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Long-term mortality consequences of childhood family context in Liaoning, China, 1749–1909

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Abstract

We examine the effects on adult and old age mortality of childhood living arrangements and other aspects of family context in early life. We focus on features of family context that have already been shown to be associated with infant or child mortality in historical and developing country populations. We apply discrete-time event-history analysis to longitudinal, individual-level household register data for a rural population in northeast China from the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries. Loss of a mother in childhood, a short preceding birth interval, and high maternal age were all associated with elevated mortality risks later in life. Such effects persist in a model with fixed effects that account for unobserved characteristics of the community and household. An important implication of these results is that in high-mortality populations, features of early-life family context that are associated with elevated infant and child mortality may also

predict adverse mortality outcomes in adulthood.



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Keywords

China; Early life; Mortality; Family; Historical; Life course; Childhood

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according to Bakunin, mimesis integrates a return to stereotypes.

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