

# COMPARATIVE POPULATION STUDIES ■

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## CPoS Special Issue 2023 – Call for Papers

### **Demographic Developments in Eastern and Western Europe After the Transformation of Socialist Countries – (Re)evaluation From a Theoretical and Comparative Perspective**

Guest Editors: Gabriele Doblhammer (University of Rostock) and Zsolt Spéder (Hungarian Demographic Research Institute, University of Pécs)

Three decades ago, Europe underwent a profound change: the former socialist countries bid farewell to the totalitarian political system and the redistributive economy based on state ownership. Moving towards a Western European social model, they established a political system based on competitiveness and democratic rules, reintroduced market economy based on private ownership open to the world market and expressed a desire to belong to the European Union, which was followed by accession of several countries. Welfare state policies were fundamentally reformed and labour markets deeply restructured, leading to rapidly growing economic opportunities but also uncertainties among the population. The ‘transition’ affected all layers of the society. However, not only Eastern but also Western Europe has changed adopting now values and norms in terms of gender equality, female labour force participation, and family formation. Social and regional differences in (healthy) life expectancy have increased, and international immigration has reached new highs.

To what extent did the profound changes that took place at that time, and the considerable adjustments that have taken place ever since, created new conditions that have encouraged changes in demographic behaviour, and what kind of behaviour were favoured? We know that life expectancy in Eastern countries has improved overall, but, with the exception of Eastern Germany, the distance has not diminished much compared to Western countries. Women’s age at first birth increased, and period fertility dropped. Also affected was the marriage, divorce and non-marital childbearing behaviour, albeit to very varying degrees in the different countries. A pressing research question at that time was under which conditions the family-related behaviour of the formerly socialist countries would start following “Western” patterns. It is also well known that postponement that started and intensified after the political transition pushed fertility powerfully to low levels, which then started to rebound, and now Western and Eastern Europe can no longer be sharply divided. Moreover, migration

patterns within the EU were deeply influenced by the regime change and even more so by the EU accession.

In how far is it reliable today to describe population developments of the former Eastern European state socialist countries as converging, or diverging, as adapting to the West or rather as path dependent? Did the former socialist countries follow the same path at all? And did Western European states adopt new norms and values (once) common in the East, and to what extent? Based on the new research results, it is also worth revisiting our theoretical concepts (e.g. second demographic transition, postponement transition, rectangularisation of the survival curve, compression versus expansion of morbidity, theories of initiation and perpetuation of migration) developed around the millennium or earlier which we used for understanding demographic processes, and to which we often return – also today. In the special issue of CPoS 2023, we look forward to comparative analyses and conceptual papers related to the above issues.

We are looking for papers in the field of fertility and nuptiality, mortality, and migration that

- compare population developments of Eastern European countries, looking for similarities and differences;
- compare former socialist countries and Western European countries;
- discuss explicitly the issues of catching up, convergence, divergence, dependence;
- address the issue of homogenisation or differentiation within countries;
- discuss the relation of economic development, changing labour market conditions, gender norms, policy interventions and demographic behaviour;
- describe, analyse and discuss East-West migration patterns from a comparative perspective;
- raise the question of depopulation of different regions and countries;
- review and evaluate the conceptual approaches used as an interpretive framework for population change

## **Instructions for Submission**

### **Comparative Population Studies**

CPoS is a peer-reviewed open access journal and member of the Emerging Sources Citation Index (SNIP 2019: 1.180; SJR 2019: 0.386, 1.042 citations per document (2 years)). English language editing is available (after acceptance for publication). No fees are charged to authors. More details:

<https://www.comparativepopulationstudies.de/index.php/CPoS/about/submissions>

### **Abstracts**

Please send an abstract of max. 250 words by 15 June 2021 to [gabriele.doblhammer@uni-rostock.de](mailto:gabriele.doblhammer@uni-rostock.de) or [speder@demografia.hu](mailto:speder@demografia.hu) and CC to [cpos@bib.bund.de](mailto:cpos@bib.bund.de). You will receive a reply on 30 July 2021. The deadline for the submission of the full paper will be 15 December 2021.

### **Proposed Schedule**

10 MAY 2021	Call for Papers (CfP)
15 JUNE 2021	Submission of abstracts
30 JULY 2021	Invitation for full papers
15 DEC 2021	Submission of full papers
15 JAN 2022	Notification of reviews
31 MAY 2022	Submission of revised papers
15 JULY 2022	Second review phase and editor decision
MARCH 2023	Publication of the Special Issue (papers are published as accepted)

