



FamiliesAndSocieties



Policy Recommendations



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***Changing families and sustainable societies:
Policy contexts and diversity over the life course
and across generations***



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Policy recommendations Changing families and sustainable societies: Policy contexts and diversity over the life course and across generations

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Executive Summary

These policy recommendations are based on main findings of the large-scale EU Seventh Framework project, Changing families and sustainable societies: Policy contexts and diversity over the life course and across generations (FamiliesAndSocieties). This executive summary highlights a few of the key policy recommendations:

- Policy makers ought to be aware of the remarkable diversity of family forms and relationships in contemporary Europe, and aim for a better understanding of the nature and mechanisms of family constellations beyond married couples with children.
- Policy measures aiming to prevent/reduce the reproduction of vulnerability in families ought to be broad, complementary and embedded into a comprehensive strategy. They should comprise services addressing the needs of particularly vulnerable children as well as reconciliation policies, educational policies and other policy measures. Family constellations more at risk of vulnerability such as single parents, stepfamilies, large families, same-sex families, immigrant families and living-apart-together (LAT) relationships need to be addressed within their specific parameters.
- More direct supports to youth are needed in most European countries, with the state playing an active role in enabling young people in their transition to adulthood. Financial independence is fundamental. However, the achievement of self-sufficiency is a process preferably supported with a social package encompassing education, housing, job market access, family benefits and social aid.
- Law, policies and practices have to assess the effects of any privatization or transfer of care (for children, the elderly, frail individuals) back on the family as to all persons concerned, those receiving the care and the caregivers. Reconciliation of care and work should be supported by implementing care leaves not limited to young children, reducing working hours and allowing for greater flexibility in work time for adults in need.
- To be able to design policies for sustainable societies we need to extend our knowledge on the new roles of men and women and their implications for families and societies. Family-friendly policies, such as parental leave, should consider both parents, as each of their time investments matters for child development.

- Affordable child care, out of school care and recreation should be available, given the positive association between formal child care and positive child outcomes, which is stronger for children living in more disadvantaged environments. Early and universal access to formal child care is also one of the most efficient interventions to reduce disadvantages among immigrant children.
- Education and information are key policy issues. Education of children reduces inequality in children's life chances when they reach adulthood. Information and counselling for parents helps them to cope with parental roles, and raising awareness of employers—and society at large—enhances the understanding of challenges faced by parents.
- Both labour market and family policies aimed at better reconciliation of work and family responsibilities are required to be supportive for the reallocation of paid and unpaid work between women and men, to diminish gender inequality in economic positions across the life course, and to promote rewarding contacts between generations. Policies aimed at reducing social and economic inequalities that favour the reconciliation of family life, private life and professional life will also help reduce children's disadvantages and challenges associated with parents' divorce or separation.

1. Introduction

These policy recommendations are based on the main findings of the large-scale EU Seventh Framework project, Changing families and sustainable societies: Policy contexts and diversity over the life course and across generations (FamiliesAndSocieties). The objectives of the project are:

- Investigating the diversity of family forms, relationships, and life courses in Europe;
- Assessing the compatibility of existing policies with family changes; and
- Contributing to evidence-based policy-making.

The overall conceptual framework of the project is based on three key premises: Family life courses are becoming more diverse; the interdependency of lives must be taken into account; and social contexts and policies matter. Four transversal dimensions are embedded in the conceptual framework of the project: gender, culture (ethnic and cultural identities), socioeconomic resources and life stages.

To understand the everyday realities of modern societies, we need to recognize that family is a dynamic entity, characterized by growing complexity with respect to decision-making regarding transitions over the family life course and the organization of family life. The family can no longer be described simply as a set of well-defined roles; they are negotiated on a daily basis, constructed by interactions between partners at the micro-level, and influenced by macro structures within the political and economic spheres. Work and family lives increasingly influence each other as both women and men engage in earning as well as caring activities, often reinforced by increasing employment instability and precariousness. Gender relations and related values and attitudes have become more fluid, changing dynamically over the life course in the context of blurring boundaries of family and work life. In this sea of change, those families identified as vulnerable are exposed to greater risks that can be alleviated by well-designed policy. As such, the key findings below, presented by the main themes of the project, are followed by policy recommendations related to the main themes, and a summary of good practices. Next, the structure of the project is presented in details. The report ends with the comprehensive list of FamiliesAndSocieties publications up until the end of February 2017. New working papers and information on additional articles will be added to the website in 2017.

2. FamiliesAndSocieties’ key findings

2.1 Key findings: Family diversity, vulnerability and challenges

One of the greatest challenges for law and social policy in the future with respect to the well-being of families lies in addressing family constellations which are more at risk, in order to prevent, or at least reduce, the reproduction of vulnerability. Below are key findings with respect to those family constellations identified in the project as vulnerable: single-parent families, stepfamilies, large families, same-sex families, immigrant families, and individuals living apart together.

2.1.1 Single-parent families

Single-parent (also referred to as one-parent or solo parent) families are a particularly vulnerable group. Almost fifty per cent of single parents with dependent children are at risk for poverty or social exclusion. While two-parent families pool incomes and have the opportunity to share various responsibilities and burdens, single parents have to cope with all difficulties on their own. Many countries have experienced a substantial rise in lone-parenthood and a significant proportion of children experience living with only one parent at some point in their life course. These numbers are shown to increase during periods of economic hardship and challenge. The composition of single-parent households can be a major factor in low work intensity and in particular, in-work poverty in the absence of adequate support (social, educational, policy and welfare) services. This is especially the case for solo mothers who are susceptible to the negative income effects of family dissolution. In the majority of cases, female solo-parents tend to have custody of children, and at times without any adequate financial and parenting support from the other parent. As solo parenthood is most commonly related to parents having separated—family disruptions also often have negative emotional and psychological consequences for both parents and children.

2.1.2 Stepfamilies

Stepfamilies are becoming more common against the background of increased rates of separation and family re-constitutions. However, the lack of legal recognition of this family structure creates vulnerability for both children and adults. Each member of a stepfamily – whether child,

parent, stepparent or partner - has to face complex and different challenges. The composition of a stepfamily means creating new practices in forming a new or blended family. These involve a complex social, economic, relational and moral process often negotiated over several family households and deeply shaped by gendered as well as biological patterns of caring for children. Children's well-being in families generally is closely linked to a high quality of family relationships, manifested by strong family cohesion, low levels of conflict, and parent-child relationships characterized by emotional warmth and child-centred communications. Complex stepfamilies are a family constellation that continues to be neglected in research, policy and law, yet many children live in this family structure and can be particularly vulnerable.

2.1.3 Large families

Family size greatly influences the risk of poverty. The higher the number of children, the greater the financial burden on the household and the need for both parents to engage in sustainable paid work. At the same time, more children require more time for care. This can lead to one parent — usually the mother — dedicating a great deal of time (economic and social) and energy to child care and reducing or even giving up paid work. With a reduced second income or even only one earner, financial vulnerability is exacerbated. Consequently, households with three or more children bring increased risk of deprivation and marginalisation. Almost one-third of two-adult households with three or more dependent children in 2011 were at risk for poverty or marginalisation in the EU-27.

2.1.4 Same-sex partnership families

Significant changes have occurred over the last twenty years in how same-sex relationships are addressed in European countries, with Denmark being the first country to offer a legal framework for recognizing same-sex couples in 1989. Other countries, however, have followed contrasting paths, at different paces, in their recognition of same-sex partnerships. Issues raised in the context of family beyond the recognition of same-sex relationships, include adoption, ART and/or surrogacy, and parenthood. The lack of a legal framework can create awkward situations for “non-statutory parents” (e.g. more than one mother and father). Each same-sex parenting situation is a bit of a “makeshift job”, i.e., a legal, societal and kinship grey area. The two-

parent norm also creates a barrier to recognizing other types of family constellations that otherwise function well.

2.1.5 Immigrant families

Ethnic minority and immigrant families risk vulnerability from several different perspectives, including limited access to employment and housing, discrimination, non-recognition of educational qualifications in the destination countries or low levels of education, as well as insufficient language and/or cultural skills. Many families have suffered from conflicts in their home land and have to deal with additional issues such as reunification and post-traumatic stress. Although fears of alleged “welfare shopping” have been widespread in several countries in Europe, the refugees arriving during the crisis in 2015 were often educated and willing to work.

Partnership dynamics, mixed marriages and childbearing behaviour show that there is a significant diversity of partnership patterns and family forms among immigrants and their descendants in European countries. Factors related to family of origin and country of residence are important in explaining differences in partnership and fertility behaviour between population subgroups. Overall, family patterns of the ‘second-generation’ fall in-between those of their parents’ generation and the respective native populations of their destination country. The differences in comparison to natives are expected to further decline in the ‘third generation’, but a significant intra-group heterogeneity is likely to persist.

2.1.6 Living apart together relationships

Having a regular non-residential partner, ‘Living Apart Together’ (LAT) is increasingly regarded as a valid lifestyle choice. However for many, LAT may rather be a necessity, e.g., due to work, housing constraints, care needs of kin, regulations regarding pensions and divorce. LAT relationships occur at any time during adulthood, with the partners involved considering their relationship either a temporary stage or a permanent state. For some, LAT is a prelude to cohabitation, civil partnership or marriage, while others consider living apart in a committed LAT relationship a long-standing arrangement. LAT partners wishing to have children without living together remain the exception. LAT relationships are still far from being a generally recognized or accepted social institution; a reality mirrored in the absence of its legal recognition and regulation.

2.2 Key findings: Generational challenges

2.2.1 Youths and the transition to adulthood

A significant proportion of young people today are unable to support themselves, much less a family, before their mid to late 20s, and need to rely on parents and/or the welfare state. In the absence of adequate public support, declining household incomes increase the risk of poverty. How countries help youth enter into adult life and achieve self-sufficiency are key concerns. Several policy models are in place in Europe, on a spectrum going from only family support such as in Southern Europe, to extensive state support, such as in the Nordic countries. Different forms of state support can be provided, for education, housing, job market access, social aid and family allowances. A social package encompassing these components can be seen as holistic, taking into account the multi-faceted aspects of the transitions to adulthood: establishing independent housing, engaging in higher education, entering professional life and starting a family. The “familialisation” of aid, where the family is seen as the main provider for the needs of its members, may hamper these transitions by including disincentives, for example where parents receive family allowances or tax benefits for young adults, whether students or not, and/or where access to social aid comes later on in the life of the young adult. The need for holistic approaches is even more compelling regarding the descendants of immigrants from certain groups, who may in addition need support to also combat discrimination in accessing housing and employment.

2.2.2 Care of elderly parents

The ageing European population also presents generational challenges, with adult children needing to provide care to elderly parents in addition to children and grandchildren, at times sandwiched between generations with respect to care responsibilities. Long-term care arrangements are being reconsidered by policymakers, who are increasingly seeking ways to activate and maintain family members as caregivers. In the case example of the Netherlands, a strong welfare state, policy makers have increasingly encouraged family members to take on more active roles in caring for dependent relatives, although a large part of the population believes that such tasks should be left to the state. Norms of filial obligation are less strong in Western European societies providing a more extensive public support, compared to Central and Eastern European

countries. In societies with limited public services, people face strict norms of filial responsibilities. The occurrence of intergenerational co-residence is the lowest in Western Europe, while it is more prevalent in South-East European countries which rely on familialism and have less public support in general. Adult children are less likely to provide care for parents in societies where service in residential care settings is more widely-available. The expected acceleration of population ageing and shrinking of the labour supply will contribute to increasing care deficits, especially so in the familialistic countries. This, in turn, will put extra pressure on sandwich generations, those between elderly parents and children/grandchildren. Increasing care contributions by members of these generations, especially women, will induce increased tensions between paid work and care obligations.

2.2.3 Privatization of care - Migrant caregivers

Private markets in care/domestic services have been promoted at European and national levels to reduce care and time deficits resulting from ageing populations and women's increased labour force activity. These markets often use migrants for care work, creating a double vulnerability due to the type of work carried out in households, as well as the employment status of the worker, the archetype of the precariat. Migrants in care work were shown to experience underemployment, unpaid work hours and generally precarious work situations. In both the countries studied, i.e., Sweden and Spain, individuals with the greatest need for private care typically cannot afford such services. Single parents who often have the greatest time deficits are the least likely to purchase care or cleaning services from the private market due to financial constraints.

2.3 Key findings: The care and well-being of children

2.3.1 Parenting and child care

When looking at child care and child outcomes, one striking finding is that parental care is separable, as mothers and fathers have different roles in affecting child development. Recent changes in institutional structures and demographics have encouraged a more active role for fathers in the child-rearing process. Multiple actors now contribute to the child development process; mothers, fathers, grandparents and formal child

care. With respect to time and financial investments in children, results indicate that parents' financial investments are important but less essential for "child quality" than time investments. Two-parent households perform better than single-parent households, as they usually have more resources in terms of both finances and time to spend with their children.

2.3.2 The consequences of separation/divorce

The long-term trend in union dissolutions has been one of increasing divorce and separation between partners. Cultural changes in individual and family behaviours indicate a shift towards a greater acceptance of non-traditional family structures, as individual values have changed. Improvements in women's economic independence have led to a situation where more individuals are ready, willing, and able to separate or divorce. Although research identifies some negative financial and psychological consequences of separation/divorce, family dissolution does not necessarily lead to lower well-being among children. Certain protective factors help, for instance quality parenting. The involvement of both biological and social parents has been proven to be of key importance for children. This assumes situations where the parents can cooperate. The impact of paternal and maternal parenting is equally important to children's self-esteem and satisfaction with their life. Evidence also suggests that supportive and authoritative (high control and support) parenting is more important for children's well-being than spending the same amount of time with each parent after divorce. The role of any new partner in this process is also relevant to the well-being of children, as seen from the key-findings concerning step-families.

2.4 Key findings: The gender revolution

Depending on country and region, the male breadwinner – female homemaker family model has more or less given way to a dual earner model, where both men and women contribute to the family budget and share child care and household duties (to some extent). While men and women can no longer be said to be living in separate spheres, this transformation of gender roles, the "Gender Revolution", has been asymmetrical. Women everywhere have virtually been catching up in the public sphere more than is the case for men in the private sphere. In most countries, female labour market participation has been increasing much

more than male participation in housework and child care. As a result of these uneven changes, women today are often faced with a double burden or a second shift: after their paid work hours are fulfilled, they are still expected to take the main responsibilities at home. The difficulties of work-family reconciliation experienced by women, and the fact that women's labour force participation is often still subordinated to their organizing and caretaking role in family life, hinder the professional careers of many women and also influence childbearing decisions.

A newly emerging female breadwinner model is underpinned by two factors: the strengthening of women's labour market position based on their investments in education and career development, and the increasing number of couples with women having a higher educational level than their partners. The role of female breadwinner implies not only counter-normative behaviour by the mother, but demands for such behaviour also by the father as he relinquishes the ideal of a male breadwinner. This arrangement seems to carry a significant risk of conflict between partners, but also shows the potential for more egalitarian partnerships in other aspects, such as the division of household labour and care responsibilities. A nearly comparable change with respect to men is the emergence of the active/engaged father concept/practice. Yet, unlike the female breadwinner model, the "new father" brings more flexibility in realizing diverse gender self-concepts and less potential for conflict, accommodating a wide range of paternal behaviour. Education is another driving factor for achieving parity in the gender revolution – education strengthens women's opportunities to jointly develop their professional and family careers and also facilitates fathers' engagement in family life. Until men's contributions to domestic tasks and care work match those of women in paid work, i.e., when the dual earner - dual carer model is achieved, the "gender revolution" will remain incomplete.

2.5 Key findings: Childlessness, fertility and well-being

The major trends in family structures and their shifts across the industrialized world over the past decades are well-documented: fertility rates have declined below the level sufficient for the replacement of the population, childbearing occurs later and more often outside marriage, and couple relationships in general have become more fragile. The postponement of having a first child has contributed to the shrinking of

family sizes and increased (in)voluntary childlessness. Assisted reproductive technologies (ART) are increasingly perceived as one way to alleviate the problems of involuntary childlessness. ART has become a standard medical practice and a profitable commercial enterprise for thousands of firms in Europe. An estimated five million babies have been born with the help of assisted reproduction in the past four decades, with 56 % of the ART treatments in Europe. ART is sometimes expected to not only alleviate the individual sufferings from involuntary childlessness, but also to serve as a potential policy lever to raise fertility rates in Europe. Another key aspect of ART in Europe is the strong variation in terms of ART regulations and ART uptake both across countries and over time. This variation in terms of regulations between and within European countries allows comparisons that potentially yield important insights in the antecedents and outcomes of ART usage that might have implications for ART globally. Finally, the variances in policies and usage across European countries raise issues of cross-border reproductive care and 'reproductive tourism'.

2.6 Key findings: Foresight towards the well-being of families and sustainable societies

Factors that are relevant to current and future family well-being include general economic development, cultural and social shifts, as well as forces related to work–life balance, such as institutional care arrangements, gender roles, and workplace culture as well as attitudes towards employees with family responsibilities. Economic, psychological and social vulnerability are expected to increase in Europe in the near and more distant future. Experts responding to an online questionnaire developed by FamiliesAndSocieties researchers were most pessimistic regarding psychological vulnerability (stress, anxiety, depression). Eight out of ten expect an increase in psychological vulnerability in the next five years (2015-2020), and three-quarters expect such an increase between 2020 and 2050.

According to the experts, the most important driver influencing the future vulnerability of families with children is economic development. The experts referred to (un)employment and inequality in earnings as relevant to all three aspects of vulnerability studied. In contrast, parents who responded to the questionnaire emphasised changes in family policies and in the reconciliation of family life and professional work. If no dramatic

economic changes occur, gender arrangements and family policy are likely to primarily shape the future well-being of families with children. Regarding the “refugee crisis” of recent years, the experts expect it to contribute to the growth of vulnerability in all three aspects in the next five years (2015–2020), and to further increase social vulnerability in the long run. As social vulnerability includes stigmatisation, discrimination, and lack of social support, this result raises concerns as to the social cohesion of European societies in the near future.

3. FamiliesAndSocieties’ policy recommendations

3.1 Policy recommendations: Family diversity, vulnerability and challenges

- Policy makers ought to be aware of the remarkable diversity of family forms and relationships in contemporary Europe, and aim for a better understanding of the nature and mechanisms of family constellations beyond married couples with children.

3.1.1 Recognizing and supporting single-parent families

- Policies should have a greater focus on single-parent families as they are a growing family form and should not be an afterthought in family, economic and labour market policies. Single-parent families should be explicitly considered and addressed in all family policy discussions and decisions. For example, home-care cash allowances, which are paid to a parent who abstains from employment to take care for her child at home, can have significant consequences encouraging lower levels of female employment among single-parent families which in turn results in higher childhood poverty.
- Work-life balance policies and workplace practices also need to take into account a single-parent perspective, for example, the impact of non-standard work hours when child care is not available.
- The provision of educational and skill-building opportunities and affordable quality day care become even more urgent in families with single parents. Such families should have a higher priority and subsidized access to child care facilities.
- Governmental agencies should be established to facilitate child support payment from non-resident parents in case of conflicts, disagreements or delayed payments, e.g., after a divorce or separation.

3.1.2 Recognizing stepfamilies

- Laws, policy and practices should be reviewed to avoid negative connotations and discrimination with respect to stepfamilies vis-a-vis the nuclear family model.
- Appropriate non-discriminatory terms should be introduced and promoted for various family relationships in stepfamilies. For

example, in Sweden stepchildren are called bonus children. A glossary of terms for different family forms and their members in European countries and beyond may help to reduce negative attitudes and expectations towards such family constellations.

- Bias in favour of uni-local nuclear families as well as biologically-based relationships should be negated, as biased policies place a strain on stepchildren and their families, sending implicit messages about the ‘ideal’ family and those not measuring up to this ideal. A fundamental challenge is creating the legal and policy parameters necessary for equal consideration of children regardless of the family type they live in, i.e. with a nuclear family or a different family form.
- A key policy challenge relates to the lack of defined social and legal norms that can provide guidance as to the roles and behaviours of stepfamilies – an issue increasingly relevant for other contemporary family forms. Accordingly, consultative and legal guidance is necessary, especially for stepfamilies not based on marriage as well as for multi-local living constellations.
- Policies should be child-centred and designed more from the perspective of the children, and in the best interests of the children, rather than from the perspectives of the parents. One example here is the legal recognition of more than two parents.
- A legal system which grants parental responsibility for a child to more than two people can offer the opportunity to clarify and legally and symbolically consolidate the role of a stepparent, and create greater behavioural security for all those involved. It also represents a sign of recognition for the efforts which stepparents as social parents undertake in rearing and caring for children.
- A legal recognition of the commitments of stepparents with corresponding sets of rights and obligations could resolve ambiguities and thus support phases of adjustment following transitions. The position of stepparents in the family proves to be particularly fragile, not least because the role is hardly secured by law. The way by which this role is defined today is highly dependent on individual negotiation processes and the support and mediation of the children’s biological parents. While this leaves much flexibility for adaptations and rearrangements in family practice, it provides little guidance for distributing and sharing parental responsibilities in complex multi-parent family constellations.

3.1.3 Supporting large families

- Policies need to take into consideration that large families have higher risks of vulnerability than average size families. Raising many children can be very expensive and time-intensive, hence different policy designs should be sought to lighten this burden through appropriate social protection regimes including formal child care and other services.
- State policies and employer practices ought to be co-designed to promote a sustainable work-life balance. Where employers and/or labour market policies ignore parental duties, a parent may be forced to work part time or not at all, especially in families with three or more children due to the need to co-ordinate time schemes of several family members. Psychological, social and economic vulnerabilities can then arise. More flexible work schedules for caregivers, state support and affordable and easily accessible quality child care facilities can improve this situation.
- Policies are generally needed to raise employer awareness of family issues. It is beneficial for employers to invest in their employees' well-being and in supporting them in their parental roles. It should be noted that employer attitudes towards parents influence the situation of families to a great degree. The workplace culture is also a decisive factor with respect to parenting.

3.1.4 Removing barriers for same-sex partnership families

- The legal recognition of same-sex marriages, civil partnerships and the recognition of certain rights, such as inheritance, filiation, citizenship, social protection and security, tax regimes, and company fringe benefits is needed to eliminate discrimination against this family form.
- Family laws and practices need to be adjusted in order to provide better statutory recognition of parents regardless of their gender, sexual orientation or number. The strict two-parent per child constellation should be abandoned, allowing for more parents, in this way also protecting the child from discrimination.
- Much remains to be done for multi-parent families. By making it impossible for a child to have more than two legal parents, a barrier is imposed on the well-being of family members in these existing constellations. From a practical and emotional point of

view, acknowledging multi-parent families in the law is necessary.

- Policies with respect to childbearing and same-sex couples, access to ART and adoption, are needed. In countries where the laws facilitate access to parenthood, the situation is more favourable, even if dissimilar social and economic circumstances compared to different-sex partnership families can generate other inequalities. The law ought to ensure equal access to these possibilities for all citizens.
- The lack of recognition generates inequalities. In the more legally advanced countries, equal access to marriage and parenting rights have been described as a necessity in the process of achieving equity. Equal treatment is an essential legal, social and economic basis for pursuing further ideals. As access to marriage brings same-sex couples and families face to face with heteronormative structures, their inclusion in society adds to diversity by actually de-standardising heterosexual family forms.

3.1.5 Empowering immigrant families

- Policymakers must consider the variety and complexity of family forms when elaborating immigration policies. Particularly, links between admission and integration policies should be strengthened.
- European visa policies and practices should be adjusted to facilitate family life across borders. In particular, countries should facilitate issuing temporary visas for minors that allow children in the country of origin to visit their parents.
- Policies should be attentive to the needs of large families regardless of ethnic and/or cultural backgrounds, and ensure that social and housing policies support all families.
- Granting early and universal access to day-care, preschool, out of school care and recreation is one of the most efficient interventions to reduce disadvantages among immigrant children. Allowing immediate schooling for illegal or asylum-seeking families will give them support in learning the language and avoiding delays in their educational process.
- Countries should invest more in strengthening the skills of professionals working with immigrant families, such as teachers, social workers, community- and human service workers. It is also important to raise awareness about these career options.

3.1.6 Recognizing living apart together relationships

- Legal and policy recognition of LAT relations in their different forms is desirable, with a focus on removing economic, social, and psychological constraints for such households to shape their own life courses.

3.2 Policy recommendations: Generational challenges

- Policies to tackle generational challenges need to consider the interdependences of lives, families, generations and age-groups.

3.2.1 Holistic approach: Youths and the transition to adulthood

- From a policy perspective, more direct supports to youth are needed in most European countries. Financial independence is fundamental to being considered an adult. However, the achievement of self-sufficiency is a process that requires state support.
- Greater self-sufficiency can be achieved through policies and practices that prevent early school leaving, by promoting a wider and better combination of work experience during studies, and through welfare policies that support youth directly instead of through their parents; social and tax assistance, housing, educational and vocational incentives that aim to facilitate their transition to independence.
- Providing youth who lack education or employment, with a second chance to obtain qualifications later in life is also a key measure for societies to be more inclusive. Such measures also promote life-long learning.

3.2.2 Balancing the lives of adult children and older parents

- Law and policies in this area will have to assess the practices and the effects of private care as well as of any privatization of social services for all individuals involved; i.e. for care receivers and for caregivers. Persistent or increased familiasation of care places additional stress on the balance of paid and unpaid work by women, as they are the vast majority of caregivers.

- Greater attention should be paid to the elderly as a source of support for others: the feeling of usefulness can have a positive impact on the health of the elderly, as well as their life satisfaction and quality of life.
- The aim of a caregiving policy must be to make care an easier and more sustainable choice for older adults and their families. Family carers (as providers of instrumental support) should not be solely responsible for the care of frail individuals. Greater reliance on family caregivers can cause emotional distress and higher levels of loneliness, even depression in the person receiving care as well as the person providing care.
- As adults are expected to stay longer in the labour market, reconciliation of care and work should be supported by implementing care leaves not limited to care for young children, reducing working hours and allowing for greater flexibility in work time for carers in need. Here, measures counteracting gender inequality in private care provision have to be included.

3.2.3 Humanizing the privatization of care

- Laws and policies and practices with respect to the privatization and marketization of care need to assess the practices of privatized/marketized care and the effects that such privatization has on the individuals hired, their work situation and well-being.
- Care workers in privatized/marketized environments have little protection or voice, so that policies need to strengthen their working terms and conditions. As such workers are often migrants, additional attention should be paid to their specific policy needs (e.g., cross-border family situation, social-security, residential, language issues).
- Policies should also address the potential mismatch between those individuals in greatest need of external care, and those who can afford to purchase such services.

3.3 Policy recommendations: Care and the well-being of children

3.3.1 Supporting parenting

- Family-friendly policies, such as parental leave, must consider both parents, as time investments by parents are separable. Policies encouraging and supporting parents' efforts to spend more time with their children during the early stages of development and policies promoting high-quality formal child care, out of school care and leisure time centres have positive impacts on child outcomes.
- Affordable child care, out of school care and recreation should be available, given the positive association between formal child care and positive child outcomes. Child care can provide a channel to reduce inequality gaps, as it benefits disadvantaged and/or marginalized children most if there is affordable quality child care. Hence, there is a strong case for providing public funding of early childhood programs for disadvantaged and/or marginalized children.
- Child care policies also ought to consider the timing of any interventions according to its effectiveness in improving child development, as well as duration (and age of entry) of enrolment in child care. Preliminary evidence indicates that longer external care, particularly more than 36 months of formal care, improves the child's early communication and verbal skills. The empirical findings suggest that early investments (private and public) in children are likely to significantly increase cognitive outcomes and are crucial to success later in life.

