



# *Studying Son Preference in Kyrgyzstan: Insights from Historical and Contemporary Data*

Gani ALDASHEV<sup>1</sup>, Catherine GUIRKINGER<sup>2</sup>, Zhanar KONYS<sup>1,2</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Université Libre de Bruxelles

<sup>2</sup>Université de Namur

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- ▶ Gives rise to imbalanced sex ratios and gender-based discrimination against women
- ▶ Existing research focuses on South and East Asia

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- ▶ Lasting impact of the Soviet egalitarian policies (Lyon, 2002)

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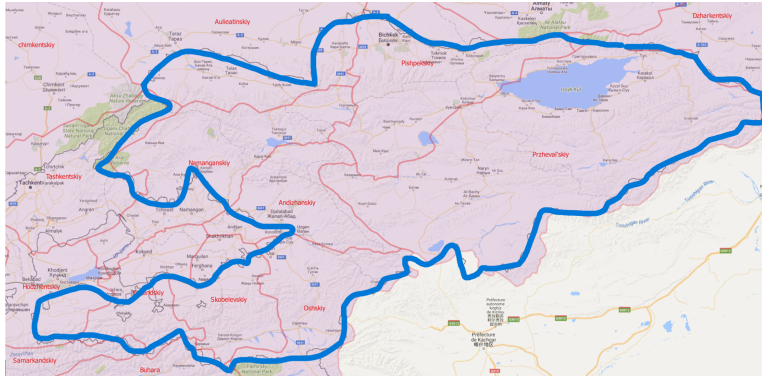


# DATA: PAST

- ▶ Russian colonial expeditions
  - ▶ Skryplev 1906-1913
  - ▶ Rumyantsev 1909-1913
- ▶ 8 uezds, 107 volosts, 44 tribes,  $\sim 4700$  extended families,  $\sim 350000$  individuals, sex ratio  $\sim 1.26$



Current territory of Central Asia



Historical map overlay

# DATA: PRESENT

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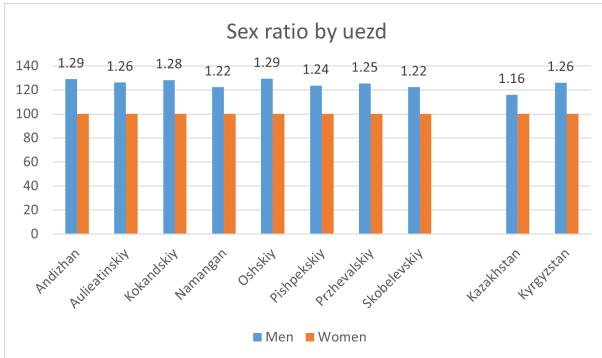
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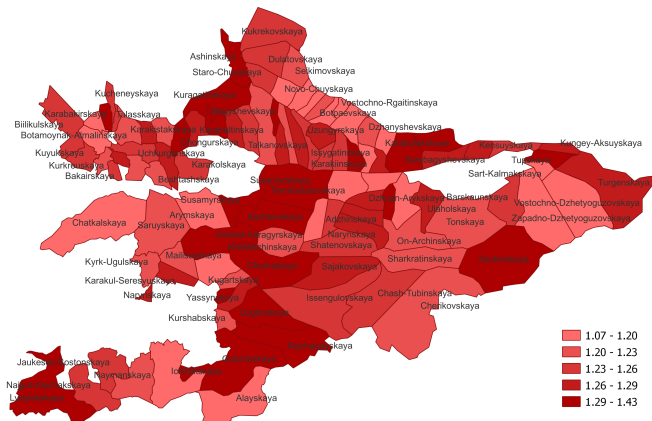
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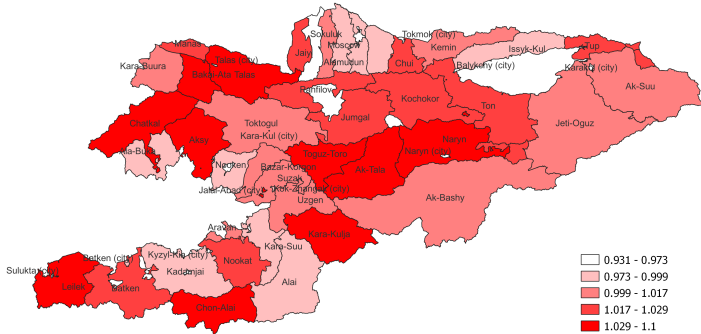
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- ▶ 10 180 births between 1942-2012
- ▶ 3 243 mothers, 2 481 households, 9 regions (7+2), 40 rayons, 38 tribes



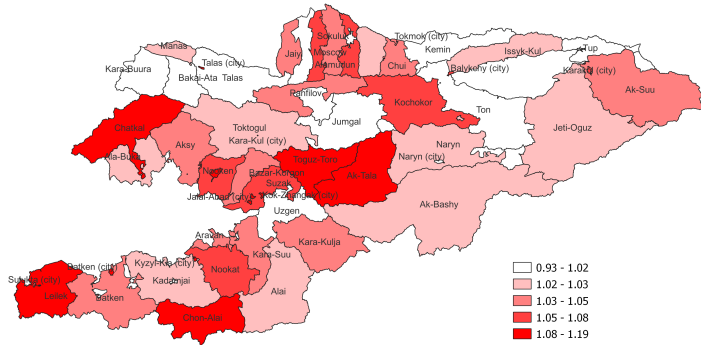
## Sex ratio by uezd (men/women)



