

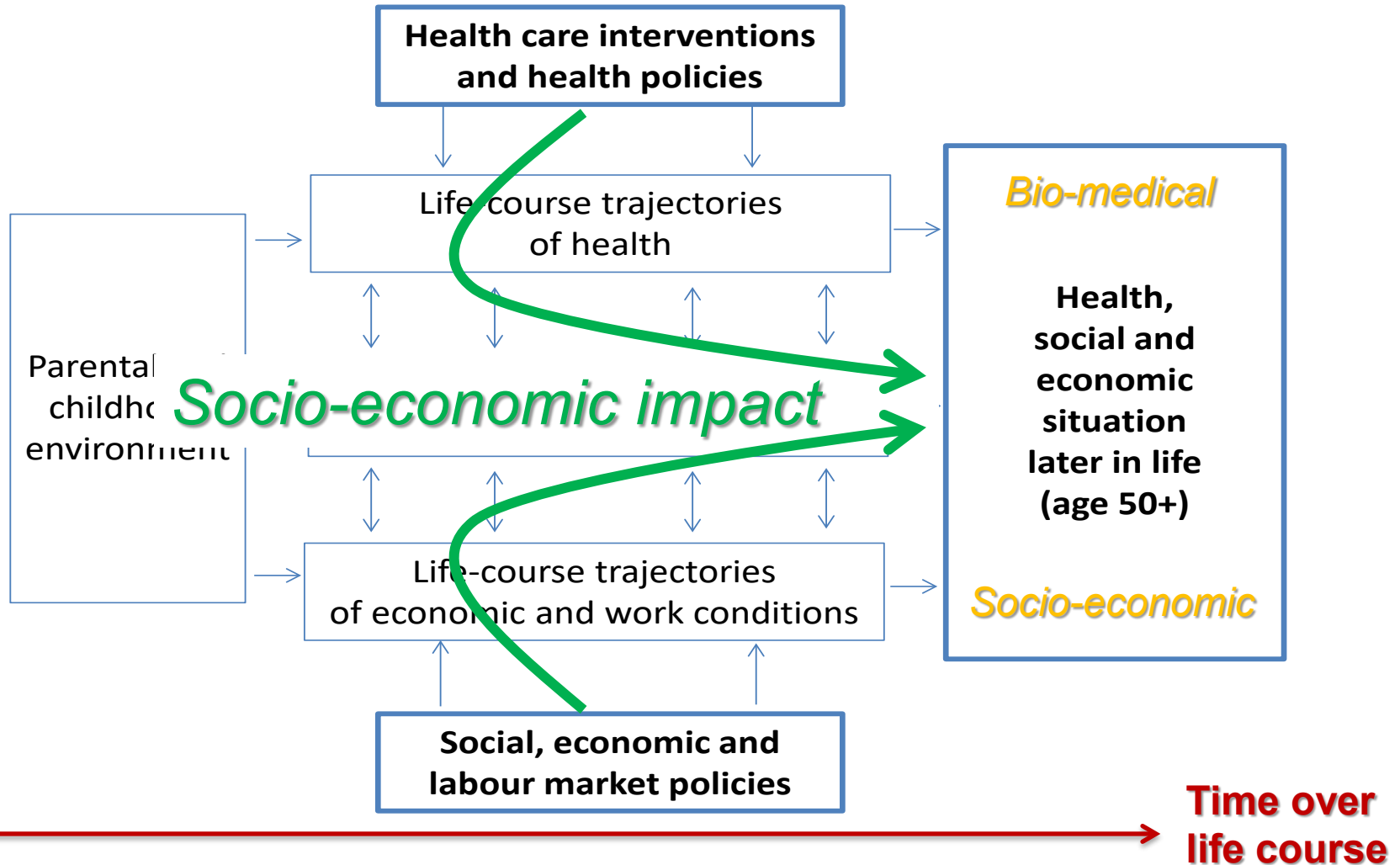
Harmonization meeting
Dublin, 23 Aug 2023

