

## **VID Colloquium**

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Vienna Institute of Demography  
Welthandelsplatz 2 / Level 2  
Nathan Keyfitz Library  
1020 Vienna

### **Anna Rybińska**

University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill

Tuesday, 19. June 2018  
11:00-12:00

### **"Intentions for Childlessness over the Life Course: Patterns, Determinants, and Fertility Outcomes"**

One in seven women in the United States remains childless over the life course. Is this trend a consequence of external factors that prevent women from realizing plans about motherhood or does it reflect women's deliberate decisions to avoid childbearing? In this project, I utilize longitudinal data and prospective reports of childbearing intentions to investigate when and why women transition from intending motherhood to intending childlessness. My findings present a nuanced picture of the process of remaining childless: childless women form a heterogeneous group which includes early articulators, perpetual postponers, and women who are ambivalent about motherhood. By understanding how individual intentions, social structures and norms shape the patterns of childlessness, this research provides insights into the dynamic nature of women's childbearing realities..

### **About the presenter**

Anna Rybińska is a Phd candidate in Sociology at University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. Her main fields of research interest are social demography and family sociology. She has previously examined trends in late motherhood and childlessness in Poland, the impact of sport events on fertility, and the role of measurement error in predicting behavior from childbearing intentions. Her current projects include: studies of permanent childlessness in Europe and the United States, investigation of the relationship between couple's division of labor and partner's childbearing intentions in Australia, and estimating the effects of childbearing intentions and timing of birth on mothers' educational attainment.