



The Negotiating the Life Course Workshop Summary

**Friday 17th and Saturday 18th May 2002
University House, Canberra¹**

¹ The organisers wish to acknowledge the assistance of Ms Cristel Cools in the organisation of the workshop. They would also like to thank the staff of University House for their outstanding service.

FRIDAY 17th May

Peter McDonald and Ann Evans

Australian family formation and change

McDonald discussed various societal changes with possible impacts on family formation over the past few decades. He considered the accumulation of social capital and risk management as important factors in changes in family formation. Evans presented some preliminary data on changes in individual family transitions for four cohorts. Transitions related to leaving the parental home, having children, getting married and cohabitating were examined using a life table approach.

Deborah Mitchell and Trevor Breusch

Income mobility of Australian families: Evidence from the NLC Panel, 1996/7-2000

Mitchell and Breusch discussed issues related to income mobility between 1997 and 2000. They explored problems related to the collection of income data in Australia, comparability of the two waves of NLC data and the changing income profiles of NLC respondents.

Janeen Baxter and Edith Gray

For richer or for poorer: Women, men and marriage

Baxter and Gray presented analysis exploring the effect of marriage on various aspects of the lives of Australian men and women. Baxter focused on the household experience of couples by exploring the domestic labour arrangements of cohabiting and married couples. Gray discussed the effect of marriage on the labour market experiences of men and women. Labour market experience included employment, job security and hours of work.

SATURDAY 18th May

Robert Ackland

Constructing an Income-Based Measure of Economic Welfare for Waves 1 and 2 of the Negotiating the Life Course Survey

Rob has been involved in the construction of reliable income indicators from the data collected in Wave 1 and Wave 2. His paper detailed the process involved in the construction of income variables and the pitfalls and limitations of using the income data.

Marian May

Non-response on attitude questions and the stropky respondent

Marian reported on a series of interviews with NLC respondents transcribed using Conversation Analysis (CA) techniques. She discussed the construction of attitude questions and the problems in interpretation for the respondent.

Heather Booth

Self-assessed Health Status

Heather discussed a proposal to explore the use of self-assessed health status from the NLC survey both cross-sectionally and longitudinally. She proposed an exploration of the factors that differentiate health status, including the use of psychological health and negative life events as determinants.

Gordon Carmichael

The Australian Family Formation Decisions Project

Gordon was unable to attend the workshop. However, he supplied an outline of the project he is working on with Andrea Whittaker.

Belinda Hewitt

Marriage and money

Belinda presented some preliminary results of work on the wage penalty of motherhood. Using a series of robust regression models she examined the impact of relationship status on the income of women in full-time and part-time employment. The models controlled for various factors including individual background characteristics, human capital, job characteristics and family status

Maggie Walter

Working their way out of poverty? Sole Motherhood, Work, Welfare and Material Well-Being

Maggie also explored the area of women's income. However, her models compared income for married and unmarried mothers. In addition to using income as a poverty measure, Maggie explores issues of material well being of individual mothers and their households.

Brigid van Wanrooy

Using the NLC working time data

Brigid reported on a preliminary investigation of the hours of paid employment data collected in both Wave 1 and 2 of the survey. She explored the quality of data collected in addition to making suggestions for future waves of data collection. She also examined differences in working time preference between 1997 and 2000.

Anna Samson

Childcare and labour market decisions of partnered women

Anna presented work she completed as a summer scholar at the ACSPRI Centre for Social Research. She investigated the links between the extent of paid workforce involvement and childcare decisions for women with preschool children. She focuses on the time spent in childcare as well as the sector of childcare services.