

Does it take a village to raise a child? Family and non-family support during parenthood

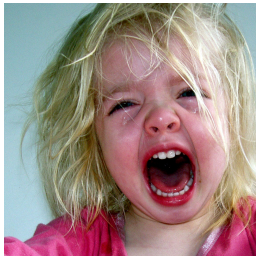
Małgorzata Mikucka, Ester Rizzi

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July 19th, 2014, ISA Congress, Yokohama

Children = happiness?

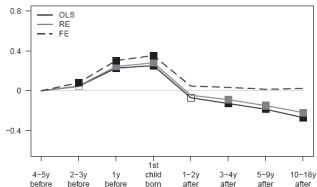


Children = happiness?

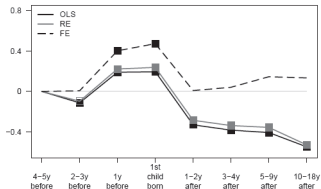


Better and worse stages

German SOEP

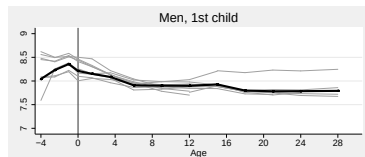
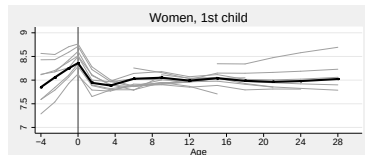


British Household Panel Study



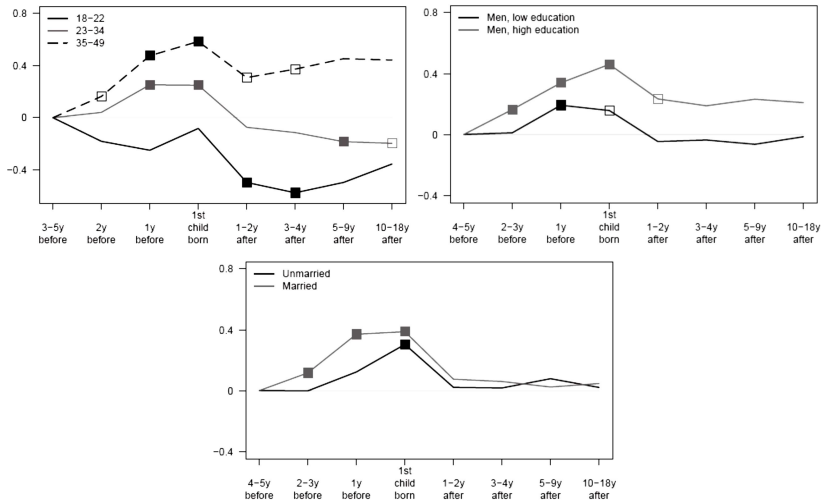
Source: Myrskylä & Margolis (2012)

Swiss Household Panel



Source: Mikucka & Rizzi (2014)

Effect heterogeneous across groups



Source: Myrskylä & Margolis (2012)

Important moderating factor?



Buffering effect:

support (or other factors) reduce the negative effect of difficult events

- ▶ support increases during difficult events / periods
- ▶ support reduces the negative effects of the event



Questions

How does the intensity and range of support networks change with parenthood?

Does the support increase in the difficult stages?

Does parenthood produce more SWB for those who receive more support?



Why bother?



