

# Delays and diversification in family formation patterns after the baby boom in Switzerland

Clémentine Rossier  
(Institut National d'Études  
Démographiques)

&

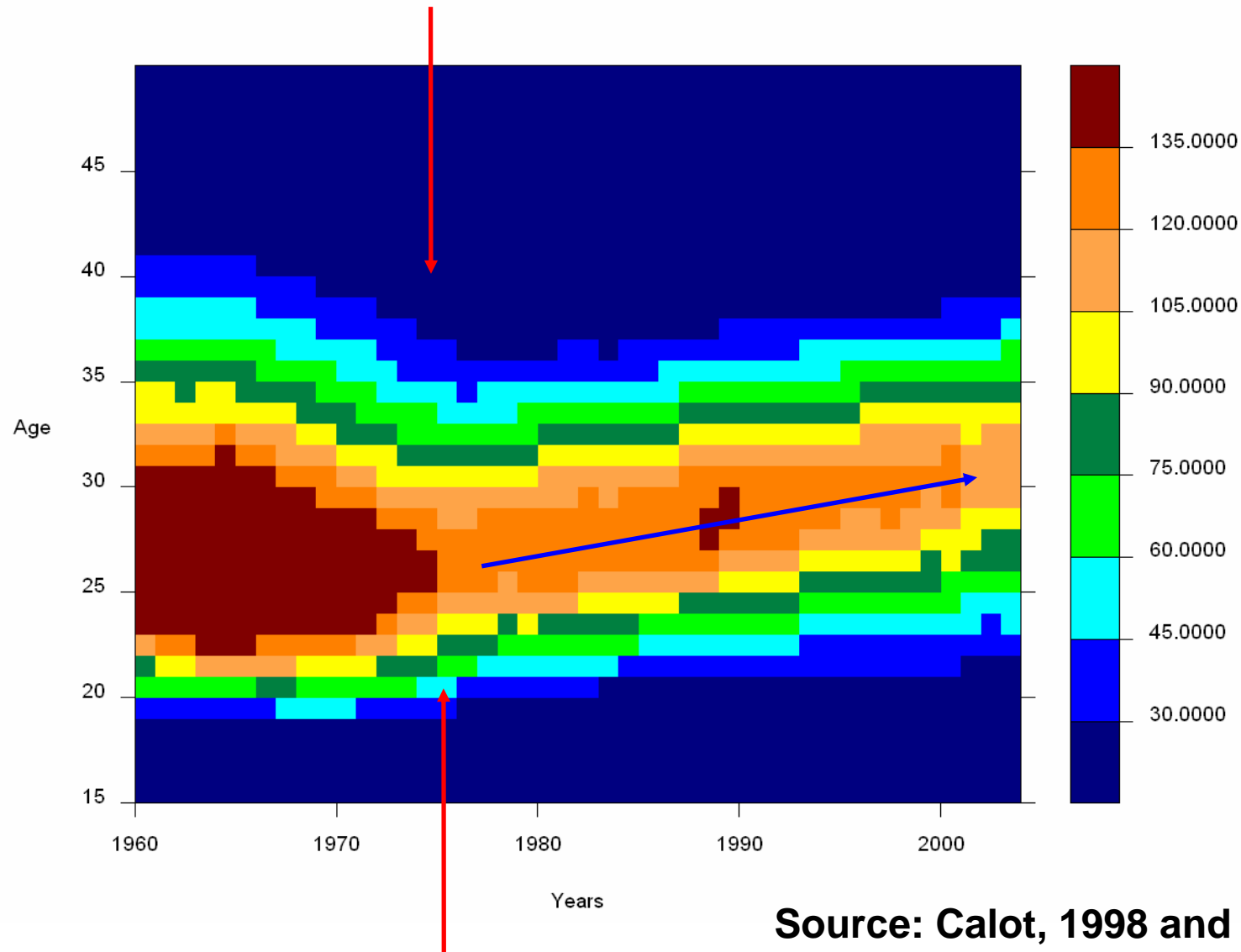
Jean-Marie Le Goff  
(University of Lausanne)

