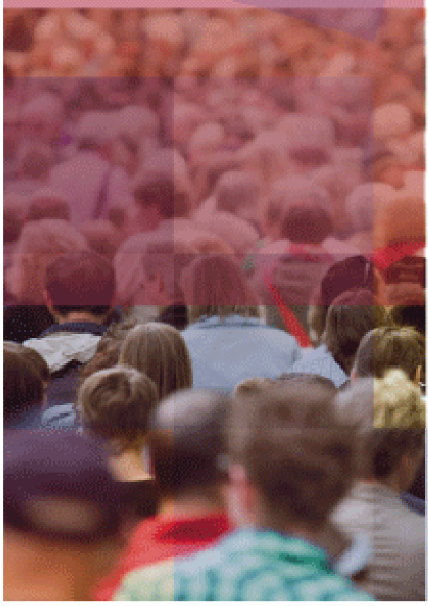
Swiss National Centre of Competence in Research

LIVES Doctoriales, 3rd Edition

February, 13-14, 2014,

Lausanne (Geopolis)



For the third times in three years, the PhD students of the NCCR LIVES will present their ongoing researches during the “LIVES Doctoriales”. We want to express our gratitude to the colleagues and friends who have accepted to act as experts. Your contribution can make a difference!

And although the Doctoriales for sure imply a lot of work and stress for most of the PhD students, we also know that it is a profitable exercise. We hope you will get the best!

Michel Oris, LIVES co-director
Delphine Fagot, LIVES Doctoral Program Officer

February, 13

***8h30-9h00*:** Arrival, coffee

***9h00-9h15*:** Welcome- Opening Session (Room 1612)

***9h15-10h15*:** Conference (Room 1612)

Costanzo Ranci

Social Vulnerability in European Cities in the Age of Austerity. Structural Dynamics and the Role of Local Welfare

***10h30-12h00*: Parallel sessions I**

Session 1 Room 1628

Vulnerabilities among economic actors

10h30-11h00: Araujo Pedro. *Occupational trajectories of banking elites in Switzerland*
11h00-11h30: Cianferoni Nicola. *Conflicts, negotiations and compromises on working time in the Swiss retail sector*
11h30-12h00: Salamin Xavier. *Male and female expatriate adjustment in a specific host country context: a comparative study in the French speaking part of Switzerland*

Experts: *Thomas David, Eric Davoine*

Session 2 Room 2227

Sociology of aging and elderly vulnerabilities

10h30-11h00: Girardin Myriam. *Family boundaries in old age and their consequences for social capital*
11h00-11h30: Masotti Barbara. *The use of home care among over 80 years old people in Ticino. The quantitative approach*
11h30-12h00: Tholomier Aude. *Old age, the age of frailty. A quantitative analysis of the survey "Vivre-Leben-Vivere", Switzerland 2011-2012*

Experts: *Christian Lalive d'Epinay, Jean-François Bickel*

12h00–13h30 LUNCH

***13h30-15h30*: Parallel sessions II**

Session 3 Room 1628

Subjective dimensions of vulnerability

13h30-14h00: Dasoki Nora. *Trajectories of happiness and vulnerability: a retrospective appraisal of the life course*

14h00-14h30: Henke Julia. *Combining objective and subjective measures for assessing economic vulnerability among Swiss pensioners*

14h30-15h00: Martenot Aude. *Vulnerability through the subjective perception of the life course: The major turning points in the life of Mumbai slum dwellers (India)*

Experts: *Guy Elcheroth, Christian Lalive d'Epinay*

Session 4 Room 2227

Socio-political perspectives on the life course

13h30-14h00: Kaeser Laure. *Questioning the notion of "active ageing": from political rhetoric to empirical evidence. The case of immigrant elders living in Switzerland*

14h00-14h30: Perriard Anne. *Life course and employment policies: the construction of age-related social problems*

14h30-15h00: Bertrand Anne-Laure. *Professional integration of refugees in Switzerland: framework and definitions*

Experts: *Francesca Poglia, Marco Giugni*

15h30–16h00 COFFEE BREAK (in front of Room 2227)

16h00-18h00: Parallel sessions III

Session 5 Room 1628

Couple interactions and parenthood

16h00-16h30: Cairo Notari Sarah. *Change in women's sexual functioning after breast cancer surgery: a Swiss study.*
16h30-17h00: Schicka Manuela. *Conjugal interaction over time – changes or stability?*
17h00-17h30: Brandalesi Vanessa. *"Normative motherhood". Its implications in the life course of women without children.*
17h30-18h00: Girardin Nadia. *Intentions and practices regarding childcare*

***Experts:** Pasqualina Perrig-Chiello, Dario Spini*

Session 6 Room 2227

Education in the course of life

16h00-16h30: Gomensoro Andrés. *"I'm not supposed to be at the University". Resources and educational trajectories that lead children of Albanian speaking immigrants into the tertiary education level.*
16h30-17h00: Latina Joëlle. *How far can you go? An analysis of transitions to apprenticeship training*
17h00-17h30: Bataille Pierre. *Integrate an elite school… and after? Propositions for a life course approach of French educational elite's trajectories*
17h30-18h00: Fritschi Tobias. *Social cost and benefit of human capital investment in the life course. A comparison of cost-effectiveness on different educational levels.*

***Experts:** Michele Pellizzari, Michel Oris*

February, 14

8h30-9h00**:** Arrival, coffee (in front of Room 2227)

9h00-10h30**: Parallel sessions IV**

Session 7 Room 1628

Historical evolutions in vulnerability among youth and old

9h00-9h30: Baeriswyl Marie. *Social participation end gender roles in retirement: evolution over 30 years*

9h30-10h00: Constantin Sandra. *Life-course and transition to adulthood in China. The case study of Beijing in a comparative perspective between two cohorts born in the 1950s and 1980s*

10h00-10h30: Gabriel Rainer. *Household income inequalities among the elderly in Geneva and Valais between 1979-2012: Patterns and life course perspectives*

Experts: *Sylvie Burgnard, Floriane Demont*

Session 8 Room 2227

Health and disability trajectories

9h00-9h30: Fargnoli Vanessa. *Living with HIV: a sociological study on trajectories of HIV-infected women*

9h30-10h00: Rosciano Alessandra. *Determinants of well-being in the elderly population in Switzerland*

10h00-10h30: Rosenstein Emilie. *Changing welfare policies and its impact on social citizenship: A life course perspective on disability insurance recipients in Switzerland*

Experts: *Pierre Arwidson, Sandro Cattacin*

10h30-12h00: Parallel sessions V

Session 9 Room 1628

Demographic approaches of vulnerability in Switzerland

10h30-11h00: Duvoisin Aline. *The baby boom and the baby boomers in Switzerland*
11h00-11h30: Remund Adrien. *Excess mortality of young adults: individual reality or artefact of social inequalities?*
11h30-12h00: Zufferey Jonathan. *Individual factors of migrant mortality differentials*

Experts: *Jean-Marie Le Goff, Giancarlo Camarda*

Session 10 Room 2227

Making a career

10h30-11h00: Johnston Claire. *Changes in well-being and professional change: The role of career adapt-abilities and personality traits*
11h00-11h30: Madero Cabib Ignacio. *Completely included, partially included or partially excluded in the labour market? An exploratory schema of social vulnerability in late careers*
11h30-12h00: Murphy Emily. *Are Immigrants trapped in unskilled service occupations? A comparison of Great Britain and Switzerland*

Experts: *Matthias Kliegel, Eric Widmer*

12h00–13h30 LUNCH

13h30-15h30: Parallel sessions VI

Session 11 Room 1628

Unemployment: risk and coping strategies

14h00-14h30: Antonini Matteo. *Coping with unemployment: strategies and resources*
14h30-15h00: Galhano Laura. *Selection criteria established by companies and self-valorisation strategies used by unemployed*
15h00-15h30: Turtschi Nicolas. *Use of network: perceptions of low educated jobseekers*

Experts: *Jean-Michel Bonvin, Fabrice Plomb*

Session 12 Room 2227

Statistical methods to reveal vulnerability

13h30-14h00: Adamopoulos Pauline. *After school? Identifying the risk of youth unemployment using the Double Chain Markov Model for clustering*
14h00-14h30: Bolano Danilo. *Hidden Mixture Transition Distribution (MTD) model. Model selection criteria and application*
14h30-15h00: Bürgin Reto. *Tree-based estimation of varying coefficients in ordinal mixed effect models*
15h00-15h30: Glaeser Stéphanie. *Contexts, social participation and transition into adulthood: Local social climates and young mens' substance use in Switzerland*

Experts: *Dominique Joye, Delphine Courvoisier*

15h30–16h00 COFFEE BREAK (in front of Room 2227)

***16h00-18h00*: Parallel sessions VII**

Session 13 Room 1628

Coping in and with old age

16h00-16h30: Knöpfli Bina. *Divorce and Widowhood in older age: What is worse?*
16h30-17h00: Pin Stéphanie. *The fall and its prevention in the elderly: to cope with events during the life course*
17h00-17h30: Spahni Stefanie. *Patterns of psychological adaptation to spousal bereavement in old age*

Experts: *Hansjörg Znoj, Kate M. Bennett*

Session 14 Room 2227

Looking for vulnerability: methodological challenges

16h00-16h30: Nicolet Marthe. “*The closing chapter of life*”. *A mixed method approach to death and dying among the elderly in Geneva and Valais*
16h30-17h00: Rousseaux Emmanuel. *Decision tree methods for the discovery of vulnerable profiles*
17h00-17h30: Zinn Isabelle. *Getting into the community »: Doing participant observation in “Manual” occupations*

Experts: *Sophie Pennec, Eugène Horber*

Session 15 Room 1628

Collective identities

16h00-16h30: Bakouri Mouna. *Group identities for disadvantaged group members: understanding their role and development*

16h30-17h00: Barbeiro Ana. *Threats to identity, coping and agency – life-stories of Portuguese immigrants in Switzerland*

17h00-17h30: Guichard Eduardo. *Crises memories in Latin-America: Historical memories about dictatorships in Argentine, Chile and Uruguay*

Experts: *Claudio Bolzman, Olivier Desrichard*

19h00 Dinner Altogether at “Restaurant le Dorigny”

Costanzo Ranci

Social Vulnerability in European Cities in the Age of Austerity. Structural Dynamics and the Role of Local Welfare

European welfare states are challenged today not only by cost-containment pressures, but also by the rise of new social needs that are poorly covered by existing social programs and that contribute to generate social vulnerability. Research has shown on the one side that new social risks are not equally distributed throughout Europe, with regional and local disparities; on the other side, that welfare provision is more and more the result of complex multi-level governance patterns, in which the role and contribution of different scales varies in time and space. Against this backdrop, the presentation's aim is threefold: a) to examine the local determinants of social vulnerability; b) to analyze the different configuration of social vulnerability in various urban contexts throughout Europe; c) to investigate the capacity of local policies – in their relations with the other levels of government – to contrast the impact of social vulnerability.

