

Structural and ideational effects on parenthood during the time of transition: Hungary as a case of Post-Communist Societies

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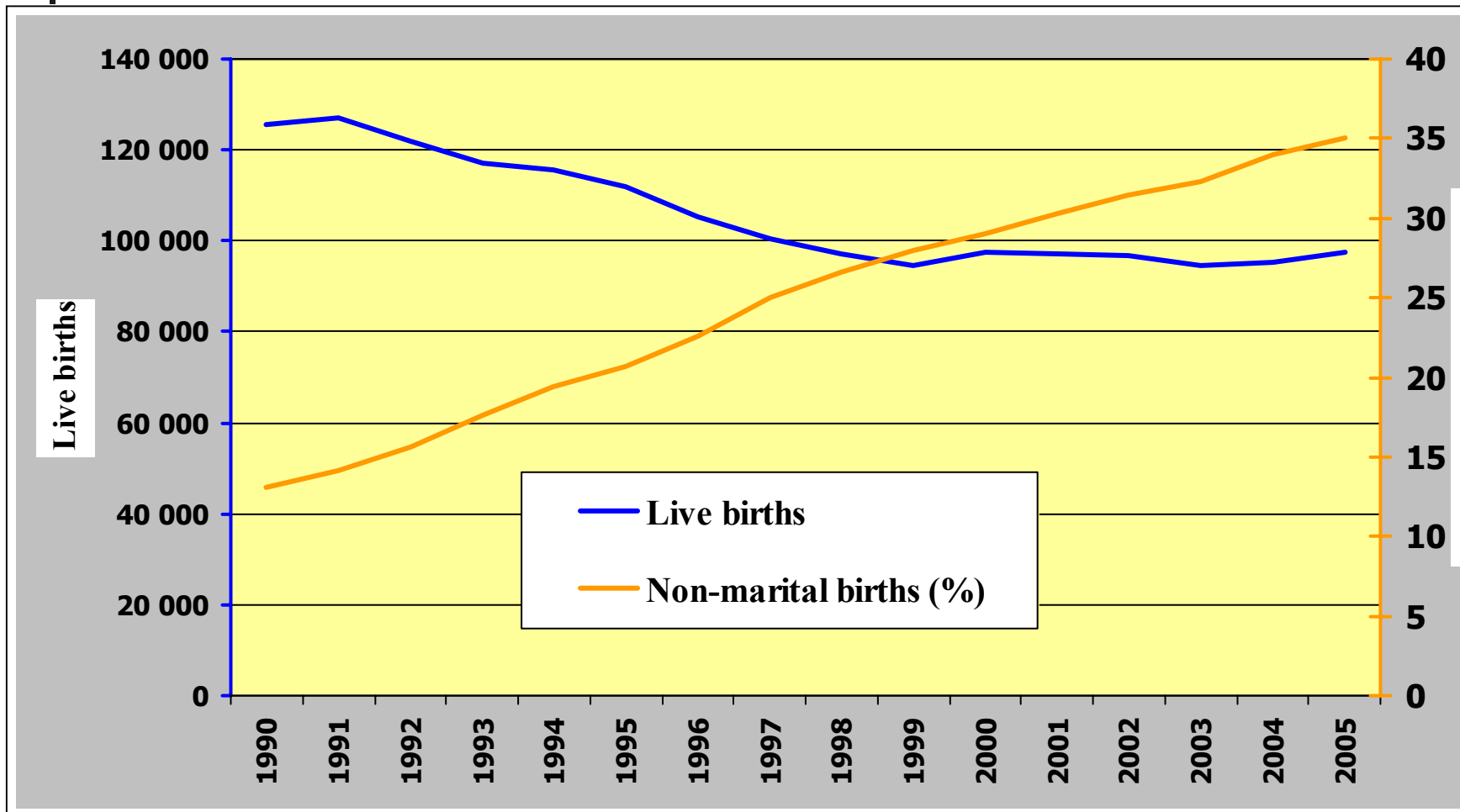
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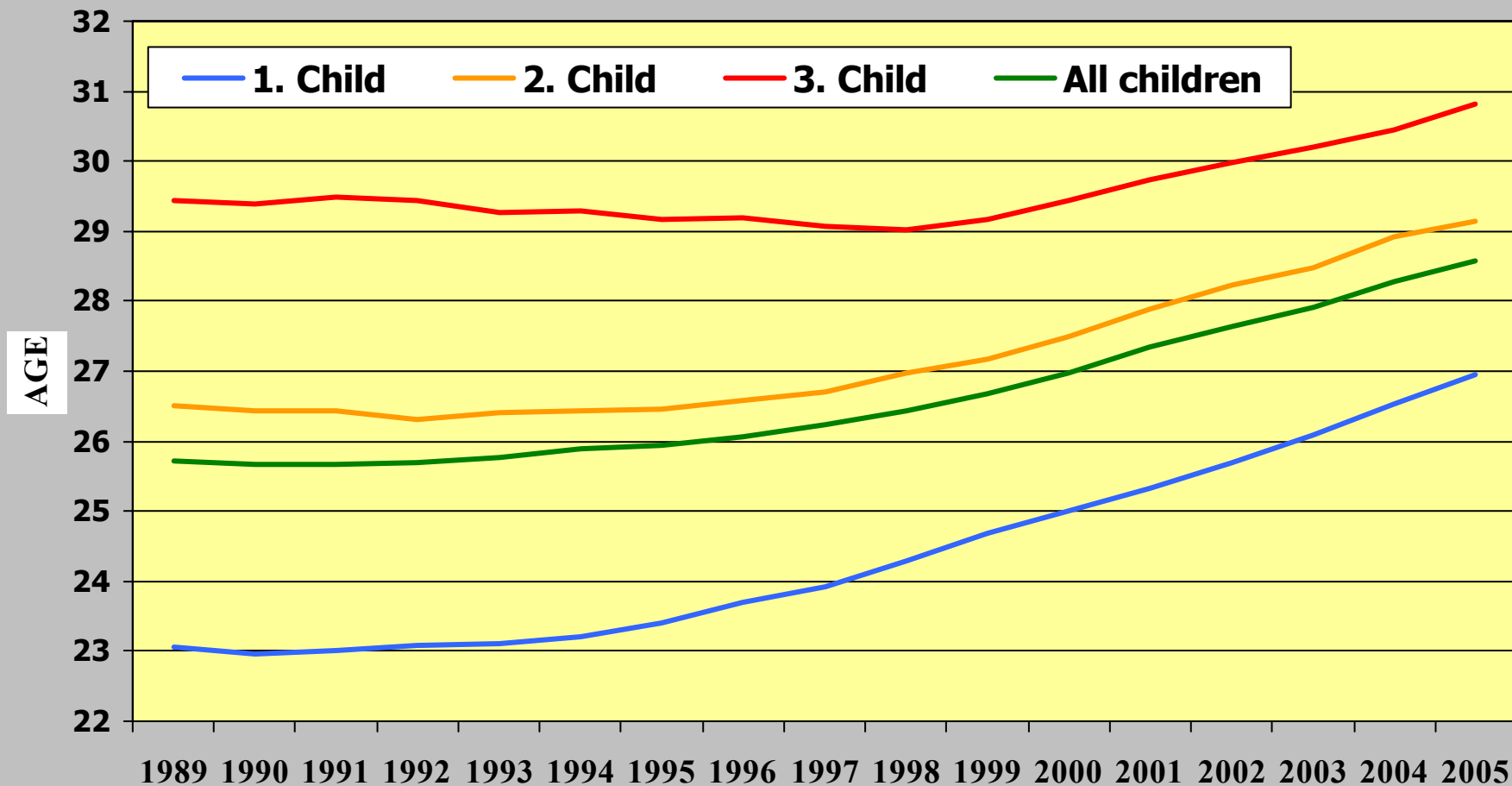
The research question

