



12th International Conference of Panel Data Users in Switzerland

June 14-15, 2023

Abstracts

Work from home and job satisfaction in the aftermath of the pandemic

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The Covid-19 pandemic induced a pronounced and widespread shift to working from home due to lockdown measures enacted by governments worldwide. How happy are people with these new working arrangements? Using the Swiss Household Panel, we will analyze how an increase in the hours worked from home altered overall job satisfaction in the aftermath of the pandemic in Switzerland. In a first step, we will characterize the hours worked from home of the Swiss population since 2010 and the recent changes induced by the pandemic. We are particularly interested in understanding the dynamics within and between households, for instance if in households with children both parents tend to work more hours from home or if this effect is gender specific. In a second step, we will link the SHP with the home-office index created by Dingel et al. (2020)* at the occupation level which states to which degree it is possible to do the tasks of a certain occupation at home. We assume that experience prior to the pandemic in occupations that were suitable to be done from home increases the likelihood of having higher job satisfaction post-covid and will therefore use the index to characterize the employment history of the household members.

This study is part of the NIH funded consortium on Covid mitigation policies and economic behavior. All eleven countries participating in this project are a member of the Cross National Equivalent File (CNEF). The internationally harmonized outcome data will enable us to compare the results for Switzerland with other countries such as the US, Australia, Korea or Germany to get further insights into heterogeneities and recent developments concerning work from home in different countries around the world.

* Dingel, J. I., & Neiman, B. (2020). How many jobs can be done at home?. *Journal of Public Economics*, 189, 104235.

Returning to Work After Cancer

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Cancer is becoming increasingly prevalent due to increasing life expectancy. In 2020 alone, Switzerland recorded 22,530 new cases of cancer among women and 25,181 among men, with an incidence of approximately 550 cases per 100,000 inhabitants, according to the European Cancer Information System. While cancer survival rates are also on the rise, many cancer patients face challenges when it comes to returning to work after treatment. This issue is especially relevant for women, who may face additional barriers due to social, economic, and personal factors. This research project aims to investigate the impact of breast cancer on the professional reintegration of women. To achieve this, the study will employ a multi-method approach consisting of two working packages. The first package we use secondary longitudinal data from the Swiss Panel Household Survey (SPHS) to conduct a quantitative analysis. The second package involves a qualitative analysis to describe the strategies adopted by women and their personal and medical entourage to facilitate their return to work.

Labour market segmentation in Morocco

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Ce travail propose une approche longitudinale de la segmentation du marché du travail au Maroc, fondée principalement sur une analyse micro-économétrique du panel de l'Observatoire National du Développement Humain (ONDH) sur la période 2012-2019. Il vise à apporter des éclairages sur les différents segments qui composent ce marché.

La population d'étude inclue aussi bien les actifs occupés que des situations diversifiées comme les femmes au foyer ou catégories de chômeurs. Les segments obtenus sont des typologies des différentes trajectoires empruntées par les individus au fil du temps sur une période d'observation de 7 années. Le travail a permis d'identifier également leurs caractéristiques en analysant les différentes transitions possibles entre les états constitutifs de ces segments.

En premier lieu, quelle que soit l'approche méthodologique retenue, les résultats de l'analyse des emplois occupés comme des trajectoires individuelles des personnes en âge de travailler entre 2012 et 2019 démontrent que le marché du travail marocain se caractérise par une grande hétérogénéité au regard, notamment, du degré et de la nature de la protection sociale. Cette hétérogénéité se manifeste par la mise en évidence de plusieurs strates différenciant les emplois comme par l'existence de plusieurs segments du marché du travail reflétant la diversité des trajectoires individuelles.

Au vu de ces résultats, le marché du travail marocain paraît être constitué de trois segments. Le premier segment est celui des femmes au foyer avec un niveau d'éducation très bas et un revenu très faible. Ce segment représente à lui seul la grande majorité des femmes marocaines, qui n'ont aucun diplôme ou sont peu diplômées pour la plupart. Le deuxième est le « segment précaire » rassemble principalement des hommes, détenant des diplômes de niveau moyen ou faible. Ce sont pour la plupart des salariés sans couverture maladie, des aides familiaux et des chômeurs, qui touchent des revenus très faibles. Le troisième est celui des salariés protégés qui sont les privilégiés du marché du travail avec une très grande part de salariés bénéficiant d'une assurance maladie, en général d'un bon niveau d'éducation, résidant en milieu urbain et percevant un revenu plus élevé que la moyenne. Il intègre également les indépendants, formé de 97% d'hommes ayant un niveau d'éducation souvent bas (environ la moitié n'ont aucun diplôme) et percevant un peu moins que le revenu moyen global.

L'analyse a montré que l'accès à l'emploi déclaré est fortement dépendant des conditions initiales. L'expérimentation du salariat non déclaré (informel) permet peu à peu à un nombre réduit d'individus de décrocher un emploi déclaré, contrairement au statut d'aide familiale.

Entre 2017 et 2019, les mobilités d'une strate d'emplois à une autre sont affectées par un fort maintien dans la situation initiale. Cela signifie que les changements de situation d'emploi que connaissent les travailleurs sont limités en termes d'appartenance à une strate différente de celle dans laquelle ils se situaient en début de période. Globalement, près des trois-quarts des personnes en emploi aux deux dates sont restées dans leur strate d'origine, ce qui témoigne d'un fort immobilisme global au sein de l'espace des emplois occupés. Ce constat est particulièrement fort dans le cas de la strate des emplois précaires où plus de 80% des personnes concernées sont restées dans le même type de situation.

Ce déterminisme marqué des conditions initiales pour l'intégration des emplois protégés est renforcé par les barrières qui se forment et se renforcent peu à peu par les effets des états du parcours sur le marché du travail laissant avancer une forte dépendance d'état. De ce fait, le marché du travail permet une meilleure intégration des individus ayant accumulé de l'expérience dans le salariat informel. La pire des situations est celle relative aux aides familiales. Les chômeurs ont des chances plus fortes que les indépendants et les aides familiales d'améliorer leurs probabilités d'accès à l'emploi déclaré.

Cette forte dépendance d'états nécessite des interventions ciblées pour mettre en place des mécanismes favorisant le travail décent, la lutte contre le chômage et surtout la réduction de la taille du secteur informel aussi bien par des mesures fiscales que par des processus d'intermédiation et de formations professionnelles adaptées au niveau de compétences des demandeurs d'emploi et à celui exigé par les entreprises.

Workers' insecurity as a process of normalisation in the activation state regime: A temporal analysis of unemployment risk perception in social secure standard employment conditions in Switzerland

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An important line of thought considers insecurity as an expression of the 'dismantling of the state', often seen as a response to economic pressures, globalization, and the neoliberal ideology that has gained traction in many Western countries since the 1970s (e.g., Bourdieu 1998; Castel, Dörre, and Bescherer 2009; Kalleberg and Val-las 2017). Insecurity increases in terms of a deviation process (e.g., precarious employment condition) that erodes the welfarist norm(-ality) of social security. Another line of thought sees increasing insecurity not as a crisis and withdrawal of the state, but rather as a norm(-alisation) of a new welfarist logic of the state and its form of intervention (e.g., Dean 2010; Ewald 1991; Lessenich 2015; O'Malley 1996; Rose 1999; Walters 1997). This implies a shift in the norm(-ality) of social security, and therewith changes the way the state previously understood and acted on social relations and its problems. According to this body of literature, the new mode of governing of the state rather promotes an 'active society' by involving the population in the management of social risk. Rather than socialise security against risks, the new state encourages individuals to take on the responsibility of managing their own social risks, such as unemployment or other social risks. As a result, social risks are increasingly viewed as problems that workers need to solve individually.

The concept is not to prioritise the increase of individual autonomy, but rather emphasise a shift towards a new form of socialisation: workers are expected to commit actively to ensure their own employment security by constantly enhancing their own skills, abilities, knowledge and entrepreneurship in order to maximise their independence of state agencies and others (e.g., Bröckling 2007). This suggests a re-organisation of the set of social responsibilities that no longer focus on the subjectification of the ‘regular employee’ (by means of a welfarist logic e.g., social insurance, social wage), but rather on the subjectification of the ‘entrepreneurial self-employee’ (by means of a welfarist logic e.g., social investment, social inclusion). The underlying logic is to encourage social transformation towards an active society through individual agency, which seeks to transform insecurity into a capacity for managing social risk at the individual level. This creates a paradoxical situation where the promotion of individual responsibility for managing social risk leads to greater insecurity.

The aim of this paper is to investigate insecurity as a change in the norm(-ality) of social security presupposed in the ‘active society’. We do so by focusing on the perception of risk of unemployment of workers, who are in social security standard employment and from a temporal perspective.

Subjectively perceived insecurities are relevant because they have real consequences, according to the conceptual core of the Thomas theorem (Thomas and Thomas 1928). This argument is also supported by empirical studies that show how employees’ perception of job insecurity produce real consequences in terms of their future individual working biographies such as working conditions, job choices, unemployment (e.g., Kraemer 2008; Witte 1999).

