Families and households

Strand organisers: Dr. Jenny Chanfreau (UCL) and Dr. Nitzan Peri-Rotem (University of Exeter)

Transition to adulthood session organisers: Dr. Alina Pelikh (UCL) and Dr. Ewa Batyra (CED)

1:30 - 3:00 Monday 11 September: Assortative mating & family formation patterns

Association of religiosity with partner relationships
Marion Burkimsher - University of Lausanne

The association of greater religiosity with higher fertility is a well-established observation across western countries. However, the underlying causes of this disparity have not been investigated. This study looks at various elements of partner relationships as a first step in uncovering some of the pre-conditions for stable family formation and hence ultimate fertility. The data sets used are the latest Generations and Gender surveys from Norway, Sweden, Denmark, Finland, Estonia and Czechia, together with the comparable Family and Generations Survey of Switzerland. Although all these countries are highly secular, individual respondents could be categorised by religiosity into one of four groups by self-defined affiliation and attendance: regular attendees (>=monthly church attendance); occasional attendees; respondents who say they belong to a Christian denomination but never attend church services; and those who say they have no religion. Affiliates of non-Christian religions are not included in this analysis. We looked at the following topics for respondents at peak childbearing age (30-41): age at first sex; proportion married to partner; number of co-residential partnerships; if the respondent has ever considered splitting up; level of satisfaction with partner relationship; proportion of respondents with no partner; and the proportion of respondents who have not had sex in the previous 4 weeks. A provisional interpretation of the results would be that more religious individuals have more stable relationships (and vice versa). This factor may explain the disparities in ultimate fertility.

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Polygyny and male marriagelessness: A demographic re-examination
Hampton Gaddy - LSE, Laura Fortunato – University of Oxford, Rebecca Sear - LSHTM

Polygyny has been the subject of much interest in demography and the social sciences more generally. Often this interest focuses around the consequences of polygyny, in particular, the assumption that polygyny will necessarily result in significant numbers of men being permanently excluded from the marriage market. Secondary consequences are typically then assumed to follow from this male 'marriagelessness', notably that polygynous societies have high levels of violence, caused by unmarried men. These discussions, however, neglect demography. This assumption that every polygynous man must exclude at least one other man from the marriage market only holds true if there are equal numbers of marriageable men and women. Yet sex ratios at marriageable ages in human populations are often not equal; they are influenced by, for example, mortality rates, population growth, and differences in ages at marriage for men and women. Here we build theoretical models which show that, under a range of realistic demographic scenarios, polygyny does not generate a high proportion of unmarried men because sex ratios of marriageable men and women are often female-biased. We then demonstrate empirically, using census data from multiple populations, that polygynous societies typically do not have an excess of unmarried men; on the contrary, we find that polygyny seems to be associated with higher proportions of men being married. We conclude that incorporating demography into the analysis of polygyny requires a re-examination of the widespread belief that polygyny leads to high levels of male marriagelessness.

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The importance of gender culture and work-family balance policies for singlehood
Laura Robberecht[1,] Lonneke Van Den Berg[2] Gert Thielemans[1,] Ellen Verbakel[3,] Dimitri Mortelmans[1] -
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Although rising singlehood is a worldwide phenomenon, there still substantial in singlehood over the life course between men and women and across countries. While previous research has a mostly descriptive character, we examine if gender norms and social policies explain these differences. We argue that individuals might be single because their partnership expectations differ from what is expected from gender culture, especially for women. Moreover, opportunities for singlehood may be created through social policies, such as work-family balance policies facilitating an egalitarian context and policies aimed at single parents. Further, by studying both sets of indicators (gender culture and policies) we can study if a mismatch between policy context and gender culture encourages singlehood. We pool worldwide cross-sectional data (CPF, ESS, OECD, WVS) to examine how macro contextual factors influence the likelihood of singlehood and gender differences in singlehood over the life-course. We analyse these data using multilevel multinomial logistic modelling. We study macro-level predictors (gender culture, social policies targeting work-family life and single parents) in relation to micro-level predictors (gender and age). This article makes three contributions. First, it provides insight in how cross-national variation in singlehood can be explained. Second, we provide insights in how the context affects different groups of individuals by focusing on gender differences over the life-course. Third, by pooling different datasets, our study provides insight for a large number of countries, including countries often not included in comparative research (e.g., South-Korea).

