

Traditional Family Behaviour from the Human Empowerment Perspective

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Outline

1. What has been done so far: final report
2. What one can learn from all this: issues at stake
3. Where one can go from here: future research

What has been done so far

Causality in family behaviour

Economic
development

Value change



Change in family
behaviour

Research question

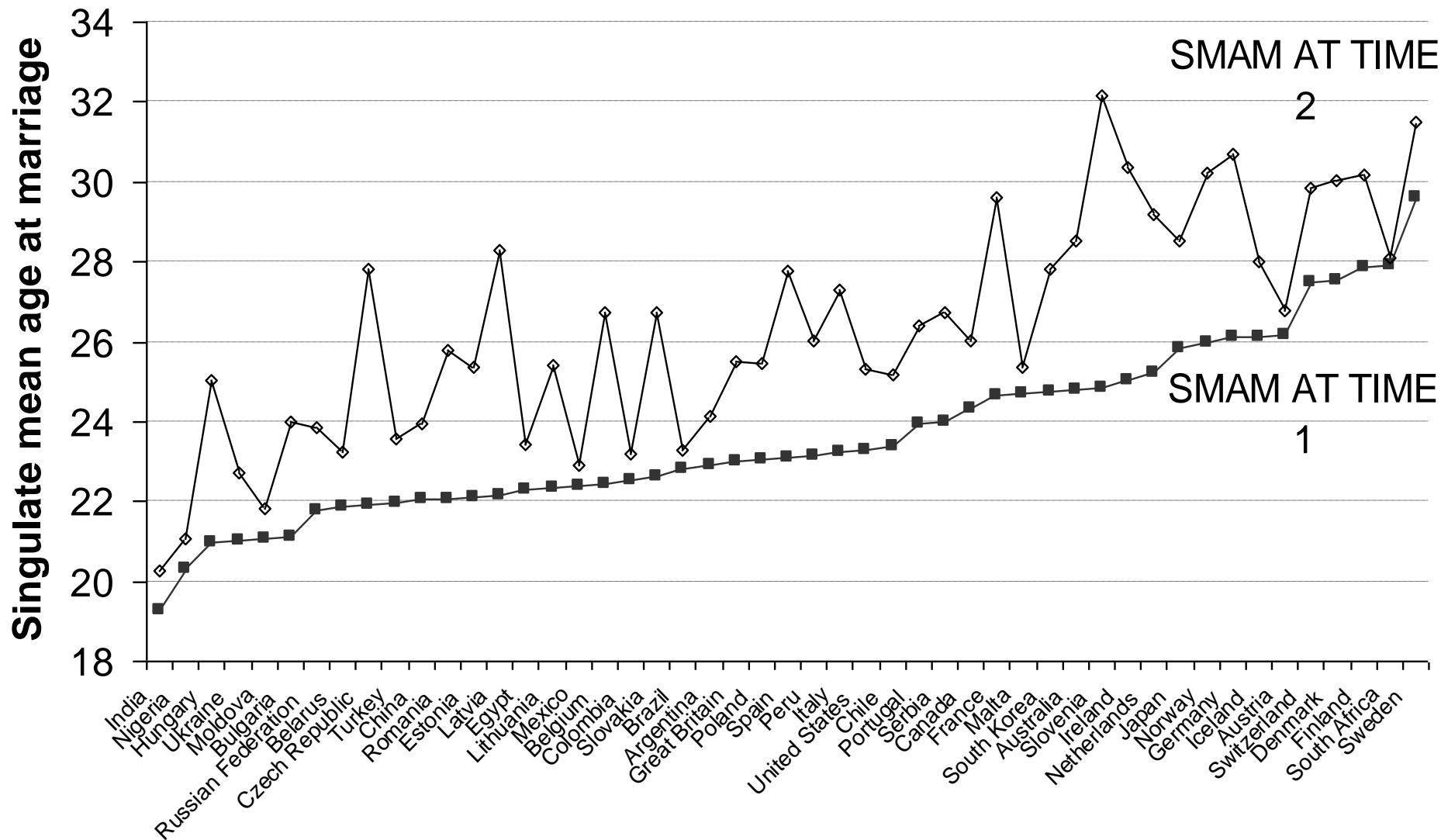
- What is the nature of relations between human empowerment (i.e. increasing living standard, increasing education, rise in emancipative beliefs) and marital postponement?

