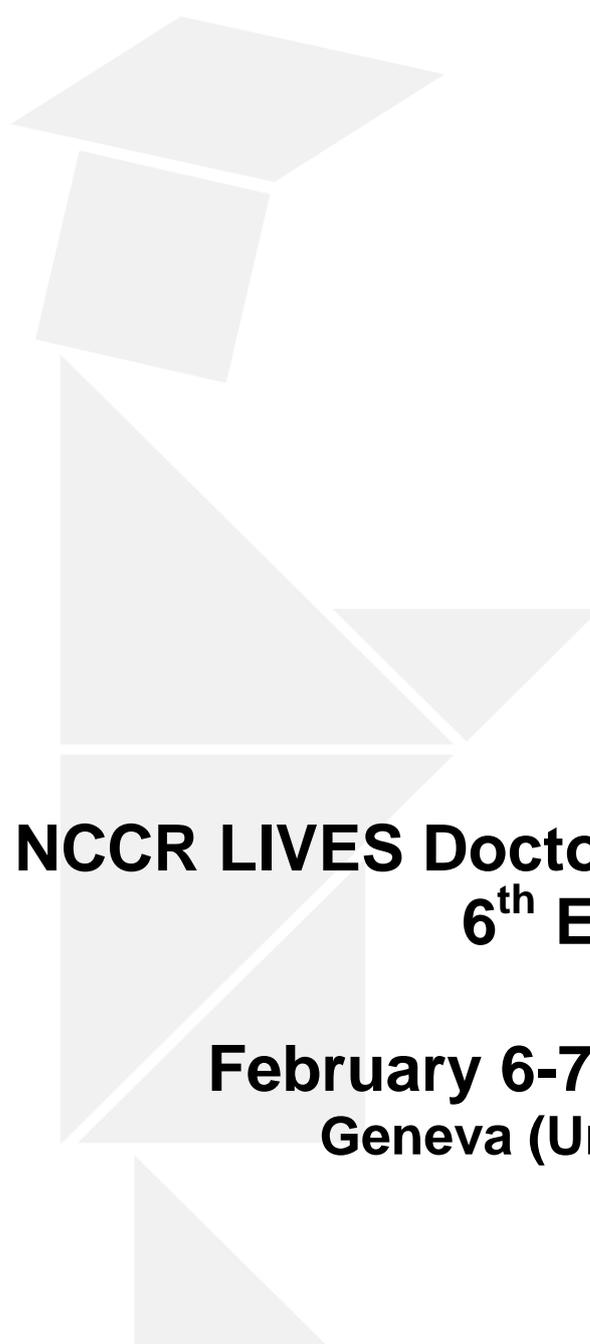


Swiss National Centre of Competence in Research

A large, light gray, stylized graphic of a person wearing a graduation cap, composed of various geometric shapes like triangles and rectangles, positioned behind the main text.

NCCR LIVES Doctoriales 6th Edition

**February 6-7, 2017
Geneva (Uni-Mail)**



SWISS NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION The National Centres of Competence in Research (NCCR) are a research instrument of the Swiss National Science Foundation



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

The Doctoriales certainly imply a lot of work and stress for most PhD students, but we know that it is a very profitable exercise. We hope you will get the most out of it!

Eric Widmer, LIVES co-Director and co-Director of the Doctoral Programme
Jean-Michel Bonvin, co-Director of the Doctoral Programme
Delphine Fagot, LIVES Doctoral Programme co-Officer
Tomaso Solari, LIVES Doctoral Programme co-Officer
Marie Baeriswyl, LIVES Doctoral Programme co-Officer



Monday February, 6th

9h00-9h30: Arrival, Coffee
(in front of Room MR040)



9h30-9h45: Welcome - Opening Session - Prof. Jean-Michel Bonvin, co-Director Doctoral Programme (Room MR040)



9h45-12h00: Parallel sessions I

Session 1 Room M4220

Modelling Vulnerability

9h45-10h30: Adamopoulos, Pauline. *Using dynamic microsimulation to understand professional trajectories of the active Swiss population.*

10h30-11h15: Orsholits, Dan. *Modelling vulnerability: an application of latent variable models.*

11h15-12h: Sanchez Tomé, Rosa. *Mode effects on responses styles to subjective wellbeing questions: assessing the interaction with responding characteristics.*

Experts: Satu Helske, Stephen Aichele

Session 2 Room M2020

How well will we age?

9h45-10h30: Sauter, Julia. *Social capital as reserve in old age: Analysing the link between personal networks and cognitive functioning.*

10h30-11h15: Lampraki, Charikleia. *Social activities of centenarians: Predictors of depression and loneliness.*

11h15-12h00: Van der Linden, Rose. *The role of individual characteristics for domains of quality of life: is this differential in old and very old age?*

Experts: Marja Aartsen, Christian Maggiori



 **12h00–13h30 Lunch (Cafeteria Uni-Mail)**

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

Session 3 Room M4220

Decrypting family diversity

13h30-14h15: Eisner, Leila. *Contextual normative anchoring of attitude towards "non-traditional" families: the case of the Canton of Vaud.*

14h15-15h: Ndour, Aurore. *Agency and life interdependencies: the contributions of the life course theory to mothers' parental investment in Switzerland.*

Experts: Karin Wall, Manuela Schicka

Session 4 Room M2020

Perceived vulnerabilities

13h30-14h15: Klaas, Hannah. *"Is mental illness a part of myself?" - On the interplay of identity processes, positive consequences and perceived recovery after psychological health problems.*

14h15-15h: Mesnard, Pauline. *The last year of life in Western Europe. Evidence from the SHARE data.*

Experts: Claudine Burton-Jeangros, Daniela Jopp

15h–15h30 Coffee break (in front of Room M2020)

 **15h30-17h: Parallel sessions III**

Session 5 Room M4220

Trajectories of couples

15h30-16h15: Larenza, Ornella. *The meaning of (re)partnering for lone mothers.*

16h15-17h: Kessler, Dorian. *Married couple income dynamics and social assistance take-up with divorce.*

