

**The influence of engagement in
extra activities and subjective
well-being on fertility in a context
of anomie**

**Higher parity childbearing in post-Soviet
Russia**

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Societal-level Stress and Anomie

Psychological resources used to cope with situation of anomie:

- Subjective well-being
- Engagement in informal activities

The Russian Context

- Transition period of the 1990s
- Labor Market Crisis
 - GDP per capita declined
 - Proportion of families living under the poverty line increased
- Loss of social safety net
 - Value of maternity benefits and pensions declined
 - Health care system deteriorated
- High levels of stress
 - Increases in mortality and morbidity
 - Increases in alcoholism and accidents

Fertility in Russia

- TFR declined from 1.89 in 1991 to 1.17 in 1999
- Relative to Western Europe very little postponement of first births; entrance into motherhood still young and nearly universal
- Majority of very low fertility is due to postponement (or elimination) of *second* and *higher-parity* births

Childbearing intentions and fertility behavior

	N	Mean	Standard Deviation
Desires another child	1273	0.23	0.42
missing	162	13%	
Had another baby over next seven years (women with at least one child)	1435	0.07	0.25

Data from the Russian Longitudinal Monitoring Survey

Russian Longitudinal Monitoring Survey

- Baseline round starts in 1994
- 1435 married and menstruating women, 15-44, with one child
- Track birth outcomes of women over next seven years
- Household roster links women to husbands

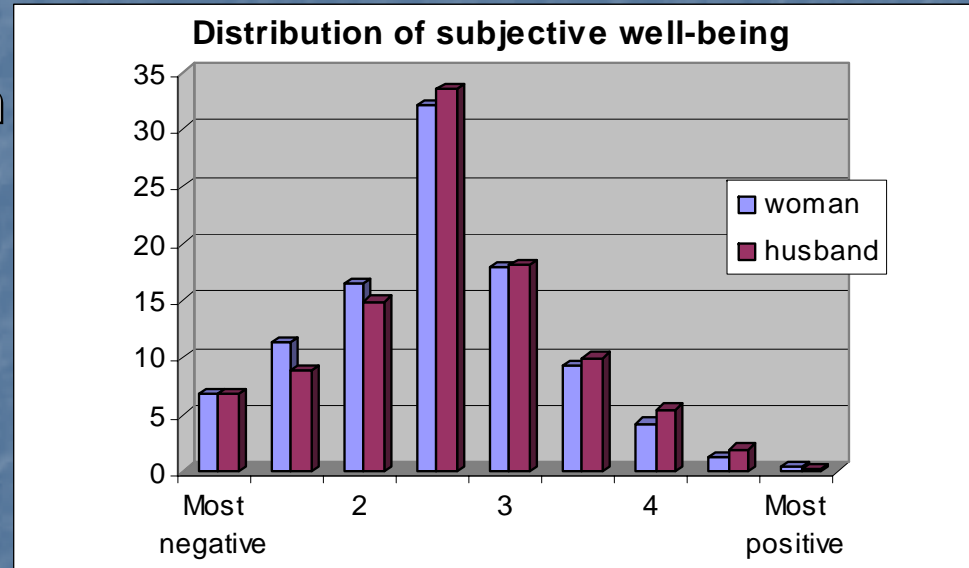
Engaged in additional activities for pay

“Tell me, please, in the last 30 days did you engage in some other kind of work for which you got paid? Maybe you sewed someone a dress, gave someone a ride in a car, assisted someone with apartment or car repairs, purchased and delivered food, took care of a sick person, or did something else that you got paid for?”

	N	Mean	Standard Deviation
Woman	1431	0.07	0.25
Husband	1355	0.13	0.34

Subjective well-being

- “Do you think in the next 12 months you and your family will live better than today or worse?”
- “To what extent are you satisfied with your life in general at the present time?”



Control variables: Education

- Woman and her husband's education highly correlated
- Composite measure:
 1. Less than secondary
 2. Less than secondary with additional tech. school
 3. Completed secondary
 4. Completed secondary with additional tech. school
 5. Completed specialized school
 6. Completed college or university

	N	Mean	Std. Dev.
Woman's education	1421	4.41	1.30
Husband's education	1338	4.22	1.35

Control variables: Employment and Income

	N	Mean	Standard Deviation
Woman employed	1435	0.65	0.39
Husband employed	1435	0.81	0.48
Woman's income last month	1421	1.59	2.29
Husband's income last month	1408	3.36	4.73
Household income	1382	7.00	11.63

Logistic regression odds ratios of the influence of engagement in extra activities on woman's desire for additional children

	Model 1	Model 2	Model 3
Woman	3.39*** (0.30)	3.46 *** (0.30)	
Husband		0.73 (0.26)	
Either			1.50* (0.20)
Woman's education	1.18* (0.07)	1.18* (0.07)	1.16* (0.07)

* p<.05; ** p<.01; ***p<.001 (one-tailed tests), standard errors in parentheses

Controls include: Woman employed, Husband employed, Wife's income, Husband's income, Household income, Husband missing, Total births, Woman's age

Logistic regression odds ratios of the influence of subjective well-being on woman's desire for additional children

	Model 4	Model 5	Model 6
Woman	1.41** (0.11)		
Husband		1.30* (0.11)	
Both			1.52** (0.13)
Woman's education	1.13 (0.07)	1.15 (0.07)	1.13 (0.07)

* p<.05; ** p<.01; ***p<.001 (one-tailed tests), standard errors in parentheses

Controls include: Woman's education, Woman employed, Husband employed, Wife's income, Husband's income, Household income, Husband missing, Total births, Woman's age

Cox regression hazard ratios of the influence of engaging in extra activities on woman's fertility behavior

	Model 1	Model 2	Model 3
Woman	1.70 (0.40)		
Husband		2.03* (0.30)	
Either			2.06** (0.27)

* $p < .05$; ** $p < .01$; *** $p < .001$ (one-tailed tests), standard errors in parentheses

Controls include: Woman's education, Woman employed, Husband employed, Wife's income, Husband's income, Household income, Husband missing, Total births, Woman's age, No. of months from last birth

Cox regression hazard ratios of the influence of subjective well-being on woman's fertility behavior

	Model 4	Model 5	Model 6
Woman	1.55** (0.15)		
Husband		1.00 (0.15)	
Either			1.35 (0.18)

* $p < .05$; ** $p < .01$; *** $p < .001$ (one-tailed tests), standard errors in parentheses

Controls include: Woman's education, Woman employed, Husband employed, Wife's income, Husband's income, Household income, Husband missing, Total births, Woman's age, No. of months from last birth

Conclusions

- Study focuses on postponement of second and higher-parity childbearing – the major cause of very low fertility in Russia
- Analyzes both intentions and behavior
- Finds that, contrary to many studies, education positively influences fertility desires

Conclusions

- Psychological resources are more influential than conventional measures of economic uncertainty
- Gender differences in effects
- Context of anomie and stress is important to understanding effects
- Maintaining a positive outlook and participating in extra activities are associated with wanting to take on additional childbearing responsibilities.

Mean age at first birth and TFR

	TFR	MAFB
1991	1.75	22.6
1992	1.56	22.6
1993	1.36	22.6
1994	1.39	22.5
1995	1.34	22.7
1996	1.28	22.9
1997	1.23	23.0
1998	1.25	
1999	1.17	
2000	1.21	
2001	1.25	