

Institutions and social policy analysis in a life course perspective

31 May – 2 June 2023

3rd Term Workshop, academic year 2022–2023

Department of Political and Social Sciences, European University Institute

10 Credits

Organisers

- Ilze Plavgo, European University Institute (EUI) (ilze.plavgo@eui.eu)

Speakers

- Ilze Plavgo, Postdoctoral Research Fellow, EUI (ilze.plavgo@eui.eu)
- Brian Burgoon, Professor in Political Economy, University of Amsterdam (B.M.Burgoon@uva.nl)
- Herman Van De Werfhorst, Professor in Sociology, EUI (herman.vandewerfhorst@eui.eu)
- Hannah Zagel, Head of Research Group "Varieties of Reproduction Regimes" at WZB Berlin Social Science Center, formerly interim professor of Microsociology at Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin (hannah.zagel@wzb.eu)

Sponsoring Professor

- Anton Hemerijck, European University Institute (EUI)

Description

Cross-country differences in individuals' life-course trajectories related to employment, family formation and work-care reconciliation are often assigned to welfare state systems and overall variation in existing institutional structures and available social policy mixes. At the same time, policy outcomes at the micro level are often studied by looking at single policies or institutions and in a short-term perspective. The direct effects of policy mixes and how they jointly influence employment transitions and social outcomes across people's life course are rarely studied empirically. This workshop focuses on the conceptualization, operationalization and empirical assessment of how institutions and social policies relate to each other in affecting people's life transitions and wellbeing outcomes in a longer-term life course perspective.

In this workshop, participants will obtain hands-on knowledge of how to assess the role of institutions and social policy in explaining variation in individuals' life trajectories and social outcomes. The theoretical part will be devoted to discussing the fundamentals and limits of assessing institutional structures and welfare state policy (reform) effects on individuals' life-course transitions, trajectories and socioeconomic outcomes. Speakers will guide us through different methodologies, such as multilevel modelling applying dynamic panel regression design using individual-level longitudinal data combined with aggregate country-year time-series data; cohort studies and decomposition analyses; multi-level modelling combined with sequence analysis; and case-study designs with national surveys combined with detailed policy data. The speakers will also compare these methodologies with cutting-edge applied research in the field.

In the afternoon sessions, workshop participants (PhD and postdoctoral researchers) will have the opportunity to present their own research designs and receive feedback. These research presentations can be tailored to participants' needs to help them reflect on how the workshop insights can be useful for their research. Presentation time will be accommodated depending on the number of participants.

Structure

31st May

Morning	9:00–11:00 & 11:30–13:00	Brian Burgoon, Ilze Plavgo, Herman Van De Werfhorst
Afternoon	14:00–16:00	Workshop participants' presentations & feedback

1st June

Morning	9:30–11:00 & 11:30–13:00	Hannah Zagel
Afternoon	14:00–16:00	Workshop participants' presentations & feedback

2nd June

Morning	9:30–12:00	Workshop participants' presentations & wrap-up
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Location

Seminar Room 2, Badia Fiesolana, European University Institute

Requirements

- Active participation
- Presentation/a short description of own research design: compulsory for receiving 10 credits; voluntary (encouraged) if attending without credits.

Programme

Wednesday 31 May

9:00–9:30 Session I (introduction) Ilze Plavgo (European University Institute)

“Assessment of institutions and policies in shaping socioeconomic outcomes: policy complementarities in a life-course perspective”

Readings

Wingens, M. (2022). Section 5.2.2. ‘Institutional Life Course structure.’ In *Sociological Life Course Research* (pp. 125–139). Springer.

Hemerijck, A., Ronchi, S., & Plavgo, I. (2022). ‘Social investment as a conceptual framework for analysing well-being returns and reforms in 21st century welfare states’. *Socio-economic review*.

Yerkes, M. A., Nelson, K., & Nieuwenhuis, R. (2022). Chapter 19. ‘Where to from here? Social policy research in future European societies.’ In *Social Policy in Changing European Societies* (pp. 294-302). Edward Elgar Publishing.

