

## Families & households

**Strand organizer: Jenny Chanfreau (London School of Economics)**

**Families & work session convenor: Afshin Zilanawala (UCL)**

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### Families & work: Parental work – Monday 9 September, 1.30pm

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#### **Parental age gaps, paid and unpaid work among UK families with young children**

*Jenny Chanfreau, Wendy Sigle*

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This paper investigates paid and unpaid work among different-sex couples with young children in the UK, focusing on those couples where the man is older than the woman. Previous scholars have suggested large age gaps in this direction indicate gendered power differentials which favour men and so might lead to a more traditional gendered division of labour, but economic theory suggests this might not always be the case. If the large age gap means the older man has reached a plateau in career and earnings progression, it may be more efficient for him to take on more housework and childrearing in order for his younger partner to focus on labour market activities. We ask whether the relationships between parental age difference and paternal involvement in routine childrearing and housework tasks and paternal paid working hours reflect, or are contingent on, the career stage of the father, and whether these relationships differ by education level. Using regression models, we analyse data from the first sweep of the Millennium Cohort Study. Preliminary findings suggest that while there is little variation in paternal involvement in routine childcare, fathers who are older than their partners perform a somewhat greater share of routine housework. However, this is not straightforwardly reflected in maternal employment outcomes, as the association between parental age gap and maternal employment is contingent on paternal career stage, operationalized as age- and occupation-specific expected change in earnings.

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#### **Why Daddy doesn't do it: Paternal leave effects across the wage distribution**

*Kathrin Morosow<sup>1</sup>, Lynn Prince Cooke<sup>2</sup>*

*<sup>1</sup>Stockholm University, Sweden, <sup>2</sup>University of Bath*

A persistent barrier to achieving gender economic equality is that women still do far more care work than fathers. Nordic countries such as Finland have been at the forefront of addressing this issue by introducing well-paid and father-only leave schemes. Nonetheless, Finnish fathers take on average far less parental leave than mothers, and there are further differences in leave take-up among fathers. Why? All fathers claim they fear economic penalties for taking leave, with high-wage fathers in particular worrying about long-term career repercussions. To assess whether these fears are valid, and whether policies that more strongly encourage fathers' leave reduce its economic consequences, we analyse the 1995–2011 waves of high-quality Finnish register-based data and compare the impact of taking parental leave on fathers' wage distribution before and after the 2003 introduction of a 'father's month'. Fixed-effects unconditional quantile regression results reveal that taking leave predicts lower wages only among fathers at the bottom of the wage distribution, both before and after the reform. We conclude that even more progressive family policies thus far fail to address the greater economic barriers to care among the least-advantaged fathers.

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## **The gendered division of paid labour around parenthood among native and migrant-origin couples**

*Julie Maes, Leen Marynissen, Jonas Wood, Karel Neels*

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Although maternal employment has increased, the transition to parenthood produces and strengthens a gendered division of housework and childcare, and of paid labour. Cross-sectional studies have shown that maternal employment is especially low among migrant-origin women; however, our knowledge on the degree to which gender dynamics in paid labour around parenthood vary between population subgroups is limited. While micro-economic theories argue that more traditional gender dynamics among migrant-origin couples result from stronger labour market positions for men than for women, cultural theories point to different gender norms compared with native couples. This contribution uses longitudinal data for Belgium (1999–2010) to investigate women's relative work intensity in the household around first birth among migrant-origin couples (one or both partners with a migration background) and native couples (both partners without a migration background). Fixed-effects models are used to assess whether the gendered division of paid labour in migrant-origin households is disproportionately affected by parenthood compared with native households and to what extent these differences can be explained by women's pre-birth relative wages. As fixed-effects models control for all unobserved couple-level time-constant characteristics, we are able to distinguish the parenthood effect from the effects of factors that already determine positions prior to parenthood. Preliminary results suggest that whereas the division of paid labour around parenthood is more based on microeconomic theories among couples with women without a migration background, other factors play a more important role among couples with migrant-origin women (e.g. employment stability, cultural norms).

