

Dr GABRIELLA MELIS, PhD

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RESEARCH INTERESTS

Theoretical interests:

- Access and barriers to higher education in contemporary societies
- Intergenerational transmission and change in life chances and wellbeing
- Determinants of socio-political attitudes, participation and voting behavior over the life course

Research methodology:

- Generalized Latent Variable Models and their applications to cross-sectional and longitudinal studies (for instance: Measurement models; Structural equation models; Latent class analysis; Multi-level models; Linear and Mixed models; Longitudinal analysis)
- Missing data analysis in longitudinal studies
- Psychometric models and latent trait models
- Survey methodology, including mixed-methods research methodology

CURRENT POSITION

Research Fellow
Department of Economic and Business Sciences, The University of Cagliari; CRENoS Research Centre, Cagliari

Associated to the LLAKES Research Centre at the UCL Institute of Education, London

EDUCATION

PhD in Social Statistics (2017), The University of Manchester, UK

Master of Science in Social Research Methods and Statistics (December 2012), The University of Manchester, UK (Grade: Distinction)

Master of Science (Laurea Magistrale) in Methods and Techniques for Social Research (March 2008), "La Sapienza", Rome, Italy (Grade: 110/110 Cum Laude)

BA (Hons) in Sociology (July 2005), "La Sapienza", Rome, Italy (Grade: 110/110 Cum Laude)

PREVIOUS RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

From 06/2015 to 06/2019

Post-doctoral Research associate, Teaching fellow and Honorary research fellow at the UCL Institute of Education, London

From 05/2013 to 07/2013

Research Assistant at The University of Manchester, The Cathie Marsh Centre for Census and Survey Research for the project "Measuring attitudes. Developing research 'infrastructure' and some preliminary investigations". Principal Investigator: Dr Maria Pampaka

From 03/2005 to 07/2011

Casual Research Assistant on multiple research projects at the “Sapienza University of Rome”, Faculty of Statistics and Faculty of Sociology

MAIN TEACHING EXPERIENCE

2018

Module leader and Teaching Fellow for the Centre for Doctoral Education. Module: Quantitative Analysis 1. UCL IoE

2017

Teaching Fellow for the MSc in Social Policy and Social Research. Module: Evidence for Policy and Practice. UCL IoE

Teaching Fellow for the MSc in Social Policy and Social Research. Module: Survey Design. UCL IoE

2012-2015

Graduate Teaching Assistant and Tutor on various term-long modules and short courses for Postgraduate students and research professionals (e.g.: Introduction to Statistical Modeling; Advanced Survey Methods; Survival Analysis; Introduction to R; Quantitative Data Analysis Skills)

ORGANISATIONAL RESPONSIBILITIES

June 2018 to December 2018

- *Member of and Reviewer for the UCL Institute of Education Research Ethics Committee*

From 11/2013 to 05/2014

- *Co-Investigator, Project coordinator and Chair* for the Manchester Rasch Research Group seminar series ‘Measurement models in empirical research’, funded by the North West Doctoral Training Centre Interdisciplinary Fund. With Dr Maria Pampaka

From 02/2013 to 07/2013

- *Co-Investigator, Project coordinator and Chair* for the project and seminar series ‘Interdisciplinarity in attitude research’, funded by the University of Manchester Research Institute (UMRI). With Prof Mark Elliot and Dr Nick Shryane

PUBLISHED WORK

1. **Melis, G.** & Schoon, I. (2019) How well-off and wealthy were my parents when I was little? Am I a hard-working high-flier, or an advantaged one? UCL IOE London Blog. 12th of august 2019. Access at: <https://ioelondonblog.wordpress.com/2019/08/12/how-well-off-and-healthy-were-my-parents-when-i-was-little-am-i-a-hard-working-high-flier-or-an-advantaged-one/>
2. Schoon, I. & **Melis, G.** (2019) Intergenerational transmission of family adversity: examining constellations of risk factors. PLOS One 14(4): e0214801
3. **Melis, G.**, Shryane, N., Elliot, M. & Pampaka, M. (2018) Attitudes to Legal Authority in Adulthood: inter-individual differences and intra-individual stability. CMIST Working papers 2018-06
4. Janmaat, J., **Melis, G.**, Green, A., Pensiero, N. (2018) Changing preferences for Brexit: identifying the groups with volatile support for 'Leave'. LLAKES Research Papers 65

5. Hoskins, B., Janmaat, J. G. & **Melis, G.** (2017) Tackling inequalities in political socialization: A Systematic analysis of Access to and Mitigation Effects of Learning Citizenship at School. *Social Science Research*, 68, pp. 88-101
6. Keating, A. & **Melis, G.** (2017) Social media and youth political engagement: preaching to the converted or providing a new voice for youth? *British Journal of Politics and International Relations*, 19 (4), pp. 877-894
7. **Melis, G.** (2016) Attitudes to authority: life-course stability, intergenerational transmission, and socio-psychological mechanisms in the British Cohort Study 1970. Doctoral Thesis. The University of Manchester
8. **Melis, G.**, Elliot, M., & Shryane, N. (2014) Environmental concern over time: evidence from the longitudinal analysis of a British cohort study from 1991 to 2008. *Social Science Quarterly*, 95 (4), pp. 904-919
9. **Melis, G.** (2012) Cultura e partecipazione politica [Culture and political participation]. In: Nocenzi, M. (Ed.) (2012) *Disagio e Speranze in Tempi di Crisi. Indagine Conoscitiva sugli Atteggiamenti Socio-politici degli Studenti di Sapienza Università di Roma* [Difficulties and Expectations in a Time of Crisis. An Exploratory Investigation on Students' Socio-political Attitudes at the "Sapienza" University of Rome]. Rome: Edizioni Nuova Cultura, pp. 83-92
10. **Melis, G.** (2007) Identità sociale e pregiudizio [Social Identity and Prejudice]. In: Cipollini, R. (Ed.) (2007) *Stranieri nella Metropoli*. Sociologia e Ricerca Sociale, 83, pp. 82-86 and pp. 96-103