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The rise and fall of the nuclear household in the United States
Ginevra Floridi - University of Edinburgh, Albert Esteve - CED Barcelona

Nuclear households represent the basic organisational structure of society in the United States (U.S.), with many benefits based on the assumption that households consist of two parents, a small number of infant, child or adolescent children, and no one else. This assumption, however, reflects contingencies in place around the time when benefit systems were established. In this study, we document the rise and fall of the nuclear family in the U.S. using IPUMS data on household living arrangements from 1850 until present. Previous research on U.S. living arrangements has focussed on specific aspects of family life such as parent-child co-residence or children's living arrangements. Our study will provide the first holistic description of changes in household composition. We expect the share of individuals living in nuclear households to have peaked around the 1960s-80s, in line with urbanisation and the growing economic opportunities of youth. However, changing family norms and the decline in the economic prospects of young adults since the 1990s have corresponded to a fall in the share of nuclear households. We use the Sullivan method to compute changes in the proportion of years lived as pat of a nuclear household. Using decomposition techniques, we examine explanations for the rise and fall in nuclear households, including labour market and educational shifts, urbanisation, and changes in age at first marriage and divorce. We interpret changes in light of structural and cultural shifts that have taken place in the U.S. from the late 1800s until today.

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4:45 - 6:15 Monday 11 September: Family background, (dis)advantage, income & Wealth

Family complexity trajectories in the UK from birth to age 10
Michaela Stastna, Dr Julia Mikolai, Prof Nissa Finney, Dr Katherine Keenan - University of St Andrews

The rise in divorce, cohabitation, non-marital childbearing and multi-partner fertility in countries experiencing the second demographic transition has led to families becoming increasingly complex. These patterns imply that today's children are more likely to experience some form of family complexity in their early life compared to previous generations. Nonetheless, there is a paucity of longitudinal, quantitative research on family change examined through the lens of children's experience, especially in the UK context. We map the family trajectories characterising children's first ten years of life using multi-channel sequence analysis to jointly capture the details of maternal partnership histories and father presence. We report six typical family (complexity) trajectories children experience in early life, and find that from birth to age 10, close to a third of children experience some form of family complexity, such as parental separation, living with a lone mother or non-biological father. Children of lower educated mothers are more likely to experience family complexity such as growing up with a lone mother or in separated families. There are also considerable differences in children's likelihood of

experiencing more complex trajectories by maternal ethnicity. Overall, our analysis points to a higher risk of having an unstable family environment for children born into already disadvantaged backgrounds. Our findings are crucial for policy-makers, highlighting which families should be prioritised when it comes to providing additional financial, educational, or childcare support, and which children are likely to be disadvantaged due to external circumstances long before reaching adulthood.

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Intergenerational educational mobility among women in India: Trends and associated reasons from a longitudinal study
Ashish Singh - Indian Institute of Technology Bombay; Laeek Siddiqui - International Institute for Population Sciences, India

Studies focusing on women while examining intergenerational mobility in education in India are rare; also, a few studies which have included both women and their mothers as far as educational mobility is concerned are based on secondary datasets and do not offer relevant insights for the observed trends in intergenerational educational mobility in the Indian context. Using data from the first phase of an ongoing longitudinal study based on 304 women belonging to 18 villages in the state of Uttar Pradesh in India, we examine intergenerational educational mobility among Indian women. We have used transition matrices and mobility measures to assess intergenerational educational mobility. The intergenerational educational mobility with respect to mothers is about 75% whereas, it is 70% with respect to fathers. The educational mobility is predominantly upwards. Majority of the women who completed more schooling than their mothers (or fathers) reported that this happened because their parents (especially the mother) encouraged them to do so; most of the women who completed less schooling than their mothers (or fathers) reported the reasons for the same as – either there was no money for education or they needed to help in farming or business in which their family was involved.

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Labor market outcomes of same-sex couples in countries with marriage equality: Evidence from representative national surveys
Honorata Bogusz - University of Warsaw, Jan Gromadzki - SGH Warsaw School Economics and Institute for Structural Research

Non-heteronormative sexual identity was found to be a source of labour market discrimination in many contributions. And although much has been said on the varying labour market outcomes of women and men in same-sex couples, no studies have addressed this issue from a cross-cultural perspective. To fill this gap, we study labor market outcomes of same-sex couples using data from multiple large representative national surveys, spanning different world regions. We focus on years 2015-2019 and report data quality on same-sex couples in 21 high- and middle-income countries with legalized same-sex marriage. These data cover over 90% of the population living in countries with marriage equality. Our final analysis concentrates on high-quality data from Brazil, the United States, and five European countries: Belgium, Germany, France, Netherlands, and the United Kingdom. In total, these data represent more than two thirds of the total population in countries that have legalized same-sex marriage. Same-sex couples are characterized by higher labor force participation rates than different-sex couples, largely driven by differences in the probability of having a child. Among childless European couples, same-sex couples exhibit similar labor force participation patterns to different-sex couples. Men in same-sex couples are found to have a much higher risk of unemployment than men in different-sex couples, except in Europe. Our results show some degree of heterogeneity across world regions, which we attribute to different extents of labor market protection, as well as varying attitudes towards same-sex couples and non-heteronormative sexual identity.