Experts: Anik de Ribaupierre, Martin Kohli



Session 6 Room M2020

Methodological issues and challenges

15h30-16h15: Mancini-Vonlanthen, Nathalie. *Using the LIVES calendar in combination with quantitative semi-structured interviews to study highly-skilled expatriate couples.*

16h15-17h00: Siboney, Minko. *Studying religion in the life of elderly of Spanish origin in Geneva: Field work reflections.*

Experts: Katariina Salmela-Aro, Sabine Kradolfer, Felix Bühlmann



Tuesday February, 7th



8h30-9h00: Arrival, coffee (in front of Room M2020)



9h00-10h30: Parallel sessions IV

Session 7 Room M4220

Issues of vocational training

9h00-9h45: Fritschi, Tobias. *Social cost-benefit ratio of case management in vocational training.*

9h45-10h30: Korber, Maylis. *Does vocational education pay-off over the whole career? A comparison of Switzerland and the United Kingdom.*

Experts: José Ramirez, Michele Pellizzari

Session 8 Room M2020

Gender & careers

9h00-9h45: Gross, Dinah. *Prestigious occupations are for men: who endorses this stereotype?*

9h45-10h30: Seminario Luna, Romina. *Gender, degrees and permits: comparing professional trajectories of Peruvians in Switzerland according to dynamic legal configurations.*

Experts: Julie Falcon, Daniel Oesch

10h30–11h Coffee break (in front of Room M2020)



11h-12h30: Parallel sessions V

Session 9 Room M4220

Social policy at the crossroads of autonomy and vulnerability

11h-11h45: Bochsler, Yann. *Social policy and vulnerability: young adults in social assistance without vocational training.*

11h45-12h30: Geiser, François. *Uses and meanings of the autonomy norm in the design, implementation and reception of "ageing in place" policies.*

Experts: José Ramirez, Richard Settersten

Session 10 Room M2020

Surveying labour market issues

11h-11h45: Liechti, Fabienne. *Employers' perception of active labour market policies: evidence from a factorial survey experiment in the Swiss labour market.*

11h45-12h30: McDonald, Patrick. *Child premia and child penalties in the recruitment process: results from a factorial survey in Switzerland.*

Experts: Marlis Buchmann, Valentina di Stasio



12h30–14h Lunch (Cafeteria Uni-Mail)



14h-15h30: Parallel sessions VI

Session 11 Room M4220

Non take-up and human agency

14h-14h45: Leresche, Frédérique. *Non-take up rights and services of the welfare State as a form of critique.*

14h45-15h30: Roduit, Sabrina. *People living without health insurance in Geneva: barriers to healthcare use.*

Experts: Éléonore Lépinard, Oana Ciobanu



Session 12 Room M2020

Health issues in perspective

14h-14h45: Fagnoli, Vanessa. *To die from people's gaze: Experiences and perceptions of stigma of 30 HIV-positive women not belonging to targeted groups in French speaking Switzerland.*

14h45-15h30: Lutz, Andrea. *Exploring inequalities in the health trajectories of obese children: health determinants and socioeconomic factors.*

Experts: Trynke Hoekstra, Stéphane Cullatti

15h30–16h Coffee break (in front of Room MR040)

 **16h-17h30** Closing session ([Room MR040](#))

Conference given by **Prof. Katariina Salmela-Aro**,
University of Helsinki, member of the LIVES Advisory
Committee
(subject to be announced)

19h00 Dinner Altogether at *Restaurant Le Portugais*

(Boulevard du Pont-d'Arve 59, 1205 Genève, 022 329 40 98)



Abstracts (by alphabetical order)

Pauline Adamopoulos

Using dynamic microsimulation to understand professional trajectories of the active Swiss population

In this work, we use dynamic microsimulation in order to analyse individual professional trajectories. Within this context, dynamic microsimulation aims to generate professional trajectories from the observation of portions of the trajectories of individuals of different ages. We use Markov models to estimate the transition probabilities in and out of unemployment. Under the hypothesis that age should be a critical factor in employment transitions, we estimate the aforementioned transition probability matrices by age group. We then generate the future professional trajectories of the individuals in the sample by applying the age-dependent probabilities estimated. Furthermore, we examine the role of gender, and more specifically how gender interacts with age as manifested within these employment transitions.

The data to be used in this analysis are longitudinal and were collected by NCCR-LIVES IP207 under the supervision of Prof. Christian Maggiori and Dr. Gregoire Bollmann. Individuals aged 25 to 55 residing in the German-speaking and French-speaking regions of Switzerland were followed annually for four years. At the initial time period there were 2469 participants and the sample was roughly representative of the active Swiss population with women and the unemployed slightly over represented. At the end of the fourth and final wave, there were 1131 individuals who had participated in all four waves. The sample remained representative of the Swiss population with women and the unemployed slightly over represented.

Results tend to indicate that age plays a more important role than gender in the probability of transition in and out of unemployment. Once employed the probability of becoming unemployed is age-independent. For individuals in the 50 plus group, however, once unemployed it is much more likely to remain unemployed.

This work contributes to the analysis of professional trajectories of the active Swiss population by utilising dynamic microsimulation methods. By identifying at-risk groups, this work could be particularly useful for the creation of relevant policies and well targeted employment programmes.

Yann Bochsler

Social Policy and Vulnerability – Young adults in social assistance without vocational training

This dissertation deals with the normativity of social policies directed at the group of young adults in social assistance without vocational training in Switzerland. The background for this focus is firstly the pertinence of the young adults without vocational training as a particular target group of socio-political and educational measures at a state, cantonal and communal level. Secondly, this focus is relevant in the light of recent social transformations which put young adults without vocational training in vulnerable life trajectories.

