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# Research highlights on Europe's demographic developments

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**Bocconi**

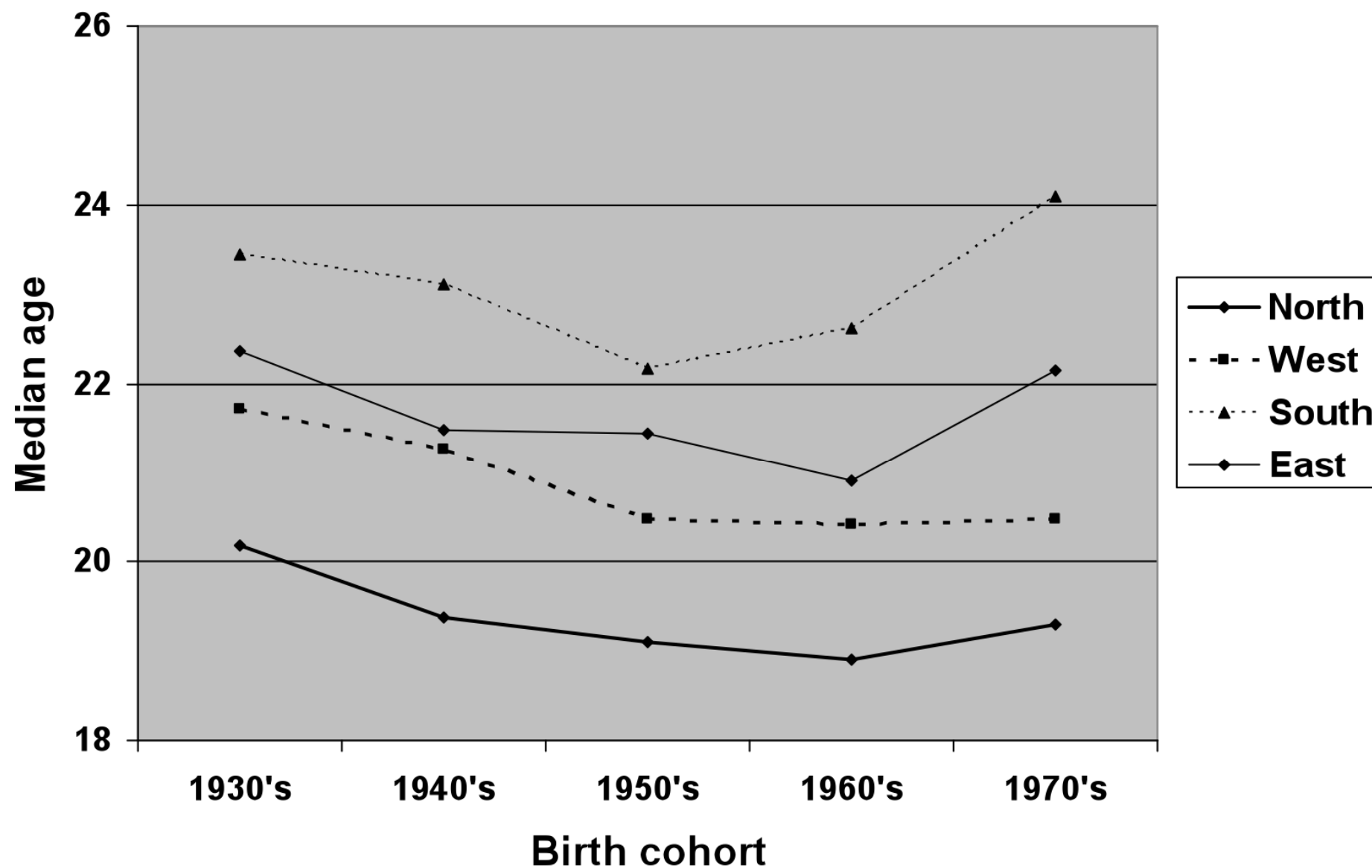
# Outline

- The changing lives of Europeans
- Fertility and well-being
- “Replacement” migration?