The Swiss context offers an interesting case for studying insecurity in current European society. On the one hand and from a comparative perspective, the Swiss case conforms to a liberal welfare state regime in many social policy fields, especially in labour law. In fact, legal protection for workers in Switzerland is among the lowest in OECD countries (OECD 2022:178–94) and dismissals from employment are possible at any time (Böhringer 2007). Therefore, in terms of social security, precarious employment contracts are not as strongly opposed to standard employment as in other countries (e.g., Bühlmann 2018; Streckeisen 2019).

However, similar to processes in other European national economies, the Swiss case has also experienced a significant transformation of its welfarist form of the state approach to social relations: the wage labour contract previously converging with the subjectification of a male breadwinner is disembedded from its set of social responsibilities (e.g., Afonso 2019; Rhein-Kress 1993; Schmidt 1995) and re-embedded as the responsibility of workers in their active capacity to maintain and accept ‘suitable’ employment (e.g., Bonvin and Rosenstein 2015; Magnin 2005; Nadai and Canonica 2012; Schallberger and Wyer 2010). This shift in the responsibility for social security reflects a new rationality and techniques of governments that go beyond the narrow scope of socialised security against risk. It indicates a profound re-adjustment of the relationship between individuals and state agencies. We argue that it is this new relationship which in itself is a source that increasingly diffuses a sense of insecurity in the labour market.

Compared to other European national economies and in terms of various indicators of economic performance (e.g., relatively low unemployment rate, a relatively mild economic downturn and is considered to provide high levels prosperity, see e.g., The Global Competitiveness Report; World Economic Forum 2017), the Swiss national economy is very solid. This makes Switzerland an interesting case to investigate insecurity as a new mode of regulation in the labour market beyond economic processes.

Data and methods: We adopt a quantitative and temporal perspective by analysing data from the Swiss Household Panel survey (SHP) from 1999 to 2020. The subjective perception of employment insecurity is measured by the variable indicating the employees’ perception of becoming unemployed in the near future. To grasp a stage in life when dependence on the work-wage nexus is high, the analyses are based on the sample of regular employees aged 25 and 60. The selected employees have a permanent, full-time employment contract, i.e., at least 80 percent per week at the time of the interview. The unbalanced panel comprises 44731 observations from 10108 respondents. We use a mixed logit model approach to account for the advantage of the panel structure of the dataset. The dependent variable measures perceived risk of becoming unemployed (11 levels: from 0 ... no risk to 10 ... real risk). Since the variable is not normally distributed across levels, we transformed it into a dummy variable indicating perceived risk ($Y=1$) and no perceived risk ($Y=0$).

Preliminary results indicate that between 1999 and 2020 perception of unemployment risk is widespread even in the most secure segment of the employed population and increased over time. This trend is maintained even after controlling for the GDP and the unemployment rate, and different social positions. The result can be interpreted as insecurity becoming increasingly normalised in the labour market. This interpretation conforms to the argument that the new activation state regime implies a change in the norm(-ality) of social security in that it no longer focuses on the subjectification of ‘regular employees with social security against risks’, but rather on the subjectification of the entrepreneurial self-employees, who are themselves responsible to minimize their risks.

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Workshop 1B – Families & gender – Synathlon, room 2218

How does Partner Occupational Status Moderate the Effect of Job Loss on the Subjective Mental Health of Couples?

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Introduction

Job loss brings not only economic deprivation, but also psychological distress (Nordenmark & Strandh, 1999). Research to date has largely assessed these psychological consequences for the unemployed themselves (Heyne & Voßemer, 2022; McKee-Ryan et al., 2005; Paul & Moser, 2009; Wanberg, 2012). However, job loss may also negatively affect partners' mental health as it is usually associated with a cascade of other stressors such as abrupt change in financial situation, life style or relocation (Maitoza, 2019; Rook et al., 1991). Although there is emerging evidence on the cross-over effects of unemployment on partners (Baranowska-Rataj & Strandh, 2021; Bowman, 2022; Inanc, 2018), less is known on how these are moderated by the working partner's occupational status.

We aim at filling this gap by answering the following research questions:

RQ1) What is the effect of job loss on the self-assessed mental health of the unemployed person as well as their partner?

RQ2) Does the pre-unemployment occupational status of the partner moderate the effect of job loss on their own and their partner's self-assessed mental health?

RQ3) Are there gender differences therein?

This paper makes several contributions on the cross-over effects of unemployment in couples. Firstly, it introduces new theoretical concepts derived from the literature on family adaptability to formulate hypotheses on how the occupational status of the working partner alters the magnitude of the effects of unemployment in couples. Secondly, it uses longitudinal data from large-scale survey and methods for causal inference. Thirdly, by following recent calls to go beyond assessment of population-average effects (Aquino et al., 2022), this study examines how the effects of job loss differ among different types of couples, extending the knowledge on how economic disruptions resonate in different population subgroups.

Hypotheses

Evidence has suggested that men's and women's labour market behavior is not only a question of economic reasoning alone but of "doing gender", in which men are socialized into the role of breadwinner to earn money, whereas the role constructed for women is that of housewife (West & Zimmerman, 1987). These historically constructed gender identities are manifested and reinforced through a gendered division of paid labour within couples. Subsequently, men are more likely to be distressed by job loss than women whereas women react more strongly to the job loss of a partner than men given the stronger sense of responsibility women have for family members (Conger et al., 1993; Kessler & McLeod, 1984; Kiecolt-Glaser & Newton, 2001), we stratify our sample by the gender of the unemployed partner. We hypothesize that:

H1) Male job loss in couples results in stronger negative mental health effects on both partners than female job loss in such couples

Moreover, according to the family adaptation model (Price et al 2010; Lavee et al, 2013), some couples may be better able to recover from a crisis evoked by a job loss than others, depending on the family adaptability defined as the ability to change its ways of operating with little organizational discomfort. We hypothesize that:

H2) In dual earner couples, the occupational status of the working partner might moderate the negative effects of the job loss on the mental health of both the unemployed person and his/her partner, and this moderating effect might be stronger when women lose their job.

Data and Methods

We use the longitudinal data Understanding Society from the United Kingdom covering the period from 2009 to 2019. We restrict our analysis to heterosexual couples aged 18 to 66. We also restrict our analysis to individuals remaining in the same couple during the period of observation of 2 consecutive years. Our dependent variable is therefore measured as the difference in the self-assessed mental health of the unemployed as well as their partner at T minus T-1 to calculate the changes in mental health caused by job loss. We fit our data with an OLS regression controlling for couple's pre-unemployment characteristics measured at T-1.

Working-time flexibility and fertility: Evidence for couples in Switzerland

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Anna Matysiak, University of Warsaw, Poland

Beata Osiewalska, University of Warsaw, Poland

The processes of globalisation and the changes occurring because of the rapid diffusion of new technologies are having a significant impact on the labour market. One of the important issues arising from these transformations is the flexibilization of working time, both on the side of the employee and the employer. Employee-driven flexibility, also referred to as schedule flexibility, is typically described as an opportunity to obtain the start and end times one needs, compress or extend work hours and choose when to work and is often provided as a benefit to the most valued employees. Employer-driven flexibility, in turn, is a worker's adjustment to the uncertain schedules and last-minute changes imposed by the employer. It may occur both within groups of higher- educated workers (managerial positions) and low skilled workers working on nonstandard contracts, e.g., on call.

Previous studies show both positive and negative consequences of the two types of working-time flexibility on families. On the one hand, employee-oriented flexibility minimises work-family conflict, and promotes employees' capacity to fulfil family responsibility.

On the other hand, it may lower workers' work-life balance by blurring the boundaries between work and personal time increasing work-to-family spillover. The literature shows that this kind of flexibility facilitates childbearing especially among high-educated and those who worked in high-skilled occupations. However, the positive relationship is not always guaranteed and depends on income and availability of affordable child care. Employer-oriented flexibility, in turn, may relate to higher income and greater recognition at work, yet, its unpredictability may lead to job pressure, stress and long working hours. Certainly though, it creates a difficult challenge for parents (and mothers in particular, as they are usually the main carer in the family) as it impedes providing parental childcare and using formal or informal childcare. These challenges, however, may be easier to overcome by high-positing employees that can afford additional private childcare than by low-skilled workers with limited financial resources. Summing up, working-time flexibility can either encourage or discourage couples from childbearing, depending on the type of flexibility, family and job context.

With this study we contribute to the literature by the comprehensive analysis of the link between childbearing and both employee- and employer-oriented flexibilities. We focus on couples and investigate both partners' working flexibilities in order to grasp potential interdependencies between fertility and partners' schedule synchronisation. With the use of Swiss Household Panel data we perform an event history analysis of the risk of first and subsequent births. We construct our major explanatory variables based on the question about the type of working hours. Employee-driven flexibility we classify as "Working hours varies from day to day, employee decide" and employer-driven flexibility as "Working hours varies from day to day, decided by employer". We expect to find a positive relationship between men's and women's employee-oriented flexibility and first or subsequent childbearing. The negative association, in turn, we expect between employer-oriented flexibility and birth risks, though much stronger for women than for men and mainly for workers with lower socioeconomic status.

