



N i D i

Netherlands Interdisciplinary  
Demographic Institute

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Realities of parenthood and  
childbearing:  
Second nest parents

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GGP

Generations & Gender  
Programme

*How generations and gender shape demographic change  
Geneva, 14-16 May 2008*

## Second nest literature

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- Much literature on **Second unions** and **Late parenthood** but hardly any on Second nest parenthood
- If there is Second nest literature it is more on **fathers** than on mothers (and on animal behaviour)

## Definition Second nest

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This presentation focuses on:

- Men / women with two or more (biological) children, but from (at least two) different partners
- The children are half-brothers / sisters

# N i D i Share of 1 and 2+ nest parents among all parents

based on non-weighted GGS-data

Countries	Parents 1 nest	Parents 2+ nests (share fathers)
Georgia	98.1%	1.9% (0.56)
Bulgaria	97.4%	2.6% (0.41)
France	95.6%	4.4% (0.52)
Germany	94.5%	5.5% (0.38)
Russia	94.0%	6.0% (0.34)



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## Research questions

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- Is Second nest parenthood on the **increase**?
- What specific **profile** do Second nesters have?
- Are **contacts** with children from first and second nests similar?





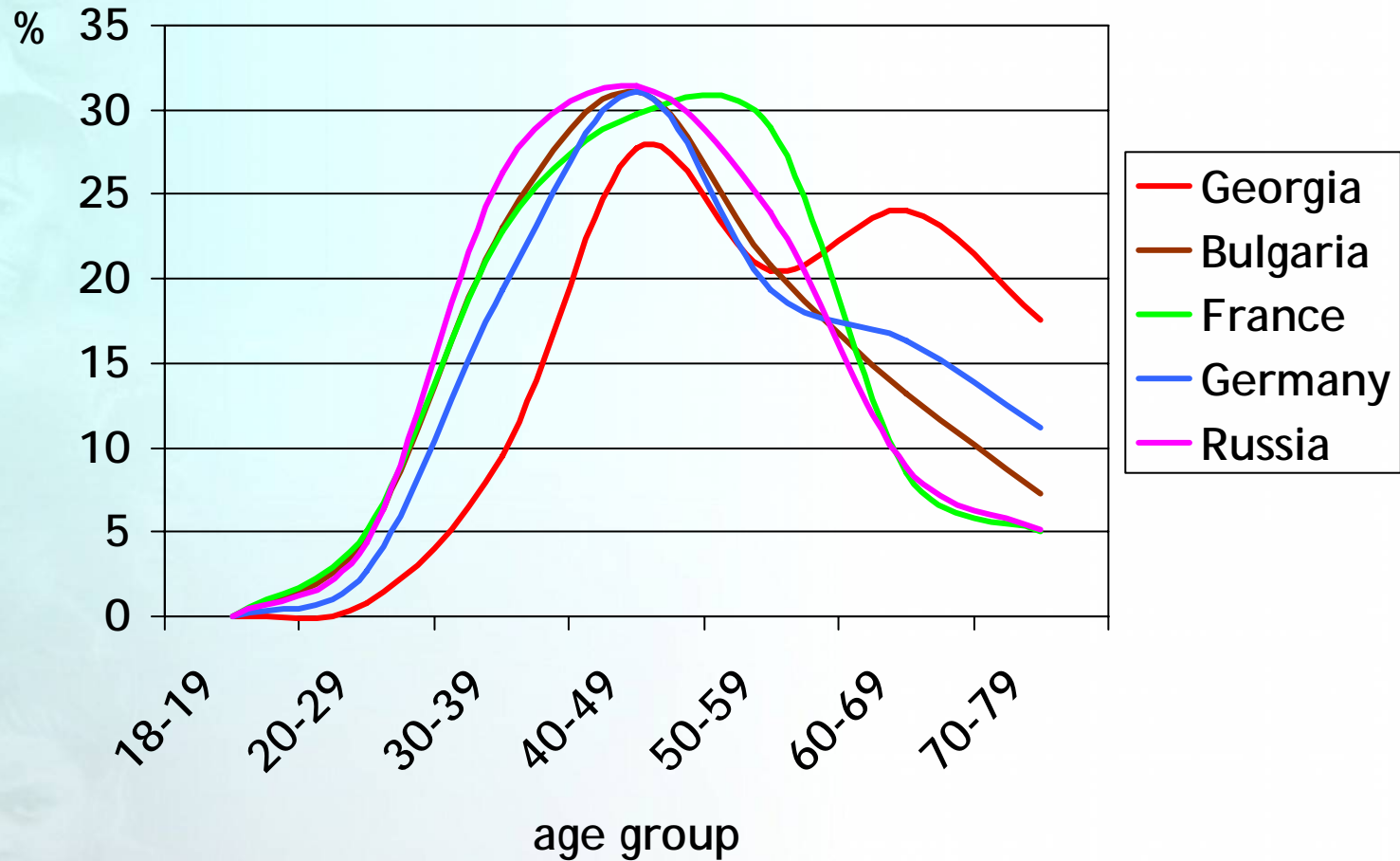
# N i D i Increase?

