

GGP AT A GLANCE

Did you know?

Social mobility is a long standing issue in social research. The GGP offers extensive comparable data on this topic and a window into the complex dynamics that make up social mobility. In the figure below we plot the degree to which a respondent's father's education explains his or her own educational outcome. The picture it reveals is one of relative stability, in spite of the expansion in higher education that most countries have witnessed. This stability is particularly evident in post-socialist countries such as Russia, the Czech Republic, Poland and Lithuania where even birth cohorts who undertook the vast majority of their education after 1989 enjoy relatively high rates of social mobility. However, some countries have shown significant change. In Italy, we can see that an individual's educational outcome has become less dependent on the educational attainment of their father. This is true for both men and women. Looking forward, new rounds of data collection in the GGP will help update this picture and understand what the social mobility picture is for millennials and how it is influenced by a changing demographic, social and economic climate.

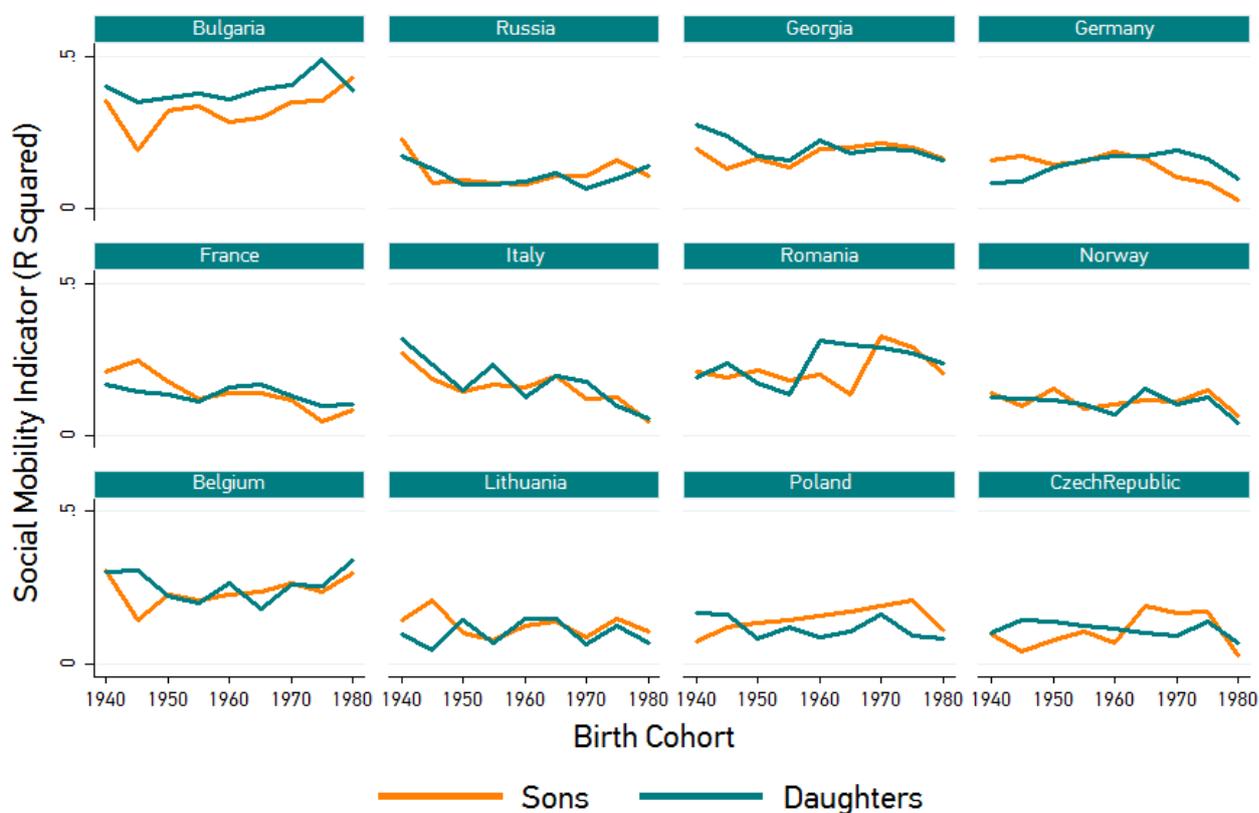


Figure 1: Social Immobility in 16 Countries by Birth Cohorts

Note: Social mobility is calculated using the R square of an OLS model predicting a respondents' years of schooling using their father's years of schooling. The higher the R square, the more educational attainment is explained by father's education. A high score therefore reflects low social mobility and a low score reflects high social mobility. Data comes from wave 1 of the GGS.

Recently published GGP studies

Koops, J.C., Liefbroer, A.C. & Gauthier, A.H. (2017). The Influence of Parental Educational Attainment on the Partnership Context at First Birth in 16 Western Societies. *European Journal of Population*, pp. 1-25. <http://dx.doi.org/10.1007/s10680-017-9421-9>

Abstract: This paper examines the association between parental educational attainment with the partnership context at first birth in European and North American countries by differentiating births within marriage, within cohabitation, or while single. Change over cohorts in the association between parental education and partnership context at childbirth, as well as changes in its influence when individual education attainment is controlled for, were further studied. Data from the Generations and Gender Programme, American National Survey of Family Growth, Canadian General Social Survey, and Dutch Survey on Family Formation was used. The results show that in North American and East European countries, but not in West European countries, lower parental education increases the risk of having a birth within cohabitation. Moreover, in North American countries and half of the West and East European countries, lower parental education increases the risk of having a birth while being single. The association of parental education with the partnership context at birth tends to change over cohorts, although no clear pattern could be observed between countries. The study suggests that the intergenerational transmission of education is an important mechanism in explaining the influence of parental education, although other mechanisms also appear to be at work.

