

Booklet of abstracts

6th GGP User Conference 2021

Session overview

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Monday 4 October 13h00-14h00	New rounds of GGS	2-5	https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84992488264 Meeting ID: 849 9248 8264 Password: 084480
Tuesday 5 October 13h00-14h00	Fertility intentions and realization	6-9	https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81257195141 Meeting ID: 812 5719 5141 Password: 525693
Tuesday 5 October 14h30-15h45	Flash session	10-17	https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83854442949 Meeting ID: 838 5444 2949 Password: 075517
Wednesday 6 October 13h00-14h00	Union formation and dissolution	18-21	https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83357237343 Meeting ID: 833 5723 7343 Password: 308538
Thursday 7 October 13h00-14h00	Gender norms, caregiving, and fertility	22-24	https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86986569171 Meeting ID: 869 8656 9171 Password: 432943
Friday 8 October 13h00-14h00	Fertility decisions in times of uncertainty	25-28	https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83723371668 Meeting ID: 837 2337 1668 Password: 264864

Monday 4 October 2021

13h00-14h00

Session: Implementing a new round of GGS: Pilots and survey innovations

Chair: Olga Grunwald

Name: Ruxandra Breda-Popa

Organization: Institut national d'etudes demographiques

The French GGS Pilot Survey: Internet versus Telephone, or both?

Ruxandra Breda-Popa, Gwennaëlle Brihault, Milan Bouchet-Valat, Arianna Caporali, Geraldine Charrance, Efi Markou, Laurent Toulemon

The GGP questionnaire has a long and complex structure, which may not be completely adapted to the Web. This adaptation poses challenges in terms of low response rates, self-selection or inaccurate responses. The French GGP2020 test (Erfi 2.0) compares CAWI (computer-assisted web-interviewing) and CATI (computer-assisted telephone interviewing) modes, the latter having often been implemented at INED. The test includes nine scenarios, making it possible to measure the impact of financial incentives (pre- and post-interview) on the response rate and the continuation of the questionnaire or the interview. One of the scenarios offers respondents CAWI mode alone. The other eight scenarios combine CAWI or CATI, presence or absence of unconditional incentives, and presence or absence of conditional incentives, offered when the questionnaire is completed or at the end of the interview. In case of failure after a series of reminders, we will also test the efficiency of offering a new response mode (switching from CAWI to CATI, and from CATI to CAWI). After the test, we will decide our data collection mode, likely a mix of CAWI and CATI in order to control for mode effects. We will use a Demographic file on housing and people based on tax data (called Fideli) as a sampling frame. Beyond GGP, it will be interesting to highlight lessons that can be used for other French surveys, for example concerning the possibilities of using Fidel i's e-mail addresses for a "push-to-web" survey on a representative sample, and the impact of financial incentives in France. For GGP, this test will also focus on the harmonized questionnaire of the second data collection cycle, which has been translated into French by INED and the Canadian GGP team.

Monday 4 October 2021

13h00-14h00

Session: Implementing a new round of GGS: Pilots and survey innovations

Chair: Olga Grunwald

Name: Wojciech Jablonski

Organization: Netherlands Interdisciplinary Demographic Institute-KNAW

Paradata in Generations & Gender Surveys

Wojciech Jablonski, Arieke Rijken, NIDI – GGP Central Coordination team

Paradata is the data about the process of answering the survey itself. The analytics use of paradata enables researchers to study survey errors and surveys costs in a more complex way and, as a result, better understand and improve substantive survey data.

Within the presentation, we will describe selected paradata collected in GGSs conducted in 2020 and 2021 in Norway and Czech Republic. In particular, we will focus on information concerning the device used to take the survey (laptop / tablet / smartphone) and break-offs.

Based on these finding, we can propose questionnaire development-related amendments that could improve user experience while filling in the GGS, and, as a consequence, lead to higher response rates.

Monday 4 October 2021

13h00-14h00

Session: Implementing a new round of GGS: Pilots and survey innovations

Chair: Olga Grunwald

Name: Martin Klesment

Organization: Talinn University

GGG 2021 pilot survey in Estonia

Martin Klesment, Luule Sakkeus, Allan Puur

In Estonia, 12168 individuals were sampled to participate in the GGS 2021 survey. This nationally representative set was addressed by a survey company who contacted individuals and carried out several reminders to fill out the online questionnaire. To increase participants interest in completing the questionnaire, three different incentives were offered. In this short report we investigate response rate differentials by age, sex, contact language (Estonian and Russian), and incentive type. Preliminary results suggest an overall questionnaire completion rate of 20% or less. While Estonian women were the most likely group to complete the survey, males and non-natives in general remain under-represented. There is a slight positive age gradient in completion rate. We also investigated which incentives were more likely to result in a positive response and whether the repeated reminders (up to 4) by the survey company had a measurable effect on questionnaire completion.

