

Institute for Social Science Research - PhD Student Project

ISSR Impact Area: Health

Title: *Development of health and wellbeing within and across generations*

Supervisor/s: [Associate Professor Abdullah Al Mamun](#) and others as appropriate

Funding:

Student Scholarship required, top-up funding may be available to suitable candidate

Project description:

Early origins of risk factors such as low birth weight and diseases including asthma, obesity, metabolic syndrome and diabetes are well characterized. The growing evidence suggests that prevention of these risk factors and diseases should start from pregnancy or even before pregnancy to optimise the benefit over the life course. Various exposures (environmental, social, biological and genetics) in critical stages of life such as pre-pregnancy, pregnancy, early childhood, adolescents and young adulthood, play role to the development of these poor health conditions and wellbeing. Progression and causal pathways to poor health and wellbeing outcomes from multigenerational perspective are relatively unknown. Long follow-up cohort studies like the Mater University of Queensland Study of Pregnancy (MUSP) and its offspring is a multigenerational birth cohort study with the capacity to investigate this scientific query. This research project aims to use the MUSP unique existing data across three generations to investigate the development of health and wellbeing across multiple generations. The information from this project will provide a scientific basis to design effective intervention to reduce population disease risk and improve health. Through this project the PhD student will gain experience in state-of-the-art longitudinal data analyses techniques, as well as theoretical and practical experience in the intersection of health and society from the life course approach.

The candidate:

We are seeking a candidate who has an excellent academic record and a particular interest in the topic. A strong (bio) statistical, epidemiological or public health background is essential as is a commitment to conduct high quality research.

Achievable Outcomes:

- A PhD from the UQ in relevant area
- Multiple scientific papers in high impact research journals
- Experience with oral/written presentations at national/international conferences
- Interact with an interdisciplinary team of researchers in order to optimise research outcomes