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BOOK OF ABSTRACTS

REGIONAL CONFERENCE

Family, Class, and Inequalities in Central and Eastern Europe

October 28-29, 2021

Online

Thursday, October 28

Session 1: Family formation (11:00-12.15)

Social inequalities in nuptiality during marriage bust and boom in Hungary

Lívía Murinkó (Hungarian Demographic Research Institute)

Due to profound changes in partnership formation and marital behaviour during the past decades, the meaning of marriage and its place in the life course have transformed all over the developed world, including Hungary. While early and almost universal marriage characterized Hungary in the 1970s and very few young couples cohabited, now only a small minority chooses direct marriage, cohabiting couples get married later and at a lower rate, and many couples live together and raise children without being married. After decades of decreasing marriage propensity, the number of weddings started to boom in the 2010s and continues to do so. Most theoretical approaches seek explanation for the retreat from marriage but only few concentrates on why would marriage rates increase and who any why gets married amidst the popularity of unmarried unions.

After reviewing theoretical arguments for decreasing and increasing marriage rates and the relationship between marital behaviour and social standing, I formulate hypotheses regarding the changing social background of first marriages in Hungary. For the empirical analysis I use data on all marriages contracted between 1980 and 2020 in Hungary (vital statistics by the Hungarian Central Statistical Office) and longitudinal data from five waves of the Hungarian Generations and Gender Survey (2001–2016/17). I compare direct marriages to the marriage of already cohabiting couples and changes during different nuptiality periods, including the recent marriage boom.

Marriage intentions among cohabiters

Irma Diršytė (*Vytautas Magnus University*)

Cohabitation or living together in one household without being married in modern society is one of the defining features characterizing the transformations of the modern family, mentioned alongside late-age marriage, childbearing, or frequent divorces (Lesthaeghe, 2010). Marriage is still a major life transformation, but the pressure to marry today is lighter than ever before and many young couples start a family from cohabitation due to different socio-economical or cultural motives (Sassler and Lichter, 2020). In this article, I analyse the intentions of cohabiters to marry and the factors determining these intentions in Lithuania. The analysis focuses on the 2019 Family and Inequality Survey dataset, which collects rich information on birth cohorts 1970-1984 and lets to investigate cohabitation formation patterns on individuals, who are finished the most active partnership formation phase. Analysis of the data shows that most of the cohabiting individuals in the analyzed cohort in Lithuania have not decided on the registration of the marriage and do not know whether they will marry in the future. It can be stated that a larger proportion of cohabitators, who have decided not to marry are females, when a larger proportion of men, the opposite, intend to marry. Applied multinomial logistic regression model results show that in Lithuania the intentions of cohabiters to marry in the future are determined by their satisfaction with relationships, type of ownership and education level.

Love relationships in contemporary Lithuania and their effect on marriage, fertility and family choices

Žygimantas Bučius (*Vilnius University*)

While there is a mixture of traditional love-marriage-family based relationships, newer forms of love relations are emerging in which values, beliefs, and behavioral practices correlate with second demographic transition predictions that reflect a general turn to confluent love as described by Giddens (1992). In research “Love relationships in contemporary Lithuania and their effect on marriage, fertility and family choices” (grant agreement no. S-MIP-21-47) the main objective is to examine how adults are reimagining love relationships. In conference will be presented an Emic part and early findings of the research. Methodological basis of the study consists of anthropological research methods, which will be presented: freelisting and pile sorting. The reason of using it is to find similarities, or a cultural understanding that is collectively shared, rather than differences. Freelisting - asking people to list as many of X as they can. People can quickly find out the most frequent and culturally salient terms that constitute a cultural domain. Pile sorting – this is used to find common themes among the thirty salient terms by asking informants to put cards with the names of the freelist terms selected in piles based on how similar they are, this is done until they have no more divisions to make and they discuss their reasoning for their sorts. Major themes are discovered. If there is high agreement on a specific domain – in this case romantic love relationships – then a sample of thirty from people who share a common culture – is enough (Romney & Weller 1988; Bernard 2006). Sample of population

is adults who are unmarried living alone, cohabiting, and married. The gender distribution should be close to equal. In presentation will be shown comparative study of different salient words/terms across age groups of the early stage of the research and early hypothesis.