Monday 4 October 2021

13h00-14h00

Session: Implementing a new round of GGS: Pilots and survey innovations

Chair: Olga Grunwald

Name: Christian Joy Pattawi Cruz

Organization: The Hong Kong University of Science and Technology

**Incentive experiment and push-to-web data collection strategy:
Results from the Hong Kong GGS (HK-GGS) pilot study**

Christian Joy Pattawi Cruz, Stuart Gietel-Basten

The initial goals of the Hong Kong Generations and Gender Survey (HK-GGS) pilot study were to assess the feasibility of conducting a social survey in Hong Kong and to explore the most effective mode of data collection, either self-administered online or through face-to-face personal interviewing. However, because of the COVID-19 pandemic, personal interviewing is challenging to nearly impossible to do; therefore, the push-to-web or online data collection strategy became more appealing. Instead, the HK-GGS pilot study focused on a purely push-to-web data collection strategy and conducted an incentive experiment to examine the incentive amount and mode of payment (i.e., conditional or unconditional) that will yield the highest response rate. It also follows the significant efforts made in several European countries to increase response rates of online social surveys "based on a sampling frame using a representative set of postal or email addresses." Initial findings indicate that giving a combination of an unconditional incentive of HKD50 and a promise of another HKD50 or HKD100 are the best methods to have the highest online social survey response rates in Hong Kong. There seem to be no significant differences in the response rates for incentives (HKD50, HKD100, and HKD150) given unconditionally. However, the amount of incentive seems to have an effect when promised to be given upon completion of the survey. Conditional incentives in the amount of HKD150 offered upon completion of the online study have a higher response rate than conditional incentives of lower amounts (i.e., HKD50 and HKD100). These initial results are in line with the results of recent incentive experiments done in other countries. The incentive experiment findings address the gap in the survey methodology literature, specifically in the Asian context. This study will also help shape the future of online surveys in Hong Kong and the rest of Asia.

Tuesday 5 October 2021
13h00-14h00
Session: Fertility Intention and Realization
Chair: Laurent Toulemon

Name: Bruno Arpino
Organization: University of Florence

Using machine learning techniques to assess the role of fertility intentions and other factors in predicting fertility behaviours

Bruno Arpino, Valeria Bordone, Maria Rita Testa

Fertility intentions are often considered to be strong predictors of fertility behaviours. In addition, several studies have shown that the association between short-term fertility intentions and subsequent fertility behaviours considerably varies across sub-groups of the population. Previous research has typically analysed the relationship between fertility intentions and actual fertility behaviours using parametric regression models. In this paper, we propose a new approach based on machine learning (ML) techniques, and in particular nonparametric techniques that are able to automatically approximate complex relationships. This paper revisits the old issue of whether fertility intentions can be used to predict actual fertility behaviours. Thus, we are primarily interested in assessing the predictive accuracy of short-term fertility intentions when considered together with other potentially relevant predictors of fertility behaviours. More specifically, our first goal is to assess to what extent using ML techniques instead of parametric models we are able to improve the prediction of fertility behaviours. Second, we compare the predictive power of fertility intentions with that of other predictors of actual fertility. Third, by exploiting the ability of ML techniques to automatically identify complex patterns in the data we investigate for what subgroups of the population is the predictive power of fertility intentions and other predictors the strongest. We implement this approach on longitudinal data from the Generations and Gender Surveys for Austria, France, Italy and Poland. These data offer the possibility to observe fertility intentions at a given point in time and actual behaviours later on. In addition, different formulations of the fertility intention item can be compared. Our findings offer new insights on the predictive power of fertility intentions and its heterogeneity and have implications for the usefulness of survey data for shortterm fertility forecasts.

Tuesday 5 October 2021
13h00-14h00
Session: Fertility Intention and Realization
Chair: Laurent Toulemon

Name: Elisa Brini
Organization: University of Oslo

Childbearing motives and fertility intentions in Norway

Elisa Brini, Trude Lappegard, Lars Dommermuth, Monika Mynarska, Alyce Raybould

The aim of this paper is to explore the motivations behind people's fertility intentions in Norway. Since 2010, Norwegian fertility levels have dropped from being among the highest to below average in Europe with a TFR of 1.48 in 2020. The drop in fertility is puzzling as Norway provides generous family policies for families with young children and has a stable labor market and general economy, which should encourage childbearing. We use the Traits-Desires-Intentions-Behavior (TDIB) theoretical framework, proposed in the early 1990s by Warren Miller for analyzing childbearing behavior (Miller 1994). The goal is to increase our understanding of the reasons behind changing reproductive decision-making and behavior in the Norwegian context. Motivations for children are defined in the TDIB framework as dispositions to react favorably or unfavorably to various aspects of childbearing. Using data from the Norwegian GGS 2020, we ask how different positive and negative childbearing motives influence people's fertility intentions. As the drop in first birth fertility is more severe than fertility drops for higher parities, we are especially interested in whether childbearing motives influence the fertility intentions of parents and non-parents in different ways. Further, we aim to explore whether the impact of different childbearing motives vary between different demographic groups.

