LIVES Doctoriales
11ᵗʰ Edition

February 10 - 11, 2022

Thursday February 10ᵗʰ

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8:45-9:00 – Arrival

9:00-9:10 - Welcome & Opening Session
Prof. Eric Widmer, Director of the Doctoral Programme

9:10-10:20 - Session I

9:10-9:40 – Morgane künzi. Stress, Sleep, and Prospective memory: Does physical activity modify the effect of stress and sleep and cognition.
Expert: Dr. Boris Cheval

Abstract. In the literature, specific factors including stress and sleep have been highlighted as influencing cognitive performance. Besides, being stressed out often results in sleep deprivation and allostatic overload that can lead to deleterious consequences on the brain and body and causes cognitive impairments. But exact interrelations between stress, sleep, and cognition with prospective memory performance are unclear. Sleep has been found to be associated with prospective memory performance, but the results regarding the effect of stress on prospective memory performance are mixed. Interestingly physical activity is known to be positively associated with cognition. Knowing that physical activity reduces stress and improves sleep, does physical activity modify the effect of stress and sleep and cognition? Thus, the present study aims to extend previous findings on the association between sleep and prospective memory and determine whether an association exists between stress and prospective memory. Moreover, we would like to determine whether physical activity may modify the relationship between stress, sleep, and cognition. The specificity of this study is the building of two same models but one will include subjective measures of sleep and physical activity whereas the second one will include objective measures of sleep and physical activity. For this study, data of 53 young adults aged between 19 and 32 years old will be used. Momentary stress was measured with one item in a daily ambulatory assessment framework. Prospective memory performance was measured with two tasks (one time-based and one event-based) to be completed during 3 consecutive days. The time-based task involved sending text messages twice per day and the event-based task involved taking a photo of his/her pillow each time the participant went to sleep and woke up. Moreover, failures in prospective memory were also measured by using an intention diary in which the participant had to indicate, for three consecutive days, whether the intention written the day before had been realized. Subjective sleep and physical activity were measured the first day during the lab assessment with self-reported questionnaires (i.e., PSQI and NASA/JSC Physical Activity Scale). Objective sleep and physical activity were measured with a Xiaomi Mi Band 2 activity bracelet for 6 days. Different indicators of sleep were measured (total sleep time (TST), light sleep time (LST), deep sleep time (DST) wake time (WT), and total bedtime (TBT)) and physical activity was operationalized as the absolute number of steps walked per day. We plan to analyze the data with Structural Equation Modeling (SEM). We would be grateful to have the feedback and the opinion of the expert on this project, which is under preparation, and on the statistical analysis we plan to perform.

9:40-10:10 – Fei bian. Heterogeneous Effects of Childbirth on the Couple's Division of Paid Workhours: the Role of Pre-birth Breadwinner Status, Family Policy and Cultural Context.
Expert: Prof. Anna Baranowska-Rataj

Abstract. Previous research has shown that the birth of a child decreases women's time spent in paid work, but has almost no influence on men's time allocation. While most studies to date have focused on individual outcomes, we aim to investigate couples' responses to childbirth by using a difference-in-difference analysis of their changes in the division of paid workhours prior to and in the years after birth. We hypothesize that for couples with a male breadwinner before birth, the female share of couple's working hours will drop more than couples with equal earners prior to birth. Additionally, we also examine how family policy and gender role

attitudes moderate the childbirth's influence on women's relative working hours for male main earner and equal earner couples. We expect that the gap in the decrease of women's working time between these two different couple types will be smaller in countries with more supportive family-work arrangements and more egalitarian gender culture. Our analysis is based on micro-level data from EU Statistics on Income and Living Conditions (EU-SILC) covering 32 countries from 2009 to 2019. The sample includes working women aged 18 to 45 with an employed male partner at the first year. The analytical strategy involves a difference-in-difference estimation of the female share of couple's paid workhours with propensity scores matching. We thus compare women who gave birth to a child at a particular point in time (treatment group) with observably similar women who did not experience a childbirth throughout the same period (control group). We estimate how the changes in women's relative working time after childbirth differ between treatment and control groups. In order to see the heterogenous effects, we stratify our sample by couple type - male main earner and equal earner couples. Finally, to assess the moderating role of country contexts, we use multilevel regressions with random slopes in our matched sample.We find preliminary evidence of heterogenous effects of childbirth on the couple's division of paid workhours by couple type. More specifically, after the birth of the first child in households, women in male main earner couples reduce their share of couple's paid workhours by 11.2%, whilst female relative working time in equal earners couples is reduced by only 5.1%. Moreover, the first analyses with multilevel random slopes models suggest that childcare provision decreases the negative effect of childbirth on women's share of couple's paid workhours, but longer maternity leave increases this negative childbirth effect. In the next steps, we will assess contextual indicators of gender culture, and also examine how these policy and cultural factors moderate the gap in the decrease of women's relative working time after birth between equal earner and male main earner couples.

10:10-10:40 – Kevin Emery. Comparison of imputation methods on sequence data.
Expert: Dr. Brendan Halpin

Abstract. The treatment of missing data is still an open methodological issue with sequences, namely categorical longitudinal data. Different strategies are available to tackle this issue. First, one can simply keep sequences that have no missing data. However, it is wasteful since one missing value leads to the deletion of the entire sequence and, more problematically, it induces a non-representative sample when the data are not missing completely at random. Then, a missing value can be considered as a category in itself. However, when deriving a typology, this strategy may lead to groups mainly based on the number of missing data and their place of occurrence. Finally, missing data are imputable. The simplest way to do it is to replace each missing data by a sensible value (single imputation), yielding a completed dataset. The main drawback of this approach is that it does not account for the variability of the missing data. To solve this issue, multiple imputation was developed. A number M of possible imputation values are determined for each missing data, giving M datasets. The analysis is then performed on each dataset separately and the results are aggregated. Several algorithms are available to impute missing data. In this article, we compare these imputation algorithms in the context of sequence data, using real complete datasets. We simulate patterns of missing data on these real datasets. Five datasets, having different characteristics, are used for this analysis. The algorithms are compared on their ability to retrieve the missing values but also to keep the main characteristics of the original sequences.

