



APÉRO DE LA RECHERCHE

DEMO APERITIF SEMINAR

31st of March 2022, 17h00 - 18h15

UCLouvain - Place Montesquieu 1, Louvain-la-Neuve
(Room LECL93) or [Teams](#)

Tomáš Sobotka

Vienna Institute of Demography

“From bust to boom? Birth and fertility responses to the COVID-19 pandemic”

Past economic, health and policy shocks were often associated with a downturn in fertility rates. We use monthly birth data collected by the Human Fertility Database (STFF data series) to analyse an early impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on birth and fertility trends across 29 highly developed countries and regions. Our data cover the period through Spring-Summer 2021, corresponding to the conceptions initiated until Summer-Autumn 2020, i.e., during the first half a year of into the pandemic.

We demonstrate that the pandemic has brought huge short-term fluctuations in births and fertility rates. However, birth trends differed sharply during the analysed period, with two distinct shifts observed. First, the initial pandemic “shock” resulted in a steep fertility downturn in most countries, with the sharpest reduction in January 2021. Subsequently, birth rates in most countries showed a surprising short-term “compensatory” recovery linked with the ending of the first wave of the pandemic, with a small baby boom reported especially in March and April 2021. As a result, the pandemic period on the whole did not bring a lasting shift in fertility in most of the analysed countries.

Please note that registration is required for both in-person and Teams participants by 24 March 2022 [here](#). Thanks!

For further information please contact [Ashira Menashe-Oren](#) or [Luisa Fadel](#)

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Teams Link

