

# Is the South Still Different?

## Family solidarity and welfare provision for Spanish youth

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## Southern Family Model

Forms of family solidarity vary sharply between North and Southern European countries. Some of the most frequently mentioned “specificities” of the Southern Model include:

- **Socio-demographic**
  - Low cohabitation rates
  - Low female employment rates
  - Low divorce rates
- **Family-oriented values**
  - Positive feelings toward family life and marriage

Strong expectations of love and respect between parents and children

Gender-biased allocation of responsibilities in bringing up children

- Strong reliance on the family for welfare assistance

Importance of help networks within kinship

Small contribution of the welfare state to the protection of families

## Generation relay: blurring of specificities?

- Rapid shift of socio-demographic indicators

cohabitation rates

female employment rates

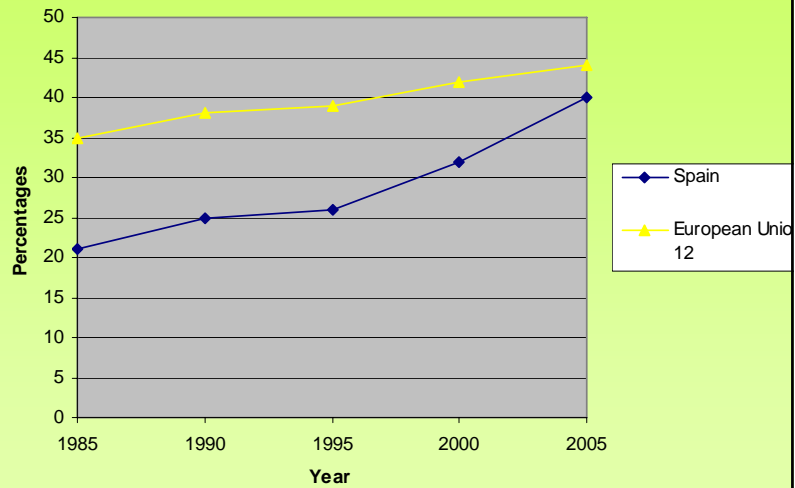
divorce rates

- Less family-oriented parents

Obligations toward children are felt less strongly

Motherhood plays a less central role in young women's biography

### Female activity rates



### Gender and childbearing from a cohort perspective

% Agree with:	Age groups		
	15-29	30-49	50 and more
Parents duty is to do the best for their children even at the expense of their own well being	69	77	91
Women really want a home and children	30	37	65
A woman has to have children to be fulfilled	31	39	64
Being a housewife is just as fulfilling as working for pay	40	43	68
Pre-school child suffer with a working mother	30	37	62
A working mother can establish a warm an secure relationship with her children	85	80	69

Source: WWS 1999

### Female duties

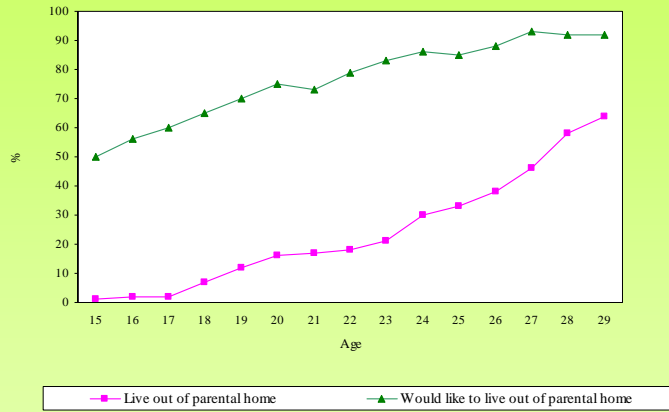
It is the mother's duty to:	Age groups	
	25-34	+ 65
Replace swaddling clot	4,3	21
Feed her baby	4,7	22
Bath her baby	5,5	22
Take care of her sick child	3,9	22
Take children to school	1,7	11
Cuddle her child if she cries at night	4,3	18

