# Challenges to monitor family dynamics in Switzerland

Clémentine Rossier
Institute of Demography and Socioeconomics
University of Geneva

December 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2021

#### Changing family practices

- A certain stability in (complex) family structures nowadays
- But on-going large-scale societal evolutions...
- Progress in gender equality
- Increasing mobility and use of technology to maintain ties
- Increasing acceptation of diversity in family life
- Active ageing
- Increasing uncertainty, inequality

...which are (slowly) changing family practices ("doing family"), i.e. constraints and benefits of family life + consequences of family events

Kessler Dorian "Les conséquences du divorce: inégales pour les mères et les pères mais convergentes entre les cohortes?" Chap in Rossier C., C. Sauvain-Dugerdil, L. Bernardi (eds) (submitted) *Diversité des familles et bien-être en Suisse. Résultats des Enquêtes Familles et Générations 2013 et 2018* Lausanne: Editions Seismo.

## Differences between EFG 2018 and GGS 3\_0\_7

 In their ability to provide information on changing family practices in Switzerland and the way they shape individual functioning

#### A large overlap in content

Family events and ties	Family practices
Retrospective	Co-residence, spatiality
18-79	Contacts (in person/ other)
	Instrumental support:
Reproduction	childcare, personal care
	Financial support: joint
Union	finance, financial help, large
	gifts, inheritance



### **Consequences for individuals**

Well-being of respondents

- -Objective
- -Subjective

#### One gap in EFG 20018

Family events + ties	Family practices	Structural properties	Consequences for individuals
Reproduction Union	Co-residence, spatiality Contacts (in person other) Instrumental support: childcare, personal care Financial support: joint finance, financial help, large gifts, inheritance	Needs in family group  Quality of relations in family group	Well-being of respondents -Objective -Subjective

Actually even GGS should go further in that direction by adding a questions about extra-family networks, and more on emotional support/ conflict /ambivalence

#### The key role of macro factors

Family events + ties	Family practices	Structural properties	Consequences for individuals
Reproduction Union	Co-residence, spatiality Contacts (in person other) Instrumental support: childcare, personal care Financial support: joint finance, financial help, large gifts, inheritance	Needs in family group  Quality of relations in family group	Well-being of respondents -Objective -Subjective

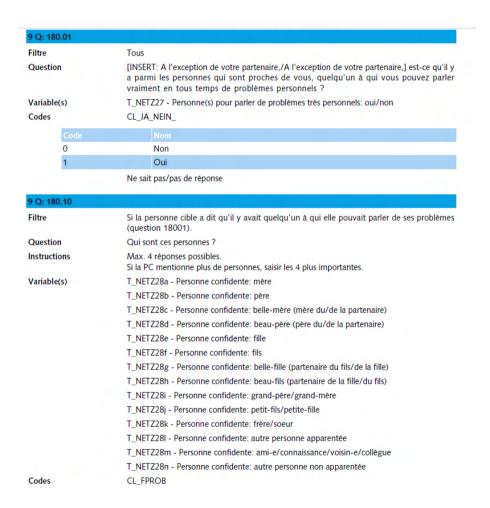
#### **CONTEXT**

Laws Social policies Health system Family policies Labour market Gender regime Norms...

#### International comparison is needed

 If most of the questions are similar, they often do not correspond exactly

WEL10 (Discuss Important Matters) Who are the people with whom you typically discuss sonal matters? SET OF Partner Dauahter Step-Son Step-Daughter Mother Father Step-Mother Step-Father Partner's Mother or Step-Mother Partner's Father or Step-Father Grandparents (my own or partner's) Grandchild Sister Brother Daughter's Partner Son's Partner Partner's Siblinas Other Relative Friend, acquaintance, neighbour, or colleague Other person Nobody



#### A longitudinal perspective is needed

Time 1 Time 3 Time 2 **Family Structural Family practices** Conse-Causes properties **Events** at quences individual and ties for individuals level **Co-residenc**e, spatiality **Contacts** (in person other) Needs in family Well-being of **Instrumental support:** Well-being of group Reproduction childcare, personal care respondents respondents Financial support: joint Quality of relations in Objective Objective subjective Union Subjective finance, financial help, large family group gifts, inheritance

#### Advantages of EFG 2018

- Detailed questions in EFG 2018
- maternity leave
- diminishing /increasing work-time
- childcare provided by family members and various other actors
- ⇒issues of interest in the case of Switzerland
- ⇒important to consider country-specific modules in the GGS

And again, important to move beyond blood /alliance and coresidence to capture "family-like" ties and practices; add extended kin

Seltzer, J.A. 2019. "Family change and changing family demography," *Demography* 56(2): 405–426.