

The interplays of gender and cohort with childhood antecedents of adult outcomes: socioeconomic status, health, and timing of parenthood.

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Overview

- Summary of ten year research programme on social exclusion
- Uses prospective data
- Examine childhood antecedents of adult social exclusion
- Here emphasize results on commonalities and differentials by gender or by cohort

Research Questions

- Are there differences by gender in adult outcomes?
- And by cohort?
- Are pathways through childhood antecedents moderated by gender or cohort?
- Commonalities or differences in response to disadvantage by gender?
- Continuity or change in response by cohort?
- Do gender differentials change over time?

Data

- Data: Two British Cohort Studies
 - National Child Development Study (NCDS)
 - British Cohort Study (BCS)

	Baseline	Wave 1	Wave 2	Wave 3	Wave 4	Wave 5
NCDS	Age 0, 1958	Age 7, 1965	Age 11, 1969	Age 16, 1974	Age 23, 1981	Age 33, 1991
BCS	Age 0, 1970	Age 5, 1975	Age 10, 1980	Age 16, 1986	Age 26, 1996	Age 30, 2000

Outcomes considered

- NCDS only – 18 outcomes
 - 6 ‘intermediate’ experiences 16-23
 - 6 each at ages 23 and 33
- NCDS & BCS70
 - 4 socioeconomic status at 33/30
 - 4 health & well-being at 33/30
 - Becoming a parent by age 30

Childhood antecedents

	Educational Test scores
Poverty	Restlessness
Soc Class Dad	Anxiety
Soc Class Origin	Aggression
Housing Tenure	Contact with Police
Family structure	School absences
Parent's ages at CM birth	Disabling health condition
Parental interest in education	Low birth weight

Some examples (%)

	NCDS Male	NCDS Female	BCS Male	BCS Female	
High Malaise	7	12	14	20	Gender Cohort
Social Housing	13	17	12	17	Gender
Parent by age 30	53	67	39	54	Gender Cohort

Measurement and Method

- Majority of childhood indicators are summarised across multiple childhood waves
- Hierarchical coding of dummies within groups
- Step-wise Logistic or Poisson Regression
 - Necessary to reduce clutter (up to 600 dummies!)
 - repeat backward and forward fitting
 - strict significance threshold of $p < 0.001$ (or 0.005)

Measurement and Method

- Common antecedents
 - Same response
 - but different childhood experiences?
- Evidence of cohort or gender (or both) differentials (interactions)
 - ‘Black-box’ main effects of cohort or gender, not captured by measured childhood antecedents
 - Differential responses to same antecedent?
 - Additional antecedents?

Results

- Long reach of childhood
- Contrast common or stable pathways through child antecedents with those showing gender or cohort differences
- Very little detail
- Mainly summary counts, with a few illustrative results

Outcomes NCDS only

- **16-23** – six outcomes
- No qualification, unemployed 12+m, NEET 24+m, early birth, extra-marital birth, left home friction
- **23 and 33** – six at each age
- Social housing, benefit receipt, low income, low social class, high malaise, and cigarette smoking

Results Summary – NCDS (18)

Child	Both	Gender	Child	Both	Gender
Tests	17	0	SC Dad	7	1
Poverty	16	(1) Friction	Family	7	0
Absence	15	2	Dad Int	6	1
Police	14	0	Anxiety	4	2
Mum Int	8	6	Par SLA	4	0
Tenure	8	5	Restless	3	1
Aggress	5	5	Female	--	2
			Total	114	25 + 1

Health & Well-being at 30/33

- Life dissatisfaction (0-10, score <7)
- High malaise score (0-24, score >6)
- General health fair or poor
- Long term health condition

Results Summary - HWB

	Life Dissat	Malaise	Gen Health	Long term	All
Pervas health (4)	2	3	4	4	13
Pervas Other (9)	8	7	8	0	23
Other All (28)	1	2 SES	0	0	3
All common (41)	11	12	12	4	39
Forced G&C (3)	3	3	3	3	12
Gender (41)	0	0	1 SES	0	1
Cohort (41)	1 SES	0	0	0	1

HWB 'factlets'

- Pervasive common child health terms
 - School absence due to ill health (2 levels)
 - Disabling health condition (2 levels)
- Pervasive common other terms
 - Housing tenure (2 levels)
 - Family disruption
 - Parental interest in schooling
 - Behaviour scores (2 levels)
 - Educational test scores (3 levels)

Differential socioeconomic influences

	% [†]	High Malaise [‡]	Fair/poor health	Long-term condition	Dissat. with life
No/ slight deprivation	60				
Some deprivation	34	1.21			
Strong deprivation	6	1.61			
Some/strong - Male			1.00		
Some/strong - Female			1.31		
Some/strong - NCDS					1.01
Some/strong - BCS					1.21

[†] % of combined cohort populations

[‡] Odds ratios adjusted for gender, cohort and all other significant childhood antecedents

SES at age 30 or 33

- Lives in Social Housing
- Receives non-universal benefits
- Low household income (low quartile)
- Semi- or unskilled occupation (SC IV or V)

Results Summary - SES

	Social Housing	Benefits	Low HH Income	Low Soc Class	All
Pervasive 'common' (9)	9	9	9	9	36
Other 'common' (35)	10	5	1	5	21
All common (44)	19	14	10	14	57
Gender (44+1)	1	1+1	1	1	5
Cohort (44+1)	1	2	3	1+1	8
Gender by cohort (45)	0	0	0	2	2

Becoming a Parent

Timing and Contexts

- Age-Groups
 - 16-19
 - 20-22
 - 23-24
 - 25-29
- Partnership Contexts
 - Never partnered
 - Out of partnership
 - Cohabiting
 - Married ex-cohabiting
 - Direct marriage

Cohort changes in exposure and birth context

	Exposure to risk %		First births %	
Context	1958	1970	1958	1970
Never Partnered	69	69	7	17
Out of Partnership	3	5	1	3
Cohabiting	7	16	7	30
Married ex-cohab	5	6	21	33
Married directly	16	4	64	18

Results Summary - Parenthood

	Timing & Context
Structural	12
Common child	7
Age* child	3
Context*child	8
Total non-structural 'common'	18
Gender	5
Cohort	1

Conclusions -1

- Many childhood antecedents matter for adult outcomes
- Despite strong gender and cohort differences for most adult outcomes
- Few examples of gender or cohort differences in strength of association with childhood antecedents
- Few specific childhood pathways only operating for one gender or one cohort

Conclusions - 2

- Powerful commonalities by gender and continuities over time in the 'legacies' of childhood disadvantage
- Some, but few, indications of gender differences and of change in response to child disadvantage
- Unmeasured sources of difference and change?
 - Genes
 - other child experiences
 - Post-child experiences
 - contexts and structures (e.g. partnership contexts)