Women's Configurations of Family, Work, and Education: Mapping Diverse Pathways throughout Adulthood

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We investigate how women's family, work, and education statuses are configured over the life course, defining different pathways throughout adulthood. Using data from the National Longitudinal Study of Adolescent and Adult Health, we conduct repeated measures latent class analysis (LCA) to explore what are the various pathways of family, work, and education that women take between their late teens and early forties. Additionally, we investigate the extent to which these pathways vary by race and socioeconomic background. We find seven distinct pathways. In three of the pathways, women are likely to become mothers at an earlier age, but differ in terms of education and work patterns. Three other pathways include women who focus primarily on college in early adulthood, but differ in terms of their work and family patterns. An additional pathway comprises women who remain largely independent while working and continuing education into adulthood. Pathways vary significantly by race, parents' education, and early family poverty. This study highlights the fluidity of women's work and educational experiences across adulthood, and articulates significant nuances in the different combinations of women's family, work, and education across demographic backgrounds.

Does it feel good to be the breadwinner? Examining gender differences in the well-being effects of the partner pay gap across Europe

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Leen Vandecasteele, University of Lausanne, Switzerland

As women's economic outcomes continue to lag behind men's in all countries despite a long-standing commitment by many institutions to promote gender equality (e.g. ILO and OECD 2015), social scientists have sought to examine how gendered norms may be acting as a barrier to equality between the sexes. In economics, theories of sex-role specialisation, as outlined by Gary Becker (1981), lead us to anticipate the maintenance of economic inequalities between women and men within (heterosexual) relationships with sex-role specialisation presented as utility maximising for households. In the fields of sociology and psychology, others have assessed how gendered norms serve to uphold male breadwinning in the UK with research finding men exhibit increased well-being when they out-earn their (female) partners (e.g. Gash and Plagnol 2020). Others have also examined how gendered norms serve to maintain female peripheralization in economic outcomes, with gender found to 'trump' economic logics of action. This paper seeks to extend previous analyses by examining whether the positive well-being effects of male breadwinning found in individual country analysis hold across a range of diverse national contexts.

We deploy the 2018 ad-hoc module on ‘Material Deprivation and Well-being’, of the European Union Statistics on Income and Living Conditions (EU-SILC), selecting on those married to a co-resident spouse of the opposite sex and those with full information on key covariates. The EU-SILC data are supplemented by macro-level data on institutional context. Our dependent variable measures respondents’ life satisfaction on a scale ranging from (1) not at all satisfied to (10) completely satisfied, and we measure differential satisfaction with male breadwinning through an examination of the partner pay gap (PPG). The PPG measures respondent’s total earned income contribution divided by the sum of own income plus cohabiting spouse’s income and varies from 0, for those who contributed zero earnings, to 100, for those who were sole breadwinners. We present country fixed-effects models at the individual level, to uncover whether tendencies found on individual level data from 32 countries hold across multiple national contexts. Using multilevel modelling with cross-level interactions, we further seek to discern whether country-level institutional and macro-economic factors act as mediators of the well-being effect of the PPG within households. Preliminary findings presented in Figure 1 show the association between life-satisfaction and the national mean PPG for men and for women. We find a strong tendency for men to contribute the most to total household income, with male mean contributions residing between 55-75% of total household labour income, while women, on average, contribute significantly less, between 30-45% of total income. The relationship between earnings contributions and life satisfaction also appears to suggest a positive relationship for men, men like earning more, and a negative relationship for women, women prefer to earn less. Individual-level analyses with country fixed-effects, presented in table 1, look at the PPG as a categorical variable, with those who earn less than 40% of total household income, minority earners, in the reference category. We note that both men and women have higher life-satisfaction as equal-earners compared to the reference of secondary earners, but that the effect is substantively small for women. We also find women have reduced life-satisfaction if they are majority earners, that is earning 60% or more of total household labour income, whilst men retain a strong positive effect. Attempts to discern the macro-level variables which might account for some of the country level differences established few significant effects other than a tendency for men to be happier with earning lower proportions of household income if economic conditions are poor. The paper seeks to unpack the implications of these strong well-being effects to male breadwinning across multiple country contexts for gender equality.

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Figure 1a- men

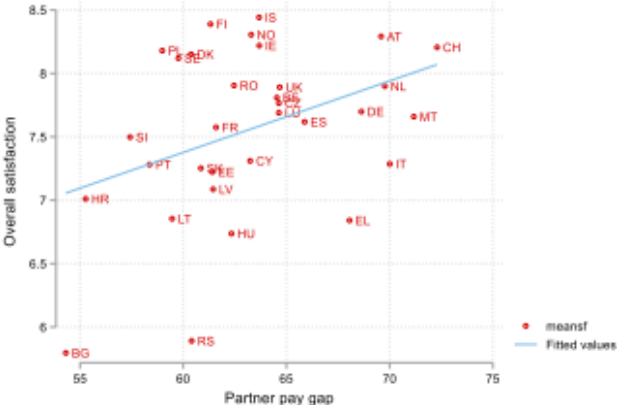


Figure 1b- women

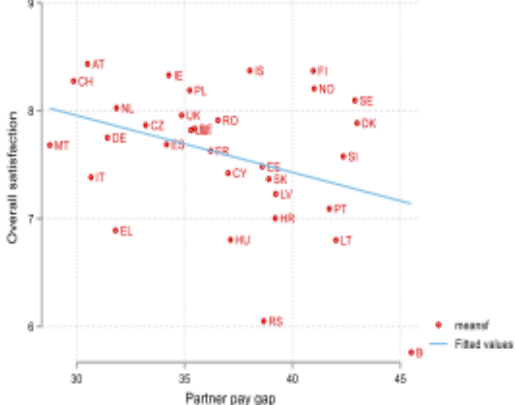


Table 1. Associations between the Partner Pay Gap and Life-Satisfaction, country fixed-effects model.

	Men	Women
Equal-Earning	0.467*** (0.04)	0.068*** (0.02)
Majority-Earning	0.437*** (0.04)	-0.09** (0.03)
(ref: Minority-Earner)		
N	33,236	37,538
R-sq	0.133	0.128

Note: Partial model presented, the country fixed-effects regression models controlling for each of our 31 country contexts, as well as individual level indicators of respondent; age and age2, the number of children in the household and respondent educational level. Analyses run on EU-SILC ad-hoc module 2018 with robust standard errors on ID.

Workshop 2A – The TREE panel study – Synathlon, room 2212

Latest Developments, Recent Results and Future Potential of the TREE Study

Thomas Meyer, University of Bern, Switzerland

This presentation provides an overview on recent progress and developments of the TREE multi-cohort panel survey, some salient recent results and an outlook on what the future holds in store in terms of data availability and analysis potential.

In the past few years, the TREE panel study (Transitions from Education to Employment) has been extended to a full-fledged multi cohort survey unique not only in/for Switzerland, but also for the international scientific community.

The first TREE cohort (TREE1) was launched in 2000 and draws on a large national (compulsory) school leavers' sample (N>6.000) tested and surveyed on the occasion of Switzerland's then first-time participation in PISA (Gomensoro & Meyer, 2017). Since then, the sample has been followed up by means of 10 survey panels, the most recent one conducted in 2019/20. Further survey panels are planned at five-years intervals. Today, the sample has reached an average age of almost 40 and been surveyed for a period of over 20 years. The observation span covers a range from early adolescence (age 15-16) up to early middle-age. TREE1 is thus gradually growing into a full-blown life course survey.

The second TREE cohort (TREE2) was launched in 2016 and draws on an initial school leavers' sample of over 8.000 students having been tested and surveyed in the context of a national mathematics assessment programme. To date, the sample has been followed up by means of six survey panels at yearly intervals, with further panels planned at looser intervals in the years to come (Hupka-Brunner et al., 2023).

Furthermore, a qualitative mixed-methods extension study named PICE (Parental Investment in Children's Education, see presentation 3 of this session) has been conducted between 2019 and 2022. PICE deals with "resilient" educational pathways of disadvantaged youth and how they are accompanied and supported by their parents on their way to professional and adult life.

As far as recent results are concerned, the contribution will present a few salient results of first analyses comparing TREE cohorts 1 and 2 (Gomensoro & Meyer, 2021). The findings primarily show how the strongly stratified structures of the Swiss education system persistently determine socially inequitable educational outcomes, despite major changes of the system's macro-context that have occurred between the launch of the two cohorts (2000-2016).

The presentation concludes with an outlook on TREE's data release strategy and the future research/analysis potential this strategy opens up.

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Gomensoro A, Meyer T (2021) TREE2 Results: The First Two Years. TREE, Bern.
<https://doi.org/10.48350/160406>

Hupka-Brunner S, Jann B, Koomen M et al (2023) TREE2 study design. Update 2023. TREE, Bern.
<https://doi.org/10.48350/152018>

Diverging Educational Aspirations Among Compulsory School-Leavers in Switzerland

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Educational aspirations play an important role in shaping students' educational trajectories and destinations. Despite the well-corroborated finding that educational aspirations are predictive of students' educational attainment, temporal change of educational aspirations have thus far known little empirical investigation. The present study investigates how Swiss students form and adjust their educational aspirations in the first three years upon leaving compulsory school. With reference to theories of rational action and the Wisconsin Model of status attainment, this study argues that the transition into post-compulsory education constitutes a pivotal moment for students to revise their educational goals and that this process varies depending on the pursued educational pathway.

