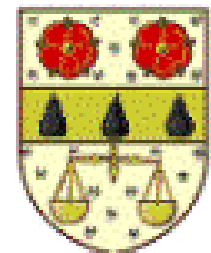


Pluralisation of Family Forms and Life Courses (?)

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Outline

- Two long-term trends:
 - A new (demographic) pattern of transition to adulthood?
 - The gender revolution
- A reversal: fertility and well-being
- Prospect and policy implications

A new (demographic) pattern of transition to adulthood?

- The transition to adulthood is a “demographically” dense period (Rindfuss, 1991)
- Key demographic markers of the “transition to adulthood”:
 - Leaving the parental home
 - Union formation (marriage/childbearing)
 - Becoming a parent

A new (demographic) pattern of transition to adulthood?

- Europe as a lab (Buchmann and Kriesi, 2010)
- Billari and Liefbroer (2010):
hypotheses on the pattern and
analysis of retrospective comparative
data from the European Social
Survey, 2006

A new (demographic) pattern of transition to adulthood?

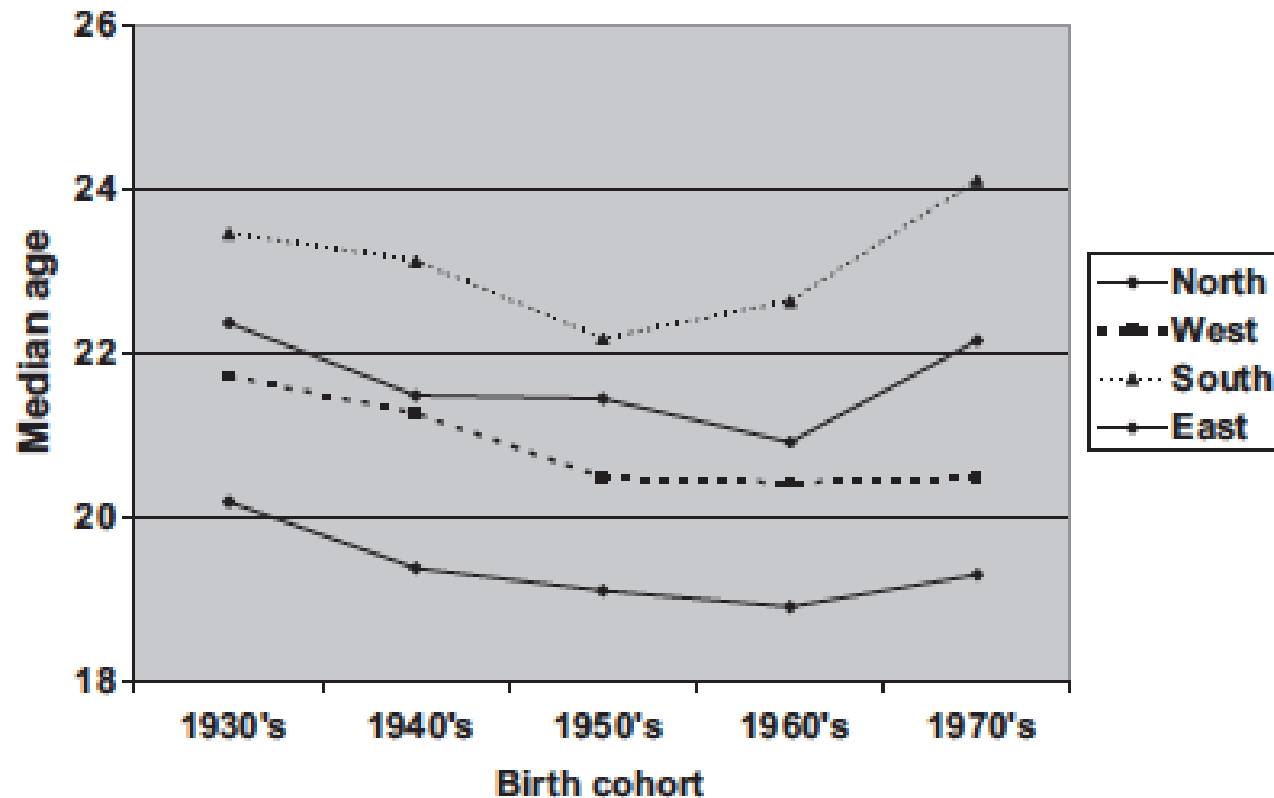
- HP 1 (*timing*→*postponement*):
 - Desire for autonomy→decreasing age at home-leaving
 - Postponement of family formation, in particular marriage and parenthood (less or not reversible)

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	1930-39		Cohort		
Country	1930-39	1940-49	1950-59	1960-69	1970-79
Austria	20.8	21.0	21.4	20.5	20.5
Belgium	22.3	21.9	20.8	21.6	21.9
Bulgaria	20.8	21.9	21.8	20.9	22.8
Switzerland	20.0	20.3	20.0	19.8	20.1
Cyprus	21.8	22.6	21.4	20.6	20.5
Germany	22.1	22.3	20.3	20.8	20.6
Denmark	21.1	19.2	18.9	18.5	19.5
Estonia	20.5	19.7	19.7	19.3	20.1
Spain	24.4	23.6	23.3	23.4	25.8
Finland	19.8	19.8	19.7	19.2	19.2
France	21.6	20.7	20.0	20.1	19.9
United Kingdom	21.8	20.2	19.8	19.5	19.5
Hungary	21.0	21.7	21.9	20.8	21.3
Ireland	22.3	22.2	21.2	21.0	21.3
Italy	23.5	22.5	22.1	24.0	26.9
Latvia	23.1	24.6	21.0	20.3	21.0
Netherlands	22.9	21.6	20.3	20.1	20.1
Norway	19.3	19.3	18.8	19.0	19.2
Poland	23.4	21.3	22.3	21.7	23.9
Portugal	24.0	23.8	21.8	22.5	23.8
Romania	22.3	21.4	20.9	21.2	22.2
Russia	24.6	20.7	20.8	20.9	23.1
Sweden	20.7	19.3	19.0	18.9	19.3
Slovenia	22.8	21.1	22.0	21.9	23.4
Slovakia	20.3	21.3	22.3	21.8	22.3
Ukraine	25.0	21.2	21.6	20.3	21.6

Source: European Social Survey, round 3 (2006)

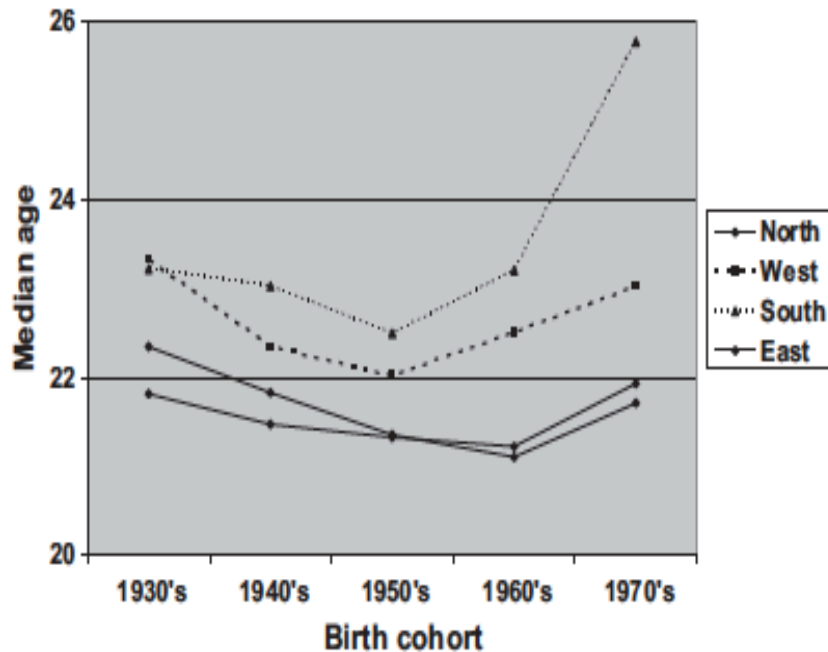
A new (demographic) pattern of transition to adulthood?



Source: European Social Survey, round 3 (2006), *Famiglia e soggetti sociali* (2003). Countries included in each region are listed in footnote 3.

