

Families & Households Strand Abstracts

Strand organisers: Dr Jenny Chanfreau (University College London), Dr Kathrin Morosow (University of Manchester)

1.30pm Monday 5 September: Gender and Parenthood

Understanding trends and patterns in life satisfaction during the pandemic: Gender, work, and family care
Ann Berrington¹, Shih-Yi Chao²; ¹University of Southampton, ²Institute of Sociology, Academia Sinica, Taiwan

Gender inequalities in wellbeing were exacerbated during the pandemic. This paper examines whether women's lower wellbeing during the pandemic, as measured by overall life satisfaction, results from gender inequalities in family, childcare and work situations. Individuals who were already part of the UKHLS sample were asked to respond to a bi-monthly COVID survey from March 2020. Life satisfaction was first measured in the wave 2 (May 2020) survey. We thus examine changes in life satisfaction from May 2020 to March 2021. We focus on those aged 25-54 as they are most likely to encounter work-family demands. We run two analyses; the first based on all men and women in this age range (33,505 person months from 8,028 individuals); and a second sample of those men and women currently living with young children (27,872 person months from 6,925 individuals). Multilevel growth curve models estimate the effect of gender on repeated measures of life satisfaction. We find that women on average had higher life satisfaction than men. In January 2021, the time of the second lockdown in the UK, life satisfaction declines with women having a greater drop than men. The results show that for men, the decline in life satisfaction was associated with working from home for long hours, whilst for women the decline in life satisfaction was related to caring/homeschooling responsibilities, particularly for lone mothers. Further investigation also showed that loneliness was a key mediator of the association between lone motherhood and low life satisfaction during the second lockdown.

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To what extent does financial support for parents provide extrinsic incentives for childbearing? An analysis of 29 European countries.

Kristijan Fidanovski; Department of Social Policy and Intervention, University of Oxford

This conceptual and descriptive paper proposes the term "extrinsic pronatalism" in reference to child benefits that conflict with the spread of the financial costs of raising children over the course of childhood and between birth orders. By providing more generous benefits for younger children and later (usually third and fourth) birth orders, even though costs are typically higher for older children and earlier birth orders, policymakers might be offering an ulterior financial incentive for parenthood. This assumption rests upon evidence from the behavioural economics literature, which suggests that parents might respond strongly to financial rewards that are skewed towards the short-term future (i.e. within the first few years of becoming parents) and that become larger without a concomitant increase in per-child costs (i.e. for later birth orders). Empirically, the paper examines the configuration of national child benefit packages for four birth orders in middle-income model households in 29 European countries, 19 of which declare themselves to be pronatalist. The data are derived from the OECD TaxBen simulator and are sometimes complemented by government sources at the national level. The paper finds that the self-declaration of a pronatalist orientation is a solid predictor – yet by no means a guarantee – of the adoption of "extrinsic child benefits". By drawing attention to the extrinsic orientation of some child benefit packages, the paper challenges their relatively uniform treatment in the literature as measures for (merely) facilitating parenthood and highlights the potential clash between pronatalist and child-focused policy objectives.

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Re-partnering and single mothers' health and life satisfaction trajectories
Philipp Dierker, Mine Kühn; Max Planck Institute for Demographic Research

Despite a great amount of research on family and health, the impact of single mothers' re-partnering transitions and their health and life satisfaction has been largely disregarded. Thus, it remains unclear whether health and life satisfaction increase due to additional resources the new partner provides, or whether the new family constellation causes additional stressors resulting in decreasing health and life satisfaction. The few studies that have been examined lack longitudinal data and thus causally robust results. This problem can be addressed by considering health and life satisfaction trajectories across the entire re-partnering transition. In our work, we rely on longitudinal data to trace an overall picture of the re-partnering transition of single mothers. Specifically, we apply fixed effects models based on data of the German Socio-economic panel (SOEP) and the British Understanding Society study (UKHLS/BHPS) to assess effects on trajectories of life satisfaction and the SF-12 score of mental health during the whole transition period. Our preliminary findings show a positive effect of re-partnering on life satisfaction in both countries, while a positive effect of re-partnering on mental health can only be shown for the German context. In the UK, there is no significant effect on the mental health SF-12 score. In our next analytical step, we seek to explore whether tested whether the effects are mediated by an increase in household income or change in the amount of time spend on housework in order to further investigate the mechanisms causing those effects.

