

FAMNET
Scientific Report

September 2006-August 2007

Coordinator
Chiara Saraceno

Introduction

This document reports on the activities of the FAMNET research group in the second year. The activities have been of two kinds: workshops of the whole group with presentation of papers and specific thematic projects involving smaller groups.

There have been two general FAMNET workshops in this second year of activity, one in September 2006 within the EQUALSOC conference and one in Berlin in January 2007, jointly with EMPLOY. In both occasions, various papers were presented covering themes not included in the specific thematic subgroups. These workshops also offered the opportunity to start developing new themes and forming new groups.

In the following the agenda of these two general workshops will be presented. The specific reports of the thematic subgroups will follow. These include both groups exclusively based in Famnet and cross-thematic ones, both groups that have been in activity since the previous year and groups that started working in March-April 2006. Therefore, they are in different stages of development. They are:

FAMNET only

- 1) *Children and Time Use in European Families (CTUEF)* : in the second year
- 2) *Intergenerational relationships in the family and society*: in the second year
- 3) *The division of household labour. A European comparison* : started this year

FAMNET/EMPLOY

- 3) *Reconciling work and family life*: in the second year
- 4) *Unstable careers and family formation in different institutional contexts*: in the second year
- 5) *Childcare responsibilities and continuing training participation in Europe*: started this year

FAMNET/SOCCULT

- 6) *Measuring social networks*: started this year

Workshop in Barcellona, September 2006

Papers

- Differences in Ego-centered networks and access to informal support. Does gender affect network composition and who gets support and what type? (Charlotta Stern)
- Marital dissolution in Italy (Lorenzo Todesco)
- Parental Divorce and Union Disruption among Young Adults in Sweden (Michael Gähler, Ying Hong and Eva Bernhardt)
- "Fatherhood by shock: does marital separation bring about a more equal time allocation among parents?" (Joris Ghysels)
- "Parenthood explains the Swedish gender gap in workplace authority" (Magnus Bygren & Michael Gähler)

Workshop in Berlin, January 2007

Papers (only those by FAMNET members)

- Pau Baizan, Mariajose Gonzalez, "Formal childcare availability and women's employment decisions in Spain: A multilevel perspective"
- Maja Debacker, "Care strategies of Flemish families with children"
- Lorenzo Todesco, "Determinants of marital dissolution in Italy"
- Alberto Rosina, Chiara Saraceno, "Asymmetrical interferences. A study of women's labour market participation in Italy"
- Petra Böhnke, "Poverty and Social network support in different welfare regimes"

THEMATIC GROUPS

Children and Time Use in European Families (CTUEF)

(in the second year)

Aim of the project

This research project aims at insights regarding the effect of (early) parental employment and time use of both parents on child wellbeing.

Furthermore, it provides first indicators to analyze the effects of different welfare states in Europe and of their social policies on the welfare of children.

The interdisciplinary teams (sociologists/economists) currently involved will actively engage in looking for an extension of the country coverage of the group. This depends in the first place on latent interests present in other EQUALSOC partners.

The CTUEF project comprises two research tracks: one on the coordination of parental time use and another on child outcomes.

The aim of the time coordination analysis is to replicate the methodology elaborated by Van Klaveren on Belgian (Flemish) and Italian data. More specifically three questions were answered:

1. How is work time overlap influenced by certain household and personal characteristics?
2. Can partners coordinate their working schedules such that work times fit their 'personal' situation better or is the observed work time overlap simply the result of having certain characteristics or not?
3. If partners coordinate their work schedules, then which partners (de-) synchronizes work time more (i.e. which partners have more work time overlap as a result of work time adjustment)?

In the 18 months starting March 2007 the earlier analyses of parental time allocation have started to be linked to the use of non-parental care. More specifically, it is investigated whether the parental ability to coordinate work schedules is used by parents as a substitute for childcare services. If so, this substitution will be characterised in detail. Preliminary results on Flemish families show, for example, that 18% of families with children younger than 16 do not use childcare services but rely entirely on the coordination of the working time of both parents.

Furthermore, a more explicit analysis of policy measures regarding the time allocation of parents is also within the scope of this project (working time flexibility, parental leave schemes, support for childcare services, actual supply of places in childcare, ...). It relies on the cross-national and regional variation in the data.

The aim of the analysis of child outcomes in a cross country European perspective focuses on definitions of child outcomes (indicators of child outcomes by age group) and on the relation between child outcomes and the parental home situation in Western societies.

There are two reasons why it would be important to choose for a cross country comparative European perspective. Firstly, since child care availability (and affordability) differs among countries and actually in most countries children do not have an individual

right to a child care space, children may become a vulnerable group in society after the pregnancy and parental leave ends. These leave arrangements differ across countries. Secondly, the well-being of young infants is simply never researched in connection with parental time use, perhaps since there are no cognitive measures at hand, and therefore we do not know whether children's wellbeing is positively or negatively affected by parental time use and social policies when the infant is young.

The focus on cross-country comparative analysis on child outcomes limits the age group of the children we may include in our research and the specific child outcomes that are available in the nationally collected data on parents and children, but it gives opportunities to link social policies and labor markets to children's outcomes, and to compare data sets that up to now have not been used for cross country comparative purposes. It leads us to focus on child outcomes that have been little researched before (such as non-cognitive measures).

The research on child outcomes aims at scientific contributions in two main projects:

(I) One project focuses on young infants' outcomes and their parents' parental work in the US and in the Netherlands, which will be extended to Flanders (Belgium). Furthermore, the research will be extended to Italy. In order to include Italy an Italian data source on recent mothers and on child's health will be bought. The research on this particular age of the child is related to the Dutch data source which has information on children who are one year or younger.

The age of the young infant is interesting from the perspective of change in time use arrangements, since mothers in the US and in The Netherlands have to start work for pay when the baby is 3 months old. Two main differences between the Netherlands and the US as regards the decision to participate in paid work are: 1) in the Netherlands, fathers are more likely nowadays to reduce work hours to care for their baby, whereas in the US this is not the case. 2) in the Netherlands there is a 16 weeks pregnancy and birth leave fully paid at 100% of earnings, whereas in the US the leave is not statutory and its coverage depends on the specific contract. In a next step we wish to analyze whether differences in healthcare insurance systems in the US and the Netherlands possibly affects the choice of (full-time) paid work when children need medical care (if health insurance is linked to paid work).

(II) The second project within the child outcome research will focus on the Belgian data and explore the outcomes of older children in comparison to Denmark, possibly Sweden and the US. The empirical work should be done in October-November 2007.

Output

(1) The time coordination analysis

In a first move to produce comparable indicators, the Antwerp and Turin team looked into the synchronisation of working time within couples. The datasets for Flanders and Italy contain a weekly work schedule for every parent resident in the household. In the week schedule respondents were asked to indicate the exact timing of every employment episode over a period of seven days. Matching the schedules of partners thus enables a perfect view of the overlap in job time and/or the relative lack of overlap. Results on the co-ordination of parental employment in Italy, Flanders and the Netherlands were presented at the Barcelona conference of EQUALSOC (September 2006) and the Berlin FAMNET-workshop (January

2007). These results included descriptive analyses of working time overlap (WTO) and its determinants.

At the Berlin workshop, discussions were intensified and a clear plan was drawn for a joint paper to be finalised by the summer of 2007. A draft paper is currently being circulated between the team members.

The availability of suitable cross country comparable micro data on both parents and children turned out to be extremely limited. During 2006 we provided one of the first comparative descriptions of data sources and literature including the measurement of children's characteristics and the time-use within households within the European context and the US (See State of the Art report). It turned out that similar measurement of child characteristics is not readily available in household data sets, also not for children in the same age groups. Moreover, also in the time use data used by Chris van Klaveren (SEO) and in the data used by Renzo Carriero (TURIN) there is no information on child characteristics.

In the meantime, we had to work with data sources that were in the process of collection (data on Flanders) and the relatively unexplored data in the US that had to be merged with the more well-known US household data (PSID) and with newly collected data in the Netherlands in 2003-2004 on public health and link these data to household information. We also intend to use a Belgian survey (CSP). Other data sources in Italy containing information on children's well-being and parents paid work and unpaid work will be explored. The data source on new mothers and child characteristics seems suitable for comparison with the US and the Netherlands and we will obtain the data from Equalsoc budget to include Italy on our cross country comparison. Two other sources will be checked on suitability for the analysis of outcomes of older children.

(2) The child outcome analysis

Our review of child outcomes for young infants has resulted in analyzing health related factors of children (weight, illness, hospital treatments and disability).

During the first year the datasets of the two countries were prepared and precise information was collected on both the parental time use and the children's outcomes such as weight, increase in weight, excessive crying behavior, disability, and hospital treatments but also diseases that would need additional care time compared to standard children

We started to analyze the comparable household panel data in the US and the Netherlands to describe the changes in parental time use around the birth of children and connect this to different child characteristics such as sex of the child and definitions of non-standard children as regards health problems and serious types of disabled children. Three key questions have been selected taking account of the gender of the parent for further analyses:

(1) Do parents decide on their paid work arrangements after the birth of the child independently of child characteristics?

