

VID Colloquium

Vienna Institute of Demography
Welthandelsplatz 2 / Level 2
Nathan Keyfitz Library
1020 Vienna

Meimanat Hosseini-Chavoshi

University of Melbourne
and

Mohammad Jalal Abbasi-Shavazi

University of Tehran - National Institute of Population Research, Iran

Tuesday, 20. June 2017

11:05-12:00am

"Cohort Perspective of Fertility Transition in Iran: the role of Education"

Iran's period total fertility fell sharply from 7 children per woman in the mid-1980s to replacement level in less than two decades, and it has hovered around two children since 2000. Trends in fertility decline in Iran were closely associated with major political upheavals, socio-economic changes and population policy shifts in the country. The fertility decline was ubiquitous across all age and social groups and all geographic settings, but it was the better educated women who experienced first a shift to a low fertility level. To gain deeper understanding of the role of the rapid education expansion in contributing to fertility decline in Iran, we investigate fertility trends by education from a cohort perspective. Using data from the 2006 and 2011 censuses, we show that fertility levels fell rapidly among women born in the 1950s and 1960s. The fall in fertility across cohorts was mostly driven by reductions in the progression ratios to the third and subsequent births in the first stage, and later by the increase of childlessness and a strengthening orientation towards two-child family pattern. Despite the observed fertility decline among all education groups, education differences remained strong across all the analyzed cohorts. Women with upper secondary and higher education show a shift towards small family size, a clear dominance of a two-child family pattern, but also a rise in the share with only one child and a rapid increase in childlessness due to non-marriage. Increasing level of education has strongly contributed to the observed fertility decline, although among the women born in the late 1950s and in the 1960s the effect of falling fertility at all education categories clearly dominated over the structural effect of education expansion. As more women have continued reaching tertiary education in the last two decades, the adoption of small family size and the rise of non-marriage and childlessness are likely to accelerate among the women born in the 1970s and 1980s..

About the presenters

Meimanat Hosseini-Chavoshi is a Research Fellow at the University of Melbourne as part of an ARC research project led by the Centre of Excellence in Population Ageing Research. She is an ANU graduate with extensive research experience in the field of demography and reproductive health, whose work focuses on ageing and fertility. She is currently working on demographic perspectives of ageing in Australia exploring spatial patterns of older Australians, and factors associated with their living arrangements and health conditions. Meanwhile, she has followed her research interests in the study of fertility transition and its policy implications in Iran. Her joint work with Prof. McDonald and Prof. Abbasi-Shavazi have had major contribution to the understanding of fertility transition in Iran and revision of recent population policies in Iran.

Mohammad Jalal Abbasi-Shavazi is Professor of Demography, University of Tehran and Director of the National Institute of Population Research, Iran. He obtained his PhD from the Australian National University; and served as Head, Department of Demography, UT (2002-2006), and Research Fellow, Australian Demographic and Social Research Institute (2010-2014). He has worked and published on such areas as Iran's fertility transition, family change, population policies, Muslim demography, and forced and refugee migration; and is the author of prize-winning book on *The Fertility Transition in Iran: Revolution and Reproduction*. Abbasi-Shavazi is a founding member of the Asian Population Association, and served as its Vice-President (2009-2010) and President (2011-2012). He chaired the IUSSP Panel on Demography of Refugees (2010-2014), and is the Editor of *Iranian Population Studies*, and a member of Editorial Board of *Asian Population Studies*, *International Migration Reviews* and *Demographia*. Abbasi-Shavazi is also the Laureate of the 2011 United Nations Population Award.