- YES (most likely a U-curve of persons with half-brothers / sisters in the population age pyramid)
- Previously mainly after early widowhood, which declined (one parent died)
- Intermezzo with low numbers of Second nesters
- Currently increase due to divorce (both parents still alive)



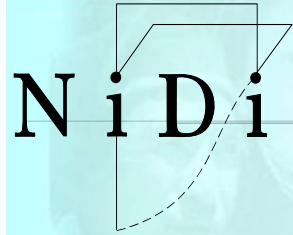
# N i D i Profile: Age distribution Second nest parents

based on non-weighted GGS-data



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# Profile: Second nest parents versus One nest parents

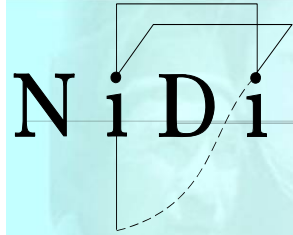
based on non-weighted GGS-data

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- Second nest parents have/are more often:
  - A younger female partner (SN fathers)
  - A childless female partner (SN fathers)
  - Born abroad (SN fathers)
  - Low education (SN mothers)
  - Progressive view on union behaviour (SN parents)

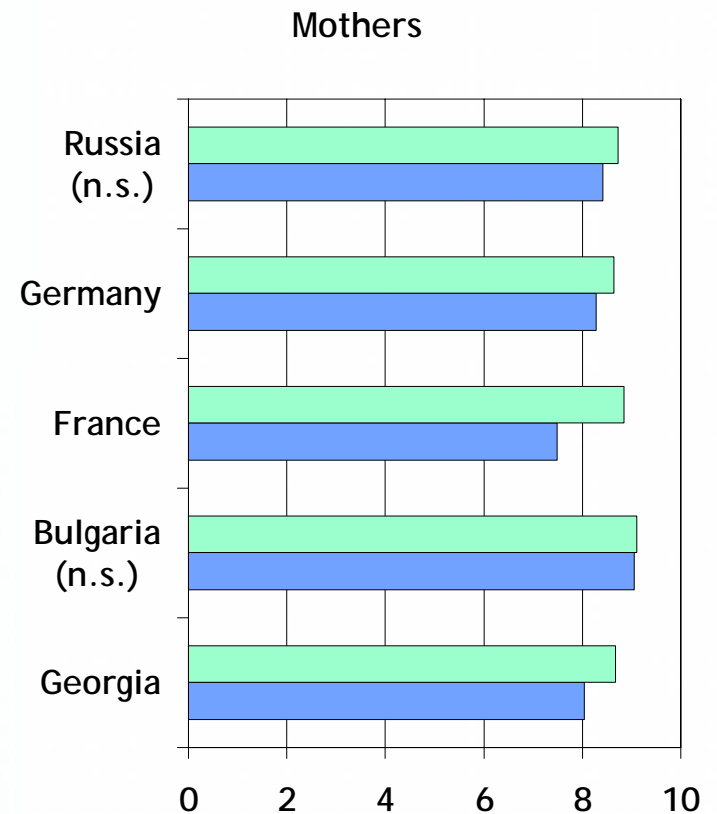
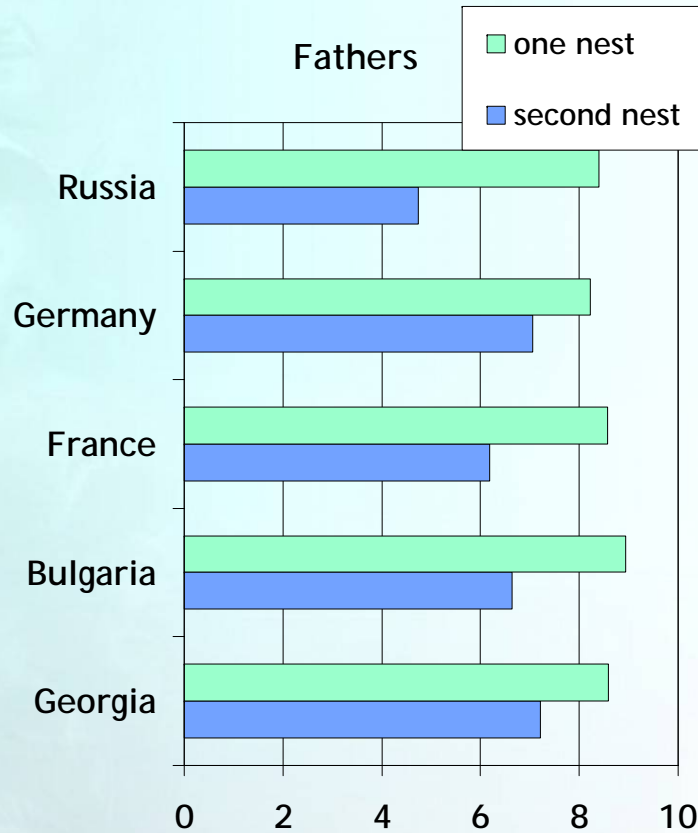






