

INTERNATIONAL SYMPOSIUM ON COHORT AND LONGITUDINAL STUDIES IN LOW AND MIDDLE INCOME COUNTRIES

Grand Hotel Mediterraneo
Florence, Italy
13-15 October 2014

Symposium Agenda



Three Objectives

1. To identify how cohort and longitudinal studies can uniquely contribute to current areas for policy and research, and to share latest findings emerging from different studies.
2. To share lessons on the practice of longitudinal studies, to explore what the next generation of knowledge from longitudinal studies might look like.
3. To explore determinants of local ownership and sustainability of cohort and longitudinal studies.

Monday, 13 October 2014	
What can cohort and longitudinal studies contribute? Presentation of recent findings	
09:00-09:30	Welcome Marie-Claude Martin , Director (UNICEF Office of Research)
09:30-10:30	Keynote address Stefan Dercon , Chief Economist (DfID): The role of cohort and longitudinal research in developing evidence for improved policies on child well-being
10:30-11:00	Coffee
11:00-12:30	<p>Impacts of inequality on children's well-being</p> <p><i>This moderated panel discussion focuses on changes in the macro-environment and capturing impacts on children and their transitions to adulthood. Topics for discussion could include socio-economic inequality in childhood; dynamics of school systems; differential access to public services; gender, ethnic and other forms of discrimination; urban-rural geographies; mobility and migration.</i></p> <p>Moderator: Marie-Claude Martin</p> <p>David Lam: Impact of baseline inequality on youth transitions in education, health and employment in South Africa: Evidence from the Cape Panel study Sonalde Desai: Enhancing Nutrition Security via India's National Food Security Act: Using an axe instead of a scalpel? Christian Morabito: Analysis of early predictors of educational inequalities: Evidence from the Mauritius Longitudinal Child Health Study David Bravo: Socio economic inequality in child well-being outcomes in Chile</p>
12:30-14:00	Lunch
14:00-15:30	<p>Societal and community influences across the life course</p> <p><i>This moderated panel discussion explores the interactions of societal and community factors on child outcomes, and includes the risks to children associated with external factors in their lived environments. It explores social normative and cultural influences operating across the life course as well as inter-generationally.</i></p> <p>Moderator: Virginia Morrow</p> <p>Shalini Roy: Can nutrition-sensitive social protection interventions affect children's nutritional status and development? Longitudinal evidence from a randomized experiment in Bangladesh Barbara Mensch: Literacy and the transition to adulthood in rural Malawi Tahir Andrabi: Gender differences in school dropout rates in Pakistan: Evidence from the LEAPS study Robert Blum: Societal and community influences on adolescents: Lessons from longitudinal research among young people in Chin Le Provence, Vietnam</p>
15:30-16:00	Coffee
16:00-17:30	<p>Childhood risk and resilience</p> <p><i>This moderated panel discussion looks at developing the evidence of resilience and exploring the determinants of recovery and faltering across childhood. Possible topics include stunting; education and learning outcomes; neuroscience and developmental origins; impact of household shocks; drought; food-prices; parental illness and death.</i></p> <p>Moderator: Elizabeth Cooksey</p> <p>Jo Boyden and Abhijeet Singh: Understanding risk and resilience at different points in childhood: Some lessons from Young Lives Susan Luczak: Individual and Socio-familial Risk and Protective Factors in Two Generations of the Mauritian Joint Child Health Project Maureen Samms-Vaughan: Risk and Resilience for Child Development: Analysis from the Jamaican cohort studies Linda Adair: Relating early childhood to adult outcomes: Evidence from the Cebu longitudinal health and nutrition surveys</p>
18:00-19:30	Aperitivo at Salon Brunelleschi, Istituto degli Innocenti