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## **Employment pathways and occupational change after childbirth in the UK: Why do women's careers stall?**

*Susan Harkness<sup>1</sup>, Magda Borkowska<sup>2</sup>, Alina Pelikh<sup>2</sup>*

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Across countries women with children suffer large pay penalties (Harkness & Waldfogel 2003). Occupational downgrading following childbirth is one potential explanation for this. Moreover, as the competing demands of work and families are greater in some jobs than others, we might expect the risk of occupational downgrading, and of exiting employment or moving to part-time work, to vary by industry or occupation. Using data from Understanding Society for 2010–17 (up to 2,281 new mothers observed for three years, and 1,199 over five years), this paper assesses the extent to which women, by opting out of employment, moving to part-time work or moving to lower-status occupations, 'downgrade' their careers following childbirth. Using sequence analysis, a rich descriptive picture of the typical employment pathways men and women follow, up to five years after birth, is produced. The paper then examines how a broader range of pre-birth job characteristics (such as working hours, industry or sector), and personal and family characteristics, influence the chance of moving out of the labour force or to full- or part-time work, and the risk of occupational (up/down)grading. The final part of the paper examines how patterns of employment and earnings within couples evolve over the same period. Overall, the results highlight how gendered employment patterns are following childbirth, with men by and large remaining in full-time work while women withdraw from full-time work and, for those who return to work, see their chance of occupational upgrading decrease.

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## **Union dissolution and divorce among ethnic minorities in Britain**

*Júlia Mikolai, Hill Kulu*

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An increasing body of literature studies native–immigrant intermarriage across Europe because it is an indicator of immigrant integration. However, less is known about the stability of mixed marriages. This study focuses on the effect of ethnic intermarriage on separation in Britain. We extend previous research by examining the effect of exogamous unions on union stability in the UK, using a rich longitudinal dataset, the UK Household Longitudinal Study, which allows us to control for many individual and couple characteristics. Preliminary results indicate that the likelihood of a divorce varies by ethnic group; it is highest among those of Caribbean descent and lowest among those of South-East Asian origin. We also find that ethnic endogamous marriages are the least likely to end in divorce, whereas native endogamous and ethnic exogamous marriages are equally likely to dissolve. We set out our further plans at the end of the study.

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## **Getting back on the housing ladder? Separation and homeownership in Britain and Germany**

*Hill Kulu<sup>1</sup>, Júlia Mikolai<sup>1</sup>, Sergi Vidal<sup>2</sup>*

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Divorce and separation have become common life events in many industrialized countries. Previous research shows that separated individuals typically move from homeownership to (private) renting and experience a period of residential instability. However, little is known about whether and when separated individuals return to homeownership. This paper investigates homeownership levels among separated individuals in Britain and Germany. We use data from the British Household Panel Study and the German Socio-Economic Panel and apply multilevel logistic regression models. Our analysis shows that separated individuals are much less likely to own a home than those who are married or cohabiting. Interestingly, homeownership levels increase over time since separation. However, the levels increase only among those individuals who repartner, whereas homeownership rates remain low among non-partnered separated individuals, especially those with low educational levels. The study supports the premise that separation has a long-term effect on the individuals' housing careers, which reinforces existing housing inequalities, especially in countries where owning a house is seen as a norm.

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## **Divorce Italian style: Problematic issues from sentences of the Italian Court of Cassation**

*Rocco Mazza, Rosanna Cataldo, Maria Gabriella Grassia, Marino Marina, Vincenzo Pastena*

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The dissolution of the marriage union contributes to the complexity of studies on the family institution, problematizing new topics of investigation, especially regarding the consequences that a divorce can have on the individual and the family nucleus. The aim of the research is to trace the problematic issues that lie in the institutional dimension of the phenomenon, identifying their evolution and complexity within the sentences of the Italian Court of Cassation. The choice

of this content analysis unit is because, through the sentences, we can trace the variety in the phenomenon and identify the standard interpretations in line with the needs of contemporary institutions. The sentences are analysed through a quantitative analysis of texts, aimed at tracing latent issues; the results are then integrated within the Italian demographic context. To this end, integrating data from multiple sources will allow us to better understand the phenomenon under study. The intention of the present study is to bring the main topics on which the jurisprudence is concentrated to the scientific debate on divorce. In conclusion, three problems are identified within the analysed texts: one refers to the difficulty of leaving the separation phase and ending up divorced; another concerns the custody of children, with particular reference to the relationship of these with the non-custodial spouse; and the third relates to the debate on the economic solidarity principle in the calculation of divorce maintenance.

