

# Effects of Family Policies on Childbearing Behavior in Developed Countries

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on Recent and Future Trends in Fertility

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# Fertility and Family Policies in Europe



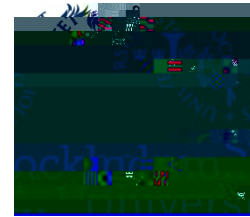
- Increase in low fertility concerns
  - 2/3 of EU-countries, Japan, South-Korea, Singapore, Australia, Canada, and several other developed countries

Upsurge in family policies to raise fertility

- 3/4 of EU-countries, Japan, South-Korea, Singapore, Australia, and several other developed countries

$\frac{3}{4}$  Family policies – impact on childbearing?

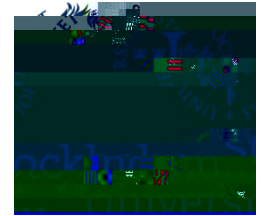
# Fertility and Family Policies as Research Area



- What are family policies?
- How should we study (potential) impact of family policies on demographic behavior?
- Do family policies affect fertility?



# What are Family Policies?



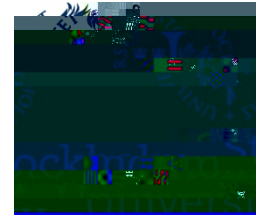
- state activities which aim 'to favour a certain kind of family organization and to strengthen those who are in a position to conform to this form of organization' (Bourdieu 1996)

$\frac{3}{4}$  normative aims of family policies

$\frac{3}{4}$

$\frac{3}{4}$

# What are Family Policies?



- policies that structure society and markets through structuring private relationships, that is:

- partnerships
- parenthood

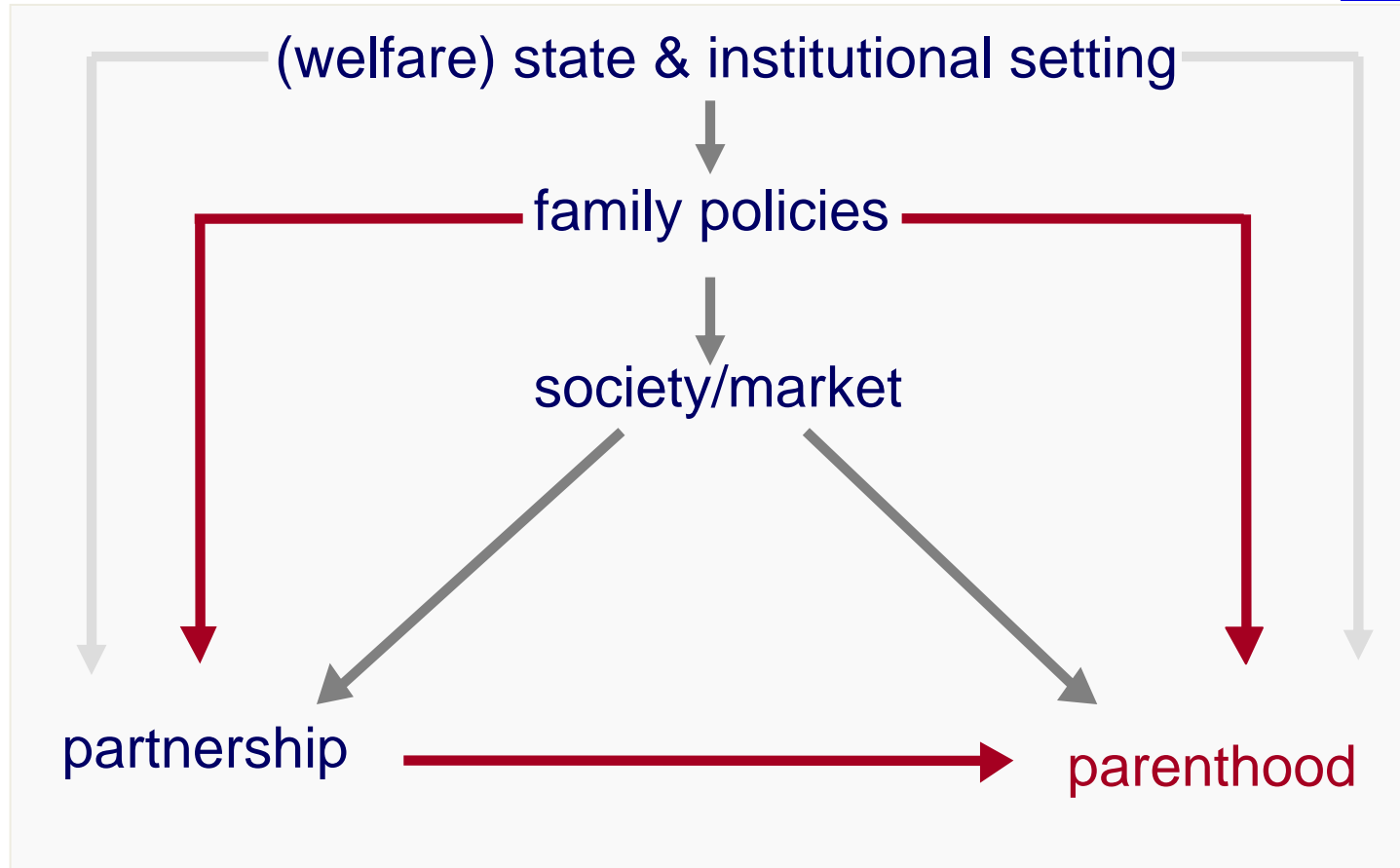
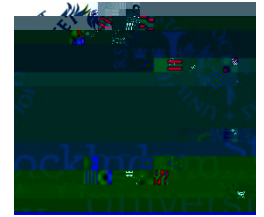
(Orloff 1993; Lewis 1992; Langan/Ostner 1991;  
Neyer 2003)

