

Growing Fertility in the Most Egalitarian European Countries: a New Trend in Ageing Europe

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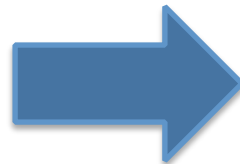
NRU HSE, St. Petersburg

Fertility Decline in Europe: Main Causes

Two waves of social change by P. McDonald

1960-1970:
Social liberalism or
"Reflexive modernization"
(Giddens, Beck, Lash)

1980-1990:
Economic deregulation or
"New capitalism"
(Sennett)



Fertility decline

Fertility Decline in Europe: the Second Demographic Transition

The idea of the *second demographic transition* was first suggested by Ron Lesthaeghe and Dirk van de Kaa in 1986, when it referred to interrelated changes in fertility, family formation, and partnership behaviour, which started in the late 1960s in many countries of Western and Northern Europe

Main features of the transition: non-marital childbearing, high partnership instability, and high prevalence of long-term cohabitation, the spread of modern contraception. This change was closely related to substantial shifts in values related to family life and children, and was marked by the *weakening of the 'traditional' family as an institution*.

The second demographic transition *does not necessarily lead to sub-replacement fertility levels* (Sobotka, 2008)

Gender Equality and Fertility

- N. Folbre: “fatal error or omission”
- A. Hochschild: “stalled revolution”, “second shift”
- J.-C. Chesnais: “feminist paradox”
- P. McDonald: gender equality in different social institutions

Interrelation between the gender equality attitudes and fertility is the main subject of the current research

Previous stage of research

Data: European Social Survey, 5th wave, 2010. Sample includes 25 countries, 4346 respondents, women aged 30 to 45 years.

H 1: women with traditional gender attitudes have more children in average than women with egalitarian gender attitudes

H 2: women in countries where average level of gender equality is higher have more children in average than women in countries where average level of gender equality is lower

Conclusion:

Women who demonstrate traditional gender attitudes have more children on average than women who demonstrate egalitarian gender attitudes

Women have more children on average in countries where egalitarian gender attitudes are widespread.

Current stage of research

Data: European Values Study, 2008. Sample includes 47 countries

Analysis runs for different age group (30-45, 46-60, 61+)

H 1: women with traditional gender attitudes have more children in average than women with egalitarian gender attitudes

H 2: women in countries where average level of gender equality is higher have more children in average than women in countries where average level of gender equality is lower

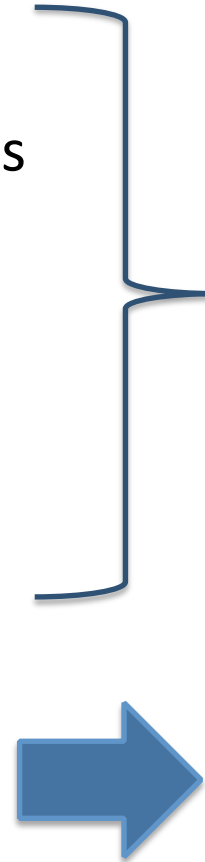
Measurements of Gender Equality

- *A pre-school child is likely to suffer if his or her mother works*
- *A job is alright but what most women really want is a home and children*
- *Being a housewife is just as fulfilling as working for pay*
- A working mother can establish just as warm and secure a relationship with her children as a mother who does not work Having a job is the best way for a woman to be an independent person
- Both the husband and wife should contribute to household income
- In general, fathers are as well suited to look after their children as mothers
- Men should take as much responsibility as women for the home and children