Tuesday 5 October 2021
13h00-14h00
Session: Fertility Intention and Realization
Chair: Laurent Toulemon

Name: Maxim Kan
Organization: Stockholm University

Gender Revolution in Kazakhstan: Implications for Fertility Intentions

Maxim Kan

The gender revolution framework on the association between gender equality and fertility has been widely applied to the contexts of the developed countries both in Europe and East Asia. Using recently released Kazakhstan GGS data, this study extends the existing literature to the context of Kazakhstan, which has relatively good progress in the first half of the gender revolution (education and employment) but is not necessarily developing the second half as in other contexts that have been studied previously. The study aimed to assess whether fertility intentions are positively associated 1) with more egalitarian gender attitudes or more equal division of domestic work or more equal division of childcare depending on women's labour force participation; 2) with a match between gender attitudes and values and sharing of domestic work or childcare. It was found that gender ideology and sharing of domestic work have less effect on fertility intentions in Kazakhstan than in previously studied developed contexts. It is likely that there is a higher cultural taken-for-granted-ness of unequal household division. Thus, in line with the restoration of cultural traditions within nation-building processes after the Soviet Union's collapse, adherence to traditional Kazakh norms and gender-appropriate behaviour could help us understand why the relationships were not in line with the theoretical framework and the previous studies.

Tuesday 5 October 2021
13h00-14h00
Session: Fertility Intention and Realization
Chair: Laurent Toulemon

Name: Gunnar Andersson
Organization: Stockholm University

Covid-19, trust and childbearing intentions

Gunnar Andersson, Johan Dahlberg, Gerda Neyer

Between 2010 and 2020 Sweden, like other Nordic countries, encountered a continual decline of its fertility rates. This decline has puzzled demographers, since there were no structural processes, such as a shrinking economy or retrenchments of the welfare state, that could explain such a persistent fall of fertility. Comparing this decline with previous declines in fertility, demographers therefore theorized that perceived uncertainty about the future and about institutional stability may have made couples more hesitant to have a(nother)child. Based on these assumptions, demographers predicted fertility rates to drop even further due to the uncertainties entailed by the covid-19 pandemic. To their surprise, however, this seems not to have happened, but the numbers of births appear to have risen at the beginning of 2021. This tentative increase would be just as puzzling as the previous fertility decline, and it also poses questions regarding the role of uncertainty of the future, reliance on institutions, and more generally regarding existing theoretical explanations of fertility behavior in times of and in the aftermaths of crises.

Our paper investigates these three conundrums. It examines whether and how the decrease of fertility during the 2010s, the (still tentative) increase of births in the aftermath of the covid-19 pandemic, and the role of perceptions of uncertainties and reliance on institutions may be related to each other. By scrutinizing the decline of fertility as well as its halt or reversal during the pandemic and empirically assessing the central tenets of the theories of perceived uncertainty, imaginations of the future, and reliance on institutions we aim not only to provide insight into the unexplained fertility development during the 2010s, but to also to hone novel theories of drivers of fertility.

Tuesday 5 October 2021

14h30-15h45

Session: Flash Session

Chair: Francesco Biliari

Name: Ignacio Pardo

Organization: Programa de Población, Universidad de la República

Why does Uruguay need a GGS?

Ignacio Pardo, Wanda Cabella, Marianna Fernandez Soto, Gabriela Pedetti

Uruguay has undergone rapid demographic changes in recent years. Total Fertility Rate reached lowest-low levels, the timing of fertility has also changed considerably and family change has been extensive and profound. Consequently, relevant research and policy questions have been raised in several topics, mainly about living arrangements, intergenerational relationships in an aging population, gender equity, marital dissolution and remarriage patterns, binuclear and complex households, and multi-partner fertility. These changes, although similar to those that have occurred in the developed Western world, are specific to idiosyncratic and contextual factors. Then, they would be poorly explained if they are described as a replication of the decline to low fertility levels in European countries, or just as an expression of the framework of the Second Demographic Transition. For instance, reproductive decision-making is particularly linked to economic uncertainty, equity in care tasks, and public policies, and the interaction among all these dimensions will unfold in a different way than in countries that pioneered fertility decline. Besides, it is reasonable to expect that virtually every dimension will be further impacted by the socio-economic crisis brought by the COVID-19 pandemic. This scenario is generating strong information needs, which are not adequately met yet. Marital and reproductive trajectories, a key piece of information to describe the demographic changes mentioned above, have not been collected in Uruguay since 2008, nor have marriage and divorce statistics been available since 2002. The last census dates from 2011, and surveys such as the OHS do not exist in the country either. The GGS can meet most of those information needs, and it would be a milestone for demographic research in the country

Tuesday 5 October 2021

14h30-15h45

Session: Flash Session

Chair: Francesco Biliari

Name: Arianna Caporali

Organization: French Institute for Demographic Studies (INED)

Recent Improvements in Data Documentation and Online Data Browsing in the Generations and Gender Programme

