

Ph.D. in “Life Course Research” – Socio-demographic curriculum

Academic Year 2023-2024

Contemporary Fertility across Wealthy Countries

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Objectives

The aim of the course is to introduce students to macro-level theories of fertility change, micro-level theories of fertility behaviour and the micro-macro interactions. Fertility and childlessness are introduced as related, but distinct phenomena. At the end of the courses, students should comprehend the major theories that explain the trends and patterns of fertility. These theories are situated within the overarching framework of the human life course, embedded in institutional contexts that reflect economic, social, cultural and historical conditions. In addition, students should understand the fertility response to situational changes such as technological change, economic development, and rising uncertainty. Students should be able to apply these theories to interpret data on levels and differentials in fertility and childlessness and their drivers.

Program

1. *Monday morning, 18/12/2023, 10:30-13:30* (Instructor: P. Barbieri):

– The theoretical foundation of contemporary cross-national comparisons: welfare and labor market regimes

2. *Tuesday morning, 19/12/2023, 10:30-13:30* (Instructor: S. Scherer):

– Micro behavioral models to explain (low) fertility accounting for cultural and economic factors; Women’s employment and work-family balance; Family policies and institutions

3. *Wednesday morning, 20/12/2023, 10:30-13:30* (Instructor: D. Vignoli):

– Trends and patterns in fertility across wealthy countries and over time: Low and lowest-low fertility. More than structural constraints: economic uncertainty and narratives of the future. New forms of uncertainty and prospects in fertility research.

4. *Thursday morning, 21/12/2023, 10:30-12:30* (Instructor: V. Tocchioni):

– Definition of childlessness, recent trends; Determinants of childlessness in Europe; Path into childlessness over the life course; Expected and realized fertility; Consequences on childlessness at older ages.

Thursday morning, 21/12/2023, 12:30-13:30 (Instructors: D. Vignoli & V. Tocchioni):

– The gender equality debate (students reflect on the *Demographic Research* debate: “Should governments in Europe be more aggressive in pushing for gender equality to raise fertility?”)

Suggested readings

Day 1

- Barbieri Paolo, R.Bozzon, S.Scherer with R.Grotti and M.Lugo (2015) The Rise of a Latin Model? Family and Fertility Consequences of Employment Instability in Italy and Spain, *European Societies*, 17(4), 423-446.
- Barbieri, Paolo; Bozzon, Rossella (2016) Welfare, labour market deregulation and households' poverty risks: An analysis of the risk of entering poverty at childbirth in different European welfare clusters, *Journal of European Social Policy*, 26(2).
- Esping-Andersen, G. (1990), *The three worlds of welfare capitalism*, Polity Press.
- Esping-Andersen, G. (1999), *Social Foundations of Post-Industrial Economies*, Oxford University Press.
- Oesch, D. (2015). Welfare regimes and change in the employment structure: Britain, Denmark and Germany since 1990. *Journal of European Social Policy*, 25(1), 94-110.

Day 2

- Doepke, Matthias; Anne Hannusch; Fabian Kindermann; Michèle Tertilt (2022). The Economics of Fertility: A New Era. IZA discussion paper IZA DP No. 15224
- Goldscheider, F., Bernhardt, E. Lappegard, T. (2015). The Gender Revolution: A Framework for Understanding Changing Family and Demographic Behavior. *Population and Development Review*, 41(2), 207–239
- Opp, Karl-Dieter (2022). Rational Choice Theory, the Model of Frame Selection and Other Dual-Process Theories. A Critical Comparison. In: Burkens et al (ed). *Advances in the Sociology of Trust and Cooperation*, De Gruyter.
- Wesolowski, K. and Ferrarini, T. (2018) 'Family policies and fertility: Examining the link between family policy institutions and fertility rates in 33 countries 1995-2011', *International Journal of Sociology and Social Policy*, 38(11/12), 1057–1070.

Day 3

- Alderotti, Giammarco, Daniele Vignoli, Michela Baccini, Anna Matysiak (2021). Employment Instability and Fertility in Europe: A Meta-Analysis. *Demography*, 58(3): 871-900.
- Kreyenfeld, Michaela (2010). Uncertainties in Female Employment Careers and the Postponement of Parenthood in Germany, *European Sociological Review*, 26(3): 351–366.
- Matysiak, Anna, Tomas Sobotka, Daniele Vignoli (2021). The Great Recession and Fertility in Europe: A Sub-national Analysis. *European Journal of Population* 37(1): 29-64.
- Vignoli, Daniele, Alessandra Minello, Giacomo Bazzani, Camilla Matera, Chiara Rapallini (2022). Narratives of the Future Affect Fertility: Evidence from a Laboratory Experiment. *European Journal of Population*, 38: 93-124.
- Vignoli, Daniele, Raffaele Guetto, Giacomo Bazzani, Elena Pirani, Alessandra Minello (2020). A Reflection on Economic Uncertainty and Fertility in Europe: The Narrative Framework. *Genus*, 78(28).

Day 4

- Dykstra, P.A. & Hagestad, G.O. (2007) Roads less taken: Developing a nuanced view of older adults without children. *Journal of Family Issues*, 28: 1275-1310.
- Kreyenfeld, M., & Konietzka, D. (2017). *Childlessness in Europe: Contexts, causes, and consequences* (p. 367). Springer Nature.