The analysis draws on the results of the EU-FP7th project WILCO, *Welfare innovations at local level in favour of cohesion*, carried out in 2011-12 in 20 cities in 10 EU countries, covering all welfare regimes. Three vulnerable groups (the young, lone parents, migrants) and three policy fields (access to employment, to childcare and to housing) were considered. The local determinants of social vulnerability have been comparatively analyzed on the basis of information collected through standardized templates aiming at filling the gaps of existing databases with available local data. The focus has been on labour market structures and dynamics, family structures and demographic trends, migration flows and housing markets. Besides, information on welfare policies and services available in the 20 cities in the three policy fields has been compared. Finally, the narratives about the experience of vulnerability have been recorded through 360 in-depth interviews with individuals from the three target groups in the same cities.

The analysis first shows how macro socio-economic trends that are generally assumed to invest all European contexts have in fact differentiated impacts on national and urban territories, being filtered by specific structural and institutional factors. Examples are the diversified recovery of the birth rate, the specific content of tertiarization and flexibilization of labour markets, the trends in housing markets (e.g. rent *vs* ownership), and in migration flows, as well as the differentiated impact of the economic crisis. As a consequence, determinants and features of social vulnerability vary among countries, but also vary among cities within the same country. Second, the analysis highlights how the relevance of the local level of government in shaping the extent, the specific contents and possibly the appropriateness and innovativeness of welfare policies not only differs by welfare regime and by country, but also varies – within the same context – by policy field.

Session 1. Room 1628.

Chairman: Thomas David

***10h30-11h00*:** Araujo Pedro

Occupational trajectories of banking elites in Switzerland

Abstract. While the Swiss financial centre plays a major role in the economy, the legitimacy of top bankers is regularly challenged by various national and international actors. Financial scandals, excessive wages, bonuses and concentration of economic power are all elements that question the responsibility of banking elites in increasing inequality. It is precisely because of their ability to shape social structures that it is necessary to understand who are those who have disproportionate control over resources.

The aim of this research is to analyze the evolution of the banking elites between 1980 and 2010. Specifically, I seek to explore two dimensions of the Swiss banking field. First, I want to investigate the socialization, educational and professional trajectories of top bankers of different categories of banks (i.e. big banks, cantonal banks, foreign banks, private banks, etc.). Second, I intend to identify the relations between bankers and others spheres (i.e. economic) by examining the types of linkage (i.e. interlocking directorates of bankers, multiple careers in different spheres).

In this contribution, I will focus on the analysis of occupational trajectories of banking elites. Recent research on economic elites in Switzerland suggests that there has been an unprecedented internationalization of top managers. As the internationalization of banking activities has been a permanent trend over the past thirty years, I expect to find that international trajectories become more important to accede to top positions in some fractions of the Swiss banking field. In order to do so, I will draw on a database of top bankers of the largest Swiss banks. The method of sequence analysis will allow me to determine if there are career patterns across the different bank types and if there are any characteristics specific to international banking elites.

***11h00-11h30*:** Cianferoni Nicola

Conflicts, negotiations and compromises on working time in the Swiss retail sector

Abstract. My PhD focuses on the evolution of working time in a context of economic crises. The two largest Swiss retail companies that accepted to take part in the study (Coop and Migros) have both seen their sales drop and decided to respond by improving their flexibility through dismissals, part-time jobs, restructuring, etc.

New forms of labour processes bring into question Fordist’s labour relations in the society and will lead to a redefinition of working time standards. I will consider them as a whole by focusing analyses on this four following aspects: intensity, organization, compensation and duration. Union’s activity is limited to lobbying in the political and institutional level, and fails to organize workers within the firms. Lately, shop-opening hours have been debated in Switzerland and the discussions will be integrated to my work.

My research will address the three following questions:

1. Does the company restructuring intensify work? Does it require more flexible working hours? Does it extend the duration of working time in order to reduce unit labour costs?
2. Does the temporal flexibility have some impacts for workers in the retail sector? What are their consequences on work collectives? Is it possible to identify some struggles and/or resistances? What is the role of unions?

Are new working time standards taking place in the retail sector? How does this negotiation process proceed? Does the debate on the liberalization of shops opening hours reveal social issues in terms of working conditions?

***11h30-12h00*:** Salamin Xavier

Male and female expatriate adjustment in a specific host country context: a comparative study in the French speaking part of Switzerland

Abstract. The number of expatriates from global firms has been continuously increasing over the past decades as multinational companies still view expatriation as an important tool for sharing and transferring knowledge, controlling subsidiaries and developing workforce competencies. In this context, while the proportion of female expatriates has significantly increased over the past 30 years - from 3% of the total expatriate population in the 1980s to about 20% in most recent years – they remain largely underrepresented in comparison to male expatriates.

Reasons for this underrepresentation include stereotypical assumptions within organizations about their ability to adjust abroad and more broadly a lack of trust from the corporate headquarters. Adjustment has been defined as an individual's degree of comfort, familiarity and ease with several aspects of a new cultural environment and is considered to play a central role in expatriation success. Female expatriates' experiences and adjustment may strongly vary depending on the location, its cultural values and on host-country nationals' attitudes towards them. Yet up until today, very few studies have examined female expatriate adjustment in a single host country. Moreover, this research has mainly focused on Asian host country contexts or on the Middle East. This study aims at addressing this gap, through comparing adjustment of male and female expatriates working in multinational companies in the French speaking part of Switzerland.

Experts: Thomas David & Eric Davoine

Session 2. Room 2227.

Chairman: Christian Lalive d'Epinay

10h30-11h00: Girardin Myriam

Family boundaries in old age and their consequences for social capital

Abstract. ***Purpose****:* This study explores the diversity of family configurations in old age and the resulting consequences for social capital. We hypothesize that bonding and bridging social capital are unequally made available according to the family boundaries that individuals construct. ***Design and Methods****:* Data was derived from a sub-sample of 578 elders (aged 65 and older) from the VLV-study: a large representative survey addressing family life and health conditions of the elderly in Switzerland. A hierarchical cluster analysis was performed in order to create a typology of family configurations. The influence of these family configurations on social capital, which was evaluated by network analysis measures, was then assessed using linear regression models. ***Results****:* We identified six family configurations: "Procreation," "Son," "Daughter," "Siblings," "Kinship," and "Sparse". These configurations unequally produce bonding and bridging social capital. ***Implications****:* The results of this study stress the diversity of significant family contexts in old age. Individuals distinctly set up boundaries to their family, which have further consequences for the quantity and the types of social capital that individuals have available. Therefore, one should take into account the diversity of family configurations in order to better understand perceived support within families in later life.

11h00-11h30**:** Masotti Barbara

The use of home care among over 80 years old people in Ticino. The quantitative approach

Abstract. After a brief summary of background, research questions and methods of the thesis project (already presented at Les Doctoriales 2013), the presentation at Les Doctoriales 2014 will focus on one chapter of the in progress thesis - Transition in later life. A study of homecare receivers in Ticino - whose major contents will also be published within an editorial series of the statistical office of Southern Switzerland. The text below corresponds to the preliminary abstract submitted for this publication.

How many and which elderly are supported by home care services in Southern Switzerland? What leads them to ask for a professional –type assistance and, besides, what allows other contemporaries to continue living independently in their own home? And yet, do these services reach those who really need it?

These and other questions are part of a research whose objective, by adopting a Life-course perspective (Elder, 1994), is to analyze how the use of formal care services takes place in the life trajectory of elderly and how, whit all its implications, it is experienced and perceived by the directly concerned parties.

Starting from data collected through the cross-sectional survey "Vivre-Leben-Vivere" (IP 13) on life and health conditions of people aged 65 and over living in Switzerland (N=3600), the method aims to combine the quantitative approach with a more qualitative one, developed through in-depth interviews conducted on a subset of the sample considered.

The aim of this chapter is to focus on the quantitative part of the study, by first presenting the investigated population – a representative sample of the over 80 years old people living at home in the Italian speaking region Ticino (n=290) – and then discussing the receipt of home care in relation to the research questions.

The probability of being supported by formal care will then be tested, also according to the existing literature, through variables such as those related to the health status (functional health, multidimensional frailty, the

prevalence of illness and of events such as falls or hospitalizations), to the socio-economic profile, as well as to the social and family networks (marital status, household and family composition, nature and frequency of contacts with family members and friends or acquaintances, exchange of informal services).

The differences concerning the composition, the nature (domestic help and health related care) and the frequency of the received formal services will be considered and observed in the analysis. Moreover, the interaction between formal (service use) and informal (family/friends/acquaintances) care will be part of the presented results, as well as a more qualitative focus on a small group of elderly who are not supported neither by informal care nor by formal care.

***11h30-12h00*:** Tholomier Aude

Old age, the age of frailty. A quantitative analysis of the survey "Vivre-Leben-Vivere", Switzerland 2011-2012

Abstract. With longer life expectancy and parallel changes in the age structure, more and more people are facing to the aging process. If today the transition to retirement is another step in the lifecourse, mainly still far away from aging felt in the body and mind, the individual must later have to face the aging process of the body and changes that involved in their lifestyle . But it is to easy to associate old age as only dependency, a stereotype that has been and is still very present in the public discourse. This is mainly because the dependent status is evident, as opposed to an intermediate state, often latent, frailty, which can easily go unnoticed. It is precisely because of its characteristics, its ambivalent status between autonomy and dependence, frailty is difficult to define and therefore to measure (Oris , Nicolet 2013).

This communication intends to focus on overcoming the dichotomy of "old age dependency" and highlight this process in the old age. After a theoretical discussion of the origins of the word and the construction of the concept, we use the measurement of frailty built in the research Swilsoo (Swiss Interdisciplinary Longitudinal Study on the Oldest Old) (Spini et al. 2003). We apply their definition and measurement to the original survey data , Vivere Live-Leben . which was conducted in 2011-2012 under the direction of Professor Michel Oris by a team of interdisciplinary researchers in five regions of Switzerland (Geneva, Valais, Bern, Basel - city and campaign -, Ticino) from a random sample stratified by age and sex of over 3,700 individuals aged 65 and older. The application of the frailty index to this data is used to draw a portrait of the fragility in the oldest Swiss population to measure the prevalence of frailty and the age and sex differentials. As 32 measures used in the construction of the indicator of frailty, we offer a critical review of these components and their associations, which can reach humanity to these numbers.

