The Society of Economics of the Household was founded in 2017 to promote the economic analysis of all outcomes of decision-making by household members, including child outcomes, consumption, saving, labor supply, and healthy and risky behaviors. This year SEHO organized its second set of meetings in Paris, hosted by the Paris School of Economics. The conference brought together leading researchers to discuss and exchange research about several topics including children’s outcomes, marriage, divorce, aging, health economics, happiness and well-being, domestic violence and crime, among others.

During both days of the conference, I attended several sessions related to my dissertation topics: children, family economics, health, and education. I learned about factors promoting children labor, how maternal knowledge about diarrhea differs by the availability of networks, the effect of conflict and opioid abuse on children health, determinants of maternal smoking, among other topics. I also enjoyed keynote speeches about the gender gap in economics, where the field of household economics is heading, and how to better inform policymakers about research on the economics of the family.

The second day of the conference, I presented one chapter of my dissertation in a session on “Children and Health.” In this paper, I explore the impact of restricting alcohol availability on prenatal health, and on children’s outcomes, by taking advantage of the adoption of mandatory night closing hours of bars and restaurants in Brazil. After presenting, I answered questions from conference participants. I received constructive feedback that I will incorporate in my work and will use to think about my next steps in the project. Clarifying questions about my presentation made me think about how to improve my talk in next conferences.

The conference also provided several opportunities for networking. During coffee breaks, lunch, and a dinner, I talked to many researchers about my project. In these short meetings, I got more feedback and career advice from senior professors and junior researchers. I also got to know more about the work that other people in the field are doing.

Overall, this conference was a great opportunity to share my research. Moreover, presenting at this conference provided an invaluable chance to work on and develop fundamental skills in public speaking. Finally, interacting with other participants allowed me to learn more about the field of household economics as a whole, and contributed to my development as a scholar. I am incredibly grateful for the support of the Duke University Center for International and Global Studies, that allowed me to travel to Paris to attend the SEHO meeting this year. Thank you!