

Proposed Title for the Module:	The EVS approach to the explanation of attitudes towards beginning and end of life (EVS-MORALBOUNDS)
Single or repeat measurement within the panel	Single
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Relevance and rationale:

Since 1980, the European Values Study (EVS) has been tracking the effect of social modernization and human development (including political, scientific, and technological changes) which have transformed human value priorities. Examples of important changes in value priorities are the decline of church impact on morality as a consequence of massive secularization and individualizationⁱ. The shift to value patterns that enhances self-determination and claims for minorities' rights and equality, together with the advances in medicine and the structural aging of our societies have led to a rising relevance of the so-called *Beginning- and End-of-Life Issues*ⁱⁱ. Issues such as medically assisted reproduction and dying, triage of life-threatened patients, abortion and suicide, raise moral and political questions that present specific characteristics and variations in the context of modernization, laws, policies and welfare systemsⁱⁱⁱ. Within this framework, the EVS is an important and reliable source of information, documenting where moral orientations of Europeans stand, and providing repeated cross-sectional high quality data for the last 4 decades. The European Social Survey (ESS) is a well-established infrastructure, measuring stability and change of values and attitudes for the last 20 years. However, the domain of life and death ethics has never been addressed in their questionnaires. We believe that a CRONOS module focusing on such a highly topical subject constitutes a unique opportunity to build a strong synergy between EVS and ESS.

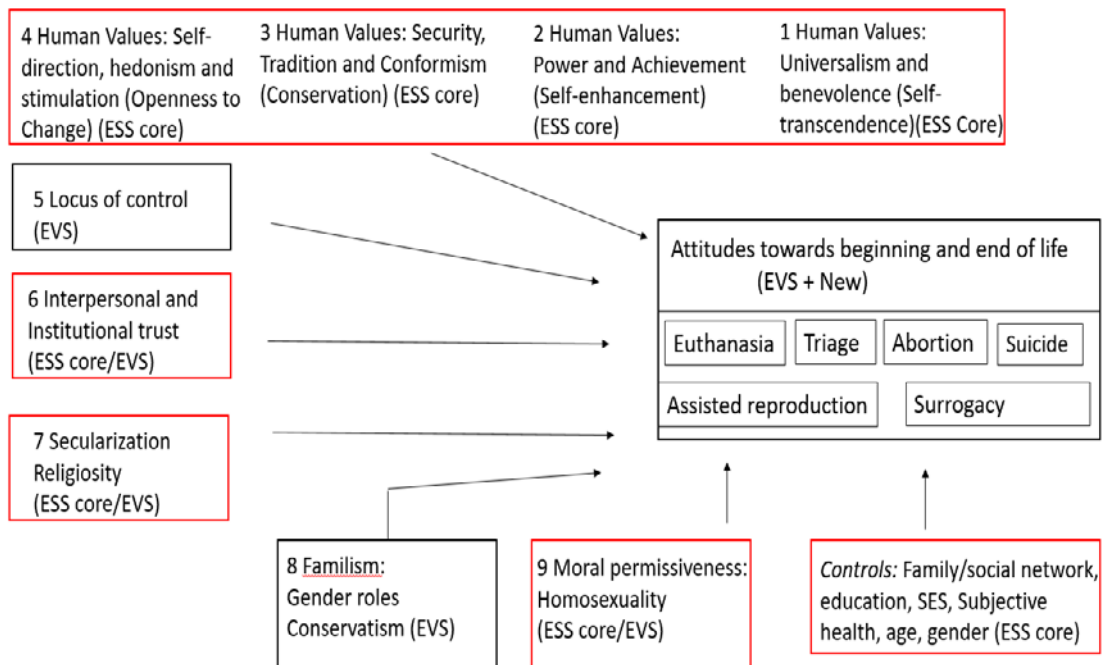
Medical progress has led to the development of technologies interfering in biological processes of procreation, expanding childbearing possibilities to individuals and social groups previously excluded from parenting. The current trend in Europe to postpone parenthood, linked to career preferences of women has increased the social relevance of medical assistance to procreation^{iv}. The use of Assisted Reproductive Technologies^v has greatly increased over recent decades^{vi}, raising new moral questions^{vii} and triggering debates on conditions for eligibility for techniques such as in-vitro fertilization or surrogacy to realize their parenting choices^{viii}.