SHARE LIFE histories in Waves 3 and 7

Axel Börsch-Supan



Internationally comparable life-course view: How the environment shapes outcomes at later ages





- ▶ SHARELIFE allows linking individual decisions to **institutional background** variables
- ▶ The SPLASH project collects data on **institutional context** to ease **cross-country evaluation of welfare state policies**





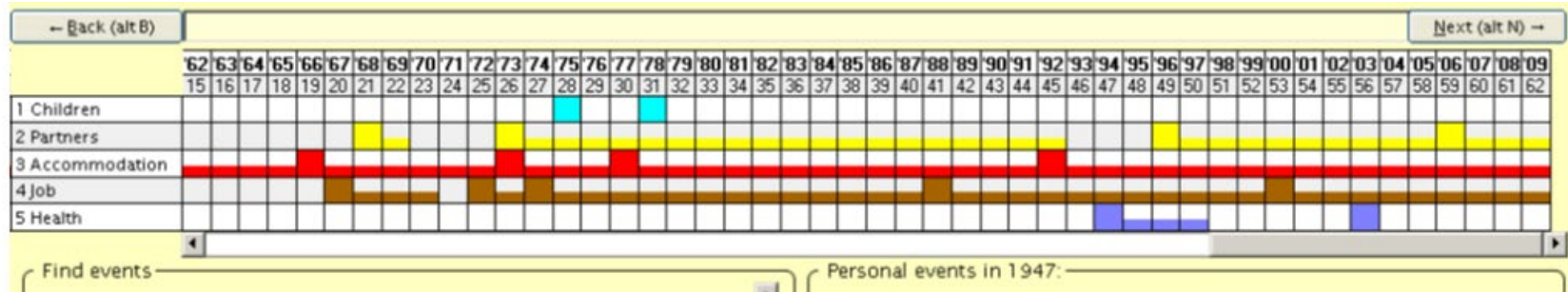
- ▶ Questions during the **design** process:
 - ▶ What do people remember easily?
 - ▶ What should we rather not waste time asking?
 - ▶ Is the remainder of interest?
 - ▶ How detailed can we be?

- ▶ Previous **cognitive** research:
 - ▶ The rare life events are easy, such as children and partners
 - ▶ Job and accommodation can become more difficult
 - ▶ Health and health care usage is nearly impossible



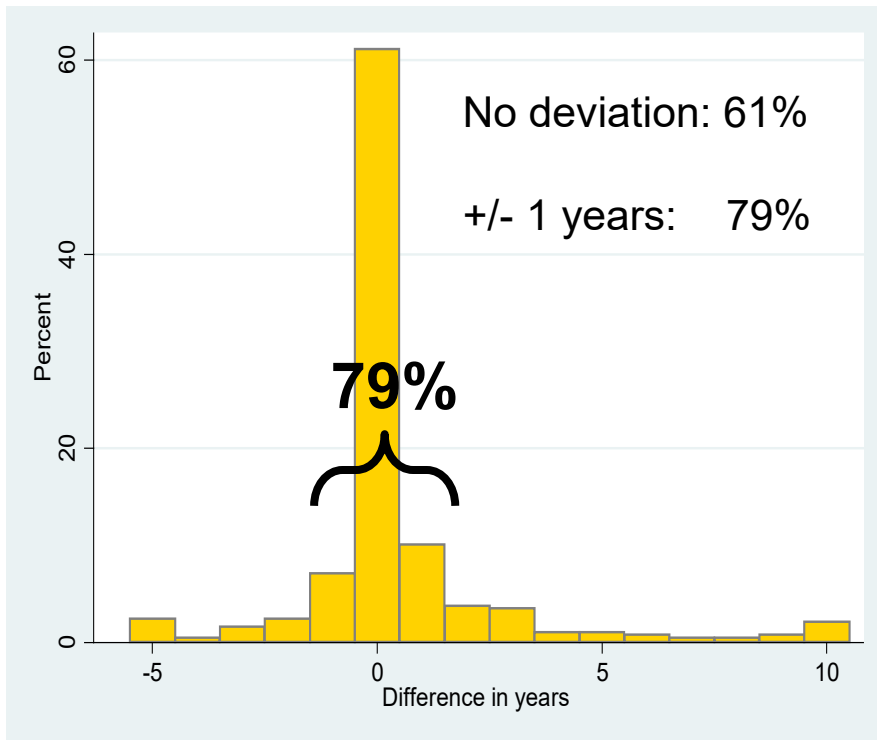
- ▶ Certain design elements help the **memory**:
 - ▶ The order of questions
 - ▶ The design of the questionnaire results:
 - ▶ life grid representation allows the comparison across different life domains, thus detecting errors becomes easier
 - ▶ Anchoring by using “landmark events”