(2) How do both parents arrange across countries for their paid work arrangements as compared to the situation before birth?

(3) Do children appear to have a higher or lower level of well-being when both parents are in paid work?

In a later stage we will explore the following question:

(4) To what extent does the quality of early parenting influence children's later cognitive outcomes?

To analyze these questions, time was invested to make the US data comparable to the Dutch data, which implied to connect waves from the panel data on individual and household level and connect this information to the data collected on children in the US, and to connect public health data on pregnant women and their partner to health data collected at birth of the child and during the child's first year. Since we wished to analyze the change in time-use of both parents before and after child birth we had to find the information on fathers as well.

To analyse questions 1-3 we had to extend the files created in January 2007 in order:

- 1) to find some measure of income or wage and to make it comparable. A possibility that we considered was to use a crude measure that sets the relative poverty level of each respective country (i.e. standard deviations above or below the country specific poverty level);
- 2) to explore the use of different definitions for disability: care time intensive and financially demanding;
- 3) to select the appropriate estimation procedure. We started with a replication as closely as possible of the existing studies on the US (i.e. using Powers' estimation procedure)^{1, 2}

Thereafter we estimated more complicated models and now we are dealing with the issue of selection. Amy Hsin set up a meeting with Moshe Buchinsky, who chaired the session on child disability and work at the 2005 PAA.

A draft paper by Amy Hsin (UPF) and Cecile Wetzels (AIAS) was presented in Berlin January 25, 2007 - "The effect of child disability and mother's return to work after childbirth: a comparative analysis of the United States and the Netherlands". The paper analyzes the effects of parental paid work around the birth of a child for "standard infants" and "non standard" children. The question is whether parents will adjust their time use in paid work differently in the Netherlands and the US when the child is non-standard as regards time needed for care and financial resources. The paper required more work since the US data show a considerable number of missing on education. Furthermore, the comparability of the

<p>¹Powers, Elizabeth, 2003. <i>Journal of Human Resources</i></p>	<p>SIPP panel US</p>	<p>*11,141 families without disabilities *btwn 303-406 families with disabilities depending on definition *children of all ages</p>	<p>3 measures: some emphasize physical while others learning disabilities</p>	<p>age, age sq, education, race, health, age of youngest child, number of kids (plus dummies for # of kids in age categories), welfare participation, state employment rate</p>	<p>*Static work (cross sectional): probit, tobit and conditional OLS *Dynamic (transition into work over 1 & 2 year span): OLS of changes in hours; Probit of positive change in hours, begin work * Separate analysis by marital status</p>	<p>*Static Model: negative effect and always larger for single moms (magnitude of effect= effect of having a young child) *Dynamic: stronger effect for single moms but mostly insignificant *Definition of disability that effects children's ability to do schoolwork seems to have the most significant effect</p>
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² Powers, Elizabeth T. 2003. "Children's Health and Maternal Work Activity: Estimates under Alternative Disability." *Journal of Human Resources* 38(3):522-556.

data and the modeling required detailed study. At the Berlin workshop, discussions were intensified and a clear plan was drawn for a joint paper to be finalised by the summer of 2007. The paper will be circulated between the team members and other EQUALSOC groups and within research groups on demography, child development, gender and the labour market, child care in Europe and the US. Furthermore, the final paper will be distributed using the IZA Bonn discussion paper series, and other distribution channels will be explored. In October 2007 we have a version that will be submitted to a refereed journal. Furthermore, in an extension of this project (and paper) we aim at including more countries in the cross country analyses starting with Belgium and possibly Denmark from September 2007 onwards. This second part of project 1 aims at preparing a second paper and will be discussed during the meetings to be held in September and if necessary a follow-up meeting in October.

Meetings

Between September 2006 and August 2007 we held several meetings. Apart from these meetings we kept in contact through e-mails. As a result of this the time coordination analysis of Chris Van Klaveren was tested on Italian and Flemish data (which brought about a long e-mail discussion about further refinements of the procedures). Moreover, ideas were exchanged about joint analyses of the well-being of children and a comparative analysis of Dutch and US-data is elaborated. Empirical work on child outcomes will proceed from late September 2007.

In the past project period, the actual meetings were:

- (1) January 2006: starting meeting in Turin (during the FAMNET workshop)
- (2) August 2006: follow-up meeting in Amsterdam
- (3) September 2006: follow-up meeting in Barcelona (during the EQUALSOC-conference: both research teams had sessions and presented papers), followed by a meeting in Barcelona on comparing micro data sets on children (AIAS-UPF)
- (4) January 2007: follow-up and renewal meeting in Berlin (during the FAMNET workshop: research experiences and draft papers on time use and child outcomes were discussed in sessions))
- (5) August 2007: follow-up meeting of the time use part in Stockholm.

Planned meetings:

- (6) September 2007: follow up meeting of the link between time-use, child care and child outcome: aim comparative analysis of Flemish and Danish SDQ child outcome indicator.
- (7) October 2007: meeting to discuss the cross country comparative research on child outcome in the US and the Netherlands and possibilities for comparison with Belgium data.
- (8) November 2007: Child-outcome research group meeting to discuss the two papers: Comparison of young infants' outcomes in The Netherlands and US (and Flanders) and the SDQ indicator for older children.

Prospects

- (1) Time coordination analysis

By the end of September 2007 the first paper should be ready for submission to a refereed journal. The second part of the project should start in October 2007, linking the availability of childcare services to parental time coordination. This second part is expected to result in

presentations at the Berlin conference of Equalsoc (April 2008) and, subsequently, a publishable paper by the end of 2008.

(2) Child outcome analysis

The paper “The effect of child disability and mother’s return to work after childbirth: a comparative analysis of the United States and the Netherlands” will be submitted for conferences in 2008, will be submitted as a seminar contribution to the university of Turin (CHILD). In the next step we aim at extending the analysis to Belgium. In the Belgian data set we also have information on infants, including the presence of disability at birth . Joris Ghysels and Evelien van Vlasselaer (Antwerp Centre for Social Policy will be involved in this analysis. Furthermore, we aim at including the groups working with Jens Bonke (Martin Munk) to extend the analysis to Denmark. The research on young infant will also be discussed with experts form the University of Basel working on health of the newly born.

Project (II) on parental time use and outcomes among older children: During September 2007, the team members will have a meeting in Antwerp. This meeting is intended to look into the prospects of a comparative analysis of Flemish and Danish data based on the SDQ-outcome indicator.

The Belgian data on children and their parents’ time use will also be used to investigate different strategies parents apply to care for different types of children (not only infants).

The third extension of this part of the research proposal is to link this research of parental time use and changes in it around the birth of children to the demand for childcare. The other members of the group Joris Ghysels (CSP), Chris van Klaveren (SCHOLAR) and Renzo Carriero (TURIN) will take part in discussing the modeling of the demand for child care.

Publications

At the end of the project period we aim at three scientific papers.

- 1.. “The Effect of Child Health and Disability on Mother’s Return to Work: A Propensity Score Matching Approach” by Hsin and Wetzels
2. Joint work Antwerp, AIAS/UPF, Denmark on infants’ outcomes.
3. Joint work Antwerp, AIAS, Denmark on older children’s outcomes.

Intergenerational relationships in family and society

(this group is in its second year of activity)

coordinator

Chiara Saraceno (University of Torino and WZB)

participants

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Agnes Blome (WZB)

Kairi Kasearu (Tartu)

Teresio Poggio (University of Trento)

Sebastia Sarasa (UPF – Barcellona)

Claudine Attias-Donfut (associate expert)

Matthijs Kalmin (associate expert)

1. Background (first year) work

During the first year, the project participants prepared

- a) A state of the art report which summarises the key concepts and findings on intergenerational relations as well as recent developments of theory and research in this area. The report highlights different exchange modes between parents and their children or grandchildren and point to country specific patterns of intergenerational relations in Europe. It concludes with some considerations of knowledge gaps which have to be dealt with by further investigations. The state of the art report is available via following URL: <http://www.equalsoc.org> under the FAMNET page
- b) A first inventory of sources of comparative and national data on intergenerational relationship. This inventory, which synthetically describes the source, the sample and the variables included, should be available on the EQUALSOC web page, under FAMNET.
- c) A few papers, presenting the first results of ongoing research in the field performed by participants. They were presented at a workshop organized by the group at the EQUALSOC conference held in Barcellona in September 2006. From the papers, and the discussions within the group, it emerged clearly that the group research focused mainly on intergenerational relationships within families and kin-networks and on the dimension of support, both upward – to the older generation – and downward, to the middle and younger generation. Other dimensions of the intergenerational exchange were less or no focused upon. It emerged also that a three and not only two generation perspective needed to be developed.