There is a double development in the Swiss landscape of social policy regarding the young adults without vocational training. The first one is an educational offensive which aims to achieve the highest rate possible of secondary qualification degrees amongst the group of young adults in order to prevent discontinuous occupational biographies. The second one is an activation offensive characterized by a normative set of principles and expectations towards social benefits recipients which get in line with an economic investment logic. The main idea is to 'activate' social benefits claimants via contractualising their benefits and setting financial incentives. This doctoral study aims to analyse how far these political realities are used and implemented at the local level of the social assistance and how they are perceived by the young adults without vocational training. These questions will be answered predominantly through qualitative research. A comparative case study will be conducted (Basel and Geneva) in order to analyse the local social policy designs of the social assistance regarding young adults without vocational training.

In this doctoral dissertation, social policy and the group of young adults in social assistance without vocational training will be understood and conceptualized on the basis of the vulnerability concept (e.g. Vorrink 2015,



Spini et al. 2013, Soulet 2007). These young adults in this con-text face a specific form of fragility. They failed to master the expected 'normal' life course that the society expects them to master which means they lived through moments of failure in the past where they either dropped out of a VET (vocational education and training) program or never entered one. Previous research on vulnerable youth in Switzerland has demonstrated the heterogeneity and the fragility of this group (Drilling 2004 and Schaffner 2007). The socio-political strategies seem to be orientated on the institutionalized pathway of the dual VET education system with a political strive to get the most young people without secondary degree into an educational program. Furthermore, there is a grammatical logic that rewards 'active' beneficiaries and sanction those who remain passive. In the sense of the vulnerability concept these strategies are highly ambiguous because the programs create opportunities which are subjected to conditions and coercion. This vulnerability perspective will be a central starting point of this dissertation.

Leila Eisner

Contextual normative anchoring of attitude towards “non-traditional” families: the case of the Canton of Vaud

In terms of gender roles, importance of marriage, but also same-sex couples, the conceptions of what is “tolerated” or not in a couple are in constant changes. These latter are related to the representation of the “normal” and traditional family, which influences people’s lives through their attitudes and behaviours.

In the context of Switzerland, these elements are particularly salient as citizens are often asked to formulate an opinion through voting. The Swiss’ 28 February 2016’s initiative on marriage and families’ taxation, which defined marriage as union between a man and a woman is a good example of the public salience of such issues. Furthermore, there are several ongoing parliamentary reforms – for which Swiss citizens will probably have to vote in the near future – facilitated naturalisation for the partner, civil union for heterosexual couples and homosexual marriage.

Within this particular context, we conducted, in September 2016, a study on residents of 30 localities of the Canton of Vaud (N=1’100) in order to collect attitudes towards specific cases of “non-traditional families”, i.e. working mothers and same-sex couples. This study aimed to measure personal opinions but also to understand differences in attitudes between residents of different geographical contexts. In addition to that, measures of normative expectations, at different levels of abstraction, were tested in the questionnaire to better understand attitudes and their contextual anchoring.

What are the individual factors that influence residents’ of the Canton of Vaud attitudes towards “non-traditional” family forms? To which extent do attitudes differ as a function of the social context, for example, municipalities and their characteristics? How to measure the perceived norms? To which extent is the normative context associated with attitudes towards alternative family forms?

My intervention at the « LIVES doctoriales » will aim to present this study, from a theoretical and methodological perspective. In addition to that, I will present some of my results in order to better understand the relationship between different measures of social norms and attitudes towards “non-traditional” families in the Canton of Vaud.

Vanessa Fagnoli

«To die from people's gaze» Experiences and perceptions of stigma of 30 HIV-positive women not belonging to targeted groups in the French speaking part of Switzerland

Introduction: HIV-infected women are often ignored in debates about AIDS, especially in high income countries. Until now, studies of women remain rare, except those that focus on women considered at risk of transmitting HIV, such as sex workers. The over-visibility of some women, and the invisibility of others, demonstrates that the importance of HIV-infected woman has not yet been fully acknowledged. Furthermore, to be HIV-infected may have become medically commonplace in Switzerland, socially, it is still stigmatizing.

Method: To examine the social experience of living with HIV and its daily management, 30 in-depth interviews with HIV-infected women diagnosed before 2000 were conducted in the French-speaking part of



Switzerland from 2013 until 2016. Mainly infected through heterosexual relationships, all the interviewees shared the perception that they were not previously at risk for HIV infection because they did not belong to any at-risk groups.

Results: The cascade of “non-statuses” marking these women - not belonging to any targeted group, living in an in-between condition, with a virus labelled as “undetectable” - seems to increase their feelings of guilt and social illegitimacy, a phenomenon largely overlooked by the medical profession. The study reveals how it is still difficult and shameful for them to consider themselves as “HIV-infected” and therefore to disclose their situation to others. In addition, the study population indicates that stigmatization is not only associated with traditional modes of contamination (e.g. drug users, homosexuals). Although most of the women did not experience overt discrimination, the risk of rejection remains deeply embedded, revealing the presence of an important self-stigma effect.

Conclusion: The findings of this qualitative study demonstrate that favourable medical outcomes do not guarantee a better social life even for those who are not a priori stigmatized. Their HIV trajectory taught them how to transform an intolerable contamination into an acceptable story for themselves but also for others since several believed that they might not die from AIDS but rather from people's stigmatizing gaze.

Tobias Fritschi

Social cost-benefit ratio of case management in vocational training

The Swiss Conference of Cantonal Ministers of Education (EDK) has set a target for 2015 whereby 95% of young people are to have an upper secondary certificate by the age of 25. Several cantons have been installing a system of case management for young people who wish to start or are currently engaged in vocational training CMVT (Egger, Dreher & Partner, 2015). The target group consists of adolescents and young adults between the end of compulsory education and the age of 25 who experience difficulties either in the transition to or during upper secondary education. These can be adolescents having no access to an education on secondary II level or dropping out of such an education.

The paper investigates at first if case management in vocational training CMVT is effective, that is if it leads to a better result in terms of secondary two quotas in comparison to an alternative scenario without CMVT. This analysis is based on the results of an evaluation in the canton of Basel Landschaft (von Gunten et al. forthcoming), involving quantitative and qualitative research methods, and an intercantonal comparison conducted with the Swiss structural survey carried out by the Federal Statistical Office (FSO). We show an increase of 1.09 % of secondary II quotas, which explains one third of the rise of the quota between 2010 and 2013.

