



University of
Zurich^{UZH}

Department of Sociology

Generations in Switzerland

Topics – Surveys – Suggestions

Marc Szydlik

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Generations

1. Topics

What should we know?

2. Surveys

What do we know?

3. Suggestions

What could we know?



Topics (selection)

- Family generations: Children, parents, grandchildren, grandparents, ...
 - Connections between family generations
 - Extent of cohesion, support, conflict, distance, ambivalence, ...
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- Factors for cohesion, support, conflict, distance, ambivalence, ...
 - Education, finances, age, gender, migration, region, ...
 - Consequences for individuals, families, economy, state, society
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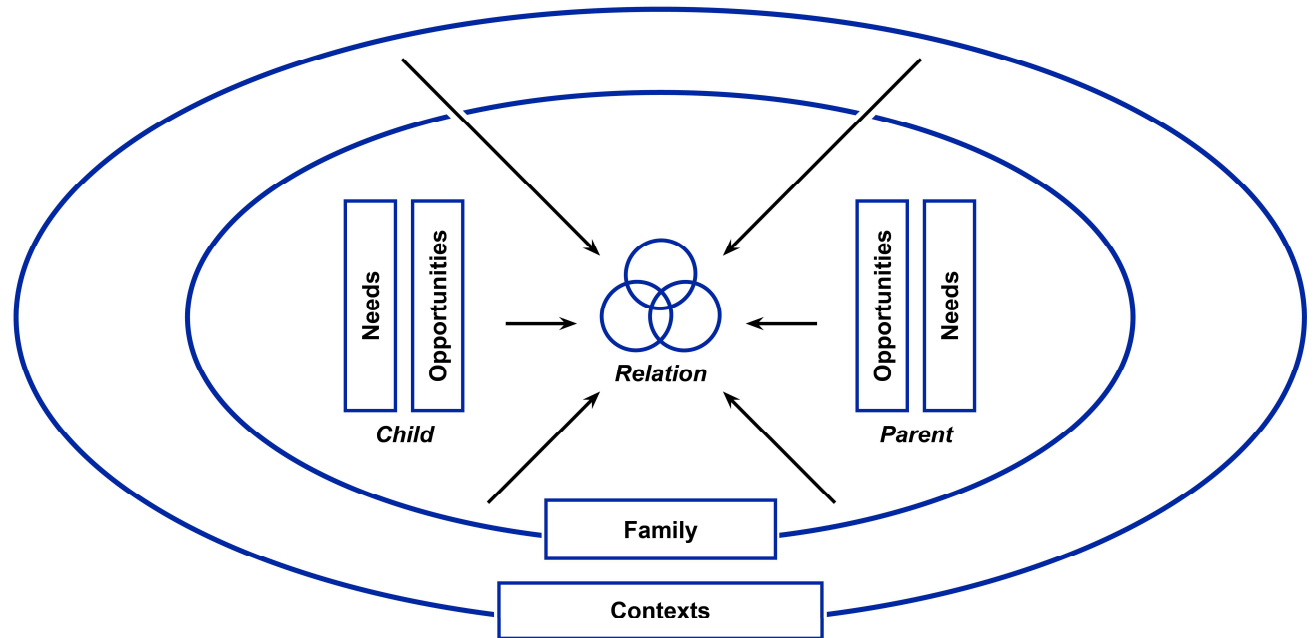
- Connections between
 - individuals, family, and contexts
 - generations, economy, and (welfare) state
 - family solidarity and social inequality



Topics & survey questions

Types of cohesion

- *Affectual solidarity*
Emotional closeness
- *Associational solidarity*
Contacts
- *Functional solidarity*
Space, time, money



Szydlik 2016: Sharing Lives – Adult Children and Parents (Routledge: Open Access).