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## **Relationship quality indicators and living apart together union transitions**

***Alexandra-Andreea Ciritel, Ann Berrington, Brienna Perelli-Harris***

***Department of Social Statistics and Demography, University of Southampton***

Using data from the German Family Panel *pairfam* (Panel Analysis of Intimate Relationships and Family Dynamics), this paper investigates the roles of various relationship quality markers on living apart together (LAT) union transitions, among which sexual satisfaction is a key indicator. The paper asks how sexual satisfaction is related to LAT union development. Additionally, we investigate how relationship happiness, respondents' level of self-disclosure to a partner and the couple's conflict frequency change the association between sexual satisfaction and the outcome. Discrete-time event-history models underline that sexual satisfaction is associated only with LAT couples' risk of experiencing union dissolution. Respondents with low sexual satisfaction are the most likely to experience separation relative to staying in a LAT union. Among other relationship quality indicators, low overall relationship satisfaction and high couple conflict frequency are associated with the risk of LAT union separation. For the competing risk of co-residence, respondents' high level of self-disclosure to partner and few conflicts proved to be important. A more frequent self-disclosure to partner accounts for the relationship between overall relationship satisfaction and LAT union transition to co-residence. These findings illustrate: (1) a call to incorporate more sexuality measures in studying LAT union development; and (2) the importance of looking beyond overall relationship happiness when studying LAT union transitions by considering more nuanced dimensions of relationship quality.

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## **Intergenerational effects – Tuesday 10 September, 11.00am**

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### **Female age at marriage, gender preference and differential paternal investment**

***Mazhar Mughal<sup>1</sup>, Rashid Javed<sup>2</sup>, Charlotte Fontan Sers<sup>1</sup>***

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Early female marriage is a practice still prevalent in many parts of the world. In this study, we examine how age at marriage interacts with women's perspectives on gender balance pertaining to their reproductive and maternal preferences. Our aim is to establish the presence or otherwise of an association between age at marriage and preference for boys, in terms

of the fertility choices of married women. We also study the interaction between women's age at marriage and gender bias found in parental allocation of nutrition and healthcare resources. Using the 1990–91 and 2012–13 rounds of the Pakistan Demographic and Health Survey and employing Probit and various matching routines, we analyse the reproductive and child-related outcomes of Pakistani women. We find that marriage at age 18 or later positively influences women's preference for the family's sex composition. Not only do the women who married later report weaker preference for boys than women who married before 18, but the former also show less likelihood of bearing one or more sons. These differential impacts show little change over time. This reduction in son-preferring behaviour is more common among women coming from poor rural households with no education, employment or regular exposure to media. However, whether a woman married early or late does little to modify the male gender bias prevalent in parental investment. Preferential treatment of sons, be it in the form of pre- or postnatal care, access to nutritious food or healthcare the male child receives, does not differ by the mother's age at the time of marriage.

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## **The effect of family structure and family instability on high school completion in South Africa**

***Annah Vimbai Bengesai***

***University of KwaZulu-Natal, South Africa***

This study examines the effect of family structure and family instability on high school completion in South Africa. It adopts a retrospective methodology and focuses on data from the four waves of the National Income Dynamics Study (NIDS) collected between 2008 and 2014. The sample consisted of 1,823 young people aged 20–22 who had successfully completed the interviews. Logistic regression models were estimated and demonstrated that while there are many sources of variation, individuals who had experienced family structure instability were up to 48% less likely to complete high school. In addition, young people were more likely to complete high school if the mother was resident in the household, while males who experienced family structure instability had reduced odds (OR = 0.53) relative to their female counterparts. After controlling for all the covariates, family income instability, young people's academic characteristics such as passing the previous grade and their mathematics grade score in upper primary and lower secondary school, the neighbourhood socio-economic status, and their parents' educational level were found to be the most significant predictors of high school completion. Overall, the findings from this study suggest that education policy in South Africa must take into account the family environment to improve high school completion rates. Moreover, there is need for a re-evaluation of the current reforms that have been implemented to improve numeracy in South African schools.

