

Families & Households strand

Strand organisers: Dr. Jenny Chanfreau, Dr. Afshin Zilanawala (University College London)

Families & Households: Marriage and cohabitation. Tuesday 15 September 11.00am

Do egalitarian people no longer value marriage? A comparative analysis of 19 countries - *Kamila Kolpashnikova, Muzhi Zhou, Man Yee Kan; University of Oxford*

Egalitarian gender ideology is associated with less support of the traditional institute of marriage. In this study, we investigate the variation in the association by welfare regime. Using the International Social Survey Programme data for 2002 and 2012, we elaborate the Second Demographic Transition (SDT) and the Gender Revolution frameworks and test the association between egalitarian gender attitudes and attitudes toward marriage in 19 countries. Our findings confirm that the strength of the association depends on whether the countries are in the pre-transitional (pre-SDT), transitional (mid-SDT), or post-transitional (post-SDT) stage of the gender revolution.

Armed conflict and female teen marriage in Azerbaijan– *Orsola Torrisi, London School of Economics*

Does exposure to armed conflict affect female teen marriage? While early marriage, its significant health and human costs have received growing attention, quantitative research on whether and how armed violence affects teen union dynamics and more causal evidence on the relationship are minimal. This paper aims to address this gap by exploring the link between exposure to the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict and teen marriage outcomes in Azerbaijan, using data from the 2006 Demographic and Health Survey and information on conflict intensity and frequency from the Uppsala Conflict Data Program. Results of discrete-time duration models specified with a difference-in-difference approach show that experiences of conflict violence, frequency and intensity of exposure in adolescent ages deterred teen unions. Sub-analyses reveal that the effect mainly characterised the cohorts of women who spent most of their adolescence under conflict and who were forcibly displaced. For non-migrant conflict-affected women, declines extend to the youngest cohorts. The duration of the conflict experience and the ages at exposure as well as disruptive events like forced migration may matter more than the experience of violence itself for teen marriage outcomes.

Email: O.Torrisi@lse.ac.uk

Do couples face an economic bar to marriage? - Understanding the contribution of men's and women's economic precariousness on first cohabitation outcomes in the UK, 1991-2018 - *Lydia Palumbo^{1,2}, Ann Berrington¹, Peter Eibich²; ¹University of Southampton, ²Max Planck Institute of Demographic Research*

Over the past 25 years, marriage rates have plummeted in the UK. The age at first marriage rose dramatically, and cohabitation is now the normative way of entering the first co-residential partnership. Over the same timeframe, youth labour market has become increasingly precarious, dominated by low wages, fixed-term contracts and unemployment. The question, therefore, arises as to whether economic precariousness has contributed to the decline in marriage, and if so, whether the capacity for young men to provide the breadwinner role is more important in facilitating marriage than women's economic position. We contribute to this debate by examining how economic precariousness, represented by indicators for the objective socio-economic status and subjective feelings, has related to the likelihood of marriage or partnership dissolution, between 1991 and 2018. Focusing on cohabiting couple dyads from the British Household Panel Survey and Understanding Society, we examine the relative importance of men's and women's precariousness on their cohabitation outcomes through competing risks event-history models. We find that, over historical time, fewer cohabitations have ended into marriage. Couples in which neither partner is in a precarious economic position are most likely to marry; whereas, the presence of at least one precarious partner lowers the risk of marriage and increases the risk of dissolution. Men's economic precarity is a stronger bar to marriage than women's, especially if precariousness is measured through objective indicators. Subjective measures do not show similar gender differences, suggesting that women's concerns about the couple's precarity could facilitate dissolutions and prevent marriages as men's.