Arianna Caporali, Julie Lenoir

In the context of international and longitudinal surveys, like the Generations and Gender Programme (GGP), metadata are important to document comparability across countries and waves. In the past round of GGP data collection, data documentation was compliant to the Data Documentation Initiative (DDI) standard, and it was prepared and disseminated online through the software Nesstar. Metadata provided detailed information on national fieldwork methodologies and on country deviations from the GGP standard questionnaire. However, the work was time demanding because only partially automatized. Additionally Nesstar is no longer maintained by its developers. This paper presents improvements undertaken in data documentation in the new round of GGP data collection. Nesstar was replaced with Colectica, a software already used by other international or longitudinal projects (see for example the UK longitudinal studies portal called CLOSER Discovery at <https://discovery.closer.ac.uk/>). There is a twofold interest in implementing Colectica. First, it is compatible with Blaise, the computer-assisted interviewing software used in most countries fielding GGP. Colectica automatically generates a DDI codebook from the Blaise output file, thus reducing much the manual work needed to document variable metadata and improving the accuracy of the information provided. This, together with automatized processes to identify country deviations from the GGP standard questionnaire, allows a considerable gain in efficiency. Second, Colectica is compliant to a version of DDI, called DDI-Lifecycle, specifically suited for documenting conceptual and methodological issues of comparability across countries and waves. Additionally, it is possible through the Colectica on line portal to perform cross-country comparisons of variable metadata and variable tabulations over time. The paper describes the new GGP data documentation procedure and the functionalities of the new online GGP data-browsing portal.

Tuesday 5 October 2021

14h30-15h45

Session: Flash Session

Chair: Francesco Biliari

Name: Selin Köksal

Organization: Bocconi University

Reproductive Experiences and Loneliness: The Role of the mode of Conception, Gender and Childbearing status

Selin Köksal, Alice Goisis

With parenthood being postponed to later ages in advanced societies, reproductive experiences are getting more diversified due to the increased risk of infertility and conception via medically assisted reproduction (MAR). Even though infertility has been linked to feelings of social isolation and lower relationship satisfaction, to the best of our knowledge, no study has quantified the effect of going through MAR on loneliness. Yet, loneliness appears to be a significant aspect of population health since it is related to depressive symptoms and mental well-being in general. To fill this knowledge gap, we investigate whether diverse reproductive experiences according to the mode of conception are associated with individuals' feeling of both emotional and social loneliness. In so doing, we explore whether the effect is moderated by gender, since reproductive experiences are shaped in accordance with gender relations and childbearing status (i.e. if the pregnancy seeking process results in a live birth or not) as childlessness is a physical as well as a social experience.

We make use of two-waved panel data from the Generations and Gender Survey and we focus on a subgroup of respondents who are not pregnant at Wave 1, but willing to have a baby in the near future. Controlling for respondents' socio-demographic characteristics and adjusting for the baseline level of loneliness, we show that the social loneliness of individuals who undergo MAR to conceive worsened in between two waves compared to individuals who are trying to conceive naturally. Furthermore, our analysis by gender reveals that this effect is mainly driven by women who undergo MAR. Lastly, compared to individuals who fail to conceive naturally, individuals who fail to conceive via MAR experience increased social loneliness whereas individuals who had a child in between two waves experience a slight reduction in loneliness regardless of the mode of conception.

Tuesday 5 October 2021

14h30-15h45

Session: Flash Session

Chair: Francesco Biliari

Name: Kamila Ishchanova

Organization: Charles University

Relationship between socioeconomic factors, partnership quality and the intention to have an additional child: The case of Belarus

Kamila Ishchanova

Due to long-term fertility decline over the past few decades and the research gap in this field, Belarus urgently needs evidence-based family policies. To explore the potential of fertility rate, this study investigates the link between socioeconomic characteristics, partnership quality of Belarusians and their intention to have a/another child. In order to effectively tackle the demographic trend of decline, the analysis evaluates the reproductive intentions of individuals who do not yet have a child, who already have one child, and who have at least two children, respectively. Applying logistic regression models, the analysis controls for partnership quality and a range of socioeconomic characteristics, including sex, age, household income, education, and employment status of both partners. The sample is based on fertile individuals aged 18 to 45 in partnership. The regression results demonstrate that being employed and having a middle income are positively associated with intentions to have a child among childless respondents. The probability of fertility intentions of Belarusians of this group aged 26-35 is twice as high as among younger group. However, higher age is associated with a lower probability of the respondent indicating an intention to have the first as well as the second child. Individuals that already have one child tend to want to have another child if they have a higher education status and are highly satisfied with their partnership. Interestingly, among respondents who have at least one child, males are more likely to desire to have another child than females. Respondents with at least two children are also more likely to have reproductive intentions if they have higher income. In summary, the relationship between socioeconomic factors, partnership quality and intention to have a first or another child differs by the number of children and should be considered by policy implications.

Tuesday 5 October 2021

14h30-15h45

Session: Flash Session

Chair: Francesco Biliari

Name: Vytenis Juozas Deimantas

Organization: NIDI, Bocconi University, Lithuanian Centre for Social Sciences

Patterns of subjective well-being (dis-)advantages in Belarus: the intersectionality of partnership, parenthood, gender, and migration

Vytenis Juozas Deimantas

Belarus has been subjected to an extensive social change due to the transition from socialist planned economy to the market economy in 1990s. Belarus' subsequent socioeconomic and political stagnation has created a unique environment in which family plays a significant role in providing well-being. Using the intersectionality approach, the paper focuses on the associations, marriage, partnership, childbearing and categories of (dis-)advantage (gender and early life migration) have with subjective well-being. We use Generations and Gender Survey 2020 data for Belarus and run ordinal logistic regressions with interaction terms between respective family statuses, migration experience and gender to estimate their connection to subjective well-being outcomes (life satisfaction, depression and loneliness). Our findings suggest that a combination of family factors and categories of (dis-)advantage are linked to subjective well-being outcomes more significantly than separate determinants. We also find that migrant women's subjective well-being is sensitive to family statuses and educational gradient.

