

Colloque international

# Le retour des **INÉGALITÉS ?**

*Ce que disent les sciences des populations*

## **SESSION 7: Inequalities and WELL-BEING**

### ***Gender Inequality in Wellbeing among Indian Elderly: A Decomposition Analysis of Wellbeing Indexe***

Suchandrima Chakraborty (International Institute for Population Sciences, Mumbai)

The multidimensionality and subjectivity of well-being among elderly have long been debated. Gender and aging have been the topic of primary interest for researchers of social sciences and in this context, this study tries to throw light on understanding of the inequality in wellbeing among male and female elderly in relevance to various socioeconomic backgrounds in India. This study attempts to understand the prevalence of gender inequality in well-being of India's elderly, for which WHO SAGE-India data (2007) have been used and compare the overall contribution of various social, regional and physical factors in explaining inequality in wellbeing of elderly by gender in different economic stratum. Finally it tries to investigate and compare the significant social, regional and physical factors contributing to explain the gender inequality in the wellbeing of elderly in various economic scenario. Wellbeing Index is developed using 14 questions from SAGE encapsulating various emotional, social, physical aspects of life, which had dichotomous responses. A thorough analysis is carried out to identify the regional, socio-cultural and physical factors that contribute in wellbeing inequality by gender under different economic backgrounds through Oxaca-Blinder decomposition analysis. The scenario of well-being is highly skewed in terms of inequality against women in factors like functional capability, education and satisfaction about economics, for poor and non-poor elderly. Thus, there is a need for deeper introspection to understand this scenario in context of the extent of wellbeing inequality faced by female elderly, which may lead to genuine help in changing policy measure and enhance the welfare of elderly women in the country.

***Progress and inequalities. Constructing well-being differentials among Swiss retirees***

Michel Oris, Marie Baeriswyl, Delphine Fagot, Rainer Gabriel (Université de Genève, Pôle LIVES)

This paper relies on two databases. The first is made up of three cross-cutting surveys on the health and living conditions of people aged 65 and over in the French-speaking Swiss cantons of Geneva and Valais, carried out in 1979, 1997 and 2011/2012. The surveys reveal considerable progress and a narrowing of the social gap in terms of inequalities. The second database includes life calendars and psychometric questionnaires from 2001 to 2012. The former document the construction of inequalities through life histories. The results on various differentials are fascinating as they are more complementary than similar, with on the whole a strong persistence of social stratification effects as well as the emergence of “biographization” items. As for measurements, such as those of personality traits, they make it possible to test the recent and highly debated “social traits theory”, whereby the concentration of negative personality traits such as introversion and neuroticism has increased over the last few decades in disadvantaged social groups.

***Accumulated or transition related inequalities?***

Márta Radó Corvinus (University of Budapest)

The present paper observes the inequalities which arise around retirement in Hungary. Two kinds of inequalities are distinguished: (1) inequalities accumulating thru the whole life course and (2) inequalities due to a transition. Transition related inequalities focuses on how the condition of retirement influences wellbeing after retirement. The conditions of retirement will be measured by voluntarism of retirement. Voluntarism of retirement reflects whether someone retired because this person preferred retirement over working. The observation of this phenomenon is especially important in Hungary since the rate of involuntary retiree is the highest in this country. But the condition of retirement cannot be understood without considering previous life events. Therefore, the social background of voluntarism is also observed. This paper found that those people can follow their preferences at the time of retirement, who had better labor market position. After this the condition of retirement is observed. The results show that voluntary retirees have significantly better subjective well-being than involuntary retirees. The condition of retirement also matters if we take into account the previous inequalities which existed before retirement.

***Inequalities among seniors living in institutions***

Valentine Trépiéd (Ined / Centre Maurice Halbwachs – CNRS/EHESS/ENS)

In France, dependency refers to a poor state of health but also corresponds to a specific label suggesting an inferior and devalued social status. In institutions such as EHPAD homes for dependent seniors, the individuals in question suffer from serious incapacities that

accentuate that status. Based on long-term participative observations at five EHPAD institutions and 50 interviews with residents, we will demonstrate that dependency is a multi-faceted stage in life histories. Three major types have been identified according to the life history of the dependent person, experienced differently according to the socio-economic category and personal resources of the individual. The first of these is "Acceptance", characterizing individuals who act as the true entrepreneurs of their existence and retain their autonomy at all costs. The second is "Resignation", denoting the behaviour of people suffering from a significant disparity between their personal identity and the way they are defined by others. The third, "Withdrawal", signifies the experience of dependency in all aspects of the individual's personality and existence.