Postponement of Childbearing in Europe  
Vienna, 1-3 December 2005

# Fertility in Switzerland

<b>Years</b>	<b>1965</b>	<b>1975</b>	<b>1985</b>	<b>1995</b>	<b>2002</b>
<b>TFR</b>	<b>2.61</b>	<b>1.61</b>	<b>1.52</b>	<b>1.48</b>	<b>1.40</b>
<b>Mean age at birth</b>	<b>28.2</b>	<b>27.5</b>	<b>28.4</b>	<b>29.4</b>	<b>30.2</b>

# Fertility rates by age (1960-2003)

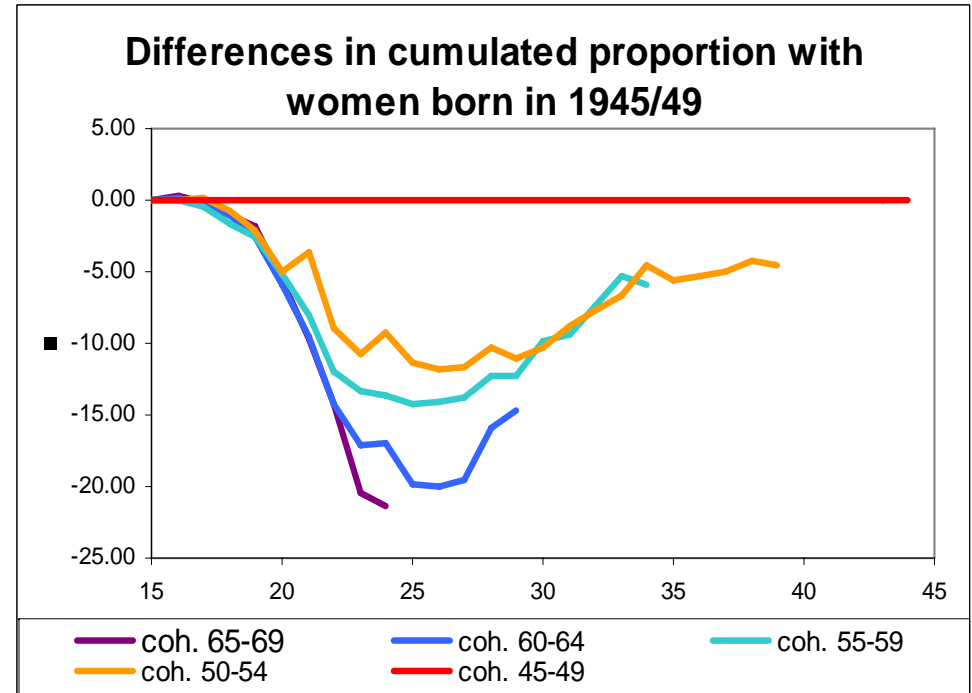
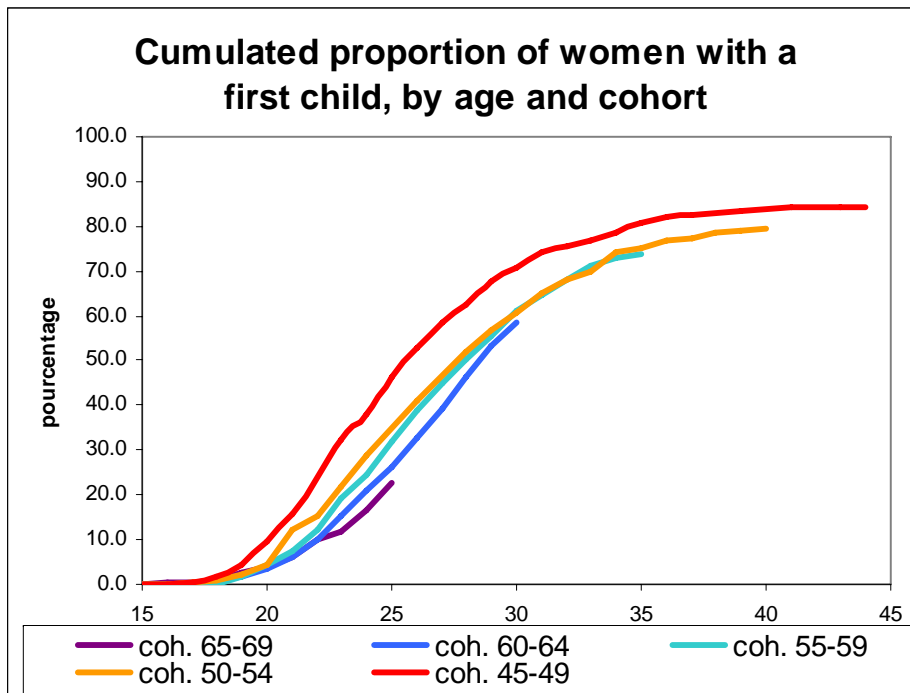


