



Session Title:

Influence of local context on demographic behaviours: geographies of the Second Demographic Transition

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Recent changes in values and attitudes affecting partnership, reproduction and family, connected in the second demographic transition (SDT) theory, have not led to the disappearance of social and spatial variations in demographic behaviours in Europe. Differences in union and family formation/dissolution, brought about by the diversification of life styles in the context of the STD, impact not only fertility intensity but also such fertility timing phenomena as postponement of birth and other STD measures. Such phenomena merit analyses by local spatial studies because their geographies have been described to be structured in line with urbanisation levels.

This session welcomes presentations that aim to explore theoretically or empirically the drivers of sub-national spatial variations of STD related behaviours. The sub-national level of analysis makes it possible to explore hypotheses other than government policies or ethno-cultural practices which often have a national scope of action and influence demographic behaviours throughout a country. From a spatial and ecological perspective, but without being limited to it, we propose to explore the following meso or micro level subthemes and their consequences on local STD geography:

- Employment market conditions and labour market differences within countries.
Local differences in job availability, in precariousness of employment for young adults or in the demand for a highly educated workforce could affect each step of the transition to adulthood and its timing in particular.
Longer postponements of first birth in urban areas could result from the longer time it takes to get a stable position in the local employment market.
An extended labour market, resulting in longer commuting times, also affects work-life balance and could contribute to making more traditional family forms inappropriate.
- Housing market, understood as a spatially defined material constraint on people's life ideals.
Local housing market features (housing type, size and price) could make people resort to specific living arrangements described in STD theories (cohabitation, living apart together, etc.).
- Living environment perception based on local amenities (presence of schools, green spaces etc.).

Values and life styles are attached to living environments. One environment could be perceived as "family friendly", another as offering better chances to fulfil higher order needs through work or leisure for instance.

- Local social context shaping or reshaping life aspirations.

Some demographic behaviours are indeed promoted / stigmatised, which is interpreted as the expression of different context dependent social norms. These social norms may have a spatial framework (religious group or neighbourhood level).

- The influence of the composition of the local population on aggregated measurement of demographic behaviours.

Aggregated variables reporting demographic behaviours are related to the socio-economic characteristics of the individuals living in a local area.

- Relations between (internal) migration and any of the above.

Please send your abstracts (maximum 250 words) to Mathieu Buelens (matbuele@ulb.ac.be) by January 21st 2019.