

Q-estival

Wednesday 11th September, 15.00 – 16.00

[A life course perspective to fertility and women's health](#)

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We know less about the life course determinants of women's than men's health. Traditional life course epidemiology tends to focus on key elements of male life course (e.g. work history), but family events are often ignored. First, work history may have a different effect on women's than men's health outcomes. Second, family and pregnancy histories can affect women's mental and physical health outcomes directly and indirectly e.g. through social determinants of health, stress, and support from social networks. I will discuss how timing of pregnancies affects socioeconomic outcomes; the importance of family and fertility events on mental wellbeing in later life; and the effect of pregnancy history on physical health among post-menopausal women. Evidence spans countries such as Finland, the UK and Indonesia. Finally, I will outline the main research gaps and give suggestions for future studies.

Data used: Finnish register data, the English Longitudinal Study of Ageing (ELSA) and the Indonesian Family Life Survey (IFLS).

Techniques used: logistic regression, path analysis with full information maximum likelihood (FIML).