Damiano Uccheddu

Sociologist and Demographer

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Research Interests

My main research interests lie in social and gender inequalities in health, intergenerational relationships, health and well-being across the life course, welfare systems, and quantitative methods for social research. I specialise in analysing large social survey datasets (such as SHARE) and full-population register data. In particular, I analyse data for epidemiological and demographic research. My analytical approach is best described as theory-driven, quantitative research.

Academic Positions

01/10/2022 – Present **F.R.S.-FNRS Postdoctoral Fellow**, *UCLouvain, Louvain-la-Neuve, Belgium*, "The Education of Adult Children and the Health of their Ageing Parents" (DARLENE)
Commission final grading: Excellent

09/11/2023 – Present **Postdoctoral Researcher**, *UCLouvain, Louvain-la-Neuve, Belgium*, Team member in the BELSPO/FPS Public Health-funded project "Care, Buffering Effects, and Well-being at the Time of the Pandemic and After" (BE-WELL)
PI: Prof. Ester Rizzi

25/01/2021 – 30/09/2022 **F.R.S.-FNRS [PER] Postdoctoral Researcher**, *UCLouvain, Louvain-la-Neuve, Belgium*, "Kin and non-kin ties during the COVID-19 pandemic: contagion or protection for older adults?" (KIN-COVID)
PI: Prof. Ester Rizzi

26/06/2017 – 26/12/2020 **PhD Researcher**, *Netherlands Interdisciplinary Demographic Institute (NIDI-KNAW), The Hague, the Netherlands*, Research theme "Families and Generations"; JPI-MYBL-funded project "Care, Retirement & Wellbeing of Older People Across Different Welfare Regimes" (CREW), PI: Prof. Bruno Arpino
Supervision: Prof. Anne H. Gauthier, Prof. Nardi Steverink, Prof. Tom Emery

Education

17/07/2017–28/03/2022 **PhD in Family Demography and Sociology**, *Netherlands Interdisciplinary Demographic Institute (NIDI-KNAW) and University of Groningen (the Netherlands)*, **Thesis:** "Gender inequalities in health at older ages: A longitudinal and comparative investigation across European countries"
Supervision: Prof. Anne H. Gauthier, Prof. Nardi Steverink, Prof. Tom Emery

06/06/2016–19/06/2017 **Advanced Course in Technologies for Active and Healthy Aging**, *University of Trento, Department of Information Engineering and Computer Science (Italy)*, **Research Internship:** Six-month placement at the Free University of Bozen–Bolzano with Prof. Giulia Cavrini, as part of the project "Happy Grandparents? A study in South Tyrol on the perception of happiness in over-fifty grandparents".

09/08/2012–13/07/2016 **Master's Degree in Sociology and Social Research**, *University of Trento, Department of Sociology and Social Research (Italy)*, **Thesis:** "Social inequalities in health in old age: The role of socioeconomic status and social relationships. A panel analysis on SHARE data, 2004-2013"
Supervision: Prof. Carlo Buzzi

23/04/2012 **Bachelor's Degree in "Scienze Sociali per lo Sviluppo" (ex DM 509)**, *University of Cagliari, Faculty of Economics, Law, and Political Sciences (Italy)*, **Thesis:** "Autorità e Potere"
Supervision: Prof. Aide Esu

Research Visits

22/09/2025–29/09/2025 **Research stay at the Department of Sociology**, *University of Vienna (Austria)*, [*forthcoming*]
Host: Prof. Valeria Bordone

28/04/2025–23/05/2025 **Research stay at the Institute for Research on Socio-Economic Inequality (IRSEI)**, *University of Luxembourg (Luxembourg)*
Host: Prof. Anja Leist

Publications (Peer-Reviewed)

2023 **Uccheddu**, Damiano, and Ester Rizzi. 2023. "Ambivalence of Intergenerational Ties in COVID-19 Contagion: A Study on European Adults 50 Years and Older Using SHARE Data." *The Journals of Gerontology, Series B: Psychological Sciences and Social Sciences* 78, no. 4: 749–63. [Reproducibility Files]

