

THIRD ISA FORUM OF SOCIOLOGY

Session:

*Family change in Western and Non-Western Global Contexts:
New Gender Models and Praxis*

Convergence of gender roles in a globalized world:
international comparison of family and changing gender roles



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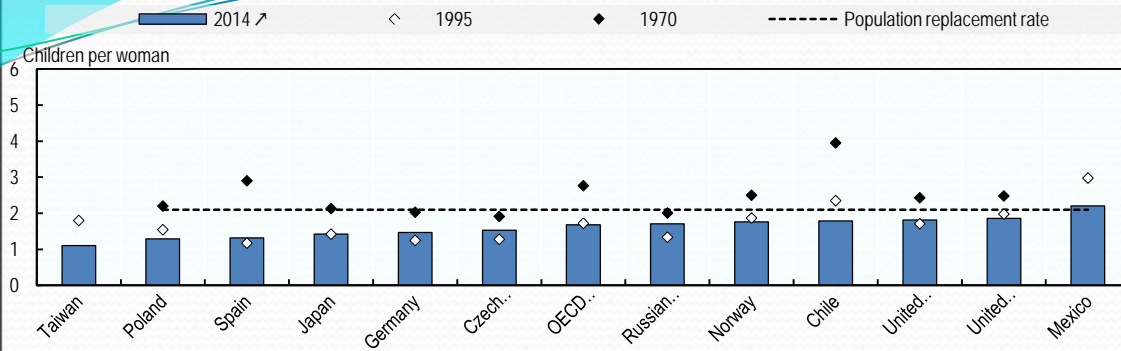
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Introduction: the project

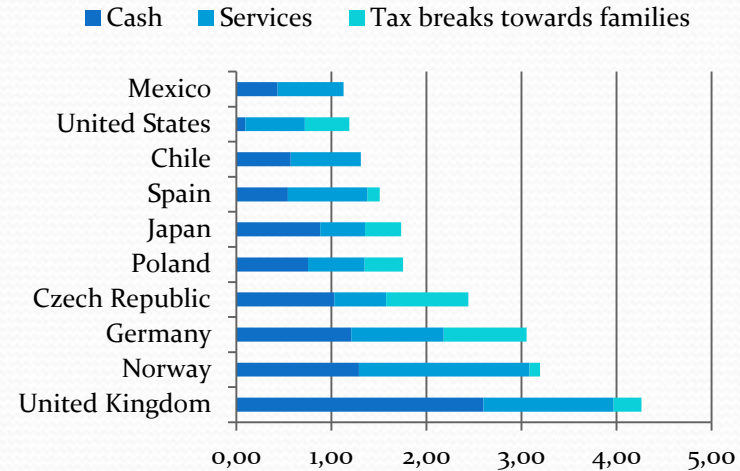
- The project “Family challenges at the beginning of the XXI Century: the impact of family individualization process on culture, fertility and welfare” focuses on family change from an international and longitudinal perspective.
- The project uses microdata from the special module *Family, Work and Gender Roles* module of the *International Social Survey Programme-ISSP* (1994, 2002 and 2012), in which 45 countries have participated. Information for the three rounds is collected for 17 countries with very different family values and welfare systems (for instance, Sweden, Japan, Russia, Spain, United Kingdom or the United States).
- We compare different aspects related to family: opinions about motherhood and fatherhood, attitudes towards new family forms (homosexuality, cohabitation, divorce, etc.), reconciliation of work and family, share of housework, care for the elderly and the children, etc.
- The aim of the project is to compare opinions/attitudes and behaviours. We complete data from ISSP (individual opinions, micro-level) with the inclusion of statistics at country level (such as fertility rates, macro-level). We want to conclude if there exist a coherence among behaviours and opinions/attitudes.
- I focus on the evolution of gender roles in work and family in 12 countries around the world (1994-2012). This presentation shows some preliminary results.
- Structure of the presentation:
 1. Statistics about fertility, policies and female employment.
 2. Opinions about motherhood and female employment.
 3. Comparison of opinions of men and women.
 4. Conclusions.

1. Statistics (OCDE Family Database)

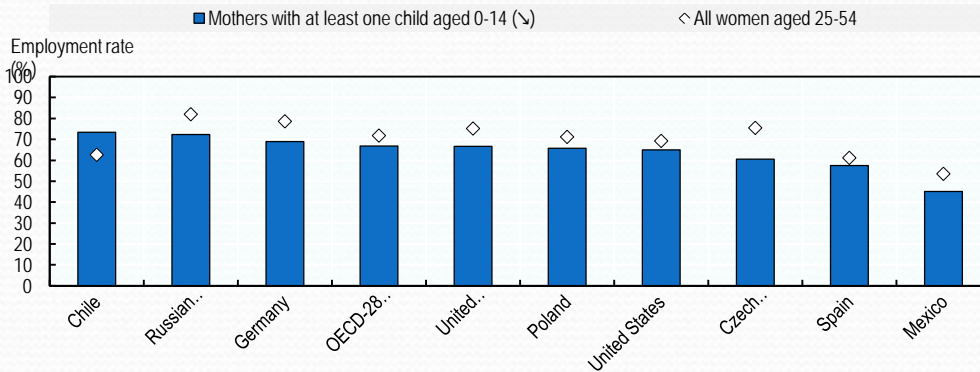


Up: Graph 1: Total fertility rate (1970, 1995, 2014)

Right: Graph 2: Public spending on family benefits (2011)