SELECTED INVITED TALKS, CONFERENCE PAPERS, SEMINARS AND WORKSHOPS

2019

Gender gap in choice of degree subject and University among Sardinian students: evidence from the cohort 2014. Scuola Democratica First International Conference. University of Cagliari, Italy 6th-8th of June

2018

Invited talk. *Exploring voter profiles and age gap in the Brexit vote using the Understanding Society data.* LLAKES Centre Conference 2018. UCL IoE, London 15th-16th of November

Invited talk. *Online political participation: measures to assess young people's engagement.* UCC and NYCI scientific workshop on Digital Technology and Youth Political Participation. Dublin, 1st of February

2017

Youth attitudes towards their future: the role of resources, agency and perception of hard work. 13th Conference of the European Sociological Association. Athens, 29th of August-1st of September

Differences in pre- and post-referendum support for EU membership: Identifying the groups for whom support for 'Leave' has changed. Understanding Society's EU Referendum Project, Research group meeting. University of Essex, 28th of June

Childhood antecedents of intergenerational transmission of attitudes to legal authority. Political Studies Association Annual Conference, Glasgow 10th-12th of April

2015

Attitudes towards legal authority from 1975 to 2012: assessing intergenerational transmission and change in the British Cohort Study 1970. 12th Conference of the European Sociological Association. Prague 25th-28th August

2014

Construct validation of dimensions of attitudes towards authority in the British Cohort Study 1970 to assess intergenerational transmission and attitude stability. Poster presentation. ESRC AQM Conference, The University of Sheffield, Sheffield, UK 24th and 25th of July

2013

Analysing environmental concern over time: results from the British National Child Development Study. European Survey Research Association Conference, Ljubljana, Slovenia 15th-19th of July

STATISTICAL SOFTWARE FOR DATA ANALYSIS

User of STATA, Mplus, R, Mlwin, Winsteps, Winbugs, IBM SPSS, SAS
Training in Python and Machine Learning applied to Big Data in Social Sciences

FURTHER RELEVANT TRAINING

Exploring Long-term trends in Social Attitudes and Crime (20th of May 2015, UK Data Service)

Introduction to LaTeX (17th of November 2014, The University of Manchester)

Longitudinal Data Analysis with Mplus (September 2014, University of Cambridge, The Psychometrics Centre)

BCS70 Survey Workshop. What's new at Age 42 (28th of April 2014, UCL Institute of Education)

CLOSER Workshop on Life Course Research (17th of March 2014, CLOSER and Longitudinal Studies Enhancement Resources, UCL Institute of Education)

Introduction to Bayesian Analysis Using WinBUGS/OpenBUGS (23rd and 24th of January 2014)

Statistical Analysis with Missing Data Using Multiple Imputation (11th and 12th of December 2013, CCSR Short Courses, The University of Manchester)

Linking data (27th of November 2013, CCSR Short Courses, The University of Manchester)

New Developments in Latent Variable Models Using Mplus (15th of July 2013, European Survey Research Conference, Ljubljana, Slovenia)

Structural Equation and Latent Variable Modelling (Semester 2, 2012-2013, School of Social Sciences, The University of Manchester)

Longitudinal Data Analysis (Semester 2, 2012-2013, School of Mathematics, The University of Manchester)

Multivariate Statistics (Semester 1, 2012-2013, School of Mathematics, The University of Manchester)

Psychometrics (Semester 1, 2012-2013, School of Psychological Sciences, The University of Manchester)

Individual Differences and Personality (Semester 1, 2012-2013, School of Psychological Sciences, The University of Manchester)

Measurement Models: Factor Analysis, IRT and Related Models (14th and 15th of February 2013, School of Politics and International Relations, The University of Nottingham)

Graduate Teaching Assistant Training (20th of September 2012, School of Social Sciences, The University of Manchester)

FURTHER RELEVANT COURSES AND TRAINING TAKEN DURING EMPLOYMENT AT THE UCL INSTITUTE OF EDUCATION

Academic Year 2017/2018

Various further teaching-oriented courses as part of the Teaching Fellow training via the UCL Arena program, for accreditation by the Higher Education Academy

July 2017

The Art of Teaching: Theatre Techniques for the Classroom (Staff Development Program, UCL)

June 2017

Course on Multi-level Structural Equation Modelling (NCRM, The University of Manchester)

September 2015

Workshop on Cross-cohort Research: Opportunities, Challenges and Examples (CLOSER, UCL IoE, London)

ONGOING RESEARCH PROJECTS

University, innovation and economic growth: a macro and micro analysis

Barriers to accessing higher education: choices, socio-economic inequalities and gender gap

Civic values and socio-economic development

Intergenerational transmission of life chances and inequalities

Intergenerational transmission of socio-political attitudes

Young people's developmental trajectories in a life-course perspective