2022 **Uccheddu**, Damiano, Tom Emery, Anne H. Gauthier, and Nardi Steverink. 2022. "Gendered Work-Family Life Courses and Late-Life Physical Functioning: A Comparative Analysis from 28 European Countries." *Advances in Life Course Research* 53: 100495. [Reproducibility Files]

2022 **Uccheddu**, Damiano, and Ruben van Gaalen. 2022. "Children's Strains, Parents' Pains? How Adult Children's Union Dissolution Influences Older Parents' Health." *Journal of Family Research* 34, no. 2: 757–81. [Reproducibility Files]

2019 **Uccheddu**, Damiano, Anne H. Gauthier, Nardi Steverink, and Tom Emery. 2019. "Gender and Socioeconomic Inequalities in Health at Older Ages Across Different European Welfare Clusters: Evidence from SHARE Data, 2004–2015." *European Sociological Review* 35, no. 3: 346–62. [Reproducibility Files]

2019 **Uccheddu**, Damiano, Anne H. Gauthier, Nardi Steverink, and Tom Emery. 2019. "The Pains and Reliefs of the Transitions into and out of Spousal Caregiving: A Cross-National Comparison of the Health Consequences of Caregiving by Gender." *Social Science & Medicine* 240: 112517. [Reproducibility Files]

Book Chapters (Editor-Reviewed)

2023 **Uccheddu**, Damiano, and Ester Rizzi. 2023. *"Loneliness in Italy during the COVID-19 Pandemic: A Gender Perspective."* In Loneliness and Social Isolation among Older Europeans before and during the COVID-19 Pandemic, edited by Bruno Arpino, 41–47. International Union for the Scientific Study of Population (IUSSP). [Reproducibility Files]

2021 **Uccheddu**, Damiano, Anne H. Gauthier, Nardi Steverink, and Tom Emery. 2021. *"Gender and Socioeconomic Inequalities in Health after Age 50 in Europe."* In Care, Retirement & Wellbeing of Older People across Different Welfare Regimes, edited by Bruno Arpino, 44–48. International Union for the Scientific Study of Population (IUSSP). [Reproducibility Files]

2021 **Uccheddu**, Damiano, Anne H. Gauthier, Nardi Steverink, and Tom Emery. 2021. *"Gendered Health Burdens and Benefits of Starting and Ending Caregiving."* In Care, Retirement & Wellbeing of Older People across Different Welfare Regimes, edited by Bruno Arpino, 81–86. International Union for the Scientific Study of Population (IUSSP). [Reproducibility Files]

Manuscripts in Preparation and Under Review

- Bijwaard, Govert, and Damiano **Uccheddu**. "Parental Educational Similarity and Inequality Implications for Health in Sweden: Evidence from Register Data on Men Born between 1951 and 1983." [*To be submitted to the Journal of Health Economics*]
- Cabaraban, Maria Karlene Shawn, Valeria Bordone, and Damiano **Uccheddu**. "Mind the Gaps: The Hidden Role of Work–Family Life Histories in Shaping Unequal Cognitive Rewards of Grandchild Care in Europe." [*Manuscript in preparation*]
- Menashe-Oren, Ashira, Damiano **Uccheddu**, and Ester Rizzi. "Social Ties in Old Age: The Effect of the COVID–19 Pandemic." [*Under review, European Journal of Ageing*]
- Tattarini, Giulia, Damiano **Uccheddu**, and Ariane Bertogg. "Staying Sharp: Gendered Work–Family Life Courses and Later-Life Cognitive Functioning across Four European Welfare States." [*Revise and resubmit (minor revisions), American Journal of Epidemiology*]

- Tattarini, Giulia, Damiano **Uccheddu**, and Ariane Bertogg. "Work–Family Biographies and Later-Life Risk of Cognitive Impairment: What Are the Mediating Mechanisms?" [*To be submitted to The Gerontologist*]

