

“The Times of Our Lives:
Active Ageing and the Redistribution of Work in Europe”,
Population Europe Event, Brussels, 20 November 2012

Redistribution of Work from a Family and Life Course Perspective

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Outline

- Trends and developments
- Redistribution? And of which work?
- Challenges and guidelines for policies
- *(focus on family & gender issues)*

Trends and developments

- The gender revolution
- Postponement of the transition to adulthood and family formation
- Family and well-being: the positive link

The gender revolution

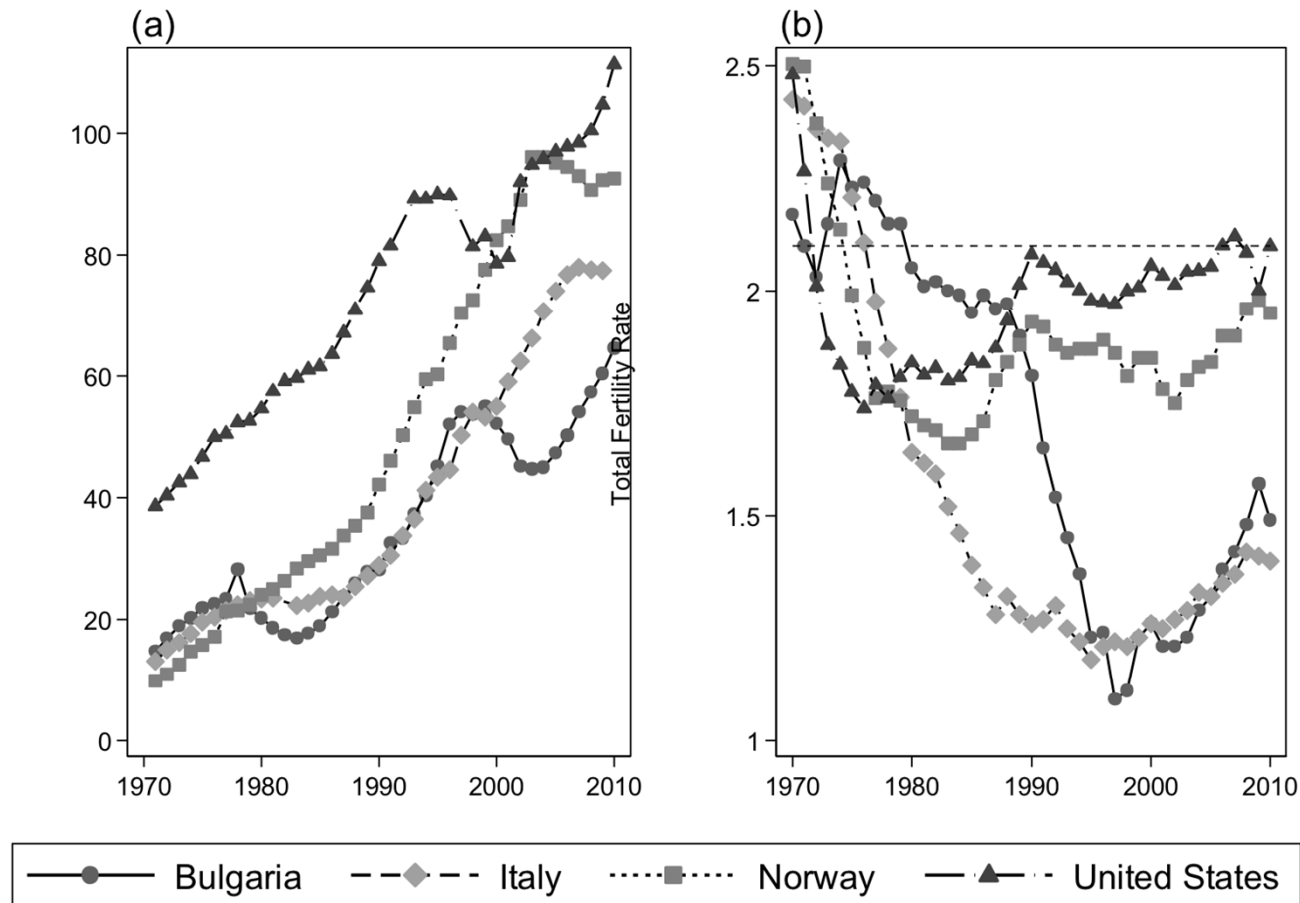
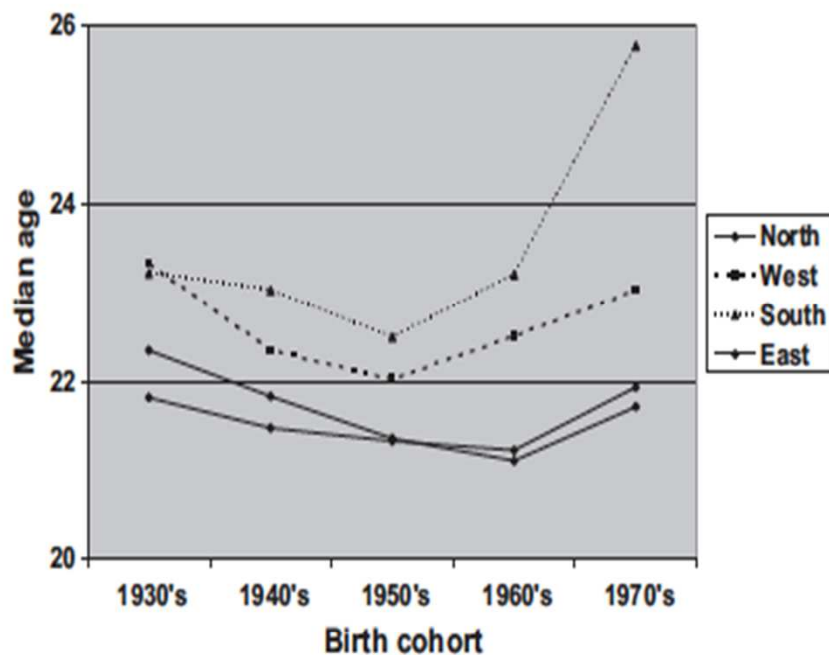


