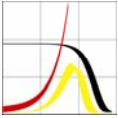


# Consequences of Family Policies for Childbearing Behavior: Effects or Artifacts?

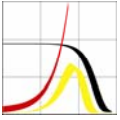
Gerda Neyer  
Gunnar Andersson

2007 VID Conference on  
Can Policies Enhance Fertility in Europe?  
Vienna 2007



# Family Policies and Fertility

- ➔ Demographic change in Europe
  - low fertility
  - convergence vs. persistent/growing differences in family formation
  - population aging
- ➔ EU initiatives in family-policy areas
  - work-employment relationships / care
  - gender policies
- ➔ National initiatives in family policies
  - increase TFR
- ➔ **Family policies – impact on fertility?**



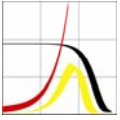
# Studies of impacts of family policies on fertility

## contradictory results

➔ aggregate, macro-level data – no or ambivalent results

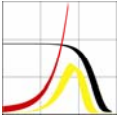
➔ individual-level data – more refined results

**research design**  
**methodological issues**



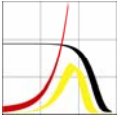
# Family policies and fertility

- ➡ What are family policies?
- ➡ How should we study (potential) impacts of family policies on demographic behavior?
- ➡ Do family policies affect fertility?
- ➡ Implications for future research?



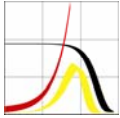
# Family policies and fertility

- ➔ What are family policies?
- ➔ How should we study (potential) impacts of family policies on demographic behavior?
- ➔ Do family policies affect fertility?
- ➔ Implications for future research?



# Family policies and fertility

- ➔ What are family policies?
- ➔ How should we study (potential) impacts of family policies on demographic behavior?
- ➔ Do family policies affect fertility?
- ➔ Implications for future research?



# What are family policies?



**governmental activities directed toward the family**  
(Kammerman/Kahn 1978)

1960s

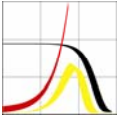
Family law  
Taxation  
Cash benefits  
Housing support

1990s

Maternity leave  
Parental leave  
Care leave  
Childcare services  
Cash benefit



**Change of family policies – form and focus**



# What are family policies?



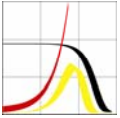
state activities which aim **‘to favour a certain kind of family organization and to strengthen those which conform to this organization’** (Bourdieu 1996)