# The changing lives of Europeans

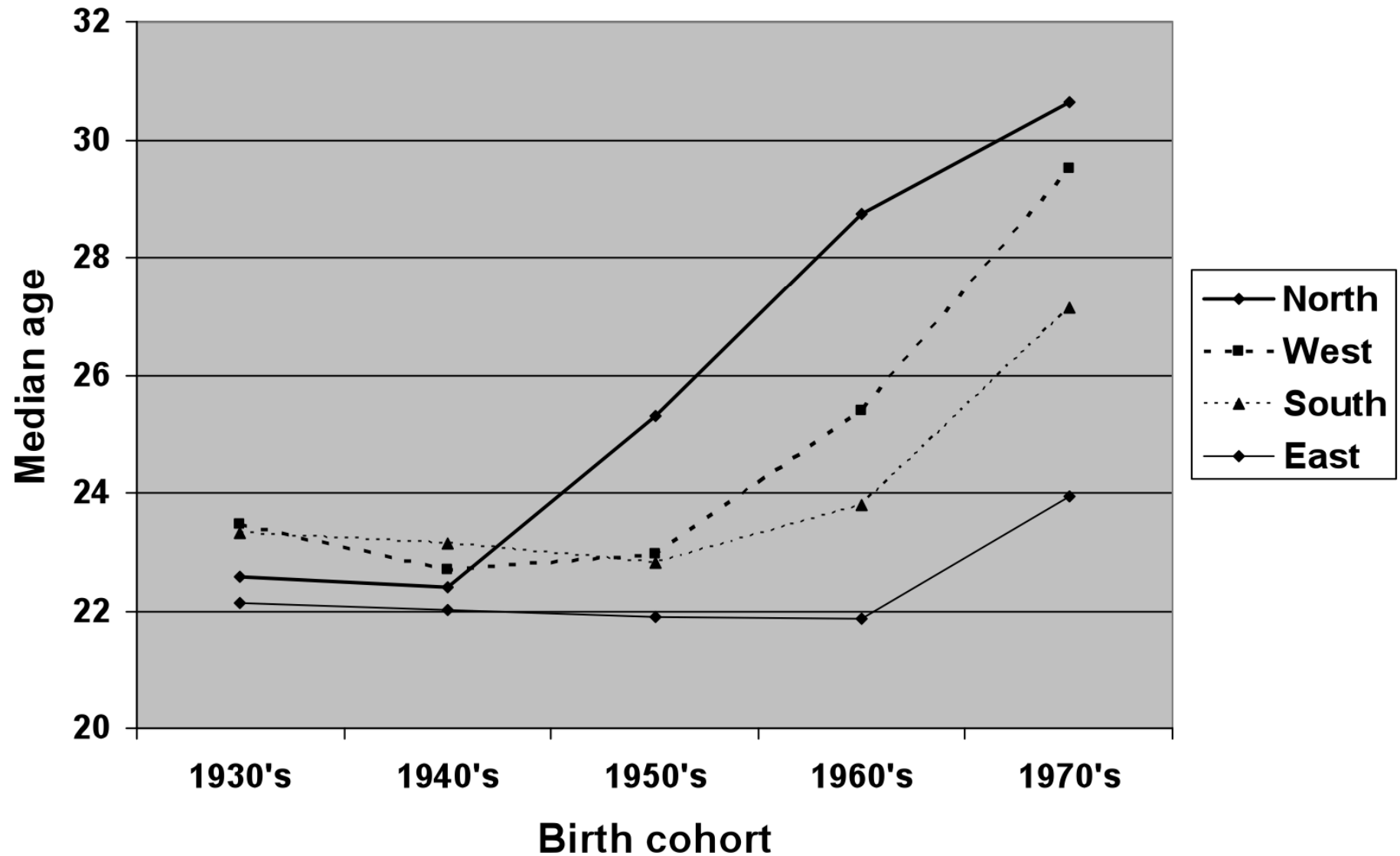
- The “calendar” of life has been changing
- Longer permanence in the parental home
- Later family formation & fertility
- (Longer life)