In a second step, we investigate the question if CMVT is efficient, that is if the cost incurred by society can be outweighed by savings in public cost on one hand, for instance by less spending on social welfare, and more public income on the other hand, for instance more tax revenues on projected higher revenues of individuals in the target group of CMVT (Brent 1999). This analysis is based on calculations with Swiss Labour Force Survey (FSO). Even if only for one CMVT case on five, an additional degree on secondary II level can be observed, the social cost benefit ratio for communes and cantons mounts to 1 to 4.6.

François Geiser

Uses and meanings of the autonomy norm in the design, implementation and reception of “ageing in place” policies

In the context of demographic ageing and expected increasing needs of care and assistance for the elderly population, the project aims at understanding the uses and meanings of the autonomy norm with regard to the public action promoting the ageing in place in Switzerland. This is a three steps project: 1) First, the cognitive and normative representations of the elderly's autonomy that are involved in the public discussions and deliberations directed at the elaboration of ageing in place programs will be investigated. 2) The second step will target the way professionals make sense of and apply the autonomy norm. In this respect, a special attention will be paid to the instruments of autonomy assessment – primarily the Resident Assessment Instrument - Home Care (RAI-HC) – that are used in home support. 3) Finally, the strategies deployed by beneficiaries to defend and apply their own understanding of autonomy will be examined.



The first step investigates the use of the autonomy norm in the context of increasing needs and limited resources. The main concern of the second and third steps is to grasp the potential differences and conflicts in the interpretation and uses of the autonomy norm by the professional, the beneficiaries and their relatives (informal help). The point is then to highlight how these differences are likely to impact the interactions they have together in terms of the actual preservation of autonomy for the older person.

Dinah Gross

Prestigious occupations are for men: who endorses this stereotype?

Occupational choices and preferences of teenagers are influenced by the representations they have of occupations. According to the research, the main dimensions according to which such representations are generated are sex-type and prestige. A widely shared stereotype about these two dimensions is the association of prestige and masculinity. These dimensions of occupational representations are usually understood as being the same for everyone in a given context and intergroup differences as to these representations are often considered as negligible. In this paper, I take an alternative stance: I investigate to what extent teenagers share this association of prestige and masculinity, and how their social position may lead some of them to take more distance from it than others.

I first state a general hypothesis: dominant groups (men, higher social classes) associate prestige with masculinity more strongly than other groups, since they have advantage in reproducing the social status quo. On this basis I examine two sub-hypotheses: the first, that boys associate prestige with masculinity more strongly than girls. The second, that people from higher social classes associate prestige with masculinity more strongly than others. My findings confirm both hypotheses: indeed girls associate masculinity and prestige less strongly than boys. While there is little difference in terms of levels of education and social class of parents, I find that in the case of most occupations, students in low requirement tracks associate prestige with masculinity less strongly than those in higher tracks. This gives reason to consider the requirement tracks in which students are enrolled as a proxy for own (as opposed to parental) social class. These findings confirm that people represent the relations of occupations in different ways, according to their own social position.

The quantitative data used is that of the project "Occupational aspirations and orientations of girls and boys at the end of compulsory schooling: how can we attain greater equality?" led by Dominique Joye and his team in the framework of the Swiss National Science Foundation PNR 60 on gender equality. This data includes approx. 3200 students in the last three years of obligatory school (12-15 years) in four Swiss cantons (GE, VD, BE, TI).

Dorian Kessler

Married couple income dynamics and social assistance take-up with divorce

Over 30 years of research into the consequences of divorce for adults on Western populations has discussed the steeper decrease in economic well-being of women rather than men in the course of marital separation. Among other things, this female disadvantage has been explained with gender role specialization: i.e. the unequal career investments made by men and women when they enter marriage and parenthood.

Using administrative data, this study tests this explanation by linking trajectories of intra-couple earnings distributions during marriage with the risk of taking up poverty-targeted social assistance benefits in the course of divorce. It hypothesizes that women more often retreated from the labour market than their partners and, because of the associated human capital depreciation, less often than their partners are able to earn sufficient incomes after divorce. In consequence, we expect that, in comparison to their ex-husbands, divorced women more often take-up social assistance and that this gender imbalance can be explained with their retreat from the labour market during marriage. The study accounts for social selection – i.e. the question of who is most likely to specialize – and effect heterogeneity - i.e. the question of who is most affected by specialized settings.

People that receive social assistance have very limited access to economic resources, face considerable administrative hurdles and social stigma. By looking at the effect of specialization on divorcees' social assistance take-up, the study sheds light on the risks at stake for those entering unequal market work arrangements during marriage."



Hannah S. Klaas

“Is mental illness a part of myself?” – On the interplay of identity processes, positive consequences and perceived recovery after psychological health problems

Despite increasing acknowledgement of the burden of psychological health problems, Swiss-wide research investigating perceived recovery remains scarce, especially when it comes to data from non-clinical samples. Furthermore, there are two open questions when analysing subjective recovery processes from mental illness:

1. Are there positive consequences after psychological health problems and under which conditions do they occur?
2. Is the integration of an experienced psychological health problem into one’s identity positively or negatively related to perceived recovery?

Regarding the first question, two contrasting hypotheses can be made: On the one hand, dealing with the stigmatising condition of a psychological health problem could reduce the benefits which can possibly be derived from confronting the illness. On the other hand, the (social) identity-threatening characteristics of psychological health problems could stimulate a transformation of one’s identity(/ies), and thereby lead to positive personal and social consequences, such as experiences of personal growth.

Regarding the second question, there are again two conflicting assumptions: Whereas qualitative research points to the necessity of an integration of a psychological health problem into one’s identity in order to recover and achieve an acceptance of the illness, a recent study found that due to the negative normative content of mental health problems this identity integration was negatively related to wellbeing.