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## **Family composition and age at menarche: Findings from the international Health Behaviour in School-aged Children study**

***Martin Stepan<sup>1,3</sup>, Ross Whitehead<sup>1</sup>, Juliet McEachran<sup>1,2</sup>, Candace Currie<sup>1</sup>***

***<sup>1</sup>University of St Andrews, School of Medicine, Child and Adolescent Health Research Unit, <sup>2</sup>National Youth Mental Health Foundation, Australia, <sup>3</sup>Psychiatric University Hospital Basel, Switzerland***

Background: Early menarche has been associated with father absence, stepfather presence and adverse health consequences in later life. This presentation assesses associations of different family compositions with age at menarche. Pathways that may explain any association between family characteristics and pubertal timing are explored. Methods: Cross-sectional international data on age at menarche, family structure and covariates (age, psychosomatic complaints,

media consumption, physical activity) were collected from the 2009–10 Health Behaviour in School-aged Children (HBSC) study. The sample focuses on 15-year-old girls, comprising 36,175 individuals across 40 countries in Europe and North America (N = 21,075 for age at menarche). The study examined the association of different family characteristics with age at menarche. Regression and path analyses were applied, incorporating multilevel techniques to adjust for the nested nature of data within countries. Results: Living with a mother (Cohen's  $d = 0.12$ ), father ( $d = 0.08$ ), brothers ( $d = 0.04$ ) and sisters ( $d = 0.06$ ) are independently associated with later age at menarche. Living in a foster home ( $d = -0.16$ ), with 'someone else' ( $d = -0.11$ ), a stepmother ( $d = -0.10$ ) or stepfather ( $d = -0.06$ ) was associated with earlier menarche. Path models show that up to 89% of these effects can be explained through lifestyle and psychological variables. Conclusions: Earlier menarche is reported among those with living conditions other than a family consisting of two biological parents. This can partly be explained by girls in these families having a higher Body Mass Index, which is a biological determinant of early menarche. Lower physical activity and elevated psychosomatic complaints were also more often found in girls in these family environments.

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## **Understanding the intergenerational transmission of complex family trajectories**

***Sebastian Stannard, Ann Berrington, Nisreen Alwan***

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Family structures and dynamics across the life course have become increasingly complex over the past half century in Western countries. Along with increasing rates of cohabitation and partnership dissolution, and significant proportions of children living in single-parent households, we have seen an increase in rates of serial partnering and multi-partner fertility, and higher proportions of children living with non-biological parents and non-full siblings. A significant body of research has examined the relationship between parental divorce and family formation in young adulthood (Harkonen 2014; Amato 2005; Sassler 2010). However, most of this research has focused on a single outcome, e.g. age at partnership formation (Berrington & Diamond 2000; Wolfinger 2003; Cunningham & Thornton 2008), choice between cohabitation and marriage (Perelli-Harris et al. 2017; Berrington & Diamond 2000), and the intergenerational transmission of divorce risk (Drokers & Harkonen 2008; Salvatore et al. 2018). In addition, little research has considered complex family trajectories as an outcome. Furthermore, less is known about the relative importance of different mechanisms (pathways) through which these associations are mediated. This paper adds to the existing literature by exploring the pathways through which complex family dynamics are associated across generations. The availability of detailed prospective data from a UK birth cohort study permits us to examine how experience of family complexity in childhood (up to age ten) is associated with experiences of complex family structures in adulthood. It also provides rich data for men and women, affording the opportunity to explore gender differences. The paper ultimately aims to identify the potential mechanisms (e.g. childhood socialization, mental well-being, financial resources, educational and employment careers) through which these associations operate.

