

Work, Family and Health

Policy Seminar

Tuesday 1 December 2015, London.

Presentation 1: Work to Family conflict and Family to Work conflict- who is more at risk? The role of gender and socio-economic position.

Abstract: Work and family are sources both of satisfaction and of conflicting demands. Some employees are at risk of conflict, based on their family and work circumstances, while others may be at reduced risk of conflict due to protective circumstances at home and at work. Gender and socio-economic status may play an important role in these risk and protective factors, as female employees tend to have more family demands than male employees, and higher socio-economic status may confer greater resources to cope with such demands. This study investigates how gender and socioeconomic status are associated with work-family interference (WFI) and family-work interference (FWI) and whether having greater control at work and at home modifies these associations. Dataset: Whitehall II

Speaker: Tarani Chandola is a Professor of Medical Sociology, University of Manchester and is the lead researcher in the ICLS Theme: Social influences on successful ageing.

Presentation 2: Gender attitude concordance and relationship satisfaction

Abstract: Changes in the division of labor in families have occurred within the wider context of societal changes in gender attitudes. However, changes in behavior and attitudes are not necessarily correlated and their associations with family relationships are complex. This study focuses on gender attitudes and behaviors in paid and domestic labor and their associations with relationship satisfaction in parents using the Millennium Cohort. Relationship satisfaction is positively related to personal well-being and the family emotional and learning environment.

Speaker: Lauren Bird is a PhD student in the Department of Epidemiology & Public Health, UCL. She is currently completing her PhD as part of a European Research Council funded project under Dr Anne McMunn. Lauren's research focuses on the dynamics of gender attitudes and the division of labour in UK families.

Presentation 3: Balancing work and family over the life course and women's health in later life

Abstract: Women in Britain are increasingly combining work and family commitments across their lives. Benefits and stresses associated with these 'multiple roles' may contribute to inequalities in health in later life. Our study classifies the lifetime work and family experiences of women aged 64+ into five distinct trajectories: full-time workers; family carers; full-time returners; part-time returners; atypical/inactive. Further analyses show that women who experience defined periods of full-time work both before and after focusing on family life appear to have the most favourable later life health outcomes. Our findings suggest the development of policies that facilitate women, if they wish, to successfully combine paid employment with family life could have a positive impact on their health in later life. Dataset: English Longitudinal Study of Ageing (ELSA) for 2006-7.

Speaker: Juliet Stone is a Senior Research Fellow at the ESRC Centre for Population Change (CPC) at the University of Southampton. Her research is situated within an overarching focus on the life-course, with a particular interest in household dynamics and family processes. Juliet's background is in health research, with a doctorate in Social Medicine, and she also maintains an ongoing interest in investigating social determinants of health within a life-course framework.

Presentation 4: Work-family life courses and stress and inflammation in mid-life

Abstract: Previous research has shown that combining work and family responsibilities is beneficial for health. However this research has largely focussed on women and on self-reported, subjective health measures. Our research investigates the combined work and family life courses of British men and women in relation to objective markers of health (inflammatory and stress markers). Long-term inflammation and altered stress activity are risk factors for later diseases, such as heart disease. Dataset: 1958 Cohort study

Speaker: Rebecca Lacey is a Research Associate in the Department of Epidemiology and Public Health, UCL. She is working on a European Research Council funded project headed by Dr Anne McMunn investigating work-family life courses in relation to later health in the British birth cohorts. Rebecca is also a PhD graduate from the International Centre for Life Course Studies in Society and Health.

Datasets

Whitehall II

The first Whitehall study laid the foundation of Whitehall II. It was set up 1967, including 18,000 men working in the British Civil Service. In 1985 the Whitehall II study was established. Between 1985 and 1988 the study recruited 10,308 non-industrial civil servants from 20 Civil Service departments based in London. Whitehall II data have been used to build one of the most detailed pictures of the determinants of health in mid-life and late-life

English Longitudinal Study of Ageing (ELSA) is a longitudinal study that collects multidisciplinary data from a representative sample of the English population aged 50 and older. The survey data are designed to be used for the investigation of a broad set of topics relevant to understanding the ageing process. ELSA is jointly run by teams at University College London (UCL), the Institute for Fiscal Studies (IFS), National Centre for Social Research and the University of Manchester.

The National Child Development Study (NCDS) / the 1958 Cohort study is a continuing, multi-disciplinary longitudinal study which follows the lives of about 17,000 people born in Great Britain in a certain week in 1958.

The Millennium Cohort Study (MCS) is a longitudinal survey conducted by the Centre for Longitudinal Studies (CLS) at the University of London, following the lives of a sample of about 19,000 babies born in the UK in the year 2000–2001.