



Society for Longitudinal and Life Course Studies International Conference

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***Life Course and Social Change: Interdisciplinary and
International Perspectives***

ABSTRACTS

Acknowledgement

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VU university medical center



Day 1 – Monday 26th September 2011

The National Education Panel Study for Germany – Idea, theoretical frame, design and research potential

Hans-Peter Blossfeld, NEPS, University of Bamberg, Germany

Today, not much is known about education as a lifelong process and the cumulative and interactive impact of learning that occurs in multiple contexts over the life span. The new National Educational Panel Study (NEPS) in Germany is funded by the Federal Ministry of Education and Research as a huge investment into the infrastructure of the social and educational sciences. The NEPS will provide unique, nationally representative longitudinal data on individual's educational careers and competencies and how they unfold over the life course in relation to family, educational institutions, workplaces, and private life. To obtain relevant data as quickly as possible, four starting cohorts have been recruited in the fall of 2010. These contain persons at a specific stage in the education system or in a specific age group. Sample selection is oriented toward transitions both within the education system and between the education system and the labor market. The major transitions are those to elementary school, to the tracked secondary school system, to vocational training or higher education, and to the labor market for graduates of both vocational training and higher education. An exception is the starting cohort for studying adult education.

Irrespective of current participation in education or the labor market, this representative sample of 23- to 64-year-olds was already being surveyed in 2009. Work has also started on building up a further birth cohort of infants to document and analyze early childhood development and the entry to early childhood care institutes (day nursery, Kindergarten, etc.). The first major assessments in this cohort will commence in 2012. In sum, the six representative starting cohorts are composed of infants, 4-year-olds attending Kindergarten, 10- to 11-year-olds in 5th grade, 14- to 15-year-olds in 9th grade, first-year higher education students, and 23- to 64-year-old adults. All in all, the NEPS conducts surveys of a total of about 60,000 target persons (and about 40,000 related actors such as parents, teachers, peers etc.). The NEPS data will be made available to the scientific community in Germany and abroad as quickly as possible after the end of the field work.

Longitudinal Patterns in Health Outcomes

Association of grandparental patterns of cardiovascular disease and diabetes mellitus with their grandchildren's birth weights: The Lifeways Cross Generation Cohort Study, Ireland

Aakash Shrivastava, Karien Viljoen, Celine Murrin, Cecily C. Kelleher, Lifeways Cross Generation Cohort Steering Group, University College Dublin, Ireland

Purpose: Any association between infants' birth-weight and chronic morbidity of their adult relatives supports the foetal origins of disease hypothesis.

Methods: In 2001 a cohort of 1082 families was established ante-natally. At baseline 1231 grandparents provided their diagnosed status on myocardial infarction (MI), stroke and diabetes. In 2005, their general practitioners provided an update for 731 grandparents. The odds were examined in logistic regression models of grandparents having these diseases, per 100 gram(g) increment in grandchildren's birth-weight adjusted for Child's gestational age, gender; Grandparents' age, smoking, height, BMI; and Mother's pre-pregnancy BMI. Difference in adjusted mean birth-weight of grandchildren between diseased and non-diseased grandparents

was also examined by ANCOVA models, further adjusted for Mother's age, parity, smoking, height, education; and Grandparents' education.

Results: Infants' birth-weight was inversely associated with all grandparents' MI [OR(95%CI)=0.88(0.79-0.98)]. Adjusted mean birth-weight for infants of maternal-grandparents with diabetes was significantly less {-371[(-666)-(-76)]g} compared to those without. A similar decrease of -244[(-500)-(+13)]g was found for maternal-grandparents with stroke. Conversely, paternal grandparents' having stroke or diabetes was associated with higher birth-weight of grandchildren.

Conclusions: This novel three-generation familial cohort demonstrates different patterns of inter-generational risk transmission in maternal and paternal lines.

Parental characteristics and child development trajectory from six to thirty-six months: a latent growth curve analysis

Bih-Ching Shu, National Cheng Kung University, Taiwan

Objective: Use latent growth modeling (LGM) to investigate children's gross motor, fine motor, language and social developmental trajectories.

Methods: Parental characteristics, including maternal health condition measured using the 36-Item Short Form Health Survey and the children's development was measured at six, eighteen and thirty-six months using the Taiwan Birth Cohort Study instrument was collected for 2048 new-born.

Results: The LGM showed the initial value of the language dimension had the least effect on its development, and there was an increase with an age effect in the other dimensions. Maternal mental health and family support had the greatest effect on the initial value of development, and maternal education had the greatest effect on the developmental slope.

Conclusions: Since prevention should focus on the initial value and intervention on the slope, prevention of developmental delay should focus on maternal mental health, and intervention on educational information to improve children's development.

Household dysfunction in early life and child-to-adult height trajectories: findings from the 1958 British birth cohort

Rachel Denholm, University College London, UK

Objective: To examine the association between household dysfunction in childhood and child-to-adult height trajectories.

Methods: We used data from the 1958 British birth cohort. Height was measured at 7, 11, 16y and adulthood (converted to standard deviation scores (SDS)). Seven indicators of household dysfunction were obtained at 7y, and combined. Multivariate response models (n=9,829-11,613) examined the association between household dysfunction and height at all ages simultaneously.

Results: Household dysfunction measures were significantly associated with reduced height, with stronger associations found in childhood. After adjusting for parental height, birth-weight, and socio-environmental factors, associations weakened, and adult height was no longer significantly affected. Males from households with parental mental-health issues or contact with a children's department were shorter by 0.14 and 0.15SDS at 7y (equivalent to 0.8-0.9cm). Females from households with parental alcoholism were shorter by 0.32SDS at 7y (2cm). Increments in household dysfunction score were associated with decreases in childhood height, suggesting

children from dysfunctional households were shorter in early life, and experienced catch-up growth later.

Conclusion: Associations between household dysfunction and height trajectories were largely explained by socio-environmental factors. Some household dysfunction measures and a high score remained associated with childhood height. This delay in growth may influence later health.

Childhood adversity as a risk for cancer - findings from the 1958 British Birth Cohort Study

Michelle Kelly-Irvin et al, INSERM, France

We aim to analyse whether Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACE) are associated with an increased risk of cancer. The National child development study (NCDS) is a prospective birth cohort study with data collected over 50 years. The NCDS included all live births during one week in March 1958 (n= 18 558) in Great Britain. Self-reported cancer incidence was based on 533 participants reporting having had cancer at some point and 6080 reporting never having cancer. ACE was measured using reports of: 1) child in care, 2) physical neglect, 3) child's or family's contact with the prison service, 4) parental separation due to divorce, death or other, 5) family experience of mental illness 6) family experience of substance abuse (0-6), to test for a dose-response relationship with cancer. Information on household socioeconomic characteristics, pregnancy and birth were extracted as potential confounders. Multivariate models were run using multiply-imputed data to account for missing data in the cohort. The odds of reporting a cancer increased by 40% for every unit increase in the ACE measure after adjustment (95%CI: 1.23-1.59, p<0.0001). ACE was positively and independently associated with cancer incidence, with a dose-effect relationship, suggesting that exposure to adversity in childhood ought to be considered as a risk factor for cancer in later life.

Symposium – Risk and resilience among children growing up in adversity (MCS)

Family hardship, family instability and children's development

Barbara Maughan, Institute of Psychiatry, UK

As a backdrop to the other papers in this symposium, this paper will present findings on challenges to young children's development, focusing in particular on the relative roles of family hardship and family instability as risk factors for children's cognitive and emotional/behavioural development at age 5 years. Using data from the first three sweeps of the Millennium Cohort Study (undertaken at child ages 9 months, 3 years and 5 years), it will begin by outlining the levels of economic hardship (equivalised net household income less than 60% of national median income) faced by young children in contemporary Britain, and the nature and stability of the family settings in which they are growing up. It will then examine these factors as predictors of children's cognitive development (directly assessed using the British Ability Scales) and emotional/behavioural adjustment (carer-rated using the Strengths and Difficulties Questionnaire) at age 5 years. Analyses including a range of individual and socio-demographic controls suggest specific risk processes/factors for the two developmental outcomes: persistent poverty had the most powerful effect in undermining early cognitive skills, while parents' partnership status was the strongest independent correlate of early emotional/behavioural adjustment. Implications of the findings will be discussed.

Parental rearing confidence and positive parenting as protective factors of children's behaviour adjustment: findings from the Millennium Cohort

Helen Cheng, Institute of Education, UK

This study examines the influence of early parental rearing confidence and positive parenting on children's behaviour adjustment at age 5, taking into account the effects of family economic adversity, family structure, maternal mental health, and demographic variables. Using data from the UK Millennium Cohort Study (MCS), in a sample of 9,581 children and their parents, we investigate the associations between a set of established risk factors and parenting behaviour, examining in particular the protective effects of parenting behaviour on children's behaviour adjustment at age 5. Children's behaviour was assessed by maternal rating of the Strengths and Difficulties Questionnaire. Results show that family economic adversity, family instability, lone parenthood, and maternal depression were all significantly and negatively associated with children's behaviour adjustment; whereas positive views on rearing style (viewing talking and cuddling a young baby are important), parental rearing confidence, and positive parenting (regular time for meals and bed, positive parent-child interactions) all had beneficial effects on children's behaviour adjustment, accounting for 29% of total variance. Further, gender and maternal education were also significantly associated with children's behaviour adjustment: girls had fewer behaviour problems than boys at this age, and children of better educated mothers had fewer behaviour problems.

Childcare as a protective factor for children growing up in disadvantaged circumstances

Elizabeth Jones, Institute of Education, UK

Formal childcare during the preschool years has shown to have beneficial effects on the cognitive development of children growing up in poverty and social disadvantage. The evidence regarding the effects of childcare on socio-emotional and behavioural adjustment of children is less consistent, as studies involved different age groups of children experiencing childcare at different ages. The aim of this paper is to examine the role of childcare provided at age 3 years and to assess the longer-term effects of formal group childcare at that age for cognitive and behavioural adjustment at age 5. Using data from the UK Millennium Cohort Study, a nationally representative study, we assess the independent effects of exposure to group childcare at age 3 on cognitive and behavioural adjustment at age 5, adjusting for experience of family poverty, family instability, and early child temperament. Investigation of the interaction between poverty and childcare experience revealed that group child care experience was beneficial for both cognitive and behavioural adjustment for children who had experienced poverty, while there was little effect for children who had not experienced poverty. The beneficial effect was significant, after controlling for family demographics, as well as early child temperament.

Protection against cumulative risk in early childhood

Ingrid Schoon, Institute of Education, UK

The aims of this paper are twofold: First, to examine the role of cumulative risks associated with family poverty on early child development; and second, to identify potential protective factors and processes reducing the negative effects of cumulative risk exposure for young children growing up in poverty. Using data collected for the Millennium cohort at ages 9 months, 3 and 5 years a socio-demographic risk index is developed which serves as a summary indicator of the early socio-economic family environment, going beyond a standard income poverty measure. The experience of early and cumulative risk exposure significantly undermines the cognitive and behavioural adjustment of children at age 5. Protective factors, reducing the negative risk effects of cumulative disadvantage include warm and supportive parent-child interactions, use of formal childcare, as well as support from and interactions with a wider social network. Implications of findings for policy makers are discussed.

Symposium – Youth wellbeing: early findings from Understanding Society

Material and subjective wellbeing of youths in the UK

Gundi Knies, University of Essex, UK

In the UK, a lot of policy attention has been paid to improving child well-being, understood mainly as improving the financial position of families with younger children. A new indicator of child poverty has been proposed with the intention of measuring children's material circumstances that really make a difference to their well-being (Willitts 2006). Following the increasingly popular approach to view life satisfaction scores as a catch-all measure for how well policies serve the people (Layard 2005), the research uses information from Understanding Society, the new UK Household Longitudinal Study (UKHLS), to investigate whether the new child poverty measure introduced to help target effective policies that make a real difference to children's lives does affect children's life satisfaction. The results suggest that there is no statistically significant association between child material deprivation and their self-report of life satisfaction. Alternative measures of deprivation, including household and neighbourhood deprivation measures, as well as alternative measures of youth's subjective well-being are then used to explore whether there is any empirical association between these measures and subjective well-being in youths.

Family characteristics of victims bullying at school

Alexandra Skew, University of Essex, UK/Dieter Wolke, University of Warwick, UK

Any child can become a victim of bullying but those who remain victims are often more anxious, submissive, withdrawn or physically weak, show easily a reaction (e.g. run away, start crying, scream for help), have poor social understanding and coping skills and have no or only few friends who can stand up for them. In contrast to our knowledge of individual differences of children, studies of family factors related to victimisation are few and mostly based on small or selected samples.

This study investigates a range of family factors and their relationship to bullying victimisation of 2146 adolescents 11-15 year old within the Understanding Society sample. Approximately 11% were victims of bullying overall, 4.8% of direct and 10% of relational bullying in school. Those who were victimized were more likely to have SDQ behaviour problem scores in the clinical range. Children who were victimized at school were less happy and had fewer friends. The family factors that were investigated in relation to peer victimisation are family type, family income and wealth, partner relationship of parents, parenting behaviour, maternal mental health and wellbeing and experience of sibling bullying.

The findings are discussed in relation to the limited literature on victimisation and family factors and sibling relationships.

You are what you eat, smoke and drink

Cara Booker, Amanda Sacker, Yvonne Kelly, Alex Skew, University of Essex, UK

Health behaviours in youth may set the stage for better or worse health later in life. Well-being during adolescence may be influenced by health behaviours. We investigate the socio-demographic distribution of health behaviours, and their relationship with well-being. Data are from the youth panel of Understanding Society, the UK Household Longitudinal Study (N = 2163).

The Strengths and Difficulties questionnaire measured low well-being and happiness in different life domains combined to assess high well-being. Girls ate more fruit and vegetables than boys, while boys participated more often in sport. There were no gender differences in alcohol consumption or cigarette smoking. Smoking and drinking was rare early in youth but healthy eating and exercise habits were less common in older youth. Alcohol, fruit and vegetable consumption and sports participation were more common in higher income households. None of the youth who smoked or drank most frequently had high well-being. Those who ate more fruit and vegetables and did more sport had higher well-being even after adjustments. Less fruit and vegetable consumption, smoking and drinking were all associated with low well-being but sports participation was unrelated to low well-being. Interventions to encourage healthy lifestyles among youth may not only benefit their future health but also their current well-being.

The Facebook generation: Youth's screen based - media use and well-being

Alexandra Skew, Maria Iacovou, University of Essex, UK

Background: Previous studies suggest that screen based media use is associated with poor mental health. Here we examine which forms of screen based media use are related to better and worse well-being among youth. Gender, age and socioeconomic variation in these relationships are also explored.

Methods: Self-completion questionnaires from 2163 youth aged 10-15 years were collected in wave 1 year 1 of Understanding Society, the UK Household Longitudinal Study. The Strengths and Difficulties questionnaire was used to measure low levels of well-being and items on happiness in different life domains were used to assess high well-being.

Results: Gender differences in use of games consoles, the internet, social networking websites and computer based games were observed but there were no differences for TV viewing. Computer games, internet and social website use increased with age, while games console use became more polarised. Internet use, games console use and TV viewing were socially patterned. Highest levels of well-being were observed for those who used no or little screen based media. Lowest levels of well-being were seen among those youth who used any screen based media for four or more hours per day.

Conclusions: The findings suggest that screen based media use in moderation is least harmful to well-being among young people. The mechanisms and processes at play require further elucidation.

Ageing

Life review in ninety year olds from the Lothian Birth Cohort 1921: introducing a qualitative dimension to a longitudinal study

Hilary Lapsley, Alison Pattie, John Starr et al, University of Edinburgh, UK

Life review, a qualitative technique for eliciting autobiographical narrative, is quite different in character to most longitudinal methods. It has a long and broad reach that can, at the very least, add colour to longitudinal research through illustrating central themes in the participants' own words. More usefully, by inviting participants to speak or write about what is important to them, life review methods provide context-rich data that can be mined for ideas and insights, providing a corrective or enhancement to data obtained from predetermined response categories, as well as suggesting new themes or constructs not previously considered. Perhaps most significantly, life review data, quantified through content analysis or ratings of higher-order themes in the data, can be used to test new research hypotheses.

The value of gathering life review data in a longitudinal study is exemplified through an analysis of early findings with a cohort of 90 year olds from the Lothian Birth Cohort 1921 study. Tested for intelligence in 1932 at around age 11, and then again in several waves as older people, LBC 1921 participants were given a short open-ended Life Review questionnaire nearly 80 years after the original testing. Early findings from around 50 of the anticipated 100 participants have provided the opportunity to examine more deeply the relationship between gender, early intelligence and emerging life review themes, including positiveness, relationality and complexity of thought.

Social differences in progression to disability among elderly

Chiara Marinacci, Piedmont School of Public Health, Italy

Italian elderly showed higher social inequalities in disability than in chronic morbidity, probably related to faster transition from morbidity to disability among socially disadvantaged. We estimated transition probabilities towards mild and severe disability, and their variations by social position, among national elderly cohorts.

Data collected on Activities of Daily Living from three National Health Interview Surveys (1994, 2000, 2005) were used to classify population aged 60+ years according to disability at surveys (able, mild=any non maximum difficulties in equilibrium, walking and up&go functions, severe=at least one maximum functional limitation). Prevalences of disability status by cohort, gender and education were computed since 1994. Specific life tables were computed through data from Turin Longitudinal Study; they were applied to national prevalences of disability to estimate inter-surveys deaths.

Men with lower education showed higher incidence of mild disability, compared to higher educated, among 60-64 aged cohorts in 1994 and the differential keeps constant with ageing. This difference is less pronounced in male cohorts born before and negligible among women. Transition probabilities from mild to severe disability showed to be higher among less educated, in both genders younger cohorts, especially in the first ageing part, while the reverse was found among cohorts born before.

Time perspective and the emergence of health inequalities over the life course

Reinhard Schunck, Sibyl Kleiner, University of Bielefeld, Germany

This paper investigates the relationship between time perspective and health behaviours. It suggests a micro-sociological reconstruction of how inequalities in health (behaviours) emerge over the life course and tests the model using longitudinal data from the National Longitudinal Paper of Adolescent Health (Add Health).

Health behaviours constitute an important factor shaping health inequalities. Research has consistently shown social inequalities in health behaviours (e.g. smoking, exercising, drinking). While it is clear that health behaviours are important factors in shaping health over the life course, it is less clear how the social gradient in health behaviours comes into being.

This paper proposes a micro-sociological reconstruction focussing on the actor's time perspective takes a crucial role. The central hypothesis is that a short time perspective—a stronger focus on the present rather than on the future—makes risky health behaviours more likely, through increasing the salience of immediate rewards and by leading to an underestimating of long-term consequences. The paper furthermore assumes that time perspective is not equally distributed over the social strata.

The analyses (cross-sectional and longitudinal) reveal marked associations between time perspective and health behaviours. Moreover, time-perspective covaries systematically with a person's socio-economic status.

Is intelligence measured in healthy old age still associated with survival?

Geoff Der, Medical Research Council, Glasgow, UK

Background: Increasing evidence links intelligence with morbidity and mortality. A number of potential mechanisms have been proposed to explain this association, including the 'system integrity' hypothesis which posits that greater intelligence is a result of a bodily constitution which is in some sense 'better wired' and therefore more generally healthy. If true this might imply that intelligence would still be associated with mortality even at older ages. However, a healthy sample of elderly people would be needed to test the hypothesis in order to minimise the possibility of reverse causation.

Methods: The case notes of GP practices in Edinburgh, Scotland, were screened to identify healthy people over the age of 70. Six hundred took part and were assessed on up to four occasions. Cognitive ability was assessed with measures of non-verbal reasoning, memory, vocabulary and a dementia screening instrument.

Vital status was ascertained by linkage to official death records 18 years after the baseline assessment. Associations of cognitive ability with survival time were estimated with Cox regression.

Results: All measures except the dementia screen were associated with survival time. However, much of this effect still appears to be mediated by achieved education and social class.

Childhood Overweight

What determines child's declining overweight trajectory?

Alet Wijga, Lenie Van Rossem, Utrecht University, Netherlands

Aims: Overweight in early life is a risk factor for overweight at school age, but a considerable proportion of these children attain a normal weight nevertheless. We investigated factors for 'overweight resilience' by comparing characteristics of children with persistent overweight, with those who declined in overweight before the age of 11 years.

Methods: We used data from 3550 children participating in an ongoing birth cohort, the PIAMA study. A body mass index \geq 90th percentile for age was defined as overweight. Latent class growth modelling was used to distinguish overweight trajectories. The 436 children who were overweight at birth were included in the analysis (12.3% of the total study population). Of those, 303 children lost overweight and 133 children kept overweight up to the age 11 years. Associations were determined with logistic regression analyses.

Results: Children who declined in overweight probability were less likely to have an overweight mother (OR: 0.59, 95% CI 0.45-0.75), or an overweight father (OR: 0.72, 95% CI 0.55-0.94) than persistent overweight children. Educational level, smoking during pregnancy, ethnicity, birth weight, and breastfeeding were not associated.

Conclusions: Overweight children from parents without overweight are more likely to lose their overweight during their school years.

Cut-offs for childhood BMI in the prediction of cardiovascular disease risk factors in adulthood

Leah Li, University College London, UK

There is limited evaluation of the available reference standards for childhood BMI in the prediction of adult CVD risk factors. We aimed to establish how well the IOTF and population-specific cut-offs for childhood BMI predict adult CVD risk factors. We used BMI measures of the 1958 British birth cohort (7, 11, 16y) and CVD risk factors (45y). The sensitivity and specificity of the cut-offs for childhood BMI were calculated for each CVD risk factor. Prevalence of overweight/obesity was low in childhood (<11% using IOTF cut-offs) than adulthood (56-75%). IOTF cut-offs had high specificities (91.6-97.9%) but low sensitivities (7.1-31.5%) for predicting adult outcomes. In comparison, population-specific cut-offs identified large groups of children (>38% for predicting adult obesity) that had improved sensitivities (17.3-67.3%), but lower specificities (52.9-84.6%) than IOTF cut-offs. Accelerated BMI gains in childhood predicted adult obesity and type 2 diabetes risk, but not better than for BMI at one age (AUC 0.55-0.65 vs 0.59-0.75). Childhood BMI and BMI gain were weak predictors for adult hypertension and adverse lipid levels. Neither the IOTF nor our population-specific cut-offs for childhood BMI provided adequate diagnostic tools for adult CVD risk factors in a population experiencing rapid change in obesity prevalence over their lifetime.

Body size, body shape and body composition as risk factors for cardiovascular disease in ethnic minority children of the Millennium Cohort study

Amanda Sacker, Yvonne Kelly, University of Essex, UK

Background: Obesity and height are positively correlated in childhood but there is some controversy about the direction of causality. Children from some ethnic minorities are both taller and more obese, which may increase their risk of cardio-vascular disease (CVD) in later life. We ask whether ethnic minority children have an increased risk of CVD as a consequence of the synergy between height and adiposity.

Methods: Anthropometric data are from the Millennium Cohort Study sweeps 2 to 4 (N=13,574). Two process latent growth curve models are used to examine bi-directional relationships between height and adiposity.

Results: At age 3, ethnic minority children are taller and have lower BMI than the white majority. Height at age 3 is positively related to the rate of change in BMI and negatively related to growth in height. BMI is similarly positively related to the rate of change in height and negatively related to change in BMI. Both height and BMI growth rates differ by ethnicity. By age 7, the ethnic minority children have higher BMI scores than the white majority. Results for waist circumference and fat mass are similar.

Conclusion: The excess risk of CVD for ethnic minority groups has origins early in life.

