

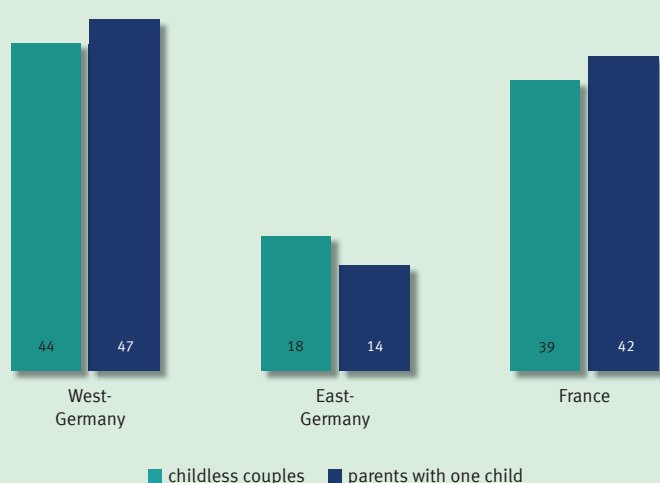
“Rabenmutter“ vs. “Mère Poule“

The influence of structural factors and individual value orientations on fertility intentions: Germany in comparison with France

There are marked fertility differences between Germany and France. Whereas in 2009 the TFR in France reached 1.99 children per woman, it was only 1.36 for Germany. These differences are usually traced back to different family policy frameworks, in particular the different percentage of working mothers which is significantly higher in France. In this study an additional factor for explaining the differences is added -- cultural norms. In France women can chose between being a working mother and being a housewife because both models are sufficiently accepted by society. In Germany motherhood is perceived as being incompatible with a professional career therefore the decision for children is a fundamental and difficult one.

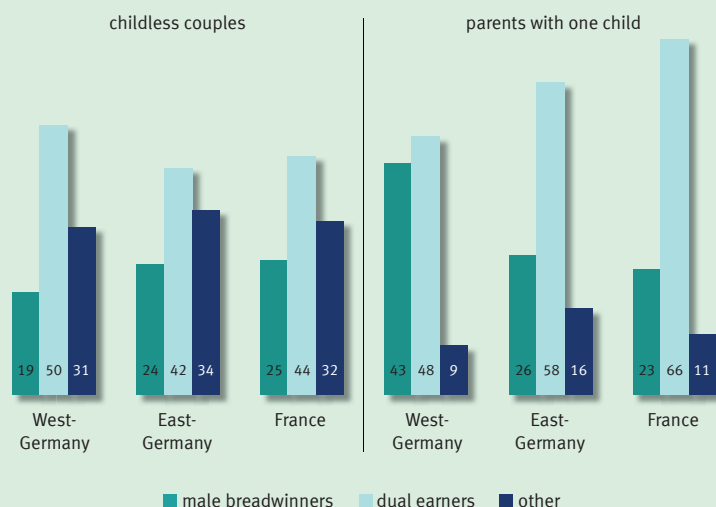
Cultural Factors

Figure 1: Agreement with the statement „A pre-school child is likely to suffer if his/her mother works“



Structural Factors

Figure 2: Childless couples and parents with one child by employment constellation



HYPOTHESES

- + Impact in F and D: Approval of status as housewife and mother
- Impact in D: Disapproval of working mothers (child suffers)

- + Impact in F: good provision of institutional childcare (dual earner constellation)
- Impact in D: poor provision of institutional childcare (dual earner constellation)

RESULTS

	Childless women		Mothers with one child	
	W-Germ.	France	W-Germ.	France
Structural indicator				
Couples' working status (Ref. Male breadwinner)				
Dual Earner	1,416	1,631*	0,412**	0,760
Other	1,211	0,567*	0,187**	0,609
Cultural indicators				
Looking after home and family is just as fulfilling as working for pay (Ref. no)	2,189**	1,587*	1,231	1,974
A pre-school child is likely to suffer if his/her mother works (Ref. no)	0,598*	0,863	0,745	1,244
Intercept	0,143***	0,269***	2,227	3,955
N	254	458	289	128
R ²	0,242	0,354	0,448	0,108

CONCLUSIONS

Cultural factors: significant impact only on childless women:
 - acceptance of traditional role supports fertility intentions in West-Germany and France (“mère poule”)
 - assumption of negative consequences of mothers employment weakens fertility intentions in West-Germany (“Rabenmutter”)

Structural factors: significant impact only on parents:
 - dual-earner constellation supports fertility intentions in France
 - dual-earner constellation weakens fertility intentions in West-Germany

West-Germany:
 cultural AND structural factors tend to weaken fertility intentions

France:
 cultural AND structural factors tend to support fertility intentions

Logistic Regressionsmodel:

Impact of structural and cultural factors on fertility intentions in the next 3 years; Childless respondents and respondents with one child; odds ratios

Data: GGS 2005, Germany and France (V 1.2); non weighted data; own calculations
 Database: Childless respondents with partner; age 18- 39; Respondents living with partner having 1 child; age 18- 45
 *** < 0,000; ** < 0,01; * < 0,05; + < 0,10; Note: all models are controlled for age, living arrangement and education

REFERENCE

Ruckdeschel, Kerstin (2009): Rabenmutter contra Mère Poule: Kinderwunsch und Mutterbild im deutsch-französischen Vergleich. In: Zeitschrift für Bevölkerungswissenschaft 34, 1-2: 105-134 (in German)