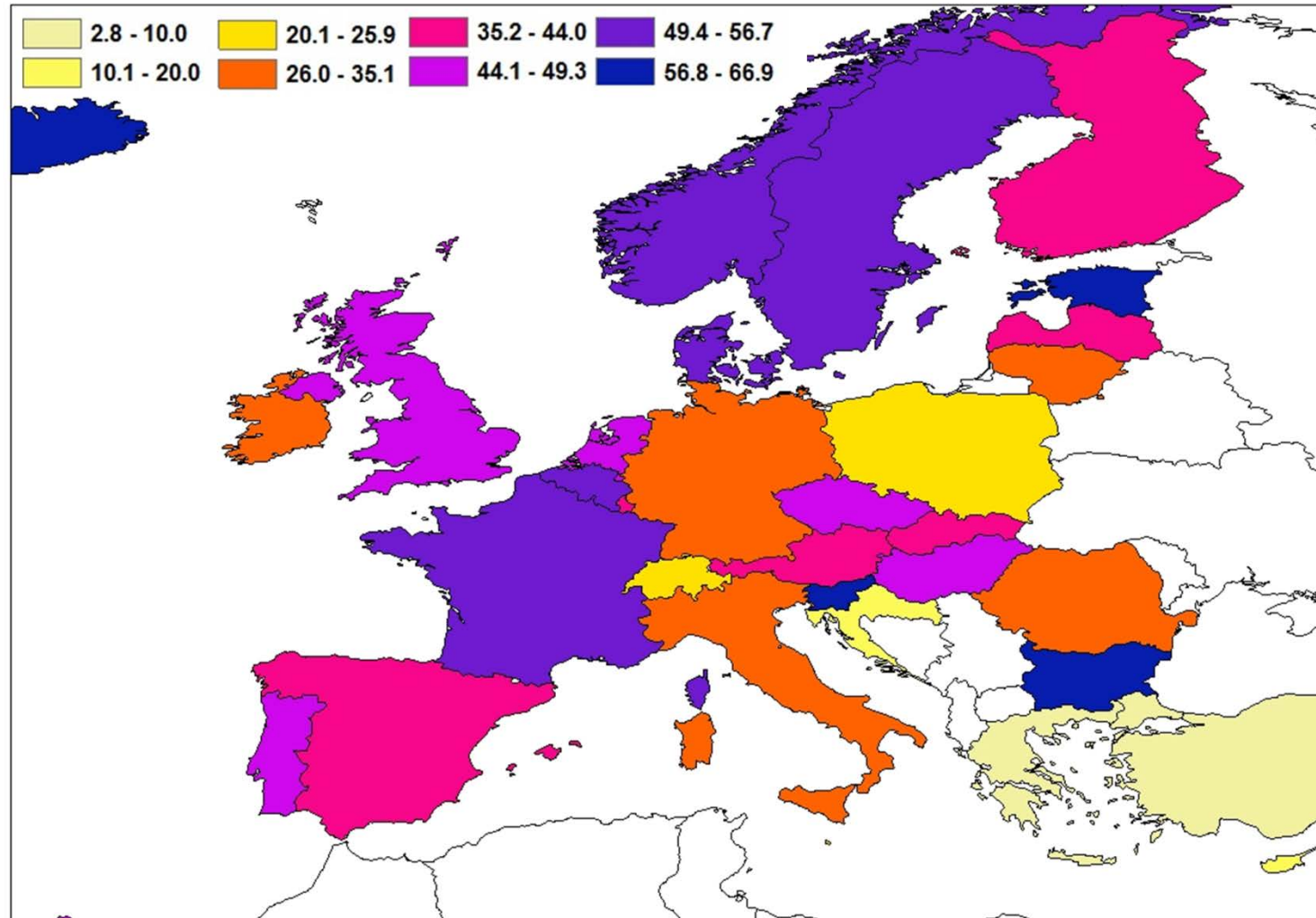


# Marriage and cohabitation trends in Switzerland: The rise of childbearing within cohabitation.

*European Society on Family Relations 8th Congress  
Dortmund*

Valérie-Anne Ryser (FORS)  
Jean-Marie LeGoff (Lines, Lives)

# Out of wedlock children in Switzerland



Huge thanks to Anthe Van den Hende; based on a map from ArcGIS

Data for Austria, Belgium, Estonia, France, Iceland, Ireland, the United Kingdom and Cyprus refer to 2012, and for Norway to 2013; <http://www.oecd.org/social/family/database.htm>

# Characteristics of non marital childbearing

- “Individuals whose behavior or beliefs deviate from what their society values and deems normative report reduced levels of well-being and self-esteem” (e.g. Stavrova & Fetchenhauer, 2014)

*Are the cohabitant individuals more vulnerable compared to the married ones ?*

- Vulnerability is presented as “the exposure to contingencies and stress, and difficulty coping with them” (Schröder-Butterfill, 2013)

# From a vulnerability perspective

(Schröder-Butterfill, 2013)

