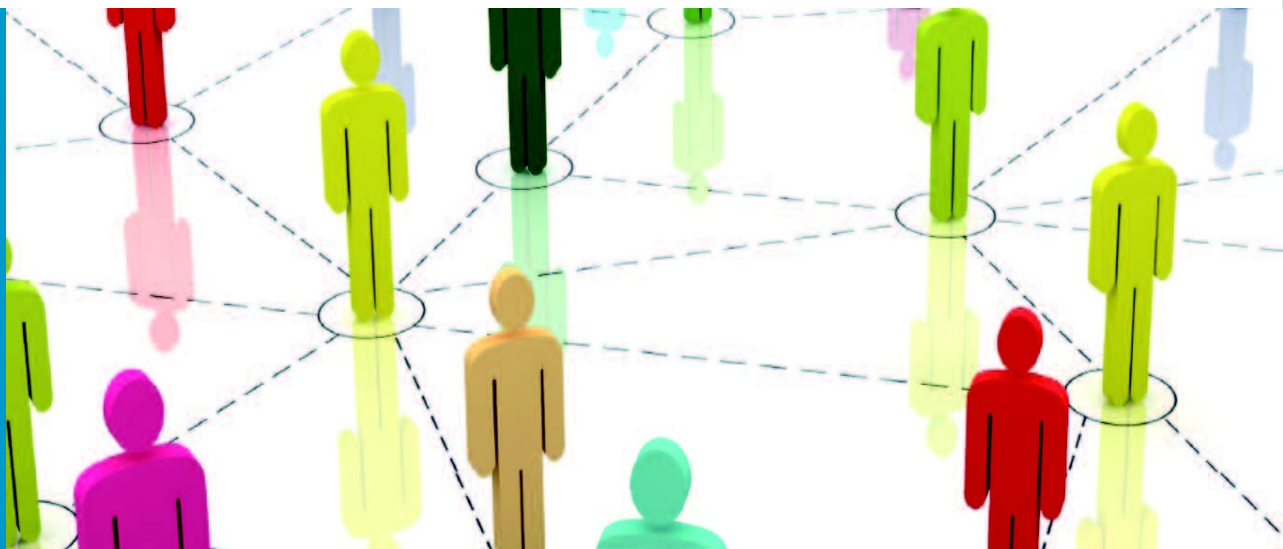


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Gendered Life Courses and Personal Networks in Switzerland

Gaëlle Aeby

Jacques-Antoine Gauthier

University of Lausanne, Switzerland

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Presentation Plan

- Theoretical framework
- The 'Family tiMes' survey
- Life course data on main results
- Network data on main results
- Personal networks in light of life trajectories

Theoretical background

Processes of pluralization:

- individualization of life trajectories
- diversification of personal networks (kin and non-kin ties, electivity)

Life trajectories constitute a powerful generative mechanism of development of personal networks, as they provide “reservoirs” of personal ties which can be turned into significant relationships (availability \neq significance).

Persistent gendering effects: women & family sphere and men & work sphere (master status)



Family tiMes Survey

- Random sample of 803 individuals living in Switzerland
- Representative of the 3 main linguistic regions (German, French, Italian)
- Two age groups : 36-41 (1970-1975) and 56-61 (1950-1955)
- Data collected in 2011
- Standardized questionnaire in 3 parts:
 - retrospective life course data
 - cross-sectional network data
 - values and attitudes
- Team members: J.-A. Gauthier, D. Joye, E. D. Widmer, G. Aeby & P.-A. Roch
- International partnerships with Portugal and Lithuania



Life course data

Instrument: retrospective life history calendar

4 trajectories: family, partnership, occupation, spatial mobility

Focus: family (coresidency) & occupational trajectories

Period: 1991-2011 (20 last years)

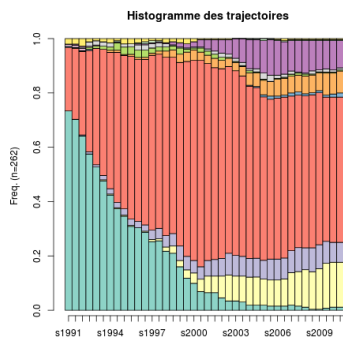
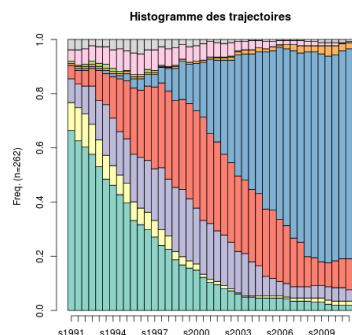
Method: multi-channel sequence analysis (Gauthier, Widmer, Bucher, & Notredame, 2010)

Co-residence statuses (9): living with two parents, with one parent, alone, with a partner, with a partner and child(ren), with child(ren) only, with relatives, with roommates, and other.

Occupational statuses (12): education/training, low part-time employment, high part-time employ., full-time employ., part-time self-employ., full-time self-employ., occasional work, unpaid family work, unemploy., at home, illness, and other.

Matched family and occupational trajectories

Type	Family	Occupation	Gendering?
1st (32.6%)	Transition	Transition	male + young
2nd (19.2%)	Nuclear family life	Full-time	male + old
3rd (15.1%)	Nuclear family life	Home & part-time	female + old
4th (14.7%)	Solo & Conjugal	Full-time	
5th (7.8%)	Conjugal	Part-time	female + old
6th (6.5%)	Nuclear family life	Self-employment	male + old
7th (4.1%)	Solo	Erratic employment	old



Network data

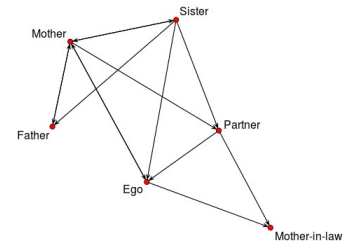
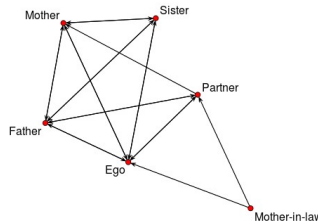
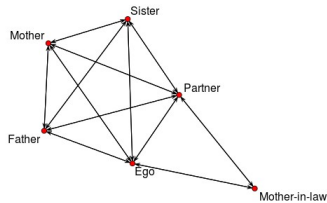
Name generator: “Who are the individuals who, over the past year, have been very important to you, even if you have not got along well with them?”

Mean size : 3.9

Prominence of the partner and children

Importance of friendship

Network structure (interdependencies): densely interconnected
=> Mean density of interaction (0.74), of emotional support (0.62), of conflict (0.36)



Personal networks in light of life trajectories

- Importance of the family (coresidence; family transitions, events, and stages) and partnership trajectories (number of partners)
- Less impact of the occupational and spatial mobility trajectories
- The gap between individuals with children (transition to parenthood) and single individuals
- The “hierarchy” of ties: individuals without children develop networks based on the extended kinship, siblings, friends
- Gendering: women focusing on female friends and female family members; and men focusing on male friends and work-related relationships
- Social stratification: high education and work-related relationships; and low education and densely interconnected networks based on family

Thank you for your attention !

gaelle.aeby@unil.ch