Session 2: Fertility (13:00-15.00)

Moderation effect of citizens' gender and age for the relationship between perceived job opportunities in a country and optimal age to become parents: the case of Baltic States and other European Union countries

Aurelija Stelmokienė, Gabija Jarašiūnaitė-Fedosejeva (Vytautas Magnus University)

With reference to Eurostat data (March 2021), the birth rate in the European Union (EU) countries decreased at a slower pace between 2000 and 2019 than before. Moreover, the total fertility rate in Baltic States (Lithuania, Latvia, and Estonia) was even higher than the EU average, and the mean age of women at the birth of their first child was below the EU average. It is presumed that changes in opinion about the optimal age to become parents could be related to perceived job opportunities that ensure financial security (Karabchuk, 2020). However, gender and age of respondents should be included into analysis as significant moderators (Ayllon, 2019). Therefore, this research aims to investigate how perceived job opportunities are related to the optimal age to become parents depending on Baltic States and EU citizens' gender and age. European Social Survey (ESS) Round 9 (2018/2019) data file edition 3.1 was used for the analysis. This study consisted of 18 931 15-50 years old EU respondents (1908 respondents were from the Baltic States). Respondents evaluated the fairness of opportunities to get the job they seek in a country (distributive justice related to job opportunities) on a Likert Scale from 0 to 10. They were also asked about the ideal age to become a mother/father. All the data were weighted by using post-stratification weight in combination with population sign weight. The study results showed that gender moderated the relationship between perceived job opportunities and optimal age to become parents in the EU sample, while in the Baltic States age moderated this relationship. Based on the findings, practical implications and future research directions will be proposed. Acknowledgement: Research is funded by Research Council of Lithuania

Low Fertility in a Family-Oriented Society: Evidence from Bosnia and Herzegovina

Mirza Emirhafizović (University of Sarajevo)

Although being a postsocialist/post-communist country, taking into consideration low fertility, strong family ties, nonpopularity of cohabitation, the timing of leaving the parental home, low divorce and extramarital birth rates, as well as religiosity (all Abrahamic religions are represented), Bosnia and Herzegovina belongs to the Southern European cluster (cf. Hantrais, Philipov & Billari, 2006). In order to understand contradictions of coexisting the „lowest-low fertility“ (below 1.3 children per woman since 2002) and familism within the

same society, the aim of this paper is to shed a light on dominant contextual factors combining different data sources such as vital statistics and studies containing empirical findings. After the horrible war (1992-1995), Bosnia and Herzegovina has been going through multiple transitions with questionable success: from war to peace, from socialism to democracy in terms of the political system, from centrally planned to a market economy. All these structural disadvantages/adversities (often equalized with the permanent crises), including a lack of institutional support, made familism (interdependence and solidarity among family members) even stronger, and thus more resistant to the wave of societal changes in the post-conflict period (cf. Kagitcibasi, 1999). On the other hand, family formation (i.e. parenthood) in the altered circumstances characterized by extended schooling, high youth unemployment rate, the rise of precarious work, unaffordable housing, and so forth, has been postponed. The life-course approach reveals totally different socio-economic settings when it comes to starting a family during socialism and in the present times. Further compounding the issue of low fertility is the high emigration of youth in the last years, which causes severe and long-standing disturbances in family and society as a whole.

Who is ambivalent about childbearing?