3.3.2 Minimizing the negative outcomes of separation/divorce

- From a policy perspective, divorce rates are not significantly affected by divorce legislation in the long term. Any policy shift towards stricter regulation of divorce may not create more stable unions, particularly as much of modern family life occurs outside the institution of marriage.
- States should not discriminate against any family form and not prioritise marriages over other types of family arrangements.
- Fathers and mothers should have the same rights and obligations before and after a divorce or separation with respect to children.

- The promotion of co-parenting after a family break-up is beneficial for children where there is no parental conflict. When there is conflict during or after the dissolution, this should be tackled first before setting up a co-parenting strategy and parental plan. Co-parenting means more than equally shared time: It is two parents remaining equally involved and making all possible efforts to make important decisions together concerning a child, regardless of the time spent with the child.
- Formal parenting agreements and plans might be a positive next step towards successful co-parenting after divorce or separation.
- Income transfers and policies aimed at helping divorced/separated parents find and maintain employment can be effective in combating the financial consequences of break-up and thus also weaken long-term negative effects on the children of separated and divorced parents.
- Targeting psychological stressors and their effects on parenting and other social relationships, the availability of mediation/conciliation and counselling programmes are of great importance and key to successful family transitions.
- In general, all policies aimed at reducing social and economic inequalities and strengthening reconciliation of family and professional life will also help in reducing children's disadvantages and challenges associated with parents' divorce or separation.

3.4 Policy recommendations: Promoting a work-life balance

- Both labour market and family policies aimed at better reconciliation of work and family responsibilities are required to support new gender roles and the reallocation of paid and unpaid work between women and men.
- Policies strengthening women's position as an economic provider and men's role as a child care giver are of primary relevance. An increased uptake of leave by fathers contributes not only to enhancing their role as care givers but also strengthens mothers' employment and career prospects and professional development.
- Parental leave policies ought to be individualized to each parent having a certain number of days that cannot be transferred to the other parent ("use it or lose it"). This gives an incentive for both

parents to take leave, and help counteract the economic incentives of the higher income earner taking no leave and transferring the days to the other parent, usually the mother. Such policies also improve the wage and pension prospects of the parent who earns less by not being away from the labour force for a long period of time. Moreover, the individualization of parental leave is changing workplace cultures and attitudes by enabling fathers to take longer leaves making it an accepted norm in the workplace. Thus these policies will also further gender equality. The research demonstrates that men who take longer parental leave also shoulder a larger share of the household chores even after the leave has ended.

- Parental leave needs to be affordable. Income substitutes, transfers or benefits should replace a sufficiently high share of a parent's previous income to make parental leave taking feasible for all parents. Low flat-rate benefits are not only a disincentive for men to take parental leave but they also increase the poverty risk for low income families and single parents.
- Working time and flexibility are labour policy measures of crucial relevance for balancing work and family demands for parents, particularly in light of new gender roles. Fathers with care responsibilities ought to have the option of reducing working hours, which will enhance active fatherhood and help strengthen the mothers' position in the labour market. Currently, balancing work and care demands is managed predominantly by mothers, especially with children aged 0-3, either by withdrawing from the labour market or moving to part-time employment.
- Legal, policy and practice provisions designed for families should be reviewed, considering ways of addressing their formal as well as de facto 'mothers only' provisions. Parents' decisions are very much governed by the possibilities offered. For example, a parental benefit/child care allowance may at first glance appear gender neutral, but referring to a specific division of leave such as '12+2', '15+3' etc. suggests that mothers still take the larger share and fathers take two or three months of leave afterwards, reproducing and sustaining gender inequality.
- Laws, policies and practices can also be assessed as to the representation of the role of men and women in the public sphere. Adding baby change units in men's toilets or creating gender-free baby change units, promoting household utensils and baby products linked to men, ensuring that wording of bureaucratic

forms and political programmes is addressed to women as well as men, are a few possibilities of making the public sensitive to gender-specific structures and, subsequently, open to gender-free structures. Father and child programmes can also be established. Here there is a need to parent-proof communication.

- Policy must address the cultural values in specific national contexts, e.g. regarding the perception and acceptance of different family constellations. Cultural values also have to be taken into account, as they are important for de-gendering social relations and fostering more equal gender relations between women and men, between mothers and fathers.

3.5 Policy recommendations: The challenges of childlessness and ART

- As in recent decades a substantial share of the European population has become highly educated, especially women in childbearing ages who increasingly delay having the first child with diminishing fecundity as a consequence, it is essential for policy-forming and making to gain a better understanding regarding the impact of education on fertility.
- Policy-makers should consider not only medical safety, affordability and economic factors concerning ART, but also the normative and cultural values surrounding human embryos, which often shape national norms and subsequent policies.
- More programs on ART, fecundity and fertility awareness should exist. ART treatments were found to not be an effective policy instrument to counter low fertility as they only contributed between 0.04-0.06 to the overall birth rate. Currently, women over 40 are the fastest growing group of ART users, but they are also the ones with the most limited rates of success.
- A serious gap in the rules should be addressed regarding in-vitro fertilization surrogacy, which often takes place across different countries and with various parties of different nationalities subject to a variety of laws and lack of clarity regarding ART offspring.
- Transparency is required over non-anonymous sperm and egg donation, considering not only the rights of the parents or the 'third' parent, but also the rights and needs of ART offspring.

- Acknowledging and developing policies for reproductive care across borders is paramount for ART regulation. ART should not be seen in isolation, but rather tied into policy regarding all human reproduction and family law in societies. Continuing to deal with these different policy realms in isolation means that we risk falling seriously behind in understanding fertility events that are already happening.
- There needs to be considerably more effort to improve the quality and accuracy of both childless and ART policy-level and usage data across Europe. Greater standardization is needed of data collection of ART treatments and their outcomes. It is important to move beyond data collected and not publicly-available from commercial clinics. National databases could also allow cross-border reproductive care to be registered properly and most importantly, support should be provided for patients who return and who are often in legally diffuse situations.

3.6 Policy recommendations: Foresight towards the well-being of families and sustainable societies

- Policy measures aiming to prevent/reduce the reproduction of vulnerability in families ought to be broad, complementary and embedded into a comprehensive strategy. They should comprise services addressing the needs of particularly vulnerable children as well as reconciliation policies, educational policies, care policies and other policy measures.
- Education and information are key policy issues. Education of children reduces inequality in children's life chances as adults. Information and counselling for parents helps them cope with parental roles, and raising awareness of employers—and society at large—enhances the understanding of challenges faced by parents.
- A better understanding of policy interventions that can most effectively prevent the transfer of parents' vulnerability to their children is needed. Operative policy monitoring would be helpful. In monitoring, policy measures need to be evaluated not only from the perspective of the well-being of families at present but also with regard to their impact on vulnerability reproduction across generations. Another aim is to facilitate acceptance of

policy measures among parents, to avoid frustration and inefficiency.

- Decreasing unemployment and inequalities in earnings in society at large is necessary if negative future developments with respect to economic, psychological and social vulnerability are to be prevented/reduced. In addition, measures strengthening the integration of current and future immigrants should be promoted in particular, in order to maintain social cohesion.
- To be able to design policies for sustainable societies we need to extend our knowledge on the new roles of men and women and their implications for families and societies. Hence, new empirical evidence, either in a comparative perspective or concerning specific countries, is needed, but only a few large datasets in Europe are currently suited for researching the complexity of families.
- To gain more and enhanced insights into the daily family life of complex family structures, we need similar datasets for European countries, providing for comparative European analyses. Moreover, longitudinal studies would enhance the understanding of family formation and dissolution processes. A special focus on various family members (especially children) would be particularly helpful here.
- Data on family-related life-course transitions must be linked to educational and labour market biographies along with some information on the economic situation and views on gender attitudes. In addition to developing country-specific datasets in accordance with national needs and resources, more attention should be given to international data. For example, the GGS (Generations and Gender Survey) database seems to be a good starting point for further developments. As for the regular Eurostat surveys, such as LFS (Labour Force Survey) and EU-SILC (European Union Statistics on Income and Living Conditions), their modifications already suggested and being discussed would significantly increase their value for research on family change and gender and their implications for the society.

4. FamiliesAndSocieties’ overview of best practices

The civil society organization partners of the FamiliesAndSocieties consortium, with the International Federation for Family Development (IFFD) leading the work, present a collection of practices¹ focusing on dimensions of family well-being, such as the need for education, economic stability, intergenerational solidarity and work-family reconciliation. This is a collection of good practices contributing to family well-being as taken both on the state and civil society levels. Developed mostly at grass roots levels, with the exception of several international efforts, these best practice examples are not universal models. However, the results of these practices are encouraging as they seem to have a true positive impact on people’s life at a personal and social level.

4.1 Best practices – Vulnerable families and marginalisation

Several of the best practices targeted vulnerable families and the care of children. The *Community Mothers’ Program* was first started in Dublin (1989) by the Health Service Executive, a public organization responsible for the provision of healthcare and personal social services for everyone living in Ireland, to help vulnerable children, supporting parenting and assisting with child care. The program focuses on promoting parent capacity and parent empowerment, specifically by developing parenting skills and enhancing parents’ self-esteem. The objective of the initiative is to support vulnerable families with children and provide a quality and alternative children care trainings. The program targets first-time parents living in disadvantaged areas (low-income families): young children (age 0 to 5) and adults (age 20+). Community mothers are volunteers who were first identified by local public health nurses. They are trained and eventually have five to fifteen families which they monitor through monthly home visits during the first year of a child’s life. Another similar program is *Home Start* in the UK, which is run by volunteers and targets families and mothers with little experience or social support network, who may have minor but not serious physical or mental health issues. *Welfare to work* in Ireland has the objective of training single parent families to help them find employment by building confidence and providing mentoring and key-working support.

¹ For the full report of best practices see the project website, Working Paper Series.

The importance of early education is the rationale of several best practices initiatives. *Parler bambin* (“Speaking Toddlers”) in France has the objective of stimulating language development. There is a strong link between the family’s low social background and the learning difficulties of children who do not have enough words and language skills, because of a lack of parent’s stimulation. In the program, the early childhood educators are trained to develop the language skills for toddlers and use all means to incite all day long an interactive conversation with each child to stimulate them. The aim of the project is to enhance early conversation with toddlers to improve future learning. *Right to education for irregular migrants* in Belgium is a program created by the state to provide educational opportunities for undocumented children in Belgium. The *Education Cooperation Program* in Germany, initiated by the Red Cross, has reached more than 17,500 families through easily accessible consultations measures, promoting topics like children’s development and education within parent-child-groups, day care facilities, family centres, immigration counselling, parents’ café’s in schools or other facilities where parents can be approached.

Several of the best practices had the objective of making public services more easily available to families, either by creating one location in which the family could meet a team, providing help to families in filling in forms, or creating a system of feedback to municipalities. *Barnablick* (“Through the eyes of the child”) in Sweden provides open family nights where children and families can informally meet a team of government social workers at a central location. The team informs the children and their families about and offers various supportive services, all under the same roof, with the same social worker. Through formative evaluation, observation and feedback, it is possible to tailor various services on a continuous basis to most effectively meet both short and long term needs of the child and the family. The target group is children aged 8 to 15 years, and their networks, who live at the “margin.” The families reached are often isolated, segregated, have language difficulties and generally are economically poor. More than 80% are single mothers with a non-Swedish background, often a non-European/non-western background. The *Yo voy* (“I go”) project in Spain provides volunteers who help large families apply for social benefits.

Autarquias Familiarmente Responsáveis (“Family Responsible Municipalities”) in Portugal provides feedback to municipalities as to

maternity and paternity services, support for families in special need, basic services, education and formation, housing, transportation, health, culture, sports, leisure, institutional relations and social participation. Those municipalities found to be implementing best practices in these areas are recognized and designated as “Family Responsible Municipalities.”

Several programs are dedicated to helping families have leisure time, such as *Vacanze solidali* (“Solidarity vacations”) in Italy, giving the possibility to large families with little or no economic resources to spend one or two weeks of holidays in the countryside with other families. The program is run based on donations. *Leisure program for families* in Spain is very similar, providing discounts to families. *Hoy salimos* (“Today we went out”) is another Spanish program providing leisure opportunities for children and adults with disabilities to connect with a volunteer for leisure excursions.

4.2 Best practices – Generational challenges

Two of the initiatives taken up concerned the transition of youths to adulthood. *National youth policy development program: youth’s transition to adulthood and economic independence* in Lithuania address the transition to adulthood and economic independence, an area of concern for post-socialist regimes such as Lithuania. Youth centres are established involving young people in acceptable and meaningful activities in a youth-friendly environment and are helping to prepare young people, especially from disadvantaged families, in their transition to adulthood, helping them to find a job. The objective is to foster youth employment. The centres are created through a coalition of youth, employers and the state. *1 Toit 2 Áges ASBL* (“1 Roof 2 Ages”) in Belgium aids students younger than 30 years looking for a home, to be placed with an elderly person with a spare room at home, or in a family with children. This helps to fight against the loneliness of the elderly or helps a family, while giving students the opportunity to have a quiet accommodation conducive to their academic success.

One intergenerational initiative is *The Betties* in Belgium, an intergenerational choir including persons with dementia. The objective is to stimulate encounters between people with and without dementia through the experience of singing and performing together with younger people.

4.3 Best practices – Care and well-being of children

Several of the best practices initiatives focus on the well-being of families as such. The *IFFD Family Enrichment courses* in Spain and 66 other countries help families build stronger and happier relationships through strengthening the role of parents by attending parenting courses. A case method is used to help transmit to parents the knowledge, skills and attitudes they need to be able to execute their roles as parents. *Be a couple* in Portugal works to promote and support a broad variety of initiatives for families and married couples including a training program for couples to increase knowledge on marriage and improve family functioning and personal well-being. *Incredible years* in the UK, Ireland, Denmark, Norway, Sweden and Portugal consists of twelve weeks of 2-2.5 hours parenting sessions designed to teach parents how to recognize and treat their child's emotional and behavioural problems through positive parenting. The program also addresses barriers to attendance by offering transportation, providing lunch, and ensuring access to child care. *Szkoła Letnia Akademii Familijnej* ("Family Enrichment Summer School") in Poland combines a family vacation with parental training. *FamilyFutures* in the Czech Republic also provides parenting classes and family coaching. *Empowering Parents with the Child in Focus* in Sweden teaches parents how to set limits, discipline, handle disappointment and aggression, or to help their children mature to their full emotional and intellectual potential.

4.4 Best practices – Work-family reconciliation

Family resources in the form of child care is the focus of *Family Nurseries* in Italy. The project offers educational and care services for children up to the age of 3 in small nurseries of up to 6 children run by a private individual, a mother.

Two of the best practices measure different aspects of family and work life. *Family Responsible Employer Index* (IFREI) is found in Spain and 23 other countries. The IFREI Study analyses the environment in which people work. Since 1999 it issues a diagnosing degree of the Corporate Family Responsibility (CFR) and its impact on individuals, families, society. IFREI also checks the results of companies in order to promote, in business, leadership, culture, reconciliation policies that facilitate the integration of work, family and personal lives of employees. Over 30,000 people from 23 countries on five continents have been involved to date.

The Family pressure gauge was launched in 2011 in the UK by the Relationships Foundation, a think tank for a better-connected society. The index provides a framework for press and policy comment and promotes greater awareness of ways in which families can be undermined, and may be supported. The aim of the index is to bring clarity to what family friendliness' means, to show the Government where most effective action can be taken and enable voters to hold them to account, measuring progress towards the goal of making Britain the “most family friendly” country in Europe.

5. The FamiliesAndSocieties consortium

The FamiliesAndSocieties consortium involved 25 research partners and 3 transnational civil society actor partners. The general coordination of the project was carried out at Stockholm University by project coordinator Associate Professor Livia Sz. Oláh, who was assisted by a management team comprising Professor Gunnar Andersson and Associate Professor Gerda Neyer and the Stockholm University Research Liaison Office for the administrative and financial coordination.

The project coordinator and management team benefited from the advice and suggestions of the Advisory Board consisting of distinguished scholars on the family in Europe and the United States, EU-politicians and independent experts:

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- Anna Hedh, European Parliament, Brussels, Belgium
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- Karl Ulrich Mayer, President, Leibniz Association, Germany; Stanley B. Resor Emeritus Professor of Sociology, Yale University, USA; Director Emeritus, Max Planck Institute for Human Development, Germany
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- Elizabeth Thomson, Professor of Demography, Stockholm University, Sweden and Professor of Sociology, Emerita, University of Wisconsin-Madison, USA
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The scientific coordination was supported by the Steering Committee comprising all work package co-leaders who are leading experts as to the central WP topics and who also carried out the WP management. The third level of management structure in the consortium was the General Assembly, comprising a representative of each partner.

The partners in the FamiliesAndSocieties consortium

The consortium involved 25 research partners and 3 transnational civil society actor partners:

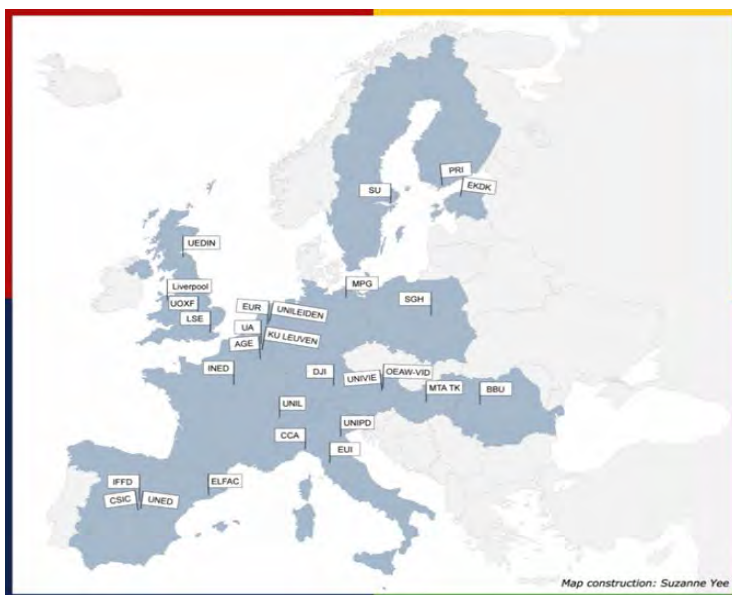
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- P5: Institut National D'etudes Demographiques (INED)
- P6: University of Vienna (UNIVIE)
- P7: University of Groningen (RUG)* Participation terminated in July 2014
- P8: European University Institute (EUI)
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- P14: European Large Families Confederation (ELFAC)
- P15: Consejo Superior de Investigaciones Cientificas (CSIC)
- P16: Tallinn University (TU – until September 2015: EKDK)
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- P27: Warsaw School of Economics (SGH)
- P28: Centre for Social Sciences, Hungarian Academy of Sciences (MTA TK)
- P29: The University of Oxford (UOXF)* entered the consortium in August 2014

The consortium member countries in FamiliesAndSocieties covered four geographic areas:

- Northern Europe: Sweden, Finland, UK
- Western Europe: Austria, Belgium, France, Germany, the Netherlands, Switzerland
- Southern Europe: Italy, Spain
- Central-Eastern Europe: Estonia, Hungary, Poland, Romania

These countries also represented different welfare state and care regime models:

- Universal Scandinavian welfare regime: Sweden, Finland
- Liberal regime: UK, Switzerland
- Conservative welfare regime: Austria, Belgium, France, Germany, the Netherlands
- Mediterranean familistic regime: Italy, Spain
- Post-socialist welfare regime: Estonia, Hungary, Poland, Romania



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- Dept. of Socio-Economic and Mathematical Statistical Sciences
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FamiliesAndSocieties Stakeholders

The consortium had nine international and nearly 70 national stakeholders² whose representatives regularly participated at consortium meetings and many were actively involved in the work of the Foresight work package. Civil society was represented by three transnational civil society partners; IFFD – associations from 62 countries all over the world (incl. all European countries), ELFAC – associations in 17 European countries and AGE – a European network of ca. 165 organizations. In total the consortium had direct access to expertise on 20 countries, taking into account also the expertise of Advisory Board members and stakeholders.

Population Europe (a collaborative network of 30 leading demographic research institutes and over 200 experts) was responsible for the dissemination of the project findings through social media (Facebook, Twitter), newsletters, digests (short summaries of research findings for the general public), policy briefs and annual stakeholder seminars. Consortium members played an active role also with respect to the presentation of findings via media as well as expert and policy meetings. The project website (www.familiesandsocieties.eu) was established and maintained by the coordinator Stockholm University. Over seventy working papers, sixty-nine articles, eight book chapters, one book and four databases have been published at the website so far, and further materials will be added throughout the year of 2017.

² See the project website for the complete list of stakeholders

Work packages in the FamiliesAndSocieties project

The work in the FamiliesAndSocieties project was organized in twelve work packages:

Work package 1: Project management

Leader: Livia Sz. Oláh (SU)

This WP covered the scientific and administrative coordination of the project, including the coordination and supervision of the research carried out in the WPs, overall administrative and financial management, organization of consortium meetings and reporting to the EC.

Participating partner: Stockholm University (SU)

Work package 2: Diverse family configurations – Life goals and life course transitions

Co-leaders: Dimitri Mortelmans (UA) & Ariane Pailhé (INED)

This WP focused on the dynamic evolution of family constellations and non-standard families. A dynamic life course perspective was invoked to study the genesis, evolution, dissolution and recomposition of families in Europe and to study the prevalence of non-standard family forms in Europe.

Participating partners:

- Austrian Academy of Sciences/Vienna Institute of Demography (OEAW-VID)
- Max Planck Institute for Demographic Research (MPG)
- University of Antwerp (UA)
- Institut National D'études Demographiques (INED)
- The University of Liverpool (Liverpool)
- Consejo Superior de Investigaciones Científicas (CSIC)
- Vaestoliitto RY (PRI)
- University of Padova – Department of Statistical Sciences (UNIPD)

Work package 3: The new roles of men and women and implications for families and societies

Co-leaders: Rudolf Richter (UNIVIE) & Irena Kotowska (SGH)

This WP addressed the complex interplay between the new roles of women and men and the diversity of family life courses in contemporary Europe. The impact of different policy contexts on new constructions of gender in doing family was also examined.

Participating partners:

- Stockholm University (SU)
- Institut National D'études Demographiques (INED)
- University of Vienna (UNIVIE)
- Collegio Carlo Alberto (CCA)
- Tallinn University (TU)
- Babeş-Bolyai University (BBU)
- German Youth Institute (DJI)
- University of Leuven (K.U.LEUVEN)
- London School of Economics and Political Science (LSE)
- University of Lausanne (UNIL)
- University of Padova – Department of Statistical Sciences (UNIPD)
- Warsaw School of Economics (SGH)
- Centre for Social Sciences, Hungarian Academy of Sciences (MTA TK)

Work package 4: The changing role of children and societal implications: Assisted reproduction, late fertility and childlessness

Co-leaders: Melinda Mills (UOXF) & Maria Letizia Tanturri (UNIPD)

The broader objective of this WP was to examine the changing role of children, with a specific focus on the rise, determinants and societal consequences of assisted reproduction, late fertility and childlessness.

Participating partners:

- Austrian Academy of Sciences/Vienna Institute of Demography (OEAW-VID)
- The University of Oxford (UOXF)
- Babeş-Bolyai University (BBU)
- Vaestoliitto RY (PRI)
- University of Padova – Department of Statistical Sciences (UNIPD)
- Centre for Social Sciences, Hungarian Academy of Sciences (MTA TK)

Work package 5: Family dynamics and inequalities in children's life chances

Co-leaders: Juho Härkönen (SU) & Fabrizio Bernardi (EUI)

This WP analysed the effects of family forms and dynamics on children's short- and long-term welfare, and how families contribute to the intergenerational reproduction of inequality.

Participating partners:

- Stockholm University (SU)
- University of Antwerp (UA)
- European University Institute (EUI)
- London School of Economics and Political Science (LSE)
- Vaestoliitto RY (PRI)
- Universidad Nacional de Educación a Distancia (UNED)
- University of Padova – Department of Statistical Sciences (UNIPD)

Work package 6: Child care arrangements: determinants and consequences

Co-leaders: Daniela del Boca & Chiara Monfardini (CCA)

The WP explored child care arrangements (parental care, family member care, public child care, private care) and the determinants and consequences of their use for different families and family members.

Participating partners:

- Austrian Academy of Sciences/Vienna Institute of Demography (OEAW-VID)
- Collegio Carlo Alberto (CCA)
- Vaestoliitto RY (PRI)
- The University of Edinburgh (UEDIN)

Work package 7: Intergenerational linkages in the family: The organization of caring and financial responsibilities

Co-leaders: Pearl Dykstra & Niels Schenk [Febr. 2013 - May 2014] / Kasia Karpinska [June 2014 – Jan. 2017] (EUR)

This WP investigated how policy contexts shape the organization of care (practical help, personal care and emotional assistance) and financial responsibilities for young and old family members, and their well-being.

Participating partners:

- Erasmus University Rotterdam (EUR)
- Consejo Superior de Investigaciones Científicas (CSIC)
- Babeş-Bolyai University (BBU)
- Warsaw School of Economics (SGH)

Work package 8: New Europeans – Social Inclusion of Migrant and Ethnic Minority Families

Co-leaders: Hill Kulu (Liverpool) & Amparo González-Ferrer (CSIC)

This WP examined family trajectories among immigrants and ethnic minorities with a focus on partnership changes and childbearing. The role

of institutional factors and government policies in shaping the family patterns of immigrants and their descendants was also investigated.

Participating partners:

- Stockholm University (SU)
- Max Planck Institute for Demographic Research (MPG)
- Institut National D'études Demographiques (INED)
- The University of Liverpool (Liverpool)
- Consejo Superior de Investigaciones Científicas (CSIC)
- Tallinn University (TU)
- Babeş-Bolyai University (BBU)
- Vaestoliitto RY (PRI)
- University of Lausanne (UNIL)

Work package 9: Policies and diversity over the life course

Co-leaders: Olivier Thévenon (INED) & Gerda Neyer (SU)

This WP gathered comparative and EU-level policy information to map out and analyse crucial family-policy issues in Europe and explore the role of social and family policies in essential aspects of family and life-course developments. Particular attention was given to non-standard families and family members in vulnerable situations or in crucial life-course transitions. The WP produced two databases: The first a database of legal issues regarding same-sex and different sex families, and the second a database on EU family policies initiatives.

Participating partners:

- Stockholm University (SU)
- Institut National D'études Demographiques (INED)
- Leiden University – Campus The Hague (UNILEIDEN)
- Universidad Nacional de Educación a Distancia (UNED)

Work package 10: Foresight activities

Co-leaders: Dimiter Philipov & Thomas Fent [Febr. 2013 - Jan. 2016] / Bernhard Riederer [Febr. 2016 – Jan. 2017] (OEAW-VID)

The main objective of this WP was to inform policy makers about the impact that family-related policies have in the long run on well-being and meeting family needs. This WP aimed at producing a novel, deeper and more multi-faceted knowledge of the future of families that could contribute best to the knowledge needs of policy makers involved in designing family-oriented interventions and promote the well-being of individuals as well as families.

