

Effects of Family Policies on Childbearing Behavior in Developed Countries

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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

- **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?

- **governmental activities directed at the family**
(Kamerman/Kahn 1978)

1950/60s
family law
taxation
cash benefits
population policies

2000ff
work-care policies
cash benefits
childcare services
gender policies

- **change of family policies – form and focus**

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)

- **normative aims of family policies**
- **cultural ordering**

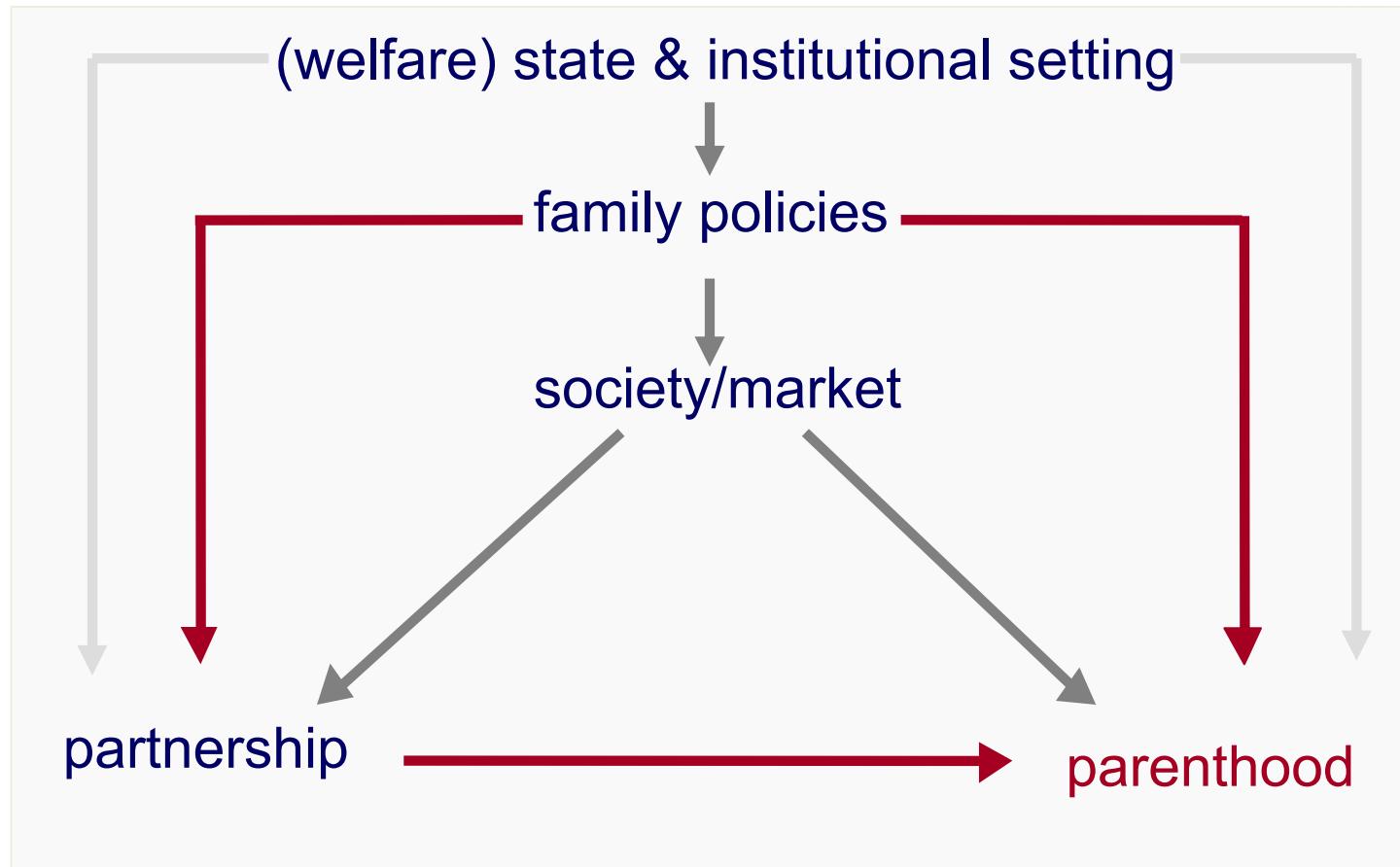
What are Family Policies?