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Maternal and paternal grandmothers and child health: exploring potential differences in the effect of intergenerational co-residence in Sub-Saharan Africa
Chiara Puglisi; European University Institute

Several studies have explored the role played by grandmothers for child welfare in low-income countries. Most studies find that co-residence with maternal grandmothers improves child wellbeing, while the association with co-residence with paternal grandmothers appears to be either null or negative. However, recent studies document a Sub-Saharan African exceptionality, with paternal rather than maternal grandmothers, being beneficial for child welfare as measured as child schooling outcomes. The male dominance characterizing the area has been hypothesized to drive this result via grandmothers' preferential investment towards their sons and, by extension, their sons' children. I contribute to the literature by matching Demographic and Health Surveys with Ethnographic Atlas (EA) data to test this hypothesis. Using EA data to retrieve information on individuals' ancestral kinship system, I employ multilevel linear probability models to explore whether the association between co-residence with different-lineage grandmothers and child health depends on whether children live in ancestrally matrilineal versus patrilineal areas. The findings do not support the hypothesis that living with paternal grandmothers is better for child health in patrilineal, more patriarchally-oriented areas, suggesting other roots for the SSA exceptionality in the grandmother effect.

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4.45pm Monday 5 September: Fathers

Do parental leave extensions for fathers increase or decrease wage penalties?
Kathrin Morosow; University of Manchester

The welfare state paradox argument holds that subsidized parental leave institutionalizes women's family-related employment interruptions, negatively affecting high-wage mothers in particular. This paper argues for a stronger support for the paradox if a similar pattern of negative wage effects occurs among fathers who take parental leave, and if these negative effects increase after the introduction of a "father's month." A competing argument is that policy promotion of fathers' leave take-up should help to embed a dual-caring norm, in turn increasing the social acceptance of fathers' leave taking. In other words, the more fathers take family leave, the more accepted leave-taking becomes, and perhaps the smaller any associated penalties. Thus, if the 2003 Finnish policy reform increased acceptability of fathers' parental leave use, the reform may have lowered

predicted wage penalties for all fathers as compared with before the reform. To test this, I use 1995 to 2011 waves of high-quality Finnish register-based data and unconditional quantile regression to estimate the impact of taking parental leave across fathers' wage distribution before and after the 2003 introduction of a "father's month." Contrary to the paradox argument, results from fixed-effects models reveal that taking parental leave predicts a wage penalty only across the bottom half of fathers' wage distribution, and an increasing premium across the top half. The 2003 policy reform significantly increased leave take-up among all fathers, but the pattern of wage effects did not shift. I conclude there is little support for the paradox, but also that current Finnish leave policies widen wage inequalities among fathers.

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Recruiting and retaining fathers in longitudinal research: qualitative insights for a new UK birth cohort
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In the UK, around 11% of birth registrations will have parents listed at separate residential addresses, and roughly 5% have one parent listed. Further, by the time babies are 9 months, nearly 20 percent of birth fathers in the UK will not live full-time with their child. The vast majority of this group (roughly 90%) are highly involved with their child's upbringing and family life in the perinatal period, with around 30-40% in a relationship with the child's mother. However, this group of fathers are often missing from family cohort surveys, usually because they are not recruited in their own right, with priority often given to mothers to answer questions on the family. As part of development work for a new UK birth cohort (Early Life Cohort Feasibility Study), we conducted qualitative interviews with a diverse group of 30 fathers who do not live full time with their child (own-household fathers, OHFs) to understand more about how to recruit, engage and retain OHFs in longitudinal family research. OHFs found the opportunity to talk about the role they have in their child's upbringing and the chance to spend time with their child important motivating factors for participation. Time constraints, concerns over confidentiality and the OHF's relationship with the child's mother were identified as barriers to participation. Overall clarity about expectations, flexibility regarding how this group take part and sensitivity to individual circumstances were identified as key features needed to engage a full spectrum of fathers into longitudinal family research.

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New leave policy for Slovak fathers: Beyond 'best practice'
Zuzana Dancikova; London School of Economics

Despite policymakers' increasing focus on gender-equal sharing of care work, fathers' involvement in care remains limited in countries around the world (Sullivan et al., 2018), while the design, implementation and politics of policies deployed to address fathers' care resulting in varied outcomes continue to be debated (Moss and Kammerman, 2011). Responding to these debates, I describe and analyze a new Slovak leave policy for fathers, introduced in 2011, yet to date largely absent from academic literature. My paper responds to two research questions: what are the key features of the policy and the context it was introduced into with regard to achieving fathers' uptake and a more equal leave division? And what potential does the policy have to motivate fathers' leave uptake and a more equal division of leave by mothers and fathers? I draw on legislation, media reports, policy reports and surveys as well as first quantitative findings on policy uptake and use (Dančíková, 2020). While the six months of well-paid leave make the policy seem close to what literature tends to portray as best practice, further factors limit the policy's effectiveness, including the option for fathers to work while in receipt of benefits, the option for both parents to take leave at the same time, lack of clarity in the formulation and communication of policy goals, ambiguous implementation and the highly gendered context. I argue that for leave policy for fathers to be effective, these factors must be considered both in theorizing and the policy process.

