

Are daughters not enough?

The influence of female offspring on additional children

Randy Stache

Philipps-Universität Marburg

randy.stache@staff.uni-marburg.de

Antje Röder

Philipps-Universität Marburg

antje.roeder@staff.uni-marburg.de

Dr. Sabine Keller

Technische Universität Chemnitz

sabine.keller@soziologie.tu-chemnitz.de

The connection between son preferences and the number of children has been investigated in a variety of national contexts. Whereas in Western and Northern Europe no dominant son preferences and no impact on further fertility decisions seem to exist, female firstborns are associated with a higher likelihood for having additional children in other cultural contexts. This can be traced back to a gender specific value of children. We expect that these preferences remain after migration and change only gradually. Thus, the higher number of children migrants have might at least partially be explained by a higher likelihood to have further children if the previously born is/are female.

Since there are no empirical findings on this topic so far we use SOEP data to investigate to what extent differences in the likelihood to get another child can be traced back to the sex of the previously born and whether gender inequality variations in the country of origin are behind this.