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

(Orloff 1993; Lewis 1992; Langan/Ostner 1991; Neyer 2003)
- **family policies part of (welfare-)state policies**
- **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

- **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
 - **For WHOM: applicability and usage aspects**
 - application of policy to different groups
 - use of policy
- **Proper data**
- **Proper methods**

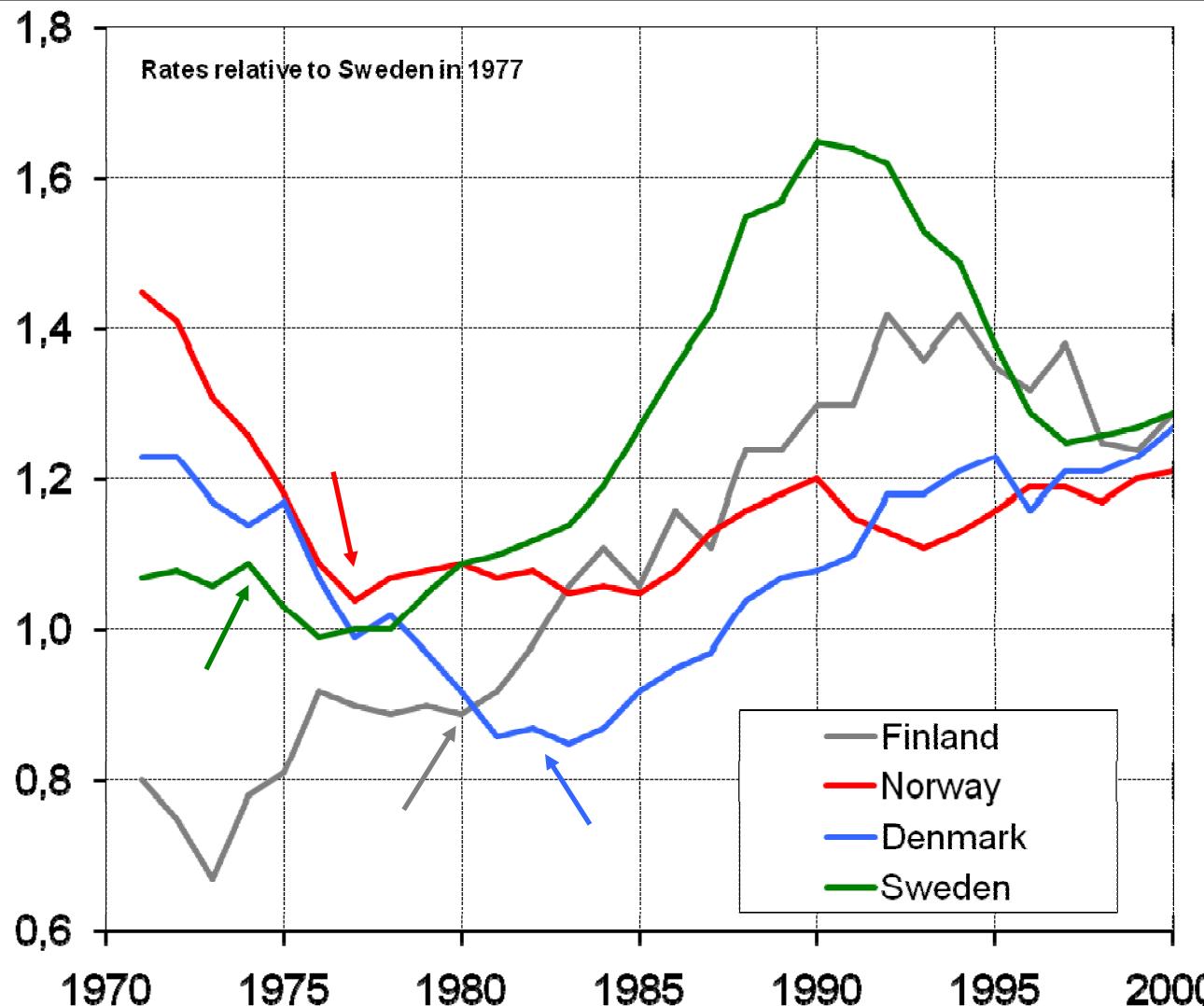


Effects of Family Policies on Childbearing Behavior

- '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)