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Setting a life course foundation: School dropout and food insecurity in Ethiopia, India, Peru, and Vietnam
Thomas Lemma Argaw - Lancaster University, Jasmine Fledderjohann - Lancaster University, Elisabetta Aurino - University of Barcelona, Sukumar Vellakkal - Indian Institute of Technology Kanpur

Education provides an important foundation in critical life skills. Children who do not complete a curriculum can

experience lasting consequences across the lifecourse. In this paper, we consider whether food insecurity is associated with school dropout. We used the younger cohort of the longitudinal Young Lives (YL) dataset from Ethiopia, India, Peru, and Vietnam. We focused on Rounds 3 (2009), 4 (2013), and 5 (2016), when children were aged 8, 12, and 15 years respectively. We fit survival models (Accelerated Failure Time, Weibull distribution) to examine how risk of dropout is associated food insecurity over time. Food insecurity was measured in three ways: A dummy variable (food secure vs insecure), a continuum of severity (none, mild, or moderate/severe), and a time-varying count of persistence (cumulative rounds in a food insecure household). Using a dummy for whether the child had dropped out by Round 5, we also applied logistic regression to study how timing of food insecurity across rounds (never food insecure, early food insecurity, late food insecurity, transitory food insecurity, and always food insecure) is associated with dropout by age 15. Our models controlled for child-level and household-level sociodemographics. We found a higher risk of school dropout for children in food insecure households (HR=1.34, p<0.01). Risks were greater for children in more severely (HR=1.26, p<0.01) and chronically (HR=1.11 p<0.01) food insecure households. Our timing model also shows transitory, early, and chronic food insecurity are associated with higher risk of school dropout. Next, we will examine data for siblings

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1:00 - 2:30 Tuesday 12 September: Family dynamics, health & wellbeing

Household structure: Who people live with in old age, and how this is associated with their use of care homes across two cohorts in Scotland
D. Helen Corby, Matthew Iveson,Tom Russ, Chris Dibben - University of Edinburgh

Background Household structure - who older people live with in old age - has been evidenced by McCann et al (2011) as a predictor of subsequent care home admission in Northern Ireland. Aims To explore this using an equivalent Scottish Longitudinal dataset. Additionally, to investigate if this was consistent across time periods, using two cohorts, one before and one after a key social care policy change in Scotland. Methods Data for older people aged 65+ in either 1991 (cohort 1) or 2001 (cohort 2) from the Scottish Longitudinal Study (SLS) (https://sls.lscs.ac.uk/) provided a 5.3% representative sample of the Scottish population. Logistic regression explored whether, after controlling for established risk factors, household structure was associated with older people being in a care home 10 years later at follow-up (2001 or 2011 for cohort 1 and 2 respectively).   Results In both cohorts, remarkably similar patterns to those observed by McCann et al (2011) were found in Scotland. Compared to older people living with a spouse, those living alone and living with siblings had increased odds of being in a care home at follow-up. Gender differences were also observed in how household structures were associated with care outcomes at follow-up. Key Findings Relationships to household cohabitants are important - not all household structures have the same chances of older people subsequently being in a care home. Living with a sibling posing greater attributable risk than living with a spouse is interesting because both spouses and siblings share similar demographic profiles.

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Impact of family relationship on mental health in old age: Cross-sectional evidence from a nationally representative survey in India
Dr. Angana Debnath - International Institute for Population Sciences (IIPS), Mumbai

Abstract Research question A family is a small unit of society that fulfills the basic needs of human beings and it is a great support system that provides a social network, and helps to improve mental health. Family relationship plays a central role on mental health condition among older adults in India. This study aims to address how family relationship plays an important role on mental health among Indian older adults. Methods and data sources To conduct the study, data have been collected from the Longitudinal Aging Study of India (LASI), wave-1 (2017-18). Descriptive statistics, bivariate analysis, and binary logistic regression have been performed for analyzing the data. Results The study shows, older adults who are married and live in urban areas, have been found with a lesser level of family relationships. Further, the study result reveals that there are significant effects (p<.001) of family relationships on mental health among older adults. The study also shows that older adults with weaker family relationships have a lesser likelihood of life satisfaction (OR=.912, p<.001) and a higher prevalence of getting depressive symptoms (OR=1.255, p<.001). Applications The study brings attention to the importance of family relationships in maintaining balanced mental health during old age and

proposes to develop innovative ideas, schemes, and programs to make strong family cohesion during old age.

