



**LIVES Doctoriales
12th Edition**

February 9, 2023



Thursday February 9, 2023 (Unimail, Room M2170)

8:45-9:00 – Arrival

9:00-9:10 - Welcome & Opening Session
Prof. Daniel Oesch, Director of the Centre LIVES

9:10-10:40 - Opening session

Keynote speech & Discussion

Prof. Xavier Thierry

Researcher at Ined (French Institute for Demographic Studies) and member of the Elfe team (Étude longitudinale française depuis l'enfance)

The French multidisciplinary birth cohort: follow-up characteristics and child development highlights

Abstract. ELFE (Étude longitudinale française depuis l'enfance) is the first French national birth cohort. Its objective is to study determinants of the development, health and socialization of children from birth to adulthood through a multidisciplinary approach. A total of 18 329 children were recruited at birth in a random sample of maternity units in metropolitan France during 25 selected days of 2011 spread over the year. Follow-up in the first 10 years consisted of telephone interviews of both parents of the child at age 2 months and 1 year and 2 years, and of one parent at age 3.5 years and at 10.5 years ; a home visit at age 3.5 years and at 10.5 years; questionnaires to the child's physician at age 2 years, the child's nursery school doctor at age 3 to 4 years, as well as to the child's schoolteacher at age 4 years, 6 years and 9 years. Web questionnaires are also proposed in the intervals. Participation rates at the age 2-month, 1- and 2-year and 3.5-year and 5.5 year parental interviews were 92%, 86%, 82%, 80% and 80%, respectively, of contacted participants. The main categories of data collected concern: sociodemographic characteristics; family life; parental health, behaviour and life values; child development and health; child school performance, behaviour, and socialization; day care and school; and childhood environmental exposures. Standardized instruments have priority upon de novo questionnaires. The data-access policy, study protocols, questionnaires and data catalogue can be found online: [<https://pandora-elfe.inserm.fr>]. Emphasis will also be placed on some of the paradigms driving childhood research, such as the Developmental Origins of Health and Disease (DOHaD) theory, the exposome concept and the epigenetic perspective.

A total of 134 peer-reviewed articles were published in the three pillars: social science and behavioral aspects, early developmental health and epidemiology, environmental exposures and impact on children. Some of them may be chosen to illustrate some findings related to socioeconomic inequalities in language, motor and cognitive development produced by social scientists using specifically the ELFE data.



10:40-11:00 – Coffee break

11:00-12:30 - Session I (Chairperson: Léonhard Unterlerchner)

11:00-11:30 – Garnelle Ziade. The Relationship Between Personality and Health at the Age of 100

Expert: Prof. Hopwood

Abstract. Trying to reveal the secrets of longevity, research investigates near centenarians and centenarians to find out what factors has helped them to reach their exceptional longevity. In the current study, we focus on the potential role of personality traits for exceptional longevity. Previous research has suggested that centenarians have a unique personality pattern (Martin et al., 2006). Personality may play a role in exceptional longevity through its consequences for health, as suggested by empirical evidence in studies with older adults (Jopp & Rott, 2006; Martin et al., 2006; Pocnet et al., 2021; Wilson et al., 2005). In the current study, we hypothesized that personality was linked to certain health characteristics in centenarians. We tested this link in a sample of 119 near centenarians and centenarians (Mage = 99.25 years; range 95 to 107 years) from the Fordham Centenarian Study. Personality was assessed through the Big-Five inventory (John et al., 1991), physical health through objective health (number of diagnosed diseases), GDS depression scale (Sheikh, J. I., & Yesavage, J. A. 1986) for mental health, OARS ADL and IADL scale (Fillenbaum, G. G. 2013) for functional health. Our findings revealed the associations between certain personality traits and functional and mental health in centenarians. However, against our expectations, we found no association between personality traits and physical health. Hooker and colleagues (1992) showed that physical, functional, and mental outcomes are influenced by personality traits. Our own findings concur with this and could contribute in certain personality traits, such as extraversion, conscientiousness, or agreeableness, helping individuals maintain a better everyday functioning and subjective well-being, in turn contributing to individuals reaching exceptional longevity. Future studies are needed to further elucidate the association between personality and health in centenarians, which may be mediated by lifestyle, behaviour, or leisure activities.

11:30-12:00 – Rita Schmutz. Does universal early childhood education reduce inequalities? A systematic review and meta-analysis of evidence.