The present contribution responds to these questions by showing results from an auto-administered questionnaire study. A preselected subsample of the Swiss Household Panel, 350 persons experiencing or having experienced a psychological health problem, reported on their medical and treatment history, perceived recovery, perceived control, the degree of integration of the health problem into their identity, stigmatisation as well as positive and negative consequences for different life domains. As control group, people having experienced a less identity-threatening health problem (physical health problem, $n = 389$) were included into analyses. Results point to a broad range of positive consequences after psychological health problems. Furthermore, reported benefits were greater in the psychological than in the physical group. This relationship was partially mediated by the degree in which health problems were a central part of the identity of the concerned persons. Regarding the second question, results show that the degree of integration of the health problem into one’s identity is partially mediated by the amount of positive characteristics associated with the illness identity. A resulting increase in control perceptions is proposed as an explanatory mechanism. All results are discussed with respect to specific resilient and vulnerable subgroups.

The present study sheds new light on theoretical questions with regard to social and personal identification processes, as well as on practical questions concerning persons dealing with psychological health problems and stigmatising health conditions.

Mailys Korber

Does vocational education pay off over the whole career? A comparison of Switzerland and the United Kingdom

Vocational education training (VET) explicitly aims at reducing drop-out rates from upper-secondary education while providing the advantage that practice as an important part of the learning process helps to increase the motivation (Wolter and Ryan 2011). Countries with a strong VET system, like Germany, Austria or Switzerland, succeed in having low youth unemployment while not only giving at least an upper-secondary degree to most of the youth, but also integrating them in the labour market.

However, it is not clear whether individuals with VET possess advantages on the labour market in comparison with people having a lower level of education during the entire career, and more importantly whether this possible advantage varies across age. Theory suggests two opposite hypotheses about the life-course prospect of VET: on the one hand, VET may lead to a better entry into the labour market and then, in combination with the mechanism of cumulative advantages (DiPrete & Eirich 2006), to getting better positions over time than workers without formal qualifications. On the other hand, we can argue that after several years of work, individuals without



VET degree catch up with the level of skills people acquired during the VET degree which consequently provides these workers with access to similar positions (human capital theory, Becker 1964).

Rather than trying to prove which of these hypotheses is correct, we expect different results depending on the standardisation of the VET system. A more standardised VET system, like the Swiss one, may increase the transferability of the competences and thus the capability to reach better positions. A less standardised VET system, like the UK system, may lead to giving VET graduates a similar set of skills as experience in a firm resulting in smaller differences between holders of a VET degree and people having lower level of education.

To address this question, we use the British Labour Force Survey and the Swiss Labour Force Survey to analyse employment and earnings across the life-course. Our aim is to compare the situation of workers across the career depending on the level of education to compare holders of a VET degree to other groups, especially people having a lower level of education.

Charikleia Lampraki

Leisure Activities of Centenarians and their Mediating Effects on Loneliness and Depression

Remaining active is considered as one key mechanisms of successful aging and has a central role in several theories. Different types of leisure activities have been found to be associated with various well-being outcomes, yet studies rarely include very old individuals. Furthermore, despite the fact that social contacts are essential for well-being and health in younger ages and that social isolation and loneliness are important issues in older adults, little is known about social activities and their correlates in advanced age. In order to close this gap, the present study investigated centenarians' activity engagement and its links to depression and loneliness. More specifically, we examined to what extent the effect of loneliness on depression was mediated by activity engagement, and whether specific types of activities were particularly useful in this regard, analyzing data from the Fordham Centenarian Study (N = 119; Mage = 99.25, 95-107 years). Using central activity categories identified by Jopp and Hertzog (2010), we assessed the total number of activities, total number of predominantly social (i.e., social-private, social-public and religious activities), physical and other activities. Different correlational patterns were identified for depression (GDS; Yesavage, & Sheikh, 1986) and loneliness (UCLA; Russell, 1996): Less activity engagement and, more specifically less engagement in predominantly social activities was associated with higher depression levels. Higher loneliness was significantly linked to lower social-public and religious activity engagement; lower social-private activity engagement was also marginally associated with higher loneliness. Controlling for age, functional disabilities, neuroticism and number of stopped activities, regression analyses revealed that total number of activities mediated the effects of loneliness on depression. More detailed analysis focusing on one specific social activity type at a time (i.e., social-private, social-public, religious activities) revealed similar mediation effects. Physical and other activities did not act as mediators, although a higher number of other activities was associated with lower depression levels. In sum, findings suggest that although very old age is associated with increasing feelings of loneliness, centenarians who are more engaged in activities, more precisely in predominantly social activities, seem to be protected against depression. In conclusion centenarians do not only benefit from remaining active at this advanced age, but staying socially integrated also allows them to remain mentally healthy.

Ornella Larenza

The meanings of (re)partnering for lone mothers

Lone motherhood leads to multiple forms of vulnerability. The raising rates of (re)partnering among lone mothers have substantially shortened lone motherhood spells in recent years. While demographers' interest in (re)partnering has focused on the characteristics of partners once the new union is formed, we lack knowledge about the motivations and expectations of lone mothers regarding (re)partnering. Drawing on two-wave qualitative panel data, this paper explores the meanings of (re)partnering for 38 mothers living alone with their children in Switzerland. Women's accounts of their lives before and after the transition to lone motherhood touch upon various life domains and include prospects of (re)partnering and motivations for it. Analyses suggest that two main opposite categories of meaning exist and depend on whether (re)partnering is a decision driven by considerations that concern women's



family or just women's own life. Expectations about the partner's interaction with children are crucial in distinguishing between different meanings.

Frédérique Leresche

Non take-up of rights and services of the welfare State as a form of critique

Existing studies on non-take-up have a common goal of especially questioning effectiveness and efficiency of social policies. No study, to my knowledge, is interested in the political significance of non-take-up of rights and services of the welfare State. This non-take-up, when it is the result of reasoning, can in my view be regarded as a manifestation of protest against or a critique (Boltanski, 2009) of state power (Bourdieu, 2012) characteristic of those who are in a position of subordination (Sarker, 2015). This critique is specifically directed at the assumed positivity of rights and at the symbolic and institutional state power in the sense that Bourdieu (2012) gives to this term. Non take-up is an expression of agency referring to Scott (1990), for whom agency is an act of resistance, and as such it cannot be reduced to the assumption of non- or misinformation, or to the assumption of wrong or ill-informed decisions.

