

Introduction to Part II

International Perspectives on Low Fertility: Trends, Theories and Policies

In 1999, the International Union for the Scientific Study of Population (IUSSP) established Working Group on Low Fertility (WGLF) with Peter McDonald (Australian National University) as a chairman and two other members, Ron Lesthaeghe (Belgium) and Makoto Atoh (Japan). WGLF held an academic seminar, titled "International Perspectives on Low Fertility: Trends, Theories and Policies" in Tokyo between 21 and 23 March, 2001, in cooperation with the National Institute of Population and Social Security Research (NIPSSR). Twenty-five demographers from various countries participated into this seminar and twenty papers were presented and discussed. The list of the authors and their papers are as follows:

Abbasi-Shavazi, M. Jalal: Below replacement fertility in Iran: progress and prospects.

Atoh, Makoto, Vasantha Kandiah and Serguey Ivanov: The second demographic transition in Asia.

Avdeev, Alexandre: How fertility has fallen in Russia and the reasons for the fall.

Beaujot, Roderic: Perspectives on below replacement fertility in Canada: Value and cost of children, and structures of paid and unpaid work.

Dalla Zuanna, Gianpiero, Alessandra De Rose, Filomena Racioppi: Interpreting a paradox: The connection between the lowest low fertility and the low diffusion of modern contraception in Italy.

Folbre, Nancy: How the cost of children is distributed.

Frejka, Tomas and Gerard Calot: The postponement of births in low fertility counties: an overview.

Hirosima, Kiyosi: Decomposing low fertility: How have cohort nuptiality and marital fertility affected low fertility in Japan?

Iwasawa, Miho: Partnership and parenthood in contemporary Japan.

Kippen, Rebecca: Perspectives on below replacement fertility in Australia.

Kohler, Hans-Peter and J.A. Ortega: Parity progression ratios with continued fertility postponement: Assessing the implication of delayed childbearing for fertility in Italy, Spain, United States, Denmark and Sweden.

Kojima, Hiroshi: Attitudes toward Low Fertility and Family Policy in Japan

Lesthaeghe, Ron: Low fertility in Belgium, The Netherlands, Germany, Australia and Switzerland.

McDonald, Peter: Theoretical paradigms to explain low fertility.

Palomba, Rossella: Postponement of family formation in Italy, within the Southern European context.

Philipov, Dimiter: Low fertility in Central and Eastern Europe: Culture or economy?

Ronsen, Marit: Fertility and family policy in Norway; an interpretation of trends with some comparisons to other Nordic countries.

Takahashi, Shigesato: Demographic investigation of the process of declining fertility in Japan.

Toulemon, Laurent: Why fertility is not so low in France: Fertility expectations, economic constraints and actual fertility.

Wilson, Chris: Implications of global demographic convergence for fertility theories.

Zhongwei, Zhao: Low fertility in Urban China.

Some endeavors had been made since March 2001 by WGLF to publish a book comprising the papers selected from them, but WGLF concluded in summer in 2003 that the book could not be published. Since the following three papers authored by the researchers of NIPSSR had not been published in any journal yet, it was decided by the editorial committee of this Web Journal that they were included as a special feature in this issue. (Readers interested in this seminar can have access to its program and most of the papers presented then by visiting the following homepage. <http://demography.anu.edu.au/Publications/ConferencePapers/IUSSP2001/Program.html>)