- **Which factors influence/differentiate childbearing behavior?**
- What is new?
 - The context
 - The panel data in the context

Changes in childbearing behavior: Number of live births and ratio of non-marital birth in Hungary, 1990-2002 (vital statistics)



Changes in childbearing behavior: Mean age of mothers at birth, different parities, mean



Context

- **Which factors influence/differentiate childbearing behavior?**
- Analysis in ***time*** when childbearing behavior change
 - Postponement (from early to late childbearing)
 - Differentiation (partnership context, (?) number of children)



Problems of analyzing the influences of ideational and **some** structural factors in childbearing behavior

- Basic problem using cross-sectional data:
If there is (any) associations among values/norms/attitudes, income position on the one side and fertility outcome on the other side, we can not disentangle 'adjustment' and 'selection' effects

Chances of follow up surveys

Possible influencing factors for demographic behavior measurable retrospectively and measurable only **at time of the survey** ('now')

■ Structural factors

- Partnership
- Labor market
- Education
- **Income and living condition**

■ Behavioral factors

- **Values, norms**
- **Quality of the partnership**
- **Perception of the society**

■ Childbearing

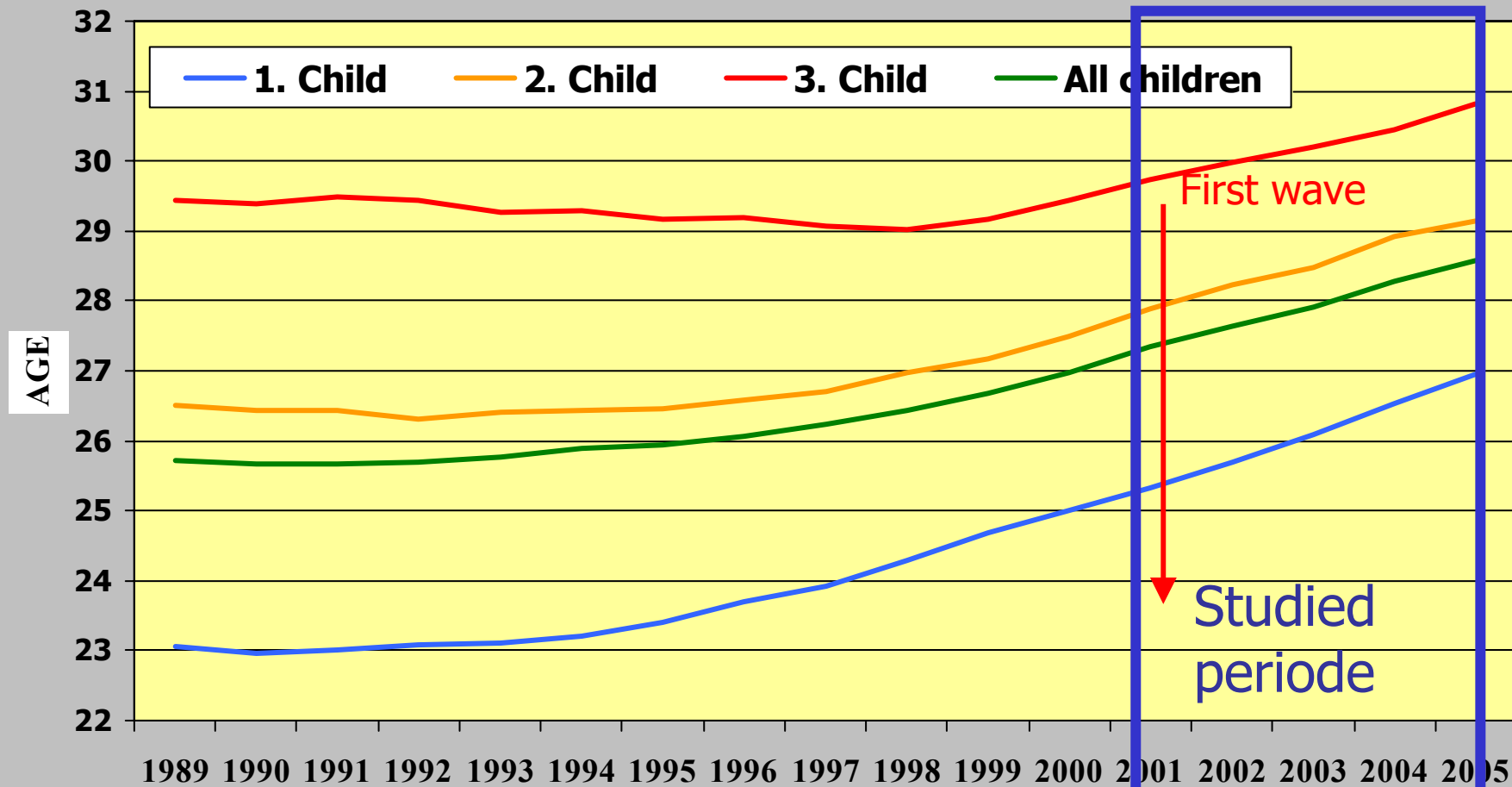
- **Becoming parent (1st child)**
- **Further children**