Joanna Leśniak, Monika Mynarska, Dominika Karaś (Cardinal Stefan Wyszyński University)

Substantial amount of research is dedicated to uncertainty in reproductive decision-making. Scholars investigate sources of uncertainty (e.g. economic uncertainty) as well as its consequences for childbearing intentions and their realisation. These studies rarely make distinction between uncertainty and ambivalence, or even consider the two terms as synonyms. Yet, from the psychological perspective ambivalence is a distinct construct, related to coexistence of both, clearly positive and clearly negative attitudes or feelings. In the paper, we will discuss the concept of attitudinal ambivalence towards childbearing, clearly distinguishing it from uncertainty. We will make use of the second wave of the Polish Generations and Gender Survey (GGs-PL-2) to investigate characteristics of those ambivalent about having children. The GGS-PL-2 covers a unique set of items on perceived costs and benefits of childbearing, which allows us to compute an index of ambivalence for each respondent. Using regression models, we will be able to tell which sociodemographic characteristics are associated with higher attitudinal ambivalence and how this ambivalence matters for childbearing intentions.

Uncertainty aspects faced by Lithuanian cohorts of 1970-1984: how uncertainty is related to fertility?

Alina Norgėlaitė (Lithuanian Centre for Social Sciences)

Since the 1990s declining fertility in Central and Eastern Europe as well as in Lithuania provoked the implementation of a wide range of studies aiming to reveal the causes of this

phenomenon. The investigations are mainly based either on the theoretical framework of the Second Demographic Transition or economic theories that correspondingly emphasize the impact of changes in cultural values or structural economic constraints. The emerging new theoretical framework, covering uncertainty and vulnerability considers not only economic but also social factors. It also provides an opportunity to investigate fertility issues from a different angle.

1970–1984 birth cohorts in Lithuania have experienced various types of uncertainty and vulnerability caused by the consequences of the collapse of the socialist system in the 1990s. This presentation aims to reveal the main findings of the qualitative research of these cohorts. The interconnections between uncertainty and fertility are analysed retrospectively. The research is based on an analysis of biographical interviews conducted in 2018-2019. This analysis focuses on preconditions and factors of planned fertility. The results show that childbearing required some stability and certainty. The generation analyzed increasingly experienced more uncertainty than their parents. The aspects that cause uncertainty have become more complicated. For instance, although cohabitation was still the preferred form of primary union formation, marriage for these cohorts was an important condition for fertility intentions due to the safety it provided; a job could be a source of some security as well as an unpleasant duty for adults with children.

Men in research on childlessness

Nijolė Vailionytė (Vytautas Magnus University)

In recent decades, the number of childless people in Europe has increased and its causes have become a subject of academic research. However, the majority of studies focus on women's experiences. This can be due to gender and cultural stereotypes that portray women as primary caretakers. Compared to women, childless men are rarely mentioned in geographical, gerontological, psychological, reproductive and sociological research. Recently, research on voluntary and involuntary childlessness has highlighted the paucity of material on men's experience. Moreover, some studies regarding infertility show that the inability to fulfil the role of a parent may lead to a complex form of bereavement, which can impact an individual's identity. The first part of the paper is dedicated to presenting existing forms of childlessness and reviewing research on childless men. Critical analysis of theoretical approaches and methodology helps identify new trends of research and highlight the main issues within it. The second part is dedicated to analysing in-depth interviews with childless men in Lithuania. It was revealed that experiences and opinions of different generations of men show changing attitudes towards childlessness. This reflects an altering society and its attitudes towards reproduction and family importance. The analysis also revealed that experiences of childless men differ from those of women. However, the said experiences can be very intense, and highly depend on the environment. In the conclusion section of the paper, the literature analysis and research data results are summarised. It is revealed that culture, gender stereotypes and society's changing attitudes towards a childless lifestyle impact not only women but men, too. The most noticeable differences in experience were found in different generations of men.

Parenting (15:10-16:50)

Does everybody believe in intensive parenting (to the same extent)?