Source: Calot, 1998 and OFS 2004

# Swiss Family and Fertility Survey 1994 / 1995

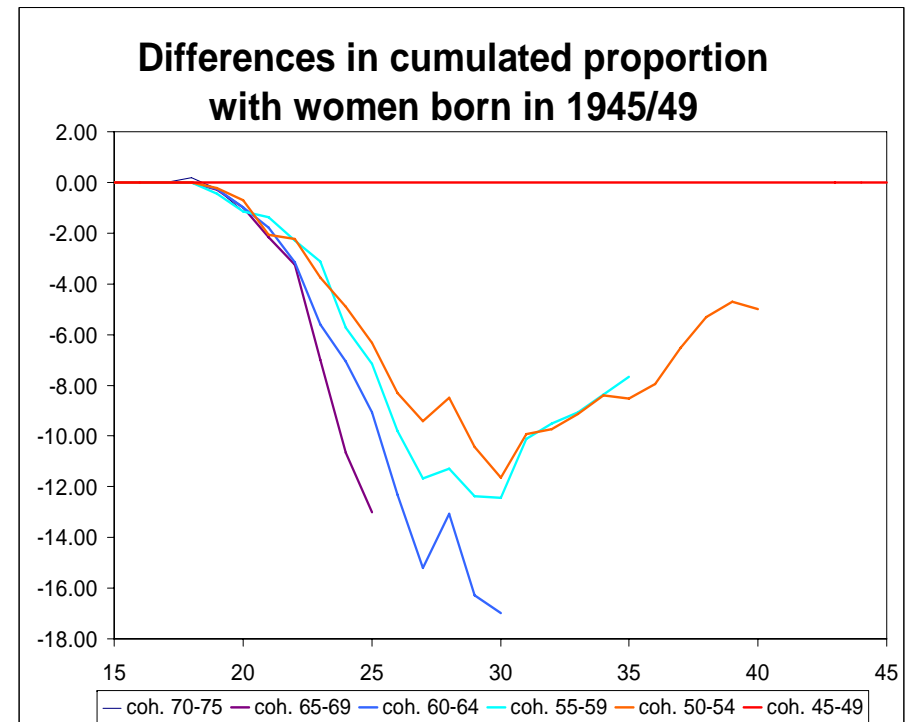
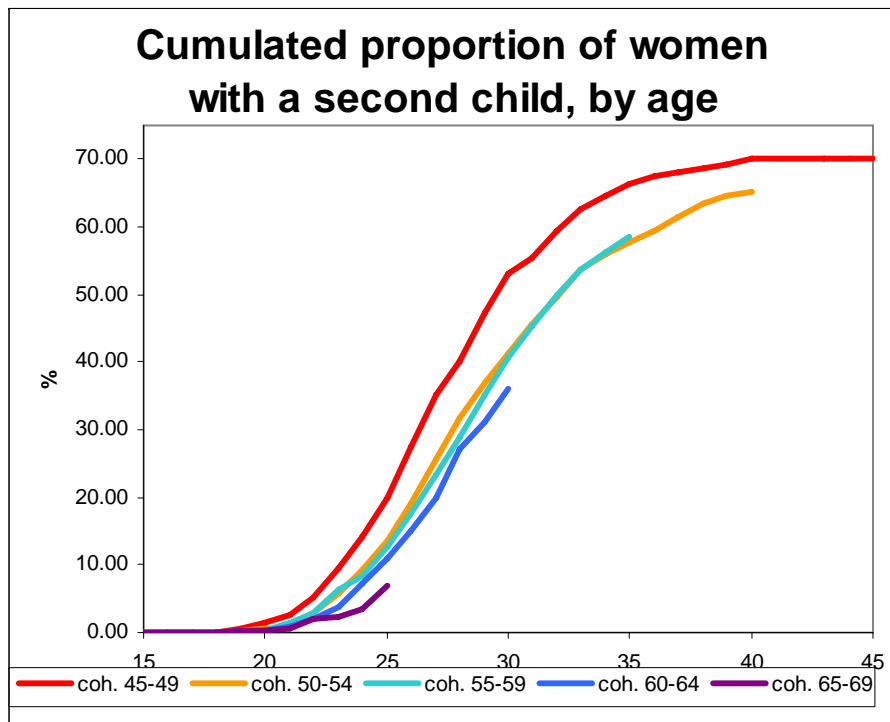
- 4000 women born between 1945 and 1975
- Interviews between September 1994 and May 1995
- Retrospective data on birth histories

