

Workshop 3

Introduction to Household Panel Surveys

Household panel surveys provide a unique opportunity to study the trajectory of individuals and families across their life course. By interviewing families repeatedly, these surveys allow researchers to explore and investigate changes in individual experiences, behaviour, attitudes and values and the role of their family and household relationships in explaining these changes. By including children and grandchildren (and future generations) of core sample members into the sample, these surveys allow intergenerational research. This workshop will highlight the research possibilities of using household panel surveys focussing on four long running household surveys across the world: (i) the PSID, 1968-present, United States (ii) the SOEP, 1984-present, Germany (iii) the BHPS, 1991-2008, & UKHLS, 2009-present, United Kingdom (iv) the HILDA Survey, 2001-present, Australia.

In the first half of the workshop participants will learn about the unique features of these surveys, their similarities and differences and research potential for studying individual lives in these countries separately or together for cross-country comparison through a series of lectures. The second half of the workshop will consist of demonstration sessions, where instructors will show, using Stata, how to use the survey data to answer a common research question. Specifically, they will show how to find the required variables and documentation, access and download the data files, prepare the data, and undertake analyses. These will be run in four separate rooms, one for each study. Each study will run two 1-hour sessions and participants will be able to choose two of the four survey sessions to attend. The lecture slides, and the how-to-guides for the exercises including the Stata and R syntax files for all four surveys will be made available to all participants for post-workshop independent learning.