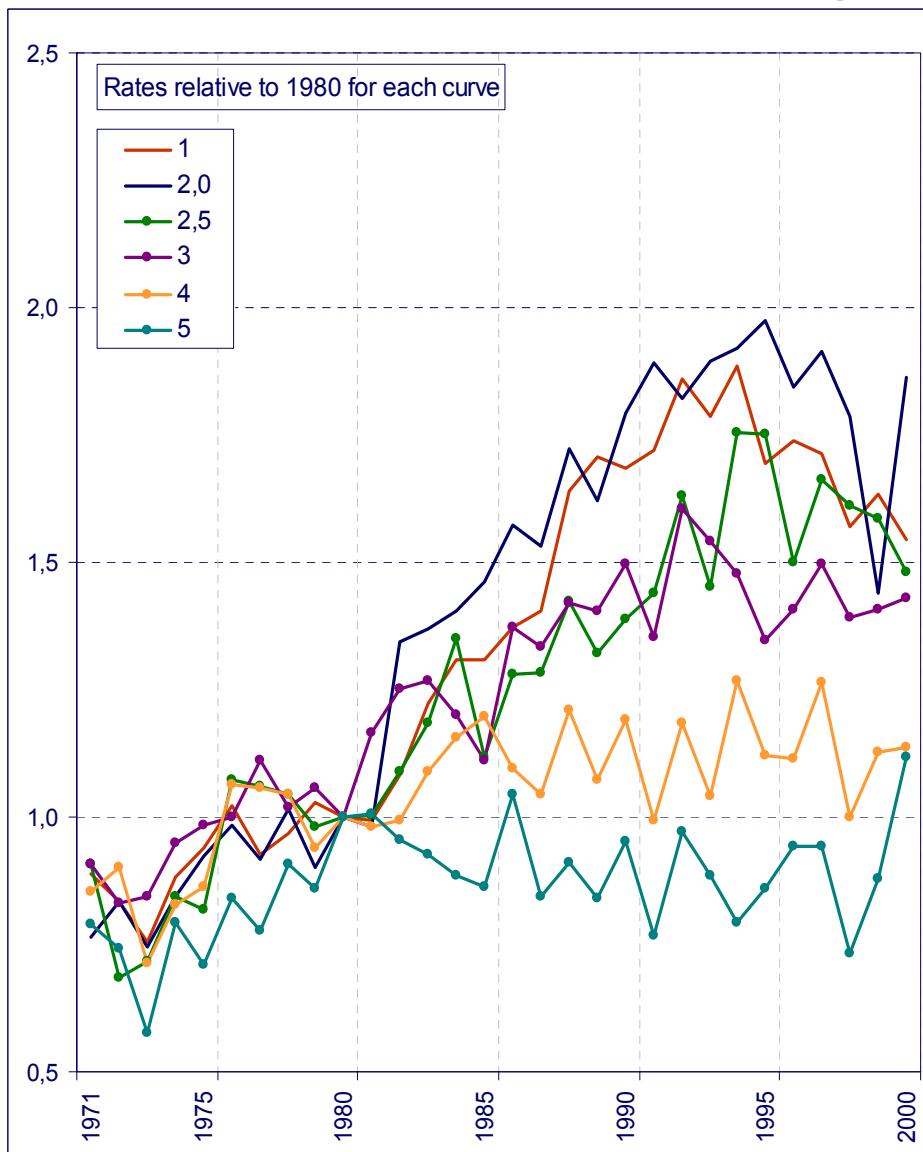