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Intergenerational transmission of health in the UK
Nancy Daza Báez - LSE International Inequality Institute, Emla Fitzsimons - UCL Centre for Longitudinal Studies, George B. Ploubidis - UCL Centre for Longitudinal Studies

This paper examines the intergenerational transmission of health in the UK, using data from the 1970 British Cohort Study (BCS70). The study focuses mainly on the transmission of comorbidity of physical and mental health issues from mothers to their offspring. We find that having a mother with poor mental health or comorbidity of physical and mental health issues during the offspring's early childhood or adolescence significantly increases the chance of their offspring having mental health problems in early adulthood and comorbidity of physical and mental health problems in early and mid-adulthood. Specifically, daughters tend to develop mental health problems in early adulthood that turn into comorbidity of physical and mental health problems in mid-adulthood. In contrast, sons who had mothers with poor mental health during early childhood are more likely to report mental health problems in mid-adulthood and comorbidity of physical and mental health problems in early and mid-adulthood. However, for sons whose mothers had mental health problems or comorbidity of physical and mental health during their adolescence, comorbidity of physical and mental health problems was observed during early and mid-adulthood. These findings suggest that the timing and type of maternal health problems influence the transmission of health from mother to offspring.

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Nonmarital childbearing and children's health in Colombia
Stefania Molina - Humboldt University and Hertie School

This paper aims to understand the association between nonmarital childbearing and children's health at birth. The three main objectives are to describe trends of nonmarital childbearing, analyze differences in low birth weight by family form and determine the role of socioeconomic status in this relationship. The analysis draws from Demographic and Health Surveys (DHS) data from Colombia, waves 1990, 1995, 2000, 2005, 2010 and 2015 (N=16,792). Logistic regression models investigate the relationship between family form, distinguished by mothers with children aged 0-1 who are married, cohabiting, separated or have never been in a union, and low birth weight. There was a steep increase in cohabiting unions after 1990 and a decline in marriage, confirming the "cohabitation boom" in the region. Cohabiting unions represent most of the sample (53.6%), followed by married mothers (22.2%). Unmarried mothers are less likely to give birth to a low-weight infant. Mothers' and children's characteristics, such as the sex of the child, birth order, and mother's age at birth, explain some of the differences in low birth weight among married and never in union mothers. After accounting for mothers' educational level, separated women are still 38%, and cohabiting women are 26% more likely to give birth to a low-weight infant than married women. These results highlight the disadvantage of children with cohabiting and separated mothers. Besides, it indicates that other factors might help explain this association aside from mothers' educational level.

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Spousal care and marital quality in later life: A longitudinal analysis
Ursula Henz - London School of Economics

Living with a partner can have multiple positive influences on individual health and well-being but these effects are conditional on the quality of the partnership. One of the challenges to marital quality in older couples can arise from spousal caregiving where caregiver's frailty and long caregiving hours can lead to stress and resentment. Caregiving and care receiving can also challenge long-established marital roles. The first aim of the paper is to describe the prevalence of spousal care in elderly couples in the UK, its intensity and its socio-demographic patterns. The second aim is to test whether and how spousal caregiving and receiving affect older people's marital quality. The first wave of Understanding Society comprises more than 4,000 couples aged 55 or older, which can be followed for up to eleven further panel waves. In the first wave, twenty percent of these couples reported spousal caregiving. Descriptive statistics are used to develop profiles of spousal caregiving among older couples. The effects of spousal caregiving on marital quality are estimated from a fixed-effects

panel model. Initial analyses show that women provide more care for their partners than vice versa. Individuals in higher-status groups provide less spousal care than those in lower status groups. In most cases, partner care does not affect partnership quality. However, we find declines in partnership cohesion when spouses cared for many years or for long hours.

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2:45 - 4:15 Tuesday 12 September: Panel session: "Revolutionizing Home Life: Exploring the Impacts and Opportunities of Domestic Automation across Cultures and Generations"

Automation technology and domestic work: A vignette study of Japanese households
Nobuko Nagase - Ochanomizu University, Yoshiaki Omori - Yokohama National University, Emiko Usui - Hitotsubashi University, Jian Tianyao - Ochanomizu University

This study investigates the potential use of automation technology for domestic work in Japan, a country facing demographic changes and gender inequalities in paid and unpaid work. The study utilizes vignette surveys constructed by the authors to examine how changes in the price and productivity levels of robots and human services, as well as married couples' wages and work hours, affect the choice between using robots, human service, letting one's spouse, or oneself do the domestic work. Results show that women are more likely to increase their use of robots for cooking and cleaning as their hypothetical wages increase, while also resorting to human service at higher wage levels. When it comes to children's physical care and education, women's hypothetical wage shows almost no effect, and the lack of hours prompts them to rely on their spouse, followed by robots and human service. The hypothetical wage level and work hours were much more important than gender values in determining who does the housework. Overall, the study sheds light on the potential use of automation technology for domestic work in Japan.

