



Seminar

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When and Where Birth Spacing Matters for Offspring Outcomes: An International Comparison

Tuesday, 27 April 2021, 2:15 p.m.

Due to the precautions imposed by the current Corona pandemic, the Thunberg Hall will be closed to the public until further notice.

You are therefore invited to join the seminar via Zoom instead:

<https://uu-se.zoom.us/j/68751599240>

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ABOUT KIERON BARCLAY

Kieron Barclay completed his PhD in Sociology at Stockholm University in 2014. Before being awarded the Pro Futura Scientia Fellowship, Barclay spent time at the University of Pennsylvania, the London School of Economics and Political Science (LSE), and the Max Planck Institute for Demographic Research (MPIDR). As a Research Assistant Professor at the LSE, and as Deputy Head of the Laboratory of Population Health at the MPIDR, Barclay developed an independent line of research examining the intersection of health and fertility from a demographic perspective. In 2018, Barclay received the European Demographer Award for early career achievements.

Barclay's research examines how family circumstances affect health and mortality in contemporary high-, middle-, and low-income countries, as well as historical contexts. For example, his research has addressed how health affects childbearing, and how an individual's reproductive history affects their post-reproductive mortality. A primary focus of Barclay's work has been to examine the consequences of parental fertility decisions for their children, such as how parental age at the time of birth, or spacing between births, affects the educational and socioeconomic attainment of children, as well as their health and mortality.

As a Pro Futura Scientia Fellow, Barclay will examine the impact of the family of origin on health inequalities, taking a global, historical, multigenerational, and comparative perspective. The goal of this work is to develop a deeper understanding of how the family influences health inequalities, how this has changed over time, and the underlying factors explaining that variation. His interdisciplinary research has been published in leading peer-reviewed journals, including *Demography*; *Population and Development Review*; *Social Forces*; *American Journal of Epidemiology*, and *Proceedings of the Royal Society B: Biological Sciences*.

ABSTRACT

A large literature has examined the relationship between birth spacing, variously operationalized as birth-to-birth intervals and interpregnancy intervals, and the outcomes of children over the life course. Birth intervals refer to the time interval between the births of adjacent siblings. Birth intervals have been the subject of sustained interest amongst researchers because they have the potential to reflect important dimensions of resource distribution in the household, as well as important physiological factors around pregnancy and child-rearing.

In this presentation I will discuss research that has examined how birth spacing affects children over the short-, medium-, and long-term. I will discuss research examining whether and how birth spacing is linked to health and mortality, as well as educational and socioeconomic attainment. Studies addressing these research questions have used data from a wide range of low-, middle-, and high-income countries, and I will discuss the potential importance of economic development, the welfare state, and public health conditions as moderating factors. I will pay particular attention to recent research, including my own, that has tried to isolate the impact of birth spacing on child outcomes by comparing children born to the same mother.