



**Stockholm
University**

Department of Sociology

Family Dynamics in a Changing Europe

7.5 ECTS credits (5 p)

This course is at the advanced level for students who want an introduction to contemporary research on fertility and family dynamics in Europe. The course is offered within the multidisciplinary Master's program in Demography at Stockholm University, but is open also to other students at advanced Social Science levels.

The course provides an overview of recent theory and research on changes and dynamics in family demographic behavior in Europe. With its variation in cultural, political, economic, and institutional settings, Europe is the ideal place to test various hypotheses on the causes and consequences of family demographic change in economically developed societies. The recent transformation of Central and Eastern Europe, and the increasing importance of international migration have added to the variety of demographic dynamics of the continent. The seminar series cover changes in living arrangements, union dynamics, and childbearing; causes and consequences of family-demographic change; relationships between social policy and family-demographic change; and transnational vital events and family dynamics in the course of international migration. Particular attention is devoted to comparative research within Europe.



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Course Syllabus: Family Dynamics in a Changing Europe

1. General information

The course consists of 7.5 ECTS credits and is at advanced level in Demography.

2. Decision

The syllabus is approved by the head of Department on behalf of the board of the Department of Sociology at Stockholm University as of September 2008.

3. Entrance qualifications

Course applicants should have completed the introductory demographic courses of the Master's program in Demography, or other suitable courses in the field.

4. Course organization

The course is provided at half time during 8 weeks. Course participants meet regularly for lectures and discussion of literature. Examination is done by means of paper presentations, active participation in class discussions and an independent course paper.

5. Course contents

This is an advanced level course for students who want an introduction to contemporary research on fertility and family dynamics in Europe. The course provides an overview of recent theory and research on changes and dynamics in family demographic behavior in Europe. The seminar series cover changes in living arrangements and union dynamics; changes in childbearing dynamics; causes and consequences of family-demographic change; relationships between social policy and family-demographic change; and transnational vital events and family dynamics in the course of international migration. Particular attention is devoted to comparative research within Europe.

6. Learning outcome

After accomplishing this course, participants are expected to be able to:

In terms of knowledge and understanding:

- Identify innovative topics of research on family dynamics in Europe

In terms of accomplishment and competence:

- Formulate a research question that can be addressed by means of making references to existing demographic literature in Europe
- Formulate a research question that can be addressed by taking advantage of the variation in contexts across countries in Europe
- Address a research question related to some aspect of family dynamics in Europe by reviewing the most relevant literature on it

In terms of values and evaluation:

- Critically evaluate different approaches to family demographic research by researchers from different disciplines and by researchers from different countries in Europe and North America

7. Instruction and examination

Course work and examination consist of discussion of lecture contents and the writing of a course paper on a topic related to the course contents. The course work is evaluated according to the following degrees:

A = Excellent. This grade is given when the student in his or her work produces innovative ideas to specific research question(s), synthesizes them to a higher analytical level, and provides a very relevant, critical, well formulated and well connected review of the topic related to his or her specific research question(s).

B = Very good. This grade is given when the student in his or her work synthesizes ideas at a high analytical level, and provides a relevant, thorough, critical, well formulated and well connected review of the topic related to his or her specific research question(s).

C = Good. This grade is given when the student in his or her work provides a relevant, thorough, critical, well written and well connected review of the topic related to his or her specific research question(s).

D = Satisfactory. This grade is given when the student in his or her work provides a relevant and accurate review of the topic he or she addresses.

E = Sufficient. This grade is given when the student in his or her work provides an accurately formulated but not entirely focused review of the topic he or she addresses.

Fx = Insufficient. This grade is given when the student in his or her work provides a limited and/or only partly relevant review of the topic he or she addresses.

F = Fail. This grade is given when the student in his or her work provides a limited and irrelevant review of the topic he or she addresses.

E is needed to pass the course. Fx indicates that the student is offered the opportunity to upgrade his or her exam. Students with grade F or Fx are entitled to another examination as long as the course is provided in order to achieve grade E at least. A student with E is not entitled to another examination to raise his or her degree.

8. Literature

The course literature consists of articles that are available through Stockholm University's library and cover the following topics:

The Second Demographic Transition

Diversity in family demography across Europe

The "New Europe": societies in transition

Transnational family dynamics

Social policy and demographic behavior

9. Course Schedule Spring 2018 – Family Dynamics in a Changing Europe

Tues	16-Jan	13:00-15:30	D255	Introduction
Tues	23-Jan	13:00-15:30	F271	The Second Demographic Transition
Tues	30-Jan	13:00-15:30	F263	Diversity in family demography across Europe
Tues	6-Feb	13:00-15:30	F379	The "New Europe": societies in transition
Wed	14-Feb	13:00-15:30	D231	Transnational family dynamics
Tues	20-Feb	10:00-12:30	F347	Social policy and demographic behavior
Tues	6-Mar	10:00-12:30	F355	Student presentations (compulsory)
Thur	8-Mar	10:00-12:30	F3154	Student presentations (compulsory)

Student papers due: 19 March

Introduction

Gunnar Andersson, Gerda Neyer, and Hill Kulu (2013) The Demography of Europe: Introduction. In G. Neyer et al., *The Demography of Europe* (pp1-13). Doordrecht: Springer. (This book is available as an E-book at SU library)

Tomas Frejka, Tomas Sobotka, Jan Hoem, and Laurent Toulemon (eds) (2008) *Childbearing Trends and Policies in Europe*. Demographic Research, Special Collection 7. See summary and general conclusions (9 pages). Other articles in collection are optional. Available <http://www.demographic-research.org>.

