Is cohabitation an alternative to marriage in Russia?

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The structure of presentation

- Theoretical pre-conditions
- The research goal
- Data description
- Main results
- References
Theoretical pre-conditions

Non-marital unions as a substitute for the institution of legal marriage (Gerber 2009)

A long evolutilonal way of cohabitation away from a ‘deviant’ relationship to a legal ‘alternative’ to marriage (Mills 2004)

Russia was characterized by an early and universal marriage (Avdeev, 2000; Zakharov, 2008)

A decrease of age at the first marriage between the 1960 and 1993 (Philipov and Jasilioniene, 2008)

A rise of the average ages of marriage since 1993: the late Second Demographic Transition coming to Russia (Zakharov, 2008)

Cohabitation as a symbol of a new freedom of thinking and behaving (Gerber, 2009)
The research goal

The major goal of this research is to find out whether the cohabitation is an independent social institution or just the first step on the path to marriage.

The Hypothesis

1. Cohabitation is not an independent social institution in Russia
2. The perception of cohabitations is changing from Soviet generations to modern ones
The panel data of the Russian part of Generations and Gender Survey (GGS-panel: 2004, 2007, and 2011) Subsample 4880 cases:

- generations born between the 1930 and the 1986
- the respondents who had only one first union of both types or one type
- those who started the first union under the age of 30

32% of men and 68% of women
The average and median ages of the first unions in the perspective of gender and generations

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Categories</th>
<th>1st cohabitation</th>
<th>1st marriage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Average</td>
<td>Median</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Men</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1930-1939</td>
<td>23,0</td>
<td>23</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1940-1949</td>
<td>23,3</td>
<td>23</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1950-1959</td>
<td>22,8</td>
<td>22</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1960-1969</td>
<td>23,2</td>
<td>23</td>
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<tr>
<td>1970-1979</td>
<td>22,4</td>
<td>22</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1980-1986</td>
<td>21,3</td>
<td>21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Women</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1930-1939</td>
<td>22,3</td>
<td>22</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1940-1949</td>
<td>22,0</td>
<td>22</td>
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<tr>
<td>1950-1959</td>
<td>21,9</td>
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<tr>
<td>1960-1969</td>
<td>21,3</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1970-1979</td>
<td>20,6</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1980-1986</td>
<td><strong>19,4</strong></td>
<td>19</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Hazard curves for the first unions (stratification by gender)

The probability to start the first union after reaching 15 years

-2 Log Likelihood | 18146,05 | 43239,12
---|---|---
Chi-square | 278,58 | 315,66
Significance | 0,000 | 0.000
Events | 1242 | 3139
Censored | 2521 | 624
Total | 3763 | 3763
Hazard curves for the first unions (stratification by generations)

The probability to start the first marriage after reaching 15 years

The covariates of the models: gender, generations, educational level and place of living
Almost all regression coefficients are statistically significant

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>-2 Log Likelihood</th>
<th>15659,95</th>
<th>36637,15</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Chi-square</td>
<td>98,8</td>
<td>172,55</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Significance</td>
<td>0,000</td>
<td>0,000</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
A cohabitation is an independent social institution

A cohabitation is only the first step on the path to a marriage
The patterns of matrimonial behavior proved that cohabitation is a “trial marriage”

The patterns of matrimonial behavior proved that cohabitation is an independent social institution

* Groups that include less than 10 cases


Thank you for your attention!

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The structure of presentation

Theoretical pre-conditions

The research goal

Data description

Data harmonization

Data restrictions

Main results

- The average ages of the first unions
- The age of the first unions in the perspective of gender
- The age of the first unions in the perspective of generations
- Hazard curves for the first unions
- The ways of the first cohabitations development
- The nature of cohabitation in Russia

References