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SEMINAR

"Fertility and household dynamics in Italy and France: estimating transition rates within the European project MicMac"

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Room 137 - Viale Isonzo 25 - 20135 Milano**

Abstract:

The European project MicMac aims at forecasting European population by using macro- and micro-level data and modelling (<http://www.nidi.knaw.nl/en/micmac/>). The objective is to develop a methodology that offers a bridge between aggregate projections of cohort behaviour (Mac) and projections of the life courses of individual cohort members (Mic).

A method for the estimation of age profiles, used as inputs for the projection model, has been developed within the MicMac project (Impicciatore and Billari, 2007). It starts from survey data on life course transitions in different countries, and transform them into age profiles via generalized additive models (GAM). After a brief presentation of this method, we will describe the results coming from the application to micro-level data in the field of living arrangements and fertility in Italy and France. The data sets used ("Famiglia e soggetti sociali", FSS, 2003; French "Generation and Gender Survey", GGS, 2006) contain wide retrospective information on life course trajectories and transition to adulthood. We describe different transitions that may occur during the individual life, as leaving parental home, first marriage, first divorce, birth of a child, and give their associated risks based on the last five years of observation. We estimate the transition rates according to age, but also the relative risks depending on education level, presence of children in the household or marital status, separately for men and women. We then compare the ages at which each transition occurs in Italy and in France, and establish some links between changes in partnership dynamics and fertility behaviour in the two countries.