To consider the political significance of non take-up, my thesis aims to first document and analyse non-take-up as a political action type, and second to detail practices in ordinary life. In order to do that, I will use ethnography "as a discipline that speaks for (or at times with) those populations that have been marginalized by the political and economic structures" (Das et Poole, 2004, p. 4) with first comprehensive or sensory interviews (Pink, 2015) (that include emotions, perceptions, embodied knowledge) and second observing participation in different places where people try to find others ways of life (i.e. "decreasing growths" network, squat scene, civil but invisible protestation (civil disobedience), recovery of discarded food, exchange networks, and so on.) The goal is to understand how the welfare state is reconfigured at the margins, in "everyday context" (Das, 2004, p. 225), namely in individual practices and experiences.

I will analyse my empirical data departing from a subaltern point of view (e.g. Chakrabarty, 1995) in order to call into question what we see as universal. In an intersectional perspective, including class, race, gender and age, I will analyse the collected speeches and practices to bring them back to their position in the social space (Bourdieu, 1989).

These two perspectives will allow me to document the "subjugated knowledges" (Foucault, 1980) of people refusing social benefits and to understand how non-take-up is a form of action that questions the orthodoxy of social policies.

Fabienne Liechti

Employers' perception of active labour market policies: Evidence from a factorial survey experiment in the Swiss labour market

Over the last three decades OECD-countries have spent vast amounts of public funds into policies that aim to re-integrate unemployed individuals into the labour market. These policies involve a wide variety of different measure like training programmes, wage subsidies, employment programme or job search assistance. While the effects of these policies on unemployment have been evaluated in a large number of empirical studies, employer's perception of these policies has been largely neglected. This is surprisingly since it is mostly employers that are the main gatekeeper to work and decide who has access to jobs. Therefore, their view on these policies seems essential for their effectiveness.

Against this background, this paper evaluates how employers value participation in active labour market programmes when assessing candidates in the hiring process. On the basis of a factorial survey experiment, we simulated a hiring process for two three positions, a low and mid- and high skilled one. Recruiters were asked to evaluate fictional candidates, which differ, among others, in their participation in active labour market programmes (ALMP). Our results show that ALMP-participation seems to influence employers' rating of a candidate. Participation in training programmes and being available for a wage subsidy increases a candidate's probability to get invited for a job interview while participating in a none-adapted employment programme has a negative impact. Our results suggest that employer's view should be taken into account when designing and implementing such programmes.



Andrea Lutz

Exploring inequalities in the health trajectories of obese children: health determinants and socioeconomic factors

In this article I will address the issue of inequalities in the health trajectories of children and adolescents undergoing a medical treatment for obesity. I will present the results of a qualitative study I conducted within a hospital service specialized in the outpatient treatment of childhood obesity in French-speaking Switzerland in 2016. The study involves 15 semi-structured retrospective interviews with children/adolescents (between 7 and 18 years old) and their parents, as well as several observations of individual consultations and group therapy sessions. The families that took part to the study were at different stages of the treatment (beginning, middle, end). During the interview, we discussed their present situation but also their previous experiences in relation to obesity. Based on children's and parents' narratives, I will describe the health trajectories of children, by differentiating two main phases: (1) the emergence of obesity; (2) the medical management of obesity in the hospital setting. On the one side, my analysis will focus on the health determinants and socioeconomic factors that lead to the development of obesity and health vulnerability. On the other side, it will also highlight the positive role of the resources that help children to improve their health status and to successfully achieve the therapeutic process.

Mancini Vonlanthen Nathalie

Using the LIVES calendar in combination with qualitative semi-structured interviews to study highly-skilled expatriate couples

This presentation introduces a mixed method approach to collect life course data of highly-skilled expatriate couples. The LIVES life history calendars were firstly sent to couples and completed some days later with semi-structured interviews with each member of the couple on base of an interview guide. This process served two purposes: (1) to collect standardized data about life trajectories in international mobility through calendars and (2) to receive qualitative data of two inter-related life courses through audio-recorded interviews to differentiate the male and feminine perspective of events. Similarities and discrepancies to the Calendar Interviewing Device (Barbeiro & Spini, 2015) as well as advantages and disadvantages of this two-step mixed-method combination are discussed.

Patrick McDonald

Child premia and child penalties in the recruitment process: Results from a factorial survey in Switzerland

Across the Western world, women earn less than men. This is in spite of recent trends that have seen women's workforce participation increase, and women overtaking men in terms of university education. One reason this gap may persist is the motherhood wage penalty. Empirical evidence suggests that there is a wage penalty of between 2 and 15 per cent, but that this varies across countries and earnings groups (Waldfogel 1997; Budig and England 2001; Budig and Hodges 2010; Cooke 2014). Decreased productivity and slower accumulation of human capital can go some way in explaining the gap, but a small penalty consistently remains after controlling for economic factors. We ask whether or not some of the penalty can be explained by employer discrimination, a topic on which research has been scarce to date. Employer discrimination is difficult to measure and thus far attempts to do so regarding the gender gap have been limited to experiments using undergraduates and audit studies (Correll et al. 2007). We propose using Factorial Survey Analysis to study whether or not employers penalise mothers in terms of work opportunities and wages. Our survey was released to Swiss employers in June 2016 and asks respondents to rate a series of fictional applicant profiles on their chances of being invited to a job interview, and their wage if hired. Preliminary results suggest negligible effects of motherhood on the chances of being invited to an interview, and a small but significant effect on wages. We plan to corroborate our findings with data from the Swiss Household Panel (SHP) survey, which contains a wealth of information on wages and family status.



Pauline Mesnard

The last year of life in Western Europe. Evidence from the SHARE data.

