lampraki, Daniela S. Jopp, Adar Hoffman and Angélique Roquet

Coping during Covid19: Impact on interindividual differences and intraindividual change in depressive symptoms

Facing new and stressful circumstances, individuals use coping strategies to adapt. During the COVID19 pandemic, individuals were confronted with a new health threat and many changes imposed by governments to handle the crisis. Many studies showed notable mental health consequences of the pandemic, yet less is known about protective factors, such as coping. This study aims at identifying which coping strategies were most frequently used, whether they remained the same over time, and the extent to which they influenced depressive symptoms. Our sample consisted of 736 individuals living in Switzerland aged 18 and 81 years old. The online questionnaire was administered in three waves with one-month intervals during the second pandemic wave (i.e., October, November, December 2020). We used multilevel models with coping strategies as predictors of within-subject change and between-subject differences in depressive symptoms, controlling for sociodemographics. Findings suggested that functional support, emotional support, positive reappraisal and acceptance decreased, while self-distraction and depressive symptoms increased over time. A decrease in positive reappraisal and an increase in self-distraction were related to increasing depressive symptoms. The protective effect of positive reappraisal on depressive symptoms differed in magnitude for younger vs older individuals: Reduction in positive reappraisal was more strongly associated to increasing depressive symptoms in younger compared to older individuals. Moreover, regarding between subject differences, individuals who overall used more functional support, more positive reappraisal, and less self-distraction felt less depressed. Finally, being older, male, living with others, and being employed was related to less depressive symptoms. In conclusion, individuals changed the frequency of coping strategies use to face the pandemic stress, but only positive reappraisal and self-distraction had an influence on depressive symptoms.

Benoît Laplante

Family formation and family policies in changing times. The case of the Quebec parental insurance plan

In 2006, the Quebec government introduced a parental leave plan more generous than the federal one to better foster the reconciliation of family and work and to promote the sharing of parental duties between men and women. The effect of the plan on mothers' labour force participation has been documented, but its effect on family formation is yet to be assessed. The problem is compounded by the decrease in fertility that started, in Quebec and in the rest of Canada, in the aftermath of the 2008 financial crisis. Retrospective biographical surveys such as the General Social Survey on the family are not well suited for assessing the effect of the implementation of a new policy and Canada lacks a prospective household survey. We use the data from the rotating panels of the Labour Force Survey and a modified difference-in-differences approach based on Poisson regression to compare fertility before and after the implementation of the program in Quebec and Ontario, the neighbouring province which kept the federal program. Results show that despite the decreasing fertility in the two provinces, fertility increased in Quebec after the implementation of the program. Using numerical integrals, we show that the effect of the program varies according to the educational level of women. The main limit of the study is that the size of the samples forces to assume the effect of the program to be constant over time. The next step, which is planned to start in early 2023, is to use the same approach with administrative data from longitudinal tax files whose size should allow relaxing this constraint.

Nicky Le Feuvre, Eric Davoine and Flavia Cangia

When mobility meets gender in the transnational life-course

This proposal is based on the main findings from the 3rd phase of research carried out within IP6 of the NCCR LIVES. We explore the spillover effects of transnational mobility on professional and private life spheres, paying attention to the gender dynamics of vulnerability. From an interdisciplinary perspective, our aim is to explore the vulnerabilities associated with various forms of geographical mobility in societies characterised by increasing levels of spatial displacement and by uneven shifts in gender norms across countries and among social groups. We are particularly interested in the interplay between the experience of transnational mobility, including different forms of short- or long-term cross-border relocation, and the gender configurations of professional and family life. Our empirical studies cover a diverse selection of geographically mobile and immobile people, including those who are commonly associated with privileged forms of transnational movement and those who are often perceived as more constrained movers. In line with the analytical framework developed in the NCCR LIVES, we outline the importance of using an integrated vulnerability perspective to explore experiences of transnational mobility. After briefly presenting our research methods, we focus on the dynamics of vulnerability associated with transnational mobility, the accumulation and conversion of resources across borders, and the potential reconfiguration of gendered norms in the context of spatial displacement and relocation (see: Le Feuvre, Davoine, Cangia, 2022).

Luana Marx, Leen Vandecasteele and Anna Baranowska-Rataj

How does couple's pre-unemployment relative income division moderate the effect of job loss on mental health?

Job loss brings not only economic deprivation, but also psychological distress. Research to date has focused on the individual-level effects of unemployment on the unemployed person. There is emerging evidence on the cross-over effects of unemployment on other family members such as partner and children. While both relationships have been shown in previous research, not much is known about how these are influenced by the pre-unemployment work situation of both partners. We aim at filling this gap by taking a couple-level approach and assessing how pre-unemployment relative income division within the couple moderates the effect of unemployment on the mental health of the unemployed person, as well as their partner. Using the Understanding Society data from the United Kingdom, we employ a Difference-in-Differences with Propensity Scores Matching approach to examine the effect of unemployment compared to a control group of observably similar couples without experience of unemployment. We expect that the higher the income power of the unemployed partner, the stronger the mental health effects on both partners. To consider the potential gendered effects following previous research, we stratify our sample by gender. Overall, an expectation would be that main breadwinner job loss has a stronger effect on mental health in case of male job loss.

Patrick McDonald

Vulnerability and equity in life course research

Vulnerability is of the most critical concepts to life course research. Vulnerability in life course research is defined as a process and lack of resources in one or more life domains that exposes individuals and groups to negative consequences related to stressors, an inability to cope effectively with stressors, and an inability to recover from stressors or take advantage of given opportunities (Spini, Bernardi, & Oris, 2017). Vulnerability and inequality (uneven distribution resources across society) are often studied together over time (both historic and within an individuals own life course), life domains, and levels (Bernardi, Huinink, & Settersten Jr, 2019). However, vulnerability theory in itself is limited in how it can account for processes that result in some individuals being disproportionately affected by stressors. We argue that vulnerability theory could benefit by looking at unjust (rather than unequal) social processes, shifting from inequality to inequity. Inequity refers to unfair, avoidable differences arising from society. This presentation will explore the relationship between vulnerability in and inequity in depth, using discrimination as an example of inequity. Discrimination is defined as an unfair treatment based on protected characteristics such as gender, sexuality, and race/ethnicity. It will explore how discrimination contributes to, and in some cases is at the root of, vulnerability experienced by certain groups. The aim of this discussion is to provoke more critical thought on our use of vulnerability as a concept in life course research, and how we can strengthen our research with a more thoughtful analysis of the relationship between vulnerability, inequity, and discrimination.

Thomas Meyer

Education and labor market trajectories of young women and men in Switzerland: The emergence of gendered life courses through the lens of the TREE panel study

Like many post-industrial, knowledge-based societies and economies, Switzerland has experienced a reversal of the gender gap with respect to educational attainment: Within less than two decades, the share of young women attaining a tertiary level degree has exceeded that of young men – by 10 per-centage points in the Swiss case. However, this development is far from translating into women’s situation in the labor market. They are markedly underrepresented in managerial positions, overrepresented in low-paying jobs and experience persistent “unexplained” wage gaps. Both the Swiss education system and the labor market remain deeply affected by gender segregation. As a country with a VET-dominated education system, Switzerland is characterized by a strong education-occupation linkage, which tends to reinforce gender segregation. Gendered labor market trajectories are further accentuated by a social, legislative, fiscal and economic context hampering reconciliation of family and work, which tends to marginalize or exclude women with children from the labor market.

