

Health inequalities and the prolongation of working life

Subproject 1: The impact of retirement age on health outcomes in Switzerland and Sweden

Background

Current demographic and economic developments in Western countries fuel a trend of extending working life. The experience of many countries in incentivizing longer working lives provides an opportunity to examine how different retirement transition patterns potentially can affect health outcomes of people in old age.



Research questions

Subproject 2 aims to analyze how the retirement age relates to individuals' health outcomes. We assess individuals' health status over time, starting with the time before or at retirement and then measuring health status briefly after retirement. We analyze an array of health outcomes with a particular focus on cognition.

Data & Method

We use data from the longitudinal Swiss survey "Vivre-Leben-Vivere" (VLV) and from the longitudinal Swedish survey on Health, Aging and Retirement Transitions (HEARTS). The strength of these datasets is their extensive information on cognition.

Activities and publications

Current activities and publications are described below and regularly updated.

Project lead

Dr. Isabel Baumann

National and international collaboration

Prof. Dr. Matthias Kliegel and Dr. Andreas Ihle (Centre Interfacultaire de Gérontologie et d'Etudes de Vulnérabilité, University of Geneva, Switzerland), Prof. Dr. med. Julia Dratva and Prof. Dr. Frank Wieber (Institute for Health Sciences, Zurich University of Applied Sciences, Switzerland), Prof. Dr. Boo Johansson, Prof. Dr. Linda Hassing, Dr. Stefanie König, Linn Zulka (Department of Psychology, University of Gothenburg, Sweden). Prof. Dr. Neda Agahi (Aging Research Center, Karolinska Institute and Stockholm University, Sweden).

Project duration

1.4.2019 – 31.3.2021

Funding

Ambizione Grant of the Swiss National Sciences Foundation (SNSF)

Current activities & project news

May-August 2019

Research stay by Dr. Isabel Baumann at the Department of Psychology at the University of Gothenburg



November 2019

Organization of a research workshop on retirement and inequalities in old age at the University of Geneva

Interdisciplinary perspectives on retirement and inequality in old-age: short- and long-term effects

November 29, 2019 - CMU, University of Geneva - Salle B02.2226.a

Workshop organizers: Isabel Baumann, Andreas Ihle, Matthias Kliegel, Nicky Le Feuvre, Rafael Lalive, Jürgen Maurer and Michele Pellizzari

Keynote speakers:

Hanna van Solinge (Netherlands Interdisciplinary Demographic Institute, The Hague, The Netherlands), Stefanie König and Linn Zulka (Department of Psychology, University of Gothenburg, Sweden), Axel Börsch-Supan (Max Planck Institute for Social Law and Social Policy Munich Center for the Economics of Aging, Munich, Germany)

[Registration](#)

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Subproject 2: A comparative analysis of retirement transition patterns

Background

Current demographic and economic developments in Western countries fuel a trend of extending working life. The experience of many countries in incentivizing longer working lives provides an opportunity to examine how different retirement transition patterns potentially can affect health outcomes of people in old age.

Research questions

Subproject 2 aims to analyze how different retirement transition patterns – such as gradual retirement transitions – or different retirement ages are related to health outcomes. We adopt a comparative perspective that allows us to examine how different welfare contexts affect retirement transition.

Data & Method

We rely on a large harmonized dataset based on the Survey of Health, Ageing and Retirement in Europe (SHARE), the U.S. Health and Retirement Study (HRS) and the Chilean Social Protection Survey (EPS). We use longitudinal methods such as sequence or survival analysis.



Activities and publications

Current activities and publications are described below and regularly updated.

Project lead

Dr. Isabel Baumann

National and international collaboration

Ass. Prof. Ignacio Madero Cabib, *Pontificia Universidad Católica de Chile*, Dr. Ariane Froidevaux, *University of Florida in Gainesville*, Prof. Neda Agahi and Prof. Johan Fritzell, *Karolinska Institute/University of Stockholm*, Prof. Christian Maggioli, *University of Applied Sciences and Arts Western Switzerland*

Project duration

1.1.2019 – 31.12.2020

Funding

Ambizione Grant of the Swiss National Sciences Foundation (SNSF)

Current activities & project news

January 2019

Research stay by Ass. Prof. Ignacio Madero-Cabib at ZHAW in Switzerland.



