How Families Will Change in the Next 20 Years - Europe

Some Modest Predictions Projections
Wendy Sigle-Rushton
XXVII IUSSP International Population Conference

29 August, 2013
Busan
20 years is a long time

• 20 years ago....
  – I left New Orleans and moved to Providence to start a PhD in economics

  – I didn’t own a personal computer or a mobile phone

  – I had never been to Europe
At least it wasn’t 50 years....
At least it wasn’t 50 years....
At least it wasn’t 50 years....
At least it wasn’t 50 years….
My teachers....

• “How one starts, in thinking as well as in acting, has everything to do with where one might go.....” (Spelman 1988, pg. xi)

• “....the conceptual and normative framework of the members of a society is deeply influenced by premises and terms of discourse that make it difficult to think critically about aspects of their social relations or alternative possibilities of institutionalization and action.” (Young 2001, pg 685-686)

• “....frame-setting is among the most consequential of political decisions.” (Fraser 2008, pg 8)
Demographic Legacy

• De-standardized life course

• Low fertility and ageing populations

• Increasing number and diversity of intimate relationships
  – Cohabitation and LATs
  – Relationship breakdown and re-partnering
    • Age gaps
    • (Gendered) pathways to late fertility
  – Children: grow up in more than one household
    • Other adults
    • Diversity of sibling relationships

• Increasing longevity
Socio-Economic Legacy

• Increasingly fluid ideas of what constitutes a family:
  – Acceptance of
    • Non-marital unions
    • Non-marital childbearing
    • Childlessness
    • Same sex partnerships and parenting
    • Solo parenting

• Norms and expectations:
  – Sexual double standards
  – Egalitarian gender norms – but “stalled revolution”
  – Good (enough) parenting

• Technology lowers costs of
  – Communication
  – Information

• Increasing income inequality
Political Legacy

• Anxiety about the costs of ageing populations

• New models of redistribution
  – From the Strong Male Breadwinner to the Adult Worker Model
    • Work-family reconciliation
    • The social investment welfare state

• Regulation of cohabiting unions

• Recognition of same sex unions

• European integration
Wollestonecraft’s Dilemma

"[E]ither women become (like) men, and so full citizens, or they continue at women's work, which is of no value for citizenship." (Pateman 1988: 197)
P1: Persistently low fertility despite increasing levels of government support
The costs of raising children and the effectiveness of policies to support parenthood in European countries: a Literature Review

A report to the European Commission by Marie-Thérèse Letablier, Angela Luci, Antoine Math, Olivier Thévenon
Families struggle as cost of child raising at £148,000

Families are struggling as the cost of bringing up a child has risen to £148,000, according to research for the Child Poverty Action Group (CPAG).

The report, co-funded by the Joseph Rowntree Foundation, says costs have risen by 4% over the last year.

At the same time it says the value of benefit payments has fallen in real terms.

The government has said such cuts are necessary in order to reduce the UK welfare bill.
The perfect age to have a baby is 26 (as long as you are married, have bought a home and earn a combined salary of £25,000)

- Both mothers and fathers have voted mid-twenties as time when young couples should start a family
- Owning a house and getting married were key milestones to achieve before having a family
When's the best time to have a baby?
More women than ever are giving birth in their 40s. Lucy Atkins had hers in her 30s. But what about her contemporaries?
ARE YOU READY FOR A BABY?

Is there ever a right time to have a baby?

Career, life goals, holiday plans... is there ever a right time to have a baby? Kerry Potter examines the biggest decision you'll ever make. When a woman takes a pregnancy test in a film and sees a thin blue line, one of two things happen: she whoops with joy or her world falls apart. She either wants a baby or she doesn’t – it’s black and white. Real life, however, is more complicated.
Does this picture make you want to have a baby?
23 May 2013 by Rosie Mulierder

A new campaign targets women who have chosen to put off motherhood – but how many women like this actually exist, asks Rosie Mulierder

She’s old and wrinkly, grey-haired and pregnant. But if the new Get Britain Fertile campaign is to be believed, this is the future face of motherhood if we don’t all getprogged up ASAP.

Kate Gereffy, who is actually only 46, is fronting a new campaign by pregnancy test manufacturers First Response, which is designed to encourage women to listen to the tick of their biological clock and have children when they are most fertile.