Switzerland – do networks
compensate the weak state
support?

under-investigated way in
which social capital and
networks make people's lives
better

Schweizer Haushalt-Panel
Panel suisse de ménages
Swiss Household Panel



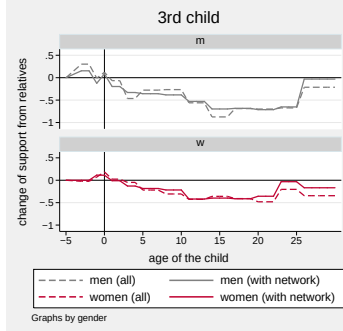
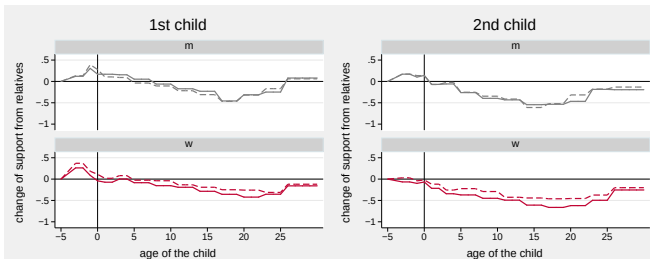
- ▶ In general, how satisfied are you with your life if 0 means “not at all satisfied” and 10 means “completely satisfied”?
- ▶ Relatives, Neighbors, Close friends
- ▶ If necessary, in your opinion, to what extent can ... provide you with practical help, this means concrete help or useful advice, if 0 means “not at all” and 10 “a great deal”?
- ▶ To what extent can ... be available in case of need and show understanding, by talking with your for example, if 0 means “not at all” and 10 “a great deal”?

Even the persons who do not need any help should consider possible ways in which they could get support.

- ▶ fixed effect models
- ▶ cumulative coding of the stages of parenthood (incl. period before the birth)

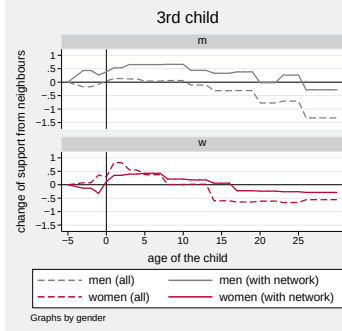
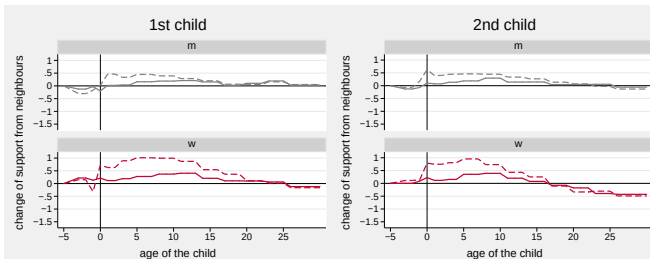
Does the support increase?