Measurements of Gender Equality

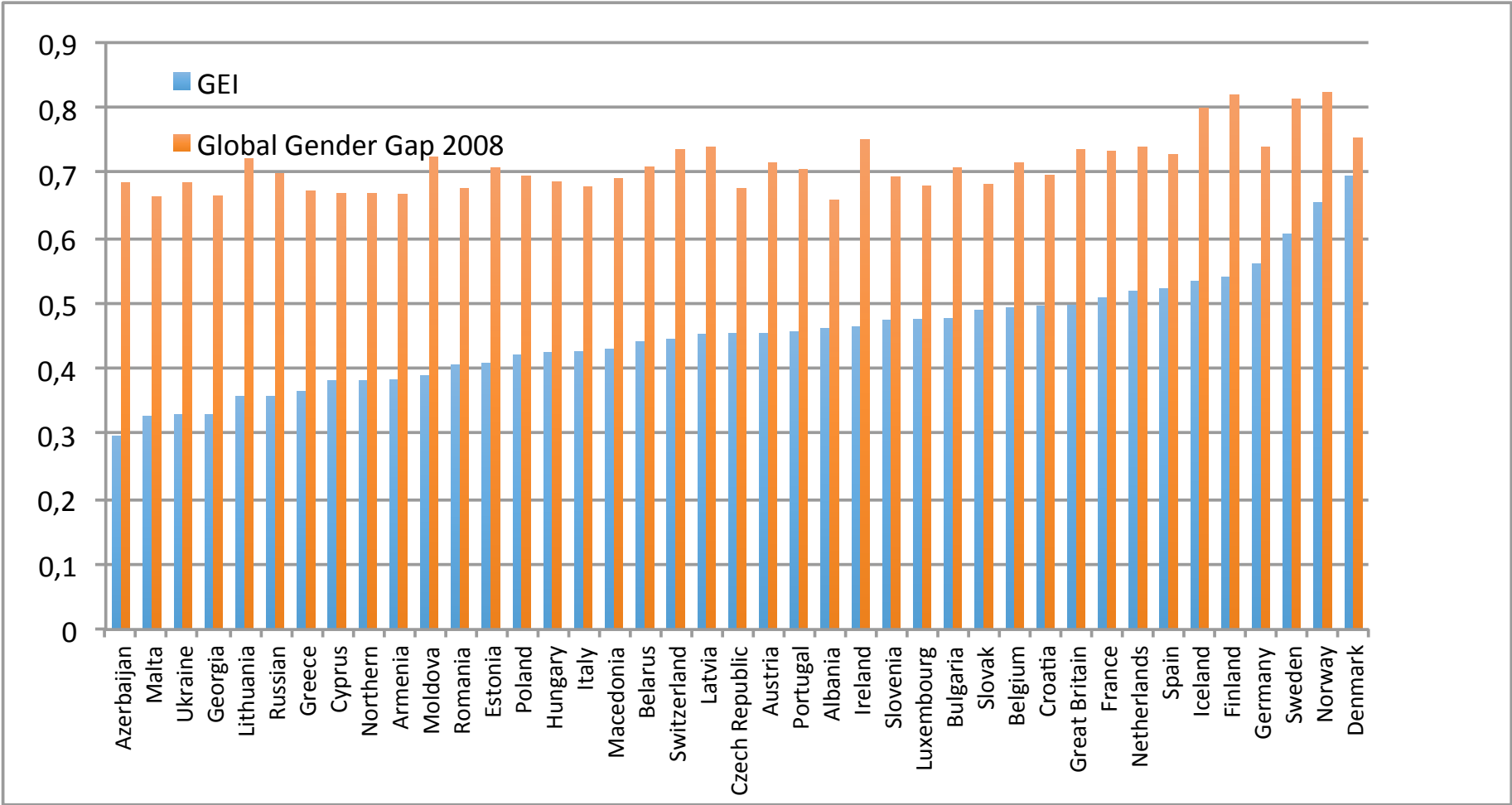
1. A pre-school child is likely to suffer if his or her mother works
2. A job is alright but what most women really want is a home and children
3. Being a housewife is just as fulfilling as working for pay

Mean of GEI for country



Components of the gender equality index at the individual level (GEI)

The measurement of the gender equality in the country (GEI mean)



	Model 1 (30-45)	Model 2 (46-60)	Model 3 (61+)
(Intercept)	-2.682 (0.205)***	-0.260 (0.215)	0.435 (0.143)**
GEI	-0.270 (0.094)**	0.090 (0.074)	-0.071 (0.057)
GEI mean	1.626 (0.248)***	0.460 (0.210)*	0.527 (0.161)**
Age	0.078 (0.004)***	0.018 (0.003)***	0.007 (0.001)***
Education	-0.018 (0.004)***	-0.010 (0.003)***	-0.019 (0.002)***
Partner/husband (No)	-0.541 (0.042)***	-0.177 (0.043)***	-0.090 (0.053)
Size of town	-0.020 (0.008)**	-0.024 (0.006)***	-0.022 (0.005)***
Religiosity (Yes)	-0.034 (0.042)	0.086 (0.032)**	0.114 (0.024)***
Important in marriage: children important (base)			
rather important	-0.226 (0.044)***	-0.132 (0.035)***	-0.124 (0.027)***
not very important	-0.500 (0.062)***	-0.561 (0.062)***	-0.517 (0.070)***
Income	-0.068 (0.018)***	-0.021 (0.016)	0.048 (0.014)***
N	3431	2918	4017
Nagelkerke R-sq	0.252	0.096	0.127

