

EUCCONET

Reflecting growing interest in cross-national longitudinal research, the first meeting of EUCCONET took place in Paris on 17th February 2009. This new European Science Foundation-funded network (chaired by Henri Leridon, Director Emeritus of Research, Institut National d'Etudes Démographiques, Paris, Director of the planned French birth cohort study, ELFE with deputy, Heather Joshi, Director, Centre for Longitudinal Studies, London), brought together representatives from new and existing birth cohort studies, across a range of European countries. In a most successful meeting, it was agreed to establish a website for sharing communications about the development of these studies, and to set up a number of working groups to share knowledge and experience on key issues in the development of these studies, including:

- Specific instruments for measuring child development
- Designing specific materials for children interviews
- Different modes of data collection
- The role of fathers in child cohorts
- The maintenance of large cohorts
- Record linkage
- Data management

The establishment of other thematic groups will follow. The idea is to support a degree of harmonisation across new studies which will enable effective cross national cohort study analysis to be undertaken.

Such ventures into cross-national longitudinal research are already well established in relation to household and other panel studies, such as the Cross National Equivalent file based in Cornell University, and in Europe such collaborations as ECHP (household panels) and SHARE (ageing studies). A comparable cross-national initiative in relation to birth cohort studies will be a major milestone in the development of international longitudinal research resources.

New UK birth cohort study

Following a scoping study done by Longview, the think tank that hosts LLCS, on the 'Scientific Case for a New Birth Cohort Study', the British Economic and Social Research Council has now announced success in raising over £30million to support a UK birth cohort study facility for the development and use of the UK birth cohort studies. This includes support for a new birth cohort study, accounting for over 4/5ths of this grant, to begin in 2012. An invitation to tender for the Principle Investigator role and team was announced on April 8th 2009; the team will be appointed in summer 2009, and start work by the autumn. The Longview report can be viewed, together with a follow-up report on costed design options for the new study at, www.longviewuk.com/pages/reportsnew.shtml. The invitation to tender can be requested from birthcohortproject@esrc.ac.uk – closing date, 30th June, 2009.

Scottish School Leavers Survey suspended

The Scottish Government announced on 31 Oct 2008, that following careful consideration of the purpose and use of the Scottish School Leavers Survey, the current suspension of the survey would be extended indefinitely. This announcement coincided with the publication of an options report.

The ALSPAC Forum for Social and Economic Researchers

This Forum is a resource aimed at researchers in social sciences and related disciplines who are using or may be interested in using data from the Avon Longitudinal Study of Parents and Children (ALSPAC), based in Bristol, England. New members welcome!

NEWS & EVENTS

In memory of Neville Butler

In company with James Douglas and Mia Kellmer Pringle, Neville Butler, who died in February 2007, was one of the pioneers of large scale longitudinal research in Britain. He was instrumental in establishing both the 1958 and the 1970 birth cohort studies, and made a major contribution to supporting the Millennium Cohort Study. To celebrate Neville Butler's life, two annual events have been established:

Neville Butler Memorial Prize – funded by the Economic and Social Research Council, this prize will be awarded annually to an early career researcher for a paper reporting a significant contribution to longitudinal study conducted in the UK, with a view to publication in LLCS. The first award of the prize took place in a ceremony in a UK Parliamentary building on March 5th 2009.

Neville Butler Memorial Lecture – on 3rd April 2009, at Imperial College London, Professor Neal Halfon, who leads the work in the new US National Children's Study site in Los Angeles, gave the first lecture of this new annual series. He spoke about the links between the US Study – based on 100,000 pregnancies – and the British birth cohort study series, and ranged widely over the life course approach to medicine and the great value of longitudinal studies in realising its full potential.

For more details of both these items click [here](#).

Events

'Economics of Diet and Obesity' – 1 Day Event, free of charge, Wednesday 20th May 2009. Goldney Hall, University of Bristol, England.

<http://www.bristol.ac.uk/ifssoca/outputs/conferences/ruhm0509.html>

ESRA 2009 – The European Science Research Association will be holding a Survey Methodology conference in Warsaw, Poland 29th June – 3rd July 2009, in part of the University of Warsaw Library.

<http://www.surveymethodology.eu/conferences/warsaw-2009/>

The **EUROEPI2009 Congress, 'Epidemiology for Clinical Medicine and Public Health'** will be held in Warsaw, Poland, 26th – 29th August 2009, at the Old Library of the University of Warsaw.

<http://www.euroepi2009.org/>

Exploiting Existing Data for Health Research, International Conference, 17th – 19th September 2009, Training Workshop, 12th – 16th September 2009, University of St Andrews, Scotland.

<http://www.sdhi.ac.uk/Plannedconferences.htm>

The **17th annual workshop of the European Research Network on Transitions in Youth** will take place at Burgundy University, Dijon, France, on 17th – 19th September 2009.

<http://www.u-bourgogne.fr/iredu>

The **XXVI IUSSP International Population Conference** will be held at the Palais de Congress, Marrakech, Morocco, 29th Sept – 2nd Oct 2009. This will be the first IUSSP International Population Conference to be held on the African continent and in an Arab country.

