

Fertility effects of education, employment and gender equity in Georgia

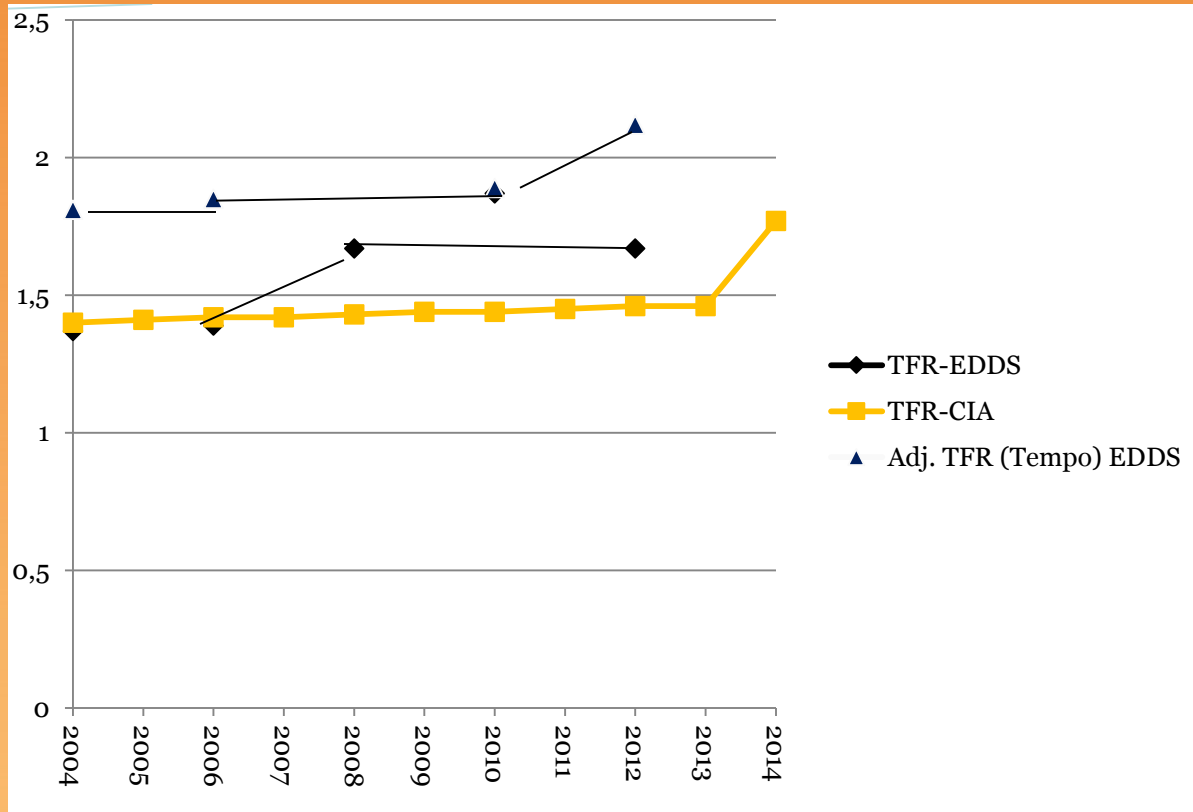
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Education and reproduction in low-fertility settings, Vienna, 2 - 4 Dec. 2015

Session : Intentions and expectations



Georgia as a Low Fertility Country



Education in Recently Established Low Fertility Regimes

- Rising costs and fewer state supports for higher education
- Educational attainment associated with higher economic stability and employment
- Education important in the marriage market
- Rapid declines in institutional support for families (lessening gender equity)



Three Pathways

Fertility tempo

shifting birth timing

Financial resources and economic stability

similar sources of support

employment and income gains

marriage market selectivity

Institutional access and expertise

access to structural supports

ability to navigate gender inequality



Variation on the Second Demographic Transition

- Shifting ideologies and approaches to family (van de Kaa's, 1987) and Lesthaeghe, 1995)
- Postponement transition (Kohler, Billari and Ortega, 2002)
- One and done (Perelli-Harris, 2008)
- Massive change, influenced by cohort overlap (Frejka, 2008)
- Economic crisis (Billingsley, 2011)
- Migration and family stability (Hofmann and Buckley 2013)



Hypotheses

New Individualism versus Traditionalist Revivalism

Norms towards marriage and family tend to remain strong

Postponement and prosperity

Shifting age patterns tend to result in later first births among the highly educated

Fertility aspirations and achieved fertility tend to increase with economic stability

Stable marriages and families

Education linked to stronger and more equitable families (among surviving unions)



Data

Gender and Generations Survey, Georgia
Merged, Wave 1 (2006) and Wave II (2009)
(N=3,572)

Contextual

- *Multi-Indicator Cluster Survey 1999 (November 1999 and April 2000)*
- *Multi-Indicator Cluster Survey 2005*
- *Vital Statistics, Georgian State Statistical Committee*
- *Expert interviews in Tbilisi, Batumi and Gori (2009-2014, N=43)*
- *Informal interviews with female college students (2009-2013, N=48)*



Marital and Family Norms

Over 90% of sample disagrees or strongly disagrees with the idea that marriage is an outdated institution (W1-92%, W2-90%)