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When is it about the money? Relative wages and fathers' parental leave decisions
Jonas Wood, Leen Marynissen, Dries Van Gasse; University of Antwerp

A large body of academic literature puts forward several complementary explanations for fathers' (low) parental leave uptake, including parenting ideologies, policy design features, but also micro-economic considerations. Although the relative resources hypothesis is widely established as a micro-economic determinant of couples' decision-making, it has received limited empirical attention as an explanation for fathers' parental leave uptake in terms of statistical explanation, underlying decision-making processes, and its relation to other determinants. Consequently, this mixed methods study combines large-scale longitudinal administrative data with in-depth individual and couple interviews with 22 parent couples in Belgium, to (I) quantify the significance and magnitude of the relative resources pattern, (II) provide qualitative process knowledge on the role of relative resources in couples' decision-making, and (III) test quantitatively observable moderations of the relative resources hypothesis. Our results indicate that the relative resources mechanism affects male leave uptake significantly, both through unitary decision-making and bargaining between partners. Fathers with lower wages than their partners are considerably more likely to use parental leave compared to fathers with wages more similar to their partners, whereas fathers who earn higher wages than their partners are less likely to use parental leave. In addition, we also find that the relative resources mechanism is weakened in case of imperfect information, restrictive workplace factors, limited household income, and gendered parenting ideals. The latter finding suggests the relaxation of micro-economic assumptions underlying the relative resources hypothesis, but also highlights the context-contingency of the relative resources mechanism as an interdisciplinary pathway for future research.

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1.15pm Tuesday 6 September: Families and Mortality/Violence

The impact of early union formation on intimate partner violence in Colombia
Orsola Torrisi, London School of Economics

Prior research suggests an association between early union formation and women's greater risk of experiencing intimate partner violence (IPV). However, causal evidence is lacking. This study examines the effect of women's age at first union on their lifetime and past-year experiences of IPV in Colombia, a country where early family transitions are common and levels of gender-based violence are high. I use nationally representative data from the 2015-16 Demographic and Health Survey (N=24,707) and an estimation strategy that exploits age at menarche as an exogenous instrument for age at first union. Findings reveal that a one-year delay in women's age at first union causes a reduction in all forms of IPV, and the effect is particularly strong for physical and sexual abuse. Further, results provide suggestive evidence that the effect is mainly due to the fact that women who form union later are more educated and tend to partner with men of similar ages. These factors in turn operate as deterrents to IPV. Programmatically, the results confirm that supporting increased and high-quality education remains a highly powerful policy tool against these forms of gender-based violence.

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The link between intimate partner violence and economic inequality in lower- and middle-income countries
Chia Li¹, Emmanuel Olamijuwon²; ¹University of St Andrews, ²University of Southampton

Intimate partner violence (IPV) is one of the most common forms of violence against women and has been linked to adverse health outcomes for women and children. Prior attempts at understanding the link between economic inequality and IPV have focused mostly on women's economic empowerment and yielded mixed findings. Using data from the most recent harmonized Demographic and Health Survey from the Integrated Public-Use Microdata Series (IPUMS) for 25 countries in Asia and Africa comprising 125,887 married women, we argue that a focus on within-couple inequality in earning and household decision-making may illuminate this relationship better. We also argue that different expectations of gender roles across contexts may

moderate these associations. We captured how these are associated with the onset of women's experience of IPV using event history models. Our results are consistent with the relative resource theory and show that economic inequality that favours the woman compared to equality between couples was associated with a higher likelihood of exposure to IPV in West-Central Africa, East-Southern Africa, and South Asia. Economic inequality that favours the man compared to equality was also associated with a higher likelihood of exposure to IPV in East-Southern Africa. These associations were consistent across all the economic domains. Altogether, we find evidence that equality in both the labour market and household decision making signals a relationship of mutual dependence and respect, which is associated with women's lower risk of exposure

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Surviving to retirement: differences by living arrangement in Denmark

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As European populations continue to age, governments have addressed the long-term financial sustainability of their respective pension systems. Denmark, specifically, has opted to index the retirement age to the national life expectancy. However, this strategy neglects the mortality gradients that exist in Denmark today. Using data from the Danish registries, we adopt a cohort non-parametric approach to estimate the probability of dying between ages 50 and 65 (the statutory retirement age in 2018, before the indexation system was put in place) and ages 65 and 70, by living arrangement and sex for cohorts born between 1936 and 1954. As expected, we find that single men living alone suffer from the highest mortality across all cohorts, while results are more nuanced for women. Interestingly, these inequalities have widened in time, as more disadvantaged groups also experienced slower improvements. This suggests that a unique national retirement age risks exacerbating existing inequalities. We plan to expand these analyses by including the number of children living at home, as well as by stratifying results by socio-economic status. We will also take advantage of the longitudinal nature of our data and consider how changes in household composition and marital status may influence the probability of dying before or shortly after retirement.