Hypothesis

- Human empowerment, and in particular, economic development, higher education for women and emancipative value change, **affect** the rise in age at marriage

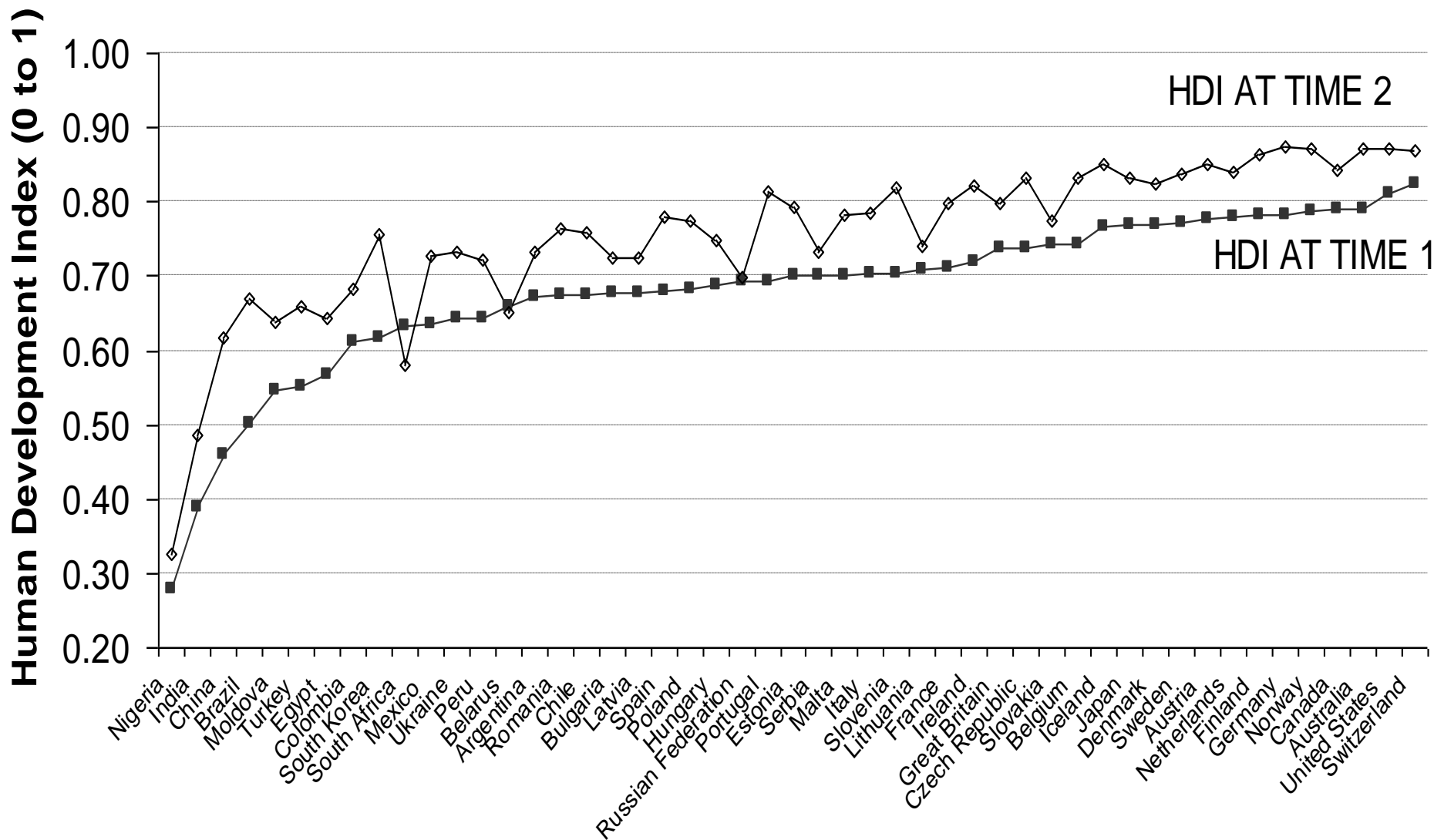
Age at marriage 1980-2008

Source: calculated from United Nations, World Marriage Data 2008

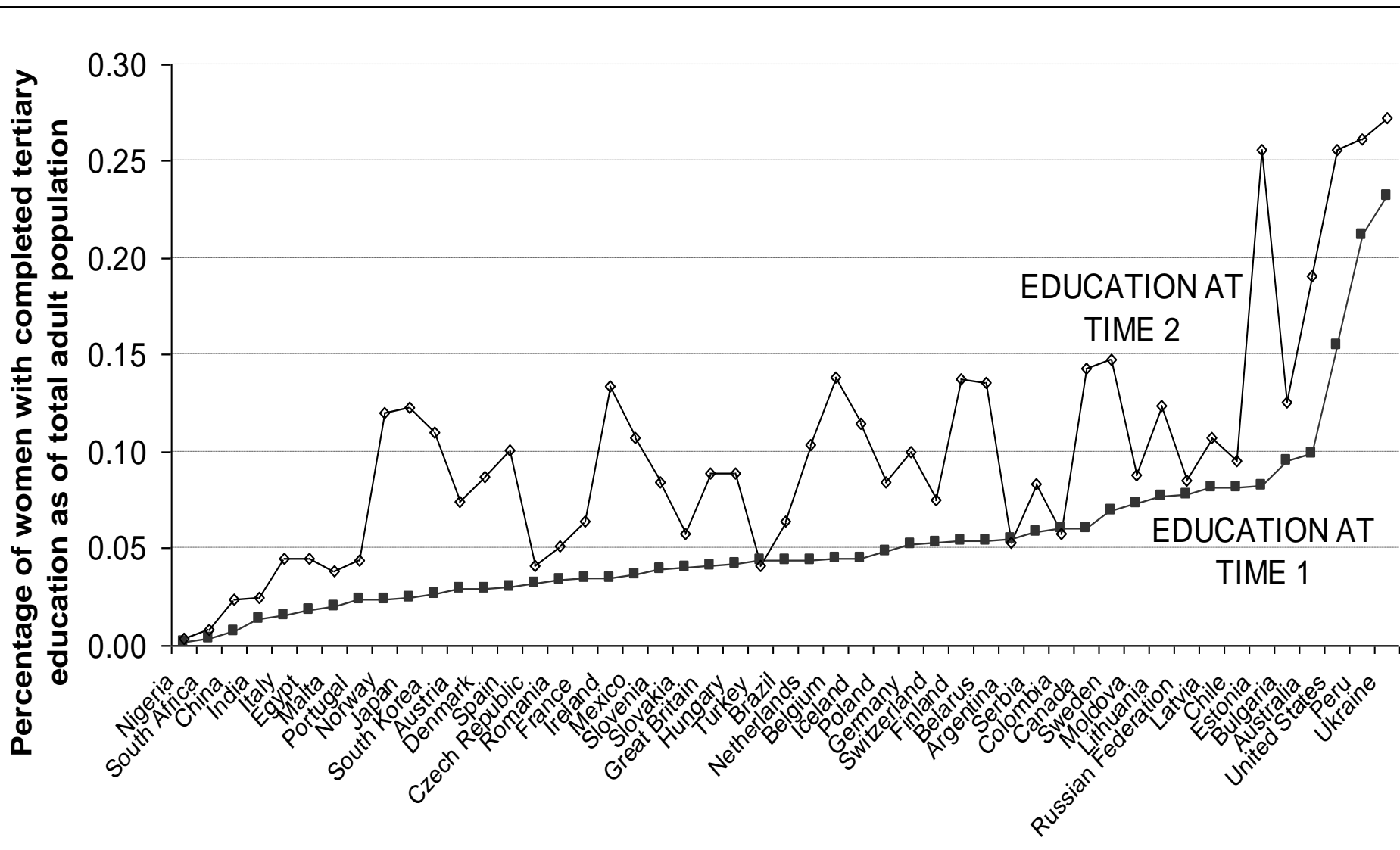


Human Development Index 1980-2008

Source: calculated from United Nations, The Human Development Index 2011

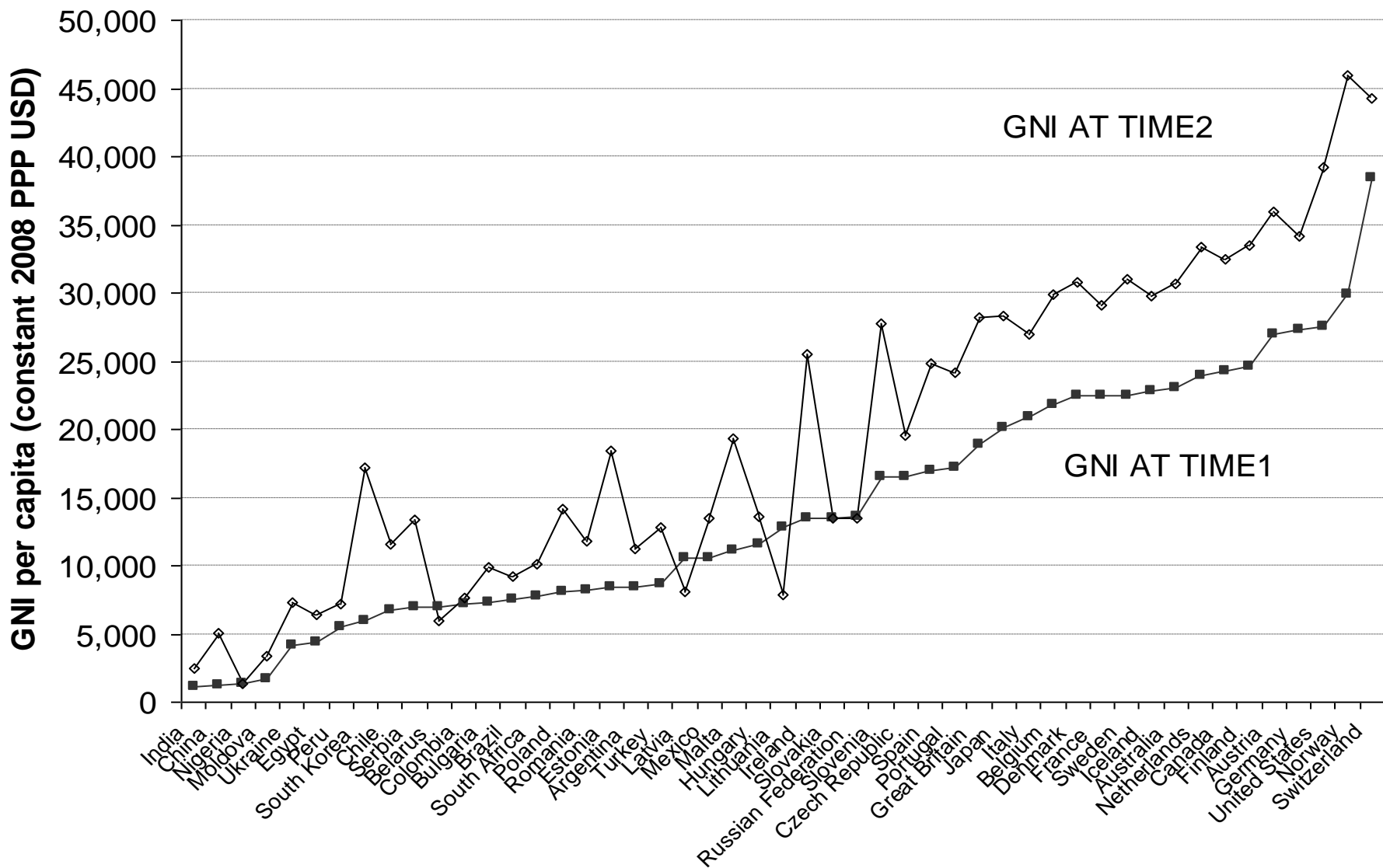


Source: calculated from the World Bank data 2011, Barro-Lee indicators



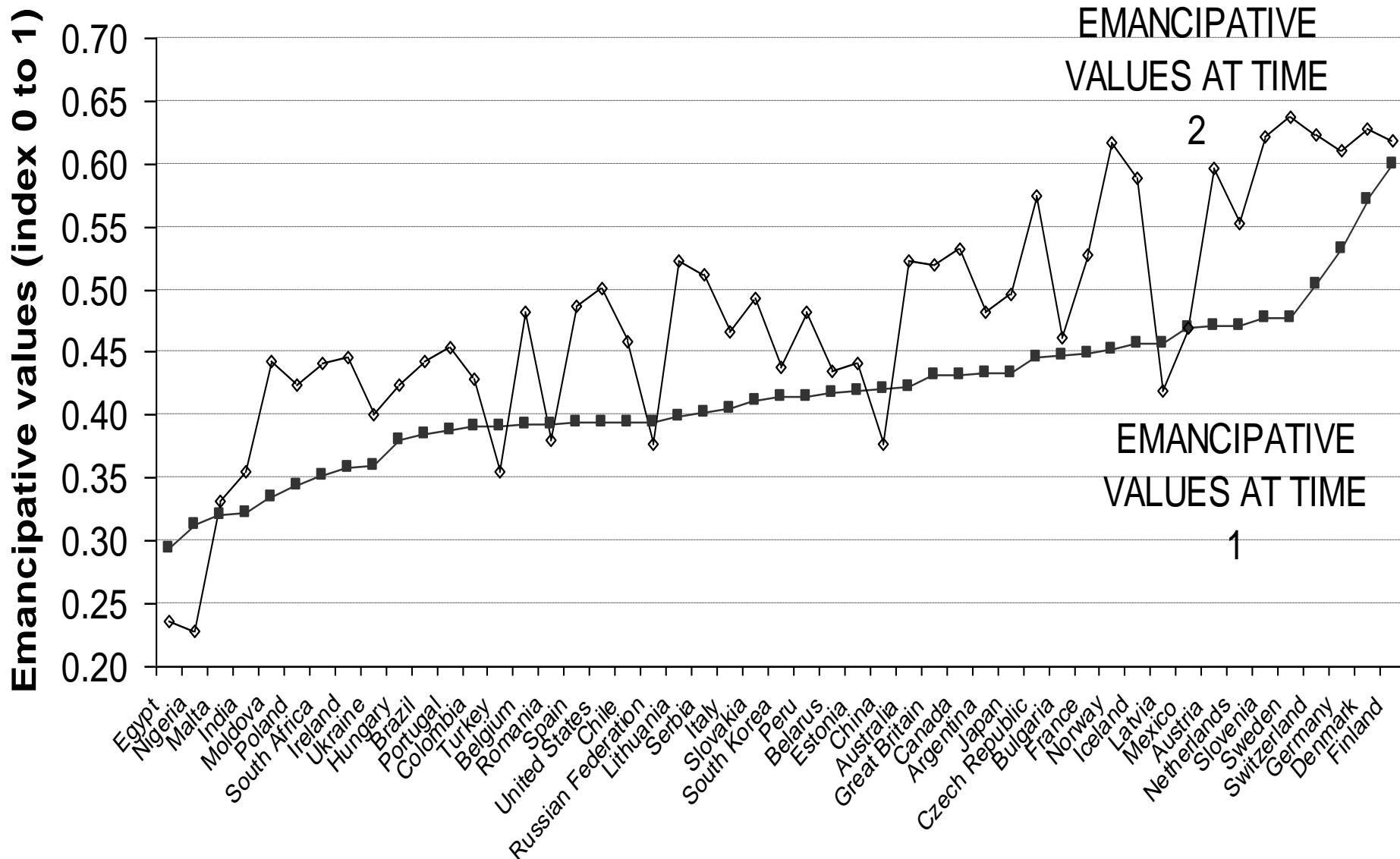
GNI per capita 1981-2008

Source: calculated from United Nations, The Human Development Index 2011



Emancipative values 1981-2008

Source: calculated from WVS aggregate data 1981-2008