9:30–11:00 Session II Brian Burgoon (University of Amsterdam) and Ilze Plavgo (EUI)

“How do policies interact in shaping people’s employment chances?”
Policy complementarities, multilevel modelling, dynamic panel regression design, longitudinal individual-level data, time-series aggregate data

Readings

Nieuwenhuis, R. (2022). ‘No activation without reconciliation? The interplay between ALMP and ECEC in relation to women’s employment, unemployment and inactivity in 30 OECD countries, 1985–2018.’ *Social Policy & Administration*, 56(5), 808–826. <https://doi.org/10.1111/spol.12806>

Plavgo, I., Burgoon, B., di Pietro, A. & Hemerijck, A. (Draft). ‘Complementarity or Substitution? The Joint Employment Effects of Active Labour Market Policy and Early-childhood Education and Care’.

11:30–13:00 Session III Herman Van De Werfhorst (European University Institute)

“Societal context and social mobility: A decomposition analysis”
Cohort analyses, contextual conditions, decomposition of social mobility patterns, education, multilevel modelling

Readings

van de Werfhorst, H. (Draft). ‘Societal context and social mobility: A decomposition analysis.’

14:00–16:00 Session IV Participants’ presentations of own research designs and feedback

Thursday 1 June

9:30–11:00 Session V

Hannah Zagel (WZB Berlin Social Science Center)

“From life course regimes to life course policies: the work/family case”

Small-N comparison; policy analysis; longitudinal survey data

Readings

Aisenbrey, S., & Fasang, A. (2017). The interplay of work and family trajectories over the life course: Germany and the United States in comparison. *American Journal of Sociology*, 122(5), 1448-1484.

Mayer, K. U. (2005). Life courses and life chances in a comparative perspective. In Svallfors, S. (Ed.), *Analyzing inequality: Life chances and social mobility in comparative perspective* (pp. 17-55). Stanford, CA: Stanford University Press.

Zagel, H. (2023): Social policies for lone mothers in Europe: a life course perspective, in: Daly, M., Gilbert, N., Pfau-Effinger, B., Besharow, D. (eds.), *Oxford International Handbook of Family Policy over the Life Course* (pp.716-735) Oxford: Oxford University Press.

11:30–13:00 Session VI

Hannah Zagel (WZB Berlin Social Science Center)

“Modelling policy exposure in the analysis of family policies and family outcomes”

Life stages, policy exposure cohort, multilevel modelling, sequence analysis

Readings

Van Winkle, Z. (2020). Family policies and family life course complexity across 20th-century Europe. *Journal of European Social Policy*, 30(3), 320-338.

Zagel, H. & Van Winkle, Z. (2022). Women’s family and employment life courses across twentieth-century Europe: The role of policies and norms. *Social Politics: International Studies in Gender, State & Society*, 29(2), 446-476.

Zagel, H., & Van Lancker, W. (2022). Family policies’ long-term effects on poverty: a comparative analysis of single and partnered mothers. *Journal of European Social Policy*, 32(2), 166-181.

14:00–16:00 Session VII

Participants’ presentations of own research designs and feedback

Friday 2 June

9:30–11:30 **Participants’ presentations of own research designs and feedback**
(length to be adjusted depending on the number of participants)

11:30–12:00 **Wrap-up session**

Further readings

Life course research:

Wingens, M. (2022). Section 2.2. 'The Theoretical Concept of Life Course Research.' In *Sociological Life Course Research* (pp. 30–40). Springer.

George, L. (2003). Chapter 31. 'Life Course Research: Achievements and Potential.' In Mortimer, J. T., & Shanahan, M. J. (Eds.). *Handbook of the Life Course* (pp. 671–678). Kluwer Academic/Plenum Publishers, New York.

Life course methods:

Mortimer, J. T., & Shanahan, M. J. (Eds.). (2003). *Handbook of the Life Course*. Kluwer Academic/Plenum Publishers, New York

- Lutz Leisering, "Government and the Life Course", pp. 205–225 (chapter 10).
- Norval D. Glenn, "Distinguishing Age, Period, and Cohort Effects", pp 465–475 (chapter 21).
- Lawrence L. Wu, "Event History Models for Life Course Analysis", pp 477–501 (chapter 22).
- Charles N. Halaby, "Panel Models for the Analysis of Change and Growth in Life Course Studies", pp 503–527 (chapter 23).

Shanahan, M. J., Mortimer, J. T., & Johnson, M. K. (Eds.). (2016). *Handbook of the Life Course*. Volume II. Springer.

Policy complementarities:

Plavgo, I. (2023). 'Education and active labour market policy complementarities in promoting employment: Reinforcement, substitution and compensation.' *Social Policy & Administration*, 57(2), 235-253.
<https://doi.org/10.1111/spol.12894>