The Family, Community, and Health in the Context of Economic Change

A joint project of the
Population Studies Centre and the **Aging & Health Research Centre**
University of Western Ontario

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Four Research Papers

- Family Structure, Gender, and Health in the Context of the Life Course
  William R. Avison and Lorraine Davies

- Family Structures and Children's Behavioral Problems: A Latent Growth Curve Analysis
  Don Kerr and Joseph Michalski

- Stress and Adult Health: Impact of Time Spent in Paid and Unpaid Work, and Its Division in Families
  Roderic Beaujot and Robert Andersen

- Young Canadians' Timing of and Trajectory to Parenthood: Social Status and Gender Differentials
  Zenaida R. Ravanera and Fernando Rajulton

Topics of Discussion

- For each of the four papers:
  - Subject of Research
  - Data and Methods
  - Major Findings

Family Structure, Gender, and Health in the Context of the Life Course (1): Subject of Study

- **Mental Health**
  - **Psychological distress** – 6-item index with scores ranging from 0 to 24
  - **Alcohol consumption** – number of times in the past year when respondent consumed more than 5 drinks in any one occasion
- **Main explanatory variables**
  - Family structure –
    - Two-parent families
    - Single-parent families
  - Gender
  - Age groups

Family Structure, Gender, and Health in the Context of the Life Course (2): Data & Methods

- Data: 1994 National Population Health Survey
  - Parents ages 20-64 living with at least one child
  - 5598 respondents
    - 44% mothers in two-parent families
    - 14% single mothers
    - 40% fathers in two-parent families
    - 2% single fathers
- Methods:
  - Multiple regression analysis
  - Differences of Means

Table 1:Regression Coefficients of Psychological Distress on Family Structure, Gender, and Age

Variable	I	II	III	IV
Family Structure	**1.78**	**1.56**	-0.32	-0.47
Gender		**0.66**	**0.57**	**0.49**
Family Structure by Gender			**1.02**	0.85
Age				**-0.17**
Intercept	**3.04**	**2.69**	**2.93**	**3.88**
R^2	0.038	0.047	0.049	0.057

All coefficients in bold are statistically significant at $p < .005$

Family structure: two-parent family = 0; single-parent family = 1

Table 3: Mean Differences by Gender, Family Structure, and Age

	Mothers		Fathers	
	TPF	**SPF**	**TPF**	**SPF**
Psychological Distress				
All ages	**3.30**	**5.03**	2.73	3.43
20 - 34	**3.54**	**5.33**	3.30	5.11
35 - 49	**3.20**	**4.90**	2.59	3.54
50 - 64	2.93	4.15	2.22	2.14
Alcohol Consumption				
All ages	**1.91**	**3.58**	10.63	14.24
20 - 34	**2.08**	**4.14**	12.92	14.11
35 - 49	1.98	3.62	8.93	17.88
50 - 64	1.08	0.78	12.01	5.89
N	2,486	779	2,217	116

Family Structures and Children's Behavioral Problems (1): Subject of study

☐ **Externalizing behavioral problems**

- Additive scale (0 to 18) derived from answers of PMK about child's being inattentive, non-cooperative, etc.

☐ **Main explanatory variables**

- Family structure:
  - ☐ had lived in intact family across 4 NLSCY cycle (72%)
  - ☐ intact in 1994, divorce or separation prior to 2000 (14%)
  - ☐ lone-mother family for full period (9%)
  - ☐ Step family for full period (5%)
- Income
  - ☐ Income to needs ratio in 1994
  - ☐ Change in income to needs ratio between 2000 and 1994

Family Structures and Children's Behavioral Problems (2): Data and Methods

- **National Longitudinal Surveys of Children and Youth** – 1994, 1996, 1998, 2000
  - 1902 children aged 4-5 in 1994 and re-interviewed in 1996, 1998, and 2000 (92% of original sample)
- Method: **Latent growth curve analysis**
  - Fit some form of regression curve to measures of dependent variable to derive:
    - intercept latent variable
    - slope latent variables
  - Analysis of these two latent variables
    - Analysis of intercept -- indicates how a specific family type was doing initially (in 1994)
    - Analysis of slope -- indicates how well specific family types do over time

Table 1: Mean Behavioral Problems Scores
By Family Structure, Children 4-5 Years Old in 1994, 1994-2000

