

A dark blue background featuring a faint, light blue world map with a grid overlay. The map shows the continents of North America, South America, Europe, Africa, and Asia.

# Preparations for the 20th anniversary of the International Year of the Family

Ignacio Socías - The Family Watch·IFFD.  
Doha Briefing, 3 February 2012.

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FOR FAMILY DEVELOPMENT

# Major objectives for the 20th anniversary of the IYF



- Review challenges faced by families
- Recommend solutions
- Support families in their functions
- Share good practices on family policies

# Proposed themes for the 20th anniversary of the IYF



- Confronting family poverty and social exclusion
- Ensuring work-family balance
- Advancing social integration and intergenerational solidarity within families and communities

# Our statement for CSocD

United Nations

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The Secretary-General has received the following statement, which is being circulated in accordance with paragraphs 36 and 37 of Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31.

- A new concept of social exclusion?
- Social and emotional exclusion in later life
- The progressive feminization of poverty
- The indebted
- Children as the weakest victims

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# Elderly exclusion



A recent British study shows that one in five pensioners in the UK lives below the official poverty line and bearing in mind the narrow and arbitrary nature of this measurement, there are many more older people whose quality of life is far too low, with a bitter experience of loneliness and exclusion.

# Children's well-being



Ipsos MORI  
Social Research Institute



In partnership with Dr Agnes Nain

**Children's Well-being in UK, Sweden and Spain:  
The Role of Inequality and Materialism**

A Qualitative Study

June 2011

A recent British study paints a complex picture of the relationship between well-being, materialism and inequality across Spain, Sweden and the UK. Children want time with their parents, good relationships with their friends and lots of stimulating things to do.

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# Some topics · Flexibility

Numéro 481 — Septembre 2011

**POPULATION & SOCIÉTÉS**

**La fécondité remonte dans les pays de l'OCDE: est-ce dû au progrès économique?**  
*Angela Luci\* et Olivier Thévenon\*\**

Lessor économique et l'amélioration des conditions de vie amorcés en Europe et en Amérique du Nord il y a plus de deux siècles et qui se sont diffusés sur la planète ont été accompagnés d'une diminution importante du nombre d'enfants par femme. Faut-il en déduire que plus un pays est développé, plus sa fécondité est basse ? Ce n'est pas si simple. La fécondité remonte dans beaucoup de pays riches. Angela Luci et Olivier Thévenon nous expliquent pourquoi.

La fécondité a baissé rapidement dans les pays développés dans la seconde moitié du 20<sup>e</sup> siècle, époque marquée par une croissance économique ininterrompue dans ces pays. Un retournement de tendance s'est cependant produit dans la dernière décennie, la fécondité se mettant à augmenter dans les pays les plus riches sans que le progrès économique cesse pour autant. La relation entre niveau de développement économique et fécondité, négative au départ – à un niveau économique plus élevé est associée une fécondité plus basse – devient en général positive à partir d'un certain niveau de développement – la fécondité augmente quand le niveau économique progresse. Quelles en sont les raisons ? À quel niveau de progrès économique se fait le changement ? Examinons en détail les évolutions survenues au cours des cinquante dernières années dans les pays de l'OCDE<sup>(1)</sup> [1].

◆ **La fécondité remonte dans les pays les plus développés**

La fécondité, mesurée par l'indicateur synthétique de fécondité (voir encadré pour la définition et le calcul), a nettement baissé dans l'ensemble des pays de l'OCDE entre 1960 et 2006 jusqu'à se situer en dessous du seuil de

remplacement des générations de 2,1 enfants par femme (figure 1A) [1]. Mais si on distingue les périodes avant et après 1995, on observe qu'après avoir baissé jusqu'en 1995, la fécondité a légèrement réaugmenté depuis dans une majorité de pays. Dans l'ensemble des pays de l'OCDE, elle est passée en moyenne de 1,69 enfant en 1995 à 1,71 en 2006. Le rebond a été particulièrement marqué en Espagne, France, Belgique, Royaume-Uni et Irlande (figure 1B). C'est seulement aux États-Unis, en Islande et en Nouvelle-Zélande que l'indicateur est remonté jusqu'au seuil de remplacement de 2,1 enfants. Cette remontée tient en partie au ralentissement du mouvement de retard des naissances au sein des couples sans que ceux-ci aient forcément plus d'enfants (encadré [2]).

◆ **Développement économique et fécondité**

Pour examiner les relations entre le niveau économique d'un pays et sa fécondité, il faut d'abord choisir une mesure du progrès économique. Pour prendre en compte ses dimensions multiples, Myrskylä, Kohler et Billari [4] utilisent l'indice de développement humain (IDH), qui combine l'espérance de vie à la naissance, le niveau d'instruction et le niveau de richesse, mesuré par le PIB par tête. L'IDH a l'avantage de prendre en compte non seulement la croissance économique, mais aussi celle du bien-être. En revanche, il ne prend pas en compte le niveau de redistribution et les questions d'écologie et de

\* Institut national d'études démographiques (INED).  
\*\* INED et OCDE (les opinions exprimées ici n'engagent que leurs auteurs).  
(1) Organisation de coopération et de développement économiques.

