

## Introduction

- ▶ A focus on generational interdependence (financial, material, emotional, practical reliance on/responsibility for family members) in families is:
  - ▷ ...consistent with demographic reality.
  - ▷ ...draws attention to similarities in the needs of young and old
- ▶ A social psychological approach to interdependent lives (Elder, 1974) dominates the literature (e.g., role modeling, intergenerational transmission, reverse socialization, normative expectations, and support)
- ▶ My point of departure is that interdependence is also structured on a macro level leading to a different focus, namely national policies.

## Method

- ▶ focus on laws and policies in:
  - ▷ EU-28 + Norway + Switzerland
  - ▷ US, Canada
  - ▷ But sometimes OECD, world

## Conceptual Framework

Policies shaping interdependence

1. **mandate** generational interdependence (e.g., legal obligations to provide financial support) cannot provide adequate care; migration laws not granting temporary visits to enable the provision of care)
2. **explicitly shape** intergenerational interdependence (e.g., daddy quota)
3. **implicitly shape** intergenerational interdependence (e.g., grandparental care in Southern Europe in the absence of publicly funded parental support)
4. **block** generational interdependence (e.g., grandparents not granted the right to raise grandchildren when parents

## 1. Mandate

1 July 2013 Last updated at 10:04 GMT



### New China law says children 'must visit parents'

By Celia Hatton  
BBC News, Beijing

**Grown children in China must visit their parents or potentially face fines or jail, a new law that came into effect on Monday says.**

China's new "Elderly Rights Law" deals with the growing problem of lonely elderly people by ordering adult children to visit their ageing parents.

The law says adults should care about their parents "spiritual needs" and "never neglect or snub elderly people".



China's elderly population is expected to double by 2030

Figure 1: (Source: BBC News, 2013)

## 2. Explicitly Shape

Has the special quota for fathers made men more caring?

- ▶ Kotsadam & Finseraas (2011): parents with children born after the introduction of the daddy quota less likely to have conflicts over the division of household tasks, and more likely to share them
- ▶ Boll et al (2014): increased levels of child involvement by the father after the introduction of the daddy quota, particularly for highly educated men.
- ▶ Herlofson & Ugreninov (2014): men more involved in childcare after the introduction of the daddy quota, but not more involved in care for frail parents

## 3. Implicitly Shape

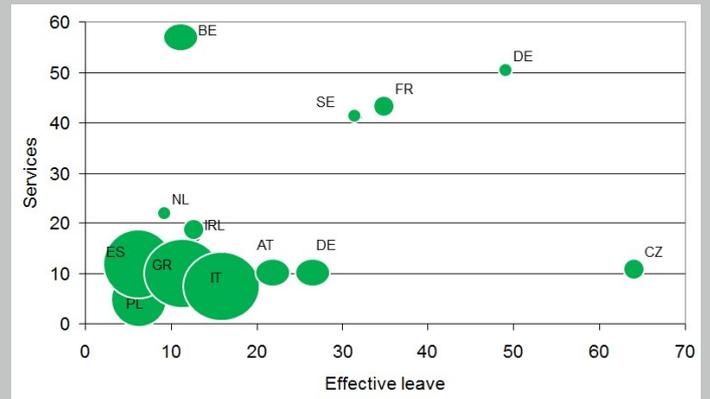


Figure 2: Predicted probability of caring for a grandchild of a working daughter by level of effective leave and services

(Source: Bordone et al. 2012, based on SHARE, MULTILINKS)

## Emerging Evidence

- ▶ Saraceno & Keck 2011: Importance of distinguishing types of public provisions (cf. Gornick & Meyer, 2008; Javornick, 2014; Leitner, 2003)
- ▶ Different implications for gender and socioeconomic inequality
  - ▷ **Cash for care payments:** taken more easily by women than men, and by low paid women than high paid women
  - ▷ **Services:** better assist men and women in reconciling paid and unpaid work
- ▶ Abendroth et al (2014): the motherhood occupational status penalty is lower in European countries where expenditures on public childcare are higher.
- ▶ Schmid et al (2012): imbalance in proportions of men and women providing intensive care is higher
  - ▷ when aging parents receive cash for care payments (in addition to the care received from adult children)
  - ▷ than when they receive services in kind

## Conclusions

- ▶ Important to avoid a 'chopped up' notion of what families are about.
- ▶ Interdependence structures peoples life course decisions and their life chances.
- ▶ The challenge is to develop, implement and evaluate policies that do not reinforce gender inequalities and social class inequalities
- ▶ Use of natural experiments, combinations of longitudinal survey data and registry data, cross-nationally comparative data necessary

## Further Information

- ▶ Hagestad, G. O., & Dykstra, P. A. (2016). Structuration of the life course: Some neglected aspects. In M. J. Shanahan J. T. Mortimer, & M. Kirkpatrick Johnson (Eds.), Handbook of the life course, Volume II (pp. 131-157). New York: Springer

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