Experts: Christian Lalive d'Epinay & Jean-François Bickel

Session 3. Room 1628.

Chairman: Guy Elcheroth

***13h30-14h00*:** Dasoki Nora

Trajectories of happiness and vulnerability: a retrospective appraisal of the life course

Abstract. There are significant differences in the regulation of well-being according to the age of individuals, including the phenomenon of positivity with advancing age: compared to young people, elderly recall more positive and less negative events. Moreover previous studies show that negative and positive events respond to different memory processes: positive events are more linked to the social expectations and vulnerability to the historical context. With the increase of life expectancy and medical progress, elderly are more and more a heterogeneous population. The interest of this study is on the one hand to understand if within the elderly population there are cohort differences in terms of positivity effect. On the other hand we want test if perception of happiness and vulnerability act as two independent systems as found with positive and negative events. To test our hypotheses we used the *Vivre / Leben / Vivere* survey (IP13-Oris,), conducted in 2011 on a population of 65 years and older (N = 4200), in the three main linguistic regions of Switzerland. Subjective appraisals of their life course (happy and vulnerable episodes) were collected using a life calendar containing factual events (n = 3131).

Our findings show that the elderly report in general more happiness than vulnerability. But also that happiness and vulnerability respond to two different process of recalling. For happiness there are not cohort differences unlike vulnerability: the oldest cohorts are less likely to report episodes of vulnerability during most of their life. However in the World War II this trend is reversed: the oldest cohorts report more vulnerability than the youngest one. Two main explanations can be advanced: first, the appraisal of the past is the result of an age effect (positivity effect) but exceptionally this one can be reversed by a generational effect related to collective events like World War II. Second, individuals who lived a collective or individual traumatic event evaluate the following years more positively than those who have not live it or with a different timing.

***14h00-14h30*: Henke Julia**

Combining objective and subjective measures for assessing economic vulnerability among Swiss pensioners

Abstract. The measurement of economic vulnerability is usually undertaken by calculating the risk of an individual to fall below a monetary poverty line. In a human development perspective, the freedom of each individual to live their life according to their preferences must be at the core of the analysis, which calls for the inclusion of subjective measures. This is all the more important when studying poverty in a heterogeneous group of people such as pensioners in Switzerland - a group that is known to be characterized, on the one hand, by great inequality in terms of economic resources and, on the other hand, by a great diversity of needs and expectations regarding economic quality of life.

To date, elderly people's perception of their own vulnerability has rarely been addressed in gerontological literature. One reason for this gap may be the awareness that any subjective assessment of an individual's own vulnerability is bound to be influenced by local culture of what is commonly considered 'acceptable' suffering. In this sense, the subjective mode of measurement brings with it the danger of painting an embellished picture of the actual situation because individual preferences may be tuned down, as a result of social-comparison or adaptation to suboptimal states of quality of life. In order to disentangle these influences we propose to distinguish within the subjective dimension between a respondent's *evaluation* of his/her circumstances *(self-assessed vulnerability)* and his/her *experience* of the same situation *(perceived vulnerability)*. While the self-assessed measures let us know whether an individual is aware of his/her own vulnerability (ex."Are you able to make ends meet?"), measures on perception provide information on the degree to which the individual is burdened by the situation ("Are you worried about not having enough money for your current expenses?"). The usefulness of complementing objective with these two subjective measures will be demonstrated based on theoretical and conceptual considerations about the assessment of economic vulnerability in wealthy countries as well as empirical evidence from Switzerland.

Using logistic regression models we will show the benefit of combining objective, self-assessed and perceived measures when assessing economic vulnerability among heterogeneous groups such as is the case with the elderly population in Western countries. The data used in the analysis stems from an interdisciplinary cross-sectional survey "Vivre / Leben / Vivere" that was funded by the Swiss National Science Foundation. The sample was collected in 2011/12 and contains 3600 respondents, 65 and older, from the country's three linguistic regions.

***14h30-15h00*: Martenot Aude**

Vulnerability through the subjective perception of the life course: The major turning points in the life of Mumbai slum dwellers (India)

Abstract. The life course perspective has been a central theme of work for many scientists from the Western world and from different disciplines (sociology, demography, psychology...). However, as mentioned by Dannefer (2004), late modernity induced social changes that envision the need for a "global geography" of the life course. Thus, in a developing country like India, facing growing socioeconomic changes and urban poverty, can we observe a specific perception of the major life events (or turning points)? Is it possible to emphasize collective representations of the turning points in such a country where norms remain so significant? For instance, less than 2% of women are single after 30 years and only 3% of men are single after 35 years (Véron, 2008).

This presentation focuses on the perception of the life course according to five different age groups of Indian people, from young adults to elderly, living in the slums of Mumbai. We identify the most significant turning points that these people considered as relevant. We look at effect of age at the time of the survey (a cohort effect), of gender and religion on the memories selected by the respondents. Furthermore, we examine two other hypotheses: the first one concerns the existence of a "poverty-effect" on the perception of health, family and education/professional life trajectories. The second one tests whether early adulthood comprises of more personal changes than any other stage in the life course.

Analyzes presented in this contribution are based on a survey conducted in Bandra East (Mumbai) in 2012, which itself is part of the international research program CEVI – Changes and events across the life course[1]. However, for technical reasons, data collection in India had to be adapted to the environment by transforming self-administered questions in face-to-face interviews, in Hindi and Marathi languages. These interviews permitted to complete questionnaires with three open-ended questions, one focusing on the turning points considered the most important by the individuals. About 600 men and women aged 20-84 years were interviewed.

Experts: Guy Elcheroth & Christian Lalive d'Epinay

Session 4. Room 2227.

Chairwoman: Francesca Poglia

13h30-14h00: Kaeser Laure

Questioning the notion of "active ageing": from political rhetoric to empirical evidence. The case of immigrant elders living in Switzerland

Abstract. Purpose: "Active ageing" has become a significant framework for much of today's age public policies. Most of the international organisations have largely contributed to raise and promote the extension of working life, the ability to maintain autonomy and independence, and, in a wider sense, the active participation of older populations to society. Nevertheless, whether it adopts a productivist or a holistic approach, the notion of "active ageing" is essentially a normative one, which has rarely been tested empirically. This paper confronts political rhetoric of "active ageing" with certain older people's living conditions, which are usually not considered by the so-called "ageing well models". To do so, it questions various dimensions of "active ageing" regarding the living conditions of immigrant elders living in Switzerland.

Data and Methods: The survey *Vivre / Leben / Vivere* focuses on the living conditions and health of people aged 65 and above currently living in Switzerland. The main survey was conducted in 2011 and 2012 on a sample stratified by age and sex of 3'600 people, living in French-, Italian- and German-speaking Switzerland. An oversample of approximately 300 elderly immigrants native of Italy, Spain and Portugal was conducted in Geneva and Basel. We realised multivariate analyses to identify the explanatory factors of three dimensions related to "active ageing": mental and self-rated health, poverty line and leisure activities.

Results: The factor "nationality" stands out as systematically discriminating for the analysed variables. Comparing to Swiss, being Italian divides by 1.7 the probability of being in good health (self-rated health), and for Portuguese, by 2.4, when controlling for other factors. Risk of having depressive symptoms for Italians is 2.8 higher than for Swiss when controlling for other factors, respectively 2.5 higher for Portuguese. Being Italian, Portuguese and Spanish increases the risk of being under the poverty line of respectively 6, 5.2 and 3.5 compared to Swiss when controlling for other factors. Finally, immigrant elders are overrepresented among people with low rates of leisure activities.

Conclusion: Models conveyed by the notion of "active ageing" seem to be unable to embrace the diversity of the living conditions and trajectories of older people. Our results strongly show its inherent risk to marginalize people in vulnerable situation. Beyond their lack of resources to achieve an "active ageing", it also questions their own perception of ageing.

14h00-14h30: Perriard Anne

Life course and employment policies: the construction of age-related social problems

Abstract. How does age influence access to employment? What are the employment norms at specific moments of the life course? Using an intersectional approach that takes into account the interlocking of social relations to produce hierarchical social positions, this paper proposes a discussion on social norms regarding employment in performing an analysis of the construction of two public problems for which the political solutions are specific welfare-towork programs implemented in Canton Vaud. The first program proposes a certified educational training for not in education, employment or training persons aged between 18 and 25. The second offers coaching for

[1] http://cigev.unige.ch/recherches/cevi.html

families to get them to increase their household income and get out of social assistance. In identifying the processes of categorization, normalization and naturalization occurring during the construction of these facts as social problems, this article aims to show how chronological age, frequently perceived as a naturalized statistical variable, is a social relationship because it (re)produces social inequalities in terms of status, authority and money.

***14h30-15h00*:** Bertrand Anne-Laure

Professional integration of refugees in Switzerland: framework and definitions

Abstract. My thesis aims at analysing the professional integration of statutory refugees in Switzerland and at understanding the constitutive mechanisms of the phenomenon of dequalification. I will therefore focus on the impact of various factors on professional integration and dequalification (in case the latter is proven). According to Piguet and Wimmer (2000), these factors can be aggregated into three categories: personal characteristics of refugees, economic conditions of the Swiss labour market and of specific business sectors, and legal and sociopolitical context. The analysis of these determinants will allow better understanding of the obstacles to the professional integration of refugees. Furthermore, the comparison between refugees and other migrants will indicate whether significant differences are observed between these groups regarding access to employment and type of activity, and, if any, whether the differences can be explained, for refugees, by their passage through the asylum procedure. Finally, the longitudinal perspective will show whether identified inequalities fade with time since the arrival in Switzerland.
The presentation will focus on the context of asylum migration to Switzerland. Historical migratory waves will be presented, as well as the evolution of the perception of refugees by the Swiss population. Based on the literature review, the concept of integration - including professional integration - will also be discussed.

Experts: Francesca Poglia & Marco Giugni

Session 5. Room 1628.