Email: palumbo@demogr.mpg.de

Is there a “bar” for relationship quality? Examining the association between relationship happiness, economic conditions, and family transitions in the UK - Niels Blom¹, Brienna Perelli-Harris²; ¹University of Bath, ²University of Southampton

Recent studies have found that in the US and Europe, marriage is associated with stable economic conditions, while separation and childbearing within cohabitation are associated with disadvantage. Few studies have examined relationship quality in shaping family transitions, especially analyzing interactions with socioeconomic status, which could help to explain the divergence in family behavior. Using the UK Household Longitudinal Survey (2009-2017), we employ competing risk hazard models to follow respondents as they 1) transition from cohabitation into marriage, childbearing, or separation; 2) transition from marriage or cohabitation into parenthood; and 3) separate after having children. We find that the happiest couples have much higher marriage risks, but relationship quality is not directly associated with childbearing in the UK. Instead, the effect of relationship quality on childbearing operates through marriage: the happiest couples marry, and married couples have children. Relationship quality is not related to separation before people have children, but among parents, relationship quality deters separation. The difference in parents' separation risk between cohabitators and married couples is smaller, the lower their relationship happiness. While low income, low education, and partners' unemployment are associated with childbearing in cohabitation and separation, these associations do not differ by relationship happiness. Thus, our findings suggest a “relationship quality bar” for marriage and separation, but not childbearing. In total our findings show marriage continues to represent a preferred type of relationship for the British population, where higher quality relationships are more likely to marry, and married couples are less likely to separate.

Families & households: Families & work. Tuesday 15 September 1.00pm

New leave policy for Slovak fathers: Radical potential, mixed results - Zuzana Dancikova; London School of Economics

At odds with prevalent traditional norms and practices related to leave-sharing, in 2011 Slovakia extended its maternity benefits to fathers, granting them 6 months of leave benefits with a tax-free 75% wage-replacement rate. The benefit is not transferable to mothers, who are eligible for an additional 34 weeks of maternity benefits. Despite the unique features of the policy, to-date its outcomes have not received much scholarly attention. I use quantitative methods to investigate the policy's implications for the sharing of paid and unpaid labor by mother and fathers. Using logistic regression on unique administrative data, I find that uptake has been growing fast, amounting to 38% of eligible fathers in 2019, with most fathers making use of the full available leave. Utilizing a hazard model, I find that at the same time, mothers in participating families return to or start new paid work sooner, further contributing to more equal sharing of paid and unpaid work. However, the radical potential of the policy is hampered by several factors. Firstly, benefits are linked to social security contributions and 29% of fathers remain ineligible. Secondly, benefit uptake is not equally distributed, with less educated fathers and fathers from marginalized Roma communities less likely to take leave even if they are eligible. Finally, a significant proportion of fathers continue paid work while on leave, an unintended consequence of the new legislation. At the same time, a significant proportion of mothers remain out of paid work during fathers' leave.

Email: z.dancikova@lse.ac.uk

A family leave length trade-off? Women's labour force status in comparative perspective – Kathryn Morosow, University of Bath

A frequently cited aim of parental leave policies is to provide parents with the opportunity to combine work and family. The availability of additional childcare leaves is prolonging mothers' time out of the labour market, however, and thus may counteract women's labour market participation. This study is the first to differentiate between the whole range of labour force status outcomes: employment, unemployment and inactivity. Using data for 20 countries from the Luxembourg Income Study, this study examines the relationship between paid family leave length and mothers' labour market status. Calling on multinomial logistic regression with country fixed effects, this study finds that the provision of comparatively long paid family leave is associated with increased unemployment risks among mothers of 0 to 15 year olds. A slight peak when children are 4 to 6 years old and when leave is longer than two years suggests that mothers are most vulnerable when they re-enter the labour market after a longer leave. These results are in line with prominent theories of human capital depreciation, signalling or statistical discrimination. Leaves of over one year, on the other hand, are associated with reduced inactivity among mothers. Hence, results indicate a trade-off when it comes to leave length. Shorter leaves are

associated with mothers dropping out of the labour market, especially when children are young, while longer family leaves are associated with increased unemployment risks.

