

Integration of immigrants and their descendants over the life course – Aspects of family formation

Wednesday 3 September, 9am

Explaining Inequalities in Spousal Caregiving across Migration Generations and Ethnic Groups in the UK
Jingwen Zhang - University of Manchester, Helena M. Constante - University of Sheffield, - , - ,

The UK's post-World War II migrant population is ageing. Understanding the patterns of spousal caregiving among migrants and their descendants is crucial for informing long-term care services and policies tailored to this growing population. This study aims to: (1) examine whether caregiving patterns differ across ethnic groups and migration generations. (2) Assess the extent to which caregiving needs, individual dispositions, and contextual factors contribute to differences in caregiving patterns across ethnic groups. Using data from the UK Household Longitudinal Study (UKHLS), we employed decomposition techniques to quantify the contributions of needs, individual dispositions and contextual factors to differences in spousal caregiving across ethnic and generational groups. First-generation Pakistani and Bangladeshi migrants are significantly more likely to provide spousal care than White British individuals, while later generations show caregiving patterns that resemble those of the White British group. The difference in spousal caregiving between first-generation Pakistani and Bangladeshi migrants and White British people is largely explained by compositional factors, such as the physical health status of the spouse and socioeconomic characteristics. Unobserved factors, such as cultural preferences for informal caregiving, appear to play a less significant role than anticipated. The decline in spousal caregiving among second- and later-generation Pakistani and Bangladeshi migrants compared to the first generation is primarily driven by improvements in physical health across generations. In summary, our study contributes to the literature by highlighting how ethnicity and migrant generation intersect in spousal caregiving, challenging the idea of a linear path of assimilation across these social dimensions.

Email: jingwen.zhang@manchester.ac.uk

Have We Misestimated the Fertility–Employment Link Among UK Immigrants and Their Descendants? A Multilevel Multiprocess Approach

Jiseon Baek - University of St Andrews, Hill Kulu - University of St Andrews, Sarah Christison - University of St Andrews, Francesca Fiori - University of Strathclyde,

Women's childbearing behaviour is closely connected to their labour-market participation. This suggests that there may be underlying factors influencing both outcomes simultaneously. Hence, studies that ignore these unobserved factors risk misestimating the effect of employment on fertility. Despite its significance, only a limited number of studies have addressed this endogeneity in the fertility–employment relationship. Addressing this issue is especially vital for women with migrant backgrounds, whose experiences of family formation and work often diverge from those of ancestral natives. For instance, women from more traditional cultural backgrounds may be more family-oriented. At the same time, facing disadvantages in the labour market might shape how they approach childbearing. This complex relationship between fertility and employment among women with migrant backgrounds calls for a more advanced method that can account for these dynamics. This study examines the interrelationship between fertility and employment among immigrants and their descendants in the UK. Using data from the UK Household Longitudinal Study (2009–2021; N=24,228), we employ a multilevel multiprocess model that jointly estimates risks of childbirth and of entering or exiting employment, while controlling for person-specific unobserved traits that affect both outcomes. Preliminary results indicate that models that do not control for the correlations underestimate all birth risks of all migrant groups when employed. By showing how correlated unobserved characteristics influence fertility among diverse migrant groups, this study offers new insight into the life-course strategies of women with migrant backgrounds in the UK and advances the methodological toolkit for studying family–work trade-offs.

Email: jb445@st-andrews.ac.uk

The intersection of fertility, partnership dynamics and residential mobility amongst immigrants and their descendants in France

Joseph Harrison - University of Salford & University of St Andrews, Ariane Pailhe - Institut national d'études démographiques (INED), Hill Kulu - University of St Andrews, - ,

This study uses French administrative data, the Permanent Demographic Sample, to identify differences in union dynamics, childbearing and residential mobility between immigrant subgroups and the native population. These life domains are closely related to each other, although their relationships have become more complex due to the de-standardisation of the life course. However, the implications of this for immigrants and their descendants has been less explored. Using competing risks survival analysis, we compare the risks of union formation, union dissolution, childbirth and a residential relocation in France between 2011-2018. We find higher mobility and childbearing levels compared to those of union formation and dissolution for all groups. However, there is heterogeneity between groups. Birth risks are very high amongst African first-generation immigrants, and this remains the case for their descendants. Turkish immigrants show very low levels of union dissolution compared to natives and to other groups. All immigrant groups and their descendants show lower levels of residential relocation than the native population suggesting structural barriers within the housing market and different norms around nest-leaving persist across generations. Our main contribution is improved understanding of similarities and differences between origin groups. Methodologically, the paper demonstrates the benefits of using multistate models in a study of life course transitions of population subgroups.