Fig. 1 Changes in total fertility rate and female enrollment in tertiary education in Bulgaria, Italy, Norway and the United States (1970-2010)

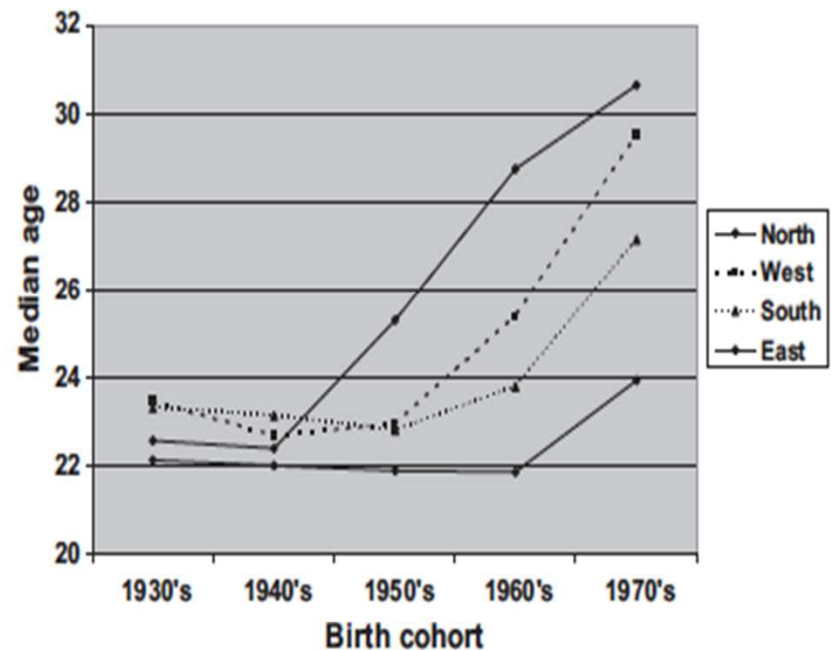
Source: Aassve, Billari, Pessin (2012)

Postponement of family formation



Source: European Social Survey, round 3 (2006),
Famiglia e soggetti sociali (2003).

Fig. 2. Median age at entry into a first union for women in different European regions, by birth cohort.