Marta Bryzek, Dominika Karaś, Magda Marcinkowska (*Cardinal Stefan Wyszyński University*)

Bryzek, Karaś, Marcinkowska, Mynarska - The concept of „intensive mothering” was coined by Sharon Hays in 1986 to describe the increasing social pressure placed upon mothers to invest a vast amount of time, energy and money into their children’s upbringing. The term was later expanded to “intensive parenting” in order to include the investment of both parents. Nonetheless, most studies that considered this concept focused predominantly on women and were limited to the Anglo-Saxon countries in their research. Only recently, Gauthier and colleagues (2021) have attempted to operationalise the concept of “intensive parenting” in the cross-national perspective (including two CEE countries), in Slovenia, Estonia, and the UK. Using the European Social Survey CRONOS data, they found some evidence on cross-country differences in support of the norm of intensive parenting, but only few differences related to the sociodemographic characteristics of the respondents. In our paper, we build on their results, and use the CRONOS data to examine within country variation in respondents’ support for intensive parenting, with a special focus on differences determined by gender and education level.

Intensive parenting: Dimensions, measures, socioeconomic variations, and outcomes. The conceptual framework for the study of intensive parenthood and diversity of parenting practices in the Czech Republic

Jana Klímová Chaloupková, Hana Hašková (Czech Academy of Sciences)

The purpose of this paper is to summarize the state-of-the-art of research on the concept of intensive parenting with a special focus on the links between intensive parenting practices and socio-economic inequalities. We develop a conceptual framework that will be used in a mixed-methods research project of intensive parenthood and diversity of parenting practices in the Czech Republic that starts in summer 2021. Originally, the concept of intensive parenting (IP), resp. intensive mothering was introduced by Hays (1996) to describe a (gendered) child-centered and expert-guided model of parenting, which is emotionally absorbing and labor-intensive. In recent decades, increasing attention was paid to measure IP beliefs quantitatively and to examine their link with parental and child well-being. However, concepts and measures of IP beliefs varied widely across studies and further research has to be done to explore how socioeconomic inequalities related to intensive parenting beliefs and experiences. The studies of parental well-being suggest that there is a need to distinguish between normative expectations and a consequence of intensive parenting beliefs. We describe the ways the concept of IP has been operationalized and distinguish two approaches in quantitative research of IP: 1) studies of normative beliefs and expectations, 2) studies of intensiveness (child-centeredness) of parental practices using parental time use on various activities with children. Previous studies of IP come from different contexts and there is a lack of systematic research

from Central and Eastern Europe. Reflecting the gendered familialist context of Czech childcare policies, we will build our mixed-methods research to contribute to the understanding of the relations between socioeconomic inequalities, gender, and intensive parenting beliefs, practices, and experiences. The research will combine secondary analysis of survey data (such as EVS, ISSP, and Czech Household Panel) and qualitative analysis of interviews on parenthood with men and women.

The differences of attitudes to the Nurture of Children Among Generations

Vylius Leonavičius (Vytautas Magnus University)

The presentation compares and discusses four cohorts (18-28, 29-38, 39-48, 49-52) of the independent Lithuania. The differences of education and nurture in childhood between cohorts are analyzed. The cohorts (18-28, 29-38) which were born and grew up in independent Lithuania were socialized in democratic and open society. And on the contrary, the cohorts which were born and grew up in soviet Lithuania were socialized in more strict and closed society and institutions which are common for totalitarian states. During the soviet period the education and nurture were more traditional and similar to the agrarian societies. It means that soviet system stimulate and promote more conservative educational and nurture types and more traditional relations among children and their parents. Hypothesis: the parents of soviet period less took attention to the education of children, conversation with children, less spent free time with children. A hypothesis was examined by using the collected data of 3000 respondents. The target population of cross-sectional survey data is 18-52 years old population living in Lithuania. Data was collected by applying the face-to-face survey mode in 2020 (during the period of in-between 2 quarantines, July-October months). The net sample of 3000 individuals was collected out of 4634 gross sample (response rate is 65%, which is slightly above the national average). Multistage probability sampling was applied to draw the sample units, which covers Lithuania, and representativeness of sample was guaranteed by using the stratification of national population parameters according to the gender, age (within 18-52 age group), urban-rural and administrative divisions rates. Postulating from the theoretical background, age can be a significant factor which could differentiate value orientation. It is important in the context of Lithuania, since the individuals of older cohort were born and socialized at the time of soviet period with prevalence of economic limitations.