Tuesday 5 October 2021

14h30-15h45

Session: Flash Session

Chair: Francesco Biliari

Name: Marta Palczynska

Organization: Institute for Structural Research

What if she earns more? Gender norms, income inequality and the division of housework

Marta Palczynska, Iga Magda, Ewa Cukrowska-Torzewska

Using data from the "Generation and Gender Survey" for Poland we study the relation between women's relative income within the household, as measured by the female share of total household income, and women's involvement in housework. We find that households in which women contribute higher proportion of household income are more likely to share housework more equally but the link is significant only in women's declarations. Gender norms matter but in a different way for men and women. There is a direct link among men: the partners of more traditional men do more housework. No such association is observed in women declarations but there is an indirect link among women: the positive link between income share and housework equality is stronger among less traditional women.

Tuesday 5 October 2021

14h30-15h45

Session: Flash Session

Chair: Francesco Biliari

Name: Lucas van der Velde

Organization: Warsaw School of Economics

Changes in attitudes towards gender norms following childbirth

Lucas van der Velde

While the increase in the gender wage gap following childbirth is well-documented in the literature much less is known about what stands behind this development. This research focuses on one possible channel: changes in attitudes towards gender roles. I leverage the longitudinal nature of GGP, to estimate a matching difference in difference (Smith and Todd, 2008) model among first parent. Consistent with previous literature on Anglosaxon countries, I show that respondents tend to adopt more conservative views following childbearing, particularly in the case of the importance of having a child, and whether men should have priority when jobs are scarce. The effects are large and comparable to the difference in attitudes between respondents who completed tertiary studies and those who dropped after completing high school.

The unique country coverage of GGP allow me to build on the literature by exploring how country characteristics affect the estimated relation between childbirth and attitudes towards traditional gender norms. Aligned with expectations from cognitive dissonance identity theory, the relation is driven by respondents living in countries where having a children involves greater costs for the parents, i.e. where institutionalized care is scarce, countries where women shoulder a bigger share of household chores, and countries where there is a greater differentiation of gender roles in the society.

From a policy perspective, the research emphasizes the importance of care institutions as potential shapers of gender attitudes among parents.

Tuesday 5 October 2021

14h30-15h45

Session: Flash Session

Chair: Francesco Biliari

Name: Monika Mynarska, Alyce Raybould

Organization: Cardinal Stefan Wyszyński University

Something old, something new, something borrowed. Challenges in measuring childbearing motivations

Monika Mynarska, Alyce Raybould

Measurement of childbearing intentions and monitoring their realisation have always been central in the Generations and Gender Survey. The GGS-based research has vastly improved our understanding of people's childbearing choices. However, the persistent sub-replacement fertility across Europe and recent fertility decline in the Nordic countries challenge the existing explanations of fertility trends. The new unexpected sources of uncertainty in people's reproductive decisions (e.g., recent economic recession, climate changes, or the COVID-19 pandemic) also need to be accounted for. We need to measure a wider range of people's motives related to childbearing and look for novel approaches to study childbearing intentions and behaviours.

In reaction to the above challenges, the new experimental module on childbearing intentions has been proposed for the GGS (Mynarska & Raybould, 2020), drawing heavily on the TDIB model of Warren Miller. In this paper, we present some theoretical considerations that underpin this proposal, and discuss the importance of selected motives for childbearing intentions. The empirical analyses will be based on two pilot studies conducted in Poland (n=1000) and the UK (n=789) towards the end of 2020.

Wednesday 6 October 2021

13h00-14h00

Session: Union Formation and Dissolution: Life Course and Comparative Perspectives

Chair: Almut Schumann

Name: Niels Blom

Organization: University of Bath

Relationship quality and Family Formation in Europe. How country context shapes (un)happy couples' transitions to marriage and first birth

Niels Blom, Brienna Perelli-Harris, Kenneth Aarskaug Wiik

The meaning of marriage and cohabitation has changed, potentially altering how people with higher relationship quality progress family formation, by getting married and/or having a first birth. We employ a cross-national perspective to study how relationship quality is associated with the likelihood of marriage and first birth within cohabitation and how this differs by country context. We raise questions about whether cohabitators with higher relationship quality are as likely to have a first birth as married couples in contexts where cohabitation is widespread. By focusing on the order of marriage and first childbirth, we investigate how relationship quality is related to (the order of) family transitions, and how this differs across countries. Using the Generation and Gender Survey and UK Household Longitudinal Study, we study seven European countries (Austria, France, Hungary, Netherlands, Norway, Sweden, and UK). We employ competing risk hazard models to follow respondents as they 1) transition from cohabitation into marriage or have a first birth within cohabitation; 2) transition from marriage or cohabitation to having a first birth. Results indicate that cohabitators with higher relationship quality have higher marriage risks in Austria, France, Hungary, and the UK, but not in the Netherlands, Norway and Sweden. Instead, higher relationship quality is associated with higher first birth risks in cohabitation in Sweden and Norway. Furthermore, married couples have a higher risk of first birth irrespective of relationship quality in most countries. These findings suggest that in contexts where the meaning of marriage and cohabitation are more similar, couples with higher quality relationships are more likely to progress their relationships by having a first birth rather than marriage.