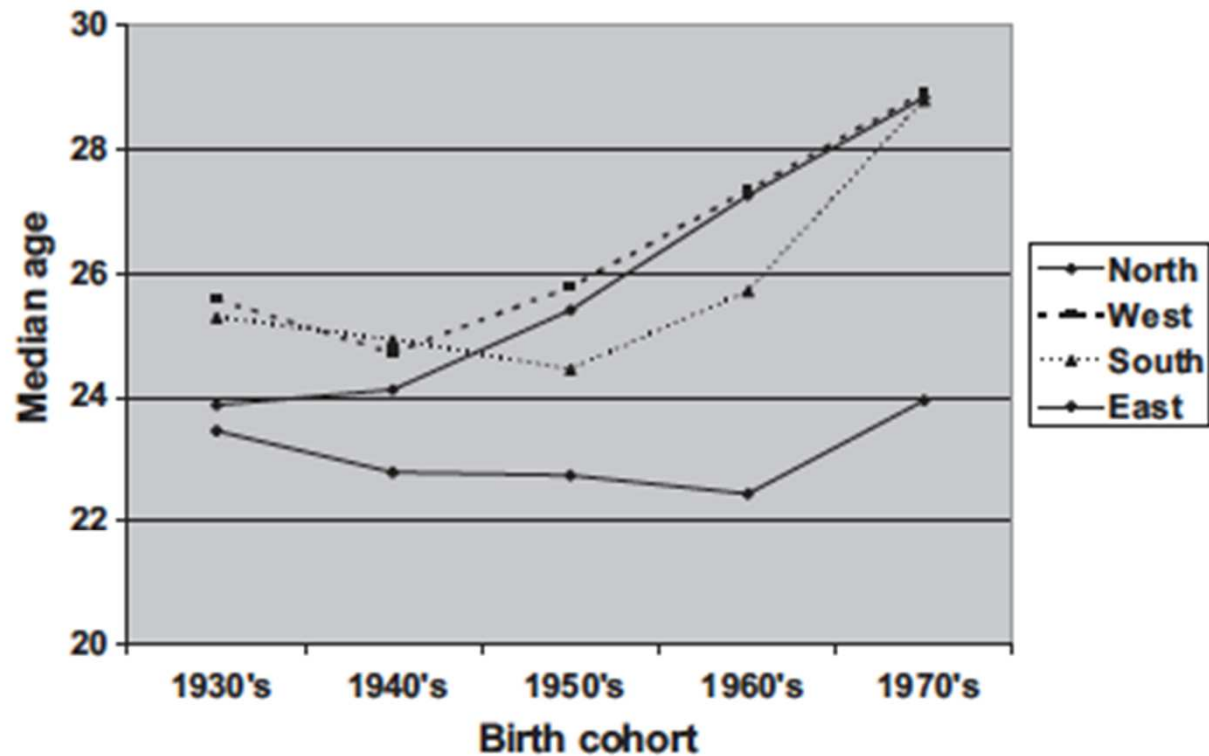


Source: European Social Survey, round 3 (2006),
Famiglia e soggetti sociali (2003).

Fig. 3. Median age at first marriage for women in different European regions, by birth cohort.

Source: Billari & Liefbroer (2010)