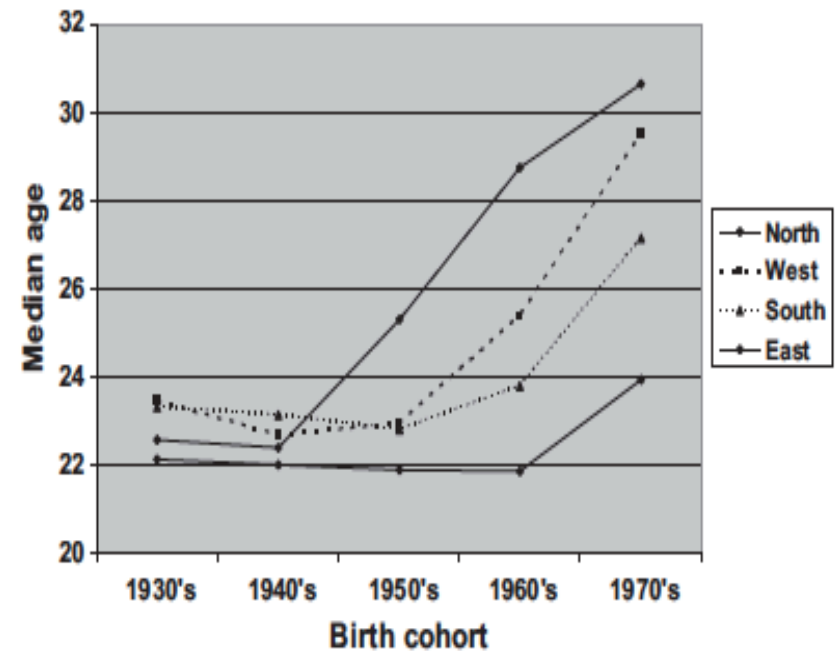
Fig. 1. Median age at leaving home for women in different European regions, by birth cohort.

A new (demographic) pattern of transition to adulthood?



Source: European Social Survey, round 3 (2006),
Famiglia e soggetti sociali (2003).

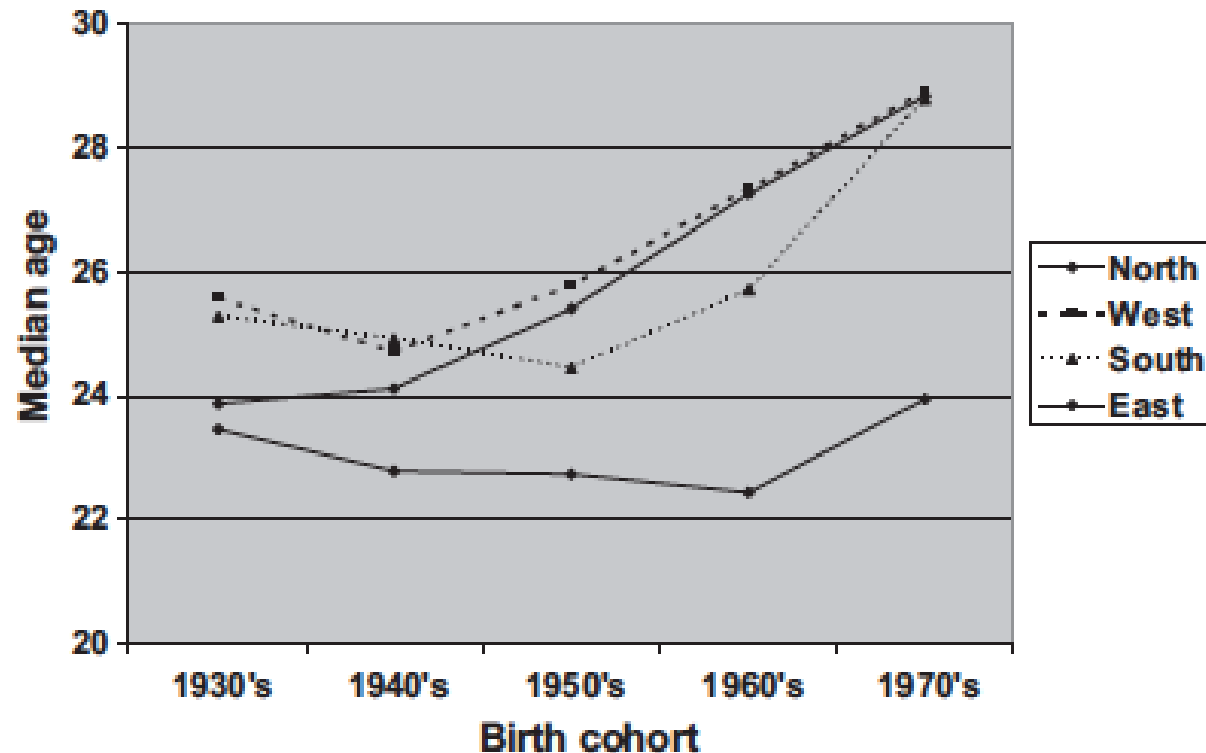
Fig. 2. Median age at entry into a first union for women in different European regions, by birth cohort.



Source: European Social Survey, round 3 (2006),
Famiglia e soggetti sociali (2003).

Fig. 3. Median age at first marriage for women in different European regions, by birth cohort.

A new (demographic) pattern of transition to adulthood?



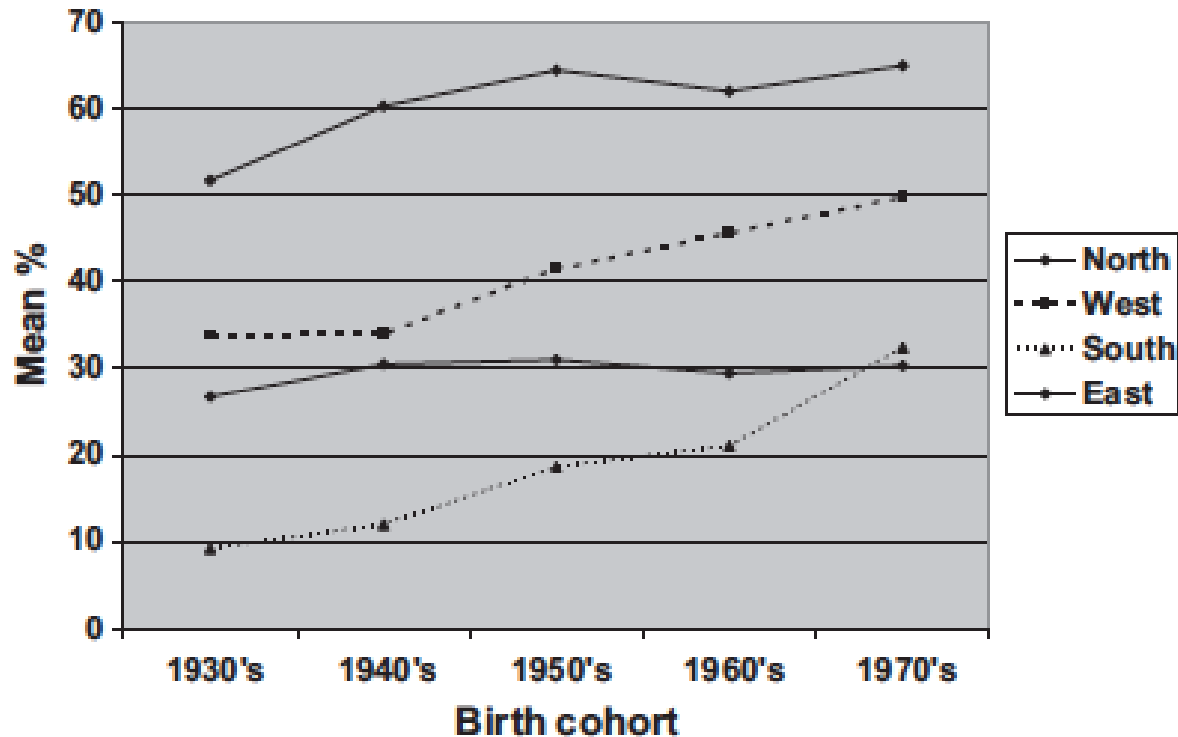
Source: European Social Survey, round 3 (2006),
Famiglia e soggetti sociali (2003).

Fig. 4. Median age at first childbirth for women in different European regions, by birth cohort.

A new (demographic) pattern of transition to adulthood?

- HP 2 (*sequencing*):
 - Leaving home before union formation becomes majoritarian
 - Cohabitation prior to marriage becomes majoritarian
 - Parenthood before marriage becomes widespread

