

Symposium on the Survey of Health, Ageing and Retirement in Europe (SHARE)

Organisers:

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The Survey of Health, Ageing and Retirement in Europe (SHARE) is a multidisciplinary and cross-national panel database of micro data on health, socioeconomic status and social and family networks of approximately 110,000 individuals (more than 220,000 interviews) from 20 European countries (+Israel) aged 50 or older. The data are available to the entire research community free of charge and are easy to access. Comparative research often struggles with comparability of the data obtained in the different settings. In SHARE, comparability is ensured by ex-ante harmonization of questionnaire design and translation, central coordination and monitoring of fieldwork procedures, and a central and harmonized data preparation and release procedure.

The proposed session introduces features of the SHARE data with a special emphasis on comparative health research. The aim is to bring together empirical papers using SHARE and to highlight the potential of these data for applications in the fields of health and medical sociology in the European context.

Demographic change is one key challenge of European societies with a growing older population. Therefore, it is of enormous interest to better understand how healthy ageing is possible, how health develops over time and why health outcomes are so different across countries. Datasets like SHARE enable researchers to identify pathways and policy-makers to make informed, evidence-based decisions. This is primarily facilitated through SHARE's unique combination of methodological features: (1) repeated measures of the same individual over time covering a time span from 2005 until today (longitudinal data), (2) policy variation across countries (cross-national setting), (3) collecting retrospective life histories on conditions in childhood, family background, employment histories and health (life-course perspective) and (4) enhancing these data by linking them to administrative data or combining them with additional data from surveys among SHARE interviewers.

This session compiles papers on the various fields of health research which are covered in SHARE to show a broad variety of relevant research. This includes (but is not restricted to) assessments of subjective and objective health in a cross-national context; health and well-being for specific subgroups of the older population like migrants, caregivers, or socially-

excluded individuals; access to health care and long-term care under different welfare and health regimes; mental health; inequalities and social determinants of health; and the interplay of individual health behaviours and health care systems.

Deadline to submit your abstract: 20th of December 2015



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