



Pearl Dykstra

How policies shape
interdependence among lives in the family realm

Symposium “Generations in family and society” (M. Brandt, organizer),
8th Congress of the European Society on Family Relations (ESFR),
TU Dortmund University, August 1 – September 3, 2016



Today's presentation draws upon:

Hagestad, G. O., & Dykstra, P. A. (2016).

Structuration of the life course: Some neglected aspects.

In M. J. Shanahan J. T. Mortimer, & M. Kirkpatrick Johnson (Eds.),

Handbook of the life course, Volume II (pp. 131-157).

New York: Springer. DOI 10.1007/978-3-319-20880-0_6

Neglected aspects in the life course literature

- Gender
- Demographic change
- Policies

Neglected aspects in the life course literature

- Gender
- Demographic change
- Policies

Interdependence
("linked lives")

Interdependence

- How individual life chances, opportunities and constraints are shaped by key consociates (*definition*)
- In the chapter: focus on interdependence in families (*intergenerational ties* in particular)
- Previous research: *social-psychological* approach to interdependence (expectations, informal sanctions)
- In the chapter: focus on macro-level influences (*policies* in particular)

How might policies influence individual lives?

Leisering (2004) distinguishes

- Positive and negative life course policies (and also: non-policy)
- Differentiation of phases & transitions, risk management, and normative modelling

But: typical of welfare state researchers

- Primary focus on wage earners
- Neglect of care responsibilities

Drawing upon

- Leisering (2004), and
- models of “care regimes” (e.g., Anttonen & Sipilä, 1996; Bettio & Plantenga, 2004; Leitner, 2003; Saraceno & Keck, 2010; Zagel & Lohmann, 2016)

We distinguished four ways in which policies shape interdependence among lives in the family realm

We focused on laws and policies in

- EU-28 + Norway + Switzerland
- US, Canada
- But sometimes OECD, world

Policies shaping interdependence

- mandate generational interdependence (e.g., legal obligations to provide financial support)

1 July 2013 Last updated at 10:04 GMT

 Share   

New China law says children 'must visit parents'

By Celia Hatton
BBC News, Beijing

Grown children in China must visit their parents or potentially face fines or jail, a new law that came into effect on Monday says.

China's new "Elderly Rights Law" deals with the growing problem of lonely elderly people by ordering adult children to visit their ageing parents.

The law says adults should care about their parents "spiritual needs" and "never neglect or snub elderly people".



China's elderly population is expected to double by 2030

Policies shaping interdependence

- mandate generational interdependence (e.g., legal obligations to provide financial support),
- block generational interdependence (e.g., grandparents not granted the right to raise grandchildren when parents cannot provide adequate care; migration laws not granting temporary visits to enable the provision of care),
- explicitly shape intergenerational interdependence (e.g., daddy quota)

Has the special quota for fathers made men more caring?

Kotsadam & Finseraas (2011): parents with children born after the introduction of the daddy quota less likely to have conflicts over the division of household tasks, and more likely to share them