At the end of life, growing demand for autonomous dying raises public awareness of practices of assisted dying and puts pressure on parliaments and governments to regulate medical practices^{ix}. Therefore, it is relevant to track Europeans' attitudes towards assisted dying^x and to understand how they are shaped by contextual differences. Individually, attitudes are linked to religious and value orientations and, in some societies, progressive and conservative movements are making these moral questions conflictual.

Including attitudes towards beginning and end of life allows us to compare acceptance levels within and across societies, to identify existing (euthanasia, abortion, assisted insemination/IVF) and new (surrogacy, triage) measures and to link them with other domains addressed in the ESS, namely the Basic Human Values model^{xi}. Our approach follows a strategy that links human development, human values, and striving for autonomy with attitudes towards boundary questions of life and death.

The theory would be therefore operationalized by items from the ESS core and EVS: Attitudes towards beginning and end of life will be explained by individual factors, namely human values, locus of control, interpersonal and institutional trust (additionally including health system and government from EVS), religiosity and religious denomination, normative beliefs in the domain of familism and gender norms, and moral permissiveness.

THE EVS-ESS APPROACH ON ATTITUDES TOWARDS BEGINNING AND END OF LIFE



Suitability for CRONOS-2:

The module focuses on the comparative analysis of the relationship between basic human values and moral attitudes toward boundary morality issues, combining for the first time items from ESS and EVS. The EVS items presented in this proposal have unprecedented longitudinal and geographical coverage. They have been tested systematically, some of them for decades, in more than 40 countries, and have been baseline questions for the analysis of value orientations on morality issues in social sciences.

Despite the lively debates about morality issues in European societies, the political discourse is predominantly based on principles and values, and lacking in insights into the nuanced attitudes of the public about the morality dimensions of beginning- end-of-life issues. For many European countries, the EVS is the only source of representative data with its most reliable cross-national single items included in a large battery of justifiability questions. Studies

based on these measures show that there are strong cross-national differences in acceptance across Europe^{xii}. The existing measures from EVS provide preliminary evidence for the relevance of predictors (e.g. religiosity/secularization, gender roles, confidence in healthcare) to explain attitudes and cross-national differences. The interest has been not only political or ethical, but also theoretical, understanding morality attitudes from a cross-national social science perspective.

EVS-MORALBOUNDS Cronos2 module would

- Introduce an adequate cross-national effort of mapping differences in morality attitudes and values and their determinants, and provide highly relevant policy knowledge for future decision making in European welfare states.
- Provide evidence about the nuances within the attitudes of the public in different cultural contexts related to these moral issues,
- Add systematic comparative evidence to the existing eclectic knowledge bridging previously separated lines of research (beginning and end of life).
- Explain attitudes as consequences of individuals' contextual settings and personal traits.
- Link items of the EVS core questionnaire to items from the ESS core questionnaire, especially on Basic Human Values. The module thereby addresses diverse fields of the social sciences such as religious studies, value research, gender and family studies, and health research.
- Offer respondents the possibility of expressing their views on sensitive issues in a private mode of data collection

Research team:

Eduarne Bartolomé Peral is senior lecturer and researcher, University of Deusto (Spain), Faculty of Social and Human Sciences. Her research focuses on values and political attitudes. She is Program director of EVS in Spain, chair of the EVS theory group and member of the Steering group. He has also been member of the Spanish National ESS Committee.

Alice Ramos is research fellow, ICS-Lisbon University. Her research deals with the articulation between individual and cultural values, and the methodology of cross-national studies. She is National Coordinator of the European Social Survey-ERIC, Project Director, member of the Executive Group and the Steering Committee of the European Values Study.