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## **The interrelationship of union formation and fertility in Italy: The role of economic uncertainty**

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The relationship between economic uncertainty and family formation has become an increasingly important issue in demographic research. Uncertainty has a negative impact on family formation, since precarious jobs lead people to postpone or forego partnership and parenthood. Despite union formation and childbearing being two interrelated processes, most of the studies focus on the effect of economic uncertainty on either union formation or fertility separately. Our aim is to study how economic uncertainty influences the interrelationship between union formation and fertility, using a modelling strategy that allows individual risk aversion and home-/work-oriented attitudes to influence the timing of first childbearing and union formation simultaneously. We do this in the Italian context, characterized by high youth unemployment, traditional values with a strong preference towards marriage (with respect to cohabitation), and low fertility rates. We use data from the Family and Social Subjects survey (2009 and 2016 waves), released by the Italian Statistical Office. We apply simultaneous hazard models to estimate first birth and first union formation, considering cohabitation and marriage as competing events and looking at the role played by employment uncertainty as the key moderator. We expect employment uncertainty to encourage cohabitation with respect to marriage and to discourage childbearing in the Italian context. Nevertheless, it is not clear how economic uncertainty relates to such dynamics simultaneously; this will be the main contribution of our study.

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## **Armed conflict and the changing timing of childbearing in Azerbaijan**

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Conflict is part of the human condition and therefore should be integral to all analyses and interpretation of demographic behaviours. However, studies relating conflicts and demographic variables predominantly explore their effects on mortality and, to a lesser extent, migration. Their impact on fertility dynamics has received little attention. Meanwhile, substantial research has tried to understand demographic changes in the post-Soviet world. Yet, these studies have focused almost exclusively on Central/Eastern Europe, Russia and Ukraine. The Caucasus region and Azerbaijan in particular have been neglected so far, despite diverse population composition (predominantly Muslim) and intense experience of armed violence. This study has two aims. First, it complements and expands existing research on past and more recent demographic changes in the post-Soviet world by describing the nature of Azerbaijan's fertility trends and patterns. It finds evidence for a substantial decline in period fertility since about 1992, triggered by falling high-order births. Second, it contributes to the literature on demographic adjustments to armed conflict by examining the effect of exposure to the Azerbaijani–Armenian conflict over the Nagorno-Karabakh region on the transition to first, second and third marital births. Results from discrete-time logit models, employing data from the 2006 Azerbaijan Demographic and Health Survey, show that the transition to first birth remained quasi-universal across periods of societal crisis and was unaffected by conflict exposure. Similarly, conflict violence did not influence the transition to third birth, of which the risk had already started to

decline during Soviet times. By contrast, although the risk significantly declined during conflict years (1992–96), the odds of transitioning to second birth are 40% higher for women exposed to conflict.

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## **Love marriage in India**

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Major family transformations are taking place in India, but the prediction that Indian marriages will ‘converge to the Western model’ (Goode 1963; Lenski 1966) does not seem to be happening. Based on the modernization and developmental idealism theories, we are particularly interested in ‘love marriage’, an emerging marital arrangement (5%) in which the couples choose their spouse themselves, without external intervention from parents or kin. We ask the questions, ‘Is love marriage becoming more common in India?’ and ‘Among which social groups?’ We use the ‘eligible women file’ from the latest round of the India Human Development Survey (IHDS), 2011–12 data, for the analysis. We conduct hierarchical regression models among women aged 15–49 years, to account for district-level variation, while focusing on respondents’ retrospective information, such as parental education level, caste groups and regions, as prime explanatory variables. We find that the younger cohorts are increasingly choosing their spouse themselves. Of all the regions and caste groups, the most developed region, the south, is actually the least likely to be modern, but the north-east, is actually the most likely to be modern in terms of love marriage practices. Thus, in India, tradition, discipline and social order from the arranged marriage system seem to be very rooted in regions that are the most developed. Although all caste groups have region-specific behaviour, surprisingly the scheduled tribes (lowest in the caste hierarchy) show the highest love marriage probabilities. We also find that the mother’s and mother-in-law’s education level affects love marriage probabilities positively while the opposite is true for the father’s and father-in-law’s education. It seems the innovation in family behaviour is driven more by women than men. These findings also support the modernization theory stressing, among other things, the effect of education.

