

The second edition of the ECSR Spring School, on "Family complexity and its implications for inequality", is promoted by ECSR, Collegio Carlo Alberto and by the universities of Milan and Turin in the frame of the NASP-West project (Network for the Advancement in Social and Political Studies). It provides high-quality training on leading-edge theories and methodological approaches to the analysis of family complexity in contemporary societies and its consequences for social stratification and inequality.

The objective of the spring school is to introduce students to both substantive and methodological issues in current research on family complexity and its implications in Europe. The school includes three type of activities: a) lectures on key current issues in the field; b) a short, multi-teacher course on methodological approaches in family life course research (including Event History Analysis, Sequence Analysis, and sibling models); c) students' presentations, discussed by both faculty members and other students.



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ECSR, COLLEGIO CARLO ALBERTO
AND MILAN-TURIN
JOINT SPRING SCHOOL ON

Family Complexity and its Implications for Inequality

A NASP-West Project.
With the support of



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Syllabi and further information at
http://www.graduateschool.unimi.it/2014_spring_school.html

10th-14th March, 2014

Collegio Carlo Alberto

Via Real Collegio 30,
Moncalieri (Turin), Italy

Monday 10th March 2014

- 9.30>11.00 **Lecture**
Elizabeth Thomson
University of Wisconsin-Madison and Stockholm University
The demographics of family complexity in Europe
- 11.00 > 11.30 **Break**
- 11.30>13.00 **Course on methods in family life course research**
Juho Härkönen I
Introduction to analysis of family life courses
- 13.00>14.00 **Lunch Break**
- 14.00>15.30 **Students' presentations** **Discussant**
Elizabeth Thomson University of Wisconsin-Madison
and Stockholm University
- 15.30>16.00 **Break**
- 16.00>17.30 **Students' presentations** **Discussant**
Tiziana Nazio University of Turin

Tuesday 11th March 2014

- 9.30>11.00 **Course on methods in family life course research**
Juho Härkönen II
Event history analysis of family life courses
- 11.00>11.30 **Break**
- 11.30>13.00 **Students' presentations** **Discussant**
Renzo Carriero University of Turin
- 13.00>14.00 **Lunch Break**
- 14.00>15.30 **Course on methods in family life course research**
Fabrizio Bernardi
Further issues in event history analysis of families: repeated events and selections
- 15.30>16.00 **Break**
- 16.00>17.30 **Students' presentations** **Discussant**
Anette Fasang Humboldt University and WZB, Berlin
- 17.30>17.45 **Break**
- 17.45>19.15 **Students' presentations** **Discussant**
Fabrizio Bernardi ECSR and EUI, Fiesole

Wednesday 12th March 2014

- 9.30>11.00 **Course on methods in family life course research**
Anette Fasang I
Family life courses as sequences: an introduction
- 11.00>11.30 **Break**
- 11.30>13.00 **Course on methods in family life course research**
Anette Fasang II
New perspectives on family formation: what can we learn from sequence analysis?
- 13.00>14.00 **Lunch Break**
- 14.00>15.30 **Course on methods in family life course research**
Arnstein Aassve
Complex family life courses and event history analysis
- 15.30>16.00 **Break**
- 16.00>17.30 **Students' presentations** **Discussant**
Arnstein Aassve Bocconi University

Thursday 13th March 2014

- 9.30>11.00 **Course on methods in family life course research**
Juho Härkönen III
Approaches to the estimating causal effects of family dynamics
- 11.00>11.30 **Break**
- 11.30>13.00 **Students' presentations** **Discussant**
Juho Härkönen Stockholm University
- 13.00>14.00 **Lunch Break**
- 14.00>15.30 **Students' presentations** **Discussant**
Gabriele Ballarino University of Milan
- 15.30>16.00 **Break**
- 16.00>17.30 **Students' presentations** **Discussant**
Pearl Dykstra Erasmus University Rotterdam



Friday 14th March 2014

- 9.30>11.00 **Lecture**
Pearl Dykstra Erasmus University of Rotterdam
Intergenerational family relations: linked lives and lives in context
- 11.00>11.30 **Break**
- 11.30>13.00 **Students' presentations** **Discussant**
Cristina Solera University of Turin
- 13.00>14.00 **Lunch Break**
- 14.00>15.30 **Lecture**
Chiara Saraceno Collegio carlo Alberto
How social norms and regulations concerning the family may create, strengthen or reduce inequalities
- 15.30>16.00 **Break**
- 16.00>16.30 **Course on methods in family life course research**
Juho Härkönen III
Wrap-up

COURSE ON METHODS IN FAMILY LIFE COURSE RESEARCH

The objective of this workshop is to give an overview of methodological approaches to the analysis of family life courses and inequality. Family life courses have become increasingly diverse across Europe. How can we best describe the complexity of family lives? How is this diversity structured by socioeconomic inequalities in education, labour market careers, and incomes? Does this diversity, in turn, shape inequalities in adults' and children's living conditions and life chances? These questions are of central interest across the social sciences, and among the general public.

The focus of this workshop is in the suitability of different quantitative methods to the analysis of these questions. Rather than providing hands-on and technical training in these methods, we emphasize their theoretical foundations and appropriateness for different research problems. In other words, the aim of the workshop is to provide guidance to the choice of methodological approaches suited for particular questions.

Our lectures cover event history analysis, sequence analysis, and approaches to estimating causal effects of family dynamics. The first two are commonly used to analyse family life courses and the factors shaping them. However, they build on different theoretical traditions of life course analysis, one (sequence analysis) taking a holistic view on them, whereas the other (event history analysis) focuses on analysis of the specific transitions which constitute these holistic trajectories. They offer complementary approaches into understanding current family complexity and the factors shaping them. Analysts of the effects of family dynamics on the living conditions and life chances of adults and children are often challenged by questions of unobserved variables and endogeneity. Approaches by which these can be dealt with promise more accurate views on how family complexity shapes inequalities. At the end of the workshop, students should be able to understand the types of research questions these methods can be used to answer, how they relate to one another, as well their possibilities and limitations.