Expert: Prof. Burger

Abstract. According to Esping-Andersen (2004), the standard casual model origins → education → destiny is at least underspecified if it does not account for conditions and stimulation in early childhood. The model of life-cycle skill formation states that early childhood investments can raise the level of human capital and that early investments matter more since the economic return to human capital investment diminishes as children age (Cunha & Heckman, 2007). Therefore, early interventions may reduce the skill gap between children from vulnerable and favorable backgrounds (Heckman, 2006). In this context, early childhood education (ECE) emerges as a policy that may affect children's cognitive and non-cognitive development and equalize educational opportunities (Currie, 2001). Evaluation of ECE programs targeted at disadvantaged children shows positive long-term effects, incentivizing policymakers to invest in large-scale universal ECE as a child development strategy. However, the evidence on small-scale preschool programs cannot be generalized (Nevena Kulic et al., 2019). To understand whether universal programs have the same equalizing effects as the "model" programs, I conducted a systematic review and meta-analysis of the quasi-experimental evidence. This paper contributes to past efforts of reviewing the evidence on universal ECE and answers the following research questions: (a) Is early childhood education an effective policy strategy for equalization? (b) What are the effects of universal early childhood education on inequalities over the life course?

12:00-12:30 – Oscar Waltz. Capabilities development and recognition: what are the issues for the child protection policy in Geneva?

Expert: Dr. Arciprete

Abstract. In this paper I will first present and discuss the theoretical framework I mobilize in my thesis and then show the issues that this raises for an evaluation of the policy of protection of minors in Geneva. In the context of my research, I aim to show the relevance of linking the capability approach (Sen, 1999) to Honneth's theory of recognition (1995) in order to develop a framework for the evaluation of the child welfare policy. I suggest that Honneth's theory of recognition can enrich the capability approach by providing a better understanding of the (pre)conditions necessary for the proper development of the judge dimension (Bonvin and Laruffa, 2018). In their article they contend that the development of capabilities encompasses three anthropological dimensions, labelled as: receivers (people in need of social benefits and support, with a specific level of vulnerability), doers (individuals whose



agency depends in part on the benefits received) and judges (individuals with own aspirations and desires, knowing what is valuable in their eyes and able to express it). Trying to apply Honneth's theory of recognition to children presents several challenges, especially in connection with their status and role in society (Thomas and Stoecklin, 2018). It is their evolving nature that complicates the way society takes their agency and rights into account. In the same way that the concept of "evolving capabilities" (Bonvin and Stoecklin, 2016) bears witness to their development and their variable dependence on social conversion factor, we suggest using the concept of "evolving recognition" (Waltz and Bonvin, 2022) to take account of this complexity. Minor's sources and modes of recognition transform over time but their needs for recognition are constant and essential throughout their development.

My research focuses on two types of beneficiaries both of them being under the care of the child protection service in Geneva: (1) minors and parents benefiting from a parenting support measure involving the intervention of an educator in the family home and (2) minors who had to be moved away from their family home and placed either in a foster family or in a children's home. The remainder of this paper will highlight the interwoven issues at stake for those minors and families from a theoretical perspective. The main issue can be summarized as follows: how does the public policy provide an environment for minors and their parents to become "real judges"? We will see that this illustrates how questions of recognition are central to:

- Access to resources and skills (receiver dimension) needed for parents so that they can build their identity, legitimacy and autonomy to be able to ensure the proper development of their child and meet the institutional expectations.
- The development of minors' capability to aspire (Appadurai, 2004) that will depend on their living environment (resources and loved received) and which will condition the possible forms of agency (doer dimension)
- Promote information and participation spaces for minors and their parents (will depend on prior recognition and access to resources) which will condition their capability for voice.

The development of these two capabilities (to aspire, for voice) will allow minors to be real "judges" able to defend valuable choices and to live a life that they have reasons to value.

12:30-13:30 – Lunch

13:30-15:30 - Session II (Chairperson: Rita Schmutz)

13:30-14:00 – Cecilia Delgado. Subjective and Objective Territorial and Network Effects on Mental Health: Evidence from a Municipality in Switzerland.