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## **Ethnic preferences in online dating: A 24-country international comparison**

***Melinda Mills & Riley Taiji***

***University of Oxford***

This paper provides the first global cross-national analysis of the ethnic-related partner preferences of online daters. We do so by examining 24 countries in North America, Australasia, Northern, Western, Eastern and Southern Europe, and – uniquely – South America and Africa. Examining preferences for dating partners with a similar (in-group) or different (out-group) ethnic background, we also ask if the size of the minority population or climate towards immigration play a role in partner preferences. We do this at the national level and then extend our analyses to a more fine-grained regional level. We find a preference for in-group partners, a hierarchy of preferences among majority and minority groups, and gender differences. Those living in countries with a large foreign-born population have an increased preference for minority groups. We find that anti-immigrant attitudes and restrictive migrant integration policies are associated with stronger in-group preferences for majority groups. We reflect on the implications of our results for immigrant integration policies, housing of migrants, and inequality.

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## How does unemployment affect the well-being of one's partner? And does gender matter?

**Andrew Bryce**

**University of Sheffield**

Unemployment is known to be a significant determinant of reduced well-being, not just for the individual affected but for wider family members. This paper adds to the literature by exploiting a very long UK household panel to investigate how the effects of unemployment 'spill over' to affect the well-being of the person's spouse or partner. Unlike previous studies, I use a novel Seemingly Unrelated Regression (SUR) approach within a panel data framework to assess this phenomenon. I also consider different definitions of unemployment. I find that both men and women are negatively affected by their partner's unemployment although these spill-over effects are stronger for female partners, implying the influence of gender identity norms. However, on average, men prefer their partners to be economically inactive rather than employed suggesting some intra-household conflict with respect to women's participation in the labour market. This could be resolved by enabling men to acquire more egalitarian attitudes or reducing male power within an intra-household bargaining framework.

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## The impact of childcare regimes on parental distress in Europe

**Nikolett Somogyi<sup>1</sup>, Rossella Ciccia<sup>2</sup>, Sarah Van de Velde<sup>1</sup>, Wim Van Lanker<sup>3</sup>**

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Children bring joy, but also stress, especially among employed parents who struggle to combine work with childcare. In our study, we intend to examine how different types of family policies and services in Europe may impact the distressing elements of parenthood. Previous studies suggest the relative importance of the impact of childcare policies on parental stress and, moreover, the gendered nature of this impact. With our study, we build upon and extend this knowledge by carrying out a European comparison on the mental well-being effect of welfare state types, household formations and gender disparities. In order to create a comprehensive typology of childcare regimes, we combine information from Ciccia and Verloo's (2012) and Ciccia and Blejenbergh's (2014) typologies of leave and childcare services policies. The typologies were then developed using fuzzy set ideal type analysis (FSITA). We differentiate between male breadwinner, supported universal breadwinner, limited universal caregiver, caregiver parity, one-and-a-half earner, and some hybrid versions of some of these. Our main interest is in the change in mental health depending on the country-, household-, and individual-level characteristics. Therefore, we apply the multilevel modelling framework on wave 2013 of the European Union Statistics on Income and Living (N = 72,865). The analysis found that in general, the worst well-being is found in the male-breadwinner and the hybrid limited universal caregiver/male-breadwinner clusters. These results suggest that the impact of living in a male-breadwinner focused country is detrimental to mental well-being for women and men as well, regardless of how parents share care work and employment.

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## **Mumpreneur: Fact or fiction?**

***Shireen Kanji, Natalia Vershinina, Deniz Sevinc***

***University of Birmingham***

The impact of caring on women's paid labour force participation has received increasing attention as awareness of the connections between paid and unpaid work have become more visible. Some research has suggested that one way that women can and do combine paid and unpaid work is through becoming Mumpreneurs: women who combine motherhood with setting up an enterprise, in part because of the supposed flexibility that setting up your own business can bring. However, we have little idea of the extent of this phenomenon and its socio-economic associations, for example in relation to partnership status, household income and women's educational attainment. The research uses seven waves of Understanding Society (USoc) to explore the associations between the transitions to motherhood and transitions to self-employment in the UK. We examine if the transition to motherhood prompts a transition to self-employment in subsequent years and if it is associated with a change in the duration of working hours. We examine the nature of the work that women who make the transition to self-employment engage in: is the transition to self-employment that is associated with motherhood concentrated by educational attainment or prior sector of employment? At the same time as we examine Mumpreneurs, we also examine the nature of female self-employment more generally to understand what part Mumpreneurs might play: previous research using USoc shows that around 8–9% of women are self-employed (Henley 2017). Although this figure is considerably lower than the proportion of men who are self-employed, it has been climbing in recent years and may, in some cases, represent involuntary self-employment which involves precarious and low paid work.