	1994	1996	1998	2000
All Children	4.9	4.5	4.4	3.2
Intact Families 1994-2000	4.7	4.2	4.1	2.9
Separation/ Divorce in 1994 - 2000	4.8	4.8	4.7	3.8
Lone Parent Families 1994-2000	6.3	5.8	5.6	4.0
Step Families 1994-2000	5.9	5.8	5.9	5.3

n = 1902

Table 2: Coefficients of Latent Growth Curve Models of Behavioral Problems Scores of Children 4-5 Years Old in 1994

| | Model 1 | | Model 2 | |
	Intercept	Slope	Intercept	Slope
Lone Parent Families 1994-2000	0.180 *	-0.032	0.158 *	-0.037
Step Families 1994-2000	0.086 *	0.111 *	0.083 *	0.119 *
Separation/ Divorce in 1994 - 2000	0.031	0.083 *	0.030	0.060
Income to Needs, 1994			-0.087 *	
Change in Income to Needs, 1994-2000				-0.156 *

Stress and Adult Health: Impact of Time Spent in Paid and Unpaid Work, and Its Division in Families (1) : Subject of Study

- ## **Stress**
  - Index based on answers to ten questions (plan to slow down, a workaholic, cut back on sleep …)
- ## Main explanatory variables /Hypotheses
  - **Total time spent in paid and unpaid work** / Time in productive activities has impact on stress
  - Work schedules / Types of paid work are differentially associated with stress
  - **Child care** and elderly care / Stress is associated with types of unpaid work
  - **Family models /** Stress is associated with division between couples of productive activities
  - **Income** and education / Personal and family resources have mitigating effects on stress

Stress and Adult Health: Impact of Time Spent in Paid and Unpaid Work, and Its Division in Families (2) : Data and Methods

- Data: 1998 General Social Survey on Time Use
  - Men (2,658) and women (2,983) aged 30-59
- Methods:
  - Bivariate correlation
  - Multiple Regression
    - Persons not in marital relation
    - Persons in marital relation
    - **Persons working and in marital relations**

Table1: Mean and Pearson Correlation with stress index for age, paid work, and unpaid work

Variable	Men Mean	Men Correl.	Women Mean	Women Correl.
Age	42.8	-0.177	42.9	-0.193
Paid work (hours)/week	40.4	0.260	26.1	0.175
Unpaid work (hours)/week	22.2	0.054	44.3	0.143
Total N	2658		2983	

Table 2: Mean scores for the stress index
By Parental Status, Household Income and Family Models

Parental status	Men	Women
No child under 15	3.7	3.9
At least one under 5	4.8	5.3
Children under 15 but not under 5	4.5	4.9

Household income	Men	Women
Less than 20,000	3.9	4.3
20,000-39,999	4.0	4.6
40,000-59,999	4.4	4.5
60,000 or more	4.1	4.6

Family model	Men	Women
Complementary	4.7	4.4
Complementary gender reversed	3.2	4.6
Women's double burden	3.9	5.1
Men's double burden	3.9	4.0
Shared roles	4.0	4.7

From Table 5: Determinants of Stress, Men and Women Aged 30-59, Working and in Marital Relations, Model 5

	Men	Women
Household income		
(more than $60,000)	0	0
40,000 to 59,999	0.491**	-0.395*
20,000 to 39,999	0.048	-.598*
Less than 20,000	0.754	0.113
Paid work hours	0.034***	0.049***
Unpaid work hours	0.004	0.003
Family model		
Shared roles	-0.556**	-0.519*
Men double burden	-0.539*	-0.947**
Women double burden	-0.248	-0.242
Gender reversed	-0.900	-0.799*
(Complementary roles)	0	0
Parental status		
Child under 15 but none under 5	0.116	0.561**
At least one under 5	0.080	1.018***
(None under 15)	0	0

Young Canadians' Timing of and Trajectory to Parenthood: Social Status and Gender Differentials
(1) Subject of Study