2. Activities in the second year

Research

During the second year the group has attempted to enlarge its research in different directions, although maintaining the focus on intergenerational relationships within the family and kinship networks and on the link between interpersonal relations and institutional arrangements. In particular, four developments may be pointed out: a)

attention for the long term impact of family crises and ruptures (divorce) on patterns of support and exchanges across generations; b) attention for the three generational relationship, therefore looking at the “book-end generations” (grandparents and grandchildren); c) attention for the intergenerational relationships of migrants, in so far, on the one hand, among migrants individuals belonging to different generations often live in different countries, on the other hand feelings of obligations and material support may follow a different and even inverse direction than that prevalent among non migrant citizens of developed countries; d) attention for the implicit and explicit intergenerational scripts embodied in social policies and welfare state arrangements. Also the theme of the intergenerational transmission of inequality remains on the table and the possibility of a joint collaboration with EDUC explored, but so far has not yet produced concrete results. A conference held in Berlin in March 2007 was the occasion in which work on these new themes was presented and discussed among the members of the group but also with other experts in the field. Out of the conference a book will be produced, for which there is already a contract (see index in the appendix). It includes contributions both from members of this group and from outside experts.

Data inventory and production

The responsibility for updating of the inventory on comparative and national data on intergenerational relations now rests with the WZB group, with the collaboration of all members. The WZB group is also working on a format presentation that may be put – and updated regularly – on line.

Given the lack of good comparable data on intergenerational relationships, Kalmijn and Saraceno, with experts from outside EQUALSOC, prepared a proposal for a module to be inserted in the ESS, but unfortunately was not accepted.

The WZB unit is part of a group which presented a research project on 'How demographic changes shape intergenerational solidarity, well-being, and social integration: A multilinks framework' -MULTILINKS - under FP7 and which has passed the first evaluation. This project aims at exploiting the Gender and Generation data base as well as other sources (ESS, BHPS, CRONOS).

3. Meetings

3 meetings have been held so far in this second year of activity

- 1) in Barcellona, during the EQUALSOC conference there was a half a day workshop with papers (see appendix)
- 2) in Berlin, during the FAMNET/EMPLOY January 2007 meeting, a small meeting was held with the aim to better define and incentive joint work.
- 3) in Berlin in March 2007, during the conference of the group, a work meeting was held to discuss future work and collaboration.

A meeting is planned during the Equalsoc conference in April 2008

4. Output

- An article by M. Kalmijn and C. Saraceno – “A comparative perspective on intergenerational support. Responsiveness to parental need in individualistic and familistic countries” - has been accepted by *European Societies*
- An article by W. Keck and C. Saraceno – “Grandchildhood in Germany and Italy” – has been accepted for insertion on a book on *Childhood. Changing Contexts*, to be published by Elsevier (A. Leira and C. Saraceno eds)
- A. Blome and W. Keck have completed the Report they prepared with J. Alber for the Hans-Böckler-Stiftung, parts of which they have discussed in workshops of this group. It will be published as a book - *Generationenbeziehungen Im Wohlfahrtsstaat. Lebensbedingungen Und Einstellungen Von Altersgruppen Im Internationalen Vergleich* – by VS Verlag für Sozialwissenschaften
- A book containing a number of revised papers presented at the Berlin Conference will be published by Edward Elgar with the title *Families, Ageing and Social Policy: Generational Solidarity in European Welfare States* (see index in the appendix)

Appendix

Papers presented at the workshop in Barcellona, september 2006

- Billingsley, Sunnee: “Comparative sources for the study of intergenerational relations. A report on the work done so far by the group”.
- Blome, Agnes and Wolfgang Keck: “The role of the extended family as a child care provider and as a means of supporting mothers’ participation in paid work in different welfare and family regimes. The cases of France, Germany, Italy and Sweden”.
- Kalmijn, Matthis and Chiara Saraceno: “A comparative perspective on intergenerational support: Responsiveness to parental needs in individualistic and familialistic countries”.
- Kasearu, Kairi: “The impact of family form on intergenerational support in three Baltic states (Estonia, Lithuania and Latvia)”.
- Sarasa, Sebastian: “The effects of different old-age and invalidity benefit forms (cash versus services, universal versus means-tested) on the women's probability of care giving in different countries (Italy, Spain, Austria, Finland and Denmark)”.

Papers presented at the Conference in Berlin, March 2007

- Martin Kohli, "Intergenerational transfers and welfare regimes"
- Harald Künemund "Intergenerational relations within the family and the state"
- Sebastia Sarasa, Sunnee Billingsley, "Personal care giving from adult children to parents and social stratification"
- Claudine Attias-Donfut, "Intergenerational transfers and social mobility of immigrants in France".
- Johannes Kopp, Anja Steinbach, "Associational Solidarity in German Families: An Explanation of the Frequency of Contact between Generations"
- Freek Bucx, Frits van Wel, Trudie Knijn, Louk Hagendoorn, "Life course status and exchange of support between young adults and their parents"
- Kairi Kasearu, "Intergenerational giving and receiving: the case of three Baltic States"
- Helen Baykara-Krumme, "Relationships between parents and their adult children in migrant families"

- Teresio Poggio, "Intergenerational transmission of home ownership and its implications for the reproduction of familialistic welfare regime"
- Daniele Checchi, Carlo Fiorio, Marco Leonardi, "The impact of education on the intergenerational transmission of inequality. The case of Italy in historical perspective"
- Agnes Blome, "The relationship between people's attitudes towards family, gender and care issues and family policies in different welfare states"
- Rainer Heuer, "How To Address Healthy Elderly: Public Images and Societal Strategies - An Intergenerational Perspective"
- Gunhild Hagestad, "The book-end generations"
- Matthijs Kalmijn, "Father-child contact and divorce in comparative perspective"
- Chiara Saraceno, Marco Albertini, "Contacts between adult children and their divorced parents: Italy in a comparative perspective"
- Wolfgang Keck, "Parent-child relationships in different elderly care arrangements"
- Ulla Björnberg, "Intergenerational family support in the Swedish welfare state"
- Marco Albertini, Martin Kohli, "Intergenerational exchanges among the childless"
- Theo van Tilburg, "The intergenerational care potential of Dutch older adults in 1992 and 2002"

Edward Elgar book

**Families, Ageing and Social Policy: Generational Solidarity in European Welfare States
Welfare States**

Chiara Saraceno ed.

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- "Introduction", Chiara Saraceno (university of Turin and WZB)
- "The book-end generations", Gunhild Hagestad (university of Chicago and Nova, Norway)
- "Intergenerational relations within the family and the state" Harald Künemund (university of Vechta, Germany)
- "Intergenerational support in families and welfare regimes. Descriptions and explanations", Martin Kohli and Marco Albertini (EUI, Florence)
- "Personal care giving from adult children to parents and social stratification. A comparative perspective", Sebastia Sarasa and Sunnee Billingsley (University Pompeu Fabra, Barcellona)
- "Parent-child relationship in different elderly care arrangements in Europe", Wolfgang Keck (WZB, Berlin)
- The intergenerational transmission of home ownership and the reproduction of the familialistic welfare regimes, Teresio Poggio, University of Trento
- "Father-Child contact and divorce in comparative perspective", Mathijs Kalmijn (University of Tilburg)
- Contacts across three generations after divorce: Italy in a comparative perspective, Chiara Saraceno (university of Torino and WZB) and Marco Albertini (EUI, Florence)
- "The intergenerational care potential of Dutch older adults in 1992 and 2002", Theo van Tilburg and Suzan van der Pas (VU University Amsterdam)
- "Intergenerational support in the Swedish welfare state", Ulla Biörnberg (University of Göteborg)

- “Solidarity between generations in Germany”, Anja Steinbach and Johannes Kopp (Technische Universität Chemnitz)
- Intergenerational transfers and life chances. Immigrants in France and families in Europe, Claudine Attia-Donfut and François-Charles Wolff (CNAV, Paris)
- Relationships between parents and their adult children in migrant families in Germany, Helen Baykara Krumme (WZB)

The Division of Household Labour - A European Comparison

Coordinator: Magnus Nermo, SOFI

Participants:

Katarina Boye (SOFI), Renzo Carriero (University of Turin), Lorenzo Todesco (University of Turin), Maja Debacker (CSB), Rickard Eriksson (SOFI), Joris Ghysels (CSB), Katarina Gröndahl (SOFI), Marie Evertsson (SOFI), Chris van Klaveren (University of Amsterdam), Javier Polavieja (UPF), Evelien vanVlasselaer (CSB), Cecile Wetzels (University of Amsterdam)

Introduction

Analyzing what determines the division of household labour is an important topic in both economics and sociology. However, so far, most research performed has been parallel, in the sense that there exist very little close collaboration between economists and sociologists. The overall purpose of this project is to actively engage both economists and sociologists interested in cross-national studies of housework in one common project. This is likely to provide new fruitful insights that will increase our understanding of the underlying mechanisms of the division of housework. At this stage we only apply funding for one project meeting in Stockholm during late spring 2007. The purpose of this meeting is to present previous work by members of the project, and initiate new collaborations. The outcome of the meeting is to produce an EQUALSOC project proposal.

