

Three Roads to Comparative Research: Analytical, Visual, and Morphological

Edited by

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- a remarkably good spirit of stable cooperation and friendship between the two editors which has overcome many obstacles and barriers and which will continue to last well-beyond the publication of this book.

It should be emphasized that the present book in its final design fits very well into the overall context of the book series with its emphasis on complexity research or on new research designs, new methodologies or, as an essential element, on new information designs. It is hoped that the two rather unconventional ways for comparative research, namely data visualization as an exploratory method and the morphological approach as a new road on the

basis of heterogeneous data sets, will find meet the interest of social scientists across Europe who search for novel ways and methods in comparative analysis. In a variation of Peter Berger's "Invitation to Sociology" our invitation to comparative research can be phrased in the following way:

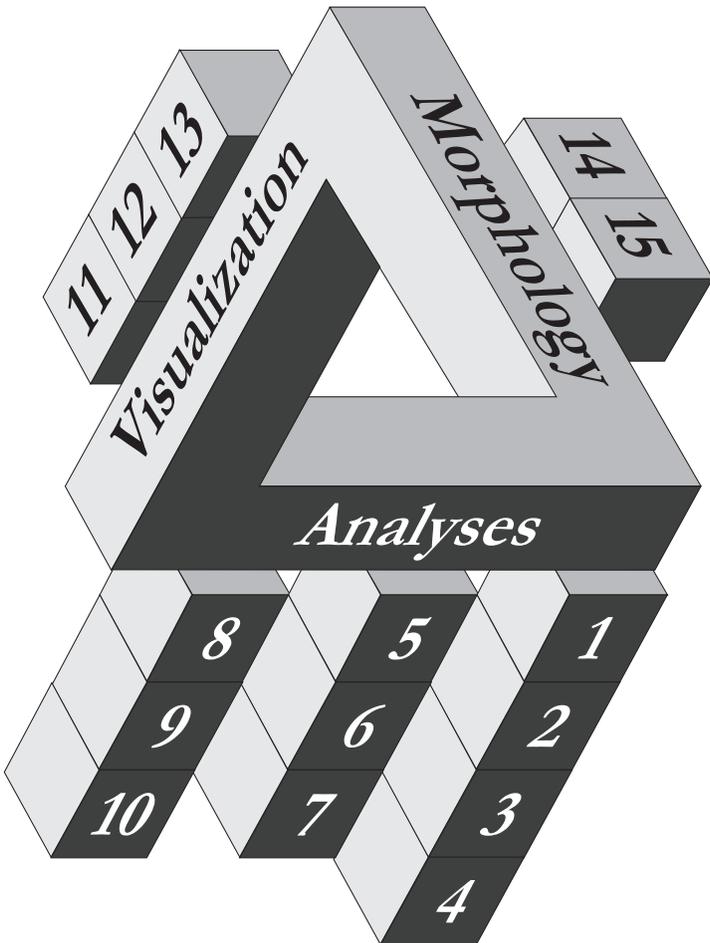
Comparative researchers who like to avoid shocking discoveries, who prefer to believe that comparative research is just what they were taught in standard textbooks, who like the safety of the rules and the maxims of what Alfred Schütz has called the 'world taken for granted', should stay away from the 'Three Roads to Comparative Research'.

We sincerely hope that the three roads to comparative research, presented in this volume, enable researchers in the field to widen their current tool-box significantly and to open up new ways for comparative research with exciting and innovative results.

Vienna, February 2009

Niko Toš | Karl H. Müller

Overview



General Introduction

Karl H. Müller | Niko Toš

The Three Roads to Comparative Research: Analytical, Visual, and Morphological

This book had an unusual history of its own, because it started as a project on comparative analyses, using mostly data from the European Social Survey (ESS). However, in the course of the compilation of articles, this primary goal could not be attained sufficiently. The data base, underlying the articles, was not only ESS-based and the articles themselves covered rather heterogeneous fields and could not be compared with one another in a satisfactory manner. As a consequence, a new goal for the book was needed. Fortunately, it turned out that we at the Wiener Institute for Social Science Methodology and Development (WISDOM) were working on ESS-based data visualizations and on the methodology of survey research. So we changed the focus of the book into a general overview on comparative research and on three very different ways to achieve comparative results. The first road is widely established and well-known, the second and especially the third one, are non-standard and in the process of becoming viable alternatives to the normal research trajectories for comparative research.

The first road to comparative research is centered on statistical analyses and on comparative descriptions of the obtained results. This road is most widely used and can be characterized as the traditional way for comparative investigations on the basis of micro-social data. Moreover, the first road was the one that was planned for the book in its initial stage.