Wellbeing

Predictors of child's well-being in Irish families

Ela Polek, University College Dublin, Ireland

This study uses the data from the first wave of the newly commenced longitudinal survey "Growing up in Ireland" conducted on 8,500 9 year old children and their families. We examined if family characteristics (intact vs. re-partnered families, household income), parental characteristics (education, parental skills, marital satisfaction, depression) and a child-parent

relationship (level of conflict) predict a child psychological well-being. The results suggest that in intact families the child-parent conflict was the strongest predictor of a child well-being ($p < 0.001$). Other significant predictors included family status, parental skills, a mother depression and household income ($p < 0.01$). In re-partnered families the only significant predictor of a child well-being was conflict between a child and the primary caregiver's partner ($p < 0.001$). Univariate analysis of variance conducted with household income as controlled variable showed that psychological wellbeing of children was significantly higher in intact families than in re-partnered families (even if intact families had lower marital satisfaction than re-partnered families). Interestingly, most Irish couples from intact families reported low marital satisfaction, which juxtaposed with exceptionally low divorce rate in Ireland, implies that divorce stigma still prevents many unhappy couples from parting.

Obesity, bullying and gender differences in children: preliminary results from 'Growing Up in Ireland'- the National Longitudinal Study of Children

Udo Reulbach, Trinity College Dublin, Ireland

The prevalence of obesity in children is increasing throughout Europe. In addition to the increased likelihood of adult obesity with its associated health risks, serious short-term physical and psychosocial consequences endanger the well-being of the affected child. One aim of the National Longitudinal Study of Children is to explore the short term and long term consequences of childhood obesity.

The study population of the Growing Up in Ireland was selected using a 2-stage sampling method from the national primary Schools in the Republic of Ireland. The child cohort sample contains 8,568 nine-year olds and their families. Data collection consisted of self-completion surveys with children in school and at home and interviewer administered questionnaires with parents and children in their home. Analysis was based on statistically reweighted data to ensure it was representative of all nine year olds.

Overall, significantly ($p < 0.001$) more girls were overweight (23.1%) or obese (10%) when compared to boys (overweight: 18.3%; obese: 6.9%). Children with an abnormal body weight had a significantly ($p < 0.001$) higher rate of an ongoing chronic illness. In addition, overweight or obese children were significantly ($p = 0.01$) more likely to be victimised by bullying. Thinness was associated with being victimised in boys only.

The effects of single motherhood on subjective well-being: the evidence from panel data

Anna Baranowska, Anna Matysiak, Warsaw School of Economics, Poland

In the recent decade the demographers turned their attention to the effects of children on the well-being of families. The main idea of this strand of research is to find out whether it pays off for individuals to become parents, given the costs and strains related to raising children. Most studies carried out so far focused on the impact of parenthood on the well-being of married couples, whereas less is known about lone parents. This article attempts to fill this gap by providing evidence on the well-being of women who became single mothers. To this end, we used panel data "Social Diagnosis" for Poland, a country where social norms do not favor childrearing among unmarried women and where the state support for lone parents is rather limited. We applied methods, which allowed us to control for selection bias resulting from the fact that nonmarital childbearing is non-random. Our results reveal a significantly positive effect of parenthood on the subjective well-being of unmarried women. They are thus consistent with qualitative evidence from the US which shows that motherhood increases social status of unmarried and disadvantaged women.

Longitudinal personality profiles and their differences in psychological functioning

Lea Pulkkinen, Marja-Liisa Kinnunen, University of Jyväskylä, Finland

The personality traits (Neuroticism, Extraversion, Openness, Conscientiousness, Agreeableness) were assessed by the NEO-Personality Inventory at ages 33, 42, and 50 in the ongoing Finnish Jyväskylä Longitudinal Study of Personality and Social Development. Using latent profile analysis, five longitudinal personality profiles were extracted: Resilient, Overcontrolled, Undercontrolled, Reserved, and Ordinary. The associations of the profiles with psychological functioning were investigated in personal control over development and optimism (measured at ages 27, 36, 42, 50), and anxiety, depression, impulsivity, prosocial behavior, sociability, and withdrawal behavior (measured at ages 36, 42 and 50). The Resilients (low Neuroticism, high Conscientiousness and other traits) had better personal control over development and higher optimism, and they were more prosocial than the Overcontrolled (high Neuroticism, low other traits). Other profiles were between these two profiles in these traits. The Overcontrolled exceeded all other profiles in anxiety and depression. The Undercontrolled (high Openness, low Conscientiousness) were the most impulsive individuals. The Reserved (high Conscientiousness, low other traits) had more withdrawal behavior and lower sociability than the Undercontrolled. The Ordinary individuals (all traits medium) were in the middle in psychological functioning.

Transitions in youth

Leaving the parental nest and later life socioeconomic outcomes: does the timing of exit matter? A within-sibling analysis using the panel study of income dynamics

Serkos Manoukian, University of Essex, UK

The decision to leave the parental home can be one of the most important decisions to be taken by young adults. In this paper I look into the impact of this decision on later life labour market outcomes using panel data from the Panel Study of Income Dynamics (PSID). All unmeasured parental background and household factors are controlled for through a within sibling model that compares outcomes between same-sex siblings. I find that exiting the parental home too soon can lead into worse outcomes later in life, and that is especially true for mid-life income measures. This result holds even after an Instrumental Variables robustness check using historical US state house price data. Men with low education have better outcomes on average if they delay leaving home and these estimated effects are larger when controlling for unobserved family effects. The mechanism may be that staying in the parental home raises the reservation wage of these individuals or prolongs job search resulting in better matches. Women have better household level income and wealth outcomes if they exit early and this can be attributed to the marriage market as individual measures are not affected.

The economic stress model in young adulthood: the mediating role of social relationships

Mette Ranta, Raija-Leena Punamaki, Angela Chow, Katariina Salmela-Aro, University of Helsinki, Finland

This study examines the mediating function of loneliness between young adults' subjective financial situation and life satisfaction. The Family Economic Stress Model (Conger & Elder) is extended to fit the age-related transition to economic independence. We analyzed how subjective financial situation changes during young adulthood and how it impacts life satisfaction, and loneliness affecting that link.

Both longitudinal and cross-sectional models are tested. First, we tested direct links between financial situation and life satisfaction between ages 23 to 25 through a cross-lagged model. Second, we tested the mediating function of loneliness between financial situation and life satisfaction when participants were 25 years old. For a more comprehensive understanding, a cross-lagged model with mediators at both time points was tested. The study is part of the FinEdu longitudinal study, in which a total of 614 young adults participated. The reported questionnaire data is from two measurements at ages 23 and 25. Results show that the subjective financial situation seems to affect current and predict near future life satisfaction. Loneliness acts as a partial mediator between life satisfaction development, but not of financial situation and life satisfaction longitudinally.

Towards a structural theory of the life-course: race-sex differences in (latent) pathways to adulthood

Ross Macmillan, Universita Bocconi & the Dondena Centre for Research on Social Dynamics, Italy

A key issue in the sociology of the life course is the transition to adulthood in the latter quarter of the 20th century. Viewed as an increasingly problematic enterprise, some point to overly long transitions, while others emphasize problematic role attainments and the uncoupling of social roles over time. At a theoretical level, the view of a general disorder in the unfolding of roles over time has sparked debate over the ‘individualization’ of the life course and its implications for selves and society. Yet importantly, such arguments have proceeded with little theoretical or methodological innovation that ultimately limits understanding. In an effort to address this, this paper elaborates a structural life course perspective organized around role, role trajectory, and pathway schema and resources that vary in legitimacy and consequent prevalence within and across populations. We further describe a complementary analytic strategy, a latent class cluster approach, to empirically model heterogeneity in life course pathways in the transition to adulthood. We use these tools to examine race-gender variation in pathways into adulthood using data from the National Longitudinal Survey of Youth – 1979. Results show a) limited heterogeneity in pathways into adulthood, b) greater prevalence for pathways where resource generating roles are followed by or occur in concert with resource expending roles; and c) remarkable similarity, but also some key points of difference, in pathways across race-gender nexuses. These findings suggest the importance of a life course capitalization logic in the schema and structure of pathways in the transition to adulthood that challenges contemporary arguments of ‘individualization’ as well as claims of generalized disorder in the contemporary life course.

Weathering the Great Recession: psychological and behavioural trajectories in the transition from school to work

Jeremy Staff, Pennsylvania State University, USA, Michael Vuolo, Purdue University, USA, Jeylan Mortimer, University of Minnesota, USA

Studies of career development highlight the importance of finding a good “fit” between values, needs, and abilities and the experiences and rewards of work. Early careers tend to be particularly unstable, as young workers move from “survival jobs” to “career jobs” in their quest for a good person-job fit. Little is known, however, about the psychological orientations and behaviors in the *post-adolescent* period that foster longer-term success in the world of work. The maintenance of high aspirations, crystallization of career goals, and intensive job search may be particularly important. Using innovative multilevel latent class analysis applied to survey data obtained from 1010 youth surveyed by the Minnesota Youth Development Study (YDS), this

paper examines the interrelations of psychological orientations and behaviors indicative of agentic striving from age 18 to 30. In addition, we assess how these trajectories influence adaptation to declining local labor market conditions during the severe economic recession that began in 2007. We find that those who maintain high aspirations and certainty over career goals are better insulated against unemployment and job loss between 2007 and 2009, even when educational attainments and social background variables indicative of advantage are controlled. They also have higher hourly wages in 2009.

Retirement

Implementing a dynamic discrete choice model of retirement decisions for men on the German labor market

Volker Lang, University of Tuebingen, Germany

In recent years dynamic discrete choice models have become increasingly popular in the analysis of labor market and life course decisions. The logic of these models is based on the calculation of time-varying opportunity costs. By assuming a certain structure for the information set of an actor, information about time-varying institutional environments can flexibly be implemented into these models. Furthermore decision behaviors, given different information sets, can be compared.

Our paper implements a dynamic discrete choice model to analyse the decision to retire from the German labor market in the 1980's and 1990's. We use individual wage, social security and socio-demographic data of West-German men to calculate the opportunity costs of retirement. We compare the retirement behavior of different educational groups and evaluate differences in their response to changes in the retirement regulations. Furthermore we compare our estimates to those obtained using a hazard rate/event history model.

Early retirement decision and the life-course: study case: Luxembourg using the PSELL III

Carmen Petrovici, Tilburg University, The Netherlands

The aim of this paper is to analyse the impact of employment histories and other socio-demographic and life-course determinants on the early retirement behaviour in Luxembourg using the Panel Socio-Economique Liewen zu Lëtzebuerg (PSELL)III. Our project contributes to the existing research by a longitudinal study, combining macro level and micro level variables in studying the institutional, socio-economical and individual determinants of the early retirement behaviour from a life course perspective.

Our hypothesis is that retirement decision is influenced not only by the individual situation of the senior workers at the time of (early) retirement, but also by the decisions they took during their entire career and which are embedded in their work histories, their marital/cohabitating histories, the children timing and the investments in human capital (education/training attended).

We reconstructed the work histories (including the periods of unemployment or inactivity) combining the retrospective information (trajectoire professionnelle) with the panel information from PSELLIII. Applying multinomial discrete choice models (which allow us to distinguish between different alternative exit paths) we observed a strong impact of the life course determinants on the retirement decision: a longer working life will increase the probability to retire earlier, while long periods of unemployment or inactivity will decrease it.

Pension system and life course: employment biography patterns and income risks in old age in European welfare states

Katja Mohring, University of Cologne, Germany

The individual economic well-being in old age is strongly related to achievements in the previous life course. Especially the employment biography constitutes the basis for the income position in retirement because it determines opportunities for retirement provision and saving. The regulations and requirements of national pension systems shape the relation of the individual employment biography and the income position in retirement on the basis of an institutionalized life course regime. However, the strength of this life course regime is heterogeneous in European welfare states and ranges from a reinforcement of labour market inequalities in residual pension systems to a cushioning of employment biography outcomes in basic pension systems.

To shed light on the relation of pension system and employment biography, this study combines an explorative analysis of prevalent career patterns in European countries with an examination of the income risks tied with different biography types. The micro-comparative study proceeds in two steps: First, the employment biographies of European retirees are explored and summarized into biography types by means of sequence analysis. Second, these types of employment biographies are included in a comparative analysis of the economic well-being of retirees in Europe.

As data source the Survey of Health, Ageing and Retirement in Europe (SHARE) is used, which provides biographical information of retirees in 13 European countries.

The analysis provides an outlook on the future sustainability and adequacy of European pension systems in consideration of the ongoing de-standardisation of employment careers.

Adult transitions and preferred timing of retirement: A life course perspective

Eija Raikonen, Katja Kokko, Johanna Rantanen et al, University of Jyväskylä, Finland

Based on the ongoing Finnish Jyväskylä Longitudinal Study of Personality and Social Development, our study investigates mean-level change in preferred timing of retirement from age 42 to 50, and correlational associations between timing of transitions (education, family), educational attainment, and preferred timing of retirement at age 50 in women ($n = 132$) and men ($n = 149$). The preferred timing of retirement rose from age 42 (mean = 55.3 years) to 50 (mean = 59.2 years) but it varied depending on gender and whether or not one had obtained an educational degree. At ages 42 and 50, women had higher preferred timing of retirement than men. Participants, who had a degree, had lower preferred timing of retirement at age 42 than participants with no degree but the difference was reversed at age 50. Preferred timing of retirement remained the same for participants who had no degree. In women and men, later timing of education and in women also later timing of parenthood contributed to higher educational attainment at age 42, which further contributed to the later preferred timing of retirement at age 50. The analyses will be expanded by investigating links between preferred timing of retirement, psychological functioning, and work engagement.

Symposium – Gene-‘environment’ interactions: at the interface between biomedical and social science

Gene-‘environment’ interactions: why bother and where will it all lead?

Ronald Stolk, University of Groningen, Netherlands

Why we need to explore gene-environment/social interaction at all, and how this will be of fundamental relevance to the advance both of bioscience and social science and will be of interest to scientists from both communities.

Gene-‘environment’ interactions: biostatistical opportunities and challenges

Paul Burton, University of Leicester, UK

What are the implications of the need to move on to study genes and the social/physical environment (together!) on the design of large scale infrastructural studies, and on the development of platforms to enable secure pooled analysis.

Gene-‘environment’ interactions: biobank harmonization

Isabel Fortier, P3G Consortium, Canada

Harmonization programs that are being developed by the primarily bioscience community to help them pool social/environmental factors.

Gene-‘environment’ interactions: large scale biobanking, the UK Biobank experience

Kristian Spreckley, UK Biobanks, UK

What practical issues need to be addressed from the bioscience perspective if a study is going to be able to service research at the interface with social science; in particular, gene-social/environment interaction.

EUCCONET Symposium – Comparative analysis of child cohort studies

Diversity of family structures at 9 months - a cross cohort comparison - UK

Lucinda Platt, Imperial College London, UK

Living arrangements among children of the Millennium Cohort Study (MCS) at nine months varied substantially. These differences have a range of implications beyond their descriptive interest, which intersect with institutional configurations as well as wider cultural and economic circumstances. For example, lone parenthood is strongly associated with poverty and there were high rates of lone parenthood particularly among children living with Black Caribbean and Black African mothers. Grandparents are often a critical source of support and childcare for those with young children; but while minority group members were more likely to be living with grandparents, they were less likely than majority group families to have living grandparents and less likely overall to be in close contact with grandparents outside the household – often due to geographical constraints. Complex, multi-person families often stem at least in part from economic pressures to pool resources, particularly in the face of limited access to pensions; but have been shown to be related to higher poverty risks even within working families. Both the drivers and consequences of diversity of family forms and how they vary for particular populations are complicated and hard to disentangle. However, cross-national comparisons have

the potential to illuminate not only the consequences of particular family circumstances, but also to suggest the relevance of social and policy contexts to the formation and organisation of families with young children.

Diversity of family structures at 9 months - a cross cohort comparison - Ireland

James Williams, Economic and Social Research Institute, Ireland

Although rapidly changing, family structure in Ireland is still largely dominated by the traditional family unit headed by a husband and wife (in 2006 accounting for over two-thirds of families with children). Approximately 6 per cent of 9-month-olds live in single parent families with one child; 8 per cent in single parent families with two or more children; 33 per cent in two parent families with one child and 53 per cent in two parent families with two or more children.

There is substantial diversity in the background characteristics of these different family forms in terms of income levels and related poverty risk; parental education; social class and so on. Lone parent families, for example, are largely characterised as being more socially disadvantaged than other family types. They are more likely to have lower levels of equivalised income; lower levels of parental education and be in lower social class groups. These differences in background characteristics will have direct and indirect influences on a range of child outcomes – socio-emotional, cognitive and developmental. Economic insecurity, for example, will have a direct influence through access to lower levels of resources and (potentially) an indirect influence through, inter alia, higher levels of parental stress. Formal and informal supports available to families may help to mitigate some of the adverse effects of their background characteristics.

Diversity of family structures at 9 months - a cross cohort comparison – New Zealand

Susan Morton, University of Auckland, New Zealand

Growing Up in New Zealand is a longitudinal study currently collecting the 3rd wave of face-to-face interviews with the parents of approximately 7000 two year olds born in New Zealand. The study began in pregnancy and aims to provide a robust understanding of the developmental trajectories of children in New Zealand in the 21st century in order to inform inter-sectoral public policy for children and families.

Antenatal interviews were conducted with expectant women and their partners in the final stages of their pregnancy. Data collected included living arrangements and family structures into which New Zealand children were being born. Nearly two-thirds of mothers were living with their partner, one quarter were living with extended family and 3% were mothers alone. 7% were living with adult non-family members. The diversity of family structure was associated with parental characteristics including age, educational status and self-identified ethnicity.

Family structure was again explored at the interviews conducted with parents when their children were 9 months of age. This information is now being compared to antenatal data to assess the stability in relationships and living arrangements over the first year of children's lives. The information will be available to compare the diversity of family structure for children born in New Zealand cohort with that of those born in the UK using information from the Millennium Cohort Study who collected comparable information from their families at 9 months of age, and subsequently as the children have grown older.

From nutrition to aspirations and self-efficacy: gender bias over time in four countries

Abhijeet Singh, Stefan Dercon, University of Oxford, UK

We use data at age 8, 12 and 15 from a cohort study of 12000 children across Ethiopia, India (Andhra Pradesh), Peru and Vietnam, to document the presence of a gender gap across a wide variety of indicators, including nutrition, education, aspirations, subjective well-being and psychosocial competencies. We find that there is considerable heterogeneity across countries, ages and indicators in whether there is any gender bias and whether it is in favour of boys or girls. We find strong evidence of an 'institutionalised' gender bias against girls in education in Ethiopia and India; the bias emerges in educational aspirations at age 8 by parents, is transmitted to aspirations by children at 12 and is transformed into gender gaps in test scores related to cognitive achievement at age 15, despite relatively high enrolments. We also observe lower empowerment (as measured by efficacy) for girls in these two countries at age 15. Similar patterns exist in Vietnam but in the opposite direction – in favour of girls rather than boys. We also find that a bias in favour of boys exists in non-cognitive skills, more specifically in psychosocial competencies such as esteem/pride, trust, inclusion and agency, in Ethiopia and rural Peru. Evidence in other studies suggests that lower human capital and non-cognitive skills both lead to poorer performance in the labour market, leading to predictions of continuing bias in outcomes for these groups.

Methods of Longitudinal Research

Testing life course models to investigate the effect of socioeconomic position on crystallized cognitive function in older age, accounting for missing data

Rebecca Landy, Jenny Head et al, University College London, UK

Objective: To investigate how lifetime socioeconomic position (SEP) is associated with later-life crystallized cognitive function, accounting for different missing data mechanisms.

Participants: MRC National Survey of Health and Development (NSHD) ((1946 British birth cohort study), N=5,362), and a sample of British civil servants (Whitehall II (WHII), N=10,308).

Methods: Novel structured statistical approach to distinguish between accumulation and sensitive period models using SEP measures from childhood, early-adulthood and midlife. Complete case (CC) (assuming missing completely at random), multiple imputation (MI) (missing at random) and Heckman selection model (missing not at random) results were compared.

Results: NSHD: After adjusting for childhood cognitive function, the accumulation model allowing SEP at each time point to have its own estimate provided the best fit. However estimates varied by missing data method (women: childhood SEP: CC: coefficient=1.11 (95% CI:0.15,2.06), MI: coefficient=1.82 (95% CI:0.87,2.76), Heckman: coefficient=0.70 (95% CI:-0.38,1.78)). WHII (not adjusted for childhood cognition): the best fitting model represented adult accumulation, with childhood SEP not significant.

Conclusion: Despite adjustment for childhood cognitive score, childhood SEP remained important in NSHD, whereas in WHII childhood SEP was not associated with cognitive function. Our findings demonstrate the utility of the method for distinguishing life course models.

Does repeated measurement affect relationship quality and stability? An experimental study on panel conditioning

Josef Brüderl, Klaus Pfarr, Nina Schumann et al, University of Mannheim, Germany

Already Paul Lazarsfeld pointed out that repeated interviews might have an influence on respondent's opinion. This phenomenon is referred to as panel conditioning. Panel conditioning is seen today as a major threat to the validity of panel studies. However, it is still unclear, whether there is really a sizeable conditioning effect. This is due to the fact that most studies on panel conditioning use problematic research designs. Only few experimental studies are available. In this paper we want to contribute to the literature with a new experimental study. Additionally to the regular first wave sample of the German Family Panel with 12,402 respondents (in the year 2009), an experimental sample of 172 respondents took part in the survey. Field procedures and the questionnaire were identical for both samples. The experimental treatment was that the questionnaire module on relationship quality and interaction was not asked in the experimental sample. In the second wave both samples got the regular questionnaire. With this design we can investigate whether answering questions on relationship quality in the first wave has an effect on (reported) relationship satisfaction and behaviour - for example finishing a relationship - in the second wave of the panel.

Social change and women's work-family histories

Amanda Sacker, Diana Worts, et al University of Essex, UK

As part of a US/UK comparative study of social change, work-family life courses, and women's mid-life health, this study uses data from the National Longitudinal Survey of Mature and Young Women and the National Longitudinal Survey of Youth 1979 to map the life course trajectories of women with respect to their work and family histories. The research team independently determined and then collectively agreed on 10 ideal types that describe these trajectories, such as "traditional family, late returner to employment" and "partner only, strong work attachment". We then used sequence analysis to determine if the data fit our theoretical expectations. In much published research using these techniques, methodological decisions are opaque to the reader. Here we will describe the steps taken in our theoretically driven approach and contrast it to a purely empirical analysis. The reliability and validity of the method will be discussed in terms of the distinctness of each ideal-type sequence and the allocation of individuals to groups defined by them. Sensitivity analyses show how robust the various ideal-type sequences in the two cohorts are to variations in parameters that drive the analysis. Variation in work-family life courses in the two cohorts will be summarised and conclusions drawn from our experiences.

Decomposing the evolution of mortality frailty in the China multi-generational panel dataset, 1749-1909

Jim Oeppen, Max Planck Institute for Demographic Research, Germany

Techniques for studying dynamic heterogeneity in mortality frailty have not been developed in demography, although the subject has important implications for understanding the health transition and for health interventions. A method of 'scoring' correlated frailty for a household is defined by comparing observed mortality between panels with the expected mortality of the household members as determined from an aggregate life-table. Changes in average frailty over time at the population level are decomposed into three components: change experienced by households measured on two consecutive occasions; a selection effect if the frailty of new households is consistently different from the established group; and a corresponding effect if the households that drop out differ from the ones that continue. The decomposition method is exact and seems to be unknown in the social sciences. Frailty scoring and decomposition are

applied to longitudinal data on households in the China Multi-Generational Panel Dataset, 1789-1885. The results suggest that the apparent long-run stability of mortality in the population conceals a consistent evolutionary dynamic at the household level.

Fertility

Economic recession and first births in Europe: a life-course perspective on postponement and recuperation of fertility in 14 European countries, 1970-2005

Karel Neels, University of Antwerp, Belgium

The economic recession that emerged in 2008 has raised further interest in the effects of economic recession on tempo and quantum of fertility. A review of the literature suggests that unemployment and consumer sentiment reflect the impact of recession more closely than general indicators as GDP, that unemployment is strongly related to postponement of first births and that the effects of recession vary in terms of gender, age, ethnic background and socio-economic position. The decline of period fertility levels following recession is routinely interpreted as a short-lived effect on the tempo of fertility that has little or no implications for fertility quantum in the long run. However, research actually distinguishing the effects of recession on tempo and quantum of fertility is currently lacking. Using data from the European Social Survey, this paper analyses the impact of variations in macro-level unemployment rates on first births hazards in 14 European countries between 1970 and 2005. The results provide empirical support for recession-induced postponement of first births at short lags, but also of recuperation of fertility later in the life-course at considerably longer time-lags. The paper further explores variation of these effects between countries, but also by age, gender, socio-economic position of individuals and considers the effect of previous life-course transitions.

