Combining Motherhood and Employment? Where, When, and Why?

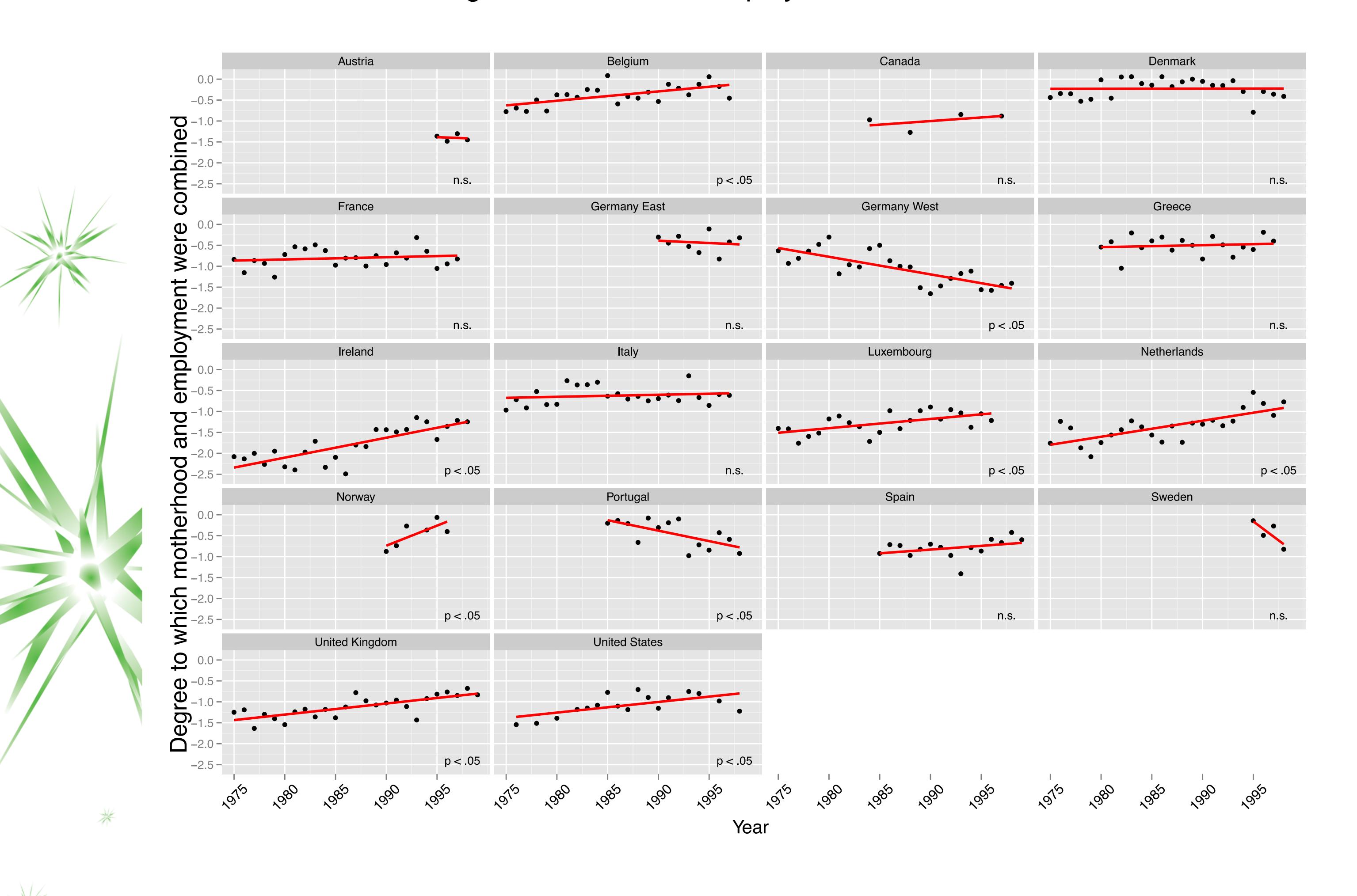
Rense Nieuwenhuis

Ariana Need

Henk van der Kolk

r.nieuwenhuis@utwente.nl

Trends in Combining Motherhood and Employment in 18 OECD Countries, 1975-1999



Two questions:

- 1. To what extent were mothers in OECD countries between 1975 and 1999 less likely to be employed than women without children?
- 2. To what extent did institutional developments in OECD countries between 1975 and 1999 affect the employment of mothers differently from the employment of women without children?

Key Findings:

- Mothers were almost always less likely to be employed than women without children.
- The motherhood-employment gap decreased in most countries, but not all.
- Reconciliation policies reduced the motherhood-employment gap.
- Family allowances increased the motherhood-employment gap.
- A large service sector increased the employment of all women, but did not affect the motherhood-employment gap.

Published as:

Nieuwenhuis, Need, & Van der Kolk. (2012). Institutional and Demographic Explanations of Women's Employment in 18 OECD Countries. *Journal of Marriage and Family*, 74 (June), 614-630.

INSTITUTE FOR INNOVATION AND GOVERNANCE STUDIES

UNIVERSITY OF TWENTE.