

Happiness and parenthood in Russia

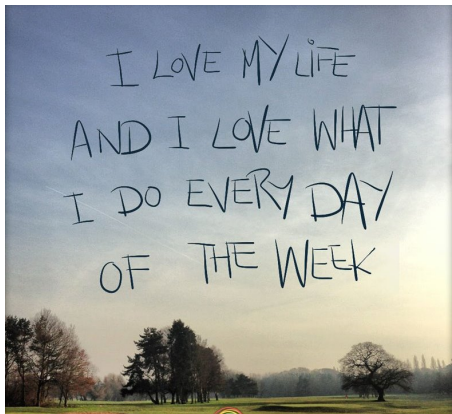
Małgorzata Mikucka

UCL, Louvain-la-Neuve, LCSR, HSE Moscow

April 9, 2015

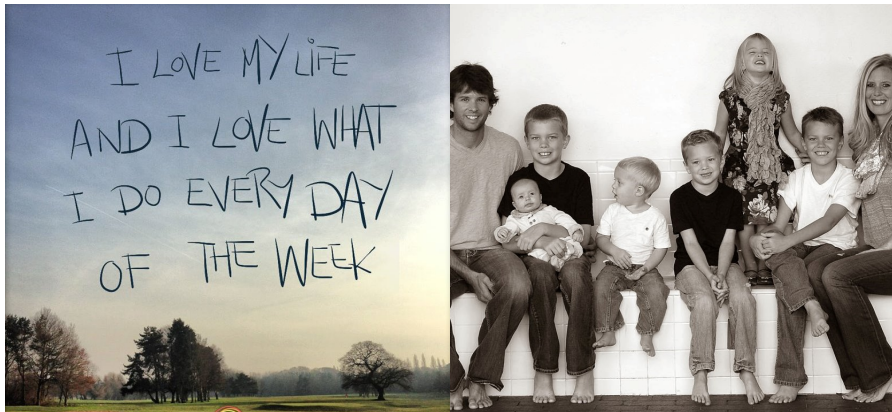
Happy = a parent?

Contradicting expectations:



Happy = a parent?

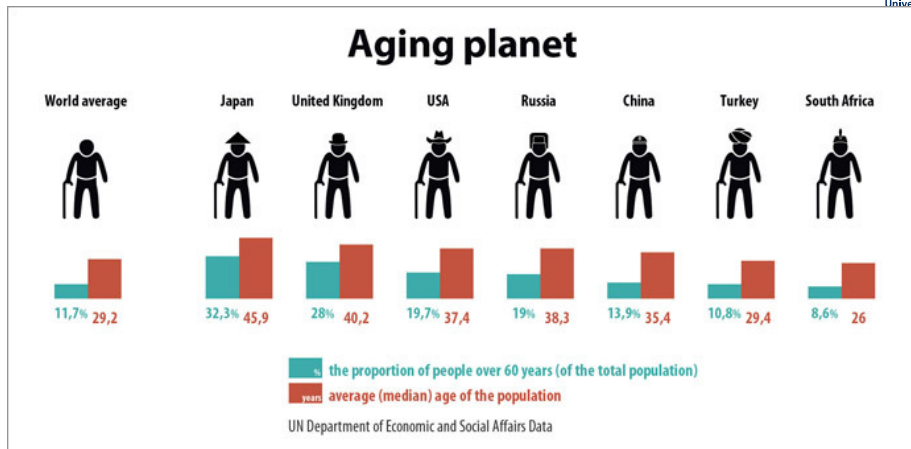
Contradicting expectations:



Why do people have children?

Because they miss
something?

Because they have
more to give?



Can we raise fertility to replacement level?

Australia 2010



in the population sciences published by the
Max Planck Institute for Demographic Research
Koenig-Zoope Str. 1, D-18057 Rostock GERMANY
www.demographic-research.org

DEMOGRAPHIC RESEARCH

VOLUME 22, ARTICLE 21, PAGES 635-662
PUBLISHED 16 APRIL 2010
<http://www.demographic-research.org/Volumes/Vol22/21/>
DOI: 10.4054/DemRes.2010.22.21

Research Article

Satisfaction with life as an antecedent of
fertility: Partner + Happiness = Children?