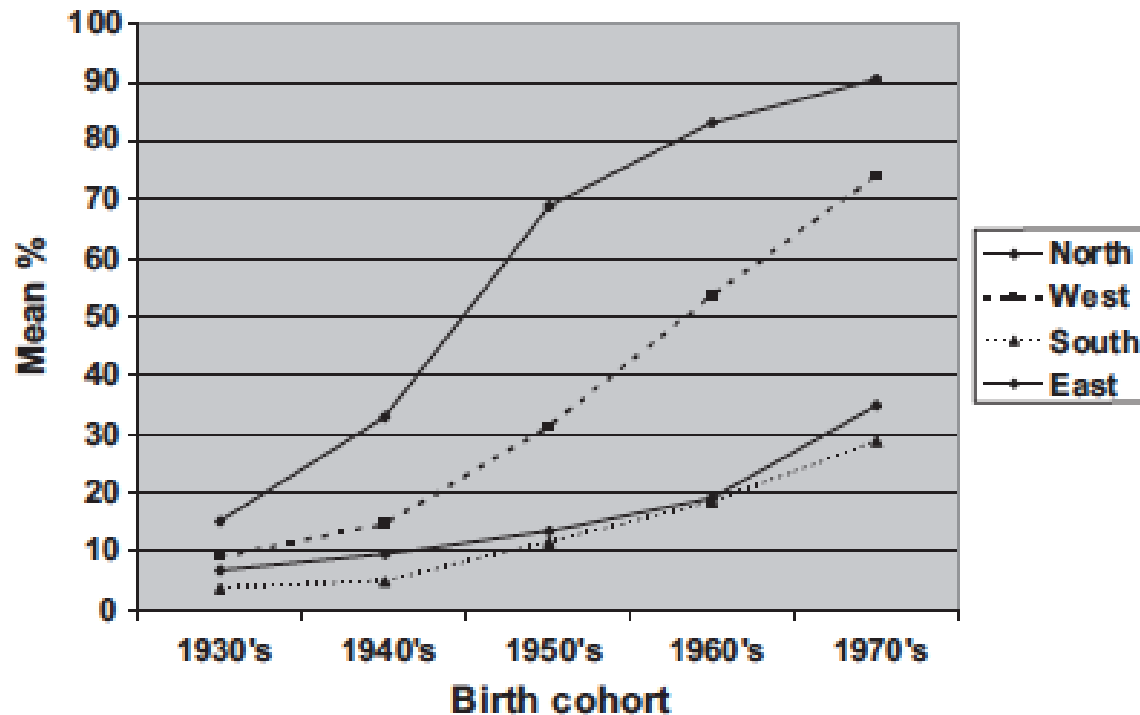
A new (demographic) pattern of transition to adulthood?



Source: European Social Survey, round 3 (2006),
Famiglia e soggetti sociali (2003).

Fig. 5. Mean percentage of women who live without a partner after leaving the parental home in different European regions, by birth cohort (among all women who left the parental home).

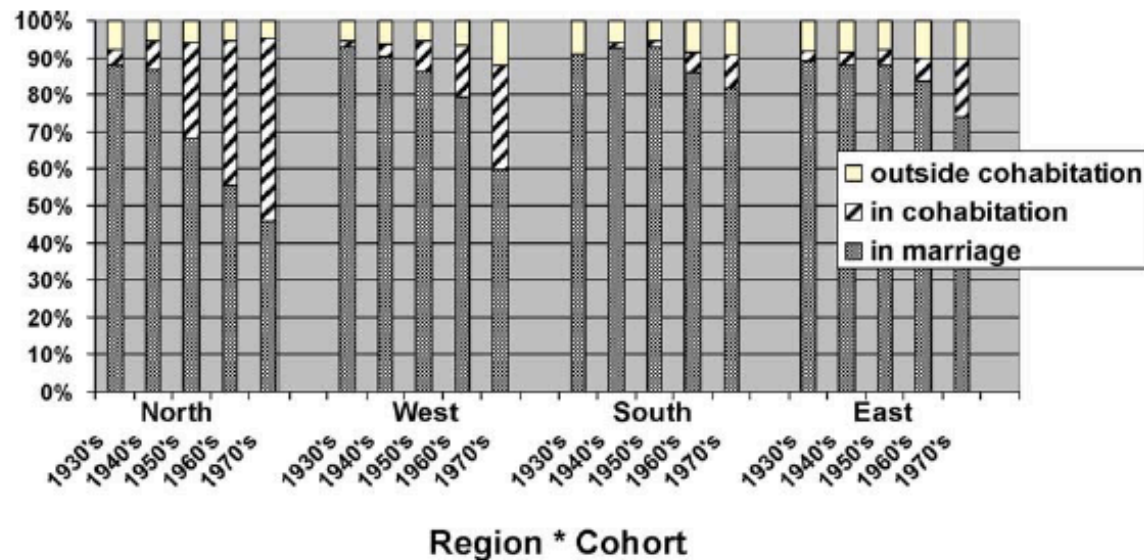
A new (demographic) pattern of transition to adulthood?



Source: European Social Survey, round 3 (2006),
Famiglia e soggetti sociali (2003).

Fig. 6. Mean percentage of women who entered their first union by unmarried cohabitation in different European regions, by birth cohort (as percentage of all women who entered into a union).

A new (demographic) pattern of transition to adulthood?



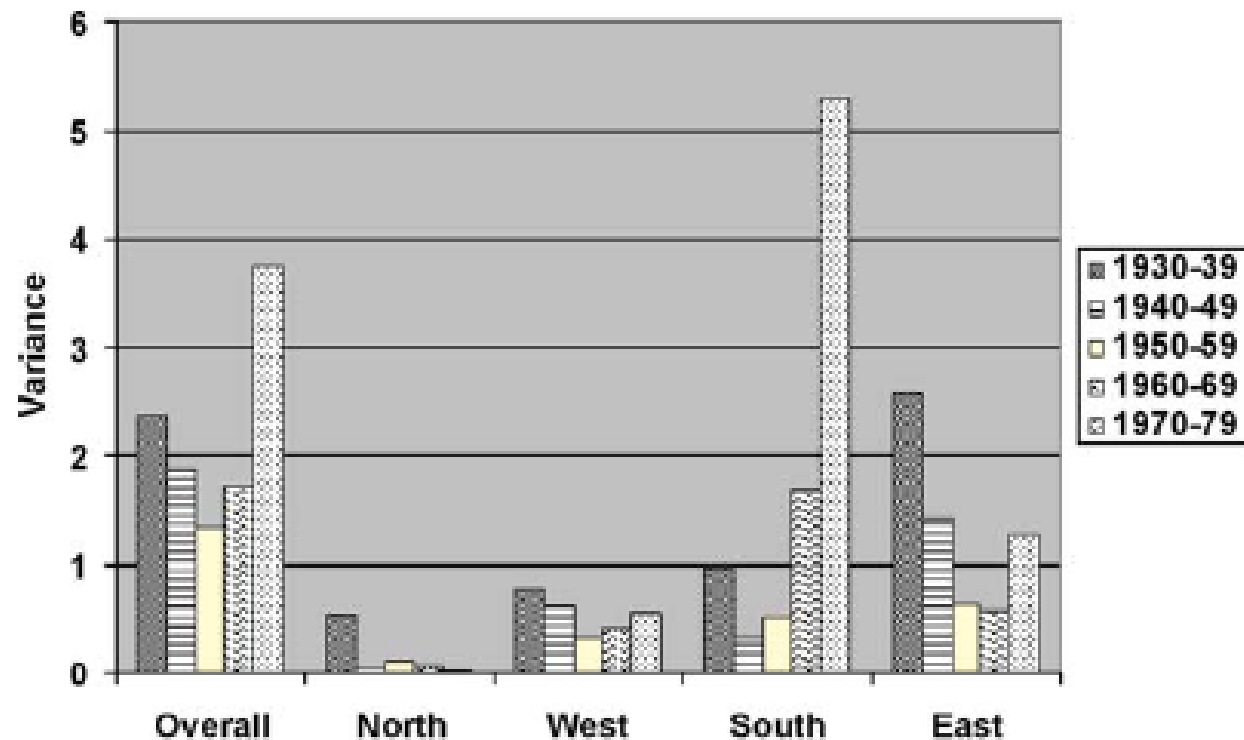
Source: European Social Survey, round 3 (2006), Famiglia e soggetti sociali (2003).

Fig. 7. Percentage of women having a childbirth within marriage, within unmarried cohabitation and outside a partnership in different European regions, by birth cohort (as percentage of all women who have a child).

A new (demographic) pattern of transition to adulthood?

- HP 3 (*a pattern?*):
 - One would expect convergence (i.e. lower variance) across countries
 - Timing
 - Sequencing

