



TITLE: Parental separation, social resources and child health practices in Australia.

Author: Dunja Licina – PhD Candidate (mid –candidature) Sociology, School of Social Sciences, Faculty of Arts

Affiliation: Monash University.

Update on PhD research work in progress – presentation of quantitative analysis of Longitudinal Study of Australian Children (LSAC) data. Employing social resources, linked-lives and disruptions theoretical framework, this research aims to explore the complex relationship between parental separation, family members' close relations, parents' social networks support and child health practices in the lives of contemporary Australian families. In contrast to sociological studies of parental separation as a lifecourse event, this research examines change over time in family processes in separated families, employing longitudinal quantitative and qualitative research methods. Specifically, it seeks to examine whether parental separation impedes on family's ability to create and maintain close bonds and reciprocal trust between parents and children; maintain reciprocal parental support between separating parents; develop and maintain close bonds and parental support between parents and their new partners; and to maintain parents' close networks support. Any changes in family's close bonds and support networks are then be examined alongside changes in child health practices, including dietary choices, regularity of breakfast, sleep issues and oral hygiene practices.