- ▶ These features were used for the **electronic implementation**

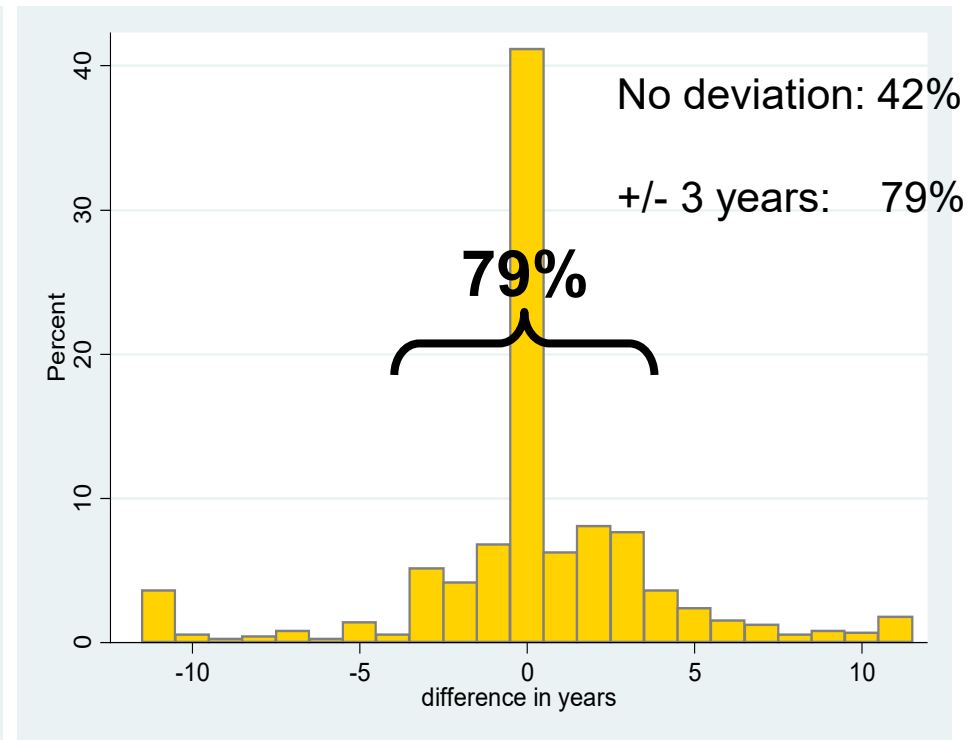




Year of retirement



Year of first job





- ▶ Life histories have been very powerful for SHARE: number of **users**, number and quality of **scientific papers**
- ▶ Power comes from **interaction**: cross-country x time (secular welfare state changes, measured by SPLASH)
- ▶ Data **quality** much better than expected
- ▶ Not just another module: takes about **1 hour**
- ▶ Efficient recall if **domains** are done in **parallel** (mental anchors)
- ▶ **Childhood** and parental background variables most powerful