Data used

- The Hungarian Survey is associated with the European „Generation and Gender Program” (GGP)
- A sub sample of the Hungarian GGS ‘Turning points of the Life-course’
 - 4726 respondents, aged 18-39, interviewed both in 2001/2002 (1st wave) and 2004/2005 (2nd wave)
 - 709 births in three years (until the 2nd wave in 2004/2005)

The historical context of the analyze: 1st wave 2001/2002; 2nd wave 2004/2005





Method and models

- Logistic regression
 - 4 parallel models
 - male/female
 - First and higher order (second and third order) births
 - Series of models
 - Uncontrolled (bi-variate) odds,
 - Ideational variables effects (IM)
 - Structural variables effects (SM)
 - No partnership models (NPM)
 - Final models
 - Results from the final models



Economic factors

- Level of economic well-being
 - Income position (quintiles)
 - Economic deprivation in living conditions
- Tension between aspiration and economic well-being (Easterlin)
- Labor market position
- Level of education



Demographic features

- Partnership relation
 - Type
 - Length
- Age (f:18-35, m:18-38; three categories)
- Time elapsed since last birth
- Number of siblings (also socialization effect)
- (left) parental home



Ideational factors: Child related norms

- Age norm: Ideal age for first child (becoming parent)
- Family norm: Number of intended children (Number and difference between ideal number of children and achieved number of children)
- Child raising norms (obedience, tolerance, patriotism, etc.)



Ideational factors:

Partnership and gender related norms

- Partnership ideal: expected independence in partnership relation
- Quality of partnership (Satisfaction with partnership)
- Gender role (Equality vs. difference among female and male roles)
- Female role (work vs. family)



Ideational factors: General values, orientations

- Uncertainty-index
- Anxiety-index (Uncertainty)
- Post-materialism (Inglehart)
- Anomie-index
- Future orientation
- Religiosity

Results:

basic demographic (CONTROLLING) variables:
age, birth parity, time since last child

	Woman		Man	
	1st child	further children	1st child	further children
Age group	NS		XX	
Young			1	
Middle age			1.54	
Old			0.83	
Birth parity		XXX		XXX
first		1		1
second		0.56		0.33
Time since last birth		XXX		XXX
		0.81		0.84

Results:

PARTNERSHIP variables:

type of partnership, Quality of partnership

	Woman		Man	
	1st child	further children	1st child	further children
Type of partnership	XXX		XXX	
Alone	1		1	
Partner, living alone	1.78		2.35	
Cohabitation, short	3.58		5.48	
Cohabitation, long	4.47		6.11	
Marriage, short	11.0		19.55	
Marriage, long	3.70		10.27	
Quality of partnership		NS		NS
		(1.2)		