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Who wants a "smart wife"? Perceptions and attitudes towards the use of domestic automation in daily life
Ekaterina Hertog and Lulu Shi - University of Oxford

Unpaid household labour is a significant social and economic activity, essential for family functioning and individual well-being. However, it is time-consuming and is unequally distributed between and within households. The growing demand for domestic robots, like robotic vacuum cleaners, suggests that people are seeking digital solutions to balance work and family life. Despite the digitalization of domestic work, little is known about individual attitudes towards smart home technologies and how they vary based on personal and family characteristics. This is important because differential acceptance could exacerbate existing workload inequalities, unequally expose different population segments to privacy risks, and transform family dynamics. This paper offers the first insight into UK adults' acceptance of domestic technologies, based on a vignette survey conducted with 12,000 respondents who match UK population on core demographic characteristics. The survey explores fictitious family situations where participants have access to smart technologies for housework and care work and are asked whether they would use them. We anticipate a complex picture where respondents' acceptance of domestic technologies depends on family situation, the task at hand, and personal characteristics. Preliminary results show diverse patterns of acceptability. For instance, partnered respondents are more open to automating housework than care work, while single respondents do not differentiate between housework and care automation, but prefer to handle pet care themselves. This study is the first to shed light on the variation in domestic technology acceptance, uncovering societal expectations and norms, as well as deeper meanings individuals and families ascribe to household (re)production.

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Would you use AI to teach your child? Understanding the willingness of parents to use smart technologies to teach their child and how it varies across households.
Lulu Shi and Ekaterina Hertog - University of Oxford

In the UK, 4% of women engage in teaching their child on a given day, spending on average 43 minutes on this

task. Among men, 1% report teaching their child on a given day, spending on average around 42 minutes on it (Gershuny & Sullivan, 2017). A recent forecast study predicted that 27% of time parents currently spent on teaching is likely to be automated in the next 5 years (Lehdonvirta et al., 2022). If the acceptance rate for smart technologies will be 100%, potentially, these women can save about 12min a day, while men can save about 11min a day on teaching children. To understand whether parents will be willing to use such technologies when they are available, this paper uses data from a survey with 12,000 respondents based in the UK, investigating parents' willingness to use smart technologies for teaching children. This paper will predict the degree of parents' acceptance to use smart technologies for teaching against several individual and household characteristics. Preliminary analysis using pilot data shows that the age of the child plays a role influencing parents' willingness: the older the child, the more willing are parents to use smart technologies for teaching. Second, women are more likely to choose technologies to alleviate their teaching workload. Third, respondents cohabiting with a partner are less likely to use smart technologies than single parent households. The paper will also investigate how the willingness of using technologies for teaching may vary with parental education level, financial and time resources.

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The potential influence of automation technologies for Japanese married couples on housework during COVID-19
Tianyao Jiang and Nobuko Nagase - Ochanomizu University, Tokyo

Automation technologies are changing our lives. Previous studies have shown that "smart" and "AI" technologies can help women save their time on unpaid work, which probably reduce gender inequality in their share of housework. During COVID-19, however, extension of time staying at home due to remote work or school closures led to an increase in domestic work. Some studies have shown that there has been a shift towards a more equal share of caring for home and children between women and men, but women still do most of the extra work caused by COVID-19. Using survey data collected by Faculty of Human Life and Environmental Sciences Ochanomizu University in November 2020, we examined how using automation technologies affected married couples on household work in Japan during COVID-19 pandemic. Based on the detailed categorization of domestic work in this survey, we were able to analyze the impact of automation technologies on different lines of housework such as cooking and cleaning. We observed that married women can reduce the frequency of cooking by using auto cooking machine. Married men increased their frequency of cleaning by using robot vacuum cleaners, especially who started this process during the pandemic. Auto sensing clothes dryer and refresher machine cut down the recurrence of laundry for women. Domestic automation on cooking, cleaning and laundry has allowed couples to share house chore more equally. From the data obtained by now, it appears that automation technologies can help married women reduce their routinized housework frequency and encourage more equal division of the housework between couples.

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Intergenerational transfer of care work: How technology would meet with future care demand in Japan and the UK?
Setsuya Fukuda - National Institute of Population and Social Security Research, Ekaterina Hertog - University of Oxford, Vili Lehdonvirta -University of Oxford, Rikiya Matsukura - Nihon University, Nobuko Nagase - Ochanomizu University

The demand for household care work in future generations may NOT be met in many countries due to population ageing and the increasing trend for dual-earner households across the globe. The demand for elderly care is expected to be increasingly high in the near future, while the supply of young care providers is shrinking. The same may be true for future children if their parents, particularly mothers, work longer than current generations. Technologies may compensate for such a trend by automating some tasks at paid and unpaid work. This study aims to assess how technology can remedy the future demand-supply gap in the intergenerational transfer of care work in Japan and the UK, two similarly developed countries with different demographic and cultural contexts. Our study first describes the inflow and outflow of the intergenerational transfer of unpaid work at households in Japan and the UK by using the framework of National Time Transfer Accounts. Then, we examine how the demand and supply of unpaid work would change in the future due to the changes in population structure and quantify the demand-supply gap in unpaid work at the national level. We will further

simulate how much these demand-supply gaps in unpaid work would be relaxed due to the diffusion of automation technology in each country by utilizing our originally estimated automation scores for unpaid work. Our study, for the first time in our knowledge, provides a prospect of how technology can contribute to remedying the future care crisis in aging societies.