Wednesday 6 October 2021

13h00-14h00

Session: Union Formation and Dissolution: Life Course and Comparative Perspectives

Chair: Almut Schumann

Name: Zsuzsanna Makay

Organization: Hungarian Demographic Research Institute

A life course perspective on grey divorce in Europe

Zsuzsanna Makay, Lívia Murinkó

While relatively few couples divorce in middle and old age, the divorce rate of persons aged 50+ has increased in the US and several European countries. The issue of partnership dissolution at older ages has raised concerns regarding the economic situation, the physical and mental health of those involved, and their access to social support and caregiving. Despite the growing share of middle aged and older people who experience the dissolution of their partnership, there have been very few studies on the individual antecedents and consequences of “grey divorce” in Europe.

The aim of the study is to examine whether key later life events are related to divorce and partnership dissolution above age 50 in Europe and to account for related background factors. We plan to use longitudinal panel data on eleven European countries from the Generations and Gender Survey. We model the risk of union dissolution between wave 1 and 2. We focus on the effect of life course events on the probability of separation and divorce in middle and late adulthood. These events include retirement, children leaving the parental home (“empty nest”), and entering grandparenthood. The first two have been found as not being correlated with grey divorce in the United States (Lin et al., 2016), but this association might be different in Europe. Alderotti et al. (2020) found grandparenthood to be an important predictor. We also control for a wide set of socio-economic background factors, family biography, partnership-specific capital and spousal homogamy. Our analysis is likely to contribute to a better knowledge of the factors behind partnership dissolution above age 50 in Europe.

Wednesday 6 October 2021

13h00-14h00

Session: Union Formation and Dissolution: Life Course and Comparative Perspectives

Chair: Almut Schumann

Name: Klára Reimerová

Organization: Masaryk University

Is Educational Hypogamy No Longer Risk of Union Dissolution?

Klára Reimerová

The research focusing on the stability of unions based on the relative education of partners traditionally used to reveal a higher risk of dissolution for hypogamous couples. Nevertheless, the latest research suggests that with the rising educational attainments of women, the risk should diminish. That has proved to be true in the comparison of the U.S. marriage cohorts (Schwartz & Han 2014) and the comparison of Belgian regions (Theunis et al. 2017): where the hypogamous type of union exists in larger numbers over time or in terms of spatial distribution, the risk of dissolution for hypogamous unions diminishes. While these explanations concern structural change (of educational attainments and subsequently of the proportion of hypogamous couples), the authors also implicitly suggest another hypothesis: the change in gender norms that stabilises the non-normative hypogamy. Nevertheless, that has never been tested. I examine the variance in the effect of educational hypogamy on the union stability across different social contexts in two waves of the Generations and Gender Survey data for nine countries. The preliminary results from the non-parametric Kaplan-Meier method show lower stability of hypogamy (relative to hypergamy) in countries where the traditional gender norms are more common (such as Bulgaria, Poland, ...). These results will be further developed to analyse the influence of macro variables, such as gender norms, the sex ratio of educational attainments and the prevalence of hypogamy in given countries.

Wednesday 6 October 2021

13h00-14h00

Session: Union Formation and Dissolution: Life Course and Comparative Perspectives

Chair: Almut Schumann

Name: Maïke van Damme

Organization: CED

Women's family life courses after union dissolution: A comparative analysis

Maïke van Damme, Sergi Vidal

Increased union dissolution rates have led to a diverse landscape of family forms in contemporary societies. While family dynamics after union dissolution are gathering scholarly attention, little is still known on how individuals experience family life courses across contexts that offer different opportunities for family behaviour. To close gaps in knowledge, we combine life course and comparative approaches to address the following research questions: How do family life courses evolve after the dissolution of the first stable union? How do these processes vary across socio-historical contexts? To respond to these questions, we examine post-separation family pathways deploying sequence analysis on combined relationship and birth trajectories of women for the initial 60 months after the dissolution of the first union. Context variation is assessed by comparing family pathways across birth cohorts (1940-1983) and countries (Germany, Netherlands, Poland, Spain, Sweden and the UK) using data from the Harmonized Histories comparative dataset. Preliminary findings show diversity in how family trajectories evolve after union dissolution. In most countries, a range of pathways featuring complex family trajectories became more common among recent birth cohorts. Results suggest that socio-historical contexts importantly shaped union dissolution and subsequent family behaviour.