Fertility and the outsourcing of child care and household labor

Liat Raz-Yurovich, Max Planck Institute for Demographic Research, Germany

Although previous studies found negative individual-level relationship between childbearing and labor force participation of women, the within country correlation between the two has weakened substantially in the past 50 years, especially in the United States. One of the explanations which were given to these trends in the macro-level was the increasing ability of (high skilled) women to outsource their housework and child care duties, due to the growing availability of low-skilled immigrants.

In this study we seek to analyze how the ability to outsource household labor and child care duties affects working women's fertility in the micro-level. By conducting a longitudinal analysis using the German Socio-Economic Panel (SOEP) database, we will be able to analyze whether the use of formal services, such as housemaid and babysitter; and the use of informal help from relatives and friends, affect working and non-working women's transition to second and higher order births. This micro-level analysis will clarify the role of outsourcing as a moderator of the negative relationship between labor force participation and fertility, and as a moderator of the role incompatibility of working mothers, in an era when growing number of women in general and of mothers in particular join the labor force.

Fertility and living arrangements among young adults in the United States

Elisabeth Cooksey, Ohio State University, USA / Wendy Manning, Bowling Green State University, USA

Shifts in the nature of educational opportunities, co-residence with parents, career development, the timing of parenthood, and the nature of living arrangements have increased the flexibility in transitions to adulthood in the United States. The average age at first marriage has increased to 26 for women and 28 for men, providing more lifecourse space for many more premarital family experiences. We use data from recent sweeps of the NLSY79 Young Adult Survey to examine both attitudes towards and actual behaviours pertaining to the family formation of adolescents and young adults including parenthood, cohabitation, and marriage. Prior studies demonstrate that these pathways to adulthood differ markedly according to socioeconomic circumstances. As close to half of young adults ages 18-24 live with their parents, we pay particular attention to linkages between family formation transitions and parental coresidence. Our goal is to provide an update of the contemporary experiences of young adults in the United States today, and to showcase the potentially complex portrait of their family and living circumstances -- a portrait that differs by socioeconomic background, family characteristics and adolescent expectations, experiences and behaviours.

'I'm not a crazy cat lady!' - Women and the childfree life course

Karen Robson, York University, Canada

This paper explores the voluntarily childless women ("childfree") in Canada. Specifically, events and attitudes that shaped their decision and the predicted life course outcomes that will follow such a decision are examined. The data used in the paper are from semi-structured qualitative interviews with 40 self-identified "Childfree" women in Canada. Culturally hegemonic ideals about "femininity" and the perception of living in a "pronatalist" society are discussed. Initial findings have revealed that many pathways lead women to becoming childfree. Just under half of women interviewed identified themselves having negative childhoods and a weak maternal figure. Other simply never "felt the urge", while a small but vocal minority actively voiced their strong dislike of children. The majority felt anxiety about ageing, specifically the possible social isolation that may be experienced by older women in the later stages of life. Some were actively involved in planning their life courses so as to avoid this otherwise inevitable social isolation perceived to be a substantial risk among childless women in later-life.

Individual Posters

Selection bias in a longitudinal pilot multiphase questionnaire for the Eles Projecta

A. Rodriguez-Laso et al, INGEMA, Spain

The multisectorial approach of the future Spanish longitudinal study on aging (ELES) requires collecting many variables. To avoid interviewees' fatigue, questions may be distributed among different sessions. A pilot study of 1,382 individuals will help to ascertain bias due to respondents' dropouts during that process. This paper analyses it in the Basque Country, where fieldwork has already finished.

Of the 464 individuals who took the telephone interview, 19.6% (n=91) did not complete those phases which required to be visited at home. There were no differences between subjects fulfilling or not all stages regarding habitat size ($p=0.835$), educational level ($p=0.773$) and overall health satisfaction ($p=0.244$). More women ($p=0.084$), people over 75 ($p=0.126$) and people living alone ($p=0.017$) did not complete all phases. In a logistic regression model, the interaction of

being over 75 and living alone was not significant ($p=0.486$). The odds ratio for non-participation for those living alone was 1.69 (95% CI 0.93-3.09), adjusted for sex and being over 75, which were not significant ($p=0.169$ and $p=0.389$, respectively).

Conclusion: There is no evidence of selection bias concerning individuals' sociodemographic and health characteristics, but for a lesser participation of those living alone. Results have to be confirmed in the national sample

Health service use by Irish Travellers during the first year of life: Findings from the All Ireland Traveller Birth Cohort Study

NA. Hamid, CC Kelleher, P Fitzpatrick, All Ireland Traveller Health Study Team, University College Dublin, Ireland

Introduction: The Irish Travellers are a nomadic minority on Island of Ireland with documented poor health status. There is scarcity of literature of Traveller infants' health service utilisation. This study aims to demonstrate the frequency of and reason for service utilisation by Traveller infants during the first year of life.

Methodology: The birth cohort study is a one-year follow-up of Traveller babies born on the island of Ireland over a 12-month period. Participating Traveller mothers carried with them a parent-held child record (PHCR) as recording tool.

Result: 382 (75%) of PHCR were returned. 15.6% of Traveller infants in Republic of Ireland (ROI) did not require health service contact above routine, while 55.2% had 1-3 non-routine health contacts. Traveller infants had most contact with Public Health Nurses (PHNs) (59%) followed by General Practitioners (GPs) 47%, GPs out-of-hours 9.5% and Emergency Departments (EDs) 26.2%. Mean number of additional PHN visits was 6.9, GP 3.1, GP out of hours 2.8 and ED 1.7. 36.9% of infants visited GPs for respiratory-related conditions, followed by flu-like symptoms at 17.9%. Only 6% of infants had accidents/emergencies conditions requiring ED attendance.

Conclusion: Most of Traveller infants' health contacts were community-based, in particular PHN services. Continued investment in such community services is crucial

How diverse is the UK?

Alita Nandi, Lucinda Platt, University of Essex, UK

The diversity of the current UK population is of enormous and continuous interest among the general public, the media, policy makers and academics. Paucity of data has been a major impediment to estimating and analyzing diversity in the UK. The Understanding Society: UK Household Longitudinal Study, a household panel survey of over 30,000 households that started fieldwork in 2009 has collected data on own, parents and grandparents countries of birth and ethnicity and on British identity. The rich data and the large sample size have made it possible, for the first time, to explore this issue empirically. In this paper, we look at the patterns of diversity, transmission of ethnicity through generations and how the latter varies by socio-economic and demographic characteristics.

Child exposure to environmental tobacco smoke during prenatal period

Kinga Polanska, W. Hanke, W. Sobala, Nofer Institute of Occupational Medicine, Poland

Background and Aims: Worldwide, it is estimated that 250 million women smoke cigarettes every day. Despite the adverse health consequences of tobacco smoking and exposure during pregnancy, the percentage of pregnant women who smoke remains extremely high. The aim of the study was to evaluate the prenatal child exposure to environmental tobacco smoke.

Methods: The study population consisted of 1093 pregnant women from different regions of Poland among whom detail questionnaires were conducted three times during pregnancy period. From all women included into the study the saliva sample was collected to verify smoking status in pregnancy. The cotinine level in saliva was analyzed using high performance liquid chromatography coupled with tandem mass spectrometry/positive electrospray ionisation (LC-ESI+MS/MS) and isotope dilution method.

Results: The percentage of pregnant women who smoked cigarettes decreased from 17.6% at the beginning of pregnancy to 14.1% at 12 weeks of pregnancy and 10.9% at 32 weeks of pregnancy. The highest percentages of smokers were noted among single women with lower educational level and unemployed. The sensitivity of questionnaire was 73% and cotinine as the biomarker of exposure 93%. About 70% of pregnant women were exposed to environmental tobacco smoke.

Conclusions: All effort should be taken to eliminate the pregnant women exposure to active and passive smoking.

The complexity of measuring post-divorce, family situations and trajectories of children

Sofie Vanassche, Koen Matthijs, Catholic University of Leuven, Belgium

The main goal of this study is to present different ways of classifying family arrangements of children following parental divorce, using data from the project Divorce in Flanders, a high-standard large-scale database containing married and divorced Flemish partners. Often a simple distinction between children living in single parenthood families and children living in stepfamilies is made. Reality is however much more complex than suggested by this dichotomy. An important 'complicating' factor when developing a classification of family types is the increasing bi-location of children following divorce, living alternately in the maternal and paternal household. For example, children living partially in a single mother family and partially in a stepmother family: how do we classify these children? In this article, different classifications are constructed using (combined) information on the partner and marital status of both parents, the residential arrangement of the child and the presence of half- and stepsiblings in both parental households. The different typologies resulting from using different classification criteria will be compared. Next, a life course perspective is applied to the developed classifications: we reconstruct the whole family trajectory of children following parental divorce, taking into account all familial transitions a child went through, as well as the time they spent within each family type. Relying on previous research from e.g. Valerie King, we expect important differences between different classifications (and the associated trajectories). This finding would confirm the importance of thoroughly thought measurement and classification of family situations when making statements about the prevalence of specific post-divorce family situations and suggesting policy proposals for children in specific family situations.

Biographical transitions and psychological development in young adulthood: evidence from the Rostock Longitudinal Study

Holger von der Lippe, Elena von der Lippe, Olaf Reis, Magdeburg, Germany

In the eighth wave of the Rostock Longitudinal Study – a cohort study with currently $n = 206$ participants followed from birth to their 37th year of age – several biographical transitions were recorded by a life history calendar. We recorded the timing of 15 distinct vocational, residential, and family transitions such as finishing education, entering into working life, job change, the formation and dissolution of romantic relationships, marriage and parenthood, or residential mobility, to name only some. This poster presents findings from a head-to-head comparison of a classifactory vs. an event-history-approach to the analysis of interconnections between transitions. We examine psychological determinants, concomitants and consequences of these transitions.

The effect of flexible work arrangements on coupled career success

Laura Rienecker, Nuffield College Oxford, UK

To date most quantitative studies on the effects of flexible work arrangements on careers have examined careers of individuals. Yet to fully understand the effect of flexible work arrangements on couples and families, it is necessary to jointly consider the career of both partners. This study does so by looking at two main questions: 1.) Which effects do flexible work arrangements have on coupled careers? 2.) Do the effects differ for measures affecting the overall time spent at the workplace (e.g. telecommuting) versus those that do not affect it (e.g. flexitime)? Career is defined as an increase in income over time. Using the German Socio-Economic Panel, panel regression models, which control for the individual's, the partner's and employer's characteristics, are run. In addition, the individuals' change in income is plotted with their partners' on a two-dimensional graph to show the effect of flexible work arrangements on both partners' career. It is expected that reducing the time at the workplace exerts a negative effect on the career of the person doing so and a positive on his/her partner's career. Measures which increase flexibility without reducing the time at the workplace exert a positive effect on both careers.

Parent interview and day-care questionnaire in the birth cohort study of the NEPS

Sebastian Megerle, NEPS, Germany

The accumulation of education is a crucial factor for the success and well-being of individuals as well as for the modern society as a whole. The objective of the German National Educational Panel Study (NEPS) is to gain longitudinal data on the complex processes of education acquisition across the lifespan by using a multicohort sequence design. NEPS is committed to provide high-quality data to the scientific community.

The birth cohort study of the NEPS takes up the challenge of measuring education-relevant conditions and processes as well as the development of competencies in the first years of a child's life. The first wave of the main study will start in 2012. The target sample includes 3,000 infants at the age of seven months living in Germany.

The poster will provide insight into the birth cohort study's pioneering work combining a large-scale panel survey of the infants' parents as well as gathering direct measures of early competencies of the target children and the assessment of their extra-familial learning environment. Since the birth cohort study plans a separate presentation of the applied measures of competencies at this conference the particular focus of this poster lies on the parent in-home interview and day-care questionnaire.

Measuring competencies of early childhood in the NEPS

Jennifer Lorenz, Claudia Schlesiger, Sabine Weinert, University of Bamberg, Germany

In modern knowledge societies, education has become a key factor for private well-being and prosperity. The National Educational Panel Study (NEPS) was founded to collect and present data about education as a lifelong process. Some of the main questions are how educationally relevant competencies are acquired, how they develop over the lifespan and how they influence educational outcomes.

Studying education as a lifelong process makes it necessary to start at the beginning, that is, from birth onward. The birth cohort of the National Educational Panel Study deals with the issue how children under the age of four develop early skills that are relevant for education. This requires indirect methods such as parent interviews as well as direct methods such as tests and experimental tasks. Measures of the birth cohort will focus on cognitive abilities as well as on language, and fine-motor skills and social-emotional development, which collectively build a fundamental basis for later development and educational success.

The presentation will describe the measures of competencies in the birth cohort of the NEPS. Moreover, the focus will lie on the direct measures of competencies in the first wave starting in 2012, testing a sample of 3,000 infants at the age of 7 months.

20th Century trends in the intergenerational transmission of educational inequality: an investigation of models which represent longitudinal changes in the links between social background and educational attainment

Roxanne Connelly, University of Stirling, UK

The vast expansion of educational provision and uptake in the UK over the 20th century has been widely documented. The distribution of educational attainment has changed drastically, particularly over the second-part of the 20th century. This poster will highlight the range of statistical methods which have been used to represent longitudinal changes in the inter-generational transmission of educational inequality over this period.

The British Household Panel Survey is utilised and pseudo birth cohorts are created to represent individuals who completed their education at different stages of educational reform. The analyses include firstly, models of the highest achieved level of education. Secondly, the continuation ratio model of sequential educational transitions is presented which takes into account the changing margins in educational attainment between each pseudo birth cohort. Finally, log-linear models provide an alternative approach to margin-sensitive analysis. Initial results indicate slightly varied results from each form of analysis, yet taking into account the differences in what each model indicates this presentation provides several reconcilable sociological stories. These analyses in combination provide a detailed picture of the relations between parental occupational position and off-spring educational attainment across the 20th century.

Continuity and change of employment biographies in Germany after WWII

Wilko Schroeter, University of Vienna, Austria

This paper investigates the continuity and change of employment biographies in Germany after WWII and verifies in particular the theory of working life compression. In addition, the influence of socio-demographic attributes like sex, age, place of residence, number and age of the children, insurance status, education and occupation to the length of working live will be discussed. As database longitudinal micro-data of the German Federal Pension Insurance are used which

contain biographical and pension information on people who retired in the same year. Therefore such data include only retirees. The sample of 60.821 persons covers a time span from the first year of contribution payment to the German Federal Pension Insurance until the retirement year with a maximum of 52 years, built by birth cohorts from 1940 to 1977.

Collecting victimization trajectories and social attitudes in the former Yugoslavia: taking time and location seriously

Dario Spini, University of Lausanne, Switzerland

On the one hand life course research emphasized the importance of time and location. On the other social psychologists defined social attitudes as individual position takings. The purpose of this communication is to show that a life course perspective associated to methodological advancements enable us to overcome an individualistic conception of social attitudes. Based on an emerging definition of collective vulnerability, empirical results related to aftermath of the former Yugoslavia conflicts will be presented. Life calendars were collected concerning victimisation life trajectories across 80 regions of a representative sample of people (N= 3945) living in the former Yugoslavia in the nineties. On this basis we registered when and where different types of victimization related to war took place. This enables to create a first map of victimisation by regions. However, in order to treat collective vulnerability, we weighted these indices of victimization by different types of indicators related to shared identities and geographical distances. In order to assess the heuristic of these indices, we related them to attitudes toward human rights in a sample of 2254 respondents from the 1968-1974 cohorts. Results show that sharing a common territory with victims is one main channel by which experienced collective vulnerability spreads and impacts on attitudes towards human rights in the aftermath of conflicts. Results for the identification weights are more complex.

Polish mother and child cohort study (Repro_PI)

Kinga Polanska, W. Hanke, W. Sobala, J. Jurewicz, Nofer Institute of Occupational Medicine, Poland

The study concentrate on the identification and evaluation of the effects of prenatal and postnatal environmental exposure on pregnancy outcome and children's health Polish Mother and Child Cohort Study (REPRO_PL) is multicenter prospective cohort study conducted in Poland (www.repropl.com). The final cohort is intended to comprise 1800 mother-child pairs. The women are followed-up 3 times in pregnancy and after delivery for the notification of pregnancy outcome. During each visit, detailed questionnaire and biological samples are collected including saliva, urine, hair, maternal blood and cord blood. About 6 weeks postpartum, breast milk is collected. The children are followed-up to two years old for their assessment of the exposure, health status and neurodevelopment. Children were examined two times (at one and two years of age) by pediatrician and psychologist. From each child the urine sample is collected for the verification of ETS and PAH exposure. From some part of the children the blood sample is collected for the assessment of the lead and cadmium level. Child neurodevelopment is assessed based on Bayley Test for Infant and Toddler Development. The results of the study will become available within the next few years and will help to determine the levels of child prenatal and postnatal exposure and its impact on pregnancy outcome and children's health.

Work during pregnancy based on perspective cohort study in Lodz region

Joanna Jurewicz, W. Hanke, T. Makowiec-Dabrowska, Nofer Institute of Occupational Medicine, Poland

Maternal work during pregnancy is considered one of the most prevalent risk factors of negative pregnancy outcome. The aim of the study was to evaluate the work during pregnancy based on prospective cohort study in Lodz region.

The study population consisted of 203 women before 22 weeks of pregnancy recruited in 7 Maternity Units in Lodz. The women were interviewed three times during pregnancy (interview A, B, C) and one after delivery (interview D) to evaluate the pregnancy outcome.

Most of pregnant women quit work about 9 week of pregnancy (50%). Quite big group of pregnant women quit work about 23 week of pregnancy (22% of working women). Mostly at the beginning of pregnancy quit work women working in production sector, shop assistants and seamstresses than women working in the office. About 15 week of pregnancy quit work 73% women working in production sector, and about 54% shop assistants and 56% seamstresses and 33% women working in the office. When women's work was associated with lifting heavy objects (> 5kg) they earlier quit work.

We can assume that women during pregnancy know about hazards associated with some type of work and in early pregnancy quit work, but the ideal situation will be when women can change their work position on safer during pregnancy.

Friends will be friends? How significant others and social milieus shape an individuals process and mental health in unemployment

Benedikt Rogge, University of Bremen, Germany

Unemployment interferes with an individual's identity process and is associated with various mental health impairments. The present qualitative panel study deals with the role that significant others and social milieus play in this relationship, as experienced by the unemployed.

I interviewed 25 short-term unemployed. The sample was very heterogeneous as to gender, family status, social network sizes, and social milieu. I used standardised symptom scales to triangulate mental health and reinterviewed the sample after another 8 months.

Regarding an individual's identity process, unemployment raises the question how to rearrange social roles in a way to maintain a minimum of congruence feelings (including financial restrictions). Then, it urges to make sense of belonging to a stigmatised social category. Concerning these two challenges, the interviews show that significant others not only deliver social support but often convey social pressure and stressful expectations and/or aggravate the social stigma of unemployment thereby strongly challenging the self of the unemployed person.

These processes differ as to family status and social milieu. Single persons typically feel threatened by resignation and social exclusion, in addition often feeling undermined by their parents and the authorities. By contrast, people living with a partner/family perceive more room and motivation for compensatory role coping.

Exposure to pesticides and neurobehavioral development in children: review of epidemiological studies

Joanna Jurewicz, W. Hanke, Nofer Institute of Occupational Medicine, Poland

Background: Conventional pesticides comprise a diverse group of substances intended to destroy, repel or control organisms identified as pests. Compared to studies of lead, mercury and PCBs few epidemiological studies have assessed the developmental neurotoxicity of pesticides.

Methods: Epidemiological studies focused on the neurobehavioural development of children exposed to pesticides were identified by a search of the PUBMED, MEDLINE, EBSCO, AGRICOLA and TOXNET literature bases.

Results: The results from the presented studies suggest that children exposure to pesticides may impaired development. Exposure to organophosphorus pesticides (OP) in children can caused difficulties with tasks involving short-term memory, increased reaction time, mental development and pervasive development problems. In neonates increased number of abnormal reflexes and mental and emotional symptoms in adolesescents. The results of the studies investigated the association between exposure to organochlorine pesticides and neurodevelopmental problems display inconsistent results. Whereas some studies found reduction in mental and psychomotor function the other studies did not confirmed that.

Conclusions: Information derived from epidemiological studies so far indicate the need to increase awareness among people and children exposed to pesticides about the association between use of pesticides and neurodevelopmental impairment. We should simply apply the principle of prudence, just in case.

The professional retraining for former militaries

Andrey E. Zuev, Moscow, Russia

The problem of professional retraining concerning and demobilized militaries (officers, sergeants and privates) is represented as serious and important. It's necessary to imagine precisely, what their behavior will be in the real conditions, what are their prospects in a course of continued reforms, which steps should be undertaken to keep them at required social level.

The former militaries are such subjects of the public relations, which can become leadership social groups under certain conditions. But two main variants of development are practically possible:

- 1) Complete adaptation to new social-economic conditions and integration in a society structure or
- 2) Their marginalization and formation from them non-justice society layers, which will loosen a society basis.

Naturally the representatives of specified groups test for self a negative effect of the whole complex of problems. However, it is possible to allocate main among these problems. On our sight, the decision of such main problem can put a beginning of their normal live ability in modern conditions. Here the speech goes about an employment problem, about problem of professional education. It should note, that though the social roles of the former militaries and war-industry are distinguished among themselves, there's the close similarity in both groups perception of done social changes and in their proposals on situation perfection. It should be non-indifferent to state, how each group of Russian population perceive a course of economic reforms, but groups, being now by object of our attention, require of the special attention on a number of the reasons.

Spanish ageing longitudinal study (ELES): pilot study

E. Urdaneta, INGEMA, Spain

ELES is an interdisciplinary panel study created to track the elderly Spanish population for a period of 20 years on five dimensions: 1) demographics and life course, 2) health, 3) psycho-social aspects, 4) economic resources and residential settings, and 5) family and social network, transfer of care, and quality of life. ELES is proposed and managed by INGEMA Foundation and the Research Group on Ageing (GIE-CSIC). A pilot study, supported by the Spanish Ministry of Science, the Obra Social Caja Madrid and the Social Security Office, has been carried out during the last 2 years. A sample of 1,382 people, representative of the Spanish population aged 50 years and over living in community dwelling, was selected and the individuals have been interviewed during the first half of 2011. A questionnaire has been applied using different schemes (CATI, CAPI, Self-administered). Additionally, other blood and saliva samples, anthropometric measures and performance tests have also been retrieved by the interviewers and nurses involved who received specific training and used fieldwork manuals.

Different methodological and thematic analyses will be made with the pilot study data to refine, improve and harmonise the design to be applied in the ELES first wave.

Parents' relationship quality, parental divorce and children's wellbeing

Anna Garriga, Kathleen Kiernan, University of York, UK

One of the more important topics in the literature on divorce concerns the relationship between parental divorce, parents' relationship quality and children's well-being. Evidence from US literature has shown that the effect of parental divorce on children's well-being is higher for children from low conflict families than for children from high conflict families, and for the latter it is sometimes even positive. Despite the importance of this finding, to our knowledge no European study has addressed this issue due to the lack of appropriate data. This paper aims to address this gap using four waves of the Millennium Cohort Study (MCS), a nationally representative, longitudinal study of a British birth cohort that provides information on children's well-being before and after divorce (we consider separation of both married and cohabiting couples) and parents' relationship quality before this event. In this paper, we test the following hypothesis: (a) parents' relationship quality and parental divorce are unrelated processes that have independent effects on children (the independent effects hypothesis); (b) the apparent effect of parental divorce is explained by the effect of the parents relationship quality before divorce (the selection hypothesis); or (c) the effect of parental divorce on children depends on the quality of their parents' relationship before divorce (the interaction hypothesis).

Dynamic longitudinal data visualisation (DLDV)

Tom Schuller, Longview, UK

The challenge: To give dynamic visual representation to data and results from longitudinal studies.