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9:00 - 11:00 Wednesday 13 September: Transition to adulthood

Life-course insecurity among young adults: Evidence for variation by employment status?
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Previous research suggests that lack of employment security can lead young adults to experience a higher degree of insecurity with regard to their future life. We test the relationship between life-course insecurity, i.e. worrisome feelings with regard to one's own future, and young adults' employment status using a newly developed measurement instr ument. Furthermore, we examine whether, in terms of life-course insecurity, specific groups of young people are more affected by insecure employment conditions based on their structural position. Survey data (n= 1087) were collected within a Dutch representative panel among those aged 18-35. Structural equation modelling is used to construct latent dependent variables for experienced insecurity in four life domains, namely 'work', 'finances', 'partner and family' and 'leisure and personal development'. Results show that, while controlling for gender, life phase, education level and level of neuroticism, lack of employment is associated with higher insecurity in all four domains of life. Precarious employment based on a flexible contract is associated with higher insecurity regarding 'work', 'finances' and 'partner and family'. Moreover, we find the relationship between lack of employment and life-course insecurity to be stronger for young people in the 26-35 age bracket. However, higher educational attainment does not attenuate the positive relationship between precarious employment and life-course insecurity. The findings of this study inform our theoretical understanding of agency within the life course of young adults by signaling insecure labour market attachment as a potential constraint to formulating plans for the future.

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Off-time leaving home transitions and life satisfaction across young adulthood
Katrin Schwanitz - University of Turku & Tallinn University, Lydia Palumbo - University of Turku

Leaving the parental home represents a milestone in the transition to adulthood, as it often coincides with taking up major adult roles. Reaching this milestone off-time could diminish the well-being of young adults since they do not comply with the normative ages defining the ''right'' time to leave home. Indeed, the literature on the transition to adulthood regularly employs the term "failure to launch" to underscore the crucial role that the timing of young people's home-leaving has on later life opportunities and subjective well-being. Current literature lacks empirical investigations on the causal link between transitioning off-time from the parental home and young people's subjective well-being. The current study investigates whether young people's life satisfaction is causally related to transitioning off-time from the parental home, i.e. before or after the within-cohort median age. We will draw on rich prospective panel data spanning over thirty years from the British Household Panel Survey (1991-2008) and Understanding Society (2009-2021). We plan to use fixed-effects regression models, which get closer to causal estimates by disentangling selection from causation effects and focusing on individual within-variation exclusively. We expect an inverse U-shaped relationship, i.e. young adults' well-being would be highest when they leave the parental home at an age that coincides with their within-cohort median age and would decrease when they deviate from it. Possible developments regard exploring the moderating effect of gender or parental SES.

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School-to-work trajectories among siblings: Same same, but different?
Alina Pelikh - University College London

Young people's education and employment careers at age 16-19 (school-to-work trajectories) are a crucial

determinant of social inequalities throughout the life course. There is considerable evidence these trajectories are influenced by family background (e.g., social class and ethnicity). However, we have little understanding of how similar or different these trajectories are between siblings and which early life sibling-specific adverse events affect individual trajectories, after accounting for parental background. Strengthening knowledge in this field is crucial for designing policies to support young people to manage the impacts of adverse early adolescent experiences, such as parental separation or poor mental health. By linking the Youth Panel and the Understanding Society (UKHLS) adult main dataset, this paper will explore which factors influence differences in trajectories between siblings from the same family background. Using a longitudinal life course perspective, it will a) map sibling trajectories into education and employment between ages 16 and 21; b) examine the contribution of compositional factors (age difference and gender composition of siblings) and household/parental characteristics (i.e., social class, ethnicity, marital status) to differences in trajectories and c) explore the extent to which different trajectories can be explained by sibling-specific early adolescent experiences at age 10-15 (i.e., early adolescent mental ill health, educational aspirations, parental separation or job loss). Our analysis will consist of two steps. First, we will apply a combination of sequence and cluster analysis to define school-to-work trajectories among young people between age 16 and 19. Second, we will compare the identified school-to-work trajectories between siblings.