Email: km937@bath.ac.uk

Gender divisions of domestic labour amongst couples with young children and relationship quality: Evidence from the UK Household Longitudinal Study – Anne McMunn, Baowen Xue, Rebecca Lacey; University College London

This study investigates whether the ways in which parents of young children divide domestic labour have consequences for the quality of their relationship over the longer term. The study includes co-resident, opposite-sex couples with pre-school aged children (under the age of 5) in the household at wave 2 (N=3,403 couples) of the UK Household Longitudinal Study. Measures of gender divisions of labour were taken from waves 2 were measured using parents' reports of who had main responsibility of childcare (her, him, or shared) and the number of weekly hours that each member of the couple spent doing housework. Relationship quality was taken for both mothers and fathers from waves 1, 3, 5, 7 and 9 and was measured using quintiles of relationship satisfaction and cohesion. Mixed effects models predicted relationship quality across waves 3-9 in relation to divisions of domestic labour at wave 2, adjusting for relationship quality at wave 1. Women in couples who shared childcare equally were significantly more likely to be in the top quintile of relationship satisfaction and cohesion, and significantly less likely to be in the bottom quintile of relationship cohesion even after adjusting for prior relationship quality. Weak associations between divisions of housework and relationship quality amongst men and women were explained by prior relationship quality.

Email: a.mcmunn@ucl.ac.uk

The gender division of paid work around the transition to parenthood among migrant origin couples in Belgium – Julie Maes, Leen Marynissen, Jonas Wood, Karel Neels; University of Antwerp

While numerous studies have investigated the labour market integration of migrants and their children, few have adopted a gender perspective to assess the gender division of paid work among migrant origin couples. In addition, although research has established that particularly the transition to parenthood produces gender inequality, a life course approach has hitherto not been used to investigate gender dynamics around family formation among migrant origin couples. Using longitudinal micro-data for Belgium and fixed-effects models, we analyse how migrant origin couples (one or both partners with a migration background) and native couples (both native Belgian partners) divide paid work before family formation and assess whether the birth of the first child has a differential impact on the gender division of native and migrant origin couples. Moreover, we consider heterogeneity in terms of the origin group (native, European, non-European) and generation (first, second) of both partners and distinguish eleven types of couples. Results indicate that couples' gender division before and gender dynamics around parenthood not only depend on the origin group and generation, but also on which partner has a migration background or is of the first generation (male/female). In addition, our results emphasise the need for a life course approach: while there are big differences between couples' gender division of paid work before parenthood, gender dynamics around the transition to parenthood are largely similar (with exception of non-European couples consisting of a second generation woman and first generation man showing a strongly increased gender inequality after family formation).

Email: julie.maes@uantwerpen.be

Families & households: Family wellbeing in Asia. Wednesday 16 September. 11.00am

Diverging destinies: Household income, parents' educational attainment, parents' time availability and adolescent's time use in Japan – Ekaterina Hertog, Muzhi Zhou; University of Oxford

The socio-economic background of children's natal family is associated with large differences in their educational outcomes, health and overall well-being. Existing research points to the differences in resources, environments, and parenting skills between families with higher and lower socio-economic status. We look at the differences in the ways children allocate their time as potential mechanism for reproducing inter-generational inequality. We evaluate the independent roles of the natal family's economic resources, cultural capital, and time resources in shaping children's daily life outside of the European and US context for the first time. Analysing data from a 2006 Japanese time use survey, we use natal family income, parental education, and parental time availability to predict the study time, leisure time, sleep time, and time with parents for children aged 10-18. Higher household income and maternal and paternal education are associated with children spending longer time studying and less time for sleep and leisure. Adolescents from richer households and whose parents are highly educated also spend less time with family members. Mothers' long working hours are associated with somewhat less time spent with children, but the magnitude of the association is very small. These findings suggest that available resources and parental education are both important for intergenerational reproduction of inequality. This is the first article to simultaneously assess the impact of income, parental education, and parental employment on children's time use.

