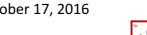# The Gendered Transition to Parenthood

Irene Rieder, Eva-Maria Schmidt, Cornelia Schadler, Ulrike Zartler, Caroline Berghammer, Theresa Fibich & Rudolf Richter

FamiliesAndSocieties Final Conference
Brussels, October 17, 2016

universität wien

http://familiesandsocieties.univie.ac.at/

FamiliesAndSocieties

Objectives

→ to depict the practices women and men are part of during the transition to parenthood

→ to outline circumstances that support or prevent gender (in-)equality

→ to examine changes occurring from before to after the birth of the first child (longitudinal design)

universität wien

http://familiesandsocieties.univie.ac.at/

FamiliesAndSocieties

Theoretical background

Life course perspective

Transitions over the life course, turning points (Elder 1998, Elder et al. 2006, Hareven 2000, Pickles/Rutter 1991)

Practice theory

Sequence of practices and various participating elements (Morgan 2013, Hirschauer 2004, Schatzki 1996, Reckwitz 2002)

universität wien

http://familiesandsocieties.univie.ac.at/

Families*And*Societies

Data and methods
Quantitative study

Longitudinal study based on survey data

- Austrian Generations and Gender Survey (GGS)
    wave 1 (2008): 5,000 respondents, 18-45 years
    wave 2 (2012): 3,912 respondents, 18-45 years

- Descriptive analysis due to small number of respondents who had a first child between the waves
    Areas:
    (1) employment, (2) earnings and income,
    (3) housework, (4) childcare, (5) partner-ship,
    (6) fertility intentions, (7) housing and
    (8) family-related attitudes

universität wien

http://familiesandsocieties.univie.ac.at/

Families*And*Societies

Data and methods
Qualitative study

Multiple-perspectives qualitative longitudinal study
- Qualitative interviews with mothers and fathers (3 waves)
  pre-birth, 6 months and 2 years after the birth (n=66)
- Document analysis
  forms, flyers, information booklets for parents
- Observations
  in birth and parenthood-related classes

Data analysis
- In-depth analysis and case reconstructions
- Identification and reconstruction of parental practices

universität
wien

Families*And*Societies

http://familiesandsocieties.univie.ac.at/

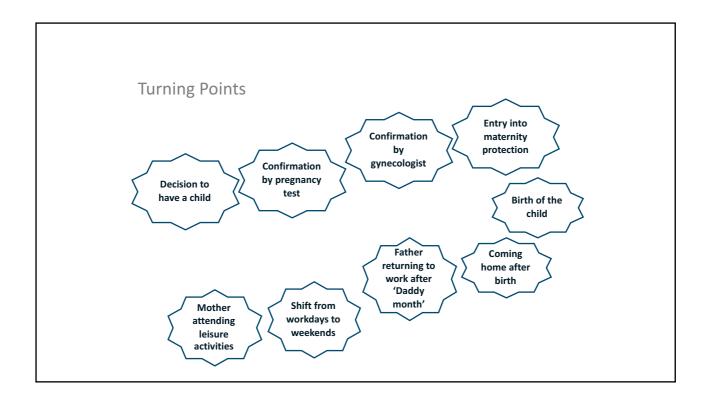| Interviewee pseudonyms	Family status	Employment			Parental leave
		(1) during pregnancy	(2) six months after birth	(3) two years after birth	in months
Tina	cohabiting	full-time	parental leave	full-time	12 full-time
Tom		full-time	full-time	full-time	6 full-time, 2 part-time
Rita	cohabiting	temporary full-time	parental leave	contractor of work and services (max. 20h)	20 full-time
Robert		full-time	full-time	full-time	0
Bianca	separated	full-time	parental leave	full-time	8 full-time
Bob		full-time	full-time	full-time	8 full-time
Anna	married	full-time	parental leave	part-time (30h)	20 full-time
Alex		full-time, graduating from high school	full-time	full-time	0 full-time
Olivia	married	full-time	parental leave	parental leave	22 full-time
Otto		full-time	full-time	full-time	2 full-time
Maria	married	self-employment (full-time)	marginally self-employed	vocational training	not entitled
Max		full-time	full-time	full-time	2 full-time
Dana	married	full-time	parental leave	part-time (20h)	12 full-time
David		full-time	full-time	full-time employment	6 full-time
Linda	married	unemployed	unemployed	part-time (18h)	not entitled
Lucas		unemployed	full-time	full-time employment	not entitled
Julia	married	full-time	parental leave	marginally employed (10h)	14 full-time
Jim		independent contractor, bachelor's program	full-time, master's program	full-time	0
Emma	cohabiting	full-time	parental leave, working ½ day/week	part-time (32h)	5 full-time, 7 part-time
Emil		full-time	full-time	full-time	2 full-time
Claudia	married	vocational training	vocational training	part-time (20h)	0
Chris		full-time	parental leave, working 1 day/weekends	full-time	18 full-time