$\frac{3}{4}$  family policies part of (welfare-)state policies

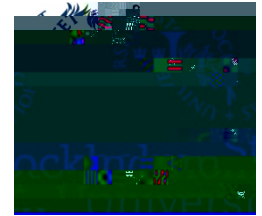
$\frac{3}{4}$  institutional aspects of family policies



# (Welfare)-state and family-policy impact



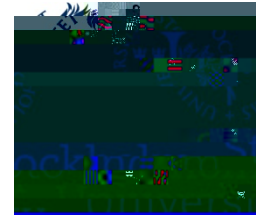
# Conception of Family Policies



- **set of different policies**
  - belong to different policy areas
  - vary across countries and/or regions, communities
  - change over time
- **embedded in socio-economic, political, and cultural environment**
  - in line with or contrary to other policies
  - interact with environment and its changes
- **normative/cultural aspects**
  - symbolic meaning



# Consequences for Research

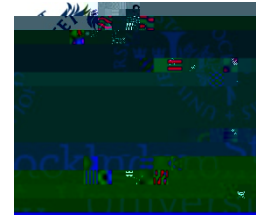


## $\frac{3}{4}$ Policy Analysis:

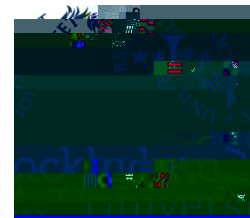
- **WHAT:** content of policy and policy context
- **WHEN:** timing aspect (‘critical junctures’)
  - before-after
  - implementation, and sequencing
  - socio-economic, political changes
- **WHERE:** spatial and cultural aspects
  - regional, single country, comparative perspective