Nick Parr

Russia 2006

NOTES AND COMMENTARY

The Influence of
Informal Work and
Subjective Well-Being
on Childbearing in
Post-Soviet Russia

BRIENNA PIRELLI-HARRIS

THE DECLINE TO very low fertility, defined as a total fertility rate (TFR) below 1.3 births per woman, has been of major concern in recent demographic literature (Kohler, Billari, and Ortega 2002; Caldwell and Schindlmayr 2003;

Germany 2014

Swellfer

Subjective Well-Being & Fertility



WP 2

Is it just a matter of personality?
On the role of life satisfaction in
childbearing behavior

Marco Le Moglie^{a,b}
Letizia Mencarini^{a,b}
Chiara Rapallini^c

Conclusion:

happier persons have higher fertility intentions (Perelli-Harris)
and they have higher chance of having children (Parr),
in particular the second child (Perelli-Harris, Le Moglie)

- various countries covered
- it is not about personality traits (Le Moglie)

Policy implication:

“make them happy!”

Anything missing?

In the context of policies which may increase fertility some groups are more interesting than others

	want children	do not want
have children	happy parents	unplanned children
do not have	potential fertility	happy childless

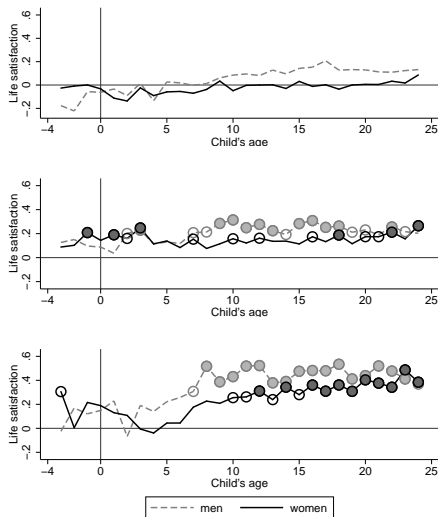
Past literature does not focus on the “potential fertility” group



- 1 In contemporary Russia:
do happier women are more likely to want children (fertility intentions)?
do happier women and men are more likely to have children (fertility behavior)?
- 2 What are the characteristics of women whose fertility intentions remain unrealized? (high fertility intentions but low actual fertility)

- ① Happiness predicts higher fertility and fertility intentions for second and subsequent births
- ② For the first child, happiness does not predict higher fertility and fertility intentions [[my previous work on Russia](#)]
- ③ Low happiness predicts belonging to the “potential fertility” group

Parenthood and fertility



Why Russia?

Centrality of parenthood

+

low fertility

therefore the “potential fertility” group
may be larger than in societies where
the parenthood is less central





RLMS-HSE

The Russia Longitudinal Monitoring Survey-Higher School of Economics

- ① RLMS data (selected waves)
 - fertility intentions: waves 5-12, 15-16, 19
 - 12/24 months
- ② Account for various time lags between measurement of happiness and fertility outcomes
- ③ Fixed effects regression, potential to use matching methods
- ④ Potential extensions: economic factors



mikucka.m@gmail.com

This report was presented at the 5th LCSR International Workshop “Social and Cultural Changes in Cross-National Perspective: Subjective Well-being, Trust, Social capital and Values”, which will be held within the XVI April International Academic Conference on Economic and Social Development.

April 8 - 10, 2015 – Higher School of Economics, Moscow.

www.lcsr.hse.ru/en/seminar2015

Настоящий доклад был представлен на V международном рабочем семинаре ЛССИ «Социальные и культурные изменения в сравнительной перспективе: ценности и модернизация», прошедшего в рамках XVI Апрельской международной научной конференции НИУ ВШЭ «Модернизация экономики и общества».

8-10 апреля 2015 года – НИУ ВШЭ, Москва.

www.lcsr.hse.ru/seminar2015