- **Uccheddu**, Damiano, and Anja Leist. "Adult Children's Education and Older Parents' Cognitive Functioning across European Welfare States: Quasi–Experimental Evidence from SHARE, 2004–2022." [*To be submitted to Social Science & Medicine*]

- **Uccheddu**, Damiano, and Bruno Arpino. "Close Kin Ties and COVID-19 Outcomes among Older Adults in Europe: The Role of COVID-19 Precautionary Behaviours." [*Manuscript in preparation*]

- **Uccheddu**, Damiano, and Marco Tosi. "Health after Age 50: The Role of Adult Children's Education for Older Parents' Frailty in Europe." [*Under review, Demography*]

- **Uccheddu**, Damiano, Ester Rizzi, and Anja Leist. "Social Network Types and Cognitive Functioning in Older Age: Evidence from SHARE, 2010–2022." [*Manuscript in preparation*]

- **Uccheddu**, Damiano, Małgorzata Mikucka, and Ester Rizzi. "Social Networks and Depressive Feelings during the COVID–19 Pandemic in Europe." [*Under review, Social Indicators Research*]

Supervision of Early-Career Researchers

04/10/2023 – Present **Formal role as PhD supervisor**, *Sacha Van Duyse (with Prof. Ester L. Rizzi)*, University of Louvain (UCLouvain), Belgium, **Thesis title:** "Health trajectories and family relationships"

Grants

2025 **F.R.S.-FNRS – Research Stay Abroad Grant**, *Research stay at the Institute for Research on Socio-Economic Inequality (IRSEI), University of Luxembourg, April/May 2025*, **Total funding:** EUR 1,000.

2025 **F.R.S.-FNRS – Organisation of a Scientific Meeting Grant**, *International workshop "Cognitive ageing: individuals, institutions, and inequalities" (international networking workshop)*, University of Louvain (UCLouvain), Belgium, **Total funding:** EUR 3,500.

2024 **ECSR – Network Workshop Grant (with Giulia Tattarini and Ariane Bertogg)**, *"Social Institutions and Cognitive Health in Older Age" (international networking workshop)*, University of Hamburg, Germany, **Total funding:** EUR 5,000.

2023 **F.R.S.-FNRS – Mobility and Congress Grant**, *Participation in The Gerontological Society of America's 2023 Annual Scientific Meeting, Tampa, Florida (8–12 November 2023)*, Tampa, Florida, USA, **Total funding:** EUR 1,000.

2022 **COORDINATE Project – Workshops Grant**, *Three national introductory workshops on longitudinal & cohort data for lay audiences, practitioners, and policy-makers*, Federal Science Policy Office (BELSPO); National Archives of Belgium; UCLouvain Saint-Louis Brussels, **Total funding:** EUR 5,000.

2017 **Grant for Specialization Master's Program**, *Advanced Course in Technologies for Active and Healthy Aging*, University of Trento, Department of Information Engineering and Computer Science (Italy), **Total funding:** EUR 12,000.

Other Activities and Outputs in the Research System

2024–present **Guest Editor**, *Social Science & Medicine*, Special Issue: "Understanding cognitive ageing: individuals, institutions, and inequalities"

2024–present **Executive Committee Member and Representative of Postdoctoral Researchers**, *Centre for Demographic Research (DEMO)*, University of Louvain (UCLouvain)

2024 **Organizer**, *Quetelet Seminar 2024 "Behind and Beyond Numbers: Population Research Through Critical Lenses"*, University of Louvain (UCLouvain), November 7–8, 2024

2023 **Organizer**, *Introductory Course on Longitudinal and Cohort Data*, Brussels, Belgium, (https://www.coordinate-network.eu)

2022 **Invited Keynote Speaker**, *Fall Symposium "Healthy Ageing, Health, and Well-Being"*, Centre of Expertise Social Sciences Health and Well-being, University of Groningen, the Netherlands, November 10, 2022

2021 **Organizer**, *19th Annual Meeting of the European Network for the Sociological and Demographic Study of Divorce*, October 13–15, 2021

2017–2022 **Representative**, *NIDI-KNAW at JP-MYBL (Joint Programming Initiative More Years, Better Lives)*, The Hague, the Netherlands