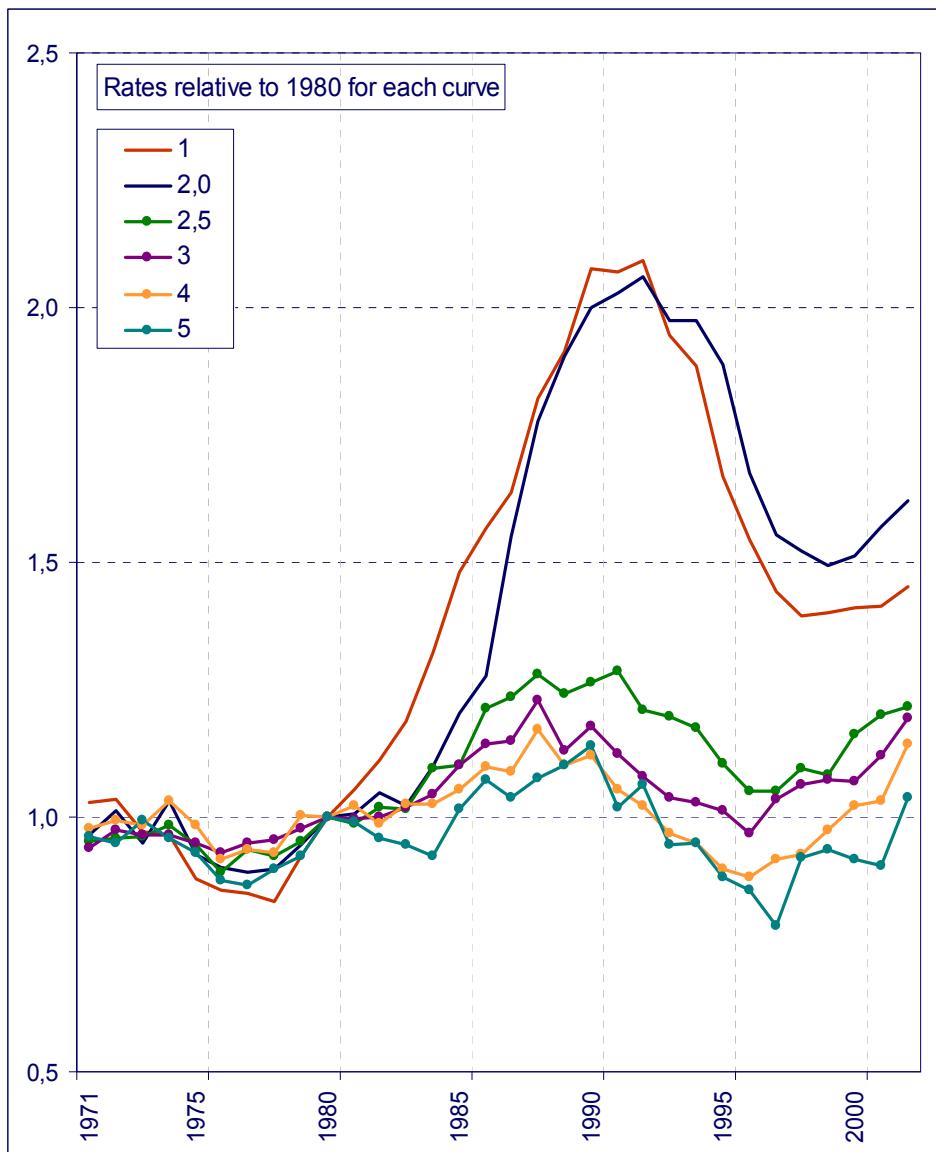