Postponement of family formation

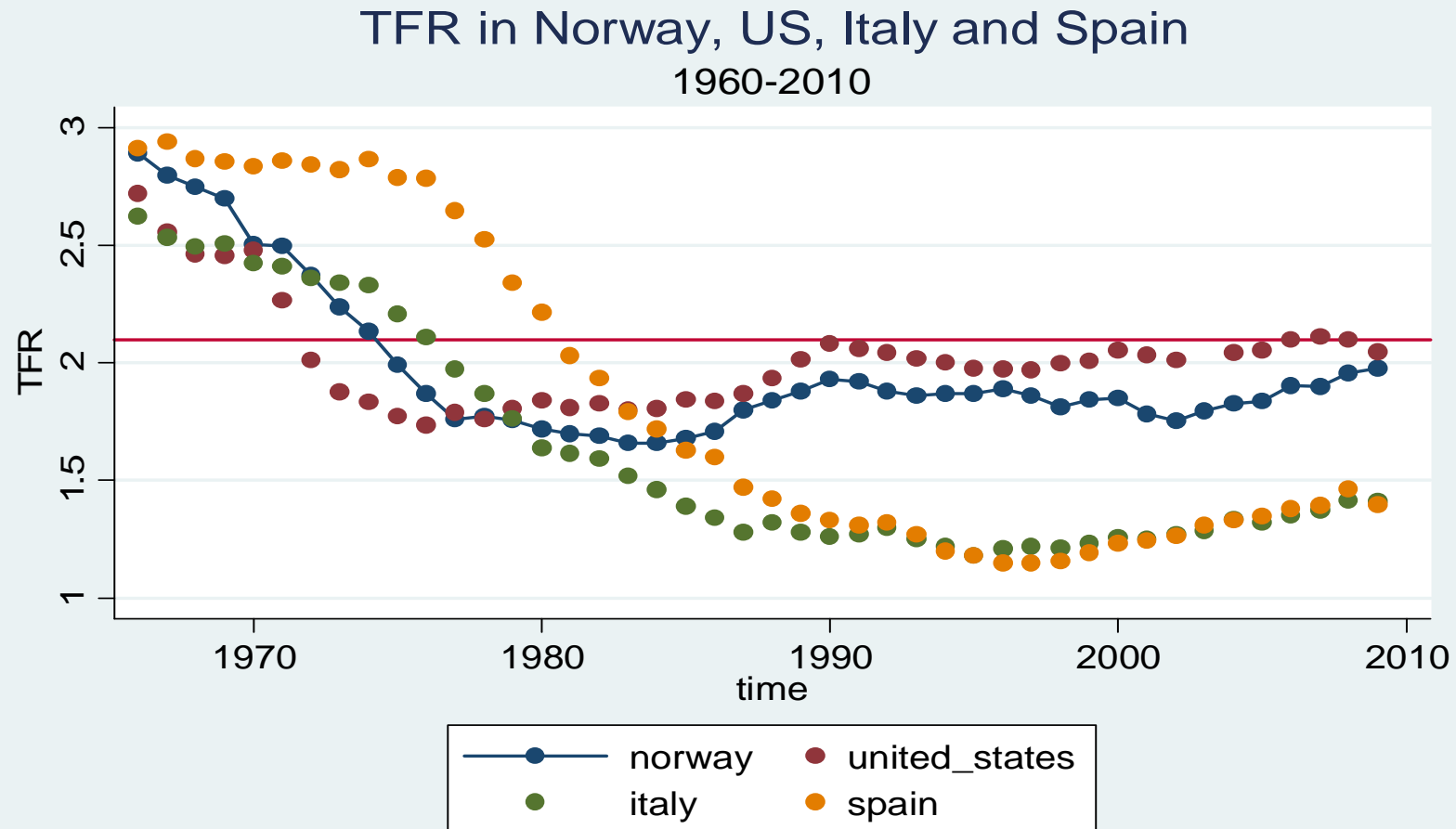


Source: European Social Survey, round 3 (2006),
Famiglia e soggetti sociali (2003).

Fig. 4. Median age at first childbirth for women in different European regions, by birth cohort.

Source: Billari & Liefbroer (2010)

Family and well-being

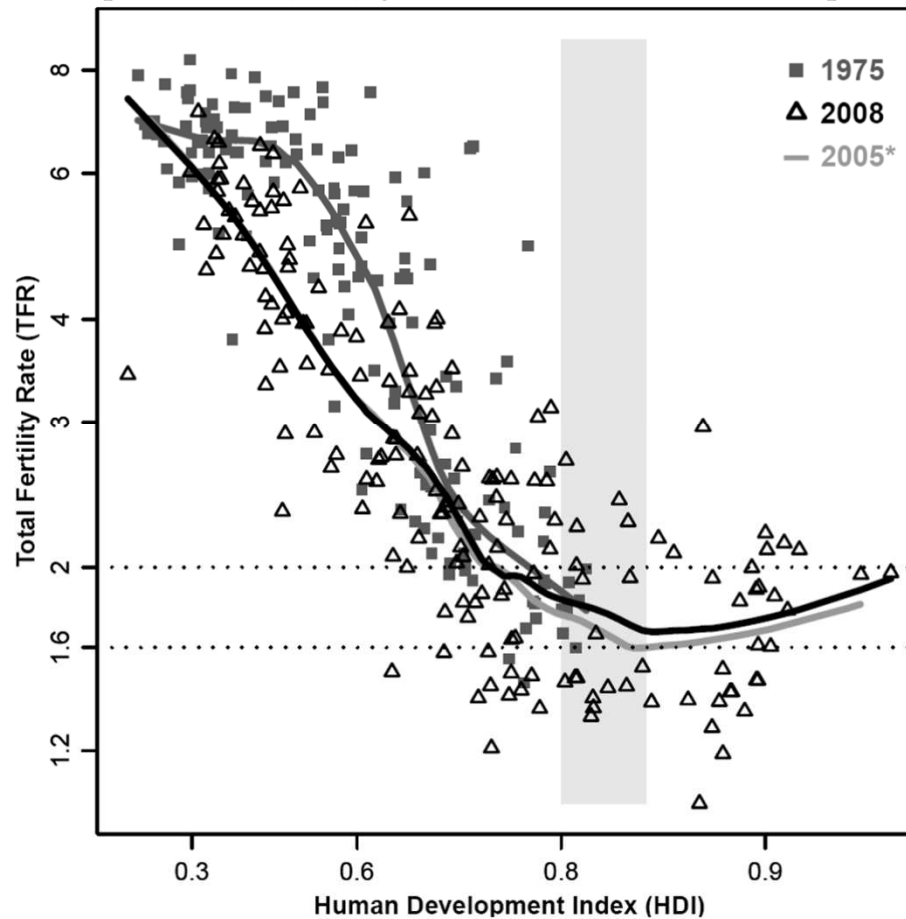


Source: World Bank & Human Fertility Database

Source: Aassve, Billari, Pessin (2012)

Family and well-being

Figure 1. Cross-country relationship between Total Fertility Rate (TFR) and Human Development Index (HDI), years 1975, 2005 and 2008: Data points and a lowess curve.