Expert: Dr. Mattia Vacchiano

Abstract. Over the last decades, the social determinants of health have gained increased interest among health promotion. However, these determinants are often studied separately, at one level, and either subjectively or objectively. This paper tries to provide better understanding of health determinants by studying subjective and objective territorial and network effects at both, individual and contextual level, on individuals' mental health from a Municipality of Switzerland. To do so, multilevel analysis will be performed on data collected at the municipality of Chavannes-près-Renens, where the Participatory Action Research (PAR) project "Cause Commune" for health and social action has been conducted since 2019. Subjective network determinants will be assessed by individuals' perception of social cohesion in neighborhoods, subjective territorial determinants will be assessed by environmental perceptions of inhabitants, and objective territorial determinants will be assessed by urban quality indicators retrieved from observations. Providing a multidimensional and a multilevel study on the determinants of health in Switzerland, we aim to provide knowledge of the pathways involved in the reduction of health inequalities in order to contribute to a healthier society.

14:00-14:30 – Violetta Tucci. Leaving home in Europe: the influence of parental home ownership status

Expert: Prof. Christian Lennartz

Abstract. Over the last decades, the process that accompanies young adults in establishing independent living has become increasingly complex, protracted, fragmented, and socially stratified and its postponement can affect future life opportunities as well as their well-being. The socio-economic transformations and the progressive residualisation of the public welfare systems have contributed to several changes in the transition to adulthood of young adults and impacted regulatory models and made the housing transitions of young adults increasingly uncertain and non-linear. Several studies have shown the key role of individual and household socio-economic resources in terms of both income and housing in transitions out of the parental home at the micro level as well as the influence of a country-specific set of opportunities and constraints at the macro level. However, few studies have investigated in depth the differences in the probability of leaving home between low-income young people and those who are not. The most disadvantaged young Europeans could be less likely to be at risk of leaving home and this may be also explained by the increase in the average age of those staying with their parents. Nevertheless, the characteristics of the labour market and the



welfare state could shape the propensity to be independent of the parental home and mediate the effect of economic resources on the probability of making this transition. Considering the decline in living and material conditions due to the great financial crisis of 2008, I expect to observe a diversification of leaving home propensity based on economic and institutional contextual dimensions as well as an increase in the intergenerational transmission of social (dis)advantages.

In my article, I investigate leaving home of young adults during the transition to adulthood over the last decade considering the individual characteristics (e.g. economic resources) and socio-economic household background, including their housing conditions, as well as the influence of several macro contextual characteristics. In particular, I study how the macro factors may moderate the individual effects of socio-economic resources on the outcome. Hence, this study aims to distinguish between preferences and constraints in the independence transitions of young adults and identify the mechanisms by which the context can influence the interdependence between socio-economic inequalities and life course trajectories. The main source of data for my analyses is the European Union Survey on Income and Living (Eu-Silc). Using 11 waves of comparable, representative and longitudinal micro-data collected between 2007 and 2018, I conduct a multilevel analysis in 23 European countries, considering the influence of the labour market and social policies in each country, as well as the socio-economic resources of individuals, on the likelihood of moving out of the parental home. The hypothesis is that low-income young adults are more inclined to be at risk of leaving the family nest in contexts with fewer labour market uncertainties and a generous welfare state.

14:30-15:00 – Guillaume Fernandez. Language variability across interactions: A configurational approach

Expert: Prof. Dario Spini

Abstract. Literature has emphasized the fact that individuals adapt their language according to their interlocutors and the situation. Yet, the extent to which the individual varies across interactions is somewhat neglected. To what degree are people inter-situationally similar and what are the mechanisms that participate to linguistic variation ? To respond, I take a configurational view that posits that individual actions are embedded in structural constrains. People are not isolated actors who act in a social vacuum. Instead, they are part of chains of interdependences that enhance and constrain their behavior. 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. Therefore, I explore how the social network properties and the social capital distribution influence the likelihood to observe variations in the linguistic behavior of the individuals. The population of interest is students in their last year of graduation of the different departments from the Hautes Écoles Spécialisées de Suisse occidentale (HES-SO). Network data is collected with probabilistic stratified sampling via computer-assisted web interviews (CAWI) and linguistic data is obtained via self-recorded discussions with network members. Social network analysis (SNA) methods are applied to disentangle the effects of the relational structure on the linguistic variability.

15:00-15:30 – Maëlys Tirehote-Corbin. To make a living from your art? The case of francophone comic book artists.

