

EDA ja IET avatud seminar: "Madala sündimuse ja pereloome seosed Soomes: põlvkonna vaade" [Recent fertility decline and partnership dynamics in Finland: a cohort approach]

Abstract

As other Nordic countries, Finland has enjoyed stable, close to replacement level, completed cohort fertility. This stability seems to be broken during the past decade when Finland has witnessed a steady decline in period fertility. Women born in the 1980s are likely to have significantly lower levels of completed fertility than earlier cohorts. In this presentation, we follow childbearing and partnership transitions among Finnish women born in the 1970s, the 1980s, and the 1990s. Our goal is to detect changes in the patterns of union formation, union stability and childbearing. We employ longitudinal individual level register data from the period of 1987–2018 and event history methodology. The study shows that younger cohorts are postponing union formation, postponing birth within a union, and experiencing decreasing union stability. These tendencies might change the links between union formation and childbearing and potentially lead to the decline in the average number of children per women. Since the reproductive window is still open for the youngest cohort that we observe, there is space for debate whether policy interventions may help smoothen the change.