Friday, October 29

Session 4: Family politics and policies (09:45-11.00)

The Concept of 'Family Values' in Russian Political Landscape of Today

Andrei Filatov (Saint Petersburg State University)

Most researchers of politics, culture and society highlight that the so-called conservative turn has been taking place in Russia for about a decade with its primal attention to family, orthodoxy, and anti-'liberal' policy. The concept of family is one of the key aspects of this paradigm shaping various private and public institutes in Russia. This concept is built into a complex value system, which base is formed by the opposition between the 'Russian' and 'Western' (or 'Liberal') frames. The just-mentioned split is rigorously promoted in loyalist media and best seen in materials dedicated to the topics of feminist and LGBTQIA+ movements.

The conference paper is thus focused on tracing the verbal patterns that allow to reevaluate the functional nature of family values and turn them into a weapon against feminist and LGBTQIA+ agenda. With the help of discourse and frame analyses we are going to look through general motifs, identify their roles in value transformation, and conclude with preliminary results of such an anti-Western ideological politics that have already become rather noticeable in Russian cultural landscape.

The impact of socio-economic development on family policy

Andrii Topchii (Kharkiv National University of International Affairs)

The economic and social levels undoubtedly influence the state's family policy. The labour force and the reproduction of different products lead to an increase in the level of culture and education. To determine the social and economic level of a country, indicators such as quality of life, the competitiveness of the country in the world market, human capital, GNP, and GDP should be considered. Any global and national changes can radically affect any of the spheres of state activity, including family policy. The young family is a dynamic segment of the population and responds easily to changes in the socio-economic environment. We can identify stages in the development of family policy in which the direct influence of socio-economic factors can be traced: 1. The states is gradually entering families and taking control of parent-child relations. The emergence and development of social help measures for families: allowances, pre-school education, etc. 2. Poverty and inequality are becoming major problems for the state, so family policy has become an important component of European welfare state models since 1950. The woman's primary function of caring for and taking care of the child remained. 3. Demographic and structural changes in the family lead to discourses and measures of family policy. Researchers have identified strategies and options for a family policy. The emergence of the concepts of 'refamiliarisation' and 'defamiliarisation'. 4. Economic instability and demographic changes lead to a transition to a new format of state

activity concerning family policy. Thus, having outlined the stages in the development of family policy, it is possible to identify the direct impact of the socio-economic development of states. Therefore, for family policy to flourish, the state must have a high level of social and economic development.

Session 5: Gender and family (11:00-12:10)

Does religion matter in family practices? Analysis of childcare and housework divisions

Milda Ališauskienė (Vytautas Magnus University)

This paper aims at analysis the way religiosity influences family practices of childcare and housework divisions in contemporary Lithuania. Analysis is based on the quantitative survey (n=3000) representing last Soviet generation born in 1970-1985. The sample was distributed into five groups according to religious identification and practices – devoted religionists, somewhat devoted religionists, traditional religionists, cultural religionists and secularists. Statistical data analysis showed devoted religionists and secularists were applying equal childcare and housework division practices. While the other three groups were practicing more of a traditional type of childcare and housework division practices where the main role is played by women. The results show that religious identification may lead to diverse family practices with regard of childcare and housework divisions, the reflexive and practices (non)religious identification leads to more egalitarian family practices.