Pascal Siegers is acting head, Data Archive for the Social Sciences at GESIS–Leibniz Institute for Social Sciences and head of National Surveys and Research Data Center at GESIS. He has been head of ALLBUS Research Data Centre and chair of the Research Data Infrastructure Committee at the Council for Social and Economic Data.

Gergely Rosta is associate professor for Sociology, Pázmány-Péter Catholic University in Hungary. He has been Visiting professor and research associate at the Institute of Sociology,

University of Münster. He is Program Director for Hungary of EVS and member of the Steering group.

Natalia Soboleva is Senior Research Fellow, Ronald F. Inglehart Laboratory for Comparative Social Research and Senior Lecturer at the Department of Organizational Behaviour and Human Resource Management. She is Program Director for Russia of EVS and member of the theory group and Steering group.

Feasibility of implementation:

Our theoretical framework combines ESS core variables with traditional EVS variables on morality, justification, control over life, gender roles, secularism and institutional trust. Matching EVS and ESS variables will allow a systematic and comprehensive analysis on moral autonomy and attitudes towards beginning and end of life.

Dependent variables

Source EVS: Abortion, euthanasia, suicide, IVF, surrogacy and triage.

Some of these variables are key justification items taken from the EVS questionnaire. The strength of these questions is that they stem from an item battery that has been used a lot during the last 4 decades; moreover, these are the most important questions on moral attitudes in comparative research. We added two new items that have not been tested yet. Firstly, surrogacy, due to the growing interest both in the academia as in the political sphere. Secondly, triage, that is, under conditions of scarcity, a medical doctor deciding to withdraw or withhold treatment for a very sick or old person to save the life of a healthier or younger patient. This practice has been highly controversial and discussed during the worst moments of the COVID pandemic. For this battery, we suggest to randomize the order.

EVS_v154 Abortion (EVS variable since 1980)

EVS_v156 Euthanasia (terminating the life of the incurably sick) (EVS variable since 1980)

EVS_v157 Suicide (EVS variable since 1980)

EVS_V161 Artificial insemination or in vitro fertilization (EVS variable since 2008)

NEW! Surrogacy (i.e. a woman being paid for bearing the child of a couple)

NEW! Triage (decide which of two severely ill patients to exclude for treatment when only one can be helped)

Scale: 0- never justified to 10-always justified

Independent variables

It is expected that those that have a higher self perception of control over life will have attitudes towards the beginning and end of life that express internal/individual control, while those that believe that life events are determined by faith or by external factors express less openness to the influence of self-determination in such moral decisions. The perception of self control will be measured by the indicator of locus of control.

Religion is a key element to understand peoples' orientations towards beginning and end of life matters. There is no single approach and each religion has its own rules: for instance, although the Vatican rejects assisted reproduction, Protestants can practise it; according to traditional Christian views, beginning at conception, the embryo has moral status as a human being, and thus most assisted reproductive technologies are forbidden.^{xiii} People with stronger religious beliefs and living in a religious context, that consider that birth and death depend only on God's will are expected to reject actions that put such decisions in the hands of people, whether they are medical doctors, or the single individual. Moreover, previous research has shown that Protestants and people living in Protestant countries have more favourable attitudes toward euthanasia, for instance, than do Catholics and people living in Catholic countries. Since the link between religiosity and life and death ethics is very strong it is very likely similar effects will be found on the other ethical domains under analysis.

The type of family and their social function, and the role of women within the family and in society, are both indicators of familism; it is expected that more conservative attitudes in these spheres will predict lower levels of justifiability of human interventions at the beginning and end of life. Accordingly, it is plausible to find cross-national differences, namely between societies holding more traditional values and those endorsing more egalitarian values.

There is empirical evidence that positive 'Subjective well-being'^{xiv} precedes diverse positive personal and social outcomes. People with higher levels of mental and physical health are more likely to evidence greater self-control, to live a longer life, to be less self-centered or selfish and to be relatively more cooperative, prosocial, charitable, and "other-centered"^{xv}. Although theoretically the concept of SWB does not include the perception of health, we believe that this is an important dimension and our proposal is to extend the concept of SWB and join ESS variables of happiness, life satisfaction and perception of health in a single index.