**social development – normative aims**



**cultural ordering**



# What are family policies?

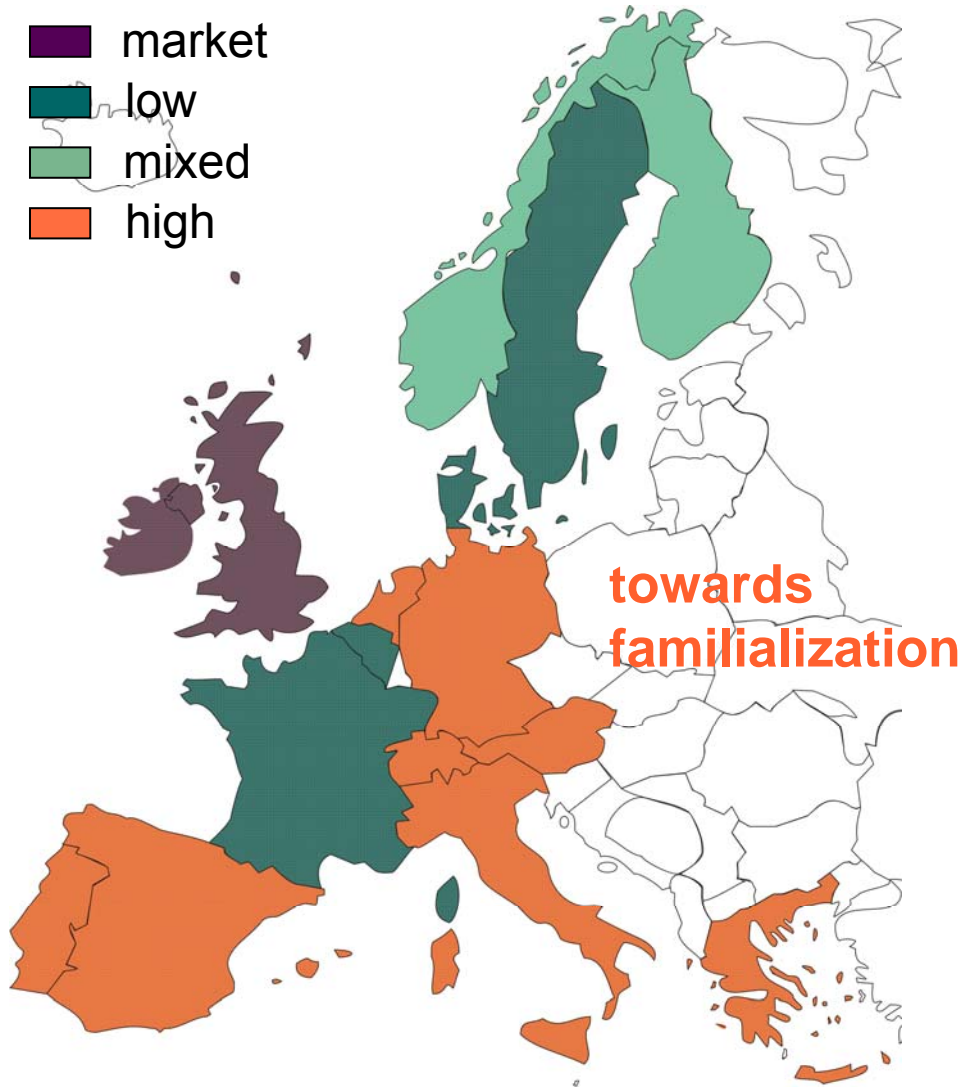
- ➔ policies that **structure society and markets through structuring private relationships**
  - **partnerships**
  - **parenthood**

(Orloff 1993; Lewis 1992; Langan/Ostner 1991)
  
