

Feminist quantitative science

Strand organizer: Heini Vaisanen (University of Southampton)

Gender-based violence – Monday 10 September 1.30pm

Women's autonomy and intimate partner violence in Ghana

Eric Y. Tenkorang, Memorial University

Previous studies have established women's autonomy as an important determinant of several demographic outcomes in sub-Saharan Africa, yet very few have considered intimate partner violence (IPV) as one of these outcomes. Using data collected from 2,289 women residing in 40 communities in Ghana, we employed multi-level modelling to examine women's experiences with physical, sexual, emotional and economic violence. The findings suggest differential effects for the three different types of autonomy identified in this study as 'economic decision-making, family planning decision-making and sexual autonomy' on IPV at the individual and community levels. At the individual level and controlling for other theoretically relevant variables, women with family planning decision-making autonomy were significantly less likely to experience all four types of violence. However, those with economic decision-making autonomy were more likely to experience both emotional and economic violence. At the community level, we found that living in communities where women were sexually autonomous reduced the odds of experiencing both physical and economic IPV. The findings underscore the relevance of women's empowerment programs as potential mechanisms for dealing with IPV in Ghana. Our findings also point to the need to move beyond individual level interventions to community level programs that empower women to be autonomous.

Email: ytenko@yahoo.com

Women on the move: Administrative data as a safe way to research hidden domestic violence journeys

Janet C. Bowstead, Department of Geography, Royal Holloway, University of London

Domestic violence against women is a significant social issue within the UK, across Europe and globally. However, it is often difficult to research given the hidden nature of the violence, and the need for many women to continue to keep their experiences secret because of ongoing risk from a known abuser, typically a male partner, husband or ex-partner. Whilst administrative data will not indicate the total scope, incidence or prevalence of hidden abuse, they can be used to generate significantly increased knowledge about women who do access services; and provide much larger samples than would be available from survey or qualitative methods. This paper presents research on women's relocation journeys to escape domestic violence in the UK, using administrative data from a funding programme which required England-wide monitoring from 2003-2011 on housing-related support services. This provided a sample of over 20,000 women per year, a total of over 140,000 journeys to access services, until the data became unavailable due to the end of the funding programme. The presentation will include some of the substantive findings on women's domestic violence journeys, on patterns and places as well as demographics, which had not previously been able to be researched. It will also highlight that many countries will have similar administrative data from monitoring service funding programmes, which could enable similar research on women and children's hidden journeys as they seek safety from domestic abuse. However, such data are rarely aggregated or archived and made available for research, and the opportunity is missed.

Email: Janet.Bowstead@rhul.ac.uk

Demographic approaches to the understanding of gender based violence: age, life course and intersectionality

Stephanie Condon, INED

The dissemination of findings from surveys investigating gender-based violence (GBV) has contributed to a wider recognition of the relevance to gender studies of quantitative methodologies and statistical measurement of social

phenomena. Demographic studies of GBV, by focusing on age-related or generational experience of violence, locating violent acts within specific interpersonal relationships, during a given period and in their social and biographical contexts, offer the possibility of examining how different characteristics and life course events interact to place certain individuals more or less at risk of experiencing GBV. A recent challenge to such surveys has been how to capture information allowing the role of intersectionality to be analyzed. In the French context, as is the case for studies of racial discrimination, the absence of data on ethnicity is seen to constitute an obstacle to analyzing the particular vulnerability of BAMER women. However, following on from previous surveys on GBV conducted by teams of demographers in France, a survey underway in three French overseas territories will provide an opportunity to focus on the ethnic/racial dimension of intersectionality and its link with experienced violence, at the same time as highlighting the importance of considering the time dimension. This paper will discuss the different indicators of current, childhood and lifetime prevalence of GBV and how variables describing demographic characteristics, social position and life course events enable us to situate experiences within individual biographies and evaluate the impacts of contextualized gender relations, as well as changes in these over time.