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Surveys (selection)

- **COCON** (Competence and Context): Swiss Longitudinal Survey of Children and Youth
 - **EFG** (Erhebung zu Familien und Generationen): Families and Generations Survey
 - **EU-SILC**: European Union Statistics on Income and Living Conditions
 - **SAKE**: Schweizerische Arbeitskräfteerhebung
 - **SHP**: Swiss Household Panel
 - **TREE**: Transitions from Education to Employment
 - **VLV**: Vivre-Leben-Vivere
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- **SHARE**: Survey of Health, Ageing, and Retirement in Europe
 - **SwissGen**: Generations in Switzerland



SHARE

- Respondents: 50 years and older
Start: 1st wave (2004/06): 12 countries – 30,000 respondents – CH: 1,000 respondents
Now: 8 waves (2019/20): 29 countries – 137,000 respondents – CH: 4,600 respondents
- Relationships with adult children & parents

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- Topics
 - Demography & distance
 - Contact, conflict, coresidence
 - Help, care, current transfers, gift, inheritance
 - International comparisons

- www.suz.uzh.ch/ages





SwissGen: Overview

- 1 target person, 1st wave: 2018/19
 - 2 methods: online & postal
 - 3 regions, all 26 cantons
 - 4 languages: German, French, Italian, English
 - 5 questionnaires: person, mother alive/deceased, father alive/deceased
 - 6 team members: T. Bosshardt, K. Haberkern, B. Isengard, R. König, M. Szydlik, C. Zangger
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- 18-100 years – nearly 200 questions – over 10,000 respondents – over 20,000 dyads
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- Forthcoming: Generation book (D & E) & Data book (Seismo: Open access)
 - www.suz.uzh.ch/swissgen
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- Connections: Conflict & cohesion – Solidarity & inequality – Individual/family/context
 - Comparisons: Education, finances, age, gender, migration, region



SwissGen: Topics & survey questions

- Conflict
 - *Ambivalence*: mixed feelings, changing emotions, solidarity and conflict
 - *Stress*: worries, expectations, burden, criticism, interference, overload
 - *Quarrels*: disagreement, tension, dispute, conflict
 - *Distance*: apathy, lack of understanding, indifference, estrangement

- Cohesion
 - *Attachment*: closeness, contact, importance, understanding, appreciation, interest, respect
 - *Space*: coresidence, move-out date, geographical distance
 - *Time*: help, care, emotional support, childcare, potential care, obligations
 - *Money*: current transfers, potential financial support, large gifts, inheritances

- Factors
 - *Opportunities & needs*: education, employment, finances, wealth, property, health, age
 - *Family*: gender relations, partner, children, grandchildren, siblings, grandparents, household
 - *Childhood*: separation, tension, conflict, rules, pressure, punishment, reliability, love, praise
 - *Contexts*: country of birth, citizenship, migration, region, canton



Limitations of current surveys

- Age (only younger or older respondents)
 - Region (only two regions, only five cantons, etc.)
 - Cases (low number of cases: overall & in small cantons)
 - Variables (e.g., closeness, conflict, ambivalence, ..., hours, sums, ...)
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- Multi-topic surveys → Fewer questions on generations
 - Single-topic surveys → Fewer opportunities to combine topics
 - Cross-sectional surveys → Panel would be better
 - 'Only' Swiss surveys → International comparison would be better



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Suggestions

Great idea to participate in the GGP ...

- Exactly the same questions across many countries & not 'only' 50+
- Comparisons between countries & regions (large & 'small')
- Panel: Longitudinal information
- Complementary to existing surveys → Synergies

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- New information on Switzerland & many publications from outside CH would include CH
 - Connecting topics: multi-topic survey (e.g., fertility decisions, work-life-balance, ...)
 - Connecting research groups: national & international
 - Connecting research & teaching



... further suggestions ...

If participating ...

- Regional comparisons (all cantons & oversampling of small cantons)
 - Links with macro indicators (welfare state regulations, inequality measures, ...)
 - Information on deceased parents (same length of question time)
 - More information on generations (closeness, conflict, upbringing, ...)
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