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Heterogeneous effects of spousal bereavement on mortality

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Public policy and discussions within policy-making circles in relation to child abuse and family violence tend to focus on household composition, among other characteristics seen as 'risk factors'. Single-parent households, often portrayed as inadequate environments for bringing up children, are the target of policy attention. However, evidence based on representative population samples is rare. Furthermore, previous studies generally neglect the gender dimension of violence experienced in childhood, the different forms of abuse and relationship settings. A recent survey on gender-based violence in France, replicated in three overseas territories – Reunion Island, Guadeloupe and Martinique - provides new insights on such issues and enables analysis of possible links between household structure and violence experienced during childhood. The survey distinguishes experiences of girls and boys, identifying psychological abuse as well as physical and sexual violence, the relationship with the perpetrator and short- or long-term outcomes for victims. This paper will present results from the survey in the overseas territories, social contexts in which sexist and racist stereotypes have tended to produce representations of a strong links between violence, poverty, and lone parenthood, stigmatizing certain categories of the population who in turn become the target for policies. The research findings highlight the relationships within which violence takes place and suggest how gender norms shape the bringing-up of children and how authority plays out within the circle of close and more distant relatives. The findings will contribute to decentering the perspective on family violence in these post-colonial contexts in addition to more general theory.

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2.45pm Tuesday 6 September: Partnerships

Disparities in age at first union, birth and sex in low- and middle-income countries

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Research on the timing of events during transition to adulthood, such as first union, sex and, birth in low- and middle-income countries (LMICs) focused almost exclusively on measures of central tendency, notably median or mean ages. We adopt a novel perspective on this topic by examining disparities in the timing of these events in 52 LMICs, spanning four decades. Using Demographic and Health Surveys, we estimate ages at which 25%, 50%, and 75% of women have first union, birth, and sex. We compute interquartile ranges to measure within-country variation and disparities in the timing of sexual initiation and family formation. Variation in the timing of first union, birth, and sex increases as the median ages at these events increase. Disparities in the timing of first union and birth grew in Africa and Latin America, and women who experience these events relatively early increasingly lag behind women who experience them relatively late. Documenting trends in measures of central tendency is insufficient to capture complexity of ongoing changes because they mask growing disparities in the timing of family formation. These results are important for assessing progress towards achievement of SDGs related to eradication of early marriages and childbearing and highlight a need for more holistic approaches to measuring timing of family formation.

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Declining appeal of marriage? Trends in marital intentions in South Korea, 1991 – 2018

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A trend towards less and later marriage is observed across all highly developed countries. While cohabitation and childbearing among unmarried women are common in Western societies, non-marital childbirths still remain very rare in East Asian societies, including South Korea. Consequently, a decrease in the marriage rates in tandem with a shift to late age at marriage are closely associated with a persistent “ultra-low” fertility rate in Korea. This study aims to contribute to understanding the retreat from marriage in Korea by examining marriage intentions among Korean unmarried women and men aged between 20 and 29. We use data on marriage intentions and attitudes as well as reasons speaking against marriage from five representative cross-sectional surveys conducted between 1991 and 2018. The results indicate that the intention to marry has declined in the last three decades, more strongly among women than among men. More young adults also express ambiguous attitudes toward marriage. This trend cannot be explained by a rise in cohabitation as the number of respondents with a partner has not increased. Furthermore, the educational gradient in marital intentions has been consistently positive both among women and men. Our findings suggest that the shift away from marriage in Korea differs from that experienced in Western societies.

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Partnership, fertility, and employment trajectories of the descendants of immigrants in the UK: An application of multi-channel sequence analysis

Júlia Mikolai, Hill Kulu; University of St Andrews

This study investigates how partnership, fertility, and employment changes interact in the lives of the descendants of immigrants in the UK. Although these life domains are interrelated in individuals' lives, most studies have examined them separately. We use data from the UK Household Longitudinal Study, which contains rich retrospective histories on individuals' fertility, partnership, and employment transitions and allows us to study the descendants of immigrants by parents' country of origin in detail. We apply multi-channel sequence analysis to establish the main types of joint trajectories of partnership, fertility, and employment among natives and the descendants of immigrants. We explore gender differences in the patterns by analysing women and men separately. We identified five distinct types of joint partnership, fertility, and employment trajectories among both women and men. Among women, we have the following

groupings: 1) early marriage, two children, inactivity/part-time employment; 2) late partnership and childbearing, education/full-time employment; 3) very late, heterogeneous partnerships, very late or no fertility full-time employment; 4) early, heterogeneous partnerships, early fertility, inactivity/part-time employment; and 5) early marriage, large families, inactivity/part-time employment. Among men, the groups are somewhat different: 1) late partnership and fertility, full-time employment; 2) early partnership and fertility, full-time employment; 3) very late or no partnership and fertility, full-time employment; 4) late partnership and fertility self-employment; and 5) heterogeneous partnerships, late fertility, full-time employment. We compare the propensity of natives and the descendants of immigrants by migration background to experience these different trajectories whilst controlling for socio-economic and demographic characteristics.

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Partnership stability in couples who pursue parenthood: Does experience of infertility and Medically Assisted Reproduction matter?

