

# Editorial

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**HISTORICAL LIFE COURSE STUDIES**

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## MISSION STATEMENT

# HISTORICAL LIFE COURSE STUDIES

*Historical Life Course Studies* was established within the European Historical Population Samples Network (EHPS-Net). The journal is the primary publishing outlet for research involved in the conversion of existing European and non-European large historical demographic databases into a common format, the Intermediate Data Structure, and for studies based on these databases. The journal publishes both methodological and substantive research articles.

### Methodological Articles

This section includes methodological articles that describe all forms of data handling involving large historical databases, including extensive descriptions of new or existing databases, syntax, algorithms and extraction programs. Authors are encouraged to share their syntaxes, applications and other forms of software presented in their article, if pertinent.

### Research articles

This section includes substantive articles reporting the results of comparative longitudinal studies that are demographic and historical in nature, and that are based on micro-data from large historical databases.

*Historical Life Course Studies* is a no-fee double-blind, peer-reviewed open-access journal supported by the European Science Foundation, the International Institute of Social History, the European Society of Historical Demography, Radboud University Press, Lund University and HiDO Scientific Research Network Historical Demography. Manuscripts are reviewed by the editors, members of the editorial and scientific boards, and by external reviewers. All journal content is freely available on the internet at [hlcs.nl](http://hlcs.nl).

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&

Paul Puschmann (Radboud University)

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## EDITORIAL

Over the past few years, there have been some important shifts within *Historical Life Course Studies* that provide the context for this editorial. The first shift has to do with the change of editors. Joana Maria Pujadas-Mora (Universitat Oberta de Catalunya (Open University of Catalonia) & Centre for Demographic Studies, Autonomous University of Barcelona) has replaced Luciana Quaranta (Lund University) as the new Co-Editor-in-Chief, and Eva van der Heijden (Utrecht University) has been appointed as Associate Editor. This is an opportunity to thank Luciana for her important contributions to the development of the journal in recent years. In addition to managing dozens of submissions, Luciana has been involved in the restructuring of *Historical Life Course Studies* and its smooth transition to Openjournals, the diamond open access journal platform of the KNAW Humanities Cluster, which hosts *Historical Life Course Studies* since 2021.

This editorial is the perfect opportunity to introduce the new editors. Joana Maria Pujadas-Mora is an Associate Professor in the Faculty of Humanities at the Open University of Catalonia and Head of the Historical Demography Unit at the Centre for Demographic Studies at the Autonomous University of Barcelona. Joana is actively involved in the development of new methods for the construction of demographic databases at the individual level through the application of computer vision and artificial intelligence. Her main research interests are: 1) the role of public health policies and medical institutions in reducing mortality during the demographic transition, 2) the dynamics of epidemics in the health transition, 3) the intergenerational transmission of social position or occupation and intermarriage between relatives in the process of social reproduction, and 4) economic inequality and the formation of labour markets from a gender perspective in the pre-industrial and industrial periods. Eva van der Heijden is a postdoctoral researcher at Utrecht University, working on the Historical Income Panel for the Netherlands (HIP-NL) project. This project aims to construct a unique large-scale historical income panel for the Netherlands between 1851 and 1922 using income estimates from municipal tax records. Previously Eva was a PhD candidate at the International Institute of Social History in Amsterdam and Leiden University, where she wrote a dissertation on the educational trajectories of children of immigrants in the Netherlands in the period 1980–2020. She also has worked as a lecturer in Social and Economic History at Leiden University.

Over the past years *Historical Life Course Studies* has witnessed important growth, both in terms of published articles as well as in terms of impact. Ever since the start of the journal in 2014, 116 articles have been published, more than half of which appeared in the last three years only. According to Google Scholar, the number of citations has been growing structurally from 77 in 2021 to 100 in 2022 and 145 in 2023. This growth in output and impact has incentivized us to take the necessary steps to further anchor *Historical Life Course Studies* in the academic journals landscape. *Historical Life Course Studies* became indexed in Scopus in 2023 and we are expecting the first journal statistics to be announced on their website soon. Moreover, an application for admission to the Web of Science has been filed.

In 2023 the biannual conference of the European Society of Historical Demography took place at Radboud University Nijmegen, the Netherlands. On this occasion two special issues in *Historical Life Course Studies* were published as edited volumes by Radboud University Press: one on [the construction of historical longitudinal databases](#), and the other on [the results and impact of research based on historical longitudinal databases](#). The books are published in Open Access. Printed copies can be ordered through the website of Radboud University Press.

Moreover, we have successfully revitalized our presence on social media, particularly on X (formerly known as Twitter), where our follower count has surged to over 300. Simultaneously, we have initiated the production of insightful videos featuring the authors of our papers. In these videos, the authors succinctly delve into the key contributions from their articles, providing our audience with direct and engaging insights. We look forward to the release of these videos on our social media platforms in 2024.

This editorial allows us to thank the sponsors of *Historical Life Course Studies*. We are grateful to the financial support of the International Institute of Social History, the European Society of Historical Demography, Radboud University Press, Lund University and HiDo – Scientific Research Network Historical Demography (Research Foundation Flanders, Application number W001821N). It is thanks to these sponsors that we can continue to publish all journal content in Diamond Open Access.

We are also very grateful to all scholars who reviewed papers for *Historical Life Course Studies*. It is thanks to their efforts that we can guarantee a quick editorial process and a high quality of our publications.

We wish all our readers, authors, reviewers, and everyone else who has contributed to the success of *Historical Life Course Studies* a happy, healthy, and productive 2024 and we hope that many of you will submit papers in the upcoming months!

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