Aims: Review current approaches to data visualisation, specifically in respect of longitudinal studies; develop innovative methods of communicating longitudinal data and results using concrete examples; integrate the findings into capacity-building for researchers and policy-makers across different disciplines and sectors.

The Collective Danish Longitudinal Surveys of Children (DALSC)

Mette Lausten, Danish National Centre for Social Research, Denmark

DALSC is the first collective and longitudinal study in Denmark aiming to monitor children from birth until adulthood, and thus allowing research into the relationship between living conditions in childhood and subsequent life as an adult. The survey is quite extensive and provides rich and detailed information about the children and their families. DALSC consist of 5 waves, collected in 1996, 1999, 2003, 2007 and 2011.

DALSC is a collective name for three samples of children, who were born in 1995 and living in Denmark at the time of the survey. The samples are also referred to as:

“The Danish Survey”: children born in 1995, by mothers with Danish citizenship.

“The Ethnic Survey”: children born in Denmark in 1995, by mothers with non-Danish citizenship (ex-Yugoslavia, Pakistan, Iraq, Sri Lanka, Somalia, Turkey, and Lebanon).

“Children in Care (CiC)”: All children born in 1995 who are, or at one time have been, placed in out-of-home care, e.g. foster homes or residential institutions.

DALSC contains several interesting longitudinal factors as child wellbeing, school performance and level of parental involvement. The poster will display some of the interesting results across time, surveys, ethnicity and place to live.

Maternal stress and abuse potential contributions to language acquired by two year old children residing in Memphis, TN

Laura E. Murphy, J. Carolyn Graff, Frederick B. Palmer, Frances A. Tylavsky, University of Tennessee Health Science Centre, USA

306 mother-child dyads (66.1% African-American; 31.4% European-American; 2.3% other) were evaluated for the impact of maternal stress and maternal abuse potential on language acquired by their child at 2 years of age. The Parenting Stress Index (PSI-SF) and Child Abuse Potential Inventory (CAPI) were completed by mothers near their child's first birthday. The Language Scales of the Bayley Scales of Infant and Toddler Development Third Edition (Bayley III) were administered to their children within 1 month of their 2 year birthday. After controlling for mother's age, PSI-SF Parent Child Dysfunctional Interaction scores were negatively related to the Bayley III language scores ($p < .04$). Lower language scores were also negatively associated with the mothers' Total CAPI score ($p < .03$) and CAPI Rigidity ($p = .0003$). For this sample, results indicate that maternal functioning as early as the child's first birthday is associated with child language skills at 2 years of age. These results highlight the potential impact of maternal stress and abuse potential on the language development of children as young as 2 years of age. Further, these results suggest a period for maternal intervention with potential benefit for mother and child.

Cognitive Functioning at 2 years is Associated with Dietary Patterns during Pregnancy

Frances Tylavsky, DrPH¹, Eszter Völgyi, PhD¹, Laura Murphy, EdD², Carolyn Graff, PhD², Wonsuk Yoo, PhD¹, Frederick Palmer, MD³

The Conditions Affecting Neurocognitive Development and Learning in Early Childhood (CANDLE) Study

Cognitive development in childhood has been linked to diet intake during infancy. However studies on how maternal dietary patterns during pregnancy can affect child cognitive development are lacking. The aim of the study was to examine the association between dietary food patterns during pregnancy and child cognitive functioning at 2 years of age.

A total of 237 mother-child dyads (69% African American, 64% on Medicaid) participated in this study from Memphis, TN. A food frequency questionnaire was used to assess dietary intake during the 2nd trimester. The Bayley Scales of Infants and Toddlers III were administered at 24 months. Factor analysis, covariance analysis and partial correlations were used to describe the findings. JMP 9.2 and SPSS 19.0 were used for data analysis. Significance level was set at 0.05. Seven distinct dietary patterns were identified (Processed, US Southern, Healthy, Processed-Southern mixed, Processed-Healthy mixed, Southern-Healthy mixed and overall Mixed). Those who consumed healthier patterns were more likely to be Caucasian ($p < 0.001$), had a higher income ($p < 0.001$) and completed higher education levels ($p < 0.001$). After adjusting for energy intake, lower intake of brain healthy nutrients (iron, omega 3 fatty acids, folate and choline) were associated with consumption of primarily processed foods ($p < 0.001$). When co-varying for race and IQ, the associations between brain healthy nutrient intake during pregnancy and cognitive outcomes at 2 years of age disappeared.

These data suggest that diet patterns during pregnancy may affect the cognitive functioning at 2 years at age. Brain healthy nutrient intake during pregnancy was not related to cognitive functioning at 2 years of age.

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Day 2 – Tuesday 27th September 2011

Health cohorts in Netherlands and Germany

Growth velocity during infancy and onset of asthma in school aged children: results of the GINIplus and LISApplus birth cohorts

Claudia Flexeder, Helmholtz Zentrum Munchen, Germany

Background: Growth velocities during infancy might affect the risk for asthma in childhood. This study examines the association between peak height and weight velocities during the first two years of life and onset of asthma and wheeze up to age 10 years.

Methods: Data from 9086 children who participated in the GINIplus and LISApplus birth cohorts were analysed. Information on asthma was requested annually from 1 to 10 years and information on wheeze at 1, 2, 4, 6 and 10 years. Peak height and peak weight velocities were calculated using height and weight measurements obtained between birth and two years of age. Cox proportional hazards models and generalized linear mixed models were calculated after adjustment for potential confounding factors including birth weight and body mass index at 10 years of age.

Results: Per interquartile range increase in peak weight velocity, the risk for asthma increased significantly (adjHR: 1.22; CI: 1.02-1.47). The relationship between peak height velocity and onset of asthma was non-significant (adjHR: 1.08; CI: 0.88-1.31). Wheeze was not significantly associated with peak height velocity or with peak weight velocity (adjOR: 1.07; CI: 0.62-1.77 and adjOR: 1.11; CI: 0.68-1.79, respectively).

Conclusion: Weight gain during infancy is positively associated with physician-diagnosed asthma in school aged children.

Musculoskeletal complaints among 11 year old children and associated factors - The PIAMA birth cohort study

Sandra Van Oostrom, Susan Picavet et al, National Institute of Public Health and the Environment, The Netherlands

Introduction: Musculoskeletal complaints (MSC) are common among children, often persist into adolescence and increase the risk of MSC in adulthood. The knowledge regarding determinants of MSC among children is limited. The aim of this study was to determine the prevalence of MSC at age 11 years of age and to examine associations with socio-demographic factors, growth and development factors, mental health, tiredness and lifestyle.

Methods: Data from the PIAMA birth cohort study (n=2,638) were used. MSC were defined as complaints of back, upper extremity, lower extremity or either one of these. Logistic regression analyses using forward stepwise procedure were performed on multiple imputed data.

Results: The one-year period prevalence of back, upper extremity and lower extremity complaints that lasted at least one month was 2.8%, 4.8% and 10.9%, respectively. Only a poorer mental health was consistently associated with back complaints, upper extremity complaints and lower extremity complaints. Poorer mental health, day-time tiredness, advanced pubertal status, being physically active at 11 years and weight for height z-score were associated with any MSC.

Discussion: This study shows that especially lower extremity complaints are common among 11-year old-children, and that only a poorer mental health status is associated with MSC of all anatomic sites.

Age period effects in risk factors in adults. The Doetinchem Study 1987-2007

Monique Verschuren, Anneke Blokstra, Susan Picavet et al, National Institute of Public Health and the Environment, The Netherlands

Objective: Obesity, hypertension and hypercholesterolemia are modifiable risk factors that deteriorate with ageing. With data from the Doetinchem Cohort Study we analyzed changes in life style and biological risk factors in healthy Dutch adults who were 20-59 years at baseline.

Methods: The Doetinchem Cohort Study is a prospective study on life style, biological risk factors and health in the Netherlands. An age-sex stratified random sample of men and women in four age groups of originally 20-29, 30-39, 40-49, 50-59 years were measured up to four times with 5 year intervals (n= ca. 6300). Measurements included questionnaires and a physical examination. The following definitions of biological risk factors were used: Obesity: BMI ≥ 30 kg/m²; Hypertension (WHO): systolic blood pressure ≥ 140 mmHg and/or diastolic blood pressure ≥ 90 mmHg and/or use of medication; Hypercholesterolemia: total cholesterol $\geq 6,5$ mmol/l.

Results: The levels of body weight, blood pressure and total cholesterol increase with age. Especially for obesity, a strong period effect is observed: each 10-year age group has a higher prevalence of obesity than their predecessors (see Figure). For smoking, in men each 10-year age group has a higher prevalence of never smokers than their predecessors. Results will be presented for overweight, obesity, hypertension, hypercholesterolemia and smoking, and combinations of lifestyle and risk factors.

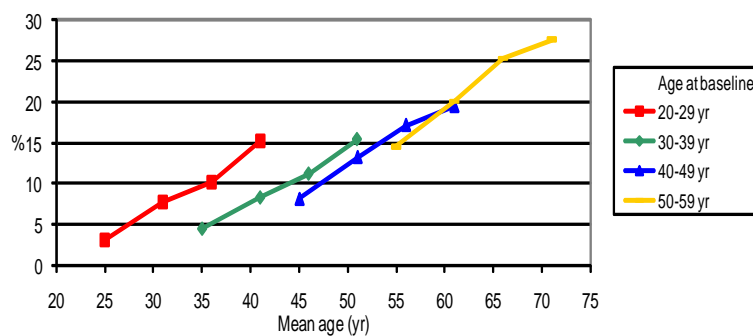


Figure. Prevalence (%) of obesity (BMI ≥ 30 kg/m²) in women by age at baseline

Conclusion: For smoking, favourable period effects are observed in men. Especially the strong period effect in obesity is of great concern, due to the impact on diabetes, cardiovascular diseases and osteoarthritis.

10-year physical activity patterns and health-related quality of life

Sandra Van Oostrom, Susan Picavet, National Institute of Public Health and the Environment, The Netherlands

Introduction: Lifestyle during young and middle age will affect health at old age. Since lifestyle is likely to change, data on life course exposure to lifestyle factors are needed. The study objective was to examine how physical activity patterns over a 10-year period are associated with health-related quality of life (HRQoL) at the end of that period.

Methods: Men and women aged 26 to 65 years were examined three times in the population-based Doetinchem Cohort Study (1995-2009). 'Physically active' was defined as more than 3.5 hours per week spent on bicycling, gardening, doing odd-jobs and sports (>4 MET). HRQoL was measured by the SF-36. Multivariable regression analyses were adjusted for sex, age, education, living alone, work status, smoking, alcohol, 6 chronic diseases, and baseline SF-36 scale score.

Results: Preliminary analyses show that HRQoL was highest among the 'stable active'. Being stable active contributes to significant better HRQoL scores than being stable inactive (e.g. general health subscale: stable active 70.5 versus 66.0 for stable inactive), except for mental health. Becoming active results in better scores for general health, vitality, and emotional role limitations compared to stable inactive participants.

Conclusion: Physical activity should be promoted during all ages in order to promote HRQoL in old age.

Child development and child cohorts

Childcare exposure in early childhood: An application of event history analysis

Elizabeth Jones, Institute of Education, UK

Most children experience some form of childcare in the years before school. Formal childcare has been found to have positive effects on cognitive outcomes, especially for children living in social disadvantage, but these children may also be least likely to experience high-quality childcare. This study uses data from the Millennium Cohort Study (MCS), a nationally representative sample of children born in 2000-2001 to look at childcare experience in the pre-school years. The data sets include detailed information on child care use collected when the children were aged approximately 9 months, 3 years, and 5 years. This includes information on type of care used, and for some instances the start and stop dates, hours per week, and price of the care arrangements. The start and stop dates allow us to create detailed histories of childcare use over the first five years of life. Overall rates of use were relatively high, with 64 per cent using some form of childcare at age 9 months, 84 at age 3 years, and 67 per cent at age 5 years. We use event history analysis to investigate in greater detail who uses childcare and the type and timing of their care use.

Do children whose birth was unintended have different cognitive development from others? Evidence from the UK Millennium Cohort

Elise de la Rochbrochard, INED, French National Institute for Demographic Studies, Paris, France, Heather Joshi, Centre for Longitudinal Studies, Institute of Education, UK

Context: Unplanned pregnancies are still common in UK. The hypothesis is that unplanned pregnancies could affect child development, through parenting practice, controlling for the socio-demographic environment.

Objective: To explore the relationship of the "intendedness" of births and child development at age 3 in the UK Millennium Cohort (MCS).

Data: MCS follows 18,552 families of children born in UK between 2000 and 2002. It has questions about the intendedness of the cohort pregnancy, whether it involved assisted reproduction techniques and further fertility intentions.

Methods: Associations between a more or less "wanted" birth and low and high school readiness (Bracken) at age 3 are investigated using logistic regression.

Results: Although child development is broadly associated with the intendedness of the birth, the relationship is largely statistically accounted for by the social and educational background of the mother, poor parenting also helps account for the low scores.

Discussion: The findings will feed into a comparative analysis between UK and France where the level of unplanned pregnancy is thought to be lower (probably around 1 birth out of 5 rather than 2). Such comparative analysis will be possible when the French ELFE Cohort data become available (20,000 families of children born in 2011).

ALSPAC: An international resource of lifecourse epidemiology for social scientists

Eszter Szilassy, University of Bristol, UK

The Avon Longitudinal Study of Parents & Children (ALSPAC) has been running since 1991 and has resulted in a rich dataset of biomedical and social measurements on children and their carers. While there has already been much high profile research based on ALSPAC, efforts have recently been made to increase awareness of these data among the wider social research community. The first aim of my paper will be to give a brief presentation of the ALSPAC data in general and inform participants about recent updates on data developments while highlighting future directions in data collection, data linkage and open access. The second aim of the paper will be to provide an overview of the range of social science data contained in ALSPAC. Presentation of some examples of current social research projects using ALSPAC data will highlight the various ways behaviours and outcomes of individuals in late childhood and adolescence (including physical and mental health, risky behaviours, school performance and the acquisition of soft cognitive skills) are researched and understood in today's Britain. The presentation will end by showing how ALSPAC raises awareness of the database and how it encourages and supports its usage within the international social science community.

Preliminary results from a birth cohort study in Friuli-Venezia Giulia (FVG), North-East Italy

Laura Cestari et al, University of Padova, Italy

A cohort of 186,529 children, born between 01/01/1989 and 31/12/2009 has been built up from the computerized archives of the birth assistance certificates which contain information on clinical characteristics of the newborn and also on some social characteristics of the mother. The members of the cohort have been identified through the anonymous transformation of their social security number which allows record linkage with all the other health archives (death certificates, hospital discharges, drugs prescriptions, cancer registry, etc) of the National Health System. The main goal of the study is to identify subsets of the population study affected during their early life by pathological conditions or by other risk factors and follow them up in relation to preventive measures.

Preliminary results indicate a potential influence of education as a proxy of SES on the frequency of hospital discharges, on the risk of dying and on the risk of cancer with ORs ranging from 1.6 to 3.1 for children with mothers illiterate or with primary school while status and citizenship do appear to influence mortality and morbidity.

Once the analysis is completed the FVG birth cohort will be one of the main tools for planning health promotion in the region.

Growing Up in New Zealand: Introducing the new generation

Susan Morton, University of Auckland, New Zealand

Growing Up in New Zealand is a new longitudinal study of NZ children in the 21st century. It aims to provide contemporary evidence on pathways of development for NZ children across all domains: physical, cognitive, social, linguistic, cultural, and environmental. Families enrolled their children in Growing Up in NZ before they were born, and comprehensive antenatal interviews were conducted with over 6500 pregnant women and over 4000 of their partners. In this paper, we report on the diversity into which the cohort children are being born. These families are broadly generalisable to those having children in NZ in the 21st century by ethnicity, socioeconomic status and other parental characteristics. Importantly the recruited cohort has explanatory power to consider outcomes for children who identify as Māori, Pacific, and Asian as well as European and other ethnicities.

This paper also reports on key findings from the antenatal data collection wave for Growing Up in NZ: parental psychological and physical well-being; the degree to which mothers are following recommended guidelines during pregnancy; and hopes, dreams, and expectations for their unborn children.

A conceptual framework that is grounded in lifecourse epidemiology allows this study significant contribution to policy (and community) development now and into the future.

Panel: Changing Youth Transitions in Times of Economic Transformation and Uncertainty

Life course effects of poverty – the German case

Olaf Groh-Samberg, University of Bremen, Germany

This paper analyses life course effects of poverty for young adults in Germany from a cohort and social class perspective. How does poverty and deprivation during youth affect the transition into adulthood and later life chances? Are there differences across cohorts and social classes? The analysis will be based on longitudinal data from the German Socio-Economic Panel Study (SOEP). Starting from cohorts born in the 1970s, we analyze exposure to poverty and deprivation during late childhood (ages 12 to 16, or even earlier). Different forms of exposure – long-term poverty, downward mobility, single poverty spells, recurrent poverty, etc. – can be distinguished. To analyze the life course effects we consider the school-to-work transition in conjunction with leaving parental home and family formation as outcomes. Individuals will be followed until age 30 (depending on the outcome). We will also make use of sequence analysis as a promising tool to explore different types of transitions into adulthood.

Life course effects of economic hardship

Patrick Wightman, University of Michigan, USA

Using the Panel Study of Income Dynamics, this presentation will examine how economic hardships at different stages of childhood affect young adult outcomes, in particular educational achievement, economic activity and independence. Following the work of Greg Duncan and others, I will descriptively distinguish between transitory and prolonged periods of hardships (defined as total family income at or below the Government-designated poverty threshold). Finally, I will examine how these associations may have changed over the past 20 years in response to changing government policies and macro-economic trends. These findings will provide context for understanding the potential effects of the Great Recession on future cohorts of young adults.

Growing up in Germany into the Great Recession – analyses over time (1992 – 2009)

Martina Gille, German Youth Institute, Munich

The subjective responses to the social trends and crisis-related phenomena of recent years given by the adolescents and young adults surveyed are not completely clear-cut. The assessment of relative deprivation, of not getting a fair share in society's wealth, for example, has not become more negative in recent times, indicating a rather high level of contentment. On the other hand, however, feelings of general disorientation have increased instead of decreasing and are still more prevalent in the former East German states than in former West Germany. The analysis firstly reveals that adolescents and young adults do not feel extremely disoriented or deprived, even though they must be regarded as a particularly vulnerable group in view of the economic and financial crisis.

Growing up in a workless household: how does it affect career attitudes?

Ingrid Schoon, Institute of Education, UK

This presentation will examine the association between parental (G1) worklessness and attitudes to education and work and subsequent education and employment transitions of their children (G2). Using evidence from the Longitudinal Study of Young People in England (LSYPE) the presentation will examine the association between persistent worklessness and worklessness among parents (G1) just before and during the 2008 recession and the attitudes and behaviours of their children (G2) as they make their way in the labour market during a time of an economic downturn.

Will the Great Recession affect our health?

Amanda Sacker, University of Essex, UK

This presentation will provide evidence from earlier recessions in the UK to address the question of how we might expect the Great Recession to affect the physical and mental health of today's young people. It will briefly touch on addressing the following questions: Do recessions damage population health? Does unemployment damage the physical and mental health of individuals? Is life expectancy reduced for those with greater experience of unemployment?

Is the Great Recession affecting young people's health?

Matthias Richter, Timo-Kolja Pfortner, Martin Luther University

The presentation will introduce our main research questions and discuss the potential of the SOEP data to realize our research aims. The project will focus on the consequences of employment transitions in times of economic uncertainty and hardship for subjective health at different stages of early adulthood (18-20; 21-24; 25-30 year olds) in Germany. As it is likely that those who are already disadvantaged will suffer most from the current financial crisis, we are also interested in the effect of income loss and economic hardship for social inequalities in young people's health. Beyond these rather descriptive questions we are also interested to illuminate the role of the individual risks and resources mediating the effect of economic hardship for adverse health and health inequalities.

Work and mental health in the Great Recession: recent findings from the Youth Development Study

Jeylan Mortimer, University of Minnesota, USA

Although most concern is focused on the plight of workers who lose their jobs, those who remain employed in times of recession often experience diminished job quality due to their firms' diminishing resources and workforce reductions. Whereas the employed participants in the YDS panel experienced growth in hourly wages, job security and advancement opportunities through the prior decade (age 21-31), these work conditions stagnated or declined from 2005 to 2009 (age 31-35). We find risks to mental health among both unemployed young adults, who suffer declines in self-efficacy, and those who remain employed. Diminishing rewards of work during the Great Recession erode work values and threaten a sense of well-being.

Gaining a firm foothold on the German labor market: A brief investigation of young people's labor market chances since the mid-1980s

Sandra Buchholz, University of Bamberg, Germany

For several decades, the German labor market has been a paragon for stable employment careers. However, with increasing unemployment rates in the 1980s, Germany has applied a highly selective deregulation of the national labor market affecting mostly labor market entrants and early career employees. As a result, it is today especially young people who face high risks on the closed labor market while the established labor market 'insiders' (i.e. mid-career men) hardly experienced a worsening of their situation.

Sabine Walper, University of Munich, Petra Buhr, University of Bremen

Using data from the pairfam panel, we will investigate effects of economic deprivation on partnership relations and fertility decision making in three cohorts: adolescents, young adults and adults in their middle thirties. We expect effects of economic deprivation not so much on partnership formation per se, but on the quality of the relationship and on the likelihood of marriage. Furthermore, effects on fertility plans are expected to differ for males and females since difficulties on the labor market may be better compensated by parenthood for women than for men. Separate and joint effects of education as a marker of socio-economic background will be considered in addition to economic deprivation based on income and household economy.

Youth adaptation during the Great Recession: evidence from the U.S. Monitoring the Future Study

Jeremy Staff et al, Pennsylvania State University, USA

We use data from the ongoing Monitoring the Future (MTF) study to examine how the current economic downturn is affecting the health and social development of teenagers in the United States. Based on a cohort-sequential design, since 1976 this ongoing project continues to collect data on large (approximately 17,000 students per grade), nationally representative samples of 8th, 10th, and 12th graders each year. Since some population subgroups are more vulnerable to economic downturns than others, we will consider the role of sociodemographic factors (i.e., gender, race/ethnicity, family structure, and socioeconomic background) in moderating the effects of recent economic changes. We are particularly interested in whether the great recession has altered the gap between the advantaged and disadvantaged (i.e., whether it is widening or is there some leveling of experience).

Shaping of Lives: The Influence of the Great Recession on American Youth

Elizabeth Cooksey, Ohio State University, USA

How has the Great Recession shaped the lives of American youth? Using data from the 1979 National Longitudinal Survey of Youth Young Adult study, this presentation will consider how parental unemployment and recent economic conditions have affected levels of depression among youth, the prevalence of delinquency, and youth's plans for the future.

Symposium – Life course and contemporary influences on health and well-being at older ages

Child and adult influences on quality of life at age 50 years

David Blane, Elizabeth Webb, Morten Wahrendorf, Gopal Netuveli, Imperial College London, UK

Quality of life at older ages, as measured by CASP, is influenced primarily by current context; this at least is the picture when past circumstances are detailed retrospectively. Now these relationships can be tested prospectively.

Path analyses use National Child Development Study (1958 British birth cohort study) data collected in childhood (birth & ages 7, 11, 16 years), adulthood (age 33 years) and at the start of early old age (50 years). Material (social class, accumulated deprivation) and psycho-social (family discord & fracture) circumstances in childhood and adulthood are examined.

As previously, current circumstances (finances, health, social participation) remain the strongest influences on CASP scores at age 50 years, but the prospective data also reveal life course influences, although these are comparatively weak. Social class at birth, for example, predicts CASP at 50, but it does so via its influence on social class at 33 years and financial circumstances & limiting long term illness at 50 years; there is no direct pathway between social class at birth and CASP at 50.

There are no direct childhood influences on quality of life in early old age (unlike health).

Exposure to income inequality over the life course and health in early old age

Robert de Vries, David Blane, Gopal Netuveli, Imperial College London, UK

Some researchers have claimed that income inequality at the societal level has a causal, contextual effect on people's health. This has prompted much debate in the literature, with many both unsupportive and supportive studies being published. The majority of these studies have adopted a cross sectional approach.