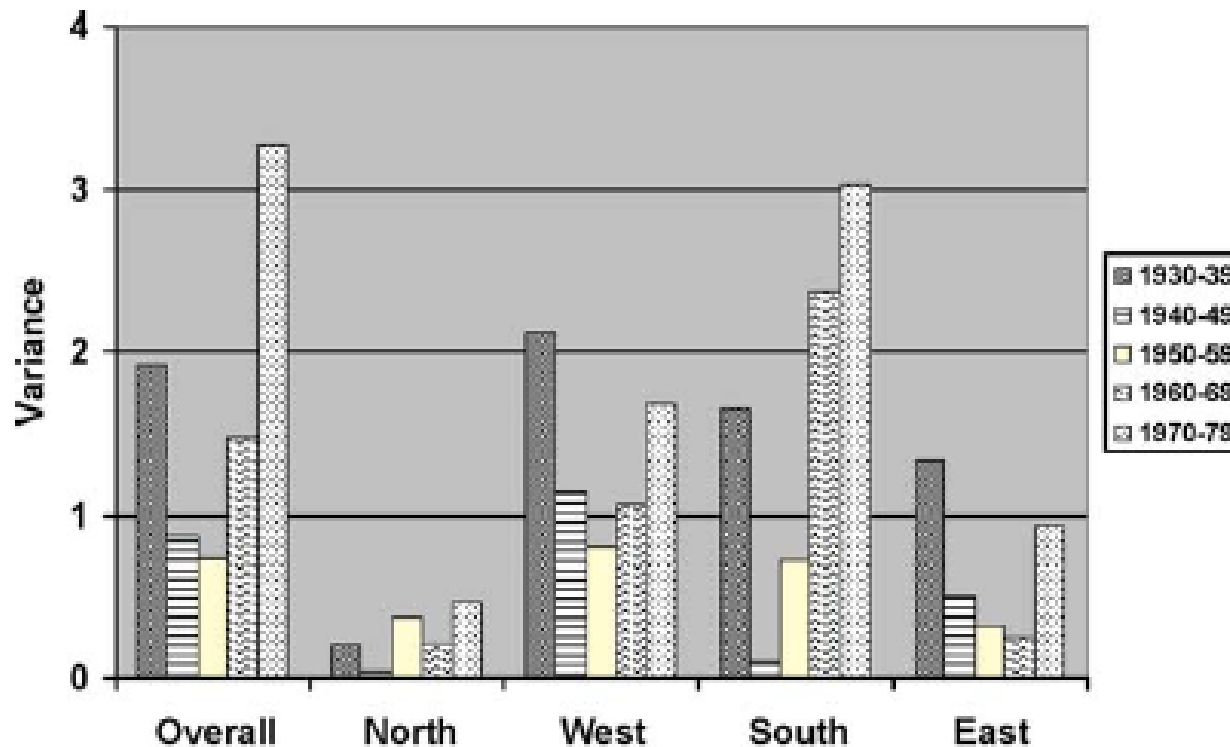
A new (demographic) pattern of transition to adulthood?



Source: European Social Survey, round 3 (2006),
Famiglia e soggetti sociali (2003).

Fig. 8. Variance in median age at leaving home for women in different European regions, by birth cohort.

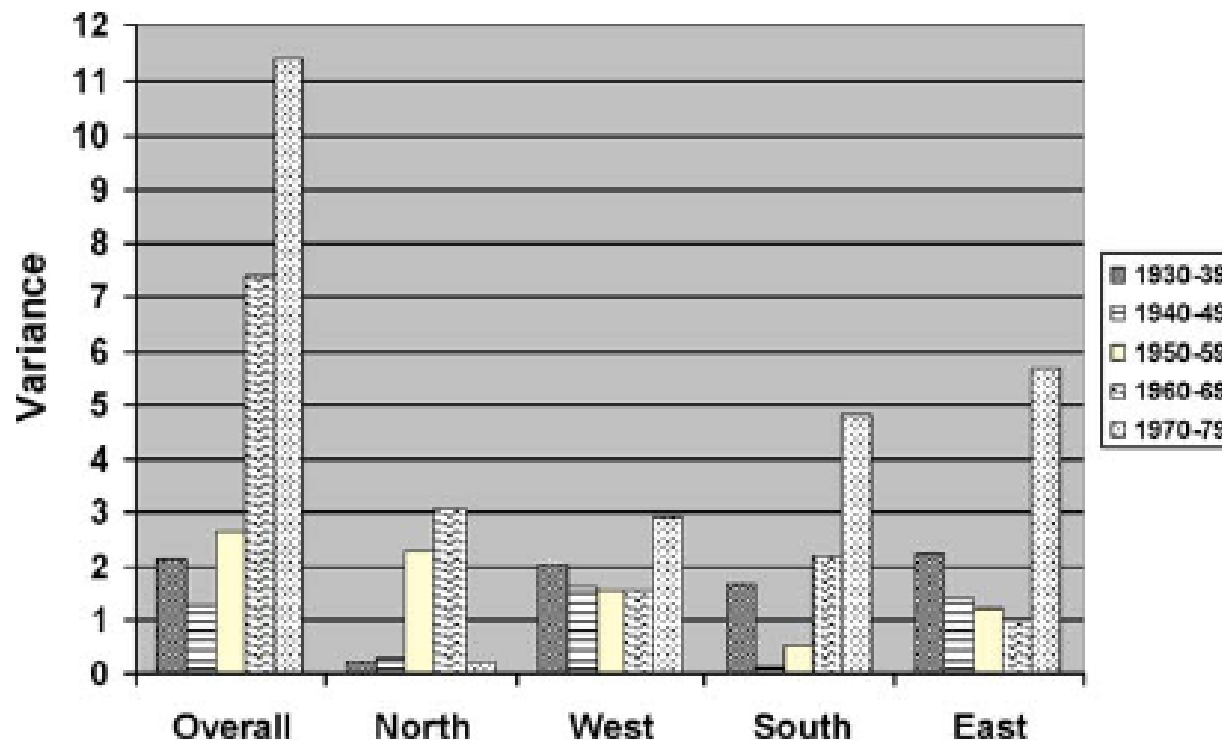
A new (demographic) pattern of transition to adulthood?



Source: European Social Survey, round 3 (2006),
Famiglia e soggetti sociali (2003).

Fig. 9. Variance in median age at union formation for women in different European regions, by birth cohort.

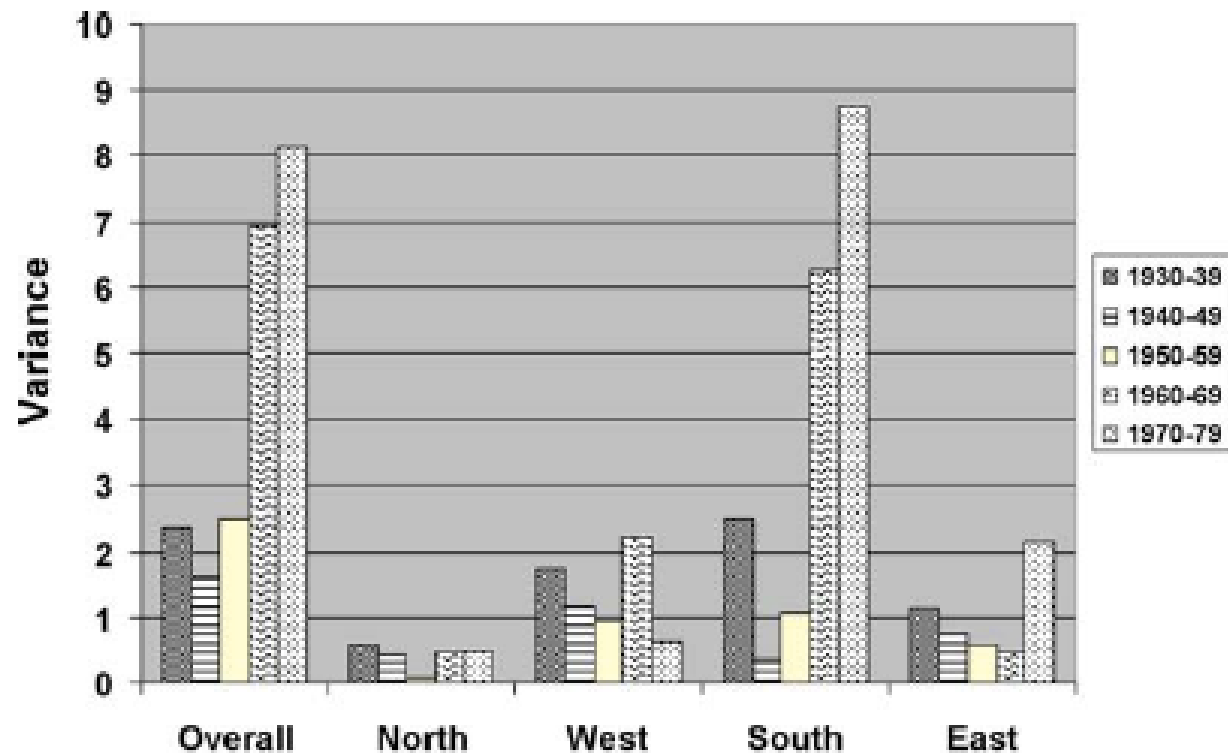
A new (demographic) pattern of transition to adulthood?



Source: European Social Survey, round 3 (2006),
Famiglia e soggetti sociali (2003).

Fig. 10. Variance in median age at first marriage for women in different European regions, by birth cohort.