Email: ekaterina.hertog@sociology.ox.ac.uk

The gender division of housework and sex in Hong Kong - Mengni Chen; Catholic University of Louvain

The aim of this study is to explore the relationship between housework division and sexual life among married couples in Hong Kong, particularly regarding the frequency of sex and sexual life satisfaction. The research questions to be addressed are 1) whether more equal housework division is associated with more sex and higher sexual life satisfaction, and 2) what is the optimal mode of housework division that leads to highest frequency and highest sexual life satisfaction. This paper makes use of the latest knowledge, attitude, and practice (KAP) survey conducted in 2017 by the Family Planning Association of Hong Kong. The OLS regression and Spline regression are adopted. The analyses show a curvilinear relationship, more precisely, a reversed U-shaped relationship between housework division and sex frequency, as well as between housework division and sexual life satisfaction. We find that equal housework division (i.e. 50-50) is associated with the highest frequency and highest satisfaction. Besides, female-dominant or male-dominant division is associated with fewer sex and lower satisfaction about sexual life. The results indicate that gender equality in housework division matters in the most private sphere of family life—sexual life. Through sex, gender equality of housework division may have significant impacts on couples' marital quality and fertility behaviours.

Email: hkfancycmn@gmail.com

A multilevel modelling approach to the analysis of happiness in Indonesia – Ayesha Tantriana, Jehada Rosmaniar; BPS Statistics Indonesia

Most of the interdisciplinary studies on happiness assessed the determinants of well-being on individual level. Nevertheless, it should be noted that the distribution of socioeconomic variables in the neighbourhoods at different levels may be subject to the influences of grouping. This paper aims to add a regional perspective to happiness research by using ordered multilevel modelling to determine what attributes of places cause its inhabitants to be happy or unhappy. The dependent variable is from the last question of the Survey of Happiness Rate in 2017. In individual level, independent variables include sex, age, marital status, education, working status, income, and health condition. Contextual variables include income inequality, unemployment rate, economic growth, and democracy index at province level. The result shows that in the individual level, all the fixed effects are statistically significant. As income inequality increases, the likelihood of individual being at or below a given happiness level decreases. However, the higher unemployment rate, democracy index, and economic growth are associated with greater likelihood of being at or below a given happiness level. In conclusion, happiness varies mostly by people and once the province characteristics are accounted for, the variation in happiness is also found statistically significant between provinces.

Email: ayesha.tantriana@bps.go.id

Families & households: Parents, grandparents, and young adults. Wednesday 16 September 1.00pm

When do they care? Exploring local variation in formal childcare availability and the usage of grandparental care – Naomi Biegel, Karel Neels; University of Antwerp

The rising female labour market participation in recent decades entailed the challenge for parents to negotiate work and family responsibilities and organise childcare. As an alternative or in addition to formal childcare arrangements, many parents rely on informal care providers. Grandparents are the most important source of informal childcare and are a non-redundant source of help to parents with young children across European countries. Although a considerable amount of research has looked into the uptake of formal childcare and the uptake of informal childcare respectively, childcare strategies combining formal and informal care have received less attention and it is less clear how the effects of grandparental characteristics on the uptake of informal care are moderated by local access to formal childcare. Using data from the 2001 Belgian census as well as municipality data on formal childcare coverage, this paper aims to investigate whether the association between grandparental characteristics and informal use is moderated by household characteristics and local childcare supply. Preliminary results indicate that the uptake of different childcare arrangements – formal, informal, mixed formal and informal care, or no care – are influenced by the availability and characteristics of grandparents, such as employment status, educational level, distance age and self-rated health. Additionally, grandparental availability has a differential effect depending on the level of formal childcare that is available within the municipality parents live in.