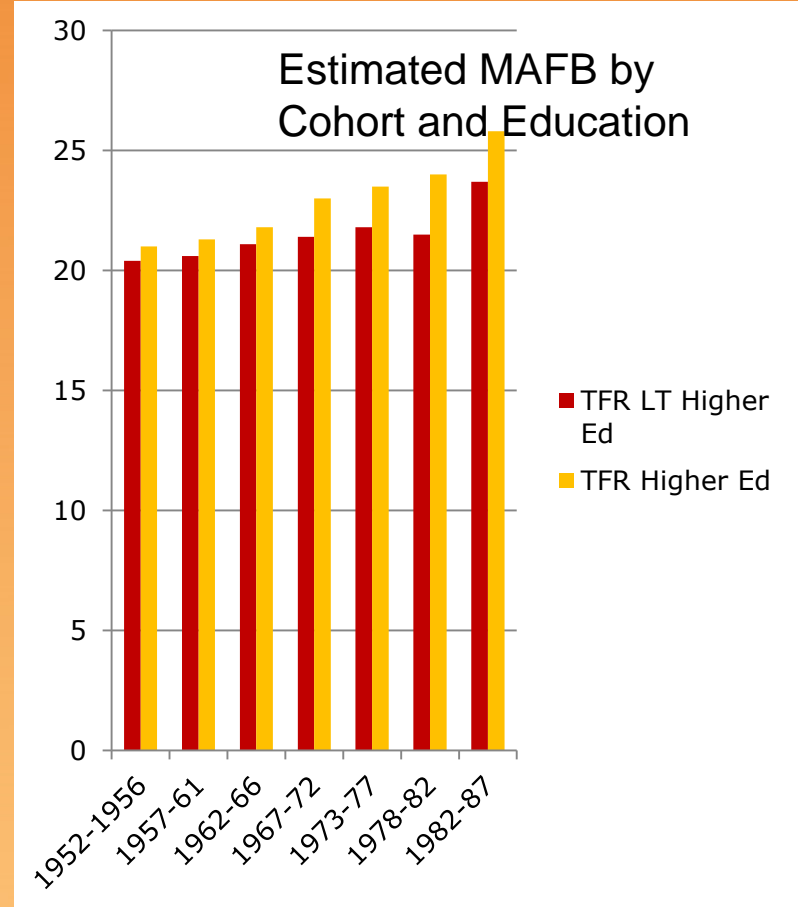
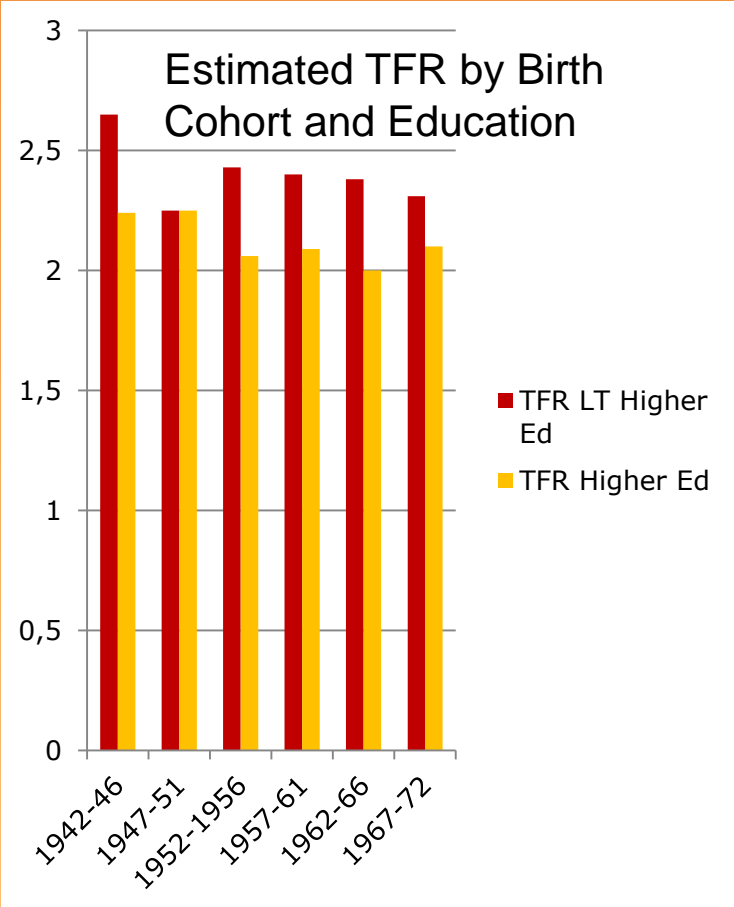
The support for the importance of children for individual fulfillment increases between W1/W2 (25% of the sample for women, and 26% for men)

"For all of us, families are important. Education and having a stable job is the first goal, but our generation values family even more than before. I have seen how my sister waited for money, for things and has nothing. I study now to get married and have children later" Tamara, age 21 TSU 2013



Is it Really One and Done?

(estimated indices, Waves 1 and 2 Georgian GGS)



Economic Stability

Georgia is marked by persistent poverty, but some stabilization at the higher levels of the job market

Between W1 and W2, the percentage of respondents reporting the birth of a child for those with higher education was 87% higher than those without education

Multivariate analyses including ability of make ends meet and job security wipe out the education effect.



Predictors (W1) for an additional birth (W2), GGGS 2006 and 2009

	Socio-dem	Marital Quality	Economic stability
Age (LT 30)	1.24***	1.17***	1.08*
Gender (F)	1.24		
Parity 0	1.35***	1.21**	1.098*
Married	1.25*	1.19**	1.23*
Hi education (1 in union)	1.21**	1.09	.97
Communication quality		1.04***	1.03***
Joint home care		1.03	1.02
Partner Sat.		1.21*	1.04+
Make ends meet			1.49***
Fight about money			.83*
1 partners stable employment			1.75*

Next Steps: Financial or Family Stability?

How does education operate through greater family stability?

few divorces

higher quality of relationships

better gender equity within couples

effects of spousal education are consistent



Implications

Education matters, but not always a direct relationship

Tempo effects continue to play a substantial role in the fertility decline in Eurasia

Economic challenges may be misinterpreted as ideational change

Unpacking the role of education and low fertility may do well to explore issues of relationship quality