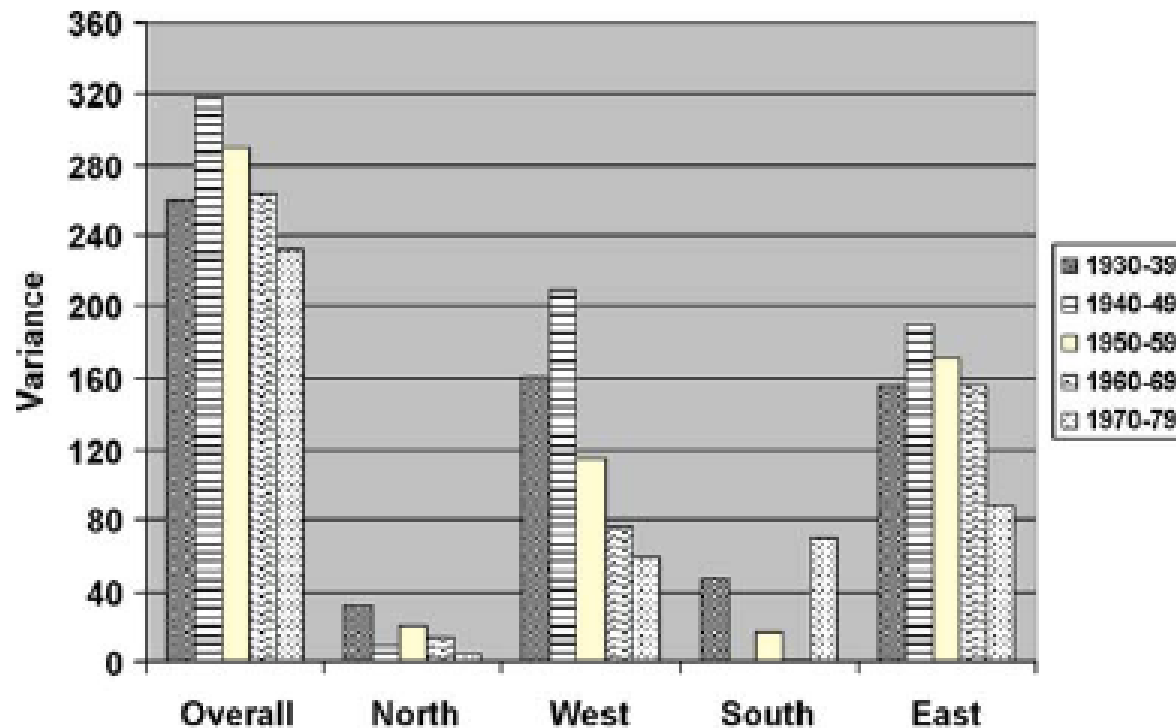
A new (demographic) pattern of transition to adulthood?



Source: European Social Survey, round 3 (2006),
Famiglia e soggetti sociali (2003).

Fig. 11. Variance in median age at first childbirth for women in different European regions, by birth cohort.

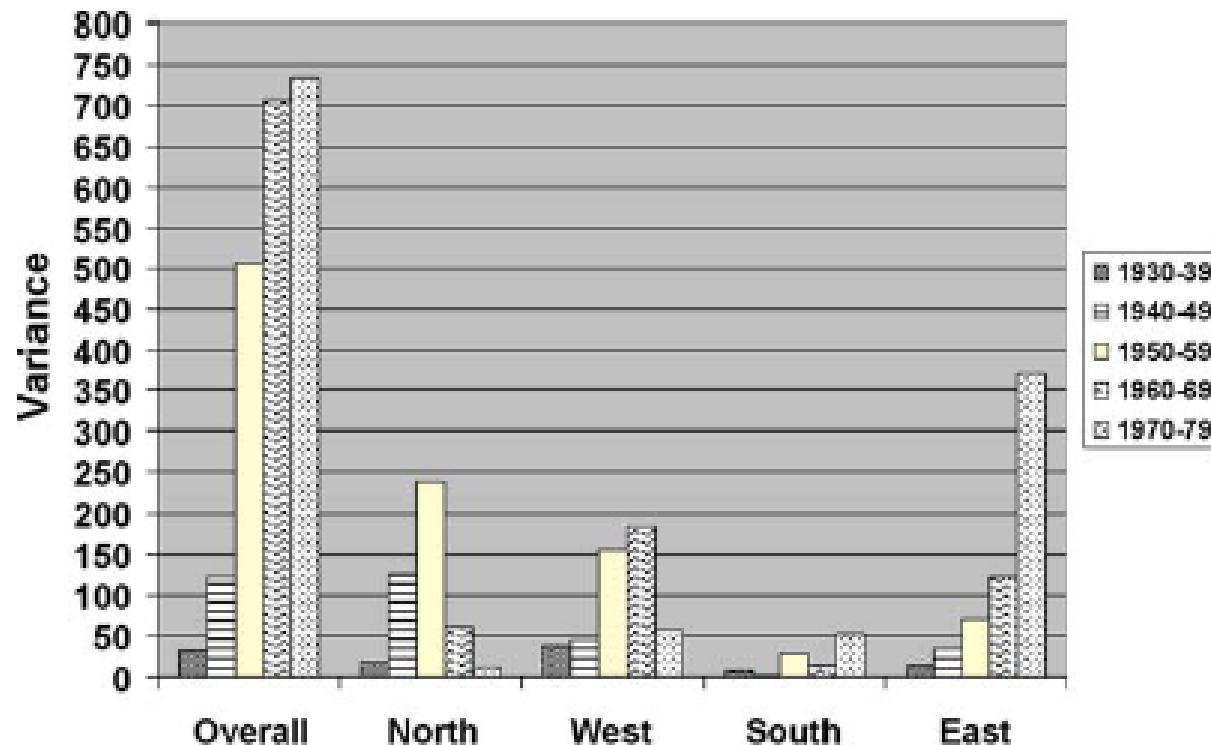
A new (demographic) pattern of transition to adulthood?



Source: European Social Survey, round 3 (2006).

Fig. 12. Variance in the percentage of women who left home to live without a partner for women in different European regions, by birth cohort.

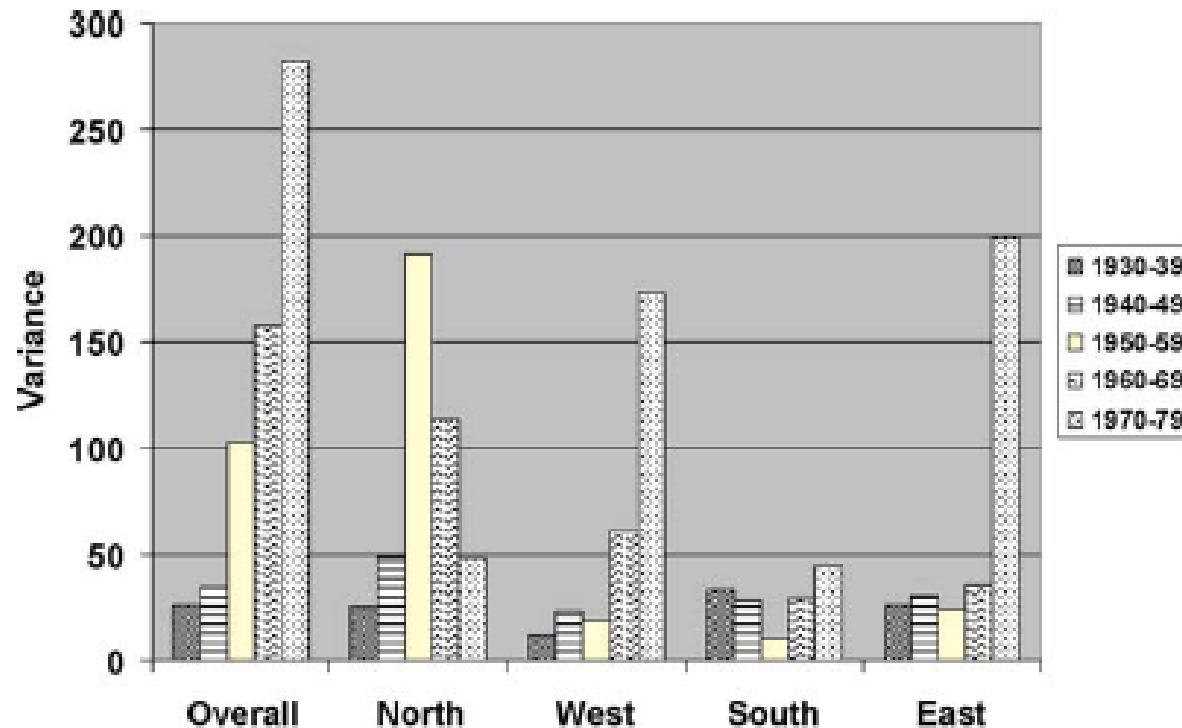
A new (demographic) pattern of transition to adulthood?



Source: European Social Survey, round 3 (2006).

Fig. 13. Variance in the percentage of women who entered a first union by unmarried cohabitation for women in different European regions, by birth cohort.

A new (demographic) pattern of transition to adulthood?



Source: European Social Survey, round 3 (2006).

