



ECSR, Collegio Carlo Alberto and NASP

Joint Spring School on

Changing Families and Social Inequality
Over the Life Course

March 27-30, 2023

Collegio Carlo Alberto

Piazza Vincenzo Arbarello, 8 – Turin (Italy)

The topic of the ECSR Spring School 2023 edition is “Changing families and social inequality over the life course”. The School is promoted by the European Consortium of Sociological Research (ECSR), Collegio Carlo Alberto and by the Universities of Milan and Turin in the frame of the NASP, Network for the Advancement in Social and Political Studies. It provides high-quality training on current research on family and social inequality, including family formation and fertility dynamics, the social consequences of family arrangements for children's life chances, and the effects of family events on occupational outcomes.

The School is organized by Nazareno Panichella (University of Milan, scientific coordinator), Filippo Barbera (Collegio Carlo Alberto and University of Turin), Camilla Borgna (University of Turin), Stefano Cantalini (University of Milan), Emanuela Struffolino (University of Milan), Tiziana Nazio (Collegio Carlo Alberto and University of Turin) and Antonina Zhelenkova (University of Milan, practical organization).

Lectures will be given and presentations discussed by Kieron Barclay (Stockholm University), Laura Bernardi (University of Lausanne), Camilla Borgna (University of Turin), Stefano Cantalini (University of Milan), Juho Härkönen (European University Institute), Anna Matysiak (University of Warsaw), Manuela Naldini (Collegio Carlo Alberto and University of Turin), Tiziana Nazio (Collegio Carlo Alberto and University of Turin), Nazareno Panichella (University of Milan), Brienna Perelli-Harris (University of Southampton), Chiara Saraceno (Collegio Carlo Alberto and University of Turin), Cristina Solera (Collegio Carlo Alberto and University of Turin), Emanuela Struffolino (University of Milan).

Overview and timetable

	Monday 27 March	Tuesday 28 March	Wednesday 29 March	Thursday 30 March
9.30-11.30	<i>Laura Bernardi</i>	<i>Juho Härkönen</i>	<i>Kieron Barclay</i>	<i>Chiara Saraceno</i>
11.30-11.45	Break	Break	Break	Break
11.45-13.15	<i>Presentations 1</i>	<i>Presentations 3</i>	<i>Presentations 5</i>	<i>Presentations 7</i>
13.15-14.15	Lunch	Lunch	Lunch	Lunch
14.15-16.15	<i>Brienna Perelli-Harris</i>	<i>Presentations 4</i> (14.15-16.30)	<i>Anna Matysiak</i>	
16.15-16.30	Break		Break	
16.30-18.00	<i>Presentations 2</i>		<i>Presentations 6</i> (16:30-17:15)	

1. Keynote lectures

Laura Bernardi: Family transitions in a life course perspective

The lecture will introduce a life course perspective on family transitions. Family transitions are often marked by critical events defining changes in social roles which require substantive adaptations, may create vulnerability, and affect wellbeing. Participants will be confronted with the theoretical and empirical literature on these topics. In addition, drawing on recent research projects, they will discuss specific family transitions (e.g., lone parenthood and post separation family arrangements) and their implications for wellbeing and social inequalities.

Key references:

- Bernardi L., Mortelmans, D., Larenza, O. (2018). Changing lone parents, Changing Lives, in Bernardi and Mortelmans (Eds.), *Lone Parenthood in the Life Course*, Springer: 1-26.
- Bernardi, L. and D. Mortelmans (2021), Introduction: Advances in research on Shared Physical Custody by interdisciplinary approaches, in Bernardi, L. and D. Mortelmans (Eds. by), *Shared Physical Custody*, Springer, Berlin
- Bernardi, L., Huinink, J., and Settersten, R.J. (2019). The Life Course Cube: A tool for studying lives, *Advances in Life Course Research*, Special Issue: Theoretical and Methodological Fronteers in Life Course Research.
- Spini, D., Bernardi, L., and Oris, M. (2017). Toward a life course framework for studying vulnerability. *Research in Human Development*, 14, 5–25.
- Comolli, C., Bernardi, L., and Voorpostel, M. (2021). Joint Family and Work trajectories and Multidimensional Wellbeing. *European Journal of Population*, online first: 14 April 2021.
- Struffolino E., Bernardi L., Larenza O. (2020). Lone parenthood and employment trajectories: A longitudinal mixed-method study. *Comparative Population Studies*, 45, 265-298.
- Struffolino, E., Bernardi, L., Voorpostel, M. (2016). Self-reported health among lone mothers: Do employment and education matter? *Population (English Ed. : 2002)*, 71 (2), 2016, 187-214.
- Recksiedler C. and Bernardi, L. (2019). Lone Mothers' Repartnering Trajectories and Health: Does the Welfare Context Matter? *Journal of Family Issues*, 40(17), 2582-2604.

Brienna Perelli-Harris: Changing partnerships around the globe: Trends, Explanations, and Consequences.

Over the past few decades, partnership formation has changed rapidly around the globe. Rather than following a uniform standard trajectory, individuals are increasingly choosing their own sequencing of behaviors, including entering into cohabitation, having children, marrying, separating, repartnering, and having children across partnerships. Thus, the timing, duration, and repetition of cohabiting and marital unions has become more complex. This lecture provides an overview of trends in cohabitation and nonmarital childbearing in Europe to better understand how new family behaviors have evolved. I review potential explanations for the changes in family formation, including sociological, cultural, and economic perspectives and how the motivation behind cohabitation may vary between subgroups and over time.

I also review the evidence that cohabitation is associated with worse outcomes. In many countries, cohabitation is associated with disadvantage, poor health, and lower subjective well-being. However, these associations may not be due to the protective effect of marriage, but rather selection into cohabitation. To unpack this, I will discuss some of the methodological and data challenges of studying cohabitation, especially in contrast to marriage.

Key references:

- Perelli-Harris, B., (2015). Partnership Formation and Dissolution in Western Societies. In: James D. Wright (editor-in-chief), *International Encyclopedia of the Social & Behavioral Sciences*, 2nd edition, Vol 17. Oxford: Elsevier. pp. 545–552.
- Sassler, S., & Lichter, D. T. (2020). Cohabitation and marriage: Complexity and diversity in union-formation patterns. *Journal of Marriage and Family*, 82(1), 35-61.
- Perelli-Harris, B. (2018). Universal or Unique? Understanding Diversity in Partnership Experiences across Europe. *Unequal Family Lives*, 83.
- Perelli-Harris, B., Hoherz, S., Lappegård, T., & Evans, A. (2019). Mind the “happiness” gap: The relationship between cohabitation, marriage, and subjective well-being in the United Kingdom, Australia, Germany, and Norway. *Demography*, 56(4), 1219-1246.

Juho Härkönen: Stratification in separation: a review of the evidence from a risk and vulnerability perspective.

In the 1960s, William J. Goode predicted that the originally absent or even positive association between class and divorce will become increasingly negative as the legal, social and economic barriers to divorce wane during the process of modernization. This long forgotten hypothesis has attracted attention during the past fifteen years together with a broader recognition of the growing stratification in family demography, often referred to as “diverging destinies”, and of which stratification in divorce is a central component. Given the mostly negative effects of separation on the well-being of adults and children, arguments of the increasing stratification of separation have led to concerns of its role in the reproduction of inequalities over the life course as well as across generations. How solid is the evidence on the linkage between separation and social stratification? We take stock of this evidence using a risk and vulnerability perspective. First, we review the research on educational differences in separation (stratification in risk) and ask how strong is the evidence on an increasingly negative educational gradient of separation from a cross-national perspective. Second, we review the literature on the effects of separation on adults and children and ask whether these effects are moderated by socioeconomic status (stratification in vulnerability). We conclude with recommendations for future research and an interpretation of the role of separation for the reproduction of inequality.