Source: EVS

Locus of control (EVS variable since 1981)

EVS_v38 - Some people feel they have completely free choice and control over their lives, and other people feel that what they do has no real effect on what happens to them. Please use the scale to indicate how much freedom of choice and control you feel you have over the way your life turns out?

Scale: 0-none at all to 10 a great deal

Religiosity

Importance of God (EVS variable since 1981)

EVS_v63 - How important is God in your life? Please use this card to indicate - 10 means very important and 1 means not at all important.

Scale: 0-not at all important to 10 very important

Familism

For each of the following statements I read out, can you tell me how strongly you agree or disagree with each. Do you strongly agree, agree, disagree, or strongly disagree?

EVS_v72 - When a mother works for pay, the children suffer (New EVS variable in 2017)

EVS_v73 - A job is alright but what most women really want is a home and children (EVS variable since 1990)

EVS_v75 - A man's job is to earn money; a woman's job is to look after the home and family (New EVS variable in 2017)

Scale (originally 4-point): 1- Strongly agree; 2-Agree; 3- Neither agree nor disagree; 4-Disagree; 5-Strongly disagree

EVS_v81 - When jobs are scarce, men have more right to a job than women (EVS variable since 1990)

EVS_v83 - It is a duty towards society to have children (EVS variable since 2008)

Scale: 1- Strongly agree; 2-Agree; 3- Neither agree nor disagree; 4-Disagree; 5-Strongly disagree

Trust in institutions

Trust in institutions is an important measure to address the slippery slope argument. This states that individuals who belong to more vulnerable groups and that live in countries with low responsive healthcare systems have more fear that euthanasia will be abused^{xvi}. Presuming that there is a positive correlation between trust (subjective perception) and responsiveness (objective measure) of the health care system, we can put forward the hypothesis that those with higher levels of social and institutional trust in institutions, in general, and healthcare system, in particular, have less fear of institutional abuse and malpractice. Accordingly, those who believe in the system's responsiveness also tend to have a more positive attitude towards, for instance, euthanasia.

The ESS core has a battery for measuring trust in institutions. We propose to add two items from the EVS that are a relevant complement considering the nature of the Dependent Variable (the new variables are adapted to the ESS scale).

Please look at this card and tell me, for each item listed, how much confidence you have in them, is it a great deal, quite a lot, not very much or none at all?

EVS_v126 - Health care system (EVS variable since 1999)

EVS_v131 - Government (EVS variable since 2008)

Scale: 0-no trust at all important to 10 complete trust

Source: ESS

Human Values; Trust in Institutions; Interpersonal trust; religious denomination and attendance; level of religiosity; religious socialisation; moral permissiveness (homosexuals); control variables (sex; gender; level of education; political orientation; well-being).

Dissemination plans:

We expect EVS-MORALBOUNDS-Cronos2 findings to be disseminated throughout all current active EVS and ESS channels, website and social media. In addition, informative videos will be posted through YouTube channels hosted by some EVS member teams. It will have a strong appeal for practitioners outside of the academic sector as European countries are increasingly trying to regulate aspects of assisted dying and assisted reproduction. This includes (a) macro level agents who may want to develop national guidelines or regulations, (b) meso-level agents who want to develop policy at the level of health care institutions, and (c) civil society organizations, such as churches and NGOs. We thus expect the EVS-MORALBOUNDS-Cronos2 module to be relevant and timely to a range of academic audiences and practitioners from very diverse domains: sociology, public health, political science, psychology, gender studies, geriatrics and gerontology, medical ethics, and paediatrics.