Effects of Income-related Parental-leave Benefits on Second-birth Risks



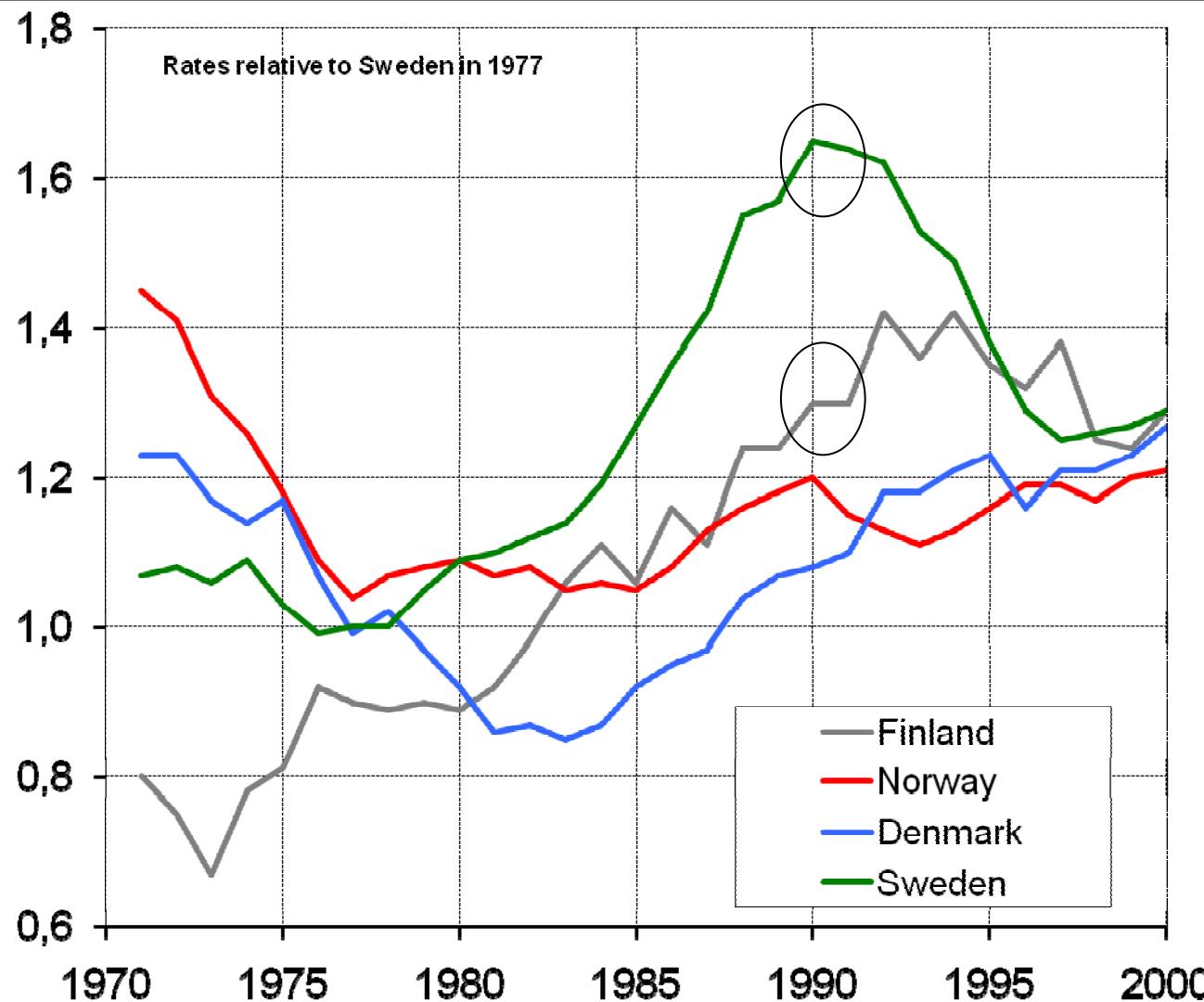


Effect of Speed-Premium (Sweden) and Care-Policies (Finland) on Second-birth Risks in Sweden and Finland by Duration since First Birth





