

Editorial

Two articles in the current issue of STSS concentrate on demographic studies – both are dedicated to similar topics, namely the elderly. The issue starts with an article in which Kristian Nielsen (2022) explores the association between having children and expected subjective old-age welfare within a European context. The author is using data for 31 countries from the European Social Survey to model the respondents' concern about their expected old-age well-being and welfare. His results indicate that the presence of children per se does not increase the feeling of future individual security, but may even lower it. Among parents, however, a higher number of children reduces these perceived concerns. The author argues that there is only a steady decrease in concern in the Western Europe. In the East and South, parents with two or three children have the same or even higher levels of worry compared to single-child parents. Overall worry in the Northern region is the lowest among all regions. He explains these results with the stronger and more encompassing welfare regimes in Western Europe, which encourage decision-making behaviour that favours higher fertility in combination with a perception of more old-age security.

The next article by Anne Herm and Michel Poulain (2022) explores the patterns of living arrangements for older people in Estonia compared to people of similar age in Belgium. Their study differs from most other studies on living arrangements by covering the entire population aged 60 years and older in both countries, including older people in institutional households. Including the entire population allowed the authors to identify developments in living arrangements that are less frequent among older people. The authors find that despite the differences in patterns of living arrangements in Estonia compared to Belgium, the analysis of the situation in living arrangements at the turn of the new millennium and changes in their composition among the older population over the decades before and after 2000 reveals that a tendency towards more similar living patterns exist between the two countries. The results of the study reveal that in both countries more women continue to live with their spouses in old age, and both men and women are living more frequently in consensual partnerships. An increase was also observed in the proportion of never married older people. In both Estonia and Belgium, older people are increasingly less likely to live in complex households.

The next study by Sarika Bahadure and Tanushri Kamble (2022) seeks to understand the urban transition of the city of Nagpur, India and its effects on neighbourhoods. The article also investigates whether the transition affects amenities in neighbourhoods along with the perception of the residents of the quality of the neighbourhood. The authors investigate six neighbourhoods from different parts of the city established at different times. They argue that the evolved neighbourhoods in Nagpur can be broadly identified based on characteristics such as rooted caste or occupation, community with a strong sense of belonging, emerging neighbourhoods (layouts) in suburbs with little or no planning interventions, income group housing and planned new housing projects. Each of these neighbourhood categories has distinct characteristics. The authors emphasise the case study showed that although most Indian cities underwent a similar transition, they might show different characteristics by virtue of their planning, the location of various amenities, establishment year, etc. The results of their study show how the transition of a city takes place with changes in the administration and the needs of the people. The study also provides a methodology for investigating the transition of neighbourhoods over a given period to the present and functions as a guide on factors that affect the transition of a neighbourhood.

This issue of STSS also includes two book reviews. The review by Éva Rozália Hölzle (2022) is about the transformation of work in Western societies. The monograph *Advanced Introduction to the Sociology of Work* written by Professor Amy S. Wharton provides an overview of the transformation of work, focusing on the United States and Western Europe. Despite some criticisms, the reviewer concludes that the book provides a deep and sensitive exploration of work in Western societies. The issue concludes with a book review by Tamara P. Trošt (2022) of the *Class Cultures in Post-Socialist Eastern Europe* by Dražen Cepić. The book investigates changes in social class after the transition from socialism, how class is viewed by people of different classes, and the various mechanisms of class closure and how they affect people's social identities. By employing a qualitative network

approach via in-depth interviews, in her view, the author is able to shed light on various aspects of social life related to the class dimension, including the realm of values, identity building, and friendship making.

References

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