2017–2022 **Active Member**, *Families and Generations Theme Group*, NIDI-KNAW, Family Lifecourse and AGeing (FLAG) Group at the University of Groningen (RUG)

2017–2020 **Member**, *Brown Bag Seminar Series Committee*, Netherlands Interdisciplinary Demographic Institute (NIDI-KNAW)

Invited Talks

08/05/2025 **Invited speaker**, *Séminaire de Midi – Research center "Epidemiology, Biostatistics and Clinical Research" (EPIBIOSTAT – CR2), Free University of Brussels (ULB), Brussels (Belgium)*, Title: "Adult children's education and older parents' cognitive functioning across European welfare states: Quasi-experimental evidence from SHARE data, 2004–2022", [Event details]

10/11/2022 **Keynote speaker**, *Annual Healthy Ageing Symposium – Healthy Ageing: Perspectives from the Behavioural and Social Sciences, University of Groningen (Groningen, the Netherlands)*, Title: "Gender inequalities in health at older ages: The importance of a longitudinal and comparative life course approach to health", [Event details]

Conference presentations

07/11/2024–08/11/2024 **Quetelet Seminar 2024**, *Ottignies-Louvain-la-Neuve (Belgium)*
Presentation: "Work-family histories and cognitive impairment in later life: What mechanisms explain the relationship?" [link]

12/09/2024–14/09/2024 **European Consortium for Sociological Research (ECSR) Conference 2024**, *Barcelona, Spain*
Presentation: "Work-family biographies and later life cognitive disability: What are the mediating mechanisms?" [link]

12/06/2024–15/06/2024 **European Population Conference (EPC) 2024**, *Edinburgh, Scotland (United Kingdom)*
Presentation: "Work-family biographies and cognitive health in later life: Which mechanisms explain the relationship?" [link]

03/07/2024–05/07/2024 **Biennial Conference of the European Society of Health and Medical Sociology (ESHMS) 2024**, *Antwerp, Belgium*
Presentation: "Health after mid-life: The role of adult children's education for older parents' frailty in Europe" [link]

08/11/2023–12/11/2023 **Gerontological Society of America (GSA) 2023 Annual Scientific Meeting**, *Tampa, Florida (United States)*
Presentation: "Health After Age 50: The Role of Adult Children's Education for Older Parents' Frailty in Europe" [link]

08/11/2023–12/11/2023 **Gerontological Society of America (GSA) 2023 Annual Scientific Meeting**, *Tampa, Florida (United States)*
Presentation: "Close Kin Ties and COVID-19 Outcomes among Older Adults in Europe: The Role of COVID-19 Precautionary Behaviours" [link]

18/09/2023–20/09/2023 **European Consortium for Sociological Research (ECSR) Annual Conference 2023**, *Prague, Czech Republic*
Presentation: "Close kin ties and COVID-19 outcomes among older adults in Europe: The role of self-protective behaviours" [link]

24/05/2023–26/05/2023 **RC28 Spring Meeting 2023 — 'Education and Social Inequality across the Life Course'**, *Sciences Po, Paris (France)*
Presentation: "Health after Mid-life: The Role of Adult Children's Education for Older Parents' Frailty in Europe" [link]

12/04/2023–15/04/2023 **Population Association of America (PAA) 2023 Annual Meeting**, *New Orleans, Louisiana (United States)*
Presentation: "Family and Nonfamily Ties and Depressive Feelings During the COVID-19 Pandemic: Evidence From the Survey of Health, Ageing and Retirement in Europe" [link]

01/02/2023–03/02/2023 **Giornate di Studio sulla Popolazione (Population Days) 2023**, *Rome, Italy*
Presentation: "Close Kin Ties and COVID-19 Outcomes among Older Adults in Europe: The Role of COVID-19 Precautionary Behaviours" [link]

21/11/2022–22/11/2022 **Quetelet Workshop 2022**, *University of Louvain (UCLouvain), Ottignies-Louvain-la-Neuve (Belgium)*
Links: [link]