Impacts of Family Policies & Economic Development on Second-birth Risks



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**



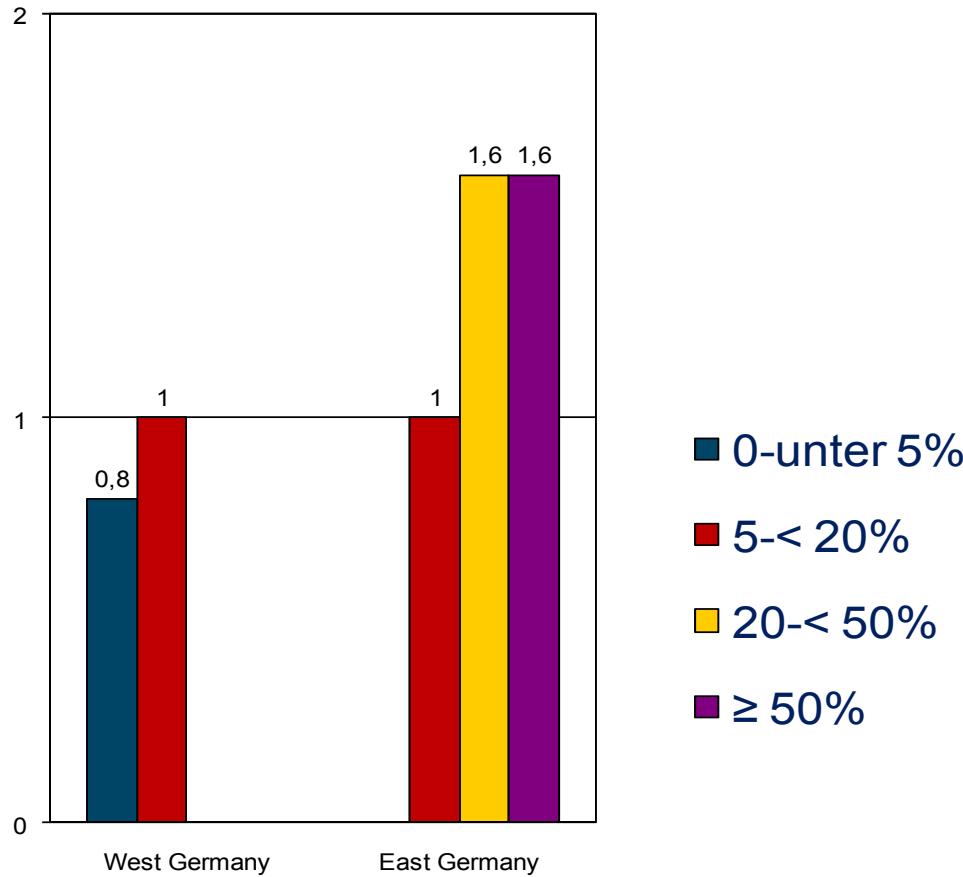
Effects of Family Policies on Childbearing Behavior

- 'critical junctures':
 - 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)**