# Average satisfaction oldest child (18+) outside HH of 1 and 2+nest parents

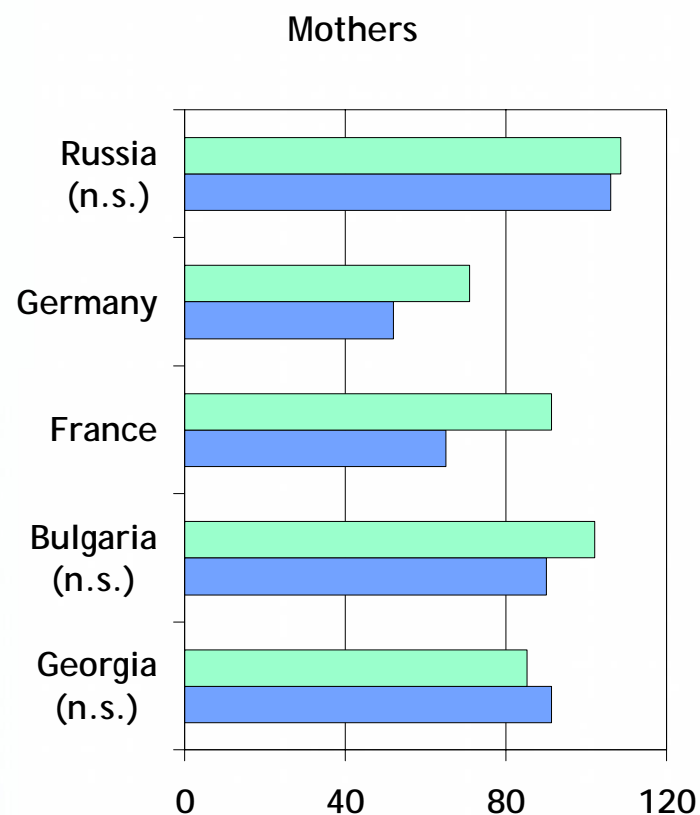
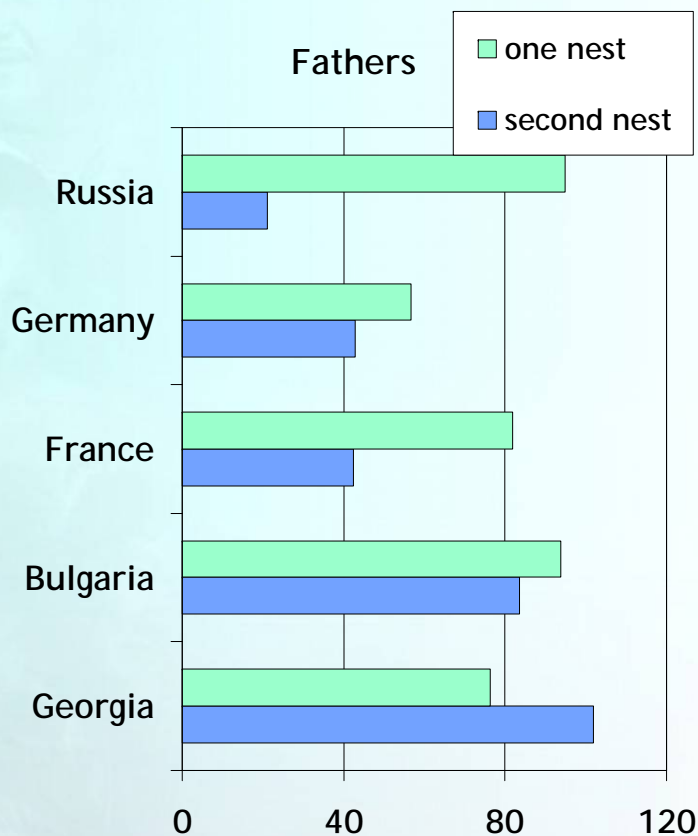
based on non-weighted GGS-data



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# Average contacts per year oldest child (18+) outside HH of 1 and 2+ nest parents

based on non-weighted GGS-data



# N i D i Hypothesis on why Second nest mother is not an issue

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- Children from different nests tend to live all together with their mother

However,

- Fathers are more often physically confronted with two different nests, coexisting at the same time



- Second nest parenthood is not a major issue (2-6% of all parents), but (most likely) on the increase
- More women than men have a Second nest
- Second nest parents have/are more often:
  - A younger female partner (SN fathers)
  - A childless female partner (SN fathers)
  - Born abroad (SN fathers)
  - Low education (SN mothers)
  - Progressive view on union behaviour (SN parents)
- Second nesters have lower contacts/satisfaction with First nest children than One nest parents

# Policy implications

- Specifically men (age difference with woman can be large) may, after divorce, be confronted with separate nests: are they able to communicate with these children similarly? Do they have the same solidarity to first/second nest children?
- Later on children of divorced parents have difficulties in union formation and family building behaviour (as they were confronted with disturbed parental role models).  
Maybe first/second nest children later on have even more disturbed union and family formation behaviour if they also have to suffer from conflicts with half-brothers/sisters?
- Offers co-parenthood a guarantee that children have one standard: where and with whom they live, and what rules apply?