“I know careers and finances seem important but you only have a small fertility window,” Kate warns on the campaign website. “Get prepared first and make informed choices early.”

It’s true that women in the UK are having their babies later – along with Germany, we top the league table when it comes to countries with the highest average maternal age. But most of us are still starting families at 30, while fertility begins to decline only when we hit 35.

IS YOUR RELATIONSHIP OVER?

So I’m not sure why this campaign feels it necessary to imply we’ve become a nation of fast-hungry business women, so worried about stretch-marks and our chance of having chosen to ignore the deafening sound of our ovaries cooking.

Look around you at the real world and you’ll see a very different picture. Firstly, half the real world comprises men who also – believe it or not – have a say in the whole baby-making process. Secondly, I don’t know a single woman who’s 35 or over in a stable relationship, and very much wants a baby but has decided to put it off.

What I do know are some women who, very sadly, have struggled to get pregnant when they really want to. Others who want a baby but whose partners don’t just yet. And still more who work incredibly
“...in judging the adequacy of their personal situations, Europeans seem to have an uncanny grasp of where their societies stand in the international (or at least European) hierarchy of economic development and take that standing into account in arriving at subjective evaluations of their personal circumstances.” (Fahey et al 2004)
The eurozone's struggling countries face a future 'baby recession'

Young people are deciding they can't afford to have children, shrinking the pool of the next generation of taxpayers
Why are Dutch children so happy?

By Kathryn Westcott
BBC News website

Dutch children have been rated the most fortunate children in Europe. Their parents go out of their way to please them, and teachers expect less of them than some of their European counterparts.

The Netherlands has come top of a league table for child well-being across 21 industrialised countries.

The study by the UN children's organisation, Unicef, looked at relative poverty, educational and health standards, sexual behaviour and the children's relationship with friends and parents.

"The Netherlands has always been a very child-centred society," says Paul Vangeer, professor of developmental psychology at the University of Groningen. "In particular, there is a lot of focus on young children."

He says he is not surprised by the report, "On the one hand you have objective indicators in the report like health, income and education. The Netherlands is a very rich country. On the other hand, and perhaps more importantly, are the subjective indicators, young people's own subjective sense of well-being."
Raising children becoming more expensive in Poland
2nd September 2011

The rising cost of education supplies is partly to blame

Supporting a child is becoming increasingly expensive, as the average cost to raise them from birth until their 20th birthday has reached zł.190,000, reported Dziennik Gazeta Prawna.

This is a zł.30,000 increase on the average cost from three years ago, according to experts from the Adam Smith Centre.

The main reason behind this rise is the increased cost of education supplies.

“This year’s VAT hike for books and the change of curriculum will lead to as much as a 10 percent increase in the price of textbooks,” Tomasz Maj, director of e-commerce at Grupa Nokaut, told DGP.

Poland A.M.

From Warsaw Business Journal

Also check out:
Family is as family does?

- *noun (plural families)* **1** [treated as singular or plural] a group consisting of two parents and their children living together as a unit

- an interdependent group of individuals who
  (1) have a shared sense of history;
  (2) share emotional ties to one another; and
  (3) devise strategies for meeting the needs of individual family members and the group as a whole. (Anderson & Sabbatelli 2011)
Family is as family does?

P2: (Formal) recognition of new types of families
Family is as family does?
Family is as family does?
"[E]ither women become (like) men, and so full citizens, or they continue at women's work, which is of no value for citizenship." (Pateman 1988: 197)
There Is A Solution to the Housework Wars
My teachers....

- “How one starts, in thinking as well as in acting, has everything to do with where one might go.....” (Spelman 1988, pg. xi)

- “....the conceptual and normative framework of the members of a society is deeply influenced by premises and terms of discourse that make it difficult to think critically about aspects of their social relations or alternative possibilities of institutionalization and action.” (Young 2001, pg 685-686)

- “....frame-setting is among the most consequential of political decisions. Constituting both members and non-members in a single stroke, this decision effectively excludes the latter from the universe of those entitled to consideration within the community in matters of distribution, recognition, and ordinary-political representation. The result can be a serious injustice....” (Fraser 2008, pg 8)