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LIVES Winter School on Life Course 2014

Workshop on

Spatial Mobility over the Life Course and its Links to Family Life

Spatial mobility is a means enabling individuals to achieve desirable life goals, which cannot or can only partly be pursued at the place of living. The balance between needs and possibilities in the place of residence changes over the life course. A new job may require migration or commuting. Changes in the living arrangement of individuals, like having a child or a new partner, may be conducive to spatial mobility. At the same time, forms of spatial mobility that are beneficial in one domain of the life course can be detrimental to the pursuit of goals in another domain, making spatial mobility an ambivalent phenomenon.

In this workshop, we will explore the interrelations between spatial mobility and other domains of the life course. Substantive and methodological expertise in the analysis of interdependent processes over the life course in general will be provided. A particular research question will be analysed in the area of family life and family development. Not only actual behaviours and life course events will be considered, but also intentions and dispositions, like the willingness to be spatially mobile or the intention to have a child. The specific topic of the paper(s) will be discussed and assigned at the beginning of the workshop. Data coming from the two-wave panel survey “Job Mobilities and Family Lives in Europe” will be used. Advanced quantitative methods will be applied, so that participants of the workshop are expected to be familiar with a statistical package for data analysis (eg, SPSS, STATA, R).