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# Family living arrangements in young adulthood

## Cross-national comparative analyses

**Katrin Vanessa Schwanitz**

1. To arrive at a better understanding of the dynamics and multidimensionality of young adults' family living arrangements across contemporary Europe, a combination of methodological approaches is the route to follow.
2. Cross-national studies on young adults' family living arrangements beyond some select Western and Southern European are still rare. A complete picture of young adults' family living arrangements in Europe requires the inclusion of Central and Eastern Europe in comparative research.
3. Moving from individual-level analyses to a consideration of contexts leads to a better understanding of European diversity in young adults' family living arrangements (this thesis) – advances in macro-theorizing and the availability of comparative contextual European data could result in even bigger future knowledge gains.
4. Young adults' family living arrangements vary with individual characteristics (e.g., income, preferences, education, and parental education) across European countries – but the different individual characteristics may have different weight in different regional and national contexts (this thesis). Researchers should further explore these macro-micro linkages.
5. Despite broad regional patterns in family living arrangements (i.e., the North/West – South/East gradient), countries remain strikingly different (this thesis). Thus, while macro-level theories and typologies add heuristic value, we need to be cautious about country-specific circumstances.
6. In examining young adults' family living arrangements and the transition to adulthood, a spectrum of levels and units must be distinguished and recognized: country, region, historical generation, family, dyad (partners, parent-child) and the individual.
7. Building new insights and filling knowledge gaps about young adults' family living arrangements requires international dialogues and collaboration across European research communities – particularly if researchers adopt a comparative lens.
8. A close examination of young adults' family living arrangements and the transition to adulthood in Europe is important demographically because of the major effects on the “traditional” demographic processes (e.g., births, migrations, and marriages) and the implications for social policy.
9. Only a finished PhD thesis is a good PhD thesis.
10. This PhD research project has truly been a pan-European experience – the adventures you experience abroad, in new environments and with new inspiring people, are reason enough to expand your studies across Europe.