Feminist approaches

Strand organizer: Rose Cook (University of Kent) with Heini Väisänen, Jenny Chanfreau, Sara Rose Taylor

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Gender-based violence, vulnerabilities & intersectionality – Tuesday 10 September, 9.00am

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Married women's experience of domestic violence in Malawi: New evidence from a cluster and multinomial logistic regression analysis

Lana Clara Chikhungu[1], Mark Amos[2], Ngianga II Kandala[2], Saseendran Pallikadavath[2]

[1]School of Area Studies, History, Politics and Literature, Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences, University of Portsmouth, [2]School of Health Sciences and Social Work, Faculty of Sciences, University of Portsmouth

Violence against women is a global issue, with estimates indicating that 35% of all women worldwide have experienced either physical and/or sexual intimate partner violence or non-partner violence in their lifetime. In Malawi 42% of ever-married women have experienced some form of violence perpetrated by their current or most recent spouse. A number of studies have investigated intimate partner violence in Malawi, but no study has used cluster analysis to systematically analyse different levels of abuse among married women in Malawi. Using 2015 Malawi Demographic and Health Survey data, we employed cluster analysis and multinomial logistic regression to analyse the distribution of different levels of abuse among married women in Malawi and the key attributes associated with each level of abuse. Correlates of domestic violence differ significantly by levels of abuse, which are distributed as follows: controlling behaviour (11.8%), general controlling behaviour (27.1%), moderate physical and emotional abuse (27.2%) and high and complete abuse (8.5%). Alcohol consumption, ethnicity and woman's working status were significantly associated with all four levels of abuse. The strength of association between husband's alcohol consumption, woman's working status, marriage type and domestic violence increased by level of abuse. For each of these factors, the odds of experiencing violence were lowest in the controlling behaviour group and highest in the high physical and emotional abuse group. The Malawian government should incorporate strategies that discourage excessive drinking, promote messages that women can be breadwinners, and discourage polygamous marriage.

Email: lana.chikhungu@port.ac.uk

Using a feminist demographic approach to studying the link between intimate partner violence and migration in the French overseas territories

Stephanie Condon, Laure Grad, Justine Dupuis, Sandrine Dauphin

INED, France

Women's experiences of intimate partner violence (IPV) can vary in a number of ways. Violent experience may be confined to one particular life stage, for example during teenage relationships or in early adulthood, or to one long-term relationship. Alternatively, women may endure IPV within several successive relationships, leading to the idea that some may be more at risk of falling victim to violent partners. One category of women considered particularly vulnerable is migrant women, owing to a combination of factors among which, in some contexts, is their dependent status in relation to their partner. At the same time, many women migrate to escape a violent relationship or a violent ex-partner. However, women do not all share the same resources to leave violent relationships. Looking through the lens of migration and its

nexus with gender relations, focusing on a specific moment in life histories helps us to understand both the vulnerability of certain women and how migration may constitute a resource or a renewed risk. The present study looks at these processes in a context of high geographical mobility. A recently completed survey of gender-based violence (GBV) in three French overseas territories offers the possibility of examining how different socio-demographic characteristics and life course events interact to place certain individuals more or less at risk of experiencing GBV. While locating migration and acts or episodes of violence within life histories presents several methodological challenges, this new database enables us to compare the experiences of migrant and non-migrant women set within their trajectories.

Email: condon@ined.fr

Quantifying intersectionality: Using interaction effects to assess the impact of gender, material deprivation and ethnicity on mental, physical and general health in Great Britain

Youngcho Lee[1], Jacques Wels[1,2]

[1]Department of Sociology, University of Cambridge, [2]Centre Metices, Université libre de Bruxelles, Belgium

Purpose: We contribute to the study of demography and feminist quantitative methodology by both describing the methodological features of the interaction effect and assessing the extent to which the interactions between gender, ethnicity and material deprivation affect health inequalities, including physical, mental and self-perceived health. Methods: The paper makes use of cross-sectional data from Understanding Society (UKHLS), wave 8. We look at the association between health (physical health, mental health and self-perceived health) and gender, ethnicity and material deprivation using a two-way interaction effect between gender and material deprivation and between gender and ethnicity, and a three-way interaction between these three variables. We use robust modelling and controls for age, level of education, area of residence, professional status, and household composition. Results: The main effects show that those who are materially deprived and those from minority ethnic backgrounds are more likely to have poorer health. Women have better physical and general health outcomes, but worse mental health outcomes compared with men. The use of interaction terms shows that high deprivation scores have more negative effects on women compared with men. Women from African and other black minorities and women from Indian, Pakistani or Bangladeshi groups have lower scores than men from the same groups. The three-way interaction extrapolates the results. High deprivation scores have more adverse effects for women from Indian, Pakistani or Bangladeshi backgrounds than for men from the same groups. In other words, the negative interaction estimated between deprivation and gender is higher for women from minority backgrounds.

