

## **Lifespan variation: measurement, trends and the role of socioeconomic inequality**

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### **Propositions**

1. The observed relationship between life expectancy at birth and lifespan variation is due to progress in averting premature mortality (this thesis).
2. Japanese females have become the life expectancy leader by closely following efficient or optimal age patterns of mortality reduction (this thesis).
3. Determining the sensitivities of lifespan variation measures to age-specific changes in mortality can help researchers to choose a measure that better reflects their normative values to changes in mortality at different ages (this thesis).
4. Lower educated groups have higher lifespan variation due to elevated mortality from causes of death occurring at earlier adult ages (this thesis).
5. Monitoring the contribution of between-group inequalities in mortality to the total individual lifespan variation is a valuable way to compare the impact of socioeconomic inequalities in mortality across countries (this thesis).
6. There is no fixed upper limit to the human lifespan.
7. Travel and change of place impart new vigour to the mind (Lucius Annaeus Seneca (3 BC- 65 AD), *De Tranquillitate Amini*).
8. Female literacy is an important agent to demographic change.
9. A new scientific truth does not triumph by convincing its opponents and making them see the light, but rather its opponents eventually die, and a new generation grows up that is familiar with it (Max Planck (1858-1947), trans. F. Gaynor).
10. The 20<sup>th</sup> century adult mortality reduction owes more to period effects than to improvements in early life conditions.
11. Having a Dutch father does not guarantee proficiency in the Dutch language.