

Christine Percheski, Northwestern University

“Wealth, Sibship Size, and Economic Transfers between Siblings in Adulthood”



Description: Over 90% of U.S. adults have siblings, but little is known about how siblings affect each other's economic resources in adulthood. With data from multiple datasets, I show that sibship size is predictive of wealth in adulthood, net of many individual characteristics. I also find that economic transfers between siblings are relatively common, patterned along axes of inequalities, and vary by sibship size. I argue that sibship size is an under-appreciated mechanism in the reproduction of economic inequality in the contemporary U.S.

Christine Percheski is an Associate Professor of Sociology and Faculty Fellow at the Institute for Policy Research at Northwestern University. Using demographic and other quantitative methods, she studies economic inequality, families, and health policy in the United States. Percheski holds a PhD in Sociology from Princeton University and was a Robert Wood Johnson Fellow in Health Policy Research before joining the faculty at Northwestern University.

Thursday
October 1, 2026
12:30-1:50pm

Parkes 222
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Evanston, IL 60208

**For Zoom info
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