Below follows a short review of Sociological and Economic theoretical perspectives of relevance for the project, and a report on our first project meeting.

Sociological and Economic Theories on the Division of household labour

Increasing female labour force participation rates in Europe has made dual earner couples more common in Europe. As a consequence, the division of roles as regard housework in European families has become more blurred than earlier (c.f. Beck and Beck-Gernsheim 2002). Today, the division of household work between the household members is to a greater extent the outcome of implicit and explicit negotiations.

According to a sociological *Relative Resource Perspective* the outcome of these negotiations depends on the spouses' relative access to resources. The more resources an individual have, in relation to his/her partner, the greater the possibilities of negotiating away the housework (cf. Blood and Wolfe 1960). A considerable amount of sociological research has been undertaken to test this relative resource or bargaining perspective (e.g., Presser, 1994; Bianchi et al., 2000; Bittman et al., 2003; Evertsson and Nermo, 2004; Halleröd 2005). The most common result is that the smaller the resource gap between the spouses is, the more equal the division of housework (e.g. Presser, 1994; Brines 1994; Greenstein 2000; Bianchi et al., 2000). In practice, women generally do the majority of the household chores independent of the spouses' relative access to resources in terms of earnings educational attainment, and the presence of young children in the household, at least until the point where her resources are equal to his. After that point (i.e. when her resources exceed his), empirical findings are not so clear-cut. In other words, the relation between relative earnings and housework can be non-linear (Bittman et al. 2003).

This in turn makes an additional sociological perspective interesting, the so called “*Gender display*” or “*Doing gender*”-perspective (Fenstermaker Berk 1985; West and Zimmerman 1987). The starting point is that economic dependency as well as performing household work has a symbolic value as markers of gender, and assumes a non linear association between men’s and women’s housework and the degree of economic dependency. The division of housework is thereby most equal when the spouses contribute equally to the household income, but the man perform less housework than the woman independent of him supporting or him being supported by her.

In economics, decision-making within the family is dealt with in two overriding ways. The first approach is summarized as *the common preference perspective*. The most well-known version of this perspective is Gary Becker’s altruistic or unitary model (1991). The unitary model views households as single (selfish) individuals even though these households may be multi-person households. The restrictions imposed on household behaviour by the unitary model are, first that household income is pooled. Secondly, the marginal compensated wage changes of the two partners must have the same effect on each other's labour supply. Furthermore, the model implicitly assumes that household members have similar preferences, which is especially problematic when the division of household work is seen as the outcome of an implicit bargaining process, since there is no bargaining process going on, other than that each household member specializes in either paid labour or household work. Currently, there are many papers that reject the underlying assumptions of the unitary model (For references see Van Klaveren, Van Praag & Maassen van den Brink (2005)

A second, more recent approach, among economists is the so-called *cooperative bargaining model* (see Manser & Brown 1980, McElroy & Horney (1981) and Lundberg & Pollak (1996)). In these bargaining models spouses can bargain with each other in order to profit from the gains that can be obtained by the fact that they are married. An example of a gain can simply be the company of each other. Another beneficial consequence of marriage is that individuals are more flexible in allocating their time, which gives them specialization 'advantages'. However, if an agreement is not reached then they both receive their reservation utility. The reservation utility is often referred to as a threat point or disagreement point.

Compared to the unitary model, income pooling is not assumed. However, an empirical problem is that the theoretical refinements of bargaining models often result in under identified models. Finally, the question arises how to define the threat point? Thus, should they be viewed from an internal point of view (i.e. the level of public household goods that each individual provides is equal to the level that is provided in an intact but non-cooperative marriage) or from an external point of view (i.e. the utility that can be obtained outside the marriage).

A third approach, mostly used in the current economic literature, is the collective model, which merely assumes that the outcome of the household decision process should be a Pareto-efficient outcome. It does not assume income pooling of household members and individual preferences are considered by means of the individual utility functions. An advantage to bargaining models is that, besides the fact that nothing is assumed about the household decision process, there is no threat point present in the model. The household utility function can be seen as the weighted sum of the individual utility functions and the weight is assumed to depend on prices (or in the time allocation literature on individual wage rates).

Report on Project Meeting in Stockholm August 27-28, 2007

Participants:

Renzo Carriero (University of Turin), Lorenzo Todesco (University of Turin), Javier Polavieja (UPF, Barcelona), Chris van Klaveren (AIAS Amsterdam), Joris Ghysels (CSB, Antwerp), Maja Debacker (CSB, Antwerp), Evelien Van Vlasselaer (CSB, Antwerp), Rickard Eriksson (SOFI, Stockholm), Katarina Boye (SOFI, Stockholm), Katarina Gröndahl (SOFI, Stockholm), Magnus Nermo (SOFI, Stockholm)

Economists and sociologists have as noted above very different views on how to explain the division of housework. In general these differences relate to differences on how to view household/human behaviour, its causes and the methods that should be used to investigate the division of housework. The similarities can be found in the fact that both economists and sociologists agree on housework as an important factor for time allocation decisions of households. Furthermore, information on the division of housework has been gathered in many countries and researchers in both fields are becoming more and more interested in the actual cause of the observed difference in household work. The purpose of this meeting was therefore to discuss future project ideas on how to better understand the housework choices that are made by individuals in single- and/or multi-person households. Given the complexity of the topic, the EQUALSOC environment allows for a multi-disciplinary approach in the sense of having researchers from several countries and researchers from sociology and economics, which is clearly an advantage.

The first meeting day, August 27

We had 5 presentations.

Renzo Carriero: "After a quarter of century: Turin 1979-2003. Men's and women's daily life from industrial to post-industrial society"

Lorenzo Todesco: "the individual propensity to marital instability in Italy"

Joris Ghysels: "What do people really want? The dictatorial viewpoint"

Chris Van Klaveren: "Economic models on household behaviour"

Rickard Eriksson: "What do people really want? The dictatorial viewpoint"

These presentations contributed, first, to the understanding of what researchers themselves found was interesting in the field of housework research. Second, indicated how economists and sociologists view household behaviour and housework, such that there is a clear view on what is assumed in the two different fields.

In the afternoon we had an open discussion on project ideas. We deliberately decided in this session that discussions on differences between economics and sociology could be discussed only if it contributed constructively the new project ideas. The main conclusion was that it does not seem wise to restrict participants at this stage to one project idea. Furthermore, discussing ideas does not always seem useful without knowing if there is data available. Sharing thought and agreeing on exploration of data were the main conclusions.

The second meeting day, August 28

This day functioned as a brainstorm day. In this session we did not restrict ourselves to discussion project ideas, but we allow the discussion to be about household work and research in general. This setting resulted in a lively discussion in which clearly thoughts of different researchers were exchanged.

We concluded that on the 1st of November, we should hand in a short proposal of what we will do for this project. The extra restriction that we imposed that people should explicitly mention the data that they will use, such that proposals are with higher probability also doable.

Preliminary titles of possible sub-projects

Subjective questions on the division of household labor and marital conflict: *Katarina Gröndahl Magnus Nermo (SOFI)*

A test of household models using survey data: *Rickard Eriksson (SOFI)*

A longitudinal study of changes in housework following the transition to parenthood: *Katarina Boye (SOFI)*

What do people want?: *Joris Ghysels, Maja Debacker & Evelien van Vlasselaer (CSB)*

Provisional Title: Substituting child care: How much and to Whom?: *Chris van Klaveren (University of Amsterdam)*

Provisional Title: Identifying the lusts and burdens of housework: *Chris van Klaveren (University of Amsterdam)*

Provisional Title: Historical changes in paid and unpaid work by gender in Turin (and Italy): *Renzo Carierro (University of Turin)*

Micro and Macro effects on the division of household labor: Testing Breen and Cook's model while using *ESS* Data: *Javier Polavieja (UPF)*

The individual propensity to marital dissolution in Italy: *Lorenzo Todesco (University of Turin)*

Plans for the next six months (April 2008)

The planning describes the time span from November 1st to the Berlin Network conference April 2008.. On November 1st everyone should write a short proposal on the ideas mentioned above. The preliminary proposals should be ready to present in Berlin. We do notice that names, data and provisional titles may change over time. Furthermore, on the 1st of November, all participants receive the proposals and collaboration is at that time possible.

Publications related to the project

Evertsson, M and M. Nermo (2007) Changing Resources and the Division of Housework: A longitudinal study of Swedish Couples, *European Sociological Review*, 23(4).

van Klaveren C. (2007) A public good version of the collective household model – A comparison of native Dutch and immigrant households in the Netherlands, Tinbergen Institute Discussion Papers

Reconciling Work and Family Life: Comparing Evidence from European Countries using the European Social Survey (EMPLOY/FAMNET)

Project Leaders

Helen Russell (Researcher) & Fran McGinnity (Researcher and Lead Co-ordinator), Economic and Social Research Institute Dublin.

Project Participants

Katarina Boye (PhD Student), SOFI, Sweden

Duncan Gallie (Research Professor), Nuffield College, Oxford.