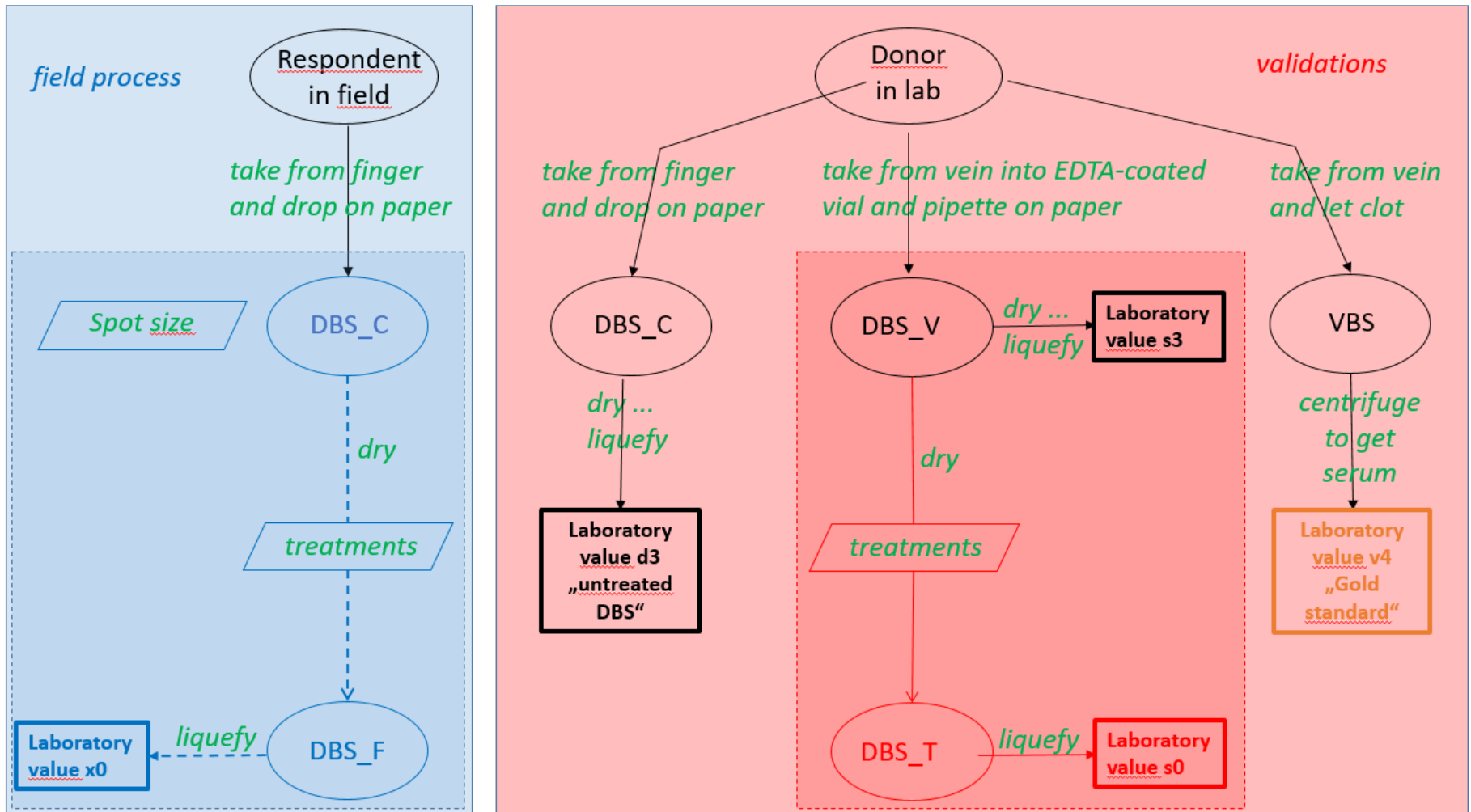
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SHARE Dried Blood Spot Validations