Email: condon@ined.fr

Does women's empowerment reduce the risk of intimate partner violence? Findings from the Zimbabwe Demographic Health Survey, 2015
Annah Bengesai, University of KwaZulu-Natal

Violence against women is a far reaching and multifaceted societal problem which affects more than a third of women globally. Accordingly, there has been an increase in the research which has sought to understand its scope, the bulk of which has been based on non-probability sampling. Emerging social complexities, coupled with the pervasiveness of the problem continue to make violence against women an important area of study. The aim of this research is to contribute to the field by estimating the association between women empowerment and intimate partner violence (IPV) in Zimbabwe using a population based data set (the 2015 Zimbabwe Demographic Health Survey (ZDHS)). The sample was constituted from 3499 women in the reproductive ages 15-49. A composite index of women empowerment (WEI) was developed using five indicators: education, cash earnings, household decision making, and ownership of land or a house. The results show that overall, the prevalence of IPV in Zimbabwe was 38%, while the prevalence of emotional, physical and sexual violence was 31%; 30% and 11% respectively. The results from the multivariate analysis did not support the priori hypothesis that women empowerment has protective effects on IPV as women with a low WEI were found to be less likely to experience all forms of intimate partner violence as opposed to those women with a high WEI. Wealth quintile and age were also significantly associated with IPV. These findings also point to the multidimensional nature of IPV and suggest that there is need to rethink women's empowerment beyond the economic.

Email: bengesai@ukzn.ac.za

Socio-economic aspects of gender equality – Tuesday 11 September 9.00am

With age comes...? Gendered pathways into late parenthood in Norway
Wendy Sigle¹, Oystein Kravdal²; ¹London School of Economics, ²University of Oslo and Norwegian Institute of Public Health

Using high-quality register data, this paper constructs an empirical portrait of changing pathways into late parenthood in contemporary Norway, using a gendered perspective to assess whether older parents are better-resourced parents. Like most family issues, academic and policy discussions of late parenthood have tended to focus on the experiences of women. Although late motherhood was not uncommon in previous generations, rapid social and family changes in recent decades mean that today's late mother is far more likely to be having her first child. She may have focused on obtaining a good education and then on establishing her career and finding a supportive partner. When viewed through this motherhood lens, older parents are often portrayed as being relatively well-off financially and enjoying stable family lives. Viewed through the fatherhood-lens, however, late parenthood appears potentially more diverse and complex. Some older

fathers may have delayed the transition to parenthood; others may be completing their first family with high order births. Evidence has shown that the likelihood of forming a second family is higher for men than for women. As age differences tend to be narrowest in first partnerships, we might expect to see relatively more late fatherhood than late motherhood in second and higher order partnerships. If the well-documented disadvantages and vulnerabilities associated with serial families are more typical of families with older fathers than with older mothers, parental age might not be the same marker of socio-economic advantage and relationship stability for fathers as it is for mothers.

Email: w.sigle@lse.ac.uk

Couples' relative incomes and life satisfaction

Agnese Vitali¹, Melisa Sayli¹, Bruno Arpino²; ¹University of Southampton, ²Universitat Pompeu Fabra

In this paper, we study the association between couples' relative incomes and partners' life satisfaction, and take into account the impact of the gender-egalitarian attitudes and absolute economic resources as mediation factors on such association. We rely on longitudinal data from the Understanding Society for the United Kingdom and make use of Propensity Score Matching to match individuals in couples which are identical in all respects except for their relative incomes. This paper contributes to the existing literature on this topic in two ways: First, whereby previous studies have considered the role of gender-egalitarian attitudes in evaluating the association between relative incomes and life satisfaction, to our knowledge, the mediating effect of absolute economic resources has not been tested, despite couples with female breadwinners tend to be poorer compared to other couple types. Second, by using the Propensity Score Matching approach, we can evaluate the causality of the association between relative incomes and life satisfaction.

Email: m.sayli@soton.ac.uk

Changing work-family life courses: On inferring gender equality

Jenny Chanfreau, London School of Economics

This paper investigates how gendered work-family life courses have changed over time in the UK and draws on gender theory to think critically about what a reduction in the gap between women and men's outcomes might mean in terms of gender equality. Past research suggests that men and women's work trajectories are converging, largely because women are increasingly adopting more male-typical employment patterns. However, over the same time period, the UK has also seen a delay in the transition to parenthood, with the extent of that delay differing by level of education. As a key component of the gender difference in labour market outcomes and trajectories is the gendered effect of parenthood on labour market activity, this raises a number of questions. Has the timing of the point in the life course at which gender inequalities emerge merely been delayed or have the differences between women and men reduced also after the transition to parenthood? To what extent do the patterns of change differ by level of education? The analysis draws on employment and birth history data from four UK surveys, the English Longitudinal Study of Ageing (ELSA), the 1958 and 1970 Birth Cohort Studies, and Understanding Society. The results reveal different patterns of change over time when analysing the life course by chronological age and when looking separately at the early parenthood phase. The findings will contribute to debates about increasing gender equality in labour market outcomes over the life course.

Email: j.c.chanfreau@lse.ac.uk