Vanessa Gash (Researcher), University of Manchester

Anu Laas (Researcher) and Kairi Kasearu (PhD student), University of Tartu, Estonia.

Javier Polavieja. Catalan Institution for Research and Advanced Study, ICREA and Pompeu Fabra University, Barcelona, Spain.

Stefani Scherer (Researcher), University of Milano, Bicocca.

Nadia Steiber (Researcher), Institute of Sociology and Social Research, Vienna University of Economics and B.A.

Introduction

Reconciling work and family commitments has become a critical issue in European societies (OECD, 2001; Jacobs and Gerson, 2004). Under the traditional male breadwinner model competing demands in the employment and family sphere were managed by a division of labour between the sexes, whereby men were primarily responsible for 'employment' and women were primarily responsible for caring. The growth in female employment and dual earner families, the rise in lone parent families and the ageing population mean that an increasing number of EU citizens now have to combine both caring and employment roles. This increases the possibility of work-family tensions within households and such tensions are likely to be more acute in societies where the organisation of employment and social policies have not kept pace with these societal changes. Increased time pressures and strains are also thought to arise within the workplace. While the direction of long-term trends in the hours of work is debated (e.g. Jacobs & Gerson 2004), there is considerable evidence of increased work intensity (Gallie et al 2004; Burchell et al., 2002). Moreover, in the UK, Nolan (2002) found a strong correlation between work intensity/ pressure and job-related tension in the home.

Work-life conflicts are seen to potentially have a detrimental impact on personal effectiveness, marital relations, child-parent relationships and even child development (Gornick and Meyers, 2003). In this research we wish to investigate how national policy arrangements moderate the effects of different household working arrangements and what are the outcomes in terms of quality of life of families and individual wellbeing. Welfare regimes are important because they influence the extent to which the cost of reconciling work and family falls upon the individual household (e.g. through provision of childcare leave schemes) and because it will determine the level of economic participation needed to support the household. The way in which working patterns are structured by regulation and employers and is also important, factors such as working hours, annual leave entitlement, availability of flexible working arrangements all influence individuals ability to combine work and non-work demands. Also the way in which these competing demands are reconciled within households has important consequences for gender equality. The traditional male breadwinner female full-time homemaker may offer one 'solution' to work/life conflicts but at the expense of reduced gender equality. Moreover economic pressure may mean that reliance on a male breadwinner will mean excessive work hours among fathers.

The European Social Survey

The European Social Survey (the ESS) is an academically-driven social survey designed to chart and explain the interaction between Europe's changing institutions and the attitudes, beliefs and behaviour patterns of its diverse populations. It was the result of a huge investment by the social science community. The survey covers over 30 countries and employs rigorous survey methodologies. The fieldwork has been funded through the European Commission's fifth and sixth Framework Programme, the European Science Foundation and national funding bodies in each country. The ESS is also among the first social science projects to receive funding to support its infrastructure and in 2005 was awarded Europe's top annual science award, the Descartes prize 'for excellence in collaborative social research'.

The ESS special module on family, work and well-being (2004) is excellently suited to examining the impact of policy variation and how this affects work-family balance in a wide range of countries, in many of whom this topic has not been previously investigated. Questions in the special module cover topics such as work-family conflict and work-family spillover; work pressure, autonomy, pay and conditions of work; unpaid work, division of household labour and childcare. This data offers a unique opportunity to examine work-life conflict in Europe.

Research Outputs

The group proposes to prepare a set of papers around the general theme work-family reconciliation from a comparative perspective using ESS data. The papers represent a range of topics related to work/family reconciliation, from working conditions and contract type to well-being and time use. The papers are strongly comparative: between countries with different levels of support for working parents from State and Employers; between 'old' and 'new' European countries; and between welfare regimes and labour market institutions. The overall aim of this research project is to establish how reconciliation is achieved in different policy settings.

The papers will address the following issues:

1. Work-Family Conflict and Working Conditions in Europe.

Helen Russell, ESRI, and Duncan Gallie, Nuffield College Oxford

2. Consequences of non-standard jobs: enlarging the perspective.

Stefani Scherer, University of Milano, Bicocca

3. Reported levels of time based conflict between work and family roles in an enlarged Europe. A reassessment of institutional factors and cultural factors

Nadia Steiber, Institute of Sociology and Social Research, Vienna University of Economics

4. WELL-BEING AND TIME USE IN EUROPE

Katarina Boye, Swedish Institute for Social Research (SOFI)

5. The impact of union type on reconciliation of work and family life

Kairi Kasearu, University of Tartu, Estonia

6 Work-life tension and social inequality in Western Europe

Fran McGinnity, ESRI, Dublin

7. Varieties of Gender Stereotyping. Cultural versus Structural Determinants.

Vanessa Gash, University of Manchester

8. Explaining the Effect of Occupational Sex-Composition on Earnings: Evidence from the European Social Survey

Javier G. Polavieja, ICREA and UPF

The journal *Social Indicators* has already accepted the proposal to devote a special issue

including these papers. Abstracts are in the appendix

Meetings of the Reconciling Work and Family Life Project, Sept 2006-August 2007.

(1) Participation in Meetings of the Reconciling Work and Family Life (ESS) Project

3. Barcelona Sept. 2006

Helen Russell
Stefani Scherer
Marre Karu
Duncan Gallie
Maja Debacker
Ulrich Krieger
Vanessa Gash

Other attendees [not members of research team]
Sophie Pochic
Magnus Nermo
Karin Hallden
Eero Carroll
Kairi Kasearu (doctoral student of Anu Laas)
Stephanie Steinmetz
Gerrit Bauer

4. Berlin Jan. 2007

Fran McGinnity
Katarina Boye
Nadia Steiber.
Duncan Gallie
Martina Dieckhoff
Kairi Kasearu
Javier Polavieja

Other attendees [not members of research group]
Manuela Naldini
Chiara Saraceno

Papers presented by members of research group, Sept 2006-August 2007.

Katarina Boye: *Well-Being and Gender Division of Labour in Europe*

Katarina Boye: *Parenthood and Housework: A longitudinal study of changes in housework following the transition to parenthood.*

Maja Debacker: *Care strategies among high and low skilled women: a world of difference?*

Marre Karu: *Family and Work Balance in Post-Soviet Europe: the Case of Estonia*

Javier Polavieja: *The Effect of Occupational Sex-Composition on Earnings: Job-Specialisation, Sex-Role Attitudes and the Division of Labour in Spain.*

Helen Russell & Duncan Gallie: *Work-Family Tensions and Working Conditions in Europe.*

Stefani Scherer: *Consequences of non-standard jobs: enlarging the perspective.*

Nadia Steiber: *State of the Art Review: Work and Family*

APPENDIX (abstracts of papers for the *Social Indicators* journal)

1. Work-Family Conflict and Working Conditions in Europe.

Helen Russell, ESRI, and Duncan Gallie, Nuffield College Oxford

Working conditions and arrangements play an important role in aggravating or alleviating work-family tensions. While some forms of working e.g. flexible working arrangements have been identified as an important means of balancing work and other commitments (Evans 2001), other features of work can make this balance more difficult e.g. long work hours, or increasing work intensity. The levels of autonomy experienced by workers may also influence workers capacity to balance work and other commitments. The issue of work-life balance is therefore closely tied to questions of working conditions.

In this paper we consider how different working arrangements and working conditions affect the level of work-family tension for different individuals and households. Previous research on working conditions and work-family conflict has focused on working hours and flexible working we take a broader view including skill & responsibility, job security and work pressure indicators. We hypothesise that the relationship between working arrangements and work-family tensions will be mediated by the employment regimes and the welfare state regimes operating within countries. We expect greater conflict greatest in liberal employment regimes and least in co-ordinated economies.

The level of state support for combining work and family life is also thought to be important for overall levels of work family conflict, its distribution by gender and family type, and the relationship between working conditions and WFC.

The analysis is based on the special module of the ESS which combines information on working conditions and family arrangements. We select eight countries for our analysis, which represent different regime types both in terms of family/work arrangements (dual breadwinner, male breadwinner) and employment regime (co-ordinated economy, coreperiphery, liberal). The countries are Germany, Spain, France, Britain, the Netherlands, Norway, Sweden and Denmark.

2. Consequences of non-standard jobs: enlarging the perspective.

Stefani Scherer, University of Milano, Bicocca

Forms of non-standard employment were growing all over Europe in recent decades. This development was expected to make economic systems more effective and labour market more flexible, to increase employment and reduce unemployment, and, finally, to help (women) to combine work and family duties. Research so far has largely concentrated on the aggregate economic effects of these changes, shedding doubts on simple, straightforward relations, or the effects of non-standard employment on the individual careers, showing that there might be considerable negative effects for career development. Relatively little research was dedicated to specific contract's role to reconcile work and family, outlining that it

depend on the particular situation whether non-standard employment helps or hinders to effectively combine work and family. Systematically under-investigated instead are the “social consequences” of non-standard employment, both on the individual level, but even more so on the societal level. In this paper we propose a first step to close this research gap. We investigate the consequences of certain employment contracts on the “social and personal sphere” in the largest sense, including information on current family life and fertility plans, social contacts, and general well-being and health. We test whether there are negative consequences in these areas which might be attributed to the type of employment contract and how these vary between different European countries. Empirical analysis draws on ESS data from 2005 including all available western European countries.

