

OCTOBER 2020 NEWSLETTER



Welcome to our October newsletter which coincides with [Anti-Poverty Week 2020](#). The Life Course Centre is proud to be a major sponsor of Anti-Poverty Week and its efforts to increase awareness of poverty and to take collective action to end it.

The key message of this year's Anti-Poverty Week is: Poverty exists. Poverty hurts us all. We can all do something about it. Importantly, it is a message of hope, not despair. It is also a message that resonates strongly given the unprecedented events of 2020 and the ongoing impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic, including Australia entering its first official recession in almost three decades.

While everyone has been impacted by COVID-19 in some way, we must remain mindful that there are those who are suffering more than others. Anti-Poverty Week is this year partnering with two campaigns to assist such groups - [Everybody's Home](#) for secure and affordable housing for all, and [Raise the Rate for Good](#) for a permanent increase in welfare payments above the poverty line.

At the Life Course Centre, this year has meant staying connected and communicating in different ways. For Anti-Poverty Week, we are pleased to be presenting several new initiatives in this area, including two webinars, the first episode in our new podcast series and a research snapshot fact sheet. You will find details on these, and other news and research from across the Centre, below.

We hope you enjoy this newsletter and encourage your participation in Anti-Poverty Week 2020. You can stay up to date with all Life Course Centre news on our [website](#), via our [Digest](#) research summaries and on [Twitter](#). Please stay safe and connected.

Professor Janeen Baxter
Centre Director

WEBINAR EVENTS

The Life Course Centre is hosting two Anti-Poverty Week 2020 webinars under the theme of: 'Families Under Extreme Stress'.

Factors associated with meal provision in Early Care and Education (ECE) services

Wednesday October 14, 2020

(11am-12pm) Australian Eastern Daylight time in ACT/NSW/VIC/TAS - all other States check your local time zone

Presented by Professor Karen Thorpe from The University of Queensland (UQ)

Nutrition in childhood is a key factor affecting ongoing health and well-being across the life course and is associated with ongoing weight status, risk of chronic disease and quality of life. Professor Thorpe's UQ team is assessing the way in which the competitive economic market of Early Care and Education (ECE) programs are associated with mealtime provision across communities with varying risk for food insecurity.

[Register here](#)

"Normal" stresses and additional challenges arising from COVID-19

Thursday October 15, 2020

(11am-12pm) Australian Eastern Daylight time in ACT/NSW/VIC/TAS - all other States check your local time zone

Presented by Panellists from the University of Melbourne (UoM) and the Brotherhood of St Laurence (BSL)

In this panel discussion, panellists from UoM and BSL will share insights from recent research on families' recovery from economic recession, financial and mental stress on parents, and the systemic drivers of financial stress and the impact on children. Join us for the webinar and Q&A featuring Dr Dina Bowman (BSL), Dr Matthew Curry (UoM & BSL) and Dr Barbara Broadway and A/Prof Leah Ruppanner (UoM).

[Register here](#)

PODCAST SERIES



'Families Under Pressure' is a podcast series from the Life Course Centre that examines the pressures facing families and the actions to better support our children and families over their life course journey. In this series, Professor Matt Sanders will speak to a number of other Life Course Centre Chief Investigators from a range of research disciplines to discuss their research, the impact it has had, and what still needs to be done - in policy and in practice.

We are proud to launch the first episode in this podcast series in Anti-Poverty Week. It features Professor Sanders and Centre Director Professor Janeen Baxter discussing the pressures facing families, the role of family structures, parenting, relationships and other supports, and what can be done to best support those experiencing, or at risk of, disadvantage.

You can listen to it on our website [here](#). Look out for more episodes coming soon, and subscribe by searching 'Families Under Pressure' in your preferred podcast app.

FACT SHEET

The Life Course Centre is releasing a new research snapshot Fact Sheet in Anti-Poverty Week 2020 that addresses: *'The risk clusters that lead to inequalities in children's reading achievement at school'*.

Early childhood literacy provides a pathway out of poverty but this pathway is vulnerable to the clusters of developmental risk factors that it seeks to mitigate creating a 'wicked' policy problem. Our one-page snapshot summarises a study from a body of work undertaken by Professor Stephen Zubrick, Professor Catherine Taylor and Daniel Christensen at The University of Western Australia that identifies risk cluster profiles and the number and type of risks experienced by children in these groups.