10:40-11:00 – Coffee break

11:00-12:00 - Session II

11:00-11:15 – Lisa Bornscheuer. A gendered perspective on resilience over the life-course: Assessing pathways, patterns and interactions in a Swedish birth cohort

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Abstract. Background. Gender contributes to how individual circumstances translate into health and well-being across the life course, and it is one of the axes along which inequalities in health arise (Heise et al., 2019). Therefore, gender is also one of the lenses that need to be applied in public health research and policy, in order to efficiently and fairly work towards improved health and well-being. As part of this endeavour, gender in resilience processes is a promising field of investigation. Resilience refers, broadly speaking, to the human ability to "bounce back" after adversity (Ungar & Theron, 2020). It is often studied in relation to adverse childhood experiences, which have been linked to both poorer physical and mental health across the life course (Felitti et al, 1998; Bellis et al., 2014). There is evidence from preclinical studies that biological sex is relevant for our understanding of resilience, for example when biological mechanisms that involve sex hormones come into play (Morrison et al., 2020). At the same time, it seems reasonable to hypothesize that also gender shapes resilience processes, e.g., through differential access to protective factors as well as differences in risk exposure – similar to gendered pathways to health (Heise et al., 2019), there may be gendered pathways to resilience. To our knowledge, to date there has been no comprehensive effort to look at whether and in what ways gender plays into resilience processes may come together to predict health outcomes across the life course, specifically after exposure to significant adversity (Ungar & Theron, 2020; Hirani et al., 2016). The aim of this project is to contribute to a more nuanced, theoretically informed and empirically based understanding of sex differences in resilience processes across the life course, to discuss in how far these differences may be attributable to gender roles and norms, and to map how resilience processes eventually translate into health-related outcomes in men and women. Resilience processes refer to the pathways leading from exposure to an adversity to a measure of adaptation. If this adaptation is considered positive, we talk about resilience. Further

factors that play a role in resilience processes are mediators and moderators of adversity (Ungar & Theron, 2020; Fritz et al., 2018).

<u>Aim and scope of the project</u>. The aim of this project is to contribute to a more nuanced, theoretically informed and empirically based understanding of sex differences in resilience processes across the life course, to discuss in how far these differences may be attributable to gender roles and norms, and to map how resilience processes eventually translate into health-related outcomes in men and women. Resilience processes refer to the pathways leading from exposure to an adversity to a measure of adaptation. If this adaptation is considered positive, we talk about resilience. Further factors that play a role in resilience processes are mediators and moderators of adversity (Fritz et al., 2018). <u>Materials.</u> For the project, data from the Stockholm Birth Cohort Multigenerational study (SBC Multigen) will be used. Which includes survey and registry data on 14 608 individuals born in 1953 and living in the Stockholm metropolitan area in 1963, and who are currently followed up until 2020 (age 67).

11:15-11:30 – Ziade Garnelle. The Effect of Centenarian's Personality on Health, Social Contacts, and Behaviors.

Abstract. Due to the increase of hygiene levels, vaccination, management of chronic diseases, and lifestyles, life expectancy has doubled over the past century and keeps increasing. Every second child born after the year 2000 in industrialized countries will probably celebrate their 100th birthday (Christensen et al., 2009). Although the number of centenarians is increasing in Switzerland and other countries, this population remains understudied. One factor that is potentially contributing to longevity is personality. Although personality hasn't been much investigated in elderly, centenarians are considered as unique survivors with a unique personality (Martin et al., 2006). In general, personality traits might have an impact on one's health by influencing mental and physical outcomes (Hooker et al., 1992). In addition, health behaviors and social contacts play an important role in health (Reisberg et al., 1982; Liu et al., 2019), which in turn determines participation in leisure activities, with a subsequent impact on life satisfaction (Griffin, J., & McKenna, K, 1999). This dissertation aims at investigating the role of personality traits in centenarians with respect to their health using four different studies. The studies address three key elements and their mutual relationships: personality traits (C, E, O, N, A), health (physical, functional, mental), and a selection of linking mechanisms (health behaviors, social contacts, leisure activities). To examine the relations between those elements, the dataset used in this dissertation is the SWISS100 Centenarian Study. It's an ongoing 4-year longitudinal study composed of around 240 centenarians in Switzerland living in different cantons. In this project we expect to find a strong link between personality and health at the age of 100, since prior studies in younger age showed that specific combinations of personality traits are expected to be associated with better health (i.e., concurrent high E and C, low N) (Wilson et al., 2005; Jopp, D., & Rott, C., 2006; Martin et al., 2006; Pocnet et al., 2021). We also presume that personality traits such as E influence positively health behaviors, social contacts, and leisure activities at the age of 100 as it was shown in studies targeting younger cohorts (Lawton, M. P., 1994; Asendorpf J. B. & Wilpers S., 1998; Raynor, D. A., & Levine, H., 2009). Moreover, we assume that the effect of health behaviors, social contacts, and leisure activities on health is present in centenarians as it was shown in the younger old population (House et al., 1988; Higgins, P., 1989; Paganini-Hill et al., 2011). Finally, we predict a strong relationship between the three elements with the linking mechanisms as mediating factors. This present dissertation will contribute to increase the understanding of how personality is linked to health which then can be used to develop focused preventions and interventions to facilitate the promotion of a healthy long life.

11:30-11:45 – Rita Schmutz. Starting early: The effects of Swiss compulsory school reform.

Abstract. Mounting evidence across disciplines suggests that early childhood environments have a lasting impact on later life outcomes. Among others, early childhood education (ECE) programs have been regarded as a human capital investment policy that improves not only children's outcomes but also promotes the reconciliation of work and family life for parents, particularly for mothers. My thesis will analyze the impacts of mandatory pre-primary education in Switzerland, a change in compulsory school established by the Intercantonal Agreement on Harmonisation of Compulsory Education (HarmoS Agreement). The first part of the analysis concentrates on the impact of pre-primary education on children's academic outcomes and intergenerational educational and social mobility. The goal is to investigate universal ECE as a policy strategy for reducing social inequalities and equalizing educational opportunities. The second part is focused on the effect of preschool attendance on maternal labor outcomes. Thus, it is centered on measuring the impact of preschool attendance on maternal employment and gender inequalities in the labor market. My thesis aims to contribute to the discussion of early childhood policies as a two-generation approach to address systemic inequities.