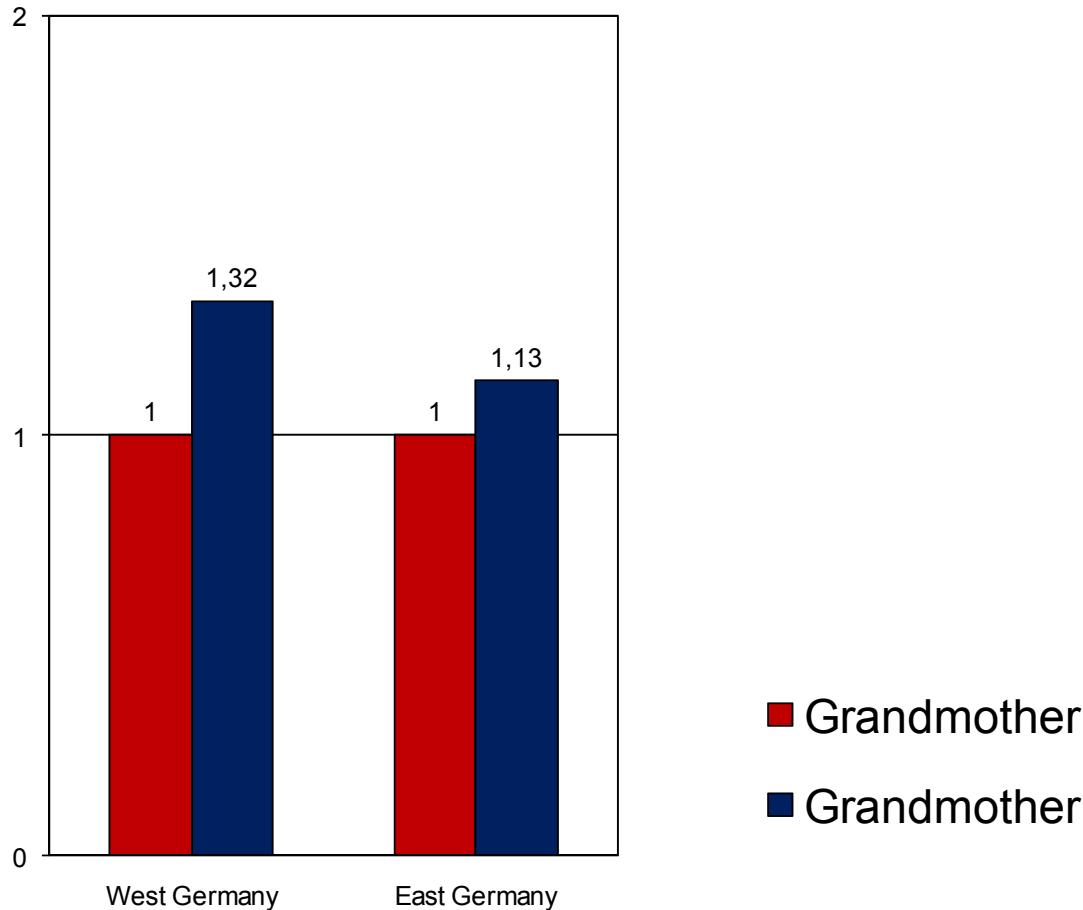
Space – Symbolic Implications?