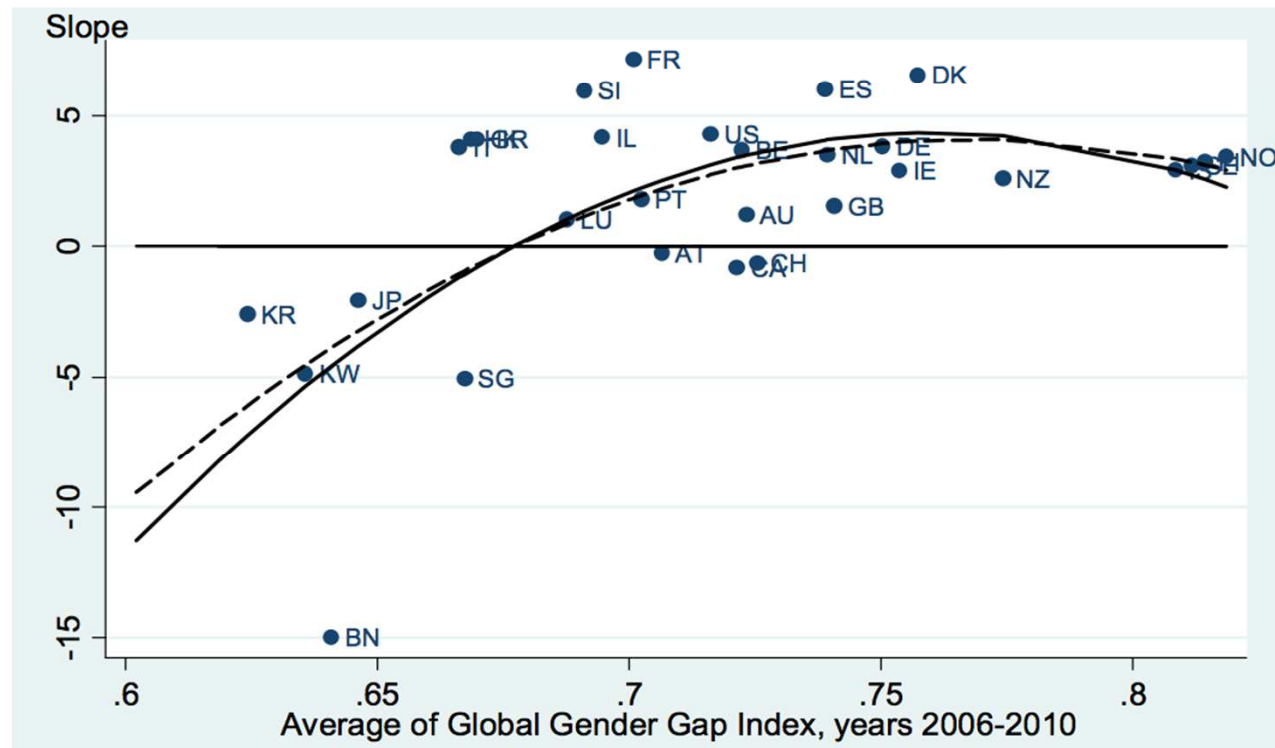


Notes:

Source: Myrskylä, Kohler, Billari (2011)

Family and well-being

Figure 5. Pace of TFR increase with respect to HDI (slope) and gender equality. Data sources: Global Gender Gap Index: World Economic Forum. Pace of TFR with respect to HDI: Own calculations based on data from UNDP (HDI) and World Bank Development Indicators and Human Fertility Database (TFR).



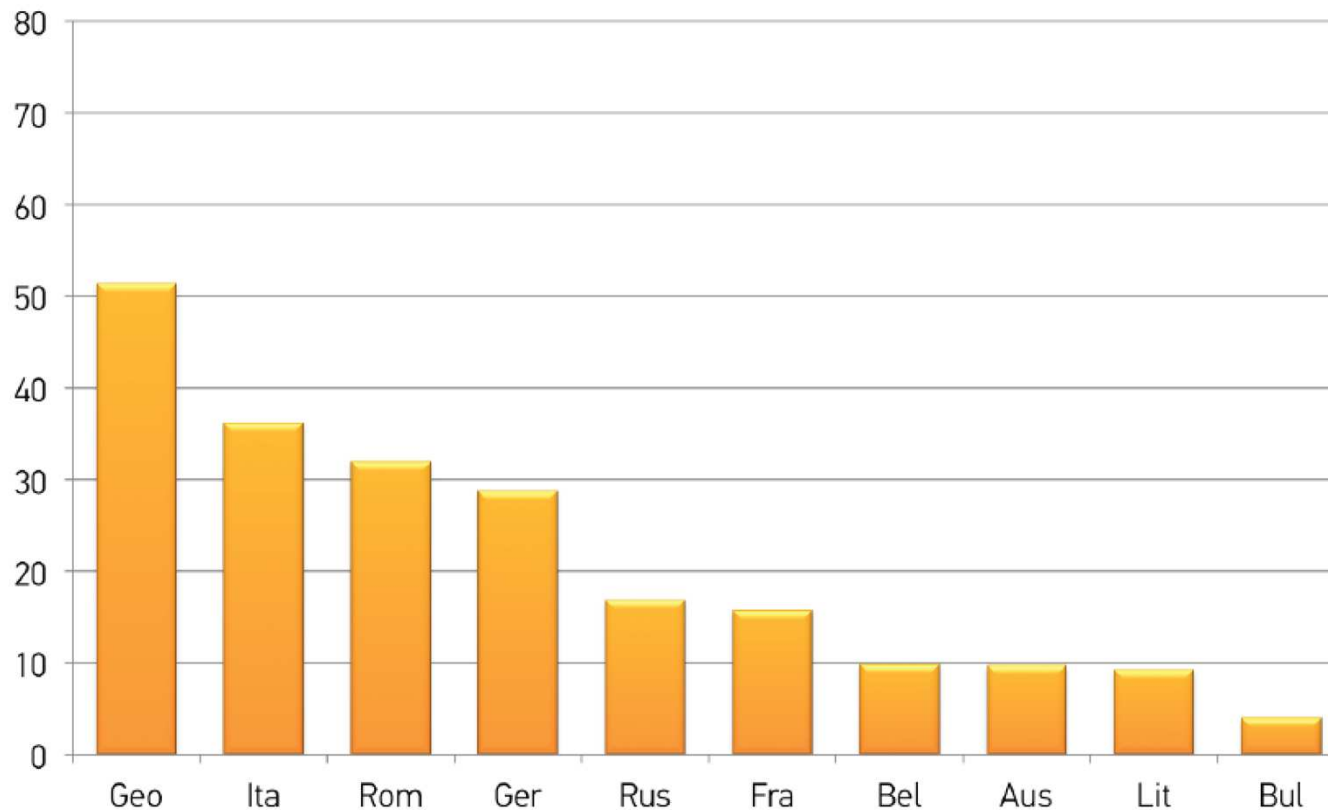
Source: Myrskylä, Kohler, Billari (2011)