The detailed, richly contextualized trajectory data of the Swiss school leavers’ panel survey TREE (Transitions from Education to Employment) allow us to observe and analyze the progressive gendering of life courses, as it were, “in its making”. The present contribution provides a synopsis of salient findings drawing on TREE data across the various stages of educational, labor market and family formation pathways after young people in Switzerland leave compulsory schooling at the age of 15 to 16. The findings particularly contribute to disentangling the complex, yet powerful mechanisms at work during the transition to post-compulsory education and to the labor market.

Denis Mongin, Stéphane Cullati, Michelle Kelly-Irving and Delphine S. Courvoisier

Neighbourhood socio-economic vulnerability, gender and COVID-19 in Geneva

Neighbourhood socio-economic inequities have been shown to affect COVID-19 incidence and mortality, as well as access to tests. This study aimed to study how associations of inequities and COVID-19 outcomes varied between the first two pandemic waves from a gender perspective.

We therefore performed an ecological study based on the COVID-19 database of Geneva between Feb 26, 2020, and June 1, 2021. Outcomes were the number of tests per person, the incidence of COVID-19 cases, the incidence of COVID-19 deaths, the positivity rate, and the delay between symptoms and test. Outcomes were described by neighbourhood socio-economic levels and stratified by gender and epidemic waves (first wave, second wave), adjusting for the proportion of inhabitants older than 65 years. Low neighbourhood socio-economic levels were associated with a lower number of tests per person, a higher incidence of COVID-19 cases and of COVID-19 deaths.

The association between socio-economic inequities and incidence of COVID-19 deaths was mainly present during the first wave of the pandemic, and was stronger amongst women. The increase in COVID-19 cases amongst vulnerable populations appeared mainly during the second wave, and originated from a lower access to tests for men, and a higher number of COVID-19 cases for women.

These results show that the COVID-19 pandemic affected people differently depending on their socio-economic level. Because of their employment and higher prevalence of COVID-19 risk factors, people living in neighbourhoods of lower socio-economic levels, especially women, were more exposed to COVID-19 consequences.

Katy Morris, Felix Bühlmann, Nicolas Sommet and Leen Vandecasteele

The paradox of local inequality: Meritocratic beliefs in unequal localities

A puzzle has emerged amidst rising inequality: why do people profess high levels of belief in meritocracy even as income gains are increasingly concentrated at the top? In light of contradictory theories and evidence, we undertake the first assessment of the relationship between local income inequality and meritocratic beliefs outside the United States, using data from the UK Household Longitudinal Study. We find that the positive relationship between country-level income inequality and meritocratic beliefs identified in the recent literature does not translate straightforwardly below country level: there is no robust relationship between local income inequality and meritocratic beliefs in England. However, there is a robust—and somewhat paradoxical—positive association between high local income inequality and meritocratic beliefs among those with the lowest incomes. On average, respondents with annual household incomes of £10,000 are five points more likely (on a 100-point scale) to believe their hard work will pay off if they live in the most rather than the least unequal places in England. We also show that this applies beyond the specific case of meritocratic beliefs: low-income respondents in unequal places are also notably more satisfied with their own (low) income than similar respondents in more equal localities. In line with system justification theory, we argue that belief in meritocracy serves as an important tool of psychological resilience for low-income individuals who regularly come into contact with others more economically fortunate than themselves: though it legitimates their current position at the bottom of the status hierarchy, this belief also offers the promise of future advancement. While this reduces concern about the psychological effects of growing local income inequality on the most economically vulnerable, it also suggests that there is little prospect of demand for systemic economic change emerging from what might have been considered the most likely places.

Dimitri Morterlmans

Singlehood across time and space. Defining and measuring ‘the single’ in family studies

Many authors have documented a global rise in singlehood during the past decades (Perelli-Harris & Lyons-Amos, 2015; Yeung & Cheung, 2015), expanding beyond Western or industrialised countries (Esteve et al., 2020). Simultaneously, the number of single households is increasing, not only due to the aging of the population, but also because young adults are increasingly living solo (Bellani et al., 2018). While singlehood and solo living do not necessarily coincide, existing studies tend to overlook this distinction, and thus disregard potentially diverse causes and consequences.

Furthermore, current literature employs a large diversity in definitions of the term “single”, with a subsequent large variety in measurements and results in empirical studies. In this paper, we provide conceptual clarity as to what types of singles can be distinguished, through a framework that builds on two dimensions: living solo and being partnered. Next, we apply this singlehood framework to empirical data. In doing so, we firstly identify how the conceptual approaches towards singlehood are currently adopted in large, international studies. Second, we use these datasets to comparatively document how singlehood has changed over time across birth cohorts. To do so, we use data from both internationally comparative retrospective studies (FFS, GGP, Sharelife) and prospective panel studies (Pairfam, GSOEP, SHP).

Daniel Oesch

The myth of the middle class squeeze: Household income by class in six western countries, 1980-2020

Since the 1980s, growth in median household income has slowed down in most Western countries. In the public debate, income stagnation has been closely linked with middle class squeeze and the notion that the economic gains of an increasingly prosperous elite have come at the cost of the middle class whose incomes stagnate. We challenge this narrative and argue instead that the great losers of the last four decades were not the middle class, but the people laboring below them, the working class.

We show how different social classes fared over time by analyzing the evolution of household incomes between 1980 and 2020 in six large Western countries – France, Germany, Poland, Spain, the United Kingdom and the United States –, providing additional evidence for six small countries. Our analysis is based on the best available micro-dataset, the Luxembourg Income Study, and shows that the economic trajectories of classes diverged dramatically since the 1980s. But rather than to support the popular view of a squeezed middle class, our results reveal that the working class has come under much greater pressure. Since the 1980s, both the skilled and low-skilled working class have done significantly worse in terms of income growth than the middle and, above all, upper-middle class.

Our analysis shows how the diverging class destinies played out over time. Over the Golden years of the post-war decades, the Silent generation (born 1926-45) and Baby boomers (born 1946-65) enjoyed rising material standards as incomes increased for every successive birth cohort. However, this trend of increasing real incomes broke down in Germany and the United States for the working class. While middle-class cohorts born after the 1960s continued to earn more over their life course than older middle-class generations, this was no longer the case for working-class incumbents born after the 1960s.

Michel Oris, Marie Baeriswyl, Rainer Gabriel and Andreas Ihle

The accumulation of disadvantages: A critical assessment

During the last decades, the theory of cumulative (dis)advantages has been one of the most influential in life course sociology. This theory stimulated many researches done on the construction of social and health inequalities in old age across the life course. Recent syntheses have shown that that accumulation of disadvantages and accumulation of advantages are not symmetric. In this paper, we focus on the former, on the 'dark side', on the disadvantaged, on the 'bottom-of-the-pyramid'.