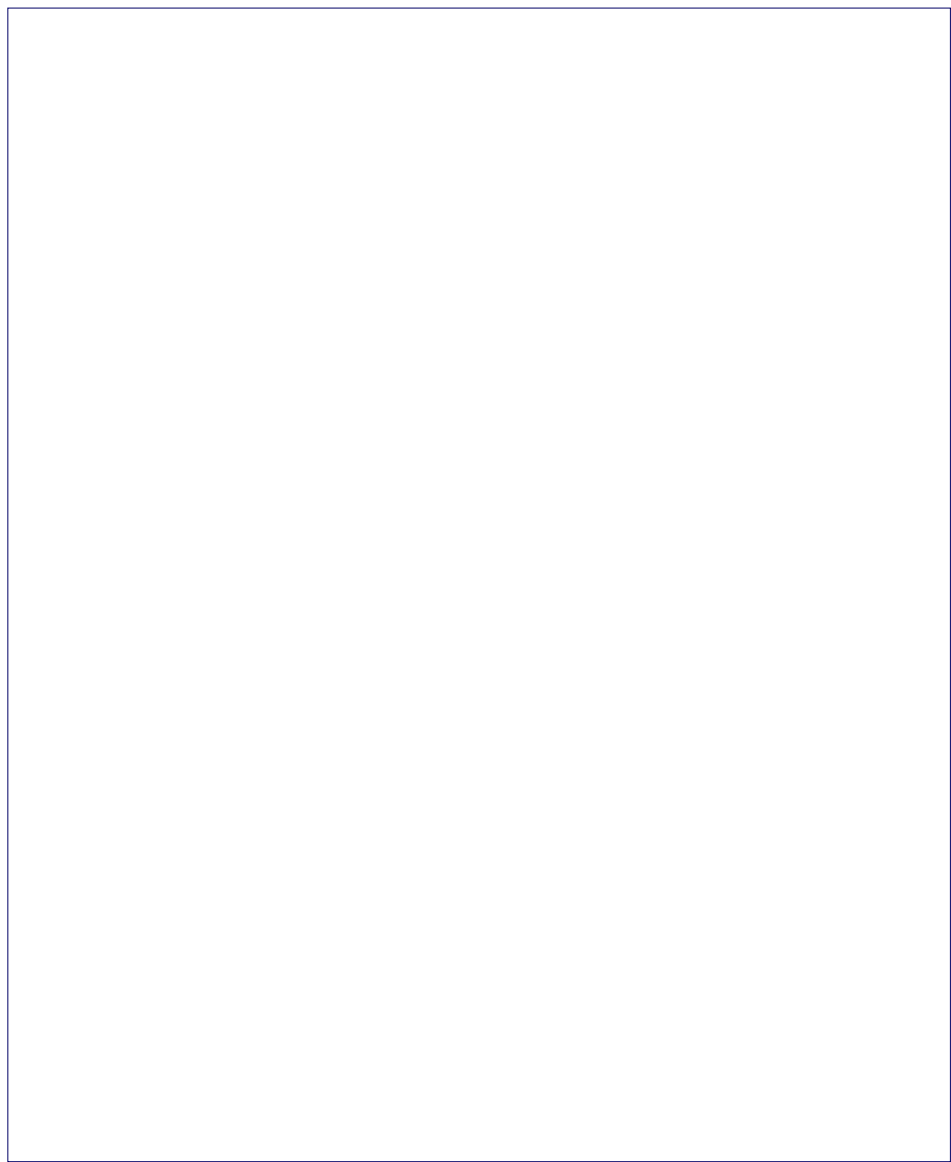
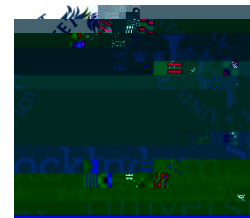


# Effects of Family Policies on Childbearing Behavior



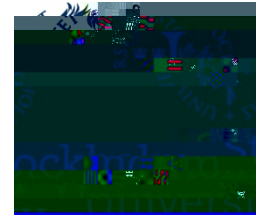
- 'critical junctures' (what and when):
  - introduction of employment-supporting family policies
  - effect of such policies under different socio-economic conditions
- spatial and cultural aspects (where)
- use of policy: differential effects of policies on different social groups (who)







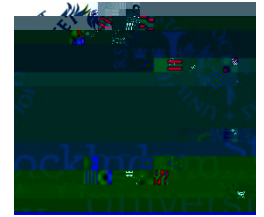
# Effects of Policies on Childbearing



- policy may have an effect on childbearing behavior (on timing and quantum) (effect may be delayed)
- changes in behavior may also be brought about by other factors than policies
- policies may have only temporal effect
- policies may have different effects in different socio-economic circumstances