Email: jh383@st-andrews.ac.uk

Homeownership, marriage and childbirth trajectories across the life course of descendants of immigrants in Sweden: A multilevel multistate event history approach

Mary Abed Al Ahad - University of St Andrews, Gunnar Andersson - Stockholm University, Hill Kulu - University of St Andrews, - ,

We examine entry/exit to homeownership, marriage, and childbirth by immigrant origin and generations in Sweden focusing on immigrants arriving in Sweden before age 18 (1.5 generation (G)) and on descendants of immigrants with two (2G) or one (2.5G) non-Swedish-born parent(s). We use individual-level register data from Sweden (1997-2016) and apply a multilevel-multistate event history approach. Results showed the importance of owning a house for everyone which provides a sense of stability needed for marriage and childbearing. Results revealed higher risk of entry/exit to homeownership among 1.5G from Nordic countries and Western Europe, whereas higher risk of entry/exit to marriage and childbirth was observed among 1.5G and 2G groups with origins from conservative family cultures (e.g., Turkish, Ex-Yugoslavia, Middle East/North Africa, and South Asia). Results also supported a gradual assimilation across the generations with 2.5G showing the most similar patterns in the occurrences and timing of the three events to native-Swedes.

Email: maaa1@st-andrews.ac.uk

Housing, partnership and fertility transitions among migrants and their descendants: A comparative study of three European Countries

Sarah Christison - University of St Andrews, Hill Kulu - University of St Andrews, Júlia Mikolai - University of St Andrews, - ,

Residential mobility and the transition to homeownership are often linked with other life course events such as partnership changes or the birth of a child, however, to date, little is known about these processes may vary across different migrant groups and generations, or across different country contexts. In this study, we simultaneously model changes in housing, partnership and fertility to compare transition patterns for different migrant groups and generations in the UK, France and Sweden. Using longitudinal data from the UKHLS, Swedish Register data and the French Trajectories and Origins survey, we employ Poisson regression models to explore transitions from a range of partnership and homeownership states. We examine transitions from the states of 1) Partnered Homeowners, 2) Partnered Non-Homeowners, 3) Single Homeowners, and 4) Single Non-Homeowners and examine the likelihood of the following events: a partnership change, a lateral move, a change in tenure, or a birth, by migrant group and generation. For each country, we identify the largest migrant groups and compare 1G and 2G to the native population in each context. Initial results from the UK suggest that the likelihood of a residential move for non-homeowners, either a lateral move or entry into homeownership, was lower for Pakistani and Bangladeshi migrants and

descendants than the native population, regardless of partnership status. We also find that for all migrant groups, partnered non-homeowners were more likely to experience a separation compared to partnered homeowners, although separation risks remained higher for natives compared to South Asian migrants in both cases.

Email: sfc3@st-andrews.ac.uk

Integration of immigrants and their descendants over the life course -

Mobility, education and employment

Tuesday 2 September, 1.30pm

Mobility before and after asylum approval: How (in)stability changes long-term mobility

Ane Tømmerås - Stockholm University & Statistics Norway

Research suggest that it might not be length of stay, but residential relocation while seeking asylum that is important for the long-term integration of asylum-seekers. Asylum-seekers that move from their initial placement municipality are found to have a lower average income long-term. By comparing refugee groups that have different mobility patterns, this study aims at understanding the long-term implications of residential mobility during the asylum-seeking period for asylum-seekers' subsequent residential stability in Norway. Specifically, it addresses two research questions: (1) Do residential relocations during the asylum-seeking period influence long-term residential mobility after asylum is granted? (2) Does residential placement at the time of refugee settlement influence long-term residential mobility?

The research employs comprehensive Norwegian administrative data covering asylum seekers arriving between 2012 and 2016. These data include demographic characteristics, detailed records of stays at reception centres, asylum application outcomes, and subsequent residential, educational, and employment histories post-recognition.

Methodologically, the study utilizes discrete-time event-history analysis over an eight-year observation period post-settlement. The analysis explores whether individuals move across municipal boundaries, focusing on two explanatory variables: the number of relocations between reception centres during the asylum-seeking period, and whether asylum-seekers are placed municipally in the same area as their reception centre.

Addressing key methodological challenges, the study carefully defines "relevant reception centres" through robustness checks based on the longest stay versus the final stay before settlement.

Potential applications of this research include informing refugee settlement policies by highlighting how forced mobility during early integration stages can affect long-term residential stability, and thereby integration outcomes. The findings may help policymakers understand the impacts of reception centre placement and relocation practices on refugee integration trajectories.