## Median age at leaving home for women in different European regions, by birth cohort



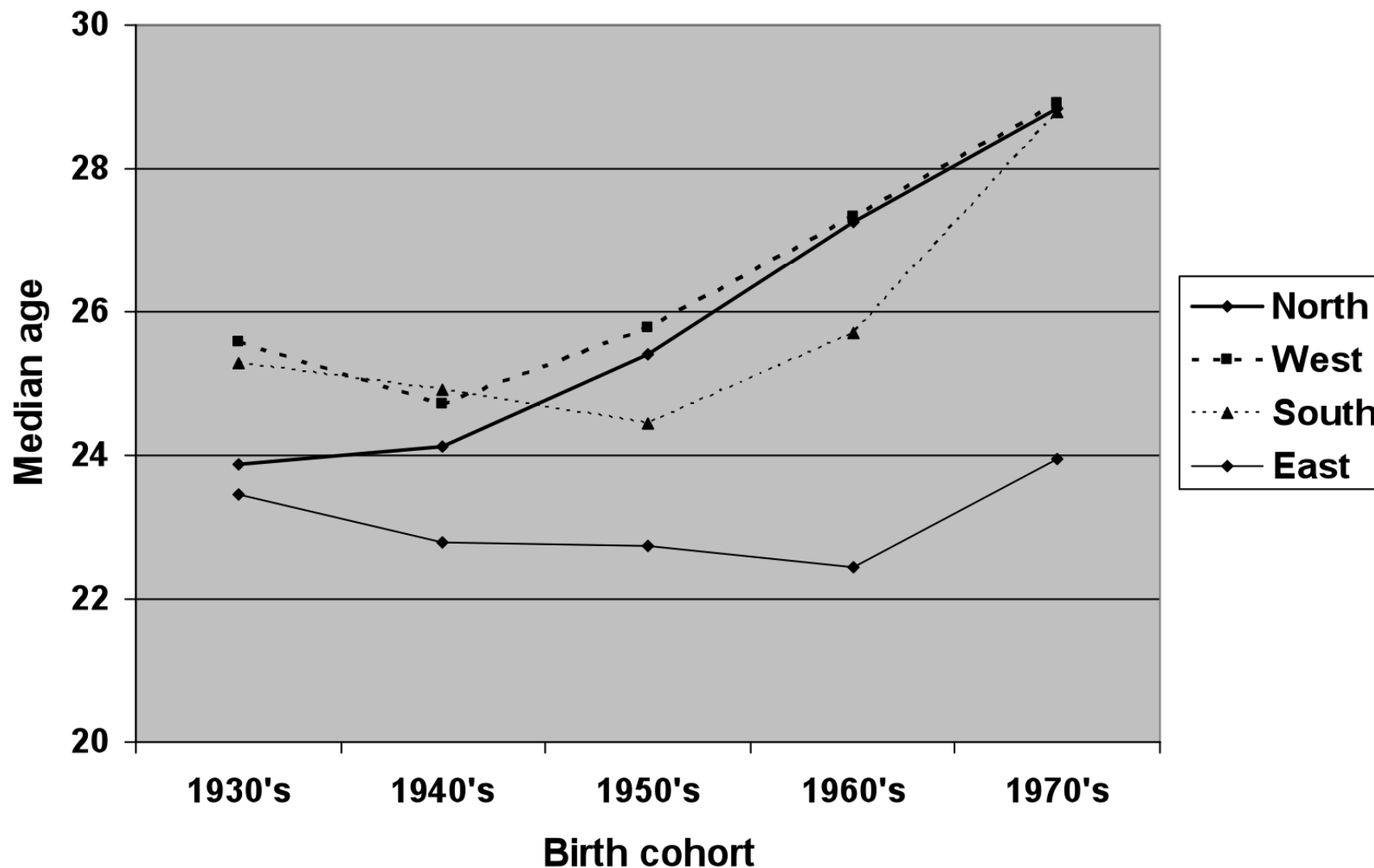
Source: F.C. Billari & A.C. Liefbroer (2010) "Towards a new pattern of transition to adulthood?", *Advances in Life Course Research*, forthcoming. Data: European Social Survey, round 3 (2006),

# Median age at first marriage for women in different European regions, by birth cohort



Source: F.C. Billari & A.C. Liefbroer (2010) "Towards a new pattern of transition to adulthood?" *Advances in Life Course Research*, forthcoming. Data: European Social Survey, round 3 (2006), *Famiglia e soggetti sociali* (2003).

