



International Union for the Scientific Study of Population ■ IUSSP
Union internationale pour l'étude scientifique de la population ■ UIESP

**International Seminar on
Early-life Determinants of Late-life Employment, Ill Health and Early Death**

Lund, Sweden, 20-21 October 2014

Organized by the
IUSSP Scientific Panel on Pathways to Health
in collaboration with the
Centre for Economic Demography, School of Economics and Management, Lund University

Seminar Report

Late-life employment, ill health and early death are determined not only by recent lifestyles and work place conditions, but also by factors earlier in life; possibly dating back to the fetal stage or even to events affecting the parental and grandparental generation. Examples of adverse conditions during sensitive periods early in life that hamper cognitive development, labour market performance and health in later life include maternal health during pregnancy, diet, and disease environment, such as incidence of infections and epidemics in early childhood. Examples of risks that accumulate over the life-course include exposure to pollution, smoking and other unhealthy lifestyles. The pathways from adverse conditions in early childhood to poverty and ill health in working life are either direct, through permanent but latent damage that manifest itself later in life, or indirect, via school achievement or income development, life styles, reproductive behaviour, etc. Some can be mitigated, for example by means of policy interventions, while others cannot. Consequently when analysing health conditions and labour market performance in ages 50 and above, focus should not only be on contemporary conditions and lifestyles, but also on conditions over the life course, beginning in early childhood.

This seminar brought together researchers working in the intersection of labour market participation, retirement, and health to shed light on the life-course processes that influence labour market performance and older-age health. Priority was given to contributions based on prospective data suitable for analysing unhealthy ageing in a full life-course perspective.

Several contrasting issues were discussed throughout the seminar and during the final summarizing session. These include exposure to harmful conditions in utero *and/or* in first year(s) of life, exposure to disease and/or malnutrition, scarring *versus* selection, and direct *versus* indirect effects of harmful conditions in early life. In addition the importance of estimating the magnitude of impact, and not only the relative importance of early-life factors on later life outcomes was emphasized. So was the importance of use of prospective data sets that cover the entire life course, from before birth to old age. Since these data sets typically cover small populations, the importance of collaborative projects was emphasized.

IUSSP Scientific Panel on Pathways to Health

Chair: Mikko Myrskylä (London School of Economics and Political Science)

Membership: Tommy Bengtsson (Lund University), Alain Gagnon (Université de Montréal), Ke Shen (Fudan University, Shanghai), Gerard Van Den Berg (University of Mannheim), Ken Smith (University of Utah).

Papers presented

Koupil, I, Goodman, A, Chaparro, Heshmata, A, Makolli, A, Mishra, G: Socioeconomic inequalities in health among Swedish men and women born 1915-2010: life course and intergenerational effects across the twentieth century.

Myrskylä, M, Martikainen, P, Leinonen, T: Socioeconomic characteristics over the life course and total and working life expectancy.

Kolk, K, Baranowska-Rataj, A, Berclay, K: Does Family Size Affect The Mortality Risk? Evidence From Swedish Registers.

Broström, G, Edvinsson, S: Long-term effects on life expectancy of the 1867 harvest failure in northern Sweden.

Bengtsson, T, Helgertz, J: Lasting effects of infections in early childhood on incomes and health, Sweden 1900-2011.

Bilodeau Bertrand, M, Gagnon, A: Exposure to an epidemic disease early in life on and longevity in 19th – 20th century Quebec.

Hoffmann, A: Adverse In Utero Experiences and Distortions of the Sex Ratio: Evidence from Prenatal Fasting.

Nilsson, T, Andrella, C, Karlsson, M, Westpahl, M: Intergenerational Transmission of Health in Times of Crisis.

Bijwaard, G, van Poppel, F, Lumey, B: Gains in life expectancy associated with higher education.

Fischer, M, Karlsson, M, Nilsson, T: The Sooner the Better? A Comparison of two Consecutive Compulsory Schooling Reforms in Sweden.

Participants:

Govert Bijward, NIDI
Göran Broström, Umeå University
Martin Fisher, Ruhr Graduate School in Economics
Alain Gagnon, Université de Montréal
Anne Hoffmann, University of Copenhagen
Martin Kolk, Stockholm University
Ilona Koupil, Karolinska Institute
Martin Lindström, Lund University
Bertie Lumey, Columbia University
Mikko Myrskylä, London School of Economics
Therese Nilsson, Lund University
Matthias Westphal, University of Duisburg-Essen
Tommy Bengtsson, Lund University
Jonas Helgertz, Lund University
Ómar Karlsson Örn, Lund University
Volha Lazuka, Lund University
Martin Lindström, Lund University
Anton Nilsson, Lund University
Haodong Qi, Lund University
Luciana Quaranta, Lund University