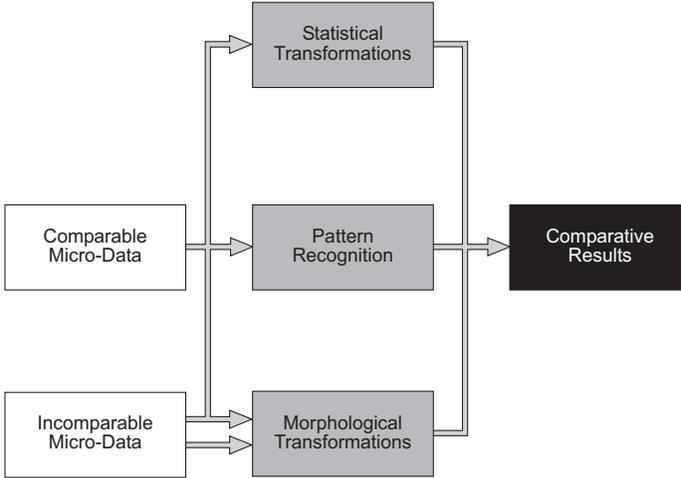
The second road to comparative research transforms a set of comparable data into a visual pattern with which a competent observer interacts. Additionally, these patterns should be created in a way that they can as a heuristic basis for the formation of new hypotheses, assumptions or theory components. Here, the sequential design of the first road is substituted with a complex interactive design between a visual data pattern on the one hand and a competent social scientist on the other hand. Thus, for the second road one needs, first, a transformation from data sets into visual patterns and, second, competent observers who are capable of interacting with these information-rich visual patterns.

Finally, the third road to comparative research is based on an unusual assumption, namely on strictly incomparable data. Normally, incomparable data sets are not used in comparative research, simply for the reason of their

incomparability. But Part III will open up some surprising possibilities within the context of strictly incomparable data sets.

Figure 01. summarizes the main ingredients for the three roads to comparative research which, in conjunction, cover the main content for this volume.

FIGURE 01. **The Three Roads to Comparative Research**



Abstracts

Patterns of Work Flexibility in Typical Jobs in Eastern and Western Europe

Endre Sik | Claire Wallace | Bori Simonovits

Flexibility has long been a debate in Western Europe, and this debate is now also being introduced to the New Member States of the European Union. In this study, we use a representative sample survey carried out in 2001 (N=11194) of the following countries: the UK, the Netherlands, Sweden, Slovenia, Hungary, the Czech Republic, Bulgaria and Romania. We consider how flexible the workforce is by looking at the extent of time, place, contract and income flexibility, and the ways in which these are combined. The paper goes on to examine the social characteristics of flexible workers in different countries. We find that time and contract flexibility are associated with women in the Western EU countries, but that these types of flexibility are more often linked to men in the Eastern European countries. The nature of flexibility is related to the regime of regulation in a country, with strongly regulated countries tending to have flexibility concentrated among a narrow range of workers who are young and less educated, while less regulated flexibility leads to more of the population being flexible. The feminization of flexibility has to be seen in the context of the gendered forms of family and work, and it is not uniform across Europe.

Division of Housework in European Societies through the Analysis of Macro Level Factors

Christian Bischof

The purpose of this paper is to identify the factors that can help explain the gender disparity of the division of housework, a majority of the domestic work is still done by women. This is done through an international comparison using the data for 22 European countries. Factors from both the individual level and the macro level (in the form of context variables for the countries) will be incorporated in the analysis. The explanation for the strongly differing share of housework for women might thus be found primarily on the individual level. The great differences on the national level emerged only through individual characteristics and not through macro factors. Naturally,

this still does not mean that the respondent exhibits this behavior simply from him or herself, that is, independent from the social context to which he or she is connected on many levels.

Attitudes Towards Immigrants and the Effect of Migration in European Countries¹

Jana Chaloupková | Petra Šalamounová

This article focuses on a comparison of attitudes on migration, based on data from the European Social Survey 2002. It looks at the question of whether attitudes towards immigrants are related to the numbers and structure of immigrants within a country. For these purposes, the developments and the current state of migration in Europe are briefly outlined. Three thematic areas of attitudes towards migration are examined: 1) the host population's willingness to accept immigrants; 2) perceptions of the impact of immigration on the host country; 3) attitudes towards different forms of integration of immigrants.

The findings indicate that Europeans are more willing to accept migrants that are of the same race and from Europe than they are migrants of different races and from states outside Europe. The greatest unwillingness to accept people from other states and the strongest emphasis on the negative impact of immigration was observed in Greece and Hungary, while the greatest willingness to accept immigrants was found in Sweden and Switzerland, which was also connected to a more positive perception regarding the impact of immigration.

