How generations and gender shape demographic change

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Gender Roles and Gender Asymmetry in Georgia and France

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The gender system has undergone profound changes during the last 50 years.

Gender is a multidimensional concept, the various aspects of which include at least:

1. access to and control of resources (education, employment, the possession of durable goods, the ability to dispose freely of earnings and possessions),
2. autonomy (ability to take decisions without having to ask anyone’s permission; economic independence; freedom of movement),
3. power (in decision-making)
4. roles.
• We consider the Gender system both an object of study and an explanatory variable of demographic change (fertility, nuptiality).

• On one side, we may hypothesize that women with more human capital are becoming less interested in marriage, more in favor of cohabitation and inclined to separate/divorce, and that they regard children as just one aspect of self-fulfillment, which competes with other life careers. Fertility may therefore be delayed and reduced.

• On the other side we may hypothesize that women with greater resources and decision-making opportunities may achieve a level of fertility closer to the desired level, as they may find easier ways to overcome the incompatibilities just described.

• The aim of this research, comparing Georgia and France, is to test the two hypothesis in different contexts.
GGS in Georgia and ERFI in France

1. Two GGS surveys
   - Georgia - 2006
   - France - 2005

2. Some data on gender relations inside couples
   - Household organization
   - Children and fertility
   - Living arrangements
   - Respondent’s and partner’s activity
   - Education of partners
   - Parents and parental home
   - Health and well-being
   - Earnings and assets
   - Values and Orientations: subjective dimensions
Some data on gender relations between partners: comparison Georgia-France

A selection of variables in Georgia and France about:

- Age difference between partners
- Education difference between partners
- Respondent’s and partner’s economic activity
- Partners’ participation in domestic tasks
- Partners’ decisions on family life
- Partner’s control of earnings
- Values and orientations (score): in process
Age difference between partners (proportional distribution of couples)

- In Georgia, in 40% of couples, male is at least 5 years older than his partner, in France - 25%
- Couples where male is younger than female are not widespread: 5% in Georgia, 13% in France
53% of couples in France and 50% - in Georgia: partners have the same level of education.
Men work mainly more time than women: in Georgia it is the case for 55% of couples; in France in 46% of couples.

However, women work more than men in 15% of couples in Georgia and in 18% of couples in France.
In France, couples organize tasks with a strong specialization by sex. In 8 unions among 10 women do more (much more) domestic tasks than men. In Georgia, specialization by sex of tasks is even higher.
Decisions concerning different matters of family life

⇒ In both countries, Georgia and France, in majority of couples men decide more than women about family life: in about half of couples (49%) - in Georgia and 55% - in France;
⇒ In 30% of couples in Georgia and 37% in France women make decisions about family life jointly with their partner;
⇒ But only 8% of women in France and 21% - in Georgia decide more:
Women’s participation in the decisions about spending of earnings

In Georgia, in 25% of couples, women do not participate in the decision about how to spend couple’s earnings; however in around 60% of couples, women decide together with their partner.

In France, around 80% of couples declare they decide how to spend earnings together and in 13% of couples women decide alone how to spend their own earnings. Equality is highly recognized both by men and women among French couples.
What we want to do in future for the comparison Georgia - France

- **Dependant variables**: Fertility and nuptiality
- **Explanatory variables**: two dimensions
  - First, socio demographic variables such as age, education, economic activity differences between partners
  - Second, gender indicators, such as participation of partners in domestic decisions and in spending couple’s earnings

This second dimension is about equality in gender relations, women’s participation in income management and modern or traditional values (more or less egalitarian)
Some results of ERFI in France

- Egalitarian variables have a negative effect on the fertility and marriage probabilities in France.
- However, partners’ age, former matrimonial histories, women’s work, education and other socio-demographic variables have also a strong influence.
- Fertility and nuptiality depend on personal and union’s histories and on equalitarian or not equalitarian gender relations.
- In France, couples organize tasks with a strong specialization by sex. In 8 unions among 10, women do more (much more) domestic tasks than men but equality is predominant in the management of income, with 8 unions among 10 sharing them in an egalitarian way.
- In Georgia, specialization by sex of tasks is high but some women have more power of decision than men. However, equality is not so frequent in the management of income than in France (60%).
- It is very interesting to have GGS data to show these interactions in the two dimensions.
- We intend to analyze Georgia, France and compare both gender systems and their consequences on fertility and nuptiality.
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