Drawing on longitudinal data from the Transitions from Education to Employment study (TREE2), this paper first examines which factors are related to students' educational aspirations using random-effects ordered logistic models. In a second step, multinomial logistic regressions inform about the way students adjust their aspirations over time and the role of track placement.

Over the observed period from 2016 to 2019, more than half of the students under scrutiny have adjusted their initial educational aspirations. Regression results provide evidence that students in general education and those from privileged socio-economic backgrounds set the most ambitious educational goals for themselves. At the same time, there is an overall shift in students' aspirations towards more demanding educational degrees. While students in general education tend to stick to their aspirations, their counterparts in vocational programmes exhibit less stable aspirations.

By demonstrating that educational aspirations are subject to temporal dynamics markedly shaped by track placement, this study contributes to a better understanding of educational trajectories.

Realizing the Immigrant Bargain? Migration as an Intergenerational Social Mobility Project

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Chantal Kamm, Pädagogische Hochschule Bern, Switzerland
Andrés Gomensoro, University of Bern, Switzerland
Sandra Hupka-Brunner, University of Bern, Switzerland

The immigrant bargain is often put forward as an explanation why children of migrants outperform their native peers in terms of educational success. The immigrant bargain describes that, compared with their previous socio-economic position, migrants often experience downward social mobility and find themselves in the lower social positions. They accept this as they believe that their children will catch up and potentially exceed their parents' pre-migration status. Social mobility then becomes an intergenerational family project. However, little is known on the strategies that families activate to realize the immigrant bargain and the role that parental aspirations and pressure play in this process. This study sheds light thereon. It focuses on Switzerland and on families with a migration history that are disadvantaged in terms of educational and socio-economic status. These families are compared to native families. Drawing on a mixed methods framework, we use data from TREE's 2nd cohort (TREE2) as well as qualitative data obtained in the context of PICE (Parental Investment in Children's Education), an extension study of TREE2. As parents and children are interviewed, the analysis takes an intergenerational perspective. We find that social mobility is an intergenerational project that is pursued jointly by the young adults and their parents. In order to compensate for the "non-achievement" of their own goals, migrant parents develop higher educational aspirations for their children than natives. Parental pressure is an important strategy in this process. Overall, we find positive attitudes towards school rooted in the immigrant bargain.

Debt trajectories and health issues in Switzerland

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Jacques-Antoine Gauthier, University of Lausanne, Switzerland

Tristan Coste, HETSL/LaReSS, Switzerland

Stéphane Cullati, University of Fribourg, Switzerland

Caroline Henchoz, HETSL/LaReSS, Switzerland

In Switzerland, as elsewhere, the relationship between debt and health remains little studied, even though household indebtedness has become a growing concern in European countries. Previous research shows that debt may be a good predictor of poor health independently of other measures of socioeconomic status like income, education and occupation. However, an important limitation of most research is that it tends to investigate the relationship between debt and health issues cross-sectionally or over a brief period of time. This does not fully capture the fact, highlighted by qualitative evidence and debt counselling services, that debt problems are often characterized by long-term trajectories and that the effects on health are therefore cumulative as households struggle over time to cope with their debt.

To overcome this limitation, our presentation will aim to answer two questions: Are there specific debt trajectories in Switzerland and what are they? What are the sociodemographic, socioeconomic and health characteristics associated with these debt trajectories?

We use data from the Swiss Household Panel, an annual longitudinal survey of a representative sample of the Swiss population. Our analyses focus on individuals aged 20 to 45 in 2004 (wave 6) and followed until 2019 (wave 21). Debt is measured by arrears of payment (presence in the household in the last 12 months: no, sometimes, often) which is the most prevalent and problematic type of debt in Switzerland. First, we conduct sequence analyses to identify and classify debt trajectories. Second, we use regression techniques to examine the association of these debt trajectories with sociodemographic, socioeconomic and health characteristics.

Our results highlight the importance of considering the frequency, duration and timing of debt through trajectories to fully examine the relationship with health issues.

Deriving a measure of wellbeing in the Swiss Household Panel and examining its psychometric properties

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Marieke Voorpostel, FORS, Switzerland

Eduardo García Garzón, Camilo José Cela University, Spain

Nuria Sánchez-Mira, University of Neuchâtel, Switzerland

Teuta Mehmeti, University of Neuchâtel, Switzerland

Stephanie Steinmetz, University of Lausanne, Switzerland

Leen Vandecasteele, University of Lausanne, Switzerland

Background

There are multiple indicators of wellbeing, typically in the form of individual items, in the Swiss Household Panel. They capture various domains of wellbeing (e.g., life satisfaction, positive affect), differ in how often they are collected or when they were collected for the first time. Deciding about which indicators to include in the analysis, as an exposure, outcome or covariate, can be difficult, particularly if one is interested in overall wellbeing rather than its specific domains. Having multiple indicators can make the analysis complicated or lead to a large number of results (e.g., with multiple outcomes). Moreover, reliance on single items, as opposed to a scale, is often met with criticism in applied wellbeing literature. Hence, we aimed to derive a measure of wellbeing in the Swiss Household Panel and examine its psychometric properties.

Methods

Based on the three-component model of wellbeing by Ed Diener, we selected items corresponding to life satisfaction, positive and negative affect. We included relevant items that were collected annually from all household members of age 14 or older: 1) life satisfaction, 2) health satisfaction, 3) financial satisfaction, 4) satisfaction with personal relationships, 5) satisfaction with leisure time, 6) joy, 7) anger, 8) sadness, 9) worry, 10) anxiety and depression, 11) energy and optimism. Subsequently, we assessed their psychometric properties.

First, we described the relationships between individual items and identified potential clustering using Exploratory Graph Analysis. Second, we assessed internal consistency between the items using alpha and omega coefficients. Third, we examined the factorial structure of the measure by fitting a series of confirmatory factor models: 1) 1-factor, 2) 2-factor (correlated), 3) bifactor, and 4) bifactor S-1. Fifth, we tested measurement invariance of the models across age (14-35, 36-65, >65) periods (2006, 2013, 2020), genders (men, women), survey language (French, German, Italian), and modes of collection (CATI vs CAWI). We also described correlations between covariates (e.g., gender) and these scores.

Results

First, two clusters of items emerged from the Exploratory Graph Analysis: 1) positive affect and life satisfaction, and 2) negative affect. Satisfaction with the financial situation of the household did not appear to be well-connected within the cluster. Its network loading, roughly equivalent to a factor loading, was 0.141, hence we dropped the item. Depression and anxiety seemed to be strongly related to multiple items from positive affect and life satisfaction. Other items from negative affect mainly correlated with life satisfaction. Sadness was the central item for the negative affect cluster, whereas life satisfaction was central for the positive affect and life satisfaction cluster. Second, internal consistency of overall wellbeing (all items put together), and its subdomains was satisfactory. Third, 1-factor did not fit the data well, whereas the fit of the 2-factor (correlated), bifactor, bifactor S-1 models was satisfactory. Fourth, we found strong evidence for scalar invariance across genders, periods, and modes. Our analysis showed evidence against scalar invariance for age and language, for which metric invariance was found. Fifth, derived factor and sum scores were highly correlated. The correlation between overall wellbeing and subdomains was strong, whereas between subdomains it was moderate. The correlation with covariates was largely consistent across sum and factor scores.

Conclusions

Our derived measure of wellbeing, comprising 10 individual items, appears to have two key dimensions: 1) positive affect and life satisfaction and 2) negative affect. Due to robust psychometric properties, sum or averaged scores from these two domains of wellbeing could be used in future analyses. The findings are expected to be highly consistent with the ones obtained using factor scores. An overall wellbeing score, comprising all 10 items together, should be used with caution. Finally, researchers should carefully consider potential differences in interpreting the questions when comparing obtained sum or factor scores across age and language of the interview, as these may be biased.

How loneliness increased among different age groups during COVID-19 – a longitudinal analysis

Fiona Köster, LIVES, University of Lausanne, Switzerland

Oliver Lipps, FORS and University of Bern, Switzerland

The COVID-19 pandemic entailed restrictions that hampered face-to-face interactions and social gatherings. We assume that this aggravated the occurrence and severity of loneliness, a growing public health issue that is associated with an increased risk of morbidity and mortality. In this paper, we examine whether loneliness increased to different extents among age groups due to these restrictions and if these differences were mediated by specific life course conditions. The analysis is based on longitudinal data from the Swiss Household Panel, that measured loneliness shortly before the onset of the pandemic in Europe, between September 2019 and early March 2020 and during the time that Switzerland implemented restrictions, between May and June 2020. Our results show that loneliness increased disproportionately among age groups during the pandemic with younger individuals experiencing the strongest increase. This finding is in line with the social convoy model and the socioemotional selectivity theory, which postulate a decline of social network size and decrease in contact frequency with increasing age. Individuals aged 30 to 79 experienced a lower increase in loneliness when they lived in shared households, however, this protective effect was not observed for younger individuals. A possible explanation for this finding is the voluntary nature of household compositions for middle-aged and older individuals, whereas most adolescents and young adults tend to lack the independency to choose freely with whom they live together. We did not find a significant interaction effect for those aged 80 years and above. Living together with a partner, being male, and not anticipating health complications in case of a COVID-19 infection moderated the increase in loneliness, but they were independent of age. Considering that the decision to move in with a partner is an autonomous one, it appears plausible that the protective effect holds true for all age groups.

