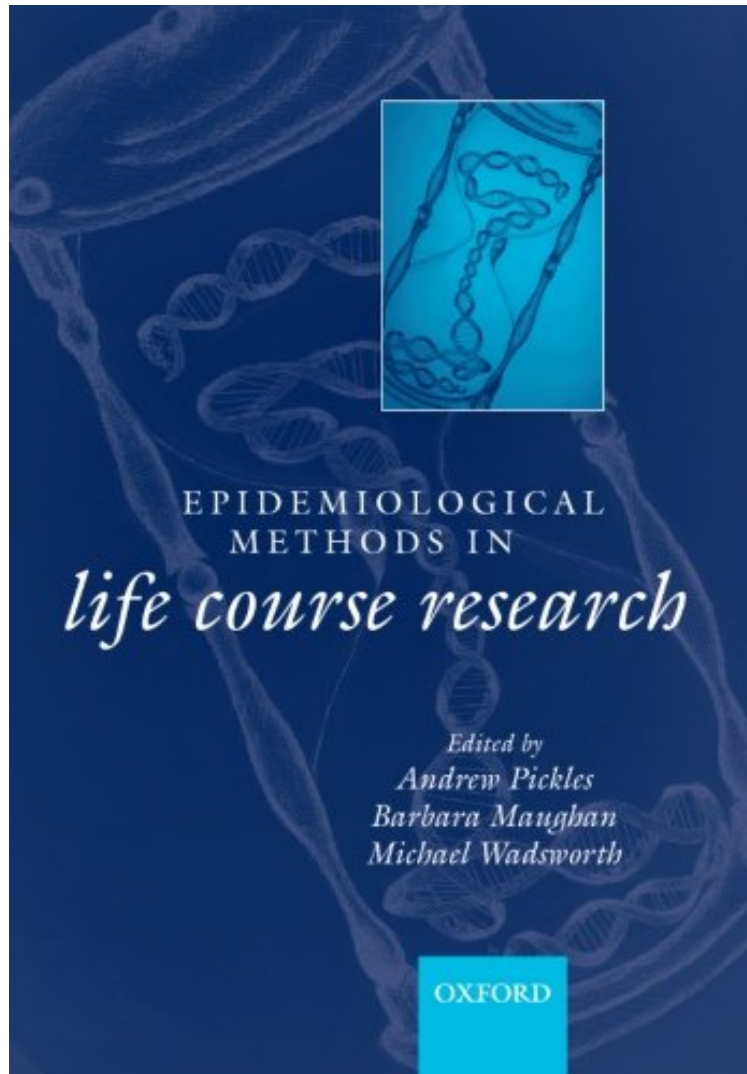


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From Andrew Pickles : Epidemiological Methods in Life Course Research (A Life Course Approach to Adult Health) before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Epidemiological Methods in Life Course Research (A Life Course Approach to Adult Health):

Life course epidemiology is concerned with the origins of risk, resilience, and the processes of ageing, and how this information can be of value in a public health context - particularly for preventive health care. Its challenge is to discover, develop and analyse sources of data that cover many years of life, especially the early developmental period when, it is thought, some fundamental aspects of lifetime health begin. It also analyses genetic propensity and environmental exposures. The rapid development of life course epidemiology, in parallel with new work on developmental biology and the biology of ageing, has brought innovative and ingenious methods of data collection. These require new methodological techniques for the design of observational and quasi-experimental studies of life course pathways to adult health. This book describes these developments, together with arguments for improving the measurement of the social environment and its role in developing individual vulnerability or adaptation. The development of bio-bank large-scale population studies for the investigation of genetic effects is discussed, alongside the challenges this creates for the epidemiologist. The changing design of studies, increasing flow of longitudinal data, management of data, analytic challenges, timing, and both traditional and more recent methods of managing these features in the study of causality, are discussed. Life course epidemiology has an essential role in developing methods to evaluate precisely the impact of interacting developmental, environmental, and genetic effects, knowledge of which is fundamental for the design of effective prevention strategies in public health, as well as for the advancement of understanding in the broader spheres of health and medicine.

...the book conveys both the conceptual as well as the practical complexities and methodological challenges associated with a life-course approach...[and] presents those challenges and offers a comprehensive overview of the methods available to successfully meet them. * International Journal of Epidemiology * Persons interested in life-course epidemiology will benefit greatly from reading this book. Throughout, the authors appropriately emphasize the strong connections between the current construct of life-course epidemiology and vigorous research traditions in epidemiology, biology, psychology and the social sciences. The interdisciplinary quality of the book is especially welcome...in conjunction with the other two volumes in this Oxford series, this book is of interest to both experienced epidemiologists and those in training programs, in addition to life-course researchers in related fields. * American Journal of Epidemiology * About the Author Andrew Pickles is a methodologist and statistician with a special interest in developmental psychopathology. His work spans genetics to long-term cohort and follow-up studies. Currently at the University of Manchester, he was previously senior statistician at the MRC Child Psychiatry Unit at the Institute of Psychiatry, London. Barbara Maughan's research focuses on psychosocial risks for psychiatric disorders in childhood, and on continuities and discontinuities between disorder in childhood and in adult life. Michael Wadsworth has directed and worked on the first British national birth control cohort study (the 1946 cohort), developing it as a resource of data on health throughout life and health change with age.