Participating partners:

- Stockholm University (SU)

- Austrian Academy of Sciences/Vienna Institute of Demography (OEAW-VID)
- University of Antwerp (UA)
- Institut National D'études Demographiques (INED)
- University of Vienna (UNIVIE)
- European University Institute (EUI)
- Collegio Carlo Alberto (CCA)
- Erasmus University Rotterdam (EUR)
- The University of Liverpool (Liverpool)
- International Federation for Family Development (IFFD)
- European Large Families Confederation (ELFAC)
- Consejo Superior de Investigaciones Científicas (CSIC)
- University of Lausanne (UNIL)
- University of Padova – Department of Statistical Sciences (UNIPD)
- Warsaw School of Economics (SGH)
- The University of Oxford (UOXF)

Work package 11: Synthesis and policy implications

Co-leaders: Barbara Hobson & Livia Sz. Oláh (SU)

This WP involved two synthesis tasks: The first is to produce a synthesis of the state of the art, identifying gaps in research areas and guidelines for research directions, with a synthesis of the findings that have emerged from the WPs, the second is to formulate policy recommendations based upon this research and the dissemination meetings with civil society actors and stakeholders.

Participating partners:

- Stockholm University (SU)
- Austrian Academy of Sciences/Vienna Institute of Demography (OEAW-VID)
- International Federation for Family Development (IFFD)
- European Large Families Confederation (ELFAC)

Work package 12: The “FamiliesAndSocieties Forum”

Co-leaders: James W. Vaupel and Andreas Edel (MPG)

This WP disseminated the project findings to the academic community, policy makers, stakeholders, the media and the general public; enhancing the dialogue between policy makers, civil society and research; and updating and extending the Population and Policy Database.

Participating partners:

- Stockholm University (SU)
- Max Planck Institute for Demographic Research (MPG)
- International Federation for Family Development (IFFD)
- Age Platform Europe (AGE)
- European Large Families Confederation (ELFAC)

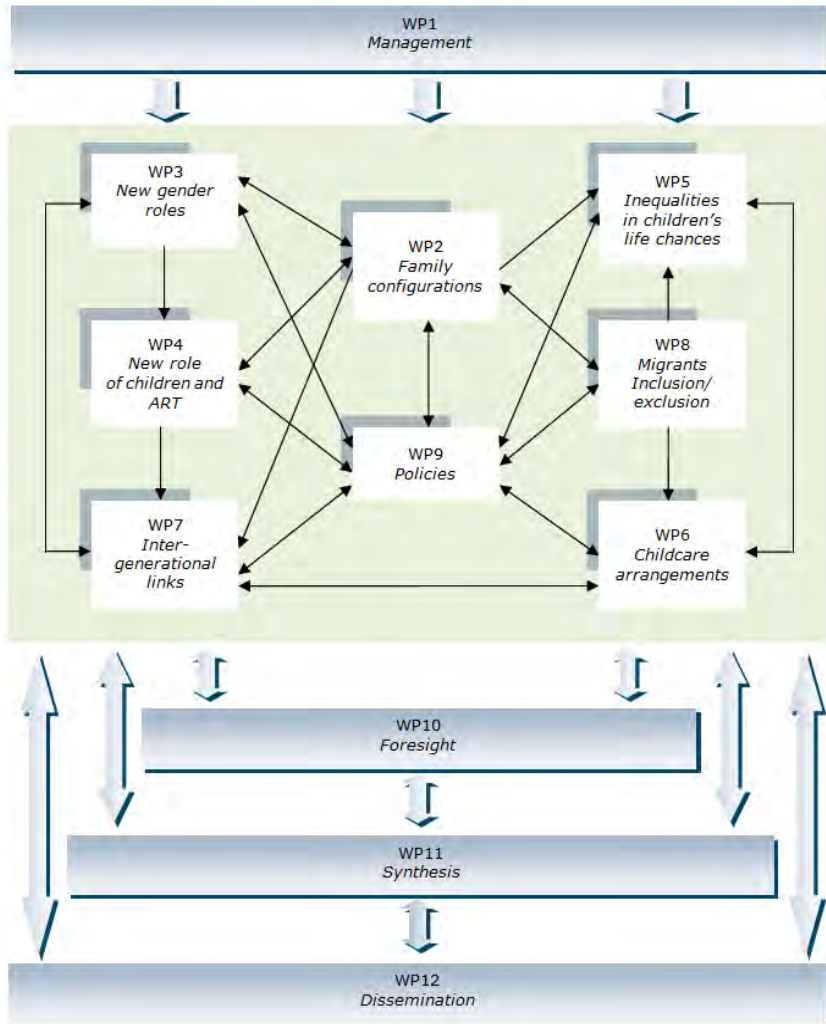


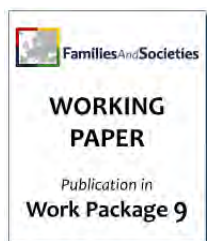
Figure on Work packages and their linkages



6. FamiliesAndSocieties publications

In the period: February 1, 2013 – February 27, 2017

Working papers



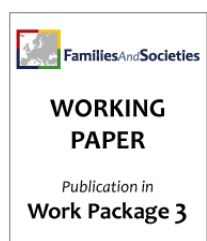
Working paper 72(2017)

Summary of key findings from WP9: Policies and diversity over the life course

By Gerda Neyer

Abstract: This document summarizes the main findings from the research carried out in Work package (WP) 9 on “Policies and Diversity over the Life Course”. We present key results from

our studies (1) on policies directed to young people at the transition to adulthood and self-sufficient living, (2) on preferences, usage, and consequences of parental-leave and fathers’ leave policies on family dynamics; (3) on the legal family formats for same-sex and/or different-sex couples in European countries, (4) on the emergence of private markets and issues of migration and care, and (5) on European Union family-policy initiatives. In our summary, we focus on policy-relevant findings and in particular on those of broader implications for policies, policy directions, and policy design in Europe at large. In concluding we summarize some of the core policy implications of our studies.



Working paper 71(2017)

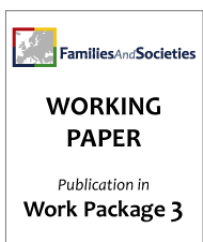
The new roles of men and women and implications for families and societies: Summary report of key findings for WP3

By Livia Sz. Oláh, Rudolf Richter and Irena E. Kotowska

Abstract: This report summarizes the main results produced in Work package (WP) 3 on “The new roles

of men and women and implications for families and societies”. The general objective of WP3 was to address the complex interplay between the new roles of women and men and the diversity of family life courses in contemporary Europe. Moreover, the research aimed to shed more

light on the impact of different policy contexts on new constructions of gender in doing family. To achieve the general objective, four specific objectives were laid out: i) to study women's new role and implications for family dynamics with respect of both women and men; ii) to study the gendered transition to parenthood; iii) to study new gender roles in doing families, and iv) to study coping strategies in family and work reconciliation under conditions of uncertainty and precariousness. In addition to present the main findings, we also discuss the data sources used in the research highlighting ways of improvements to further in-depth knowledge on gender and family developments. A detailed discussion of policy implications with regard to labour market policies, education and value setting ends the report.



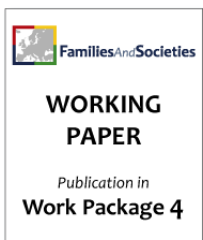
Working paper 70(2017)

Father involvement in the UK: trends in the new millennium

By Ursula Henz

Abstract: In many Western countries, father involvement in childcare has strongly increased during the second half of the 20th century. Policy changes should have arguably sustained the trends in

the UK in the new millennium. This report examines recent changes in father involvement in the UK by analysing the 2000 and 2015 UK Time-Use surveys and compares the patterns with findings from similar analyses for France, Italy and Sweden. The analyses show that fathers in the UK spent more time doing childcare in 2015 compared to 2000 but they spent less total time together with their children. Compared to fathers in France and Sweden, the levels of father involvement in the UK were relatively low. The UK stands out from the other three countries by stronger educational gradients of father involvement on weekends, suggesting cumulative disadvantages of children who grow up in low-educated families.



Working paper 69(2017)

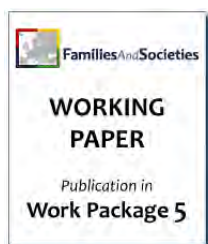
Childlessness and Assisted Reproduction in Europe.

Summary Report of Key Findings for WP4

By Patrick Präg, Tomáš Sobotka, Eevi Lappalainen, Anneli Miettinen, Anna Rotkirch, Judit Takács, Annalisa Donno, Maria Letizia Tanturri, and Melinda Mills

Abstract: This report summarizes key findings of

WP4, which focussed on the areas of childlessness and assisted reproductive technology (ART). We summarize trends, predictors on the macro- and the micro-level as well as narratives pertaining to childlessness. We also synthesize the central findings with respect to ART, showing the prevalence of ART usage across Europe, variation in the regulation of ART, and consequences of the proliferation of ART. These findings provide the strong fundamentals for policy recommendations, in addition to providing evidence of the impact that WP4 already has had.

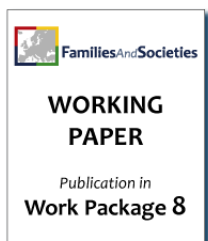


Working paper 68(2017)

Family Dynamics and Inequalities in Children's Life Chances: Summary and Key Findings from WP5

By Diederik Boertien, Fabrizio Bernardi and Juhö Härkönen

Abstract: The landscape of European families has changed dramatically over the last decades. Whereas the post-war era family was characterized by stability and two biological parents, several 'non-traditional' forms have become increasingly more common over time such as single mother and step-families. Most research has focused on the average association between parental separation and child outcomes. The research completed within this WP has aimed to move to more complex questions that involve a greater variety of family forms and that aims to identify situations where family structure has greater or smaller impacts on children's life chances. WP5 has also researched the variation in the effects of different family forms on child outcomes over time, across countries, and between social groups, as well as some of the mechanisms that can be seen responsible for these effects. This final report gives an overview of the research done in WP5, and provides general reflections and recommendations for future research.



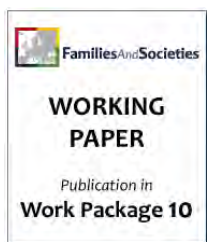
Working paper 67(2017)

Summary Report of the Key Findings for Work Package 8

By Hill Kulu, Tina Hannemann, Amparo González-Ferrer, Gunnar Andersson and Ariane Pailhé

Abstract: The aims of this report are to summarise the main findings of studies on migrant and ethnic minority families in Europe, to discuss how various factors shape family patterns of immigrants and their descendants and to

provide policy recommendations. The analysis of partnership dynamics, mixed marriages and childbearing behaviour shows that there is a significant diversity of partnership patterns and family forms among immigrants and their descendants in European countries. Factors related to family of origin and country of residence are important in explaining differences in partnership and fertility behaviour between population subgroups. Overall, family patterns of the ‘second-generation’ fall in-between those of their parents’ generation and the respective native populations. The differences to natives are expected to further decline in the ‘third generation’, but a significant intra-group heterogeneity will likely persist. Policy-makers should be aware of the diversity of partnership forms and the presence of large families in some minority groups and small families in others and ensure that all families are supported. Children from different types of families should have the same opportunities as those from the ‘average’ families.

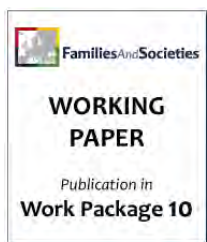


Working paper 66(2017)

Futures of families in times of multifaceted societal changes: a foresight approach

By Bernhard Riederer, Monika Mynarska, Maria Winkler-Dworak, Thomas Fent, Bernhard Rengs and Dimiter Philipov

Abstract: This working paper gives an overview over research activities on the future of the families conducted in the FamiliesAndSocieties project. The foresight approach employed both qualitative and quantitative methods to outline what the future may bring for families in Europe. What will be the most important topics for the future of families in Europe? Which factors might drive the future of families with children and their well-being? Which family types will be in danger of living in vulnerable situations? What policies will be relevant to stop intergenerational vulnerability reproduction? What may be the future consequences of the ongoing “gender revolution” and current refugee flows? The research summarized in the present report will address exactly these and other important questions.

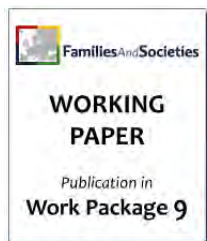


Working paper 65(2017)

Vulnerability of families with children: experts’ opinions about the future and what families think about it

By Bernhard Riederer, Dimiter Philipov and Bernhard Rengs

Abstract: Building upon results of prior focus group research, the present study employs online surveys about possible future developments of the vulnerability of families with children in Europe. In addition, respondents assessed the relevance of societal factors influencing future family well-being and the effectiveness of ten selected policy measures in preventing the intergenerational transfer of vulnerability. One survey was directed at scientists and practitioners who are family experts (N=175). Another survey aimed at exploring the thoughts of parents themselves (N=1,343). Results show that experts are rather pessimistic and even expect vulnerability to increase in the future. In their opinion, the most relevant forces driving future vulnerability seem to be economic development—manifesting itself in unemployment and earnings inequality—and family policy. As for policy measures, childcare availability, early childhood education, assistance for children with special needs and raising awareness of employers for work–family reconciliation were ranked highly for mitigating the reproduction of vulnerability. While parents largely share the opinions of experts with regard to forces relevant for future family well-being, they evaluate some of the policy measures differently: the main disparities concern the assessment of support for stay-at-home mothers and the weight given to education for children after school and during holidays.



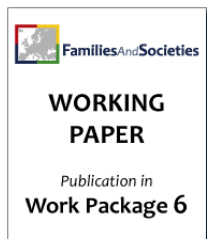
Working paper 64(2016)

The LawsAndFamilies questionnaire on legal family formats for same-sex and/or different-sex couples: Text of the questions and of the accompanying guidance document

By Kees Waaldijk, José María Lorenzo Villaverde, Natalie Nikolina and Giuseppe Zago

Abstract: This Working Paper contains the text of the LawsAndFamilies questionnaire, and the text of the guidance document provided to legal experts answering this questionnaire. These texts are preceded by a brief introduction to the background, aims and development of this questionnaire on legal family formats for same-sex and/or different-sex couples. The majority of questions ask if in the jurisdiction of the legal expert concerned a specific legal consequence is attached or not to (same-sex and/or different-sex) marriage, registered partnership and/or cohabitation. And it asks since when this is so. The questions are about legal aspects of formalisation, income and troubles, parenting, migration, splitting up and death. The questionnaire is used to create The LawsAndFamilies Database Aspects of legal family formats

for same-sex and different-sex couples, where from early 2017 the answers to the questionnaire provide an overview of the legal situation in more than 20 European countries.



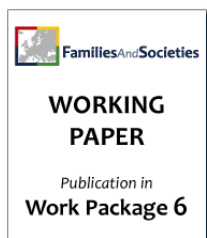
Working paper 63(2016)

Summary Report of Key Findings for WP6

By Daniela Del Boca, Chiara Monfardini and Sarah Grace See

Abstract: This report summarizes the key findings of WP6: “Child Care and Child Outcomes.” The general objective of WP6 was to explore child care arrangements and the determinants and consequences

of their usage for different families and different family members using an interdisciplinary child development process framework. To achieve this general objective, we focused on the following specific objectives: (1) To study how parental time allocation decision and income investment on children depend on family structure in different institutional contexts, (2) To analyse different dimensions of children outcomes and their determinants in terms of time and income investments and child care decisions, (3) To address gender differences (i.e., whether parents’ characteristics and child care have different impacts on the cognitive outcomes of girls and boys), (4) To study how different forms of parental and formal child care influence children outcomes in migrant and native families, (5) To deepen the understanding of the motivations of parents for using a particular source of child care, (6) To study families with disabled children in different countries of Europe concerning child care and implications on well-being of all family members, and (7) To study the social and health implications of child home versus municipality day care in Finland, and to compare the results with other European countries addressing association, if any, between specific child care arrangements and later cognitive achievement of children. We find overall positive effects of early parental and non-parental care on child outcomes.



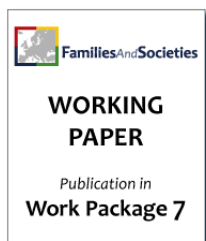
Working paper 62(2016)

Child Care and Child Outcomes: A Comparison Across European Countries

By Daniela Del Boca, Chiara Monfardini and Sarah Grace See

Abstract: Using data from OECD’s PISA, Eurostat and World Bank’s WDI, we explore how child

cognitive outcomes at the aggregate country level are affected by macroeconomic conditions, specifically government education expenditures. We also investigate how investments received in early life are linked to child educational outcomes when children are adolescents. We find that higher shares of the sample with pre-primary education in early years are associated with better later outcomes.



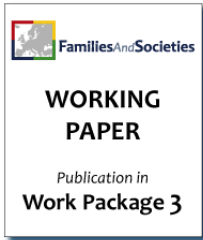
Working paper 61(2016)

Intergenerational linkages in the family: The organization of caring and financial responsibilities: Summary of results

By Kasia Karpinska, Pearl A. Dykstra, Thijs van den Broek, Maja Djundeva, Anita Abramowska-Kmon, Irena I. Kotowska, Michaela Haragus, Paul-Teodor Haragus, Cornelia Muresan and Pau Mari-Klose

Abstract: This report summarizes the main results achieved by WP7: “Intergenerational linkages in the family: The organization of caring and financial responsibilities”. The general objective of WP7 was to investigate how policy contexts shape the organization of caring and financial responsibilities for young and old family members, and consequently family well-being. Caring pertains to practical help, personal care, and emotional assistance. Indicators of family well-being are the psychological and physical health, functioning, and financial well-being of its members. To achieve this general objective, we focused on five specific objectives.

We studied: (1) conditions under which co-residence is a preferred or a defaults living arrangement; (2) transfers “up” and “down” family lines and their implications for family well-being; (3) norms of family obligation and actual giving and receipt of financial support and care; (4) implications of different policy arrangements for inequalities in and between families; and (5) the effect of recent economic crisis on intergenerational dependencies. The outlined research projects were executed comparing different European countries with special emphasis on Eastern European countries.



Working paper 60(2016)

The effects of the parental leave reform and the economic crisis on childbearing behavior in Iceland at the dawn of a new millennium

By Ari Klængur Jónsson

Abstract: In the first decade of the 21st century, two potentially influential events took place in Iceland in relation to subsequent fertility outcomes: a reform

was enacted in the parental leave scheme between 2001 and 2003, and a deep economic crisis came ashore in late 2008. The purpose of this study is to evaluate the effects these two events had on first-, second-, and third-birth intensities. By means of event history analysis we analyse individual longitudinal register data, consisting of the total female population of relevant ages. We find that after the parental leave reform was implemented a declining trend in the age-standardized first-birth rate came to a halt and first-birth intensities stabilized. The development in the standardized second- and third-birth rates indicates that the reform had a positive influence on continued childbearing. After the reform, the propensity to have a second and a third child increased constantly until 2010. After the onset of the economic crisis, a trend of decreasing first-birth intensities re-emerged. In 2011, three years into the crisis, we see a turnaround in second- and third-birth rates, which began to decline and continued to do so until the end of the study period.



Working paper 59(2016)

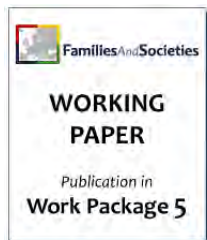
The Impact of Women's Employment on Divorce: Real Effect, Selection, or Anticipation?

By Daniele Vignoli, Anna Matysiak, Marta Styrc and Valentina Tocchioni

Abstract: The aim of this study is to deepen our understanding of the nexus between women's employment and marital stability. We use data from

the Generations and Gender Surveys to examine the impact of women's employment on divorce in Germany, Hungary, Italy, and Poland. Our analytical strategy allows us to account for selection and anticipation mechanisms; i.e., we estimate marital disruption and employment jointly, and look not only at the effects of employment on marital stability, but also at the impact of time since employment entry. We find that women's employment facilitates marital disruption in Italy and Poland, but not in Germany and Hungary, and discuss the results in light of these countries' contextual arrangements. We also show that selection effects play out

differently in different contexts. These findings highlight the importance of accounting for selection in divorce studies, especially in comparative studies. Finally, we notice traces of anticipation behaviors in Italy, which we attribute to the low employment levels among Italian women.



Working paper 58(2016)

Double Disadvantage in a Nordic Welfare State:
A Demographic Analysis of the Single Mother
Employment Gap in Finland, 1987–2011

By Juho Härkönen, Eevi Lappalainen and Marika
Jalovaara

Abstract: In this study, we demonstrate how an evolving educational gradient of single motherhood can interact with changing labor market conditions to shape labor market inequalities between partnered and single mothers. We analyze trends in the employment rates of partnered and single mothers in Finland from 1987 to 2011. In the late 1980s, Finnish single mothers' employment rate was at an internationally high level and on par with that of partnered mothers. Ever since the 1990s' economic crisis, single mothers have had a 8–10 percentage points lower employment rate than partnered mothers. During the same period, the prevalence of single motherhood increased particularly among the least educated, which meant that single mothers' relative educational profiles have become increasingly disadvantageous. We use Chevan's and Sutherland's decomposition method to estimate how much of the increased gap between partnered and single mothers' employment rates can be explained by compositional change and how much was due to employment rate differences net of compositional differences. Our findings point to an increasing double disadvantage: the gradually evolving disadvantage in educational backgrounds together with large employment rate differences among mothers with low educational attainment levels are an important explanation. These findings show how socio-demographic changes in interaction with a changing employment regime can produce inequalities by family structure also in a Nordic society known for its extensive support for mothers' employment.

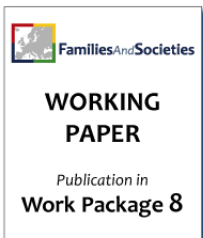


Working paper 57(2016)

Report: Country-specific case studies on mixed marriages

By Amparo González-Ferrer, Hill Kulu, Tina Hannemann, Ognjen Obucina, Clara Cortina, Teresa Castro, Leen Rahn, Allan Puur, Luule Sakkeus, Martin Klesment, Gina Potarca, Laura Bernardi and Mihaela Hărăguș

Abstract: Mixed marriages have long been considered important indicators of the social integration of immigrants, as well as potential factors of social and cultural change. Across Europe, for the period 2008-10, on average one in 12 married persons was in a mixed marriage. The range is from about one mixed married couple out of five in Switzerland and Latvia, to almost none in Romania, according to different estimates. The current report examines in depth the intermarriage dynamics among natives and immigrants in four countries (UK, Spain, Switzerland and Estonia), among persons belonging to different ethnic groups in Romania. When data allowed, the analyses also include a careful examination of the intermarriage behavior not only of immigrants but also of their descendants, which definitely adds a new angle to the research in this area. In addition, by analyzing jointly the determinants of mixed marriages for both immigrant origin partners and also their native counterparts, the report makes a step forward in opening new lines of research in this area. Finally, special attention has been paid in all the five case studies to the role that marriage market constraints and differences across gender and different origin and/or ethnic groups play in shaping the final distribution of couples in each of these countries.



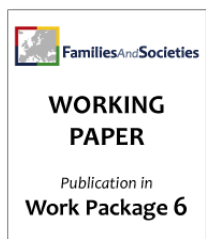
Working paper 56(2016)

A Comparative Study on Mixed Marriages among Natives, Immigrants and their Descendants in Europe

By Tina Hannemann, Hill Kulu, Leen Rahn, Allan Puur, Mihaela Haragus, Ognjen Obucina, Amparo González-Ferrer, Karel Neels, Layla Van den Berg, Ariane Pailhé, Gina Potarca and Laura Bernardi

Abstract: This study investigates the formation of mixed marriages in seven European countries: the United Kingdom, France, Romania, Switzerland, Estonia, Belgium and Spain. While there is a growing interest in the spread and stability of mixed marriages, little research investigates inter-ethnic unions from a comparative perspective. Using individual-level longitudinal data from seven European countries

and applying Poisson regression models, the study shows, first, that for several countries, the levels of mixed marriages vary more across ethnic groups within countries than between the countries. Second, immigrants from geographically and culturally distant origins show high levels of intra-group marriages. Third, marriage patterns among descendants of immigrants fall in between those of immigrants and natives, but for some groups endogamous marriages remain dominant.



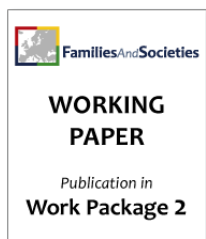
Working paper 55(2016)

Social cognition in preschoolers: effect of early experience and individual differences

By Daniela Bulgarelli and Paola Molina

Abstract: Social cognition is the way in which people process, remember and use information in social contexts to explain and predict people's behaviour (Fiske & Taylor, 2013). Several dimensions external

and internal to the child can influence children's social cognition. This study aims at analysing the effect of early type of care (0-3 years of age), gender, migrant status and maternal education on the social cognition of 118 Italian preschoolers. All the measures were not parent- or teacher-reported, but assessed through direct observation of the children. Type of care in early infancy, migrant status and gender did not show a direct effect on social cognition, whereas maternal education showed a direct effect. Maternal education effect interacted with type of care, migrant status and gender.



Working paper 54(2016)

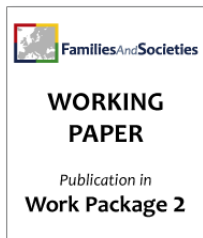
Sexual orientation, family and kinship in France, Iceland, Italy and Spain

By Marie Digoix, Marina Franchi, José Ignacio Pichardo Galán, Giulia Selmi, Matias de Stéfano Barbero, Matthias Thibeaud and Jose A. M. Vela

Abstract: The past decades have seen significant changes in the way same-sex sexualities are regulated

in European countries, albeit discrimination and heterosexism are still occurring on a daily basis. The research through semi-structured interviews was conducted on lesbian and gay respondents in France, Iceland, Italy and Spain, four European countries with different social contexts and legal frameworks. In a comparative perspective, it examines how laws are perceived to impact one's relationships and one's parental project. Discrimination is still present in the four countries at different

degrees, however the existence of laws on access to marriage and parenting is regarded by many as crucial for fostering inclusion. From a social and economic point of view, the narratives evidenced that the law is not only a framework to live within: when legal support is provided, adaptation to the heteronormative structures are facilitated and welcomed by all while this lack of support makes everyday life difficult. In this paper we wish to report on the key results of the research.



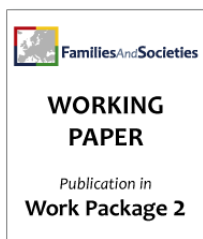
Working paper 53(2016)

Intentions in the life courses

By Dimiter Philipov, Maria Rita Testa and Ina Jaschinski

Abstract: The main purpose of this working paper is to describe a potential sub-field of research within the scope of life course studies. This sub-field is defined with intentions for performing life course events. The

paper describes a diversity of lines of research providing empirical illustrations based on the use of survey data. A restricted set of events and intentions are considered within the life trajectory experienced by young adults, with an emphasis on the intention to have a first child. We first describe events and intentions at the macro level. The discussion continues at the micro level including applications of the theory of planned behaviour. Special attention is given to concurrent intentions, i.e. intentions stated at one and the same time. These intentions might be competing or supporting. We discuss intentions in the light of their realisation or non-realisation. Findings support the existence of links among intentions, in that some are competing and others supporting. Psychological distress is checked and its effect is found for individuals who fail to realise their plans. The results support the importance of a broad area of research that needs increased attention by researchers. It can provide valuable policy implications.



