

Corresponding author: Alena Artamonova

Population Research Centre, Faculty of Spatial Sciences, University of Groningen

Email: a.artamonova@rug.nl

Address: Landleven 1, 9700 AD Groningen, The Netherlands

Maria Brandén

Stockholm University Demography Unit and The Institute for Analytical Sociology, Linköping University

Clara H. Mulder

Population Research Centre, Faculty of Spatial Sciences, University of Groningen

Abstract for the 21st Nordic Demographic Symposium

Family Ties and Geographical Mobility among Older People and Adult Children in Sweden

The study background

Population ageing and welfare-state retrenchment is likely to increase the dependence of older parents on adult children, even in such exemplary universalistic elder care systems as Sweden. Old parents' dealing with age-related vulnerabilities can motivate both parents and adult children moving close to each other instead of turning to professional assistance in elder care institutions.

Objectives

This research aims to examine how health problems in later life relate to parents' moving close to adult children, having distant adult children moving close, or relocation to institutionalized residential care; and how these residential relocations are structured by adult children's gender network composition and location.

Data and methods

The empirical analysis is based on data from the Swedish population registers. In our analysis, we focus on parents aged 80 years and older, and their adult children who live at least 50 km away.

We intend to estimate separate multinomial logistic regression models of the geographical relocation of old fathers and adult children, and of old mothers and adult children. Our key outcomes are (1) Remain at similar distance, (2) Adult child moves close, (3) Old parent moves close, and (4) Old parent moves into an elder care institution.

Available data enables us to trace older parents' and their adult children's geographical relocations between 2012 and 2015. Our main explanatory variables are parent's closeness to death that serves as a proxy for severe health problems and parents' and children's *family ties*: the number of relatives living nearby and their gender. Our control variables in the baseline year include parents' and children's *local ties*: housing tenure, duration of residence, presence of other family member(s) in the household. We also control for *the degree of urbanization* of parents' and children's places of residence and their *socioeconomic conditions*.

Results

Data analysis in collaboration with the representatives of Ageing well research program at the University of Stockholm is scheduled for February-May of 2019.

Keywords: internal migration, population ageing, health, family ties, parent-child relationship

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