

# LIVES. Overcoming Vulnerability: Life Course Perspectives.

Co-hosted by the University of Geneva and the University of Lausanne, LIVES is a National Centre of Competence in Research (NCCR) funded by the Swiss State Secretariat for Research and the Swiss National Science Foundation. It approaches the concept of “vulnerability” from an interdisciplinary perspective, drawing on sociology, psychology, social psychology, socio-economics, economics, demography and medicine.

From a socio-economic and a political point of view alike, human vulnerability is a growing concern, associated with more turbulent life courses and family dynamics, with the impact of economic changes in a global world on individual careers, with the injunction of self-realization, and with the “psychologization”, if not “pathologization,” of the social. Precariousness, exclusion, suffering, distress, and frailty are some of the related concepts addressed by the various disciplines. LIVES uses the analytical tools of the life-course and life-span research traditions to operationalize vulnerability, to disentangle latent and realized states of vulnerability, to identify sources of vulnerability but also of stability and resilience, and to analyse interactions between individual and social resources as well as the life-long construction of inequalities. The LIVES research programme surveys and analyzes longitudinal data with both quantitative and qualitative methods.



## Principal investigator and the research team

Michel Oris holds a professorship at the University of Geneva, Faculty of Social Sciences, and directs the Centre for the Interdisciplinary Study of Gerontology and Vulnerability (CIGEV). He is the Geneva leader of the LIVES project, coordinating more than 40 researchers.



Originally trained as an historian and a demographer, he has a wide experience of European research networks. His current research focuses on the health and living conditions of the elderly, interactions between individual trajectories and dynamics of social change and the inscription of vulnerabilities in individual life-courses.

## Project details

LIVES was launched in January, 2011. For the first four years, it has received 14 million Swiss francs in funding by the Swiss Confederation. The associated Swiss institutions of higher education have provided an additional 5 million Swiss francs in funding. LIVES is also supported by cantons and foundations such as Pro Senectute Switzerland. The expected duration of Swiss National Centres of Competence in Research is 12 years. Most NCCRs are in life and technical sciences. Along with the Centre for Affective Sciences, LIVES is one of a handful of NCCRs in social sciences and humanities.

Website: <http://lives-nccr.ch/fr>