Working paper 52(2016)

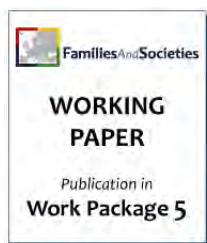
Women's and men's education and partnership formation:

Does the field of education matter?

By Teresa Martín-García, Marta Seiz and Teresa Castro-Martín

Abstract: Using data from the GGS, this study explores the effect of field of education on first union formation for women and men born since the 1960s in Norway, Austria,

Belgium and Poland. Educational attainment is known to influence differently the union patterns of men and women. These differences in partnership formation have been traditionally explained using the economic interpretation of education. We suggest that looking at fields of study may yield additional insights and offer a more complete picture for understanding union entry patterns. The analysis focuses on the effect of two dimensions of education—educational level and educational field—on first union entry and union type. We find that, in some countries, differences between educational fields have the same weight as those between educational levels. The findings suggest that the field of study reflects unobserved value orientations but also different degrees of opportunities in the labour market. The inclusion of this covariate contributes thus to nuancing and expanding our understanding of how education influences family formation.



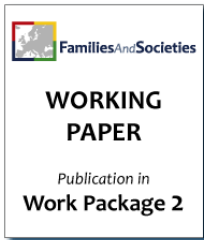
Working paper 51(2016)

Differences in parental separation effects on school grades across immigrant backgrounds in Sweden

By Jeylan Erman and Juho Härkönen

Abstract: Immigration and family change are two demographic processes, which have changed the face of European societies and are associated with inequalities in child outcomes. Yet there is little

research outside the United States on whether the effects of family dynamics on children's life chances vary by immigrant background. We asked whether the effect of parental separation on educational achievement varies between immigrant backgrounds (ancestries) in Sweden. We used Swedish population register data on two birth cohorts (born in 1995 and 1996) of Swedish-born children and analyzed parental separation penalties on grade sums and non-passing grades (measured at ninth grade) across ten ancestry groups, defined by the mother's country of birth. We found that the parental separation effects vary across ancestries, being weakest among children with Chilean-born mothers and strongest among children with mother's born in Bosnia and Herzegovina. In general, the effects were weaker in groups in which parental separation was a more common experience.

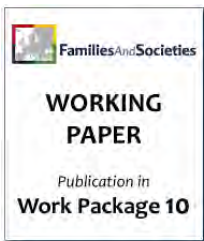


Working paper 50(2016)

Transition to adulthood in France: Do descendants of immigrants differ from natives?

By Giulia Ferrari and Ariane Pailhé

Abstract: This study examines whether major changes in patterns of transition to adulthood have taken place among descendants of immigrants in France. We simultaneously analyze the demographic events that make up the transition to adulthood for two main groups of immigrants' descendants, i.e., North African and Southern European, and compare them to the pathway of native-born French. We identify five groups of similar trajectories using sequence and cluster analysis. In order to analyze how trajectories to adulthood are shaped by ethnic origin, gender, background characteristics and education, we estimate multinomial logistic regression on the likelihood of belonging to each of the five selected clusters. We find fairly similar paths to adulthood for descendants of immigrants and natives. However, specific patterns do emerge for immigrants' descendants. They stay significantly longer in the parental home, partly because their parents come from societies characterized by strong family ties, and partly because they have greater difficulties becoming self-sufficient. Descendants of immigrants from North Africa, especially women, also have a lower probability of cohabiting. Finally, descendants of immigrants from North Africa behave more traditionally while descendants of immigrants from Southern Europe behave more like native French.



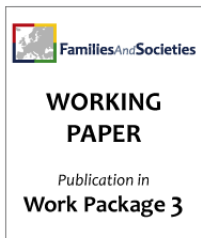
Working paper 49(2015)

Vulnerability of families with children: Major risks, future challenges and policy recommendations

By Monika Mynarska, Bernhard Riederer, Ina Jaschinski, Desiree Krivanek, Gerda Neyer, and Livia Sz. Oláh

Abstract: The study employs qualitative methodology to investigate what challenges for social policy might appear in the future, given different economic and cultural developments. We seek to understand what factors might be crucial for the wellbeing of families and what policy measures might improve it. Drawing on the previous findings of WP 10 of the FamiliesAndSocieties project, we concentrate on vulnerable families. First, we explore what types of families are considered as vulnerable. Next, we discuss various factors and drivers that are likely to affect the situation of such families in the

future. Finally, we investigate what policy measures might be crucial to prevent the “reproduction of vulnerability” within families. We use data from focus group interviews (FGIs) that were conducted in five European countries with policymakers and stakeholders. Discussions with these informants gave us rich and unique insights, outlining the most important areas of interest for future policy measures to be designed in order to improve the situation of European families.

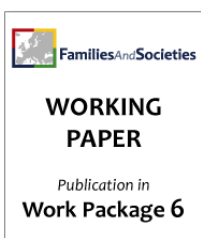


Working paper 48(2015)

Gender equality within dual-earner and dual-career couples across different policy regimes and norm systems in Europe

By Susanne Fahlén

Abstract: This study focuses the division of housework among various couple earner types in ten European countries, using data from the European Social Survey, and examines if relative resources, time availability and gender ideology moderate this association. The study combines the conventional economic and gender based approaches with an institutional framework on work-family reconciliation policies and gender norms to examine if the division of housework is institutionally embedded. The result shows that dual-career couples, female-career couples and female single-earner couples divide the housework more equal than dual-earner couples. This relates to the fact that women do less housework. The cross-national analysis show apparent differences between dual-earner and dual-career couples, yet the result reveals smaller gender difference in the division of housework in countries with more institutional support for work-family reconciliation and less traditional gender norms, suggesting that couples decisions on how to divide the housework are institutionally embedded.



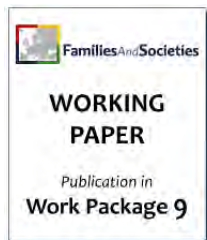
Working paper 47(2015)

Does child care availability play a role in maternal employment and children’s development? Evidence from Italy

By Daniela Del Boca, Chiara Pronzato, and Giuseppe Sorrenti

Abstract: Our study explores the impact of selection criteria on the costs and benefits of early child care for mothers’ employment, child development, and municipalities’ revenues by exploiting the selection criteria of different Italian

municipalities in assigning child care slots. In Italy, only around 13% of the demand for public child care coverage is met, and the number of applications exceeds the number of places in child care services in all regions. In conditions of excess demand, municipalities introduce selection criteria to give priority to families for whom access to public child care appears to be more valuable. We analyse through simulations the consequences of introducing different selection criteria, using a representative Italian sample of households with children under three years of age (EU-SILC), and the selection criteria employed by six representative Italian municipalities. Our results have interesting policy implications. The benefits for child outcomes and mothers' employment are stronger in municipalities where the selection criteria give priority to more disadvantaged households. However, in these contexts selected households are less able to contribute to the financial sustainability of the service.

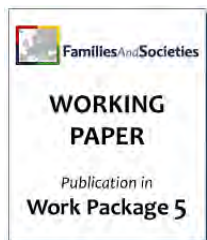


Working paper 46(2015)

How institutional contexts matter: Migration and domestic care services and the capabilities of migrants in Spain and Sweden

By Barbara Hobson, Zenia Hellgren and Luwam Bede

Abstract: Migrant care work is now part of the equation in solving the care deficit in many European countries; however different policy incentives and political settings shape the expansion in privatization/marketization of care/domestic work and the services migrants provide for them. Using Sen's capabilities framework this study engages with the processes shaping private markets for care/domestic services in households and what effects they have on the conditions of work, wellbeing and scope of alternatives of migrants in two societies that differ along the triad of regimes: welfare/care, migration and employment. Based upon multiple data sources including 90 interviews conducted in three cities, Barcelona, Madrid and Stockholm, we find precarious working conditions in the sector in both countries. We conclude with a discussion of the dilemmas in constructing policies for improving the conditions in the private care/domestic services sector and addressing the care deficit in European societies with aging populations.

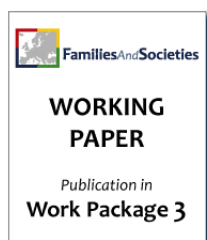


Working paper 45(2015)

Do parental separation and single motherhood strengthen intergenerational inequality in educational attainment? A decomposition analysis for Germany, Italy, the UK and the US

By Fabrizio Bernardi and Diederik Boertien

Abstract: We test the hypothesis that parental separation and single motherhood amplify children's inequality in educational attainment by social background. This hypothesis lies on two premises a) parental separation and single motherhood are more common among low Socio-Economic Status (SES) families and b) they are also associated to worse educational outcomes for children. We argue that there is a third premise that is largely overlooked in the literature, namely that c) there is no heterogeneity by social background in the consequences of growing up in a non-intact family. If the third premise does not hold and the consequences are more negative for children of high SES parents, the overall aggregate contribution of parental separation and single motherhood is difficult to predict a priori. We test the hypothesis in four countries that differ in the prevalence and consequences of parental separation and single motherhood: Germany, Italy, the UK, and the US. We use an Oaxaca decomposition approach to calculate a 'counterfactual' estimate of inequality of educational attainment by social background in the absence of non-intact families. Overall, we find very little influence of family structure on the level of inequality of educational attainment by social background in the four countries considered.



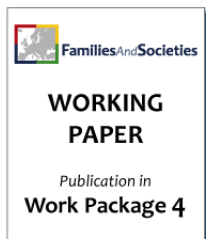
Working paper 44(2015)

Changing families in the European Union: trends and policy implications

By Livia Sz. Oláh

Abstract: In this paper we discuss changes in family patterns in the European Union over the past fifty years and the policy implications of these trends. First, we address regional developments in family formation, with respect to childbearing- and partnership patterns, and how these changes affect household structures in different European countries. Thereafter, we turn our attention to socio-economic trends, focusing especially on changes in women's labour force participation. We address the linkages between these trends and the new family patterns, followed by a discussion on policies, mainly at the EU-level. In

the brief conclusion we summarize the main policy challenges ahead. Throughout, we rely on data from the Eurostat Database, Eurobarometer, OECD Labour Force Statistics and the OECD Family Database.



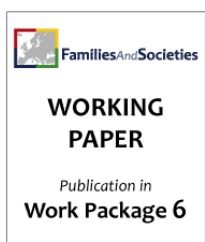
Working paper 43(2015)

Assisted reproductive technology in Europe. Usage and regulation in the context of cross-border reproductive care

By Patrick Präg and Melinda C. Mills

Abstract: This study reviews assisted reproductive technologies (ART) usage and policies across European countries and scrutinizes emerging issues

related to cross-border reproductive care (or, 'reproductive tourism'). Although Europe is the largest market for ART, the extent of usage varies widely across countries. This can be attributed to legislation, affordability, the type of reimbursement, and norms surrounding childbearing and conception. ART legislation in Europe has been growing in the past four years, with all countries now having some form of legislation. Countries with complete coverage of treatments via national health plans have the highest level of ART utilization. Legal marriage or a stable union is often a prerequisite for access to ART, with only half of European countries permitting single women and few granting access to lesbian women. Restrictive national legislation can be easily circumvented when crossing national boundaries for ART treatments, but raises important questions pertaining to safety and equity of treatments.



Working paper 42(2015)

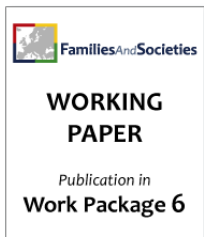
Children who do not attend day care: What are the implications for educational outcomes?

By Heikki Hiilamo, Anita Haataja, and Marko Merikukka

Abstract: Earlier studies have shown that participation in public day care can enhance school performance especially among disadvantaged

children. Child home care allowance scheme supports home care of six-year olds if they have a younger sibling who is also staying at home and not attending public day care. This study asks how Finnish six-year-olds with younger sibling(s) who stay at home perform in school when compared with children attending public day care. As outcome variables we used the two dichotomous variables measuring school performance at

age 15 to 16 and entry into further education by age of 21. The study utilized birth cohort 1987 (N=7910) data. The overall results did not show statistically significant differences between the day care and home care groups. Among disadvantaged families the home care group had more often poor grades.

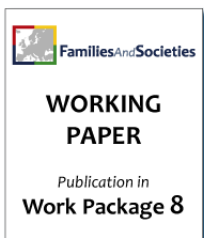


Working paper 41(2015)

Early childcare, maternal education and family origins: differences in cognitive and linguistic outcomes throughout childhood

By Daniela Bulgarelli and Paola Molina

Abstract: Centre-based care in early childhood has been associated with better scores on linguistic and cognitive tests at later times. Nevertheless, there is a lack of consensus about the stability of these effects across the preschool and primary school stages. Furthermore, no data about the effects of early care have been reported from the Italian context. Using a cross-sectional design, our study analysed the effects of early childcare, maternal education and parental origin (native versus foreign) on the cognitive and linguistic outcomes of 175 three- to ten-year-old children, from a Northern Italian city. Analysis of the single effects of type of care, maternal education and parental origin on children's outcomes, showed no differences. When the interactions among these variables were explored, centre-based care appeared to play a protective role with respect to maternal education, whereas home-based care appeared to play a protective role with respect to parental origin. The importance of educational intervention and training for professionals to better support children's development will be discussed.



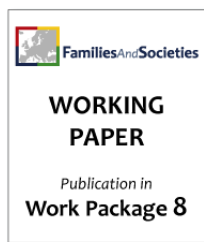
Working paper 40(2015)

A comparative study on fertility among the descendants of immigrants in Europe

By Hill Kulu, Tina Hannemann, Ariane Pailhé, Karel Neels, Leen Rahn, Allan Puur, Sandra Krapf, Amparo González-Ferrer, Teresa Castro-Martin, Elisabeth Kraus, Laura Bernardi, Andrés Guarín, Gunnar Andersson, Lotta Persson

Abstract: This study investigates the childbearing patterns of the descendants of immigrants in selected European countries, with a focus on ethnic minority women whose parents arrived in Europe from high-fertility countries. While the fertility levels of immigrants to Europe have

been examined in the recent literature, the childbearing patterns among their descendants have received little attention. Using longitudinal data from eight European countries and applying Poisson regression models, the study shows that many descendants of immigrants exhibit first-birth levels that are similar to the ‘native’ population in their respective countries; however, first-birth levels are elevated among women of Pakistani and Bangladeshi origin in the UK and for those of Turkish descent in France and Belgium. Transition rates to a second child vary less across ethnic groups. Most ethnic minority women in the UK, France and Belgium show significantly higher third-birth levels than ‘natives’ in those countries. The inclusion of women’s level of education in the analysis has little effect on fertility differences across the ethnic groups. Overall, the childbearing behaviour of the descendants of immigrants falls in between the fertility pathways experienced by their parents’ generation and the respective ‘native’ populations. The analysis supports the idea that both the mainstream society and the minority subculture shape the childbearing patterns of the descendants of immigrants in Europe.



Working paper 39(2015)

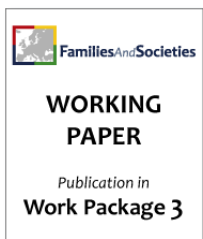
Country-specific case studies on fertility among the descendants of immigrants

Introduction: Hill Kulu and Tina Hannemann
Germany: Sandra Krapf and Katharina Wolf
Sweden: Gunnar Andersson and Lotta Persson
United Kingdom: Hill Kulu and Tina Hannemann
France: Ariane Pailhé
Spain: Amparo González-Ferrer,

Teresa Castro-Martín and Elisabeth Kraus
Switzerland: Andrés Guarín and Laura Bernardi

Abstract: This paper consists of six case studies on fertility among the descendants of immigrants by comparing their patterns to those of the ‘native’ population. The countries that are included in the analysis are Germany, Sweden, United Kingdom, France, Spain and Switzerland. All of the case studies use large-scale longitudinal data and apply event-history analysis. The analysis shows that the descendants of immigrants have lower first-birth rates than ‘natives’ suggesting the postponement of childbearing among ethnic minorities. Some ethnic minority groups have somewhat higher second-birth risks than ‘natives’, but many show significantly higher third-birth rates. Fertility differences between the ‘native’ and ethnic minority women largely persist once women’s

educational level is included in the analysis, but decrease after factors related to language, religion and family of origin are controlled.



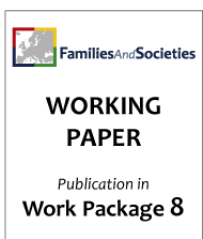
Working paper 38(2015)

Partners' educational pairings and fertility across Europe

By Natalie Nitsche, Anna Matysiak, Jan Van Bavel, and Daniele Vignoli

Abstract: We provide new evidence on the education-fertility relationship by using EU-SILC panel data on 17 countries to investigate how couples' educational

pairings predict their childbearing behaviour. We focus on differences in first, second and third birth rates between couples with varying combinations of partners' education. Our results show that there are indeed important differences in how education relates to fertility depending on the education of the partner. First, homogamous highly educated couples show a distinct childbearing behaviour, at least in some countries. They tend to postpone the first birth most and display the highest transition rates to second and third births subsequently. Second, contrary to what may be expected based on conventional economic models of the family, hypergamous couples with a highly educated man and a lower educated female partner display among the lowest second and third birth transition rates across the majority of countries. Our findings underscore the relevance of interacting both partners' education for a deeper understanding of the education-fertility relationship.



Working paper 37(2015)

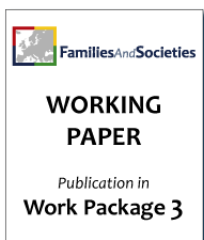
Determinants of mental well-being among Latin American adolescents in Spain

By Héctor Cebolla-Boado and Yumiko Aratani

Abstract: The purpose of this paper is to examine the mental health and well-being of Latin American adolescents in Spain and explore the potential effects of immigration and ethnic concentration. Spain

experienced a massive influx of immigrants in the last two decades, yet the data on immigrant adolescents are scarce and no previous research examined the well-being of immigrant adolescents in Spain. Meanwhile, epidemiological research in the United States shows that adolescents of Mexican and Central American origin are generally at higher risk of having mental health problems than other racial/ethnic groups, even after controlling for age, gender and socioeconomic status. We here employ a

unique cross-sectional dataset of adolescents in the city of Madrid, Spain that includes an over-sample of immigrant adolescents. Our results indicate that immigrant Latin American adolescents are more likely to be emotionally distressed compared with native-born Spanish adolescents. Age of migration is one of the significant determinants of poor mental health outcomes. The results of this study also indicate a strong association between mental distress and segregation and ethnic concentration, measured by the ethnic origin of friends, classmates and the ethnic composition of neighbourhood.

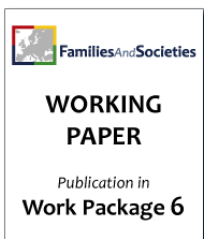


Working paper 36(2015)

The impact of economic uncertainty on childbearing intentions in Europe

By Susanne Fahlén and Livia Oláh

Abstract: This paper examines the interplay between societal economic conditions, individual economic uncertainty and short-term childbearing intentions in ten European countries representing different welfare regimes. Using data from the European Social Survey (2004/05 and 2010/11), we study i) aggregated short-term childbearing intentions of childless men and women, and of one-child parents in relation to changes in unemployment and employment protection and ii) the micro-level association between childbearing intentions and perceived economic uncertainty. Our results indicate a linkage between economic uncertainty in the society and people's short-term childbearing intentions across welfare states, but this relationship varies by gender, age and parity. The micro-level analysis indicates that perceived economic security is an important factor for childbearing plans, however this vary by gender, age, parenthood status and institutional context.



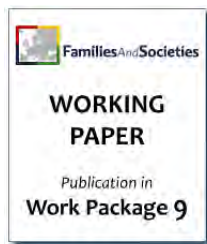
Working paper 35(2015)

Report on incentive structures of parents' use of particular childcare forms

By Alison Koslowski, Caitlin McLean, and Ingela Naumann

Abstract: Parents across the European Union use a range of childcare arrangements. This working paper contributes to our understanding of the determinants and consequences of different childcare arrangements for different families and different family members. The paper has three aims. The first is to deepen understanding of the motivations of parents for using a

particular source of childcare. The second is to set the scene for an exploration of the extent of policy implementation gaps between an administrative understanding of statutory childcare service provision and the actual experience of users of these services. Third, the report highlights where the policy community might benefit from improved data to address certain knowledge gaps around childcare use. This research employs a mixed methods approach, combining primary data collection in six countries (Germany, Hungary, Italy, Slovenia, Sweden, UK); reviews of the statutory childcare policies in these six countries; and a methodological critique of the available data on childcare use for those countries, including harmonized comparative survey data. The central aim is for this working paper to be used as a reference tool for further analyses.



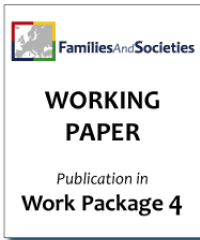
Working paper 34(2015)

Aid policies for young people in Europe and the OECD countries

By Olivier Thévenon

Abstract: The paper examines how European countries are helping young adults to enter into adult life, i.e. to leave parental home and to become economically self-sufficient. To do so, we examine

the way in which public aid is broken down into the areas mentioned above (education, housing, employment, and social and child benefits) to result in a more or less diversified and coherent set of aid more or less able to foster the transition to adulthood. A particular attention is paid to the existence or non-existence of aid in these areas and the extent to which this aid covers the most vulnerable. Our analysis highlights different configurations which only partly correspond to the usual geographical divisions distinguishing social welfare regimes. Considerable differences are observed between Nordic countries, as well as between some English-speaking countries. France stands also out through its similarity to some Nordic countries and difference with most Continental European countries.



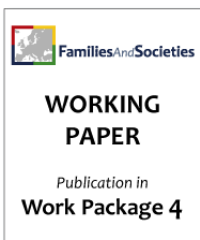
Working paper 33(2015)

Increasing childlessness in Europe: Time trends and country differences

By Anneli Miettinen, Anna Rotkirch, Ivett Szalma, Annalisa Donno, and Maria-Letizia Tanurri

Abstract: This paper provides an overview of trends in female and male childlessness in Europe over the last decades and explores associations between cohort

childlessness and national demographic and social indicators. We also estimate proportions of voluntary childless people. Results show that childlessness has increased at ages 30–34 and 40–44 years among both men and women throughout Europe, with few exceptions. Childlessness is more common among men with little education, and among women with either very high or very low education. Childlessness is higher in countries where mean age at marriage is high and entry into motherhood is on average more delayed. Childlessness remains negatively associated with proportions ever married, and also with completed cohort fertility. The last association has even grown stronger in the youngest cohorts, suggesting that in a low fertility context, increasing childlessness contributes markedly to overall fertility. The prevalence of childlessness does not seem to be associated with proportions of women with high education, with women's employment rates and with divorce rates at country level. Higher childlessness is found in countries with widespread individualist values.



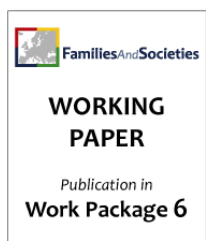
Working paper 32(2015)

State-of-the-art report: Childlessness in Europe

By Maria Letizia Tanurri, Melinda Mills, Anna Rotkirch, Tomáš Sobotka, Judit Takács, Anneli Miettinen, Cristina Faludi, Venetia Kantsa, and Despina Nasiri

Abstract: In the last decades, European societies have experienced changes in the postponement of the age of having a first child, shrinking family size, and increased (in)voluntary childlessness. This report provides a review of the state-of-the-art research in relation to one of the central research goals of Working Package 4: to examine the rise, determinants and societal consequences of childlessness by different perspectives. The report provides an overview of the central macro-level determinants of childlessness among women and men firstly from a quantitative perspective examining trends, relevant determinants and measures. We will then outline the central

micro-level determinants of childlessness among women, men and couples by examining core characteristics of childless individuals such as higher education or marital disruption. We then turn to an overview of anthropological and qualitative examinations of the determinants of childlessness and the psychological, social and socio-political consequences of childlessness. A reflection on potential data sources to study childlessness and a discussion on research gaps are offered in the concluding chapters.

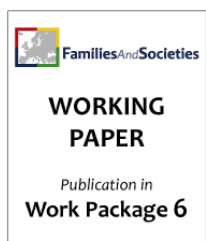


Working paper 31(2015)

Does child care availability play a role in maternal employment and children's development? Evidence from Italy

By Ylenia Brilli, Daniela Del Boca, Chiara Daniela Pronzato

Abstract: This paper investigates the effects of public child care availability in Italy in mothers' working status and children's scholastic achievements. We use a newly available dataset containing individual standardized test scores of pupils attending the second grade of primary school in 2009-10 in conjunction with data on public child care availability. Our estimates indicate a positive and significant effect of child care availability on both mothers' working status and children's Language test scores. We find that a percentage change in public child care coverage increases mothers' probability to work by 1.3 percentage points and children's Language test scores by 0.85 percent of one standard deviation; we do not find any effect on Math test scores. Moreover, the impact of a percentage change in public child care on mothers' employment and children's Language test scores is greater in provinces where child care availability is more limited.



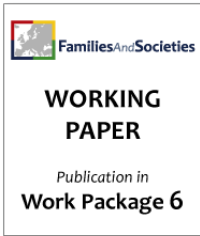
Working paper 30(2015)

Childcare, mothers' work and children's schooling outcomes. An analysis of Italian data

By Daniela Del Boca, Silvia Pasqua, and Simona Suardi

Abstract: In this paper we explore the relationship between parents' inputs, childcare inputs and child cognitive outcomes using one of the few data sources available for Italy, the ISFOL-PLUS dataset. Our empirical results indicate that mothers' work, in reducing the time devoted to children, has negative effects on children's academic results. This impact, however, is

offset by the use of childcare. The positive effects of childcare are stronger for children from lower income and education households.



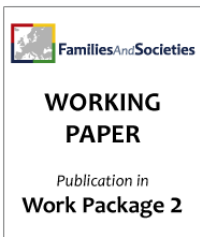
Working paper 29(2015)

Mother's time allocation, child care and child cognitive development

By Ylenia Brilli

Abstract: This paper analyzes the effects of maternal employment and non-parental child care on child cognitive development, taking into account the mother's time allocation between leisure and child-care time.

I estimate a behavioral model, in which maternal labor supply, non-parental child care, goods expenditure and time allocation decisions are considered to be endogenous choices of the mother. The child cognitive development depends on maternal and non-parental child care and on the goods bought for the child. The model is estimated using US data from the Child Development Supplement and the Time Diary Section of the Panel Study of Income Dynamics. The results show that the productivity of mother's child-care time substantially differs by a mother's level of education. Moreover, the child-care time of college-educated mothers is more productive than non-parental child care. The simulation of maternity leave policies, mandating mothers not to work in the first two years of the child's life, reveals that the impact on the child's test score at age five is either positive or negative, depending on whether the leave is paid or not. The heterogeneous productivity of mothers' time leads to different allocation choices between child care and leisure: college-educated mothers re-allocate a larger fraction of their time out of work to child care than do the lower educated, while the opposite holds for leisure.