11:45-12:00 – Paul Schuler. Analysing social support and the influence of personal networks and residential areas using cross-classified multilevel models (CCMM).

Abstract. Research on family and social support widely recognises the importance of space and place. It is well known from neighbourhood studies that youth living in disadvantaged and remote areas are more likely to experience social isolation. However, most studies have examined the role of spatial contexts (neighbourhoods, schools) and largely ignored the personal network context, possibly leading to misattribution errors. Social network research is, in turn, often limited to the analysis of physical distance and has generally failed to consider that both networks and spatial environments affect opportunities for social support. Social support is essential for the well-being and life course chances of individuals. The objective of this PhD project is to bridge this divide and examine how support from personal ties varies with both networks and residential areas applying a cross-classified multilevel modelling approach with personal (or egocentric) network data. The approach is used to analyse a large survey sample of young adults aged 18-20 living in Switzerland (n=40,000), including the full national cohort of young men of this age, where the outcome variable of interest is whether the tie (unit of analysis) from an alter to the young adult (ego) is supportive in terms of information provision, advice, emotional help or role model. The central premise is that support not only hinges on individual or tie
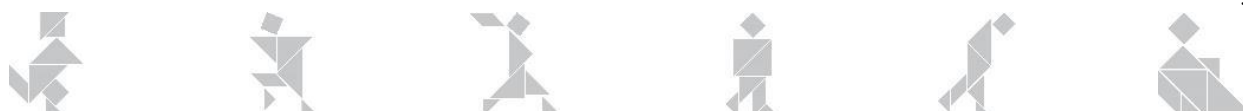
characteristics, but also on the properties of personal networks (e.g. density) and areas (e.g. deprivation) where egos and alters live. A three-level modelling strategy can simultaneously investigate ego/ego-network (level 2) and area (level 3) dependencies. Cross-classified multilevel models (CCMM) are well suited for handling data that are not strictly hierarchical, since all alters of an ego do not necessarily live within the same area. Drawing on recent advances in multilevel modelling with network data, the project also aims to determine the best ways of modelling young adults' health and social behaviours and outcomes. A major focus lies on the influence of social support on life course aspirations of young adults at this decisive point in their life trajectory.

12:00-13:30 – Lunch

13:30-15:30 - Session III

13:30-14:00 – Nathalie Vigna. Subjective social status in the places that don't matter: geographical inequalities in France and Germany
Expert: Prof. Leen Vandecasteele

Abstract. During the last decades, the rise of the service economy and the growing attractiveness of big cities have opened new social inequalities within countries, opposing the modern and connected urban centers to depopulating rural areas, suburban communities and post-industrial towns. These diverging trajectories have been as a source of resentment of the people living in those "places that don't matter". Our paper provides new evidence on this issue and studies spatial inequalities in France (1999-2017) and Germany (1992-2018) in terms of subjective social status, a measure of the place people think to occupy in the social ladder, using data from the International Social Survey Program. In France we find important and persistent inequalities between urban and rural areas, as well as between the capital region of Île-de-France and all the other regions. The differences between places in terms of subjective social status are partially mediated by income differences. However, contrary to our expectation, the time trend does not show any consistent increase in the geographical differences in subjective status between 1999 and 2017. In Germany, our analysis shows weak differences of subjective social status between urban and rural areas, but large inequalities between the West and East. While this gap was wider in the 1990s, it has only partially decreased over the last decades.

14:00-14:30 – Julien Fakouri. Association between residence status regularization and access to health care for undocumented migrants in Switzerland: a panel study.
Expert: Prof. Piet Bracke

Abstract. Background. Switzerland has a universal health care system. Yet, undocumented migrants face barriers at different levels that hinder their access to health care services. The aim of this study is to assess whether undocumented migrants' health care utilization improves with residence status regularization. Methods. We used two-wave panel data from the Parchemins study, a multidisciplinary study taking place in Geneva, Switzerland. At first data collection, the sample consisted of undocumented or newly regularized migrants (<3 months) living in Geneva for at least 3 years. We distributed them into two groups according to their residence status 12 months before the second data collection (regularized vs. undocumented (controls)). Using the number of medical consultations within a 12 months period prior to data collections 1 and 2 as dependent variable, we conducted multivariable regression analyses applying hurdle specification to identify factors enhancing health care utilization. In a second step, we estimated first-difference panel models to assess change in health care utilization along regularization. Models were adjusted for demographic, economic and health-related factors. Results. Of the 309 participants, 68 (22%) belonged to the regularized group. At baseline, these migrants did not significantly differ from those in the control group in terms of health care utilization. At this stage, factors increasing the odds of having had at least one medical consultation included being a female (aOR: 2.70; 95% CI: 1.37-5.30) and having a family physician (aOR: 3.15; 95% CI: 1.62-6.13), whereas the factors associated with the number of consultations apart from health needs were the equivalent disposable income (aIRR per additional CHF 100.-: 0.98; 95% CI: 0.97-1.00) and having a family physician (aIRR: 1.45; 95% CI: 1.09-1.92). At second data collection, regularization was not associated with higher odds of having had at least one medical consultation (aOR: 0.96; 95% CI: 0.46-2.01). However, among participants who consulted at least once, regularized ones reported significantly higher counts of medical consultations than controls (3.7 and 2.6 respectively, p=.02), suggesting a positive impact of regularization on health care utilization. Results from the first-difference panel models confirmed that residence status regularization might have driven migrants' health care utilization (β coefficient: 0.89; 95% CI: 0.23-1.75). Conclusions. Public policies aiming at granting undocumented migrants residence permits might increase health care utilization in this population. More research is needed to understand the mechanisms through which regularization improves undocumented migrants' use of health care services.
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14:30-15:00 – Iván Canzio. Are unions and the EPL to blame for the outsiders' job dissatisfaction? A cross-European analysis of the involuntary temporary workers.
Expert: Prof. Lena Hipp