Although considerable research has been devoted to ageing in a life-course perspective, rather less attention has been paid to the very end of life and the social conditions of death. Of particular interest and complexity is the institutional care for elderly people. The purpose of this paper is to investigate familial and State responsibility for long-term care at the very end of life in ten western European countries. The paper first critically reviews the comparative literature concerning institutional settings that regulate elderly people's dying experiences. Then, using Multiple Correspondence Analysis (MCA) and clustering, we seek to identify different "patterns" of dying in Western Europe. Data comes from the longitudinal Survey of Health, Ageing and Retirement in Europe (SHARE). Precisely, we use proxy respondents for deceased people ("end-of-life module") to have key information about what happened in the last year of life. Results tend to show that there are strong institutional differences in the dying process between northern, continental and southern European countries.

Siboney Minko

Studying Religion in the Life of Elderly of Spanish Origin in Geneva: Field Work Reflections

This doctoral research, conducted within the framework of NCCR LIVES, started in February 2015. I am interested in the place and role of religion in the lives of elderly persons of Spanish origin living in Geneva area. My research considers how their life course has shaped their religious beliefs, as well as their everyday experiences linked to religion. The aim of the present communication is to discuss the fieldwork that is currently being carried out, as well as some methodological observations derived therefrom.

The relation of the elderly Spanish persons with religion is approached from two perspectives. Along the first one, the objective is to reconstruct their religious life trajectory, taking into account factors such as gender and the influence of religion during childhood, youth and the context of emigration and immigration. The second part is centred on the place they give to religion in their present lives, specifically to face the hardships of the old age and the proximity of death.

A method combining elements of quantitative and qualitative approaches is used in order to understand the relation that the elderly have with religion. Semi-directive interviews (n=30) are conducted with persons aged 70-84 who had migrated from Spain and are currently living in the canton of Geneva. The elderly contacted so far are selected through the database of the "Vivre-Leben-Vivere" (NCCR LIVES - IP13) poll on the life and health conditions of people over 65 in Switzerland (n=4200) conducted in 2011-2012. In the meantime, their socioeconomic profile and religious tendencies evaluated by the DUREL scale used in the VLV poll are drawn to improve the understanding of their attitude toward religion.

After presenting the research, we will discuss issues arising around contacting and recruiting the interviewees, the refusal to participate and the major reasons behind it, the timing of contact, as well as some tendencies observed at this early stage of the analysis.

Aurore Ndour

Agency and life interdependencies: the contributions of the life course theory to mother's parental investment in Switzerland

Children's outcomes, in particular educational ones, are strongly influenced by their parents. The impact of socioeconomic status is well known, but it is not the only channel through which parents impact their children's outcomes. Parental investment is made of the strategies and actions that parents use in order for their children to meet their aspirations with given resources (Ermisch, Jäntti, & Smeeding, 2012). The impact of parental investment has been used by many authors in order to explain the educational advantage of some children of immigrant on their native peers of equal socioeconomic background (Fuligni & Yoshikawa, 2004; Glick & White, 2004; Hango, 2007; Sun, 1998). This paper aims at looking at the life course theory, mainly through the concepts of agency, subjective agency and life interdependencies, in order to examine parental investment and how it differs depending on parent's



migration background. Drawing on data from the Swiss Survey on Children and Youth (COCON) we examine whether mothers' educational aspirations for their children vary by migration background. We also confront mothers' educational aspirations with the strategies directed towards achievement, such as the child's participation in an extra-curricular activity and family practice of cultural activities. We hypothesize that the migration background of parents impacts their educational aspirations for their child, leading them to wish for general education. However, we expect them to lack subjective agency which brings them to neglect the use of strategies directed towards achievement, such as the child's participation in an extra-curricular activity and family practice of cultural activities. Expected results are that compared to Swiss mothers, immigrant mothers are much less likely to aspire to a vocational training for their children, even after controlling for socioeconomic variables such as income and education level. This would be consistent with the fact that immigrant mothers value comparatively more higher education than Swiss mothers. Mothers who aspire to general education or have no precise aspiration would be less likely never to practice cultural activities with their children. Children of mothers, who have no precise idea on the diploma they wish for their child, would be more likely to practice an extra-curricular activity than the children of mother who aspire to vocational training.

Dan Orsholits

Modelling Vulnerability: An Application of Latent Variable Models

The task of modelling vulnerability cannot be dissociated from the difficulty in defining the concept. The term vulnerability is employed by a number of different disciplines, and while they each have their own definitions, there are many common elements that can be employed to establish a general definition. Vulnerability can be viewed as being the susceptibility of experiencing a negative outcome—or “harm”—when exposed to a shock or stressor. As such “being vulnerable” refers to being likely to experience a negative outcome—such as poverty, depression, or unemployment—when confronted with adversity. The risk of experiencing an undesirable outcome, and the extent to which it can be damaging, depends on the resources that are available to cope with the shock and subsequently recover from it. These resources can be (socio-) economic, biological, or psychological and their utilization is conditioned by the broader social context.

Building on this definition, vulnerability can be considered as being a state where one is consistently at risk of experiencing a negative outcome. This state is usually latent as individuals with a high risk may show no outward signs of difficulty in the absence of a stressor. Contrary to this relatively static approach, a more dynamic perspective can be considered. Vulnerability can be viewed as the process by which individuals mobilize their resources to respond to a shock, and their trajectories of recovery.

Modelling vulnerability as a process requires longitudinal data, and needs to take into account the multidimensional and latent nature of the concept. The aim is to identify which models and techniques can be used to model vulnerability and take into account its complex nature. The focus will be on latent variable methods—such as latent class analysis and structural equation models—and how they can be applied to longitudinal data. This will be illustrated using household panel data to determine the impact of the 2008 financial crisis on employment outcomes.

Sabrina Roduit

People living without health insurance in Geneva: barriers to healthcare use

During the second year of my PhD thesis, I collected data through semi-structured interviews among uninsured people (group 1), healthcare providers (group 2) and through ethnographic observation in CAMSCO, a unit of the HUG (University hospital of Geneva), delivering medical consultations for persons in precarious situations. Third-quarter of my data should be collected since end of 2016. From this collection of data, I will focus my Doctoriales' presentation on the obstacles and difficulties to healthcare access for these persons, specially investigating lives and health trajectories. Are some persons, regarding their specific trajectories (type of disease/health needs, age, origin, gender), more keen than others to access healthcare? Do health professionals make some differences between patients they see in CAMSCO?