Source: CIS 2005

## New “specificities”?

- The model's performance leaves the young dissatisfied
  - Family solidarity does not meet needs and demands of the young
  - Gap between the young and the elderly in regards to views on welfare
- Under-provision of public assistance or age-biased provision?
  - Programs targeted at the young are underfunded
  - Low impact of welfare transfers in reducing poverty

**Preferences and actual living arrangements of young people**  
(Percentages)



**Ratio between realized fertility and desired fertility**

	1989	2000
Denmark	0,8	0,8
United Kingdom	0,8	0,8
Sweden	...	0,7
Belgium	0,8	0,7
France	0,8	0,7
Germany	0,8	0,7
Ireland	0,8	0,7
Finland	...	0,7
Netherlands	0,7	0,6
Italy	0,7	0,5
Greece	0,7	0,5
<b>Spain</b>	<b>0,8</b>	<b>0,5</b>
UE 12 average	0,8	0,6

Source: 1989 data come from Eurobarometer 32 and Eurostat Database. 2000 data from Gosta Esping-Andersen, *Why We Need a New Welfare State* (Nueva York: Oxford University Press, 2002), p. 64.

Who is primarily responsible for providing assistance to people in need  
(Percentages)

The primary responsibility lie in:	Age groups:				Total
	18-33	34-49	50-64	65 and more	
The Family	23%	26%	31%	40%	28%
The State	52	51	46	35	47
Society through non-for-profit organizations	19	17	15	17	17
Each person should care about her own problems	3,4	2,6	2,1	2,0	2,7
DK/NA	3,4	3,6	5,9	6,8	4,5
Total	100%				
(N)	(412)	(302)	(281)	(205)	(1.200)

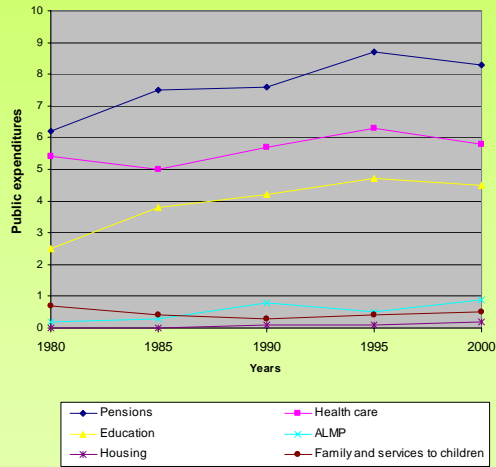
Source: CIRES, *Demandas sociales de bienestar*,

Public Programs in which the State invests to little

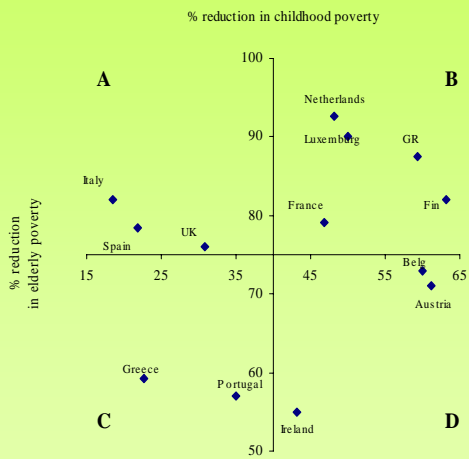
Public programs	Total	Age groups			
		18-33	34-49	50-64	65 and more
Education	47	47	55	49	31
Unemployment	41	48	42	40	28
Housing	62	69	66	61	45
Health Care	49	49	55	51	38
Pensions	51	45	52	56	55
(N)	(2490)	(768)	(715)	(494)	(513)

Source: CIS, 2005

**Public expenditures in youth and elderly-friendly programs  
(as % of GDP)**



**Percentage of the elderly and the young that move out of poverty after receiving public transfers**



Source: ECHP, 1999

## Conclusion

- The South is still different, but what makes it different has changed
- Change brings about “winners” and “losers”
- Kinship ties remain strong, while there is a potential for generational conflict over welfare assistance