Abstract. There is a long-standing debate in the literature about the role that the EPL (Employment Protection Legislation) and unions play in the labour market: Some argue that they benefit all workers, while the labour market dualization theory claims that these institutions benefit the insiders at the expense of the outsiders, raising inequalities in terms of job security and working conditions. Following this debate, this article explores if these institutions affect the job satisfaction of the temporary workers in Europe, as well as the job satisfaction gap between the permanent and the temporary workers. However, among the temporary workers I focus on a specific group: the involuntary temporary workers. Previous research shows that only the involuntary temporary workers are less satisfied than the permanent employees. Moreover, although the definition of outsiders is frequently vague, the involuntary temporary workers can be considered as the outsiders who want to become insiders, as opposed to the voluntary temporary workers. By analysing the Ad-Hoc module of the EU-LFS of 2017 I first study the gap in job satisfaction between permanent and involuntary temporary workers across 24 European countries using a variety of techniques: two-step models, mixed models, and fixed-effects models. To analyse the effect of these institutions on temporary workers alone I apply mixed models with random slopes. Results show that the EPL for the permanent workers does not relate to the job satisfaction gap between permanent and involuntary temporary workers. The outsiders, rather than less satisfied, appear to be more satisfied in countries with a higher EPL for permanent contracts, although the association is not significant. Contrary to the expectations, in countries with higher dismissal costs for the permanent workers, a more flexible EPL for temporary contracts does not relate to lower job satisfaction among the temporary workers. Finally, the EPL for the temporary workers does not seem to influence the job satisfaction gap between the two groups nor the job satisfaction of the temporary workers About the industrial relations institutions, union density and collective agreements coverage are positively related to the job satisfaction of the temporary workers, and to smaller differences in job satisfaction between permanent and temporary workers. However, in countries where unions are less inclusive towards the temporary workers, the temporary workers feel less satisfied. Nonetheless, in non-inclusive contexts, higher union power (higher union density and bargaining) does not appear to harm the temporary workers' job satisfaction. To conclude, the EPL does not seem to influence the workers' job satisfaction. Unions seem to exert a positive (rather than a negative) influence on the job satisfaction of the involuntary temporary workers, although the inclusiveness of the temporary workers appears to be a crucial factor. When they are inclusive, unions also seem to reduce inequalities in well-being between the insiders and the outsiders.

15:00-15:30 – Gianvito Laera. The temporal dimension in Time-based prospective memory: effects on time monitoring and prospective memory performance.
Expert: Prof. Fabio del Missier

Abstract. Prospective memory (PM) is the ability to remember and execute intentions while carrying out a background activity (i.e.: ongoing task: OT). The intention can be executed at a specific time in the future, such as meeting a friend at 2:00 pm (i.e., time-based PM: TBPM), or when a particular event occurs, such as putting fuel in the car when the person is driving by a gas station (i.e., event-based PM: EBPM). In order to perform any PM task, the ability to strategically monitor the environment is essential. Monitoring in TBPM is referred as time monitoring, and it measured as number of clock checks (Labelle et al., 2009; Mioni & Stablum, 2014). External clocks reflect the progression of a counter which is incremented by the ticks of an oscillator; moreover, the interval between clock ticks is constant (Fetzer & Cristian, 1997). Thus, there are at least two features of the clock that are integrated into an information processing system comprising attentional and memory components (Block & Zakay, 2006; Zakay, 1992; Zakay & Block, 1997): the constant interval between clock ticks, and the cycling progression of numerical information. In the literature, the current empirical findings have never investigated the effect of these two fundamental clock's features on time monitoring and PM performance. Thus, in my PhD thesis, we introduced two novel manipulations tackling the two fundamental clock's features in two studies involving both TBPM and EBPM. In the first study, we investigated how the manipulation of the external time in the TBPM paradigm affected strategic time monitoring and TBPM performance (Laera et al., under review); to do so, we manipulated the interval between clock ticks, which in turn affected the speed of the external clock. Participants initially performed a TBPM block with a regular clock (1 second = 1000 ms), followed by another TBPM block where the clock was manipulated in three between-subject experimental conditions: faster (1 second = 800 ms), slower (1 second = 1200 ms), and external regular clock (1 second = 1000 ms). In the second study, we investigated whether and how the progression of the numerical information concerning the incoming PM cue (expressed as probability of PM cue's occurrence) affect monitoring and PM performances while participant perform an EBPM task. Two independent variables were manipulated: PM task (three conditions: TBPM vs. classic non-focal EBPM without contextual information vs. non-focal EBPM with contextual information; within-subjects) and predictability of the PM cue occurrence during the EBPM task with contextual information (two conditions: predictable vs. unpredictable; between-subjects). At the doctoriales, I will present the results of these two studies, and new perspectives for a third and final study for the thesis.

15:30-15:50 – Coffee break

15:50-16:50 - Session IV

15:50-16:20 – Fiona Köster. Does the transition from employment to retirement lead to experiencing loneliness? A panel study for European countries.
Expert: Prof. Jürgen Maurer

Abstract. Objective: The transition from employment to retirement is a critical life event that is accompanied by changes of daily routines and social roles. The aim of this study is to examine whether retiring leads to an increase of loneliness, which would signify a reduction of well-being for older adults. Methods: We used two waves of the Survey of Health, Ageing and Retirement in Europe (SHARE) to estimate difference-in-difference models and test whether the transition into retirement leads to increased loneliness. Kernel based matching was performed to create a counterfactual control group. Results: The transition into retirement does not lead to an increase of loneliness. In fact, individuals who retire voluntarily because they want to spend more time with family and friends or to have time to enjoy life appear to suffer less from loneliness than the counterfactual group. Living together with a partner or at least one other household member had a positive impact on reducing loneliness as well. No differences across country groups could be observed. Conclusion: The wide-spread assumption that retirement leads to an increase of loneliness could not be confirmed. Overall, retirees do not seem to suffer more from loneliness than the counterfactual group, as loneliness naturally increases in old age.

16:20-16:35 – Celia Delgado. The role of social capital in socioeconomic inequalities in health: multilevel analysis of Swiss longitudinal evidence.