Tuesday, 14 October 2014		
Sharing lessons on the practice of cohort and longitudinal studies		
09:00-10:30	Comparability of measurement instruments across ages and contexts <i>This moderated panel discussion identifies where comparable instruments can be developed and provides lessons from where these have been successfully achieved. Topics for discussion could include learning assessments; wealth measures; SES measures and others.</i> Moderator: Sudhanshu Handa	Paul Hewett: Challenges in measuring life events among adolescents Jane Waldfogel: The comparability challenge: Lessons from cross-national research in developed countries Emla Fitzsimons: Challenges in the measurement of Early Childhood Development and cognitive assessments in Columbia Linda Adair: Challenges in harmonization in development measures among the COHORTS studies
10:30-11:00	Coffee	
11:00-12:30	Innovations in design and measurement <i>This moderated panel discussion presents innovative practices of study design and measurement, with possible topics to include the use of biomarkers; the development of psychosocial survey-based measures; experiments and others.</i> Moderator: David Lam	Shane Norris: Experience in the use of biomarkers and genetic predictor tests from the Birth to 20 cohort in South Africa Osman Sankoh: Innovating HDSS for greater efficiency in generating population based data in low and middle income countries Kathleen Mullan Harris: Innovations in measurement from the US Add Health study Sudhanshu Handa: Evaluating Ghana's Livelihood Empowerment Against Poverty (LEAP) Program
12:30-14:00	Lunch	
14:00-15:30	The practicalities of cohort and longitudinal research <i>This moderated panel discussion looks at sharing practices across cohort and longitudinal studies. Topics for discussion could include tracking and cohort maintenance; tracking families; methods to mitigate attrition; ethics in research with children.</i> Moderator: Linda Adair	Virginia Morrow: Why does comparative, mixed methods, research matter? Lessons from Young Lives Aryeh Stein: When children become adults – lessons from the INCAP (Guatemala) longitudinal study on migration and attrition Gero Carletto: Building Panel Survey Systems in Sub-Saharan Africa: the LSMS experience Respichius Mitti: Using <i>Surveybe</i> to improve the collection of panel data: Lessons from the Kagera Tanzania
15:30-16:00	Coffee	
16:00-17:30	Cohort research for programme and policy <i>This moderated panel discussion discusses challenges and opportunities to bridge the research/policy interface, sharing experiences of what enhances uptake of research into the policy space, and strategies which have led to implementation at scale</i> Moderator: Andy Dawes	Maureen Samms-Vaughan: Translating Research from Cohort Studies into Policy: the case of Jamaica Nalini Tarakeshwar: CIFF's experience in fostering research for policy and practitioners Eunju Jung: The interface between research and policy: Experience from South Korea Rachel Hinton: Research to policy experience from DfID Research

Wednesday, 15 October 2014 Exploring sustainability and ownership	
09:00-10:30	<p>Sustainability and ownership</p> <p><i>This moderated panel discussion explores models for resourcing cohort research, and will discuss strategies for sustainable research. Important linkages to broader global agendas on data and the post 2015 discussion may also be explored here.</i></p> <p>Moderator: Jo Boyden</p> <p>Emla Fitzsimons: Strategies employed by the UK's Millennium Cohort to foster sustainability and ownership: lessons for developing country contexts Osman Sankoh: Capacity building and sustainability - lessons from the INDEPTH network in moving from a project to institutional approach Jimmy Whitworth: Reflections from the Wellcome Trust on cohort and longitudinal studies Craig Bardsley: ESRC funding for cohort studies: past and future challenges and opportunities</p>
10:30-11:00	Coffee
11:00-12:30	<p>Collaboration and creating a community of practice</p> <p><i>This session is designed as an open discussion looking at potential collaboration across the group, including building a research network as a community of practice on longitudinal and cohort studies working on children; and also to discuss the potential development of a joint publication from the Symposium.</i></p> <p>Moderators: Purna Banati and Virginia Morrow Remarks by: Aryeh Stein: Reflections on the work of COHORTS: challenges and opportunities Elizabeth Cooksey: Reflections from the work of the SLLS: challenges and opportunities</p> <p>Questions to consider jointly: <i>What topics and themes could the group continue to explore together, in subgroups, or linked with other work? What could be future products to develop? Would a Community of Practice be useful? How to ensure a Community of Practice builds on work of other networks? What tools would it like to have (website/annual meetings/technical working groups?) How to ensure sustainability and relevance of the network? What do we do with the results presented at this Symposium? What form should this publication take?</i></p>
12:30-13:00	<p>Closing remarks Marie-Claude Martin, Director (UNICEF Research)</p>
13:00-14:30	Lunch