Chairwoman: Pasqualina Perrig-Chiello

***16h00-16h30*:** Cairo Notari Sarah

Change in women's sexual functioning after breast cancer surgery: a Swiss study

Abstract. *Background*: Sexuality is an important dimension of quality of life and contributes to a person's sense of wellness and self-concepts. Breast cancer and its treatments can have considerable impact on women's sexual functioning. This study aims to evaluate change in sexual functioning in women with primary breast cancer shortly after surgery.
Methods: A cross-sectional study was carried out in the Lausanne University Hospital (Switzerland). A total of 74 women with primary breast cancer (mean age 52.88 years; median length since surgery 4 weeks) were included in the study. Semi-structured interview were conducted to explore sexual change following surgery. Sexual functioning was also evaluated with the Sexual Activity Questionnaire (SAQ). In order to control other factors which could explain change in sexual functioning (namely psychological distress, body image difficulties, relationship satisfaction and medical conditions) some others self-reported questionnaires were used.
Results: Thirty-eight out of 74 participants (51.6% of the sample) revealed that they had experienced sexual changes following breast cancer: 21 reduced or modified their sexual activity, 17 stopped every sexual activity after breast cancer surgery. The most frequent reasons for sexual inactivity or sexual functioning decrease were: sex was not a priority; secondary effects of surgery (pain, discomfort and tiredness); body image difficulties. Interestingly, psychological distress and medical conditions were not cited by patient during interview and correlations analyses with questionnaires confirmed that these variables were not linked with sexual functioning.
Conclusions: This study showed that breast cancer surgery can deeply affect women's sexual functioning. More research is needed to accumulate data regarding the long-term outcomes of sexual changes and predictors of those outcomes in the context of breast cancer.

16h30-17h00: Schicka Manuela

Conjugal interaction over time – changes or stability?

Abstract. In my presentation I want to highlight how conjugal interaction developed over time.
Based on the longitudinal data set “Social Stratification, Cohesion and Conflicts in Contemporary Families”, which delivers information given by both partners of a couple, five styles of conjugal interaction have been conducted: Associative, Companionship, Cocoon, Bastion and Parallel. Focusing on the couples who stayed together during the observation period (N=721) I want to show how the single dimensions of conjugal interaction changed during the observation period. The dimensions I refer to, are cohesion and regulation. Cohesion describes the relatedness of partners towards each other and how couples appreciate contacts with the social environment. Regulation shows how partners organize their daily life together.
Furthermore, I examine, whether the five styles of conjugal interaction are still existent for the sample and whether couples changed their affiliation to a certain style. Additionally, I want show which transitions the couples had been gone through and how the relationship quality developed over time.
First results indicate that there is a quite high stability in the single dimensions over time. Furthermore, the five styles of conjugal interaction could have been recovered, with an additional style which is characterized by a transition made on the cohesion dimension.

17h00-17h30: Brandalesi Vanessa

“Normative motherhood”. Its implications in the life course of women without children

Abstract. In Switzerland, few studies are the focus on childless or childfree women even if the demographers show an increasing of late maternity and low fertility. One of the explanations is the increase of working and studying women. However these studies focus only on structured reasons and neglect power relationships that are at the core of gender inequality. In fact, many Western feminists have described the existence of a “normative motherhood” applicable to women. Women who are childless are perceived as “against the norm” and not meeting the social expectation. Previous studies using also a qualitative approach on the same topic, interviewing women without children, they identified them as “deviants” in a gender system. Our target is to demonstrate that even if it mostly accepted that women have free fertility choices the “normative motherhood” demonstrates we have to not to forget that they are the results of power relationships that we have to analyse to understand the binding effect of this norm. We conducted 55 semi-structured interviews, including 12 with heterosexual couples (one interview in common and one each), 12 with heterosexual women living in a relationship and 8 with single women in Switzerland in 2013. We focused in the individual’s and couple’s experience and reasons of childless/childfree state and theirs perceptions of the “normative motherhood”. In this paper, we focus on the negotiation that the person has to do in power and gender relationships using the content analysis of the speech of the interviewed.

17h30-18h00: Girardin Nadia

Intentions and practices regarding childcare

Abstract. Switzerland suffers of a chronicle lack of childcare solutions and costs are high: estimations shows that only 40% of childcare demand would be satisfied (Giraud & Lucas, 2009) and cost often represent the whole income of one full-time member of a dual-earner couple (Bütler & Ruesch, 2009). Moreover, Banfi, Farsi, and Filippini (2009)observed first that parents used less institutionalized childcare modes (childcare centers and family home) that they would use if the supply was sufficient. To compensate this lack, parents tend to put the child into the care of his·er grand-parents. In parallel, this solution is envisaged only for a short amount of time (about 1-1,5 day) per week because of multifactor reasons such as parents fear that their own parents involve too much in child education (Le Goff, Barbeiro, & Gossweiler, 2011). Therefore, parents stand between, on one hand, a lack of institutionalized childcare mode and, on the other hand, some difficulties to compensate this lack. The master status thesis (Krüger & Levy, 2001) postulates that pressures institutional organization weighs down on young parents are at the origin of the traditionalization couple experiment during the transition to parenthood. Using longitudinal *Devenir parent* data, we want to observe how parents plan to organize the childcare during pregnancy and what they actually do after the birth. Qualitative results on intentions show that waiting list for childcare center and registration delay for family home (only possible when child is born) implies uncertainty which translates in vague intentions during pregnancy. First descriptive results comparing intentions and practices do not indicate clear tendency regarding the coherence between intention and practices about childcare frequency (number of half-day per week parents plan do put the child into the care of any childcare mode). On the other hand, these descriptive results seem showing a postponement of childcare start. For the next edition of the Doctoriales, I plan to present further analysis in order better understand how intention and practices are linked regarding childcare. In particular, I plan to present analysis I am going to do using dependent variable constructed through sequence analysis.

Experts: Pasqualina Perrig-Chiello & Dario Spini

Session 6. Room 2227.

Chairman: Michele Pellizzari

***16h00-16h30*:** Gomensoro Andrés

"I'm not supposed to be at the University". Resources and educational trajectories that lead children of Albanian speaking immigrants into the tertiary education level.

Abstract. In comparison with other second generation populations and with natives, the children of Albanian speaking immigrants rarely attain the tertiary education level. According to the available statistics, the majority of them pursue a vocational education and training and some of them don't achieve a post-compulsory education. This population seem to cumulate many disadvantages that influence the taken educational pathways. Those disadvantages are for example a high rate of selection in basic level groups that limits the access to baccalaureate schools, the low socio-economic status of families, the low educational attainment of parents, the lack of concrete help from parents and family, the negative effect of unstable permit status, the discrimination, etc. In this presentation I will focus my attention on young adults that are in the tertiary education level. I aim to highlight what are the mobilized resources and the favourable conditions that allow them to reach Universities or Specialized Schools. Those first results of my thesis are based on the analyse of about 20 interviews and calendars conducted with young adults aged from 18 to 28 years old that reached the tertiary education level.

***16h30-17h00*:** Latina Joëlle

How far can you go? An analysis of transitions to apprenticeship training

Abstract. In traditional apprenticeship countries, vocational education is usually the most common upper secondary type of education. However, competition with academic and general education is increasing, given the evolution of OECD economies. We therefore focus on the attractiveness of dual vocational education and training (VET) and examine, not only outcomes but processes underlying the accumulation of years of training and ask, in particular, if VET can still attract high achievers. We use panel data from a Swiss Canton spanning 12 cohorts and apply a novel methodology in this context. Middle school low track students are much more likely to engage in dual VET and tend to accumulate more years of training than comparable high track students. However, the former are less likely than the latter to achieve a smooth pathway inside dual VET.When controlling for grades , while the low track effect stays of comparable magnitude, we find low achievers to attain fewer years of training and high achievers to manage smoother VET pathways.

***17h00-17h30*:** Bataille Pierre

Integrate an elite school… and after? Propositions for a life course approach of French educational elite's trajectories

Abstract. Sociological researches on French school elite can be divided in two main groups
First, most of sociological studies about French elite underlined the social phenomenon of the "reproduction of the elites" (Bourdieu and Passeron, 1967; Bourdieu, 1989; Albouy and Thavan, 2007). These studies show that the selection process that allows students to achieve the most prestigious diploma of the French higher education system is not neutral. In other words, these studies show that the upper class student's primary socialization predisposes them to reach the educational elite circle. So these studies use a biological metaphor, the metaphor of "reproduction", to highlight two of the main characteristics of this system: the importance of the familial cultural capital and its transmission and the persistence of such inequalities.
Then, to complete this point of view, other sociological studies underline the coercive action of these institutions on the future elite's attitudes and representations. These studies show how the socialization of the educational elites leads them to incorporate the same way of acting and thinking, and leads them to form a homogeneous social group

with its own "esprit de corps" (Bourdieu, 1989; Eymeri, 2001; Cuche, 1985). In this case, the studies use an industrial metaphor, the metaphor of “production”, to highlight two other main characteristics of this system: the high normativity of the French educational elite's trajectories. A student should: perform well at school, attend the most prestigious high school, and incorporate a homogeneous set of technical and social skills that improve educational and social capital.
From my point of view, these two ways of analyzing give too much of a homogeneous overview of French educational elites. They minimize the importance of the individual variations in the socialization process inside the “classes préparatoire-grandes écoles” system. Above all, they haven’t investigated the question of this particular population’s entry into the labor market. These two frames of analyses are based on the same hypothesis: that educational selection is at the core of professional segregation and social reproduction. But many studies have shown that even for highly skilled people, attaining a prestigious diploma no longer protects against all « new social risks » (Armingeon and Bonoli, 2006). Over the last forty years, the relationship between reaching diploma level and transitioning into a secure position in the professional hierarchy weakened. The “diploma inflation” mechanism pointed out by several authors at a national (Passeron, 1982; Duru-Bellat, 2006) or an international level (Brown, Lauder and Ashton, 2010), makes us skeptical of the homogeneous overview generally given by the sociological surveys of the French “grandes écoles” graduates.
To investigate this aspect, I assume that researchers have to rethink the articulation between educational and professional trajectories among educational elites. This new perspective may help to understand how the different products of socialization (the incorporation of ways of thinking, of being, the socials representations) at these different steps of the socialization process relate to each other. In this way, the researcher does not presuppose that one step of this process is more important than another. To achieve this research goal, I would use a “topographic” metaphor to investigate the individual trajectories of this specific highly skilled population. The main goal of this “topographic” and life course view will be to underline that such trajectories are indeed processes.
According to common wisdom, the “grandes écoles” supposedly opens the door to the “highway” of social and professional success. But does this way always seem like a highway? More precisely, how is this way structured in term of gender, social origin and educational background? These are the research question that I explore. My presentation will be mainly based on the analysis of 50 interviews with alumni of one of the most prestigious French “grandes écoles”: the ENS de Saint-Cloud et Fontenay.

