



European journal of population, ISSN 0168-6577
Volume 31, number 5 (december 2015)

Ideational and Economic Causes of the Rise in Non-marital Childbearing in the Czech Republic

P. 473-494

Martina Štípková

Abstract

This paper analyses the increase in non-marital childbearing in the Czech Republic during the first two decades following the demise of state socialism. The proportion of mothers who gave birth as unmarried increased more than fourfold during this period. The aim is to explain the reasons for this increase and its socioeconomic variation. Three explanations are tested: growing individualisation, increasing economic uncertainty, and adjustment to a policy that provided more support for single mothers. Data, taken from the national birth register, regarding the marital status of mothers are used to estimate multilevel models with contexts defined by combinations of regions and years. The results are most in line with the first explanation: the change in values due to a rise in individualism and personal autonomy. Economic uncertainty is also found to have a moderate effect among women with up to a secondary education, especially the lower (vocational) level. The influence of policy is weak and is limited to mothers with the lowest level of education.

The Association Between Parents' and Adult Children's Homeownership: A Comparative Analysis

P. 495-527

Clara H. Mulder, Caroline Dewilde, Mark van Duijn

Abstract

We investigate the extent to which the intergenerational transmission of homeownership varies across European countries. Our main hypotheses are that the impact of parental homeownership on the likelihood and timing of an adult child's entry into homeownership is less strong in contexts where homeownership is more accessible (in terms of affordability and access to mortgage credit), where renting is a feasible alternative to owning, and where the family matters less for the provision of welfare and housing. We perform discrete-time event history analyses of the transition to first-time homeownership using retrospective SHARELIFE-data from 10 European countries. Our respondents were born between 1908 and 1963, while observed entries to first-time homeownership occur between 1965 and 2009. We introduce fixed effects for countries and macro-level indicators for country-period combinations, interacted with parental homeownership. We find that the intergenerational transmission of homeownership is stronger in contexts where house prices are higher (and homeownership is less affordable), and less strong in more affluent contexts and in contexts where homeownership has increased more. The remaining differences in intergenerational transmission cannot be attributed to differences in welfare regimes or between dual and unitary rental markets.

Roberto Impicciatore

Abstract

The lack of convergence between Mediterranean and North-Western European countries in the patterns of transition to adulthood is usually explained in terms of the welfare state or persistent cultural differences. The extensive literature emphasizes the importance of these two mechanisms focusing, respectively, on each aspect separately, but few attempts have been made to distinguish between them given the difficulties in disentangling factors that are strongly endogenous. However, specific situations may offer favourable conditions for the researchers. One of these takes into account the analysis of second-generation immigrants, i.e. individuals born and raised in the country of arrival, but influenced by a different cultural background. Thus, the comparison between the patterns experienced by the children of immigrants and natives can shed light on the role of the welfare regime and cultural factors transmitted from parents to children. In this article we focus on events that mark the transition to adulthood, comparing French natives with Italian second-generation immigrants in France. We use data from the *Étude de l'histoire familiale* survey. Our analysis, developed using a cohort and gender perspective, generally underlines the relevance of the welfare regime or the institutional setting since the behaviours of second-generation immigrants from the Mediterranean area are clearly different from those observed in the countries of origin. Nevertheless, the distance between second generations and French natives is also evident and the former group shows marked similarities with the patterns experienced in Italy. This latter result supports the hypothesis that there is (also) a cultural component in the peculiarities observed in the Mediterranean countries.

The Association Between Parental Migration and Childhood Illness in Rural China

Yuying Tong, Weixiang Luo, Martin Piotrowski

Abstract

Many studies have examined the relationship between parental migration and child well-being, but few have examined the influences of parental migration on children's illness and the changes over time in China's internal migration context. Using longitudinal data from the China Health and Nutrition Survey from 1997 to 2009, this study examines how parental out-migration is associated with left-behind children's health, by comparing those children with children of non-migrant parent families. Random-effect models show that fathers', but not mothers', migration is positively associated with the likelihood of being ill. The association between fathers' migration and childhood illness diminished over time: The influence of the fathers' migration on childhood illness lessened as migration rates rose. The study also found that having to do more household chores due to the father's absence partly accounts for the negative effect of fathers' migration on children's health.
