



Context

Sharp fall in TFR in Poland from 2.1 in 1989 to 1.39 in 2009.

Fertility Gap in Poland: most people intend to have 2 children but low TFR.

Second children:

- Childlessness amongst Polish born individuals is rare.
- However, one child families are becoming the norm.

Increase in births to Polish born women in the UK from 0.5% in 2005 to 2.3 % in 2008 of all childbirths.

What don't we know?

- Why people stop childbearing after the first child?
- What factors people consider while intending to extend their family?
- What are childbearing intentions of Polish migrants in the UK and what factors impact those intentions?

Research objectives

▪ To explore the role of attitudes, social norms and perceived behavioural control in the formation of intentions about whether to have a second child.

▪ To identify similarities and differences in determinants of fertility intentions between Polish men and women living in Poland and in the UK.

Research question

- How do Polish men and women in Poland and the UK rationalise and justify their intentions about whether or not to have a second child?

Quantitative data

- British Labour Force Survey: Polish parents in the UK.
- European Union Statistics on Income and Living Conditions (EU-SILC): Parents in Poland.

The data will provide:

- Insight into macro-level fertility trends.
- Context for qualitative research.

Qualitative data

- Semi-structured in-depth interviews.

Respondents: fathers and mothers of one child (n=46) living in London and Krakow.

- Analysis of media debates (3 online portals) to examine how and why the topics that emerged in my respondents personal accounts were also present in the Polish media.

Emerging findings

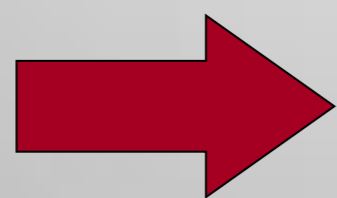
Quantitative analyses

- ❑ Mothers in the UK are more likely to work part time than mothers in Poland which can facilitate reconciliation of work and family and can contribute to higher childbearing intentions.
- ❑ Mothers in the UK are often in unskilled jobs regardless of their qualifications which can lower the costs of career breaks due to childbearing.
- ❑ Parents in the UK get more social benefits than in Poland which can ease the financial burden of having children and translate into higher fertility intentions.



What we do not know from quantitative data and we can explore in qualitative research:

What parents take into consideration while intending (not) to have a second child? Why some intend to have two children and others stop at one?



Findings from qualitative data

- ❑ For most parents in the UK and Poland stopping childbearing after the first child is acceptable while having one child is seen as essential for personal happiness and fulfillment.
- ❑ A high degree of economic considerations related to the perceived behavioural control accompanies childbearing intentions beyond the first parity among respondents in Krakow and London.
- ❑ Transnational and local comparisons contribute to the formation of consumption standards deemed as necessary for having children among both migrants and stayers and contribute to perceptions about their ability to achieve these aspirations in the country of residence.
- ❑ Migrants tend to feel relative gratification as they often favourably compare their living conditions and fertility related capital in the country of destination to their own situation from before migration, to other nationals in Poland and/or to other immigrants in the UK.
- ❑ The expectations and aspirations regarding fertility related capital of nationals living in Poland are also often influenced by comparisons to other Polish nationals, both migrants and non-migrants, but also to Western European nations and their citizens. Narratives demonstrate that the evaluation of fertility related capital is often framed in wider European perspective rather than within the strict national borders.