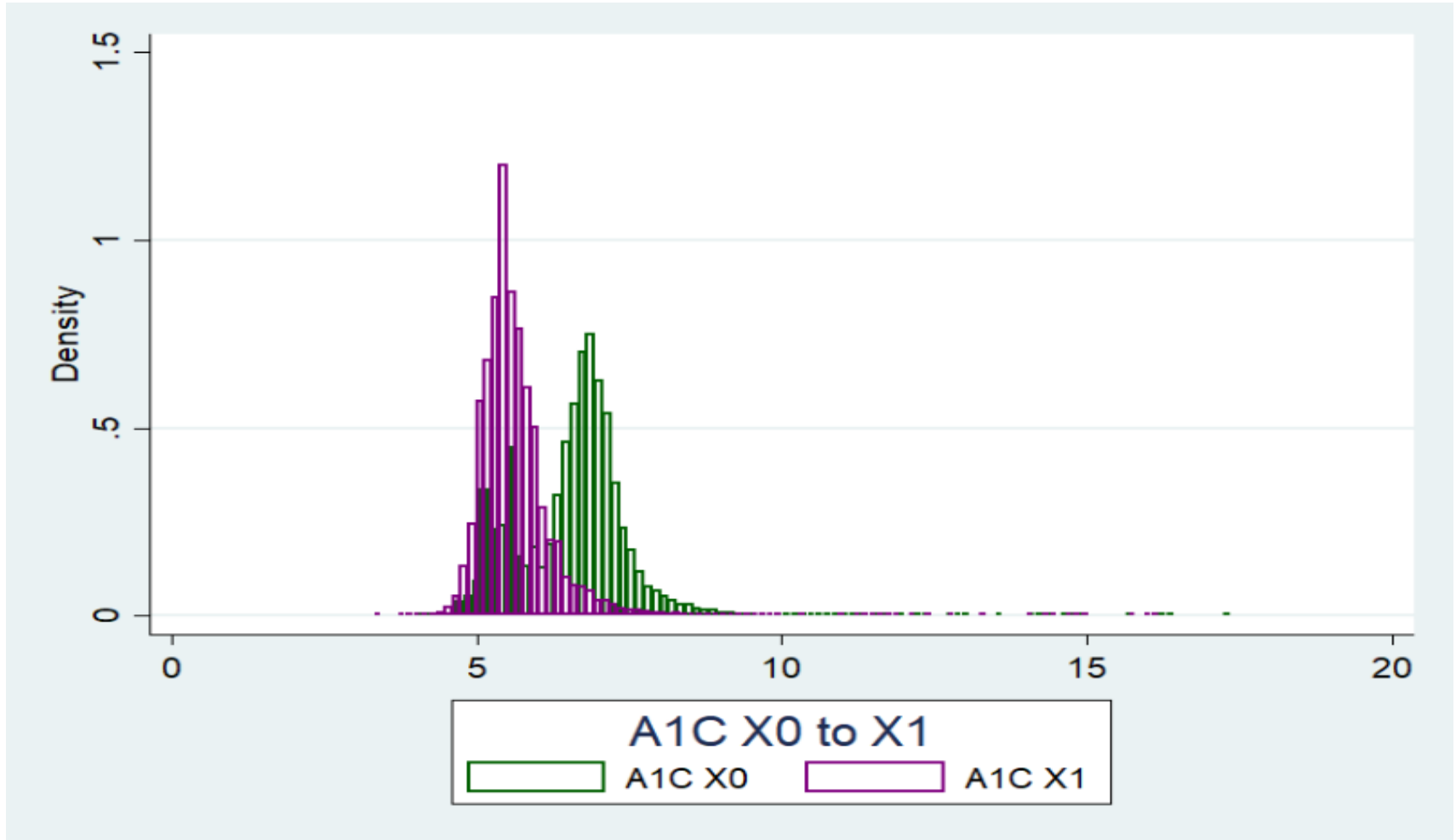
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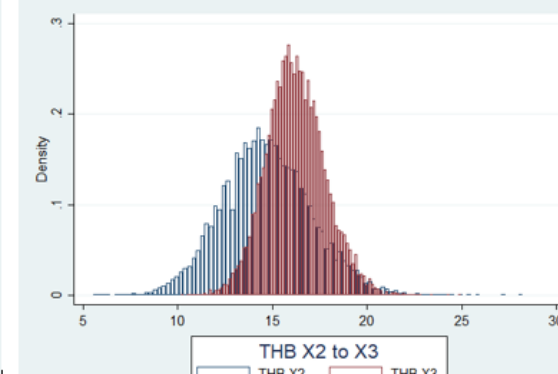
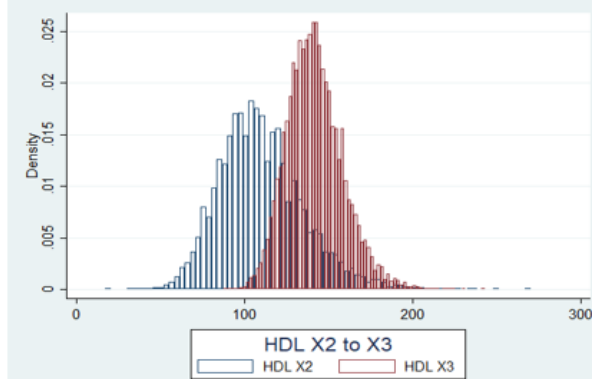
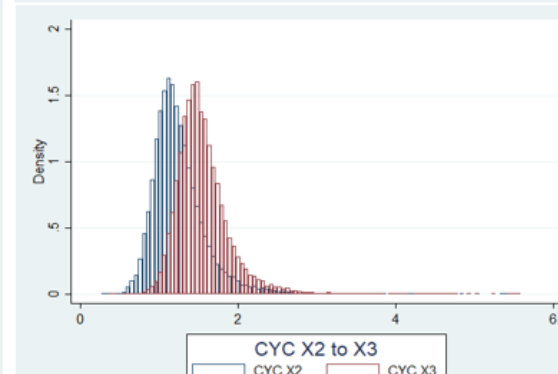
