



RESEARCH HIGHLIGHTS N° 24

DOUBLE STATUS POSITIONS AND THE TRANSITION TO MOTHERHOOD

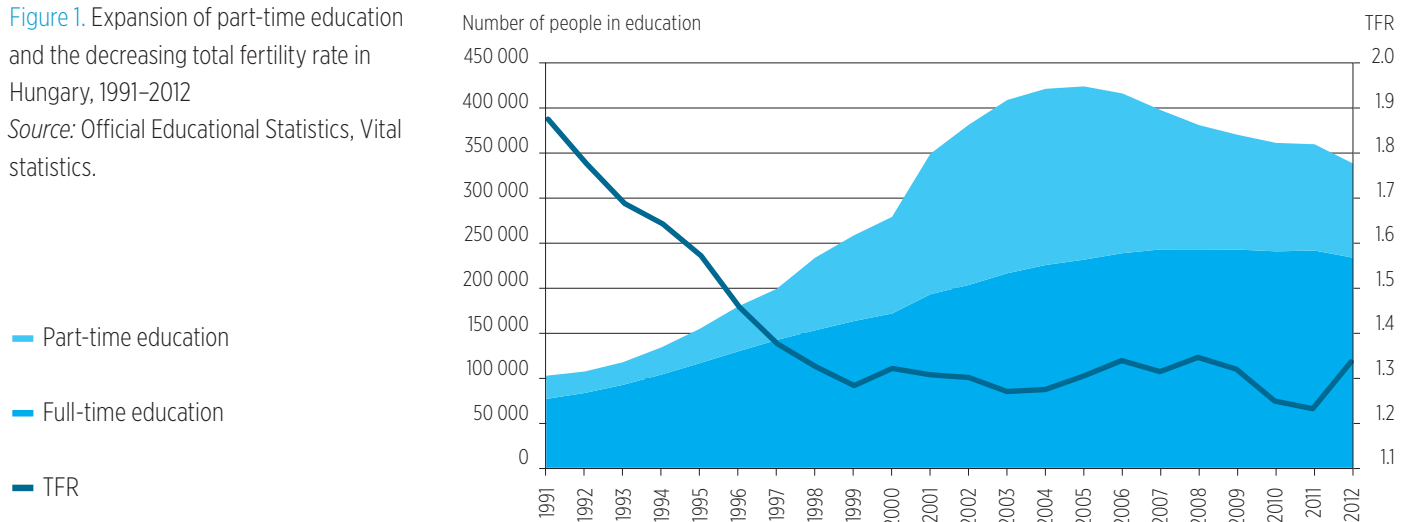
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Educational expansion went hand in hand with the expansion of part-time education in Hungary (Figure 1). Part-time students are likely to be in employment at the same time, and the

fertility implications of occupying a 'double status position' have hitherto been unknown.

Figure 1. Expansion of part-time education and the decreasing total fertility rate in Hungary, 1991–2012

Source: Official Educational Statistics, Vital statistics.



We examined the effect of double status positions on the transition to motherhood using event-history data from the Hungarian Generations and Gender Survey. The survey allowed us to construct a person-month dataset, including independent information on work and educational enrolment histories. We estimated discrete-time models of the effects of four status categories (double status, employed only, enrolled only, and inactive) on the transition to motherhood among women born between 1961 and 1983. The models included age, age-squared, cohort and interactions between status and cohort dummies. We also estimated

a model in which participation in education is endogenous and is assumed to be influenced by level of education, birth cohort and parental background.

The predicted first birth rates are shown in Figure 2. The conception hazard of women in double status positions is significantly higher than for those 'only' enrolled in education. There is mixed evidence about whether the conception hazard in double status positions is lower than that found among women who were 'only' employed. Our findings imply that conflict between the role of a mother and the role of a student is mitigated in double status positions.

Figure 2. Predicted number of births among 1000 women by status and birth cohort

Source: Hungarian Generations and Gender Survey, own calculation.

