

Cognitive Aging and Dementia in Policy Contexts: Life Course Perspectives

Call for Extended Abstracts/Papers

The **Lifespan, Policy, and Health Lab** & the **Center for Research on Inequality and Health** invite submissions for the interdisciplinary conference *Cognitive Aging and Dementia in Policy Contexts: Life Course Perspectives*, to be held at Vanderbilt University (Nashville, TN) on May 28-29, 2026. This event will bring together scholars from sociology, public health, medicine, economics, demography, and related disciplines to examine how structural and policy contexts shape cognitive aging across the life course.

Thematic Areas

We welcome research from diverse disciplines and methodological approaches, including but not limited to: (1) Longitudinal and life course analyses of cognitive health; (2) Policy-focused research and natural experiments; (3) Demographic and epidemiological studies of inequality in cognitive aging; (4) Projects translating research into practice or policy; (5) Studies of early-life conditions, family structures, caregiving, and cross-national perspectives.

Submission Guidelines

- Submit an extended abstract of 1,200–1,500 words (excluding references) or a full paper.
- Submissions should clearly state the research question, data and methods, key findings, and policy relevance.
- Include a brief author bio (2–3 sentences) and indicate whether the presenting author is a graduate student, postdoc, or early-career scholar.
- Submissions will be reviewed by the organizing committee, with attention to quality, interdisciplinarity, policy relevance, and balance across topics.

Timeline

Submission deadline: December 31, 2025

Notification of acceptance: February 15, 2026

Conference dates: May 28–29, 2026

Funding and Support

Lodging and meals will be covered for all participants. Airfare support will be available for early-career participants based on need.

How to Submit

Please submit your extended abstract or paper using this Google Form:

<https://forms.gle/4aJfo8S7vcd4ntqaA>.

For questions, please email: lifespan-lab@vanderbilt.edu.