Conclusions

Conference on Marriage patterns, household formation and economic development Utrecht University

Tine De Moor





Issues dealt with

- Broad scope, Interdisciplinary and diverse papers
- Methodological variety: from large datasets that allow worldwide analysis to social network analysis that zoom in on family relationships
- Comparative approach, mainly with the WEMP (Hajnal!)
- Fertility and reproduction
- The marriage choice (first and second time): endogamy, remarriage, zoom on ruling families, variety in choices
- Central role of the type of household, both as a unit within the labour market, as a form of resistance
- Women as as indicators for changes in rural societies (what about the urban context? Service?), as vital players on the labour markets, as "tradeable commodities"... BUT! Also with the power to choose, even under constraints
- Role of property transfer





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We need

slowly!

across time?

• A better understanding of the causality, in particular with economic development

- A clearer definition of "marriage pattern"
- More attention the context in which choices are made

A larger time frame: institutions change

? (How) can we extend the methodologies

- More attention for those who stay outside the marriage pattern (willingly or not)



What is a pattern?

- Arrangement of objects, facts etc.
 which has a mathematical,
 geometric, statistical etc. relationship
- Design, motif or decoration formed from multiple copies of an original fitted together
- That from which a copy is made



Arrangement of objects, facts etc. which has a mathematical, geometric, statistical etc. relationship

- Which are the fact(or)s that really matter to identify a pattern?
 - Do we to include the pre-marriage procedure?
 - Does it matter what happens to widows?
- What are the benchmark values for a new variety in marriage pattern?
- Expand comparative approach: WEMP fairly exceptional; what about comparisons between non-WEMP areas?



Design, motif or decoration formed from multiple copies of an original fitted together

- To what extent is it a matter of agency?
 - What roles do constraining factors play?

That from which a copy is made

- How do these patterns spread?
 - Ink blot: Spread our gradually?
 - Backpack: transferred?
- Under what conditions are "copies" made? Identity?
- What does it take to keep a "transferred"-pattern going?



More attention for the context in which marriage patterns operate

- Legal constraints
 - For the community as a whole
 - For women in particular:
 - In legal terms (acting on your own?) and in terms of access to the labour market
- The welfare state:
 - Dependency of women on men and welfare institutions
 - During the marriage
 - As a widow
 - As a single
 - As divorced?
- The capital market:
 - Departure of youngsters/newly wed from parental household (neolocality): how did economy facilitate this for the elderly?
 - What was the role of saving institutions?



Staying outside the marriage pattern?

- Divorced:
 - Who takes the initiative?
 - What are the reasons
- Singles, including those of religious communities:

Apart from religious motives, what demographic and economic motives are there behind their chocies?

- Widows: what are the cultural constraints on remarrying or not remarrying?
- Children: their influence on remarrying?





Causality



Economic development



From marriage to economic development?

- Main "routes" from marriage to economic development:
 - via human capital formation
 - Factors that matter: fertility/smaller households, marriage age of women, labour market participation
 - Ways to identify HCF:
 - Child quantity vs. Quality
 - Literacy rates, other forms of HC
 - Specific for girls/women BUT: what do they do in between education and marraige
 - But: which human capital would really matter? To what extend does the flexibility of the market play a role here?
 - Postponement of marriage "frees" labour for the labour market
 - Work by future partners
 - Working for the marriage itself
 - Property relations: see earlier





The day/weeks/months after...

- Reimbursement forms
- Powerpoints
- Possibility to publish paper in History of the Family.

