



WIC Hybrid Colloquium

Can family policy influence the transition to parenthood in turbulent times - a post-communist case study

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Abstract:

We examine the impact of family policies on becoming a parent in Hungary in 1985–2016. The central question is whether we could expect family policy measures to influence childbearing behaviour at a time, when profound socio-economic changes were working on the one hand and a general postponement in family formation were taking place on the other hand. Using event-history analysis, we explored how family policy regimes, individual and macro-level factors influenced the birth of the first child. Family policy measures are operationalised as policy periods. Two economic indicators (inflation, employment rates) are selected as measures for societal upheaval. Macro level indicator of postponement is also included. Finally, we addressed that family policy measures may operate differently across social groups. The analysis is based on the data of the Hungarian GGS. Results confirm, that profound family policy changes, the shift from universal to means-testing measures and the abolition of the earnings-related child care allowance do have, although moderate and structured effects during turbulent times. However, macro level conditions (inflation, female employment, postponement) mattered, influenced transition risks significantly.

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About the presenter:

Director of the Hungarian Demographic Research Institute during more than two decades; founder and currently head of the Doctoral School of Demography and Sociology, University Pécs; founding member and currently active participant of the Generation and Gender Programme, chair of the GGP's Council of Partners. Doing research on various aspects of fertility. Several analysis on determinants of fertility intentions and realisation, and on social and cross-national differences in within. Highlighting the specificities of fertility behaviour people with dual status working and studying. Analyses on the construction of fatherhood in current time Longstanding interested in the impact and effectiveness of social policy.

The Wittgenstein Centre is a collaboration among the Austrian Academy of Sciences (OeAW), the International Institute for Applied Systems Analysis (IIASA) and the University of Vienna.