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Session 12

Differential Fertility

Social and Economic Aspects of Fertility Decline

Population, Family and Reproductive Health

380.655

AY 2008-2009

Objectives of the lectures

- After listening to this lecture and doing the recommended readings students will be able to;
 - Identify the main dimensions along which fertility quantum and tempo vary within societies
 - Explain why social class might affect fertility
 - Explain why religion might affects fertility
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Switch Gears Again

- Started with differences across societies or over time
- Moved to discussion of how individuals make decisions
- Now, why are there systematic differences across groups within societies?

Long Standing Differences Observed among sub-groups

- “And the poor get children....”
- “Catholic Fertility”
- North/South Differences in fertility in India

What groupings are of interest?

- Social Class and Socioeconomic Status
- Religion
- Education
- Region (geographic)
- Ethnicity

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Social Class or Socioeconomic Status

- Many hypotheses
 - Rich better able to afford children
 - Different positions impose different costs of children

Greenhalgh

- Fertility as “Mobility”
 - All people are trying to first secure, and then improve their social, economic and political situation
 - Fertility (low or high, early or late) is one of a number of strategies that people use to accomplish this

Greenhalgh

- Important questions
 - What is the unit by which is accorded social, economic or political resources?
 - Individual
 - Family unit
 - Household
 - Local community
 - Ethnic group
 - Geographic area

Greenhalgh

- Important questions
 - What are the goals of that unit (pro-natalist)?
 - Individual (woman gets status from sons)
 - Family/Household unit (old age security or help on farm)
 - Local community (social control)
 - Ethnic group (political power)
 - Geographic area (pressure to settle land)

Greenhalgh

- Important questions
 - What are the goals of that unit (anti-natalist)?
 - Individual (relief from childrearing tasks)
 - Family/Household unit (too many mouths to feed)
 - Local community (expenses associated with schools)
 - Ethnic group (assimilation)
 - Geographic area (population pressure)

Greenhalgh one of many

- Probably best formulation, most sophisticated
- General conviction that economic resources affect this
- What else?

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Religion

- Goldscheider
 - Three hypotheses
 - “characteristics hypothesis”
 - Association of religion with SES or social class or civi status
 - Particularized theology
 - Specific teachings about fertility desires or proximate determinants
 - Minority group status
 - Assimilation or political power

Characteristics Hypothesis

- In many cases, people of specific religions are poorer or richer or more or less educated than others and it is really these factors that are causing the observation of religious differences in fertility

For Example, in U.S. after 1975

- Slide that follows shows:
 - Catholics actually appear to have lower fertility because they marry and have children late
 - No Catholic/non differences
 - Why are there regional differences?
 - Koc et al also

Table 3. Mean Number of Children Ever Born (observed and adjusted) and Total Births Expected, by Religious Affiliation and Region of Residence: Non-Hispanic White Women Age 15–44, United States, 1980s

	Sample n	Children Ever Born						Total Births Expected
		Observed	Marital Duration	Age Only	Education and Income	Age, Education and Income	All four ^b	
<i>Northeast</i>								
Protestant	703	1.32	1.17	1.27	1.30	1.22	1.15	2.27
Catholic	960	0.97**	1.08	1.04**	0.97**	1.05	1.08	2.31
None	101	0.69**	0.84**	0.67**	0.73**	0.71**	0.83*	1.80
<i>Midwest</i>								
Protestant	1,605	1.37	1.29	1.33	1.36	1.30	1.26	2.33
Catholic	843	1.19*	1.29	1.25	1.19*	1.29	1.34	2.53
None	150	1.06*	1.24	1.16	1.09*	1.11	1.18	1.97
<i>South</i>								
Protestant	2,260	1.29	1.24	1.27	1.28	1.25	1.23	2.13
Catholic	491	1.06**	1.24	1.13	1.09*	1.22	1.28	2.38
None	130	0.88**	1.15	1.05	0.84**	0.93*	1.04	1.86
<i>West</i>								
Protestant	938	1.26	1.20	1.22	1.24	1.20	1.19	2.18
Catholic	372	1.11	1.21	1.20	1.12	1.23	1.22	2.36
None	163	0.68**	0.83**	0.79**	0.73**	0.81**	0.83**	1.65

^a Adjusted by multiple classification analysis.

^b Adjusted for marital duration, age, education, and income by multiple classification analysis.

* Difference between this category and Protestant is significant at the .10 level. Total births expected were not tested.

** Significant at 5% (.05) level.

Only Religious Difference Left in the U.S.

- Mormons

Non-Hispanic White Women, by Religious Denomination or
Denominational Group: United States, 1980s

	Children Ever Born				Total Births Expected
	Sample n	Observed	Marital Duration	All four ^b	
Total	5,480	1.31	—	—	2.22
Baptist	1,669	1.38	1.35	1.34	2.25
Lutheran	685	1.27	1.32	1.29	2.19
Methodist	910	1.17	1.17	1.22	2.08
Fundamentalist	458	1.56**	1.46*	1.38	2.33
Mormon	218	1.84**	1.70**	1.80**	2.93
Other Protestant	1,540	1.19	1.25	1.24	2.15

^a Adjusted for marital duration by multiple classification analysis.

^b Adjusted for age, education, income, and marital duration by multiple classification analysis.

* Difference between this category and “other Protestant” is significant at the 10% (.10) level or better (2-tailed test).

** Significant at 5% level or better.

McQuillan

- Particularized Theology must not be mindlessly applied
 - Many adherents do not pay attention
 - Many religions (e.g. Islam) have no hierarchy or agreed upon doctrine
 - Rather focus on institutional role of religion
 - Quebec
 - Ireland

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Education

- One aspect of social class
- Different and unique
 - Girl's education in particular
 - Cairo Consensus

Role of Girls' Education

- Changes in ideation
 - Fundamental change in status of women
- Role conflict
 - Quite unlikely, except in cases where marriage is very early
- Opportunity Costs
 - Individual level, other options for women
 - Family put girls to work
 - Wives go back to work

Readings

De Rose

trying to get at ideas about relative deprevation, not confirmed

Rindfuss

Odd case of the U.S., importance of timing

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