

# PAA 2009 Annual Meeting

## Session 13: Parental Work and Children's Lives

Thursday, April 30  
8:30 AM - 10:20 AM

Nicolet A

### Bad Jobs in America: The Effect of Maternal Work Conditions on Children's Cognitive Outcomes

Amy Hsin, *University of Michigan*

Christina Felfe, *University of St. Gallen*

We examine the relationship between maternal work conditions and children's cognitive outcomes, using the 1997 and 2002 waves of the Panel Study of Income Dynamics-Child Development Supplement and the Occupational Information Network (O\*Net). Additionally, we consider whether the deleterious effects of "bad" jobs work through the quantity and type of mother-child time. The results suggest that poor work conditions (e.g., exposure to stressful social contact and physical hazards) are associated with lower verbal scores among children. More importantly, the results show that time with children may be a mechanism through which occupations influence child outcomes. Bad jobs exert negative effects because exposure to stressful and hazardous occupations (1) change the types of activities mothers perform with children and (2) change the effect of maternal time on child outcomes (For mothers exposed to poor work conditions, developmental time with children has a positive effect whereas non-development time has a negative effect).

## Session 20:

Thursday, April 30  
10:30 AM - 12:20 PM

### The Emergence of Health Trajectories in Childhood (Uses PSID: 1968-2005)

Effects of Early Life Events on Later Health • **Rucker C. Johnson**, *University of California, Berkeley* [abstract to be posted later this month, per R.J.]

# PAA 2009 Annual Meeting

## Session 21: Social and Economic Well-Being

Thursday, April 30  
10:30 AM - 12:20 PM  

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Ambassador Ballroom 3

### Race, Accessible Wealth and the Transition to Homeownership

**Matthew Hall**, *Pennsylvania State University*

We use data from the Panel Study of Income Dynamics to examine the impact of extended family wealth processes on individual household wealth accumulation and transitions to homeownership. Preliminary results indicate that the black-white disparity in nonhousing wealth can be fully explained by extended family wealth. We find smaller evidence for the role of extended family wealth in households' transitions to homeownership, although the results do suggest that both household and extended family wealth matter more for black than white householders - a finding consistent with the "weak" version of the stratification model. At this exploratory stage in the analysis, we do not find evidence that the effects of extended family wealth are attenuated by the provision or receipt of financial support; future analyses will test alternative specifications of these terms.

## Session 21: Social and Economic Well-Being

Thursday, April 30  
10:30 AM - 12:20 PM  

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Ambassador Ballroom 3

### The Probability of Experiencing Poverty and Its Duration in Adulthood

**Lloyd D. Grieger**, *University of Michigan*  
**Sheldon H. Danziger**, *University of Michigan*  
**Peter Gottschalk**, *Boston College*

Using information from four decades of the Panel Study of Income Dynamics, we calculate the probability that an adult will experience a first poverty spell and the proportion of time spent in poverty. To disentangle the heterogeneity that may exist in the probability of ever experiencing adult poverty, we use survival analysis and regression techniques to estimate the hazard of falling into poverty and the proportion of time spent in poverty as a function of economic and demographic characteristics at age 25. We find that there is substantial heterogeneity in the hazard of ever falling into poverty and the proportion of time spent in poverty. The higher one's income at age 25, the less likely one is to ever experience poverty during adulthood. There are similar large differences between the most-educated and least-educated, of whites and blacks and of men and women.

# PAA 2009 Annual Meeting

## Session 41: Family and Aging

Thursday, April 30  
1:30 PM - 3:20 PM

Mackinac East

### Housework over the Life Course: Trajectories of Change within Marriage

**Matthew Loyd**, *University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill*

This paper argues that the division of household labor should be conceptualized and modeled as a trajectory that develops over the course of a relationship. Research on housework is largely cross-sectional, yet prominent housework theories define the division of household labor as a process of negotiation or performance rather than a static contract. Using data from the 1969-2005 waves of the Panel Study of Income Dynamics, this paper employs growth curve models to (1) describe the development of time spent on housework within a marriage, (2) test for differences in housework trajectories by gender, birth cohort and timing of marriage, and (3) examine the interdependence of change in women's and men's housework over time. Findings show that women remain responsible for meeting the increased demand for housework during the first 15 years of marriage, even though the overall level of housework hours has declined substantially for younger cohorts of women.

