

Paper til EAPS- møte i Tyskland 2016?

Is the Law of Nature in Human Fertility revealed in the rapid modernization of Northern Norway 1930-1980?

In my studies at University of Tromsø, Norway since the beginning in 1978, my subject has been the role of women's work under social and economic change in the Northernmost part of Norway. Many demographic indicators show that those areas represents the last modernized part of Europe. This modernization occurs very rapidly, during my own lifetime. In a remote village in the municipality where I was born in 1949. A midwife in a nearby village the beginning of 20. century discovered the last registered case of the disease lepra in Norway. In the 1930-ties the last people migrated from that very remote village.

For a long time it had been a main question if the size of the population in Northern Norway was reducing or growing. After many years of growing, the early 1980-ties there had been many years of reducing in the number of births. In addition, in 1982 was the first year in history Finnmark County fell under the country-level average in TFR.

At the same time I worked as a student at my upper level, where I compared two very different parts of Northern Norway. Sørbygda, is some coherent areas along the coast, and Manndalen who was more inland and very near the northernmost County, Finnmark. Both are geographic contiguous.

I sampled life events data for 1025 men and women, aged 31-50 who left ground school after the Second World War, they were everybody grown up there. I found a very comprising low number of children among the youngest women in Manndalen where there still lived old women with 10 or 11 children. The 61 eldest women, 43-50 years in my material had 4,3 in average. The level among the youngest in Manndalen was under the national level.

What in earth was the explanation to the low numbers of children among the youngest?

For many months, I looked at the number of children in every age group, the both sexes in both village, analysed and compared. It was 12 under groups at all, and the youngest women in Manndalen counts 185 woman. My search in literature about Fertility had not yet started, but a Norwegian NOU gave a resume of the theoretical field. Why does a group act according to Theory A, and another to Theory B? What was the logic behind that pattern?

At last I figured out what I call The Model of Forms of Provision, what I now am so rude or bold to name the Law of Nature for Human Fertility, historically total independent.

After all my readings, I recognised small parts of all the early theories, all from Levine, Caldwell to Easterlin. New Home Economics and at last the Princeton Project, I could not find anything contrary to my suggestions around 1985 who ended in the my thesis. Today I call it the law of Nature in Human Fertility..

Around any birth there are the Structure of Provision and the contribution are two kinds, material and immaterial. It became a Form when there are settled the four necessary elements,

1. the contributors
2. what their contribute consists of

3. what is the ideology of the Family,
4. what is standard of living, level of consumption

Social changes is the explanation behind each form. When a form is out of time it is not functioning, the number of child decreases. The Structure behind the Forms is unhistorical, and in reality, there are many living in mixed forms. The Princeton Project told about both clean and mixed forms.

The concept of Social Forms is constructed by the Swedish Anthropologist Fredrik Barth, but and the discipline sociology have contributed to the understanding at me. The stadium in Tromsø was interdisciplinary, a mixing of the most disciplines who outfits traditional and modern life.

I had sampled life events data for 1025 men and women born 1931 to 1970 in two geographically coherent areas in the south and another in the north o Troms County.

Those were both societies who had change from traditional occupations in fishing and agriculture, usually a mix of both in every household. The northernmost was mainly a Samee society, and there an ancient technique in weaving textiles discovered by an ethnographer in the 1950-ties.

During my studies I had to read briefly earlier studies if economic change in the areas. Since the start of University of Tromsø, all students had to learn a work of the most popular professor Ottar Brox. He concluded that a modernization of the economy not was necessary in north, they could still fish and do agriculture But my analyse show so many and so serious method faults, that it was hard for me to believe. Then I asked a historian, Narve Fulsås. Now a professor, to read it critically, but he could not find anything wrong. The teachers withdraw immediately just that much used work of Brox. But something had changed about my position. As a 2.-year student, I made a study who get high notes and at once became part of curriculum. Now it changed hardly, and I got very bad notes to exam. The analysis of Brox was 2.chapter there. In spite of the bad notes fact I got my scholarship very soon.

The explanation I found for the puzzling picture of fertility I saw in my material - for many years I called the Model of provision Forms. But now I see that it may be The Law of Human Fertility.(!!!!) There have been three main forms, the Household Provision, The One income Provision and today the Two Income Provision. All described briefly of demographers before me. What is my contribution is to identify and describe the Structure of Provision behind. How and why it changes.

A finished my doctoral degree, but two times refused. After the first, Michel Drake, a pensioned professor from Cambridge, read it and proposed to write a note of 3 pages. None of the remarks rejection is understandable. The first only had Critics of Brox as the only concrete item. They did not accept the main question – not at all. And in 1999 I was thrown out of the University, even another teacher few days before had borrowed an important demographic figure, and I said me willing still to work for free for the University the as a demographer.

It is my last hope that any University in any Nordic country could allow me to present my thesis in shortly described here. Only one copy is left and I bring it with me to Germany. Of cause, I still have my original manuscript. I am very sorry I am not good enough in English to present my doctoral work written in English, and to do this presentation better. As mentioned before I was number four of eight, so there was no money to send me further to education when I was a teenager, so all my ground education I had to get besides my daily work. As a 22 year old, I already was the mother of two.

I myself am a part of the rapid change in North Norwegian.