Offline leisure - not online - protected mental health at the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic

*Mattia Vacchiano, University of Geneva and LIVES, Switzerland
Riccardo Valente, Universitat Rovira i Virgili, Spain*

This presentation shows that greater engagement in offline leisure before the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic protected psychological health during the first lockdown in 2020. This result was obtained through a cross-lagged panel model on longitudinal data from a sample of 4,967 individuals (+14) collected in two waves between September 2019 and June 2020. The model shows that, prior to the imposition of health measures, the engagement in face-to-face leisure³/₄such as going to bars, restaurants and meeting friends³/₄had a greater effect than online engagement in increasing perceived levels of social support. This, according to the cross-lagged model, protected the mental health of individuals during stay-at-home policies, even if social relations were not nurtured by face-to-face interactions during that period. The work helps shed light on the links between leisure and mental health in the historical contingencies of the pandemic.

*Workshop 3A – Longitudinal methods & Survey methodology – Synathlon,
room 2212*

Income imputation in longitudinal surveys: a within-individual panel-regression approach

*Oliver Lipps, FORS and University of Bern, Switzerland
Ursina Kuhn, FORS, Switzerland*

Unlike for cross-sectional data, there is only little research on income imputation for long-running panel surveys. In this contribution, we test different longitudinal imputation methods: Little and Su (L&S) method, iterative regression with lagged income, and a new imputation method (“mean&within” imputation). The L&S method is a univariate approach based on individual mean income over time and is the current best practice for long-running panel data. Iterative regression is the most frequently used multivariate approach. The mean&within approach is based on the individual mean income and adds a component for within variation using covariates of the individual in the wave with missing data. We evaluate the different imputation methods including complete case analysis using employment income from the Swiss Household Panel from 2000-2021.

The nonresponse mechanisms used for the evaluation is based on an external data source containing both registry information and survey questions on income, allowing to detect NMAR response mechanism. We use performance criteria proposed in previous evaluations of longitudinal imputation methods and add the performance of regression coefficients in a typical longitudinal multivariate regression model. Our results confirm the good performance of L&S for cross-sectional analysis, but more biased estimates for longitudinal analysis, such as income mobility. The mean&within approach performed best for longitudinal criteria. For multivariate regression, imputating does not improve the estimates.

LabFam Individual Biographies: harmonised family and employment histories based on panel surveys

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Beata Osiewalska, LabFam, University of Warsaw, Poland
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This research introduces a new way to harmonise longitudinal databases that pays attention to individual life-course trajectories. Concretely, we construct spell data for individuals along three different life dimensions: fertility, which records the number and timing of births; partnership, which records the timing of union formation and union dissolution; and employment, which collects data on employment spells and characteristics of the jobs held, when available. This information is drawn from available longitudinal surveys, utilising their panel components, calendar modules and retrospective questionnaires. Currently, we have harmonised biographies from three longitudinal databases SHP, HILDA, and SOEP, and we are working to recover biographies from Understanding Society and the PSID.

Our harmonised biographies are part of a larger endeavour to lower the entry barriers for other researchers. The resulting databases are compatible with earlier harmonisation projects like the CNEF (Cross-National Equivalent File) (Frick et al., 2007) and CPF (Comparative Panel File) (Turek et al., 2021)). To some extent, our databases are also comparable to the harmonisation work of Perelli-Harris et al. (2010), who recovered partnership and fertility histories from retrospective questions in the Gender and Generations Survey. Following the examples of CPF, we provide open-source codes which allow the construction of harmonising biographies. These codes allow the user greater flexibility in choosing the time span, set of countries and the dimension of individual biographies

to be analysed.

We illustrate the possibilities of our database by conducting a comprehensive study of women's employment and birth transitions, showing how the relationship varies across countries and how it has been changing across time and cohorts.

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Perelli-Harris, B., Kreyenfeld, M. R., & Kubisch, K. (2010). *Harmonized histories: Manual for the preparation of comparative fertility and union histories* (No. WP-2010-011). Max Planck Institute for Demographic Research, Rostock, Germany.

Turek, K., Kalmijn, M., & Leopold, T. (2021). The Comparative Panel File: Harmonized household panel surveys from seven countries. *European Sociological Review*, 37(3), 505-523.

The diffusion of Covid-19 in Swiss households. An application of the Longini-Koopman model

Jean-Marie Le Goff, University of Lausanne, Switzerland

Our objective is to investigate the diffusion of Covid-19 within the households of the SHP 2020 and 2021 samples, considering the social roles and status of everyone. This investigation is based on the estimation of Longini-Koopman (1982) models in which individuals in a household can contract Covid-19, on the one hand, outside their household (external contagion) and, on the other hand, inside the household as soon as there is at least one contaminated person inside the household (internal contagion). An extension of this model makes it possible to consider characteristics associated with individuals. These models were estimated in households in which each person (aged 14 years and over) declared having or not having had covid19. The households selected for 2021 are those in which no respondent had declared having had covid19 in 2020, allowing us to investigate the evolution of contagiousness according to the arrival of the new virus variants. We distinguish four types of households, two-person couple households, two-parent households (two parents and children), single-parent households (one parent and children), and other household types. In addition, we investigate contagiousness in one-person households, in which there cannot be internal contagion. In the case of the first two types of households, we are interested in the role and status of each person (father, mother, child) as well as the socio-professional status (working, retired, student, etc.). Because of the uncertainty generated by the fact that the answers are given on a self-declaration basis, we adopt a Bayesian approach to estimate the different models. Overall, our results show that the probability of internal contagion is higher than the probability of external contagion, with both probabilities being slightly higher in 2021 than in 2020. The probability of internal contagion in households is higher in two-person households than in other types of households. However, there is no gender difference in these households. In the case of family households, children contract the Covid 19 externally more often than their parents, but less often internally. This last result is corroborated by the fact that students are also more likely to be contacted externally and less likely to be contacted internally.

Describing the stability of end-of-life (EOL) preferences and their socio-demographic correlates in a representative sample of individuals aged 55 and over in Switzerland

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Jürgen Maurer, University of Lausanne, Switzerland

Background

Advance care planning is the process of helping adults understand and share their personal values, life goals, and preferences for future medical care. Although it is becoming increasingly comprehensive, incorporating, for example, psychological and religious aspects, studies of end-of-life preferences (EOL) and their evolution over time continue to focus primarily on medical aspects and very specific treatment options (e.g., cardiopulmonary resuscitation, artificial feeding).

Objective

To describe the 4-year evolution of EOL preferences across four EOL domains (medical, psychosocial, control and burden) in a nationally representative sample of adults aged 55 years and older in Switzerland and to examine whether the stability of preferences is related to baseline rating and key sociodemographic characteristics.

Methods

Respondents (n=1478) to the Swiss version of the Survey on Health, Aging, and Retirement in Europe (SHARE) rated the importance of 14 end-of-life items on a 4-point Likert scale (1-Very important, 2-Important, 3-Not so important, 4-Not important), in 2016 and in 2020. Rating stability was dummy coded. Ratings were considered stable when the respondents gave the exact same answer or switched between 'important' and 'very important' (or between 'not important' and 'not so important'), thus staying on the same side of the continuum. Associations were examined using multivariable logistic regressions.

Results

Overall, both medical and non-medical preferences were stable over time. The aspects with the highest proportion of stable ratings are "living without pain" and "being able to feed oneself", where more than 90% of respondents give the same evaluation at both measurements. More than 80% of respondents were stable in their evaluation of five additional aspects: "Being able to talk or communicate" (89% of stable evaluations), "avoiding to be a burden on my family" (88%), "being mentally aware" (85%), "receiving spiritual or religious assistance" (84%), "avoiding overtreatment" (82%) and "having physical contact" (82%). Preferences for choosing the place of death and for planning the events following death were the least stable (64% and 67% stable ratings respectively). Socio-demographic characteristics were rarely related to preference stability. The baseline rating was the strongest determinant of preference stability for all EOL aspects. Respondents finding a specific aspect (very) important at baseline were much more likely to keep the same evaluation at follow-up than respondents finding the same aspect not (so) important.

Conclusion

Given the overall stability of EOL preferences, our results support the relevance of advance care planning to allow as many people as possible to relay their preferences before facing their end of life. They also underline the importance of regularly reassessing the aspects that were not considered important, as the probability of opinion change is higher in these cases.

