Workshop Title | Health inequalities across the lifecourse: How we conceptualise and interpret the social to biological transition?
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Workshop Length | Half Day

Background: In this workshop, we propose a model to understand the observed life course socioeconomic differentials in health and well-being. As well as looking into individual growth and development process, we will also look into historical and macro level social contexts that determine the socially patterned health outcomes.

This workshop aims to establish: 1. The rationale for examining the construction of health inequalities through the life course approach; 2. An outline of the life course approach within medical sociology and social epidemiology; 3. An understanding of the social and biological dynamics over the lifecourse by using longitudinal datasets with objective biological measures; 4. Practical knowledge and resources about how to set up a piece of lifecourse research, testing a social-to-biological hypothesis that is theoretically plausible.

Methods: To achieve this a faculty consisting of experienced social, population and biological scientists from across Europe will teach a combination of theoretical, methodological and empirical sessions, combined with practical activities. The practical session will be designed around group work using a published methodology for teaching life course theories and the social-to-biological transition through analysing developed vignettes. The workshop will be held over a half day before the main SLLS conference.

Expected results: The participants in the workshop will acquire an understanding of life course theories as applied to the study of health. They will learn how to construct their approach by clarifying plausible social drivers and biological mechanisms underlying a hypothesis. They will learn to use available resources (data, biomarker glossaries, guidebooks) and benefit from the network of researchers within the SLLS Interdisciplinary health research group.