***17h30-18h00*:** Fritschi Tobias

Social cost and benefit of human capital investment in the life course. A comparison of cost-effectiveness on different educational levels

Abstract. It is widely acknowledged that formal education leads to higher personal income as a function of human capital accumulation. Personal income can be seen as the rate of return on individual investments in human capital. About 15% of the Swiss population between the ages of 25 and 64 years have not completed any formal education or training since compulsory schooling. Although most of those who have no Secondary II qualification are in work, their employment is confined to low-skilled jobs where the wages tend to be poor.
This results in costs to society, as these individuals and their families rely more frequently on welfare state benefits and contribute smaller amounts to social insurance systems and tax revenues. the average social cost incurred per person and per year when people of working age (25 to 64 years) do not have an upper secondary level certificate amounts to about 10’000 CHF, which breaks down into about 7’500 CHF in lost public revenue (taxes and social security contributions based on lower wages) and about 2’500 CHF in transfer and administration costs to the social security system.
The first paper of my doctoral thesis compares the social cost-benefit ratios of preventive action and measures to facilitate the belated acquisition of education certificates, focusing in particular on case management in vocational training and on the validation of educational achievements.

Experts: Michele Pellizzari & Michel Oris

Session 7. Room 1628.

Chairwoman: Sylvie Burgnard

***9h00-9h30*:** Baeriswyl Marie

Social participation end gender roles in retirement: evolution over 30 years

Abstract. At the crossroads of demographic, cultural and socioeconomics changes, retirement nowadays no longer signifies the abandoning of significant roles or life projects. Rather, it appears to be a new stage in life where the individual can aspire to reinvent à « second life ». In this context, the social participation is gaining increasing significance both at quantitative level, with the global increase of participation (eg. Agahi & Parker, 2005; Bickel & Lalive d'Epinay, 2001), and symbolic level with the valorization and diffusion of the idea of "active aging" (eg. Kaeser & Roch, 2013). At the same time, the last decades have also been an important period of change for women with the access to the civic rights, to the labor market or to the vocational and higher training. However, if the equality between women and men have made significant progress, the feminine and masculine « choices » of life seem always structured by a differentiate « master status » (Krüger & Levy, 2001). My PhD project is situated at the intersection of these two evolutions and aims to question the participation and the position of retired people, in particular in relation to the distinction between private and public sphere, the difference of role assignation between men and women at this stage of life and the evolutions that have occurred over 30years. For the doctorial presentation, I present a set of analyses regarding the evolution of the participation of people aged over 65 years and considering different dimensions of social life on the basis of a broad definition of social participation and the difference observable between sexes. Empirically, I will use data from tree transversal survey conducted successively in 1979, 1994 and 2011 with a random sample of the population aged 65years and older, residing in two Swiss regions: one metropolitan, Geneva, the other semi-urban and alpine, the Wallis. The reproduction of the same survey design and the repetition of a same set of question allow a comparison of the data over the last three decades.

***9h30-10h00*:** Constantin Sandra

Life-course and transition to adulthood in China. The case study of Beijing in a comparative perspective between two cohorts born in the 1950s and 1980s

Abstract. In this communication I will explore, through the case study of Beijing, the transition to adulthood of the young Chinese born in the 1980s. My research focuses on two specific birth cohorts: the post-1980s, and the post-1950s. If the first cohort is born during the implementation of the open-up policy, the second one is the generation of their parents, born right after the foundation of the People’s Republic of China (PRC). In this paper, my aim is twofold: first, in a comparative approach between and within cohort, I will try to understand how the reforms initiated by Deng Xiaoping at the beginning of the 1980s influenced the life course and the stages of the transition to adulthood of the young Chinese born in the 1980s. Then, I will compare these pathways with those of people born in the 1950s. Although studies on this topic are widespread in Western countries, there are still few focusing on Asian countries (Ji 2013; Fukuda 2013 ; Huang 2013 ; Ishida 2013 ; Park 2013 ; Yeung et Alipio 2013), and on China especially (Hannum and Liu 2005 ; Yeung et Hu 2013 ; Lin 2013).

My analyses will be based on retrospective longitudinal data encompassing family, academic, professional and migration biographies. I interviewed, between September 2012 and July 2013, a sample of 916 people living in Beijing at the time of the survey (616 respondents born between 1980 and 1985, as well as 300 respondents born between 1950 and 1959). To collect these quantitative data I developed a computer administrated life-course matrix.

In this communication, I will rely on the sequence analysis methodology to analyze these retrospective longitudinal data, and to study the variations between and within cohorts in the transition to adulthood of these two distinct generations. This methodological approach is unique and well adapted to consider as a period rather than an event the transitions occurring over the life-course. It also allows researchers to explore the occurrence of simultaneous or successive events over the life-course. To answer my research question, in this communication, I will first show these various sequences. Then, I will proceed to clusters analyzes using the optimal matching methodology. My aim here will be to highlight the various patterns of transition to adulthood for each group and subgroup inside the two birth cohorts (post-1980s and post-1950s).

***10h00-10h30*:** Gabriel Rainer

Household income inequalities among the elderly in Geneva and Valais between 1979-2012: Patterns and life course perspectives

Abstract. Numerous studies show that over the last thirty years the elderly population in Switzerland – and in most western industrialized countries in general – has benefited from improvements in many dimensions of life: Life expectancy has steadily risen over this period, and along with the number of years that a person can expect to live free from disabilities. The same is true for the economic situation of retired individuals. Studies show increased average levels of income in this segment of the population, and also show that the average concentration of wealth is even higher than in the working population.

In this presentation I aim to have a closer look at this first broad picture concerning household incomes among the elderly population in Switzerland. Naturally, the overall changes in incomes over the last three decades are largely a result of the progresses in terms of social policies towards the retired population in Switzerland and in particular, the establishment of the pension system (AHV/AVS). However, since their establishment these systems have not been universal in their character but rely on an individual's capacity to participate in the economic system over their life course. It is this participation in the economic system which has for a majority of the 20th century been highly unequal. Some authors from critical gerontology even see these tools as means of maintaining social inequalities, especially with regards to gender, but there might also be effects according to regional and historical contexts or according to social classes.

Starting from this debate, I focus on the evolution of the income distribution over the last three decades in two quite contrasting Swiss cantons: Geneva as representing an urban area, and central Valais representing an alpine rural area. Firstly, I observe the evolution of the overall distribution and its inequality, the patterns of evolution according to sexes, age-groups, in each region, as well as the evolution according to social classes. Secondly, I assess the determinants of having very small incomes (being poor), small incomes (precarious situation) and compare them to the rest of the population. Thirdly, I will give a first outlook of an attempt to introduce a life-course perspective into this analysis by taking into consideration the professional trajectories individuals had.

I use a dataset that includes three waves of large cross-sectional surveys about the health- and living conditions of the elderly. They have been carried out in Geneva and Valais in 1979, 1994 and 2011/12.

Experts: Sylvie Burgnard & Floriane Demont

Session 8. Room 2227.

Chairman: Sandro Cattacin

***9h00-9h30*:** Fargnoli Vanessa

Living with HIV: a sociological study on trajectories of HIV-infected women

Abstract. Thanks to the efficiency of medical treatments, HIV-infected people can now experience a relatively normal life. Available treatments led to a shift from a condition characterized by infection and death to a manageable chronic condition in which the risk of illness can be engaged with. The evidence presented in this project however suggests that HIV-infected women accumulate vulnerability at different levels.

"What does it mean to live with HIV?" and "what are the adjustment strategies used by the HIV-infected women?" are the preliminary questions of this research that aims at bringing together the biological and social dimensions of this status, combining Sociology of chronic illness and Life course theories.

To shed light on a social group that is fairly invisible, around forty biographical in-depth interviews will be conducted with HIV-positive asymptomatic women, not belonging to classical targeted at risk groups, diagnosed before the year 2000. This research will examine their lived and narrated experience. This will allow to document the long term impact of the infection on daily life and to provide insights on their specific needs.

***9h30-10h00*:** Rosciano Alessandra

Determinants of well-being in the elderly population in Switzerland

Abstract. The continuing increase of the aging population raises concerns about the quality of life and well being of the elderly. Prolonged life expectancy may be accompanied by increased morbidity and declines in functioning

during old age. Studies support the hypothesis that functional disability is associated with depressive symptoms, which may lead to a diminution of the general well being. But there are social and psychological resources that could have an impact on the maintain of well-being. Data comes from the VLV study, an interdisciplinary survey on living and health conditions of people aged 65+. The sample consists of around 4000 elderly people 65 years and older, randomly selected in the cantonal and federal Swiss administrations' records, without cognitive impairment. VLV is the third wave of a cross-sectional survey (1979, 1994/5).
In order to know which factors have an impact on the elderly well-being, and how important could be this impact I will proceed to evaluate different indicators.
I will first calculate three indicators of well-being, on the basis of what has been done in 1994 for the study "Vivre ensemble" on which the actual study is based:

- Objective well-being, related to the health status
- Cognitive well-being, related to the self-evaluation of the health status
- Affective well-being, related to the presence of positive or negative affects

Each indicator is divided into three terms:

- Objective well-being: independent, fragile, dependent
- Cognitive well-being: positive, satisfactory, negative
- Affective well-being: happy, anxious, depressed

Then I will create groups based on different terms.
The goal is to see what might be the factors involved in certain groups for the maintenance of their well-being.
Example: people who have poor objective health status (dependent) but positively assessing their health (positive cognitive well-being) and good affective well being (happy). Which could be the factors affecting positively their affective well-being?
To do this I will analyze the different factors that could have an impact on the different types of well being and the perception that people have of their well being.
Here the list of the factors that I will evaluate:

- Social comparison
- Personality
- Social relationships
- Services
- Economic well-being
- Worldview beliefs

***10h00-10h30*:** Rosenstein Emilie

Changing welfare policies and its impact on social citizenship: A life course perspective on disability insurance recipients in Switzerland

Abstract. Since the 80s, the trend towards activation has deeply transformed welfare policies. Social policies turned into social and professional integration policies. This new conception of social protection impacts on the entitlement to social rights as well as on the meaning of social citizenship. Indeed, activating welfare recipients requires individualising welfare benefits and procedures. The objective is to find a new way to organise and deliver welfare protection in a context of destandardisation of the life course, characterised by the end of full employment and the multiplication of nonlinear professional trajectories. But, as many authors pointed out, individualisation within welfare policies is an ambivalent concept. On the one hand, it promises more successful and tailor-made solutions. On the other hand, it opens the way towards constraining and conditional approaches of social protection.
My objective is to question the consequences of this ambivalent movement towards individualised active labour market policies and its impact on social citizenship. To investigate this issue, I will analyse the recent reforms of the Swiss disability insurance (DI) to see how the logic of activation and individualisation are interpreted in this specific framework. More precisely, I will study the impact of these reforms on various target groups (according to their age and their disability type) in order to identify the main trajectories of DI recipients and see to what extent DI promotes different tools and approaches of social protection and professional integration according to the life course stages.
My overall project will be based on a mixed-method approach, including:

- a documentary survey (federal laws and official documents)

- a secondary data analysis of DI administrative databases (from two Swiss cantons)
- about 50 semi-structured interviews with DI recipients and professionals (from two Swiss cantons)

Experts: Sandro Cattacin & Pierre Arwidson

Session 9. Room 1628.