Abstract. Social capital has recently gained increased interest among health promotion. In fact, it has been established that social capital can improve health trough influence of healthier behaviors; access to services; and psychosocial processes as providing affective support. Still, evidence suggests that social capital not only offers a positive and a buffer function, but it can also represent a potential negative effect for health arising from social inequality and exclusion. The aim of this thesis will be to study under which conditions and to which social groups of swiss residents, social capital can offer, either a buffer, or a negative effect for health. It is important to clarify that this thesis will be focused on socioeconomic health inequalities. Nonetheless, the analytical framework of intersectionality will be considered to identify possible influences and interactions with aspects of individuals' social identities, such as ethnicity, and gender. Through the lens of the life-course approach, we aim to study the long-term and intergenerational effects of social capital in socioeconomic health inequalities in a specific geographical context. This thesis will be mostly focused on Chavannes-près-Renes, where the "Cause Commune" political project for health and social action has been conducted since 2019. Some of the research questions to be addressed are: Does social capital offer different amount of benefits according to the position in society?; Does people with a low socioeconomic status will generally have less social capital?; Is social capital available and/or beneficial to everyone living in a certain area? To answer these questions, quantitative data analysis will be performed. Several European datasets will be used, but most of the analysis will be based on the longitudinal survey "Vivre à Chavannes-près-Renens" conducted by the "Cause Commune" project. Providing an in-depth study on the role of social capital in socioeconomic health inequalities in Switzerland, we aim to provide knowledge of the pathways involved in the reduction of health inequalities in order to contribute to a healthier society.

16:35-16:50 – Maelys Tirehote Corbin.

17:00 – 17:30 – Administrative timeslot (only for new PhD candidates)

Friday February 11th

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8:45-9:00 – Arrival

9:00-10.30: Session V

9:00-9:30 – Iuna Dones. Life satisfaction among migrants, stayers, and natives: a comparison
Expert: Prof. Clémentine Rossier

Abstract. Although reasons for migration may differ, it can be argued that migrants that move to another country have a common goal: improving the living conditions and well-being of themselves and their families. However, we still know relatively little of how older migrants in particular evaluate their lives and the consequences of migration on their life satisfaction. This paper aims to contribute to this body of research. In a first part, we focus on two comparisons: 1) The life satisfaction of older Italian migrants in Switzerland to that of Swiss natives, and 2) The life satisfaction of Italian migrants in Switzerland to that of Italian stayers in Italy. In a second part, we detail how the results of the quantitative analyses will lead to the selection of a qualitative sample to further explore the subject of life satisfaction among these older populations. The first part of the research draws on original data collected between June and November 2020. Basing ourselves on the current comparative literature of older migrants and non-migrants, we hypothesized that older Italian migrants in Switzerland display lower life satisfaction than Swiss natives, and that older Italian migrants in Switzerland display higher life satisfaction than stayers in Italy. We expected to observe these differences even when accounting for sociodemographic characteristics. However, our study rejects both hypotheses. The difference between the life satisfaction of Italian migrants and Swiss stayers is fully mediated by sociodemographic variables, demonstrating that when accounting for personal resources, the difference in life satisfaction between the two groups is no longer significant. Moreover, our findings indicate that Italian migrants in Switzerland display lower life satisfaction than Italian stayers, even when accounting for social demographic characteristics. However, the relationship between (non-)migrant group and life satisfaction depends on religious habits. Stemming from these results, we conclude the paper by describing how we will select a sample to conduct a qualitative study aimed at further exploring how older migrants and non-migrants evaluate their lives, who they compare themselves to, and more specifically how their perceptions of well-being evolved throughout their lifetimes.

9:30-10:00 – Liala Consoli. When the set of known opportunities broadens: aspirations and imagined futures of undocumented migrants applying for regularization.
Expert: Prof. Claire Bidart

Abstract. Residing without a valid residence permit creates uncertainty because of the permanent fear of possible deportation, which forces individuals into an 'eternal present'. This situation is experienced with the hope for a better future whose temporality, however, remains difficult or impossible to predict and whose realization remains unsure. Over the last decades, many European countries implemented selective regularization programs which enable some long-term undocumented migrants to regularize their residence status. Previous studies highlighted that regularization makes it easier to make plans for the future. However, knowledge remains lacunary about how the content of aspirations and imagined futures actually evolves.
In this presentation I will first report the main findings of a completed study (Consoli, Burton Jeangros, Jackson, in press) that analyses variations in the aspirations that led migrants to stay in Switzerland for more than 10 years in an irregular residence situation and the different ways in which these aspirations are transformed with the implementation of a regularization program (according to age, gender and family situations). This study is based on 39 biographical interviews conducted with undocumented migrants applying for the 'Opreation Papyus' regularization program in Geneva, Switzerland. Second, I will present why and how it is interesting to analyse the ways in which aspirations are transformed or redirected, and past aspirations are reinterpreted over time in the years following the regularization. This ongoing study is based on longitudinal qualitative data. Participants were reinterviewed 18 months and a 36 months after regularization. Both studies are part of the Parchemins project (https://cigev.unige.ch/recherches/research-l/health/parchemins/).

10:00-10:30 – Mengling Cheng. Early-Life Famine Exposure and Later-Life Chronic Diseases: Longitudinal Evidence From the Chinese Famine of 1959-1961.
Expert: Prof. Marko Kerac

Abstract. Animal and human studies show that the exposure to famine could have long-term effects on health, and relationships between early-life exposure to famine and later-life adverse health outcomes have been well documented with evidence from the Dutch famine and the Ukrainian famine. However, studies about the long-term impacts of the Chinese famine of 1959-1961 on later-life health are scarce and evidence is inconsistent. To explore the relationship between early-life exposure to the Chinese famine of 1959-1961 and later-life chronic diseases, in this study we used CHARLS 2011-2018 and performed a longitudinal analysis. Our models revealed that compared with older people born before/after the Chinese famine, older people born during the famine were more likely to have multiple chronic diseases. We interpret this as the long-term effects of early-life exposure to famine on health, not the effects of uncontrolled age differences between famine and pre/post-famine births. Our models also revealed that these effects were stronger for older women than older men. We interpret this as the gender difference in later-life health trajectories. Our findings suggest that early life is a critical period of the life course, and interventions should be arranged accordingly.

10:30-11:00 – Coffee break

11:00-12h00 - Session VI

11:00-11:15 – Violetta Tucci. Social inequality, housing and real estate values among young Europeans.