# First birth



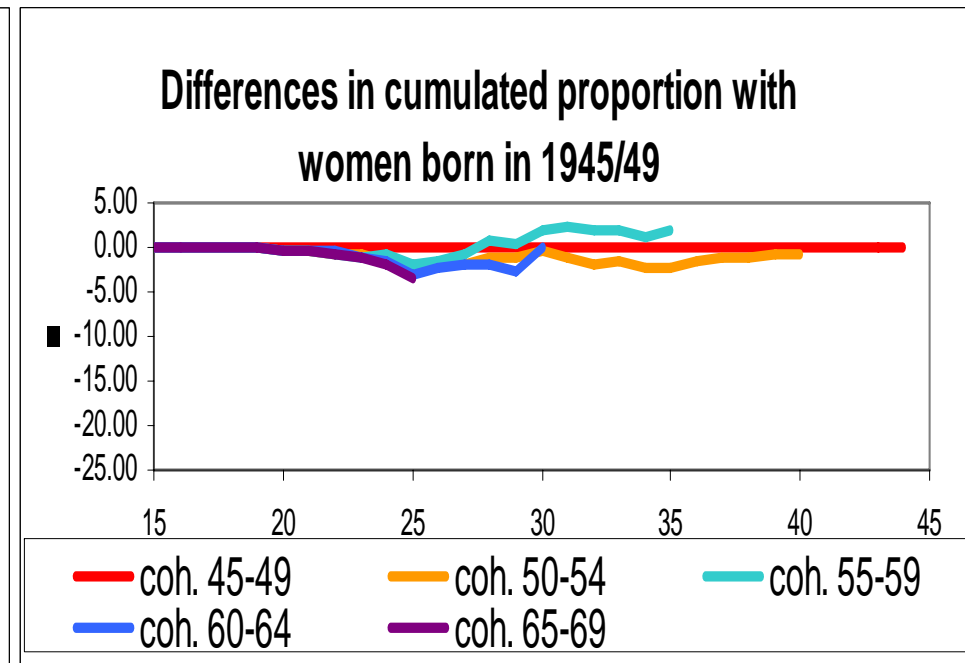
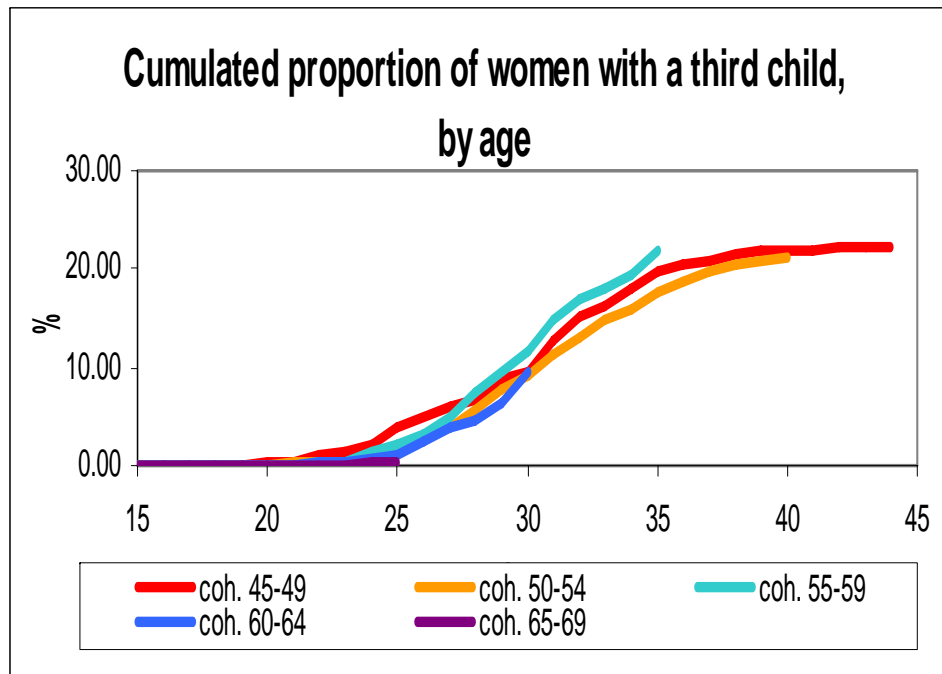
Source: Swiss FFS, 1994/95