Working paper 28(2015)

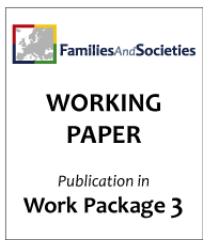
Fertility after separation: Second births in higher order unions in Germany

By Michaela Kreyenfeld and Valerie Heintz-Martin

Abstract: This paper uses recent data from the German family panel (pairfam) to examine the fertility behavior after separation. More specifically, we focus on the transition to the second child and

compare the behavior of respondents in ongoing partnerships (couples who are still partnered with the mother/father of their first child) with those who have experienced family dissolution after the first birth. The

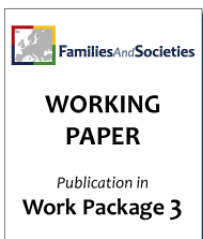
investigation reveals strong gender differences in post-separation fertility behavior. We also find large regional differences. Eastern Germans had much lower second birth rates than western Germans. However, they were more prone than western Germans to have their second child with a parent who was not the father or the mother of their firstborn child. This result is in line with descriptive findings on the diversity of family structures in eastern Germany.



Working paper 27(2015)

Fathers on call A study on the sharing of care work among parents in Sweden. A mixed methods approach
By Marie Evertsson, Katarina Boye, and Jeylan Erman

Abstract: By combining quantitative analyses of survey data with qualitative analyses of interviews with first-time parents, this study gives new insights into parents' division of parental leave in Sweden and the links between fathers' leave length and the division of child care when both are back at work again. Quantitative results show that mothers' and fathers' parental leave lengths vary substantially with the reasons for division of leave and that fathers' parental leave length is related to the long-term division of child care as well as to mothers' satisfaction with it. Qualitative results suggest that although gender equality and equal parenting is central to the first-time, middle-class parents that were interviewed, more traditional norms and ideals about the mother as the primary caretaker may stand in the way of an equal sharing of the leave during the child's first year. The study also suggests several mechanisms through which fathers' parental leave may causally influence later division of childcare.

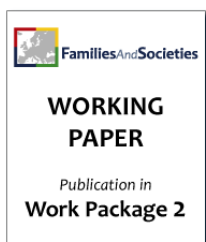


Working paper 26(2015)

The reversal of the gender gap in education and female breadwinners in Europe
By Martin Klesment and Jan Van Bavel

Abstract: While men have historically attained more education than women around the world, this gender imbalance in education has reversed in many countries. In these countries, the wife now typically has as much or more education as the husband, while it has always been the other way around in the past. Using the 2007 and 2011 rounds of the EU-SILC for 27 countries), this paper investigates to what extent the

newly emerging pattern of educational assortative mating is associated with a higher proportion of women who out-earn their partners in Europe. We find that this proportion varies on the country level between 20% and almost 50% for childless women and between 3 and 25% for women with toddlers. If a woman has more education than her partner, this clearly increases the odds that she earns more than half of the couple income. College educated mothers of school age children with a less educated partner are as likely to be the main breadwinner as college educated women without children but with a college educated man.

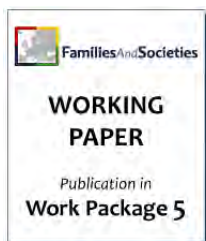


Working paper 25(2015)

Analysis of determinants and prevalence of LAT

By Dimitri Mortelmans, Inge Pasteels, Arnaud Régnier-Loilier, Daniele Vignoli, and Stefano Mazzucco

Abstract: One of the non-standard family forms that emerges and recently became more visible, both in society and in science is a “non-residential partnership”, well-known as Living Apart Together or briefly “LAT”. Despite the growing visibility of this new family form, determining the statistical incidence of LAT is complex for two main reasons. First, LAT partnerships are not registered in any official statistics. Second, a generally accepted definition of LAT is absent. In this deliverable, we collect several studies that gives an overview of the prevalence and the determinants of LAT in Europe.



Working paper 24(2015)

Shared physical custody and children’s experience of stress

By Jani Turunen

Abstract: This paper studies shared physical custody in Sweden. We ask whether children in 50/50 shared physical custody settings are more likely to report high levels of stress compared to children living with a single parent or with a parent and a stepparent full time or most of the time. The analysis uses logistic regression analysis and is based on the Swedish Surveys of Living Conditions (ULF). Children living in a 50/50 shared physical custody setting reported significantly lower levels of stress than the children living full time with one parent after their separation.

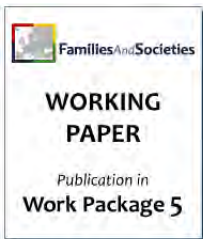


Working paper 23(2014)

Families with disabled children in different European countries

By Paola Di Giulio, Dimiter Philipov, and Ina Jaschinski

Abstract: This report focuses on the effect of the presence of a disabled child in a family and in particular on its demographically relevant consequences in a comparative framework. Couples who rear a disabled child are more frequently unstable, more often forego their fertility intentions, more frequently suffer from economic difficulties, show more traditional gender role arrangements, are more frequently in bad health, and have lower well-being than families without disabilities. The consequences are also different for mothers and fathers: fathers of disabled children have fewer emotional exchanges, while mothers tend to suffer more in terms of social contact.

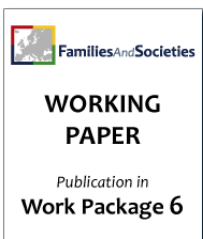


Working paper 22(2014)

Non-resident parent-child contact after marital dissolution and parental repartnering: Evidence from Italy

By Silvia Meggiolaro and Fausta Ongaro

Abstract: With the diffusion of marital instability, the number of children who spend some of their childhood without one of their parent has become not negligible even in Italy. In this paper we consider the frequency of contact between children and their non-resident parent after separation with a double aim: a) to analyze the impact of parental repartnering on non-resident parent's contact with their children; b) to investigate whether these effects are differentiated according to the sex of non-resident parent. Results show that the repartnering of parents reduces the non-resident parent-child contact only in the case of non-resident father; in the case of a non-resident mother, repartnering actually increases contact.



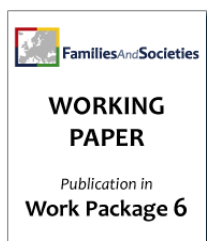
Working paper 21(2014)

Children's time use and family structure in Italy

By Letizia Mencarini, Silvia Pasqua and Agnese Romiti

Abstract: A wide range of sociological and psychological studies have shown that children have

different cognitive and behavioural outcomes depending on whether they grow up in intact or non-intact families. These gaps may be attributable to differences in the amounts of time and money parents invest in their children, which can in turn result in differences in the amount of time children invest in educational activities. In this paper, we investigate whether children who live with a single parent devote more or less time to reading and studying at home than children who live with both parents. We use data from the Italian Time Use Survey. Focusing on children between five and 18 years old, our analysis shows that living in a single-parent household reduces the amount of time children devote to reading and studying.



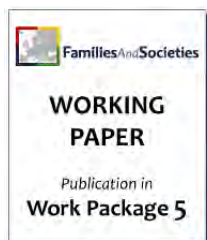
Working paper 20(2014)

Early child care and child outcomes: the role of grandparents

Evidence from the Millennium Cohort Study

By Daniela Del Boca, Daniela Piazzalunga and Chiara Pronzato

Abstract: In this paper, we focus on the impact of early grandparents' care on child cognitive outcomes, in the short and medium term, using data from the Millennium Cohort Study (UK). Compared with children looked after in a formal care centre, children cared by grandparents (as well as parents) are better in naming objects, but worse in tests concerning basic concepts development, problem-solving, mathematical concepts and constructing ability. These results hide strong heterogeneities: on the one hand, the positive association between family care and child outcomes is stronger for children in more advantaged households; on the other hand, the negative association is significant only for children in more disadvantaged households. In order to assess a causal link between early care and child outcomes, we employ panel methods and instrumental variables techniques. The results we obtain confirm the cross section results.



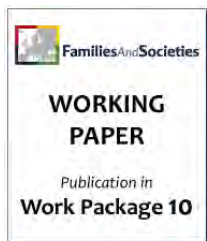
Working paper 19(2014)

Intergenerational transmission of divorce the Swedish trend

By Michael Gähler and Juho Härkönen

Abstract: We analyze birth cohort patterns in the intergenerational transmission of divorce and family dissolution in Sweden. It is well known that parental separation is associated with a higher risk of own

divorce, but less is known whether these associations have changed or remained stable over time. There are strong theoretical reasons to expect changes in this pattern, but there are only few empirical studies, partly due to the lack of appropriate data. We use population register data from six birth cohorts (born 1950-75) of Swedish men and women to study cohort patterns in the intergenerational transmission of divorce and family dissolution during a time of rapid family and social change. Our findings show no trend over the birth cohorts.

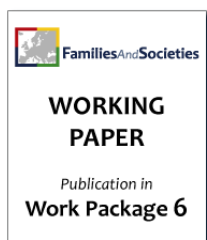


Working paper 18(2014)

Report on the futures task force workshop

By Dimiter Philipov, Ina Jaschinski, Jana Vobecká, Paola Di Giulio, and Thomas Fent

Abstract: The Futures task force workshop in the framework of the forward looking activities in the FamiliesAndSocieties FP7 project was designed with the purpose to provide information on the scope of family-related issues that refer to a foresight view on the family in Europe. 25 stakeholders and 12 project participants expressed their opinion on four pre-designed questions formulated along a SWOT (strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, and threats) framework. The Workshop delivered a long list of notes and recommendations. These notes served as generator of ideas which brought to the front several important topics.

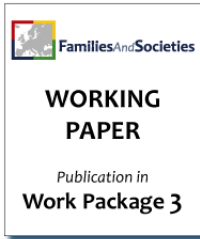


Working paper 17(2014)

Household choices and child development

By Daniela Del Boca, Christopher Flinn and Matthew Wiswall

Abstract: The growth in labour market participation among women with young children has raised concerns about its implications for child cognitive development. We estimate a model of the cognitive development process of children nested within an otherwise standard model of household behaviour. Our empirical results indicate that both parents' time inputs are important for the cognitive development of their children, particularly when the child is young. Money expenditures are less productive in terms of producing child quality.



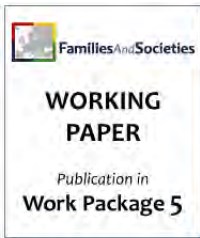
Working paper 16(2014)

Methodological report: measurement of education-specific mating squeeze

By Yolien De Hauw, Francesca Piazza and Jan Van Bavel

Abstract: A long-standing theory in family demography points out that marriage rates for both men and women are affected by the number of

suitable marriage partners available in the local marriage market. In its most basic form, the marriage squeeze hypothesis holds that marriage prospects are lower if the number of unmarried persons of the desired age is low. We propose to update the concept of the marriage squeeze in ways that make it more relevant for partnership and family formation today. This paper reviews ways of measuring the education-specific mating squeeze.



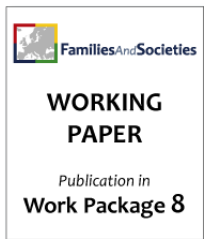
Working paper 15(2014)

Parental divorce during childhood in Sweden: Changed experience, unchanged effect

By Michael Gähler and Eva-Lisa Palmtag

Abstract: During the last century, the proportion of children and adolescents who have experienced a parental divorce or separation has increased dramatically, in Sweden and elsewhere. Vast research

has shown that children in these families fare less well than children in intact families, both in the short and in the long run and on a number of outcomes. Much less is known about whether parental divorce means the same for children and adolescents today as it did a century ago. We find no evidence of magnitude change in the association between parental divorce/separation and two child outcomes, psychological well-being and educational attainment.



Working paper 14(2014)

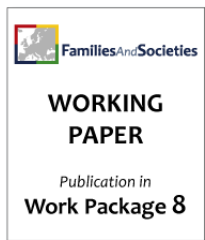
A comparative study on partnership dynamics among immigrants and their descendants

By Tina Hannemann, Hill Kulu, Amparo González-Ferrer, Ariane Pailhé, Leen Rahnu, and Allan Puur

Abstract: This study investigates union formation and dissolution among immigrants and their descendants in four European countries with different migration

histories and welfare state policies (United Kingdom, Estonia, France and

Spain). The analysis shows a significant variation in partnership trajectories across migrant groups in some countries and similar union trajectories for some migrant groups in different countries.

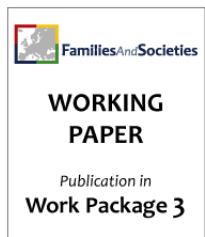


Working paper 13(2014)

Report: Country-specific case Studies on partnership dynamics among immigrants and their descendants
Introduction: Hill Kulu Estonia: Leen Rahnu, Allan Puur, Luule Sakkeus, and Martin Klesment France: Ariane Pailhé Switzerland: Andrés Guarin and Laura Bernardi United Kingdom: Tina Hannemann and Hill Kulu Sweden: Kirk Scott, Gunnar Andersson

and Ognjen Obucina Spain: Amparo González-Ferrer, Marta Séiz, Teresa Castro-Martín, and Teresa Martín-García

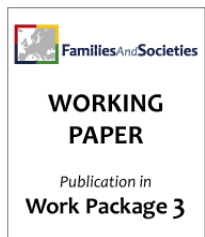
Abstract: This report consists of six case studies on partnership trajectories among immigrants and their descendants by comparing their patterns to those of the ‘native’ population. The countries that are included in the analysis are Estonia, France, Switzerland, United Kingdom, Sweden and Spain. The analysis shows significant differences in partnership formation and dissolution between immigrants, their descendants and the ‘native’ population in all six countries.



Working paper 12(2014)

Coping strategies under uncertain, precarious employment conditions in Switzerland
By Doris Hanappi, Valérie-Anne Ryser, and Laura Bernardi

Abstract: This report provides insights on childbearing decisions seen as outcomes of coping strategies in work and family reconciliation under economic uncertainty and precariousness within the single-country setting, Switzerland.

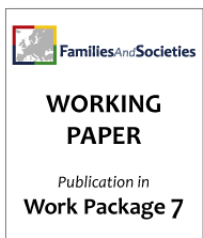


Working paper 11(2014)

State-of-the art report: The new roles of men and women and implications for families and societies
By Livia Sz. Oláh, Rudolf Richter and Irena E. Kotowska

Abstract: This report presents the main findings relevant to the research in WP3: “The new roles of men and women and implications for families and

societies”. It depicts the development of family forms in Europe, describes the relationship between women’s and men’s new roles and family dynamics and implications on the transition to parenthood. The report also addresses the impact of these changes on intra-family organization and on coping strategies under conditions of uncertainty and precariousness.

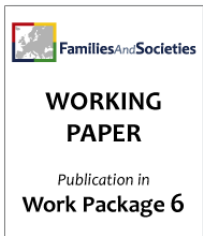


Working paper 10(2014)

Home bitter home? Gender, living arrangements, and the exclusion from home-ownership among older Europeans

By Daniele Vignoli, Maria Letizia Tanturri, and Francesco Acciai

Abstract: Home-ownership is the most important asset among the elderly in Europe, but in this domain very little is known about gender differences. This paper aims at exploring the link between gender, living arrangements, monetary poverty and home tenure among older Europeans, in order to identify the profiles of the elderly at a higher risk of being excluded from home-ownership.

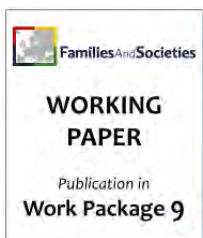


Working paper 9(2014)

Self investments of adolescents and their cognitive development

By Daniela del Boca, Chiara Monfardini, and Cheti Nicoletti

Abstract: While a large literature has focused on the impact of parental investments on child cognitive development, very little is known about the role of child’s own investments. By using the Child Development Supplement of the Panel Study of Income Dynamics, we model the production of cognitive ability of adolescents and extend the set of inputs to include the child’s own time investments.



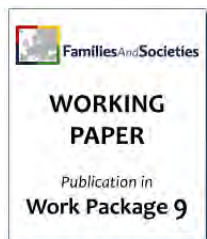
Working paper 8(2014)

Identification of same-sex couples and families in censuses, registers and surveys

By Clara Cortina and Patrick Festy

Abstract: Enumerating same-sex couples and families is much more difficult than it may seem. A basic reason is the small size of the group, in absolute and

in relative terms compared to opposite-sex couples. The purpose of this document is to evaluate the possibilities of identification of same-sex couples and families with such data sources

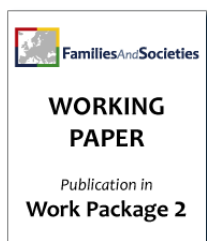


Working paper 7(2014)

Family policies and diversity in Europe: The state-of-the-art regarding fertility, work, care, leave, laws and self-sufficiency

Edited by Olivier Thévenon and Gerda Neyer

Abstract: This document provides an overview over existing knowledge of key policy issues related to families and societies in Europe.

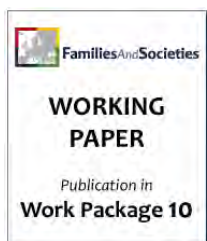


Working paper 6(2014)

State-of-the-art report: Changes in the life course

By Ariane Pailhé, Dimitri Mortelmans, Teresa Castro, Clara Cortina Trilla, Marie Digoix, Patrick Festy, Sandra Krapf, Michaela Kreyenfeld, Vicky Lyssens-Danneboom, Teresa Martín-García, Wilfried Rault, Olivier Thévenon, Laurent Toulemon

Abstract: The dynamics of family formation and disruption have changed in contemporary societies. This report contains a comprehensive literature overview of state-of-the-art knowledge about the dynamics of the development of family constellations and non-standard families.

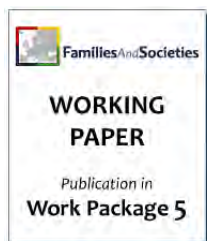


Working paper 5(2013)

State-of-the-art report: A family-related foresight approach

By Paola di Giulio, Thomas Fent, Dimiter Philipov, Jana Vobecká and Maria Winkler-Dworak

Abstract: This report discusses the substantive and methodological background for the construction and application of a family-related foresight method.

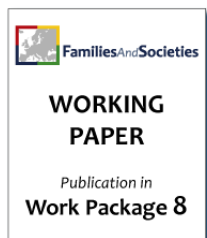


Working paper 4(2013)

State-of-the-art report: Effects of family forms and dynamics on children's well-being and life chances: literature review

By Fabrizio Bernardi, Juho Härkönen, and Diederik Boertien, with Linus Andersson Rydell, Kim Bastait, and Dimitri Mortelmans

Abstract: In this report, we review literature on the effects of family forms and dynamics on children's well-being.



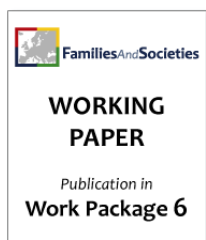
Working paper 3(2013)

State-of-the-art report: Family dynamics among immigrants and their descendants in Europe: Current research and opportunities

By Hill Kulu and Amparo González-Ferrer

Abstract: This paper reviews and evaluates recent research on family dynamics among immigrants and their descendants in Europe. While there is a large

body of literature on various aspects of immigrant lives in Europe, research on family dynamics has emerged only in the last decade.



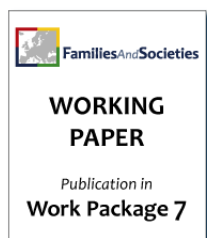
Working paper 2(2013)

State-of-the-art report: Child care arrangements: determinants and consequences

By Ylenia Brilli, Daniela Del Boca and Chiara Monfardini

Abstract: This report summarizes the most recent empirical research on the effects of non-parental and household time investments on child development.

The results from the studies considering non-parental child care policies are presented taking into account the timing of the intervention.



Working paper 1(2013)

State-of-the-art report: Intergenerational linkages in families

By Pearl A. Dykstra, Thijs van den Broek, Cornelia Muresan, Mihaela Haragus, Paul-Teodor Haragus, Anita Abramowska-Kmon, Irena E. Kotowska

Abstract: We present a state-of-the-art of the literature on linkages between generations within

families. We focus specifically on intergenerational coresidence, upward and downward intergenerational transfers in families and the relationship between norms of family obligation and intergenerational transfers.



Articles

Fertility by birth order among the descendants of immigrants in selected European countries

Kulu, Hill; Hannemann, Tina; Pailhé, Ariane; Neels, Karel; Krapf, Sandra; González-Ferrer, Amparo and Andersson, Gunnar

Population and Development Review (2017). vol 43(1)

DOI: 10.1111/padr.12037

European populations are characterized by an increasing share of immigrants and their descendants. There is extensive research on different aspects of immigrants' lives, including their legal status and citizenship, employment and education, and residential and housing patterns. There is also a growing interest in family and fertility dynamics among ethnic minorities. While the fertility of immigrants in European countries has received considerable attention in the recent demographic literature, the childbearing patterns among the descendants of immigrants have been little studied and understood. The few existing studies show that the descendants of immigrants from high-fertility countries usually have lower fertility levels than their parents' generation, but fertility levels for some groups remain high relative to the fertility of the host population. The present study investigates the childbearing patterns among the descendants of immigrants in six European countries: the UK, France, Germany, Belgium, Sweden, and Spain. This group includes "old" and "new" immigrant countries as well as countries with different migration and family policies and fertility dynamics and patterns. The cross-country analysis of fertility behavior among ethnic minorities allows us to detect similarities and differences across European countries. Our main focus is on the fertility of the descendants of immigrants from high-fertility countries. We examine whether the fertility patterns of the second generation are similar to those of their parents' generation, which are often shaped by fertility patterns in the sending country, or those of the native population (defined here as native-born persons with native-born parents). Our study is the first to analyze ethnic minority fertility by parity, with and without controls for demographic and socioeconomic factors.

Why does fertility remain high among certain UK-born ethnic minority women?

Kulu, Hill and Hannemann, Tina

Demographic Research (2016). 35(49): 1441-1488

Abstract: Background: Previous research has shown high total fertility among certain UK-born ethnic minorities, but the reasons behind their high fertility have remained far from clear. Some researchers attribute their elevated fertility levels to cultural factors, whereas others argue that high fertility is the consequence of their poor education and labour market prospects. Objective: This study investigates fertility among the descendants of immigrants in the UK and examines the determinants of high fertility among certain ethnic minority groups. Methods: We use data from the Understanding Society study and apply multivariate event history analysis. Results: The analysis shows, first, that relatively high second-, third-, and fourth-birth rates are responsible for the elevated total fertility among certain UK-born minorities, especially women of Pakistani and Bangladeshi origin. There is little variation in the first-birth rates among natives and immigrant descendants. Second, although fertility differences between ethnic minorities and native British women slightly decrease once religiosity and number of siblings are controlled for, significant differences persist. We conclude that cultural factors account for some elevated fertility among ethnic groups in the UK, whereas the role of education and employment seem to be only minor. Contribution: Cultural factors account for some elevated fertility among ethnic minorities in the UK, whereas the role of education and employment seem to be negligible.

Transition to adulthood in France: Do children of immigrants differ from natives?

Ferrari, Giulia and Pailhé, Ariane

Advances in Life Course Research (2017). 31: 34-56

Abstract: This study examines differences in patterns of transition to adulthood among children of immigrants and natives in France. We simultaneously analyze the working-related and demographic events that make up the transition to adulthood for two main groups of immigrants' children (i.e., North African and Southern European) and compare them to the pathway of native-born French. We identify five groups of similar trajectories using sequence and cluster analysis. In order to analyze how trajectories to adulthood are shaped by ethnic origin, gender and background characteristics, we estimate multinomial logistic regression

on the likelihood of belonging to each of the five selected clusters. We do not find huge differences between children of immigrants and natives. However, specific patterns do emerge for immigrants' children. They less frequently follow paths with long periods of autonomy and adopt the more economically constrained pathways to adulthood. In particular, they stay significantly longer in the parental home, partly because their parents come from societies characterized by strong family ties, and partly because they have greater difficulties in becoming economically self-sufficient. For children of immigrants from North Africa, especially women, the entry into adulthood is slower and is less marked by union formation, whether cohabitation or marriage. Finally, children of immigrants from Southern Europe behave more like native French.

Equality at home A question of career? Housework, norms, and policies in a European comparative perspective

Fahlén, Susanne

Demographic Research (2016). 35 (48): 1409-1440

Abstract: Background: Dual-earner families are widespread in contemporary Europe, yet the division of housework is highly gendered, with women still bearing the lion's share. However, women in dual-career couples and in other types of non-traditional couples, across and within different European countries, appear to handle the division of housework differently. Objective: The objective of this study is to examine the division of housework among various couple-earner types, by determining i) whether relative resources, time spent on paid work, gender attitudes, and family structure reduce variations in housework between different couple types, and ii) whether the division of housework varies between countries with different work-family policies and gender norms. Methods: The study uses data from ten countries, representing different welfare regime types, extracted from the European Social Survey (2010/11), and employs multivariate regressions and aggregated analysis of the association between the division of housework and the contextual indices. Results: The results show that dual-career couples divide housework more equally than dual-earner couples, relating more to the fact that the former group of women do less housework in general, rather than that men are doing more. The cross-national analysis shows tangible differences between dual-earner and dual-career couples; however, the difference is less marked with respect to the division of housework in countries with more institutional support for work-family reconciliation and less traditional gender norms. Contribution: By

combining conventional economic and gender-based approaches with an institutional framework, this study contributes to the research field by showing that the division of housework within different couple-earner types is contextually embedded.

Demographics of Same-Sex Couples in Spain / Demografía de las parejas homosexuales en España

Cortina, Clara

Revista Española de Investigaciones Sociológicas (2016). 153: 3-22

Abstract: This article contributes to the study of same-sex couples in Spain. With the current increased recognition of rights, there are major research gaps in the area of same-sex demographic behavior (nuptiality and fertility). By using (and validating) data from the 2011 Spanish Population Census, we have been able to offer a general profile of sociodemographic characteristics of same-sex married and cohabiting couples. The results suggest the clearly heterogamic composition of those couples, a smaller presence of children in their households and the prevalence of the dual earner couple model. It has also been found that same-sex couples are less likely than opposite-sex couples to get married.

Psychological complaints among children in joint physical custody and other family types: Considering parental factors

Fransson, Emma; Turunen, Jani; Hjern, Anders; Östberg, Viveca and Bergström, Malin

Scandinavian Journal of Public Health (2016). 44 (2): 177-183

Abstract: Aims: Increasing proportions of Scandinavian children and children in other Western countries live in joint physical custody, moving between parents' homes when parents live apart. Children and parents in non-intact families are at risk of worse mental health. The potential influence of parental ill-health on child well-being in the context of differing living arrangements has not been studied thoroughly. This study investigates the psychological complaints of children in joint physical custody in comparison to children in sole parental care and nuclear families, while controlling for socioeconomic differences and parental ill-health. Methods: Data were obtained from Statistics Sweden's yearly Survey of Living Conditions 2007–2011 and child supplements with children 10–18 years, living in households of adult participants. Children in joint physical custody (n=391) were compared with children in sole parental care (n=654) and children in nuclear families (n=3,639), using a

scale of psychological complaints as the outcome measure. Results: Multiple regression modelling showed that children in joint physical custody did not report higher levels of psychological complaints than those in nuclear families, while children in sole parental care reported elevated levels of complaints compared with those in joint physical custody. Adding socioeconomic variables and parental ill-health only marginally attenuated the coefficients for the living arrangement groups. Low parental education and parental worry/anxiety were however associated with higher levels of psychological complaints. Conclusions: Psychological complaints were lower among adolescents in joint physical custody than in adolescents in sole parental care. The difference was not explained by parental ill-health or socioeconomic variables.

