

142) The role of partnership constellation and family values for fertility – evidence from the ESS

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Declining fertility rates across developed societies have a multitude of economic, social and political consequences. The phenomenon is linked with the so-called “second demographic transition”, marked also with postponement of marriages, out of wedlock births, increasing divorce rates and the emergence of increasingly individualistic values. While the previous research suggests that changing partnership reproductive behavior in mixture with traditional norms (as opposed to individualized norms) have influence on the level of births, the importance of values for fertility in different partnerships has not been studied often.

In this presentation we analyze the association between partnership constellation, family values and fertility in Europe. We ask: do family values, and especially individualistic attitudes, affect fertility levels differently in different types of partnerships? We utilize seven consecutive rounds of European Social Survey between 2002 and 2014, containing data on the contingents of people in different age, gender, sociodemographic variables, partnership constellations, civil status, family values and people with and without children. We expect that while the more individualistic values may hinder fertility among the couples, it has the opposite effect among singles.

Keywords: fertility, births, family values, reproductive behavior, partnership constellation