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## **Multigenerational households, kin & friendship networks – Wednesday 11 September, 11.30am**

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### **Intergenerational support and its impact on the health status of older people in China**

***Yazhen Yang<sup>1</sup>, Maria Evandrou<sup>1,2,3</sup>, Athina Vlachantoni<sup>1,2,3</sup>***

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Objectives: This study investigates: (i) the changes in bi-directional intergenerational economic and social support within Chinese families; and (ii) the impact of such changes on older people's physical and psychological well-being. Methods: Lagged hybrid models combining fixed and random effects were implemented using the Harmonized China Health and Retirement Longitudinal Study (2011, 2013–15). Four health outcomes reflecting both physical and psychological health status were considered: experience of difficulty with Activities of Daily Living (ADLs) and Instrumental ADLs (IADLs), life satisfaction, and depression. Results: The results indicate that overall, the proportion of older people receiving and providing intergenerational economic support increased between 2011 and 2015 (from 39% to 83% and from 21% to 41%, respectively). However, the proportion of older people receiving upstream social support remained low (3–11%). The regression models show that receiving<sup>1</sup> upstream economic and social support between 2011 and 2013 was associated with a lower likelihood of experiencing ADL and IADL difficulties, but also with the report of fewer depressive symptoms between 2013 and 2015. However, providing downstream economic support was associated with a higher likelihood of

reporting poor life satisfaction two years later, *ceteris paribus*. Conclusions: The exchange of intergenerational support within Chinese families is associated with the health and well-being of Chinese older people. This study uses recent and nationally representative data in order to make a unique contribution to our understanding of the flows of intergenerational economic and social support and their impact on older people's physical and psychological health.

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## **Similarity in transition to adulthood of friends and schoolmates**

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Previous research on 'linked lives' has mainly focused on the similarity in life course outcomes of parents and children, or between siblings or spouses, neglecting the potentially powerful impact of friends and schoolmates. This paper uses data from the National Longitudinal Study of Adolescent and Adult Health (Add Health) to investigate the similarity of life course trajectories in the transition to adulthood of a national representative sample of young women in the US. Using recent methodological innovations in sequence analysis, we first estimate the similarity in life course trajectories among friends and peers. In the second part of the paper we combine sequence analysis with causal inference to estimate the causal effect of friends' life course transitions in respondents' transitions to parenthood, marriage and cohabitation. Results indicate that friends' trajectories are more similar than those of random schoolmates but less than those of siblings. Although friends seem to have a direct effect on transition to adulthood, the effect is reduced once we control for previous trajectories and other confounders.

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## **An exploration of the impact of non-residential social networks on the subjective well-being of older people and how this varies by household social network composition**

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Living alone in later life is an increasingly frequent occurrence, with 29% of all lone households in the UK (7.7 million) being estimated to be occupied by an individual over the age of 75, and this figure saw an increase of 24% over the two decades prior to 2017. The importance of an individual's social network for their subjective well-being has been long documented in academic literature. Yet little research has explored if the association between non-residential social contacts and well-being varies between those who do and do not live alone. With lone household formations on the rise, it is critical to better understand the association between an individual's wider social network and their well-being, for older people in different living arrangements. This research employs logistic regression models on data from the UK Household Longitudinal Survey to cross-sectionally explore the association between four types of non-residential social networks (friends, neighbours, kin, and social organizations) on subjective well-being (Satisfaction-with-Life-Scale). It aims to seek how this association varies for those living alone compared with those in alternative household formations, thus understanding the potential for social isolation of a key marginalized group. Preliminary findings suggest that older people's friendships and neighbourhood contacts play a more critical role in their subjective well-being than their family networks, and that these ties are different in nature and more important for older people living alone than for those in larger household formations.

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