- 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



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



Effects of Policies on Childbearing



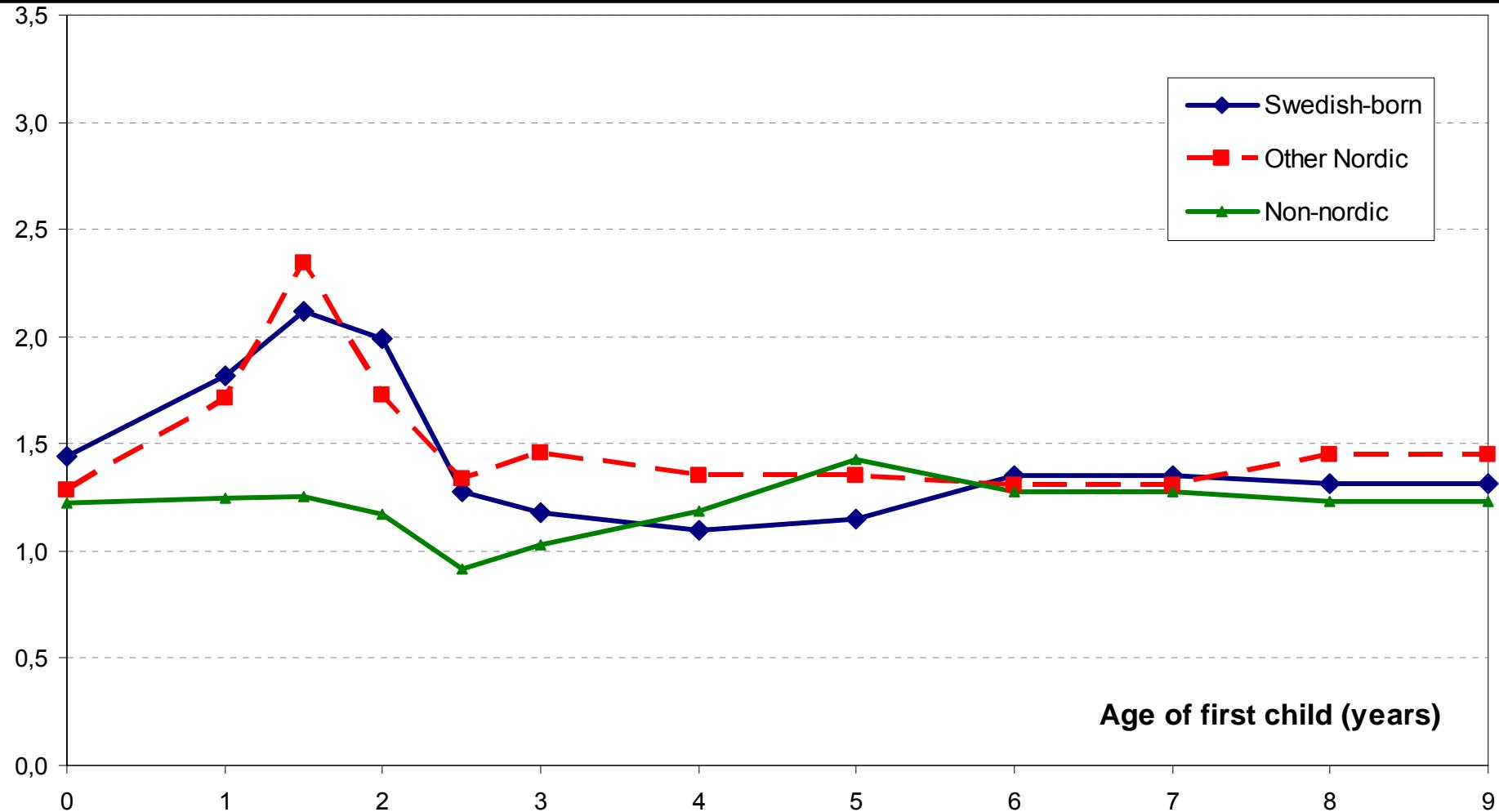
- Cultural aspects may determine the effects of policies
(congruence or cleavages between cultural aspects and policies may determine effect)
- Transferability of policies to different (cultural) settings (?)



Effects of Family Policies on Childbearing Behavior

- 'critical junctures':
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 - effect of such policies under different socio-economic conditions
- spatial and cultural aspects
- **use of policy: differential effects of policies on different social groups: who**

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



Effects of Policies on Childbearing



- **Different effects of policies for different social groups (intended or unintended)**
- **Policies may only apply to specific groups (overall effects negligible)**
- **Selection effect (only childprone persons make use of a policy)**

Family Policies, Fertility & Research



- **Policies matter for childbearing and fertility**
- **Which policies matter where, when, for which persons and for which parity (?)**
- **No effects of policies on childbearing are also effect**
- **Methodological advancement in demography-policy-nexus**



Thank You