Cure for Loneliness? Social Activity and its Role in Changing European Societies

Anna Domaradzka

The starting point of the paper is Ulrich Beck's thesis that nowadays close family relations are disappearing and individuals are left alone with their problems and emotional needs. It can be stated that new pattern of social

1 The research for this paper was supported by a grant from the Czech Science Foundation (No. 403/04/1219) as a part of the European Social Survey II project and by a grant from the Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports (No. 1N04192).

networks is emerging; less connected with family and more with various self-development groups, voluntary associations and other forms of social activity. It especially concerns elderly people, who are no longer active in the labour market, but still able to lead an active life and often affected by this “civilization disease”, which is loneliness.

The question is whether loneliness is indeed growing among surveyed countries and if yes, then is it a general change or are there specific groups affected by this process? The second issue is the substitute for close family relations. If the family ties are weakened, are new forms of close social relation established instead of traditional family networks?

One of the main focuses of the paper is the subpopulation of elderly people. It is often stated that nowadays more and more of them suffer loneliness. What is the cure? Or there is none? Do lonely elders close themselves at homes and withdraw from social life, or to the contrary, they try to establish new forms of activity and substitutes for vanishing family network.

The analysis will be based on the International Social Survey Program data derived from “Social Networks” and “Family and Changing Gender Roles” modules as well as WVS data. Among the researched countries are those with high as well as low social participation level, which should enrich international comparison. The research question will be investigated using multivariate analysis.

The goal of the analysis is to test the hypothesis of weakening of family relations and establishing new forms of social networks instead. It seems probable that high level of social activity is correlated with disintegration of family bonds, but it may also be that inclination for social activity is a form of extended family activity. That’s why, the difference between countries with high and low levels of social activity and participation will be closely examined.

Life Satisfaction, Happiness and Marital Status in 4 Central European Countries: International Comparison Based on the European Social Survey²

Dana Hamplová

The text will focus on the relationship between life satisfaction and marital status in selected European countries. While up to date research indicates a positive effect of marriage on life satisfaction, it is less clear whether this effect is mediated by the level of divorce within the society. Theoretically, divorce could increase or decrease life satisfaction of married couples, depending on whether the selection effect or the effect of investment in the relationship is more important. The research has been conducted using OLS regression and multilevel modeling. Preliminary results show that married people are happier than singles, even though the strength of this effect varies. Analysis does not indicate that the effect of the marital status depends on the divorce rate in the society. The effect of cohabitation is much less clear: it resembles marriage in some countries and is more similar to a single lifestyle in others.

Women's Role in the Family: A Comparative Study

Filip Raciborski

In the contemporary world we constantly experience changes. These changes affect all spheres of our lives. Some of them happen suddenly, while others occur so slowly that we hardly notice them. The changes in the family that took place at the turn of the 20th century are undeniable. I would especially like to emphasize the shift from the extended family model to the nuclear family model, a process that is still continuing. Moreover, it is quite possible that in the 21st century, the very existence of the family as the basic social unit will be threatened by the new social phenomenon of the so-called "singles". In my research I would like to focus on the effects of the changes regarding attitudes of women's roles in the family. I am especially interested in the issue of combining workplace duties with family responsibilities in selected EU countries. I want to verify whether views on the roles of women in the family are reflected in everyday life.

2 The research for this paper was supported by a grant from the Czech Science Foundation (No. 403/04/1219) as a part of the European Social Survey II project and by a grant from the Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports (No. 1N04192).

The analysis will be based on the results of the International Social Survey (2002) for selected countries. The research conducted in 2002 addresses precisely the changes in family life and the division of roles. Through this research, I intend to examine not only Poland, the Czech Republic, Slovakia, Hungary and Austria, but also Spain, Ireland, France and Great Britain. Ireland and Spain lend themselves especially well to a comparative study with Poland because of essential similarities between them (fast economic growth, the important role of Catholicism). In contrast, France and Great Britain exemplify multi-cultural countries in which many cultures come together. France, moreover, is considered to be the country in which postmodern values are the most widespread. I am also interested to see if this accompanies a different outlook on women's role.

Apart from the assessment of the present situation, I will refer back to the mid-1990s, when the earlier International Social Survey was conducted. Unfortunately, in 1994 far fewer countries were included in the survey, so the comparison will not be complete. Nonetheless, I hope that the analysis of the discussed material will make it possible for me to answer the questions concerning the scale and speed of the changes that we currently observe.