My batteries are running low: A longitudinal investigation of the developments and interrelatedness of different recovery indicators in Swiss workers over the course of 12 years

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Laurenz L. Meier, University of Neuchâtel, Switzerland

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Recovery is crucial for employees because it helps to alleviate the negative effects of work stress. Even though research is increasingly aware of the importance of the recovery process, the interrelatedness between different elements of the recovery process is not well understood. The few existing studies primarily focused on associations in the short-term, whereas research over a longer period of time with is lacking. By theory, different aspects of the recovery process are expected to be reciprocally related. To investigate this, we examined the associations of different recovery indicators period (i.e., vitality, sleeping problems, and lack of detachment) in a sample of $N = 4,332$ employees of the Swiss working population that were followed over 12 measurement occasions (2007-2018). Results of a multivariate latent growth curve model showed a significant deterioration in all three indicators of the recovery process over the course of 12 years. Our analysis further revealed that sleeping problems are a central element of the recovery process that is reciprocally related to worker's detachment and vitality on the within-person level. Therefore, a higher initial level of sleeping problems in 2007 was associated with initially poorer detachment and less vitality in 2007 and a stronger deterioration in the development of both components (2007-2018). Additionally, we found a correspondence between their developments. As such, a stronger negative development of sleeping problems was related to an even stronger deterioration in the development of detachment and vitality. For lack of detachment, similar relationships were observed with vitality, though the initial level of vitality was unrelated to the further development of lack of detachment. Results are congruent with the view, that aspects describing the recovery process like sleeping problems and lack of detachment precede recovery outcomes such as vitality. Our findings imply an act to command for healthcare professionals and underline the importance of interventions aimed at improving sleep and detaching from work to protect and foster employees' recovery.

Stability and Change of Spirituality following Childbirth. Longitudinal Evidence from Data of the Swiss Household Panel using Propensity Score Matching analyses and Structural Equation Modelling

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Michael Eid, Free University of Berlin, Germany

The birth of a child is typically an existential experience that transcends parents' daily lives and changes their biographies lastingly. Childbirth is a very interesting life event because despite being expectable and often desired, neither the course of the delivery nor child characteristics are (entirely) plannable. In addition, although childbirth lays at the very core of human existence, nulliparous parents typically do not experience it until they have spent decades on earth (not counting their own birth). It is therefore not surprising that childbirth is frequently described as a spiritual experience in qualitative interview studies.

Refuting set point theory, longitudinal studies report lasting medium-term changes in several domain-specific components of life satisfaction after childbirth. However, a literature review preceding the present study shows that evidence for such medium-term consequences on spirituality is scarce and that existing investigations often do not allow for causal conclusions. Spirituality is often defined as the "search for the sacred" and conceptualised more broadly than religiosity, not limiting "the sacred" to religious entities.

Adding to the aforementioned literature, we analyse longitudinal panel data from the Swiss Household Panel (SHP) to examine stability and change of participants' spirituality after the birth of their first child. Using structural equation modelling, we compare the spiritual development of $n_{TG} = 138$ individuals who have become parents for the first time between the SHP waves 17 and 20 to the development of a Propensity Score matched control group. Because SHP data has a partially nested data structure by sampling (numerous couples), we analyse women ($n_{TG_female} = 69$) and men separately. To increase robustness of our conclusions, we conduct sensitivity analyses.

We present the findings of our study and discuss their implications for life event research.

Workshop 4A – Politics & attitudes I – Synathlon, room 2212

Who benefits from new issues? COVID-19 and party switching in Switzerland

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Lukas Lauener, FORS and University of Lausanne, Switzerland

Oliver Lipp, FORS and University of Bern, Switzerland

Laurent Bernhard, Centre for Democracy Studies Aarau (ZDA), Switzerland

Observers of Swiss politics have explained the noticeable electoral gains of both green parties in the 2019 Swiss national elections by the salience of the climate issue. Indeed, such an explanation is in line with issue ownership theory, which expects voters to cast their ballot for the party with the best reputation on the most salient issue at the time of the election. Since the elections, however, voters' problem concerns have changed due to the outbreak of the Covid-19 pandemic, a new and previously unowned issue. In this paper, we use fixed-effects models to examine the effect of a change of a respondent's problem concern and issue ownership attribution on his/her party vote intention. Based on literature that shows that crises have a rally-around-the flag effect, we expect that identifying Covid-19 as most important problem should increase the likelihood of voting for a governing party, especially if a governing party is also considered as most competent to handle the pandemic. Based on issue ownership literature, we argue that the probability to vote for the FDP and SP should increase, given that these parties are the traditional owners of two related core dimensions of the pandemic (the economy and public health). Our analysis of four waves of an ongoing panel of the Swiss Election Study Selects (2019-2022) partially confirms our expectations for the FDP. However, the pandemic seems to have limited power to trigger important partisan realignments.

How Multiple Crises Change Citizens' Attitudes on European Integration

Lukas Lauener, FORS and University of Lausanne, Switzerland

This paper analyses changes in public opinion towards European integration and EU membership in Switzerland, a non-member state that is economically highly integrated with the European Union. We use data of a panel study that has been collected in the framework of the Swiss Election Study (Selects) since 2019 up until now. The different survey waves cover the "pre-crises" year of 2019 – the year of the federal elections – and track a large representative sample up until the next federal elections in 2023. The yearly waves of 2020, 2021 and 2022 thus cover the COVID-19 Crisis, the Russian war in Ukraine as well as the Energy Crisis. Our hypothesis is that, in times of crises like the beforementioned, citizens' sense of belonging to Europe, their solidarity with other European countries and their common European identity are sharpened, no matter whether the country is EU member or not. According to this hypothesis, the different crises should lead to an increase in support for European integration projects and EU membership. Indeed, preliminary analyses of the Selects panel data show a substantial overall growth in the importance the public opinion attributes to the existing bilateral agreements between the EU and Switzerland as well as to the need for further collaboration (through additional bilateral agreements) after the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic. Comparing panel data collected in the "pre-crises period" (2019) with data from survey waves that were fielded during the Covid Crisis (2020, 2021), the Russian war in Ukraine (2022), and the Energy Crisis (2022), we additionally find slightly higher support levels for EU membership. The paper will identify which citizen groups were most prone to change their opinion towards EU integration and which of the crises had the greatest impact on attitudinal changes.

Workshop 4B – Minorities & migration – Synathlon, room 2218

Macro-level Climate and Minority Voice: How Indigenous Multiculturalism Relates to Collective Action

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Kumar Yogeeswaran, University of Canterbury, New Zealand

Judit Kende, University "Libre" Brussels, Belgium

Danny Osborne, University of Auckland, New Zealand

Mark Vanderklei, University of Canterbury, New Zealand

Roberto González, Pontificia Universidad Católica de Chile, Chile

Chris Sibley, University of Auckland, New Zealand

Eva G. T. Green, University of Lausanne, Switzerland

Inequalities and discrimination against Indigenous peoples are pervasive in post-colonial societies. Collective action is powerful for Indigenous peoples to encourage political actors to redress these injustices. Integrating research on collective action, macro-level norms, and multiculturalism, we argue that normative climates characterized by majority support for multiculturalism policies are likely to motivate collective action among Indigenous minorities. Two multilevel studies in Chile (Longitudinal Study of Intercultural Relations; Indigenous minority $N = 1,160$ in 26 communities) and New Zealand (New Zealand Attitudes and Values Survey; Māori $N = 3,484$ in 108 communities) reveal that norms endorsing resource-based policies (i.e., aggregate majority support within a community ; $N = 1,132$ non-Indigenous Chilean; $N = 12,136$ New Zealand European) were related to increased Indigenous peoples' recognition of injustices and collective action. Norms endorsing symbolic policies showed similar (albeit less robust) results in New Zealand, but not in Chile. Thus, normative support for contentious measures that concretely address power asymmetries are particularly effective at fostering Indigenous peoples' collective voice. Theoretical and practical implications are discussed.

High hopes, high disappointment? How unmet migration expectations and perceived discrimination shape the destination attachment of immigrants

Andreas Genoni, Federal Institute for Population Research (BiB), Germany & NCCR for Migration and Mobility Studies, University of Neuchâtel, Switzerland

Didier Ruedin, Swiss Forum for Migration and Population Studies (SFM), University of Neuchâtel, Switzerland & NCCR for Migration and Mobility Studies, University of Neuchâtel, Switzerland

Migration research suggests that higher-educated immigrants sometimes report lower attachment to their destination country than their lower-educated counterparts. One explanation for this so-called integration paradox is suggested to be stronger perceptions of discrimination among higher-educated immigrants due to particularly high but unmet expectations to fit in well and to do well in the destination country, and to be treated equally compared to non-immigrants.

Here we examine immigrants' unmet expectations about their life abroad, the relationship with experienced discrimination, and how they account for educational differences in destination attachment. We use both cross-sectional data ($N=15,677$) and 3-wave panel data ($N=4,026$) of recent immigrants to Switzerland from the Swiss Migration-Mobility Survey and capture unmet expectations with a question on dissatisfaction with the migration decision.

In line with the integration paradox, we observe lower destination attachment among higher compared to lower-educated immigrants with unmet expectations. Although higher-educated immigrants indeed more often report discrimination in the survey, this cannot explain their comparably lower destination attachment in this group. In addition, the analysis suggests that unmet expectations and experienced discrimination are causally unrelated. Instead of discrimination, adaptation problems to social life in Switzerland matter. In fact, higher-educated immigrants with unmet expectations do not outperform their lower-educated counterparts on various integration dimensions, but particularly in social terms.

Overall, the findings suggest that the term “integration paradox” can be misleading. Unmet expectations of higher educated migrants do not seem to result in comparably stronger perceptions of discrimination. Higher educated migrants may have higher expectations, but they may also be more able to cope with potential disappointment. At the same time, they might be more aware of discriminatory incidents in everyday life, but also of their scope of action and constraints, while trying to meet their high expectations against the backdrop of their newcomer status and disadvantages in locally important resources. Higher educated migrants are not automatically protected from integration problems and should also be considered in integration programs, particularly in light of skill shorta

Impact of legal status regularization on undocumented migrants' self-reported and mental health in Switzerland

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Yves Jackson, Geneva University Hospital and University of Geneva, Switzerland

Undocumented migrants face cumulative difficulties like precarious living and working conditions or exclusion from health services that might negatively influence their health. Little is known about the evolution of undocumented migrants' self-reported health (SRH) and mental health after they get documented.