I will present evidence from a study relating experience of income inequality across the life-course to subsequent grip strength – an objectively measured indicator of physical functioning in later life. We combined data from 3 large scale surveys of older people (the Survey of Health Ageing and Retirement in Europe, the U.S. Health and Retirement Survey, and the English Longitudinal Study of Ageing), along with standardised data on national income inequality for the 16 survey countries.

In this harmonized dataset we found that those people who had experienced higher levels of inequality in early, mid, or late working life suffered significantly lower grip strength. These relationships were independent of potentially confounding factors including individual demographics, income, wealth, and country-level GDP.

Current influences on quality of life in the Gazel occupational cohort

Loretta Platts, Gopalakrishnan Netuveli, Elizabeth Webb, David Blane, Imperial College London, UK; Marie Zins, Marcel Goldberg, Versailles Saint Quentin University, France

Introduction: In British and European studies, quality of life at older ages is influenced by a range of current factors, including health status, social support and participation, socio-economic position, financial adequacy and quality of the neighbourhood.

Methods: Secondary analysis was performed to test whether a similar range of factors predicted quality of life in the French Gazel cohort, composed of employees from the national gas and electricity company. Quality of life in 2005 was measured with CASP-19, a 19-item Likert-scaled index comprising four dimensions of autonomy, control, self-realization and pleasure. Multiple regression analyses were conducted on 7412 complete cases.

Results: Quality of life was reduced by having poorer physical and mental health, as measured by the SF-36 mental and physical component scores; more depression symptoms; lower incomes; lower confidence in finances; caring daily for a sick or disabled adult and if participants reported more problems and lower social support in their neighbourhoods. It was improved by greater social participation, having confiding and supportive relationships and being retired. A variety of current circumstances affected quality of life in the Gazel cohort; no single factor dominated.

Conclusions: There is potential for improving quality of life in older ages if factors such as mental and physical illness, financial difficulties, neighbourhood problems and lack of supportive relationships are addressed.

Is the quality of life of older married Europeans affected by their spouse's health?

Jessica Abell, David Blane, Gopal Netuveli, Imperial College London, UK

A positive association between marriage and quality of life (CASP-12) for older people has been established; although less is known about the dynamics of the association, which can be explored using data from both spouses.

For older married men and women living together as a couple, are the characteristics (age, depression, education, ADL, IADL, self-rated health) of their partner also associated with their own quality of life? Does this association vary cross-nationally?

Secondary analysis of the Survey of Health, Ageing and Retirement in Europe (SHARE) was undertaken using multi-level modelling to account for the dyadic structure of the sample (individuals within couples). All results also included individual and household (couple level) predictors. Cross-national comparisons using welfare regime typologies were also made. The Actor-Partner Interdependence Model (Kashy & Kenny, 2000) was used to simultaneously estimate actor and partner effects on quality of life.

Initial findings suggest partner characteristics are associated with quality of life, and this relationship varies by both gender and welfare regime. When considering the quality of life of older Europeans, marital status and partner's characteristics should be taken into account.

Transitions in work and family and quality of life at older ages in England

Elizabeth Webb, Gopal Netuveli, Anne McMunn and David Blane, Imperial College London, UK

With an ageing population, continued labour market participation amongst older people has become a priority for policy makers, signified by planned increases in the state pension age in the UK. Additionally, older people not engaged in the labour market are encouraged to volunteer. These policies are supported by research that suggests that increased social participation in older age is beneficial for health and well-being. However, older people may also be subject to a high burden of care for dependent children, ageing parents and ailing spouses. Considering these combined roles and responsibilities, what work and family circumstances allow older people to enjoy an optimal third age?

We investigate how older people's circumstances, and changes to these circumstances, influence their quality of life, focusing on paid and unpaid work, partnerships, children and caring responsibilities. We show how gender, age and changes in health, income and wealth interact with these transitions to affect quality of life.

Analyses use data from the four waves of the English Longitudinal Study of Ageing (ELSA), a nationally representative cohort of people aged 50 and over, living in England. Quality of life is measured using CASP-19, and change over time is modelled using multilevel models. In brief, we find that women who are not cohabiting have a lower quality of life than those who are. Men and women whose children continue to live at home have a reduced quality of life, as do women whose children return to live at home. Transitions relating to work roles do not appear to influence quality of life, although women experience a temporary increase in quality of life upon leaving the labour market. Having a caring responsibility has a negative effect on men's and women's quality of life, whilst volunteering has a positive effect.

Health from an early life perspective – The roles of genes and environment

Marjo-Riitta Jarvelin, Imperial College London, UK

Genetic variants which have an impact on very early life development like adiposity (foetal growth) and how these same variants affect later adult health (e.g. diabetes) explaining why poor foetal growth (or too large) has an impact on adult disease risk. We have analysed longitudinal data to understand how genes may work, interactions etc. Also an example about health behavior such as smoking – how this addiction develops over early years and has an impact on health.

Mental health in the life course

Not-so-happy pills? A longitudinal study of adolescent ecstasy use and depression

Mark McCann, Oliver Perra, Aisling McLaughlin et al, Queen's University Belfast, UK

Around 4,500 schoolchildren were surveyed annually from ages 11 to 18, to assess the association between adolescent ecstasy use and depression.

Regression models looked at depressive symptoms (Short Mood and Feelings Questionnaire) at age 16/17. Covariates included gender, Strengths and Difficulties Questionnaire (SDQ), affluence measures, Inventory of Parent and Peer attachment (IPPA), and self reported substance use.

Of 1,699 respondents completing all relevant sweeps, 189 (11%) had SMFQ greater than 15. Around 10% of the cohort had used ecstasy. Around 8% of non-drug users showed signs of depression, compared to 12% of drinkers and tobacco smokers, 11% of cannabis users, and 17% of ecstasy users.

After adjusting for gender and SDQ, infrequent ecstasy users had a 206% (OR 2.06 95%CI 1.03, 4.11) and frequent users 196% (OR 1.96 95% CI 1.00, 3.82) higher risk of depression. This reduced after adjusting for IPPA (Infrequent OR 1.60 95% CI 0.79, 3.22; frequent OR 1.55 95% CI 0.78, 3.06).

Ecstasy use during adolescence is associated with poorer mental health in early adulthood, however the majority of this association may be explained by social factors such as parental attachment. Further longitudinal studies are needed to improve evidence on the potential harms of ecstasy.

Social participation, life course and marginality - A 25 year follow-up study of youths with behavioral problems

Ingeborg Helgeland, University College of Oslo, Norway

The paper presents a longitudinal study of 85 white ethnic Norwegian adolescents with severe behavioral problems. The youths were followed up when they were aged 15, 20 and 30. We are now working with the fourth wave, to investigate how people with severe adjustment difficulties during their adolescence have managed their lives up to the age of 40. Were there any critical conditions of events that enabled them to develop positively and adjust? What do the women and men tell us about their lives? These questions are investigated with both quantitative and qualitative methods and analyses. The results show so far that 1) to be a woman in a group like this, gives a better chance to overcome problems than being a male. 2) Growing up with drug- and alcohol abusing parents is a risk for troubled adult life. 3) Late onset (after 14) gives a chance to come to an end with the problems. 4) Foster homes and treatment collectives give the chance to get onto a positive tack. 5) For the women to get a child, and for the men "to get a woman" can represent turning points.

Parental separation and adult psychological distress: the role of material and relational pathways. Evidence from two British birth cohorts

Rebecca Lacey, Mel Bartley, Hynek Pikhart et al, University College London, UK

The relationship between parental separation and adult psychological distress is well established, however relatively little is known about the mechanisms involved. This study looks at the role of material (via adolescent material disadvantage, educational attainment and adult material disadvantage) and relational (via parent-child relationship quality, peer relationships and adult partnerships) pathways and how these may have changed over time.

This study uses data from the 1958 National Child Development Study (NCDS) and 1970 British Cohort Study (BCS70). Parental separation was measured from 0-16 years. Psychological distress was measured by Malaise Inventory at age 33 years (NCDS) and 30 years (BCS70). Data are multiply-imputed resulting in a sample of 10,923 NCDS participants and 10,714 BCS70 participants with complete data on psychological distress. Path analysis was used to calculate probit estimates and to investigate direct and indirect effects via material and relational pathways and the way in which these interlink across the life course.

The direct association was found to be more important than the effect through relational and material mechanisms. Material pathways were found to be more important than relational. The picture for women appears to be particularly complex, with greater linkage between material and relational pathways across the life course.

Cognition

Maternal factors associated with socio-emotional development and parent child interaction in one and two year old African-American children in Memphis, TN

Frederick B. Palmer, J. Carolyn Graff, Laura E. Murphy, Phyllis A. Richey, Wonsuk Yoo, Andrew J. Bush, Frances A. Tylavsky, University of Tennessee Health Science Centre, USA

473 African American, predominantly low-income mothers and their child were followed from second trimester through the child's second year of life. Maternal reports of their own behavioral health symptoms were measured during gestation on a temperament questionnaire and the Brief Symptom Inventory (BSI); Edinburgh Postnatal Depression Scale at 12 months; and the BSI, Parenting Stress Index, Child Abuse Potential Inventory at 12 and 24 months. Infant socioemotional (SE) development was measured on the Brief Infant-Toddler Social Emotional Assessment; mother and child were scored on their participation in a novel teaching activity using the Parent Child Interaction Teaching Scale. Parent-reported SE problems at 24 months were associated with: maternal cyclothymic temperament in the second trimester and psychological distress during gestation, 12 and 24 months; child abuse potential and parenting stress at 12 and 24 months; and infant SE problems at 12 months ($p < 0.01$ for all). Child responsiveness to caregiver was positive in mothers without stressor symptomatology and, child responsiveness to mothers with symptomatology was also higher than may be expected based on maternal functioning. Maternal behavioral symptoms during gestation, and stressors through the child's first year, are associated with child SE problems at 2 years and are reflected in child responsiveness.

What influences cognitive development in the pre-school years? Evidence from the Growing Up In Scotland Study

Paul Bradshaw, Scottish Centre for Social Research, UK

This paper will present findings from analysis using data from the Growing Up in Scotland study, a longitudinal birth and child cohort study, which explored change in cognitive ability between the ages of 3 and 5 for approximately 4000 Scottish children and examined, in particular, the extent to which early gaps in ability by children's socio-economic circumstances remain, reduce or increase in this period. Furthermore, the analysis identifies those children who see a relative improvement (or otherwise) in their ability - beyond that which would be expected by their increase in age - and identifies the factors associated with better improvement in cognitive ability between the ages of 3 and 5.

This report will go beyond the existing analysis of British data by investigating which factors, beyond indicators of socio-economic status, impact on changes in cognitive development between the ages of 3 and 5. In addition, as well as data on vocabulary acquisition, the GUS analysis will also examine changes in development associated with problem-solving ability. The evidence generated by this report will be useful in identifying which circumstances and experiences contribute to the improvement of cognitive ability of children in lower (and higher) SES groups in the pre-school period.

Reading behaviour across childhood and the life course: comparisons from UK longitudinal studies

Mark Taylor, University of Oxford, UK

While a large body of research has investigated the relationship between reading for pleasure and other outcomes (primarily educational attainment), there has been much less investigation into how much people's reading behaviour itself changes. Using several UK longitudinal surveys, we investigate firstly the extent to which reading behaviour in childhood, often treated as fixed, varies, and to what extent any variation can be predicted. We then investigate the association between childhood and adult reading for individuals, again aiming to establish the extent to which variation can be accounted for. We find significant variation in reading behaviour, both in the short and the long term, which can only be partially accounted for by conventional narratives. While early readers from less well-off backgrounds are more likely to stop, the converse does not hold, and any substitution effects from other leisure activities are minor at best. We also find significant gender differences, with changes in women's participation much less strongly associated with family background, particularly for more recent cohorts. These findings have significant implications for cultural capital research, as many of the measures frequently used are shown to be more volatile than studies treat them to be.

An examination of the variability in cognitive ability test scores between age 11 and age 50: a longitudinal extension to the conceptualisation of cognitive ability scores in analyses of meritocratic processes of social stratification

Roxanne Connelly, University of Stirling, UK

Childhood cognitive ability test scores have been widely utilised in literature concerning the degree of meritocracy in social stratification processes, yet there is controversy concerning what these tests truly indicate. This paper utilises the cognitive assessment module in the 2008 (age 50) sweep of the National Child Development study. These assessments provide an opportunity to assess the stability of childhood cognitive ability scores (age 11), and the relation of variation in cognitive ability to educational attainment and adult occupational position.

This paper builds on research which has mapped the relations of social background and childhood cognitive ability to adult occupational position, and interpretation is guided by the aim to improve understanding of what tests of cognitive ability indicate about the competencies of individuals throughout the lifecourse, particularly in relation to meritocratic processes of social stratification. Initial results demonstrate a clear degree of stability between cognitive ability measured at ages 11 and 50. Change in cognitive ability is significantly influenced by occupational position throughout adulthood, and educational attainment. Parental occupational position is not significantly related to cognitive ability at age 50 net of educational attainment and adult occupational position. However, decomposition of the scores highlights the major influence of childhood ability on both educational attainment and occupational position.

Symposium – Expression of career goals and subsequent career transitions: The role of context and significant others

The role of personal goals across educational transitions and beyond

Katariina Salmela-Aro, University of Helsinki, Finland

This paper introduces a life-span model of motivation, focusing in particular on career goals. The formulation of career goals is a critical developmental task for young people, as career aspirations can act as a compass guiding future development. It is argued that life-course transitions channel the choices and commitment of career-related goals formulated by adolescents. Co-regulation and interactions with significant others also plays a key role for career-goal setting, as goals are often shared through interactions with peers. However, young people may also need to adjust their career goals during the transition from school to work. Based on evidence from a longitudinal study of Finnish adolescents, it has been shown that a transition to a congruent educational context was particularly beneficial for students who proceeded to a vocational school: after the transition they reported higher overall level of progress towards their career-related goal than did students on an academic track. Moreover, when adolescents pursued their career goal for internal reasons, they invested effort in achieving the goal, which was shown in a high level of goal progress. Goal progress, in turn, was related to a high level of engagement and low level of school burnout.

Perceived parental involvement predicts adolescents' goal pursuit during a career transition

Julia Dietrich, Katariina Salmela-Aro, University of Helsinki, Finland

During transition periods, such as from education to working life, individuals can engage in a variety of goal-directed behaviors which benefit their success in dealing with the demands of the transition. To date, researchers have focused mainly on the individual processes of goal-directed engagement and its outcomes. Still little is known about how the actions of significant others, such as parents, complement and affect adolescent engagement during critical transitions. This study investigated adolescents' and parents' co-regulation of career-related goals during the post-school transition. Finnish adolescents (N = 807, 49% female) were assessed twice in high school and once after graduation. We examined how their career goal motivation (autonomous vs. controlled) and appraisals (goal attainability, effort, progress, and stress) interact with perceived parental career-related involvement (support, lack of engagement) during the transition. Moreover, the role of perceived parental warmth for the co-regulation of goals was assessed. The results revealed that both perceived parents' involvement and warmth were associated with subsequent goal-related stress via controlled goal motivation. The results further point to interaction effects between parental warmth, career support, and lack of engagement in predicting adolescents' career goal pursuit.

Who becomes an entrepreneur? Early life experiences and personal goals as predictors of entrepreneurship

Kathryn Duckworth, Ingrid Schoon, Institute of Education, UK

In this study we examine early life course experiences and the role of significant others in influencing the step into entrepreneurship. The study is guided by a developmental-contextual model of career development, taking into account multiple influences within the proximal family environment and wider context. Using a longitudinal approach, following young people from birth to age 34, we examine the role of parental social background, parenting characteristics, as well as cognitive ability, behaviour, self concepts, and ambition values expressed during adolescence as predictors of self employment by age 34. The study draws on data collected for the 1970 British Birth cohort, comprising an analytic sample of 8,013 economically active individuals. Entrepreneurship at age 34 is defined by employment status (full time self employment and owning own business). In addition we differentiate pathways associated with entrepreneurship in general and successful entrepreneurship. The latter is defined by indicators time in self employment, number of employees, and profit making. Significant predictors of entrepreneurship include parental social background, in particular whether the father had been self-employed himself, as well as high levels of prosocial behaviour, self esteem and entrepreneurial intentions expressed at age 16. The findings suggest intergenerational transmission of values and career focus.

Changes in work values during emerging adulthood: a two-cohort Canadian study

Harvey Krahn, Nancy Galambos, University of Alberta, Canada

Cohort comparison studies in several western countries have demonstrated that occupational aspirations of young people have risen over the past decades as industrial economies gave way to service-based and, to some extent, knowledge-based economies and as higher proportions of youth participated in post-secondary education. Comparable studies on work values are rare, but a Canadian cohort comparison of 1985 and 1996 high school seniors (Lowe and Krahn, *Work, Employment & Society*, 2000) showed little difference in preferences for extrinsic (e.g., pay, job security, promotion opportunities) or intrinsic (interesting work, decision-making opportunities, sense of accomplishment) work rewards. The 18 year-olds in these 1985 and 1996 (Edmonton, Canada) cohorts were re-interviewed at age 25 in 1992 and 2003, respectively. This paper builds on our earlier work by examining intra-individual change in intrinsic and extrinsic work values during emerging adulthood (Arnett, *American Psychologist*, 2000) as a function of cohort, gender, family socio-economic status, educational attainment, and labour market experiences. In particular, analyses of the longitudinal data will test the hypotheses that experiences of unemployment and underemployment during emerging adulthood will be associated with a growing preference for extrinsic over intrinsic work rewards.

Divorce

Children and stability of first marital unions in Poland

Marta Styrc, Warsaw School of Economics, Poland

The role of children for the stability of marriages has been studied extensively but without clear conclusions. This study contributes to the discussion by investigating whether children stabilize marriages in Poland and what is the role of children in the recently increasing rate of marital disruption. Poland is an interesting case for such research due to traditional patterns of family-related behaviors and important position of marriage and children in the value system of Poles.

Based on data from a retrospective survey “Education, Fertility and Employment Survey” I estimate a piecewise constant hazard model. where I control for the relevant time-constant and time-varying socio-economic characteristics of women in their first marriages. The results show that the presence of children and their number do not matter for marital stability. Important factors are the age of the child, and the fact of conceiving a child before marrying. The increasing aggregate instability of marriage is driven by high-risk groups: women who married while they were pregnant and those without young children. Given the lack of changes in legal regulations it indicates on increasing propensity of dissolve an unsatisfying union.

Gender-specific effects of partnership dissolution, unemployment and childbirth on the transition to over-indebtedness

Julia Gummy, University of Cambridge, UK

This paper investigates the impact of partnership dissolution, unemployment and childbirth on the transition to problematic debt, hereafter over-indebtedness, comparatively in Britain and Germany. Socio-economic theories on individuals' debt behaviour emphasize the dynamic nature of over-indebtedness treating this phenomenon as a process. Life course events like divorce, unemployment or childbirth impact on men and women's ability to service debts due to an (un-)expected drop in income. Research shows, for instance, that British women's financial well-being deteriorates more than men's after divorce and childbirth due to lack of savings, income dependency or a reduction in hours of paid work. However, little is known about how these events impact on the ability to service debts, whether they impact on men and women differently and whether these effects vary by country. Using the British Household Panel Survey (BHPS), the German Socio-Economic Panel (GSOEP) and quantitative measures for over-indebtedness I analyse the risk of over-indebtedness on samples of British and German individuals using event history analysis. Preliminary results for Britain show that partnership dissolution increases the likelihood of entering over-indebtedness for men. For women, the risk of over-indebtedness increases after childbirth and unemployment of a member of the household, particularly of a man.

Divorce penalty or divorce premium? A longitudinal analysis of the consequences of divorce for men's and women's economic activity

Liat Raz-Yurovich, Max Planck Institute for Demographic Research, Germany

Men's and women's employment trajectories following divorce is an important issue for analysis because of the possible implications of the changes in employment characteristics on the economic well-being of divorced men and women and their children, and on their levels of dependency on the welfare state. In order to analyze the long-term effects of divorce on an individual's salary, employment stability, and the number of jobs held, we employ a unique set of register-based panel data from Israel. Using longitudinal multilevel analyses and linear growth models, so as fixed-effects models, we find that men's monthly salary and employment stability levels suffer more than those of women following divorce. Nonetheless, our results are in line with previous research on the negative effect of divorce on women's economic status. This is because our fixed-effects models show that, although women increase their employment stability and the number of jobs held following divorce, their earnings do not rise following marital disruption. Moreover, women usually experience a reduction in their salary growth rates. For men, our fixed-effects models suggest that their employment stability levels suffer following divorce, but that there are no substantial differences in men's earnings or in their salary growth rates following marital disruption.

Adaptive strategies of couples in reaction to work demands: Mechanisms influencing partnership quality, conflicts, and dissolution

Martin Diewald, Tobias Graf, Stefanie Hoherz, University of Bielefeld, Germany

The work life interface has up to now mainly been studied cross-sectionally, from the point of view of individuals at one point in time and during one life stage. Existing longitudinal studies focus mostly on avoiding or delaying stable relationships (marriage and parenthood) in reaction to labour market insecurities. Our paper focuses instead on existing relationships and analyses within the framework of linked life courses of women and men how couples adapt to various work demands of both partners by changing their intensity of workforce participation and, thus, the intra-household division of labour. We look at the consequences of work and adaptive reactions on partnerships at three levels: work-to-family conflict of both partners, perceived severe partnership conflicts, and the separation of partnerships. Thus, we are able to assess more precisely how work-to-life interferences impact on partnerships, and how successful different adaptive strategies of couples are. Our analyses include longitudinal SOEP data of married or cohabiting couples which are analysed across different life stages.

Symposium – Netherlands Study of Depression and Anxiety

The Netherlands Study of Depression and Anxiety (NESDA): rationale, objectives and methods

Jan Smit, VU University, The Netherlands

The Netherlands Study of Depression and Anxiety (NESDA) is a multi-site naturalistic cohort study to: (1) describe the long-term course and consequences of depressive and anxiety disorders, and (2) to integrate biological and psychosocial research paradigms within an epidemiological approach in order to examine (interaction between) predictors of the long-term course and consequences. Its design is an eight-year longitudinal cohort study among 2981 participants aged 18 through 65 years. The sample consists of 1701 persons with a current diagnosis of depression and/or anxiety disorder, 907 persons with life-time diagnoses or at risk because of a family history threshold depressive or anxiety symptoms, and 373 healthy controls. Recruitment took place in the general population, in general practices (through a three-stage screening procedure), and in mental health organizations in order to recruit persons reflecting various settings and developmental stages of psychopathology. During a four-hour baseline assessment extensive information was gathered about key (mental) health outcomes and demographic, psychosocial, clinical, biological and genetic determinants. Detailed assessments are repeated after one, two, four, six and eight years of follow-up. These findings of NESDA are expected to provide more detailed insight into (predictors of) the long-term course of depressive and anxiety disorders in adults.

The development and conduction of prospective psychiatric cohort studies: The NESDA example

Jan Smit, VU University, The Netherlands

The development and conduction of prospective cohort study is a challenging task. Even more so if a psychiatric population is the core of the study Psychiatric diseases are still evaluated by the patients themselves as potentially stigmatizing making them very reluctant to participate. Also lack of motivation and interest in general are part of the symptoms of psychiatric diseases and might cause high attrition rates in the longitudinal trajectories. Therefore a number of methodological challenges have to be met when developing and conducting such a study. In this symposium we will use the NESDA project as an example for the challenges faced with (i)

designing such a study, (ii) how to describe longitudinal outcomes reckoning with systematic non response. Special attention (iii) will be paid to the data collection with the retrospective LIFE CHART method for mood disorders and to methods to analyze these data.

Papers:

(i) The Netherlands Study of Depression and Anxiety (NESDA): rationale, objectives and methods.

(ii) Socio-demographic and psychiatric determinants of attrition in the Netherlands Study of Depression and Anxiety (NESDA).

(iii) Course of alcohol use and bipolar disorder severity as reported in one year daily Life chart assessments.