Second Demographic Transition (SDT)

Lesthaeghe, Ron and Lisa Neidert (2006) “The second demographic transition in the United States: Exception or textbook example?” *Population and Development Review* 32: 669-698.

Perelli-Harris, Brienna et al. (2010) “The educational gradient of childbearing within cohabitation in Europe.” *Population and Development Review* 36(4): 775-801.

Huinink, Johannes (2013) “De-standardisation or changing life course patterns? Transition to adulthood from a demographic perspective”. In G. Neyer et al., *The Demography of Europe* (pp99-118). Doordrecht: Springer.

Frejka, Tomas and Charles Westoff (2008) “Religion, religiousness and fertility in the U.S. and in Europe.” *European Journal of Population* 24(1): 5-31.

Watkins, Susan Cotts (1990) “From local to national communities: the transformation of demographic regimes in Western Europe 1987-1960”. *Population and Development Review* 16(2): 241-272.

Diversity across Europe

Goldstein, Joshua, Tomas Sobotka and Aiva Jasilioniene (2009) “The end of ‘lowest-low’ fertility.” *Population and Development Review* 35: 663-699.

Billari, Francesco, Dimiter Philipov and Pau Baizán (2001) “Leaving home in Europe: The experience of cohorts born around 1960”. *Population, Space and Place* 7: 339-356.

Kalmijn, Matthijs (2007) “Explaining cross-national differences in marriage, cohabitation, and divorce in Europe, 1990-2000”. *Population Studies* 61(3): 243-263.

Thomson, Elizabeth (2014) “Family complexity in Europe”. *The ANNALS of the American Academy of Political and Social Sciences*, 654: 245-258.

Hiekel, Nicole and Teresa Castro-Martin (2014) "Grasping diversity of cohabitation: Fertility intentions among cohabiters across Europe". *Journal of Marriage and Family* 76: 489-505.

Reher, David (1998) "Family ties in Western Europe: persistent contrasts". *Population and Development Review* 24(2): 203-234.

The "New Europe"

Sobotka, Tomas (2011) "Fertility in Central and Eastern Europe after 1989: Collapse and gradual recovery". *Historical Social Research* 36: 246-296.

Karl Ulrich Mayer and Eva Schulze (2013) "Delaying parenthood in East and West Germany: A mixed-methods study of the onset of childbirth and the vocabulary of motives of women of the birth cohort of 1971". In G. Neyer et al., *The Demography of Europe* (pp54-97). Dordrecht: Springer.

Perelli-Harris, Brienna (2005) "The path to lowest-low fertility in Ukraine". *Population Studies* 59: 55-70.

Jan Hoem, et al. (2009) "Traces of the Second Demographic Transition in four selected countries in Central and Eastern Europe: Union formation as a demographic manifestation". *European Journal of Population* 25: 239-255.

Adsera, Alicia (2011) "The interplay of employment uncertainty and education in explaining second births in Europe". *Demographic Research* 25(16): 513-544.

Transnational family dynamics

Kulu, Hill, and González-Ferrer, Amparo (2014) "Family- dynamics among immigrants and their descendants in Europe: Current research and opportunity". *European Journal of Population* 30: 411-435.

Glick, Jennifer (2010) "Connecting complex processes: A decade of research on immigrant families". *Journal of Marriage and Family* 72(3):498-515.

Bledsoe, Caroline, et al. (2007) "High fertility Gambians in low-fertility Spain: the dynamics of child accumulation across transnational space". *Demographic Research* 16(12): 375-412.

Andersson, Gunnar, and Kirk Scott (2005) "Labour-market status and first-time parenthood: The experience of immigrant women in Sweden, 1981-97". *Population Studies* 59(1): 21-38.

Beauchemin, Cris et al. (2014) "Reunifying Versus Living Apart Together Across Borders: A Comparative Analysis of sub-Saharan Migration to Europe." *International*

Migration Review, in press. Online version released November 2014:
<http://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1111/imre.12155/abstract>

Frank, Reanne and Patrick Heuveline (2005) "A crossover in Mexican and Mexican-American fertility rates: evidence and explanations for an emerging paradox". *Demographic Research* 12(4): 77-104.

Social policy and demographic behavior

Esping-Andersen, Gosta (1991) Selected pages from "The three political economies of the welfare state". In G. Esping-Andersen's *The three worlds of welfare capitalism* (pp:18-34). Cambridge, UK: Polity Press. (Handout in class)

Orloff, Ann Shola (1993) "Gender and the social rights of citizenship: The comparative analysis of gender relations and welfare states". *American Sociological Review* 58(3): 303-328.

Neyer, Gerda and Gunnar Andersson (2008) "Consequences of family policies on childbearing behavior: Effects or artifacts?" *Population and Development Review* 34(4): 699-724.

McDonald, Peter (2000) "Gender equity in theories of fertility transition". *Population and Development Review* 26(3): 427-439.

Billingsley, Sunnee and Ferrarini, Tommy. (2014). Family Policy and Fertility Intentions in 21 European Countries. *Journal of Marriage and Family* 76(2): 428-445.

Duvander, Ann-Zofie, Trude Lappegård, and Gunnar Andersson (2010) "Family policy and fertility: Fathers' and mothers' use of parental leave and continued childbearing in Norway and Sweden". *Journal of European Social Policy* 20(1): 45-57.