



Family and intergenerational influences on health and well-being in Europe

Discussion

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Important topic, great presentation

- How family life courses across generations are interrelated with health and well-being across nations is a crucial issue in contemporary societies
- Likely, it will represent a pressing issue for the years to come as well (e.g., rising share of childlessness in many countries)
- The presentation is elaborated across a series of **theoretically** and **methodologically strong** papers published in top-ranked journals



The demography of families

- Mortality
- Fertility
- Union formation and dissolution
- **Migration?**

Macro-trends

- Increasing economic vulnerability of the younger generations
→ *older people are likely to be financial supporters rather than receivers*
- Increasing age at retirement and female labor force participation → *higher demand of grandchild care, but possibly lower availability*
- ...

Generation of families

- The notion of **generation of families** to understand family life courses
- Another key concept in demography: **cohort**
- The role of birth cohorts: *confounder* or *moderator*?

Data and methods

- **Reverse causation**
- Longitudinal design, **panel data** (e.g., SHARE or ELSA)
- What about **attrition** and **selection** issues?
- What is the role of **family policies**? [*policy evaluation*]



Family structures or Family relations?

- **Family structure** (e.g., number of children)
- **Contacts** between family members
- Are contacts a proxy of the **quality of relations**?

And Italy?

- The inadequacy of a discipline-centred approach, the scattered availability of data, the limited transdisciplinary collaboration, and the difficulty of translating research into policies, are the **key bottlenecks for advancing an effective research programme of ageing and family life courses in Italy**
- These four limitations are interrelated



A novel public-private alliance to generate socioeconomic, biomedical and technological solutions for an inclusive Italian ageing society



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Thank you

