

## Causal Methods in Early-Life Research: An Interdisciplinary Workshop

25 – 27 September 2024, Bad Kreuznach (close to Frankfurt, Germany)

### Call for Abstracts

Establishing causal evidence for relationships between early-life exposures and later-life health and human capital outcomes is an important tool for understanding long-term trajectories from the earliest life stages, offering new opportunities for developing health and economic interventions. While many disciplines that investigate the effects of early-life events share similar methodologies, interdisciplinary collaboration in early-life research has been limited. By bringing together experts from economics, epidemiology, medicine, the social sciences, and other disciplines, this workshop seeks to underscore the value of integrating disciplinary methodologies in investigating causal effects in early-life research. We aim to facilitate interdisciplinary collaboration, explore synergistic research methods, and discuss the current state of the field.

The on-site workshop will contain interactive components, as well as talks, a poster session, and a keynote lecture (see [workshop website](#) for more information). The keynote will be held by [Maya Rossin-Slater](#), health economist and Associate Professor of Health Policy at Stanford University School of Medicine.

We welcome abstract proposals on various early-life exposures, including:

- Growing up in a **changing climate**: effects of early-life environmental exposures
- Early-life **nutrition** / (air) **pollution** exposure / **stress**
- **Methodological advances** for causal inference in early-life research
- Best practice examples: **interdisciplinary research** on early-life exposures
- **Other** relevant topics

We encourage submissions from all quantitative disciplines. At submission, please select the theme that best aligns with your abstract and your preference for an oral or poster presentation.

**Abstracts** Please **submit via our [online submission system](#) no later than 30 April 2024**.  
Notifications of abstract acceptance will be sent out by May 15, 2024.

**Costs** Participation is **free of charge** and includes a social event and meals.

**Travel grants** A limited number of travel grants are available (see abstract submission form).

For inquiries, please contact Fabienne Pradella at [pradella@uni-mainz.de](mailto:pradella@uni-mainz.de).

We look forward to welcoming you in Rhine-Hesse!

The organizational committee (Fabienne Pradella, Nathalie Lambrecht, Reyn van Ewijk, Sabine Gabrysch)



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**Causal Methods in Early-Life Research: An interdisciplinary workshop****Preliminary Programme**

- 25.09.2024 16:00 Workshop kick-off: What is the status quo in early-life research?  
18:00 Dinner & Group Activity
- 26.09.2024 9:00 Welcome, expectations of the day  
9:30 Interactive session: Introduction to early-life research: what disciplines are involved, what distinguishes them, what do they have in common?  
10:30 Break  
11:00 Presentation session: Growing up in a changing climate  
12:00 Discussion session: Growing up in a changing climate  
Guiding questions: What are the evidence gaps regarding this topic? What are the gaps regarding the methodology? What are methodological challenges?  
13:00 Lunch  
14:00 Best practice examples for interdisciplinary cooperation in early-life research  
15:00 General discussion about the field in small groups (World Café)  
17:30 Break  
18:30 Keynote by Maya Rossin-Slater, Stanford University School of Medicine  
19:30 Dinner
- 27.09.2024 9:00 Introduction: recap, goals and expectations of the day  
9:30 Presentation session: Methodological advances for causal inference in early-life research  
10:30 Discussion session: Methodological advances  
Guiding questions: What are the evidence gaps? How can causal methods address these gaps? What are the methodological challenges?  
11:30 Poster session: Early-life exposures and long-term health  
12:30 Lunch  
13:30 Wrap-up: What have we learned? (coming back to guiding questions of the World Café on day before)  
15:00 Coffee / Departure