## Session 45: Family Influences on Socioeconomic Differentials in Health and Mortality

Thursday, April 30  
1:30 PM - 3:20 PM

LaSalle

### Is Biology Destiny? Birth Weight and Differential Parental Treatment

**Amy Hsin**, *University of Michigan*

Time diaries and sibling fixed effects models are used to examine whether parental time investments in children compensate for or reinforce birth weight differences among siblings (i.e. 666 sibling pairs, age 0-12). The findings demonstrate that the direction and degree of differential treatment varies by socioeconomic status (SES). Less advantaged parents reinforce differences by spending more time with normal-weight children. Advantaged parents compensate by spending more time with low-weight children. First, the findings show that the lasting effects of low birth weight may not be entirely due to biology; biosocial interactions both compensate for and reinforce early-life disadvantages. Second, sibling correlation studies may underestimate the influence of family background in determining status attainment because disadvantaged families act in ways that decrease sibling resemblance over time. In low-SES families, shared family background exerts its influence in unexpected ways: producing diverging rather than converging destinies.

# PAA 2009 Annual Meeting

## **Session 47: Gender, Labor Force and Earnings**

**Thursday, April 30  
1:30 PM - 3:20 PM**

**Cadillac B**

### **When Equality Is Not Enough: An Examination of Changes in Relative Earnings over the Duration of Marriage**

**Tara L. Becker**, *University of Wisconsin at Madison*

Relative earnings relationships have long played a central role in theories of the family. This study uses data from the 1969-1997 waves of the Panel Study of Income Dynamics to examine how relative earnings relationships change over time. Using cohort life table methods, I compare the stability of relative earnings across marriage cohorts by following couples forward through time from the first year of marriage. The results show considerable change in relative earnings over the duration of marriage, regardless of initial relative earnings. Earnings relationships in which the wife earns at least 60% of the couple's earnings are the most likely to change over time, and couples are least likely to enter this type of earnings relationship when their relative earnings change. Differences across relative earnings groups, however, narrowed over time as husband sole-earner earnings relationships became less stable and other relative earnings relationships became more stable.

## **Session 58: Access to and the Impact of College Education**

**Thursday, April 30  
3:30 PM - 5:20 PM**

**Mackinac Wes**

### **Is a College Degree Still the Great Equalizer? Intergenerational Mobility across Levels of Schooling in the U.S.**

**Florencia Torche**, *New York University*

Twenty years ago, Hout (1984, 1988) demonstrated that there is a strong intergenerational class association among individuals without a college degree, but the association virtually disappears for college graduates. In other words, a college degree appears to fulfill the promise of meritocracy – erasing the advantages of origin in the competition for economic success. This paper examines whether the “meritocratic power” of a college degree persists today, after substantial expansion and diversification of the post-secondary educational system. I use three data sets – the National Longitudinal Survey of Youth, 1979, the General Social Survey and the Panel Study of Income Dynamics – to analyze the intergenerational association in terms of social class, occupational status, earnings and total family income. Findings suggest that a college degree still weakens the advantages of birth in the early 21st century. Surprisingly, the influence of social origins appears to reemerge among advanced-degree holders. The U-shaped pattern of parental influence is similar across genders.

