



# **VIU LIVES WINTER SCHOOL Life course and vulnerabilities**

**Life Course and Vulnerabilities**

**March 7-11, 2022**

**Venice International University  
Isola di San Servolo, Venice**

# VIU/LIVES Winter School

## Life Course and Vulnerabilities

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Venice International University

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### Program

During an intensive one-week program, doctoral students and young researchers will work on various fields of Life Course research through a multidisciplinary approach (Sociology, Psychology, Social Psychology, Life-span Psychology, Social Demography and Social Policies) led by internationally renowned experts.

In particular, the Winter School will focus on training the participants in the drafting of research projects or journal articles as fundamental aspects of the academic career they are approaching. With a “learning-by-doing” approach, participants will go through all stages of these drafting processes.

This is the seventh edition of the LIVES Winter School, the third organized in cooperation with Venice International University.

### Three thematic workshops

#### – Trajectories of regularized migrant workers in Geneva, Switzerland

Migrant workers without residency permit, known as undocumented, tend to live in precarious conditions and to be exposed to an accumulation of adverse determinants of health. In the context of a regularization policy (Opération Papyrus) taking place in canton of Geneva in 2017-2018, we developed a longitudinal mixed-methods study aiming at measuring the impact of obtaining a residency permit on health and well-being. The Parchemins study compares over time a group of adult undocumented migrants in the process of regularization with a group of undocumented migrants who lack one or more eligibility criteria for regularization (control group). The initial sample recruited at baseline included 464 participants. Data collection combines standardized questionnaires filled face-to-face and semi-directive interviews with a subsample of migrants qualifying for regularization. To this date, longitudinal data were collected in three waves set one year apart. Further data related to COVID-19 consequences were gathered in 2020. Available variables cover health (ie, health status, occupational health, health-seeking behaviors, access to care, healthcare utilization), well-being (measured by satisfaction with different dimensions of

life), living conditions (ie, employment, accommodation, social support) and economic situation (income, expenditures). Sociodemographic characteristics and migration history information are also collected. The workshops aims at developing publication(s) with the students, analyzing the available data along specific research questions related to trajectories of undocumented and regularized migrants. Along the theoretical model of life course developed in the NCCR LIVES, publications could tackle trajectories in different domains, such as for example health, work or housing.

**Type of workshop:** Preparation of publication(s)

#### **Tutors**

Prof. Claudine Burton-Jeangros, University of Geneva

Dr. Yves Jackson, University of Geneva

Dr. Aline Duvoisin, University of Geneva

Prof. Piotr Plewa, Duke University (Keynote)

#### – **Is there a gender data gap in survey research? Neglect of female health aspects and their connection to vulnerability**

The ‘gender data gap’ refers to the absence of data on women and the consequent ‘silence’ around women’s everyday lives, experiences and needs (Criado-Perez, 2019). Gender data gaps are ubiquitous (e.g., only 13% of countries dedicate a budget to gender statistics; UN, 2013), and have important consequences for women and girls across a vast range of domains and outcomes. In the health sector particularly, where gender represents a key determinant of health and health inequities, extensive data gaps have been identified. This lack not only hinders monitoring of progress on Sustainable Development Goals linked to gender inequalities, but also restricts understanding of key sources of vulnerability in women’s lives and how to address them.

In this workshop we will investigate one particular health domain contributing to the ‘invisibilisation’ of women’s everyday experiences of vulnerability, as well as an incomplete picture of causes of vulnerability across the life course: the impact of gynecological health.

Gynecological health issues vary and evolve throughout women’s lives, requiring regular interaction with healthcare systems for preventative and therapeutic purposes, involving invasive physical examinations, long-term treatments and surgeries. Besides physical suffering, the psychosocial consequences of these experiences are manifold, yet due to poor coverage of women’s health issues in major household surveys, under-researched and poorly understood. Assessing the true extent of this data gap and exploring ways to address it, therefore, represent important priorities for research into gender, health, and vulnerability.

Participants will develop and apply a range of essential research skills, including reviewing relevant literature; searching data archives and the content of secondary data sources; evaluating data quality; and thinking about innovative research designs for addressing gender data gaps. The overall aim will be to draft a position paper based on the results of these activities, which can serve as a basis for future research proposals.

**Type of workshop:** Literature review/ review and evaluation of secondary data sources/ research design/ draft position paper

#### **Tutors**

Prof. Daniela Jopp, University of Lausanne

Dr. Caroline Roberts, University of Lausanne

Dr. Charikleia Lampraki, University of Lausanne

Prof. Heather O’Mahen, Exeter University (online Keynote)

#### – **Networked LIVES**

Our lives are lived in networks. Through our personal contacts —family, friends, classmates, co-workers, neighbours, acquaintances— we make sense of the world around us and access many fundamental resources: information, advice, knowledge, practical and emotional support. These resources, an authentic (social) capital, influence our social position and well-being in key areas of life (i.e., work, family, leisure, health) and play a major role in the unfolding of the transitions that make up our personal



trajectories. This workshop explores these relational aspects of the life course, explaining how many inequalities can be understood by studying the convoy of relationships surrounding us: who are our contacts? Why are they in our lives? Do they help us? How? Why?