# Second birth



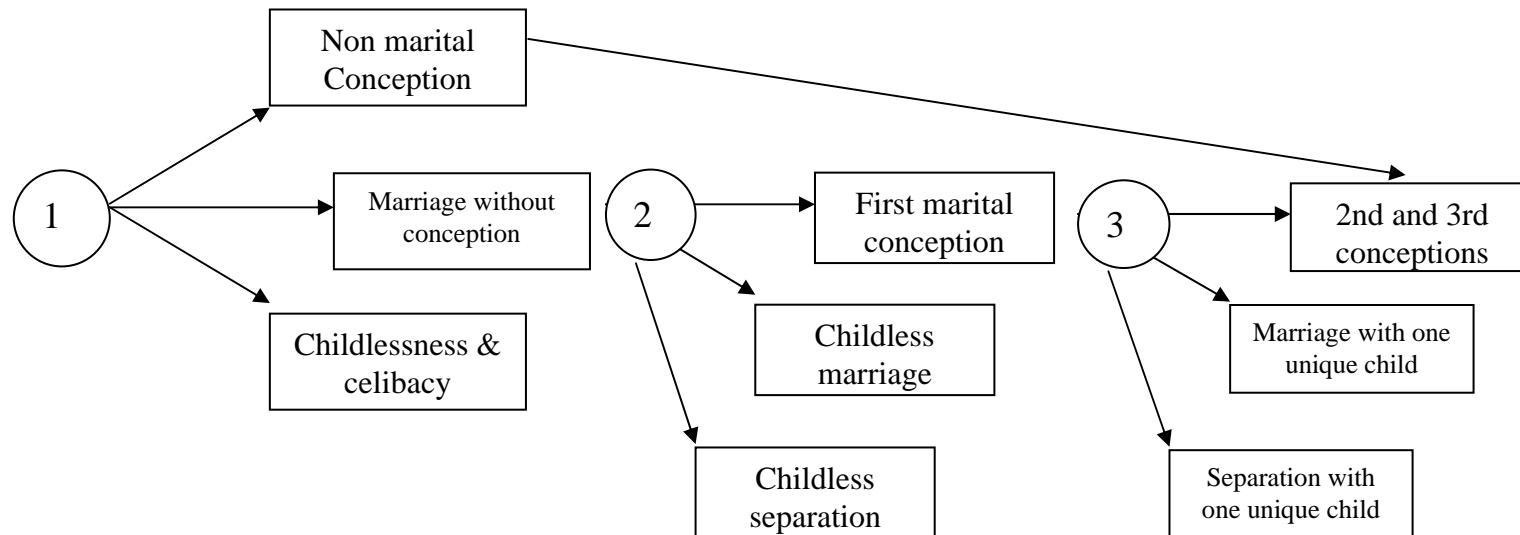
**Source: Swiss FFS, 1994/95**

# Third birth



**Source: Swiss FFS, 1994/95**

# Three steps in the family formation process



# Marriage and fertility in Switzerland

Cohorts	1945 1949	1950 1954	1955 1959	1960 1964
Proportion of non-marital first births	4.8	10.6	12.2	8.6
Proportion of non-marital first conceptions	34.3	36.2	40.1	37.5
N	420	407	434	419

# Piecewise linear hazard models

## Processes investigated

- **Marriage or first conception (competing events)**
- **First conception after the marriage**
- **Second conception**
- **Third conception**

## Covariates

- **Fixed:**
  - **Religion and practice**
  - **Place of living during childhood (urban/rural, speaking area or foreign country).**
- **Time dependant:**
  - **Level of education**
  - **Living in a union or not (first model).**
  - **Age and calendar time**
  - **Time since marriage or precedent birth (2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> models)**

# Entering the family project (1)

- Marriage without being pregnant remains the most common way to start a family, even in the younger cohorts.
- The risk of not starting a family at all increases slightly over the period.

# Entering the family project (2)

- Religious practice is linked to a higher propensity to marry without a pregnancy.
- Having grown up in an urban area is related to a higher occurrence of pre-marital conceptions.
- Women with a higher educational status have a higher risk of remaining single and childless, and enter the family formation process later.

# Having a first child after marriage (1)

- More recent cohorts have their first birth slightly sooner after marriage.
- The propensity of having a first birth after marriage remains stable across cohorts.
- Higher ages at marriages are related to shorter delays to a first birth, especially in younger cohorts.

