

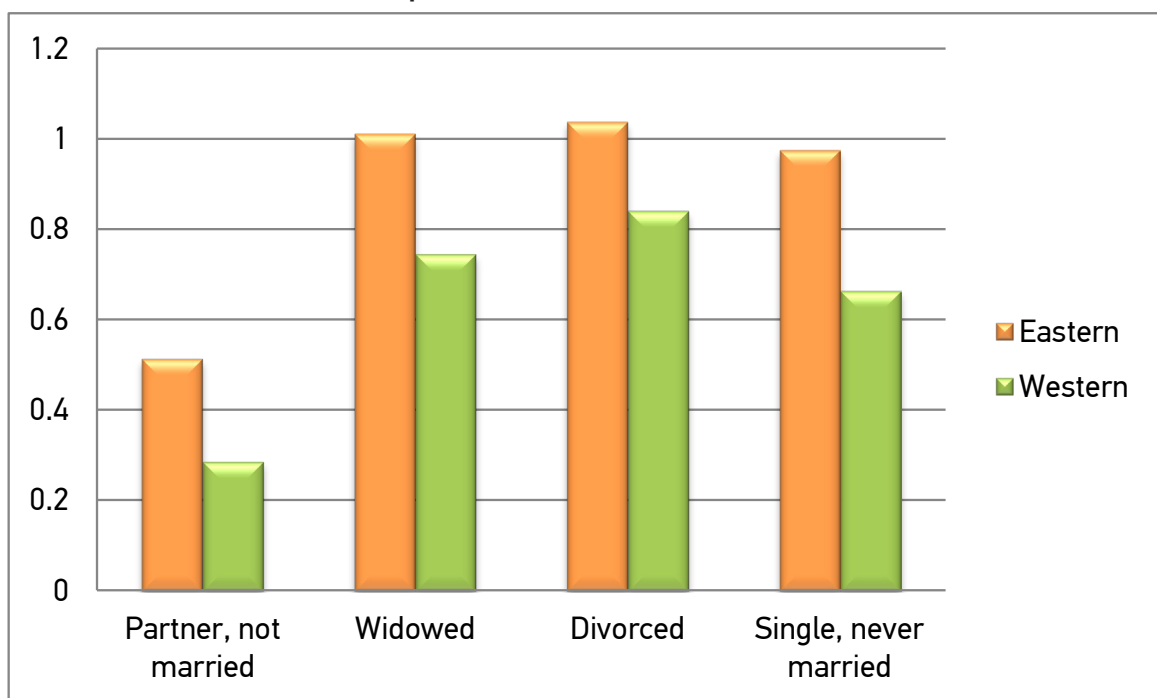
# GGP AT A GLANCE

## Did you know?

Strong family ties can diminish people's likelihood of having depressive feelings by providing material and non-material resources. Having both parents alive, having not experienced the divorce of one's parents, and having siblings were all found to reduce the risk of having a depressive mood. Being married was found to have a particularly protective effect (after controlling for education, employment status, and financial situation). Moreover, this effect was found to be stronger in Eastern than in Western European countries suggesting that a more supportive welfare state can buffer the impact of not being married on one's depressive mood.



**Impact of marital status on the likelihood of having a depressive mood among adults age 18-79 in Eastern and Western European countries<sup>a</sup>**



<sup>a</sup>: The bars represent the values of the logistic regression coefficients (b coefficients) with being 'married' as the reference.

Source: Moor, N. and Komter, A. (2012). Family ties and depressive mood in Eastern and Western Europe. *Demographic Research*. 27, 8: 201-32.

# Selected recently published GGP studies

**Bartus, T., Murinko, L., Szalma, I., Szél, B. (2013). The effect of education on second births in Hungary: a test of the time-squeeze, self-selection, and partner-effect hypotheses.**

*Demographic Research*. 28, 1: 1-32

Abstract. BACKGROUND: In recent years, several studies have reported a positive effect of women's education on the transition to second births. This finding contradicts the economic theory of fertility. Three explanations were proposed: the selection, the time-squeeze, and the partner effect hypotheses. OBJECTIVE: We propose a modification of the economic theory to account for the positive educational gradient with regard to second births. We empirically examine the effect of women's education on the timing of second births. METHODS: We use a sample of women born between 1946 and 1983 from all three waves of the Hungarian Generations and Gender Survey (GGS) data. We estimate lognormal survival models of the timing of second births. RESULTS: We find that female education reduces the waiting time to second conception in Hungary. The results remain robust after controlling for sample selection and cannot be explained away in terms of time-squeeze and the partner's education. CONCLUSIONS: We conclude that the relationship between women's education and spacing behavior might be a causal one.