- **Exposure:**
  - no legal rules to frame cohabitation (Perelli-Harris & Sánchez Gassen, 2012)
  - cohabitation and out of wedlock birth concern precursor or innovators (Giele, 1998) of new behavior (Ryser & Le Goff, 2015)
  - between early adopters and early majority (Rogers, 1995)
- **Threat:**
  - prevalence of individuality (STD, Lesthaeghe, & Surkyn, 1988; Clarkberg, et al., 1995)
  - lack of legal rules (Nock, 1995)
- **Coping capacity:**
  - educated individuals tend to have more resources to deal with the institutional constraints
  - cohabitant mothers tend to be more educated, more involved on the labor market (Ryser & Le Goff, 2015)
- **Outcomes:**
  - negative impact on some dimensions of subjective well-being (Ryser & Le Goff, 2015)
  - less commitment and less happiness (Wiik, Bernhardt, & Noack, 2009)
  - pattern of disadvantages (Perreli-Harris, 2011) is not observed in CH

- Does this model of vulnerability still hold in 2013 ?

# Data, Sample and Method

- **Data:** subsample of the EFG 2013
- **Samples:**
  - Individuals declaring being cohabitant or married living with their partner
  - 25 - 65 years of age

	Male	Female	Total
Married no kids	859	913	1772
Married kids	1902	1900	3802
cohab. no kids	332	324	656
cohab. Kids	107	118	225
Total	3200	3255	6455

- **Method:** Ordinal Regression
  - Dependent variables in four categories

# Variables and measures

- Sociodemographic and Control variables :
  - age, sex, education, occupational status, household/individual income
  - number of children less than 13 years of age
  - partner's occupational status

# Variables and measures

- **Dependant variables:** (constructed based on CFA)
  - **Emotional** dimension of subjective well-being ([Diener & Suh, 1997](#); [Diener, Suh, Lucas, & Smith, 1999](#))
    - Positive affects *and* Negative affects (2/4 items)
  - **General attitudes** toward family
    - Intergenerational support (5 items )
    - The need of children to be happy (2 items)
    - The context of parenthood (3 items)
    - Child suffers with working parents (2 items)
  - Attitudes toward **organisation** of the family
    - Master Status ([Krüger, & Levy, 2001](#)): perception toward gendered family and work organisation (6 items)
  - **Time use**
    - Family activities (4 items)
    - External activities (5 items)
  - **Family organisation**
    - Work life balance ([Kaiser, Ringlstetter, Eikhof, Pina e Cunha, 2011](#)): the degree of difficulties to combine/integrate work and family (5 items)



# Results 1: ESWB

		Positive affects		Negative affects	
<b>Threshold</b>	1	-0.951	***	-2.537	***
	2	0.177		-1.562	***
	3	2.547	***	-0.007	
<b>Age</b>		-0.012	***	-0.01	**
<b>Income (CH)</b>	individual	0.022		-0.031	+
	household	0.039	*	-0.038	*
<b>Sex: ref. female</b>	male	-0.336		-0.495	
<b>Education: ref. middle</b>	low	0.213	*	0.142	
	high	0		0.059	
<b>N. children: ref. two</b>	no child	0.195	*	-0.136	
	one child	0.133		0.008	
	three plus	0.153		-0.059	
<b>Occup. status: ref. full time</b>	70-89 %	-0.012		0.026	
	50-69 %	-0.024		-0.141	
	less than 50%	0.155		-0.42	
<b>Partners activity : ref. &gt; 50 %</b>	no remunerated work	0.034		0.093	
	less than 50%	0.097		-0.198	+
<b>Civil status: ref. marriage kids</b>	married no kids	0.046		-0.058	
	cohab. no kids	-0.18	+	0.089	
	cohab. kids	-0.375	**	0.356	**

Note. Ordinal regression: + p < 0.1; \* p < 0.01; \*\* p < 0.05; \*\*\* p < 0.001

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# Results 2: Attitudes towards family

		Inter. support		The need of kids		Child suffers		Cont. parent.	
<b>Threshold</b>	1	-3.186	***	-0.527	**	-1.296	***	-2.376	***
	2	-2.139	***	0.846	***	-0.076	+	-1.109	***
	3	-0.427	*	1.686	***	2.002	***	0.246	
<b>Age</b>		-0.017	***	0.007	*	0.011	*	-0.004	
<b>Income (CH)</b>	individual	-0.029		0.055	**	-0.092	+	-0.057	**
	household	-0.113	***	0.071	***	-0.058	**	-0.091	***
<b>Sex</b>	male	0.497	***	-0.426	***	0.82	***	0.802	***
<b>Edu: ref. middle</b>	low	0.669	***	-0.562	***	0.112		0.695	***
	high	0.012		0.11	+	-0.467	***	-0.444	***
<b>N. child. : ref. two</b>	no child	0.05		-0.079		0.322	***	0.157	+
	One child	0.045		-0.205	*	0.118		0.227	**
	Three plus	-0.084		0.132		0.242	+	-0.011	
<b>Occup. status: ref. full time</b>	70-89 %	-0.319	***	0.269	**	-0.18	+	-0.359	***
	50-69 %	-0.389	***	0.437	***	-0.338	***	-0.65	***
	less than 50%	-0.544	***	0.613	***	-0.184		-0.573	***
<b>Partners activity: ref. &gt;50%</b>	no rem. work	0.049		-0.162	*	0.392	***	0.352	***
	less than 50%	-0.081		0.219	*	0.418	***	-0.117	
<b>Ref. marriage kids</b>	married no kids	-0.147	*	0.345	***	-0.011		-0.264	***
	cohab. no kids	-0.132		0.662	***	-0.092		-0.757	***
	cohab. kids	-0.165		0.131		0.111	*	-0.407	**