Alina Pelikh¹, Alice Goisis¹, Hanna Remes², Niina Metsä-Simola²; ¹University College London, ²University of Helsinki

Despite the rising proportion of people turning to Medically Assisted Reproduction (MAR) treatments to conceive, research on partnerships stability around and following childbearing often ignores the mode of conception and prevalence and length of infertility. On one side, existing studies show that women who undergo MAR treatments tend, on average, to be older and in a more advantaged socio-economic position which, together with strong fertility intentions, could positively affect partnership stability. On the other side, the experience of infertility itself as well as of undergoing fertility treatments can be demanding and cause psychological distress which can negatively affect couple's well-being and partnership stability. Moreover, some of the couples who undergo MAR remain childless, which prior evidence suggests is associated with a higher risk of union dissolution. In this paper, we aim to investigate partnership stability in nulliparous couples (both married and cohabiting) who undergo MAR to conceive and compare it to those who conceive naturally. Using unique data from Finnish population registers, we create longitudinal partnership histories from age 16 for women born 1971-1981 (N=167,962) who conceived naturally (89.1%) or who underwent MAR to conceive between 1995 and 2015 (of which 8.8% conceived after MAR and 2.1% remained childless after undergoing treatments). We apply event-history models to study the risks of separation over time among couples who conceived naturally and through MAR and compare them to the risks of union dissolution among couples who discontinued the treatments. We control the models for the mode of conception, success of MAR treatments (whether resulted in a live birth or not) and length of infertility, partnership characteristics (partnership order, duration, age at partnership formation) as well as socio-economic (education and income) and demographic characteristics (age at birth or treatment discontinuation, birth cohort, number of children).

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The impact of early marriage on the life-satisfaction, subjective health and education of young women in India

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We contribute to understanding of the effects and circumstances of child and early marriage in India by asking whether early marriage has a causal negative effect on young women's self-evaluated life-satisfaction, their subjectively assessed health and their educational attainment. The analysis uses panel data from the Young Lives Survey. We estimate logistic regressions with the dependent variable recording whether or not a young woman married before the age of 18 and tobit regressions with the censored outcome variable recording age of marriage. Lower self-reported life-satisfaction at age 12 is a statistically significant antecedent of child marriage and younger age at marriage. Our key empirical contribution is to examine through difference-in-differences analysis whether early marriage has a causal effect on well-being, subjective health and educational attainment. Using propensity score matching we match on observed characteristics a treated group of women who married early to a group who did not, examining their self-reported life-satisfaction,

subjective health and educational grade attained at ages 12 and 22 (before and after the treatment). While women who married early both started (at age 12) and finished (at age 22) with lower life-satisfaction, the analysis showed that child marriage did not cause a significant reduction in this measure of well-being or in subjective health or educational attainment at either age 12 or earlier at age 8. However, women who married early recorded significantly worse health and educational outcomes by age 22

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5.30pm Tuesday 6 September: Households and Living Arrangements

Returning to the parental home and young adults' mental well-being in the UK: Evidence from UKHLS Jiawei Wu, Emily Grundy; Institute for Social and Economic Research, University of Essex

Background: In the UK and many other contemporary Western populations achieving and maintaining residential independence is viewed as an important marker of a young person's successful transition to adulthood. However, young adults who have lived independently may 'boomerang' back to co-reside with their parents for various reasons including unpromising job prospects, partnership breakdown, and difficulties in affording housing. Although a growing body of literature has explored how young adults' return affects older parents' mental well-being, little is known about how boomeranging affects young returnees' mental well-being in the UK. Data and methods: We used 11 waves (2009-2020) of longitudinal data from the UK Household Longitudinal Study (UKHLS). We estimated logistic regression models to explore the determinants of returning to parental home for young adults aged 21-35. We used individual fixed-effects models to investigate the effects of returning to parental home on young adults' mental well-being, measured by General Health Questionnaire (GHQ) score, GHQ caseness, and Mental Component Summary (MCS) score of the SF-12. We also performed analysis by gender and examined how partnership/employment/parenthood status modified these effects. Results: Returning to parental home was associated with lower GHQ score (coef. = -0.75, $p < 0.05$) for all respondents, indicating better mental well-being. We also found reduction on men's GHQ score (coef. = -0.90, $p < 0.05$) and women's GHQ caseness (coef. = -0.09, $p < 0.05$). Overall, there was small improvement in young returnees' mental well-being, possibly reflecting the benefits of receiving support from co-residing with their parents.

