

# Fertility and Family

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# Fertility and Economics are Closely Connected

- ▶ Demographic trends shape economic conditions
- ▶ Children affect parents' careers
- ▶ Economic conditions influence fertility choices

Effective policy requires understanding these relationships

# Fertility and Parental Retirement

- ▶ Fertility decisions may depend on the availability of child care
- ▶ Grandparents are an important source of informal child care
- ▶ Their ability to help depends on whether they are still working

**Question:** How do retirement opportunities influence fertility in the next generation?

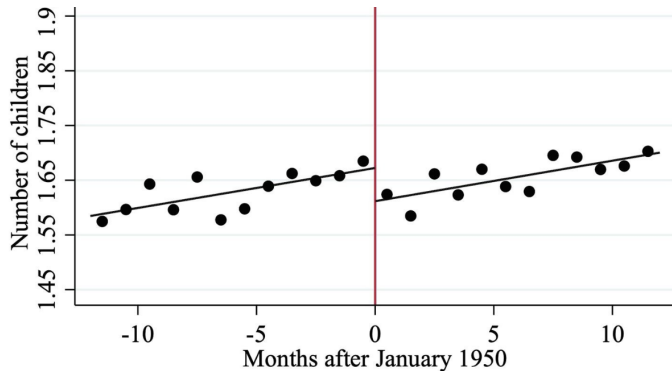
**Relevance:** Delaying retirement may undermine long-run pension sustainability

**Challenge:** Individuals with different retirement options (e.g. public vs. private sector) may differ systematically

**Solution:** Focus on the 2006 Dutch pension reform, which raised the retirement age only for those born after January 1, 1950

# Fertility and Parental Retirement

Women's fertility by their mother's month of birth



# Parenthood Timing and Gender Inequality

- ▶ Women work less and earn less than men
- ▶ Women bear most of the child care burden

**Question:** Is gender inequality caused by motherhood?

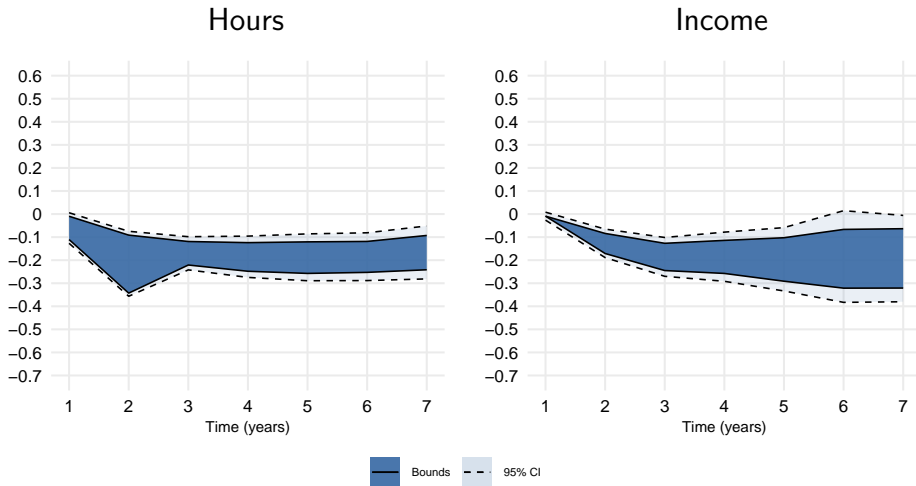
**Relevance:** What policies can address inequality depends on its underlying causes

**Challenge:** Parents may differ systematically from individuals without children

**Solution:** Focus on couples undergoing artificial insemination

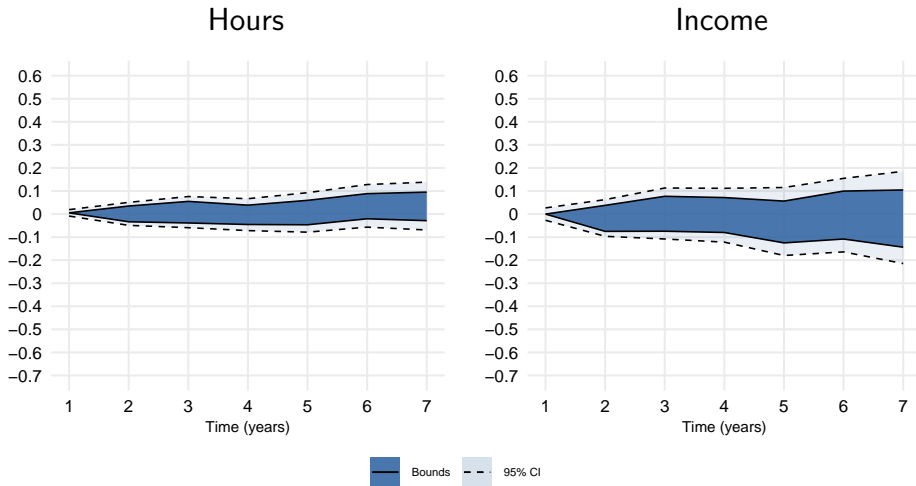
# Parenthood Timing and Gender Inequality

## Effects on women's outcomes



# Parenthood Timing and Gender Inequality

## Effects on men's outcomes



# The Only Child

- ▶ Having siblings requires sharing economic resources
- ▶ Sibling interactions may foster development

**Question:** How does the presence of siblings impact key determinants of future economic outcomes among firstborns, such as school performance and personality?

**Relevance:** Only children are increasingly common and will shape the future economy

**Challenge:** One-child families may differ systematically from families with multiple children

**Solution:** Focus on firstborns whose parents undergo in vitro fertilization for a second child



# The Only Child

## Causal Estimates Identified Using In Vitro Fertilization Success

Math	Reading	Agreeableness	Conscientiousness	Emotional Stability	School Happiness
-0.013	-0.003	-0.004	-0.005	-0.008	-0.016

Thanks :)

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