Redistribution of work

- Paid work
- Unpaid work

Redistribution of work

Figure 1: Percent homemakers among mothers with children under the age of 12

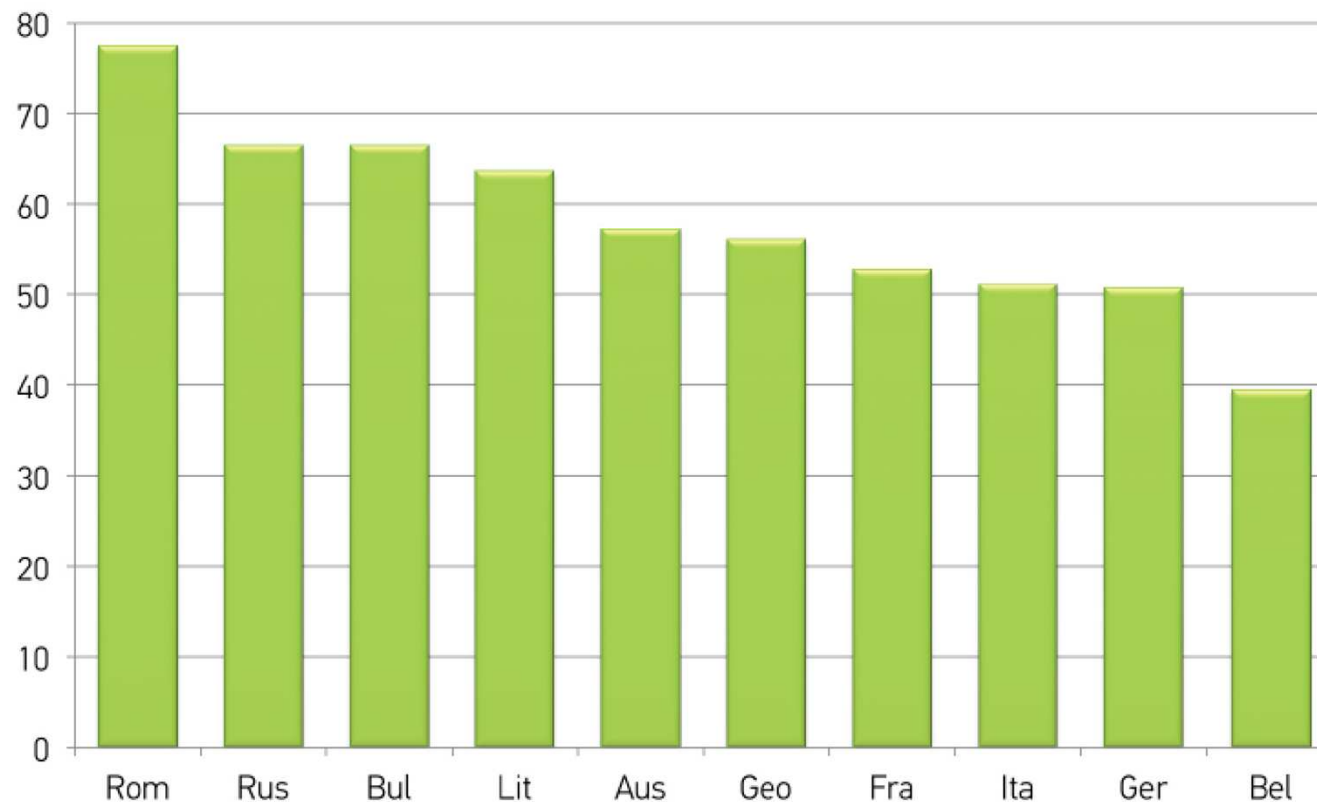


Note: Aus (Austria); Bel (Belgium); Bul (Bulgaria); Fra (France); Geo (Georgia); Ger (Germany); Ita (Italy); Lit (Lithuania); Rom (Romania); Rus (Russia). *Source:* GGP data (own calculation).