- Emancipative value change indeed **boosts** age at marriage, as well as economic development and higher education. Postponement of marriage has, nonetheless, some feedback effects
- Postponement of marriage is influenced **most of all** by emancipative value change, compared to economic development and high level of education for women

Seemingly unrelated regression 1 (unstandardized coefficients)

***p<0.001; **p<0.05

Dependent variable \ Independent variables	Age at marriage at T2	Emancipative values at T2	HDI at T2
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Age at marriage at T1 ■ Change in emancipative values ■ Change in HDI 	<p>0.94***</p> <p>1.27***</p> <p>0.96**</p>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Emancipative values at T1 ■ Change in age at marriage ■ Change in HDI 		<p>1.18***</p> <p>0.21***</p> <p>-0.25</p>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ HDI at T1 ■ Change in age at marriage ■ Change in emancipative values 			<p>0.86***</p> <p>0.12**</p> <p>0.01</p>

Summary

- Within a system of **asymmetrically reciprocal relations**, the effect of values on the age at marriage is the stronger
- The effects remain **robust** when controlling for higher education and GNI separately
- Overall, emancipative values and HDI explain some **68% of the variance in age at marriage** across 49 countries
- Norris and Inglehart (2004) have shown similar findings: the country's position on traditional vs secular-rational scale and HDI explained **two-thirds of the variance** in total fertility rates (TFR)

What one can and cannot learn from the results