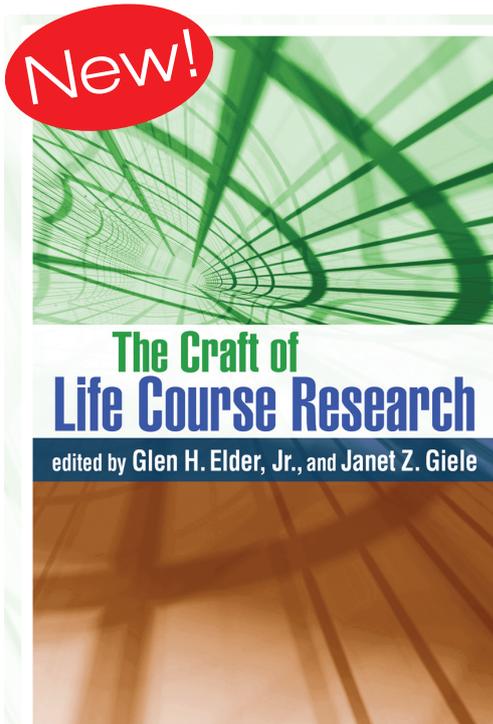
<http://www.iussp.org/marrakech2009/index.php>

'Longitudinal Surveys: from Design to Analysis', Statistics Canada's International Methodology Symposium 2009, marks the 25th anniversary of these events. It will take place at the Palais des Congrès conference centre in Gatineau, Ottawa, Canada, 27th – 30th October 2009.

<http://www.statcan.gc.ca/conferences/symposium2009/index-eng.htm>

Longview annual conference, Cambridge, September 21st – 23rd, 2009.

The theme of the meeting will be the case for establishing a Society for Longitudinal and Life Course Research and setting in motion the process for doing so. See Longview website for details and updates www.longviewuk.com



This book brings together prominent investigators to provide a comprehensive guide to doing life course research, including an "inside view" of how they designed and carried out influential longitudinal studies. Using vivid examples, the contributors trace the connections between early and later experience and reveal how researchers and graduate students can discover these links in their own research. Well-organized chapters describe the best and newest ways to:

- Use surveys, life records, ethnography, and data archives to collect different types of data over years or even decades.
- Apply innovative statistical methods to measure dynamic processes that result in improvement, decline, or reversibility in economic fortunes, stress, health, and criminality.
- Explore the micro- and macro-level explanatory factors that shape individual trajectories, including genetic and environmental interactions, personal life history, interpersonal ties, and sociocultural institutions.

The Craft of Life Course Research

Edited by **Glen H. Elder, Jr.**, Howard W. Odum Distinguished Professor of Sociology and Research Professor of Psychology, University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill & **Janet Z. Giele**, Heller School for Social Policy and Management, Brandeis University

"This book illuminates the utility of diverse methodologies, from behavioral genetic analysis to cross-national and historical comparison. It is unique in its scope, including qualitative (life story, ethnography, diary) and quantitative (hierarchical growth, latent class, and group-based trajectory models) approaches. Students will learn how to formulate research questions, locate data sources, and increase the potential of existing data through recasting and supplementation. Ideal for methods courses and substantive courses on aging in social context." - Jeylan T. Mortimer, Life Course Center, Department of Sociology, University of Minnesota

"This is a most important book in which the quality of the contributors and editors shines through the pages; a major contribution to the life course literature." - John M. Bynner, Emeritus Professor and former Director, Centre for Longitudinal Studies, Institute of Education, University of London, United Kingdom

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G.H. Elder, Jr., J.Z. Giele, Life Course Studies: An Evolving Field. **Part 1. Methods of Data Collection.** *R.M. Hauser*, The Wisconsin Longitudinal Study: Designing a Study of the Life Course. *D.P. Hogan, C.E. Spearin*, Collecting and Interpreting Life Records. *L.M. Burton, D. Purvin, R. Garrett-Peters*, Longitudinal Ethnography: Uncovering Domestic Abuse in Women's Lives. *G.H. Elder, Jr., M.G. Taylor*, Linking Research Questions to Data Archives. **Part 2. Measuring Life Course Dynamics.** *A.M. O'Rand*, Cumulative Processes in the Life Course. *D.M. Almeida, J.D. Wong*, Life Transitions and Daily Stress Processes. *L.K. George*, Conceptualizing and Measuring Trajectories. *E. Eggleston Doherty, J.H. Laub, R.J. Sampson*, Group-based Trajectories in Life Course Criminology. **Part 3. Investigating Explanatory Factors.** *M.J. Shanahan, J.D. Boardman*, Genetics and Behavior in the Life Course: A Promising Frontier. *J.Z. Giele*, Life Stories to Understand Diversity: Variations by Class, Race, and Gender. *P. Moen, E. Hernandez*, Social Convoys: Studying Linked Lives in Time, Context, and Motion. *H.-P. Blossfeld*, Comparative Life Course Research: A Cross-national and Longitudinal Perspective.

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