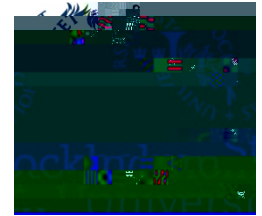


# Effects of Family Policies on Childbearing Behavior



- 'critical junctures':
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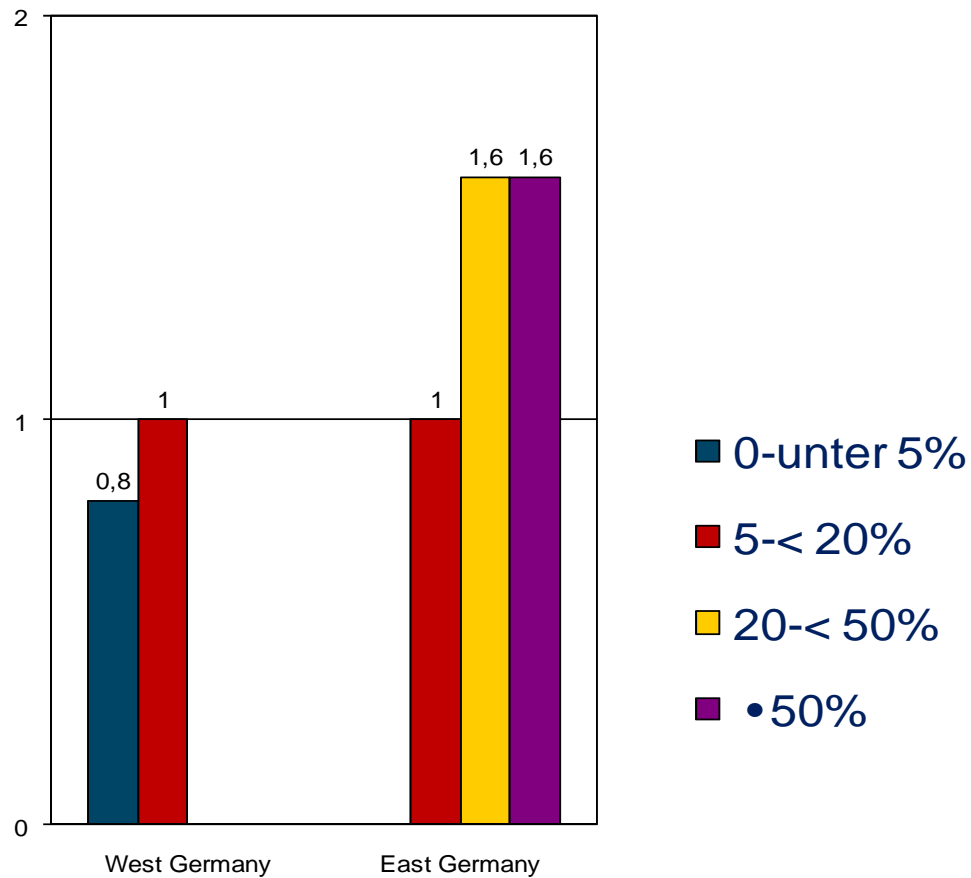
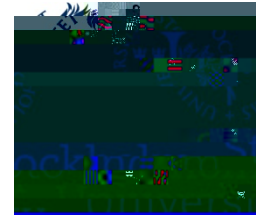
# Space – Symbolic Implications?

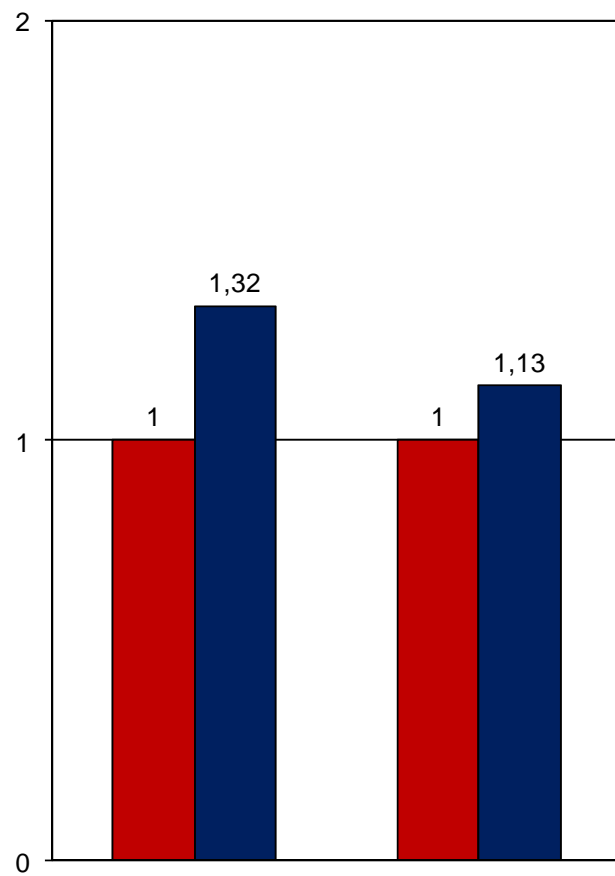
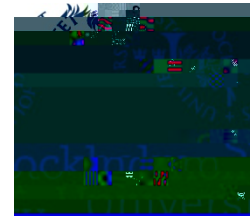


- Child-care characteristics – differences between regions
  - Interaction/feedback effects – Norway
  - Cultural effect – Germany

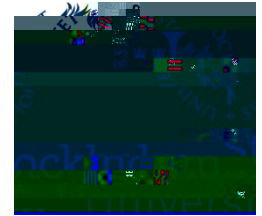


# First-birth Risks and Availability of childcare (0-3 Jahre) in Germany





# Effects of Policies on Childbearing



- Cultural aspects may determine the effects of policies  
(congruence or cleavages between cultural aspects and policies may determine effect)
- Transferability of policies to different (cultural) settings (?)