Limitations of the current research

- Aggregate-level data – cannot directly infer to individual behaviour (ecological fallacy)
- Endogeneous system – question of stronger/weaker effects rather than causality

Conclusions

- The findings **support** the SDT theory
- The strong asymmetry allows implying that the ideational and behavioural changes may be connected **not only** by correlation
- Results of the seemingly unrelated regression modeling **add** to the existing evidence in the form of “footprints” and “anchored narratives” (Lesthaeghe and Surkyn 2006; van de Kaa 1996)

Where one can go from here

Further research directions

- In the absence of panel data, which individual-level predictions can still be made?
- To what degree do the mechanisms at the individual level resemble those at the country level?
- Can the connections between values and marriage postponement be found also regarding childbearing?

Suggested research questions

- In Central and Eastern European countries, previously identified by their differential fertility declines and marital postponement, how do the determinants of these behaviours differ?
- To which extent are these behaviours explained by socio-economic and political factors, compared to value orientation at the individual and country levels?

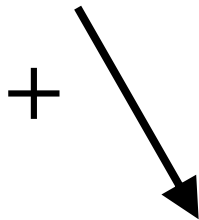
Suggested data and methods

- WVS aggregated data 1981-2008; World Bank indicators
- Sample: European countries
- Method: longitudinal multi-level analysis

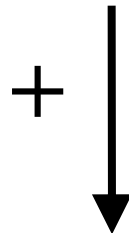
Thank you for your attention!
Comments or questions?

