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Transitions in Regional Context: Macrostructural Conditions and Young Adults' Intergenerational Ties

An Analysis based on the Swiss TREE-Data

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Outline

1. State of the Art and Research Questions
2. Theoretical Background: Region as a Category and Context
3. Data and Methods
4. Empirical Findings
5. Conclusion
State of the Art & Research Questions
Intergenerational Relationships of Young Adults

Young Adulthood

- Important biographical decisions and developments (Arnett 2000)
- Education / Labour Market → Prolonged dependence from parents
- Family as „safety net“ (Swartz et al. 2011), not only financially

Intergenerational Relationships

- „Intergenerational Stake“: Children and parents have different view (Bengtson & Kuypers 1971)
- Intergenerational solidarity: Closeness, contact, money, space, help
- Emotional closeness: Indicator for cohesion, predictor for help
- Life course changes: (Re-)negotiation of family ties
Region as a Framework

„Special Case“ of Switzerland

• 4 languages
• 26 cantonal welfare regimes (Armingeon et al. 2004)
• Regional labour markets
• Region as framework for biographical development (transition to adulthood)
• Culture as framework for negotiating family ties (e.g. strong family norm in Italy, see Reher 1998; Cuzzocrea 2012)

But....

• What is a region? What „scale“ shall we use?
• How can we measure regional characteristics?
Research Questions

- Are there regional differences in the transition to adulthood?
- Can one find regional disparities in intergenerational closeness?
- Which regional characteristics account for differences in closeness?
Region as a Category & Context
Cantons, Greater Regions (NUTS 2 und 3)...
...and Language Regions

France  German  Austria

French  Romansh  Italian  Italy
Intergenerational Relations in Three Language Regions

Mean (Scale 1-5; 1-4)

Closeness
- German speaking
- French speaking
- Italian speaking

Contact

Financial Transfers

Coresidence

Source: TREE 2013. Own calculations, weighted results. n=5510 child-parent dyads
Region as a Context

Welfare State

Social Expenditures: Relieve families and buffer life course risks.
Measure: Share in Cantonal Budget 2010 (EFV 2014)
H1: The higher social spending, the closer the ties

Labour Market

Labour market entrants especially vulnerable. Measure: Youth Unemployment Rate at school departure (SECO 2000)
H2: The lower they youth unemployment, the closer the ties
(continued)

Culture

**Strong Family Norm:** Expectance to give / receive support. Measure: Agreement to statement „Parent should support their children financially“ (EFG 2013, scale 1 „not at all“ - 6 „totally“, weighted cantonal means)

H3: The stronger the family norm, the closer the ties
Data and Methods

- TREE (Transitions from Education to Employment)
- PISA (2000) sample Switzerland: Cantons → Schools → Individuals
- Cohort Study (school leavers), Age: 26 years

- Wave 8, 2010: Featuring items pertaining to intergenerational relations
  Emotional Closeness, Contact, Coresidence, Transfers
- Separate answers for mother and father → Child-parent-dyads
- Only children surveyed!

- Nested data structure
- n=4306 Dyads in n=2221 Individuals in n=24 Cantons
- Ordered Logit Multilevel Models with cantonal macro-indicators
Empirical Results
Regional Transition Patterns?

Lives with Parent(s) %

- Total
- Zurich
- North West CH
- Espace Mittelland (FR)
- Lemanic Region (FR)
- Central CH
- East Switzerland
- Ticino (IT)

Employed %

- Total
- Zurich
- North West CH
- Espace Mittelland (FR)
- Lemanic Region (FR)
- Central CH
- East Switzerland
- Ticino (IT)

Married / Cohabiting %

- Total
- Zurich
- North West CH
- Espace Mittelland (FR)
- Lemanic Region (FR)
- Central CH
- East Switzerland
- Ticino (IT)
„How Close Do You Feel to Your Mother / Father Today?“

Source: TREE 2013, own calculations, weighted results. n=4306 child-parent dyads.
# Which Factors Account for Differences?

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| Var(Ind)            | 5.54 | 6.12 | 6.65                | 6.53               | 6.53        |
| Var(Canton)         | 0.12 | 0.24 | 0.15                | 0.16               | 0.13        |
| Likelihood Ratio Test |      |      | **                  | **                 | ***         |

Source: TREE 2013; EFV 2014; SECO 2000; EFG 2016. Own calculations, unweighted results. Multilevel Ordered Logit Models, unstandardised coefficients. Null: Empty model. Full: Model with only individual predictors. Separate models controlling for individual determinants each. ***p<0.01, **p<0.05, *p<0.1.
Conclusion

- Regional Differences in both Transition to Adulthood and Intergenerational Ties

- Italian-speaking part: More Exchange and more Interaction between generations

- Regional framework: Welfare State, Labour Market and Culture matter. But: theoretical foundation needs to be deepened
Thank you for your attention!