Chairman: Jean-Marie Le Goff

***10h30-11h00*:** Duvoisin Aline.

The baby boom and the baby boomers in Switzerland

Abstract. I will take the opportunity of the “doctoriales 2014” to present my dissertation project dealing with the baby boom and the baby boomers in Switzerland. My research will focus on the life trajectories of these birth cohorts who were often called the "golden generations". The main objective is to understand the living conditions, the resources and the vulnerabilities that are particular to the baby boomers in Switzerland. I will shed light on three specific issues:

1. What have been the roots of this sudden increase of fertility in Switzerland?

The causes of the baby boom still remain unclear (Calot & Sardon, 1998; Van Bavel & Reher, 2013). There are indeed no widely accepted theories and most of the existing ones refer to economic explanations (e.g. Easterlin, 1961; Butz & Ward, 1979; Greenwood, Seshradi, Vandenbroucke, 2005) that approach this demographic phenomenon from a global perspective, at a macro level. Furthermore, “*it is not clear whether or not all social groups participated equally in the trend towards higher fertility*” (Van Bavel & Reher, 2012) that is observed in many European countries since the mid-1930s (Monnier, 2006). However, understanding the socioeconomic differentials in fertility during the baby boom would be very useful in order to shed light on the distribution of inequalities among the baby boomers at the time of their birth.

2. What have been the life trajectories of the baby boomers?

It would be misleading to consider the baby boomers as belonging to a homogeneous generation (Bonvalet & Olazabal, 2012). However, we can notice that they can be distinguished from their parents and their children generations especially in terms of family and professional trajectories, as it was observed in France and in England (Bonvalet, Clément, Ogg, 2011). Employing the theory of cumulative (dis)advantages, I will analyse how these trajectories have led the baby boomers to accumulate specific resources in the Swiss context.

3. Do they have specific vulnerabilities and needs when retiring?

Studying the accumulation processes should facilitate the identification of the vulnerabilities that the baby-boomers have to face nowadays, when reaching the age of retirement. And consequently their specific needs should also become clearer. Nowadays there is a general concern about the consequences of the baby-boom, especially in terms of public finances, which has been raised based on quantitative estimations. But proper social policies management requires more precise information about the health and living conditions of the baby-boomers and the

***11h00-11h30*:** Remund Adrien

Excess mortality of young adults: individual reality or artefact of social inequalities?

Abstract. Young adults’ excess mortality (YAEM) is a long known demographic fact, but its causes remain unclear. In a previous study, I showed that this phenomenon is not universal, since historically about one quarter of female and 10% of male populations ignore it. Moreover, the periods of absence of excess mortality are concentrated on specific historical contexts (1950s-1970s for women, the 1930 generation for men). Additionally, the causes of death also show that the so-called “accident hump” has not always been fueled by accidents, and that before WW2 this YAEM was mainly due to (respiratory) tuberculosis.

These observations cast doubt on the common perception of young adults’ excess mortality, which presents it as an inevitable phenomenon stemming from the endogenous developments of adolescents and the natural turmoil associated with puberty. Although this point of view has been challenged a long time ago by psychologists and anthropologists, it has retained credit, not only in the eyes of the public, but also amongst scholars from other fields. In demographic terms, two competing hypotheses can be opposed regarding the nature of the generating process of

young adults' excess mortality, corresponding respectively to Vaupel's level 1 and 2 explanations. The first one sees excess mortality as an internal process, implying that each individual experiences a temporary increase of his/her risk of death. The second one assumes that the force of mortality observed at the population level does not inevitably reflects the experience of each individual, and that YAEM can be an artifact of a selection process based on unobserved characteristics of the individuals. This second explanation is given credit by the fact that both tuberculosis and accidents are amongst the causes of deaths with the highest social gradient. Socioeconomic groups might thus provide the unobserved heterogeneity necessary to generate a hump at the population level even though it is absent at the individual level.

In order to test the validity of these two hypotheses, I will study the pattern of the force of mortality according to different variables, including social classes. In doing so, I should be able to determine whether young adults' excess mortality exists within each group, or if YAEM can be explained by selection effects alone. This analysis will be repeated on accident and suicide mortality. Additionally, a multivariate analysis of the risk of death should give an indication on the aetiological fraction attributable to other variables such as sex, education or place of residence (urban/rural). The data will come from the Swiss National Cohort, which links since 1990 the information from the deaths register with the one of the census in the whole of the Swiss population.

***11h30-12h00*:** Zufferey Jonathan

Individual factors of migrant mortality differentials

Abstract. Many studies have tried to understand migrant health and mortality in Western countries with not always satisfying results. A major paradox emerges in the literature, a lower mortality among migrants although they have a lower socioeconomic status too (and we all know the high significance of socioeconomic position in respect to mortality). Researchers sought if the migrant mortality advantage was real, namely if some direct or indirect factors could explain it, or if it has to be explained by biases in the data or in the measurement. It still remains today difficulties to have the last word and the good answer is probably nuanced. Actually, there are some important biases in selective migration for in-migration as much as out-migration but these biases are not sufficient to explain the mortality advantage.

In this paper, we model individual factors of migrant mortality using GLM Quasi-Poisson. Because migrants are heterogeneous populations, a usual regression with the social determinants of mortality won't be satisfactory. Using classification trees, we will be able to detect the interactions among migrants groups and suggest a more precise picture of the migrant mortality determinants. The data used come from the Swiss National Cohort, a longitudinal research platform based on the linkage of individual data from the national census. Our population of interest is resulting from a migration and will be measured by the foreigners permanently residing in Switzerland. It's a fairly large subpopulation with approximately 1'495'000 individuals counting for 20.5% of the whole Swiss population in 2000.

Experts: Jean-Marie Le Goff & Giancarlo Camarda

Session 10. Room 2227.

Chairman: Matthias Kliegel

10h30-11h00: Johnston Claire

Career experiences and belief in a just world: A multi-study investigation

Abstract. Using a representative sample of adults living and working in Switzerland, this presentation will discuss the combined effects of personality traits and career adapt-abilities in predicting change in various well-being outcomes. In particular, changes in well-being will be considered separately for individuals who do and do not experience a professional change. Stable personality traits are known to impact well-being, and career adapt-abilities mediate the relationship between individual characteristics and well-being, and become activated in situations of professional change. Longitudinal regression analyses show that career adapt-abilities and personality traits predict changes in work stress and general psychological health for individuals who have experienced a professional change. These results suggest that there is a differential impact of individual characteristics for well-being at different time points. Results will be discussed in light of well-being and career construction theory.

11h00-11h30: Madero Cabib Ignacio

Completely included, partially included or partially excluded in the labour market? An exploratory schema of social vulnerability in late careers

Abstract. Life course sociology corresponds to an area of study traditionally interested in the analysis of vulnerability during early and middle adulthood careers. Yet, given an increasing attention over the last occupational period in Western countries, the current article aims to analyze the vulnerability confronted in late careers, focusing specifically in Switzerland. To this end, a new exploratory schema of vulnerability based on seminal life course notions and an inclusion/exclusion theory, is proposed for the analysis of late careers. Moreover, another aim corresponds to analyze how different life course determinants -such as life experiences in different domains and positional factors- impact the likelihood of confronting, or not confronting, social vulnerability during this occupational period. Longitudinal data comes from the Survey of Health, Aging and Retirement in Europe (SHARELIFE). Used methods are cluster, optimal matching, and discrete time models. Results allow concluding first that the proposed conception of vulnerability based on an inclusion/exclusion schema has an acceptable empirical support. Second, that the likelihood of confronting or not social vulnerability during late careers depends mainly on life experiences in family and occupational domains, as well as the positional status of workers.

11h30-12h00: Murphy Emily

Are Immigrants trapped in unskilled service occupations? A comparison of Great Britain and Switzerland

Abstract. *Recent changes in the employment structures of Western Europe have contributed to an increase in inequalities. A majority of unskilled occupations in the service sector are characterized by low pay and employment instability. When individuals in unskilled service occupations are unable to experience outward mobility, and such employment is concentrated among given populations such as women or immigrants, the danger is the formation of an unskilled service class. The present paper focuses on the occupational mobility of immigrants compared to natives in countries with different employment regimes: Switzerland and Great Britain. Our comparative research addresses the following questions: First, are workers trapped in unskilled service occupations more than in unskilled manual occupations and second, how does immigrant entrapment or mobility in unskilled service positions differ between Switzerland and the Great Britain? We draw on longitudinal data from the annual Swiss Labour Force Survey and the British Labour Force Survey to study annual occupational transitions by means of multinomial logistic regressions.*

Experts: Matthias Kliegel & Eric Widmer

Session 11. Room 1628.

Chairman: Jean-Michel Bonvin

***14h00-14h30*:** Antonini Matteo

Coping with unemployment: strategies and resources

Abstract. My presentation relies on my thesis project. My project investigates the socio-psychological strategies used to cope with a situation of vulnerability due to a period of unemployment. I face three main questions:
1. Does the life courses follow typical paths when characterized by a period of unemployment?
2. Which strategies the actors use to organize their resources and cope with this period of vulnerability?
3. Do these strategies change in time and space?

The analysis lays on individual work trajectories that are related to a wide set of resources including economic, demographic, relational, psychological and emotional factors. I perform all the analyses on a specific sample from the Swiss Household Panel. Methodologically, I apply a longitudinal perspective and a multidimensional approach through the use of sequence analysis and statistic modelling. The central methodological issue is to pass from the description of relations between static variables to a description of relations between processes.
All the results are collected and organized in a single frame that is compared with previous findings from other scholars (both on the theoretical and the empirical side).

