Life Course and Generational Dynamics

Second Term Seminar – Winter 2010

Martin Kohli (SPS) & Raya Muttarak (MWF)

Thursdays 08.45-10.45 – Seminar room 2

(Please register with liz.webb@eui.eu)

The life course and generational approach has become essential for a sociological understanding of the dynamics of social life. It examines how contemporary societies reproduce themselves and change through the succession of generations and the conflicts and exchanges among them, and how individuals maintain continuity and transform themselves over their lifetime. More recently, this approach has also gained increasing attention in political science.

The seminar will provide an introduction and overview of the life course and generational approach as well as a discussion of some of the current research literature. The first sessions of the seminar take up the basic theoretical and methodological problems of the approach. The middle sessions, more research-oriented, go into some of the substantive fields that are being renewed by life course and generational research: inequality, health, gender, migration. The final sessions focus on life course and generational politics and policies.

Most sessions will be based on readings. Participants are expected to join in the discussion of the basic readings for each session, with questions prepared in advance. Each participant will be required to critically present some additional readings for one of the sessions and kick off the discussion on how they contribute to the key questions of the seminar.

Session 1 (January 14)
Introduction to the study of the life course

General readings
**Additional readings**


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**Session 2 (January 21)**

**Introduction to the study of generations**

**General readings**


**Additional readings**


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**Session 3 (January 28)**

**Concepts and methods in life course and generational research**

**General readings**


Additional readings

Session 4 (February 4)
Intergenerational relations and transfers

General readings

Additional readings

Session 5 (February 11)
Intergenerational transmission of well-being and inequality

General readings

Demokratien: Herausforderungen, Reformen und Perspektiven, edited by Herbert Obinger and Elmar Rieger. Frankfurt/M: Campus.


**Additional readings**


**Session 6 (February 18)**

**Health across the life course**

**General readings**


**Additional readings**


**Session 7 (February 25)**

**Gender in the life course**

**General readings**


**Additional readings**


**Session 8 (March 4)**

**Life course and generational dynamics of migration**

**General readings**


**Additional readings**


**Session 9 (March 10, 17:00-19:00)**

**Life course and generational politics**

**General readings**


**Additional readings**

Session 10 (March 18)
Policies of life course and generations

General readings

Additional readings