The Nature of Cohabitation in Contemporary Russia

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Research Background

Soviet Union Collapse:

Before 1991
Early and universal marriage (Institutionalized live courses*)

1991
Increased average marriage ages from 23.6 in 1990 to 24.7 in 2010
Growth of non-marital births
Increased proportion of cohabited Russians (Deinstitutionalization of live courses*)

After 1991

 Researchers: Sobol', Touloumian, Kienman

(2011) Family and School: the data for the first cohabitation those aged 15-

Higher dynamics
School and "Studying Family rise
the institution
for the to their start
fertility
Habitualization
an cohabitation
Fellow, It A
Family (HSE), first
HSE, to in the age of
the 2011 grow
30 of
and part
Research 1,654***
conclude family
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University
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2014 L
35 -
the
By year of birth
matrimonial
Economics the not
Sequence
Popularization in the consider
the Model in HSE, 35 1975-1984 Mitrofanova study Analysis revealed Fertility, marriage
younger
2013 Meets student Volume
2007-2014 the age of 35-
the marriage
is coming to Russia?
Theory persistent
of interviews
Transition Master 1,181*** has
for marriage families
Generations Europe and cohabitation 2008 Policies 1,224***
alyona for people 20 in 2010 and 20
35 Survey 2007 union first to first cohabitation 35 Teacher Fund
First of Research ref people 4948 Uncertainty First Direct Marriage 1945-1954 the Russia and of the of parenthood becomes more and more to
of Matrimonial and Reproductive Fertility, marriage or a short pre-

Research Models (EHA, Cox Regression)

1. Model of entrance to first cohabitation
First cohabitation First marriage
2. Model of entrance to first direct marriage
First direct marriage

Database


Generations By period of socialisation By year of birth
Modern

Factors of Entrance to Cohabitations and Direct Marriages (EHA, Cox Regressions)

Number of events Predictors

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>First Cohabitation</th>
<th>First Direct Marriage</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Exp(B)</td>
<td>Gender ref: man 1,181*** 1,182***</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Educational level ref: higher 1*** 1***</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Secondary general 1,054*** 0,960</td>
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<tr>
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<td>Secondary vocational 1,438*** 1,998***</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Place of residence ref: urban 0,732*** 1,224***</td>
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<td>Religiosity ref: religious 1,411*** 0,793***</td>
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</tbody>
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“Soviet Union” generations

1935-44, 833 interviews

The proportion of cohabited people, especially with at least 1 kid is very small

Sequences* of Matrimonial and Reproductive Events

1945-54, 1058 interviews

1955-64, 1328 interviews

1965-74, 1058 interviews

1975-84, 670 interviews

Conclusions

1. The analysis revealed opposite trends of matrimonial behavior: the younger Russian people are, the higher their risk to start the first cohabitation and the lower the risk to have the direct marriage as first matrimonial event.
2. Cohabitation is not a complete alternative to marriage in our country yet, but the proportion of the Russians from various social strata for whom cohabitation does not grow into a marriage rises.
3. Young non-religious people who get higher education in big cities start to consider non-marital union appropriate for childbearing and childrearing. It is a sign that cohabitation is close to become an independent social institution.

Given these outcomes, we conclude that Russia has almost reached the third stage of cohabitation diffusion.

Our previous work is available here: http://papers.ssrn.com/sol3/papers.cfm?abstract_id=2513302

Acknowledgments

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Literature and sources