

Laboratory for Comparative Social Research  
3rd LCSR International Workshop

# **Family Behaviour and Social Change in Eastern and Central Europe 1991-2008**

By Evgenia Bystrov

Ph.D. Fellow  
Bremen International Graduate School of Social Sciences (BIGSSS)  
Jacobs University Bremen, Germany

[ebystrov@bigsss-bremen.de](mailto:ebystrov@bigsss-bremen.de)

Saint-Petersburg, 26 April 2013

# Outline

---

1. Reminder: research questions
2. Theoretical premises regarding the change in marital behaviours
3. Underlying mechanisms and social structures
4. Future analyses

## Research questions

---

- Do determinants of cohabitation and marital postponement **differ** between the Central and Eastern European countries and the Northern and Western European countries?
- What are the **age-period-cohort effects** between 1991-2008? Do they differ between CEE and Northern and Western European countries?

## Hypotheses (1)

---

Cohabitation and marital postponement in Central and Eastern Europe are better explained by socio-economic and political variables than in Northern and Western Europe.

In contrast, emancipative values are stronger predictors of such behaviours in Northern and Western Europe compared to Central and Eastern Europe.

# **The Second Demographic Transition theory**

(Lesthaeghe and van de Kaa 1986)

---

- “...‘the’ mainstream concept in demographic research in Europe in the last four decades” (Billari and Liefbroer 2004: 1)
- links family behaviour and value orientation
- the connection between the demographic and value transformations is essential

## The Second Demographic Transition theory in a nutshell

---

- Changing moral order and the conviction that the **views and ideas** people hold individually or collectively have a direct impact on their **family related behaviour** are the story of the Second Demographic Transition

# The Second Demographic Transition theory in a nutshell

---

The rise of individual autonomy values in post-industrial economies leads to:

- postponement of family formation and childbearing
- greater instability of existing unions
- increasing variety of living arrangements and alternative lifestyles (Lesthaeghe and van de Kaa 1986; van de Kaa 1987)

## **Theoretical and empirical gaps in research of family change**



## Theoretical and empirical gaps

---

- The question of how the individual value change in the context of CEE countries advanced changes in family behaviours still requires particular attention (Billingsley 2010)
- On the behavioural level, there is some evidence that CEE are approaching the thresholds of the SDT; on the attitudinal level there seem to be noticeable heterogeneity in value orientations within the region (Bystrov (forthcoming); Perelli-Harris 2005; Sobotka 2008)

## **Data and methods**

## Data and methods

---

WVS aggregated data 1991-2008

Sample: women from European countries

Method: multivariate regression analysis

Thank you for your attention!  
Comments or questions?



## 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

## Research goal

---

- The aim of this research is to highlight the nature of determinants of changing family behaviours in CEE compared with Western Europe

# European emancipative value change (recalculated for average 15 years)

Source: WVS aggregate data 1981-2008