Key references:

- Härkönen, J., Bernardi, F. & Boertien, D. (2017). Family dynamics and child outcomes: An overview of research and open questions. *European Journal of Population*, 33, 163-184.
- Kalmijn, M. & Leopold, T. (2021). A new look at the separation surge in Europe: Contrasting adult and child perspectives. *American Sociological Review*, 86, 1-34.
- McLanahan, S.S. (2004). Diverging destinies: How children are faring under the second demographic transition. *Demography*, 41, 607-28.

Kieron Barclay: The long arm of the family: the influence of family conditions on status attainment and health outcomes over the life course.

In this lecture I will discuss research on how conditions in the family of origin during childhood are related to educational and socioeconomic attainment, and health outcomes over the life course. I will mainly focus on how factors related to the sibling constellation, such as family size, birth order, and spacing between siblings, affect socioeconomic and health outcomes, and the extent to which the influence of these factors varies by gender and family socioeconomic status. I will also cover extensions of these topics, such as the potential intergenerational effects of birth order, and the potential influence of cousin group factors, such as cousin group size and ordinal position within the cousin group. In addition, I will discuss the potential importance of parental age for offspring outcomes. Finally, I will also discuss how parental divorce or parental death can influence socioeconomic attainment, and whether the impact of parental divorce or death varies by family socioeconomic status.

Key references:

- Barclay, K. J., Hällsten, M. and Myrskylä, M. (2017). Birth order and college major in Sweden. *Social Forces*, 96(2), 629-660.
- Barclay, K. J. and Hällsten, M. (2022). Does the impact of parental death vary by parental socioeconomic status? A study of children's educational and occupational attainment. *Journal of Marriage and Family*, 84(1), 141-164.
- Barclay, K. J. and Kolk, M. (2017). The long-term cognitive and socioeconomic consequences of birth intervals: a within-family sibling comparison using Swedish register data. *Demography*, 54(2), 459-484.
- Myrskylä, M., Barclay, K. J. and Goisis, A. (2017). Advantages of later motherhood. *Der Gynäkologe*, 50(10), 767-772.

Anna Matysiak: Interdependencies between family and labour market dynamics.

The class will provide students with an overview of the theoretical and empirical research on the interdependencies between family and labour market dynamics. Emphasis will be placed on the role of men's and women's labour force participation in shaping their family-related behaviours (union formation, childbearing, union dissolution). We will, however, also provide some insights into how family dynamics affect gender inequalities in the labour market. The class will start with an overview of the theoretical approaches to the topics, starting from the classic theoretical approaches (e.g. by Becker, Mincer or Oppenheimer) and ending with more recent theories proposed by demographers, feminist scholars and sociologists (e.g. McDonald, Golscheider, Vignoli). We will also pay attention to the role of institutional factors and cultural norms. We will conclude with an overview of empirical research on men's and women's economic activity on family dynamics and some outlook for future research.

Key references:

- Alderotti, A., Vignoli, D. Baccini, M., Matysiak, A., (2021) Employment Instability and Fertility in Europe: A Meta-Analysis. *Demography*, 58 (3), 871–900.
- Brewster, K. L., & Rindfuss, R. R. (2000). Fertility and women's employment in industrialized nations. *Annual review of sociology*, 26(1), 271-296.
- Goldscheider, F., Bernhardt, E., & Lappegård, T. (2015). The gender revolution: A framework for understanding changing family and demographic behavior. *Population and development review*, 41(2), 207-239.
- Matysiak, A., & Węziak-Białowolska, D. (2016). Country-specific conditions for work and family reconciliation: An attempt at quantification. *European Journal of Population*, 32, 475-510.
- Matysiak, A., & Cukrowska-Torzewska, E. (2021). Gender and labour market outcomes. In *Research Handbook on the Sociology of the Family* (pp. 329-341). Edward Elgar Publishing.
- McDonald, P. (2000). Gender equity in theories of fertility transition. *Population and development review*, 26(3), 427-439.
- Oppenheimer, V. K. (1994). Women's rising employment and the future of the family in industrial societies. *Population and development review*, 293-342.
- Vignoli, D., Guetto, R., Bazzani, G., Pirani, E., & Minello, A. (2020). A reflection on economic uncertainty and fertility in Europe: The narrative framework. *Genus*, 76, 1-27.