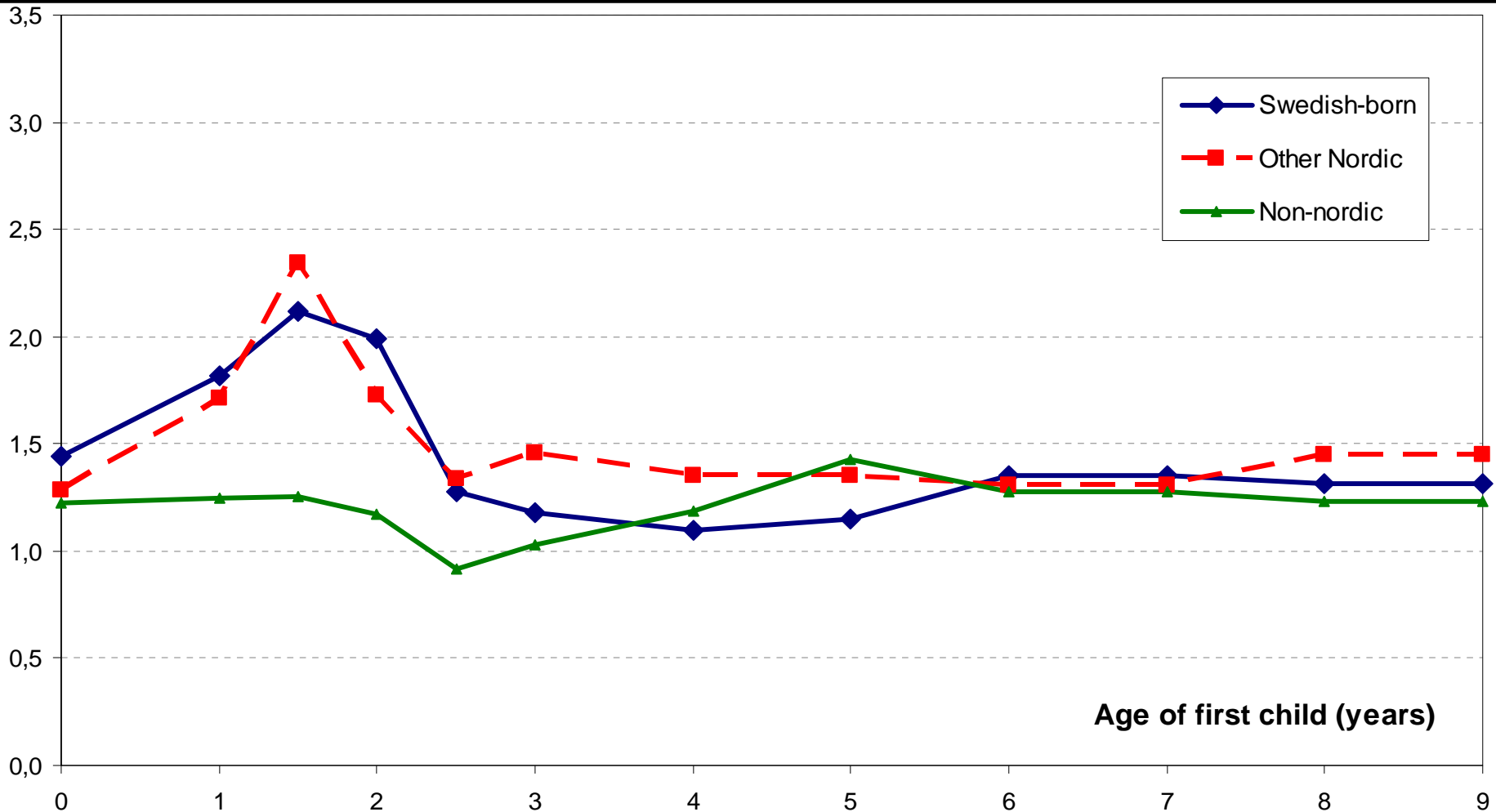


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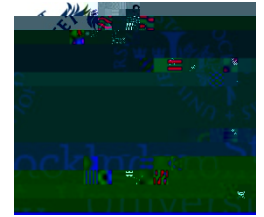
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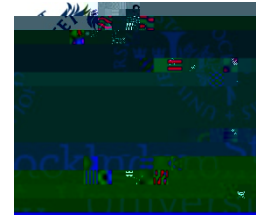
# Changes in second-birth rates, 1990 relative to 1981, by duration since first birth and country of origin





# Family Policies, Fertility & Research





Thank You