First, we insist on one dimension, income poverty in old age. Results achieved thanks the NCCR LIVES are contrasted with the international literature. Everywhere, early-life conditions (family context, education) were decisive. Later in life, across adulthood, various welfare regimes governed the life courses. But as a rule, most limited the triggering processes associated to a low education. A modest safety net prevented the accumulation of disadvantages and resulted instead in a "cumulative continuity" at a low level. More recent analyses, however, have shown the limits of this stability: older adults who have been manual workers are more at risk of falling into poverty.

Second, to beyond those syntheses, we want to make a step further toward an interdisciplinary approach of a minority group: We will draw the portrait of those who did not benefit from the progresses in health and living conditions that have changed the realities of aging during the last decades. We will do that through an integration of the researches done on the life course construction of socioeconomic inequalities with those devoted to the roots of interindividual variability in cognitive performances. We will also calculate at which point a penalty (or deficit) in a given dimension is associated with other penalties, counting in the VLV samples those who are simultaneously: income poor, cognitively underperforming, frail, without social participation, alone, etc.

Lydia Panico

The (re)production of inequalities across generations: Birth health, early child outcomes, and parental investments

Among one of the most robust findings in epidemiological studies is that health at birth is predictive of a number of child and adult outcomes. However, the channels through which this association occurs remain less clear, particularly in terms of mechanisms at the household level (parental investments and resources), and the extent to which these relationships vary across socio-economic groups.

In this paper, we use the French birth cohort study, Elfe (l'Etude Française depuis l'Enfance), a large, nationally representative sample of over 18,000 children born in metropolitan France in 2011. Information on birth health, including birthweight and gestational age, are recorded directly from the maternity notes. Prospective phone interviews with the carers collect information on child health and development, as well as household background information, parental investments and routines, etc.. We first explore whether birthweight predicts child outcomes at 3.5 years of age, at the start of preschool, across different spheres of child well-being (physical health, cognitive skills, global development, etc.). We check whether these relationships vary across population groups (including according to household income and parental education). Second, we explore through what mechanisms birthweight is associated with later outcomes, with a focus on parental investments (compensatory versus reinforcement effects), and whether birthweight moderates the relationship between investments and later child outcomes (complementarity effects). We again check whether mechanisms vary across socio-economic groups.

This work ultimately seeks to contribute to our understanding of the (re)production of inequalities across generations. In particular, we seek to show the role of birth health in producing these inequalities, and that mechanisms at the household level may vary widely across population groups, demanding a nuanced approach in both our theoretical understanding of the production of inequalities, and in terms of the public policies aiming to address them.

Adrien Remund

What does it take to become a centenarian? Cause-of-death contributions to the improved ability of Swiss centenarians to cheat death (1950-2020)

The number of centenarians is skyrocketing in all low-mortality countries like Switzerland, a world leader in life expectancy at birth. This indicator gives however an imperfect perspective of the centenarians' survival experience. In line with the Strehler-Mildvan theory of ageing and the concepts of intrinsic vitality and extrinsic challenges, I propose a new population-level indicator that indicates the number of times that a person of a given age (e.g. 100 years) had to outlive his or her expected age at death in order to reach this age. This measure embodies the subjective experience of individuals to repeatedly "cheat death", which is however unobservable at the individual level, more faithfully than any age-based indicators such as life expectancy. This new measure can be approximated with surprising accuracy through a log-linear function of the probability to reach the given age: $n(t) = 1 - \ln(l(t))$, where n is the number of times somebody cheated death, t is the target age, and $l(t)$ is the probability to reach age t . This indicator also provides objective age thresholds to old-age life stages like 'youngest-old', 'middle-old' or 'oldest-old'. After presenting this indicator, I compute it for Swiss males and females centenarians at several points in time from 1950 to 2020 in order to gauge how "easier" the feat of becoming a centenarian has become in the last seven decades. I then plan to use the WHO cause-of-death mortality database and Andreev's numerical stepwise decomposition algorithm to estimate the contribution of age groups and causes of death to this change. The results should provide new insight into the specificity of the Epidemiological Transition at (very) old age in one of the most longevous population in the World.

Sabrina Roduit

Access to healthcare: How life course indicators are used to sort uninsured patients

In Switzerland, despite universal health coverage guaranteed by the law (LAMal 1996), thousands of people, mostly of foreign origin, are not affiliated to the compulsory health insurance scheme. In Geneva, a specific system dedicated to people in precarious situations allows access to care. Despite this mechanism, barriers still exist for primary care access and even more for medical follow-up (secondary care access), exacerbating a phenomenon of non-take-up of care. Life trajectories of uninsured people are mostly unstudied as they represent an invisible population. This presentation examines how life course of uninsured people can determine their access to healthcare and how social inequalities can cumulate during medical care.

This qualitative research (sociology thesis) was carried out between 2015 and 2020 in the canton of Geneva. The analysis is based on semi-structured interviews (n=21) with retrospective data (life event calendars) as well as ethnographic observations in care and low-threshold services. It shed light on the mechanisms of inclusion/exclusion in care by studying the life courses of uninsured people (migration, employment, family and health trajectories).

Results show that non-take-up materialises in particular by non-request (feeling of ineligibility/fear of consulting when undocumented) but also by non-receipt (denial or partial access to care). Uninsured patients face triage practices by the caregivers, based on social usefulness, level of integration, and abuses' rhetoric. This sorting process is carried out in particular by mobilising indicators of the life course to decide who to help in accessing secondary care.

This contribution advocates for a broader use of life course perspective when examining complex processes of inclusion and exclusion of marginalized people. Moreover, it reveals the interdependency between health trajectories and the other life domains, which can lead to growing social inequalities in health, when the disadvantages come to cumulate.

Clémentine Rossier and Guillaume Fernandez

Individual social capital of divorcees: Cross-national evidence of the gendered association with well-being?

Divorce has been identified as among the life events the most negatively impacting well-being. The literature states that key social resources (number of contacts, instrumental or emotional support, etc.) may help overcome such adverse situations. Key resources are often referred to as social capital (SC). However, the gendered mechanisms of SC in the well-being of divorcees remains unclear: do social resources participate similarly in the well-being of divorced men and women? To respond, we test how different dimensions of SC are related to life satisfaction by gender. We theorize SC at the juncture between Burt's and Putnam's conceptions, that is, as the opportunities and resources the structure of the personal network offers, for Burt, and as the trust that emerges from formal and informal social participation, for Putnam. We also include the "dark side" of social capital as it has recently gained more attention and has a proven negative impact on well-being. Furthermore, although SC is individual, it may be influenced by external social contexts and norms individuals are nested in: broader contexts are to be considered. To implement this research strategy, we use gendered pooled samples of divorcees from the cross-sectional International Social Survey Programme 2017. 16 European countries from five cultural areas - Scandinavian, Bismarckian, Anglo-Saxon, Eastern, and Southern - are included. Multilevel models' results show that, for the Burtian SC, family ties are beneficial for both genders and practical support provided by public institutions is beneficial for men. The Putnamian SC is beneficial for women only. Concerning the dark side of SC, social exclusion, and family demands lead to particularly lessened well-being for divorced women, while lack of companionship is detrimental for men. Two conclusions can be drawn: decomposing SC to assess its implication for the well-being of divorcees is necessary and this association differs by gender.