Abstract. Young people represent in Europe one of the most vulnerable social groups in terms of opportunities to achieve their independence, so far as to be called the "lost generation" or "generation rent". Thus, the main challenge for European countries is to address the unequal distribution of resources that affect the life course and well-being of young people. In particular, it has been already emphasized housing as the most urgent and relevant area of intervention. The relationship between young people and housing has been a subject of social research, however, previous studies show the necessity to deepen some aspects on housing in order to understand how the housing field and related opportunities can affect the living conditions of the new generations, especially taking into account the current pandemic crisis caused by Covid-19. The health emergency has severely affected the social group of young people and their families, creating or increasing pre-existing conditions of deprivation and social vulnerability. Housing can be understood as both a material and immaterial good, as well as it plays a relevant function in the processes of transition to adulthood, especially during the leaving of parental home through which young people achieve their individual and economic independence. Hence, the multidimensional value of housing suggests the relevance of focusing on the nature and the consequences of housing inequalities in terms of trajectories and living conditions. By employing a quantitative approach of analysis, the project provides a comparative analysis on three main areas of investigation. The first area is focused on the housing conditions of young adults in Europe through a long-term view until the pandemic crisis, in relation to subjective perception, social class of origin and role of family support. The second one involves the role of housing in economic inequality among European youth, in terms of income and wealth. In particular, it is focused on the role of both housing and inheritance in wealth inequality. The last one relates to the role of local housing market in young adults' housing independence, and specifically, whether and how housing prices can affect timing, exit patterns and first housing destination of young people. Taken together, these areas of investigation and according to previous studies, the results may suggest that young adults' both housing and living conditions and residential pathways are shaped by the complex patterns of resources and constraints that are generated by disparities in family circumstances and local opportunity structures, including the housing market and the real estate values. Therefore, the results may help to identify the most remarkable dimensions of public policy action that can mitigate short- and long-term inequalities.

11:15-11:30 – Oscar Waltz. The protection of minors in Geneva in the light of the capability approach

Abstract. My thesis will address child welfare in Geneva by focusing on three types of beneficiaries followed by the child protection service (service de protection des mineurs - SPMi). These three forms of support involve different relationships between the minor and his/her family environment (presence, forced removal, absence). In the first one minors and their families facing, at least, educational difficulties will receive parenting support in the form of an "Action Educative en Milieu Ouvert – AEMO). In such situation minors stay with their family and an educator intervenes directly "at home". In the second type of support the seriousness of the situation forced the judicial authorities to order an extra-familial placement, meaning that the minor is placed in a children's home or in a foster family. Parents will be able to see their child under the conditions set by the court. The third type of support concerns

unaccompanied minors who arrived without family in Geneva. They must be placed under guardianship or curatorship by the SPMi until they reach majority. My thesis will pursue three main objectives: 1) Gain a better knowledge of the phenomenon: who are the minors and families in those three situations? a. What are their life courses? What are their resources and vulnerabilities? b. Why are they followed by the SPMi? What difficulties do they face today? c. Documenting both the growing tensions in families (cumulative vulnerabilities) and within the society (active social state, transformation of the family unit); 2) Assess the relevance of applying the capability approach to the field of child protection. a. Understand the difficulties faced by families as capabilities deprivation. A holistic approach of the situations will allow a better understanding and consideration of the root causes (why the children need protection?) b. Highlight the tensions that impact accountability issues for parents and minors. Can they be held accountable for their (lack of) actions? Do they have the skills and resources (capability for work, for voice) to meet institutional expectations? c. Mobilize the concept of "evolving capabilities" to identify the complex and sometimes conflicting responsibilities of the minor's caregiver who should develop his/her opportunities; 3) Outline a capability-enhancing child welfare policy in Geneva. a. How and who guarantees that minors are able to live the life they have reasons to value and develop their actual and future capabilities? b. What kind of resources and skills should be given to all stakeholders (minors, parents, caregivers, social workers) so that they can both co-construct and meet the capability-enhancing institutional expectations? c. Underline the interdependence of child welfare policy with policies related to education, employment, social cohesion, fight against poverty and inequalities. From a methodological point of view my material will mainly come from interviews and focus groups done with all the actors concerned (minors, families, legal and executive-political authorities, street-level bureaucrats, educational and medical actors). I will also request access to the SPMi database (TAMI) with information on the 6000+ minors followed in Geneva. These data should allow me to perform quantitative analysis.

11:30-12:00 – Victoria Schuttengruber. Is it Work or Leisure? Investigating the Role of Cues in Online Vignette Experiments.
Expert: Prof. Norbert Semmer

Abstract. How do we categorize activities as belonging more to work or leisure? Building on a process model integrating the effects of subjective expectations about exhaustion and recovery, we investigated the relative importance of the proposed cues for the categorization of activities as belonging more to work or leisure. In two online vignette experiments, we manipulated these cues and sampled activities from everyday life to generate vignettes. In these vignettes, participants rated the degree of work, leisure, other life domains, and indicators of exhaustion and recovery. In study 1, we employed a 2 (autonomy: high vs. low) x 2 (location: work vs. non-work) x 2 (goal: work vs. leisure) x 2 (time: work vs. non-work) x 3 (social partner: alone vs. work vs. non-work) mixed design to create 592 vignettes using 17 activities. Each participant (N = 1106) was presented with 8 randomly drawn vignettes. Multilevel analyses identified the goal of activities, the degree of autonomy, and the location as the most impactful cues for the distinction of life domains. In study 2, we adopted a 2 (autonomy: high vs. low) x 2 (location: work vs. non-work) x 2 (goal: work vs. leisure) mixed design to generate 128 vignettes based on 16 activities. Each participant (N = 798) rated a set of 16 vignettes that included each cue combination twice. Again, participants mainly relied on the goal for their categorizations. Findings provide first empirical support for the cues and the expectations about exhaustion and recovery conceptualized in the process model. The findings join the literature on work-life balance, boundary management, and motivational approaches of exhaustion and recovery.