Expert: Prof. Pierre Bataille

Abstract. In the framework of my PhD, I investigate the trajectories of comic book authors, focusing on how they navigate the precariousness of their profession. It is a common trait they share with other artistic professions altogether. Most artists cannot live solely with the revenues from their art and must expand their income sources, thus becoming ordinary artists (Perrenoud et Bois, 2017). Beyond the question of income, these trajectories are also shaped by marital and family configuration, and more globally by lifestyles, like art ceramists as investigated by Flora Bajard (2022). Based on an ongoing investigation of 25 biographical interviews with life calendars and ethnographic observations, I will discuss the various strategies and resources deployed by comic book artists in facing precariousness; and how they are partially parted by an economical and geographical frontier between the European Union and the Swiss Confederation. I will also discuss how managing their situation despite the precariousness inherent in the activity participates in the construction of a rhetoric aiming the minimization of their situation by comparison with other comic book authors who would be in more challenging situations (“some are worse off than I am”).

15:30-15:50 – Coffee break



15:50-18:00 - Session III (Chairperson: Guillaume Fernandez)

15:50-16:20 – Lisa Bornscheuer. Resilience, vulnerability and gendered life-courses: exploring the mechanisms behind patterns of disadvantage in the context of adversity.

Expert: Prof. Dario Spini

Abstract. Background. At any point in the life course, adverse circumstances or events increase the risk of subsequently experiencing ill health and other forms of disadvantage (1-4). Whenever disadvantage can be avoided and pre-event or “normal” functioning maintained, we may refer to the underlying processes as resilience (5). Conversely, when vulnerability processes dominate, adversity results in (additional) disadvantage (5, 6). Since life courses are gendered in multiple ways – with consequences for health and well-being (7) – we propose that also resilience and vulnerability as processes are gendered. This gender dimension, particularly in relation to resilience, remains poorly articulated in empirical research to date (8, 9). Aim and scope of the project. The aim of this project is to contribute to a more nuanced, theoretically informed, and empirically based understanding of differences between men and women in processes of resilience and vulnerability across the life course, and to discuss how these differences may be attributable to gender roles and norms. My doctoral project encompasses four papers. As a first step, a scoping review of studies on mediators and moderators of childhood adversity will compile and synthesise existing evidence on sex/gender differences in the pathways to outcomes conceptualised as being indicative of vulnerability or resilience. The three remaining papers are empirical and approach resilience and vulnerability via different and at times co-existing disadvantages following adversity - or the absence thereof. Paper II describes sex/gender differences in multi-domain outcome trajectories among adults exposed to childhood adversity. Paper III will explore sex/gender differences in mechanisms linking childhood adversity and adulthood outcomes by modelling different factors in the school and family environment at age 13 as potential mediators and moderators. Paper IV will investigate changes in outcome trajectories comparing pre- and post-event disadvantage using exposure to stressful life events such as divorce or death of a spouse. Materials. The three empirical papers are based on a prospective birth cohort design. Data from the Stockholm Birth Cohort Multigenerational study (SBC Multigen) will be used, which includes survey and registry data on 14 608 individuals born in 1953 and living in the Stockholm metropolitan area in 1963, who are currently followed up until 2020 (age 67).

References

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16:20-17:00 –Paul Schuler. Analysing the influence of personal networks and place on the life course aspirations of young adults in switzerland

Expert: Dr. Nicolas Sommet

Abstract. Research on social support and the life course widely recognises the importance of space and place. It is known from neighbourhood studies that youth living in disadvantaged and remote areas are more likely to experience social isolation and face hardships in their life course trajectories. 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 social capital and opportunities for social support. Social support is essential for the well-being and life course aspirations and educational attainment of individuals. The objective of this study is to bring the two strands together. We hypothesise that life course aspirations of young adults not only hinge on individual characteristics and differences between municipalities in which they live (e.g. degree of urbanisation), but also on the properties of personal networks (e.g. proportion of friends living in urban areas) and available social support. To test our assumptions, we use the 2020 subsample of a cross-sectional survey of young adults (age range 15-30) living in Switzerland recruited in the Swiss Army and Civil Participation Program (n=10,000) as part of the Swiss Federal Survey of Young Adults (CHX-YASS). The questionnaires were administered either in-person or through an online survey. We analyse how life course aspirations of young adults are affected by differences between Swiss municipalities and the characteristics of personal networks. We use descriptive statistics and linear regression models to assess the impact of individual characteristics and geographical factors on life course aspirations. In a personal network design, we create indices regarding network composition and available support to include in the models. Moreover, we outline further analyses that take into account the multi-level character of personal networks and spatial embeddedness and highlight methodological challenges.



17:00-17:30 – Léonhard Unterlerchner. A review of clustering algorithms applied to sequence analysis

Expert: Prof. Hennig

Abstract. 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.

Dinner altogether