29/06/2022–02/07/2022 **European Population Conference (EPC) 2022**, *Groningen, the Netherlands*
Presentation: "Family and Non-Family Ties and Depressive Feelings during the COVID-19 Pandemic: Evidence from the Survey of Health, Ageing and Retirement in Europe (SHARE)" [link]

06/04/2022–09/04/2022 **Population Association of America (PAA) 2022 Annual Meeting**, *Online / Atlanta, Georgia (United States)*
Presentation: "Intergenerational Contacts and COVID-19 Infection During the Pandemic: Evidence From SHARE Data" [link]

22/06/2022 **Welfare, Wellbeing and Demographic Change: Understanding Welfare Models**, *University of Louvain (UCLouvain), Ottignies-Louvain-la-Neuve (Belgium)*
Presentation: "Gender and later-life health at the intersection of state, market, and family" [link]

25/06/2021 **SHARE Netherlands User Conference**, *Online / Rotterdam (the Netherlands)*
Presentation: "Children's Strains, Parents' Pains? How Adult Children's Union Dissolution Influences Older Parents' Health" [link]

22/03/2021–26/03/2021 **ECSR Spring School on The Impact of Covid-19 on Social Inequality**, *Online / Turin/Milan (Italy)*
Presentation: "Intergenerational relationships and COVID-19 infection during the pandemic in Europe. Evidence from SHARE data" [link]

16/11/2020–20/11/2020 **Dutch Demography Week 2020**, *Online / Utrecht (the Netherlands)*
Presentation: "Children's strains, parents' pains? How adult children's union dissolution influences older parents' physical and mental health" [link]

14/10/2020–16/10/2020 **18th Meeting of the "European Network for the Sociological and Demographic Study of Divorce"**, *Online / Cologne (Germany)*
Presentation: "Children's strains, parents' pains? How adult children's union dissolution influences older parents' physical and mental health" [conference] [program]

13/10/2020 **NIDI Brown Bag Seminar**, *Online / Den Haag (the Netherlands)*
Presentation: "Children's Strains, Parents' Pains? How Adult Children's Union Dissolution Influences Older Parents' Health"

02/07/2020 **Conference of the European Consortium for Sociological Research**, *Online / Amsterdam (the Netherlands)*
Presentation: "Children's strains, parents' pains? How adult children's union dissolution influences older parents' physical and mental health" [conference] [abstract]

20/11/2019 **Dutch Demography Day 2019**, *Utrecht University, Utrecht (the Netherlands)*
Presentation: "Work, family, and gender inequality in health: An analysis of the role of work-family conflict in later life health" [conference] [abstract]

01/10/2019–02/10/2019 **Multidisciplinary Perspectives on Gender Gaps in Health**, *Villa Vigoni, Menaggio (Italy)*
Presentation: "Work, family, and gender inequality in health: A comparative analysis of the role of work-family conflict in later-life health" [conference] [program]

02/07/2019 **Family Lifecourse and AGeing (FLAG) meeting**, *University of Groningen, Groningen (the Netherlands)*
Presentation: "Work, Family, and Gender Inequality in Health: A Comparative Analysis of the Role of Work-Family Conflict in Later Life Health"

10/04/2019–13/04/2019 **Population Association of America (PAA) 2019 Annual Meeting**, *JW Marriott Austin, Austin, Texas (United States)*
Presentation: "Gender inequalities in health in later life: Does informal caregiving matter?" [link] [link]

23/01/2019–24/01/2019 **NIDI's PriMaTE (Primer in Methodological and Theoretical Examples)**, *Netherlands Interdisciplinary Demographic Institute (NIDI-KNAW), Den Haag (the Netherlands)*
Presentation: "Hybrid and Asymmetric Fixed-Effects Models for Panel Data"

11/12/2019–12/12/2019 **JPI MYBL Progress Dialogue Meeting (ZonMw)**, *ZonMw, Den Haag (the Netherlands)*

