

Residential relocations in a family context

Strand organizers: Clara Mulder (University of Groningen)

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Non-resident children as a constraint to migration: The role of re-partnering

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The spatial mobility of individuals in two-parent families with children is relatively low. The extent to which separation changes the (im)mobility of parents and under which post-separation circumstances remains unclear. Geographical proximity to non-resident children is a crucial enabling factor for sharing childcare responsibilities after separation and can therefore form a constraining factor for internal migration (within-country moves over a distance of at least 40 km). In this paper, we contrast the likelihood of internal migration among single or re-partnering parents who have non-resident children (living under or over 2 km away) with individuals in two-parent families, separating parents and single or re-partnering parents with co-resident children only. We use population register data from the Netherlands to perform event history analysis. We find that single parents with non-resident children living further away are more likely to migrate than individuals in two-parent families, while single parents with a non-resident child living nearby or with co-resident children only are about equally (un)likely to migrate. The likelihood of migration is estimated to be highest for separated parents who are re-partnering, also compared to parents who are separating. However, having a non-resident child living nearby lowers the likelihood of migration during the year of re-partnering. These patterns appear to be similar for men and women. The results suggest that the extent to which internal migration is constrained by having non-resident children living nearby after separation depends highly on whether the parent is single or re-partnering.

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The changing nature of home moves over the course of childhood

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Moving home is a common feature of family life, but the timing and consequences of moves can vary depending on the family context and the occurrence of life course events such as union formation and dissolution. This paper examines household moves involving children in the UK during their first 14 years (over 2001-2016). We assess the prevalence and nature of moves in relation to children's age and previous moving history, asking three research questions. First, did the probability of moving vary with children's age? Second, did life events differentially affect the probability of moving as children grew older? Third, did the probability of achieving home ownership through moving change as children grew older? We use data from all 6 waves of the Millennium Cohort Study, including all families who participated in at least two waves (n=17,300). Multilevel event history analysis treats moves as recurrent events to allow repeat mobility throughout the study period. Our results indicate that the probability of moving was highest from birth to age 3 (33%). There was a lower peak around age 11 (20%). Parents' partnership changes were positively associated with moves at all waves, and single motherhood particularly when children are older. We find a slight decline of moves into home ownership and a concomitant increase of moves into private renting. In sum, while home moves became less common across childhood, they also became more disadvantageous, with potential negative consequences for children's development

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It's about time: The interrelationship between partnership transitions, residential mobility and housing tenure

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Union formation and dissolution are closely linked to residential mobility and housing changes. Previous studies have focused on the relationship between one family life event and residential changes and have assumed that family life events influence residential mobility. We study the interrelationship between union formation, union dissolution, and residential mobility to gain a better understanding of how partnership and housing trajectories evolve and interact in individuals' lives. We first investigate how the risk of a residential move changes over time since partnership changes. We then study how the risk of union formation (cohabitation or marriage) and union dissolution changes over time since a residential move. We disaggregate the results by tenure type of the destination housing. Combining data from the British Household Panel Survey and the Understanding Society study, we estimate multi-level simple and competing risks event history models. The risk of a move is highest during the first year of a partnership or following separation. It is the highest among separated women and the lowest among married individuals. Separated and cohabiting individuals are most likely to move to private renting whereas married people are most likely to move to homeownership. Most individuals move to cohabit rather than to marry. In addition, marriage formation is mostly related to moves to homeownership. Among those who moved to homeownership, the risk of a cohabitation as well as the risk of a marriage is high. Separation leads to elevated residential mobility and moves to privately and socially rented dwellings

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Moving towards family after union dissolution in the United States

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A growing literature has addressed the migration and residential mobility of ex-partners after divorce or the dissolution of a cohabiting partnership. It has repeatedly been speculated that a considerable share of the moves of separated people might be directed towards family members & most likely parents, but potentially also other family members and towards otherwise familiar locations. However, although some previous evidence suggests that separated individuals are more likely to move towards parents than others, there is only little empirical work investigating the role of parents or other family members in the moving behaviour of separated people. In this paper, we investigate moves of separated people towards parents and siblings, both moving close to them and moving in with them, and towards locations in which the individual has lived before. We use longitudinal data from the Panel Study of Income Dynamics for the United States and multinomial logistic regressions models. We find that following a separation, individuals are less likely to engage in migration if they have parents living close by, especially mothers. Moreover, separated individuals with distant parents are more likely to migrate in order to move in with or move close to mothers or both parents than fathers. In the final version of the paper we also plan to include analyses of moves towards siblings and towards the county of birth.

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