Source: Gauthier (2012)

Redistribution of work

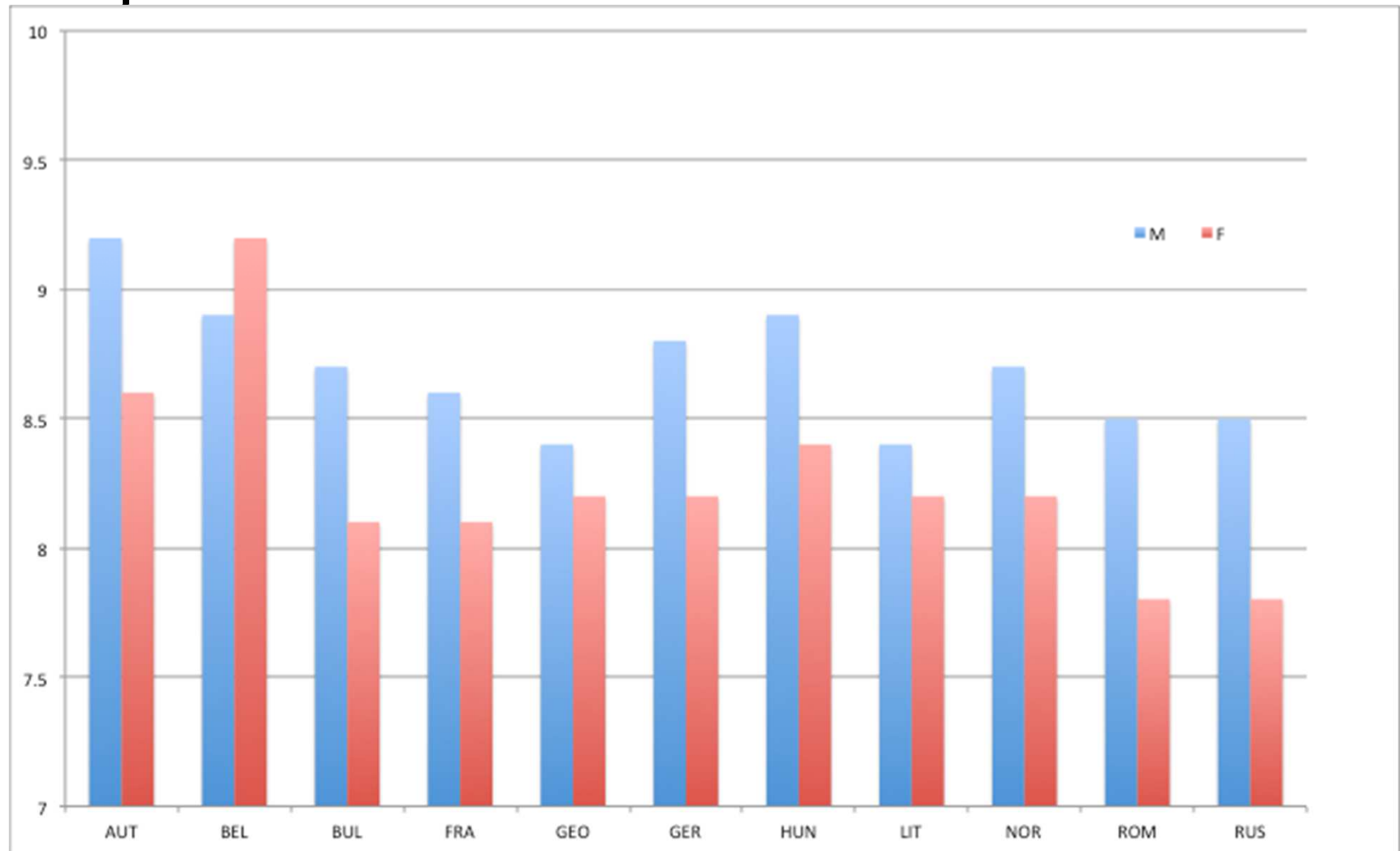
Figure 2. Percent intending to take up a paid job within the next three years among homemakers



Source: GGP data (own calculation).