- ➔ **family policies as part of welfare-state policies (1)**
  
- ➔ **structuring impact of family policies (2)**

# Family policies as part of welfare-state policies

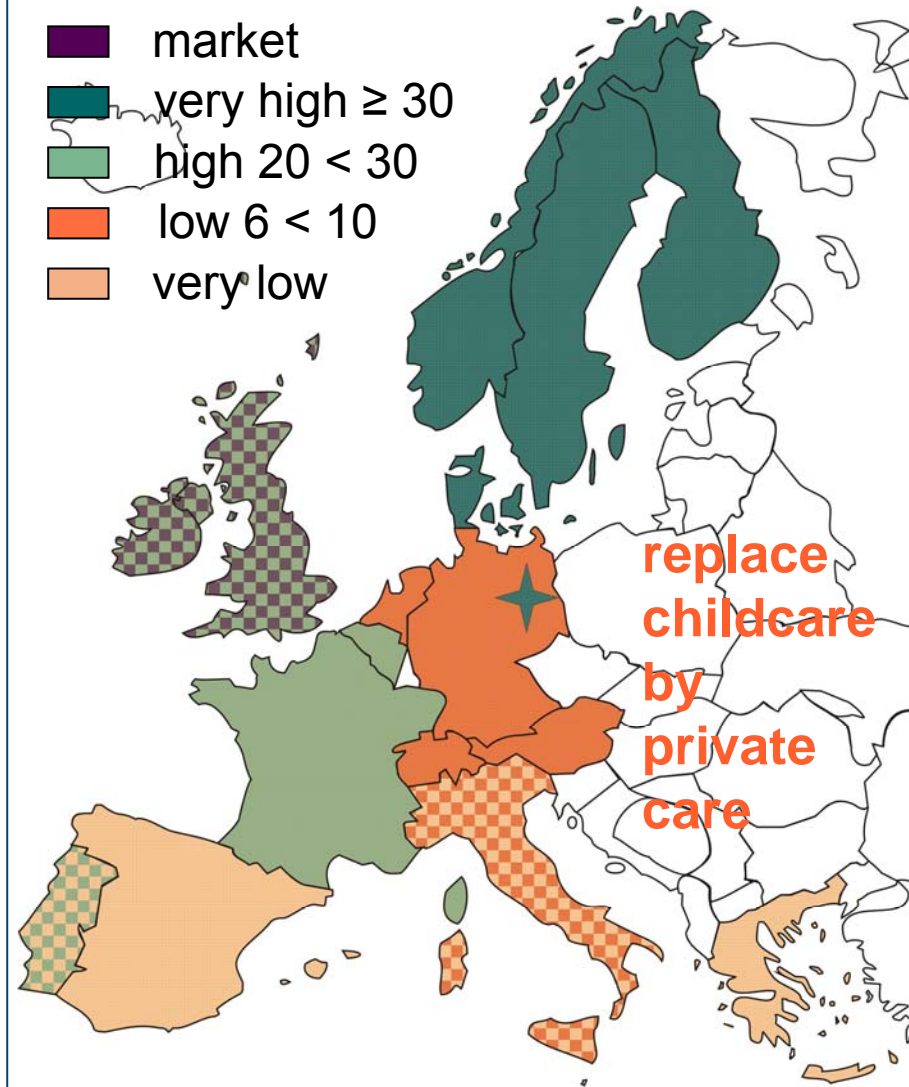
## Regimes of Familialism/Motherism

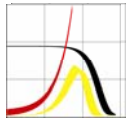
- market
- low
- mixed
- high



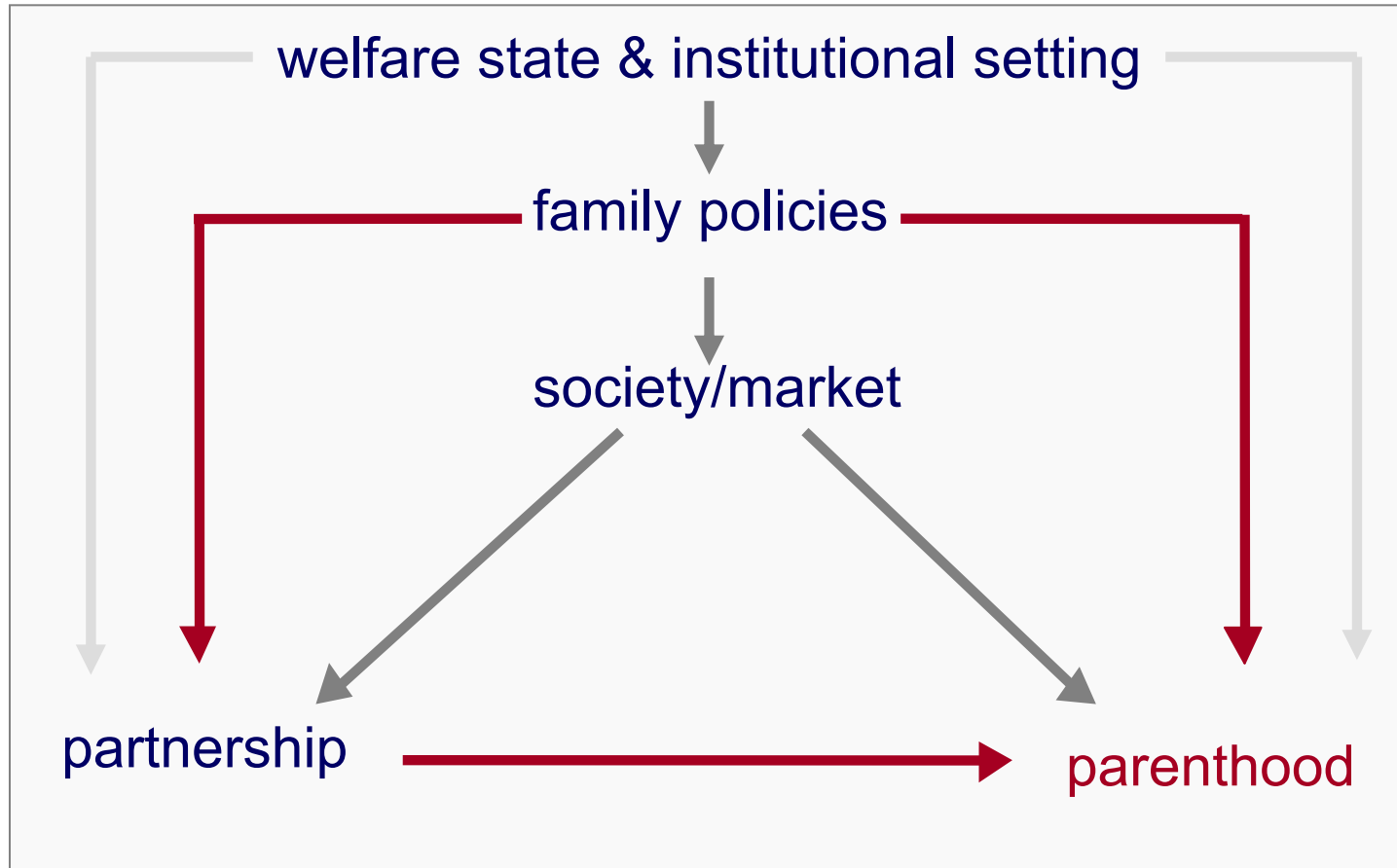
## Childcare Regimes

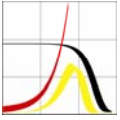
- market
- very high  $\geq 30$
- high  $20 < 30$
- low  $6 < 10$
- very low





# Welfare-state and family-policy impact





## Considerations for research

### set of different policies

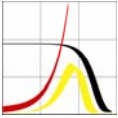
- belong to different policy areas
- vary across countries
- change over time

### embedded in socio-economic, political environment

- in line with or contrary to other policies
- interact with environment and its changes

### normative ordering

- symbolic meaning
- power discourse



## Consequences for research

### timing aspects – „critical junctures“

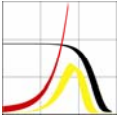
- implementation/sequencing
- socio-economic, political changes

### spatial aspects

- across most-similar countries (regimes)
- same policy most-different countries (regimes)
- across regions within one country

### usage aspects – interaction w/ environment/policies

- application of policy to different groups
- usage of policy
- policy in different times



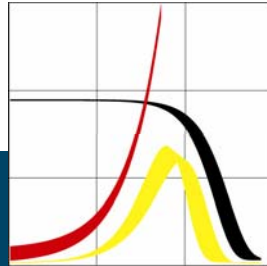
# Consequences for research

→ characteristics of policies: macro-level factor

→ characteristics of individuals: micro-level

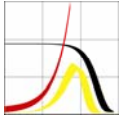
→ proper data

→ proper methods



**Thank you!**

**Part 2 – Gunnar Andersson**

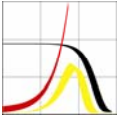


## Consequences for research

- ➔ characteristics of policies: macro-level factor
- ➔ characteristics of individuals: micro-level

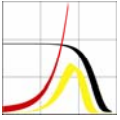
### Prerequisite: proper data

- ➔ Fertility in terms of individual parity progressions
- ➔ Policies depicted so that they can be differentiated across individuals

