

# **Gender, Economic Conditions, and Social Norms: Does Context Matter for Fertility Intentions?**

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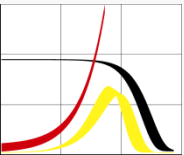
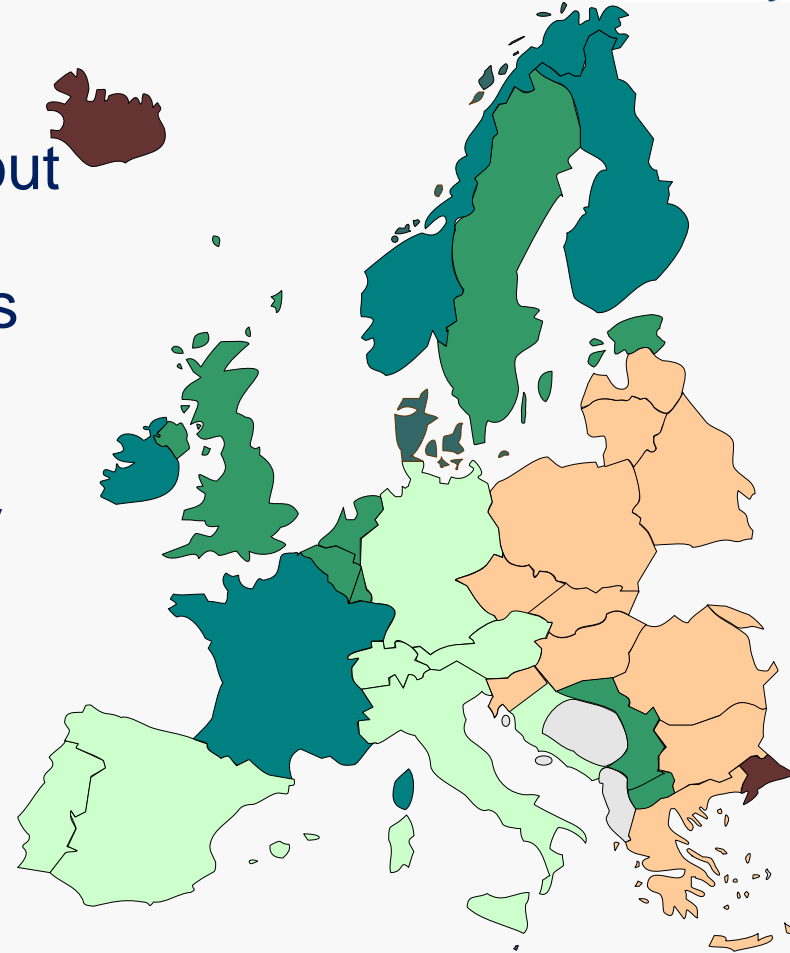
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# Fertility and Gender Policies in Europe

→ Increasing political concern about low fertility in Europe, despite great variation in fertility levels

→ Which factors determine fertility outcomes?





# Factors which influence fertility decisions and fertility development



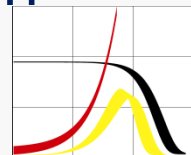
Individual factors – education, employment, marital status



Contextual factors – economic, political, and social environment in which a person lives

Both: gender- and parity-specific

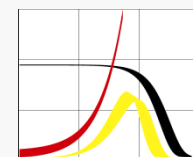
Contextualizing means: situating fertility decisions in place and time



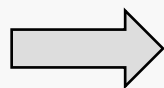


## Content of our study

- ➔ investigate the impact of contextual factors on women's and men's intention to have (a)nother child in the next three years
- ➔ concentrate on economic factors and "social norm" essential aspects of individual childbearing decisions central forces of gender relationships

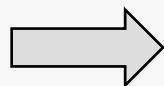


# Gender, Economic Factors, "Social Norm"



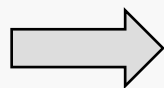
employment at the individual level

- maintaining one's own household
- autonomy / bargaining power
- agency / "capability"



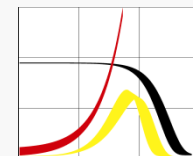
employment/unemployment at contextual level

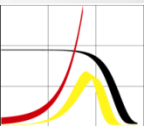
- economic opportunity or economic insecurity
- changes in women's economic position (FLFP)
- erosion of male breadwinner (MLFP)



"social norm" to reproduce

- childbearing





# Gender and Fertility Intentions

- Generations and Gender Survey (1st wave)
- Bulgaria, France, Germany, Italy, the Netherlands, Norway, Romania, Russia
- partnered women/men
- Individual covariates
  - age, educational level, marital status, age of the youngest child
  - employment status
  - partner's employment
- Contextual variables (region)
  - FLFPR
  - MLFPR
  - unemployment rate
  - TFR
- Multi-level logistic regression