Chiara Saraceno: Families and inequalities: a gender and childhood perspective.

The lecture will address the issue of family-linked inequalities from two perspectives: that of gender and that of children's life chances.

From a gender point of view, (heterosexual) making a family together is a joint partners' project. Yet particularly if the project involves also having children, this project may cause a divergence in the life course paths of the two, based on gender. This divergence, however, is not the same across social groups, particularly with regard to labour force participation. This may be a cause of increasing inequality between families and women of different social strata.

From a childhood point of view, since not all family backgrounds are similar, what kind of family one is born and raised in is the first and crucial driver of long-lasting inequality not only in terms of financial resources, but of health, cognitive development, psychological well-being, social capital.

Key references:

- Hook, J. (2015). Incorporating "class" into work-family arrangements: Insights from and for Three Worlds. *Journal of European Social Policy*, 25(1), 14-31.
- Daly, M. (2005). Changing family life in Europe: Significance for state and society. *European societies*, 7(3), 379-398.
- Duncan, G. J., Magnuson, K., Kalil, A., & Ziol-Guest, K. (2012). The importance of early childhood poverty. *Social Indicators Research*, 108, 87-98.
- Barbieri, P., & Bozzon, R. (2016). Welfare, labour market deregulation and households' poverty risks: An analysis of the risk of entering poverty at childbirth in different European welfare clusters. *Journal of European Social Policy*, 26(2), 99-123.

Students' presentations

<i>Day</i>	<i>Presentation session</i>	<i>Authors and discussants</i>		
Monday, 27/3	1	S. Chang, <i>Intergenerational transmission of work-family trajectories in East and West Germany: the father-son comparison.</i> Discussant: L. Bernardi	A. García-Sierra, <i>Addressing the role of mothers' occupation-specific skills on children's developmental process.</i> Discussant: N. Panichella	
	2	S. Pereira de Mello Molina, <i>Nonmarital childbearing and birth outcomes in Colombia.</i> Discussant: B. Perelli-Harris	M.- F. Philipp, <i>Day-care quality and work-care norms: Experimental evidence from Germany.</i> Discussant: E.Struffolino	
Tuesday, 28/3	3	J. Chen, <i>Work-family trajectories and later-life health in China.</i> Discussant: J. Härkönen	S. Arnolfo, <i>Family histories and wellbeing in the United Kingdom: A sequence analytical approach to explore disparities in life satisfaction and mental health.</i> Discussant: E.Struffolino	
	4	S. Metzger, <i>Men's and women's mental health trajectories across the transition to parenthood: the role of individual and partner-relative time use.</i> Discussant: S. Cantalini	C. Rowold, <i>Full-time employment is all that matters? Decomposing Gender Pension Gaps based on relevant life course features in Germany & the Netherlands</i> Discussant: M. Naldini	T. Naujoks, <i>Maternal employment: Do same-sex and different-sex couples differ?</i> Discussant: C. Solera

<i>Day</i>	<i>Presentation session</i>	<i>Authors and discussants</i>		
Wednesday, 29/3	5	J. Track, <i>Compensation, reinforcement, and favouritism in siblings' time with parents: Research design and background.</i> Discussant: K. Barclay	S. Schmid, <i>Long-term effects of early childhood education on school leaving certificate.</i> Discussant: C. Borgna	
	6	A. Karalashvili, <i>A question of security? Educational expansion, labour market uncertainty, and family formation.</i> Discussant: A. Matysiak		
Thursday, 30/3	7	L. Waddell, <i>The relationship between adult earnings and childhood family gender environment.</i> Discussant: C. Saraceno	B. Buh, <i>Local social capital and fertility in the United Kingdom.</i> Discussant: T. Nazio	