Interrelated Parenting Practices

		Parent A			Parent B	
		Components and extent of involvement	*Parenting practices*	*Parenting practices*	*Components and extent of involvement*	
1.	identifying needs	+[a]	*equal caring*	*equal caring*	+	identifying needs
	fulfilling needs	+			+	fulfilling needs
2.	identifying needs	+	*managing*	*conducting*	-	identifying needs
	fulfilling needs	-[b]			+	fulfilling needs
3.	identifying needs	+	*main caring*	*co-recognizing*	+	identifying needs
	fulfilling needs	+			-	fulfilling needs
4.	identifying needs	+	*key caring*	*helping*	-	identifying needs
	fulfilling needs	+			+	fulfilling needs
5.	identifying needs	+	*exclusive caring*	*absent*	-	identifying needs
	fulfilling needs	+			-	fulfilling needs
6.	identifying needs	-	*absent*	*absent*	-	identifying needs
	fulfilling needs	-			-	fulfilling needs

[a] '+' indicates involvement, [b] '-' indicates no involvement

Turning points at the transition to parenthood

Non-recurring turning points (chronological order)	Non-recurring turning points (randomly emerging)	Recurring turning points
formulating the concrete wish to have children	decision on how to divide parental leave	father leaving home for full-time work
decision to have a child	increase in father's workload at the workplace	father coming home from full-time work
beginning of preparation for pregnancy	decrease in father's workload at the workplace	mother leaving home for vocational training
presumption of an expected or unexpected pregnancy	decrease in mother's workload at the workplace	mother coming home from vocational training
confirmation by pregnancy test	father becoming unemployed	mother leaving home for work (marginally employed)
confirmation by blood test (phone call or mail about the test result)	mother becoming unemployed	mother coming home from work (marginally employed)
confirmation by gynaecologist	father entering new job after unemployment	shift from workdays to weekend
getting the first ultrasound image	mother getting sick	mother attending leisure activities
crossing of the 12-weeks-border (change from 1st to 2nd trimester)	child getting sick	father attending leisure activities
announcing the pregnancy (family, friends, work)	being confronted with peers' narrations about parenthood	child being under non-parental care (family members, neighbours)
entry into maternity protection		couple-internal arrangement that the obligation for particular childcare tasks changes daily
experiencing partner's physical discomfort caused by pregnancy		child changing from mother's to father's residence (in case of parental separation)
birth of the child		
coming home after birth with the baby		
father taking paternal leave in the framework of a 'daddy month'		
father returning to work after a 'daddy month'		
father taking a holiday after birth		
father returning to work after a holiday		
entering maternal leave		
entering paternal leave		

Turning Points

Decision to have a child

Confirmation by pregnancy test

Confirmation by gynecologist

Entry into maternity protection

Birth of the child

Father returning to work after 'Daddy month'

Coming home after birth

Mother attending leisure activities

Shift from workdays to weekends

Conclusions

- Parental involvement can be conceptualized as a process based on a variety of interrelated parenting practices.
- Alterations in parental practices and involvement are related to specific turning points.
- Parents are situated on a continuum between equality, dichotomy, ambiguity and inequality when doing care work.
- Promoting equality between mothers and fathers should widen the focus on the transition process as a whole.