☐ Age at Birth of First Child, &
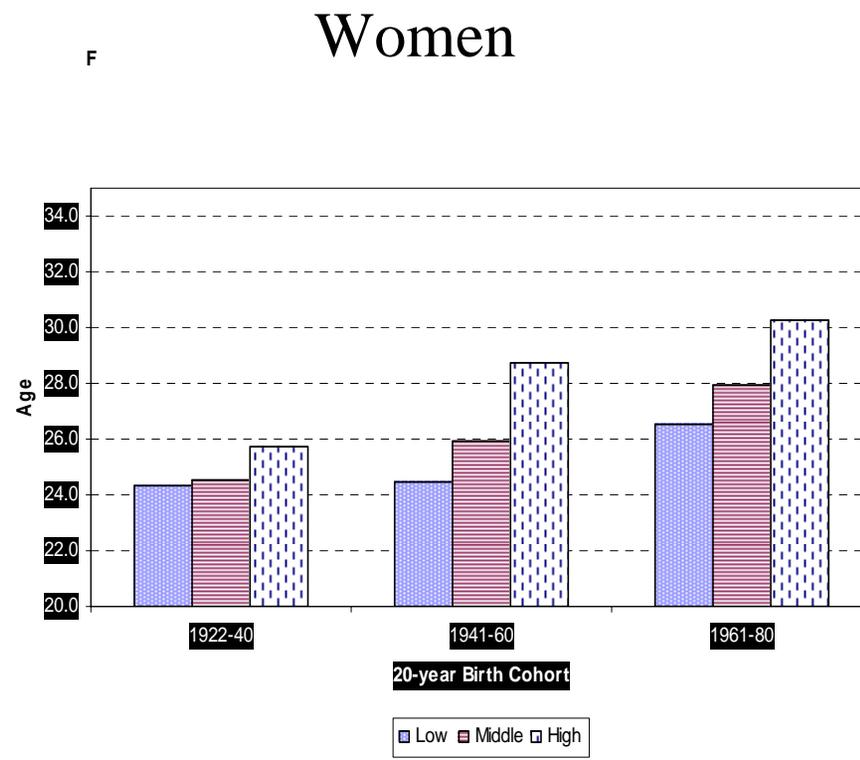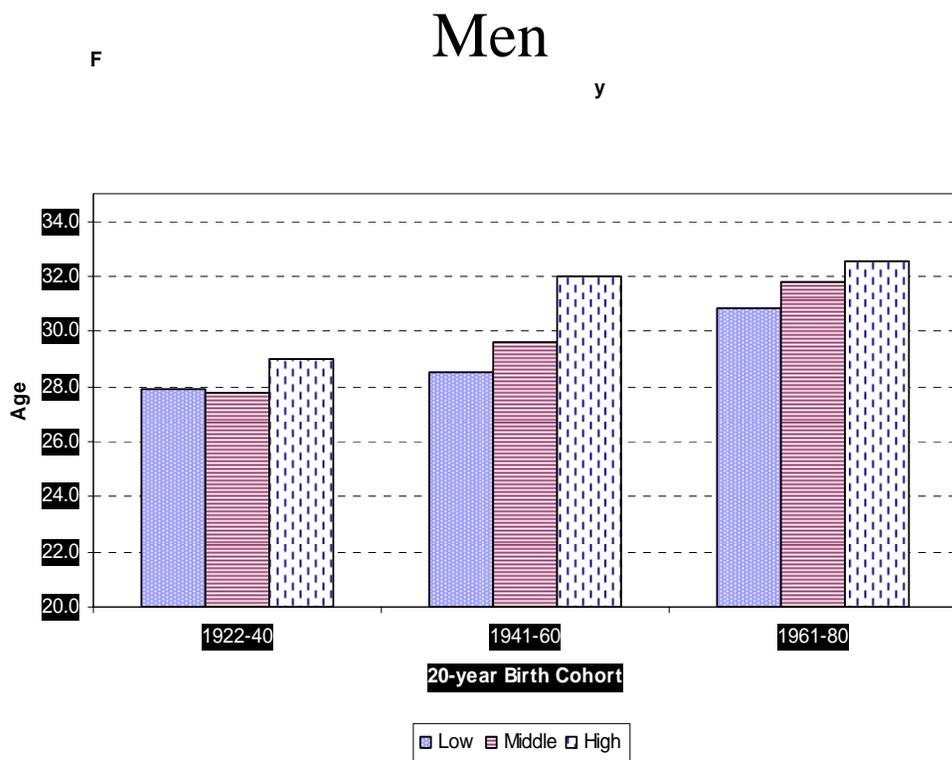
☐ Trajectory to First Birth

☐ Main explanatory variables:
- Social status derived from mother's education and father's occupation when respondent was age 15:
  - ☐ **Low**
  - ☐ **Middle**
  - ☐ **High**
- Other variables, including **personal income**

Young Canadians' Timing of and Trajectory to Parenthood: Social Status and Gender Differentials
Data and Methods

- Data: 2001 General Social Survey on Family History
  - Cohorts born in 1961-80
    - Men – 4066
    - Women – 4908
- Information used
  - retrospective data on timing of events
- Methods:
  - Single-decrement life tables
  - Trajectory analysis using LIFEHIST
  - Hazards analysis of timing of onset of parenthood