Testing a new integrated model of work-family enrichment: results of a pilot study

Tadas Vadvilavičius, Aurelija Stelmokienė (Vytautas Magnus University)

Nevertheless the increasing number of work-family enrichment research, theoretical background behind this phenomenon is still scarce. After a systematic literature review, a new integrated work-family enrichment model was developed. The three main aspects needed for work-family enrichment to occur were described in a new model: 1) higher self-efficacy; 2) “permeable” cognitive boundaries between work and family; 3) higher social support in both work and family systems. The purpose of this research was to test the new integrated work-family enrichment model empirically in Lithuanian sample. Employed people who had a family were invited to participate in the research. Participants were invited via “Facebook” and “LinkedIn” social networks. The following constructs were tested: work-family/family-work enrichment, perceived work/family demands, perceived work/family resources, work-family boundaries, self-efficacy, The two main assumptions were tested: 1) self-efficacy mediates the relationship between perceived work/family resources, and perceived work/family demands satisfaction and work-family enrichment; 2) the mediation

process is moderated by employee's cognitive boundaries between work and family. A pilot study results will be presented during the conference.

Session 6: COVID-19 and families (12:50-13:40)

Care as an individual responsibility: mechanisms of (further) disadvantage of single mothers in Covid-19 pandemics

Radka Dudová (Czech Academy of Sciences)

The Covid-19 pandemic had a particularly severe impact on persons in vulnerable position, such as solo mothers living alone with their children. In this paper I use the intersectional approach in order to answer the following questions: How did the solo mothers in the Czech Republic deal with the increased care obligations during the school closures and how they negotiated work and care? How different starting positions affected their coping with the crisis situation, and which different mechanisms that worsened their position in the labour market during the pandemic we can identify? Finally, which characteristics make them more vulnerable or, in the contrary, help them to compensate for the risks? I present a longitudinal qualitative study of the situation of solo mothers in the Czech Republic during the covid-19 crisis, based on repeated interviews with women from three Czech regions. The preliminary findings indicate that the work position of the interviewed women before the pandemic hit was crucial for their coping with the increased care obligations. Women with higher qualification and stable jobs faced income reduction together with the stress caused by the conflation of the paid work and care. In reaction they reduced their work ambitions. Women who were unemployed or lost their job during the pandemic faced long-term unemployment, and the jobs that were offered to them on the labour market fell in the category of precarious employment. For all of them, irrespective of their work situation, the pandemics deepened their feelings of vulnerability, and all of them experienced some kind of economic hardship. The lack of any systemic support and the ignoring of needs of (solo) parents (and children) was accompanied by their individual responsabilisation. In consequence, old inequalities deepened and new arose.

Socioeconomic inequalities in exchange of intergenerational support

Mihaela Haragus, Paul-Teodor Haragus (Babes-Bolyai University)

Family solidarity has distinct motivations and manifestations in different social strata and the socioeconomic status influences the intensity of intergenerational solidarity. Our previous analysis of intergenerational flows of support (based on Generations and Gender

Survey data) showed differences in the likelihood of financial, emotional and instrumental support by socioeconomic status and social class. The COVID-19 pandemic created a context that accentuated inequalities in different life domains. Using the SHARE Corona Survey, we investigate how intergenerational relations were reconfigured, which forms survived and which were severed, and whether the effect of socioeconomic status persisted or accentuated. We conduct our investigation on new SHARE countries, introduced from wave 7: Bulgaria, Romania, Slovakia, Cyprus, Malta, Latvia, Lithuania, and Finland. Besides investigating the effect of micro- and family- level characteristics, we compare the role of socioeconomic inequalities across welfare and intergenerational solidarity regimes.

Session 7: Family, social and cultural capital (13:40-15:20)

Intergenerational Social Mobility of 1970–1984-year Generation: A Reproduction of Social and Cultural Capital

Ernesta Platūkytė (Vytautas Magnus University)