Conclusions

- Women who demonstrate traditional gender attitudes have more children on average than women who demonstrate egalitarian gender attitudes, but only within relatively younger groups
- Women have more children on average in countries where egalitarian gender attitudes are widespread.
- Children can become a new manifestation of self-expression values, but results for groups with complete cohort fertility show that relation between the number of children and gender equality attitudes is not significant

**Thank you for your
attention!**

Hypotheses

H 1: women with traditional gender attitudes have more children in average than women with egalitarian gender attitudes

H 2: women in countries where average level of gender equality is higher have more children in average than women in countries where average level of gender equality is lower

H 3: the number of children per woman depends on a family policy regime

Theoretical Framework

*Modernization
theory*

**Gender equality
attitudes**

Institutionalism

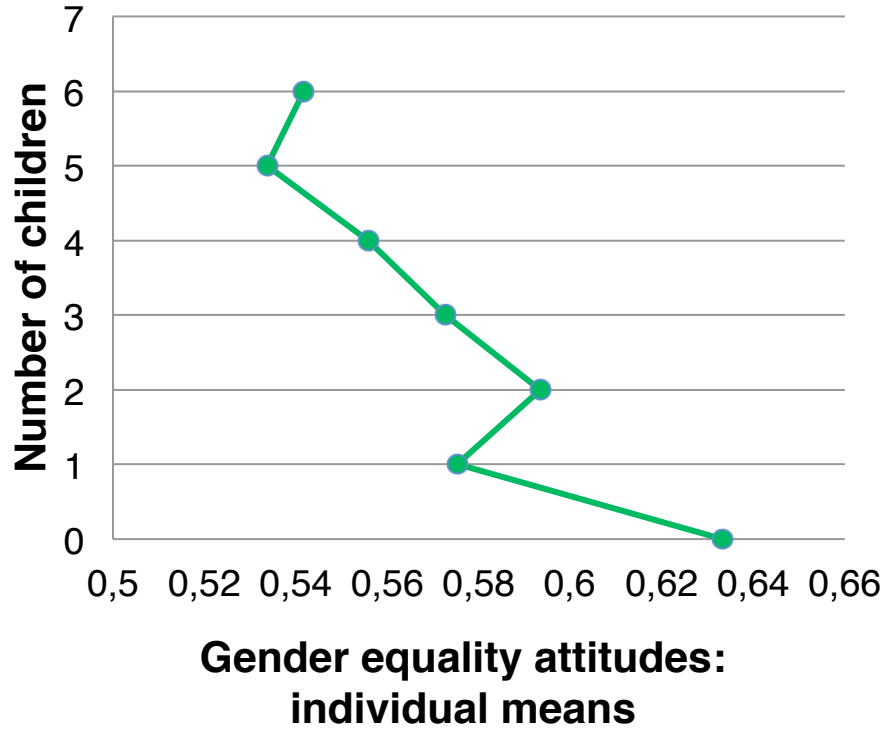
Family policy
(a typology of family
policy regimes A. Gauthier)



Fertility

	Model 1	Model 2	Model 3
Intercept	0.136446	0.239259**	0.777355**
GEI at individual level	-0.135448*	-0.199442**	-0.081500
GEI at country level	0.619789***		-0.055548
GEI -EIGE		0.006308***	
Family policy: Southern European regime			
Social-Democratic regime			0.416455***
Conservative regime			0.287177***
Liberal regime			0.316102***
Education	-0.013018**	-0.015566***	-0.014755**
Net income of household	0.022926***	0.026084***	0.016580*
Proportion of household income respondent provides	-0.102701***	-0.100628***	-0.123300***
Age: 30-35			
36-40	0.226276***	0.207744***	0.232408***
41-45	0.187744***	0.200333***	0.246925***
Domicil: Big city			
Suburbs/small city	0.148306***	0.144308***	0.161530**
Country village/farm	0.253687***	0.262226***	0.279300***
Religiosity (Yes)	0.121457***	0.099773***	0.172706***
Nagelkerke R-sq	0.176	0.177	0.239
N (number of countries)	4334 (25)	3545 (20)	2331 (13)

Gender equality attitudes: relation between individual level means and number of children



Gender equality attitudes: relation between country level means and number of children

