

Jonne Thomassen
Department of Demography
University of Groningen
The Netherlands

Intergenerational staying: On the geography and determinants of longstanding local family networks

Background:

Intergenerational relationships between direct family members (i.e. grandparents, parents and adult children) tend to be close and are commonly characterised by feelings of solidarity and responsibility. To maintain strong (intergenerational) relationships, geographic proximity between family members has been found crucial because it facilitates receiving and providing support as well as face-to-face contact. However, staying in close proximity to family members may conflict with individual aspirations or societal demands to migrate elsewhere. Nevertheless, staying in place and the role of local family networks in staying behaviour have gone understudied and poorly theorised.

Objective:

This study explores the geography and determinants of *intergenerational staying behaviour* in Sweden. It aims to extend our understanding of the role of longstanding, local family networks in staying behaviour by studying the geographic contexts, family backgrounds, and individual characteristics of *intergenerational stayers*.

Data and methods:

Intergenerational stayers, in this study, are 30-year-old Swedes who have stayed in their birthplace that is - was, in case of death - also the place of birth and latest residential location of at least one parent and one grandparent. Based on Swedish register data, logistic regressions (1=intergenerational stayer; 0=non-stayer) are performed for all individuals of the anchor cohort 1983 (i.e. 30-year-olds in 2013).

Results:

The main empirical analyses rely on Swedish register data. Consequently, it is required to be physically present in Sweden to carry out these analyses. For this reason, I will stay at Umeå University in the spring of 2019. Therefore, no (preliminary) results can currently be provided. Results will be known at the time of the Nordic Demographic Symposium.

Conclusions:

The main conclusions of this study aim to contribute to the migration and intergenerational kinships literatures by simultaneously exploring for whom it is important to stay close to family (i.e. determinants of staying behaviour) and describing the geographies of longstanding, local family networks in Sweden.