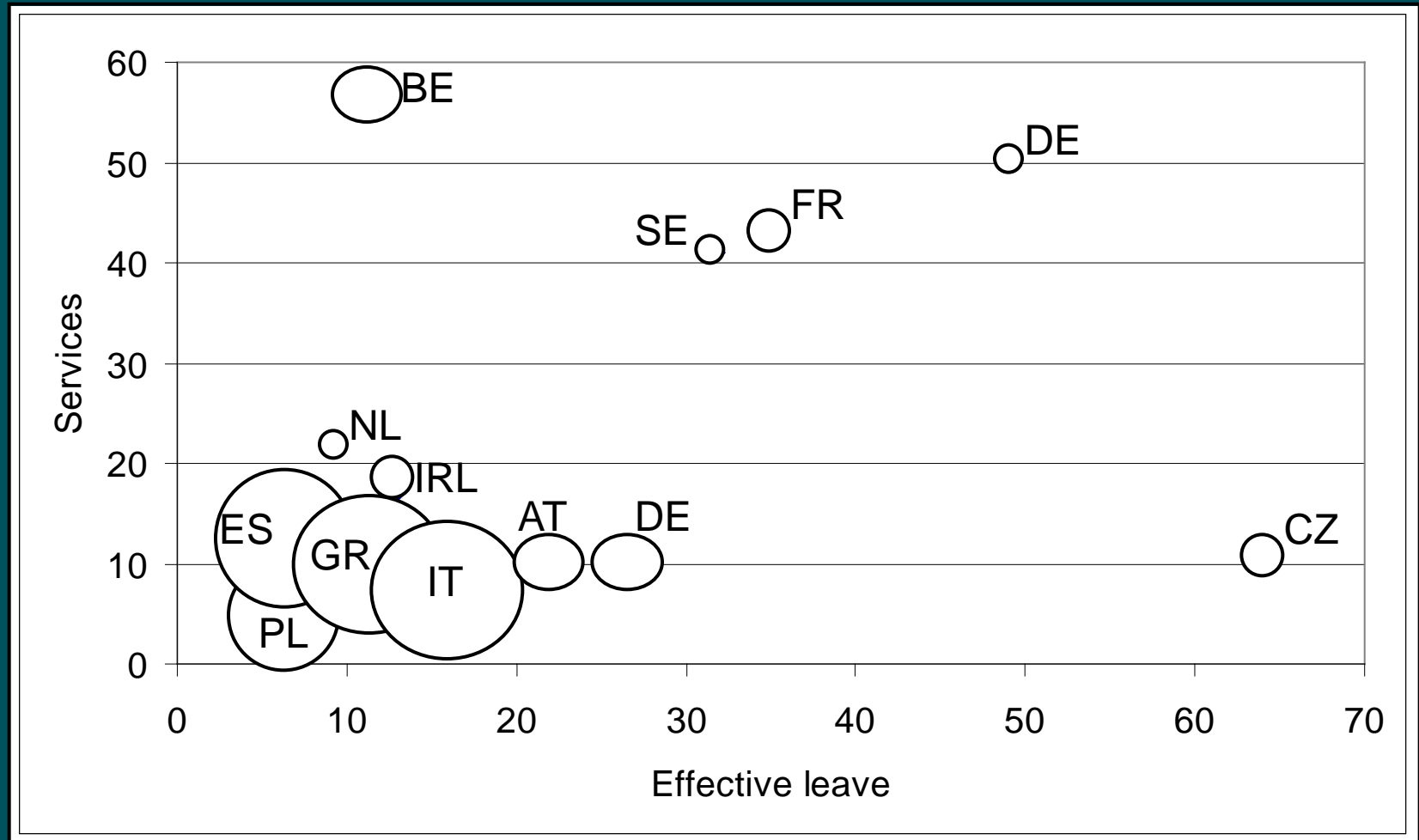
Boll & colleagues (2014): increased levels of child involvement by the father after the introduction of the daddy quota, particularly for highly educated men.

Herlofson & Ugreninov (2014): men more involved in childcare after the introduction of the daddy quota, but not more involved in care for frail parents

Policies shaping interdependence

- mandate generational interdependence (e.g., legal obligations to provide financial support),
- block generational interdependence (e.g., grandparents not granted the right to raise grandchildren when parents cannot provide adequate care; migration laws not granting temporary visits to enable the provision of care),
- explicitly shape intergenerational interdependence (e.g., daddy quota),
- implicitly shape intergenerational interdependence (e.g., grandparental care in Southern Europe in the absence of publicly funded parental support).

Predicted probability of caring for a grandchild of a working daughter by level of effective leave and services



Source: Bordone et al. 2016, based on SHARE, MULTILINKS)

Saraceno & Keck (2010): Importance of distinguishing *types* of public provisions (cf. Gornick & Meyer, 2008; Javornick, 2014; Leitner, 2003)

Different implications for gender and socioeconomic inequality

Cash for care payments: taken more easily by women than men, and by low paid women than high paid women

Services: better assist men and women in reconciling paid and unpaid work

Empirical evidence is now emerging, e.g.

ECHP data

Abendroth et al (2014): the *motherhood occupational status penalty* is

- lower in European countries where expenditures on public childcare are higher

SHARE data

Schmid et al (2012): imbalance in *proportions of men and women providing intensive care* is higher

- when aging parents receive cash for care payments
(in addition to the care received from adult children)
- than when they receive services in kind

Wrapping up (1)

- Interdependence structures people's life course decisions and their life chances
- A key distinction is whether welfare states impose reliance on family members (*familialisation*) or enable autonomy (*de-familialisation*)

Wrapping up (2)

- It is important to avoid a “chopped up” notion of what families are about
- Another crucial issue is not to overlook “statistical outliers” (e.g., the childless, grandparentless)

Wrapping up (3)

- A final challenge is to develop, implement and evaluate* policies that do not reinforce gender inequalities and social class inequalities

*natural experiments, combinations of longitudinal survey data and registry data, cross-nationally comparative data



Questions?

dykstra@fsw.eur.nl

<http://www.familiesincontext.eu>