Email: ess@ssb.no

The interconnection between residential mobility and employment changes for immigrants and their descendants in the UK

Parth Pandya - University of St Andrews, Hill Kulu - University of St Andrews, Chia Liu - University of St Andrews, Julia Mikolai - University of St Andrews,

It is well documented in the UK that immigrants and their descendants face persistent and significant labour and housing market disadvantage such as lower wages and career progression in comparison to similarly educated natives as well as lower homeownership rates. However, while immigrants and descendants' employment changes have been studied extensively, due to a dearth in UK longitudinal survey development, residential mobility studies have been limited, especially for descendants, as well as studies which examine employment and residential mobility together. Employment changes and residential mobility are two interconnected life processes which warrant studying together due to being affected by similar factors. The extent of societal integration, wealth accumulation, and socio-economic status are key factors across both domains as well as the origin groups which are most disadvantaged such as Bangladeshi, Black African, and Black Caribbean groups. This study aims to understand how residential mobility is affected by employment changes for immigrants and their descendants in the UK. Specifically, we explore the timing and quality of transitions as previous studies which have highlighted the quantity of employment changes or residential mobility require further contextualisation on the nature of these changes. This study is important because the job and housing markets in the UK are becoming increasingly competitive and insecure alongside existing migrant inequalities which create a double burden in choice and access.

Email: pp77@st-andrews.ac.uk

How does ALMP effectiveness vary by the intersection of parenthood and migration background?

Ewan Pols, Jonas Wood - University of Antwerp

Previous studies on active labour market policy (ALMP) effectiveness have repeatedly found heterogeneity in employment outcomes by gender and migration background. Although parenthood has been identified as an important factor in employment trajectories, scholars have only recently begun considering it as a factor in ALMP effectiveness, e.g. recognizing complementarities between ALMP and childcare provision at a macro level. Even then, to date, no micro-level empirical research has yet explored the role of parenthood in ALMP effectiveness. This paper seeks to address that gap by examining how parenthood moderates the employment outcomes of ALMP training for jobseekers. Furthermore, building upon literature on migrant-native differentials in employment trajectories after parenthood, we hypothesize that this moderating role parenthood also differs between natives and second-generation migrants.

Using rich longitudinal microdata from Belgian social security registers as well as the Flemish public employment service, we combine dynamic propensity score matching and hazard modelling to explore variation in the effect of participation in untargeted ALMP training programmes on the probability of entering employment by the intersection of gender, parenthood status and migration background. Adopting a life course perspective, this paper is among the first to consider this intersection as a potential moderator in ALMP effectiveness. Our findings could inspire policymakers to remediate differential access to ALMP programmes, as well as inform them about potential complementarities between labour market policy and family policy. This is particularly relevant in light of recent employment targets, underlining the importance of inclusive labour market participation.

Email: ewan.pols@uantwerpen.be

Time in Limbo: Duration of Temporary Status and the Educational Outcomes for Swedish-born children of refugees

Frankseco Yorke - Stockholm University (SUDA)

Swedish-born children of refugees complete compulsory schooling under a patchwork of legal statuses from asylum seeker and temporary resident through permanent resident to citizen. This can have profound and lasting impacts on their educational outcomes given the instability, uncertainty and feelings of non-belonging that accompany prolonged non-citizen statuses. This study investigates how the cumulative duration of “time in limbo” (years spent in asylum or temporary-residence status before securing permanent residency or citizenship) influences educational outcomes at the end of compulsory schooling for the Swedish-born children of refugees.

Using Sweden’s Total Population Register and Education Register, we identify all children born in Sweden between 1990 and 2004 whose parent(s) arrived as refugees and who completed compulsory schooling between 2005 and 2020. For each child, we construct annual legal-status trajectories from birth to the end of their compulsory schooling, categorizing status at birth (asylum, refugee-temporary residence, permanent resident, citizen), recording any parental status transitions, and summing years spent before achieving permanent residence or citizenship. We investigate whether longer time in limbo is associated with grades at the end of compulsory, and whether earlier resolution of legal status mitigates any effects on grades.

We used statistical models to examine how years spent in pre-citizen statuses relate to school grades. Our analyses adjust for key family and demographic characteristics such as parents’ education and income, country of origin, the student’s sex, and birth year to isolate the association of “time in limbo.” To reduce potential bias from differing family circumstances and neighbourhood characteristics, we applied a general weighting approach as well as compared siblings within the same family to examine shared influences.

By quantifying the impact of legal-status uncertainty (time in limbo) on educational achievement in a whole-population cohort, this study highlights “time in limbo” as an actionable dimension of educational inequality. Our findings will inform policymakers and practitioners on the benefits of expediting status resolution and tailoring support services for this demographic during critical developmental periods.

Email: frankseco.yorke@sociology.su.se