3. Reported levels of time based conflict between work and family roles in an enlarged Europe. A reassessment of institutional factors and cultural factors

Nadia Steiber, Institute of Sociology and Social Research, Vienna University of Economics

There is very little cross-national comparative research on the level and the determinants of workfamily conflict (WFC). The few recent exceptions (Crompton & Lyonette 2005; Scherer & Steiber 2007; Gallie & Russell 2006) suggest that it is of all things the countries with *highly* developed reconciliation policies (e.g. Sweden, France), where women tend to report comparatively *high* levels of WFC (controlled for family and work characteristics). The two studies which have attempted to compare Eastern and Western European experiences (Strandh & Nordenmark 2002; van der Lippe et al. 2006) suggest that WFC tends to be less pronounced in Bulgaria, Romania and Hungary than in Sweden, the Netherlands or the UK. The authors suspect cultural factors to drive this East-West divide. The thesis is that time stress is essentially a Western phenomenon, which is related to the fact that more Western women strive for gender equality both at the workplace and in the home. In other words: ‘the emancipation process causes time pressure’. This bears some similarity to the argument developed by Linder (1970) and more recently Hamermesh and Lee (2003), who argue that economic progress implies more choice about time allocation and that this in turn triggers time pressure. The expectation would thus be that complaints about a busy lifestyle and a lack of time are more commonly expressed by well-off couples who feel negatively about the fact they cannot engage in all the family/leisure activities they could afford to. An implication of this would be that less public concern should be given to what Hamermesh and Lee call “yuppie kvetch” - “kvetch” being Yiddish for complainer - especially in light of more serious constraints being faced by poor people. Another study of interest in this respect is the one by Nazio & MacInnes (forthcoming) whose findings suggest that people’s satisfaction with their jobs is a central predictor of their perceived level of time stress. Those who enjoy what they do thus seem to be protected from experiencing time stress, independently of the actual amount of ‘free’ time, care responsibilities and paid work demands.

This is the perspective from which the proposed paper intends to examine time-based conflict between work and family duties as perceived and reported across the EU-27. The acknowledgement of the fact that time stress and WFC are highly subjective phenomena implies that the aim is not to compare the overall *levels* of WFC across countries but to look at country differences regarding the individual and household level mechanisms that lead to feelings of work-family incompatibility. The major aim is to detect and explain a possible East-West divide in how feelings of WFC are generated, taking account of *work- and family-related demands* that prior research has identified as predictors of WFC (e.g. long working hours, high work pressure, non-standard work schedules, care responsibilities at home, see Dex & Bond 2005; Kinnunen et al. 2006; Voyandoff 2004) but also considering *attitudinal factors* that may have a mediating effect on how these demands impact on perceived levels of WFC. For instance, I look at the impact of people’s gender role ideology

and in particular at whether it is more stressful for ‘modern’ women to handle the multiple demands from employment and family life and at how this might be related to how an unequal distribution of routine housework is perceived by such women. Furthermore, I take account of the meaning that individuals attach to their work and family roles and how satisfied they are with the different domains of their life, testing the effect of the role salience and of the ‘satisfaction protection’ hypothesis. Finally, I address the possibility that country differences are due to a form of social desirability bias, i.e. that reporting difficulties with managing the dual burden of work and home may be less common in societies where this would be taken to signal personal failure. The empirical analysis is based on the European Social Survey 2004 (multi-level model using data for all EU countries covered by the survey except for Turkey and the Ukraine). To sum up, I make use of the wealth of information provided by the ESS on people’s work and family situation and their attitudinal dispositions to contribute to our understanding about potential *institutional and cultural factors* that have a mediating effect on how (reported) feelings of time and energy based conflict between work and family duties (WFC) are generated in different countries.

4. WELL-BEING AND TIME USE IN EUROPE

Katarina Boye, Swedish Institute for Social Research (SOFI)

This study examines relationships between well-being and time spent in paid work and housework among individuals belonging to difference reference groups (assigned by sex, family situation and country of residence) in 24 European countries. Social policy is likely to influence time use and division of labour between women and men through the possibilities and incentives it creates for them to perform paid and unpaid work. Also, a specific distribution of time between paid and unpaid work may generate different outcomes in different states depending on institutional arrangements as well as gender attitudes. On the basis of a discussion of the context in which we make choices regarding time use, two hypotheses are tested. The social comparison hypothesis claims that the relationship between time use and well-being is related solely to what types of work are encouraged and facilitated by the society, e.g. by social policy and norms, for individuals belonging to a certain group of people. For example, paid working time should be positively related to fathers’ but not to mothers’ well-being in societies in which the male breadwinner family is encouraged, whereas in societies in which the dual earner family is encouraged, paid working time should be positively related to the well-being of all parents. The absolute effects hypothesis instead proposes that there are absolute effects of work regardless of what is the normal or encouraged work pattern in a specific group. Thus, different types of work may relate differently to well-being, but the relationships should be the same for all individuals.

A sample of 15,712 cohabiting women and men participating in the second round of the European Social Survey (ESS2 2004/2005) is studied. Preliminary findings suggest that there is an “absolute effect” of paid work on well-being. Regardless of what time use is normal among individuals with the same sex and family situation in the same country, doing more paid work is associated with better well-being than doing less, as long as the working hours are not too long. However, the turning point after which paid work is associated with poorer, instead of better, well-being comes at considerably shorter hours for women than for men. Regarding housework, women who spend unusually long hours in housework, compared to what is the usual pattern in their reference group, appears to have poorer well-being than other women. However, this is an effect of absolute time use rather than of social comparison. Consequently, for both paid work and housework, the absolute effect hypothesis is supported, while the social comparison hypothesis is not. In the next step of the analysis, total workload from paid work plus housework will be studied, as well as gender attitudes.

5. The impact of union type on reconciliation of work and family life

Kairi Kasearu, University of Tartu, Estonia

This paper explores the strategies of reconciliation of family and work life in different family types. I concentrate on the comparison of married and cohabiting couples. The previous surveys have shown that cohabiting couples have more egalitarian values (Rindfuss & VandenHeuvel, 1990; Bumpass, 1990), they divide the housework more equally and are more work orientated than married couples (Clarkberg, Stolzenberg & Waite, 1995). One explanation is that the marriage involves more traditional values and gender roles as compared to cohabitation. This means that the married people are following traditional housework division, which in turn makes the reconciliation of work and family life more difficult for women. Therefore, one of the hypotheses is that the double burden of family and work by cohabiting women is not so much perceived as by married women. However, it could be dependent on the society. In those countries, where the cohabitation is more widespread, the differences between married and cohabiting couples may be not so visible than in those countries where the cohabitation is not so common. Moreover, these interplays between the type of union and family-work balance are shaped by the structure and history of labor market. I assume that in those countries, where the women's participation in labor market has a long tradition, the family-work conflict relation to union type is revealed in different way than in those countries where the women's participation has been low until recent decades. To test the union type impact on work-life balance in the context of different societal conditions, the data of Sweden, Germany, UK and Estonia from year 2004 is applied (European Social Survey, 2004).

6. Work-life tension and social inequality in Western Europe

Fran McGinnity, ESRI, Dublin

Reconciling work-family life has recently become a critical issue for policy debates in Europe and the US (OECD 2001; Jacobs and Gerson, 2004). International evidence points to a growth in the proportion of people feeling rushed and stressed (Bittman, 2004). This growth in time pressure is associated with mental and physical health problems and deteriorating quality of life. From this evidence there seems to be general support for Schor's 'Overworked American' (Schor, 1991). Yet Gershuny (2006), in a recent paper 'busyness as the badge of honour', argues that being 'busy' is now a positive, privileged position and it is high status people who work long hours and feel busy. Hammermesh and Lee (2003), echo this point when they argue that complaints about being busy/lack of time are more commonly expressed by well-off couples, and that less public concern should be given for this relative to other concerns by the less well off. This paper explores the relationship between work-life tension and social inequality in Western Europe, drawing on evidence from the European Social Survey (2004) for the EU15.

A first step would look at indicators of work-life tension, and how work-life tension is associated more broadly with social inequality – income quartiles, social class and education. Is it those with high income or those with low income, the high skilled or the low skilled who suffer from work-life tension in Western Europe? In a second step, we examine how this relationship varies by social policy regime. E.g. in market centred welfare regimes – the costs of reconciling work and family are high (e.g. because of low state support for childcare), therefore this may create greater inequality in level of tension and time pressure. In these countries there is greater economic pressure to participate in the labour market regardless of family demands. Do these pressures exacerbate existing cleavages in society? Do patterns differ in countries where there is more state support for combining work and family life? What role do job characteristics play in subjective feelings of work-life tension? The findings should allow us to situate the issue of work-life balance within more general debates about

social inequality, and reflect on the policy implications.