Presentation is based on the data of qualitative research of the intergenerational social mobility in Lithuanians 1970–1984 generation. Empirical research was conducted out in the framework of the ESF-funded project “Families, Inequality and Demographic Processes”. Of the 88 biographical interviews, analyzing intergenerational social mobility were selected 30 narratives. To cover different experiences and capture the existing diversity of social mobility models, narratives have been chosen in which informants represent different socio-economic statuses, have different education and gender. As social mobility is a complex phenomenon, the analysis was assessed in terms of individuals’ position through the interaction of cultural and social capital resources. Empirical research shows that the opportunities of the transition generation for intergenerational social mobility are largely related to the ability to get benefit from the assistance provided by the immediate environment or institutions. They create additional resources for the socio-economic growth of the individual. However, differences are observed between informants with medium / low and high socioeconomic status. Families with high status create opportunities to have the necessary contacts and gain the necessary reinforcement by creating a wide social network. Meanwhile, in families where is poverty, low parental education, dysfunctional relationships between family members, there are additional barriers to family members' educational opportunities and, at the same time, a lack of motivation for change. As intergenerational social mobility is an important measure of societal justice, research on intergenerational social mobility in specific generations provides an opportunity to identify significant factors and their limiting influence on the growth of individuals in the structure of society.

Social factors behind the language backwardness of twins

Rita Hegedűs, Zsófia Drjenovszky (Corvinus University of Budapest)

In our societies there are groups of children who need special attention not only because they are children, but also because of some characteristic of them. Twin children are also such a minority group. Today, the number of this group is increasing because, for social and environmental reasons, it is becoming difficult for women to conceive naturally, and they are more likely to give birth to twins from assisted reproductive procedures. In our study, we focused on the question of how the speech development of twins is determined by the parents' and other socially close people's behaviours stemming from social expectations, as through this, the possible lags in speech development result in several subsequent disadvantages for children. Although every child needs individual care to support his or her self-development, twins are often treated as attractions, whose main value lies not in their uniqueness but in being members of a couple. Therefore, they need to be similar, present together everywhere, and endure being treated essentially as a unit in their communities. This increase their paired isolation, resulting in slower speech development. During an online questionnaire survey in the summer of 2019, we asked Hungarian twins' parents (n = 135) to report on their children's speech development and some of the circumstances of their upbringing and life. We asked both open-ended and closed-ended questions. In our presentation, we focus on the factors that can be related to the above-mentioned social expectations regarding parental and environmental behaviour in the treatment of twins.

Quality of the learning process as a prerequisite for reducing social exclusion

Loreta Bukšnytė-Marmienė, Agnė Brandišauskienė, Jūratė Česnavičienė, Aušra Daugirdienė, Eglė Kemerytė-Ivanauskienė (Vytautas Magnus University)

The impact of family socio-economic and cultural status (SES) on students' learning outcomes in Lithuania is in line with the OECD average but lower learning outcomes of students from disadvantaged family backgrounds call for a comprehensive set of initiatives to address the need for a family and education policy interfaces to compensate for these inequalities. This study investigates whether there are significant differences in the quality of the learning process between students from different SES backgrounds. The research sample was composed of 7th-10th grade students, involving 152 students and 18 their classroom teachers from four general education schools from three districts of Lithuania with a disadvantaged economic, social and cultural context. The quality of learning process was assessed in four dimensions: (1) affective engagement and behavioral engagement (Lam et al., 2014), (2) teacher support and equity (Fraser, 1998), (3) growth mindset, and (4) preparation of homework. The results show that all pupils are equally engaged in the learning process during lessons, with similar levels of affective engagement and behavioral engagement. They also feel supported by their teacher and are treated equally in a socially just way when they learn. However, both students ($t = -2.525, p < 0.05$) and teachers ($t = -5.348, p < 0.0001$) perceive that the growth mindset is less common among

students who receive social assistance. The study also found that pupils receiving social assistance were more likely to report that family members were interested in their homework than those who do not receive social assistance ($\chi^2 = 6.320, p < 0.05$). In summary, the quality of learning process can be an effective tool for improving the learning achievements of students from disadvantaged backgrounds, which in turn contributes to reducing their social exclusion.