Genome-wide analysis identifies 12 loci influencing human reproductive behavior

Barban, Nicola et al. and Mills, Melinda C.

Nature Genetics (2016). Published online first. DOI: 10.1038/ng.3698

Abstract: The genetic architecture of human reproductive behavior—age at first birth (AFB) and number of children ever born (NEB)—has a strong relationship with fitness, human development, infertility and risk of neuropsychiatric disorders. However, very few genetic loci have been identified, and the underlying mechanisms of AFB and NEB are poorly understood. We report a large genome-wide association study of both sexes including 251,151 individuals for AFB and 343,072 individuals for NEB. We identified 12 independent loci that are significantly associated with AFB and/or NEB in a SNP-based genome-wide association study and 4 additional loci associated in a gene-based effort. These loci harbor genes that are likely to have a role, either directly or by affecting non-local gene expression, in human reproduction and infertility, thereby increasing understanding of these complex traits.

Parental and child time investments and the cognitive development of adolescents

Del Boca, Daniela; Monfardini, Chiara and Nicoletti, Cheti

Journal of Labor Economics (2017). Published online first.

Abstract: While a large literature has focused on the impact of parental investments on child cognitive development, very little is known about the role of child's own investments alongside that of the parents. By

using the Child Development Supplement of the Panel Study of Income Dynamics, we model the cognitive production function for adolescents using an augmented value-added model and adopt an estimation method that takes account of unobserved child characteristics. We find that a child's own investments made during adolescence matter more than the mother's. Our empirical results appear to be robust to several sensitivity checks.

Early Childcare, Maternal Education and Family Origins: Differences in Cognitive and Linguistic Outcomes throughout Childhood

Bulgarelli, Daniela and Molina, Paola

Revista de Cercetare si Interventie Sociala (2016), 52: 5-25

Abstract: Centre-based care in early childhood has been associated with better scores on linguistic and cognitive tests at later times. Nevertheless, there is no consensus about the stability of these effects across the preschool and primary school stages. Furthermore, no data about the effects of early care have been reported from the Italian context. Our study analysed the effects of early childcare, maternal education and parental origin (native versus foreign) on the cognitive and linguistic outcomes of pre-schoolers and pupils. The sample comprised 175 three- to ten-year-old children, from a large Northern Italian city. Children's non-verbal cognitive functioning and receptive language were assessed. Parents provided information about their own birthplace and level of education and about their child's birthplace and type of childcare received from 0 to 2 years. Analysis of the single effects of type of care, maternal education and parental origin on children's outcomes, showed differences only due to maternal education. When the interactions among these variables were explored, centre-based care appeared to play a protective role with respect to maternal education: differences due to maternal education were evident in children who had been in home-based care, but not in children who had been in centre-based care. Besides, home-based care appeared to play a protective role with respect to parental origin: children with two foreign parents displayed more advanced linguistic knowledge if they had spent their early years in the home. The importance of educational intervention and training for professionals to better support children's development will be discussed.

Pathways to Childlessness among Women and Men: Is the Romanian Case Unique or Common in the Eastern Part of Europe?

Faludi, Cristina

Romanian Journal for Population Studies (2016), 10 (1): 133-156

Abstract: This paper investigates the determinants of childlessness among men and women from Bulgaria, Romania and Russia, using data on a sub-sample of 30- 49 years old respondents from the first wave of Generations and Gender Survey (2004-2005). For each country, two models of logistic regression were conducted to contrast childless men and women with fathers and mothers. Covariates comprising background and work related characteristics, early life course variables, attitudes and values were used in the regression models. The outcomes of the multivariate analysis revealed a set of similarities, both from the gender and country perspective as well. Childless women and men from all three countries have younger ages and acquired a higher level of education compared with mothers and fathers. In the same time, childless people originated from families with a unique child, and claimed secularized attitudes and values. However, other covariates point at different roads leading to childlessness in the three Eastern European countries. In Romania, women who grew up in urban areas, hired in top jobs positions and who attended more often religious services are more likely to remain childless than women from villages, holding blue collar jobs or being unemployed, and who are less religious. Instead, men with lower levels of education and less prestigious jobs were more likely to remain childless, compared with men with a university degree and with a top job position. In Bulgaria, men whose mother is more educated and women whose father held a better job have a higher propensity to remain childless. In Russia, childlessness is more prevalent among less successful men, with a lower level of education and with an unemployment status. Beyond the similarities in the road to childlessness between gender and countries, in Romania, the effect of significant factors on childlessness is more accentuated for women than for men. Also, it seems the diffusion of childlessness in Romania is related to more privileged women and less successful men. Bulgarian and Russian results are more nuanced by gender.

Is the Family System in Romania Similar to those of Southern European Countries?

Castiglioni, Maria; Hărăguș, Mihaela; Faludi, Cristina and Hărăguș, Paul-Teodor

Comparative Population Studies (2016), 41 (1): 57-86

Abstract: In his influential 1998 study, David S. Reher discusses historical differences between countries with strong and weak family ties. He focuses on the “Western World”, comparing Italy and the Iberian Peninsula with Scandinavia, the British Isles, the Low Countries, Germany and Austria, together with North America. In this paper, we explore whether Romania, in Eastern Europe, can be characterised as having a strong family system, given the increasingly important role family has played for individual well-being following the end of the socialist regime. We observe a number of similarities between Romania and Southern European countries in terms of behaviours associated with “strong family ties”, opinions on family care and mutual intergenerational support. Differences can be explained in light of Romania’s economic and housing crisis. Overall, it is likely that the importance of family ties in Romania increased after the end of the socialist regime.

Understanding Heterogeneity in the Effects of Parental Separation on Educational Achievement in Britain: Do Children from Lower Educational Backgrounds Have Less to Lose?

Bernardi, Fabrizio and Boertien, Diederik

European Sociological Review (2016). Published online first. DOI: 10.1093/esr/jcw036.

Abstract: We use the British Cohort Study 1970 to show that the proportion of children achieving a tertiary education degree is 8 percentage points lower for the offspring of separated parents than for children from intact families. Moreover, the children of highly educated parents experience a two times larger ‘separation penalty’ than the children of less educated parents. We find a similar pattern of heterogeneity in effects for the likelihood of participation in academic education (A-Levels) beyond school leaving age but not for school grades at age 16. We test three different explanations for heterogeneity in the parental separation penalty: changes in family relations, changes in income, and negative selection into separation based on unobserved characteristics. We address the potential endogeneity of parental separation by including pre-separation observable characteristics, individual fixed effects models, and a placebo test. Our key finding is that

changes in family income, but not those in family relations or selection, explain a large part of heterogeneity in the effects of parental separation. Children with more highly educated parents face a larger decline in family income if parents separate and, in addition, declines in family income of equal amounts entail more negative consequences for their educational attainment.

Non-intact Families and Diverging Educational Destinies: A Decomposition Analysis for Germany, Italy, the United Kingdom and the United States

Bernardi, Fabrizio and Boertien, Diederik

Social Science Research (2016).

Published online first. DOI:10.1016/j.ssresearch.2016.09.004.

Abstract: We examine whether the presence of non-intact families in society is related to increased inequality in educational attainment according to social background, as suggested by the ‘diverging destinies’ thesis. We analyze four countries, Germany, Italy, the United Kingdom, and the United States, that differ in the prevalence of non-intact families and in the strength of the negative association between growing up in a non-intact family and children’s educational attainment. We use a Blinder-Oaxaca decomposition approach to calculate a ‘counterfactual’ estimate of differences in educational attainment between socioeconomically advantaged and disadvantaged children in the hypothetical absence of non-intact families. Contrary to the diverging destinies thesis, we find little differences between actual and ‘counterfactual’ levels of inequality in educational attainment in all four countries. Whereas growing-up in a non-intact family affects the individual chances of educational attainment, the overall contribution of non-intact families to aggregate levels of social background inequality appears minimal.

Main Breadwinner Women in Hungary and Their Work-family Balance Related Coping Strategies

Neményi, Mária and Takács, Judit

Intersections. East European Journal of Society and Politics (2016), 2 (3): 97-117.

Abstract: In this study, being the first Hungarian qualitative study devoted to this subject, we focus on the work-life balance situation of Hungarian women acting as main breadwinners within their family. The

empirical base of our study consisted of 22 in-depth interviews conducted with Hungarian mothers of dependent children younger than 14, living in (heterosexual) couple households, who bring in at least 60% of the total household earnings. We examined how the main breadwinner role might affect the gender norm expectations acquired during socialisation, the division of domestic labour and child care duties between the partners, as well as the internal power relations of the couple. According to our findings, various versions of work-life balance management could be identified even within our small-scale qualitative sample on the basis of two main dimensions. On the one hand, on the basis of our interviewees' accounts we examined whether the partners had similar role expectations in terms of egalitarian sharing of family related tasks or traditionally gendered role specialisation. On the other hand, we have also considered to what extent other contextual factors contributed to women becoming primary breadwinners, and whether these were perceived in terms of external constraints or preferred choices (or both). On the basis of our analyses we have identified four models of family relations in the context of primary female breadwinning: the traditional, the egalitarian, the externally forced role reversal and the consciously implemented role reversal models.

Residential care and care to community-dwelling parents: out-selection, in-selection and diffusion of responsibility

Van den Broek, Thijs and Dykstra, Pearl A.

Ageing and Society (2016). Published online first. DOI: 10.1017/S0144686X16000519

Abstract: Research suggests that adult children are less likely to provide care to community-dwelling parents when beds in residential care settings are more widely available. The underlying mechanisms are not well understood. Drawing on data from the Survey of Health, Ageing and Retirement in Europe (SHARE) on 1,214 impaired parent-child dyads from 12 countries, we find that adult children are less likely to provide care in countries where beds in residential care settings are more widely available because (a) parents' care needs are less severe in such countries (out-selection hypothesis) and (b) adult children and impaired parents are less likely to share a household in such countries (in-selection hypothesis). Finally (c), after taking these two factors into account, adult children remain less likely to provide care in countries where beds in residential care settings are more widely available (diffusion of responsibility hypothesis). Plausibly, being able to rely on residential care

undermines adult children's sense of urgency to step in and provide care to their parents.

Preschool education as the great equalizer? A cross-country study into the sources of inequality in reading competence

Cebolla-Boado, Héctor; Radl, Jonas and Salazar, Leire

Acta Sociologica (2016). Published online first. DOI: 10.1177/0001699316654529

Abstract: In this study we examine the extent to which preschool education can reduce social background differentials in learning outcomes across countries; our focus is on whether the benefits of preschool attendance for children depend on other family inputs such as parents' education and their pedagogical involvement during early childhood. We use the 2011 Progress in International Reading Literacy Study, which provides a standardized measure of reading literacy among students in 4th grade. Our sample contains data on 119,008 individuals from 28 developed countries. The presented evidence confirms that preschool is visibly beneficial in most cases, but also that benefits are lower for children who have more involved or more educated parents. Rather than complements to, parental involvement and parental education seem to be substitutes for preschool attendance in children's skill production function. As such, preschool education reduces social inequalities in educational achievement. Yet, its equalizing potential could have been overstated in previous debates.

Introduction to research on immigrant and ethnic minority families in Europe

Kulu, Hill and Hannemann, Tina

Demographic Research (2016), Volume 35, Article 2: 31-46

Abstract: Background: This article provides an introduction to the special collection of papers on partnership dynamics among immigrants and their descendants in five selected European countries: Sweden, France, the UK, Spain, and Estonia. Results: The analysis shows a significant variation in partnership patterns among immigrants in all five countries. Immigrants from countries with more 'conservative' family patterns (e.g., those from Turkey, South Asia, and the Maghreb region) have high marriage rates, low (premarital) cohabitation levels, and are less likely to separate. By contrast, more 'fluid' family formation patterns dominate among some non-European immigrant groups (e.g., Caribbeans, Sub-

Saharan Africans, and Latin Americans). Conclusions: The significant diversity of partnership patterns within countries across immigrant groups supports the idea that socialisation factors play an important role in their partnership behaviour. The partnership patterns of immigrants' descendants are 'in-between'. These findings support the idea that both the minority subculture and the mainstream society have an effect on the behaviour of ethnic groups; however, the role of minority subculture seems to be larger than expected among some groups (e.g., individuals of Turkish, South Asian, Slavic, and Maghrebian origin). Contribution: All five studies report a significant diversity in partnership patterns across ethnic groups and suggest that the diversity in family forms will persist in the future. We argue that future research should investigate family patterns among the 'third generation', examine the links between economic and cultural integration of ethnic minorities, and exploit various novel techniques to analyse the dynamic nature of individuals' lives.

Partnership formation and dissolution among immigrants in the Spanish context

Gonzalez-Ferrer, Amparo; Hannemann, Tina and Castro-Martín, Teresa
Demographic Research (2016), Volume 35, Article 1: 1-30

Abstract: Background: The diversification of partnership patterns away from the traditional marriage standard emerged in Spain relatively late. This makes Spain an interesting case for the study of the partnership dynamics of natives and immigrant groups. Objective: This paper analyzes partnership formation and dissolution among immigrant women of various origins, in comparison to natives in Spain. The study aims to identify variations in timing and incidence of partnership transitions. Methods: Data from the Fertility and Values Survey 2006 is used to conduct discrete-time logistic regressions for several union transitions. In a further step, the data are analyzed including cohort interactions to explore the extent to which differences are due to the younger profile of the migrant population. Results: The obtained results lend support to the selection and disruption hypotheses in the case of immigrant women who arrived in Spain before their first union formation. However, when explaining the high propensity of Latin American and EU-15 women to enter cohabiting unions, socialization effects cannot be ruled out. Immigrant women also show higher risk of union dissolution than natives. Conclusions: Immigrant women differ consistently from native Spanish women across the various partnership transitions. They generally

display higher risks of forming a union, particularly a cohabiting union, and of separating from their first partner. Models including interactions between birth cohort and migrant status showed that differentials between immigrants and natives are not due to compositional effects.

When rationing plays a role: Selection criteria in the Italian early childcare system

Del Boca, Daniela; Pronzato, Chiara and Sorrenti, Giuseppe
CESifo Economic Studies (2016). Published online first.

Abstract: Our study explores the impact of selection criteria on the costs and benefits of early childcare for mothers' employment, child development, and municipalities' revenues by exploiting the selection criteria of different Italian municipalities in assigning childcare slots. In Italy, only around 13% of the demand for public childcare coverage is met, and the number of applications exceeds the number of places in childcare services in all regions. In conditions of excess demand, municipalities introduce selection criteria to give priority to families for whom access to public childcare appears to be more valuable. We analyse through simulations the consequences of introducing different selection criteria, using a representative Italian sample of households with children under 3 years of age (European Survey on Living and Income Conditions), and the selection criteria employed by six representative Italian municipalities. Our results have interesting policy implications. The benefits for child outcomes and mothers' employment are stronger in municipalities where the selection criteria give priority to more disadvantaged households. However, in these contexts, selected households are less able to contribute to the financial sustainability of the service.

Education capability: A focus on gender and science

Addabbo, Tindara; Di Tommaso, Maria Laura and Maccagnan, Anna
Social Indicators Research (2015). Published online first

Abstract: The focus of the paper is on the measurement of science education capability with a gender perspective and in the capability approach framework. Measuring science education capability implies going beyond the measurement of children test scores. In the capability approach, we aim at the real opportunities that children can develop later in life and therefore it is important to include some measures of non-cognitive skills. We utilize, therefore, different indicators in addition to

test scores in science: enjoyment in science, interest in science, general and personal values of science, self-confidence in performing science related tasks, awareness and perception of environmental issues, and responsibility for sustainable development. We utilize the 2006 PISA survey for Italian 15 years old children because it contains a particular focus on science and we estimate a Structural Equation Model to take into account that capabilities are latent constructs of which we only observe some indicators. We also investigate the determinants of children's science education capability in Italy taking into account household, individual and school factors. Results confirm that boys outperform girls in science education capability. Our theoretical construct for the science education capability confirms that all the indicators are relevant to measure this capability. School activities to promote sciences improve girls' capability and interactive methods of teaching improve both girls and boys capability. The household educational resources and the household educational possession are also positively correlated with girls' and boys' science education capability.

Parental supervision and adolescent risky behaviors

See, Sarah Grace

Review of Economics of the Household (2016), 14 (1): 185-206

Abstract: This paper re-examines the relationship between parental supervision and adolescents' engagement in risky behaviors. Using the Child Development Supplement and Transition to Adulthood of the Panel Study of Income Dynamics, I consider different measures of supervision among a sample of adolescents 10–21 years old. Issues relating to endogeneity bias and unobserved heterogeneity are accounted for using lagged amounts of supervision and fixed effects as an estimation strategy. The results highlight the role of fathers in mitigating cigarette smoking in the past month, regular alcohol consumption in the past year, and marijuana smoking in the past month. The research emphasizes the need to account for unobserved heterogeneity and supports the idea of looking at the different roles of each parent in affecting child outcomes.

Does child care availability play a role in maternal employment and children's development? Evidence from Italy

Brilli, Ylenia; Del Boca, Daniela and Pronzato, Chiara D.

Review of Economics of the Household (2016), 14 (1): 27-51

Abstract: This paper investigates the effects of public child care availability in Italy in mothers' working status and children's scholastic achievements. We use a newly available dataset containing individual standardized test scores of pupils attending the second grade of primary school in 2009–2010 in conjunction with data on public child care availability. Our estimates indicate a positive and significant effects of child care availability on both mothers' working status and children's Language test scores. We find that a percentage change in public child care coverage increases mothers' probability to work by 1.3 percentage points and children's Language test scores by 0.85 percent of one standard deviation; we do not find any effect on Math test scores. Moreover, the impact of a percentage change in public child care on mothers' employment and children's Language test scores is greater in provinces where child care availability is more limited.

Child care, maternal employment, and children's school outcomes. An analysis of Italian data

Del Boca, Daniela; Pasqua, Silvia and Suardi, Simona

European Journal of Population (2016), 32 (2): 211-229

Abstract: In this paper we analyse the impact of mothers' employment status and formal child care attendance during early childhood on children's school grades later in life, controlling for socio-demographic factors. We use the year 2008 of the Italian ISFOL-PLUS dataset. The dataset provides information on each respondent's demographic characteristics, as well as a set of retrospective information on the individual's school grades at the end of junior high school, high school, and university, along with (in the 2008 wave only) information about the respondent's formal child care attendance and mother's employment status when he or she was under age of three. We estimate the effects of maternal employment and child care attendance on the probability that the respondent would have high grades at the end of high school. Since maternal employment and child care attendance are likely to be endogenously determined, we use an instrumental variable approach. Our empirical results show that while having a mother who was working (during early childhood) had no significant effect on an individual's high school grades, child care attendance had a positive and significant effect. These results have potential policy implications. As maternal employment does not seem to negatively affect the development process of children, while child care attendance appears to have a positive impact on academic achievement, policy makers should consider expanding the

availability of child care and promoting women's participation in the labour market.

The role of attitudes towards maternal employment in the relationship between job quality and fertility intentions

Hanappi, Doris; Ryser, Valérie-Anne and Bernardi, Laura

Journal of Research in Gender Studies (2016), 6 (1): 192-219

Abstract: Where changes in fertility timing and sequencing do not suffice in explaining low fertility, scholars typically turn to socioeconomic determinants of fertility intentions like income, employment status, or work hours. Yet, few studies have focused on the importance of job quality and its relation to gender role attitudes. We examine in what way perceived job quality in terms of job stability and prestige are associated with the intention to have a child for men and women in the low fertility context Switzerland, whether job quality matters equally for first and subsequent child intentions, and whether a gender-unequal attitude changes the effects of job quality on the childbearing intentions of men and women. Using data from the Swiss Household Panel (waves 2002–2011), we estimate separate logit models of the fertility intentions of men and women without children and those with at least one child. We find that perceived job instability negatively affects the intention of having a first child for women but not for men. Our analyses suggest that the relation between perceived job quality and fertility intention is partially mediated by gender attitudes in so far as they modify the salience of job quality for men and women.

Aging without children

Ivanova, Katya and Dykstra, Pearl

Public Policy & Aging Report (2015), 25 (3): 98-101

Abstract: This issue of Public Policy and Aging Report brings into focus the fact that the “graying” of Western countries is playing out at the backdrop of fundamental rethinking and restructuring of the institution of “the” family. These changes are happening at a time when even countries with a long-standing tradition of generous state-funded social support systems are beginning to shift at least some care obligations away from the state in pursuit of a society based on the principle of individual responsibility (e.g., the Netherlands). The implicit assumption underlying this shift is that family members (and adult children in particular) will step in as needs for care and support arise. However, what does this mean

for those individuals who, by choice or involuntarily, do not have children in old age?

Norms of filial obligation and actual support to parents in Central and Eastern Europe

Mureşan, Cornelia and Hărăguş, Paul-Teodor

Romanian Journal of Population Studies (2015), IX (2): 49-81

Abstract: Country differences in intergenerational relationships are not only attributable to economic, policy, housing contexts but also to a cultural tendency towards closer intergenerational ties. This study is a cross-national comparison regarding the relationship between norms of filial obligation and actual giving of financial support and care in several Central and Eastern European (CEE) countries as compared to Western Europe. We examine to what extent norms of filial obligation are consistent with helping behaviour, whether the responsiveness to norms varies by country context, and whether CEE countries differ from societies benefiting of more generous public support to ageing people. The data used in this study come from the Generation and Gender Programme. We show that actual support to parents is not more prevalent in CEE than in Western European (WE) countries, even if norms of filial obligations are more strongly expressed. On the contrary, emotional support has a higher prevalence in WE. However, the connection between filial responsibility and instrumental care is stronger in CEE, while the connection between financial help and norms of filial obligation is stronger in WE. In CEE countries contrasting mechanisms may play: in some countries people have no choice but to assist parents in need financially, but in others they do not provide such help as they do not consider financial support being part of their filial obligations. Interestingly, we did not find any connection between filial responsibility and emotional support to parents, neither in East nor in West European countries.

Dynamics of mixed unions in Transylvania, Romania

Hărăguş, Mihaela

Romanian Journal of Population Studies (2015), IX (2):103-122

Abstract: In this work, mixed union formation and dissolution of Hungarian ethnics in Transylvania have been investigated, with the aim of finding which characteristics of individuals were connected with the tendency towards exogamy, and whether inter-ethnic unions are more

fragile than endogamous ones. The analysis showed that the language of studies makes a clear difference between endogamous and exogamous union formation: persons that had studied at least one educational level in Romanian language had visible higher risks to form an inter-ethnic union, both marriage and cohabitation. In case of marriage dissolution, higher divorce risks for exogamous than for endogamous marriages have been found, and in case of formation of a second union, the results showed that persons who had a first exogamous union exhibit twice the risk of entering a second exogamous union compared with persons that had a first endogamous union.

Parenting as mediator between post-divorce family structure and children's well-being

Bastais, Kim and Mortelmans, Dimitri

Journal of Child and Family Studies (2016). Published online first. DOI: 10.1007/s10826-016-0395-8

Abstract: Divorce and its subsequent transitions can be stressful for children and therefore, affect their well-being in a negative manner. Effective parenting (with high support and high control) can, however, function as a protective factor. While previous studies have indicated that effective parenting does indeed improve children's well-being after divorce, these studies tended to concentrate on maternal family structures and transitions as well as maternal parenting. With this study, we investigate the mediating role of both maternal and paternal parenting between various family structures after divorce (including the custodial arrangement as well as the repartnering of both parents) and children's well-being. Therefore, we analyzed 618 parent-child dyads from the multi-actor dataset "Divorce in Flanders—DiF" using a mediated structural equation model. Results revealed that both maternal and paternal parenting can mediate between family structure after divorce and children's well-being. Depending on the type of post divorce family constellation, parenting can be considered as a risk or a protective factor, for both maternal and paternal parenting.

Reliability of union histories in social science surveys: Blurred memory, deliberate misreporting, or true tales?

Kreyenfeld, Michaela and Bastin, Sonja

Advances in Life Course Research (2016), 27: 30-42

Abstract: This paper examines the reliability of biographical information gathered retrospectively. It draws on data from the German Family Panel (pairfam), which collected information on the partnership status at first birth using two different strategies. The first strategy was to collect partnership and fertility histories separately in an event history calendar. The second strategy was to ask the respondents directly about their partnership status at first childbirth. We find that in almost 20 percent of the cases, the information collected using the two different strategies did not correspond. The dissolution of a partnership and having a complex partnership biography are strong predictors for discrepancies in the information gathered through the two different strategies. We conclude by discussing the factors that lead to the different outcomes produced by each of the two methods, and the implications of these discrepancies for the study of partnership and fertility behavior in general.

Social attitudes toward adoption by same-sex couples in Europe

Takács, Judit; Szalma, Ivett and Bartus, Tamás

Archives of Sexual Behavior (2016). Published online first. DOI: 10.1007/s10508-016-0691-9

Abstract: By examining social attitudes on same-sex adoption in 28 European countries, we highlighted individual and country-level factors that can determine the level of social acceptance or rejection of this specific kind of adoption. This article contributes to the literature on social acceptance of lesbian women, gay men, and their adoption practices in Europe and directs attention to several previously under-researched aspects of social attitudes on same-sex parenting rights. The empirical base of this study was the fourth round of the European Values Study, conducted in 2008–2010. Using ordered logistic regressions, we examined the impact of several individual and country-level characteristics on the agreement level with the statement that “Homosexual couples should be able to adopt children.” We found strong relationships between social attitudes towards adoption by same-sex couples and the existence of legislation permitting same-sex adoption practices at the country-level, as well as some individual attitudes, including those related to traditional family formation practices, “justification of homosexuality,” and (non-) preference for homosexual neighbors. Our findings indicate a shift within the potential interpretational contexts of adoption by same-sex couples from a narrow sexuality-based framework to a different and possibly much wider context of family and parenting practices.

Contextualizing the education effect on women's employment: A cross-national comparative analysis

Steiber, Nadia; Berghammer, Caroline and Haas, Barbara

Journal of Marriage and Family (2016), 78(1): 246-261

Abstract: The authors examine how and why the effect of education on women's employment varies cross-nationally. First, they present a theoretical model that (a) outlines the micro-level mechanisms underlying education effects on women's employment in the couple context and (b) proposes contextual moderators at the country level. Second, they test the theoretical model against survey data from the United Nations' Generations and Gender Programme for 5 European countries (Austria, France, Germany, Hungary, and Norway). The data comprise 10,048 educationally homogamous heterosexual couples involving a woman age 20–45. The results indicate that more highly educated couples are more likely to have dual-earner arrangements in each country, yet the strength of education effects varied substantially between countries and across the family life cycle. In contrast to prior work, the authors find that education effects are not generally smaller in countries that are supportive of women's employment. This relation holds only for later child-rearing phases.