Valérie-Anne Ryser, Clément Meier, Sarah Vilpert and Jürgen Maurer

Health literacy across personality traits among older adults: A tool to identify the most vulnerable

Health literacy (HL) measures individuals' ability to find, understand, appraise, and use health information to deal with health-related issues. Thus, HL is crucial in maintaining a good quality of life over the life course. Consequently, individuals with lower levels of HL are more vulnerable because it affects their competence to recognize their health issues, communicate with healthcare providers, and make medical decisions. While social factors influence levels of HL, little is known about the association between personality traits (PTs) and HL; despite the well-established impact of PTs on the way individuals obtain, analyze, and integrate any information. To fill this gap, this interdisciplinary research assesses the associations of HL with PTs dimensions - Neuroticism, Extraversion, Openness to experience, Agreeableness, and Conscientiousness- in the Swiss SHARE database, a nationally representative sample of adults aged 58 years and older.

This study is based on a paper-and-pencil self-completion questionnaire (N= 1'555) administered as part of wave 8 of SHARE. HL is measured using the short version of the European Health Literacy Survey questionnaire, whose scores of dichotomized responses is grouped into three categories: sufficient, problematic, and inadequate HL. PTs are measured with the Big-Five inventory ten. Using multivariable probit regressions, we explore how respondents' PTs are independently associated with HL after controlling individuals' social, regional, and health characteristics.

Results show that individuals who score higher on neuroticism and thus present a persistent tendency to experience negative emotions are more likely to have inadequate HL. More open individuals, more prone to engage in self-examination are also more likely to have adequate HL. These findings emphasize cumulative disadvantages of individuals higher on neuroticism, and the cumulative advantages of individuals higher on openness. Targeted interventions that would consider individuals' PTs when designing health policies could help improve HL in the vulnerable population and reduce social inequalities.

Mariano Sánchez

From 'age segregation' to 'generational segregation'. Broadening the life-course approach to time vulnerability

This presentation is linked to our current research on generational segregation in Andalusia, the southernmost region in Spain. Among other purposes, our +CINTER project intends to explore this type of segregation throughout the life course using a constructive grounded theory approach. After a scoping literature review on age and generational segregation as life-course processes, and taking advantage of LIVES focus on vulnerability, my contribution to the conference will tackle the following main question: To what extent generational location (a time-bound social feature) understood in terms of integration/segregation may be considered a path to study life-course vulnerability? The preliminary idea behind this question is that vulnerability does not just happen in time (e.g., at a certain point in time) but as well because of time location (e.g., generational position). Someone may be vulnerable at some point in her life course not because such point but because of her given generational location is subjected to specific forms of segregation with an impact of resources, reserves and/or stressors. Hence, diving into the study of generational segregation may be worthier than just searching into another way of social exclusion (i.e., segregation as per age criteria as barriers). If identification of who is vulnerable depends on a specific time in this person's life course (Spini et al., 2013), might it be that someone's location in time (e.g., cohort position, generational position) could become in itself a type of vulnerability (i.e., time vulnerability)? More specifically, if processes of age and generational segregation might bring about contexts feeding vulnerability throughout the life course (e.g., being socially excluded), shouldn't we pay closer attention to these time-bound processes?

Souleymane Sanogo, Clémentine Rossier and Marlène Sapin

Family solidarity norms and the salience of family relationships for individual social support in a comparative perspective

Interpersonal relationships play a key role in providing support for individuals throughout their life course. Interpersonal relationships and the support they provide to individuals are however shaped by norms and institutional arrangements in the place and time where these lives occur. Despite certain cultural differences reported cross-nationally, little is known about the macro-structural factors explaining them. This paper examines the relationships between family solidarity norms and social support provided by familial and non-familial relationships in a comparative perspective, aiming to disentangle several dimensions of national contexts that might influence the social support provided to individuals by family or other personal relationships. It assesses notably the role of gender inequality, individualism and traditional values on family solidarity norms, and the moderating role of the latter for social support practices. We use data from 30 countries from the ISSP's 2017 Social Networks and Social Resources survey module, and meta-analysis and meta-regressions to assess cross-country variations. Results show that while some family solidarity practices are universal, others are specific to the dominant norms and values prevailing in countries. Most people turn to family relationships in case of illness, independently of contexts, while there are much more variations into who to turn to first in case of emotional and instrumental needs for help, depending on cultural and institutional factors in the countries. In countries where gender equality is higher, women turn more to the family for domestic tasks and conviviality, but less in case of depression and family problems. The traditional values also moderate the effects of family norms on family support with similar effect implicating to turn to other types of relationships in case of emotional support need. These findings suggest that solidarity practices are present in all societies, but the salience of family relationships vary according to specific needs and institutional/cultural arrangements.

Pia Schober

Gendered work values and occupational preferences of immigrant and native youth: Findings from Germany, England, the Netherlands, and Sweden

Gender segregation of occupations in Western labour markets is remarkably persistent. Sociological and psychological research have long established the contribution of adolescents' gendered work values and occupational aspirations to this outcome. Stratification theory of gender essentialism has argued that young people's occupational choices are affected by gender essentialist beliefs and increasing self-expressive values, which interact to sustain gender segregation of occupations. It is however unclear under which circumstances self-expression in relation to occupational choices trumps instrumental concerns, related for example to money and security. Research on work values has provided evidence that young people from lower socio-economic status families tend to attach greater value to job rewards such as pay and protection against unemployment than their more affluent peers. At a macro-level, national contexts characterised by higher quality employment appear to diminish instrumental job preferences, while increasing preferences for self-actualisation values. This paper explores how gendered work values and occupational aspirations vary across countries with different levels of wage inequality, of gender cultures and occupational segregation. It also documents variations between native and immigrant groups within countries. Economic constraints and disproportionately high educational and wage aspirations of immigrant parents for their children may attenuate self-expressive values, reducing gender disparities.

The analysis draws the Children of Immigrants Longitudinal Study in four European countries (CILS4EU). The sample includes about 4,500 students aged 14 to 16 in approximately 880 classrooms across 460 schools in Germany, England, the Netherlands, and Sweden. We apply latent class analysis and multinomial and ordered logistic regression models to describe group differences across multiple dimensions of work values and the degree of gender-(a)typicality of occupational aspirations, respectively. Results provide a nuanced description of empirical patterns and further understanding of gender inequalities in occupational values and aspirations in increasingly diverse societies.

Michael Shanahan

Application of models of life course epidemiology to gene expression data

Gene expression data (mRNA-seq) represent a unique opportunity to study the molecular underpinnings of aging and morbidity in relatively healthy populations. Drawing on data from Add Health, we examine the early life course of birth weight and body mass index and their implications for gene expression profiles indicative of senescence and disease in adults in their mid 30s. A Bayesian testing strategy evaluates life course models of epidemiology—critical and sensitive periods and accumulation models—as applied to these data. Across outcomes, support is sometimes observed for a sensitive period model according to which birthweight and contemporaneous obesity status predict expression profiles of some cancers.

Stefan Sieber, Charikleia Lampraki and Daniela S. Jopp

Links between subjective and objective health trajectories: A sequence analysis approach

Background. With increasing age, people's objective health tends to deteriorate gradually. Although there is a link between subjective and objective health, the self-evaluation of an individual's health does not necessarily reflect this decline. Certain individuals evaluate their health as good while having been diagnosed with multiple chronic conditions. As subjective health is a reliable predictor of mortality, feeling good about one's health may be a protective buffer.