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She's leaving, I'm not: Family background and gender differences in leaving home decisions among Italian siblings
Marco Tosi - University of Padua, Valeria Ferraretto - University of Trento

Research on the transition to adulthood has established that women leave the parental home before their male counterparts. Gender differences in home leaving behaviours have been linked to family norms and gender-specific socialization. The shift from traditional gender norms to progressive, gender-egalitarian attitudes is questioning whether these gender differences will persist in the future. Given that gender-egalitarian attitudes spread from the higher to the lower strata of society, it can be expected that gender differences in the probability of leaving the parental home reduce in better-educated families. In this paper we test this hypothesis in the Italian setting, using retrospective information about children derived from the Family and Social Subjects (2009 and 2016) household survey. The sample includes about 15.000 parents aged 50-80 who report information on their biological, step-, or adopted children of 15 years or older (up to seven children). Results from Cox regression models show that parental education is associated with late home-leaving among daughters but not among sons. We also adopt a sibling-comparison approach to analyse gender differences in the probability of leaving home within the same family, thus accounting for the family characteristics shared by siblings, such as family resources and norms. Preliminary results from fixed-effects Cox regression models indicate that sisters leave the parental home earlier than their brothers, but gender differences are smaller in higher than in lower-educated families. These findings suggest that the same family background affects differently sisters' and brothers' decision to leave the parental home.

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Teen parenthood and educational outcomes. Are there differences between teenage mothers and fathers?
Maria Palma - University College London.

A broad literature on early childbearing has established the negative effects of teen motherhood on educational, labour, and mental health outcomes. Yet, in contrast, relatively little is known about the educational effects of becoming a teen father. Using siblings fixed effects on population-level longitudinal data from Chile I present new evidence on this issue, comparing the educational outcomes of teen mothers and teen fathers. In doing so, I provide unique new evidence on potential heterogeneous effects, including differences in the effects of teenage mother and fatherhood by socioeconomic background. My results illustrate how early childbearing has a negative effect on most educational outcomes, and that the effects tend to be worse for teen mothers than for teen fathers. For both men and women, the negative consequences of teenage parenthood are also found to be much larger for individuals from disadvantaged socio-economic backgrounds. I conclude that policies aimed at reducing teenage childbearing could have positive effects on the educational prospects of adolescents, but particularly those of young women. Also, that appropriate support to teen mothers, and to teen parents from disadvantaged backgrounds could help to reduce gender inequalities in the effects of teen parenthood.

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11:30 - 1:00 Wednesday 13 September: Paid & unpaid work

Entitlement to sick leave with pay for parents during child's illness - experiences of Polish couples
Magda Muter - London School of Economics and Political Science

In Poland, parents are entitled to rather generous sick leave with pay for parents during child's illness. It is in line with both the post-socialist traditions of the country, and the new pronatalist policies. My paper explores how Polish couples make use of the policy (e.g. how they are making decisions about who stays at home to care for a sick child) and how the state of the health of children influences gendered division of work. I also show how seemingly gender-neutral social policies can produce a strongly gendered uptake and reinforce traditional gender norms and an unequal division of labour between partners. However, I also contrast it with an uptake of other leaves available to Polish parents and show that actually, when looking through experiences of the particular couples I talked to, the gender norms are more contested when it comes to staying at home when the child is sick. In contrast to other leaves, there are often verbal negotiations between parents about who should stay at home this time, and it is not always (although still most often) a mother. It is therefore an interesting topic to explore, also as it is a point of contestation of norms by the couples themselves. The paper is based mainly on the results of 86 semi-structured individual interviews with 44 couples having at least one child, conducted in 2019. The sample is rather diverse, and includes people from various locations and socio-economic backgrounds.

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Gendered workload and social support on depression and subjective well-being among dual-earner couples in China: A dyadic cross-over perspective
Meixuan Li, Christophe Vanroelen, Deborah De Moortel; Interface Demography, Vrije Universiteit Brussel

Balancing paid and unpaid work is considerably stressful for dual-earner couples and tends to be gendered, resulting in poor health outcomes for both partners (such as depression and subjective well-being). However, relatively less evidence is studied on the relationship between combined workload and mental health, and the mechanisms underlying this relationship across husbands and wives in dual-earner couples has been largely untested. We aim to examine the cross-over effects of combined workload on depression and subjective well-being from a novel perspective, and its gender disparities in dual-earner couples whilst accounting for both partners' social support from family and spouse as potential buffering moderators. Using the distinguishable dyadic data from the China Family Panel Studies (CFPS) 2018 wave (n=2688), a nationally representative survey, we implement a cross-sectional design and employ multilevel Actor-Partner Interdependence modelling (APIM) to estimate actor-partner associations in the relationship between mental health deterioration and combined workload within-couples, controlling for different socio-demographic covariates. Our preliminary findings suggest that wives report on average greater unpaid and combined workload than men and the detrimental impact of (un)paid workload on mental outcomes persists which is not distinguished by gender, whereas spousal functions of unpaid workload have the advantage in easing depression (CESD-8). Wives' and husbands' higher levels of depression are predicted simultaneously by own higher combined workloads, yet partner effects are unobserved. For women, the analysis shows a more significant antecedent of subjective well-being undesirably associated with own combined workload, while both partners' subjective well-being inhibitedly functions on own and spousal depression. The latter moderation analysis will contribute to a better understanding of men and women experiencing work-family overload in daily lives and the empirical evidence supports underscoring gender inequality in mental health with couples' division of labor from a dyadic cross-over approach.