Results:

PARTNERSHIP variables: partnership ideal

	Woman		Man	
	1st child	further children	1st child	further children
Type of partnership	XXX	NS	NS	X
traditional	1			1
mixed	0.63			0.62
individualistic	0.44			0.44

Structural factors: INCOME CLASS, LEVEL OF EDUCATION

	Woman		Man	
	1st child	further children	1st child	further children
Income class	X	SM	NS	XXX
Low	1	(1)		1
Medium	1.07	(0.99)		0.82
High	0.69	(1.54)		1.59
Level of EDU	X	SM	NS	NS
Low	1	(1)		
Medium	0.62	(0.59)		
High	0.77	(0.72)		

Ideal number of children and ideal age of parenthood

	Woman		Man	
	1st child	further children	1st child	further children
Ideal number of children	NS	XXX	NS	(IM)
less childr. than ideal		1		(1)
same		0.92		(1.04)
more		1.66		(3.30)
much more		6.35		(7.71)
Ideal age of parenthood	(NPM)		XX	
Early	(1)		1	
Avarage	(0.97)		1.11	
Late	(0.68)		0.43	

Gender attitudes

	Woman		Man	
	1st child	further children	1st child	further children
Gender role (female vs. male)	NS	X	NS	NS
egalitarian		1		
doubtful		0.71		
traditional		1.54		
Female role (work vs. family)	NS	IM	NS	X
family oriented		(1)		1
doubtful		(0.57)		0.49
work oriented		(0.65)		0.66

General values, orientations

	Woman		Man	
	1st child	further children	1st child	further children
Future orientation, outlook	NS		NPM	X
Pessimistic			(1)	1
Modal			(2.07)	1.17
Optimistic			(2.04)	2.26
Religiosity	NS	X	NS	NS
		0.83		
Anomia-index		(0.96)		
Nagelkerke R2	0.17	0.29	0.28	0.27

Summary table: objective circumstances

	Female		Male	
	First child	Further children'	First child	Further children
Partnership	+++	○	+++	○
Birth parity	○	+++	○	+++
No of siblings				
Level of education	+			
Income class	+			+++
Living with parents			++	

Summary table: ideational features

	Female		Male	
	First child	Further children	First child	Further children
Child norm: age	(+++)		++	
Child norm: number of		+++		
Partnership ideal	+++			+
Gender role		+		
Women role: work-family		+		+
Religiosity		+		
Anomie				
Future orientation			(++)	++



Main findings

- Most important structural and ideational effects
 - Partnership-relation (first child, female+male)
 - Partnership ideal (first child, female+male)
 - Income position (first child:female, further children: male)
 - Age norms (first child, female+male)
 - Ideal number of children (higher parity, female)
 - Future orientation (first and further children, male)
 - Gender role (further children, female+male)



Summary I

- Both ideational and structural factors plays significant role in childbearing practice during the time societal and demographic transition
- Differences of the effectiveness of factors according to
 - Parity (first child further children)
 - Gender

Results and the theories of demographic change

- In which extent could the result understood as 'tests' of prevailing theories, approaches?
 - Why not exactly: because the theories mostly refer macro-shifts in time and we measured distributional effects in the society!
 - E.g.. We can not say, that economic performance do count, because we measured the distributional effect, the effect of inequality!
 - E.g.. We do not measured the anomy in the society, but whether people feel more discomfort are more or les able to get the next child.
 - Yes, because: if ideational and structural effects influence significantly childbearing behavior today, we could assume, that changes in childbearing were influenced by the given factor!
 - Therefore, some reflections on current theories!

Reflections on theoretical approaches

- Partly supports the SDT (individualization these, modernization theory)
- Effectiveness of „age norms” in time of loose community ties
- The „gender factor”
 - Attitudes towards gender roles
 - Male’s „future outlook” vs. female’s internal values (religiosity, gender role ideas)
- Need for a closer look on the relation partnership-childbearing