Age at Parenthood, Men and Women, By Social Status and by 20-year Birth Cohort

Social status differences in trajectories to parenthood (1)

Most common trajectory: High social status

	Low		Middle		High	
	Prob.	Dur.	Prob.	Dur.	Prob.	Dur.
A1. O - Grad - Work- Marr - Fatherhood						
(I) Origin to Post-Secondary Graduation	0.27	21.0	0.35	21.3	0.49	21.6
(ii) PS Graduation to Work Start	0.86	1.3	0.90	1.4	0.87	1.7
(iii) Work Start to Marriage	0.62	5.8	0.63	5.0	0.67	4.5
(iv) Marriage to Birth	0.95	3.1	0.92	3.0	0.85	2.3
(v) Probabily/ Age at Final Transition	0.14	31.2	0.18	30.8	0.24	30.0

Most common trajectory: Low social status

	Low		Middle		High	
	Prob.	Dur.	Prob.	Dur.	Prob.	Dur.
B2. O - Work - Marr - Fatherhood						
(I) Origin to Work Start	0.64	17.9	0.58	18.3	0.43	19.0
(ii) Work Start to Marriage	0.44	6.6	0.41	7.2	0.36	6.5
(iii) Marriage to Birth	0.80	2.4	0.76	2.0	0.70	2.3
(iv) Probabily/ Age at Final Transition	0.23	26.9	0.18	27.5	0.11	27.8

Social status differences in trajectories to parenthood (2)

Trajectory to parenthood that does not go through marriage

	Low		Middle		High	
	Prob.	**Dur.**	**Prob.**	**Dur.**	**Prob.**	**Dur.**
B3. **O - Work - Father**						
(i) Origin to Work Start	0.64	17.9	0.58	18.3	0.43	19.0
(ii) Work Start to Fatherhood	0.21	7.7	0.18	7.1	0.09	3.7
(iii) Probabily/ Age at Final Transition	0.14	25.6	0.10	25.4	0.04	22.6

	Low		Middle		High	
	Prob.	**Dur.**	**Prob.**	**Dur.**	**Prob.**	**Dur.**
B3. **O - Work -Mother**						
(i) Origin to Work Start	0.54	18.8	0.54	18.7	0.40	19.4
(ii) Work Start to Motherhood	0.25	5.6	0.23	6.2	0.11	4.4
(iii) Probabily/ Age at Final Transition	0.13	24.3	0.13	24.9	0.04	23.8

Economic rationale for parenthood: Results from Hazards Models

Results of Hazards Analysis of Timing of Parenthood, 1961-80 Birth Cohort

Men

	Model 1	Model 2	Model 3
Respondent's Education			
Some High School ®			
High School Graduate	-0.244 ***	-0.228 ***	-0.206 ***
Some College	-0.446 ***	-0.388 ***	-0.204 **
College/University Grad	-0.593 ***	-0.582 ***	-0.389 ***
Personal Income			
Less than $20,000 ®			
$20,000 - $49,999	0.428 ***	0.413 ***	-0.009
$50,000 or higher	0.637 ***	0.547 ***	-0.011
Missing	0.488 ***	0.503 ***	-0.001

Women

	Model 1	Model 2	Model 3
Respondent's Education			
Some High School ®			
High School Graduate	-0.546 ***	-0.651 ***	-0.755 ***
Some College	-0.852 ***	-0.942 ***	-0.962 ***
College/University Grad	-0.944 ***	-1.088 ***	-1.129 ***
Personal Income			
Less than $20,000 ®			
$20,000 - $49,999	-0.507 ***	-0.366 ***	-0.347 ***
$50,000 or higher	-0.978 ***	-0.763 ***	-0.740 ***
Missing	-0.307 ***	-0.244 ***	-0.270 ***

• Gender difference: income effect for men, opportunity cost effect for women

Some tentative & general implications of findings:

- Findings point to the need for policies or services that would
  - Support single parents particularly **young** single fathers and mothers who seem to have greater difficulties in combining care giving and provider roles
  - Support families experiencing key transitions, for example, income support for recently divorced mothers
  - Help people reduce the number of hours that they spend in paid work
  - Diminish social inequalities such as those related to access to higher education and to employment
    - Note however that reducing the disparities in opportunities could mean a greater delay in the onset of parenthood which might lead to
      - even lower fertility than the current rate.
      - biological consequences (more difficulties in having children; higher probabilities of pregnancy complications and birth defects)
  - Facilitate the balancing of family and work life

Website and contact address:

- Papers and presentations are available through the project's website: http://www.ssc.uwo.ca/sociology/familyhealth/

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