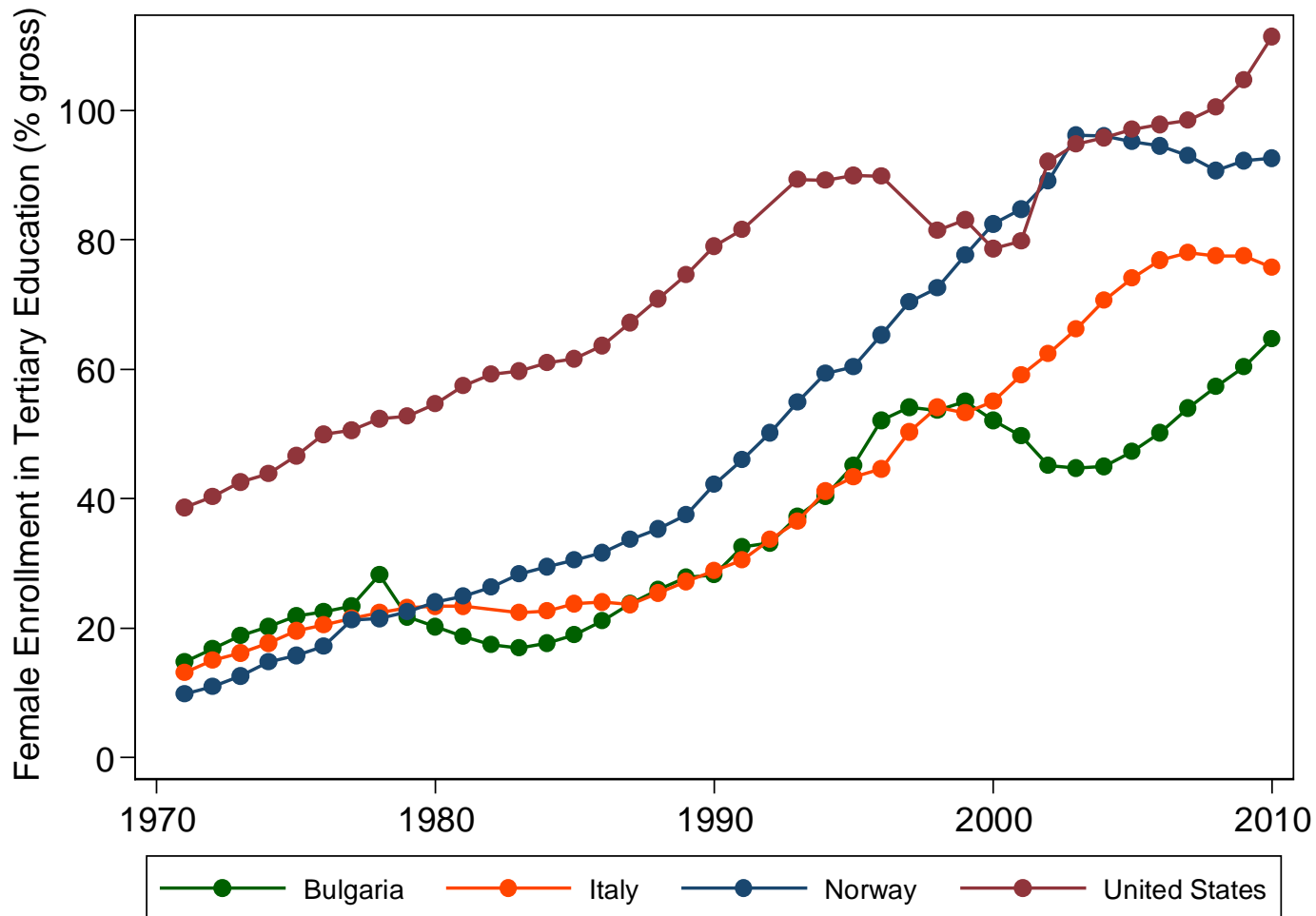
Fig. 14. Variance in the percentage of women who had a first child before or outside marriage for women in different European regions, by birth cohort.

A new (demographic) pattern of transition to adulthood?

- Summary 1: the new pattern is spreading but we are far from convergence across societies

Gender revolution

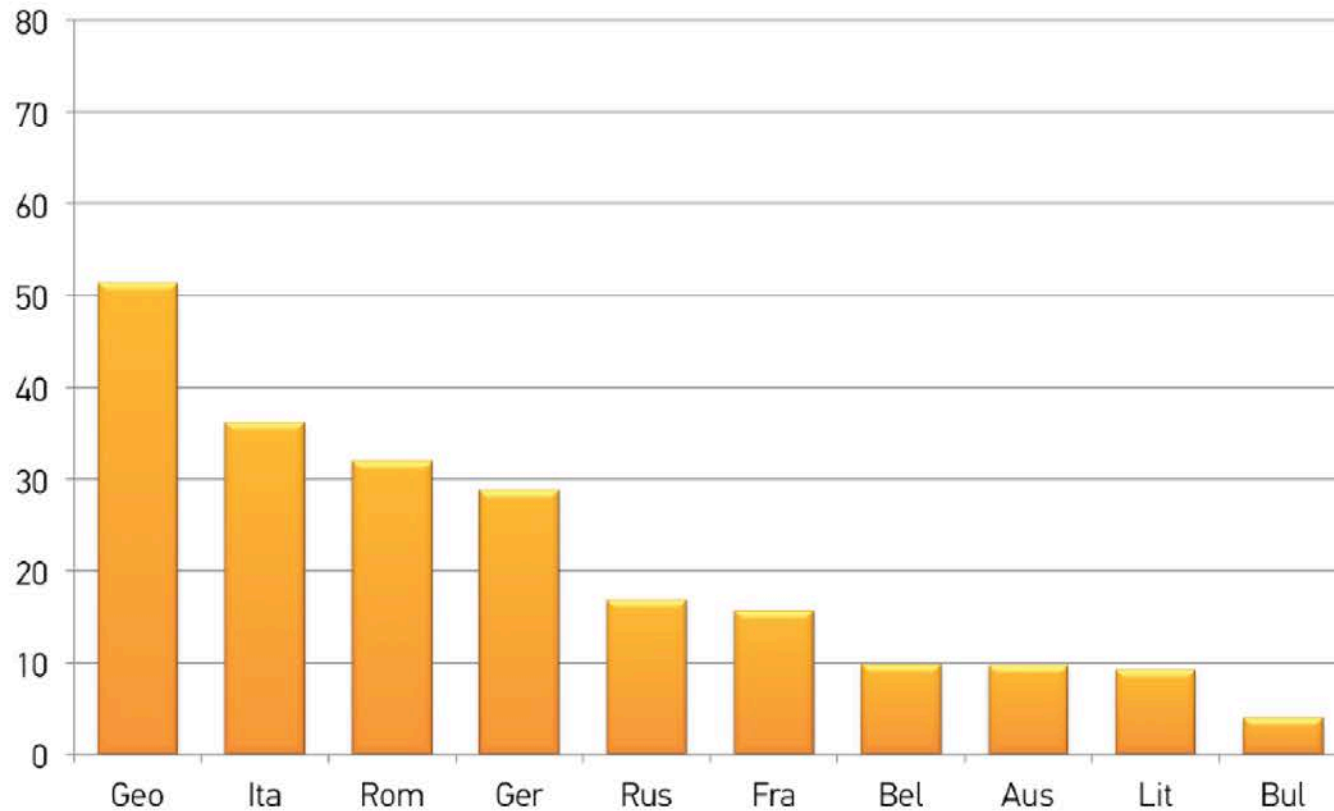
(women's educational enrolment)