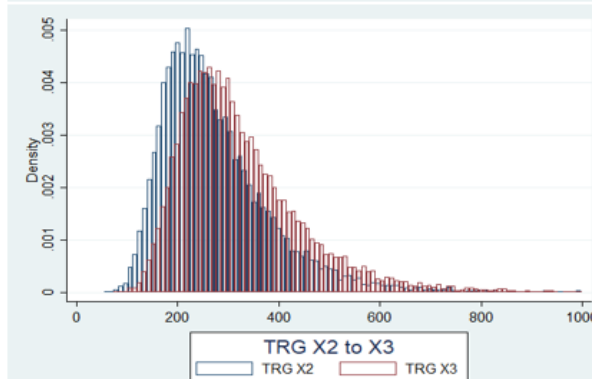
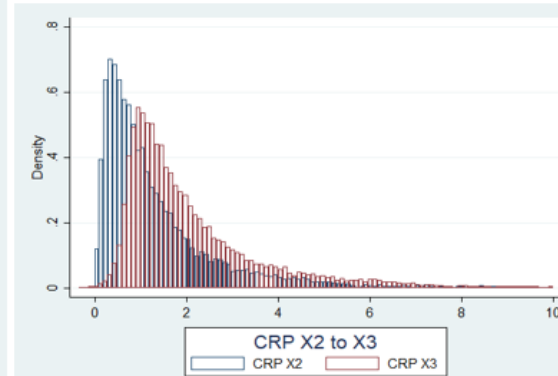
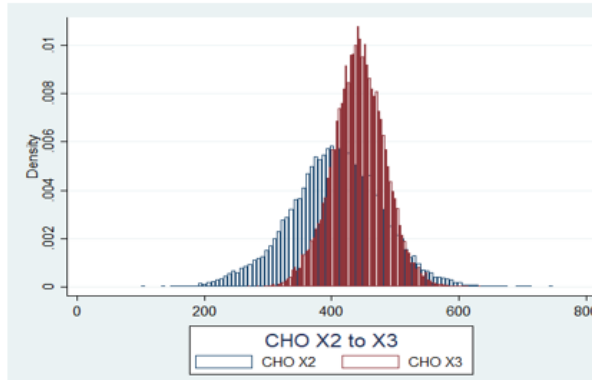
Validations and Conversion



Instrument differences



Fieldwork effects



Blood type effect: venous vs. capillary

