

Associations of Working-Life Economic Inactivity With Cognitive Function in Middle and Older Age – Outline of the Research Agenda

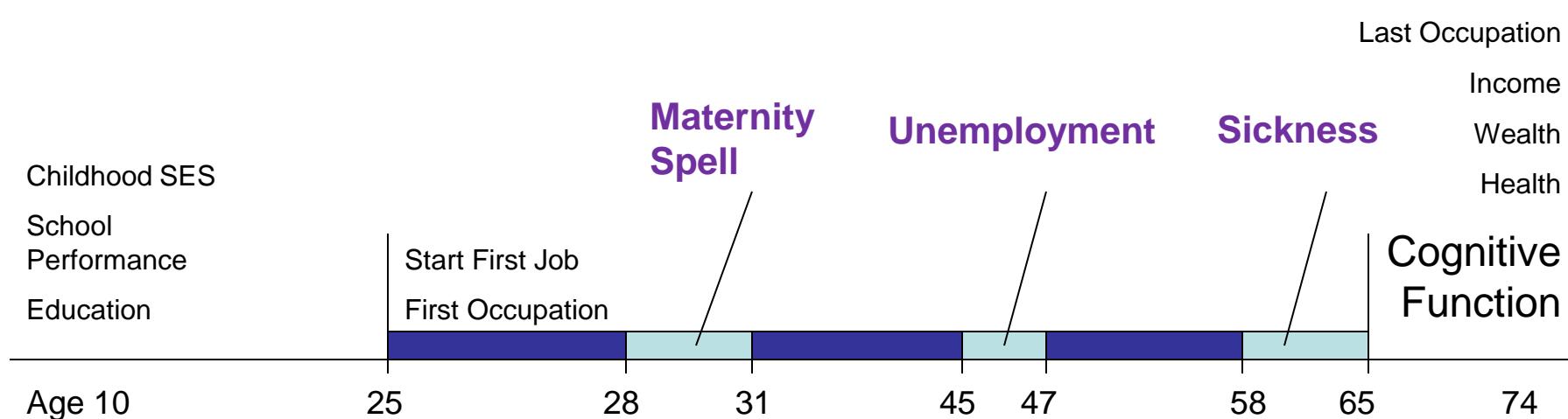
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Working-Life Economic Inactivity Spells: Example Life History Calendar

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



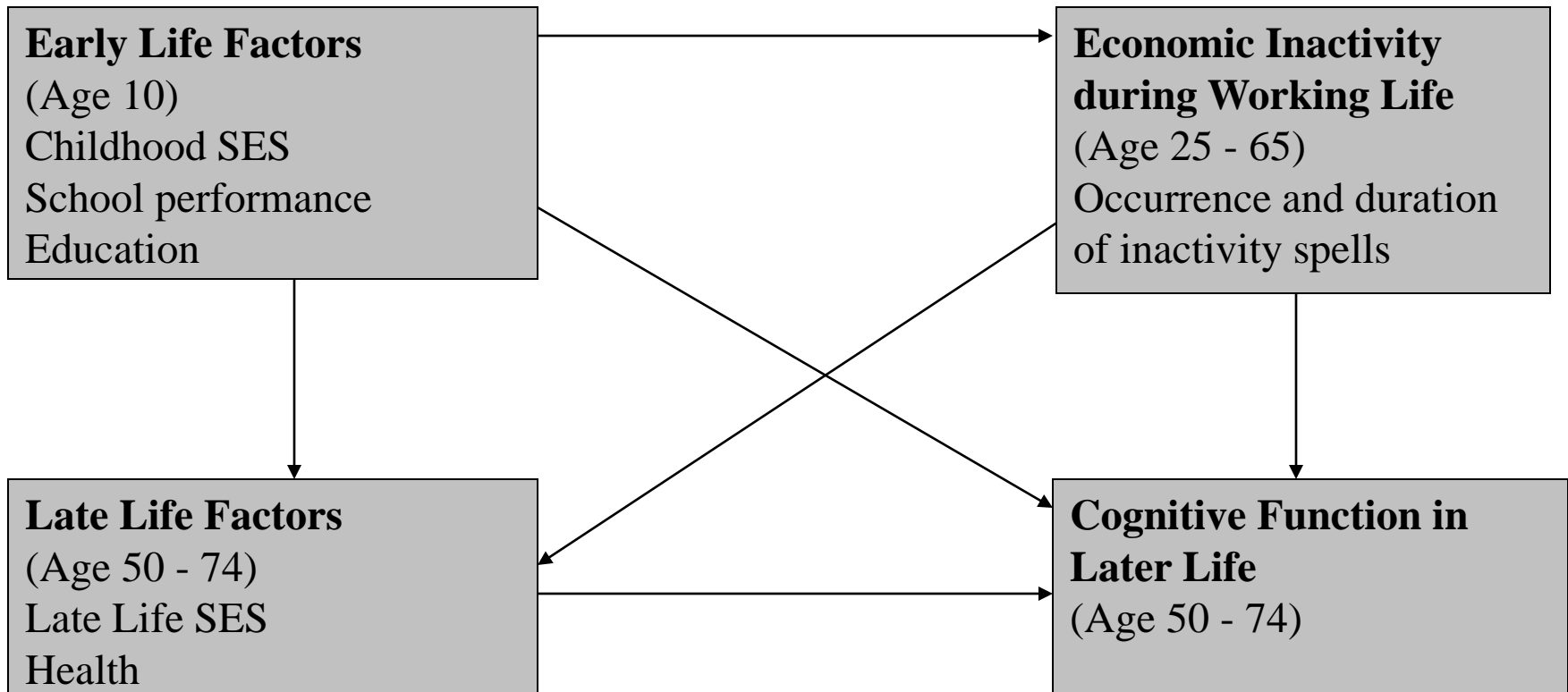
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- Homemaker
- Training

Cognitive Reserve & Human Capital as Underlying Mechanisms

- Economic inactivity spells may hinder building up cognitive reserve during working life, but may also provide time to engage in stimulating, cognitively demanding non-work-related activities
 - Training
- Differentiating types of economic inactivity may help in disentangling effects of economic inactivity on cognitive function in later life

Assumed Associations



Data of SHARE and SHARELIFE

- 18,419 respondents entering SHARE in wave 1 or wave 2, age 50-74 years
 - Early and late life factors
 - Economic inactivity periods longer than 6 months (age 25-65)
 - Cognitive function assessed with averaged z-scores of...
 - Verbal fluency
 - Immediate recall
 - Delayed recall
 - Numeracy
 - Orientation
- Indicator of (relative) global cognitive impairment (10 % lowest scores)

Methods

- Logistic regressions with cognitive impairment indicator
- Applying longitudinal weights
- Model 1 (base model) with country dummies, age, gender
- Model 2: base + early life factors
- Model 3: base + early + late life factors

Preliminary Results & Further Analyses

- The different types of economic inactivity spells are differentially associated with risk of cognitive impairment
- The associations are attenuated but still significant after including early life confounders.
- Sensitivity analyses confirm results
- Mixed effects models with cognitive function as outcome, with 18,419 respondents, of whom 9,880 undergo repeated testing

Discussion

- Main activity during economic inactivity self-rated, different from *causes* of economic inactivity
- Findings confined to 50-74 year-olds

Selection effects

- *Cognitive function* in early life
- *Individual factors* (health, social network): Economic inactivity as indicator of “privileged” life situation?
- *Policy-related mechanisms*

Thank you!

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