From the research team and other EVS researchers we plan on:

- Three Europe-wide comparative papers based on Cronos2 data covering life-and-death issues as a dependent variable, attitudes towards assisted dying and attitudes towards assisted reproduction respectively
- One paper focussing on basic human values shaping attitudes towards assisted dying in Europe from a moral autonomy perspective.
- One paper testing the moral autonomy approach for attitudes towards assisted reproduction and abortion.
- EVS book (Brill series)
- Papers from EVS members on the effect of different value domains on justification attitudes
- Papers from EVS members on evolution on attitudes towards beginning and end of life (EVS-Cronos)

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1998: Degree in Sociology, University of Deusto, Bilbao, Spain

2001: Degree in Political Science, University of the Basque Country, Bilbao

2002: Fellowship “Young Researchers in Social Science” in the NATIONAL CENTER FOR SOCIAL
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2008: PhD in Political Science. University of Deusto

Research Projects

Principal investigator. Research project funded by the Ministry of Science and innovation
(Spain). “Fronteras de la vida: Cambio social and cambio de valores en torno al principio y a fin
de la vida (Frontvida):2020-2003. Contract number: PID2019-106882RB-I00

Principal investigator. Research Project funded by the Ministry of Economy and
Competitiveness. “Bases de confianza y desconfianza social: La aplicación del Factorial Survey”
2013-2015. Contract Number: CSO2012-34684

Principal investigator. Research Project funded by the Ministry of Economy and
Competitiveness. “Actitudes y mecanismos sociales en torno a la evasión fiscal: Un análisis de
los factores explicativos individuales y contextuales utilizando el método del Factorial Survey.
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Coromina, L., Bartolomé Peral, E. (2020): “Comparing Alignment and Multiple Group CFA for
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analysis” in Sociologický časopis/Czech Sociological Review. volume 56, No. 6, 2020.

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Eduard Bartolomé Peral: "Satisfaction with democracy in Europe: Difference between East and West (book chapter), in Halman and Voicu (Eds.) Mapping Values and Orientations in Central and Eastern Europe Brill, Leiden (2010)

Bartolomé E. and Ramos, A. (2013): „Neighbours: Determinants of whom europeans want to keep at a distance“ in Arts, W., and Halman, L. . Value Contrasts and Consensus in Present-Day Europe Brill. Leiden

Dr. Alice Ramos PhD in Sociology, Institute of Social Sciences, University of Lisbon (ICS-ULisboa).

Current position

Research Fellow, ICS-ULisboa.

Present professional activities

- National Coordinator of the European Social Survey-ERIC
- Project Director, Vice-chair of the Methodological Group, member of the Executive Group and the Steering Committee of the European Values Study
- Principal Investigator of CLAVE – The development of values on children and early adolescents (PTDC/SOC-SOC/30635/2017)
- Representative of Portugal in the ESS-SUSTAIN-2 (871063 - INFRADEV-2018-2020/H2020-INFRADEV-2019-2)
- Coordinator of the line of Data Production of the infrastructure PASSDA (Production and Archive of Social Science Data)

Research Interests

1) Prejudice and discrimination; the impact of values on discriminatory attitudes; the development of values and prejudiced attitudes during childhood and adolescence; attitudes towards immigrants and immigration.

2) Methodology of cross-national studies: survey techniques; questionnaire design and testing; statistical techniques of comparative and longitudinal data analysis

Relevant publications

Ramos, A., Pereira, C. & Vala, J. (2020) The impact of biological and cultural racisms on attitudes towards immigrants and immigration public policies, *Journal of Ethnic and Migration Studies*, 46:3, 574-592;

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LATEST DEGREES

10/2008-07/2011 Doctorate in Social Sciences at University of Cologne

09/2005-09/2005 French German Diploma in Social Sciences from Institut d'Études
Politiques de (SciencesPo) Bordeaux an University of Stuttgart

SELECTED PUBLICATIONS

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Hungary

Education:

Phd in Sociology

2005

Corvinus University of Budapest

Thesis: *Religiosity, Political Attitudes and Secularization in Western Europe in 1981-1999*

Master of Economy

1996

University of Economics of Budapest

Thesis: *Measuring Religiosity in the Light of the Dimensions*

Scientific employment history:

Associate professor

since 2008

Pázmány Péter Catholic University, Institute of Sociology

Visiting professor

2018-2019

University of Münster, Institute of Sociology

Research associate

2009-2017

University of Münster, Cluster of Excellence „Religion and Politics”