Socio-demographic and psychiatric determinants of attrition in the Netherlands Study of Depression and Anxiety (NESDA)

Adrian Hoogendoorn, GGZ InGeest, The Netherlands

Background: While attrition is inevitable in longitudinal studies, psychiatric studies are thought to be especially sensitive for attrition. This study aimed to evaluate the socio-demographic and psychiatric determinants of attrition at two-year follow-up in the Netherlands Study of Depression and Anxiety (NESDA).

Methods: Logistic regression was used to examine socio-demographic and psychiatric determinants of attrition. Also, differences in determinants between three types of attrition (refusal, non-contact and not able to participate) were evaluated.

Results: The attrition rate at the two-year follow-up assessment was 12.9% (385/2981). Determinants of attrition were younger age, less years of education, not being of North-European descent, being recruited in Amsterdam, no previous participation in research and having major depressive disorder. Only the effects of age, sampling site and previous participation in research differed between types of attrition. Furthermore, comorbid depressive and anxiety disorders and higher symptom severity were associated with attrition.

Limitations: Because of the number of determinants evaluated, there is a possibility of a chance finding due to multiple testing.

Conclusions: In contrast to the view that psychiatric research is more prone to high attrition rates, this study revealed a relatively low attrition rate. Both socio-demographic and psychiatric variables were independent determinants of attrition.

Course of alcohol use and bipolar disorder severity as reported in one year daily life chart assessments

Stasja Draisma, VU University, The Netherlands

Objective: To assess the effect of actual alcohol use (number of units) on course and severity of bipolar disorders, as indicated by daily self reports of patients.

Method: During approximately a year, 137 patients (aged 23-68 years) with DSM-IV diagnosed bipolar disorder rated their mood and the number of alcohol units consumed daily for a period up to 52 weeks with the NIMH Self Rating-Pro prospective Life Chart Method (LCM). At baseline demographic, social and clinical characteristics were obtained.

Results: Detailed course differences (mood swings) between low and high alcohol use periods are presented. Results of a longitudinal analysis of covariation of alcohol use and illness severity periods are also given (Wilcoxon test to compare amount of days spent in different mood states and alcohol use, Poisson regression for repeated measures analysis, also the Leapfrog method showed no significant differences between the drinking groups.).

Conclusion: No differences between the three drinking groups were found on any of the clinical outcome variables, i.e. number of days ill (depressed, hypomanic/manic and total), severity of depression, mania and overall bipolar illness.

Symposium – Household composition and child wellbeing (NORC)

Household composition and child wellbeing: two parent only households

Kate Bachtell, Nola du Toit, Catherine Haggerty, National Opinion Research Centre, USA

Research finds that children raised in married two parent families do better than those being raised by cohabiting or single parents (Manning and Brown 2006, Amato 2005, Brown 2005, McClanahan and Sandefur 1994). Children raised by both biological parents have fewer cognitive, social and emotional problems in childhood and as adults. Men and women in married couple families are older and better educated than single or cohabiting adults raising children. One reason suggested for poorer outcomes among children raised by single or cohabiting adults is the difference in quality and amount of resources; cohabiting and single parents have less money for material goods and live in poorer school districts and neighborhoods (Manning and Brown 2006, Waldfogel et al 2010). Du Toit et al found that two parent families in poor urban communities do better than others in terms of public assistance and economic hardship, but when they considered home ownership to be a positive attribute, two parent families were curiously worse off. Case studies of a sample of two-parent only households illuminate the factors that may contribute or detract from child wellbeing and will serve as a point of comparison with other family types.

Household composition and child wellbeing: single parent only households

Nola Du Toit, Ned English, NORC, USA

The majority (58%) of children whose household income falls below the national poverty line do not live with both parents (Census 2010). Gassman-Pines et al (2006) find that among never-married mothers in a study of low-income parents enrolled in Milwaukee's New Hope program, material hardship and the propensity to marry were inversely related: greater hardships were associated with a lower likelihood of marriage (213). Du Toit et al found that, interestingly, the addition of an adult to a single parent household increases the odds of that household experiencing a decline in per capita income. While this merits closer examination, an early conclusion could be that instability matters for single parent households, and for some single parents it may be advisable to stay single rather than have another adult move in. Case studies of this group will focus on the characteristics of those single parent households that remain single across waves versus those that take in other adults. We examine the factors that contribute to decreased income per capita, as well as other factors that may enhance or detract from child wellbeing.

Household composition and child wellbeing: non-parent households

Catherine Haggerty, NORC, USA

Whether adults are married, cohabiting, or single has been shown to impact their life chances and those of any children living in their household. Studies have also demonstrated that changes in composition or household instability often produce negative outcomes, especially among children. Unfortunately, studies that examine differences in type of family and household composition are often limited to comparisons of unions - married, single, or cohabiting, focusing on the parents. Similarly, the literature on the impact of change in household composition has focused primarily on changes in relationships of parents, such as marriage or divorce. There is very little data about households with children in which no parents are present. The Making Connections dataset has nearly 200 non-parent families that reveal a diverse set of caretakers, including grandparents, aunts, uncles and unrelated adults. This paper uses a grounded approach to explore the complex circumstances that contribute to the separation of children from their parents. We explore the composition of non-parent households, whether children living in a household with no parent are particularly vulnerable, and if so, which household composition types are most constrained in their abilities to foster stable and nurturing environments for their children.

Household composition and child wellbeing: extended family households

Kate Bachtell, NORC, USA

Prior research on the link between household composition and child wellbeing relies on the relationship between parents (i.e. married, cohabiting, single) or the biological tie of the child to the parents (Manning and Brown 2006). Current trends suggest a resurgence of people living with their extended families (Glick, Bean, and Van Hook 1997), especially within the black community (Goldscheider and Bures 2003). This presents a departure from reports of long-term declines in the prevalence of extended family households over the last century (Coontz 2000). Today, 31% of U.S. children live with another adult other than a parent, including 10% who live with one or more grandparents (Census 2010). Given the high and sustained rate of unemployment in the U.S. it is likely that the percentage of extended family households will remain unchanged or increase, as recovery efforts have not improved family economic conditions. These changes over time, coupled with recent global economic declines, have heightened the need for research on the impact of extended family on children. We draw on the Making Connections datasets to explore the diverse set of extended family formations to better understand the impact of household structure on the lives of disadvantaged children.

Careers

The German baby boomers and higher working age - employment careers and their effect on statutory pension entitlements in the middle of the working life

Anita Tisch, Silke Tophoven, Institute for Employment Research, Nuremberg, Germany

Within the next decade, the German baby boom cohorts will enter the higher working age. Against this background, we examine work trajectories and their significance for accrued Statutory pension entitlements by the age of 42 for two of the baby boom cohorts (1959 and 1965) in comparison to two older cohorts (1947 and 1953). The baby boom cohorts entered the labour market during a time of increasing uncertainties and suffered from cohort crowding. The economic situation in the period of individual labour market entry caused comparably high labour market risks at the beginning of the working life and heterogeneous employment histories. We assume the existence of typical patterns in the employment trajectories of these cohorts.

Therefore a detailed look at individual sequence patterns is necessary. We do so using optimal matching methods. In a second step, we hypothesize that differences in accrued statutory pension entitlements are explainable by individuals' employment trajectories. The influence of employment trajectories on the amount of individual earning points in the middle of working life is tested using an OLS regression model. For our analyses we use the biographical data of selected insurance agencies in Germany (BASiD).

Occupational value orientations and young persons' job choice decisions

Michael Weinhardt, SOEP, Germany

This paper investigates the relevance of occupational value orientations for the status attainment process by looking at career choices of young persons. The study uses data from the youth questionnaire of the German Socio-economic Panel (SOEP) which includes a set of questions on occupational interests addressed at 17-year old teenagers. The longitudinal nature of the data is used to model job attainment of young people and the role values play in the process. Employing a latent modelling framework, four underlying dimensions or value orientations can be identified: intrinsic, extrinsic and social job orientations, as well as a fourth dimension related to work-life balance. When relating these value orientations to young persons' occupational aspirations it shows that intrinsic orientations are positively related to aspirations, while extrinsic orientations are negatively related to aspirations. Future employment status and occupation of young people is taken from succeeding waves of the SOEP. Findings indicate that social orientations are related to working in a social occupation later on, while the importance attached to occupation compared to other life areas is related to the weekly amount of hours worked. No effect of intrinsic or extrinsic orientations on income, prestige or work autonomy in the first job can be identified.

Identity Trajectories in Education and Work Attainment

Janel E. Benson, Monica K. Johnson, Glen H. Elder, Colgate University, USA

This study investigates the relation of young adult identities (ages 18-22) to educational and career attainment in young adulthood (ages 25-29), and the extent to which this association reflects family socioeconomic status and choices made in adolescence and beyond. Using data from the National Longitudinal Study of Adolescent Health, a person-centered approach identified four types of adult identity that are jointly defined by subjective age and level of psychosocial maturation. Young people with an advanced age identity but delayed maturation emerge as the least successful group in young adulthood when compared to those who exhibited other developmental patterns. Youth with a delayed age identity and delayed psychosocial maturation generally attain the highest levels of education whereas those with an advanced age identity and maturation achieve higher earnings. In the latter group, youth assess their attained status at the highest level and are most likely to work in jobs that are linked to their career, as do those who report a maturation level that exceeds their age identity. Education and work experiences from adolescence into young adulthood are also important predictors of adult attainment and account for some of the achievement differences between profiles of adult identity.

Work-family interface 1

Mutual support and specialization: effects of partners' resources on leaving unemployment

Corinna Kleinert, Institute for Employment Research, Germany

Partners provide an important social context for individuals' labour market decisions and resulting social outcomes. Unemployment is a particularly interesting issue to be studied in partnership context, as the ensuing loss of income of one partner and quick re-employment might affect the whole family. Against this background, we examine (1) how singles and couples differ in unemployment duration and (2) how couples deal with each other's unemployment. We distinguish different kinds of partners' resources and dependencies: education, labour market capital, financial assets, and the couples' income distribution. Empirically, we analyze these questions using data from the German Socio-Economic Panel (GSOEP) by applying discrete time event-history models. We find a partnership premium for men and women, whereas marriage increases re-employment chances only for men. The partner's resources have positive, but often non-significant effects on re-employment chances, but men and women rely on different assets: only men gain from their spouses' education, while mainly women gain from their partners' income. Spouses who had been minor earners before unemployment refrain from re-entering paid work. While this dynamic is gender-neutral, far more unemployed women than men had been in this situation. Unemployment thus strengthens patterns of inequality between as well as within couples.

Pathways to gender inequality in Britain and Germany: maternal employment interruptions and housework inequality

Pia Schober, University of Cambridge, UK

This paper investigates the effect of mothers' labour market interruptions after a birth on couples' division of housework in Britain and West-Germany. We also explore whether the length of mothers' employment interruption mediates the association of prenatal earnings of women and maternity/parental leave entitlements with housework arrangements. By considering the length of employment interruption after a birth, this study extends the existing literature which concentrated on the effects of labour market transitions on housework or considered only prenatal characteristics. Most previous studies were unable to take account of the simultaneity of people's decisions in paid work and housework. To account for unobserved individual-specific characteristics which influence mothers' return to work and the division of housework in couples, we apply multilevel multiprocess models. The empirical analysis is based on data from the British Household Panel Survey (1991-2008) and the German Socio-Economic Panel (1985-2008). Preliminary results suggest that in both countries longer employment interruptions are associated with a more traditional division of housework even after women returned to work. This confirms theories of habituation in the division of labour. We also find that women's prenatal earnings and parental leave policies are indirectly associated with the division of housework through the timing of mothers' return to work.

The effect of household resources and gender equality on the transition to parenthood among couples in Britain

Anne Berrington, Serena Pattaro, University of Southampton, UK

We use a couple approach to investigate how entry into parenthood after age 30 depends on an individual and their partners' economic resources, labour force attachment and gender role equality. We use life course data from the 1970 birth cohort collected at ages 30, 34 and 38, including time-varying information on education and employment and cross-sectional information relating to the individual and their partner's employment circumstances and the division of domestic tasks within the household. At age 30, cohort members were asked their intentions for having children. We use event history analysis to model the timing of first birth as a function of these fixed and time-varying factors. Hence we are able to identify factors associated with the recuperation of fertility and the relative importance of the individual's and their partner's circumstances. We control for the selection into our sample of high-resource couples who remain without a child at age 30. We add to the existing literature by using a couple approach, by comparing the effects for men and women and by taking into account a detailed set of fixed and time-varying socio-economic determinants and anticipatory factors.

Round Table – Drugs and alcohol use

Learning to drink: parental rules around alcohol use, monitoring and attachment in early adolescence and subsequent levels of hazardous drinking

Oliver Perra, Mark McCann, et al, Queen's University Belfast, UK

Drinking carries a health risk, and it is important to assess how parents may affect their children drinking to hazardous levels. A longitudinal study was undertaken with schoolchildren in Northern Ireland from the age of 11 until 16. Logistic regression models assessed how parental attachment and parental monitoring at age 11, and whether parents allowed their child to drink alcohol at age 12 were associated with rates of drinking to hazardous levels when aged 16; defined as drinking 6 or more drinks at one time, weekly or more often.

Analysis suggested that those allowed to drink at age 12 when supervised by their parents were less likely to drink to hazardous levels than those who were not allowed to drink (Odds ratio 0.78 95% CI 0.60, 1.02). There was little evidence to suggest that those who were allowed to drink unsupervised differed from those who were not allowed to drink at all (OR 1.45 95%CI 0.83, 2.55).

These findings suggest that parental behaviours and rules impact on their children's drinking behaviour. Moderate rules surrounding alcohol use appear to lead to better drinking habits in older adolescence than stricter or very lenient rules.

The cumulative effects of alcohol across midlife on cognitive decline

Dorina Cadar, Hynek Pikhart et al, University College London, UK

Cognitive decline represents a major reason of concern in our aged societies. Many studies have shown that alcohol has a differential impact on cognitive decline according to the level of consumption, but less is known on the longitudinal effects. This work has adopted a lifecourse longitudinal approach, using data from the MRC National Survey of Health and Development. 1522 study members, followed up since their birth in March 1946, were tested for verbal memory and search speed decline over 10 years period from 43 to 53y, according to the level of alcohol consumption from 36 to 43y. In line with previous research, there was evidence of the J-curve model with light, moderate and heavy drinkers at age 36 and light to moderate drinkers at age 43 having better verbal memory scores than abstainers and very heavy drinkers. The longitudinal effect of alcohol consumption was associated with a slower decline in memory for men, but a more rapid decline in letter search for women. The short-term effect of alcohol consumption (from 43y) was stronger than the long-term effect (from 36y), which was explained by cognitive ability at age 8 and educational attainment at age 26. Future policies should also consider education.

Intergenerational consequences of prenatal alcohol exposure

Manuela Pfänder, University of Bielefeld, Germany

Prenatal alcohol exposure causes disadvantage in the sample of exposed children before their life starts because alcohol and its metabolites harm the embryo directly. Alcohol causes cell damage and the cell damage might show up in hypotrophy, dystrophy, hypoplasia, microcephalia and disorders in growth when Fetal alcohol syndrome is present. Fetal alcohol effects, alcohol related neurodevelopmental disorders and alcohol-related birth defects are not physically visible and for this reason those are mostly not diagnosed. 80 % of the children exposed to alcohol in utero are not diagnosed and do not attract attention. The hypothesis constructed is that the mechanisms and determinants of social inequalities contribute to the health outcome of children and youth with prenatal alcohol exposure. For this reason it is necessary to look at the social inequalities that are intergenerationally transferred over the life course. We need a model that considers health related social inequalities not just in regard to the social status, moreover in relation to the life course with regard to the social inequalities of health in utero. Therefore the life course perspective is used to analyze the the dataset from Robert Koch-Institute that gives information on the health-related and social development of 2331 moderately till heavily to alcohol exposed children with an innovative approach of retrospective analysis in a crosssectional cohort study.

Normalisation of drugs in the 1970 British Cohort Study

Jeanette Ostergaard, SFI, Denmark

UK researchers have suggested that a 'new culture of intoxication' arose during the 1990s and it resulted in the normalisation of recreational drug use among young people (Parker, Measham, Brain 1998). The decade of dance in the 1990s followed a willingness to experiment with an altered state of intoxication as a part of leisure 'time out' (Measham and Brian 2005). The normalisation thesis has been examined mainly using the North West Longitudinal Study, a sample confined to young people living in Britain. However, in this paper I will explore the normalisation thesis by analysing data from the 1970s British Cohort study, and thereby explore whether or not the normalisation thesis holds for a UK national representative sample of people, who were young during the 1990s. Using pathway analysis, the paper examines what is characteristic of those who, by the age of 30, continue to perform a lifestyle of 'weekend of excess' (Measham 2006) when taking into account their illegal drug use and party frequency at age 16 and control for parental socio-economic backgrounds.

Round Table – Child outcomes

Chronic illness in childhood and educational achievement

Anke Höhne, University Medical Centre Hamburg, Germany

Background: Chronic illness in its importance for the individual life course is still neglected in life course research. Due to an apparent increase of chronic diseases and multimorbidity an increasing number of people have to learn to live with chronic diseases and their implications for future plans regarding various domains from earlier stages of life (e.g. education, working life, leisure time activities, social relationships, family life).

Data and methods: Data from the 3rd wave of the Survey of Health, Age and Retirement in Europe (SHARELIFE) will be used. This data set consists of a representative retrospective survey of individuals born in 1954 or earlier and their current partners in 13 European countries (n=26.836). We adjust for age, sex, hospital stays, kind of and number of chronic diseases in multivariate analyses.

Results: Due to ongoing data analysis preliminary results with respect to the causal relationship between chronic illness in childhood and educational achievement will be presented. Almost 10% of respondents report fair or poor health in childhood and missed school for one month minimum because of poor health.

Discussion: Further research has to analyse the impact of chronic conditions on other life domains.

Early education and education achievement later in life: a lesson from the Indonesian Family Live Survey

Edy Purwanto, Bondan Sikoki, Wayan Suriastini, SurveyMETER, Indonesia

Education is key indicator of human capital development. Like other countries, Indonesia put a lot of resources to improve education not only in the infrastructures but also in the educational systems. Early education system was introduced by the Indonesian government in 1968. Since then there has been increased in the number of kindergarten enrollment. Over 46 percent of primary school student who graduated in 2005-2007 have spent two years their early life at kindergarten. Using data from the Indonesian Family Live survey (IFLS) 2007, an ongoing panel study of over 10,000 households, the paper explores the relationship between early education and education achievement of school children who have completed their primary or secondary school. The IFLS is a rich panel of 83 percent of Indonesian population which collect current and retrospective information on individual education as well as wealth of socio economic indicators. All adult age over 14 were asked to report their early education experience, and their national examination score on mathematics, science and language as. They also undergone cognitive test during the survey. The bivariate analysis indicates that children who spent their time in kindergarten have higher national exam score and cognitive test, particularly for the girls. Controlling for socio economic condition of the individuals, their parents and the household conditions the correlation persists for language, science, and cognitive score but not for mathematics. Mother education is another strong indicator for higher achievement of education at primary school.

Latent growth modeling and gender effect for children from 6 to 60 months in the Taiwan Birth Cohort Pilot Study (TBCS-P)

For-Wey Lung, Taipei City Hospital, Taiwan

The aim of our study was to investigate the gender difference among the gross motor, fine motor, language, and social developmental trajectories of children from when children are 6 months to 5 years of age. Additionally, the results of using latent growth curve modeling with that of multivariate regression. Finally, latent growth modeling was used to better understand initial value of children's development and growth overtime, thus enable the analysis to be more sensitive to changes over time. Discriminating initial status and change overtime is important in studies of children's development, for interventions should focus on factors which effect changes overtime.

The Taiwan Birth Cohort pilot Study dataset was used, with a total of 1,783 children participated at 6 months, 1,620 at 18 months, 1,630 at 36 months, and 1,620 at 60 months. The developmental status of the children was assessed using the Taiwan Birth Cohort Study Developmental Instrument (TBCS-DI), and the mental health of the parents was evaluated using the 36-Item Short Form Health Survey (SF-36).

Our LGM showed, the initial status (6 month development) of children's development can predict changes overtime. With a negative correlation, showing those who had better initial developmental status had smaller growth overtime. Language dimension was the only one which initial status was unable to predict growth overtime. However separating the initial status and growth overtime, there is no gender difference in the initial status of development, but girls have greater changes than boys' overtime, as shown in the curve-of-factor model. However, consider the different dimensions, the interaction between gender and time is not constant. There was no gender difference in the gross motor dimension of children's development. Other than gender, the gestational age of a child had a great influence on their developmental trajectory affecting both the initial status and the growth overtime in all four dimensions of child development.

Furthermore, the LGM also showed, the initial status of children's development can predict changes overtime in overall development, and gross motor, fine motor and social development. This is consistent with a previous study which found stability in children's cognitive development from infancy to early childhood (Bornstein et al., 2006). However, a dramatic increase is found in children's language development at 8 months (Reilly et al., 2006), thus explaining our initial status of 6 months is unable to predict later language growth.

Comparing the result of using LGM and multivariate regression (Lung et al., 2011a), two analyses resulted in similar results in that no gender difference was found in the gross motor developmental dimension, which is consistent with a previous study which found girls develop more rapidly than boys outside the gross motor dimension (Richter & Janson, 2007). However, differences were also found between the two analytic methods of regression and LGM. Separating the initial status of six months development and developmental growth overtime, gender differences was found in the developmental growth overtime but not initial status. This may be explained by girls having earlier cognitive change between ages of 14 to 20 months, while boys show greater change between 20 and 24 months (Reznick et al., 1997). Thus at the initial status of development measured in our study, no gender differences were found. Additionally, our study also found that gender difference overtime was only found in the social developmental domain using regression, and in latent growth modeling, gender difference overtime was found in fine motor, language and social domains, thus showing without extracting the initial status, only the relationship with the variable of interest and a specific time is investigated and changes in children's development across different time points maybe missed. Furthermore, when using

linear structural equation modeling, six month development could predict later development in all four dimensions.

Finally, the higher negative correlation between initial value and slope change in the developmental milestones suggested that the normal children development still match the principle of regression- to- mean. The keynote speaker, Dr. Blossfeld mentioned that the Perry Preschool Program showed no difference of IQ after the age of 10 between study and control group though the IQ was different in initial several years. However, the job adaptation of study group was differentiated from the control group in long-term follow-up. Furthermore, the panel study shall continue to measure the domain-specific competence, social adaptation status and mental health condition in the future.

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Round Table – Methods of collecting and storing data

Reliability of retrospective data within the German Generations and Gender Survey (GGS)

Robert Naderi, Lenore Sauer, Kerstin Ruckdeschel, Federal Institute for Population Research, Germany

The life-course perspective is crucial for the explanation and understanding of demographic behaviour especially of family formation. Therefore one of the main objectives of the Gender and Generations Survey (GGS) was to provide researchers with the information on individuals' life course. There are two main approaches to gather this kind of information: either a prospective approach including a panel design or retrospective questions. Both possibilities have been applied in the GGS.

However, there are known problems concerning the quality and reliability of retrospective data, especially a full recollection of past events. In the GGS such problems evolved in the retrospective survey dealing with fertility and union formation histories. The results differ considerably from vital statistics and the state of the art. Childlessness is generally and especially in older cohorts overreported and the results concerning ever married women are implausible - their share in older cohorts is too low.

In this presentation we investigate the reasons for these distortions: the sampling procedure, the instrument and the interview situation. Finally we discuss possible solutions in order to provide the users of the German GGS with recommendations how to deal with these problems when analysing related questions.

Processes of normalization and dramatization in the course of illness – follow-up interviews with caregivers of alzheimer patients

Karin van Holten, Andrea Radvanszky, Careum R+D, Switzerland

Disease management is a social phenomenon in cases of Alzheimer dementia. The care of dementia patients is considered to be a great burden on caregivers. However, the changes of their coping strategies in etiopathology are hardly examined. Furthermore, the medical concept of illness is rarely questioned. It remains unconsidered, that dementia primarily means a profound disruption of social interaction, communication and reciprocal relationship.