Tanturri, L. et al. (2015) State of the art report: Childlessness in Europe. Families and Societies Working Paper n. 32.

Tocchioni, V., Rybińska, A., Mynarska, M., Matysiak, A., & Vignoli, D. (2022). Life-course trajectories of childless women: Country-specific or universal? *European Journal of Population*, 38(5), 1315-1332.

Debate Day 4

Demographic Research debate on Should governments in Europe be more aggressive in pushing for gender equality to raise fertility?: <https://www.demographic-research.org/articles/special/9>

- Laurent Toulemon: The first YES
- Dimiter Philipov: The first NO
- Livia Sz. Oláh: The second YES
- Gerda Neyer: The second NO

Additional suggested readings

Day 1

Barbieri, Paolo (2023) A 'potential motherhood' penalty? A longitudinal analysis of the wage gap based on potential fertility in Germany and the United Kingdom / WITH Zamberlan, Anna;. - In: *EUROPEAN SOCIOLOGICAL REVIEW*.

Barbieri, Paolo (ed. 2016) *EUROPEAN SOCIOLOGICAL REVIEW - SPECIAL ISSUE. Employment Protection Legislation and Labour Markets in Europe*, 32, 4

Barbieri, Paolo; Cutuli, Giorgio (2016) Employment Protection Legislation, Labour Market Dualism, and Inequality in Europe, in *EUROPEAN SOCIOLOGICAL REVIEW*, 32, 4

Barbieri, Paolo; Cutuli, Giorgio; Mari, Gabriele; Luijkx, Ruud; Scherer, Stefani (2016) Substitution, entrapment, and inefficiency? Cohort inequalities in a two-tier labour market, in *SOCIO-ECONOMIC REVIEW*, 1–23

Barbieri, Paolo; Cutuli, Giorgio; Passaretta, Giampiero (2016) Institutions and the school-to-work transition: disentangling the role of the macro-institutional context, in *SOCIO-ECONOMIC REVIEW, Socio-Economic Review*, 1–23

Day 2

De Graaf, ND, Wiertz, D (2019): *Societal Problems as social bads*. Routledge. Chapter 2 <https://www.routledge.com/Societal-Problems-as-Public-Bads-1st-Edition/de-Graaf-Wiertz/p/book/9781138480216>

Kalter, F., Kronenberg, C. (2014). Between Mechanism Talk and Mechanism Cult: New Emphases in Explanatory Sociology and Empirical Research. *Koelner Zeitschrift fuer Soziologie und Sozialpsychologie*. 66:91–115.

Van Winkle, Zachary (2020) Family policies and family life course complexity across 20th-century Europe. *Journal of European Social Policy*, 1. 30(3) 320–338.

Kreyenfeld, M. (2021). Causal Modelling in Fertility Research: A Review of the Literature and an Application to a Parental Leave Policy Reform* *Comparative Population Studies*, Vol. 46 (2021): 269-302

Bernardi, L., Huinink, J., Settersten R.A. (2019). The life course cube. A tool for studying lives. *Advances in life course research*, 41.

Day 3

Kohler H.-P., Billari F.C., Ortega J.A. 2002. The emergence of lowest-low fertility in Europe during the 1990s. *Population and Development Review* 28: 641-680.

Goldstein J.R., Sobotka T., Jasilioniene A. 2009. The end of lowest-low fertility? *Population and Development Review* 35(4): 663-699.

- Esping-Andersen, G., Billari, F. 2015, Re-theorizing Family Demographics. *Population and Development Review* 41(1): 1–31
- Guetto, Raffaele, Maria Francesca Morabito, Matthias Vollbracht, Daniele Vignoli (2023). Fertility and Media Narratives of the Economy: Evidence from the Italian News Coverage. *Demography*, 60(2): 607-630.
- Vignoli, Daniele, Letizia Mencarini, Giammarco Alderotti (2020). Is the Effect of Job Uncertainty on Fertility Intentions Channeled by Subjective Well-Being? *Advances in Life Course Research*, 46, 100343.
- Vignoli, Daniele, Valentina Tocchioni, Alessandra Mattei (2020). The Impact of Job Uncertainty on First-birth Postponment. *Advances in Life Course Research*, 45, 100308.

Day 4

- Albertini, M., & Brini, E. (2021). I've changed my mind. The intentions to be childless, their stability and realisation. *European Societies*, 23(1), 119-160.
- Brini, E. (2020). Childlessness and low fertility in context: evidence from a multilevel analysis on 20 European countries. *Genus*, 76(1), 1-38.
- Chudnovskaya, M. (2019). Trends in childlessness among highly educated men in Sweden. *European Journal of Population*, 35(5), 939-958.
- Raab, Marcel, and Emanuela Struffolino. "The heterogeneity of partnership trajectories to childlessness in Germany." *European Journal of Population* 36, no. 1 (2020): 53-70.
- Rybińska, A. (2021). Trends in intentions to remain childless in the United States. *Population Research and Policy Review*, 40(4), 661-672.
- Stegen, H., Switsers, L., & De Donder, L. (2021). Life stories of voluntarily childless older people: a retrospective view on their reasons and experiences. *Journal of Family Issues*, 42(7), 1536-1558.