# Median age at first childbirth for women in different European regions, by birth cohort

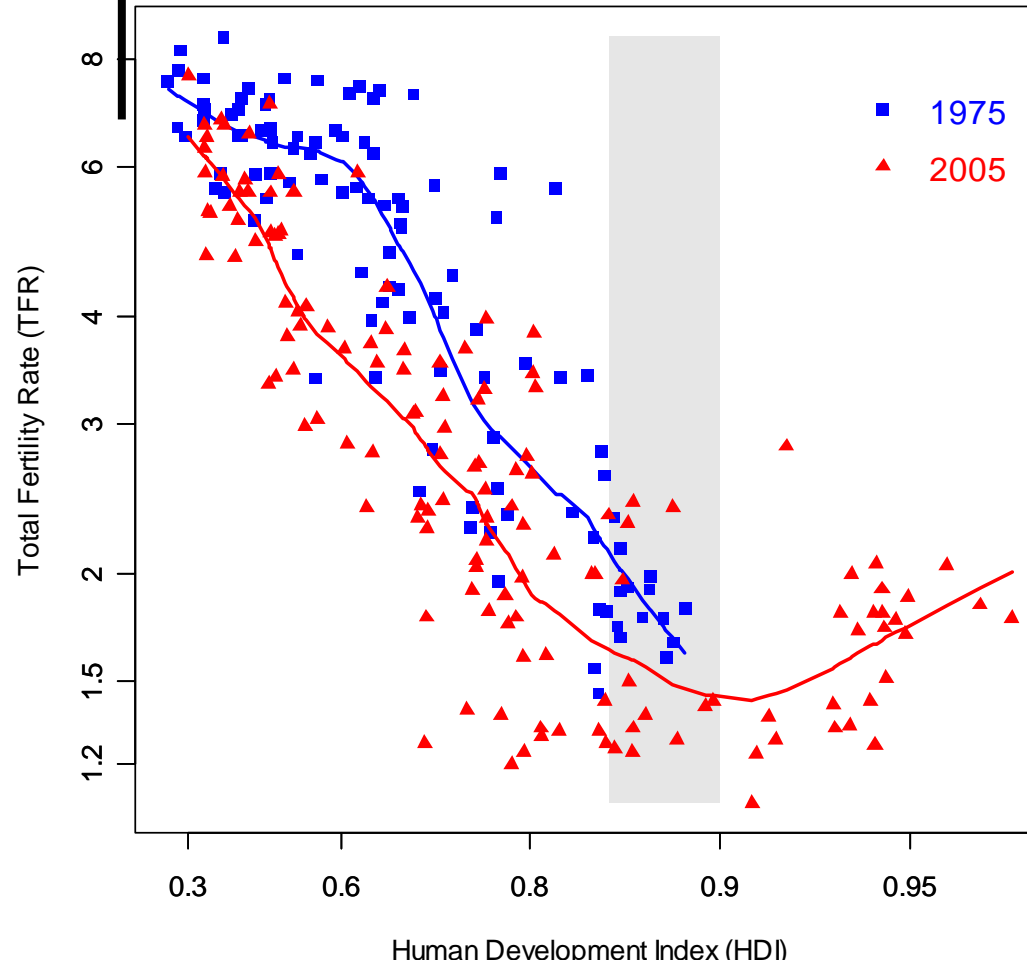


Source: F.C. Billari & A.C. Liefbroer (2010) "Towards a new pattern of transition to adulthood?" *Advances in Life Course Research*, forthcoming. Data: European Social Survey, round 3 (2006), Famiglia e soggetti sociali (2003).

## Fertility and well-being

- Fertility: nothing is like it used to be even just three decades ago...