Objective. We aimed to identify different groups of self-rated health (SRH) and multimorbidity (defined as two or more chronic conditions) trajectories in older European adults. Furthermore, the goal was to explore psychological and sociodemographic factors that predict group membership. This will identify resources and risk factors explaining which individuals cope better or worse with multimorbidity.

Methods. Longitudinal data from seven waves (from 2004 to 2020) of the Survey of Health, Ageing and Retirement in Europe were used. The sample consists of 55.6% women and average age is 63.85 years. In a first step, cluster analysis of approximately 137'000 parallel SRH and multimorbidity sequences of individuals aged 50 years and older were run to identify different classes of subjective and objective health trajectories. Subsequently, we used multinomial regression to predict class membership by various psychological (e.g., depression, personality), and sociodemographic (e.g., age, gender, education, household income) factors.

Results. At baseline, 37.6% and 37.2% of the individuals reported poor SRH and multimorbidity, respectively. Following theoretical assumptions, we expect at least five groups of SRH and multimorbidity trajectories: mostly good SRH/no multimorbidity, mostly good SRH/multimorbidity, mostly poor SRH/no multimorbidity, mostly poor SRH/multimorbidity, and variated SRH/multimorbidity status across follow-up. Furthermore, we hypothesize that the prediction of group membership will reveal resources for successful coping with multimorbidity (good SRH/multimorbidity group), such as living with a partner and household income, and risk factors for unsuccessful coping with multimorbidity (poor SRH/multimorbidity), such as depression, age, and low socioeconomic status.

Richard Settersten, Marlis Buchmann, Martin Kohli, René Levy, Anik De Ribaupierre, Katariina Salmela-Aro and Elizabeth Thomson

Overcoming vulnerability in the life course: Reflections on a research program

This chapter reflects on the twelve-year Swiss research program, “Overcoming vulnerability: Life course perspectives” (LIVES). The authors are longstanding members of its scientific advisory committee. They highlight the program’s major accomplishments, identify key ingredients of the program’s success as well as some of its challenges, and raise promising avenues for future scholarship. Their insights will be of particular interest to those who wish to launch similar large-scale collaborative enterprises. LIVES has been a landmark project in advancing the conceptualization, measurement, and analysis of vulnerability over the life course. The foundation it has provided will direct the next era of scholarship toward even greater specificity: in understanding the conditions under which vulnerability matters, for whom, when, and how. In a process-oriented life-course perspective, vulnerability is not viewed as a persistent or permanent condition but rather as a dormant condition of the social actor, activated in specific situations and contexts.

Matthias Studer, Rojin Sadeghi and Louis Tochon

Sequence analysis for large databases

Since its introduction in the social sciences, Sequence Analysis (SA) has been increasingly used to study trajectories and is considered a key method for holistic life-course analysis. Despite its increasing uses, SA cannot properly handle big databases. Indeed, the clustering algorithms used to build a typology require storing the dissimilarities between all pairs of sequences. This rapidly becomes intractable as sample size increases. The same problem occurs when computing cluster quality indices (CQI) required to choose the number of groups or to assess the statistical quality of a typology.

However, larger databases are increasingly common, either large sample surveys (for instance SHARE) or administrative data. Studies using large databases and SA therefore rely on a random subsample of the data, which has two main drawbacks. First, it results in a loss of statistical power. Second, by using a subsample, one might miss the opportunity to identify atypical trajectories, which features among the main interest in the use of large databases.

In this presentation, we develop and review clustering algorithms and cluster quality indices that can be used with large databases. The reliability of these algorithms is illustrated by systematically comparing their results with the typology obtained with standard clustering methods. The results show that, even with datasets of standard sizes (i.e. 5,000 cases), the CLARA approach provides better results from a statistical point of view, although at the cost of large computation time. They also allow drawing practical recommendations on parameters’ values.

We also discuss the computation of CQI in large databases following two different approaches. First, we discuss CQI that can be computed using only representative sequences. Second, we develop a new approach based on bootstrapping.

The overall approach and its relevance is demonstrated through an original study of family trajectories in India using data from the Demographic and Health Survey.

Zsolt Temersvary, Sabrina Roduit and Matthias Drilling

Destitution among Central and Eastern European citizens from a life course perspective

Currently one-fourth of all people affected by homelessness in Switzerland come from the Central and Eastern Europe (CEE) region and their social status is significantly worse compared to other poor EU- migrants. These people experience an accumulation of vulnerabilities during their life course in the areas of housing, employment, healthcare and social rights. In the absence of housing and work contracts they have no access to Swiss residence permit, thus they do not have eligibility to the majority of social and medical services. Starting from a first draft of a theoretical concept of destitution, meaning multifaceted deprivation in life domains, our presentation aims at testing this concept through life history of people coming from CEE countries and living in Switzerland.

The research project “Routes into Destitution” explores the vulnerabilities and resources of mobile destitute Central and Eastern European citizens living in the Swiss cities of Geneva and Zurich. Based on a mixed methodology, 40 narrative-biographical interviews with life event calendars were conducted in 2021-2022 and completed by a quantitative survey (needs assessment). The study reflected on the heterogeneity of CEE homeless people based on their different resources and vulnerabilities such as the level of education, type of activities, migration experiences, social networks, and language skills.

First results show how multiple faces destitution can take: some faced severe deprivation, including lack of education, in the country of origin, while having the possibility of improving their trajectories in Switzerland; for others, a rupture in their trajectory put them in a vulnerable situation (divorce, unemployment) and the situation in Switzerland is even worst. There are also a few ascending trajectories. But it reminds that with the absence of rights, people have to activate their own social resources, and these resources are very unequally distributed, leading to maintaining social inequalities.

Ieva Urbanaviciute, Koorosh Massoudi and Hans De Witte

Job insecurity and (un)sustainable career development: Findings from a 7-year panel study in Switzerland

Job insecurity has become an almost inevitable feature of the contemporary world of work, experienced by thousands of workers at some point in their careers. It is recognized as a psychosocial workplace hazard that raises precarity and impairs occupational well-being in numerous ways (Eurofound, 2021). In the current study, we adopt a psychological perspective to job insecurity with the aim to understand the repercussions of employees’ perceived threat of losing the job (i.e., quantitative job insecurity; De Witte, 2005) on their sustainable career development, indicated by job satisfaction, career prospects and perceived employability.

Based on the data from the LIVES “Professional Paths” panel survey (7 yearly measurement points; N = 1134; 49% women, mean age 42 years), our findings unravel a set of temporal pathways linking career (un)sustainability to job insecurity. Looking from a short-term perspective, an increase in the person’s job insecurity at T0 was found to significantly impair their job satisfaction and perceived career prospects one year later, with no evidence of the reverse (i.e., preventive) effects. From a longer- term perspective, results also revealed some detrimental developments in job insecurity and career sustainability over the years that were more pronounced for older employees and, in certain cases, for women. However, in this case, we were also able to identify the potential preventive factors, such as employability, that may help counter the growth of job insecurity over time.