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Household and living arrangement projections utilising extended cohort-component method and synthetic population data

Guoqiang Wu, Michael Murphy; Department of Social Policy, London School of Economics and Political Science

Demographic projections of households that include elderly living arrangements are directly related to academic and policy research aiming to facing the challenges of rapid population ageing. However, the most widely used household projection method, the classic headship-rate method, is strongly criticised by demographers, as it is not linked to demographic rates and fails to deal with household members other than heads. Recently, a two-sex multistate dynamic extended cohort-component model (known as "ProFamy"), which includes marital status, number of co-residing children and parents, parity, cohabitation, and race dimensions, has been developed as a new method for household and living arrangements projections. The basic mechanism of the ProFamy model is that projections of changes in demographic components (marriage/union formation and dissolution, fertility, leaving parental home, mortality, and migration) are made for each of the cohorts that produce household distributions in future years. Hence, it can simultaneously project households, living arrangements and population age/sex distributions. In addition, another issue challenging household and population projections in the UK context is the lack of appropriate baseline population data. As the latest 2021 UK Census data have not been released yet, the only choice for creating baseline population is the 2011 or earlier Census data which are quite outdated. Therefore, this study attempts to utilise the synthetic population data in 2020, which are generated by using the wave 10 and 11 of

Understanding Society (the UK Household Longitudinal Study) data, the mid-year population estimates data in 2020, and the 2011 Census data with application of spatial microsimulation method, as the baseline population input in the Profamy model for household and living arrangement projections.

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Parent-Sibling co-residence moderated gendered young adult mental health outcomes during Covid-19
Lisa Waddell, Susan Harkness; University of Bristol

Research highlights UK young adult risk to poor mental health outcomes during Covid-19, exacerbated along lines of socioeconomic status and economic activity. Young adult women particularly experienced adverse mental health effects at the beginning of the pandemic. Relatively less is said about how young adult and family co-residence, which was common during the first lockdown, contributed to adverse mental health effects in young adults. The current study asks: how much did family, particularly parent and sibling, co-residence moderate young adult men and women's mental health during the first UK lockdown? We linked Millennium Cohort Study Covid-19 sub-survey data to existing mainstage survey data to reflect young adult mental health over time. Responses to Warwick Edinburgh Mental Wellbeing Scale and 6-question Kessler Psychological Distress Scale measures, taken during the first UK lockdown, were regressed against existing mental health, gender, parent and sibling co-residence, young adult economic and social activity, and family socioeconomic status. Parental co-residence was protective for women compared to being independent, but not for men; parents and sibling co-residence was protective for men, but not more protective than just parents for women. No gendered mental health differences were seen when comparing young adults living with just parents. Therefore, the effect of gender on adverse mental health effects due to the first lockdown was moderated by young adult and family co-residence. The importance of family co-residence when considering gender differences in mental health is underlined, as well as attention given to the need to better support young women living independently.

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Parenting under pressure: Maternal behaviours, subjective strain and transition to second birth
Ewa Jarosz, Anna Matysiak, Beata Osiewalska; Faculty of Economic Sciences, University of Warsaw

Parents today spend more time on childcare than before, and parenting practices have become more demanding. Many women combine childrearing with paid work, which may result in substantial strain as both domestic and professional spheres compete for their time and energy. This strain may be particularly high for tertiary-educated professional women who spend longest time with their children and are most likely to parent intensively. These women are also less likely to fulfil their fertility intentions. This study examines the covariates of transition to second birth among women aged 18-44. We use the UK Household Longitudinal Study waves 1 to 10 (2009-2019) and estimate hazard regression models. We focus on parenting practices that would be indicative of intensive parenting as well as examine emotional strain as main explanatory covariates. The models control for a broad set of individuals' socioeconomic and demographic characteristics, including social class and employment status, partner's involvement and job anxiety. We find that selected practices such as keeping to rigid daily routines and having meals with children on a very regular basis decrease the risk of second birth. Experiencing emotional strain is also negatively associated with birth – primarily for tertiary educated women. Conversely, engaging in frequent out-of-home leisure activities with the child is associated with higher risk of birth. We discuss the meaning and implications of the results in low-fertility context.

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9.00am Wednesday 7 September: Families and Work

The gender division of paid work around family formation among native and migrant origin couples: the role of partners' relative labour market characteristics

Julie Maes, Leen Marynissen, Jonas Wood, Karel Neels, University of Antwerp

Although the gender gap in labour force participation has narrowed considerably in many European countries, research has shown that the transition to parenthood exacerbates gender inequality in couples' division of paid work. Whereas couples' gender division of (un)paid work around the transition to parenthood has been well-documented among general populations, variation by couples' migration background has hitherto only been examined to a limited extent. In a previous study for Belgium (in review), we took couples' migration background into account - by considering the origin group and migrant generation of both partners - and the results indicated that both the gender division of paid work prior to the birth of the first child and the changes in this division around family formation vary by couples' migration background. This study did however not investigate potential underlying mechanisms behind these varying gender dynamics around family formation. Research for majority populations has - in line with micro-economic theories - identified that the relative distribution of labour market characteristics (e.g. earnings) within couples shapes couple-level gender dynamics in the employment-fertility link as well as the fertility-employment link. Therefore, this study uses longitudinal microdata from Belgian social security registers to examine i) how women's pre-birth relative labour market characteristics within couples differ between native couples (both native Belgian partners) and migrant origin couples (one or both partners with a migration background), and ii) whether and to what extent these differences can explain variation in couples' gender dynamics around family formation by migration background.