7. Varieties of Gender Stereotyping. Cultural versus Structural Determinants.

Vanessa Gash, University of Manchester

This paper presents an analysis of national variations in gender stereotyping within the European Union. It uses the European Social Survey (ESS) and its rotating module on Family Work and Well-being as well as the European Community Household Panel (ECHP) survey. The paper starts with an analysis of modal within-country gender stereotyping tendencies and then goes on to reveal differences in this tendency by life-stage. The primary aim of the first statistical test is to show, as best we can with cross-sectional data, how attitudes change over the life-course. The second component of the proposal shifts the unit of analysis to the household. This section will explore variations in households' employment strategies by country. This section builds on previous research on the distribution of working arrangements within households. For instance, Ireland, the UK and France, have a concentration of households with one male breadwinner and a female secondary earner while in other countries, such as Denmark, a dual breadwinner strategy is more common. Finally, we will discuss the possible relationship between cultural values in gender stereotyping and the opportunity structures for gender parity within national labour markets.

8. Explaining the Effect of Occupational Sex-Composition on Earnings: Evidence from the European Social Survey

Javier G. Polavieja, ICREA and UPF

Important theoretical controversies remain unresolved in the literature on occupational sex segregation and the gender wage-gap. A useful way of summarising these controversies is viewing them as a debate between cultural-socialisation arguments and economic or rationalisation theories of specialisation. The former argue that sex-role attitudes and sex-specific preferences are crucial factors in determining both women's occupational allocation and the monetary valuation of female-dominated jobs. In contrast, the latter emphasise the crucial role that job-specific human capital and domestic-specialisation investments play in both occupational sex-segregation and in the gender wage gap. The paper expands from previous research on the Spanish sub-sample of the ESS and incorporates the country samples of Austria, Belgium, Switzerland, Luxemburg, and (former)-West Germany. All these countries are chosen as representatives of a similar conservative-continental model. This database allows us to perform a multivariate simultaneous test of the impact of attitudes/preferences, job-specific human capital and the relative supply of domestic work in accounting for the observed correlation between occupational sex-composition and individual earnings. The paper will be divided into 5 sections. Section 1 will introduce the paper. Section 2 will present the main theoretical arguments of socio-cultural and economic perspectives regarding both processes of allocation and valuation. Section 3 will explain the methodology applied in the empirical part of the study. The findings will be presented in Section 4. Section 5 will conclude.

Unstable Careers and Family Formation in Different Institutional Contexts (EMPLOY/FAMNET)

Coordinators: Maria José Gonzalez, Manuela Naldini

Participants:

Sonia Bertolini, Post Doc (University of Turin)
Manuela Naldini, Associate Professor (University of Turin)
Cristina Solera, Post Doc (University of Trento)
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Irene Lapuerta, Post Doc (UPF – Barcelona);
Serena Pattaro, PhD Student (Nuffield College)
Teresa Martin, Post Doc (UPF- Barcelona)
Gerrit Bauer, PhD Student (University of Mannheim)
Verena Blank, PhDStudent (University of Mannheim)

Aim of the Project

The research group “Unstable Careers and Family Formation in Different Institutional Contexts” presented its project proposal last year. The aim of the project is to study the link between, on the one hand, de-standardisation of work patterns and unstable employment and occupational trajectories and, on the other hand, the process of family formation (leaving home, forming a partnership, having children). In particular, we are interested in detecting under which conditions atypical work contracts and de-standardisation of work patterns facilitate or hinder the reconciliation of paid work and family life.

The research focuses especially on Southern European countries, with Continental and Northern European countries taken as contrasting cases. Indeed, it is well-known that Southern countries (Greece, Spain, Italy and Portugal) show a different pattern of family changes compared to Central/Northern countries. In Southern Europe, fertility rates are in the lowest low group; unmarried young people remain longer at home, consensual unions and divorce rates are low, women in all countries, except for Portugal, have relatively low employment rates. In addition, Southern European countries show common characteristics in the labour market (high unemployment rates, low part-timers, etc.) and in the nature of the *familialist* welfare state. The *familialist* welfare state implies a greater reliance of individuals on the family and the informal sector. This means that a fundamental role in social protection is played by intergenerational ties and family solidarities.

Most comparative studies on these issues are conducted at a national level. By contrast, our research project is carried out in different Western European institutional contexts, both at the national and sub-national level, since constraints and opportunities widely differ according to the national and local context (e.g. labour market regulation, family patterns, reconciliation policies, family networks and so on).

More precisely, our analysis focuses on: 1) national and regional labour market characteristics (diffusion of temporary jobs, unemployment, availability of flexible working arrangements, and so on); 2) national and regional patterns in family formation (partnership formation, fertility behaviour, childbearing and parenthood); 2) national and regional/local social policies (such as, childcare services, maternity and parental leaves, housing policies, and so on).

This project draws upon cross-national, national, and local surveys to assess whether cross-country and cross-region institutional variations lead to differences in family formation and in solutions to work/life tensions along the life course. This issue is explored at national, regional and local levels in Italy and Spain (as representatives of the Southern European countries) and compared with other countries of Continental and Northern Europe (Germany, Great Britain and Sweden).

Research methodology:

In order to address these issues we envisage applying different methods, such as event history analysis and multi-level techniques. The data sets utilized are the following:

- 1) Cross-national comparative surveys (European Community Household Panel, Family and Fertility Surveys);
- 2) National cross-sectional data sets (Spanish Labour Force Survey and Italian Labour Force Survey; ISTAT -Multi purposes Survey); national longitudinal data sets (ILFI-Italian Longitudinal Survey and British Household Panel Survey, and Germany Household Panel Survey - GSOEP);
- 3) Local data sets: a longitudinal one on families and vulnerability (which will be compared to ILFI); and qualitative interviews on the same couples in a Northern Region of Italy.

Activities of the group in the period September 2006- August 2007

1. Research group meeting during Barcelona's Conference, September 2007

People attending the meeting:

Sonia Bertolini, Manuela Naldini, Solera Cristina (University of Turin); Pau Baizán, María José González, Irene Lapuerta, Teresa Martin (UPF – Barcelona); Serena Pattaro (Nuffield College); Verena Blank, Klaus Pforr (Mannheimer Zentrum für Europäische Sozialforschung - MZES).

During this meeting the participants discussed on the first draft of the state of the art report and on how the paper proposals could become comparative and collaborative works. In particular three paper proposals were presented:

- Formal Childcare availability and labour market participation: A multilevel perspective, by Maria José and Pau Baizan (Spanish Labour Force Survey, EPA)
- Occupational Class and Fertility in Western European countries, by Teresa Martin and Serena Pattaro (FFS)
- Combining Marriage and Children with Paid Work: Changes Across Cohorts in Italy and Great Britain, by Cristina Solera (data used BHPS and ILFI).
- Finally, we have participated to the very recent Berlin Workshop

3. Berlin meeting, 24-25 January 2007

Participants:

Sonia Bertolini, Manuela Naldini (University of Turin); Pau Baizán, Teresa Martín (UPF- Barcelona); Gerrit Bauer (Mannheimer Zentrum für Europäische Sozialforschung – MZES).

During the Berlin Meeting, Pau Baizán presented the paper titled: “Formal childcare availability and women’s employment decisions in Spain: A multilevel perspective” co-written by Ma. José González.

Other participants illustrated the **State of the Art Report** and the working paper progress made.

In particular 4 main papers topic and problems were discussed:

- Manuela Naldini: First results on the comparative paper “Formal childcare availability and women’s employment decisions in Spain and (Italy): A multilevel perspective”
- Sonia Bertolini: “Atypical job and transition to adulthood in Italy”. First results from Italian Labour Force Survey
- Teresa Martín: Paper proposal: “The Effect of Occupational Sex–Composition on Women’s Fertility: Sex–Role Attitudes, Educational Choice and Occupational Status in Spain” (data used Spanish Fertility Family Survey, 1995)
- Gerrit Bauer: he illustrated his research interests and some papers ideas to be developed with his colleague Verena Blank on “Economic uncertainty (risk of unemployment) and family formation” (data used GSOEP)

During the meeting we discussed together with the other Employ/Famnet Cross-Group (Fran McGinnity and Nadia Steiber) jointly strategy on how disseminate our work and on future publications.

Output

- a) A State of the Art Report on “Unstable Careers and Family Formation in Different Institutional Context”, which
- b) A first inventory of sources of comparative, national and sub-national data sets on family formation and atypical and unstable job.
- c) A set of published articles, 1 working papers, some articles submitted for publication (see the list below)

Publications

Baizán, P. & González, M.J. (2007) “¿Las escuelas infantiles son la solución? El efecto de la disponibilidad de escuelas infantiles (0-3 años) en el comportamiento laboral femenino”. In Navarro, Vicenç (Ed.) *Situación Social de España. Vol. II*. Madrid: Biblioteca Nueva.

