Parental family and country context as determinants of gender-role attitudes in Europe (the evidence of EVS data)

Gender-role attitudes are largely formed in the parental family because children see some definite distribution of gender roles. Also parents with different education and social status are likely to transmit different types of values to their children as higher education and social status lead to more egalitarian gender attitudes (Guiso et al. 2003; Van de Werfhorst, Kraaykamp 2001; Gueli, Need, De Graaf 2007; Cunningham 2008). At the same time current individual and context characteristics can have an impact upon gender-role attitudes. Theoretically, I base this research on the ‘plethora of capitals’ framework according to which the process of childbearing and socialization is regarded as investment (planned and unintentional) in different forms of capital. According to Bourdieu, children from wealthier, happier and more cultural families become more educated and cultural, because they have more favorable habitus (Bourdieu, 1986). In this research I extend this framework of Bourdieu by incorporating into analysis country characteristics such as GDP per capita, religious diversity index, etc. I argue that the process of socialization is affected not only by situation in the family but also in the society in general. The objective of this research is to reveal the impact of parental family on gender-role attitudes across European countries with different economic and cultural characteristics. Does the degree of parental family influence differ across European countries? Is the role of parental family strong or the current characteristics of the society is more important? The European Values Study 2017 is used as a dataset. Multilevel regression modeling is applied.