Our findings offer several contributions to the literature in the field. They draw attention to the complex mechanisms behind the intraindividual development of occupational vulnerabilities, particularly zooming into the dynamics of job insecurity and career sustainability. In doing so, we provide novel insights into how these two phenomena are intertwined and how their interrelation may unfold across the lifespan.

Giannina Vaccaro and Tania Paredes

COVID-19 and gender differences in the labor market from the developing world: Evidence from the peruvian economy

COVID-19 and its confinement measures have generated a severe economic contraction around the world. However, there is still no consensus on the magnitude of its immediate effects, particularly in developing countries. Analysts have emphasized not only human capital losses but also an economic recession and increase in economic and social inequalities, including gender differences. Despite the Latin America (LA) countries are most affected in terms of deaths, most studies focus on the impact of COVID-19 on developed countries. Using data from the National Household Surveys (ENAH) from 2019 to 2021, this paper studies the impact of the COVID-19's confinement measures on gender differences in the labor market in Peru, country with one of the biggest death rates. We found that the COVID-19 pandemic and its lockdown measures accentuated gender inequality in labor market. Women have largely decreased the total hours worked than men, particularly due to the reduction of formal employment. More vulnerable women are low-skilled and those who have not worked remotely.

Mattia Vacchiano

Multilevel networks and status attainment

Through Nan Lin's social resource theory, network studies have demonstrated the importance of personal contacts for status attainment. Achieving better occupations, wages, or social prestige depends not only on individual skills and personal resources, such as social class or human capital. Personal networks are also important structural factors because they provide access to social resources that are critical to careers, such as information and social support. Today, new research angles emerge from analyses of multilevel networks (AMN) on additional structural factors that are important for status attainment: the advantages of belonging to powerful and prestigious organizations and accessing through them complementary forms of social capital. From a series of AMN studies on one 'elite group of researchers, the importance of these structural aspects for professional careers emerge through concepts such as 'dual positioning' and 'dual alters', offering hypotheses that complement Nan Lin's theory in each of its postulates. Taking these hypotheses into account, we formulate a model for the study of status attainment consisting of four arguments: (1) individuals' initial positions, (2) access to social capital, and the impact of its (3) mobilization on (4) socioeconomic returns. The article discusses the analytical strategies that emerge from this model, opening up new prospects for investigating the role played by social networks in status attainment.

Leen Vandecasteele, Katya Ivanova Katya, Inge Sieben and Tim Reeskens

Changing attitudes about the impact of women's employment on families: The COVID-19 pandemic effect

Our key contribution is to examine whether the COVID-19 pandemic influenced gender role attitudes on work and family. Complementing studies on behavioral change in the division of work and family, a study of gender attitudes shows people's preferences and ideals that surpass the specific behavioral response. We analyzed representative longitudinal panel data from the Dutch European Values Survey (EVS), where the responses to the same questions about individual attitudes were collected from the same set of respondents in 2007 and May 2020.

We uniquely combine gender theory with theories from social psychology about adapting to change and insecurity: cognitive dissonance theory as well as exposure theory. The analysis focuses on groups whose unpaid and paid work situation changed abruptly with the COVID-19 pandemic: parents with coresident children, and those who experienced a change in paid workload that clashes with traditional gender role expectations.

We found that people tend to align their gender attitude with the new paid or unpaid work situation. For women in couple households with children this meant that they saw a halt in their progression towards gender egalitarian attitudes. For those who experienced a change in paid workload that clashed with traditional gender role norms, it meant stronger progression towards gender egalitarian attitudes. The latter is the case for people who move from more gender-typical to more gender-atypical work situations, such as women who saw their paid workload increase and men who became (temporary) unemployed.

Gil Viry, Jacques-Antoine Gauthier, Guillaume Drevon, Vincent Kaufmann, Florian Masse and Alexis Gummy

Migration patterns among couples living in Switzerland: Impact on the division of employment and income between partners

Previous research has shown that women's employment suffers from family migration often driven by the man's job. Most research has traditionally focused on the distance moved after couple formation and have neglected how far partners live from their hometowns. Yet, recent life course research has shown that staying in, leaving or returning to the hometown of one or both partners often reflect couples' work-family arrangements. This study examines the division of employment and income between partners according to where the couple resides relative to both partners' hometowns and the place where they lived when the couple relationship started. We analyse data from a nationally representative sample of 962 working-age adults in heterosexual relationships in Switzerland who participated in the 2019 MOSAiCH survey. When controlling for selectivity of migrants, the analysis confirms that family migration benefits men's relative earnings. The relative distance to partners' hometowns also matters. Couples in which the man migrated close to the woman's place have a more equal share of income and working hours than couples with non-migrant partners, while no effect was observed for couples with migrant women. The study suggests that future research on family migration should consider the locations of hometowns, nonresident family members and close friends, and the mechanisms by which these locations influence couples' work- family arrangements and economic outcomes.

Poster's Abstract

André Oliveira Borges

Sustainable careers in dirty work: Occupational stigma, wellbeing and career trajectories of vulnerable workers

During the last decades, significant demographic, economic and technological changes have affected the labor markets of post-industrial societies. Consequently, career trajectories have become more complex and unpredictable, bringing individuals to face intense competition, high demands and frequent transitions (Massoudi et al., 2018). In such a context, certain vulnerable groups of workers may encounter particular difficulties to develop positive social identity, sustained employability and meaningful careers (Owens et al., 2019).

The concept of “dirty work”, defined as tasks or occupations which are physically, socially or morally stigmatized (Ashforth & Kreiner, 1999), well represents one such a situation of vulnerability at work. Indeed, dirty workers must cope with stigmatization and threats to their identity, while experiencing precarious working conditions throughout their professional lives (Abasabanye et al., 2018). Even though the current literature provides knowledge on how dirty workers cope with occupational stigma (Soral et al., 2021), most studies draw on an external and prescriptive definition of dirty work. We thus posit that further studies should adopt a more subjective point of view, in order to (1) examine social representations of dirty work, (2) understand the type of trajectories that may lead dirty workers to their current situation, and (3) whether they manage to **attach** personal meaning to their tasks and maintain their well-being.

Thus, this poster will address these questions by drawing on two studies included in a PhD thesis. First, we will present initial results of a study on social representations of dirty work, based on the content analysis of open-ended questions addressed to 231 adolescents and young adults facing their first career decision. Then, we will describe the design of a second study exploring the perceived well-being and the narrative career development of a sample of cleaning professionals through semi-structured interviews.

Lisa Bornscheuer

Adulthood outcome trajectories after experience of childhood adversity: Differences between men and women in a Swedish birth cohort using groupbased multitrajectory modelling

Background: Childhood adversity predisposes individuals to a host of unfavourable outcomes across the life course, comprising, amongst others, health and socioeconomic sequelae in adulthood. At the same time, most succeed in navigating adversity so as to avoid long-term negative effects. To date, little research is available on what differences there are between men and women in terms of longitudinal patterns of vulnerability and resilience after childhood adversity.