The causal effect of the great recession on childlessness of white American women

Comolli, Chiara Ludovica and Bernardi, Fabrizio

IZA Journal of Labor Economics (2015), 4:21

Abstract: Many studies have documented a negative association between macroeconomic indicators and fertility in times of economic crisis. These studies are based on research designs that do not allow for excluding that the observed association is driven by confounders. The aim of the present paper is to estimate the causal effect of the Great Recession on cohorts' childlessness in the United States. We apply a difference-in-difference approach to the probability of childlessness in two pseudo-cohorts of white women who entered the age of 34–36 years old being childless before the crisis, in 2004, and at the onset of the crisis, in 2007. Our identification strategy relies on the assumption that these two adjacent cohorts of women differ only because the latter cohort lived some critical years of reproductive life during the Great Recession period. We then study how many childless women aged 34–36 had a child when they were 37–39, between the years 2004 and 2007 for the control group and

between the years 2007 and 2010 for the treatment group. We argue that an increase of childlessness at the age 37–39 is likely to lead to an increase in permanent childlessness, since major catch-up processes are unlikely after age 40. We replicate the analysis on two datasets: the American Community Survey and the Fertility Supplement of the Current Population Survey. Our findings suggest that the Great Recession has had a positive, though mild, effect on childlessness of white women at about the age of 40 in the US. Posted January 11 2016

Who remains childless? Unrealized fertility plans in Hungary

Ivett, Szalma and Takács, Judit

Sociologický časopis / Czech Sociological Review (2015), 51(6): 1047-1076,

DOI: 10.13060/00380288.2015.51.6.228

Abstract: This article focuses on remaining childless as a result of certain choices and constraints (not on becoming childless as a result of outliving children). There are two main aims of this study. First it seeks to reveal whether any specific features appear when (temporarily) childless people are compared with those having children in the same cohorts. It also aims to explore what kinds of factors can lead to childlessness (or more precisely, the prolongation of a childless period in life) among those men and women who, according to their self-assessment, were not prevented from having children by their own or their partner's health constraints. The analysis draws on GGS data from the first three waves of the Hungarian panel survey 'Turning Points of the Life Course' conducted in 2001, 2004, and 2008. The focus is on men and women who were childless in 2001 and were still childless in 2008. According to the findings, events directly connected to childbearing, such as having a stable partner or not having a partner, living in cohabitation or in marriage, have more influence on decisions about becoming parents than normative expectations, while economic factors (such as having a job) have some impact mainly on postponing childbearing, but do not seem to influence directly whether people will remain childless.

Parental constructions of masculinity at the transition to parenthood: the division of parental leave among Austrian couples

Schmidt, Eva-Maria; Rieder, Irene, Zartler, Ulrike, Schadler, Cornelia and Richter, Rudolf

International Review of Sociology (2015), 25(3):373-386,

DOI: 10.1080/03906701.2015.1078532

Abstract: Men and masculinity are considered a key factor in changing gender inequality at the transition to parenthood. Prior research on gendered division of parental leave concentrated on fathers' perspectives. This paper includes perspectives of fathers and mothers who make use of parental leave in different ways and asks how masculinity is jointly constructed, how these constructions are linked to the use of parental leave, and if and how they are oriented towards hegemonic masculinity. The analysis is based on 44 qualitative interviews with 11 Austrian couples before and after birth when decisions concerning parental leave were made. Our case reconstructions reveal that parents considered parental leave a central element of masculinity as long as it suited fathers' needs and circumstances permitted. The decisions for sharing parental leave were father centred as both partners valued father's leave higher than mother's.

Reliability of union histories in social science surveys: Blurred memory, deliberate misreporting, or true tales?

Kreyenfeld, Michaela and Bastin, Sonja

Advances in Life Course Research (2015), Available online

Abstract: This paper examines the reliability of biographical information gathered retrospectively. It draws on data from the German Family Panel (pairfam), which collected information on the partnership status at first birth using two different strategies. The first strategy was to collect partnership and fertility histories separately in an event history calendar. The second strategy was to ask the respondents directly about their partnership status at first childbirth. We find that in almost 20 percent of the cases, the information collected using the two different strategies did not correspond. The dissolution of a partnership and having a complex partnership biography are strong predictors for discrepancies in the information gathered through the two different strategies. We conclude by discussing the factors that lead to the different outcomes produced by each of the two methods, and the implications of these discrepancies for the study of partnership and fertility behavior in general.

Non-resident parent-child contact after marital dissolution and parental repartnering: Evidence from Italy

Meggiolaro, Silvia and Ongaro, Fausta

Demographic Research (2015), Volume 33, Article 40: 1137-1152

Abstract: With the diffusion of marital instability, the number of children who spend some of their childhood without one of their parents has become significant, even in Italy. Therefore, given the importance of parent-child interactions for children's wellbeing, analyzing children's contact with the non-resident parent has become relevant. In this paper we consider the frequency of contact between children and their non-resident parent after separation, with a double aim: a) to analyze if and how the non-resident parent's contact with his/her children varies according to whether the (resident or non-resident) parent has repartnered, and b) to investigate whether the relationship between repartnering and contact differs according to the gender of the non-resident parent. The study focuses on children aged 0-17 living with only one biological parent, using data pooled together from two cross-sectional rounds of the Italian survey, Family and Social Subjects. Results show that parents' repartnering is positively associated with lower non-resident parent-child contact only in the case of non-resident fathers; in the case of a non-resident mother, her repartnering is actually correlated with higher contact.

Psychological complaints among children in joint physical custody and other family types: Considering parental factors

Fransson, Emma; Turunen, Jani, Hjern, Anders, Östberg, Viveca, and Bergström, Malin

Scandinavian Journal of Public Health (2015), 1-7. DOI: 10.1177/1403494815614463

Abstract: This study investigates the psychological complaints of children in joint physical custody in comparison to children in sole parental care and nuclear families, while controlling for socioeconomic differences and parental ill-health. Data were obtained from Statistics Sweden's yearly Survey of Living Conditions 2007–2011 and child supplements with children 10–18 years, living in households of adult participants. Children in joint physical custody (n=391) were compared with children in sole parental care (n=654) and children in nuclear families (n=3,639), using a scale of psychological complaints as the outcome measure. The results show that children in joint physical custody did not report higher levels of psychological complaints than those in nuclear families, while children in sole parental care reported elevated levels of complaints compared with those in joint physical custody. Adding socioeconomic variables and parental ill-health only marginally attenuated the coefficients for the living arrangement groups. Low parental education and parental

worry/anxiety were however associated with higher levels of psychological complaints.

Persisting differences or adaptation to German fertility patterns? First and second birth behavior of the 1.5 and second generation Turkish migrants in Germany

Krapf, Sandra and Wolf, Katharina

Kölner Zeitschrift für Soziologie und Sozialpsychologie (2015), 67(1):137-164

Abstract: In this study, we use data of the German Mikrozensus to explore first and second birth behavior of migrants' descendants. Whereas prior waves of the Mikrozensus only included respondents' citizenship, in the survey years 2005 and 2009 also parental citizenship has been surveyed. This allows us to identify respondents' migrant backgrounds, even if they have German citizenship. We distinguish those who migrated as children (1.5 generation) from those who were born to Turkish parents in Germany (second generation migrants). We compare both migrant generations to German non-migrants. Using discrete-time hazard models, our results show that 1.5 generation migrants have the highest probability of having a first and second birth, while German non-migrants have the lowest birth probabilities. The second generation lies in-between. This pattern also persists after taking the educational attainment of respondents into consideration. However, there seems to be an adaptation of highly educated second generation Turkish migrants to non-migrant Germans: we find no significant differences in the probability of having a first birth in the two groups. For second births, we do not find this pattern which might be related to the young age structure in the sample of second generation migrants.

Care ideals in the Netherlands: Shifts between 2002 and 2011

Van den Broek, Thijs; Dykstra, Pearl A., and Van der Veen, Romke

Canadian Journal on Aging/La Revue canadienne du vieillissement (2015), 34(03):268-281,

DOI 10.1017/S0714980815000215

Abstract: Our study's premise was that normative care beliefs can inform the current care policy debate. We conducted latent class regression analyses on two waves of Netherlands Kinship Panel Study data (n = 4,163) to distinguish care ideals that captured multiple dimensions of normative care beliefs simultaneously. We also assessed how these care

ideals have shifted in the early twenty-first century. We distinguished four care ideals: warm-modern (family and state jointly responsible for caring, egalitarian gender roles), cold-modern (large state responsibility, restricted family responsibility, egalitarian gender roles), traditional (restricted state responsibility, large family responsibility, moderately traditional gender roles), and cold-traditional (large state responsibility, restricted family responsibility, traditional gender roles). Between 2002 and 2011, there has been a shift away from warm-modern care ideals and towards cold-modern care ideals. This is remarkable, because Dutch policy makers have increasingly encouraged family members to take on an active role in caring for dependent relatives.

Partnership dynamics across generations of immigration in France: Structural vs. cultural factors

Pailhé, Ariane

Demographic Research (2015), Volume 33, Article 16:451-498

Abstract: This study analyzes the integration dynamics across generations of immigrants in France by focusing on partnership formation patterns. It addresses how the socialization vs. assimilation hypothesis shapes immigrants and their descendants' first partnership formation patterns, analyzing the interplay of cultural and structural factors. It compares i) the timing of union formation, ii) the type of first union (cohabitation vs. marriage), and iii) the transition from cohabitation to marriage of first- and second-generation male and female immigrants from the same region of origin with those of the native-born. The results show a convergence towards prevailing French behavior across the generations of immigrants. Second-generation immigrants form their first union later than the first generation. Structural factors such as higher level of education have led to changes in partnership formation patterns over generations of immigrants but the convergence is not complete, and cultural factors have a strong effect, especially for women.

Parental divorce, psychological well-being and educational attainment: Changed experience, unchanged effect among Swedes born 1892-1991

Gähler, Michael and Palmtag, Eva-Lisa

Social Indicators Research (2015), 123(2):601-623

Abstract: During the last century, the proportion of children and adolescents who have experienced a parental divorce or separation has

increased dramatically, in Sweden and elsewhere. Vast research has shown that children in these families fare less well than children in intact families, both in the short and in the long run and on a number of outcomes. Much less is known about whether parental divorce means the same for children and adolescents today as it did a century ago. Have living conditions changed and, if so, how? Moreover, has the association between parental divorce and child well-being changed in magnitude over time? To answer these questions six waves of the Swedish Level of Living Survey were used. We show that living conditions for children of divorce have indeed changed on a number of dimensions but there is no evidence of magnitude change in the association between parental divorce/separation and two child outcomes, psychological well-being and educational attainment.

Marriage and divorce of immigrants and descendants of immigrants in Sweden

Andersson, Gunnar; Obucina, Ognjen, and Scott, Kirk

Demographic Research, (2015), Volume 33, Article 2:31-64

Abstract: Immigrants and their second-generation descendants make up more than a quarter of the current Swedish population. Their nuptiality patterns can be viewed as crucial indicators of their integration into Swedish society. This study provides data on levels of and patterns in marriage formation, divorce, and re-marriage of people in Sweden, by country of origin. The study is based on analyses of longitudinal register data that cover all residents born in 1951 and later who ever lived in Sweden during 1983-2007. We find evidence of variation among immigrant groups and between migrants and Swedish-born people in marriage and divorce patterns. A few groups of migrants have relatively high churning rates in family dynamics, with high levels of marriage formation, divorce, and re-marriage.

Partnership dynamics among migrants and their descendants in Estonia

Rahnu, Leen; Puur, Alan, Sakkeus, Luule, and Klesment, Martin

Demographic Research, (2015), Volume 32, Article 56:1519-1566

Abstract: Extensive scholarly literature documents the decline in marriage and increase in non-marital cohabitation and divorce across regions and countries of Europe, but we know less about the extent to which these new family behaviours that have emerged in host societies

are adopted by migrants. The aim of this study is to examine partnership transitions among the migrants and their descendants in Estonia, who mainly originate from the European part of Russia. By investigating an East European context, the study contributes to a more comprehensive account of migrant populations in different socio-economic and cultural settings. The study is based on the Estonian Generations and Gender Survey (2004/2005) and the Estonian Family and Fertility Survey (1994/1997), and employs proportional hazards models. The results show that new family formation patterns, associated with the Second Demographic Transition, are less prevalent among migrants. The results lend support to socialisation, cultural maintenance, and adaptation hypotheses, and underscore the importance of contextual factors. The analysis reveals disruption effects of migration on partnership processes.

Union formation and dissolution among immigrants and their descendants in the United Kingdom

Hannemann, Tina and Kulu, Hill

Demographic Research, (2015), Volume 33, Article 10:273-312

Abstract: This study investigates union formation and dissolution among immigrants and their descendants in the UK. We use data from the Understanding Society study and apply the techniques of event history analysis. We contrast partnership trajectories of various immigrant groups and compare these with those of the 'native' British population. The analysis shows significant differences in partnership formation and dissolution among immigrants and ethnic minorities. Women of Caribbean origin have the highest cohabitation and the lowest marriage rates, whereas cohabitation remains rare among immigrants from South Asia and their descendants, as most of them marry directly. Immigrants from the Caribbean region and their descendants also show higher divorce rates than 'native' British women, whereas women of South Asian origin have a low divorce risk.

Markets, regimes, and the role of stakeholders: Explaining precariousness of migrant domestic/care workers in different institutional frameworks

Hellgren, Zenia

Social Politics: International Studies in Gender, State & Society (2015), online publication, DOI: 10.1093/sp/jxv010

Abstract: Spain and Sweden represent societies with very different welfare, migration, and employment regimes in a European context, but in both countries, female migrant workers in the private domestic/care sectors experience precarious job conditions. The purpose of this article is to explain the situation of migrant workers in these societies through an analysis of both structural components and the position of stakeholders involved in the private care/domestic services sector. Comparing the cases of Spain and Sweden, I argue that different characteristics of regimes and markets—rather paradoxically—produce similar results for the workers. In both countries, there is pressure to keep the wages low. Work hours are often unpredictable and adapted to the clients’ demands. In Spain, these workers fill the “care gap”, representing a comparably affordable solution to the lack of public eldercare. In Sweden, the private domestic services market expanded after the so-called RUT tax subsidy was implemented in 2007. Here, cleaning companies play a key role as middlemen who receive a large share of the cost for these services. Few actors represent the workers, and those who do find themselves restrained by structural factors (as NGOs in Spain) or ambiguous in their support (as the Swedish trade unions). All in all, the female migrant domestic/care workers in Spain and Sweden apparently form part of the development towards a “migrant precariat” in European societies.

Childbearing within marriage and consensual union in Latin America, 1980–2010

Laplante, Benoît; Castro-Martín, Teresa, Cortina, Clara, and Martín-García, Teresa

Population and Development Review (2015), 41(1):85-108, DOI: 10.1111/j.1728-4457.2015.00027.x

Abstract: This article compares the fertility patterns of women in consensual union and marriage in 13 Latin American countries, using census microdata from the four most recent census rounds and a methodological approach that combines the own-children method and Poisson regression. Results show that in all these countries, fertility is slightly higher within consensual union than marriage and that the age pattern of fertility is very similar in marital and non-marital unions. Further analyses show that over the period considered, childbearing within a consensual union has changed from rare to increasingly common, although not yet mainstream, for highly educated women in most countries examined. Results show that in Latin America, at least since the 1980s, women’s childbearing patterns depend on their age and

on their being in a conjugal relationship, but not on the legal nature of this relationship. The similarities in reproductive behavior between marital and non-marital unions are not confined to the socially disadvantaged groups, but apply as well to the better off.

When growing up without a parent does not hurt: Parental separation and the compensatory effect of social origin

Grätz, Michael

European Sociological Review (2015), online publication, DOI: 10.1093/esr/jcv057

Abstract: This article investigates how the negative impact of parental separation on children's educational outcomes varies with social origin. In particular, I test the compensatory class hypothesis which postulates that higher class families compensate the negative effects of disadvantageous life events, such as parental separation. I apply family-fixed effects models to control for unmeasured confounding characteristics of families and use data on siblings from Germany. I do find indication of substantial negative effects of parental separation on the probability of attending the upper track in secondary school (Gymnasium) and on school grades in German and Mathematics. These negative consequences of parental separation are limited to children with low-educated parents. Children in families with highly educated parents are not negatively affected by their parents' separation in their educational outcomes. This finding supports the compensatory class hypothesis and demonstrates that research on the consequences of parental separation has to take into account the heterogeneity of separation effects.

Zorgidealen in Nederland: verschuivingen tussen 2002 en 2011 (Care ideals in the Netherlands: Shifts between 2002 and 2011)

Van den Broek, Thijs; Dykstra, Pearl A., and Van der Veen, Romke J.

Mens en maatschappij (2015), 90(1):25-52

Abstract: Our point of departure is that normative care beliefs can inform the current care policy debate. We conduct latent class regression analyses using two waves of Netherlands Kinship Panel Study data (N=4,163) to distinguish care ideals that capture multiple dimensions of normative care beliefs simultaneously. We also assess how these care ideals have shifted in the early 21st century. We distinguish four care ideals: warm-modern (family and state jointly responsible for caring,

egalitarian gender roles), cold-modern (large state responsibility, restricted family responsibility, egalitarian gender roles), traditional (restricted state responsibility, large family responsibility, moderately traditional gender roles) and cold-traditional (large state responsibility, restricted family responsibility, traditional gender roles). The probability to adhere to a cold-modern care ideal relative to a warm-modern, traditional or cold-traditional care ideal is higher for men than for women. Between 2002 and 2011 a shift away from warm-modern care ideals and towards cold-modern care ideals has taken place. This is remarkable, because Dutch policy makers have increasingly encouraged family members to take on an active role in caring for dependent relatives.

**Compensatory advantage as a mechanism of educational inequality:
A regression discontinuity based on month of birth**

Bernardi, Fabrizio

Sociology of Education (2014), 87(2):74-88,

DOI: 10.1177/0038040714524258

Abstract: Compensatory advantage is a mechanism of social stratification that complements cumulative advantage and path dependence. In this article, I first discuss the theoretical foundations of the compensatory advantage and path dependence mechanisms and the methodological challenges that complicate identification of their effects. Next, I present a practical demonstration of the use of the compensatory advantage theoretical framework, with a regression discontinuity design estimating the probability of being continuously promoted throughout primary education in France. Results indicate that students born just before the cutoff date for primary school entry, who are consequently the youngest in the class when starting school, face a larger risk of grade repetition. In line with theoretical predictions of the compensatory advantage model, the risk is much smaller for students born to highly educated parents compared to students whose parents have lower educational attainment.

**Access for All? Sozialinvestitionen in der frühkindlichen Bildung und
Betreuung im europäischen Vergleich**

Naumann, Ingela, K.

Zeitschrift für Erziehungswissenschaft (2014), 17(3):113-128 Supplement

Abstract: The importance of investing in early childhood is widely acknowledged in policy circles. Particularly formal Early Childhood

Education and Care (ECEC) is seen as key to creating equal opportunities and combating poverty by increasing educational achievement of children and supporting parental employment. This social investment perspective has in recent decades supported the rapid development and expansion of ECEC in most European countries. However, the international social investment discourse masks fundamental differences in European ECEC systems and detracts attention from the way ECEC is embedded in the wider welfare regime of a country. This paper critically examines the 'social investment potential' of ECEC systems by comparing an early social investment country, Sweden, with two 'late movers', the UK and Germany. It argues that investing in ECEC is not per se a panacea for social inclusion. To the contrary, if not combined with other, partly 'traditional' equality measures both in education and social protection, ECEC investment may have the opposite effect of increasing social inequality.

Does child care availability play a role in maternal employment and children's development? Evidence from Italy

Brilli, Ylenia; Del Boca, Daniela, and Pronzato, Chiara D.

Review of Economics of the Household (2013), online publication, DOI: 10.1007/s11150-013-9227-4

Abstract: This paper investigates the effects of public child care availability in Italy in mothers' working status and children's scholastic achievements. We use a newly available dataset containing individual standardized test scores of pupils attending the second grade of primary school in 2009–2010 in conjunction with data on public child care availability. Our estimates indicate a positive and significant effects of child care availability on both mothers' working status and children's Language test scores. We find that a percentage change in public child care coverage increases mothers' probability to work by 1.3 percentage points and children's Language test scores by 0.85 percent of one standard deviation; we do not find any effect on Math test scores. Moreover, the impact of a percentage change in public child care on mothers' employment and children's Language test scores is greater in provinces where child care availability is more limited.

Paternity leave implementation in Switzerland: a challenge to gendered representations and practices of fatherhood?

Valarino, Isabel and Gauthier, Jacques-Antoine

Community, Work & Family (2015), 21,

DOI: <http://dx.doi.org/10.1080/13668803.2015.1023263>

Abstract: Transition to parenthood in Switzerland takes place in a particularly gendered institutional context. It is the only European country where men do not have access to any kind of statutory parental or paternity leaves. This study empirically investigates the extent to which institutional change through paternity leave implementation at the company level challenges gendered representations and practices of fatherhood. The study draws on a mixed methods case study conducted in a public administration which implemented a one-month paid paternity leave. Using register data about leave recipients (N = 95), we adopt a longitudinal and typological approach of leave uptake patterns by means of sequence and cluster analyses. In-depth interviews conducted with recipient fathers and managers working for the company (n = 30) enable an analysis of the implementation process and the meanings associated with paternity leave and fatherhood. Results show that paternity leave implementation challenged, in a limited way, gendered representations and practices of fatherhood. Fatherhood was made more visible within the company, but workplace characteristics and informal norms influenced fathers' leave uptake. Overall, motherhood and fatherhood were associated with different and specialized responsibilities. Fathers mainly had a secondary and temporary role with the newborn, while mothers were the central and taken-for-granted parent.

Childlessness Intentions and Ideals in Europe

Miettinen, Anneli and Szalma, Ivett

Finnish Yearbook of Population Research XLIX (2014), pp. 31-55

Abstract: Using data from Eurobarometer Surveys 2001–2011 we examine trends and correlates of childlessness intentions and ideals across Europe over the past decade. We distinguish childlessness as a personal preference (personal ideal number of children is zero) from intended childlessness (intention to have no children) as these reflect somewhat different dimensions of childlessness as a conscious decision. We find that, on average, childlessness as a personal preference is relatively rare in Europe, although in some western European countries a sizeable proportion of young adults express a desire to have no children. Intentional childlessness is slightly more common than ideal childlessness is, since about 11% of currently childless young adults aged 18 to 40 years in Europe intend to have no children. We analyse factors related to childlessness intentions and ideals on the individual and

country levels. A weaker individual socioeconomic position influences the intention to remain childless through various channels, such as unemployment or low socioeconomic status. Associations between individual's social position and ideal childlessness are less clear. Results also indicate that macro-economic conditions do not have a direct impact on intentional childlessness, whereas a higher prevalence of traditional family values in a country is related to a lower likelihood of individuals considering childlessness to be their ideal family form.

Relationship Preferences Among Gay and Lesbian Online Daters: Individual and Contextual Influences

Potârcă, Gina; Mills, Melinda, and Neberich, Wiebke

Journal of Marriage and Family (2015), 77(2):523-541, DOI: 10.1111/jomf.12177

Abstract: There is currently little knowledge about what gay men and lesbians seek in a romantic relationship. This study extends the literature on gay men and lesbians' partnership preferences by engaging in the first large-scale empirical study of the long-term dating intentions and monogamy beliefs of gay and lesbian online daters across 53 regions in 8 European countries (N=24,598). Looking at profile and preference information, the authors examined both individual and contextual determinants in a series of multilevel logistic regression analyses. They show that lesbians give more importance to monogamy but show less interest in starting a long-term relationship. The data also reveal the importance of life course aspects such as relationship history and presence of children. Finally, the authors empirically demonstrate that social tolerance and legal recognition of same-sex unions are associated with higher long-term dating intentions and stronger monogamy beliefs.

Non-Standard Work Schedules and Childbearing in the Netherlands: A Mixed-Method Couple Analysis

Begall, Katia; Mills, Melinda, and Ganzeboom, Harry B. G.

Social Forces (2014), online publication, DOI: 10.1093/sf/sou110

Abstract: This study examined the effect of working at non-standard times on the transition to first and second childbirth. Using quantitative couple data from two waves of the Netherlands Kinship Panel Study (N = 742) and semi-structured qualitative interviews (N = 29), we found a lower probability of having a first child when the female partner was engaged in non-standard schedules, and a higher likelihood of second

childbirth for couples where either partner worked in a non-standard schedule. In line with expectations about the institutional and normative context of the Netherlands, we concluded that women adjusted their work schedules to their fertility plans and that couples had a preference for the personal care of their children rather than relying on formal care arrangements. Non-standard schedules served as a means to achieve this.

Household Choices and Child Development

Del Boca, Daniela; Flinn, Christopher; and Wiswall, Matthew
Review of Economic Studies (2014), 81(1):137-185, DOI:
10.1093/restud/rdt026

Abstract: The growth in labour market participation among women with young children has raised concerns about its implications for child cognitive development. We estimate a model of the cognitive development process of children nested within an otherwise standard model of household behaviour. The household makes labour supply decisions and provides time and money inputs into the child quality production process during the development period. Our empirical results indicate that both parents' time inputs are important for the cognitive development of their children, particularly when the child is young. Money expenditures are less productive in terms of producing child quality. Comparative statics exercises demonstrate that cash transfers to households with children have small impacts on child quality due to the relatively low impact of money investments on child outcomes and the fact that a significant fraction of the transfer is spent on other household consumption and the leisure of the parents.

The reproductive context of cohabitation in comparative perspective: Contraceptive use in the United States, Spain, and France

Sweeney, Megan; Castro-Martín, Teresa, and Mills, Melinda
Demographic Research (2015), Volume 32, Article 5:147-182

Abstract: Discussions of cohabitation's place in family formation regimes frequently emphasize comparisons of reproductive behavior among married versus cohabiting couples. Many argue that the rise in cohabitation may have been fueled by availability of highly effective contraception, but that differences in contraceptive use between married and cohabiting couples should diminish as cohabitation becomes more established. We ask whether cohabiting women in the United States, Spain, and France are more likely than married women in these countries

to use the most effective contraceptive methods and reversible methods. We also investigate whether the association between union status and contraceptive use has changed since the mid-1990s. Net of differences in age and parity, cohabitators were more likely than married women to use the most effective contraceptives in the mid-1990s' United States and France, yet notably not in Spain even when cohabitation was relatively uncommon.

Racial Preferences in Online Dating across European Countries

Potârca, Gina and Mills, Melinda

European Sociological Review, online publication, DOI: 10.1093/esr/jcu093

Abstract: Knowledge about how race governs partner selection has been predominantly studied in the United States, yet it is unclear whether these results can be generalized to nations with different racial and immigration patterns. Using a large-scale sample of online daters in nine European countries, we engage in the first cross-national analysis of race-related partner preferences and examine the link between contextual factors and ethnic selectivity. We show that individuals uniformly prefer to date same-race partners and that there is a hierarchy of preferences both among natives and minority groups. Notable country differences are also found. Europeans living in countries with a large foreign-born population have an increased preference for minority groups. The results have implications for immigrant integration policies and demonstrate that Internet dating allows efficient selection by racial divisions, perpetuating country-specific racial inequalities.