# PAA 2009 Annual Meeting

## **Session 96: Racial and Ethnic Differentials in Health and Mortality**

**Friday, May 01  
10:30 AM - 12:20 PM**

**Joliet**

### **Do Rising Tides Lift All Boats Equally? Lifetime Socioeconomic Status and Health Outcomes among Blacks and Whites in the U.S.**

**Cynthia G. Colen**, *Ohio State University*  
**Casey G. Knutson**, *Ohio State University*

Minority populations in the United States often face stark inequalities in health. The life course perspective offers a unique viewpoint through which racial disparities in morbidity and mortality may be understood as the result of repeated exposures to risk factors during both childhood and adulthood. However, the utility of this approach is limited by its failure to investigate the degree to which minority populations are able to translate gains in socioeconomic status (SES) into favorable health outcomes. Using data from the Panel Study of Income Dynamics and four U.S. Decennial Censuses, we employ growth curve models to estimate the association between fluctuations in lifetime SES and two measures of physical well-being: self-reported health and disability status. Additionally, we assess the extent to which structural level racial inequalities, such as residential segregation, differential wealth accumulation and labor market segmentation, account for black/white disparities in this association.

## **Session 111: Socioeconomic Differentials in Health and Mortality (Uses HRS & PSID)**

**Friday, May 01  
12:30 PM - 2:20 PM**

**Ambassador Ballroom 3**

### **Family Processes and Changing Educational Gradients in Smoking**

**Vida Maralani**, *Yale University*

This paper describes how families of origin differ by parents' education and smoking status and how this has changed across birth cohorts of Americans. Part one describes trends in assortative mating by education and smoking status for cohorts born between 1930 and 1970. Part two describes cohort trends in parental education and smoking status at first birth. The results show that, across cohorts, men who smoke become more likely to marry women who smoke, especially among couples with less schooling. This alignment of education and smoking status continues between the time of first marriage and first birth. Among couples where at least one spouse smokes, the likelihood of quitting by the first birth is higher among those with more schooling and this educational gap grows across cohorts. This alignment of education and smoking suggests that families of origin are becoming more unequal across important predictors of social status and health.

# PAA 2009 Annual Meeting

## **Session 139: Residential Mobility and Neighborhood Change**

**Friday, May 01  
2:30 PM - 4:20 PM**

**Nicolet A**

### **Distinguishing between the Effects of Residential Mobility and Neighborhood Change on Children's Well-Being**

**Margot I. Jackson**, *Princeton University and Brown University*

Although the quality of a child's neighborhood can fluctuate because of either his own migration or the movement of those around him, these two processes do not necessarily influence children in the same way. Despite this, researchers rarely examine the influence of each process separately. Identifying the independent influence of each, if it exists, is an important step toward fully understanding how much and how characteristics of neighborhoods influence children. Using data from the Panel Study of Income Dynamics and its Child Development Supplement, we develop a method for separating the effects of residential mobility and neighborhood change on children's well-being, and report the results of an analysis using that method.

**Friday, May 01  
2:30 PM - 4:20 PM**

## **Session 143: Intergenerational Mobility**

**Brule A**

### **How Does Economic Inequality Affect Intergenerational Mobility? An Exploration of the Context of Opportunity**

**Deirdre Bloome**, *Harvard University*

This paper examines the relationship between family income inequality and intergenerational family income mobility. As family income inequality in the United States rose, children benefited from increasingly divergent resources available for their health, education and care. It is thus possible that economic inequality reduced opportunities for intergenerational mobility, reinforcing the privileges of the affluent and compounding the disadvantages of the poor. Using data from the Panel Study of Income Dynamics (combined with data on state characteristics), this paper exploits state- and cohort-variation in inequality to estimate the relationship between inequality and mobility. Family, neighborhood and institutional mechanisms are explored to help elucidate this relationship. Results suggest that increasing inequality raises the probability of downward mobility for African American children, although most of this movement occurs within income quintiles. The negative effect is largest for children with the highest mobility prospects. Some evidence also suggests a small dependence between the intergenerational income elasticity and inequality.