This study aims to observe the effect of legal status regularization on SRH and mental health in a cohort of migrants undergoing regularization in Geneva, Switzerland. We evaluate SRH with the first item of the Short Form Survey (SF12) and depression as a proxy of mental health with the PHQ-9 questionnaire over four years among 387 undocumented and newly documented migrants. Using hybrid linear models, our data show that regularization has no direct effect on SRH, but has direct positive effects on mental health in a longitudinal perspective, even when controlling for competing factors. The arrival of the pandemic did not alter these effects. Migrants tend to evaluate their subjective health status more positively than the prevalence of screened depression shows. Those findings point towards better targeted policies that could reduce the burden of depression among undocumented migrants.

Refle, J.-E., Fakhoury, J., Burton-Jeangros, C., Consoli, L., & Jackson, Y. (2023). Impact of legal status regularization on undocumented migrants' self-reported and mental health in Switzerland. *SSM-Population Health*, 22, 101398. doi.org/10.1016/j.ssmph.2023.101398

Workshop 5A – Politics & attitudes II – Synathlon, room 2212

Does ideological polarization promote political engagement? Evidence from Swiss panel data, 1999–2020

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While polarization is mostly regarded as detrimental for democracy, in this contribution, we test whether polarization can also promote political engagement.

The longitudinal individual-level data of the Swiss Household Panel from 1999 to 2021 allows us to approach the impact of polarization on (de)politicization from a causal perspective, both with fixed effects models and cross-lagged models to address reverse causality. In addition, we test how polarization of co-habiting household members affects political engagement of persons and whether findings for right and left extremism are different. For polarization, we focus on ideological polarization measured by the extremity of the self-position on the left-right scale. For political engagement, we take an encompassing view focusing on interest in politics, participation in popular votes, trust in the government, party identification and frequency of political discussions as dependent variables.

Fixed effects models show that polarization does promote politicization, with slightly stronger effects for right-wing polarization. The exception is the confidence in the government, which declines when ideological extremity increases over time. We also find an increase in political engagement if persons living in the same household become more extreme in their ideological preferences. In particular, when the partner becomes more extreme, persons become more politically interested, more willing to participate in popular votes, and less confident in the national government. The impact of parents' changes in polarization are less important. Finally, the cross-lagged model confirm that polarization can be considered a cause of politicization, even if we find some evidence of reverse causality.

Does Commitment Impact People's Worldviews? Self-selection, Preparedness, or Socialization Processes at Work

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Both the qualitative and quantitative studies analyzing biographical impacts show that commitment affect the activists' mental world. They claim that commitment has a strong and durable impact. However, those studies fall short on four main issues. First, the qualitative studies are not representative because they scrutinize a specific type of activists: the most active ones. Second, the quantitative studies examining run-of-the-mills activists scrutinize a narrow view of the activists' mental world. Interest in politics and political positioning are usually the unique indicators used. Yet, the mind-set of activists is much broader (Passy and Monsch 2020). Third, most of those quantitative studies face methodological problems (research designs, inadequate longitudinal analyses) affecting the validity of their findings. Finally, those studies conclude about a strong impact. However, a closer look at their findings shows an impact but of a small amplitude. And more recent studies, with appropriate longitudinal designs and adequate analyses, tend to show that movement and association socialization does not impact the activists' mental world. Those controversial results raise many issues.

Among those issues, the question about the processes at play is certainly pivotal. Is there a real socialization process at play? Or individuals are already highly prepared to join the political sphere, and therefore a self-selection process is at work and not a socialization one. Or still, do people reshape their worldviews before being able to join commitment? In this latter case, we have a preparedness process taking place few years before their commitment. The aim of the paper is twofold. First, we aim to better grasp the consequences of mobilization on the run-of-the-mills activists' mind-set. We will examine the activists' mind in its complexity and scrutinize whether commitment reshapes their understandings of major social problems (migration, ecology, social justice, etc.), and their relation to society and politics. Does commitment shape the activists' mindspace? To what extent? And who are the activists socialized by commitment? Those are the first set of questions we will answer. Second, with appropriate longitudinal data and analyses, we will identify the processes at play: self-selection, preparedness, socialization, or a combination of those processes. They are not mutually exclusive. Our second set of questions are the following. Do people self-select commitment? Do they prepare themselves before joining commitment by reshaping their worldviews? Does commitment socialize people's mind? Using longitudinal data from the Swiss Household Panel over a period of eleven years, we will answer those questions by scrutinizing activists involved in ecology, unionism, and charitable associations.

A long-term study of how news media use affects trust in the Swiss government

Maud Reveilhac, University of Zurich, Switzerland

Numerous studies on the health of democracies have focused on the link between the use of news media (such as TV, radio, and newspapers) and political trust, with high levels of trust enabling governments to address challenging policy issues (Norris, 1996; Stromback & Shehata, 2010; Newton, 2017). (Hetherington & Husser, 2012). Empirical evidence has so far pointed to both a positive (the "virtuous circle") and a negative (the "media malaise") association. Although the relationship may change under certain conditions, the conflict between the two perspectives may have been overstated (Avery, 2009), which emphasizes the significance of longitudinal research.

The relationship between media consumption and political trust may not be stable over time because patterns of media consumption have changed dramatically in recent years, particularly as a result of media concentration, content digitalization, and the reliance on social media as news sources (Strömback et al., 2015).

The main research question of the proposed study is to understand to what extent variations in political trust are a function of media use. More research is also needed to assess the extent to which the changing relationships between news media use and political trust reflect changing media effects or changing selection effects. To do so, this study investigates the changing relationship between news media use and trust in government across time by relying on panel data from the Swiss Household Panel for four periods since 2010 (2010-11, 2013-14, 2016-17, and 2019-20). News media consumption combines common sources of news information (traditional news, free news, and internet news) into a cumulative score, allowing for a comparable assessment of news media use over time while also taking into account fundamental changes in the supply of news media sources. The study undertakes a two-step analysis:

First, linear panel models are estimated to best represent the relationship between news media consumption and trust in government over time. Statistical tests suggest that a fixed-effect model is best suited for making inferences regarding cause-effect relations. Among other things, results show that the effect of news media consumption on trust is positive and statistically significant, but that it is strongly mitigated by the level of satisfaction with democracy. Controls include other political (interest in politics and political positioning) and sociodemographic (education, gender, and age) characteristics.

Second, we test respondents' reliance on social media as an explanatory factor, notably because people increasingly seek out (or are incidentally exposed to) political news from social media sites (Shearer & Matsa, 2018) and because social media reliance has been shown to affect political trust (Ceron, 2015; Klein & Robison, 2020). Linear regression models are estimated for the last three periods separately. Results show that the influence of social media on trust is generally negative (although not always significant).

Avery, J. M. (2009). Videomalaise or Virtuous Circle? The Influence of the News Media on Political Trust. *International Journal of Press/Politics*, 14(4), 410–33. <https://doi.org/10.1177/1940161209336224>

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Norris, P. (1996). Does television erode social capital? A reply to Putnam. *Political Science & Politics*, 29(3), 474–480. <https://doi.org/10.2307/420827>

Strömbäck, J., & Shehata, A. (2010). Media Malaise or a Virtuous Circle? Exploring the Causal Relationships between News Media Exposure, Political News Attention and Political Interest. *European Journal of Political Research*, 49(5), 575–97. <https://doi.org/10.1111/j.1475-6765.2009.01913.x>

Strömbäck, J., Djerf-Pierre, M., & Shehata, A. (2016). A Question of Time? A Longitudinal Analysis of the Relationship between News Media Consumption and Political Trust. *The International Journal of Press/Politics*, 21(1), 88–110. <https://doi.org/10.1177/1940161215613059>

Workshop 5B – Health literacy – Synathlon, room 2218

Older adults: a population subgroup at higher risk of insufficient health literacy

Symposium proposed by (alphabetical order)

Clément Meier, University of Lausanne & FORS, Switzerland

Robert Reinecke, FORS, Switzerland

Valérie-Anne Ryser, FORS, Switzerland

Maud Wiczorek, LIVES University of Lausanne, Switzerland

Health literacy defined as individuals' ability to find, understand, process, and apply health information to deal with health-related issues is crucial in maintaining a good quality of life over the life course.

Drawing from a psychological, epidemiological, and health-economic framework, this interdisciplinary symposium focuses on the determinants of health literacy among a population of older adults living in Switzerland.

The three papers presented in this symposium use data from a subsample of respondents living in Switzerland from the Survey of Health, Ageing, and Retirement in Europe (SHARE). The first paper by Ryser et al. examine health literacy from a psychological perspective by presenting the associations of health literacy with the socio-demographic factors and five broad personality trait dimensions - Neuroticism, Extraversion, Openness to experience, Agreeableness, and Conscientiousness. The second paper by Reinecke et al. investigating the role of cognition, aims to better understand the association between self-rated memory performance, objective measures of memory impairment, and health literacy. Finally, the last paper by Wiczorek et al. addresses the relationship between chronic conditions and health literacy from an epidemiological perspective.