Bertolini, S. Luciano, A. Naldini, M. (2007), “Quando la flessibilità è donna: lavori deboli, famiglie forti”, in Piccone Stella (ed), *Tra un lavoro e l’altro. Vita di coppia nell’Italia postfordista*, Roma, Carocci, pp.109-129.

González, M.J. & Jurado, T. (2006) “Is There a Minimal Set of Conditions Before Having a Baby? The Experience of the 1955-1982 Female Cohort in West Germany,

- France, Italy and Spain” In Esping-Andersen, Gøsta (Ed.) *Family Formation and Family Dilemmas in Contemporary Europe*. Madrid: Fundación BBVA.
- González, M.J. & Jurado, T. (2006) “Remaining childless in affluent economies: a comparison of France, West Germany, Italy and Spain”, *European Journal of Population*, 22: 317-352
- González, M.J. (2006) “Balancing Employment and Family Responsibilities in Southern Europe Trends and Challenges for Social Policy Reform”, *Revue française des affaires sociales* (English edition), 1: 30-34
- González, M.J. (2006) “L’escolarització dels més petits: anàlisi del creixement i ús de les llars d’infants a Catalunya”, en Bonal Sarró, X. (ed.) *L’Estat de l’educació a Catalunya: Anuari 2005*. Barcelona: Editorial Mediterrània.
- Naldini, M., 2006 “Trasformazioni lavorative e familiari: soluzioni di policy in diversi regimi di welfare in “Economia e lavoro“, Anno XL, n. 1, gennaio-aprile, pp, 73-90
- Naldini, M; and Jurado, T. (forthcoming) “The Changing South European Family” (Chapter 8), Nikiforos Diamandouros, P.; Gunther, R. y Puhle, H.-J. (eds): *Democracy and Cultural Change in the New Southern Europe*, Oxford, OUP.
- Solera, C., Nicola Negri (forthcoming) "Conciliazione famiglia-lavoro: strategia ex-ante o ex-post? Una analisi su coppie vulnerabili nel Canavese", in: Rinaldi W (ed) *Giustizia e Povertà. Universalismo, cittadinanza, capabilities*. Bologna: Il Mulino.

Working papers

- Solera, C. 2007 and Francesca Bettio Women's work Histories in Italy: Education as Investment in Reconciliation and Legitimacy? **DemoSoc Working Paper** n.19, Pompeu Fabra, Barcelona.

5. Papers submitted for publication

- Martín García, T. ""Bring Men Back In": The Impact of the Type of Education and of Educational Enrolment on Men's First Births in Spain." Submitted to *European Sociological Review* (revised version submitted on 28.06.07).
- Martín García, T. "The Effect of Occupational Sex-Composition on Women's Fertility in Spain." Paper to be presented at the IX Congreso Español de Sociología (Barcelona, 13-15 Sept. 2007) and recently submitted to the Journal *European Societies* (30.07.07).

Future work

As it can be seen from the papers and the topics discussed in the various meetings, up to now the participants have worked out the main paper ideas, they have explored the different data sets, (national and cross-national) and they have written the state of the art report. Moreover, they have published various articles on the research topic, most of them take into account the different institutional contexts and they have presented preliminary results on the comparability between countries.

In the next months, our efforts will be devoted to concluding the papers of last year and to preparing recently proposed papers. More precisely, we intend to work on 3 or 4 cross-country comparative papers (including at least two different countries) and on 3 papers which focus on single countries (but different institutional contexts within countries).

Our focus will be on two main issues:

Unstable careers, fertility decisions and conciliation issues

1. Childcare and women's employment decisions in Spain and Italy: A multilevel perspective" (with Italian and Spanish LFS)
2. Occupational Class, Women's Career Interruptions and Fertility in Italy and Spain (with FFS)
3. Combining marriage and children with paid work: changes across cohorts in Italy and Great Britain" (ILFI and BHPS)
4. Getting fathers involved in childcare activities: policies providing time to reconcile paid and unpaid work in Spain (Spanish LFS)

De-standarization of work pattern and family formation

4. Economic uncertainty (risk of unemployment) and family formation in Germany (GSOEP)
5. Atypical jobs and transition to adulthood in Italy (with Italian LFS and possibly with EU LFS)

We intend also to explore further questions using cross-national data sets now available, mainly, the ones on which we had a recent contract on access and use (EU Labour Force Survey, and ECHP). However, we are also aware that these types of large data sets do not allow us to answer to some of our research questions, especially the ones related to the debate around preferences vs constraints. Therefore, we are thinking of exploring the micro-macro link by very specific case studies that combine both quantitative and qualitative type of data.

In addition, in the next months we will try to organize a workshop, within the general annual Equalsoc Conference of Berlin, to be held in April 2008, and to organize a conference. A Conference to be held in Turin July 2008. The title of the conference will be "Family and work reconciliation issues". We are considering to plan it jointly with the other Employ/Famnet Cross-group

Childcare responsibilities and continuing training in Europe: A cross-national comparative study

Coordinators

Martina Dieckhoff and Nadia Steiber

Participants

Martina Dieckhoff, Frances McGinnity, Martin Hällsten, Nadia Steiber

General Aim of the Project

The proposed project addresses gender differences in the participation in continuing education and training. The dominant model for explaining gender differences in training derives from human capital theory, which predicts that due to family responsibilities that lead to more discontinuous patterns of labour force participation, and therefore shorter periods during which the return to training can be recouped, among women than men, women avoid jobs requiring further training and employers prefer not to offer these jobs to female candidates. Apart from the lower expected returns on the training investment for women, the mere fact that training investments tend to require extra-time, which the working mother spends away from her care responsibilities, would lead to the expectation that women are less likely to participate in further training. The project sets out to examine the ways in which the presence of (younger) children in the household affects men's and women's odds of participating in continuing training. Looking at potential gender differences with regard to the ways in which the likelihood to train depends on the presence of child care responsibilities, we aim to contribute to our understanding of the gender gap in continuing training participation and its origin. It is particularly interesting to study this in a cross-country comparative perspective as the impact of children on women's training investment can be expected to vary across different welfare state and skill regimes. The main data source for the comparative dimension of the project is the European Social Survey (ESS 2004). Moreover, in addition to the comparative effort covering all EU-countries included in the ESS 2004 we plan a smaller scale comparison of Sweden, Britain and Germany, using panel data.

Group Activities

- Martina, Nadia and Martin are currently working on a co-authored research paper (focussing on the first dimension of the project: a large-scale comparative study covering all EU countries in the ESS 2004).
- At the beginning of August 2007, they had the first group meeting in Copenhagen.

Output

It is planned to present our first paper at the EDUC workshop in Dijon, 22-23 November 2007. The final anticipated output is a publication in a peer-reviewed journal.

Prospects for the following months

- Group Meeting in Vienna, 3-4 November 2007 (including presentation of research paper).
- Completion of a first paper draft by mid November (large-scale comparative study).
- Submission of paper for review in journal by the end of 2007
- Spring 2008: start working on the second dimension of the project, i.e. the smaller scale comparison of Sweden, Britain and the UK using panel data.

Measuring Social Networks

Coordinator

Meredith Rolfe (Oxford)

The Social Networks measurement group has had one major meeting, and one planning session. The planning session took place over two days in February, and included Jeroen Bruggeman, Natalia Letki, and Meredith Rolfe. At this meeting, we planned the networks project, compiled an initial bibliography and prepared the proposal for submission to Equalsoc.

In late May, the networks group met in conjunction with a half-day workshop on network measurement held at University of Oxford and planned by Tom Snijders and Meredith Rolfe. Featured speakers at the workshop included Duncan Watts, Andrew Gelman, Tom Snijders and John Scott. Each speaker discussed a different method of gathering or using network data: Watts discussed the email database gathered at Columbia University, Gelman discussed network over-dispersion, Snijders discussed network data collected over time, and Scott reviewed anthropological techniques.

In attendance from Equalsoc were Jeroen Bruggeman, Natalia Letki, Meredith Rolfe and Sandra Gonzalez-Baillon. Equalsoc members met in small work groups on the day before and after the workshop to discuss papers. Bruggeman and Gonzalez-Baillon discussed simulation techniques used to address issues of missing data in complete network data gathering techniques. Rolfe and Letki discussed sample survey sources of network data. Topics covered included critiques of the current measures, ways to adapt questions to reflect the over-dispersion techniques discussed by Gelman, and existing data sets which include network questions which might be suitable for modification or adaptation. Rolfe also met with Gelman to discuss issues with existing network data sources, and the different results obtained using network measures available on Putnam's social capital benchmark survey.

Based on these discussions, our hopes are to have at least three papers that can be written by group members and presented to upcoming Equalsoc conferences. One would be a simulation study, addressing issues of missing data, involving Bruggman and Rolfe, and perhaps other group members. Rolfe and Letki plan to assess the network measures available on a previously unused Eastern European data set, and perhaps one or two additional data sets with social capital measures. Rolfe is planning to assess the network measures on Putnam's social capital benchmark study, in conjunction with Gelman.