Cohort fertility, parity progression, and family size in former Yugoslav countries during the 20th century

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3rd HFD Symposium, 5 December 2018, Vienna
INTRODUCTION

- Before 1918: Austrian Empire, Ottoman Empire
- 1918 – 1941: Kingdom of Yugoslavia
- 1990s breakup, wars

- Diversity
- Crossroads of cultures
Complex interplay of historical, political, economic, and social factors

- regional and ethnical similarities and dissimilarities in demographic trends and patterns
- marriage and family dynamics
- urbanisation (de-ruralisation) and forced industrialization
- female educational expansion
- female economic activity
- religion
- wars during the twentieth century
- family planning – birth control, contraception and abortion
- population/family policies

Homogeneity within Yugoslavia’s heterogeneity?
DATA AND METHODS

- Census data on women by number of children ever born + cohort
- Completed cohort fertility rate (CFR)
- Parity progression ratios (PPR)
- Parity composition (childless etc.)
- Data available at [www.cfe-database.org](http://www.cfe-database.org)

### Country Codes and Available Censuses

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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Bosnia and Herzegovina</td>
<td>BIH</td>
<td>1948, 1991, 2013</td>
<td>2.6</td>
<td>4.4</td>
<td>3.5</td>
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<td>Kosovo</td>
<td>RKS</td>
<td>1948, 1961, 1971, 1981, 2011</td>
<td>0.7</td>
<td>1.9</td>
<td>1.8</td>
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<tr>
<td>Macedonia</td>
<td>MKD</td>
<td>1948, 1994, 2002</td>
<td>1.2</td>
<td>2.0</td>
<td>2.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Montenegro</td>
<td>MNE</td>
<td>1948, 1991, 2003, 2011</td>
<td>0.4</td>
<td>0.6</td>
<td>0.6</td>
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A very clear pattern of country clusters

- Croatia, Serbia and Slovenia: on a similar path to low(er) fertility
- Bosnia and Macedonia: high fertility at first, then a fast decline
- Kosovo remains an exception

REASONS??
No clear pattern in childlessness

We have to look at higher parities
Differences in CFR best described by proportion of very large families; women with 6 or more children.
Two-child families quickly prevalent in all countries except Kosovo

Shift from 6+ to 2-child families very fast
Again a clear formation of 3 clusters based on parity composition
PPR23 and PPR34 already declined in all countries except Kosovo.

- Now PPR12 and PPR23 make the difference.
PPR23 and PPR34 already declined in all countries except Kosovo

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Now PPR12 and PPR23 make the difference
CONCLUSIONS & NEXT STEPS

- Three routes to low(er) cohort fertility
- A common preference for two-child families emerged in all countries; + the curious case of Kosovo
- For now: most likely explanation – changing social norms on family size? (within-marriage fertility regulation)

- EXTENSION OF THE DATABASE
- NEW DIMENSIONS – EDUCATION
THANK YOU

Acknowledgements:
This research is funded by the Centre of International Cooperation and Mobility (ICM) of the Austrian Agency for International Cooperation in Education and Research (OeAD-GmbH) under the program Scientific & Technological Cooperation (WTZ) with Croatia 2018, project number HR 25/2018.