12:00-13:30 – Lunch

13:30-15:00 - SessionVII

13:30-14:00 – Lovey Max. Acting against the non-take-up at the local level : a capability approach.
Expert: Prof. Antoine Rode

Abstract. After two decades of steady development of the research on the causes of non-take-up, actors in politics and the field of social work alike are more and more aware of the prevalence and implications of this phenomenon which sees large amounts of individuals not receive benefits to which they are entitled. Consequently, in various countries and through different forms, actions are taken to tackle non-take-up and foster the access to social rights (Eurofound, 2015). A suburban town in canton Geneva has recently implemented two of such programs, one which proactively reaches out to people aged 75 and older to offer them administrative support at home and another which looks to make the town's social and information services more readily accessible to the whole population. These actions taken at the local level of the municipality are characteristic of a general trend towards the localization of welfare provision (Andreotti & Mingione, 2016). Local welfare is described by authors as more transversal, proactive and informal than "traditional" social work ; features that would make it best fit to tackle more and more complex and heterogeneous issues while having to deal with scarce public budget (Mazé & Rode, 2019; Boost et al., 2020).

I investigate on the relationship between the specificities of these measures and individuals capability to take-up. Framing the issue of non-take-up using Amartya Sen's capability approach (1992), I consider eligibility rights as a resource available to some individuals which are bound to remain unused (non-take-up) if not for the proper conversion factors to turn them into a real freedom to take-up. The programs launched in the aforementioned town, through their action on stigma, the lack of information, or administrative burden, are typically designed to enhance conversion factors which in turn convert formal into actual rights to take-up. However, these measures undertaken at the local level can foster the access to benefits and services only to a certain extent. Among other shortcomings, they can only act on making the existing benefits more accessible (the parametric dimension of the supply (Mazé & Rode, 2019)) but cannot influence their design and eligibility criteria (the paradigmatic dimension (ibid.)). To gain a comprehensive understanding of what determines one's capability to take-up a benefit or service, I therefore do not only take into account the meso-level of local social services at which the measures to tackle non-take-up are implemented and the way they impact the micro-level of individual determinants of non-take-up ; I also take into account the macro level of politics and administration, where benefits are designed. Close attention is paid to the relationship between the macro, meso and micro levels, drawing notably on the street-level bureaucracy literature (Lipsky, 2010; Hupe et al., 2015). To do so, I draw on exploratory interviews conducted with beneficiaries, social workers and local and regional executives as part of an evaluation mandate of one of the two programs ; upcoming interviews with stakeholders of the two programs as well as documents analysis.

14:00-14:15 – Guillaume Fernandez. Language variability in interaction: a configurational and a longitudinal approach.

Abstract. My thesis explores the concept of linguistic style and its expression in interaction. It focuses on the individual variation and its variability throughout the life course. More precisely, I aim to study the social mechanisms which could motivate the individuals to adapt their language to their interlocutors, especially when these latters are 'significant' relations. The basic research questions that will run throughout the thesis can be resumed as following: Do the individuals systematically adapt their language in particular interactional situations and how does this latter vary accordingly to the interlocutors and life transition? In order to do so, a configurational and a life course perspective will be mobilized. For this former, the personal network of the participants and the distribution of social capital within it will be linked to the lexical realization in dyadic face-to-face interaction; for this latter, the interest is of how the transition from the end of the studies to the entering into the labor market shapes the social configurations and may impact the social capital distribution and how, in turn, it influences the stylistic adaptability. Several dimensions will be considered, such as the geometry of the network and its structural properties on the possibility of variation; the differentiated influences of the interdependencies on the lexical practices; the relation between social capital and linguistic practices; the influences of life event transitions on the lexical uses. Two waves are planned in the aim to collect configurational and linguistic data. The first wave will be held during the last year of bachelor's degree for students from college. The second one, with the same population, will take place one year later when it is expected for the former students to have entered into the labor market. In order to maximize the chance to observe the desired transition, the retained major are the ones of the HES-SO, a professional college, known for its ability to prepare students for the labor market. This ability is one of the claims of this institution. The envisaged approach allows to (re)place the individual in his/her individualized context and to consider social interactions in a broader perspective than the mere moment of the interaction by considering the interdependencies that structure the personal network of the individuals. Moreover, by linking a configurational and a life course perspective, it enables us to explore to what extent certain interdependencies and their influences are stable and to what extent, depending on life events, we can observe differentiated mechanisms.

14:15-14:30 – Loic Nsabimana. The vulnerability of people living with disabilities to HIV infection in Bujumbura.

Abstract. The declaration on HIV and AIDS to accelerate the response to fight HIV and end the AIDS epidemic by 2030 adopted by the United Nations General Assembly in June 2016 was a crucial step in the history of the AIDS pandemic in the world. In this declaration, heads of state and government pledged to end the AIDS epidemic by 2030 and to make this achievement a legacy for present and future generations. The dream that the AIDS epidemic can be stopped in all regions, all countries, in all places, in every population and in every community will only be true when no one is left behind in the response.

However, some people are more at risk, more vulnerable than others. Among the populations left behind are people living with disabilities. According to the WHO World Report on Disability, people with disabilities (PWD) are about 15% of the world's population and 80% of them live in countries with limited resources. There is evidence showing that PWD Suffer over socio-economic inequalities than those who do not, which includes higher rates of poverty and unemployment and lower educational attainment. There are few studies to describe in a longitudinal way and life course the vulnerability of PWD to HIV. The HANDISSR project carried out by IFORD and its partners in Bujumbura from 2017 to 2018, made it possible to collect biographical data on the interactions between Disability and HIV infection which deserve to be analyzed in depth to highlight the mechanisms leading to the vulnerability of PWD to HIV infection.

Persons with disabilities were selected from the general population using two-stage stratified sampling. Eligible persons with disabilities were invited to take an HIV test and complete a biographical questionnaire on their disability, socio-economic characteristics, knowledge and attitude towards HIV, their use of family planning methods, their sexual behavior and partners, their environment and social networks, as well as their access to prevention and care services. The people in the control group were selected from the neighborhood of the PWD (same enumeration area) and the same biographical study procedures were carried out with them.

Recognizing the need for a scientific analysis of the vulnerability of PWD to HIV infection and its risk factors in a context of limited resources, the objective of my thesis is to elucidate the mechanisms leading to the vulnerability of PWD to HIV infection according to life course.
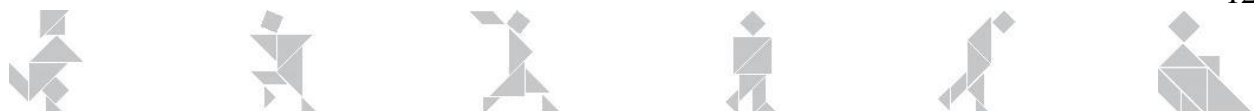
14:30-15:00 – Greta Mikneviciute. Acute stress effects on memory and inhibition in young and older adults.