universität wien

http://familiesandsocieties.univie.ac.at/

FamiliesAndSocieties

Publications
published or accepted

- Schadler Cornelia, Schmidt Eva-Maria, Rieder Irene, Zartler Ulrike, Richter Rudolf (2016). Key practices of equality within long parental leaves. Accepted. *Journal of European Social Policy*.
- Schmidt Eva-Maria, Rieder Irene (2016). Alles eine Frage des Geldes? Elterliche Legitimierungsmuster bei der Organisation und Verwirklichung der Karenzzeit [All About the Money? Parents' Justification Patterns Behind their Parental Leave Arrangements]. Accepted. *SWS-Rundschau* 4/2016.
- Schmidt Eva-Maria, Rieder Irene, Zartler Ulrike, Schadler Cornelia, Richter Rudolf (2015). Parental Constructions of Masculinity at the Transition to Parenthood: The Division of Parental Leave among Austrian Couples. *International Review of Sociology* 25 (3), 373-386.
- Steiber, N., C. Berghammer und B. Haas (2016). Contextualizing the education effect on women's employment: a cross-national comparative analysis. *Journal of Marriage and Family* 78 (1), 246-261.

http://familiesandsocieties.univie.ac.at/

universität wien

FamiliesAndSocieties

Publications
submitted

- Rieder Irene, Schmidt Eva-Maria, Zartler Ulrike, Schadler Cornelia, Richter Rudolf: *Turning Points in the Transition to Parenthood: Implications for Father Involvement and Opportunities for Gender Equality.*
- Schmidt Eva-Maria: *Breadwinning as Care? The meaning of paid work in mothers' and fathers' constructions of parenting.*
- Vogl Susanne, Zartler Ulrike, Schmidt Eva-Maria, Rieder Irene: *Developing an Analytical Framework for Multiple Perspective, Qualitative Longitudinal Interviews (MPQLI).*
- Rieder Irene, Schmidt Eva-Maria, Zartler Ulrike: *Interrelated Parenting Practices: Conceptual Foundations of Involvement in Care Work at the Transition to Parenthood.*

http://familiesandsocieties.univie.ac.at/

universität wien

FamiliesAndSocieties

References

Elder, G. H., Jr. (2009). Perspectives on the Life Course. In: Heinz, W. R., Huinink, J. & Weymann, A. (ed.). *The Life Course Reader. Individuals and Societies Across Time*. Frankfurt/New York: Campus Verlag: 91-110.

Elder, G. H., Jr., Kirkpatrick Johnson, M. & Crosnoe, R. (2006). The emergence and development of life course theory. In: Mortimer, J. T. & Shanahan, M. J. (ed.). *Handbook of the life course*. New York: Springer: 3-19.

Froschauer, U., & Lueger, M. (2003). Das qualitative Interview. Zur Praxis interpretativer Analyse sozialer Systeme. Wien: WUV.

Hareven, T. K. (2000). *Families, History, and Social Change. Life-Course & Cross-Cultural Perspectives*. Boulder, Colorado: Westview Press.

Hirschauer, S. (2004). Praktiken und ihre Körper. Über materielle Partizipanden des Tuns. In K. H. Hörning & J. Reuter (Eds.), *Doing Culture. Neue Positionen zum Verhältnis von Kultur und sozialer Praxis.* (pp. 73-91). Bielefeld: Transcript.

Morgan, D. H. J. (2013). *Rethinking Family Practices* (2nd Edition ed.). Houndmills: Palgrave and Macmillan.

Oevermann, U. (2002). Klinische Soziologie auf der Basis der Methodologie der objektiven Hermeneutik: Manifest der objektiv hermeneutischen Sozialforschung: Institut für hermeneutische Sozial- und Kulturforschung e.V.

Pickles, A. & Rutter, M. (1991). Statistical and conceptual models of 'turning points' in developmental processes. In: Magnusson, D., Bergman, L. R., Rudinger, G. & Törestad, B. (ed.). *Problems and methods in longitudinal research: Stability and change.* Camebridge: Camebridge University Press: 133-165.

Reckwitz, A. (2002). Toward a Theory of Social Practices: A Development in Culturalist Theorizing. *European Journal of Social Theory, 5*(2), 243-263.

Schadler, C. (2013). *Vater, Mutter, Kind werden. Eine posthumanistische Ethnographie der Schwangerschaft*. Bielefeld: transcript.

Schadler, C. (2014). Key practices of the transition to parenthood: The everyday figuration of parents' and children's bodies and personalities through the lens of a new materialist ethnography. *Current Sociology, 62*(1), 114-131.

Schatzki, T. R. (1996). *Social practices - a Wittgensteinian approach to human activity and the social* (1. publ. ed.). Cambridge et al.: Cambridge Univ. Press.

universität wien

http://familiesandsocieties.univie.ac.at/

Families*And*Societies