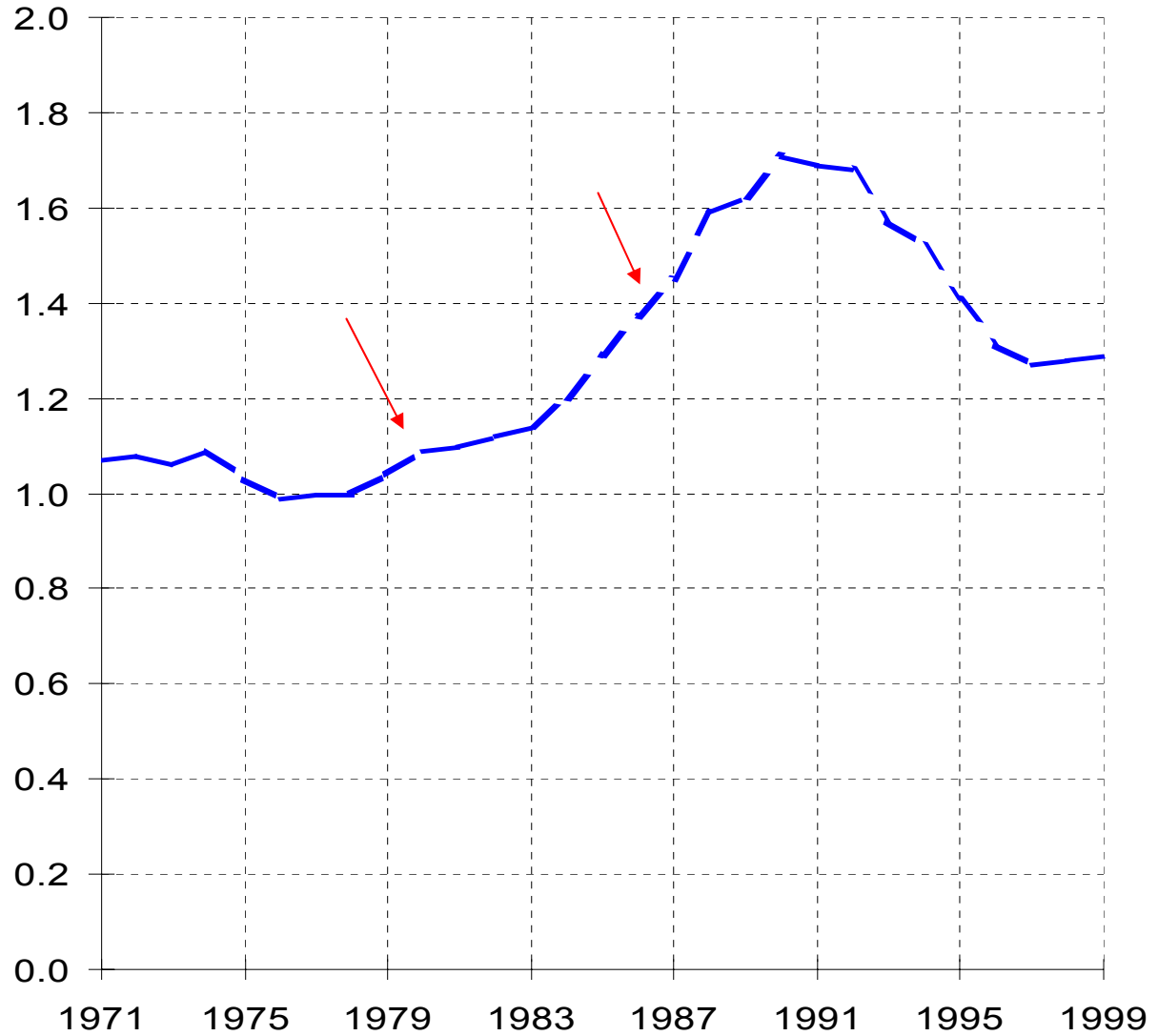


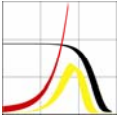
## Example 1: “critical juncture”

- ➔ Policy intervention in a year => impact on fertility in subsequent years
  - still not entirely convincing strategy
- ➔ “most-similar” country comparison
  - effects of parental-leave regulations in Sweden