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Worlds of polarisation? The evolutions of couple employment patterns over the last 40 years in Europe and the role of the distribution of male and female standard and non-standard employment.

Guillaume Paugam; Department of Social Policy and Intervention, University of Oxford

Using 40 years of EU-LFS data for 11 countries, this paper develops a shift-share equation that enables to disentangle the relative roles of the evolution of employment rates (distinguishing between male and female and standard and non-standard employment), and of how this employment is distributed across couples, in shaping couple employment over time. It then applies an empirically grounded cluster analysis to understand how European countries may differ or resemble each other and compares the results to existing mainstream welfare-state or family policy typologies. The results show that the rates of dual-earning couples have increased both because of rising employment rates (mostly fuelled by female and non-standard employment) and the increasing clustering of employment in couples: rising employment has overly benefited dual-earner couples over single-earner couples, and dual-earning couples rose by more than what rising employment rates alone would have predicted. This increasing unevenness of the employment distribution comes as the result of standard-employment being unevenly distributed in all the countries studied, suggesting that men lost standard employment over time more when they were the single-earners, and women gained standard employment more when their partner was also in standard employment. In addition, a number of countries exhibit an unevenness in the distribution of non-standard employment, whereby it excessively accumulates in dual-earning couples as a complement to standard employment, most often with the female partner holding the non-standard job. Country clustering on these dimensions only loosely fit existing typologies, though the familialist approach seems to be more promising.

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Care to join us? Connecting migration journeys and the gender division of paid and unpaid work in couples
Marion Lieutaud, Department of Methodology, London School of Economics and Political Science

Anti-immigration narratives often refer to gender oppression, with gender (in)equality in migrant families taken as the reflection of more patriarchal 'gender cultures'. Yet, empirically, we know very little about the links between migration and the gender division of paid and unpaid labour. Kan and Laurie (2018), who look at the gender distribution of domestic labour across ethnic groups, identify a difference between those who were born in the country, those who immigrated at a young age (1.5 generation) and those who were already adults at the time when they first migrated. Focusing on migrants' gender ideologies, Roeder and Mühlau (2014) also found evidence of a gender-acculturation effect over time. This research investigates a parallel hypothesis: building on relative resource theory, I find that the life-course circumstances of migration play an important role in setting up power balances in couples, which in turn durably impacts their gender division of labour – a theoretical approach that treats migration and mobility processes as both gendered and gendering (Pedraza 1991). Drawing on survey data from Understanding Society (UK, 2009-) and Trajectoires et Origines (France, 2008-2009, 2019-2020), I employ sequence analysis to build a typology of union-migration trajectories, and test the association between these union-migration trajectories and different degrees of gender-specialisation in couples. I show that, when it comes to gender dynamics around the distribution of unpaid housework, care work and paid work, how and when in the life-course women migrate matters more than where they came from or who they partnered with.

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The role of home-based work for return to employment after birth
Anna Matysiak, Beata Osiewalska, Anna Kurowska; University of Warsaw,

This paper contributes to the literature on the role of home-based work (HBW) for combining paid work and childcare. More specifically, we study whether women are more likely to re-enter employment if they had the possibility to work from home prior to childbirth and how this decision depends on their family and work context. The study is situated in the pre-pandemic context in the United Kingdom – a country with a liberal labour market setting, in which the share of home-based employees in 2019 was one of the highest in Europe. Discrete time event history models are estimated on the UKHLS 2009-2019 longitudinal data. The results show that women are indeed more likely to return to paid work after birth if they used HBW before birth and that this shift is particularly strong among mothers of two children having worked not more than 35 hours per week whose partners are strongly involved in paid labour and little in unpaid domestic work.

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The impact of family formation on the labour market trajectories of immigrant populations in France: A multiprocess analysis
Isaure Delaporte, Hill Kulu; University of St Andrews

This paper investigates differences across migrant generations and origin groups in the effect of family formation on individuals' labour market trajectories. Using rich longitudinal data from France, we analyse the transitions in and out of employment for both men and women with a migration background and natives by parity status. We then distinguish between employment changes due to childbirth from employment changes of individuals who have children. Furthermore, we account for unobserved co-determinants of childbearing and employment by applying a simultaneous hazard equation approach. Our analysis shows that women's professional careers are negatively impacted by childbirth compared to men. Furthermore, immigrant women experience a greater motherhood penalty than immigrant' descendant or native women. Interestingly, the effect of family formation on gender gaps in labour market trajectories differs by migrant and descendant group. Among immigrants, mothers from North Africa and Turkey are the least likely of entering employment compared to Southern European immigrant mothers. Among descendant groups, the descendant women of Turkish immigrants seem to experience a greater motherhood penalty than any other groups.