28/11/2018 **Dutch Demography Day 2018**, *Utrecht University, Utrecht (the Netherlands)*
Presentation: "Gender inequalities in health in later life: Does informal caregiving matter?" [conference] [abstract]

27/11/2018 **JPI-CREW International Workshop – Care, Retirement & Wellbeing of Older People Across Different Welfare Regimes**, *University of Padua, Padua (Italy)*
Presentation: "Gender inequalities in health in later life: Does informal caregiving matter?" [workshop] [program]

15/11/2018 **Internal colloquium - NIDI Miniconference**, *University of Groningen, Groningen (the Netherlands)*
Presentation: "Gender inequalities in health at older ages. A longitudinal and comparative study. (Overview of the entire PhD project)"

08/11/2018 **Annual Healthy Ageing Symposium - Healthy Ageing: Perspectives from the Behavioural and Social Sciences**, *University of Groningen, Groningen (the Netherlands)*
Presentation: "Gender inequalities in health in later life: Does informal caregiving matter?" [link]

28/06/2018–29/06/2018 **FAMHEALTH - Family life courses, intergenerational exchanges and health and well-being in later life**, *Cumberland Lodge, Great Windsor Park (United Kingdom)*
Links: [link]

14/06/2018 **Dag van de Sociologie 2018**, *Erasmus Universiteit Rotterdam, Rotterdam (the Netherlands)*
Presentation: "Gender inequalities in health in later life: Does informal caregiving matter?" [program] [abstract]

06/06/2018–09/06/2018 **European Population Conference 2018**, *Vrije Universiteit Brussel, Brussels (Belgium)*
Presentation: "Gender inequalities in health in later life: Does informal caregiving matter?" [conference] [program]

13/02/2018 **Joint Programming Initiative (JPI) "More Years, Better Lives" final conference**, *Brussels (Belgium)*
Presentation: "Care, REtirement and Wellbeing of older people across different welfare regimes (CREW)" [link]

06/02/2018 **Family Lifecourse and AGeing (FLAG) meeting**, *University of Groningen, Groningen (the Netherlands)*
Presentation: "Logistic regression: Are we doing something wrong?"

22/11/2017 **Dutch Demography Day 2017**, *Utrecht University, Utrecht (the Netherlands)*
Presentation: "Gender and socioeconomic inequalities in health at older ages in Europe: evidence from SHARE data, 2004-2015" [program] [abstract]

17/05/2017–19/05/2017 **Life-course influences on retirement: Researchers' and stakeholders' perspectives**, *University of Helsinki, Helsinki (Finland)*
Presentation: "The role of socioeconomic status on health at older ages across different European welfare clusters: evidence from SHARE data, 2004-2013" [link]

08/02/2017–10/02/2017 **Italian Population Days 2017 - Giornate di Studio sulla Popolazione 2017**, *University of Florence, Florence (Italy)*
Presentations: "The role of social participation on self-reported health, ADL and IADL of people aged 65+: a fixed effects approach using data from SHARE, 2004-2013" [link]; "The role of socioeconomic status on health at older ages across different European welfare clusters: evidence from SHARE data, 2004-2013" [link] [link]

Peer-Reviewing

Social Science & Medicine (8); Ageing and Society (5); European Journal of Ageing (4); Advances in Life Course Research (3); European Societies (3); The Gerontologist (3); Journal of Population Ageing (2); Longitudinal and Life Course Studies (2); The Journals of Gerontology: Series A Biological Sciences and Medical Sciences (2); American Journal of Epidemiology (1); Demography (1); European Journal of Population (1); Journal of Family Research (JFR) (1); Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences (1); Nature Scientific Reports (1); The Journals of Gerontology: Series B (1). Verified review records are available on my Web of Science profile.

Memberships

European Association for Population Studies (EAPS), European Society of Health and Medical Sociology (ESHMS), European Divorce Network (EUDIV), Gerontological Society of America (GSA), Italian Association for Population Studies (SIS-AISP), Population Association of America (PAA), Research Committee on "Social Stratification and Social Mobility" of the ISA (International Sociological Association) (RC28).