Selected funded research:

„The transmission of religion across generations: a comparative international study of continuities and discontinuities in family socialization” 2019-2022
International research project funded by the John Templeton Foundation. Hungarian Principal Investigator

European Values Study 2017 in Hungary. Research project funded by the Hungarian National Bank. Principal Investigator 2017-2018

„Religious Change in Hungary” Research project funded by the National Office for Research, Development and Innovation. Principal Investigator 2016-2020

Selected publications:

- Inglehart, Ronald ; Miller, Jon ; Dennis, Michael ; Jwo, Stephanie ; Rosta, Gergely (2021): Religion's Sudden Decline, Revisited. <https://cps.isr.umich.edu/news/religions-sudden-decline-revisited/>
- Rosta, Gergely (2020): Hungary—Continuing and Changing Trends and Mechanisms of Religious Change. In: Demmrich, Sarah; Riegel, Ulrich (eds.) *Religiosity in East and West*
- Wiesbaden: Springer Fachmedien Wiesbaden: 99-117.
- Voicu, Bogdan ; Bartolome Peral, Eburne ; Rusu, Horatiu ; Rosta, Gergely ; Comşa, Mircea ; Vasile, Octavian-Marian ; Coromina, Lluís ; Tufis, Claudiu (2020): COVID-19 and orientations towards solidarity: the cases of Spain, Hungary, and Romania. *European Societies* 23:sup1, 887- 904.
- Rosta, Gergely (2019): Charles Y. Glock und Rodney Stark: Religion and Society in Tension (1965). In: Pickel, Gert; Gärtner, Christel (ed.) *Schlüsselwerke der Religionssoziologie*. Wiesbaden: Springer Fachmedien Wiesbaden: 221-229.
- Detlef, Pollack ; Gergely, Rosta (2017): *Religion and Modernity*. Oxford: Oxford University Press
- Rosta, Gergely (2017): Hungary: Declining Church Religiosity and Increasing Religious Individualization in a Post-Communist Country. In: Jan, Nelis; Caroline, Sägeser; Jean-Philippe, Schreiber (eds.) *Religion and Secularism in the European Union : State of Affairs and Current Debates*. Brussels: P.I.E. Peter Lang: 89-94.
- Pollack, Detlef ; Rosta, Gergely (2015): *Religion in der Moderne: Ein internationaler Vergleich*. New York / Frankfurt am Main, Németország: Campus Verlag
- Rosta, Gergely (2012): Religiosity and Political Values in Central and Eastern Europe. In: Gert, Pickel; Kornelia, Sammet (eds.) *Transformations of Religiosity : Religion and Religiosity in Eastern Europe 1989-2010*. Wiesbaden: Springer VS (2012): 95-110.
- Rosta, Gergely: *Church and Religion in Hungary (2010): Between Religious Individualization and Secularization*. In: Detlef, Pollack; Olaf, Müller; Gert, Pickel (eds.) *The Social Significance of Religion in the Enlarged Europe : Secularization, Individualization and Pluralization*. Surrey: Ashgate: 187-205.

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Education

- | | |
|------|--|
| 2013 | PhD (Candidate of Sciences) in Economic Sociology and Demography |
| 2008 | MA in “Applied Methods of Sociological Analysis of Markets”, Department of Sociology, HSE University |
| 2006 | BA in economic sociology, Department of Sociology, HSE University |

Academic employment history

- | | |
|----------------|---|
| 2014 - 2019 | Research fellow, Laboratory for comparative social research, HSE University |
| 2020 - present | Senior research fellow, R.F. Inglehart Laboratory for Comparative Social Research, HSE University |
| 2016 - present | Senior Lecturer at the Graduate School of Business Higher School of Economics |

Research interests: gender role attitudes, work values, life and job satisfaction, labor market, subjective well-being, comparative research

Academic activities

European Values Study – Program director for Russia (since 2016), Theory Group (since 2020), Standing Group (since 2020)

European Values Study - Brill Series – member of Editorial Board (since 2019)

Funded research:

2016-2017. The specifics of male and female orientation on success in the context of modernization. Grant of Russian fund of fundamental research. Project number: 16-36-00373. Project manager.

