A Study on the Interplay of Individual and Economic Influences on Health in Old Age

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The Fellowship

• Psychology meets Epidemiology…

• Home institution: University of Luxembourg

• One-year research stay abroad: Department of Public Health, Erasmus Medical Center, Rotterdam

• Establishing network of collaborators
The Collaborators

University of Luxembourg: Dieter Ferring, Thomas Boll, Gabrijela Relijc, Martine Hoffmann

Erasmus Medical Center, Rotterdam: Johan P. Mackenbach, Frank J. van Lenthe, Simone Croezen

The FLARE Network

H-OLD Study

London School of Economics and Political Science: Mauricio Avendano, Philipp Hessel

Harvard School of Public Health, Boston: M. Maria Glymour

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The Research

- Using SHARE and SHARELIFE - a unique European dataset with information on health, social relationships, economic situation, and complete (work) histories of a population-representative sample of Europeans 50+

- Bringing together the psychological and (macro)economic perspective on health in old age
Major Topic

Macroeconomic Factors:
Economic situation,
National boom/recession periods

Individual Level Factors:
Socioeconomic background,
education, occupation

Cognitive function and
cognitive decline in older age

Life Course Influences
First Paper on Individual Level Influences Over the Life Course – The Life History Calendar

... using SHARELIFE work histories to identify periods of economic inactivity.

- Childhood SES
- School Performance
- Education
- Start First Job
- First Occupation
- Maternity Spell
- Unemployment
- Sickness
- Cognitive Function
- Last Occupation
  - Income
  - Wealth
  - Health

Age 10 25 28 31 45 47 58 65 74

• Homemaker
• Training

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First Paper on Individual Level Influences Over the Life Course on Cognitive Function

• Labor market involvement associations with later-life cognitive function: investigating different forms of employment gaps on cognitive function and cognitive decline
  – Sickness
  – Unemployment
  – Training
  – Maternity spells
Second Paper on Macroeconomic Influences

- National boom and recession periods during working ages and later-life cognitive function
  - Boom periods
  - Recession periods
Thank you! – Questions?

Funding gratefully acknowledged.

www.share-project.org