Source: Aassve, Billari, Pessin (2012), OECD data

Gender revolution

Figure 1: Percent homemakers among mothers with children under the age of 12

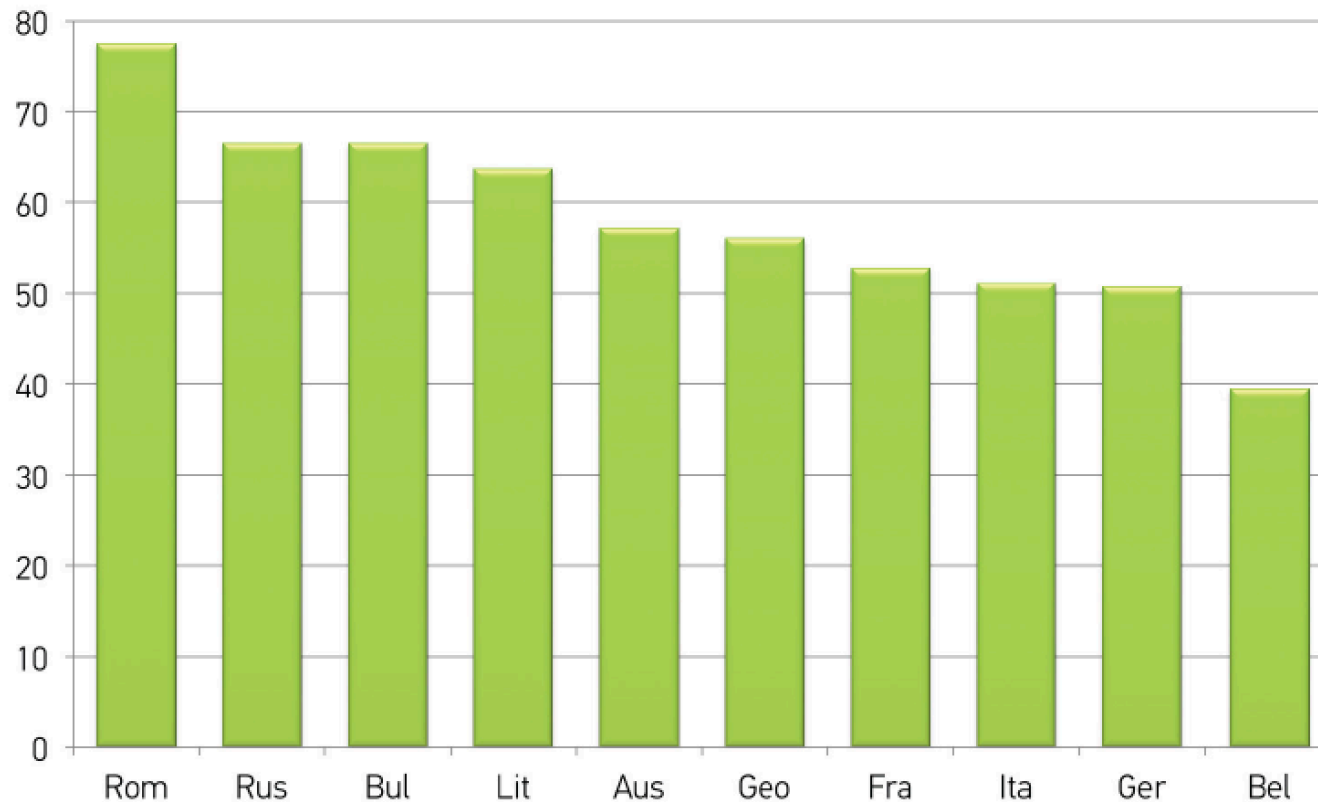


Note: Aus (Austria); Bel (Belgium); Bul (Bulgaria); Fra (France); Geo (Georgia); Ger (Germany); Ita (Italy); Lit (Lithuania); Rom (Romania); Rus (Russia). Source: GGP data (own calculation).

Source: Gauthier (2012), Generations and Gender Surveys data

Gender revolution

Figure 2. Percent intending to take up a paid job within the next three years among homemakers



Source: GGP data (own calculation).

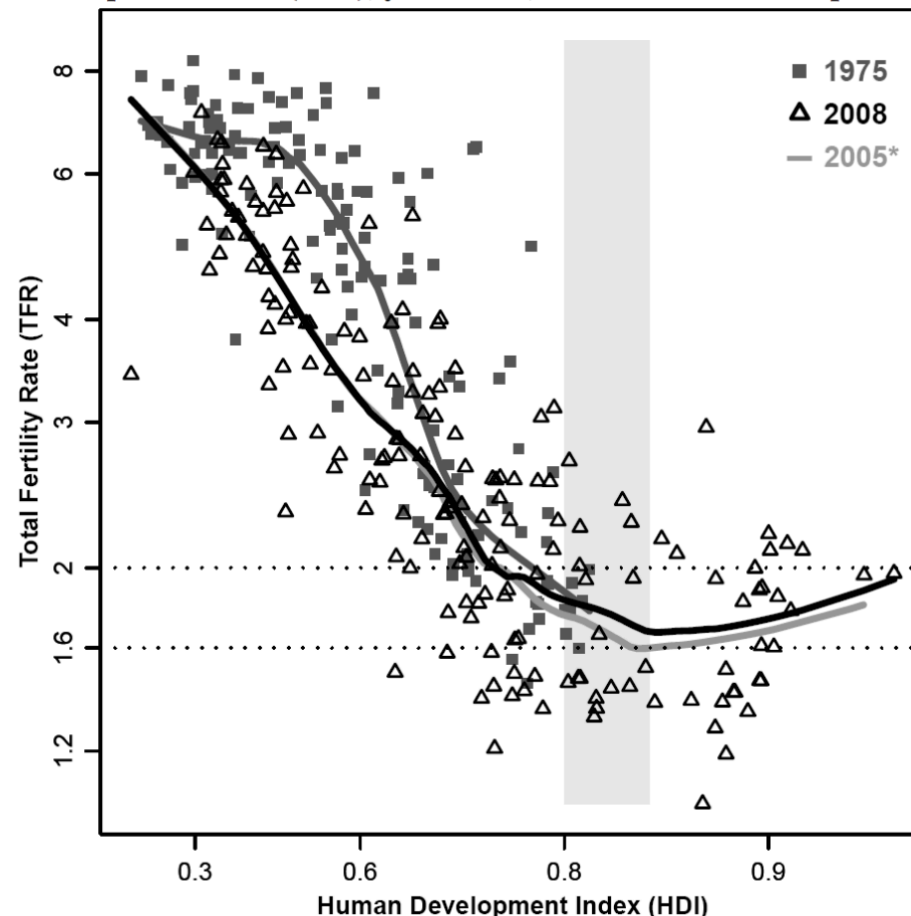
Source: Gauthier (2012), Generations and Gender Surveys data

Two long-term trends

- Summary 2:
 - The gender revolution and the postponement transition *are here to stay*
 - No reversal towards more gender inequality and more traditional family formation is clearly foreseeable

One reversal: fertility and development

Figure 1. Cross-country relationship between Total Fertility Rate (TFR) and Human Development Index (HDI), years 1975, 2005 and 2008: Data points and a lowess curve.



Notes:

Source: Myrskylä, Kohler, Billari (2011)

One reversal: fertility and development

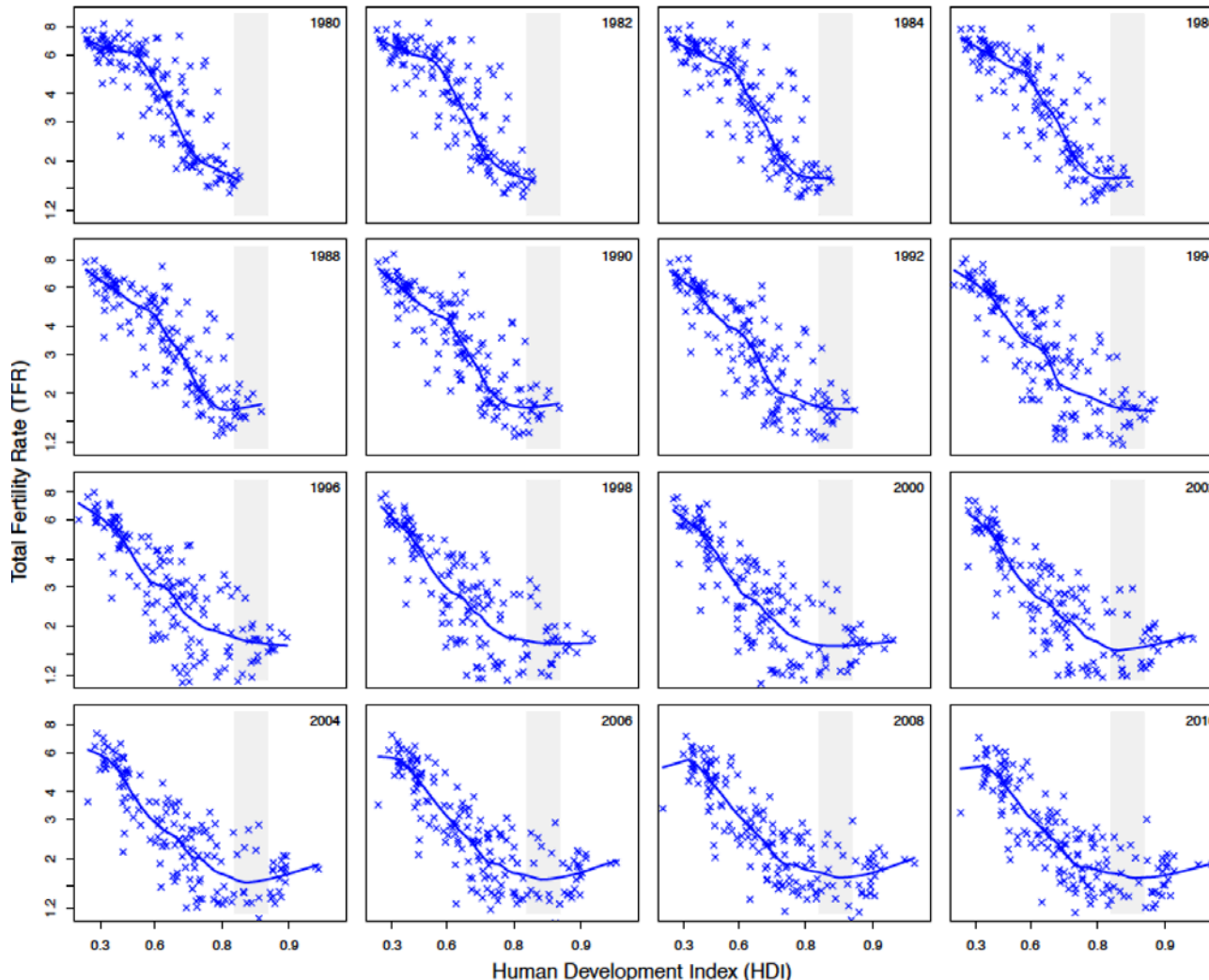
Brazil (1.90) vs. the United States (2.07)

Iran (1.77) vs. Sweden (1.90)