***14h30-15h00*:** Galhano Laura

Selection criteria established by companies and self-valorisation strategies used by unemployed

Abstract. The Swiss labour market is well known for his low unemployment rate and for his flexibility. It is less known for his high segmentation, especially by gender and nationality. These characteristics support inequalities of access to employment, more specifically for the more vulnerable segments of the population, such as young people, women, workers above the age of 50 and migrants. The aim of this project is to analyse the appraisals on job positions by two main actors of the labour market: job seekers and their potential employers.

The empirical work focuses on the construction sector in western Switzerland. Construction companies are very structured, with high level of ranks, and they are strongly segmented by nationality and gender. This research centres on two complementary aspects: 1) concerning the employers, the evaluation mechanisms conducting to the selection of a candidate for a particular job position. Our goal is to see if and how these criteria are liable to the reproduction of inequality; 2) concerning the job seekers, the self-valorisation strategies they use when applying for a job. We are interested in their perception of the situation of unemployment: a) how is it affected by their life course/ professional history characteristics? ; b) how the perception of the situation determines the self-valorisation strategies when they apply for a job? To which extent these strategies are adequate to the evaluation criteria and functioning of organisations? An understanding of these different realities can consequently engage a critical view on the adequacy of actual employment public policies.
Data collection with these two groups of actors is being done through face-to-face interviews, either with the employers and the job seekers.

***15h00-15h30*:** Turtschi Nicolas

Use of network: perceptions of low educated jobseekers

Abstract. My presentation will expose some of my interviews with jobseekers. I selected them in my population because of their low-formation. My objective is to understand how they perceive their network's utility.
Indeed, my statistical results show that people with low formation have lowest networks. But Anna von Ow's results show that they find jobs through their networks more often than people with high formation. This situation can be explained by two reasons: networks are more efficient in the sectors they are working in; they use their network with more efficiency than people with high formation.
To complete our comprehension, I interviewed some of those people to show how they use their network, and why.
My interviews seem to show that:

- Networks provide help through different “function” (information, recommendation, …)
- Networks are very important in sectors where low-educated people work because they are in a strong concurrence.
- Use of network is badly related with the sector of activity, and people are not equal in their networks.
- Use of network can help to pass through a lack of qualifications.
- Not all of those people consider networks as useful as they are.
- Use of network supposes some qualities (self-confidence, courage, etc.).
- Use of network has codes. Not everyone can be helped by a network.
- In some sectors, there are specific networks people have to integrate to be helped (construction).

Experts: Jean-Michel Bonvin & Fabrice Plomb

Session 12. Room 2227.

Chairwoman: Delphine Courvoisier

***13h30-14h00*:** Adamopoulos Pauline

After school? Identifying the risk of youth unemployment using the Double Chain Markov Model for clustering

Abstract. The Double Chain Markov Model (DCMM) is extended for clustering purposes within multiple categorical time-series. This is achieved by assigning each individual to a cluster-specific transition matrix. The model parameters are approximated using the Mixture Transition Distribution (MTD) model, thereby reducing the total number of parameters to be estimated. The model is applied to longitudinal youth labour market data. Using model selection criteria, AIC and BIC, the model selected without covariates, is of visible order two with two latent groups. Our results are then compared to those that Optimal Matching (OM) yields (four different ways of defining costs are compared) when used with various clustering methods. Conducting bidirectional elimination with a logit model, we identify the covariates which have the greatest impact on cluster membership, all significant at the five percent level, as being Catholic, having five or more General Certificates of Education (GSCE) from grades A-C, and having an unemployed father. Although sex is not significant at the five percent level, it contributes to better model identification according to the AIC. Using the aforementioned four covariates, a logistic regression analysis is conducted, and our model yields notably lower AIC values compared to clustering methods using all four cost specifications in OM analysis.
We aim to reestimate our DCMM clustering model including covariates that are selected using a multinomial logit model. Results of model-based sampling for inference are also pending.

***14h00-14h30*:** Bolano Danilo. *Hidden Mixture Transition Distribution (MTD) model. Model selection criteria and application*

Abstract. Modeling time series presenting non-Gaussian features play a central role in many fields like finance, seismology, biometrical and psychological studies. Hidden Mixture Transition Distribution models are an answer to the complexity of such series because the observed heterogeneity can be induced by one or several latent factors and each level of these factors is related to a different component of the observed process. The time series is then seen as a weighted mixture and the relation between successive components is governed by a Markovian latent transition process. One of the main difficulties lies in the correct specification of the structure of the model: number of components and lags, use of covariates at the hidden and/or observed levels, modeling of the standard deviation of each component and so on. We will illustrate the critical step of reducing the complexity of the model and the selection of an appropriate model specification using ad hoc inductive hierarchical procedure. Starting from the simplest model possible, at each step the more advanced elements are added once at a time and the models are compared using information criteria. We illustrate our approach on a real data set, the U.S. Panel Study of Income Dynamics. The PSID is the longest running nationally representative household panel study and it allows unique opportunities to study conduct life course researches and generational studies over four decades. We will focus on a random subsample of 1,000 households observed between 10 and 36 times. The key variable used in this

application, the family income, reflects the yearly income from any source (labor, assets and transfers) and from all persons living in the family unit.

***14h30-15h00*:** Bürgin Reto. *Tree-based estimation of varying coefficients in ordinal mixed effect models*

Abstract. Varying-coefficients models have found widespread use in analysis of panel data. They allow coefficients of predictors to be functions of other covariates, such as time or confounding variables. In high-dimensional settings, the specification of such coefficient-functions is challenging and non-parametric smoothing methods often fail. In this talk, we introduce a new method based on linear mixed-effect models for clustered or repeated ordinal response data, including ordinal panel data. The method relies upon a tree-based algorithm that estimates varying-coefficients by a piecewise constant function. The algorithm can handle non-linearity, high-dimensionality, mixed measurement scales, time-varying and time-invariant covariates and statistically controls the selection of noisy covariates. The potential of the method is demonstrated with an application, using data from the British Household Panel Study, that examines how the effect of unemployment on individual well-being varies across individual characteristics and life circumstances. Performance of approximating coefficient-functions is evaluated by simulation and compared with non-parametric smoothing methods. An R package is provided for general use.

***15h00-15h30*:** Glaeser Stéphanie. *Contexts, social participation and transition into adulthood: Local social climates and young mens' substance use in Switzerland*

Abstract. The present study investigates the influence of the social context on young mens' substance use as a means of participation and integration in the Swiss Society. In addition to family and peer influence, this study analyses the impact of broader indicators of social contexts including local cohesion and climates of participation and sociability that can provide resources or constraints regarding substance use and risk behaviours through the creation of normative settings and structures of opportunity.
The individual-level data stem from the *Cohort Study on Substance Use Risk Factors.* The sample includes 5163 men with a mean age of 21 years who have participated in the initial and the second wave of the survey, between 2010 and 2013. The indicators of social climates are based on the aggregation of neighbourhood cohesion measures available in the cited dataset, as well as on other Swiss data, such as the *Swiss Household Panel* and the *Swiss Labour Force Survey*.
Multilevel models are used to simultaneously study the impact of social climate indicators and individual, family and peer group characteristics on the perceived normativity, frequency, amount and context of alcohol, tobacco and cannabis consumption, as well as on their motives and consequences.

Experts: Dominique Joye & Delphine Courvoisier

Session 13. Room 1628.

Chairwoman: Kate M. Bennett

16h00-16h30: Knöfli Bina. *Divorce and Widowhood in older age: What is worse?*

Abstract. Divorce and spousal bereavement are among the most common but also most incisive psychological and social stressors in adult life. Numerous studies have documented the detrimental effects of marital disruption on emotional, social, physical and economical well-being, yet the large interindividual differences in psychological adaptation to these critical life events are still not well understood. In addition, studies on later life divorce are still missing despite the increasing relevance of the topic. The aim of this contribution is to explore the differential impact of divorce and widowhood in older age (60-80) on psychological and social well-being, namely life satisfaction, depressive symptoms and social loneliness. Our analyses are based on data gathered in the first wave of LIVES IP12 study.
In a first step we compared three groups of individuals aged 60 years to 80 years: a) a sample of 269 divorced persons (133 women; 135 men), b) a sample of 356 widowed persons (219 women; 137 men), and c) a group of 274 married people (135 women; 139 men), who never experienced a separation, divorce or spousal bereavement, and which served as control group. First results by group comparisons indicate that divorced persons had a lower life

satisfaction than the bereaved ones. Furthermore, widowed individuals reported a significantly lower life satisfaction than the married controls. With regard to social loneliness, divorced individuals reported higher social loneliness than the bereaved group and the married controls. In contrast, the widowed and the married individuals did not differ regarding social loneliness. With regard to depressive symptoms, no differences between the divorced and the bereaved group were found. However, both of the groups with a marital disruption had higher scores in depressive symptoms than the married controls.
In a second step we will explore the predictive power of various socio-demographic variables and intra- as well as interpersonal resources with regard to the explained variance of the indicators of psychological and social well-being. These results will contribute to a better understanding of the large interindividual variability in overcoming marital disruption in older age.

16h30-17h00: Pin Stéphanie. *The fall and its prevention in the elderly: to cope with events during the life course*

Abstract. Introduction. Falling in the elderly was recognized a priority public health problem, but was most often seen as a minor phenomenon by older people. My research was based on the concept of vulnerability derived from environmental science and from the life course paradigm: I would like to better understand how the fall was embedded in the trajectories of life of older people and to analyze resources mobilized by people to cope with this event. Methods. I used the first four waves of the Survey of Health, Ageing, Retirement in Europe (SHARE), a biennial European panel on people aged 50 and older. On a sample of 9548 people aged 50 to 94, I firstly conducted growth curve analyses to demonstrate the impact of fall on subjective health and the differential effect of initial resources. Secondly, I performed generalized estimating equations for evaluating the impact of fall on social participation and on social support. Results. Falls had a significant and negative impact on subjective health and on social participation in the elderly. The initial level of resources interacted with fall and produced an independent impact on both outcomes. People who reported an excellent health at baseline were more likely to decrease in their self-rated health, throughout those with poor health increased their score of self-rated health. For social participation and for social support, the effect of fall was moderated by frailty. Discussion. These results tended to confirm the importance of initial resources for coping with fall in the elderly. They underlined the crucial effect of falls in psychosocial ageing and their interaction with self-representation.