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How are migrants 'doing family'? intergenerational cooperation on childcare and family dynamics in the context of rural-to-urban migration in China
Yingzi Shen - University of Sheffield

With its 'opening up' policies in the 1980s, China embarked on a rapid process of urbanisation and economic growth, accompanied by massive rural-to-urban migration. Migrant workers with rural hukou (household registration) are denied equal access to welfare benefits in cities. Structural barriers resulted from dual rural-

urban welfare systems significantly shape the dynamics and practices of childcare in migrant families. Rural-to-urban migration has resulted in many problems for rural migrant workers' (RMWs) families, including long-term family separation and care deficit in rural areas. Due to social, economic and demographic changes, an increasing number of second-generation RMWs raise their children in the cities rather than leave them in their hometowns like most first-generation RMWs did. Multi-generational migration has become the dominant migration pattern due to childcare needs and limited resources in cities. This research tends to examine the intergenerational cooperation on childcare in migrant families from the perspective of care, gender relations and social policy. It explores how childcare intersects with intergenerational relations and internal migration, and how social policy and gender relations influence their childcare practices and family dynamics. Based on ethnographic approaches and semi-structured interviews, this research finds that childcare needs significantly influence older rural migrants' decision of migration and their experience as migrants. Traditional gender norms persist in childcare, nevertheless, migration and women's improved financial capability are reshaping the division of care labour and values attached to care. The intergenerational cooperation showcases a collective strategic to cope with risks and uncertainties of childrearing under precarious conditions and discriminative social policies on rural migrants.

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Maternal support networks in cross-cultural perspective: Who helps mothers and what do they help with?

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Many studies show that women rely on support from others to raise children; yet focus has predominantly been on specific supporters, particularly grandparents and siblings. We expand the evidence base by presenting data on women's support networks in full, detailing who supports women and the types of support they provide. We collected data from 4000 mothers using similar survey materials in Bangladesh, the Gambia, India, Malawi and the USA. Our survey asked women to list all individuals who provided childcare and cooperative support (e.g., help with finances, food, work, sickness, and emotional support). We conducted descriptive analyses to demonstrate whether and how these networks differ between contexts. Women receive considerable support from multiple individuals in each country, with variation between contexts. Childcare helpers ranged from an average of 1.3 (India) to 4.9 (Bangladesh) and cooperative partners between 2.9 (India) and 11.1 individuals (Bangladesh). Women's spouses helped most commonly in each location, but always combined with a mix of different helpers depending on context, including child's siblings, grandparents as well as friends and neighbours. Greatest variation was seen for emotional support with help received from an average of 1.7 (India), 3 (Malawi), 4.5 (USA), 10.3 (Gambia) and 11.1 (Bangladesh) helpers. We advance understanding of maternal support by demonstrating the considerable width (how many supporters and who they are) and breadth (what they do) of women's support networks, showing support is commonly received from beyond the nuclear family. These rich data can inform interventions and policies around maternal support and child health.

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Women's wage before and after live and non-live births
Alessandro Di Nallo - Bocconi University

Previous research has shown that childbearing is associated with long-term reduc- tion in women's hourly wages. These studies did not address whether a pregnancy loss has a negative influence as well. This represents an important knowledge gap, given that miscarriages and stillbirths concern between 10 to 20 percent of pregnancies in high-income countries. Drawing on 12 waves (2009/2010–2021/2022) of the UK Household Longitudinal Study, I use fixed-effects linear regression models to exam- ine changes in women's working hours and income before, during, and after pregnan- cies ending with a successful delivery and pregnancies interrupted by a miscarriage or a stillbirth. The findings indicate that women's hourly income decreased because of pregnancy loss. The results also show that the outcomes of women who success- fully completed their pregnancy did not return to baseline levels; comparatively, the hourly labour income of women who experienced an episode of pregnancy loss grad- ually decayed, although to a smaller extent. I further explore some mechanisms that may explain the patterns of deterioration of women's labour market outcomes

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