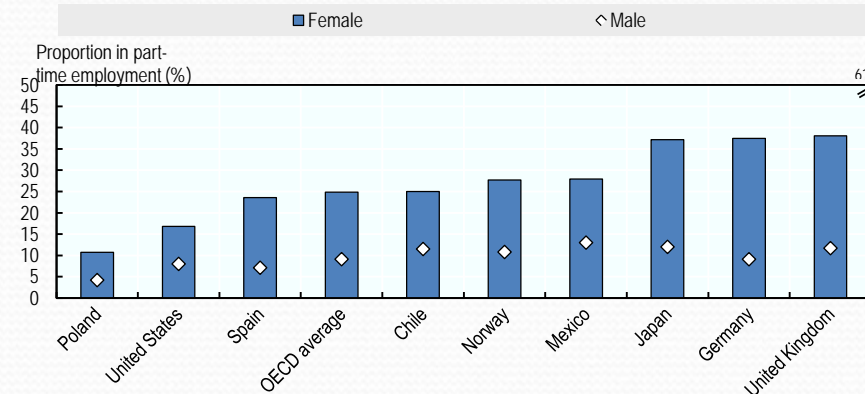


Note: Data on cash transfers for the UK include spending on categorical income support benefits for sole parent families. Other countries also support sole parent families in need, but through general social assistance type payments. As a result, the spending on cash transfers is relatively high for the UK.



Up: Graph 3. Maternal employment rates (2013)

Right: Graph 4. Proportion of employed in part-time employment (2013)



2. Opinions

Table 1. A working mother can establish agree just as warm and secure a relationship with her children as a mother who does not work

Trend: All countries increase their percentage of Agree in 20012 compared to 1994-2012, except Russia (-1.2 percentage points). There exist oscillations in Czech Republic, Germany (East), Japan, Russia and United States. The highest increases occur in Norway, Czech Republic, Great Britain, Poland and Spain (11 to 18 percentage points). In Asia, Japan shows more traditional attitudes than Taiwan.

Table 2. A pre-school child is likely to suffer if his or her mother works

Trend: All countries decrease their percentage of Agree (1994-2012). The highest decreases occur in Germany West (-32.9), Norway, Poland and Russia (more than 20 percentage points). We can also observe a high decrease in Chile in only ten years (-17) and a slow convergence between Poland and Czech Republic (from a 19 points of divergence to 12). In Asia, Taiwan more traditional attitudes than Japan, in contrast to Table 1.

Table 3. Both the man and woman should contribute to the household income

Trend: There is no general trend (1994-2012). Some countries increase their agreement with the sentence, some decrease it, although the figures are higher in the first case. By regions, in Latin American and Asia the percentage of agreement decreases, in Europe (East and West) and United States it increases. Russia and East Germany show small differences (2 percentage points). Many countries show oscillations during the period in their percentage of agreement: Czech Republic, East Germany, Russia, Spain and United States. The highest increases occur in Norway (24.1 percentage points) and Poland (18.4). The highest decreases happen in Japan (-8.8 percentage points) and Taiwan (-4.3).

2. Opinions

Table 4. Do you think that women should work outside: the home full-time, part-time or not at all under these circumstances? When there is a child under school age

Trend: There is no general trend (1994-2012). Some countries increase their percentage of preference for full time work, others not, while in Great Britain, Japan and Poland there exist oscillations. The part-time work increases their popularity, although some countries oscillates in their support for this option (Czech Republic, East Germany, Japan and Russia). In the case of staying at home, this option has decreased in all countries except Japan and Taiwan, but it has oscillated in Czech Republic, Poland and Japan. It is difficult to compare Taiwan with the rest of countries, because it includes the option “Women should decide”, a very popular option. Japan shows a traditional view of the women, followed by Poland. Latin America, Germany West, Great Britain and Spain prefer working part-time and the highest figures of working full time are in Norway and East Germany.

Table 5. Do you think that women should work outside: the home full-time, part-time or not at all under these circumstances? After the youngest child starts school.

Trend: All countries increase their percentage of full time work, except Japan (oscillation), whereas Mexico and Taiwan are stable and Great Britain oscillates. Some countries increase their figures in the case of part-time work and others not, whereas West Germany, Great Britain and Spain oscillate. In the case of staying at home , this option has decreased in all countries except Taiwan. The highest increases in full-time work occur in Norway ,Germany-East, Poland and Russia; whereas in part-time work happen in Chile and Japan. It is remarkable the case in Poland: in 1994 it had the maximum value in staying at home in 1994 (40.2) and full-time work (30), in 2012 it has decreased the first option to 13.5 and the second has increased to 56.1, only overtook by Norway.

4. Conclusions

We find some general patterns:

- ❖ Decrease of fertility and increase of female employment (1994-2012).
- ❖ More positive attitudes towards the relationship of a working mother with their children in all the countries, but less agreement about if a pre-school child suffers with this work.
- ❖ Increased agreement in mothers working full-time after the youngest child starts school.

Nevertheless:

- ❖ We find **regional differences** in the evolution of the support to dual earner model: in Asia and Latin American we observe less support, in Europe and United States an increase of support.
- ❖ There is no general trend about what should do a woman when she has a pre-school child, although staying at home is less popular than before, except in Asia.

Men and women:

- ❖ We find that differences are higher regarding what to do when there is a pre-school child and if this child suffers. Women generally prefer to work and men that they stay at home. Men perceive more negatively the relationship of working mothers with their children.

Comparison of macro and micro level:

- ❖ We generally find a **coherence among opinions of the population and fertility rates, maternal employment and family policies**. Exceptions to this pattern are Spain and, in a lesser extent, Norway.
- ❖ Nevertheless, such coherence could be due to people adapting their opinions to the macro context: according to OCDE, childlessness is the ideal fertility option for 20% of women from OCDE and only 8% wish to have one child only. The differences between ideal and actual number of children number could be due to external and non-voluntary reasons.