

Local Welfare and Gender Attitudes in the Czech Republic

by Steven Saxonberg

Professor of sociology at the Masaryk University in Brno, Czech Republic and

Guest professor of sociology and political science at Södertörn College in Sweden

Paper presented at the ESPAnet conference in Budapest in September, 2010.

Since I only have had a few hours to write this paper, this is very preliminary and the calculations are very simple. In a later version I plan to add more countries and use more sophisticated statistical methods. This conference paper confines itself to the ESS survey from 2004, which includes questions about gender. Even though some of the questions are formed in a better manner than in the ISSP surveys from 1994 and 2002, the ESS survey suffers from not asking enough questions on gender to make it possible to develop good scales that measure gender attitudes. Besides having some better worded questions, the ESS survey also has the advantage that it asks questions about the size of the place where one lives, which also allows one to take this into account in the analysis.

In conducting reliability analysis and also exploratory factor analysis, I discovered that only three questions (out of 5) on gender attitudes scaled well together and they built one scale. This was true for both the Czech Republic and the entire sample including all of the survey countries. The three questions were whether one strongly agrees (=1), agrees (=2), neither agrees nor disagrees (=3), disagrees (=4) or strongly disagrees (=5) with the following issues:

- Woman should be prepared to cut down on paid work for sake of family
- Men should have more right to job than women when jobs are scarce
- Children in home, parents should stay together even if don't get along

I named the variable “confam” for conservative family values. Cronbach’s alpha for the entire sample was a rather acceptable .630, although it was slightly less for the Czech Republic. In order to make it a scale that starts at 0, I added the scores of the three variables together and subtracted 3, so the scale was between 0-12. The variable about domiciles does not become significant, but it is also hard to use it as an ordinal variable, so instead I created two dummy variables: one if the respondent lives in a big city and one if the respondent lives in a country village. Since all of the questions are formulated in a conservative manner, in which agreeing with conservative views gives a low score and disagreeing with them gives a high score, then a

higher score indicates more “feminist” attitudes and a lower score indicates more “traditional” or conservative values.

Coefficients^a

Model		Unstandardized Coefficients		Standardized Coefficients	t	Sig.
		B	Std. Error	Beta		
1	(Constant)	-58,254	6,704		-8,689	,000
	Gender	,614	,117	,117	5,228	,000
	Year of birth	,032	,003	,213	9,284	,000
	Highest level of education, Czech Republic	,186	,026	,165	7,205	,000
	Household's total net income, all sources	-,001	,034	,000	-,038	,970
	bigcity	-,569	,157	-,085	-3,627	,000
	village	-,821	,136	-,141	-6,014	,000

a. Dependent Variable: confam

R-Square = .118

Adjusted R-Square=.115

n=1796

Besides the variables indicating where somebody lives, the other variables are ones that commonly are used for studies on gender attitudes and usually are statistically significant. As the table above shows, all of the variables are indeed statistically significant except for household income. This is not so surprising as for attitudes toward gender we would expect educational level to be more important, so that once one controls for education, income is not so important. That is, those with a higher education tend to be more supportive of gender equality. What is surprising in this present case is the fact that living with a big city is negatively correlated with feminist views. Those living in cities are more likely to support conservative gender views. This is rather strange, since normally we assume that people in big cities are more open to feminist views than those living in the countryside.

One interesting question that did not scale well is concerns whether one believes that men should share equally in the household and childraising tasks. This question says the most about gender equality. Since it is an ordinal variable (again from 1 to 5) I used ordinal logit regression in STATA.

```
Ordered logistic regression          Number of obs   =       3026
                                   LR chi2(6)         =       119.05
                                   Prob > chi2        =       0.0000
Log likelihood = -3972.2489         Pseudo R2       =       0.0148
```

```
-----+-----
```

mnrspbm	Coef.	Std. Err.	z	P> z	[95% Conf. Interval]	
bigcity	.3212643	.0899672	3.57	0.000	.1449318	.4975968
village	.0301237	.0783734	0.38	0.701	-.1234854	.1837327
edlvcz	-.0006411	.0060245	-0.11	0.915	-.012449	.0111667
yrbrn	.0000343	.0000261	1.32	0.188	-.0000168	.0000854
gndr	-.6630486	.0682192	-9.72	0.000	-.7967557	-.5293416
hinctnt	.0019309	.000933	2.07	0.038	.0001023	.0037594

```
-----+-----
```

/cut1	-1.410971	.1352402			-1.676036	-1.145905
/cut2	.3363132	.1322071			.0771921	.5954343
/cut3	1.511324	.1385245			1.239821	1.782827
/cut4	2.3908	.153541			2.089865	2.691734
/cut5	2.755852	.1641602			2.434104	3.0776

```
-----+-----
```

The results in the table above show that living in a big city is statistically significant, as is gender and net family income. Thus, in contrast to the previous regression, now income rather than educational level becomes important, an outcome that is difficult to explain. Once again

living in a big city is significant, but again in a conservative direction, which again is rather surprising. Perhaps in the Czech Republic, those living in big cities are wealthier and thus, are more able to implement the male breadwinner model in their families than families living in smaller towns?

Another interesting question concerns the availability of childcare. One question asks whether the respondent “would ideally like more or less childcare in the present situation.” In the cases in which grandparents were taking care of children, only about 15% would like more childcare. In the cases, however, in which another family member (excluding ex-partners), then nearly 23% would like more childcare. Thus the availability of grandparents seems to matter for views toward childcare.

```
Ordered logistic regression          Number of obs   =       2329
                                     LR chi2(7)       =       16.84
                                     Prob > chi2      =       0.0185
Log likelihood = -1602.2674         Pseudo R2       =       0.0052
```

```
-----+-----
```

	Coef.	Std. Err.	z	P> z	[95% Conf. Interval]	
cldcrmr						
bigcity	.447533	.1422023	3.15	0.002	.1688216	.7262444
village	.194673	.1208659	1.61	0.107	-.0422198	.4315658
edlvcz	-.0104393	.0080254	-1.30	0.193	-.0261688	.0052902
yrbrn	-.0000124	.0000374	-0.33	0.741	-.0000857	.000061
gnr	-.1958931	.1035759	-1.89	0.059	-.398898	.0071119
hinctnt	.0008359	.0014445	0.58	0.563	-.0019952	.003667
Trust	-.0007963	.0030849	-0.26	0.796	-.0068426	.0052501

```
-----+-----
```

Again, those living in big cities seem to be more conservative, as they are less likely to want more or much more childcare. In fact, this is the only variable that is significant at the 5% level, although gender is nearly significant (i.e. women are more likely than men to think there should be greater access to childcare). This result could be because people living in big cities are generally more conservative than others or it could be because childcare is more available in big cities. Even though public nurseries are nearly extinct, there are still 10 of them in Prague as well

as some private nurseries. In addition, in a big city other private options such as baby-sitting are easier to organize.

In summary, a few hours of work is not enough to write a strong paper, but even this quick analysis gives the interesting and surprising result about inhabitants of big cities in the Czech Republic having more conservative gender attitudes and being less interested in building out childcaring facilities than those living outside of big cities.