This Fact Sheet succinctly highlights the complex, multidimensionality of developmental disadvantage and the need for cross-cutting policies and coordinated early childhood interventions.

You can view the Fact Sheet [here](#). Look out for more Fact Sheets coming soon.



SCHOLARSHIPS

The University of Sydney Life Course Centre Scholarships for Research Addressing Social and Economic Disadvantage will be officially awarded during Anti-Poverty Week 2020. Due to the exceptionally high standard of applications, three rather than two scholarships were awarded this year. The scholarships are worth \$5,000 each. The winners and their areas of research are:

- Zachary Duretto - exploring the causal relationships between air pollution and mental health to determine who is most disadvantaged due to their physical environment
- Fiona Georgiakakis - investigating differential mortality outcomes in Australia to learn more about the social and economic forces driving longevity.
- Sharon Ragunathan - examining the long-term effects of violence on human capital outcomes, specifically how exposure to the 1994 Rwandan genocide by a disadvantaged mother translates into lower human capital outcomes for her children.

We congratulate all of the winners and the other applicants who are doing important research projects into deep and persistent disadvantage. You can find out more about the scholarships [here](#).

WORKING PAPERS

We are again running our Working Paper Series Awards for all papers published in 2020. Our [inaugural award winners](#) were announced earlier this year, and Working Papers submitted up to and including 31 December 2020 will again be judged in two categories:

- Best contribution to scholarship on social and economic disadvantage; and
- Best contribution to policy, practice or engagement to reduce social and economic disadvantage over the life course.

There are separate Student and Researcher awards in each category, providing up to four prizes of \$4,000 each. You can view our entire Working Papers Series [here](#). Find out more information on the awards, the Series and how to submit a Working Paper, [here](#).

COVID-19 Research: We welcome Working Paper submissions sharing early research on the impacts of COVID-19. It is very pleasing that we are already seeing Working Papers related to COVID-19 flowing through, including these recently-published examples:

- Hassink W. H. J., Kalb G., & Meekes J. (2020). [The Dutch Labour Market Early On In the Covid-19 Outbreak: Regional Coronavirus Hotspots and the National Lockdown](#). Life Course Centre Working Paper: 2020-22.
- Botha F., de New J. P., de New S. C., Ribar D., & Salamanca N. (2020). [COVID-19 Labour Market Shocks and Their Inequality Implications for Financial Wellbeing](#). Life Course Centre Working Paper: 2020-20.
- Botha F., & de New J. P. (2020). [COVID-19 Infections, Labour Market Shocks, and Subjective Well-Being](#). Life Course Centre Working Paper: 2020-19.

IMPACT AND REACH

Our research continues to achieve high levels of impact and reach, including insights into the ways that COVID-19 is reinforcing and creating new forms of disadvantage. We have shown that among those being most affected are [young people](#) and [women](#), findings that have had prominent media exposure [nationally](#) and [internationally](#). We were also featured in the [ABC Generation COVID Project](#) examining the scarring consequences for young Australians. Our researchers have investigated the response to [homelessness](#) during COVID-19, and our submission to the Australian Inquiry into Homelessness was referenced in the [Interim Report](#). We have also had researchers involved in the ongoing Economic Society of Australia/The Conversation poll on ways to boost economy recovery. In the most recent poll, [building more social housing and permanently increasing JobSeeker](#) were identified as the most effective options.

Our Chief Investigators are currently collaborating on a paper that is taking a different approach to COVID-19, looking beyond the immediate impact to the opportunities and unexpected wins that may emerge. If there is a silver lining to COVID-19 it is governments have shown they can change major, long-standing institutions overnight. This presents opportunities for structural changes crucial to addressing disadvantage at its core. Now is the time for reimagining and transforming of institutions and lives. Watch this space.

CONTACT THE LIFE COURSE CENTRE

We welcome your feedback on our newsletter and suggestions for future themed editions. You can contact us at: lcc@uq.edu.au

The Life Course Centre is an Australian Research Council Centre of Excellence bringing together researchers from the University of Queensland, the University of Western Australia, the University of Melbourne, the University of Sydney and other leading international universities, in collaboration with key government and non-government organisations.

ISSR The Life Course Centre is administered by the University of Queensland's Institute for Social Science Research



You are receiving this newsletter as a friend and interested party of the ARC Centre of Excellence for Children and Families over the Life Course.
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