January 2019

Presentation by Ass. Prof. Ignacio Madero-Cabib and Dr. Isabel Baumann at the Center for Health Sciences at ZHAW



March 2019

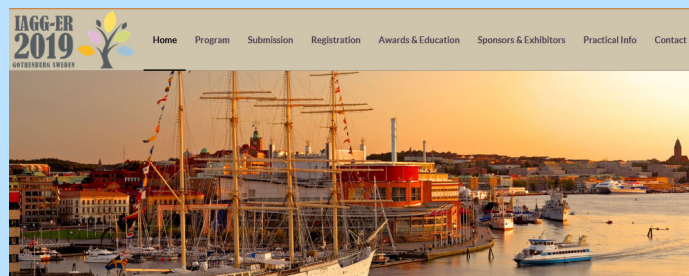
Publication

Madero-Cabib, Ignacio; Corna, Laurie; Baumann, Isabel (2019). Aging in different welfare contexts: A comparative perspective on later-life employment and health. *Journal of Gerontology: Social Sciences*

Link: <https://academic.oup.com/psychsocgerontology/advance-article/doi/10.1093/geronb/gbz037/5387569?guestAccessKey=a8325dfa-029b-479f-aa2e-078590ab3808>

May 2019

IAGG-ER Conference in Gothenburg, Sweden



Presentation of a paper entitled "Retirement Trajectories in Countries with Flexible Retirement Policies but Different Welfare State Contexts" by Isabel Baumann and Ignacio Madero-Cabib

Health inequalities and the prolongation of working life

Subproject 3: Labor force participation of older workers with adverse health conditions

Background

In recent years, many Western countries have delayed the legal retirement age. Switzerland has very recently accepted a reform of the public pension system that will introduce a stepwise delay of women's retirement age from 64 to 65, implemented in the years 2024 to 2028. This trend of delaying retirement age leads to the question of how older workers' health is related to the delay of retirement age and if it leads to an exacerbation of existing health inequalities.

In our project, we focus on the labor force participation of older workers with adverse health conditions. Evidence shows that a non-negligible share of workers experiences adverse health conditions at the end of their careers. While many older workers exit the labor force due these adverse health conditions, others remain in the labor force. This raises the question which factors affect the labor force participation of older workers with adverse health conditions. On the one hand, some older workers with adverse health conditions may be constraint to continue working involuntary, for instance to guarantee their level of living. On the other hand, some of them may continue to work voluntarily, for instance because they are able to adjust their activity level.

Research questions

In our project, we examine the role of welfare state policies that affect the labor force participation of older workers with adverse health conditions. We focus on both, policies that maintain workers in the labor force (i.e., voluntary labor force participation) and policies that create a need for workers to remain in the labor force (i.e., involuntary labor force participation).

Data & Method

We use internationally comparative approach using data from the Survey of Health, Ageing and Retirement in Europe (SHARE). We create health profiles and use Multilevel Latent Class Analysis, with labor force participation as a main outcome and different measures of welfare benefits as predictors.

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Subproject 4: Employment patterns among older workers with adverse health



Background

The prolongation of working life constitutes a particular challenge for older workers with health problems. In this subproject, we examine the employment trajectories of individuals with adverse health conditions and examine how individual level factors such as occupation affect these trajectories.

Research questions

Subproject 4 aims to analyze the employment trajectories of older workers with adverse health.

Data & Method

We rely on the large panel dataset of the Swiss Household Panel (SHP). We use longitudinal methods such as growth curve modelling.

Publications

Feer, S.; Lipps, O.; Dratva, J.; Baumann, I. (2022). Health status and labour force participation among older workers in Switzerland: a multilevel for growth analysis. *European Journal of Ageing*.

<https://link.springer.com/article/10.1007/s10433-022-00716-z>

Project lead

Dr. Isabel Baumann

National and international collaboration

MSc Sonja Feer, Prof. Dr. Julia Dratva, Zurich University of Applied Sciences; PD Dr. Oliver Lipps FORS

Project duration

1.4.2019 – 31.3.2022

Funding

Ambizione Grant of the Swiss National Sciences Foundation (SNSF)