The workshop is divided into two blocks to address these issues from a theoretical and empirical point of view. In a first block the workshop explains how network, social identity, and social capital theories complement and enrich the life course principle of 'linked lives'. In a second block participants are asked to mobilize the theoretical elements empirically. In this second block of the workshop, sessions are dedicated to guiding the constitution of a concrete analytical strategy within the participants' thesis project and research interests. A first session is dedicated to the elicitation of research questions about the role played by personal networks regarding the object of study of interest. Next, a plurality of methods for integrating network data into a longitudinal design are evaluated. The workshop concludes with a session dedicated to the initial drafting of a manuscript in which the essential outlines of a publication are proposed: research questions, theoretical foundation, data collection and analytical strategy. In a last part of the workshops, session is dedicated to design a work-plan to complete the manuscript in 3-6 months.

**Type of workshop:** Literature review + manuscript drafting

#### **Tutors**

Prof. Dario Spini, University of Lausanne  
Prof. Eric Widmer, University of Geneva  
Dr. Mattia Vacchiano, University of Geneva

#### **Learning outcomes for the participants**

- learn the manifold know-how associated with writing an article or a research project on a topic linked to the workshops' themes
- work on concepts, taking into account the perspectives of different disciplines
- extend their academic network

#### **Who can apply?**

The School first targets PhD students, but postdoc researchers can also apply.

Disciplines involved are Psychology, Sociology, Social Psychology, Life-span Psychology, Social Demography and Social Policy, Statistics and Socioeconomics, depending on the tutors and the workshop contents. The common topic of the workshops is vulnerability across the life course.

#### **Application procedure and costs**

The Program will admit up to 20 participants.

#### **Fees**

Students of VIU member universities:

**€ 400 VAT Included**

Students of LIVES Doctoral Program and its affiliated member universities:

**€ 600 VAT Included**

Students of other universities

**€ 800 VAT Included**

VIU Alumni are eligible for a reduced fee.

The fees will cover tuition, course materials, breakfasts and lunches, accommodation on the VIU campus on the Island of San Servolo in single rooms with private bathroom, and a social event.

Participants will be responsible for covering their own travel expenses to and from Venice and local transportation.

PhD Students in EU universities may be eligible for Erasmus+ funding. Refer to international offices in home universities or contact VIU Erasmus office: [erasmus@univiu.org](mailto:erasmus@univiu.org).

#### **Online application**

**November 26, 2021 – January 23, 2022**  
via the VIU website

Applicants must submit via application form: a letter of motivation (max. 2 pages), a CV including publications and academic/research experience (max. 3 pages), a proposal of the current project - e.g. MA thesis, upcoming publication or PhD thesis- (max. 5 pages) and a photo.

Admitted candidates will be notified by **January 31, 2022** and will be asked to pay the fee by **February 6, 2022**.

#### **Credits**

ECTS credits equivalence: 2.

A certificate of attendance will be issued at the end of the course.

## Co-organizers

Venice International University

University of Lausanne & University of Geneva -  
Swiss National Center of Competence in Research  
LIVES

## Affiliated institutions

Bremen International Graduate School of Social  
Sciences (BIGSSS), University of Bremen & Jacobs  
University (D)

Hallie Ford Center for Healthy Children &  
Families, Oregon State University (USA)

Centre for Population, Aging and Health, Western  
University (CA)

Ageing and Living Conditions Programme (ALC),  
Umeå University (SE).

**Venice International University** is a consortium  
of 20 universities, representing 14 countries  
throughout the world.

The mission of VIU is to foster cooperation  
among VIU member institutions while facilitating  
the exchange of knowledge and ideas, by  
developing, promoting and organizing joint  
academic, research and training/capacity-building  
program. Students from non-member universities  
may participate in selected academic programs.  
The academic programs at VIU are distinguished  
by a markedly interdisciplinary approach to the  
topics, and by the international perspectives that  
the participants contribute to the  
discussions. The VIU campus is on the island of  
San Servolo in Venice, Italy.

## Location



*As the COVID-19 pandemic is ongoing, VIU will continue to monitor the situation; should it prevent international travel or the confirmation of the program on campus as scheduled, other practicable solutions will be evaluated. Applicants and confirmed participants will be informed of any changes.*



## Venice International University

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