# The relationship between fertility and development is reversing

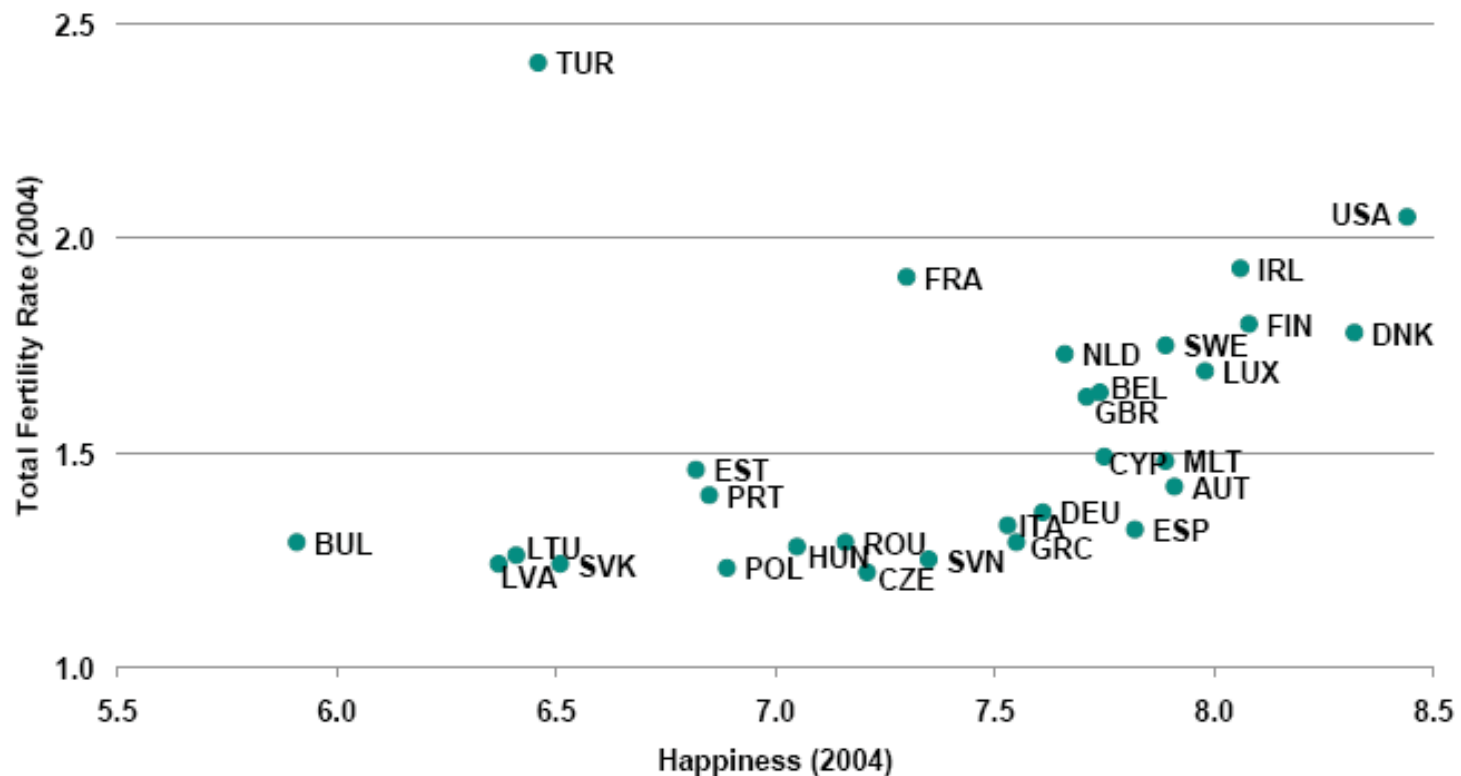


	HDI	TFR
Australia	0.966	1.77
Norway	0.961	1.84
Iceland	0.956	2.05
Ireland	0.950	1.88
Luxembourg	0.949	1.70
Sweden	0.947	1.77
Canada	0.946	1.51
Netherlands	0.945	1.73
Finland	0.945	1.80
France	0.945	1.92
United States	0.944	2.05
Japan	0.943	1.26
Denmark	0.943	1.80
Switzerland	0.942	1.42
Belgium	0.940	1.72
New Zealand	0.938	2.00
Spain	0.938	1.33
United Kingdom	0.936	1.80
Italy	0.934	1.32
Austria	0.934	1.41
Israel	0.922	2.82
Greece	0.918	1.28
Germany	0.916	1.36
Slovenia	0.913	1.23
S. Korea	0.911	1.08

Source: M. Myrskylä, H.-P. Kohler & F.C. Billari (2009)  
 "Advances in Development Reverse Fertility Declines",  
*Nature*, vol. 460.

# ***Fertility is now positively associated with happiness (subjective well-being)***

Figure I  
Cross-country relationship between total fertility rate and happiness (2004).