Expert: Prof. Matias Pulopulos

Abstract. What is known about the relation of stress and cognition in older age? Various stress-related variables such as perceived stress (Aggarwal et al., 2014) and stress hormones (Lupien et al., 2005) are associated with cognitive decline in older age. It has been established that sustained activation of the stress system (i.e., chronic stress) has cumulative negative effects on the brain (Lupien et al., 2018) and cognition (Marshall et al., 2016). Many studies examine either the effects of aging (Cansino et al., 2020; Lehert et al., 2015) or acute stress (mostly in young adults e.g., Shields et al., 2017; Shields, Sazma, et al., 2016; Starcke & Brand, 2016) on cognition. Surprisingly, however, considerably less attention has been given to the combined effects of stress and aging by testing effects of acute stress on older adults' cognition. Moreover, on a more fundamental level, much less is known about the effects that a single exposure to a stressful situation (i.e., acute stress) has on older adults' cognition. Thus, in the current study, we compared the effects of stress on cognition in healthy young and older adults. More specifically, we examined the effects of acute psychosocial stress (induced using the Trier Social Stress Test, (Kirschbaum et al., 1993) on memory recall and inhibition. The study was conducted in a within-subjects design including two visits at the laboratory: one in stress condition and the other in control condition. The two visits took place 2-3 weeks apart and the order of the stress conditions was counterbalanced between participants. Salivary cortisol and hear rate measures were collected during both visits to ensure the effectiveness of the stress induction. 2x2 repeated measures ANOVA with one within factor (stress condition) and one between factor (age group) were used on memory and inhibition performance scores to investigate stress and aging effects on cognition. Data analysis is currently ongoing. Results will be presented and discussed during the LIVES Doctoriales 2022 event.

15:00-15:30 – Coffee break

15:30-16:15 - Session VIII

15:30-16:00 – Anahita Mehrpour. Social antecedents of depressive symptoms: Early results of Swiss Federal Survey of young adults (CHX-YASS)

Expert: Prof. Gil Viry

Abstract. Background. Research shows that social relationships determine depressive symptoms. Most researchers adopted a unidisciplinary approaches, where the interrelations between subjective and objective conceptualizations of social relationships are left overlooked. The social cure model of depression (Haslam et al., 2018), and the social network approach to depression (Rosenquist et al., 2011) have concentrated on subjective versus structural dimensions of social relationships. Using dual points of entry, our future paper integrates social identification and relational dimensions of social networks as predictors of depressive symptoms, hoping for a unified model. Methods. We will test the proposed models by social cure and social network approaches. Based on the models, we will scrutinize different hypotheses accounting for relationships between social identification, social networks, and depressive symptoms. We will utilize the Swiss Federal Survey of young adults (CHX), 2020 subsample (n=9999; 14.7% female and 85% male). Participants were selected through the Swiss Army recruitment process in the context of transition to adulthood and filled in the questionnaires either in-person or through the online survey. In a personal network design, network indices including indegree and outdegree centrality, as well as network size and density were calculated using NetworkX package in Python. Social identification scores were calculated using the questions regarding identification with social groups (compatriots, gender, religion, family, and friends). Also, depressive symptoms were assessed using Center for Epidemiological Studies-Depression scale (CES-D-short form). Hypotheses. We hypothesize a bidirectional relationship between social network indices and social identification in determining depression. Different network conditions (size and centrality) result in various patterns of social identification. Conversely, strong versus weak identifications may result in the network configurations that provoke or ameliorate depressive symptoms. Accordingly, we test alternative models to examine the associations between relational network indices and social identification. Potential Implications. Our study will contribute to the emerging interdisciplinary approach concerning social determinants of health. We aim at filling the gaps in applying social network analysis to social psychological research questions.

16:00-16:15 – Ménard Benjamin. Private equity at work

Abstract. Almost non-existent in the 1970s, the private equity industry has come to play a large role in the accumulation of financial profits, both in the US and in Europe. Private equity firms raise capital to invest in companies, take over managerial control and,

after a few years, sell their stakes to make a profit. Recent research has described the history of private equity, analyzed the financial conditions for extracting capital gains and explained the accounting practices used to value target companies. Several studies also shed light on the consequences of private equity investments on the organization of work. However, especially in Europe, systematic research on the working conditions and biographical trajectories of employees of companies indirectly controlled by investment funds remains rare. In this doctoral thesis, I will ask how the takeover of a company by an investment fund affects the objective work conditions, the subjective experience of work and the occupational trajectories of the concerned workers. In particular I am interested in the occupational mobility of employees (vertical and horizontal mobility and entry-exit sequences). I will adopt a mixed methodology, combining the analysis of quantitative surveys (such as the European Company Survey or the Household Finance and Consumption survey) with qualitative and biographical interviews with different categories of employees (from managers to workers through middle management). A special emphasis will be put on the analysis of the career sequences of these employees and the consequences which the event of the take-over by a private equity fund has on their trajectories. This doctoral thesis will relate macro-structural changes (such as the financialization of the economy) in an innovative way to individual consequences, changing biographies and subjective vulnerabilities of different categories of employees

16:30-18:00 - Closing session

Keynote speech & Discussion

Clémentine Rossier, Professor at the Institute of Demography and Socioeconomics, University of Geneva

How does life course vulnerability square with sustainable development ?
Insights from demography

Biography:

Clémentine Rossier has alternated quantitative and qualitative approaches to study induced abortion, contraception, and fertility trends in Europe and Sub-Saharan Africa. From 2008 to 2013, she helped launch an urban demographic and health surveillance system in Burkina Faso. In 2013, she received a professorship from the Swiss National Science Foundation to investiate the slow fertility decline in sub-Saharan Africa at the University of Geneva. Today, she collaborates with the Institut National d'Etudes Démographiques in Paris on new ways to promote demographic statistics in Africa, and with the Unit of Research in Reproductive Health at the World Health Organization on the measurement of induced abortion. She also works since 2015 on family ties and well-being in Switzerland in the frame of the Swiss National Center of Competence in Research LIVES