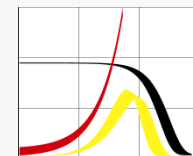
## Contextual covariates

→ “within country” – deviation of the regional value from the country mean

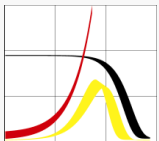
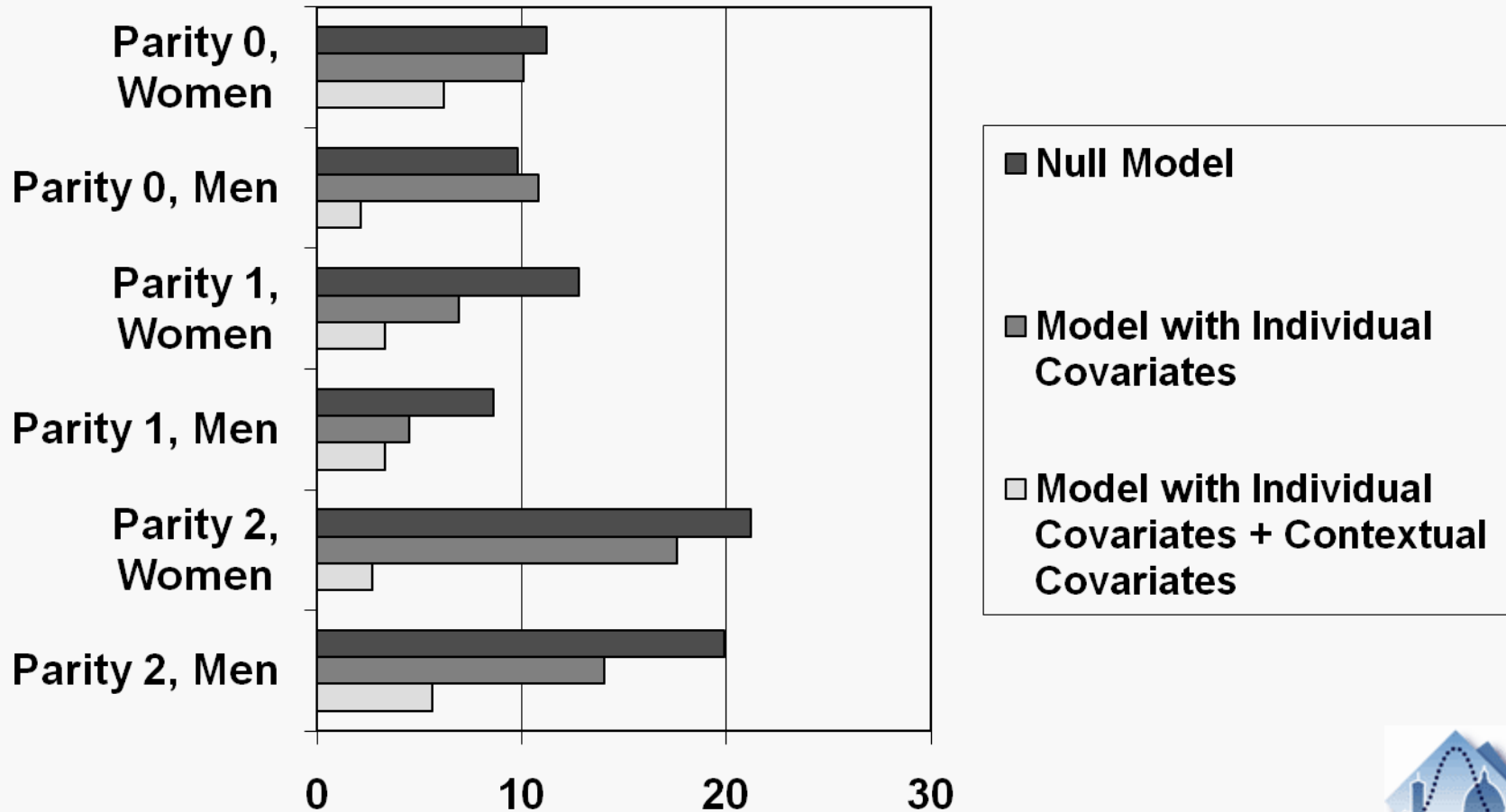
impact on fertility intentions attributable to the variance within countries

→ “between country” – country mean

impact on fertility intentions attributable to the variance between countries



# Regional Variation in Fertility Intentions





# Individual-level covariates

	Women			Men		
	Parity			Parity		
	0	1	2	0	1	2
full-time employed	1,98***	0,92	1,02	2,05***	1,43***	1,00
part-time employed	1,46**	0,95	0,72**	1,64*	1,21	1,01
partner employed	1,53***	1,30**	1,18	1,44***	1,07	1,11

Controlled for: respondent's age, educational level, marital status; age of the youngest child; regional unemployment rate, TFR, FLFPR (for women), MLFPR (for men)



# Contextual-level covariates (country mean)

	Women			Men		
	Parity			Parity		
	0	1	2	0	1	2
Employment rate	0,98*	0,97***	0,98*	0,90	0,98	1,01
Unemployment rate	0,97	1,04	1,35***	0,85***	1,00	1,30***
TFR	0,43**	13,39***	9,6***	0,73	3,31***	5,76***



# Contextual TFR

“within-country” vs. “between-country”

	Women			Men		
	Parity			Parity		
	0	1	2	0	1	2
TFR between countries	0,43**	13,39***	9,6***	0,73	3,31***	5,76***
TRF within countries	0,79	1,33	0,92	2,01	1,58	0,91



# Gender, Economic Conditions, and Social Norms Does Context Matter for Fertility Intentions?

➔ **YES**

national variation matters more than the within-country variation  
i.p. for the “childbearing norm”: “from provinces to nations”?

➔ **Economic conditions:**

gendered pattern of

- economic opportunity – economic insecurity
- by parity, with the first child as the “crucial” child

➔ **Social “Norm”**

fertility surrounding essential for further childbearing intentions



# Thank you

## Comments and Questions

