

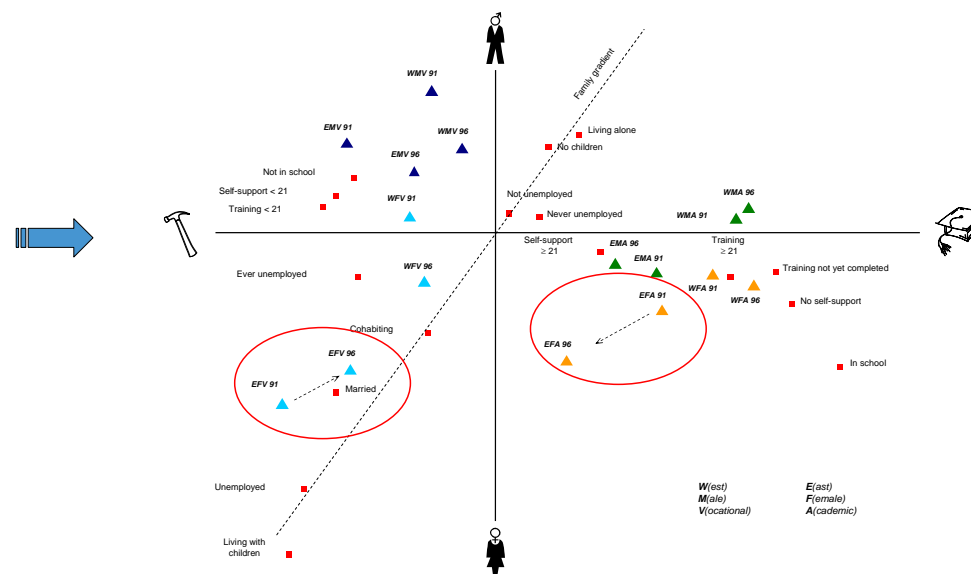
The macrocontext moderates the connection between education and procreation

Usually, late financial independence and late family transitions are attributed to young people's extended education and exploration. However, presumably based on their self-concepts and their role models, young eastern females quickly recovered from the initial „freeze effect“ shortly after unification. They turned back to relatively early self-support and procreation if their opportunities and prospects were positive. This held particularly true for well-educated young women.

Sample Sizes, Mean Ages, and Career- and Family-Related Transitions (%) Broken Down by Region, School Track, Year, and Gender.

	West								East							
	Vocationally oriented tracks				Academically oriented track				Vocationally oriented tracks				Academically oriented track			
	M 91	F 91	M 96	F 96	M 91	F 91	M 96	F 96	M 91	F 91	M 96	F 96	M 91	F 91	M 96	F 96
MARITAL STATUS																
Single	68.1	45.6	64.4	43.3	82.4	71.8	85.2	74.7	58.1	32.8	61.8	37.0	65.5	64.4	64.7	47.6
Cohabiting	12.9	18.3	18.8	18.0	9.9	13.5	10.8	14.8	17.4	19.7	19.4	27.8	15.5	13.9	18.8	31.7
Married*	19.0	36.0	16.8	38.7	7.7	14.7	4.0	10.5	24.5	47.5	18.8	35.2	19.1	21.8	16.5	20.7
LIVING WITH CHILDREN																
	10.3	25.8	11.5	31.8	3.7	13.1	1.7	8.1	24.1	56.7	17.2	44.9	11.8	16.8	14.0	26.5
COMPLETION OF TRAINING																
< Age 21	74.8	70.6	69.5	70.9	17.6	17.1	20.3	18.3	94.9	94.5	76.2	80.6	40.0	42.6	44.2	42.2
≥ Age 21	9.7	11.7	11.5	11.1	25.6	30.7	20.9	20.4	0.8	1.7	5.2	7.1	20.0	15.8	19.8	25.3
Not (yet)	15.5	17.7	19.0	18.0	56.8	52.2	58.8	61.3	4.3	3.8	18.6	12.3	40.0	41.6	36.0	32.5
FINANCIAL SELF-SUPPORT																
< Age 21	73.5	70.8	65.6	66.8	22.3	22.4	22.0	23.7	89.7	87.4	68.4	74.5	38.2	27.7	41.9	39.8
≥ Age 21	14.0	16.9	17.0	19.0	22.4	24.9	22.6	18.8	4.0	5.9	14.1	13.8	13.6	21.8	16.2	26.5
Not (yet)	12.5	12.3	17.4	14.2	55.3	52.7	55.4	57.5	6.3	6.7	17.5	11.7	48.2	50.5	41.9	33.7
NOW IN SCHOOL																
	9.5	10.2	19.4	20.4	63.4	60.0	69.5	78.0	2.8	4.2	11.3	15.1	64.5	67.3	57.0	47.0
EVER UNEMPLOYED																
	26.5	24.8	28.1	24.2	11.0	9.0	11.3	10.2	18.6	26.5	42.3	49.8	10.9	13.9	29.1	30.1
NOW UNEMPLOYED																
	4.5	2.3	8.7	4.8	3.7	2.4	2.3	3.2	8.7	21.8	10.7	14.2	4.5	4.0	2.3	10.8
Mean age																
	24.4	24.6	25.0	24.9	24.4	24.1	24.2	24.1	23.9	24.4	24.7	25.1	24.2	23.5	24.8	24.1
SD																
	2.7	2.8	2.7	2.9	2.6	2.7	2.9	2.8	2.7	2.8	3.0	2.9	2.5	2.5	3.1	2.7
N																
	464	480	253	289	273	245	177	186	253	238	291	325	110	101	86	83

* including separated, divorced, and widowed.



Correspondence analysis: From complex percentage tables to an illustrative social map

Non-college bound tracks: "...that women from this educational niche, who were facing the highest risk of becoming victims of the economic restructuring (lifetime prevalence of unemployment 49.8%), reacted with great caution toward serious long-term commitments such as marriage and parenthood. Instead of making such commitments, they invested more time in their education." *College-bound tracks:* "Backed by their better educational resources, they could afford to maintain the Eastern habit of early family formation and parenthood and did not subscribe to the Western trend to postpone family formation and parenthood to the 4th decade of life" (Reitzle & Vondracek, 2000, p. 457). Recent microcensus statistics underlined the peculiarities of the eastern German context with regard to family formation: In 2000, 81% of 30-34 year-old eastern females (West: 62%), and 50% of the 25-29 year-olds (West: 39%) had children.