Thursday 7 October 2021

13h00-14h00

Session: Gender Norms, Caregiving and Fertility Outcomes

Chair: Arieke Rijken

Name: Laurent Toulemon

Organization: INED - French Institute for Demographic Studies

Grandparental Childcare and Adult Children's Fertility: Evidence from France

Laurent Toulemon, Elizabeth Wilkins

Among the set of fertility determinants in European countries, grand parental childcare has been shown to have a moderate and unstable effect at the country level. However, these moderate overall effects may be masking considerable heterogeneity within countries. Using the case of France, we aim to disentangle potential heterogeneity to identify the particular situations in which grandparental childcare support is important for adult children's fertility intentions and behaviour. We aim to do this by considering grandparental childcare as one element within a 'landscape of support', comprising different sources and types of support received by adult children. We will use Generations and Gender Survey (GGS) data on a sample of parents living as a couple in France, interviewed in the first wave of the GGS, their actual fertility being observed 6 years after the first interrogation. We will test the hypotheses that the effect of grandparental childcare on fertility is largest when it is an 'accessory' form of support, combined with other sources and types of support rather than the main form of support, and that this relationship is mediated by socioeconomic factors and family preferences. We will then test our results using data from the Swedish and Dutch GGS.

Thursday 7 October 2021

13h00-14h00

Session: Gender Norms, Caregiving and Fertility Outcomes

Chair: Arieke Rijken

Name: Tomass Kristian Nielsen

Organization: Tallinn University

Competing Care Burdens and Fertility: are extended Care needs reducing the Number of Children?

Tomass Kristian Nielsen, Martin Klesment

This paper examines how competing demands for time and financial resources, otherwise known as care-capacity, for young- and middle aged adults' is associated with fertility. We hypothesize that individuals who have care obligations, e.g. simultaneously caring for elderly parents and dependent children, are less likely to have more children. We analyze this question using data from the Generations & Gender Survey (GGS). Using the longitudinal design of the GGS, we analyze the respondents' likelihood of having another child between the two waves. We find that the group of young adults who reported that they provide care also for others besides their children had a lower likelihood of having another child compared with those who were not engaged in providing care. Our proxy measure of increased direct care burden, having a parent with activity limitations, however did not prove a significant predictor. Thus, we cannot conclude that it is specifically the exposure to caring for elderly parents that is likely to reduce fertility.

Thursday 7 October 2021

13h00-14h00

Session: Gender Norms, Caregiving and Fertility Outcomes

Chair: Arieke Rijken

Name: Ewa Cukrowska-Torzewska

Organization: University of Warsaw

Time to second child: country differences and their sources

Ewa Cukrowska-Torzewska, Anna Lovasz, Anna Matysiak

We analyze the time to second child for a number of European countries and the US using individual fertility histories coming from Harmonized Histories database. Our aim is to document country differences in the time gap between the first and the second births, linking it further to underlying institutional context. We consider several European countries and the US that are representative of various mix of female labor market attachment, family policies, childcare and culture. In contrast to existing demographic research that models progression to second birth using standard event history analysis, we use mixture cure models. Such models have an advantage over standard event history models in that they disentangle between the so-called quantum effect (the risk of experiencing the second birth) and the tempo effect (the speed of the progression to the second birth), which is at heart of this paper. The key independent variables in our models are variables reflecting countries, which we cluster into six groups: Northern Europe (Sweden and Norway), German speaking countries (Austria and Germany), Western Europe (Belgium and France), Southern Europe (Spain), Anglo-Saxon countries (UK and US) and the CEE (Czech Republic, Hungary, Poland). We estimate the models controlling for age at first birth, the sex of the first child and its year of birth, education level, and union status. We show that the time to second child indeed differs between countries and that country specific context is important for women's birth spacing strategies. Women in Central and Eastern Europe and Southern Europe tend to have their second child significantly later than women living in other countries that we examine. We identify several institutional factors that are important for the timing of the second birth that relate to labor market conditions of women and the generosity of leave policies targeted at parents.

Friday 8 October 2021

13h00-14h00

Session: Fertility Decisions in Times of Uncertainty

Chair: Vytenis Deimantas

Name: Trude Lappegard

Organization: University of Oslo

Global uncertainty and fertility intentions in Norway

Trude Lappegard, Lars Dommermuth, Axel Peter Kristensen

Since 2010, Norwegian fertility levels have dropped from being among the highest to below average in Europe with a TFR of 1,48 in 2020. As a country with a generally good and stable economy and labor market, as well as generous family policies for families with young children, this drop in fertility is puzzling. One hypothesis is that young adult's decisions to have children are increasingly influenced by what is happening in other parts of the world. Today's world is much more connected than ever before, and when making decisions we are more likely to take events and conditions in other countries than our own into account. If people observe uncertainty in the world economy or other global conditions, such as the climate crisis, this may reduce their faith in the future of their own society as well. One typical response to uncertainty is to delay major decisions and thus, young adults in Norway may postpone childbearing as a response to an increasing global uncertainty. The level of uncertainty in one's life will depend on individuals' employment situation and the state of the labor market. Using new data from the Norwegian GGS 2020, we ask whether global uncertainty, related to issues such as terrorism, climate change, economic stability or pandemics, influence people's fertility intentions.