Éditorial – La fécondité remonte dans les pays de l'OCDE: est-ce dû au progrès économique ?  
\* La fécondité remonte dans les pays les plus développés – p. 1 • Développement économique et fécondité – p. 1 • Une courbe en forme de J inversé – p. 2 • La croissance du PIB: insuffisamment à expliquer la remontée de la fécondité – p. 2 • Un facteur clé de la recrudescence entre travail et famille pour les femmes – p. 4  
Écoutez: Mesurer la fécondité – p. 4

A recent French study shows that the OECD countries with the most working women have higher fertility rates, which can be seen as a sign that working women are better able to balance work and family, probably because their job gives them more economic capacity.

# Indebted



Research has found that youth unemployment leaves a 'wage scar' that can persist into middle age. The longer the period of unemployment, the bigger the effect. And the scarring effects are not necessarily restricted to the people who are actually unemployed.

# Family stability

## When couples part:

Understanding the consequences  
for adults and children

Lester Coleman and Fiona Glenn  
One Plus One



Executive summary

with foreword by Professor Sir Michael Rutter

ONE  
PLUS  
ONE

Building relationships  
strengthening families

A recent British study that approaches the topic of the effects of couple relationship breakdown on the basis of a “dispassionate, thoughtful, critical assessment of the evidence” shows the urgent need to increase the policy recognition of promoting family functioning and stability.

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# Divorce effects



## State of the art report

*“The Effects of Marital Instability on Children’s  
Well-being and Intergenerational Relations”*

Anna Garriga  
Pompeu Fabra University  
anna.garriga@upf.edu

Juho Härkönen  
Swedish Institute for Social Research (SOFI)  
Stockholm University  
juho.harkonen@sociology.su.se

A recent Swedish study shows that parental divorce has the potential to create a major turmoil in children’s lives, even more when is treated as a process of unpartnering which has possibly started years before the actual divorce becomes legal.

# Divorce prevention

## Second Chances

A PROPOSAL  
TO REDUCE UNNECESSARY DIVORCE

*Presented to U.S. State Legislatures*

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Principal Investigators

William J. Doherty

*Professor of Family Social Science, University of Minnesota*

Leah Ward Sears

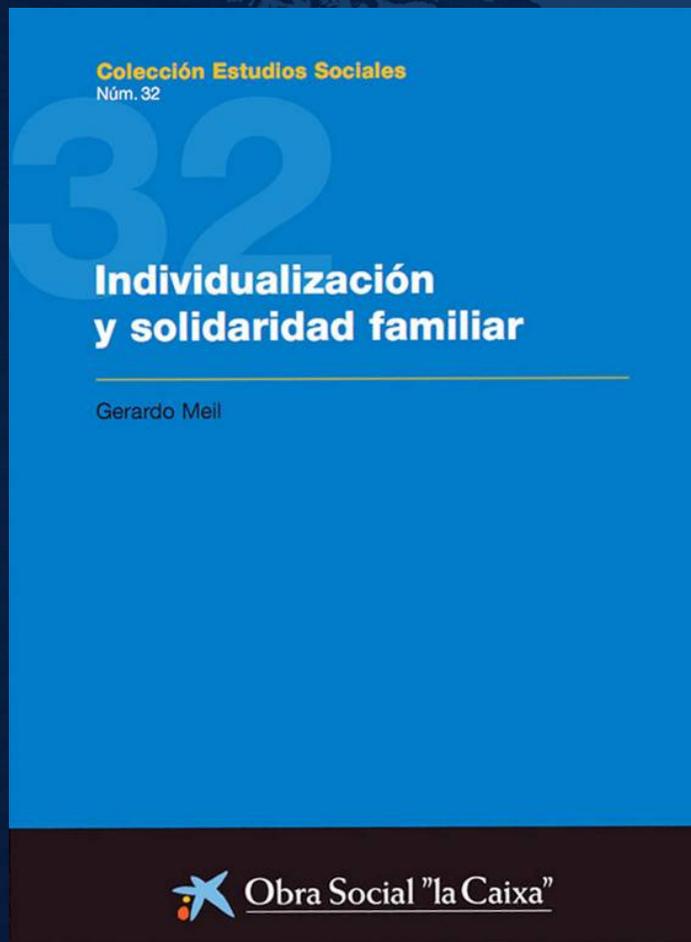
*Georgia Supreme Court Chief Justice (retired)*

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A recent American study shows that 40% of couples already deeply into the divorce process are interested in the possibility of reconciliation, that a modest reduction in divorce would benefit more than 400,000 children each year and that it would produce significant savings for taxpayers.

# Family solidarity



A recent Spanish study shows that, in spite of all the social changes that have taken place in the past decades favoring individualization, intergenerational solidarity within the family has remained untouched and has even grown in these times of recession.

# Conclusions and proposals (1)

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- Organization of social awareness campaigns about new kinds of social exclusion
- Targeting and dissemination of good practices to promote the involvement of older people in their families and in community activities

# Conclusions and proposals (2)

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- Provision of financial help and special credits to women living in poverty
- Promotion of credit and microcredit programmes to help young entrepreneurs to start their own businesses

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# Conclusions and proposals (3)

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- Support social recognition of family stability and prevent breakups through parenting courses

*We run more than 1,100 courses and other events every year in 60 countries for over 50,000 people.*

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