# Having a first child after marriage (2)

- Religious practice is linked to a higher risk of first birth after marriage.
- Women who live in an urban area have a lower risk of first birth after marriage.
- Education level is not linked to the risk of having a first birth after marriage.

# Having more children (1)

- The propensity of having a second or third child for married women who had a first/second child remained stable over the period.
- Women who had their first/second child at older ages are more likely to have a second/third child in more recent cohorts.

## Having more children (2)

- Religious practice is linked to a higher propensity of having higher rank births.
- The intensity of having a second and third child is also higher for married women with a higher educational status.
- Living in an urban area is negatively linked to the probability of having a third birth, but not a second.

# Conclusion

- In Switzerland, delays in fertility are not equal to decrease in fertility (highly educated women marry later but have more children). Delays = increased opportunity to gain capitals = more resources to have children later.
- A decrease in cohort fertility in Switzerland would probably not come from a modification of married couples' child-bearing patterns (delays).
- It would rather come from 1) an increasing proportion of (educated) women not forming a family 2) an increasing proportion of (urban, non religious) women having only one child (rise in divorces).
- The diversification of individual marital histories, which underlie much of the observed multiplication of family forms, seems to be an important factor of the decrease in fertility in Switzerland.

J.-M. Le Goff, C. Sauvain-Dugerdil, C. Rossier  
and J. Coenen-Huther, *Maternité et parcours  
de vie: L'enfant a-t-il toujours une place dans  
les projets des femmes en Suisse?* Bern:  
Peter Lang, 2005.