Email: yl670@cam.ac.uk

Gender aspects of skilled migration: Global & Australian realities

Helen Ware

University of New England, Australia

Globally the majority of international skilled labour migrants are now female. Yet this fact and its causes and consequences have provoked minimal research among predominantly male demographers. This paper discusses the global intersectional situation of skilled female migrants using data from the World Bank's Global Bilateral Migration Database and the OECD Database on Immigrants in OECD and non-OECD Countries. It then showcases a unique resource: the Australian Census and Migrants Integrated Dataset (ACMID 2011 and 2016) to assess how female migrants fare as compared with males generally and in relation to their visa type, which indicates their declared motive for migrating, whether independently or as a family member. ACMID 2016 allows for a detailed examination of the characteristics of all of the two million permanent migrants who arrived in Australia between 2000 and the 2016 Census and their subsequent experiences and achievements by

gender, age, birthplace, English proficiency, qualifications, employment status, income, homeownership and visa type. Visa type is classified as skill, family or humanitarian and whether the person was already in Australia when they applied for permanent residency (i.e. transferred from temporary migrant status as international students, working holidaymakers etc.). Preliminary analysis suggests that speaking English as the sole language or having a high level of proficiency in English is the key to both gaining and holding employment, most especially for women, a conclusion which holds good even after controlling for visa type and different levels of tertiary education. Women do have a greater need to communicate.

Email: hware@une.edu.au

Feminist approaches: Gender, work & production – Tuesday 10 September, 4.45pm

The gendered impact of parenthood on couples' labour force participation: Bargaining or doing gender?

Leen Marynissen, Jonas Wood, Karel Neels, Sarah Van de Velde

University of Antwerp, Belgium

Despite the unprecedented rise of the dual-earner model in Western countries, the shift towards gender equality in the labour force is incomplete, as gender divisions of paid work are articulated after childbearing. However, it remains unclear to what extent the gendered effect of family formation on parental employment reflects gender specialization in which pre-birth differentials in labour market positions are exacerbated, or persistent gendered parenting norms. Microeconomic theory states that the reorganization of paid and unpaid/care work after childbearing reflects partners' pre-birth relative labour market positions, regardless of gender. Gender theories argue that couples conform to and reproduce gender norms, regardless of partners' pre-birth relative labour market positions, resulting in a reduction in the working hours of the female partner. Using longitudinal couple data from the Belgian Administrative Socio-Demographic Panel (1999–2010), this paper assesses whether the gendered impact of parenthood on employment can be explained by partners' differential pre-birth labour force positions. Fixed-effects panel models are estimated to control for unobserved characteristics at the household level. Preliminary results show stronger drops in employment for women with lower pre-birth hourly wages than their partner, suggesting efficient household specialization. The effects do not differ for couples with different pre-birth relative flexibility in terms of reducing working hours in partners' employment sectors. However, pre-birth relative hourly wages cannot fully account for the rise in gender inequality in employment following parenthood, suggesting that cultural as well as structural factors might limit parents in opting for an egalitarian employment division.

Email: Leen.Marynissen@uantwerp.be

Gender gap in daily earnings: A study of post-Liberalized India

Mousumi Dutta, Zakir Husain, Rishav Chowdhury

Department of Economics, Presidency University, India

The 2018 Global Wage Report estimated an average gap of 19% between male and female workers. This gap has become a persistent feature of all societies, and is expected to be even wider in highly gendered South Asian countries. This paper examines the gender gap in earnings in urban India. The data is taken from the Employment and Unemployment Survey, undertaken by the National Sample Survey Organization (NSSO) in 1999–2000, 2004–05 and 2012–13 — the post-liberalization period of the Indian economy. We begin with t-tests to test for significant differences in wages between male

and female workers across: (i) age cohorts; (ii) educational groups; and (iii) occupational groups, over the three rounds. In the second stage, a Heckman model is estimated to confirm a significant gender difference in earnings, after controlling for individual characteristics. A pooled model, formed by combining three rounds, is also estimated; it shows that the gender gap is widening over time. Thirdly, propensity score matching and the Oaxaca–Blinder decomposition methods are used to estimate the proportion of the gap that is attributed to discrimination. Results reveal that discrimination is substantial and has increased over the study period. Another striking finding is that female workers are getting lower wages, even though they are more 'productive' than male workers in terms of higher education and experience levels. In the final stage of analysis, we propose to: (i) re-estimate the Heckman model adding relevant state-level variables as additional controls; and (ii) apply the Fortin–Lemiux–Firpo decomposition method to non-mean-based measures of the gender gap in earnings.

Email: mousumi.econ@presiuniv.ac.in

Women's economic empowerment in sub-Saharan Africa: A cross-national analysis using DHS data

Eunice M. Williams, Heini Väisänen, Sabu Padmadas

University of Southampton

The fifth UN Sustainable Development Goal calls for greater investment and focus on women's economic empowerment (WEE), underscoring the ability of women to succeed. However, there is little research on heterogeneity of WEE across sub-Saharan Africa (SSA). The widely used gender equality index has limitations in terms of addressing the salient domains of WEE, particularly the behavioural and decision-making dimension. This research will address these gaps by deriving a country-specific measure of WEE in SSA countries and classifying countries based on key domains and typologies of WEE using principal component analysis.

A composite country score was aggregated based on individual married women's labour market position, assets and economic decision-making, scored as either empowered or not. Preliminary results based on Demographic and Health Surveys in 33 SSA countries illustrate that labour market participation is the largest contributor to WEE as most women are engaged in some form of employment. The three key findings are: (1) WEE is low, and varies widely in SSA; (2) WEE in SSA is driven by three factors: high educational attainment, high employment rates and sole land ownership among women; and (3) high educational attainment and sole female land ownership contribute to holistic-level empowerment, but high employment contributes to intrinsic-(individual-)level empowerment. This research provides timely evidence for the increasing rhetoric on achieving WEE.

Email: e.m.williams@soton.ac.uk