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ENGLISH ABSTRACT AND AUTHOR SUMMARY SUMEDHA GUPTA

In-utero and childhood environmental, biological and economic factors are by now established determinants of long term health conditions like cardiovascular disease and diabetes and even individual longevity. However literature is inconclusive on what then is the significance of conditions during adulthood if all later life outcomes are predetermined in early years of life. Could in-utero and childhood conditions also influence other intermediary life events which could further mitigate or aggravate the initial impact of early-life conditions on later life outcomes.

This thesis considers the sequence and timing of events over the individual's life course - birth, childhood, marriage, fertility and mortality and studies the interplay between early-life conditions and endogenous later life events, like marriage and fertility, in influencing adult health and life outcomes. Such a life-course approach allows the identification of causal effects linking these important life events resulting in vital policy implications.

Sumedha Gupta, B.A.(University of Delhi), M.Sc. (University of Nottingham), M.A. (Boston University) graduated from the M.Phil program in Economics of the Tinbergen Institute in 2006. Between 2005 and 2009, she did her Ph.D. in Economics at the VU University Amsterdam and the Tinbergen Institute. Afterwards she continued her research as a postdoctoral fellow at Northwestern University.