Mencarini, L., & Vignoli, D. (2017). Employed Women and Marital Union Stability: It Helps When Men Help. *Journal of Family Issues*, . <http://journals.sagepub.com/doi/abs/10.1177/0192513X17710283>

Abstract: Recent studies query standard microeconomic predictions of a positive association between women's economic independence and marital union dissolution. This paper investigates whether and how the gender division of labor channels the impact of women's employment on marital union disruption, utilizing data on heterosexual couples from the 2003 and 2007 waves of the Italian nationally representative Generations and Gender Survey and applying techniques of mediation analysis. The researchers suggest that women's employment does not have a negative effect per se on union stability, and that women's paid work becomes detrimental to the stability of the union only if the men's contribution to unpaid work is limited.

Trimarchi, A., & Van Bavel, J. (2017). Education and the Transition to Fatherhood: The Role of Selection Into Union. *Demography*, 54(1), 119-144. <http://dx.doi.org/10.1007/s13524-016-0533-3>

Abstract: Although advanced education is consistently associated with a later transition to parenthood for women, findings about education and the transition to parenthood have been much less consistent for men, and no stylized fact is found in the literature. The assertion here is that the inconsistency of findings for men is due to the fact that the selection process involved in union formation has been disregarded in earlier studies. The researchers' hypothesis is that men's educational attainment consistently and positively affects the transition to fatherhood via higher rates of union formation. Multiprocess event-history analysis is applied to data from the Generations and Gender Surveys from 10 European countries. The results show a consistent positive effect of education on the transition to fatherhood, but it operates chiefly through selection into union. Failing to account for this selection process leads to a major underestimation of the salience of education for the transition to fatherhood.

Vergauwen, J., Neels, K. & Wood, J. (2017). Educational differentials in cohabitators' marriage intentions at different childbearing stages in seven European countries. *Social Science Research*, 65, 253-267. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.ssresearch.2017.03.006>

Abstract: Several studies have looked into the socio-economic gradients of cohabitation and non-marital fertility. According to the theory of the Second Demographic Transition, highly educated individuals can be considered forerunners in the Western European spread of non-marital family forms after the 1970s. In Central and Eastern Europe, however, research provides evidence for a Pattern of Disadvantage where those with the lowest education have been the most likely to adopt such family forms. Few studies have considered the educational gradient of the intentions underlying these behaviours. This contribution uses information on marriage and fertility intentions from the Generations and Gender Surveys for seven European countries to assess educational differentials. In Western Europe no strong educational gradients in marriage intentions at any childbearing stage (before, during or following) were observed. In Central and Eastern Europe less educated cohabitators more frequently choose cohabitation during childbearing.

Announcements

Special Session: Family Dynamics from a Comparative Perspective

Understanding Society Scientific Conference 2017 | July 11-13 2017 | University of Essex | UK

The [Understanding Society Scientific Conference](#) provides an international forum for the exchange of research based on longitudinal household panel studies. Conference participants are invited to participate in a special session from 15.30hrs to 17.30hrs on July 11th at University of Essex on family dynamics from a comparative perspective. The session, organised and supported by the ESRC Centre for Population Change, aims to foster exchange and learning about the benefits of harmonised fertility and partnership data from the BHPS/UKHLS and GGS data for family research.

Call for Papers: European Population Conference 2018

June 6-9, 2018 Vrije Universiteit Brussel | Belgium

EPC 2018 will convene at the Vrije Universiteit Brussel and is a general scientific population conference where the topic "Population, Diversity and Inequality" will receive special attention. Abstracts/papers for EPC 2018 can only be submitted via the conference [website](#). Submissions should be made to one of the conference themes, which will be developed into a series of sessions by the convener of each theme. [The deadline for submissions is 1 October 2017.](#)

Call for papers: Alp-Pop 2018

January 14-17, 2018 La Thuile | Aosta Valley | Italy

The [Alpine Population Conference](#) (Alp-Pop) brings together scholars interested in population issues across several disciplines, including demography, economics, epidemiology, political science, sociology, and psychology. The conference emphasizes empirical rigor and innovation over a given topic or geographical area, and meets the challenges of interdisciplinary and international audiences. Submissions are invited on all population issues (e.g., health, migration, families, the welfare state, economic development, institutions, well-being, etc.), with particular encouragement for submissions that take a life-course perspective and/or address social inequalities. Submissions of original papers or extended abstracts are invited [by September 1, 2017](#), and submitters will be notified of acceptance within a couple of weeks. Submissions and inquiries should be addressed via e-mail to: alp.pop@unibocconi.it.

Alp-Pop is organized by the Carlo F. Dondena Centre for Research on Social Dynamics and Public Policy at Università Bocconi and the Swiss National Centre of Competence in Research LIVES.



Generations & Gender Programme

For more information, visit our website: <http://www.ggp-i.org>
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