



Young Parenthood

UP2YOUTH

Youth - actor of social change



Young Parenthood

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Young Parenthood - hot topic

- Decreasing birthrates
- Europe an aging continent
- Political & economic anxieties

BUT:

YP not so much interested in macro but more in subjective motives of young adults



Research interests

- Young adults & parents as agents
 - agency a relational concept
 - multiple & simultaneous transitions
- Six different countries - problems of comparison
- Welfare state typology as heuristic instrument
- Much quantitative but less qualitative sources



Models of work-life-family balance

- Work-life-family balance: a multifaceted concept
- Strong breadwinner model (IT; DE)
- Weak breadwinner model (BG, SI, UK)
- Modified breadwinner model (NL)

Much comparative research done in this field though not focused on transitions of yp

YP in a gendered life-course

- Tension between necessity to plan yp & open/uncertain future
- Tensions between wants & musts
- To be learned: time management in times of blurring boundaries between work & private life
- Intensification parenting *and* work!
- Self professionalisation
- Gendered negotiation cultures
- Retraditionalisation

Imagery & images of YP

- Gendered stereotypes
- Contradictory messages & images in the media, society at large
 - the ideal mother *and* the ideal employee
- Public and political ideal family models vs. subjective realities & motives

Fertility mismatch

- Divergens between (more) desired and (less) realized number of children in most EU countries!!
- 2-children family favorite
- Mismatch very strong in SI & IT (tradition of big/"longa" families; cradled young men
- More egalitarian gender relations → less discrepancy between want & reality



Intergenerational learning

- Parent generation very supportive in all countries
- Modernization of parent generation thru children - cohort bridge
- More material support in East & South
- More focus on emotional support in rest
- Confirmation of FATE data



Working cultures

- Europe-wide business culture (blurring boundaries)
- Young fathers especial hard time to negotiate
- Young mothers reluctant to negotiate
- YP often ignorant about their rights
- Companies must learn better family arrangements (NL best, also UK vs IT & BG)



Policy relevance of findings I

- Absolute essential preconditions for YP;
 - economic independence
 - affordable housing
 - affordable childcare
- *ALL* YP complain about family-unfriendly work cultures - least agentic power

Policy relevance of findings II

YP Policies must:

- Connect to the *whole* transition period
- Policies must become *integrated transition policies* taking into account the subjective life situation of young adults
- That needs a *life-course approach* & reflexivity on the side of policy makers