Through a thematic analysis, based on some chosen parts (health representations, knowledge about healthcare system in Switzerland, use of healthcare services) of interviews among the first group of respondents, I will enhance the different types of medical take-care, and look at the most problematic paths.

I will also use the typology of non-take-up to - here healthcare - rights and services, defined by the ODENORE, to better understand obstacles to get insured and/or to seek healthcare. This typology shows that there are different levels of barriers in accessing services for people that need them. I will point out which levels are the most present in my sample and what are the implications.

Finally, I will carry out reflexions about following analysis that should be made in the next steps.

Rosa Sanchez Tome

Mode effects on responses styles to subjective wellbeing questions: assessing the interaction with respondent characteristics

The past decades have seen growing interest in alternatives to traditional measures of economic prosperity and societal progress. Of these, indicators of subjective wellbeing (SWB) in different parts of the world are particularly popular. Much of the produced research is based on survey data at a time in which traditional survey modes are insufficient to maintain data quality and costs.

One of the most widespread alternatives to overcome difficulties is to use various modes of data collection but as a consequence, doubts have been raised related to the comparability of data collected through different modes. In our previous study, using data from a mode comparison experiment, we compared survey estimates on the topic of wellbeing by mode (telephone, web and paper) and found measurement and selection differences between the modes of data collection, measurement effects were specifically found on widely used measures such as happiness and job satisfaction.

At the same time, demographic characteristics can be linked to the way in which respondents to a survey answer the questions (for example, extreme responding or social desirability bias): both oldest and youngest respondents, people with low levels of education, women or non-native speakers appear to be more vulnerable to the impact of mode of data collection.

Motivated by these findings, in this study we decide to examine the relationship between socio-demographic characteristics on mode effects and how these may challenge the analysis of mixed mode of data collection: what are the consequences that mode effects may have when studying and comparing different groups of the population?

Using data from a mixed-mode experiment implemented in the French-speaking part of Switzerland, we compare different population sub-groups related to sex, age, nationality, living area, education and socio-economic position to identify whether mixing self-completion and telephone may exaggerate differences when comparing those sub-groups.

Julia Sauter

Social capital as reserve in old age: Analysing the link between personal networks and cognitive functioning

This doctoral research, undertaken within the framework of the NCCR LIVES (IP213), explores the possible links between social capital, measured through personal networks, and cognitive functioning and reserve in older adults. Therefore, our research adopts a multidisciplinary approach combining sociological and psychological concepts. Our final aim is to examine if and how social capital can be studied as a reserve (much like cognitive reserve) that can be mobilized in old age.

As this research is a thesis by publication, we decided that for the first scientific article we will analyse how personal networks impact cognitive abilities in older adults. In fact, during the last decades, research has suggested that the personal network of an individual can have a great influence on physical and mental health status, especially in older adults (Ellwardt, Van Tilburg, and Aartsen 2015; Berkman and Syme 1979). We thus expect that supportive personal networks relate to higher cognitive functioning. Data for this article will be derived from the "Vivre-Leben-Vivere" (VLV) study (NCCR LIVES – IP213), an ongoing longitudinal, multidisciplinary research project focused on the evaluation of the life conditions of older adults (65 years and above) living in five cantons in Switzerland (Ludwig, Cavalli, and Oris 2014).



Romina Seminario

Gender, degrees and permits: comparing professional trajectories of Peruvians in Switzerland according to dynamic legal configurations

In this paper, I compare the professional trajectories of Peruvian men and women according to the evolution of their legal situation in Switzerland. From a life-course perspective, the classification of immigrant's experiences among different types of mobility streams such as irregular migration, student migration and family reunification and work migration is not static or univocal. The motivations, legal status and entitlements that characterize them might change, and immigrants might be classified in various streams across their life-course. In particular, the dynamics of legal configurations such as changes in host country's migration regimes and immigrant's practices to navigate restrictive laws show the utility of a time-sensitive analysis beyond entry categorisations. In fact, legal contexts and tactics influence immigrant's professional trajectories. There are downward and upward employment experiences, as well as, professional continuity between home and host countries. However, irregular legal situations at the beginning do not automatically correspond to downward professional trajectories or advantageous legal situations at the beginning always lead to upward employment experiences. Gender in family arrangements, professions and labour markets plays an important role to explain these paradoxes. Consequently, Peruvians that overstayed or entered without visas and worked informally for years might access skilled and formal employment thanks to vocational training, whereas highly skilled Peruvians that arrived with student or family reunification permits might suffer from downward professional trajectories due to gendered arrangements among bi-national couples and gendered hierarchies of professions.

Rose Van der Linden

The role of individual characteristics for domains of quality of life: is this differential in old and very old age?

Quality of life (QoL) is an important outcome when studying aging. Nowadays, populations are ageing and individuals live longer, but this does not automatically mean that these added life years are experienced in the same quality. Additionally, different domains of QoL may become more important to older people. Previous research by Henchoz et al. proposed seven key domains of QoL and our goal is to investigate three of them in more detail; health and frailty, autonomy, and social and cultural life. Henchoz found that these domains of QoL appear to be particularly important to older people and that these domains are related to, amongst others, educational level and financial situation. They have also shown that there is a negative relation of QoL with age, particularly for the QoL domain health and frailty. Therefore, we will further investigate whether the relation of individual characteristics (educational level, financial situation, citizenship, living arrangement, and family composition/ children) to the three different domains of QoL are pronounced in certain, more vulnerable, groups such as old-old (compared to young-old) adults and women (compared to men). Such individual characteristics may influence how older people assess importance to domains of QoL. So far, no studies have investigated the association between individual characteristics and domains of quality of life in more detail, especially with respect to potential differences between particularly vulnerable versus less vulnerable groups, which will be targeted in the present study. Results have conceptual consequences for models of QoL as well as practical implications for maintaining and improving QoL in old age, which will in turn support successful aging.



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