



2019 Special Collection on New Aspects on Migrant Populations in Europe: Norms, Attitudes and Intentions in Fertility and Family Planning



Research Question and Description

What are the patterns of the ideational dimension in fertility and family planning among immigrants?

The aim of our Special Issue is to draw attention to the normative side of fertility and to include aspects of reproductive health and family planning – both aspects that are related to culture.

Milewski, Nadja and Eleonora Mussino. 2019. Editorial on the Special Issue “New Aspects on Migrant Populations in Europe: Norms, Attitudes and Intentions in Fertility and Family Planning”. *Comparative Population Studies*. 43

Birth Control and Abortion

Milewski, Nadja and Sarah Carol. Attitudes toward Abortion for Medical and Non-medical Reasons among the Turkish Second Generation in Europe – The Role of the Family and Societal Contexts. *Comparative Population Studies*. 43

- Both Turkish descendants and non-migrants distinguish between medical and non-medical reasons for abortion
- Turkish descendants more likely to reject abortion entirely, with variation by country of residence
- Attitudes influenced by both family background and socialization experiences in European receiving countries

Assisted Reproduction

Haug, Sonja and Nadja Milewski. Women’s Attitudes toward Assisted Reproductive Technologies – A Pilot Study among Migrant Minorities and Non-migrants in Germany. *Comparative Population Studies*. 43

- Significant differences in ART acceptance between migrant groups, with Polish and Turkish migrants showing highest approval
- Attitudes shaped more by cultural socialization in origin countries than by socio-demographic characteristics
- Migrants more approving of heterologous ART methods than non-migrants, with differences persisting after controls

Fertility Intentions and Preferences

Puur, Allan, Hanna Vseviov and Lilli Abuladze. Fertility Intentions and Views on Gender Roles: Russian Women in Estonia from an Origin-destination Perspective. *Comparative Population Studies*. 43

- Russian emigrants and descendants maintain fertility intentions more aligned with Russia than with Estonian natives
- Language proficiency and majority-group partnerships promote alignment with host country fertility patterns
- Fertility intentions among emigrants remain quite similar to stayers at origin across generations

Mussino, Eleonora and Livia Ortensi. The Same Fertility Ideals as in the Country of Origin? A Study of the Personal Ideal Family Size among Immigrant Women in Italy. *Comparative Population Studies*. 43

- Country of origin and age at arrival significantly determine ideal family size among immigrant women
- Time since migration shows no significant impact on convergence with Italian family size ideals
- Fertility convergence in behavior may result from financial constraints rather than deeper cultural change

Carlsson, Erik. Fertility Intentions across Immigrant Generations in Sweden. Do Patterns of Adaptation Differ by Gender and Origin?. *Comparative Population Studies*. 43

- First-generation immigrants have higher fertility intentions than native Swedes, while generations 1.5 and 2 show intentions similar to natives
- Greater cultural difference between origin and destination countries leads to slower cultural integration processes
- In later generations, migrant women adapt faster to Swedish fertility norms than migrant men

Concluding Findings

- Ideational dimensions persist longer: Cultural attitudes and norms show greater persistence across generations compared to actual fertility behaviors, suggesting that behavioral convergence may occur without deeper cultural integration
- Gap between intentions and realization: Migrants experience larger discrepancies between desired and actual fertility outcomes, potentially due to discrimination, higher opportunity costs, or structural barriers that don't affect majority populations equally
- Institutional context shapes integration: Countries with strong family-supportive welfare policies (like Sweden) show narrower gaps between minority and majority groups compared to countries with weaker welfare systems
- Cultural distance predicts adaptation speed: The greater the cultural difference between origin and destination contexts, the slower the process of cultural integration, with implications for multi-generational assimilation patterns
- Within-group heterogeneity matters: Significant variation exists within migrant populations based on factors like generation, language proficiency, intermarriage, and individual integration experiences, challenging monolithic views of migrant communities