Note. Ordinal regression: + p < 0.1; \* p < 0.01; \*\* p < 0.05; \*\*\* p < 0.001

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# Results 3: At. toward fam. organisation

	Master status		
<b>Threshold</b>	1	-1.808	***
	2	-0.549	**
	3	0.385	+
<b>Age</b>		-0.002	
<b>Income (CH)</b>	individual	-0.051	***
	household	-0.056	**
<b>Sex: ref. female</b>	male	0.562	***
<b>Education: ref. middle</b>	low	0.139	
	high	-0.706	***
<b>N. children: ref. two</b>	No child	0.226	*
	One child	-0.029	
	Three plus	-0.179	
<b>Occup. status: ref. full time</b>	70-89 %	-0.785	***
	50-69 %	-0.55	***
	less than 50%	0.054	
<b>Partners activity : ref. &gt; 50%</b>	no remunerated work	0.575	***
	less than 50%	0.316	***
<b>Civil status: ref. marriage kids</b>	Married no kids	-0.121	+
	Cohab. no kids	-0.577	***
	Cohab. kids	-0.351	*

Note. Ordinal regression: + p < 0.1; \* p < 0.01; \*\* p < 0.05; \*\*\* p < 0.001

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# Results 4: Time use

		Family activities	External activities
<b>Threshold</b>	1	0.103	0.582**
	2	0.911***	1.505***
	3	2.692***	2.015***
<b>Age</b>		0.015***	0.018***
<b>Income (CH)</b>	individual	-0.013	0.025
	household	-0.052**	0.003
<b>Sex: ref. female</b>	male	0.435***	0.206**
<b>Education: ref. middle</b>	low	0.241**	-0.455***
	high	-0.205***	0.18**
<b>N. children: ref. two</b>	no child	0.718***	0.341***
	one child	0.325***	-0.029
	three plus	-0.028	0.014
<b>Occup. status: ref. full time</b>	70-89 %	0.037	0.314***
	50-69 %	0.267**	0.515***
	less than 50%	0.57***	0.868***
<b>Partners activity : ref. &gt; 50 %</b>	no remunerated work	0.083	-0.218**
	less than 50%	0.11	0.235**
<b>Civil status: ref. marriage kids</b>	married no kids	0.137+	0.036
	cohab. no kids	0.098	0.41***
	cohab. kids	-0.258+	0.212

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# Results 5: Integration family/work

Work life balance		
<b>Threshold</b>	1	-3.09***
	2	-1.43***
	3	-0.267
<b>Age</b>		-0.017***
<b>Income (CH)</b>	individual	0.035+
	household	-0.032+
<b>Sex: ref. female</b>	male	-0.51***
<b>Education: ref. middle</b>	low	0.084
	high	0.125*
<b>N. children: ref. two</b>	No child	-0.278**
	One child	-0.066
	Three plus	-0.085
<b>Occup. status: ref. full time</b>	70-89 %	-0.105
	50-69 %	-0.681***
	less than 50%	-1.37***
<b>Partners activity : ref. &gt; 50%</b>	no remunerated work	0.131 +
	less than 50%	0.027
<b>Civil status: ref. marriage kids</b>	Married no kids	-0.1
	Cohab. no kids	0.253*
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# From a vulnerability perspective

## Cohabitant individuals

- Still more **expose** due to the lack of legal rules
- Cohabitant still tend to be more progressive concerning the perception about work and family organisation
- But express more vulnerability toward work and family life integration (**threat**)
- More **ressources** for the cohabitant women
- **Outcomes**: Cohabitant express less positive affects and more negative affects

# Conclusion

- Cohabitant individuals: more equality within the couple (in line with the gender revolution by Goldscheider, Bernhardt, & Lappegård, 2015)
  - But more difficulties to integrate work and family
    - Time pressure
  - Less positive and more negative affect

Sharing egalitarian values and the involvement of women on the labor market seem to have a cost

In a societal context that not foster non marital childbearing

# Futur developpments

- Better understand the extend to which
  - more traditional individuals tend to express more / less positive / negative affects
  - more traditional individuals tend to express more / less difficulties in work life integration
- Attitudes toward work- family integration might mediate the effect of the civil status (cohabitation of marriage) on SWB, time use and effective family organisation !