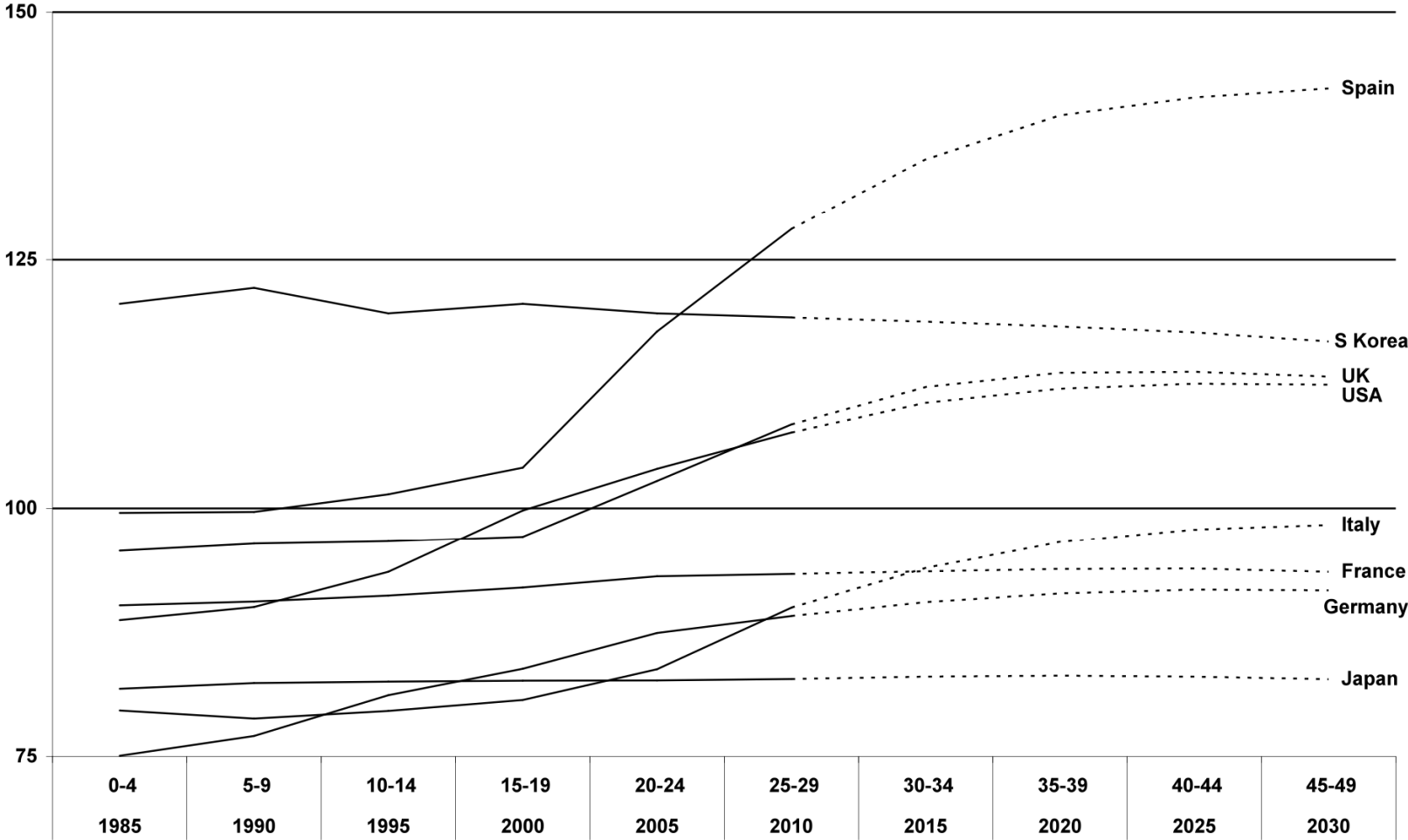
Source: European Demographic Data Sheet (VID-PRB) and Veenhoven, R., World Database of Happiness, Erasmus University Rotterdam.

Source: F.C. Billari (2009) "The Happiness Commonality: Fertility Decisions in Low Fertility Settings". In UNECE, *How Generations and Gender Shape Demographic Change*. New York and Geneva: United Nations.

## “Replacement” migration?

- In some countries, immigrants are “replacing” smaller birth cohorts

**Ratio (per 100): cohort of individuals born 1980-84 and their potential “parents” (born 1950-54)**



Source: F.C. Billari & G. Dalla-Zuanna “Is replacement migration actually taking place in lowest low fertility countries?”, work in progress. Data: UN Population Division.



We need good data  
sources....

Thank you!