

# *Gunnar Anderssoni avalik loeng teemal „Cohort and Period Fertility Developments in the Nordic countries”*

**28.03.2019**

## **Cohort and Period Fertility Developments in the Nordic countries**

The Nordic countries are renowned for their systems of social and gender equality, as well as their relatively high fertility. Some of these patterns may be set to change. Together with a Nordic team of demographers, we present a set of indices of cohort and period fertility in order to depict ongoing fertility developments. The analyses are based on register data that were harmonized for the purpose of comparative research. We produced measures of ultimate fertility and childlessness, stratified by gender and educational attainment, for cohorts born in 1940 onwards in the four largest Nordic countries. *Cohort fertility* initially declined, although for cohorts born in the 1950s and later, it has remained relatively stable. Childlessness remained relatively stable in Denmark, Norway and Sweden. Women's negative educational gradient in relation to total fertility vanished, except in Finland, while men's positive gradient persisted. We witness both a new gender similarity and persistent (among men) and new (among women) educational disparities in childbearing outcomes in the Nordic region. The low-educated segments of the population seem to face increasing social and economic disadvantages that are reflected as well in their patterns of family formation. In further research, we study more recent developments in *period fertility* in the same set of countries, adding Iceland to the picture. This is motivated by recent and still ongoing period fertility declines across the Nordic region, which calls for more in-depth research on the underlying structures of recent declines. In particular, we compare childbearing in the aftermath of the two most recent crises that hit Nordic economies: those of the 1990s and 2010s. We use event-history techniques to present parity-specific risks by calendar year relative to a pre-recession year. We demonstrate an increasing similarity in fertility responses across the five Nordic countries, with lower parities contributing more strongly to fertility declines. To a large extent, however, the ongoing declines are

still a conundrum that motivates further research based on other types of data and new methods of analyses.