# PAA 2009 Annual Meeting

## **Session 147: Work-Family Barriers to Gender Equality**

**Saturday, May 02  
8:30 AM - 10:20 AM**

**Joliet**

### **A Longitudinal Evaluation of Gender Display in Spouses' Housework Hours**

**Alexandra Achen**, *University of Michigan*

**Margaret Gough**, *University of Michigan*

Gender display theory suggests that women whose earnings are less than their husbands' will reduce their housework as they contribute a greater share of family income, while women who contribute a majority of household earnings will spend more time in housework as their earnings rise, compensating for their deviant labor market position with gender-conformist household roles. We use a fixed effects strategy and 1976-1996 data from the Panel Study of Income Dynamics to test the validity of gender display in explaining changes over time in couples' housework hours. Using longitudinal data reduces the possibility that our results are due to unobserved differences among couples that affect both labor outcomes and housework hours. After taking into account both couple-specific fixed effects and non-linearities in the relationship between women's own earnings and their housework hours, we find no evidence of gender display behavior.

## **Session 153: Generational Exchanges and the Well-Being of Grandchildren**

**Saturday, May 02  
8:30 AM - 10:20 AM**

**Nicolet A**

### **Family Type and Parental Time Involvement in Educational Activities**

**Hiromi Ono**, *Washington State University*

**James Sanders**, *Washington State University*

Family type has received attention as a socio-demographic dimension that structures differentials in parental time-investment. However, whether parental time involvement affects children's academic outcomes, and whether parental involvement level differs across family types remain unclear. This study examines whether: (1) parental involvement in academic activities is linked to children's academic achievement; and (2) parental involvement in academic activities differs across family types. We analyze the 1997 and 2003 waves of the Panel Study of Income Dynamics which include the Child Development Supplement. We measure family types across three union types (e.g., parental first marriage, remarriage, or cohabitation) and two parent types, as defined by step and biological parent.

## **Session 161:**

**Saturday, May 02**

# PAA 2009 Annual Meeting

**Health in Later Life**

**10:30 AM - 12:20 PM**

**Mackinac West**

**Estimating Causal Effects of Early Occupation on Later Health: Evidence Using the PSID**

**Jason Fletcher**, *Yale University*

**Jody Sindelar**, *Yale University*

Using the panel structure and retrospective occupational histories available in the Panel Study of Income Dynamics (PSID), we examine whether early occupation has lasting effects on health status as individuals age. We merge historical Census data that reflect the labor market conditions when individuals in the PSID made their first occupational choices. We use these data on labor market conditions (e.g. percentage blue collar workers in the labor market in the state when entering the labor market) and father's occupation as instruments to address endogeneity bias in our baseline results. Importantly, we control for respondent's pre-labor market health and education and both mother's and father's education. We find substantial evidence that choosing blue collar occupations at labor force entry harms later health. These health effects are larger after controlling for endogeneity. We also find differences in the effects of occupation by gender, race and age.

**Session 166:**

**What Subjective Health Status Does and Doesn't Measure**

**Saturday, May 02**

**10:30 AM - 12:20 PM**

**Cadillac A**

**What Do Retrospective Subjective Reports of Childhood Health Capture? Evidence from the WLS and the PSID**

**Steven A. Haas**, *Arizona State University*

**Nicholas J. Bishop**, *Arizona State University*

Population researchers are increasingly interested in the utility of using retrospectively collected information on childhood health status. Several large data collections have begun collecting such information. However, little is known about the quality of these measures and what aspects of childhood health these measures are capturing. Using data from the Wisconsin Longitudinal Study, we attempt to fill this gap by investigating the content of retrospective childhood health reports. We find that overall subjective assessments of childhood health are strongly correlated with reports of specific childhood health conditions as well as reports of health-related functional/activity limitations. For all conditions, the proportion reporting the condition increases monotonically as respondents report worse overall childhood health status.

# PAA 2009 Annual Meeting

**Session 189:  
Parental Involvement in Diverse Family Forms  
(Uses PSID-CDS)**

**Saturday, May 02  
12:30 PM - 2:20 PM**

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**LaSalle A**

## **The Institutionalization of Families and Father Involvement**

**James Sanders**, *Washington State University*

Resident stepfathers are less involved with co-resident children than resident biological fathers. The question of why this is the case needs more scholarly attention. This paper examines the relationship between the increased institutionalization of stepfamilies and stepfather involvement. It asks whether stepfather involvement increases with: (1) the transition out of cohabitation and into marriage and (2) the adoption of children on the part of stepfathers.