Session 8: Family and wellbeing (15:30-17:10)

Lithuanian families' experiences of social and material insecurity

Ieva Dryžaitė (Vytautas Magnus University)

This presentation will be based on a qualitative and quantitative study on Lithuanian families' experiences of insecurity related to material and social issues. Drawing on the theoretical framework of precarious employment, lives and time as an indicator of precarity, I analyze 88 biographical interviews and National survey (N-3005) with individuals of the specific birth cohort of 1970-1985 in Lithuania. Analysis suggests that by privatizing all risks and assuming all responsibilities for their welfare, Lithuanian families have adopted the family model promoted by neoliberal economies. To adjust to the culture of individualized risks and to maintain acceptable living standards related to children's education, leisure and work, these families invent strategies that often turn into a tiresome job. The senses of precarity, insecurity and instability required families to invent new ways to reorganize their unstable lives and find new coping strategies to cope with everyday risks or crisis.

Residential mobility and housing choices among Lithuanians of the 1970-1984 generation

Rasa Indriliūnaitė (Vytautas Magnus University)

The presentation is based on the data of a quantitative and qualitative study on housing preferences and choices among Lithuanians of the 1970–1984 generation. Drawing on the theoretical framework of residential mobility and housing choice, biographical interviews and the National survey (n=3005) of Lithuanians of the birth cohort of 1970–1984 were analyzed. The study aims at identifying the differences within the cohort: the time for moving out of the parental household, the reasons for it, how the representatives of this cohort self-provide housing and what kind of housing they choose for living, and how accessible is housing ownership to them, what impact the so-called bounded rationality, i.e. different resources, constraints, and opportunities, has on the housing choices of representatives of different generations. Empirical research shows that the socioeconomic differences of the generation being analyzed correlates both with different opportunities of its representatives in seeking private housing ownership and with the quality of housing owned by them and

satisfaction with it. Young households of the middle generation, and especially those in the lower socioeconomic position, find seeking private housing ownership and high-quality housing, which meets their needs, without parental or external support rather difficult.

Lithuanian large families in the European context: situation and change

Anna Lipnevič (Lithuanian Center for Social Sciences)

The report is intended to present the results of the statistical analysis of large families in Lithuania in terms of territorial dispersion, change over time and the context of European countries. Compared to the situation in other European countries, the share of large families in Lithuania is one of the lowest. Although there is a lack of national statistics on large families and a problem of comparability, the annual EU-SILC survey on income and living conditions in Europe is used as a basis of international comparative analysis. The situation of large families in Lithuania and its change is reviewed on the basis of population censuses and other data. Research methods: literature review, statistical analysis and descriptive statistics.

'We were normal family before the autism': how families construct a new normalcy of the family life in the face of a child's autism diagnosis?

Daiva Bartušienė (Vytautas Magnus University)

As a clinical category and sociocultural phenomenon autism affect the entire everyday life of the family. Neuroparenting - raising a neurologically different child comprehensively influences parents' considerations of normalcy after the diagnosis. Looking from the perspective of neurodiversity in which autism is considered to be an important part of human biodiversity rather than clinical abnormality, the concept of 'culturally normative' becomes a core issue. Being a family with an autistic child is, among many other things, a social identity category and, as such, a viable and valuable way of being in the world. Findings show that the question of what is considered to be normal in the culture of abnormality also reconstructs understanding of the very concept of 'family life'. Some parents raising children with labels of autism claim that autism has stolen a 'normal family life' from them so they had to find a new 'normal' one. Qualitative research based on 34 semi-structured interviews with parents shows how a child's clinical diagnosis is used to embody the transition from old normal to new normal family life and find new meanings of normalcy. The loss of normal family life after the diagnosis usually is associated with such things as divorce, abandonment of professional and personal career (specifically of mothers), loss of close ties with friends, spontaneous vacation, traveling, etc. Findings illustrate that the new normal family everyday life differs structurally from societal expectations and develops unique functioning resulting from a chronic health concern. Also, families with autistic children, as a cultural group, use and share a variety of measures to return to normal (neurotypical) family life. For example,

ABA (applied behavioral analysis) therapy is seen as a construction of a particular vision of hope of 'recovery to normal' family life.