**Dykstra, P.A., Fokkema, T. (2012). Norms of filial obligation in the Netherlands. *Population (English edition)*. 67, 1: 97-122.**

Abstract. In this article we examine to what extent norms of filial obligation in the Netherlands are shaped by group value patterns, family constellation, possibilities for helping others, and actual experiences of support exchange. The data are drawn from the first wave of the combined main and migrant sample of the Netherlands Kinship Panel Study, the Dutch participant in the Generations and Gender Programme. The Dutch appear reluctant to prescribe how other people should behave towards their ageing parents. Value patterns are the strongest determinants of filial norms, with migrants, the low-educated, and persons with religious beliefs espousing strong filial norms. Contrary to what traditional gender roles would suggest, women less strongly endorse norms of filial obligation than men, and contrary to the notion that divorce weakens family ties, divorcees and children of divorce do not exhibit less commitment to filial norms. Altruistic tendencies are evident in the weaker filial norms among the older age groups, and among those with non co-resident children. Finally, the results show a high level of consonance between actual support exchanges and filial norms.

**Kitterød, R.H., Lappégard, T. (2012). A typology of work-family arrangements among dual-earner couples in Norway. *Family Relations*. 61, 4: 671-85.**

Abstract. A symmetrical family model of two workers or caregivers is a political goal in many western European countries. We explore how common this family type is in Norway, a country with high gender-equality ambitions, by using a multinomial latent class model to develop a typology of dual-earner couples with children based on the partners' allocations of paid and unpaid work. Using data on 2,617 respondents from the Norwegian Generations and Gender Survey, we estimate 4 classes, of which 2 are characterized by a fairly equal sharing between the partners and 2 have more traditional arrangements. Equal sharing is practiced by 4 out of 10 couples and is most likely when the partners are well educated and work regular hours and the father is in public-sector employment. A traditional practice is likely when the partners have less education, the mother has health problems, the father has private-sector employment, and the partners work irregular hours.

**Moor, N., Komter, A. (2012). Family ties and depressive mood in Eastern and Western Europe. *Demographic Research*. 27, 8: 201-32.**

Abstract. BACKGROUND: Family ties in Europe are affected by demographic trends associated with parenting and partnering, such as a decline in fertility, an increase in childlessness, postponement of parenthood and of partnership formation, the rise of "new" relationship forms and divorce rates. It is unclear how the contemporary family structure and composition are associated with people's mental wellbeing. OBJECTIVE: This article examines how ties with parents, siblings, a partner and

children are associated with depressive mood of men and women in seven Eastern and Western European countries. **METHODS:** To test our hypotheses we made use of data from the Generations and Gender Surveys. We performed logistic regression analyses to study the associations between people's family ties and depressive mood. **RESULTS:** Our research findings show that family ties can diminish people's depressive feelings. Although we find some gender differences in these associations, we do not find support for the argument that family ties are more important for the mental wellbeing of women than of men. Moreover, our findings support the hierarchical model of family relations in which new ties with partner and children in adulthood gain precedence over the original primary ties with parents and siblings. Finally, we find that the association between family ties and depressive mood is quite similar in Eastern and Western Europe, but being married or having a partner more strongly reduces depressive feelings in Eastern than in Western Europe. **CONCLUSIONS:** Although longitudinal data were not available to us, our research results do provide some indications about how demographic changes, for instance, those affecting family size -the number of children or siblings- might be associated with mental wellbeing. Our findings also suggest that the demographic trend of increasing partnership dissolution may have larger consequences for people's mental wellbeing in Eastern than in Western Europe.

## Announcements

- The GGP team is pleased to announce that Anne H. Gauthier (NIDI) has succeeded Aat Liefbroer as the GGP International Scientific Coordinator (effective May 1<sup>st</sup> 2013). Anne brings to the team a long-standing interest in comparative research on families and policies. Aat Liefbroer will continue his role as national coordinator of the GGP Dutch team. The GGP would like to take this opportunity to thank Aat for all his efforts and commitment to the GGP for the period 2009- 2013.
- The GGP team is also pleased to announce the appointment of Tom Emery as the new GGP Programme Manager effective July 1<sup>st</sup> 2013. Tom is currently finishing his PhD in social policy at the University of Edinburgh. His PhD dissertation is on the intergenerational relations across the life course. He has a wide experience and interest in quantitative data analysis. He will be based at NIDI.
- The GGP is one of the key sources of data in recent successful grant applications including:
  - o CONOPP (Contexts of Opportunities: Explaining cross-national variation in the links between childhood disadvantage, young adult demographic behavior and later-life outcomes): ERC Advanced Grant project led by Aat Liefbroer;
  - o Families in Context (Unraveling the ways in which policy, economic, and cultural contexts structure generational interdependencies in families and their life outcomes): ERC Advanced Grant project led by Pearl Dykstra;
  - o FamHealth (Family life courses, intergenerational exchanges and health and well-being in later life): ERC Advanced Grant project led by Emily Grundy;
  - o Families and Societies (Changing families and sustainable societies: policy context and diversity over the life course and across generations): EU-FP7 project led by the University of Stockholm in collaboration with 25 institutions.



Generations & Gender Programme

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