Family contexts and adolescents' emotional status

Meggiolaro, Silvia and Ongaro, Fausta

Journal of Youth Studies, (2014), 17(10):1306-1329,

DOI: 10.1080/13676261.2014.918246

Abstract: Children's living arrangements have become increasingly diverse and complex in recent decades: a significant proportion of children reside in stepfamilies or in separated one-parent families, even in countries such as Italy, which only recently is undergoing a transition from traditional to less traditional family behaviours. The present study explores whether given the still relatively traditional family context adolescents experiencing parental separation/repartnering have substantial lower levels of psychological well-being than those living in more traditional families. Analyses suggest that adolescents living in non-

traditional families are not necessarily at higher risks of emotional suffering than others. Only adolescents who live in stepfamilies show a lower level of emotional well-being than those living in two-biological-parent families.

Receiving instrumental support in late parent-child relationships and parental depression

Djundeva, Maja; Mills, Melinda; Wittek, Rafael and Steverink, Nardi
Journals of Gerontology, Series B: Psychological Sciences and Social Sciences (2014),

DOI: 10.1093/geronb/gbu136

Abstract: This study investigates the role of gender, functional limitations, and social interaction in the association between instrumental support from adult children and parental depression. We apply self-determination theory to hypothesize about the role of physical needs and social resources on parental depression in a European context. A sample of 6,268 parents older than 65 who have nonresident children from the first wave of Survey of Health, Ageing and Retirement in Europe (2004) is analyzed. The result shows that there is a U-shaped pattern between receiving instrumental support and depression that persists across country regimes. For respondents with medium physical limitations, too little or too frequent support from children is associated with higher depression.

Varying association between education and second births in Europe: Comparative analysis based on the EU-SILC data

Klesment, Martin; Puur, Allan; Rahnu, Leen and Sakkeus Luule
Demographic Research (2014), Volume 31, Article 27:813-860

Abstract: In this study we investigate the association between women's and their partners' educational attainment and transition to second births comparatively in regions and sub-regions of Europe. The data come from the 2005 and 2011 waves of the EU Statistics on Income and Living Conditions (EU-SILC). The result shows that the Northern Europe exhibits a positive association between women's and their partners' education and second childbearing. Western Europe features a positive relationship among partners but demonstrates a U-shaped pattern among women. A negative relationship between women's education and second childbearing also prevails in Eastern Europe. Except for in Eastern Europe, the time-squeeze adds to the positive effect of women's high education. In Northern Europe it enables highly educated women to

wholly catch up with their counterparts with medium and low education as regards the proportion having second births. In Southern Europe, by contrast, the educational gradient turns negative following the consideration of the time-squeeze effect. We conclude that the relationship between educational attainment and second births varies not only by individual country but also by larger geographical area in Europe. Although smaller in scale than among women, the variation also extends to male partners.

Adolescent Educational Outcomes in Blended Families: Evidence from Swedish Register Data

Turunen, Jani

Journal of Divorce & Remarriage (2014), 55(7):568-589

Abstract: Using Swedish register data, this article examines the association between having experienced the birth of a younger half-sibling and two educational outcome measures among Swedish 9th graders from 1998 to 2007. The data set, with the full population of 9th graders (N = 874,812), enables us to differentiate between adolescents with maternal as well as paternal half-siblings. The results show that adolescents in post-separation families with half-siblings have lower overall grades and are less likely to be eligible for school continuation after 9th grade than those without half-siblings. The results point to interesting gender patterns both by the sex of the child and whether the half-sibling is maternal or paternal.

Mixed marriages in Germany: A high risk of divorce for immigrant-native couples

Milewski, Nadja; Kulu, Hill

European Journal of Population (2014), 30(1):89–113

Abstract: This study investigates the effect of native/immigrant intermarriage on divorce. Our analysis shows that immigrant couples have a lower risk of divorce than do natives. However, marriages between German-born individuals and immigrants have a higher likelihood of separation than marriages between two German-born individuals or between immigrants from the same country, supporting the exogamy hypothesis. The divorce risk increases with the cultural distance between the partners and when the spouses demonstrate differences in their social backgrounds, also supporting the heterogamy hypothesis and the selectivity hypothesis. We found no support for the adaptation and

convergence hypotheses. Divorce levels for mixed marriages are neither similar to the levels of one of the constituent origin groups, nor do they fall between the levels of the two groups; the divorce levels for native/immigrant marriages are higher than those for endogamous marriages.

Family dynamics among immigrants and their descendants in Europe: current research and opportunities

Kulu, Hill; González-Ferrer, Amparo

European Journal of Population (2014) (advanced online publication).

Abstract: This paper reviews recent research on family dynamics among immigrants and their descendants in Europe. While there is a large body of literature on various aspects of immigrant lives in Europe, research on family dynamics has emerged only in the last decade. Studies based on individual-level longitudinal data and disaggregated measures of partnership and fertility behaviour have significantly advanced our understanding of the factors shaping family patterns among immigrants and their descendants and have contributed to research on immigrant integration. By drawing on recent research, this paper proposes several ways of further developing research on ethnic minority families. We emphasise the need to study family changes among immigrants and their descendants over their life courses, investigate various modes of family behaviour and conduct more truly comparative research to deepen our understanding of how ethnic minorities structure their family lives in different institutional and policy settings.

The long-term consequences of parental divorce for children's educational attainment

Bernardi, Fabrizio; Radl, Jonas

Demographic Research (2014), Volume 30, Article 61:1653-1680

Abstract: In this paper we study the long-term consequences of parental divorce in 14 countries. Special attention is paid to the heterogeneity of the consequences of divorce for children's educational attainment by parental education. Using data drawn from the first wave of the Generations and Gender Survey, the results show that parental divorce is negatively associated with children's tertiary education attainment. The divorce penalty is larger for children with highly educated parents. This equalizing pattern is accentuated in countries with a comprehensive educational system.

Grasping the Diversity of Cohabitation: Fertility Intentions Among Cohabitors Across Europe

Hiekel, Nicole; Castro-Martín, Teresa

Journal of Marriage and Family (2014), 76(3):489-505.

Abstract: The authors examined the association between different meanings of cohabitation and fertility intentions in nine European countries. The authors found that cohabiters who viewed their unions as a prelude to marriage were the most likely to plan to have a child in the near future, both in Western and Eastern European societies. The findings suggest that, although marriage and childbearing are becoming less closely linked life events, they are not disconnected decisions.

Family policies in the context of low fertility and social structure

Fent, Thomas; Aparicio Diaz, Belinda; Prskawetz, Alexia

Demographic Research (2013), Volume 29, Article 37:963-998

Abstract: In this paper we investigate the effectiveness of family policies in the context of the social structure of a population. We use an agent-based model to analyse the impact of policies on individual fertility decisions and on fertility at the aggregate level. This modelling framework allows us to disentangle the direct effect (the alleviation of resource constraints) from the indirect effect (the diffusion of fertility intentions via social ties) of family policies. Our results indicate that family policies have a positive and significant impact on fertility.

How to Measure Homophobia in an International Comparison?

Takács, Judit; Szalma, Ivett

Družboslovne razprave XXIX (2013), 73:11-42

Abstract: How to measure homophobia in internationally comparable ways is a central issue of the present study. Our main goal was to compare attitudes on homophobia in 27 European countries as measured by different variables within two large-scale longitudinal surveys, the European Social Survey and the European Values Study, with both following multistage probabilistic sampling plans, in order to enable a better understanding of the main determinants of homophobic attitudes at the individual as well as country levels. Posted September 13 2013

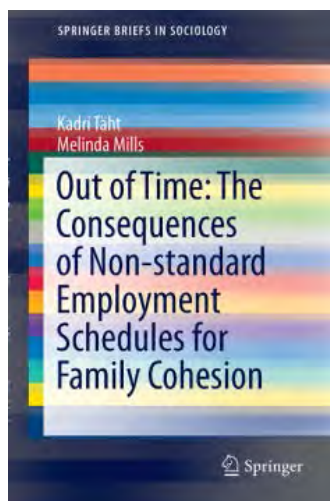
Fertility in advanced societies: A Review

Balbo, Nicoletta; Billari, Francesco C.; Mills, Melinda

European Journal of Population (2013), 29:1-38

Abstract: This paper provides a review of fertility research in advanced societies, societies in which birth control is the default option. The central aim is to provide a comprehensive review that summarizes how contemporary research has explained ongoing and expected fertility changes across time and space (i.e., cross- and within-country heterogeneity). A secondary aim is to provide an analytical synthesis of the core determinants of fertility, grouping them within the analytical level in which they operate.

Books



Out of Time: The Consequences of Non-standard Employment Schedules for Family Cohesion

By Kadri Täht and Melinda Mills

This pioneering work aims at understanding the impact of non-standard (evening, night, weekend) working time on family cohesion, meaning parent-child interaction, partnership quality and divorce or partnership dissolution. ‘Out of time – the Consequences of Non-standard Employment Schedules for Family Cohesion’ is the first work to treat this important topic in a cross-national, comparative way by using data from two large comparable surveys. The

impact of work in non-standard schedules on workers can be divided into individual and social consequences. Research so far has shown the clear individual effects of these schedules, such as increased stress levels and sleeping and physical disorders. There is less clarity about social consequences. Either no or positive effects of these types of schedules on workers and their families are found, or a significant negative impact on the relations between the workers and others, especially other members of the family is shown in research results. This Brief compares the Netherlands and the United States of America, countries that both show a high prevalence of non-standard schedule work, whereas both operate in very different institutional and welfare regime settings of working time regulation. By combining both quantitative and qualitative data, the authors are able to provide generalized views of comparative surveys and

challenging those generalizations at the same time, thus enabling the reader to get a better understanding and more balanced view of the actual relationship between non-standard employment schedules and family cohesion [Springer].

Book Chapters



Childlessness in Finland

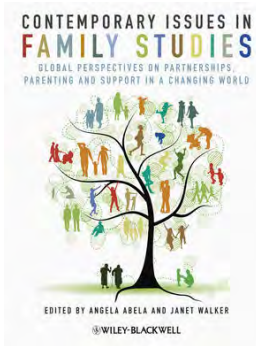
By Anna Rotkirch and Anneli Miettinen

Assisted Reproductive Technology in Europe: Usage and Regulation in the Context of Cross-Border Reproductive Care

By Patrick Präg and Melinda C. Mills
In *Childlessness in Europe: Contexts, Causes, and Consequences*, edited by Michaela Kreyenfeld & Dirk Konietzka, Springer.

ISBN 978-3-319-44665-3; DOI 10.1007/978-3-319-44667-7

This open access book provides an overview of childlessness throughout Europe. It offers a collection of papers written by leading demographers and sociologists that examine contexts, causes, and consequences of childlessness in countries throughout the region. The book features data from all over Europe. It specifically highlights patterns of childlessness in Germany, France, the United Kingdom, Finland, Sweden, Austria and Switzerland. An additional chapter on childlessness in the United States puts the European experience in perspective. The book offers readers such insights as the determinants of lifelong childlessness, whether governments can and should counteract increasing childlessness, how the phenomenon differs across social strata and the role economic uncertainties play. In addition, the book also examines life course dynamics and biographical patterns, assisted reproduction as well as the consequences of childlessness. Childlessness has been increasing rapidly in most European countries in recent decades. This book offers readers expert analysis into this issue from leading experts in the field of family behavior. From causes to consequences, it explores the many facets of childlessness throughout Europe to present a comprehensive portrait of this important demographic and sociological trend. [Springer]



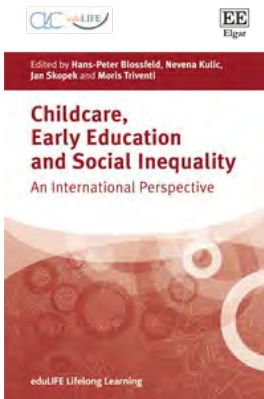
Why Fewer Babies? Understanding and Responding to Low Fertility in Europe

By Maria Letizia Tanturri

In *Contemporary Issues in Family Studies: Global Perspectives on Partnerships, Parenting and Support in a Changing World*, edited by Angela Abela and Janet Walker. Hoboken, NJ, USA: Wiley-Blackwell. ISBN: 978-1-119-97103-0

This volume tackles key issues in the changing nature of family life from a global perspective, and is essential reading for those studying and working with families.

- Covers changes in couple relationships and the challenges these pose; parenting practices and their implications for child development; key contemporary global issues, such as migration, poverty, and the internet, and their impact on the family; and the role of the state in supporting family relationships:
- Includes a stellar cast of international contributors such as Paul Amato and John Coleman, and contributions from leading experts based in North Africa, Japan, Australia and New Zealand
- Discusses topics such as cohabitation, divorce, single-parent households, same-sex partnerships, fertility, and domestic violence
- Links research and practice and provides policy recommendations at the end of each chapter [Wiley].



Early childcare, child cognitive outcomes, and inequalities in the United Kingdom

By Daniela Del Boca, Daniela Piazzalunga and Chiara Pronzato

In *Childcare, Early Education and Social Inequality: An international perspective*, edited by Hans-Peter Blossfeld, Nevena Kulic, Jan Skopek and Moris Triventi. Cheltenham, UK and Northampton, MA, USA: Edward Elgar Publishing. ISBN: 978 1 78643 208 7 (Print) 978 1 78643 209 4 (Online)

Recognising that social change over recent decades has strengthened the need for early childhood education and care, this book seeks to answer what role this plays in creating and compensating for social inequalities in educational attainment. Compiling

13 cross-national and multi-disciplinary empirical studies on three inter-related topics, this book explores how families of different social background decide between types of childcare, how important parental care and resources at home are for children's educational success and the consequences of early education and care for children's diverging educational destinies. Analysing an area currently neglected in sociological research, expert contributors employ the most recent country-specific longitudinal datasets in order to provide an up-to-date portrayal of the patterns and mechanisms of early educational inequality. With its extended analytical window ranging from short to long-term educational outcomes this book will undoubtedly appeal to students and scholars in the fields of childcare, education and social inequality. It also contains important suggestions and evidence for practitioners and policymakers trying to combat inequality in educational opportunities. [EEP].



*Familiengründung und Migration:
Aussiedlerinnen und türkischstämmige
Migrantinnen im Vergleich*

By Michaela Kreyenfeld and Sandra Krapf

In Die transformative Macht der Demografie, edited by Tilman Mayer. Wiesbaden: Springer VS. ISBN: 978-3-658-13165-4 (Print) 978-3-658-13166-1 (Online)

Demografische Erkenntnisse, vorgetragen von den namhaftesten Vertretern nicht nur der Bevölkerungswissenschaft, fundieren die

Grundkenntnisse von Soziologie, Ökonomie, Politikwissenschaft, Geschichtswissenschaft. Das Buch ist ein Plädoyer für eine noch stärkere Beachtung der Demografie in der Politik. Es stellt eine Art Bilanz dar aus sechs Jahrestagungen der Deutschen Gesellschaft für Demografie. Demografie ist vielleicht nicht unser Schicksal, aber erfasst uns alle. Dem Umbruch der ganzen Gesellschaft wie die Veränderungen im Mikroprozess der Familie kann man sich nicht entziehen. Die elementaren Veränderungsprozesse haben gesellschaftliche wie politische Folgewirkungen. [Springer].

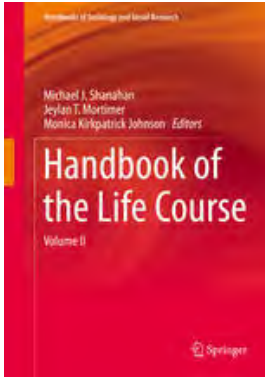


Aging Italy: Low Fertility and Societal Rigidities
By Maria Letizia Tanturri

In *Low Fertility, Institutions, and their Policies*, pp. 221-257, edited by Ronald R. Rindfuss and Minja Kim Choe. New York: Springer. ISBN: 978-3-319-32995-6 (Print) 978-3-319-32997-0 (Online)

This volume examines ten economically advanced countries in Europe and Asia that have experienced different levels of fertility decline. It offers readers a cross-country perspective on the causes and consequences of low birth rates and

the different policy responses to this worrying trend. The countries examined are not only diverse geographically, historically, and culturally, but also have different policies and institutions in place. They include six very-low-fertility countries (Austria, Czech Republic, Hungary, Italy, Spain, and Taiwan) and four that have close to replacement-level fertility (United Kingdom, Norway, Canada, and France). Although fertility has gone down in all these countries over the past 50 years, the chapters examine the institutional, policy, and cultural factors that have led some countries to have much lower fertility rates than others. In addition, the final chapter provides a cross-country comparison of individual perceptions about obstacles to fertility, based on survey data, and government support for families. This broad overview, along with a general introduction, helps put the specific country papers in context. As birth rates continue to decline, there is increasing concern about the fate of social welfare systems, including healthcare and programs for the elderly. This book will help readers to better understand the root causes of such problems with its insightful discussion on how a country's institutions, policies, and culture shape fertility trends and levels. [Springer].

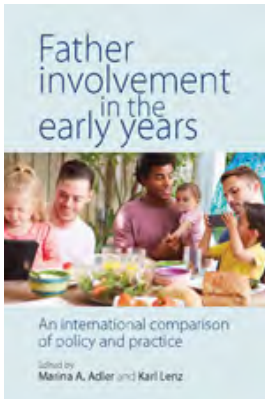


Structuration of the life course: Some neglected aspects

By Gunhild O. Hagestad, Pearl A. Dykstra

In Handbook of the life course, Volume II, second edition, pp. 131-157, edited by Michael J. Shanahan, Jeylan T. Mortimer, and Monica Kirkpatrick Johnson. New York: Springer. ISBN: 9781447318996

Building on the success of the 2003 Handbook of the Life Course, this second volume identifies future directions for life course research and policy. The introductory essay and the chapters that make up the five sections of this book, show consensus on strategic “next steps” in life course studies. These next steps are explored in detail in each section: Section I, on life course theory, provides fresh perspectives on well-established topics, including cohorts, life stages, and legal and regulatory contexts. It challenges life course scholars to move beyond common individualistic paradigms. Section II highlights changes in major institutional and organizational contexts of the life course. It draws on conceptual advances and recent empirical findings to identify promising avenues for research that illuminate the interplay between structure and agency. It examines trends in family, school, and workplace, as well as contexts that deserve heightened attention, including the military, the criminal justice system, and natural and man-made disaster. The remaining three sections consider advances and suggest strategic opportunities in the study of health and development throughout the life course. They explore methodological innovations, including qualitative and three-generational longitudinal research designs, causal analysis, growth curves, and the study of place. Finally, they show ways to build bridges between life course research and public policy. [Springer].



Father involvement with young children in contemporary Italy (Chapter 3)

By Elisabetta Ruspini and Maria Letizia Tanturri
In *Father Involvement In The Early Years*. An international comparison of policy and practice, edited by Marina A. Adler and Karl Lenz. ISBN: 9781447318996

Fatherhood is in transition, as men try to balance being both active and involved fathers while meeting the demands of the workplace. This book explores these challenges in the context of cross-national policies and the influences of these policies on the daily childcare practices of fathers. Highlighting the increasing interest in the enduring impact of early life experience, the contributors present the most up-to-date research on father involvement with young, preschool-age children in six countries—Finland, Germany, Italy, Slovenia, the United Kingdom, and the United States—offering insight into the effects of different national policies related to parenting in general and fathers in particular. [Policy Press at the University of Bristol].

Databases

EUfamPol

Title: European Union Family Policy Dataset (EUfamPol)

Produced by: Stockholm University Demography Unit (Gerda Neyer, Li Ma, Nora Sanchez Gassen, SUDA, and Arianna Caporali, INED)

Contents: This data set comprises family-policy related preparatory acts and legislation at the European Union level. The data were retrieved from EUR-lex spanning the period from the 1974 to 2015. Complete words, word stems, part of words, or combinations of words were used in title search and in text search to retrieve the documents. EUR-lex provided codes and checks of the original texts were applied to eliminate non-relevant documents. The dataset includes family-policy related legally binding acts (regulations, directives and decisions) and preparatory acts (COM) issued by the European Commission that are relevant for all

member states of the European Union (excluding documents directed only to one country). To facilitate an update of the database we maintained the information provided in EUR-LEX (status: 2015) for each document extended by information on the search process for each entry. The database is available in xls-format.

To the database (and related documents): www.suda.su.se

LawsAndFamilies

Title: The LawsAndFamilies Database – Aspects of legal family formats for same-sex and different-sex couples

Produced by: Leiden Law School at Leiden University in the Netherlands (Kees Waaldijk, Natalie Nikolina, Giuseppe Zago, Daniel Damonzé) together with INED (the Institut national d'études démographiques) in France (Marie Digoix, Arianna Caporali, Kamel Nait Abdellah)

Contents: The LawsAndFamilies Database is published by INED as part of a website that also contains statistical and sociological data and analysis about same-sex families. The core of the database is the interactive part where all legal data can be found. The database covers a range of legal issues, divided over six sections (Formalisation, Income & troubles, Parenting, Migration, Splitting up, Death). At its start in 2017 the database contains information about 21 European countries, for all years since 1965. The user can specify which countries should be selected, and which of the 69 legal issues, which of the 6 legal family formats (marriage, registered partnership, cohabitation; same-sex and/or different-sex), and which years. The results and downloads give an overview of the relevant legal data, and contain links to 138 authored source papers where the complete answers (with legal references and explanations) can be found. These answers have been given by selected legal experts in the different countries, who agreed to answer the LawsAndFamilies Questionnaire (created by Kees Waaldijk together with José María Lorenzo Villaverde, Natalie Nikolina and Giuseppe Zago). The answers for the first 21 countries were given in 2015 or 2016, and were reviewed and adjusted in a peer review process.

To the database: www.LawsAndFamilies.eu

ARPNoVa

Title: Data set to: Assisted Reproductive Technologies in Europe. Policies, norms, and values

Produced by: University of Oxford (Patrick Präg, Melinda C. Mills)

Contents: This country-level data set comprises 1) policy information and 2) information about norms and values regarding partnership, family, and childbearing, with a special focus on assisted reproduction for forty mostly European countries. The data set draws on policy reports from the International Federation of Fertility Societies (IFFS) Surveillance reports (1998–2013) and information collected from large-scale cross-national surveys—the European Values Study (EVS), the World Values Survey (WVS), the Eurobarometer (EB), and the European Social Survey (ESS)—from 1981 onwards. An extensive data manual provides basic descriptive statistics as well as methodological details such as question wording for the data set.

To the database: <http://doi.org/10.17605/OSF.IO/AWYDJ>

PERFAR

Title: Collection of Family Policies of the Population Europe Resource Finder and Archive (PERFAR)

Produced by: Max Planck Society for the Advancement of Science

Contents: The family policies available on PERFAR build upon the collection originally developed by the Max Planck Institute for Demographic Research in the framework of the Population and Policy Database (PPD). During 2014, the data collection methods were revised and within the framework of FamiliesAndSocieties, the collection of family policies has been revised and updated. The fields of childcare, family allowances, parental leave and maternity protection have been updated and in addition, three new fields were also included (marriage, registered partnership and divorce).

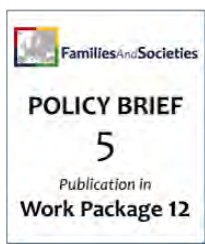
Data on family policies have been updated for Denmark, France, Germany, the Netherlands, Poland, Spain and the United Kingdom, and

newly provided for Austria, Belgium, Estonia, Finland, Hungary, Italy, Romania, Sweden and Switzerland.

In total, the family policy section of PERFAR provides users with detailed information on 1,023 regulations and a general description of the family policies in each of the countries covered. These provide a brief introduction to the current state of the policy field in a country from a comparative perspective, as well as basic information on past developments and national peculiarities. For all documents the major implications of the law, its coverage, a field for additional comments and clarifications, and suggestions for further readings are also provided.

To the database: <http://www.perfar.eu/policy/family-Children>

Policy briefs

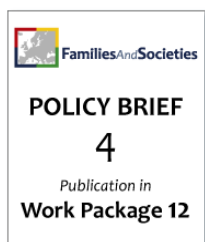


European Policy Brief:

Policies for Families: Is there a Best Practice?

The last policy brief highlights recent research findings of the project “FamiliesAndSocieties” on the current trends in social policies related to families in Europe. It focuses on crucial policy issues related to youth, gender equality and childcare arrangements. The brief also presents suggestions for policy interventions linked to the findings.

http://www.familiesandsocieties.eu/wp-content/uploads/2016/12/policy_brief_5.pdf



Policy Brief:

Vulnerability in Times of Family Diversity – A Practitioners’ View

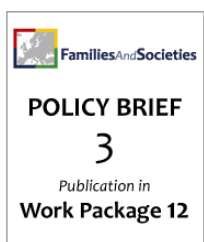
Key messages:

- Practitioners can provide valuable insights into the situation of today’s vulnerable families and help delineate areas where policy interventions are essential.
- No family configuration inevitably leads to vulnerability, but some are

more “at risk” than others. Decisive for family wellbeing is the ability to combine family life with paid employment.

•From the practitioners’ perspective, policy measures to support families in need and to prevent the “reproduction of vulnerability” from one generation to another should focus particularly on education and the reconciliation of family and working life

http://www.familiesandsocieties.eu/wp-content/uploads/2016/12/PolicyBrief4_FamiliesAndSocieties.pdf



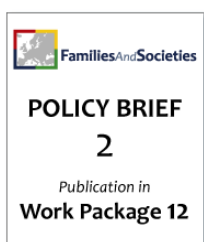
European Policy Brief:

**Intergenerational Linkages in the Family:
How Policies Shape the Organisation of Caring
and Financial Supports for Family Members**

This policy brief highlights recent research findings from the project FamiliesAndSocieties on the role of laws and policies in shaping gendered interdependencies in families; the way the “sandwich

generation” (those who are likely to raise a child or a grandchild and care for parents at the same time) cares for older parents across countries; transfers in Europe from ageing parents to adult children and vice versa; and, the extent to which the financial crisis has affected intergenerational patterns of family support across households. The brief also presents suggestions for policy interventions that can be derived from the findings.

http://www.familiesandsocieties.eu/wp-content/uploads/2016/04/EuropeanPolicyBrief3_FamiliesAndSocieties.pdf



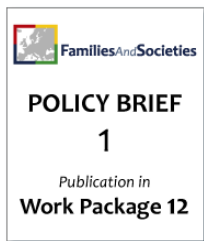
European Policy Brief:

**Multiple Pathways Towards Integration: The
Diversity of Immigrant Families in Europe**

The second policy brief summarises recent research findings of the project FamiliesAndSocieties with regard to the impact of transnational families on children’s wellbeing in both origin and destination

countries, as well as to the demographic behaviour of immigrants and their descendants. The brief also presents suggestions for policy interventions.

http://www.familiesandsocieties.eu/wp-content/uploads/2015/04/EuropeanPolicyBrief2_FamiliesAndSocieties.pdf



European Policy Brief:

Solomonic Choices: Parental Separation, Child Well-Being and Family Policies in Europe

This policy brief summarises recent research findings on the consequences of parental separation for the future of children, and presents suggestions for policy interventions to prevent adverse consequences associated with it.

http://www.familiesandsocieties.eu/wp-content/uploads/2014/12/EuropeanPolicyBrief1_FamiliesAndSocieties.pdf

www.familiesandsocieties.eu

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Families*And***Societies**