The presentation outlines preliminary results of the analysis of follow-up interviews with caregivers of Alzheimer's patients conducted after 3 years. This approach allows a) a deeper understanding of the following dimensions: changes in the relation of antagonistic interpretations between medical and subjective disease models of the caregivers; caregivers' strategies of preserving or dispersing the identity of the dementia patients; and the significance of the caregivers' assumptions of etiopathology (disease progression as a problematizing/deproblematizing of interaction crisis). In addition, b) the methodological approach (sampling, conducting the interviews, analysis) will be explained.

The semi-structured narrative interviews are part of the 2 "work & care" projects, supported by the Swiss National Science Foundation (13DPD3-118236, 2007-09, 13DPD6_127252, 2010-12). The analysis of 30 interviews and 10 follow-up interviews was accomplished using a combination of the methodology of grounded theory and objective hermeneutics.

A Solution for the long-term saving of data on individuals: The 'atomization' of all files

Rainer Kugel, Ando Rakotonirina, Jean Louis Lanoe, ELFE, INED, France

By its very nature, a cohort study involves the storage (and updating) of the names, addresses and telephone numbers of families in the sample. For this reason, data cannot be totally anonymized after each survey wave. In the Elfe study two main principles have been laid down: first, the name and address files must be separate from the file(s) containing collected data, and second, it is prohibited to create a single database containing all the information collected. The chosen solution is that of a specific computer platform, activated and deactivated on command by a data access committee (CADE) to form connections between the individuals taking part in the Elfe study, the data and the identifiers. No memory of these connections will be saved after execution. This procedure is made possible by a new technique – probably implemented for the first time in a project of this type – which ensures the total "atomization" of data files, making it practically impossible to reassemble them illegally, and ensuring complete traceability of all operations (all access to data, even by the project managers, will be recorded).

Archiving qualitative longitudinal data: potentials and restrictions for linking, sharing and reuse.

Andrea Smioski, WISDOM, Austria

Until recently most qualitative research data remained in the hands of individual researchers and was therefore lost to empirically based comparison, extensive use and as base for further research. Over the last few years specialized archives for qualitative data have formed, preserving data for further use and encouraging dialogue in qualitative methodology.

This paper will address qualitative data archiving as an emerging culture enabling entirely new ways of integrating data sets from different times and localities. These possibilities are further

enhanced if the collected data derives from longitudinal projects, following the same participants over a period of time and thus exploring more profound processes of continuity and change. Qualitative longitudinal research is conducted through time, providing not only snapshots (Berthoud 2000) of individual's lives, but detailed and textured narrations.

Sharing and reusing archived qualitative longitudinal data can provide a unique chance to pose interesting questions to extremely rich material. However, besides the enormous potentials of archiving and reusing qualitative longitudinal data, serious methodological and ethical questions are raised as well. Besides giving an overview over the field, this paper aims at contrasting potentials/ benefits and possible restrictions/ objections relating to the secondary use of qualitative longitudinal data.

Language indicators across the life course in NEPS

Karin Berendes, Stefan Zimmermann, Sabine Weinert, National Educational Panel Study, Germany

Language is the central medium for lifelong learning processes and therefore language proficiency is one key component for academic achievement and a successful career. In the paper, the conceptual framework for assessing (receptive) German language competencies within the German National Educational Panel Study (NEPS) is outlined. We discuss three perspectives how to conceptualize and measure German language competencies: (a) the functional perspective which leads to an assessment of reading literacy and listening comprehension at the discourse level using tasks that are most authentic for everyday life; (b) the language component perspective leading to an assessment of, e.g., vocabulary and grammar, and (c) the perspective of phonological information processing which is reflected in measures of phonological memory and phonological awareness the latter being especially predictive for learning to read and write. Within the NEPS, some of these indicators will be assessed coherently across the life span (e.g., reading literacy), while the assessment of others is restricted to educational stages where they are of special importance and predictive impact (e.g. phonological awareness).

The paper further exemplifies the procedures how to select and construct tasks that are adequate for a large scale educational panel study and findings from a preliminary study conducted to select appropriate tasks to assess phonological awareness are presented. The remarks close with an overview about the sample sizes and a guideline concerning the access to the forthcoming data of the NEPS.

Round Table – Work-family interface

Employment and its substitutes – does social participation compensate the decrease in life satisfaction during unemployment?

Frederike Esche, Berlin Graduate School of Social Sciences, Germany

The resources and benefits linked to employment are manifold. Employed persons profit not only from income, but also from important non-material benefits like a structured life and level of activity, a sense of belonging; creating identity; providing social contacts, prestige and social approval. On the contrary, unemployed individuals especially suffer from the absence of these non-material benefits and, hence, are less satisfied than the employed. Since unemployment is a temporary or long-term experience of many individuals, an important question is whether different forms of social participation (voluntary, political, cultural activities, sports) can serve as

substitutes for especially the immaterial benefits of employment and, hence, can increase life satisfaction for the unemployed.

Using the longitudinal data of the GSOEP (1984-2009) and applying fixed-effects regression models, I investigate firstly, if time use and social participation changes when people become unemployed and secondly, if such changes actually affect life satisfaction in a positive way. Data are analysed separately for men and women.

Other than expected, unemployed people were not significantly more satisfied if they displayed an increase in social participation during unemployment, challenging the assumed erosion of the work-centered life course. However, if unemployment caused less participation, life satisfaction decreased even more.

Why choose couples: a (non) traditional division of labour after the transition to parenthood? A longitudinal and event-centered analysis

Anna Dechant, University of Bamberg, Germany

In Germany, couples often divide household chores and labour market participation almost equally at the beginning of their relationship. Over the years, the division gets increasingly polar. A main influencing factor is the transition to parenthood: In the majority of couples, women take parental leave while most men stay employed continually. When re-entering the labour market, women often reduce working hours.

This pattern seems to be very stable over cohorts. Often, a change in couples' arrangements is expected as many societal changes took place. Economic theories assume that these changes influence the division of labour in couples due to a rational calculation of the actors and bargaining over the situation. As to norm-based theories, stability of traditional arrangements is to be presumed as these are the result of gender roles.

To clarify the importance of economic and/or role-based factors for the division of labour, qualitative data allows deeper insights in the ongoing processes than quantitative data. Furthermore, aspects not covered by the theories can be identified. One data set providing this possibility is part of the DFG-funded project "The Household Division of Domestic Labour as a Process. How does the division of housework change over the course of relationships?" This theory-driven survey focuses on the developments in couples undergoing the transition to parenthood by a longitudinal design: The interviews took place the pregnancy and about one year afterwards. The division of labour and the explanations for the arrangements before and after the transition are captured. This longitudinal, event-centred approach is a unique design that allows to compare changes evolving from the transition and to contrast the perceptions of both partners before the event with the actual development. The suggested paper focuses on the analysis of paths into traditional arrangements versus paths into non-traditional arrangements. On the basis of the longitudinal interviews, reasons and explanations verbalised by the actors are analysed and contrasted with mechanisms of different theories concerning the division of labour in couples.

Healthy work revisited: does reducing time strain promote women's and men's well-being?

Phyllis Moen, Erin Kelly, Jack Lam, University of Minnesota, USA

We build on Karasek and Theorell (1990) to theorize and test the effects of changes in time strain (time demands/time control) in addition to job strain (job demands/job control) on employee well-being. We exploit a natural experiment, drawing on surveys from 659 employees at the headquarters of Best Buy Co., Inc. (in the U.S.) fielded before and six months after the implementation of an organizational flexibility innovation, Results-Only Work Environment (ROWE) providing employees considerable flexibility around the time and timing of their work. ROWE predicts changes in time control (but not time demands) for both women and men net of baseline home and job ecologies and changes in job strain measures. Changes in time strain predict improvement in self-reported health, energy, psychological well-being, mastery, somatic symptoms, psychological distress and emotional exhaustion. This demonstrates value of including time strain in theoretical and empirical models on the health effects of work conditions, showing a workplace innovation can change time control, and that time demand/control changes predict employee health-related outcomes. Results encourage inclusion of gender as a moderator and home as well as job ecological contexts in longitudinal models incorporating time strain and job strain as dynamic components of healthy work.

Interdependence of life domains using the example of work-family balance

Katharina Maul, University of Frankfurt, Germany

Balancing work and family demands is a crucial factor for life satisfaction in modern societies, even more if childcare is involved. To understand the balance of these two life domains it is necessary to know more about the precise process how life domains in general influence each other positively and negatively. The paper aims to close this gap and explains the influence of the interdependencies of life domains on the work-family balance by using the Life Course Approach complemented by assumptions of the Theory of Social Production Function as a theoretical background. Five types of interdependencies between life domains are thus developed: competition (domains compete for resources), complementarity (domains provide resources for each other), spill-over (wellbeing in one domain influences it in the other), compensation (missing wellbeing in one domain is compensated by the other) and congruency (influence of a third factor), which should highly depend on the individuals' job characteristics. The theoretical assumptions are tested empirically by using data collected in Germany, a country with severe problems reconciling both life aims. Finally the importance of the theoretical arguments of this paper for other research -for instance the decision for parenthood- will be discussed.

Day 3 – Wednesday 28th September 2011

Mixed methods

Use of mixed mode design in the Longitudinal Study of Young People in England (LSYPE) - lessons learned

Nicholas Howat, TNS – BMRB, UK

The Longitudinal Study of Young People in England (LSYPE) tracks a cohort of children born in 1990/91 with the first survey conducted in 2004 when sampled respondents were in Year 9. Over the first four waves of the study interviews were conducted in person with both the sampled young person and one or more resident parents. From wave five onwards only the sampled young person has been interviewed and the study has moved to a sequential mixed mode design where respondents were first approached to complete the survey online, then by telephone and finally – if the first two modes proved unsuccessful - in person.

This presentation discusses the impact of the sequential mixed mode design on attrition rates and how this balances against the significant resource savings that were achievable through adopting this approach. In addition to this it also looks at the impact that this particular mixture of data collection modes had on the instrument design and the compromises that had to be made as a result.

Explaining the stages of migration

Stefanie Kley, University of Hamburg, Germany

Despite manifold studies in the field of migration, the process of migration decision-making and succeeding migration behaviour is still not fully understood. In this paper a more elaborated theoretical framework for the explanation of migration decision-making and behaviour is proposed by including a life-course perspective on goal formation into a psychological model of action phases. Hypotheses derived from this framework in regard to the influence of all relevant groups of predictors on certain stages of the migration process are empirically tested. The results support an explanation of the migration process within a three-stage model, in that perceived opportunity differentials between the place of living and alternative places, the influences of "significant others", life-course events, and resources are prominent. Varieties in the importance of those factors in different phases of the life course are analyzed and interpreted referring to the changing importance of instrumental goals within the theoretical framework. The data comes from a tailor-made panel study with initially 2,400 respondents in Germany.

Seeing the bigger picture: the use of mixed methods in the analysis of longitudinal quantitative data

Helen Graham, University of Edinburgh, UK

Background: In recent years there has been increasing interest in the use of 'mixed' methods for analysing quantitative longitudinal data.

Aim: This paper presents and evaluates an example of this type of analysis, drawn from a research project about the impact of family policy on mothers' employment and the way couples with children divide paid work and care.

Method: Although statistical modelling was employed as the principal method of data analysis, a more case-orientated approach was taken in the process of developing the theoretical foundations for these models and deriving hypotheses to test.

Results: In conceptualising the link between family formation events and employment trajectories, qualitative analysis of selected typical cases facilitated a better understanding of how these different aspects of women's lives fit together, and how the prevailing context affects this.

Evaluation: The main advantage of this mixed methods approach is that it made use of the rich data available on women's employment, partnership and childbearing histories, in a way that added to and complemented the more conventional quantitative analysis. Disadvantages included questions over the extent to which this analysis provides any insight without the respondent's own evaluation of events that is present in true qualitative data.

Intergenerational Transfers

Social background, relationship with parents, and the cultural and social capital of adolescents: longitudinal evidence from Germany

Martin Diewald, University of Bielefeld, Germany

In our paper, we seek to identify the conditions within the family of origin upon which children's accumulation of social and cultural capital depends. Both types of capital imply the mastery of practices that, along with individual competencies, provide the basis for social acceptance and act as preconditions for later life success. Previous studies have shown that the accumulation of social and cultural capital depends on the resources and class position of the family of origin. We expand upon this literature by investigating the child's direct role model, in the form of parental social and cultural capital, as well as the quality of the parent-child relationship in its implications for the transmission of social inequalities by gender.

Our empirical analysis is based on data from the longitudinal Socio-Economic Panel (SOEP) study. A retrospective questionnaire on childhood for the age group of 16-year-olds was introduced in the SOEP in 2000 and has been continued every year since, thus providing us with data on more than 3,000 young people, including longitudinal data on their parents and households that can be linked to the young people's individual data. A further significant advantage of this dataset is that the information on parents and children is collected independently, that is, from the individuals themselves.

Our results show that neither occupational stratification nor income and educational inequalities serve as adequate proxies for the parents' cultural and social capital in our analysis. In addition, they provide only an incomplete explanation of which factors promote the accumulation of cultural and social capital in adolescents. The quality of relationship between parents and children, on the other hand, plays an essential role. Finally, our results show that school activities, such as serving as head of student council or class representative, as well as activities in the classroom are less dependent on social background and thus offer opportunities to compensate for forms of cultural and social capital and inequalities that are more strongly related to family background.

Class inequalities in education at age 7

Alice Sullivan, Sosthenes Ketende, Heather Joshi, Institute of Education, UK

This paper examines social class differences in children's cognitive test scores at age 7 using the UK Millennium Cohort Study data.

The existence of substantial social class differentials in educational attainment, which are apparent on entry to primary school, and tend to widen during the school years, has long been established by a body of research. Nevertheless, social class can be seen as a high-level summary variable, and the reasons for these substantial and persistent inequalities remains hotly debated. The extent to which financial resources matter as opposed to other resources linked to social class such as education, neighbourhood, family structure and parental behaviours is still controversial. In the UK policy context, research findings suggesting the importance of parenting behaviours and aspirations have been seized on by policymakers keen to blame the worse off themselves for low levels of social mobility.

The MCS provides us with an exceptionally rich data source with which to interrogate the relationship between social class and cognitive test scores in the early years of schooling, and will address the following questions.

1. How strongly is social class linked to three test scores at age 7: Pattern construction, reading and mathematics.
2. To what extent do these social class gaps increase between the ages of 5 and 7?
3. To what extent is the social class 'effect' accounted for by measures of income, wealth and education?
4. To what extent is the social class 'effect' accounted for by the family's social resources, e.g. neighbourhood resources and parental physical and mental health?
5. To what extent can the social class 'effect' be accounted for by measures of 'parenting', and which aspects of parenting appear to be important?
6. We will also investigate whether there are interactions between social class and other important factors such as gender and ethnicity.

The timing and consequence of parental job loss

Patrick Wightman, University of Michigan, USA

Job loss is a common experience in all modern economies, a fact highlighted by the recent recession. While much is known about its impact on the earnings and unemployment of adults, less attention has been given to the effects of parental displacement on children. In this paper, I examine the impact that parental job loss has on the long-term outcomes of household children, including high school and college completion. Moreover, to investigate the mechanisms and conditions linking job loss and children's life-course trajectories I use the age of the child at the time of the event: whether it occurred during early childhood, pre-adolescence or

adolescence. Differences in the developmental processes and resource needs of children at these stages imply that any job-loss effect is likely to vary with the age of the child--variation which can provide vital evidence regarding underlying causal mechanisms. I use the Panel Study of Income Dynamics (PSID), a representative sample of U.S. households. Begun in 1968 with 5000 families, interviews were conducted annually until 1997 and biennially thereafter. Upon achieving economic independence, children enter the sample as independent subjects. Thus the PSID is well-suited for studying the long-term impact of childhood experiences, including parental job loss.

The effects of parental education, social class and social status on children's education

Erzsebet Bukodi, Institute of Education, UK/ John Goldthorpe, Nuffield College Oxford, UK

Extensive research has been undertaken into the association between children's social origins and their educational attainment and into changes in the strength of this association over time. However, a problem in evaluating this research arises in that social origins have been conceptualised and measured in differing ways, possibly under the assumption that social stratification is one-dimensional and that different indicators of the positions of individuals or families are essentially interchangeable. Recent research in other fields suggests that this assumption is mistaken. In this paper we examine the association between social origins and educational attainment using three separate measures of social origins: parental education, parental social class and parental social status. We investigate the effects of these three aspects of social origins on the educational attainments of cohort members in the three British studies of children born in 1946, 1958 and 1970. We aim to bring out the relative importance of parental education, class and status in relation to different levels of children's educational attainment - and any change in this respect over the historical period covered - and further to assess their cumulative impact.

Education

Discrimination in two German states' education systems? Micro mechanisms in comparative perspective

*Sebastian Wenz, National Education Panel (NEPS), University of Bamberg, Germany,
Thorsten Schneider, University of Leipzig, Germany*

Abstract withheld

Tertiary education graduates in the Russian changing environment

Irina Serikova, Henry Espinoza, University of Hannover, Germany

In the 1980s, the labour market in the Soviet Union and in Russia, particularly, was organized in such a way that "official" full employment was declared. Tertiary education graduates could easily find a job or change their current employment. Moreover, one third of them used the job assignment system and was obliged to occupy the predefined positions after graduation. In addition, long tradition of working while studying was characteristic for students, since many of them had various reasons to earn supplementary means of subsistence.

Market-oriented reforms by the end of the 1980s and the beginning of 1990s introduced new rules and measures of jobseekers' screening and hiring in Russia. The graduates of tertiary education institutions, who hardly ever experienced problems finding a job, faced completely

new conditions of job search after the graduation, even if they were working while studying. Some reports state that enrolment numbers in institutions of tertiary level even decreased.

This paper applies a life course perspective in order to estimate job tenure at first job (after graduation) for tertiary education graduates for Russians born from 1955 to 1988. Moreover, an attempt is being made to compare Soviet cohorts with new Russian ones. Survival analysis is used taking into account unobserved heterogeneity. The study is based on the Education and Employment Survey on Russia 2005 and sheds light on whether exclusive dedication to study brings more success in the labour market, in terms of job tenure.

We find that job tenure has reduced significantly for younger cohorts and that those who work while studying tend to stay shorter periods at first job compared to those who study full time. This is particularly the case for those individuals involved in jobs which are not related with their studies. This is an important finding because policy measures are needed in order to mitigate the potential adverse effects of working while studying in terms of job tenure, especially for those who work in activities which are not related to their studies.

Drop out of college and educational inequality in Germany. New evidence using longitudinal data

Sophie Muller, Thorsten Schneider, University of Bamberg, Germany

Evidence on social inequality at all stages of the educational career is well established. Especially in stratified systems as in Germany, students become more selective at each stage of the educational career. This leads to the question, if social inequality is still important after entering higher education?

Based on a rational choice approach on educational decisions, we argue that – on the one hand – the motive of status maintenance, parents' college experience and financial resources should reduce dropout risks for students whose parents have graduated from college. On the other hand, first generation students might be less vulnerable to drop out because of qualities which helped them passing previous educational transitions (cf. Mare's selection hypothesis).

In order to test these hypotheses empirically we use retrospective life course data of the survey "Working and Learning in a Changing World (ALWA)" collected by the Institute for Employment Research (IAB). We apply event history analysis which allows us to take into account interdependent processes. Especially, at the beginning of college attendance first generation students have a much higher risk of dropping out. Prior educational degrees and school performance have large impacts on dropping out, but do not reduce the influence of parental background. Results suggest that social origin still matters in higher education.

Institutional differences between educational systems and their role for the formation of class-specific educational aspirations

Meike Han, University of Tuebingen, Germany

There is a huge amount of research on the relationship between class and educational aspirations and decisions (e.g. IGLU 2001, 2006) but little is known about the role of institutional aspects between educational systems. These variations can be supposed to be especially relevant with regard to the explanation of differences in the level of educational inequality between different educational systems. In our research we focus on a specific institutional aspect, namely the kinds of school types offered. Taking the German educational system as an example we focus on the variation within this system. Thereby we differentiate between institutional arrangements

comprising the school types of Hauptschule, Realschule and Gymnasium and those additionally consisting of the integrative Gesamtschule. In contrast to the first three mentioned school types the integrative Gesamtschule offers all forms of school leaving certificates to pupils entering this school type. Our research questions are: In how far does this institutional difference promote different educational aspirations? And how are these different institutional arrangements related to educational inequality? In order to address these questions we develop a theoretical synthesis of a rational choice model of educational decision-making (e.g. Breen/Goldthorpe 1997) with an institutional perspective. On this basis we deduce the following hypotheses:

1. The share of parents with higher educational aspirations is higher in institutional arrangements which additionally offer the integrative Gesamtschule – among all social classes.
2. At the same time the integrative school type is a strategic educational track in order to a) prevent social demotion and b) facilitate social promotion. Our empirical investigation, which is based on IGLU 2001, confirms these hypotheses.

The role of autonomous motivation, goal effort and goal progress in the successful entrance to university - *Kati Vasalampi, Jari-Erik Nurmi et al, University of Jyväskylä, Finland*

The present study investigated the extent to which autonomous motivation, goal effort, and goal progress relating to educational goals predict success in dealing with the challenging transition to university. Our study included two measurement points. At the first measurement point before the entrance examination, participants (N = 280) filled in measures on autonomous motivation, goal effort, and goal progress regarding their educational goals. At the second measurement point, after receiving the results of the examination, the success in passing the entrance examination was noted for each applicant according to records in the university archives. The results showed that when young adults pursued their educational goals for autonomous reasons, they invested great effort in their goal, which led to a high level of goal progress. Goal progress, in turn, predicted the successful passing of the university's entrance examination.

Neighbourhoods and minorities

Neighborhood attachment among Hispanics in low-income urban communities in the U.S. *Kate Bachtell, National Opinion Research Centre, USA*

The concept of neighborhood attachment has attracted sustained interest among scholars from several disciplines in countries with large ethno-racial minority populations (Corcoran 2002, Small and Newman, Boaniuto et al 1999). Yet despite these advances and numerous qualitative studies exploring the dynamic experiences of immigrants and their descendants, American studies have ignored the highly nuanced experiences of urban Hispanics. This group, which includes persons with origins in Spanish-speaking countries in Latin America and Spain, is the largest minority population in the U.S. and one of the most prominent contributors to urban renewal in many cities.

This paper reveals important differences in neighborhood attachment between U.S.-born and foreign-born Hispanics as compared to other ethno-racial groups. I use longitudinal data from low-income households in six urban neighborhoods from the Making Connections Survey to investigate six distinct aspects of attachment. I explore how the ecological characteristics of neighborhoods are mediated by social, financial, and situational factors at the household level. The results from this quantitative research will lay the groundwork for a pilot qualitative study with Hispanic respondents in one site later this year. My findings may help to understand the mechanisms through which neighborhood effects are transmitted across social groups in particular contexts.

A good place for bringing up children? Mother's neighbourhood perceptions and children's socio-economic development in the Millennium Cohort Study

Anja Scheiwe, Yvonne Kelly, Mai Stafford, Richard Watt, University College London, UK

Aim: To explore the associations between mother's neighbourhood perceptions across sweeps and children's socio-emotional development.

Design: Secondary analysis of data from the UK Millennium Cohort Study.

Participants: 8526 mother and child pairs with complete information across all four sweeps.

Main outcome measure: Socio-emotional difficulties at age 7, reported by both mothers and teachers.

Methods: Neighbourhood perceptions were measured at sweeps 1-3. Items were combined to derive a "neighbourhood satisfaction" score. The associations between low neighbourhood satisfaction across sweeps and children's socio-emotional difficulties were tested via multiple linear regression.

Results: We found a linear relationship between exposure to perceived adverse neighbourhood conditions across sweeps 1-3 and both mother- and teacher-reported socio-emotional difficulties at sweep 4 (age 7). The relationship was attenuated but remained statistically significant after individual characteristics, family socio-economic factors and indicators of maternal psychological distress were accounted for.

Conclusions: The results suggest that children's socio-emotional development is affected by maternal perceptions of the neighbourhood over and above individual socio-economic factors. Persistent exposure to perceived adverse neighbourhood conditions had the most detrimental effect. Part of the association appears to be mediated by the psychological well being of the mother.