2018-2020. Transformation of values and subjective quality of life: A regional perspective (RSF № 18-18-00341). Project participant.

2020-2022. Flexible employment in the platform economy: emerging markets and new work patterns. Grant of Russian fund of fundamental research. Project number: 20-011-00587. Project participant.

Selected publications

1. Karabchuk T., Soboleva N. (2020) Temporary Employment, Informal Work and Subjective Well-Being Across Europe: Does Labor Legislation Matter?. Journal of Happiness Studies 21, 1879–1901 (2020). <https://doi.org/10.1007/s10902-019-00152-4>

2. Soboleva N.E. (2020) Determinants and the Interrelationship Between Job Satisfaction and Life Satisfaction in Russia. *Monitoring of Public Opinion: Economic and Social Changes*. No. 1. P. 368—390. <https://doi.org/10.14515/monitoring.2020.1.15>. In Russian.
3. Nemirovskaya A.V., Soboleva N.E.. (2020) Subjective well-being determinants in Russia: a regional perspective. *Vestnik instituta sotziologii*. 2020. Vol. 11. No. 2. P. 54-81. <https://doi.org/10.19181/vis.2020.11.2.641> In Russian.
4. Poplavskaya A.A., Soboleva N.E. (2019) Realization of Male and Female Achievement: Motives in the Labor Markets across the World. // *Journal of Economic Sociology*. Vol. 20. No 2. P. 51-85. In Russian.
5. Poplavskaya A.A., Soboleva N.E. (2017) Men’s and women’s satisfaction with various job aspects in Russia. *Monitoring of Public Opinion: Economic and Social Changes*. № 5. P. 271—288. In Russian. <https://doi.org/10.14515/monitoring.2017.5.15>
6. Soboleva N. (2017). Perceptions of gender equality in post-crisis Europe. *European Journal of Government and Economics*, 6(1), 59-77. <https://doi.org/10.17979/ejge.2017.6.1.4323>
7. Soboleva N.E. (2016). Business Ethics of Business Elite as a Factor of Sociocultural Modernization (By the Example of MBA Students) // *Social Sciences and Contemporary World*. № 6. P. 67-81. In Russian.
8. Karabchuk T., Soboleva N. (2014) Informal employment and life satisfaction in Europe: evidence from ESS data // *Südosteuropa*. Vol. 62. No. 4. P. 397-419.
9. Soboleva N. (2011) Career success and its determinants in the perception of business education students. *Sociological studies*. № 5. In Russian.
10. Soboleva N. (2009) Investments in MBA as a way to accumulate human, social and symbolic capital: Case study of Higher School of Economics and Higher School of Financial Management. *Journal of Educational studies*. №3. P. 90-95. In Russian.

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- ⁱ Halman and Van Ingen 2015
- ⁱⁱ Aksoy 2007; Lizza 2010; Hendry et al. 2013; Horn 2014
- ⁱⁱⁱ Seale 2000; Bleiklie et al. 2004; Engeli et al. 2012; Steck et al. 2013; Ekland-Olsen 2014; Knill et al. 2015
- ^{iv} Frejka & Sardon 2006; van Bavel & Nitsche 2013
- ^v Zegers-Hochschild et al. 2009
- ^{vi} Adamson et al. 2013
- ^{vii} Lockwood 2005; Soini et al. 2006
- ^{viii} Sigillo et al. 2012
- ^{ix} Mooney 2001; Birnbacher & Dahl 2008
- ^x Rudnev & Savelkaeva 2018
- ^{xi} Schwartz 2012
- ^{xii} Cohen et al. 2006; Köneke 2014; Bartolomé-Peral and Coromina 2020
- ^{xiii} Schenker, J.G 2005
- ^{xiv} Diener 1984
- ^{xv} for a review see Lyubomirsky et al., 2005
- ^{xvi} Verbakel and Jaspers 2010