17h00-17h30: Spahni Stefanie. *Patterns of psychological adaptation to spousal bereavement in old age*

Abstract. Spousal bereavement is the most common critical life event in old age with a high potential for vulnerabilisation. In most cases it is associated with stressful changes in daily life and is characterised by lower life satisfaction, higher rates of loneliness and hopelessness, and more depressive symptoms – particularly in men – compared to married peers. While the negative effects of spousal bereavement on well-being are well documented in research literature, the large interindividual differences in psychological adaptation are still not well understood. In this contribution we aimed to identify patterns of psychological adaptation to spousal bereavement in old age, and to shed light on the role of intra- and interpersonal resources, as well as on contextual factors as discriminant variables among these patterns. The data presented stem from the first wave of the LIVES IP12 questionnaire study with 402 widowed individuals (228 women, 174 men) aged between 60 and 89 (mean age 74.41), who lost their partner within the last 5 years, after having been married for on average 45 years. Exploratory latent profile analysis with various well-being outcomes revealed four different groups. The most important predictors for group allocation were: the big five personality traits, resilience, spousal support in own development and gender. Our results shed light on the crucial role of personality when examining the large variability in psychological adaptation.

Experts: Kate M Bennett & Hansjörg Znoj

Session 14. Room 2227.

Chairwoman: Sophie Pennec

16h00-16h30: Nicolet Marthe. "*The closing chapter of life". A mixed method approach to death and dying among the elderly in Geneva and Valais*

Abstract. During the last century, life expectancy at birth has increased by over 30 years in Switzerland. The proportion of people aged 65 and older has tripled (Oris and Lerch, 2009) and in 2010 they represent more than 80 % of the deaths in Switzerland (FSO, 2012). Death is aging, and in parallel the epidemiological landscape evolves. Although cardiovascular diseases and malignant tumours are the leading cause of death in the elderly population, the elderly are more often affected by neurodegenerative diseases (OFSP, 2012). Given these changes, this project focuses on the dynamics and structures surrounding an aged dying person until his or her death. In this presentation I will focus on how to approach this research question using a combination of quantitative and qualitative methods.
On the one hand, Switzerland is equipped with a large database to analyse mortality: the Swiss National Cohort (SNC). The SNC is based on the linkage of death certificates from 1991 to 2008 with individual census data from 1990 and 2000 (Spoerri et al., 2010). Among other information, SNC provides nationality, place of residence, education, household composition, dates of birth and death. Globally, it offers a large potential for in-depth quantitative analyses.
On the other hand, there is a less systematic but nevertheless very rich source of information on the closing chapter of life, given by the death notices appearing in daily newspapers. These notices have a double advantage since the data displayed can be quantified (Dion, 1997), but can also serve for a qualitative content analysis (Ringlet, 1992). A content analysis can indicate whether and how families mention or express gratitude to an institution, a physician or a team, and often the course of death ("suddenly", "peaceful", "serenity") appears. However, while a death certificate is established in all the cases, a death notice is not published for everybody.
For this presentation, a first exercise will be to confront distributions from the SNC data (anonymous) and from the (anonymized) death notices to reveal a number of biases. Secondly I will suggest a first analytical grid for the death notices.

16h30-17h00: Rousseaux Emmanuel. *Decision tree methods for the discovery of vulnerable profiles*

Abstract. This presentation introduces a new decision-tree-based method. This method helps to discover specific profiles of individuals that tend to experience more often than expected a given vulnerability state. Indeed, when studying a given observed vulnerability state, we generally assess the impact of some covariables on a dependent variable. However, reasons of falling in vulnerability are generally complex and experiencing a given vulnerability is often explained by the interaction of different covariables. The discovery of significant interactions between covariables is then a key point when working on vulnerability. Decision trees methods are useful tools for discovering interactions. However, studying vulnerabilies implies working on rare events and with a strong unbalanced within the dependent variable. For decision trees based on a statistical critera this situation can lead to the inability to discover the significant interactions existing in data. And for entropy-based decision trees, this situation generally leads to a poor performance on the class of interest. Our method puts forward a new criteria for growing decision trees when our class of interest is rare. This situation especially occurs when studying vulnerability, or when working with longitudinal data in person-period format. The method also assesses the impact of newly discovered interactions by means of regression modelling. This methodology allows the user to refine its hypotheses by giving the possibility to better "mine" the data. The method has been implemented in R and will be released within an R package called TRIM (TRees for IMbalanced data). After an overview of the theoretical justifications we will provide empirical results. We will conclude by introducing the TRIM package.

17h00-17h30: Zinn Isabelle. *Getting into the community »: Doing participant observation in "Manual" occupations*

Abstract. In this contribution I will discuss the challenges and advantages of doing participant observation in "manual" occupations. In so doing, I will draw from my ongoing research on butchers and florists in Switzerland. I will particularly stress the role I take - and which is often assigned to me - within the research setting and among its participants, and discuss various questions related to the circumstances and consequences of doing fieldwork.

Being interested in the occupational activities of the workplace, an ethnographic research design seems to be essential, in that it enables the researcher to observe the activities "while they are being done". Within the florist and butcher occupations participant observation reveals itself to be particularly advantageous, as both occupations tend to valorize "manual" activities above the "intellectual" part of labor. A method of participatory research, involving taking an active part in workplace activities as opposed to solely doing interviews with occupational representatives, takes into account this logic. In other words, taking part in occupational activities responds to an emic conception of work, while at the same time making my position as a field researcher more easily acceptable and facilitating my entrance into the community.

In exploring how I conceive and practice participant observation and in analyzing its concrete implications, I will refer to my role as researcher – juggling Between "observer" and "participant" – and the relations I develop and maintain with participants.

Experts: Sophie Pennec & Eugène Horber

Session 15. Room 1628.

Chairman: Claudio Bolzman

16h00-16h30: Bakouri Mouna. *Group identities for disadvantaged group members: understanding their role and development*

Abstract. Structural disadvantages – stressors based on membership of a socially disadvantaged group – are a potential source of psychological vulnerability. Previous research showed that group identification - an active choice to identify as a group member - helps to better cope with such stressors, more specifically, with group devaluation. This buffering effect is often explained by intragroup mechanisms of mutual support and acceptance. Under which conditions does a *beneficial* sense of being a group member develop (or fail to develop) given the low status of the group? How do we explain a disadvantaged group member's decision to identify as a group member, knowing the potentially negative view of the group held by society, and the *self-esteem* hypothesis which assumes that we identify with groups in order to benefit from a positive identity?

In this manuscript, we review the social psychological literature explaining psychological group formation, starting from the main approach of the discipline: social identity tradition. We discuss the relevance and implication of this tradition for disadvantaged group members. We complete the literature review by drawing on some other perspectives explaining psychological group formation both within and outside social psychology.

With this review we want to make the point that, in the case of disadvantaged group members, the emphasis on intergroup context as an explanation of group formation, which is predominant in social identity tradition, may impede our understanding of both the formation of identities and their active role in individuals' lives. Boundaries and processes of social categorization and comparison are no doubt key mechanisms, but they are not sufficient to understand how a group becomes a part of the individual self, a *meaningful* identity. Ignoring the role of intergroup contexts would be a mistake for sure, but we also cannot ignore that people mostly live in intra-group contexts, and it is also through shared experiences and achievement of (common) goals that they construct the meaning they associate to their groups. The decision to identify as a group member and its consequences cannot be understood without considereing the whole context of the individual life (both intergroup, structural and intragroup levels).

A life course perspective, looking at the person across the life course and as an active part the dynamic person–environment system, is needed. Identity choices are created in close relation with individual needs and the specific constraints the person is facing in particular phases of his or her life course. Both the choice to identify with a group and the meaning associated with this group identity are (re) created over time and require contextualized investigation. In the last section of this manuscript, we argue that a life course perspective can be useful to understand both how social categories are reflected in social experiences and opportunities specifically during critical life course transitions, and how the role of group identities in coping with such stressors can be investigated in a better way.

16h30-17h00: Barbeiro Ana. *Threats to identity, coping and agency – life-stories of Portuguese immigrants in Switzerland*

Abstract. Immigrating to a new country entails complex transformations on how people live and see themselves and the others. These transformations can imply experiences of threat to the identities of individuals, interfering with the identity principles of self-worth, continuity and distinctiveness. Social actors then deploy different coping dynamics in order to face these threats (Breakwell, 1986, 2000).
This research addresses the dynamics of threat and coping involved in the life-course of Portuguese immigrants in Switzerland. Twenty life stories have been collected through in-depth interviews and calendars. The analysis of interviews shows that immigration policies model the experiences of threat. For example, self-esteem was threatened by the fact that, during the 80s, workers where only allowed to stay in Switzerland for working, denying them the right to have a family life. Coping with this type of threat typically involved avoidance to thinking about the experiences and focusing on the goal of obtaining a residence permit at the end of four consecutive work permits. There is also a wide variability on the ways individuals experience and deal with threats to identity. This variability is featured by the past of individuals and by their projects for the future.
The retrospective characteristics of the life story interview put in evidence the fluidity of identity. Reconstructing the own life-story is identity work in itself. In other words, the meaning making process of telling a life-story is also an inherent process of identity, of agency and, thus, of biographical competence.

17h00-17h30: Guichard Eduardo. *Crises memories in Latin-America: Historical memories about dictatorships in Argentine, Chile and Uruguay*

Abstract. For several historians and social scientists, the period of dictatorships during the seventies and eighties decades in Latin America is one of the most important periods for the recent history of those countries. At the same time, in our research about the historical memory from a life course approach (CEVI), we have found that our samples of Argentine and Chili refers to the dictatorships as one of the most important socio historical changes that they has lived in their countries and along the time of their lives. In this presentation, I'll extend my previous analyses about the crisis memories in Latin America, including the new data of Uruguay, and focusing the analyses in the historical memory that builds the individuals about the dictatorships during the last part of the twenty century. There are differences in the subjective experience of dictatorships for our samples in Argentine, Chile and Uruguay? There is some difference among our cohorts in the experience of the dictatorships in their life course? My analyses will be developed in three steps; first, I'll present the main socio historical changes recalled by each cohort for the three samples. Second, I'll relate the specifically mention of the different dictatorships with our age groups to test the temporal anchorage of this memories into the life course. Finally, I'll analyze the reasons that individuals gives to mention the dictatorships as an important socio historical fact in their life course. Results shows that dictatorships have the capability to marker the life course of those that have lived it, but this mark takes different shapes according to the age that have individuals at the moment of the Coup d'état and during the period of dictatorship. At same time the experience of dictatorships shows some differences according to the country considered.

Experts: Claudio Bolzman & Olivier Desrichard

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