Do children of immigrants catch up until the beginning of school? The development of cognitive, language and cultural skills from age three to six

Birgit Becker, Leibniz Institute for the Social Sciences, Germany

Previous results have demonstrated that children of Turkish immigrants have lower levels of cognitive, language and cultural skills compared to native German children at age 3-4. Since these skills are important for children's later school success, a lack of an adequate skill level in these domains at the beginning of school may put children of immigrants at a clear disadvantage. This paper analyses the longitudinal development of cognitive, language and cultural skills by children of Turkish immigrant and native German children from age three to six. It examines whether a catch-up process takes place until the beginning of school.

The waves 1-3 of the project 'Preschool Education and Educational Careers among Migrant Children' are used for the empirical analyses. Preliminary results from growth models show that children of Turkish origin start with lower levels of cognitive, language and cultural skills at age three compared to German children. However, they show stronger improvements afterwards regarding their cognitive and language skills. In contrast, the ethnic gap with respect to children's cultural knowledge widens further over time. At age six, children of Turkish immigrants are still disadvantaged regarding their German language skills and cultural knowledge but have a small advantage with respect to their cognitive skills.

Analyzing neighborhood change in racial segregation in the United States

Anthony Buttarro, Jr., Mary Clare Lennon, City University of New York, USA

In the present work we discuss the results of the analysis on neighborhood change as part of the larger study on residential mobility and child well-being that we are conducting. We used United States Census data from the Neighborhood Change Data Base (NCDB) from 1970 through 2000 and American Community Survey 5-year estimates (ACS 2005-2009) to analyze patterns of change in racial segregation at both neighborhood and Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA) level. We employed latent class growth models as analytical procedure. This approach allowed us to group together neighborhoods at one level, and MSAs at the other, showing similar developmental trajectories. Results varied according to the specific racial groups and level of analysis considered, that is: when Blacks Non-Hispanics and Whites Non-Hispanics were analyzed, we obtained four distinct sub-groups at the neighborhood level (e.g. persistently segregated, decreasingly segregated, increasingly segregated and persistently non-segregated) and three groups at the MSA level (e.g. persistently segregated, decreasingly segregated and non-segregated) which shared similar pattern of change over time. When, instead, Hispanics and Whites Non-Hispanics were analyzed we achieved a three-group solution at the neighborhood level (e.g. decreasingly segregated, increasingly segregated and persistently non-segregated) and a two-group solution at the MSA level (e.g. variably segregated and persistently non-segregated). The implications of these patterns for families residing in neighborhoods and MSAs with these different historical patterns will be discussed.

Residential mobility in young children: Why some families change residence

Mary Clare Lennon, Anthony Buttarro, Jr., City University of New York, USA

Families do not move house or select their residence at random. Rather, critical life events often precede decisions to move. These events may be positive (e.g. finding a better job, desire to improve living conditions) or negative/traumatic (e.g. divorce, eviction). Theoretically, the quality of events promoting moves may have direct implications for child well-being. However, most research has treated these events as confounders that threaten the validity of causal inferences. Thus, the literature has primarily focused on the following question: is residential mobility causally relevant or simply a proxy for other dimensions of parents' situations and capabilities?

Our research focuses on factors predicting residential mobility by using longitudinal data on children from birth through age 5 from the Fragile Families Study conducted in 20 major US cities. We used Poisson regression to model multiple moves. Results show that marital/cohabitation status, housing characteristics and material hardship are important predictors of residential mobility. Specifically, lower levels of residential mobility are experienced by children whose parents are stably married/cohabiting, own their home, and live in larger households. Higher levels of residential mobility affect those children whose mothers transition between different married/cohabiting situations, rent their home, and experience higher levels of material hardship.

A motivational theory of life-span development

Jutta Heckhausen, University of California, USA

The motivational theory of life-span development conceptualizes individual agency in shaping development via goal-directed striving across the life course. The theory differentiates between primary control strategies to influence the environment and one's own development via direct action, and secondary control strategies that are aimed at influencing the motivational state and resources of the individual. Specific sets of primary and secondary control strategies are organized to support either goal engagement or goal disengagement. Two principles proposed by

the motivational theory of life-span development will be discussed: Congruence and challenge. The theory proposes that adaptive goal engagement and goal disengagement is coordinated with the opportunities and constraints of the individual's control in the current developmental ecology. Opportunity-congruent goal engagement and goal disengagement has been shown to be associated with superior developmental outcomes, both in terms of objective indicators of health and success and subjective indicators of well-being. Under conditions of challenge, congruence between goal engagement/disengagement and opportunities is even more crucial and has more pronounced consequences.

Mental health in mid-life

Alcohol consumption and cognitive decline at middle age - The Doetinchem Cohort Study

Astrid Nooyens, Monique Verschuren, National Institute for Public Health and the Environment, The Netherlands

Objective: to evaluate whether the consumption of alcohol and different types of alcoholic beverages is associated with decline in cognitive function at middle age.

Methods: We used data from 2613 respondents, aged 43-70 year at baseline, of the Doetinchem Cohort Study. Alcohol consumption (type and frequency) was assessed with a semi-quantitative 178 item food frequency questionnaire at baseline and at 5 year follow-up. Types of alcoholic beverages that were studied were beer, white wine, red wine, fortified wine, and spirits. Cognitive function was assessed at baseline and at 5 year follow-up. We calculated global cognitive function and three domains of cognitive function (memory function, information processing speed, and cognitive flexibility).

Results: Only in women, higher total alcohol consumption was associated with less strong decline in global cognitive function over follow-up. In both men and women, higher red wine consumption was associated with less strong decline in memory and global cognitive function. No associations between other types of alcoholic beverages and change in cognitive function were observed.

Conclusion: Rather than alcohol itself, it is more likely that other substances in red wine are responsible for a possible favourable effect on change in cognitive function.

Labour market status and minor psychiatric morbidity through the life course: longitudinal analysis of the British Household Panel Survey 1992-2008

Ellen Flint, University College London, UK/ Amanda Sacker, University of Essex, UK, et al

Introduction: Using British Household Panel Survey data, this study explores how labour market status (LMS) affects minor psychiatric morbidity (MPM) over the lifecourse.

Methods: Linear and logit fixed effects models are presented for GHQ-12 continuous scores and GHQ-12 caseness. The sample was limited to working-age original sample members. Ten-year age groups were used for age-stratified models. LMS's were securely employed, insecurely employed, unemployed, permanently sick and other inactivity.

Results: Unstratified models confirmed that even after adjustment for a range of confounders, when compared to the securely employed, being insecurely employed, unemployed, permanently sick or 'other inactive' predicts MPM with both caseness and continuous outcomes (insecurely employed OR=1.7, $p<0.001$; unemployed OR=1.7, $p<0.001$). The age-stratified models

showed the same pattern: permanent sickness was most strongly predictive of MPM, followed by unemployment and insecure employment. The extent to which LMS predicted MPM did not differ between age groups. However, a disproportionately elevated burden of MPM can be expected among age groups in which insecure employment and unemployment are most prevalent.

Conclusion: In the context of high youth unemployment and insecure employment, the results of this study suggest that MPM associated with insecure employment and unemployment constitute a major public health problem and policy challenge.

The role of sleep as a mediator of socioeconomic inequalities in mental health during middle age: prospective evidence over 20 years from the West of Scotland

Michael J. Green, Michaela Benzeval, Medical Research Council, Glasgow, UK

This paper investigates whether sleeping problems mediate socioeconomic inequalities in mental health in middle age. Data are from the 1950s cohort of the West of Scotland Twenty-07 Study, who aged from 35 to 55 during the study (N=1,444). Scores of 2+ on the GHQ-12 indicated poor mental health. Latent class analysis identified four common sleep patterns over the 20 years: healthy sleep, problems maintaining sleep, developing problems, and chronic problems. A path analysis on 999 respondents investigated whether sleep-class mediated the relationship between baseline social class (manual vs. non-manual) and mental health 20 years later, adjusting for sex and baseline mental health. Respondents from manual classes with poor initial mental health had higher odds than others of experiencing poor mental health 20 years later (OR: 2.25; 95% CI: 1.18-4.32), but this was attenuated (OR: 1.53; 95% CI: 0.78-3.03) with adjustment for mediation via sleep: these respondents were more likely to experience chronic sleeping problems over the 20 years (OR: 9.64; 95% CI: 2.72-34.13), and those with chronic sleep problems were more likely to have poor mental health at the final interview (OR: 9.75; 95% CI: 5.38- 17.65). Sleeping difficulties associated with socioeconomic disadvantage impair mental health recovery, contributing to socioeconomic inequalities.

Employment and unemployment

Joblessness: a matter of opportunities, social factors and individual's idiosyncrasies. Evidence from the British Household Panel Survey

Gabriella Cagliesi, Riccardo De Vita, Denise Hawkes, University of Greenwich, UK

We use a cross-disciplinary approach among labour economics, behavioural economics and social networking analysis to explain individual's choices between employment and various types of non employment. In our model labour markets opportunities, choices and achievements are all affected by the interrelations of an individual's demographic and psychological characteristics (e.g. age, gender, heuristic, perceptions, beliefs, attitude, goals and ambitions) with external factors (e.g. geographical, socio- cultural and economic conditions). We use the British Household Panel Study to investigate the UK labour market. In the static representation we use a Probit model for male and female separately to estimate the probability of being non- employed. We then use a series of simultaneous multinomial models, each for a different age group, to estimate the probabilities of belonging to some specific category of non employment. In the dynamic approach, we estimate probabilities of changing labour market statuses, linking these probabilities to changes in perceptions, status quo and reference point or to changes in other socioeconomic characteristics. Our results indicate that the use of this cross disciplinary approach can generate significant benefits in terms of policy prescriptions because it provides useful insights into inaction that can better orientate the design of effective labour market policies.

Consequences of unemployment for the occupational status at the beginning of the employment career for different educational groups: evidence from UK and Germany

Paul Schmelzer, Research Institute of the Federal Employment Agency, Germany

This paper investigates the implication of unemployment on occupational status at the beginning of employment career in Germany and UK for different educational groups. On the one hand, search and matching models argue that unemployment phase might be used for an active job search and might result in a better position. On the other hand, human capital theory predicts status losses because of the devaluation of job specific human capital. Unemployment might also serve as a signal for employers to differentiate between 'good' workers and 'bad' workers. From this perspective, job mobility via interruption reflects rather job-hopping between insecure and poorly paid jobs. In this paper I argue that in the German institutional context, the explanatory plausibility of search and matching models is rather limited. Since employment protection legislation (EPL) in Germany is strict, employers' hiring practices are risk-averse. Thus, the stigma attached to the unemployed should penalize all educational groups. In UK I believe that search and matching might predict positive results, especially for higher-educated entrants. I use the German Socio-Economic Panel 1984-2006 and British Household Panel 1990-2006 and estimate simultaneously hazard rate and changes in occupational status.

The manifold effect of social background on youth unemployment outcome: survey data and register data compared

Anna Manzioni, Hans Dietrich, IAB, Germany

We investigate the effect of social background on the labor market outcomes of the unemployed. We are also concerned with the extent of error in unemployment reports. While previous research consistently found measurement error in retrospective data on unemployment, not much is known about the effect of measurement error and competing measurements on model outcomes.

We hypothesize that social background works in a manifold way, affecting the report of unemployment as well as labor market outcomes. We aim to disentangle the interplay of social background effects on unemployment report and labor market outcomes. Using an anonymized personal ID, we match survey and register data and apply a latent Markov model. In particular, we relax the assumption that register based data are a gold standard and account for correlated measurement error. We assume that individual characteristics and social background, as well as the labor market state at the time of survey, affect both measurement error and labor market outcomes. Eventually, we use the estimates of the true (latent) unemployment state from the latent Markov model in a hazard model to predict the labor market outcomes of interest. The findings support our hypothesis of a manifold effect of social background.

The double German transformation: Changing male employment patterns in East and West Germany

Julia Simonson, Laura Romeu Gordo, Nadiya Kelle, German Centre of Gerontology, Germany

For a long time the employment biographies of men in Germany were dominated by full time employment. Since then there have been important changes in men's biographies in both East and West Germany in the sense of more discontinuity. The impact of reunification was combined with changes like pluralization and de-standardization of employment trajectories.

The aim of the study is to investigate these changes from the life cycle perspective. Therefore we select three cohorts to address the social transition. We analyze changes in men's biographies in

East and West Germany in the last decades and investigate, what are the main differences in the observed trends between East and West Germany as a result of institutional aspects and different societal and economic developments?

Therefore we carry out sequence analysis, based on longitudinal data from the German Socio Economic Panel (SOEP). Based on the sequences we identify three clusters (long educated full-timers, discontinues cluster and full-timers) in order to reveal changes of employment patterns over cohorts. One result is that employment careers of men are getting more inhomogeneous over cohorts even in the full-time clusters. Moreover, East Germany is overtaking West Germany following a specific de-standardization pattern.

Policy, agency and interdisciplinarity

Analyzing the relation of life course experiences and longitudinal patterns of agency

Annekatriin Steinhoff & Matthias Grundmann, University of Münster, Germany

This paper introduces a metaphorical conception of individual life-conduct as a gear-wheel. In this model, individual functioning results from a dynamic interplay of perceived personal abilities, environmental opportunity structures and the awareness and interpretation of respective options to actively constitute one's life course. In order to understand group- and person-specific courses of action as well as their recursive impact on the respective individuals' further development, we suggest a conceptual focus on individual experiences in specific personal, socio-structural and socio-cultural contexts that vary during the life course. Based on a longitudinal data set tracing the developments of Icelandic individuals from childhood to early adulthood, we combine group-related statistical analyses with single-case studies to illustrate the analytic benefit of the model and to demonstrate its empirical practicability. Using the example of doing sports as an indicator of the multi-faceted personal capacity to constitutively take part in valuable social practices, the plausibility of the model is empirically underlined. By contrasting (non-) normative patterns of experience and their individual effects we furthermore exemplify in how far single-case studies that are put into the broader frame-work of aggregate analyses can provide additional insight into the dynamics of individual life courses.

Life course epidemiology and the social sciences: living apart together?

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Background: Life course influences are increasingly seen to hold the key to a better understanding of disease aetiology and the existence of social inequalities in health. However, the potential of a life course perspective in epidemiology is not fully exhausted. The aim is to discuss the potential of a broader life course perspective, which integrates sociological and psychological research and to encourage the dialogue between epidemiology and the social sciences.

Methods: The paper reviews major principles and concepts applied in different disciplines dealing with the life course and propose a theoretically driven research framework which better informs the interdisciplinary exchange and illustrates how a bio-psycho-social life-course perspective can be infused more fully into epidemiology.

Results: We argue that the paradigmatic principles of interdisciplinary life course research (human agency, timing in lives, linked lives and historical context) provide a strong theoretical framework for a more holistic and theory-driven view of the life course and its interdependent pathways. We emphasize that stress theory is an important aetiological pathway between the organising concepts of the life course and health which could act as theoretical linkage between epidemiology and the social sciences.

Conclusion: In order to better understand the development of health and health inequalities in a life course perspective, it is useful to take an interdisciplinary approach and draw upon theoretical ideas from life course sociology and life span psychology. Increasing epidemiology's attention to the social sciences might open new dialogue and enhance the strong biomedical focus that is often observed in epidemiology.

Making evidence count: the politics of longitudinal research

Tom Schuller, Longview, UK

The paper will draw on my experience as director of Longview. Longview's mission is to promote the value of longitudinal and lifecourse studies (LS), to researchers and policy-makers. The UK invest heavily in LS, but there are legitimate questions about how effective this investment is. I shall draw also on my years as head of a division at OECD, the international thinktank, and specifically work we did on the links between research and policy in the field of education. The aim of the paper is to identify the barriers which exist to effective links between research and policy, and to encourage the exchange of experience from colleagues in different fields and countries in respect of the lessons to be learnt.

Work-family interface 2

Career paths of women physicians and transition to parenthood in dual career couples: gender dynamics at work

Kathleen Pöge, Katharina Rothe, Carsten Wonneberger et al, University of Leipzig, Germany

Gender relations in medicine have changed tremendously within one century. Nowadays approximately two thirds of medical students in Germany are women. However, women physicians in top positions are still underrepresented. The percentage of women medical doctors who qualify as a professor (via Habilitation in Germany) is currently 20%. 11% of the executive positions in hospitals are held by women. The transition to parenthood is a crucial factor for the gender gap in medicine. This cannot be fully understood without considering the private arrangements of couples with regard to the division of unpaid work (household and childcare) and paid work.

In a longitudinal research project, Career Paths and Career Breaks of Women Medical Doctors during Residency, qualitative and quantitative methods are combined in order to investigate the gender gap in medicine sociologically and psychologically. Female medical doctors and their partners are interviewed three times in intervals of one and a half years.

This paper analyses the gender dynamics during the transition to parenthood with regard to the division of un-/paid work by the couple. We will present different types of couples and mechanisms that go along with either the persistence or a change of gender roles due to parenthood. Furthermore, the impact of opportunity structures and different couple constellations on the division of work will be discussed in relation to the underlying gender dynamics.

Pathways to parenthood

Francesco Giudici, University of Lausanne, Switzerland

Transition to parenthood represents a turning point that creates stratification in occupational careers and division of household labour. Mean changes show that Swiss couples enter in a traditional division of labour, where women, comparatively to men, reduce their occupational involvement and increase their amount of domestic and child-related labour. However, divergences occur not only between men and women but also between same-sex individuals: for example, among new mothers some can continue to work full-time, and among new fathers some are more involved than others in spending time with their children and in domestic labour tasks. In my paper I would like to illustrate how different types of occupational and familiar trajectories that lead to parenthood, and their association with specific resources, influence individual changes during the transition to parenthood. Focusing on the biographical past that lead to the first parenthood allows conceptualize these changes as the results of a coherent biographical process.

Analyses will be based on the “Becoming Parent” study, where 466 men and women (233 couples) waiting for their first child were interviewed longitudinally. Using Optimal Matching Analysis (OMA) I will compute types of longitudinal occupational and familiar trajectories leading to parenthood by aligning individual sequences on the year of transition (and not on age as classical studies using OMA do). Changes in occupational and domestic labour during parenthood will be considered between Wave 1 (5 months before parenthood) and Wave 3 (one year after). Findings show, that women with full-time occupational trajectories have more chances to maintain higher occupational rates once mothers. For men, experiencing a period alone in the familiar trajectory is associated to a less important change through an unequal division of domestic labour. These and other findings will be interpreted as the result of a process of cumulative inequalities in the life course.

The changing compatibility of childrearing and employment: evidence from British cohort studies

Heather Joshi, Institute of Education, UK

Motherhood and paid work were seen as (ideally) mutually exclusive in the mid Twentieth Century in the UK. This probably applied in many other, particularly Anglophone, countries. This reinforced the view that women’s participation in the labour market and equal rights with men in it would depress fertility. This paper reviews evidence from the mothers and children of the British Birth cohorts of 1946, 1958, 1970 and the Millennium on the growing compatibility of childrearing and paid work over half a century. For which social groups has there been most change? By what means, are the responsibilities of parenthood and employment reconciled? Part-time employment, non-parental child care, paternal care, family-friendly employment policy? What are the consequences of mothers’ employment for the number and well-being of children.

Important Data Sets in Life Course Research (Relating to Data Discovery Workshops)

Understanding society as a multidisciplinary tool to study life courses *Gundi Knies & Alita Nandi, University of Essex, UK*

This course is aimed at new users of *Understanding Society*, the new UK household longitudinal survey (UKHLS). The underlying structure of the UKHLS is complex, with various different data about individuals and the households in which they live. The *Understanding Society* team has tried to make this structure as transparent as possible through the way data is organised. However, even the number of different data files can appear daunting. This course aims to guide the user through these apparent complexities, and ensure that they can effectively make use of as much of the data as they require for their own research projects.

The main focus is on the data reorganisation techniques required for different types of research, rather than the statistical techniques themselves, but it is informed by the ways in which data require to be organised for different statistical techniques.

Participants will learn about the way the UKHLS is designed, what data are collected, how they are collected and how the data are structured and stored. By the end of the one day course, the participant will have a thorough knowledge of the UKHLS, from survey design to data-set structure, and will have the tools to make the most of a rich, but complex, data set.

The British Cohort Studies: From the post-war 1946 cohort to the Millennium cohort *Alice Sullivan, Institute of Education, UK*

The UK benefits from a wealth of birth cohorts from different periods that provide an enormous resource for longitudinal and life course research. This workshop introduces three British birth cohorts covering samples of babies born in 1958 (the National Child Development Study - NCDS), 1970 (the 1970 British Cohort Study - BCS70) and 2000-2001 (the Millennium Cohort Study - MCS).

The workshop provides an overview of all three cohorts, describing their particular designs and the timing and range of data collection that has been carried out with them. By considering them as a whole, it draws out the potential for cross-cohort comparative research, as well as highlighting what is distinctive about each. The workshop is intended to give an insight into both the potential and the practicalities of analysing one or more of the cohorts for those potentially interested in working with these studies. It will thus cover aspects such as weighting, sample attrition, data harmonisation, data enhancements, and analytical strategies, as well as providing an overview of substantive content within and across the cohort studies. It will employ illustrations taken from existing research.

By the end of the session, participants will have a good understanding of the strengths – and limits – of the British cohort studies. They will have a grasp of possibilities for analysis within individual cohorts and across them.

They will also be advised about access to the data, and given information on where to find additional information and resources relevant to the cohorts.

Challenges and innovations of long-running household panel surveys – The German Socio-Economic Panel Study

Juergen Schupp, SOEP, Germany

The German Socio-Economic Panel Study (SOEP) is a wide-ranging representative longitudinal study of private households based at the German Institute for Economic Research, DIW Berlin. Some of the many topics include household composition, occupational biographies, employment, and earnings, as well as health and satisfaction indicators. Every year, nearly 11,000 households and more than 20,000 persons are sampled. The data provide information on all household members, including Germans living in both the former East and West Germany, foreigners, and recent immigrants. The panel was started in 1984. Given the huge amount of data (and the correspondingly large number of files) covering more than 20 years of micro data at the household, individual, and event levels, the SOEP dataset is growing into an increasingly complex dataset that can be difficult for first-time SOEP users to handle even if they are experienced empirical analysts. In order to help users cope with this complexity, the workshops aims at familiarizing them with the data structure of the scientific use file. At the same time, the general aims, topics and potential of the SOEP will be discussed.

Additionally, the key features of SOEP's user support will be presented in a short hands-on session. We will inform participants about generated variables designed to simplify data management and to improve the quality of empirical analysis. We will also demonstrate our data information and extraction system, SOEPinfo. Finally, we will provide an introduction to the use of SOEPlong, a dataset in "long format" that has been provided since 2009 as a beta version in addition to the standard data format.

PAIRFAM: The German Family Panel

Daniel Fuss, PAIRFAM, Germany

The German Family Panel (pairfam) is a multidisciplinary research project within the field of partnership and family dynamics. It is funded as long-term project by the German Research Foundation (DFG). The multi-actor design of the survey involves separate interviews with anchor respondents, their partners, their (step)parents, and their children allowing for direct insights into the perspectives of different family members. The thematic focus is directed toward processes of shaping intimate relationships, parental decisionmaking and childbearing behavior, intergenerational exchange, parenting, and child development. Further attention is given to the socioeconomic background and several variables related to other life domains. The panel character of pairfam implies annually conducted interviews with the same anchor respondents and their alteri over a period of 14 years. The first survey wave was completed in 2008/09 with a nationwide random sample of more than 12,000 anchor respondents in the three cohorts born between 1991-93, 1981-83, and 1971-73 plus their partners when available. Thus, the project offers a unique database for the analysis of family and living arrangements in Germany. A few months ago, the Scientific-Use-File of the second survey wave comprising information from the anchor persons, their partners, their parents and their children has been published.

The fully prepared and documented data are provided free of charge for the entire scientific community. The workshop will (a) give an overview of the complex data of the German Family Panel, (b) provide information on how to utilize these pairfam data, and (c) demonstrate the various potentials for empirical research.