Thailand (1.63) vs. Australia (1.93)

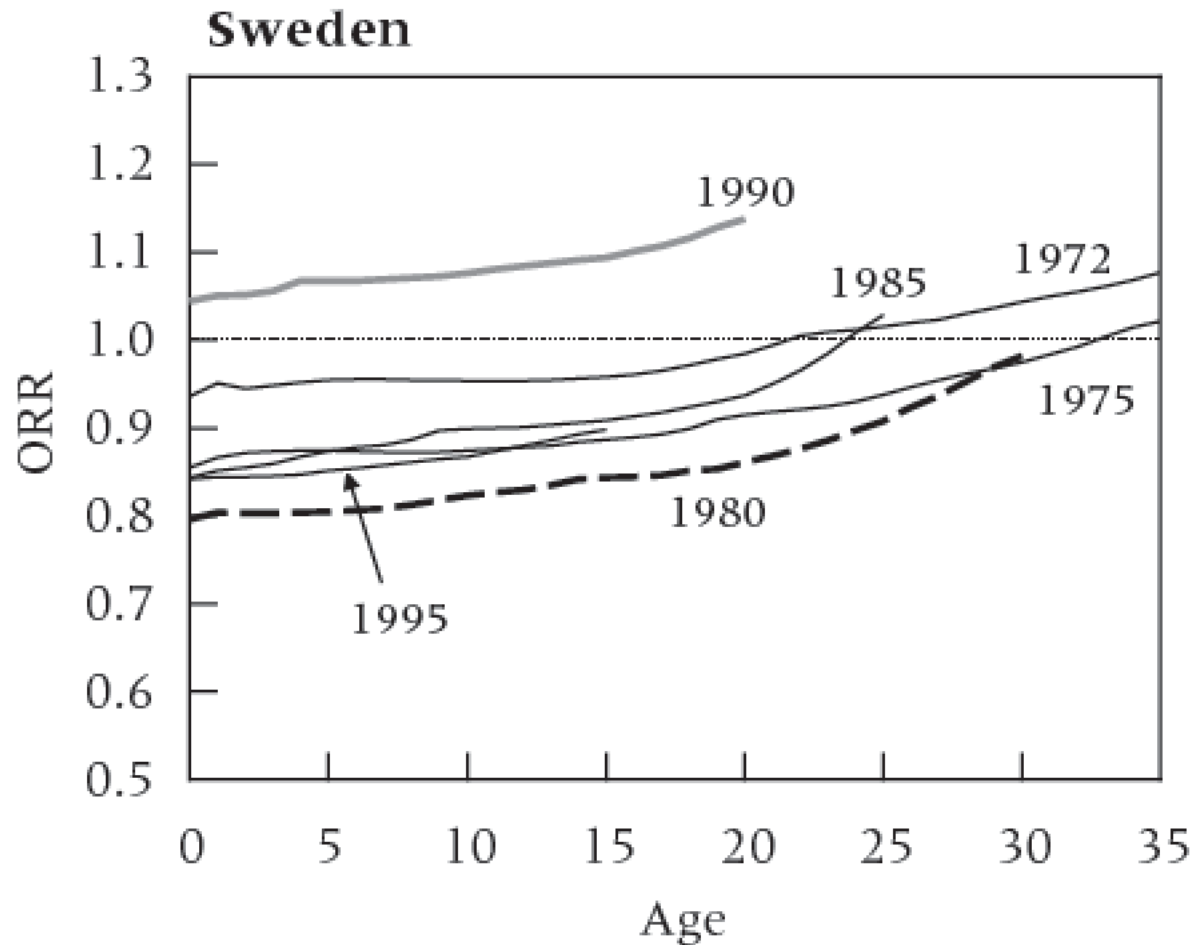
Basilicata (1.19) vs. Lombardy (1.48)

One reversal: fertility and development



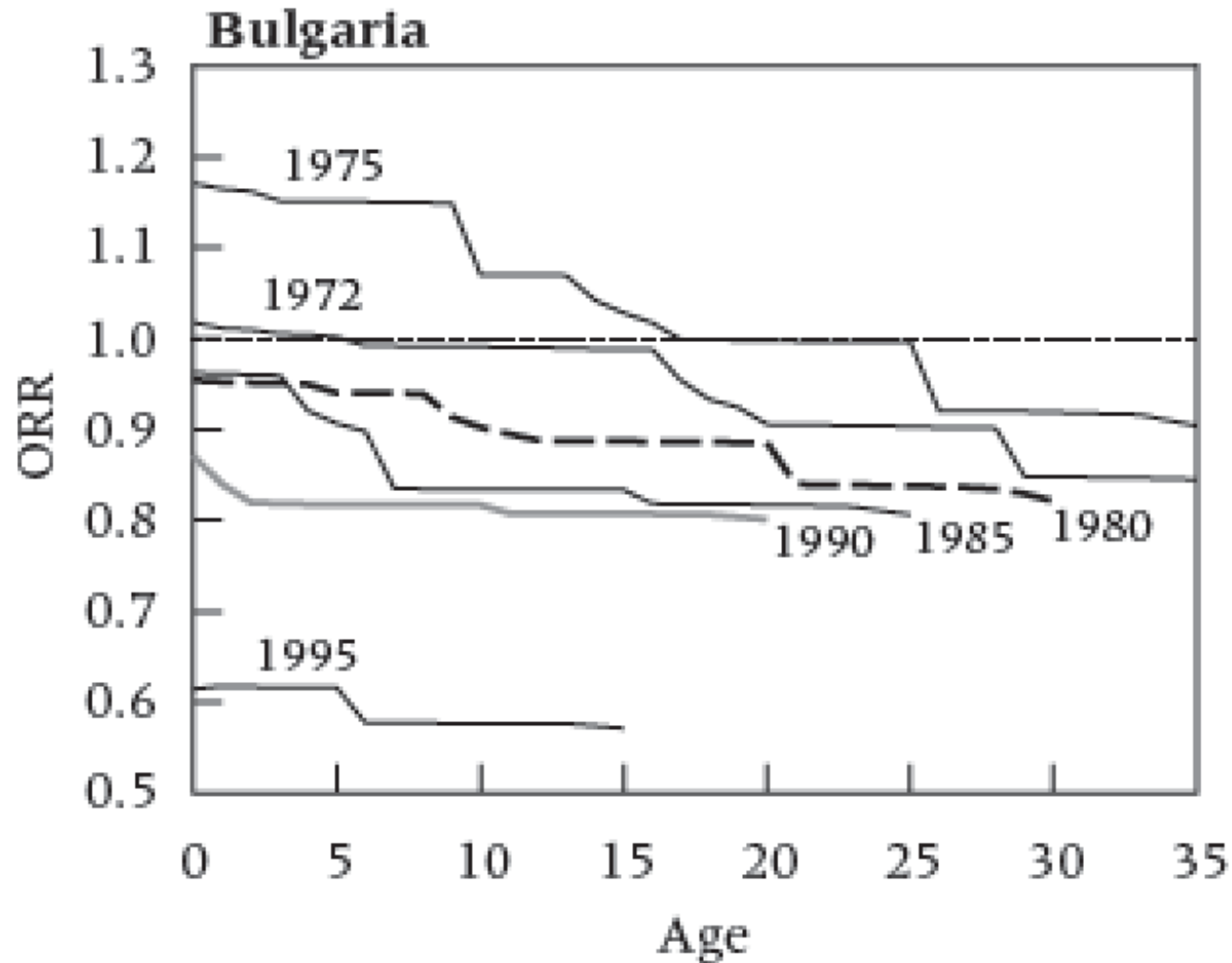
Source:
Myrskylä,
Kohler, Billari
(unpublished)

Reproduction through migration is consistent with the reversal



Source: Wilson, Sobotka, Williamson, Boyle (2013)

Reproduction through migration is consistent with the reversal



Source: Wilson, Sobotka, Williamson, Boyle (2013)

One reversal

- Summary 3:
 - Fertility (and reproduction including migration) have become positively associated with well-being
 - Societies that are doing well in general now tend to “do well demographically” (Q: effect of the recession?)

Prospects

- **Prerequisite:** to disentangle policy issues (and behaviour) in a comparative setting from a life course perspective *we need more family-oriented longitudinal comparative data*
 - Better data are indispensable to inform policies in societies with longer tradition (UK, US in particular)
 - We do not have good data on European societies who are dealing worse with the recession: no longitudinal household survey (GGS?)

Challenges and guidelines for policies

- **General guidelines:** policies have to accommodate for *irreversible* trends
 - Postponement transition
 - Gender revolution
 - Necessarily positive link between ‘good’ demography and well-being
- Still, a plurality of patterns exists

Challenges and guidelines for policies

- **Investment in children should be treated differently: children can bear no *moral hazard***
 - Children have not chosen
 - To be migrants (or children of)
 - The number of siblings
 - The social class/status/family type
 - Early childcare and extended school time: consistent with gender revolution and child outcomes → equal opportunities
 - Investment in children and investment in working women are closely related...