Following the SDT premises, it is derived that

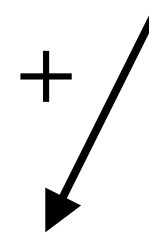
Economic
development



Education for
women



Emancipative
value change

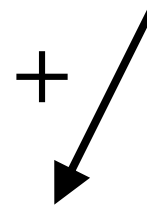
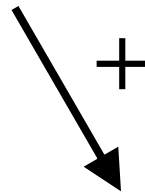


Change in family
behaviour

In particular:

Human Development
Index (HDI)

Emancipative values



Age at marriage

Data and methods

Data and methods

- WVS aggregated data 1981-2008, World Marriage Data 1980-2008 (United Nations 2009), HDI 1980-2008 (United Nations 2010), percentage of women over 25 who completed tertiary education, as of total population over 15, 1980-2005, Barro-Lee (World Bank indicators 2011)
- Sample: 49 countries
- Method: Seemingly Unrelated Regression

Results

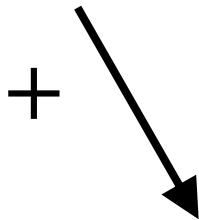
Seemingly unrelated regression 2 (unstandardized coefficients)

**p<0.001; *p<0.05

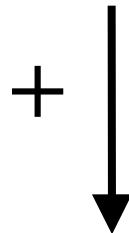
Dependent variable \ Independent variables	Age at marriage at T2	Emancipative values at T2	Education at T2
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Age at marriage at T1 ■ Change in emancipative values ■ Change in education 	<p>0.90***</p> <p>0.99**</p> <p>0.31**</p>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Emancipative values at T1 ■ Change in age at marriage ■ Change in education 		<p>1.15***</p> <p>0.15**</p> <p>0.15**</p>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Education at T1 ■ Change in age at marriage ■ Change in emancipative values 			<p>1.10***</p> <p>0.29**</p> <p>0.80**</p>

Following the SDT premises, it is derived that

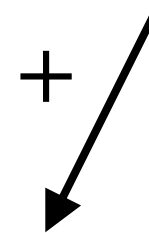
Economic
development



Education for
women



Emancipative
value change



Change in family
behaviour

Discussion and summary

- Age at marriage and emancipative values form a system of asymmetrically reciprocal relations: the effect of values on the age at marriage is the stronger (controlling for economic and human development)
- The effects remain robust when controlling for higher education
- Overall, emancipative values and HDI explain some 68% of the variance in age at marriage across 49 countries
- Norris and Inglehart (2004) have shown similar findings: the country's position on traditional vs secular-rational scale and HDI explained two-thirds of the variance in TFR

Recent changes in values and family behaviour in the West: The Second Demographic

Transition theory (Lesthaeghe and van de Kaa 1986; Lesthaeghe 2010; van de Kaa 1987, 2001)

Ideational change **fuels** changes in family behaviour in the West since the seventies. These changes are:

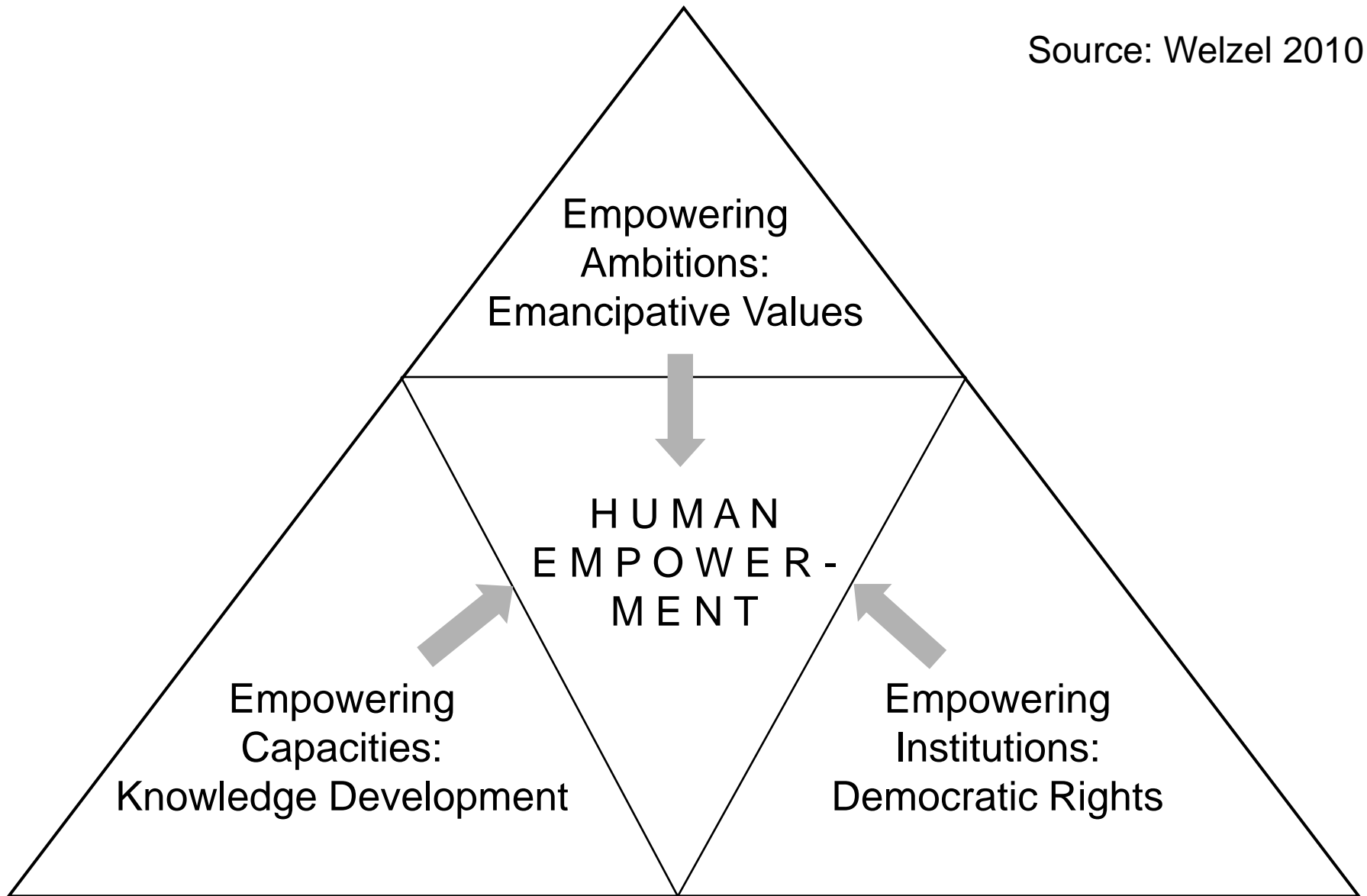
- Postponement of marriage and childbearing
- Alternative living arrangements
(e.g. cohabitation, single living, LAT-relations)
- Decline in eventual number of births

Critique of the SDT concepts

1. Ideational change is rooted in the demographic transition
(Reher 2011)
2. 'Economic and other models may well be more effective
in accounting for trends' (Coleman 2004: 20)
3. Efficient reproduction and fertility decline allowed for
societal and ideational changes (MacInnes and Pérez Díaz
2009)

The Human Empowerment Model

Source: Welzel 2010



- Dependent variable: family behaviour (singulate mean age at marriage) at the country level at two time points
- Independent variables: value orientation and HDI at the country level at two time points

Empowering individuals

(Welzel and Inglehart 2008; Welzel, Inglehart and Klingemann 2003)

- Economic development and an increase in action resources widen opportunities in life
- Emancipative values emphasize free choice and motivate people to govern their lives
- Effective democratic regime institutionalizes legal rights and allows for civil and political liberties and choice