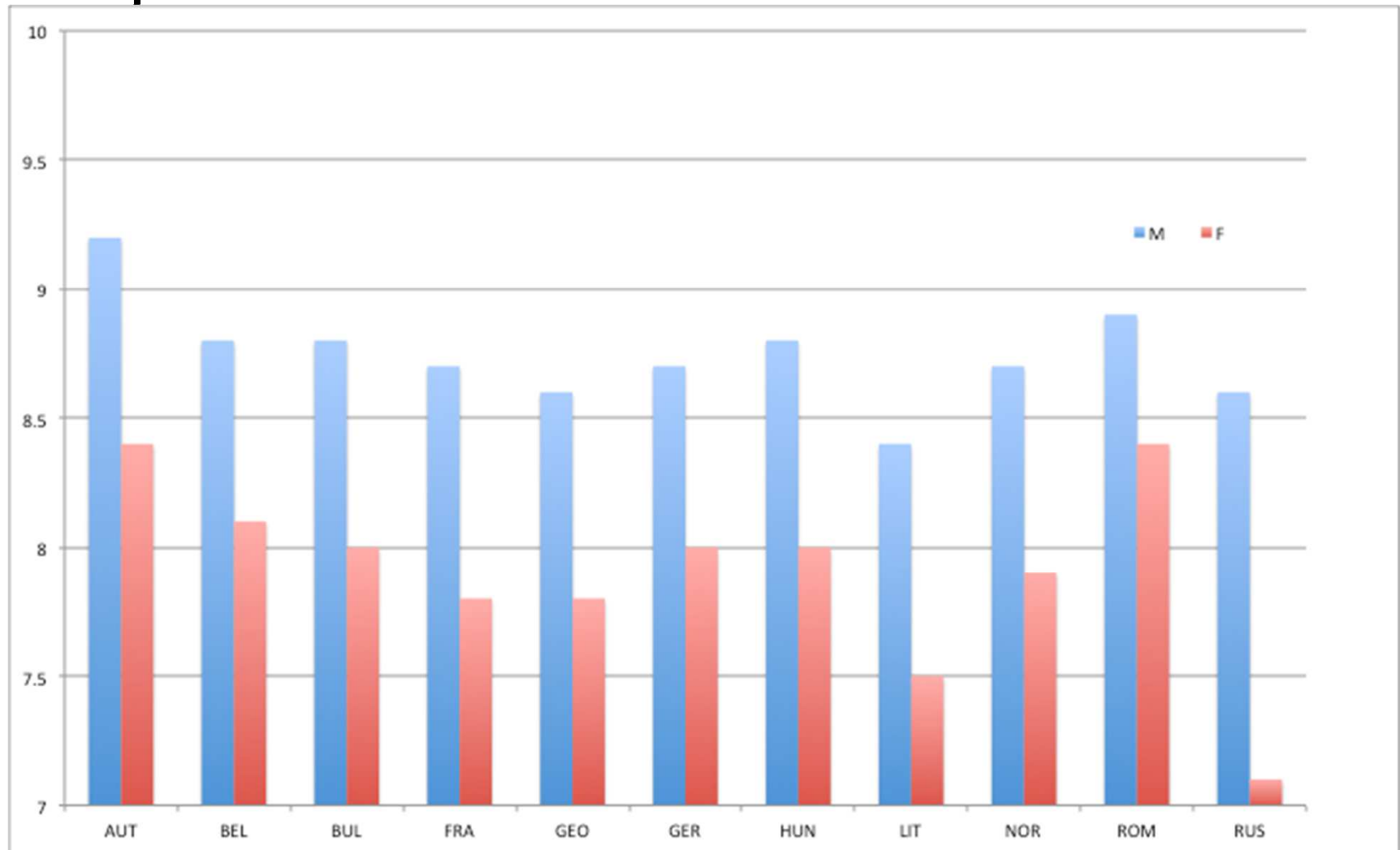
Source: Gauthier (2012)

Satisfaction with housework division (childless couples)



Source: own elaborations on GGS data

Satisfaction with housework division (couples with 2 children)



Source: own elaborations on GGS data

Challenges and guidelines for policies

- **Prerequisite:** to disentangle policy issues (and behaviour) in a comparative setting from a life course perspective *we need more family-oriented longitudinal comparative data*
 - Better data to inform policies in societies with longer tradition (UK, US in particular)

Challenges and guidelines for policies

- **General guidelines:** policies have to accommodate for *irreversible* trends
 - Gender revolution (in both spheres)
 - Postponement – knowledge intensive economy (?)
 - Necessarily positive link between family and well-being (both objective and subjective)
 - *Potential new equilibrium*

Challenges and guidelines for policies

- How to remove obstacles for redistribution?
 - *Feminization* of men vs. *masculinization* of women
 - Mothers moving back in the labour market (extensive childcare and schooling hours). More affirmative action?
 - More lone parents at work while protecting children (extensive childcare and schooling hours). More affirmative action
 - Redistribution of household work—men's education?