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Fatherhood and changes in men's second union formation in Norway, France and Hungary

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Aim and motivation

- Partnership instability, increase in the experience of union dissolution and re-partnering



More complex family trajectories, multi-partnered fertility, multi-local parenthood, patchwork / reconstituted families

- *OUR QUESTION:*
How the effect of fatherhood on the re-partnering of men has changed in France, Hungary and Norway?
 - Focus on men: increased involvement, joint (physical) custody, etc.
 - Both cohabiting and married unions
 - Change since the 1980s
 - Different country contexts



Background

- *Mothers* are usually less likely to re-partner than childless women, strong effect of custody/co-residence
- *What about men?*
 - Negative effect of fatherhood (e.g. de Graaf/Kalmijn 2003; Poortman 2007; Sweeney 1997)
 - No effect of fatherhood (e.g. Wu 1994 and Ivanova et al. 2013 – except for Norway)
 - Positive effect of being involved with children (Schimmerle 2005) or having co-resident children (Bernhardt & Goldscheider 2002; Goldscheider & Sassler 2006; Barre 2003)



Background

- *Need, attractiveness and opportunity* (Becker 1981; de Graaf & Kalmijn 2003; Goldscheider & Waite 1986; Oppenheimer 1988)
- Comparing different *sub-groups of men*:
 1. Men in general
 2. Childless men
 3. Fathers in general
 4. Fathers with only non-resident children
 5. Fathers with at least one co-resident child



Expected changes in the effect of fatherhood and the chances of re-partnering

	NEED			
MEN IN GENERAL	Men develop skills for housework and child care; singlehood is more accepted 			
CHILDLESS MEN	Childlessness has become more accepted 			
FATHERS	The role of being a father has become more important in men's life; men develop skills for housework and childcare 			
FATHERS WITH NON-RESIDENT CHILDREN	See above 			
FATHERS WITH CO-RESIDENT CHILDREN	Men have become more involved in child care 			

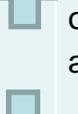
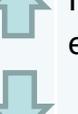
Expected changes in the effect of fatherhood and the chances of re-partnering

	NEED	OPPORTUNITY		
MEN IN GENERAL	Men develop skills for housework and child care; singlehood is more accepted 	The number of unpartnered women has increased, larger re-partnering market 		
CHILDLESS MEN	Childlessness has become more accepted 	See above 		
FATHERS	The role of being a father has become more important in men's life; men develop skill for housework and childcare 	Increasing number of single mothers  Increasing involvement in child care 		
FATHERS WITH NON-RESIDENT CHILDREN	See above 	See above  		
FATHERS WITH CO-RESIDENT CHILDREN	Men have become more involved in child care 	Increasing help from the welfare state and widely available child care institutions 		

Expected changes in the effect of fatherhood and the chances of re-partnering

	NEED	OPPORTUNITY	ATTRACTIVENESS	
MEN IN GENERAL	Men develop skills for housework and child care; singlehood is more accepted 	The number of unpartnered women has increased, larger re-partnering market 	No change	
CHILDLESS MEN	Childlessness has become more accepted 	See above 	No change	
FATHERS	The role of being a father has become more important in men's life; men develop skill for housework and childcare 	Increasing number of single mothers  Increasing involvement in child care 	Being already a father as a sign of child- and family-centred attitudes and fecundity 	
FATHERS WITH NON-RESIDENT CHILDREN	See above 	See above 	Involved fatherhood as the new expectation 	
FATHERS WITH CO-RESIDENT CHILDREN	Men have become more involved in child care 	Increasing help from the welfare state and widely available child care institutions 	Being perceived as a "good father", involved fatherhood 	

Expected changes in the effect of fatherhood and the chances of re-partnering

	NEED	OPPORTUNITY	ATTRACTIVENESS	CHANCES OF REPARTNERING
MEN IN GENERAL	Men develop skills for housework and child care; singlehood is more accepted 	The number of unpartnered women has increased, larger re-partnering market 	No change	No change
CHILDLESS MEN	Childlessness has become more accepted 	See above 	No change	No change
FATHERS	The role of being a father has become more important in men's life; men develop skill for housework and childcare 	Increasing number of single mothers  Increasing involvement in child care 	Being already a father as a sign of child- and family-centred attitudes and fecundity 	No change
FATHERS WITH NON-RESIDENT CHILDREN	See above 	See above  	Involved fatherhood as the new expectation 	Decreasing probability
FATHERS WITH CO-RESIDENT CHILDREN	Men have become more involved in child care 	Increasing help from the welfare state and widely available child care institutions 	Being perceived as a "good father", involved fatherhood 	Increasing probability

Data and methods

- *Data*: Generations and Gender Survey (GGS), 1st wave
- *Event*: re-partnering after the first cohabitation or marriage ended
- *Our sample*: men aged 50 or less whose 1st relationship ended in 1980 or later
- *Countries*: Norway (2007/8, n=1641), France (2005, n=884), Hungary (2004/5, n=884)
- Event history analysis, piecewise exponential *models*
 1. General model, control for fatherhood
 2. Fatherhood dummy x period
 3. Dynamic fatherhood status x period
- *Control* for: age at the end of the 1st union, time since the end of the 1st union, length and type of the 1st union, education, period



Results



Characteristics of men at the end of the first union

	France		Hungary		Norway	
	mean	SD	mean	SD	mean	SD
Length of the first union (years)	7.3	6.6	8.3	7.1	7.4	6.8
1st union was marriage (%)	37.9		67.4		38.3	
Age (years)	31.1	7.7	31.5	8.0	31.0	7.7
Has child(ren) (%)	45.7		54.6		46.6	
Has at least one co-resident child (%)	27.0		23.9		33.9	
Has only non-resident child(ren) (%)	18.7		30.7		12.7	
Number of children (among fathers)	1.83	0.96	1.64	0.88	1.76	0.83



Summary of changes in the chances of re-partnering and the effect of fatherhood

	Norway	France	Hungary
Men in general	Increase between the 1980s and the 1990s, no change later	No change	No change
Childless men	No change	No change	No change
Fathers	Gradual increase, positive effect since the 1990s	No change, no effect	Temporary decrease and negative effect in the 1990s
Father with only non-resident children			
Fathers with co-resident children			



Summary of changes in the chances of re-partnering and the effect of fatherhood

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Fathers	Gradual increase, positive effect since the 1990s	No change, no effect	Temporary decrease and negative effect in the 1990s
Father with only non-resident children	Gradual increase, positive effect since the 1990s	Weak negative effect in the 2000s	Decrease and negative effect in the 1990s, weak negative effect in the 2000s
Fathers with co-resident children	Gradual increase, positive effect since the 1990s	Gradual increase, positive effect in the 2000s	Decrease and negative effect in the 1990s, increase and positive effect in the 2000s



Conclusions

- Men in general, childless men: no change ✓
- Fathers: no change in Fr ✓, increase in NO ✗, decrease in HU in the 1990s ✗
- Non-resident fathers: decrease in FR and HU ✓, increase in NO ✗
- Resident fathers: increase ✓
- Co-residential fatherhood in the new millenium (Bernhardt & Goldscheider 2002)
 - Changing public opinion towards separated fathers
 - More attractive for women who want children
 - Involved fatherhood as a sign of family- and child-centeredness, maybe a new expectation (the “good father” effect – Goldscheider& Sassler 2006; Prioux 2006; Wu & Schimmerle 2005)
 - Other explanations?



Thank you for your attention!

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