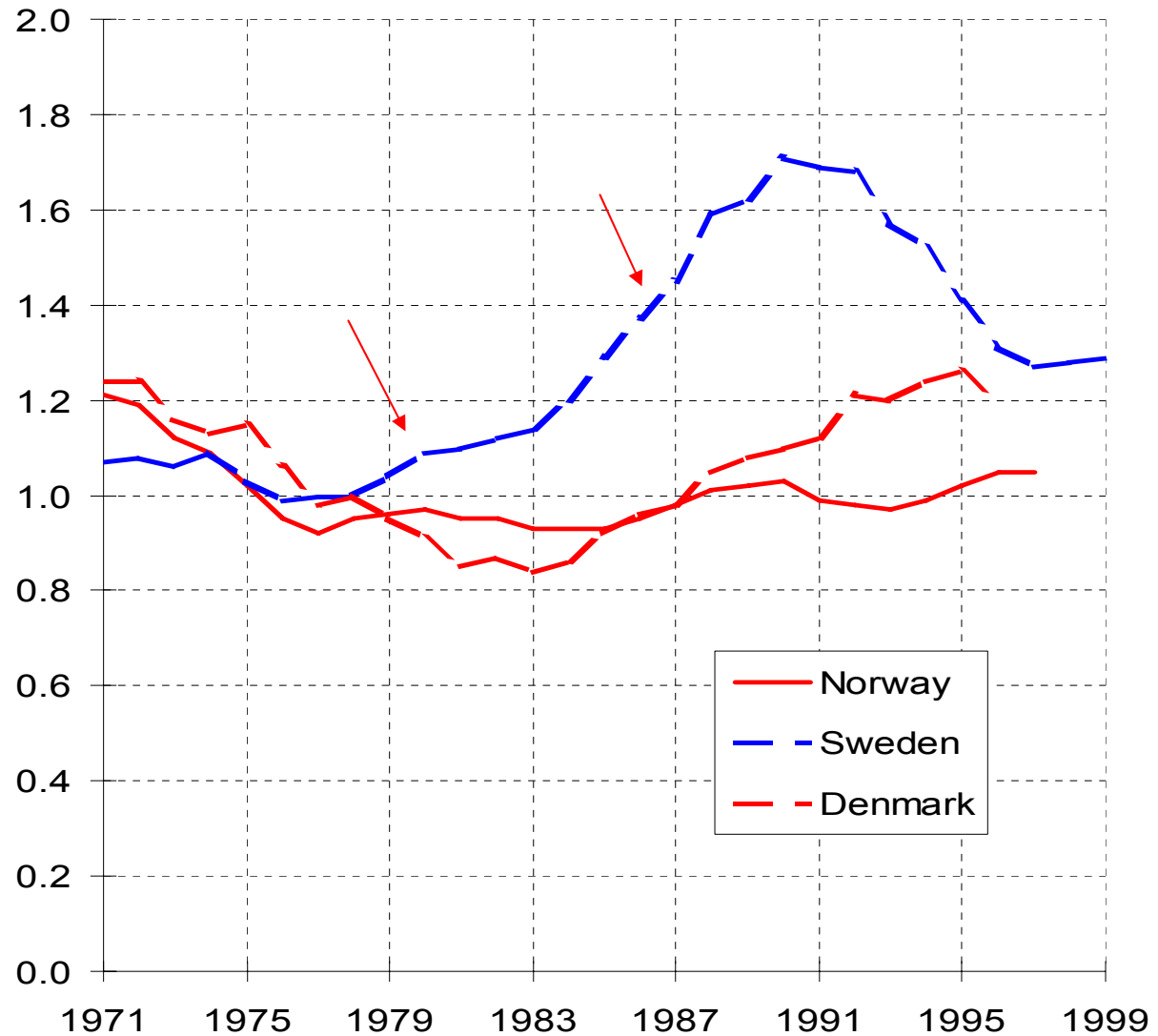


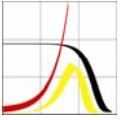
# Second-birth rates in Sweden





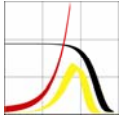
# Cross-country comparison: Scandinavia





## Example 2: “space” – “symbolic implication”

- ➔ Child-care characteristics – differences between regions
  - => childbearing risks by individual characteristics and by local child-care characteristics
- ➔ Sweden: quantity, quality, and price of child-care



## Relative 2nd-birth risks by local childcare

Standardized for mother's age, time since 1st birth, parents' education, type of municipality

### *Price of childcare*

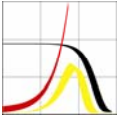
|        |      |
|--------|------|
| low    | 0.97 |
| medium | 1    |
| high   | 1.02 |

### *Supply of childcare*

|        |      |
|--------|------|
| low    | 1.01 |
| medium | 1    |
| high   | 1.01 |

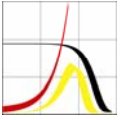
### *Quality of childcare*

|        |      |
|--------|------|
| low    | 1.03 |
| medium | 1    |
| high   | 0.98 |