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11.30pm Wednesday 7 September: Children and Young People

Is more screen time bad for adolescent wellbeing?

Grace Chang, London School of Economics

Whether increasing hours of screen time is bad for adolescent wellbeing is still contested because research show conflicting findings from varying definitions, measures, and sub-group analyses. The present article answers this question by conceptualising four screen activities -- social screen time, internet/audio content, video games or watching TV/DVDs -- and examine whether more screen time is bad for adolescent wellbeing, measured by self-reported happiness and self-esteem, and parent-reported behavioural problems of the child. Using time diaries of 14-year-olds in the UK, I use multivariate linear regressions to examine this relationship by the weekend/weekday, gender, and parental education. My findings show that social screen time and internet/audio content are harmful to all domains of adolescent wellbeing, especially if performed on a weekday, but playing video games are not. Girls have lower self-reported wellbeing than boys in relation to screen time, but sex differences are not present in parent-reported scores. Adolescents with higher educated parents have lower wellbeing scores from screen time compared to lower educated parents

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The nexus between household expenditure on education and family structure in Thailand

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Using the 2019 Household Socio-Economic Survey in Thailand, we examine the connection between household expenditure on education and the family structure. Our focus is on the basic education which includes primary education, lower secondary education and upper secondary general education/vocational education. Despite the fact that tuition fees for public schools and basic textbooks are provided by the government, many households still allocate a considerable expenditure for the child's education. The living arrangements of the child with the parents in household are categorized in three groups, namely the child with both resident parents, the child with only one resident parent, and the child with no resident parents. The OLS results reveal that the household with the absence of both parents had a significantly lower expenditure on education than the households with other child-parent living arrangements. Even when incorporating the interact term representing the reason of non-resident parent's work, the absence of both parents still had a substantial negative association with the child's education expenditure. Also, the results show positive associations between household economic status and education investment, increasing educational expenditure along with the stage of education, and higher expenditure in private school than in public school. Our key findings point to the children with non-resident parents as the disadvantaged in terms of lesser educational investment. The role of family structure should be emphasized by policymakers in order to close the gap in educational equity.

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Family complexity and young children's mental health in the UK: The role of socioeconomic status

Michaela Kyclova, Julia Mikolai, Nissa Finney, Katherine Keenan; University of St Andrews

Families have become more complex due to a rise in divorce, cohabitation, non-marital childbearing and multi-partner fertility. Thus, children are increasingly likely to experience some form of family complexity throughout their childhood. Evidence suggests that children from two-parent married families fare better on many outcomes compared to children from complex families. Resource theories assert that whereas two-parent married families are likely to have more economic resources, more complex families might experience worse economic circumstances which relate to worse outcomes for children. Focusing on the role of socioeconomic status, we investigate the association between family complexity and children's mental health using a nuanced longitudinal measure of family complexity. We use data from the UK Household Longitudinal Study. First, we develop a comprehensive longitudinal measure of family complexity between birth and age 5 using multi-

channel sequence analysis. We capture maternal partnership trajectories, and patterns of father presence and sibling type in three separate channels. The resulting categories of family complexity are used in panel regression to assess their association with child mental health. Compared to children who live with mothers married to their biological fathers and have a natural or no sibling, children in any other family set-up have a higher propensity to experience mental health problems. After adjusting for factors related to socioeconomic status, mental health risk considerably attenuates for all children, especially for those who live with never partnered mothers. Nonetheless, the association between family complexity and child mental health persists, suggesting that additional mechanisms might be at play.

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Young adult carers in the UK – New evidence from the UK Household Longitudinal Study

Anne McMunn, Baowen Xue, Rebecca Lacey, Giorgio Di Gessa; Department of Epidemiology & Public Health, University College London

Background. Little is known about trends in the prevalence of caring among young adults in the UK, the demographic, health, or socioeconomic inequalities in the duration and characteristics of care during this life stage. Aim: To provide an up-to-date description of young carers in the UK. Method: We used data from waves 1 (2009/10) to wave 11 (2019/20) of the nationally representative UK Household Longitudinal Study. Prevalence of caring among 16-29 years-old adults was estimated at each wave. Selecting respondents who participated for three waves or more, we then assessed demographic, socioeconomic, and health characteristics associated with duration of care (never, once, 2 or more waves) using ordinal regression models. Finally, focusing on carers, we tested for gender, age, or urbanicity differences in care characteristics. Results: About 9% of those aged 16-29 provided care, a prevalence that remained stable throughout the 2010s. Almost 52% of carers reported this activity at two or more waves. Compared to non-carers, those who cared had more disadvantaged socioeconomic backgrounds, particularly if they cared at two or more waves. Long-term carers were also more likely to be ethnic minorities and report poorer health. Among carers, women cared for longer hours, for more people, and for more years than men, and those aged 25-29 cared for more hours than younger carers.

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