Aim: This study contributes to the current knowledge on vulnerability and resilience trajectories by longitudinally approaching adulthood outcomes across different life domains after experience of childhood adversity, with a specific focus on possible differences between men and women. **Method:** We use data for a Swedish 1953 birth cohort (n=14,608). In a first step, we apply sex-stratified group-based multi-trajectory modelling (GBTM) across three health (internalising problems, externalising problems, somatic diseases) and three socioeconomic (unemployment, social welfare receipt, early retirement) indicators drawn from national registers. Childhood adversity – as reflected by records of involvement with child welfare services – will be used in sex-stratified multinomial logistic regression to predict the outcomes trajectories.

Results: Preliminary results from the GBTM suggest that a three group solution is best fitting for males (“resilient” / “early retirement & stable high levels of somatic diseases” / “social welfare receipt, moderate levels of externalising problems & gradually increasing physical health problems”) and a four group solution produced the best fit for females (“resilient” / “temporary internalising problems” / “early retirement & increased levels of both internalising and physical health problems” / “social welfare receipt & moderate levels of externalising and physical health problems”). Full results are forthcoming.

Guillaume Fernandez

A configurational and situational language

Individual language use is a matter of choice in particular situations. But what are the factors and constituents of such decision? My poster proposes a conceptual and theoretical framework which attempts to link how language produced in dyadic discussions is to be considered and replaced in the larger configuration the interaction is embedded within. This broadens the conception of personal language by not only restraining it to the moment of production. An integrated view of social interactions is taken: social interactions are expected to be ruled by a normative context, defined as the juncture of the chain of interdependences that structures the personal network of the locutor, and his or her life trajectory. In this approach, the position the individual and the dyad have in his or her social network will influence the choice of words employed in discussions in a twofold manner: on the one hand, the network limits the access to linguistic resources available within it, and, on the other hand, the structure of the network influences the agency of the individual, by the social control inherent to particular network characteristics. As for the life trajectory, the spheres of socialization experienced throughout the life course also provide linguistic resources. Moreover, life events transitions impact the structure and composition of the configuration, which make the language dynamic and evolutive. The presented framework challenges the current understanding of language use in interaction and tries to conciliate the symbolic interactionism with the configurational view.

Eduardo Guichard

When national origins equal socioeconomic background: The effect of the parental background on the education of children coming of age in Switzerland

The educational outcomes of the descendants of migrants are important indicators of migrants' incorporation into host societies and an indicator of intergenerational social im/mobility. We examine this relationship using data from a survey that follows a cohort of young adults, born between 1988 and 1997, who grew up in Switzerland. This study assumes that the incorporation of migrants can have different results depending on their baseline resources and therefore that their descendants can have access to different resources to Swiss natives. In order to analyse these differences, this article examines the relation between the parental migratory background and the educational output of their children, the social capital of the family as a starting point in descendants' trajectories. By using exploratory analyses on cross-sectional data, we show that there is a correspondence between migrants' national origins and their socioeconomic status. We explain this correspondence based on the Swiss migration policies of labour recruitment – what we call an 'ethno- class'. Our results confirm previous research showing the differences in educational outcomes between migrants' descendants and Swiss natives and between the various migrants' descendants themselves. These differences are related to the characteristics of their parental background and the 'ethno-class' induced by migration policies.

Hannah S. Klaas, Robin Tillmann, Marieke Voorpostel, Ursina Kuhn, Florence Lebert, Valérie-Anne Ryser, Olivier Lipps, Boris Wernli, Erica Antal, Gian-Andrea Monsch, and Dasoki Nora

The Swiss household panel study: Observing social change since 1999

The aim of this poster is to present the Swiss Household Panel (SHP) and its rich possibilities to study the dynamics of social change, the life course, life domains, linked lives, vulnerability and resources over a period of 22 years. The SHP collects interdisciplinary data on households and individuals since 1999. It is an ongoing, unique, large-scale, nationally representative, longitudinal study in Switzerland (N= 8,320 households and N= 13,127 individuals interviewed in 2021). The SHP aims to provide both continuity and innovation in measurement and data collection, with the combination of retrospective and prospective longitudinal data, such as life calendar data as one notable example of such an innovation. Also, it is part of the Cross-National-Equivalent File (CNEF) and the Comparative Panel File (CPF). The main questionnaire contains a variety of topics on a household and individual level, such as household composition, activities and lifestyle, standard of living and income, social origin, education, employment, physical and mental health, social participation, and political behavior and attitudes. Supplementary data sets are available such as an additional Covid-19-study, a mixed-mode field experiment, and studies on specific populations, such as the LIVES FORS Cohort survey oversampling second generation immigrants and the SHP LIVES Vaud survey oversampling low-income households. Data and support material are freely accessible to the scientific community on SWISSUbase. This poster provides an overview of the SHP – focusing on its aims, design, content, data collection and adjustments, possibilities for cross national comparisons, data use and accomplishments.

Dimitrios Lampropoulos, Dario Spini, Samuel Dupoirier, Emmanuelle Anex, Yang Li, Cecilia Delgado Villanueva

Cause commune: Communicating health and social quality in the community through participatory actionresearch.

Communication plays an essential role for collaboration among researchers and stakeholders for participatory community projects. More importantly, precision intervention mechanisms allow for sharpened targets among policymakers and other stakeholders. In the Cause Commune project, we introduce an innovative interdisciplinary approach to disseminate longitudinal research results to inform policy and intervention development to advance health in the community.

Data were collected as part of participatory research which aims to engage and promote the competencies of local residents to bring about changes in the community. Both digital and paper formats were used to gather responses from residents in Chavannes. Drawing from a sample of 445 residents (52.7% female, Mage= 52.7, SD 17.4) of Chavannes-près-Renens participating in the CC project between 2019 and 2022, we developed Social Quality Radars, geographical information system and hectometric geospatial mapping to show patterns of Social Quality and community health

Yang Li

Social inclusion from an intersectional perspective: Quantitative evidence from a municipality in Switzerland

This study uses an innovative extension of multilevel modeling to examine the extent to which intersectional social identities combine to shape risks of loneliness in Chavannes-près-Renens. In Switzerland, 38% of the adult population experience loneliness, which is more prevalent among older adults and individuals with a migration background. While past interventions have helped to reduce loneliness by fostering social connections, these interventions were often based on unidimensional and broad demographic categorizations (e.g. older adults), neglecting the intersectional and multiplicative nature of social identities, thereby limiting the precision of interventions to enhance social inclusion. Using LIVES data from the longitudinal participatory action research project (n=1,360) Cause Commune, we sought to understand the extent to which intersectional social identities combined to shape risks of loneliness in a local municipality. Employing novel and innovative multilevel techniques from social epidemiology, we found that 56% of the variance between intersectional groups was explained by multiplicative identities (age x gender x nationality x education), above and beyond the additive effects of social identities (age + gender + nationality + education). In addition, we identified that individuals who were simultaneously non-Swiss and aged 65+ and male and have primary educational attainment only were most at risk of loneliness and would be logical intervention targets to reduce loneliness. Methodological and practical implications will be discussed.

Xavier Salamin

Specific worklife issues of single and childless female expatriates: An exploratory study in the Swiss context

Purpose – Research on work–life interface in the expatriation context has to date focused on expatriates relocating with a family, and the work–life experiences of single and childless expatriates remain largely unexplored. This is particularly relevant for women, as female expatriates appear to be more often single than their male counterparts and have children less often. The aim of this paper is therefore to examine the specific work–life experiences of single and childless female expatriates who are working and living in the French-speaking part of Switzerland.

