

It's About Time—Conference on the Study of Lives through Time

This conference considers the state of knowledge in the area of longitudinal studies of the life course and its future. The presentations serve as the basis of thought and discussion regarding the adequacy of current longitudinal designs to inform elements of the life course paradigm. Our conception of the life course, shaped by Glen Elder's pioneering work, includes the well-known elements: human development across the entire life-span, human agency in the construction of lives, social networks and the linked nature of lives, the timing and sequence of influential events, exposures and transitions, as well as their consequences, the importance of time and place, and considerations of social stratification and inequality. This conference addresses the extent to which longitudinal research designs help address these issues, and the presentations cover a wide range of relevant questions spanning the diversity of methodological strategies and the nature of longitudinal designs.

Day 1: Wednesday, May 29, 2019

Continental breakfast available from 7:00 – 8:00 am

Welcome and Introduction (8:00 am)

Welcome by Melissa A. Hardy, Distinguished Professor of Sociology and Criminology, Penn State University

Introductory Comments on “Studying Lives through Time”—Duane F. Alwin

Session #1—Perspectives on Longitudinal Designs and Life Course Studies (8:15-9:40 am)

Presider and Discussant: Derek Kreager, Penn State University

Longitudinal Designs and Life Course Research: What Do We Know and What are We Missing—Deborah S. Carr, Boston University

The State of Longitudinal Cohort Studies, Elizabeth Cooksey, Ohio State University

The Value of Intergenerational Studies, Merrill Silverstein, Syracuse University

Discussion 9:40-10:00 am

Break 10:00-10:30 am

Session #2—Strategies for the Study of Lives through Time (10:30 am - 12:00 pm)

Presider and Discussant: Melissa Hardy, Penn State University

The ‘Life Course Cube’: Advancing the Interdisciplinary Study of Lives through Time, Richard Settersten, Oregon State University, Laura Bernardi and Johannes Huinink, LIVES project, University of Lausanne, Switzerland

The Promise of Longitudinal Qualitative Research, Joseph Hermanowicz, University of Georgia

The Study of Within-Person Change using the Accelerated Longitudinal Design, Duane Alwin, Penn State University

Discussion 12:00 – 12:15 pm

Lunch 12:15 – 1:30 pm

Session #3—Exposures, Timing and Sequence in Life Pathways (1:30 – 3:00 pm)

Presider and Discussant: Léa Pessin, Penn State University

Sequence Analysis of Life Course Transitions, Tim Futing Liao, University of Illinois
Developmental Origins of Adult Health Inequalities, Steve Haas, Penn State University and
Katsuya Oi, Northern Arizona University
Similarity in Transition to Adulthood of Friends and Schoolmates, Nicola Barban, Essex
University, UK

Discussion 3:00 – 3:15

Break 3:15 – 3:45

Session #4—Agency, Mental Representations, and the Life Course (3:45 – 5:15)

Presider: Linda A. Wray, Penn State University

Bridging Agency and Structure in Health Research: Theoretical and Methodological
Considerations, Katsuya Oi, University of Northern Arizona
Life Course Mental Maps, Steve Hitlin and Ji Hye Kim, University of Iowa
Understanding Attainment from Agentic, Multi-generation, and Historical Perspectives, Jeylan
Mortimer and colleagues, University of Minnesota
Families' Financial Support to Young Adults in Tough Times, Monica Kirkpatrick Johnson,
Washington State University

Discussion 5:15 – 5:30 pm

Dinner 6:00 – 9:00 pm – 161 Meadowview Drive (home of Linda & Duane)

Day 2: Thursday, May 30, 2019

Continental breakfast available from 7:00 – 8:00 am

Session #5—Latent Trajectories of Life-span Development (8:00 – 9:30 am)

Presider and Discussant: Ashton Verdery, Penn State University

An Overview of Autoregressive, Latent Growth Curve and ALT Models for Longitudinal Data,
Kenneth Bollen, University of North Carolina
Applications of Autoregressive Latent Trajectory Models to Aging Processes, Shawn Bauldry,
Purdue University
Age of Migration and Cognitive Functioning among Older Latinos in the United States, Marc
Anthony Garcia, University of Nebraska, and Adrianna Reyes, Cornell University
Cohort Differences in Cognitive Aging, Duane Alwin, Penn State University, and Jason Thomas,
Ohio State University

Discussion 9:30 – 10:00 am

Break 10:00 – 10:30 am

Session #6—Aging, Period and Cohort Models (10:30 am – 12:00 pm)

Presider and Discussant: Liying Luo, Penn State University

The Line of Solutions in Age-Period-Cohort Models: What it tells us and what it suggests, Bob O'Brien, University of Oregon

Seeing vs. doing: On the hard problem of age-period-cohort analysis, Ethan Fosse, University of Toronto

Identifying Age, Period and Cohort Effects in the Era of Big Data, Shawn Dorius, Iowa State University

Discussion 12:00 – 12:15 pm

Lunch 12:15 – 1:30 pm

Session #7—Longitudinal Studies of the Life Course (1:30 – 3:00 pm)

Presider and Discussant: Jonathan Daw, Penn State University

Growing up in Ireland Study, Carmel Hannan and Ross Macmillan, University of Limerick, Ireland

Assessing the Degree of Linked Lives with Family Sequence Data, Tim Futing Liao, University of Illinois

Change in Value Similarity between Parents and Adult Children across Five Decades, Merril Silverstein and colleagues

Discussion 3:00 – 3:30 pm

Session #8 – Recapitulation, and Closing Remarks (3:30 – 4:00 pm)

Looking Back to Look Forward, Richard T. Campbell, University of Illinois—Chicago

Future of the Life Course and Longitudinal Studies, Duane Alwin, Penn State University