



135982 Life-course research and longitudinal data analysis

Proposing professor: prof. Stefani Scherer

Teachers: Scherer, Vitali, Azzollini, Cutuli, Gioachin, Grotti, Gritti

| Dates | Timetable | Topic | Room |
|----------|-------------|---|------|
| 28.02.25 | 9.00 -11.00 | Introduction to life course research and longitudinal analysis - Scherer/Vitali | 11 |
| 07.03.25 | 9.00 -12.00 | Data handling and description - Azzollini | 11 |
| 28.03.25 | 9.00 -12.00 | Panel data analysis (I) – Cutuli | 11 |
| 04.04.25 | 9.00 -12.00 | Panel data analysis (II) - Gioachin | 11 |
| 11.04.25 | 9.00 -11.00 | Event history – Scherer | 11 |
| 11.04.25 | 11:00-13:00 | Event history – Vitali | 11 |
| 09.05.25 | 9.00 -12.00 | Growth curve analysis – Grotti | 11 |
| 23.05.25 | 9.00 -12.00 | Sequence analysis - Gritti | 11 |
| 30.05.25 | 9.00 -12.00 | Discussion of course works – Scherer, Azzollini, Gritti (2 groups) | 11 |

The seminar consists of 24 hours and takes place (generally) on Friday morning.

EDUCATIONAL OBJECTIVE

The course will introduce students to the relevance of life-course research and the handling of longitudinal data. The increasing availability of longitudinal data, namely data in which the same units (often individuals) are observed over time, provides researchers with many opportunities. For example, the longitudinal character of the data allows identifying the temporal order of events and life stages over the life course, or to control for unobserved confounders. At the same time, the complex structure of longitudinal data requires advanced data management techniques and specific methods for their analysis.

This seminar aims to provide an understanding of life-course research ideas and the necessary skills for analyzing longitudinal data. The seminar combines lectures and discussions in class and computer lab instructions. Students will be encouraged to conduct their own research projects and will present final projects in class.

TARGET STUDENT

The Seminar is intended for students from the MA program in Sociology and Social Research. It will be held in English.

REGISTRATION

Registration is mandatory and needs to be done online at <http://www.sociologia.unitn.it/100/seminari-di-credito> by 23/02/2025 (minimum number of enrollment(s) for activation: 10 - maximum number: 20)

Please take note of the SANCTIONS PROVIDED for those who do not show up for the first and/or next meeting without having given proper notice. See <http://www.sociologia.unitn.it/100/seminari-di-credito>

EXCEEDING ACTIVITY

A continuous presence is expected (no more than 20% absences). Students will be expected to complete the readings assigned, and hand in a small analytical assignment.

Assessment is based on

1. Active participation in the discussion and exercises during class (50%)
2. Positive evaluation of the assignment (to be prepared in English or Italian) (50%) using one of the presented analytical tools to treat a small research question.

3 credits are provided.