Design/methodology/approach – A qualitative research design has been adopted for this exploratory study. Data was collected through semi-structured face-to-face interviews with 20 single and childless female expatriates living and working in the French-speaking part of Switzerland.

Findings – Our findings identify a set of personal, work-related and social and cultural factors contributing to single and childless female expatriates' conflict and enrichment between work and nonwork spheres, as well as a range of sources and types of social support they rely upon. Our findings demonstrate that work–life issues are exacerbated also for single and childless women in the international context.

Originality/value – This study is the first dedicated to the examination of specific work–life issues of single and childless women in the expatriate context. By revealing the specificities of their work–life experiences, this study contributes to the fields of (female) expatriate research and work–life research and advances current knowledge on non-traditional expatriates.

Rita Schmutz

Inequality of educational opportunity and the role of education policy in Switzerland

Understanding the relationship between the education system and student performance is important for addressing a range of questions of policy importance. People's livelihoods and their later life outcomes are built on skills acquired through education. Unequal education can be a driver of unequal outcomes among different groups in society, which ultimately will also have an intergenerational impact by reducing social mobility across generations. Understanding the determinants of educational inequality is essential to inform the policy design and improve equality of opportunity in society.

Therefore, this study will provide estimates of inequality of educational opportunity (IEOp) in Switzerland. IEOp measures the share of inequality in the distribution of educational performance that can only be attributed to students' characteristics beyond their control (circumstances), such as their family socioeconomic status (SES), parental education, gender, and immigrant status. This paper adopts a parametric, ex-ante estimation approach to derive IEOp estimates by using the 2016 Swiss large-scale assessments of basic mathematics competencies (ÜGK/COFO). The IEOp estimates are decomposed to identify the contributions of different components and to develop a better understanding of the observed inequality.

Lastly, I will investigate the relationship between different education policies and IEOp by exploring the extensive variation in educational structures among the Swiss cantons. By following a policy-centered approach, education policies are assumed to moderate the relationship between SES background and educational performance. Consequently, the effect of education policy is expected to vary depending on the students' circumstances, generating a social stratification of educational outcomes. Thus, it is imperative to identify policies that foster or hinder equality of opportunity in education.

Paul Schuler

Analysing social support and the influence of personal networks and residential areas using crossclassified multilevel models

Research on family and social support widely recognises the importance of space and place. It is well known from neighbourhood studies that youth living in disadvantaged and remote areas are more likely to experience social isolation. However, most studies have examined the role of spatial contexts (neighbourhoods, schools) and largely ignored the personal network context, possibly leading to misattribution errors. Social network research is, in turn, often limited to the analysis of physical distance and has generally failed to consider that both networks and spatial environments affect opportunities for social support. Social support is essential for the well-being and life-course aspirations of individuals. The objective of my PhD project is to bridge this divide and examine how support from personal ties varies with both networks and residential areas by applying a cross-classified multilevel modelling approach with personal network data. The approach is used to analyse a large survey sample of young adults aged 18-20 living in Switzerland (n=40,000), including the full national cohort of young men of this age, for whether the tie from an alter to the young adult (ego) is supportive in terms of information provision, advice, emotional help or role models. The central premise is that support not only hinges on individual or tie characteristics, but also on the properties of personal networks (e.g. density) and areas (e.g. deprivation) where egos and alters live. Drawing on recent advances in multilevel modelling with network data, this project also aims to determine the best ways of modelling young adults' health and social behaviours and outcomes. A major focus lies on the influence of social support on the life course aspirations of young adults at this decisive point in their life trajectory.

Leonhard Unterlerchner

Grouping pathways: A cluster algorithms review for studying life courses

Since its introduction in the social sciences, Sequence Analysis (SA) has been increasingly used to study trajectories and is considered a key method for holistic life-course analysis. SA is mostly used to build a typology of trajectories, which is built in two consecutive steps. First, the trajectories are compared using a dissimilarity measure. Second, and using the information from the first step, similar pathways are grouped using cluster analysis. To date, this second step has received scant attention from the SA community despite its great influence on the results. Some authors advocated for one solution or the others, but an overall evaluation of their respective strengths and weaknesses for different situations is still missing. The aim of this presentation is to summarize the results of such a study based on simulations.

As noted by Hennig (2015), no general recommendation of a clustering algorithm can be made. However, one might draw domain-specific recommendations depending on the data characteristics and the study's aims. We distinguish between two main uses of SA. In some studies, SA is used to describe broad types of trajectories, for instance to link previous life course with later life outcomes. Other studies focus on infrequent broken paths. This latter approach is important to study vulnerability, since vulnerable pathways are typically expected to be infrequent. We further consider several data characteristics that have been shown to affect clustering performance, such as the presence of noise, outliers, and hybrid cases, i.e. cases lying in between types.

We use simulations based on the TREE data to draw general recommendations. We generate trajectories by varying the relative presence of noise, outliers, hybrid cases and atypical paths. We also vary the underlying number of types, their relative importance, or whether the data are highly or weakly structured.

Maud Wiczorek, Clément Meier, Sarah Vilpert, Jürgen Maurer and Matthias Kliegel

Multiple chronic conditions and insufficient health literacy: A possible path to vulnerability for older adults in Switzerland

Background: Health literacy (HL) is the ability to find, understand, assess, and apply health information. Individuals suffering from multiple chronic conditions represent a vulnerable population group and have complex healthcare needs that may challenge their HL skills. This study aimed to investigate the relationship between the number of chronic conditions and HL levels in a sample of adults aged 58 years and older in Switzerland.

Methods: We used data from 1,615 respondents to a paper-and-pencil questionnaire administered as part of wave 8 (2019/2020) of the Survey of Health, Ageing and Retirement in Europe (SHARE) in Switzerland. HL was measured using the short version of the European Health Literacy Survey questionnaire. The final score ranged from 0 to 16 and was divided into three categories of HL levels: inadequate (0–8), problematic (9–12), and sufficient (13–16). The number of chronic conditions was self-reported based on a pre-defined list of conditions. Associations were examined using multivariable ordinary least squares and ordered probit regression models, controlling for key socio-demographic characteristics.

Preliminary results: Overall, 63.5% of respondents reported having at least 1 chronic condition. Respondents who reported 1, 2, and 3+ chronic conditions were more likely to have lower HL total scores compared to respondents who did not report any chronic condition ($p < 0.05$, $p < 0.01$, and $p < 0.001$, respectively). Suffering from 2 and 3+ chronic conditions (vs 0) was significantly associated with a higher likelihood of having inadequate or problematic HL levels (both p -values < 0.01).

Conclusions: These findings suggest a need to improve HL in older adults suffering from chronic conditions. This may be a promising lever to empower individuals to better self-manage their health, by improving health, or eHealth information tools, or HL screening with the ultimate goal of reducing the double burden of chronic diseases and HL deficit in this vulnerable population.

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Marie Baeriswyl - *University of Geneva - Switzerland*

Anna Baranowska-Rataj - *Umeå University - Sweden*

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