This symposium will be concluded by a discussion about the implications of these different determinants of health literacy. We will notably discuss how low levels of health literacy negatively impact individuals' quality of life, particularly in older adults with a more vulnerable health status. In addition to the already well-established social determinants of inadequate health literacy, the proposed symposium does not only take into account an interdisciplinary perspective, but also aims to show that many at first sight unrelated factors must be addressed when designing effective intervention programs to facilitate health communication in the population 50+.

Multiple chronic conditions and insufficient health literacy: evidence among older adults living in Switzerland

Maud Wiczorek, LIVES, University of Lausanne, Switzerland

Clément Meier, University of Lausanne and FORS, Switzerland

Sarah Vilpert, University of Lausanne and FORS, Switzerland

Robert Reinecke, FORS, Switzerland

Carmen Borrat-Besson, FORS, Switzerland

Jürgen Maurer, LIVES and University of Lausanne, Switzerland

Matthias Kliegel, LIVES and University of Geneva, Switzerland

Background

Health literacy (HL) is the ability to find, understand, assess, and apply health information. Individuals suffering from multiple chronic conditions have complex healthcare needs that may challenge their HL skills. This study aimed to investigate the relationship between the number of chronic conditions and HL levels in a sample of adults aged 58+ in Switzerland.

Methods

We used data from 1,615 respondents to the drop-off questionnaire administered in Switzerland as part of wave 8. HL was measured using the short version of the European Health Literacy Survey questionnaire. The final score, ranging from 0 to 16, was divided into three categories of HL levels: inadequate (0–8), problematic (9–12), and sufficient (13–16). The number of chronic conditions was self-reported based on a pre-defined list. Associations were examined using multivariable ordinary least squares, probit, and ordered probit regression models, controlling for key socio-demographic characteristics.

Results

Overall, 63.5% of respondents reported at least one chronic condition. Respondents who reported one, two, and three or more chronic conditions were more likely to have lower HL total scores compared to respondents who did not report any chronic condition ($p < 0.05$, $p < 0.01$, and $p < 0.001$, respectively). Suffering from two and three or more chronic conditions (vs. no chronic condition) was significantly associated with a higher likelihood of having inadequate or problematic HL levels (both p -values < 0.01).

Conclusions

These findings suggest a need to improve HL in older adults suffering from chronic conditions. This may be a promising lever to empower individuals to better self-manage their health by improving (e-)health information tools or HL screening to ultimately reduce the double burden of chronic diseases and insufficient HL in this population.

The Relationship Between Subjective and Objective Memory Performance with Health Literacy

Robert Reinecke, FORS, Switzerland

Clément Meier, University of Lausanne and FORS, Switzerland

Maud Wieczorek, LIVES, University of Lausanne, Switzerland

Jürgen Maurer, LIVES and University of Lausanne, Switzerland

Background

Finding, understanding, assessing, and applying health information, as well as making appropriate health decisions, largely depend on adequate health literacy (HL) skills. These skills become more and more compromised as cognitive functioning deteriorates. There is growing interest in identifying vulnerable groups, as early as possible, for instance, individuals who are at higher risk of developing cognitive impairment later in life. The current study investigates the association between self-rated memory performance, objective measures of memory impairment, and HL in a representative sample of adults aged 58+ in Switzerland.

Methods

We used data from 1'606 respondents to a paper-and-pencil questionnaire administered as part of wave 8 (2019/2020) of the Survey of Health, Ageing and Retirement in Europe (SHARE) in Switzerland. HL was measured using the short version of the European Health Literacy Survey questionnaire (HLS-EU-Q16). Self-rated memory performance was assessed on a five-point Likert scale ranging from poor to excellent (recoded into two categories, i.e., poor and good self-rated memory). Objective memory performance was assessed via an immediate and delayed memory test. We examined associations using multivariable ordinary least squares regression and ordered probit models controlling for key socio-demographic characteristics.

Results

Respondents who indicated their self-rated memory performance as poor (19 %) were significantly more likely to have (i) lower overall HL scores as well as (ii) lower HL scores in all seven subindices than respondents with good self-rated memory. Similar findings were also obtained for respondents with impairments in both objective memory measures.

Conclusions

Our findings highlight that subjective and objective memory performance is associated with inadequate and problematic HL. Public Significance. Inadequate HL is, for instance, associated with poor health behaviours and inadequate health management. To promote appropriate intervention programs and to facilitate access to health-related information in the older population, generally more vulnerable to cognitive decline, an early assessment of the current cognitive performance via, for instance, self-rated measures of memory performance seems highly advisable.

The association of health literacy across personality traits among older adults

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Clément Meier, University of Lausanne and FORS, Switzerland

Sarah Vilpert, University of Lausanne and FORS, Switzerland

Jürgen Maurer, LIVES and University of Lausanne, Switzerland

This research aims to better understand the association of personality traits (PT) - Openness to Experience, Conscientiousness, Extraversion, Agreeableness, and Neuroticism - with health literacy (HL) skills of adults aged 58 years and older in a nationally representative sample from Switzerland. Analyses were conducted on a subsample (n= 1,546) of respondents living in Switzerland from wave 8 (2019/2020) of the Survey of Health, Ageing, and Retirement in Europe (SHARE). PT were assessed with the Big-Five inventory ten (BFI-10). HL was measured using the short version of the European Health Literacy Survey questionnaire (HLS-EU-Q16). We used multivariable regressions to explore how respondents' PT are independently associated with 1) the HLS-EU-Q16 and 2) seven sub-indices derived from this HL scale.

Results demonstrated that even when controlling for social, regional, and health characteristics, PT was significantly associated with HL among older adults in Switzerland. More open individuals showed better HL competencies. By contrast, individuals who scored higher on neuroticism expressed more difficulties regarding concrete health-relevant tasks or situations.

These findings call for public health policies targeting older adults with lower levels of openness who are less likely to engage in self-examination and individuals with higher levels of neuroticism who tend to experience more negative emotions. Moreover, health information and communication strategies content development that accounts for different personality types and addresses the needs of individuals with low levels of openness and high neuroticism may help improve HL among older adults whose personalities may otherwise put them at a disadvantage in handling health information.

Workshop 6A – Politics & attitudes III – Synathlon, room 2212

Moving away from religion: age or cohort effect? Evidence from a longitudinal survey in Switzerland

Christophe Monnot, University of Strasbourg and University of Lausanne

Boris Wernli, FORS and University of Lausanne

Since Voas and Crockett (2005), a consensus has emerged in the sociology of religions, on the fact that secularization is largely due to a cohort effect. That is, each birth cohort is less religious than the previous one. We used data from the Swiss Household Panel (SHP), a multi-thematic survey based on a random sample representative of the general population since 1999 to understand what is the cohort effect in Switzerland on three indicators of religiosity: religious affiliation, frequency of religious service attendance and personal prayer taking into account the socio-demographic characteristics of individuals, which could interfere with cohort, period, or age effects. A first general observation can be drawn from the SHP: for the three religious indicators, a cohort effect is a key factor in explaining the decline of religiosity. Each birth cohort being less religious on all three indicators, that is, younger individuals are less affiliated, practicing less often, and praying less than the older cohort. More subtly, we also observe an effect of age or life cycle, especially on the practice, and a period effect on the religious disaffiliation of individuals. Each birth cohort shows a more religious profile of individuals at the start of the cohort than at the end. There is therefore an initial movement of distancing from religion by birth cohorts, but this is further accentuated by a period effect for disaffiliation and sometimes accelerated and at other times slightly contained by a life cycle effect.

Voas, David, and Alisdair Crockett. 2005. "Religion in Britain: Neither Believing nor Belonging." *Sociology* 39 (1):11-28.

Embedded Welfare State Support: Disentangling Unemployment Protection Preferences with an Age–Period–Cohort Analysis

Andrew Zola, Sciences Po, France

Unemployment risk is simultaneously influenced by structural and demographic factors. This article seeks to disentangle how both liberalization of, and the individual's position in the labor market may influence the level and homogeneity of support for public unemployment benefits. Liberalization has been a predominant trend in labor market changes for decades, suggesting that it may have a growing influence on political socialization across generations. Simultaneously, economically active individuals face greater unemployment risk than students or pensioners, suggesting that support may change over the life course.

I examine spending preferences longitudinally — a perspective rarely taken in studies of welfare attitudes — among adults in Switzerland, a least-likely case for detecting changes in support because of its stable policy framework and low unemployment rate. I use general additive models that fit location via mean and scale via variance for an age-period-cohort (APC) analysis. Preferences change across cohorts and reflect gradual liberalization, with those born more recently homogeneously favoring less spending. Preferences also develop over the life course due to changes in unemployment risk, with the middle-aged homogeneously favoring greater spending.

The study integrates political economy and demographic debates by comparing the influences of liberalization and individual risk on support for unemployment protection, offering an innovative way to conceptualize transformations in welfare attitudes. Researchers may wish to use this integrated perspective on preferences in a comparative setting to better grasp the role that subjective experiences may play on future political expression and mobilization.