Friday 8 October 2021

13h00-14h00

Session: Fertility Decisions in Times of Uncertainty

Chair: Vytenis Deimantas

Name: Jitka Slabá

Organization: Charles University

Short-term fertility intentions in Czechia during the COVID-19 pandemic

Jitka Slabá, Anna St'astná, Jirina Kocourková

The paper focuses on the influence of various characteristics and attitudes on short-term fertility intentions during the COVID-19 pandemic. Using Czech pilot data from the 2nd round of GGP (December 2020), we study how attitudes to reproduction and the assessment of the effects of the pandemic during the third wave of COVID-19 in Czechia affect childbearing intentions during the next three years. The initial results revealed that short-term fertility intentions are shaped by the various characteristics mentioned by respondents and their partners (e.g. the number of children, the presence of stepchildren) and, partially, by the perceived impact of childbirth on their personal lives. The enhancement of the joy and satisfaction of life positively impacts the fertility intentions of both men and women. The childbirth intentions of women correlate positively with the perceived positive impact of a future child on the quality of the partnership, the potential for self-fulfillment in various life domains and the feeling of readiness to have a child. Conversely, men and women less often plan to have a child in the next three years if they do not expect to have access to suitable housing. However, most of these domains have been affected to some extent by the COVID-19 pandemic; thus it can be assumed that the effects of the pandemic at the individual level (e.g. in terms of income and job loss) and the assessment of its effects at the societal level may strengthen or weaken the influence of these factors on childbearing intentions. The analysis benefits from detailed GGS data that measures the characteristics, values and attitudes of the respondents, and their extension via a set of Czech-specific questions that focus on the impact and assessment of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Friday 8 October 2021

13h00-14h00

Session: Fertility Decisions in Times of Uncertainty

Chair: Vytenis Deimantas

Name: Ross Barker

Organization: Wittgenstein Centre for Demography and Global Human Capital

Simultaneous changes in life domains and short-term fertility intentions

Ross Barker, Isabella Buber-Ennser

Fertility intentions are widely used in understanding the factors that contribute to the gap between the intended and actual number of children. Despite being widely used, literature using short-term fertility intentions mostly overlooks the uncertainty within the intention to have a child, grouping uncertain and certain responses. Literature using Generations and Gender Survey (GGS) data has successfully explored the realization of fertility intentions, but with little comparison of the certainty of the stated fertility intention over time. Taking a life course perspective, our main objective is to outline the breadth of uncertainty within short-term fertility intentions. We aim to emphasize the importance of uncertainty in the intention to have a child, and better understand how individuals enter or leave fertility intention uncertainty. That is, which changes in life circumstances, be it in partnerships, work, residence, or employment, are associated with becoming certainly not intending or certainly intending to have a child within a 3-year horizon. We use binomial logistic regression models with two waves of the GGS to explore the relationship between fertility intention transitions and changes in life domains. We use a pooled sample of GGS data for France, Austria, Hungary and Poland. Uncertainty is first identified in the "probably not" and "probably yes" responses, and also identified in whether individuals enter or leave the "probably" responses between interviews. For instance, by responding "probably not" intending a child in interview 1, and then responding "definitely not" intending a child in interview 2. We find that an uncertain response is largely a transitory one, an apparently necessary step between certainly negative and certainly positive intentions. Very rarely do respondents change an intention from certainly not intending to certainly intending to have a child. The change in stated intention is largely age- and parity-specific. We find the most common fertility intention transitions are those who remain certainly against having a child (40.2%), those who are uncertain in both interviews (16.9%), followed by those who change from uncertain to certainly negative intentions (13%), and the fourth largest group from certainly negative to uncertain intentions (8%). Initial analytical results of the childless sample find the following life course transitions to be significant: change in living with parents, change in employment status, and change in partnership. The importance of life domain transitions differs dependent on entering or leaving fertility intention uncertainty.

Friday 8 October 2021

13h00-14h00

Session: Fertility Decisions in Times of Uncertainty

Chair: Vytenis Deimantas

Name: Alyce Raybould

Organization: University College London

What do people mean when they are 'unsure' about having children? A comparison of childbearing intentions measures in the UK and Poland

Alyce Raybould, Monika Mynarska

In previous waves of the GGS, desires and intentions for children have been measured in terms of certainty of wanting: definitely yes, probably yes, unsure, probably not, definitely not. These categories of certainty have previously been shown as important predictors in the likelihood of having a/another child (Regnier-Loilier and Vignoli, 2011). Uncertainty of childbearing intentions (the central 'unsure' measurement) is also gaining contemporary interest as an explanation for both reproductive behaviour and outcomes (Nf Bhrolchain and Beaujouan, 2011, 2015; Bernardi, Mynarska and Rossier, 2015). In a new experimental module for the GGS on childbearing intentions (Mynarska & Raybould, 2020), we measured desires and intentions both categorically (as above) and using a discrete 10-point scale about strength of the desire/intention. In this presentation, we report findings from pilot studies in the UK and Poland about how these two complementary measures relate to one another. In doing so, we reflect on what respondents really 'mean' when they say they are unsure about having children