Children – To Have Or Not To Have. A Question in the Context of Cross–National Differences

Marcin W. Zieliński

Childlessness is an important demographic problem for European countries. It may result in difficulties for the social security systems and threaten social needs satisfaction for the next generations of Europeans unless immigration policies are changed. Low birth rates in most European countries have also begun to affect the new EU members. This article focuses on the changes in the perception of the importance of children, treating it as a mediator in the decision to have babies. Moreover, it identifies the factors that are responsible for the differences across selected Central European countries. The analysis is based on the International Social Survey Program data (ISSP) derived from the “Family and Changing Gender Roles” module. It shows the main differences between selected Central European and Scandinavian countries regarding the agreement with two opposing statements that address the importance of children. To investigate the relationships of selected socioeconomic factors and the differences between countries, a multilevel regression analysis is used. The main goal is to explain these differences on the two levels of observation – the respondent (Level 1) and the country (Level 2).

An Outline for a New Concept of Citizenship in a Trans-National Context

Mitja Hafner-Fink | Samo Uhan

While the modern nation-state (along with the concepts of sovereignty, nationhood, nation membership and national identity) is understood as both the foundations and framework for the modern conception of citizenship or 'national citizenship', today's processes of globalisation have led to a shift to the new concept of so-called 'postnational citizenship' which 'ignores' the nation-state's borders (e.g. Soysal 1996). In the first part of the chapter the traditional concept of citizenship is briefly presented through a discussion of the 'conflict' between the liberal and republican models of citizenship. A possibility to resolve this 'conflict' by introducing a new concept of 'post-modern' citizenship is indicated. In the second part the results of (comparative) analyses of survey data from the International Social Survey Programme (ISSP) module 2004 'Citizenship' and from the European Social Survey – Round 1 (ESS 2002) are presented. In general, the analysis reveals the following pattern: in highly developed countries with longer democratic tradition (particularly Scandinavian countries), we can find more elements of post-modern citizenship. Empirical analysis prepared additional elements for discussion in the third part, where authors propose a possible direction for modelling a new ('post-modern') paradigm of citizenship. They share the view of Joe Painter (Painter, 2002), who sees the post-modern paradigm of citizenship as a kind of synthesis of classical conceptions of citizenship, where the main characteristic of this synthesis should be the idea of multi-level citizenship.

Trust in Institutions of the System – European Comparisons – and Slovenia

Niko Toš | Vlado Miheljak | Slavko Kurdija

Trust in institutions of political and social system is basis of modern democracies. The article is based on research of trust in state and civil society institutions, that was carried out within the program Slovenian public opinion in the period from 1991–2006. Higher level of trust in state and lower civil society institutions in start (1991) followed by a decline and stagnation of trust in political institution on a low level in the first decade (1991–1999) – and at the same time rise of trust in civil society institutions, all characterize

the course of democratic institutionalization in Slovenia in this period. Short-term change of rulers and elections in 2000 are characterized by increase of level of trust in institutions to the upper limit, followed by another decrease in political institutions – in spite of changes in power positions in 2004 – on the lower level in comparison to 1999. The analysis confirms that expression of trust in political institutions is under the strong influence of political views of the evaluators. The authors call attention to Slovenians' low level of trust in political institutions in the recent period, which limits participation of Slovenians in the democratic processes and successfulness of their control over legislative and executive power.

In the last part analysis is based on the results of the European Social Survey. The observation of attitudes towards institutions was limited to six or seven institutions, in three consecutive surveys. Differences in the expression of trust between countries are quite significant. The clustering method demonstrated the relationship between the ranking of countries and their development of democratic and economic conditions. Two large groups of countries emerged. In one group are the developed European countries with a developed democratic nature, whilst in the other are those with a tendency towards it.

Types of Non-Electoral Political Participation in Europe³

Klára Vlachová | Tomáš Lebeda

In this article, the authors describe the forms of political participation outside the electoral process that the populations of twenty-one European countries tend to employ and the degree to which this is done.

The article begins with a general discussion on the types of political participation (conventional or unconventional) and their changes (for example, some forms conventional participation in contemporary democracies have become unconventional and vice versa, and new forms of participation have been identified in democracies). Differences between political participation in post-communist democracies and “old” democracies are discussed as well. The core of the article is based on analyses of the data from the European Social Survey, Round I. Using factor analysis, the authors identify three types of non-electoral political participation in the societies under consideration:

3 This paper was written as a part of the European Social Survey II project supported by a grant from the Czech Science Foundation (No. 403/04/1219).

active-conventional, active-protest, and passive participation. The overall non-electoral political participation is considerably lower in the post-communist and Mediterranean countries than in the Western European and Scandinavian countries. In the latter countries, the passive type of political participation is clearly a much stronger form of participation than the other two types. Conversely, in the Mediterranean countries, passive participation is weaker and is exceeded in places by the active-conventional type of participation. The Mediterranean area is also notable for the unusually strong presence of the active-protest type of participation. The authors try to explain the differences in non-electoral political participation between the countries by examining micro and macro variables.