Relatives

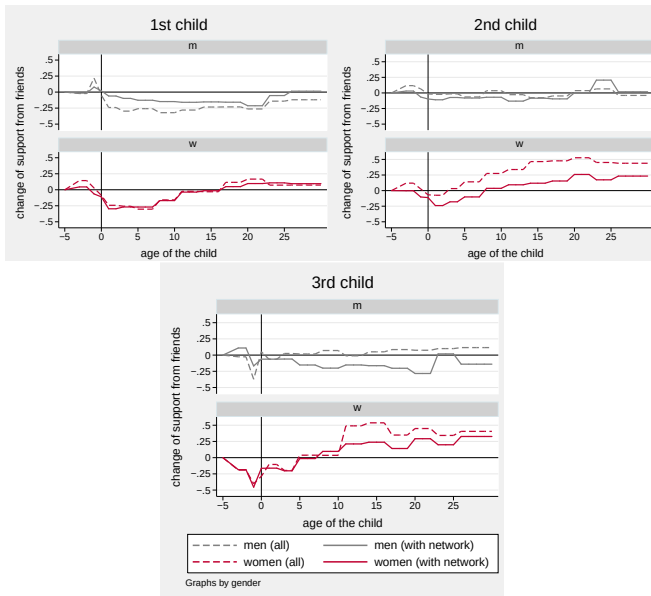


Graphs by gender

Neighbors

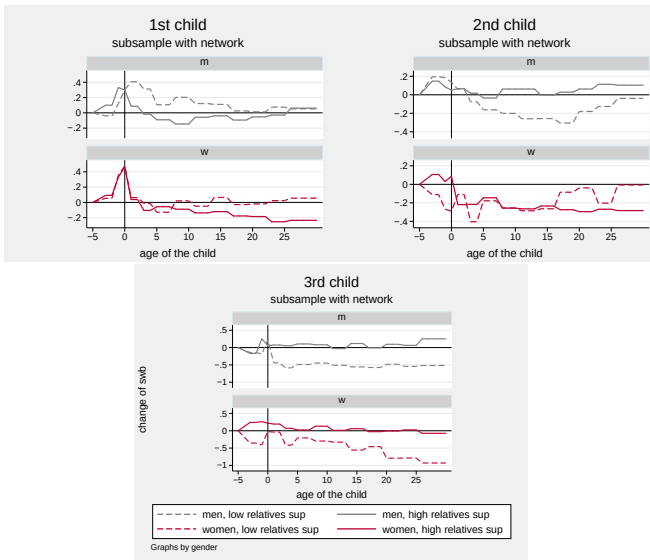


Close friends

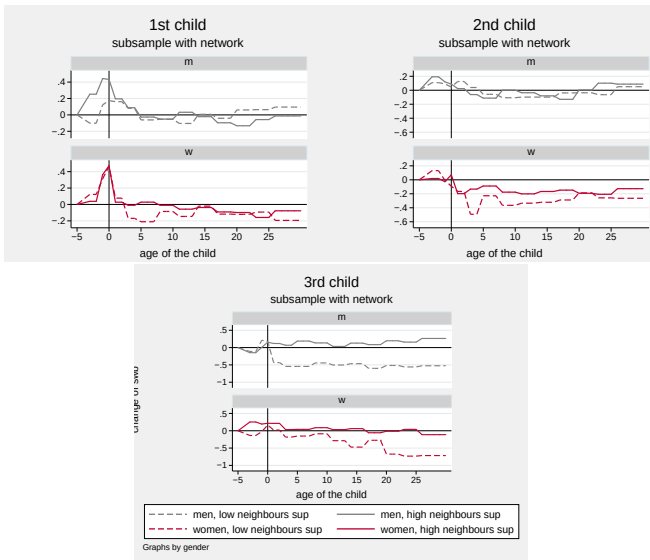


Does the support improve parents' LS?

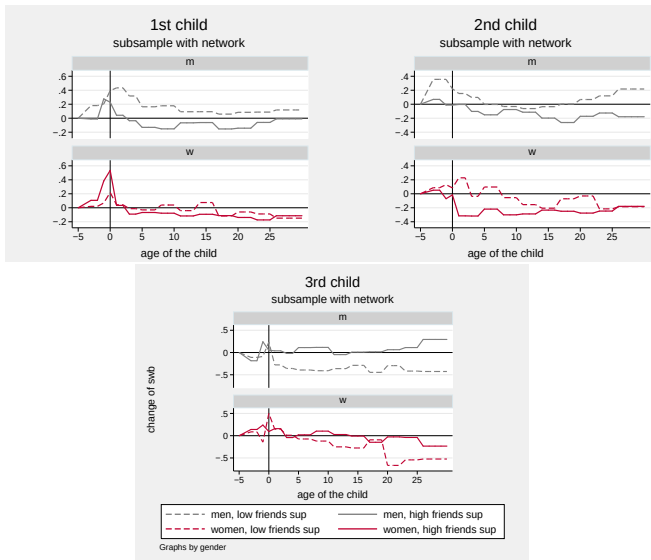
Relatives



Neighbors



Close friends



Concluding

- ▶ level of support affects large families
 - mothers: from the 2nd child, increasing effect
 - fathers: strong effect for the 3rd child
- ▶ role of neighbors in reproductive behavior



PARENTING

Who Says It Has To Be Difficult?

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Thank you!

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