Email: Naomi.Biegel@uantwerpen.com

Leaving like your sibling? Cross-sibling effects on parental home leaving in the UK - Yu-Chin Her, Jorik Vergauwen, Dimitri Mortelmans; Centre for Population, Family and Health, University of Antwerp, Belgium

Studies have suggested that the timing of leaving can be influenced by a number of factors, such as gender, educational background, household financial resources and parental characteristics. However, despite empirical evidence showing that siblings can influence one another on life course decisions, intragenerational effects on leaving home is understudied. Therefore, we ask the question: to what extent do various characteristics of a sibling relationship influence the timing a child leaves the parental home given that a sibling has already left? Data from Understanding Society: the UK Household Longitudinal Study (UKHLS) and multilevel discrete-time event history analysis are used in this study. The results suggest that children are more likely to leave when the age gap between siblings is smaller and when the first-left sibling is older. Belonging to the same sex, including both siblings are female, yet, does not seem to play a role in the decision to parental home leaving. When it comes to sibship size, while having more siblings may decrease one's chance of leaving early, this is possibly more the case for males. Overall, our study entails that the timing of a child leaves parental home after a sibling has already left can be surely influenced by sibling characteristics and is explained by sibling contagion and social learning theory and sibship size (when being a male). It also sheds lights on the ways intragenerational effects contribute and are valuable to one's life course trajectories/decisions next to intergenerational influences.

Email: Yu-Chin.Her@uantwerpen.be

Mothers' and fathers' well-being while parenting: Does the gender composition of children matter? - Daniela Veronica Negraia¹, Jill E. Yavorsky², Denys Dukhovnov³; ¹Max Planck Institute of Demographic Research, ²University of North Carolina, ³University of California, Berkeley

Objective: This study examines whether—and if so how—gender composition of children matters for mothers' and fathers' well-being during parenting activities. Background: Despite that parents interact with girls and boys differently and spend different amounts of time with them, scholars have paid little attention to how gender composition of children may influence parental well-being. Method: The study assessed parental well-being during time spent with children, across four measures of subjective well-being (N = 16,140 activities, 8,621 parents), pooled across three survey waves (2010, 2012, 2013) from the American Time Use Survey Well-being Module. Random intercept models were used to account for the multilevel structure of the data. Results: For both mothers and fathers, gender composition of children was not associated with different levels of positive emotions, like happiness or meaning, while parenting. However, for negative emotions, fathers reported greater stress parenting all girls and mixed-gender children (i.e., girl/s and boy/s at the same time) compared to parenting all boys. Mothers reported greater fatigue and stress parenting all girls, compared to parenting all boys. Differences in parenting activities partially explained the stress patterns, for both fathers and mothers. Conclusion: This study, which is contextualized in broader literature on gender stereotypes, interactional processes and time-use, makes several contributions to research on gender, family, and health and identifies an important factor—gender composition of children—that helps shape mothers' and fathers' well-being while parenting.

Email: negraia@demogr.mpg.de

The difference in the participation of young men and women in household work and caretaking during the lockdown: Does it affect their wellbeing? Case study of men and women under 30 in Slovakia - *Michaela Šedovič*,¹ *Veronika Fishbone Vlčková*²; ¹*London School of Economics*, ²*Youth Council of Slovakia*

Slovakia, like other Eastern European countries, is considered conservative in its outlook on family and gender roles (Lesthaeghe, 2010). However, recently, we have seen shift towards less conservative family planning be it in the form of raising of the average age of first-time mothers or uptake in paternity leave, as well as the cultural shift to more progressive attitudes towards family and gender roles. The group accounting the most for this shift are young urban educated adults (Šedovič, 2019). The pandemics' effect on families affects women more heavily (Lewis, 2020). The presented paper aims to explore this effect of pandemics on the most progressive generation in Slovakia and compares the contribution of men and women in household work and caretaking during the lockdown and its association to their wellbeing. Using data from a representative sample of 15-29 years old in Slovakia (Youth council of Slovakia) we compare the effect of pandemics on the circumstances of men and women (job loss, the loss of daily activities (students), parents' loss of caretaking, forced moving back with parents, caretaking for seniors). We ask i) whether the effect is the same and ii) how is it associated with the uptake of household work and caretaking. To answer our RQs, we employ latent class analysis and OLS regression. Finally, we will compare the wellbeing of men and women during and before the crisis. It warrants to research this gender divergence as we theorize that the pandemic could be halting the change from traditional to more progressive attitudes and thus have long-term effects on families.

Email: M.Sedovicova@lse.ac.uk