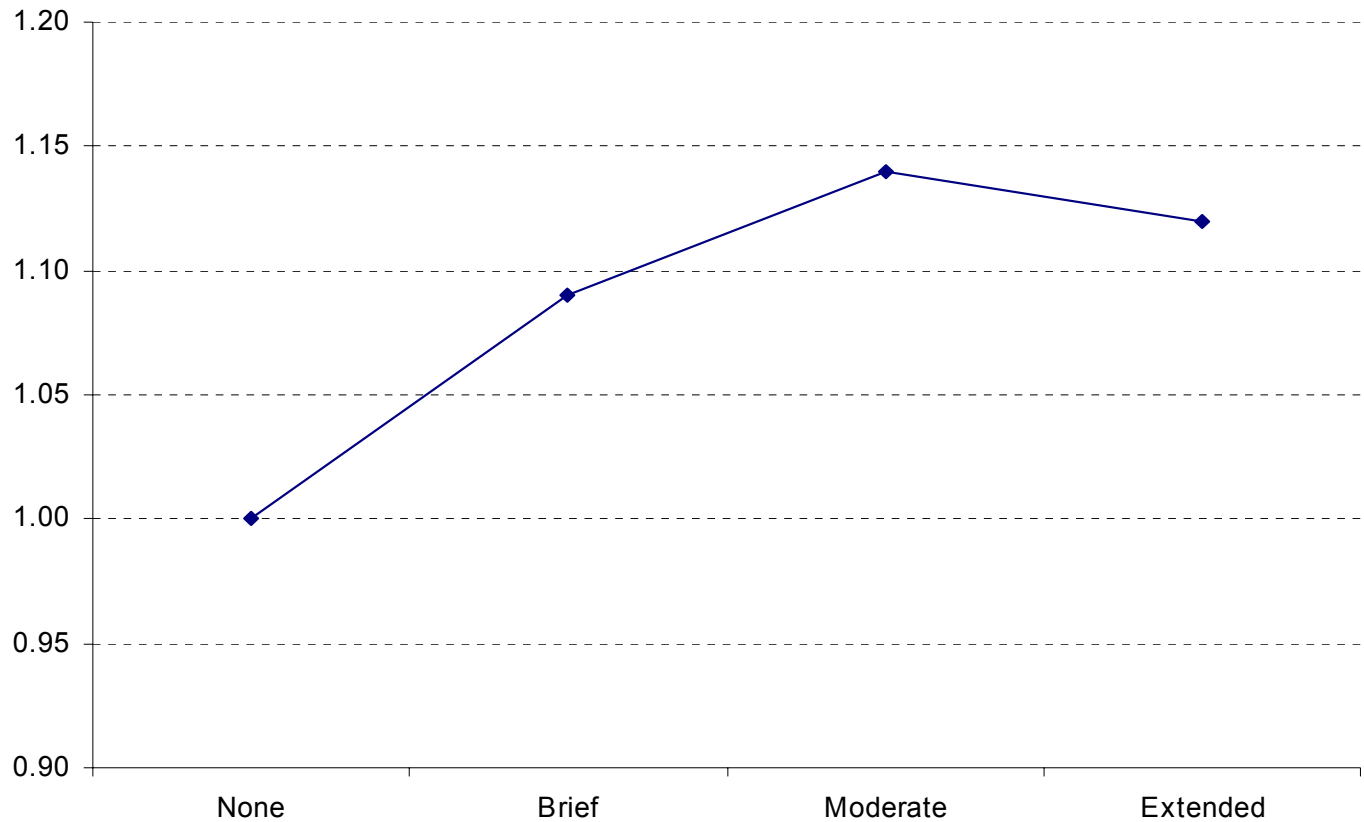
## Example 3: Individual use of a policy component

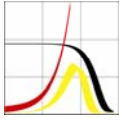
- ➔ eg: data on fathers' and mothers' use of parental leave after the birth of a child
- ➔ are risks of having a next child affected by fathers' uptake of parental leave?



# Father's uptake of parental leave

## 2nd-birth risks by father's uptake at the first birth





# Conclusion

## Research design

- ➡ Demographic analysis combined with policy analysis
- ➡ Individual-level variation in policy application
- ➡ Event-history analysis of childbearing dynamics