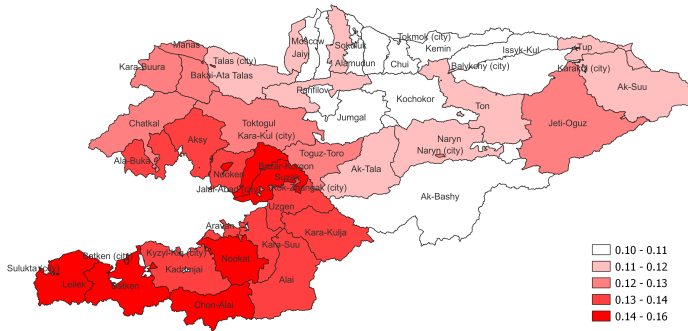




## Sex ratio by rayon (boys/girls)



# Share of children by rayon



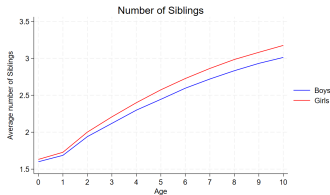
## Stopping rule (Baland, Cassan, Woitrin, 2023)

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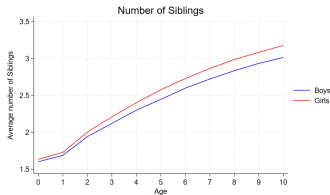
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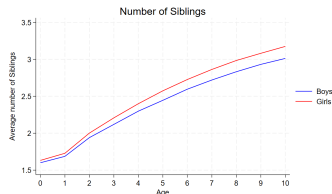
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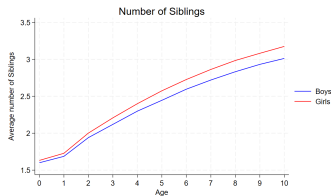
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- ▶ Instrumental birth
- ▶ Sex-selective abortion

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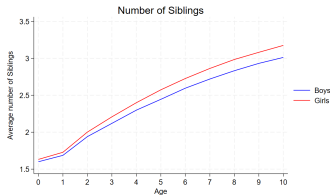
### ► Instrumental birth

- Girls have more younger siblings than boys

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► **Instrumental birth**

- ▶ Girls have more younger siblings than boys

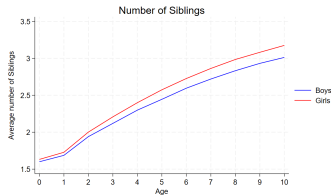
- ▶ *regress nb\_younger\_siblings female;  $\beta = 0.11(0.03)$*

► **Sex-selective abortion**



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► **Instrumental birth**

- ▶ Girls have more younger siblings than boys
- ▶ `regress nb_younger_siblings female;  $\beta = 0.11(0.03)$`

► **Sex-selective abortion**

- ▶ Boys have more elder sisters than girls
- ▶ `regress sh_elder_girls male;  $\beta = -0.0008(0.008)$`

# TEST RESULTS BY REGION

## Instrumental birth

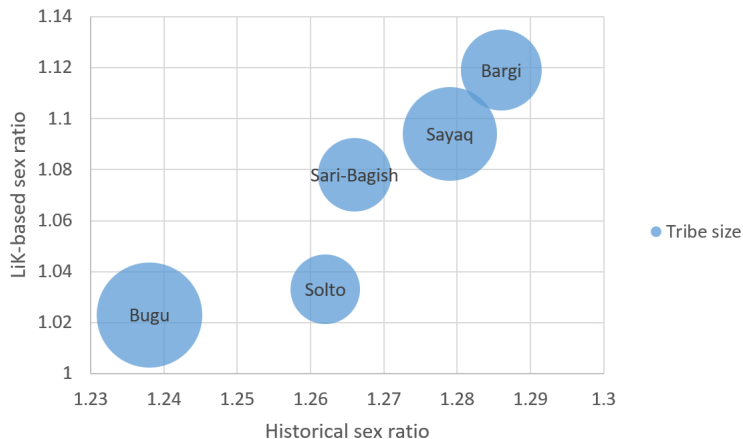
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	Coef. Femal	SE		Coef. Male	SE
Kyrgyzstan	0.110	0.032	Kyrgyzstan	-0.001	0.008
Issyk-Kul	0.246	0.125	Issyk-Kul	0.030	0.028
Jalal-Abad	0.104	0.068	Jalal-Abad	-0.003	0.020
Naryn	0.035	0.158	Naryn	-0.019	0.040
Batken	0.461	0.114	Batken	-0.003	0.030
Osh	0.070	0.066	Osh	-0.014	0.018
Talas	0.198	0.163	Talas	0.056	0.039
Chui	0.054	0.078	Chui	-0.001	0.020
Bishkek	-0.007	0.059	Bishkek	-0.008	0.024
Osh city	-0.101	0.131	Osh city	-0.004	0.029

## Sex-selective abortion

*regress share\_elder\_girls male*

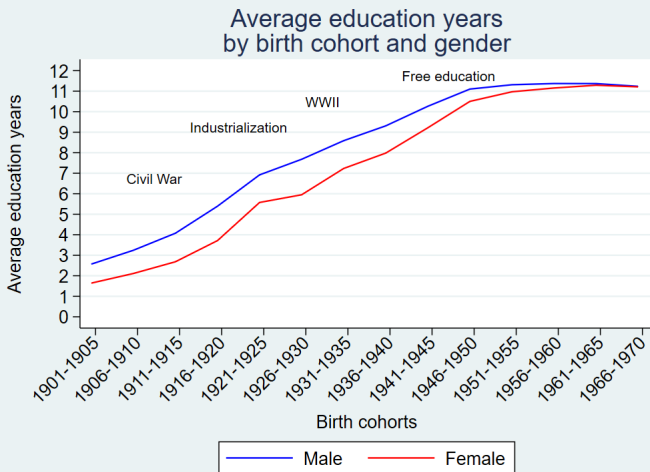
# PERSISTENCE AT A TRIBAL LEVEL



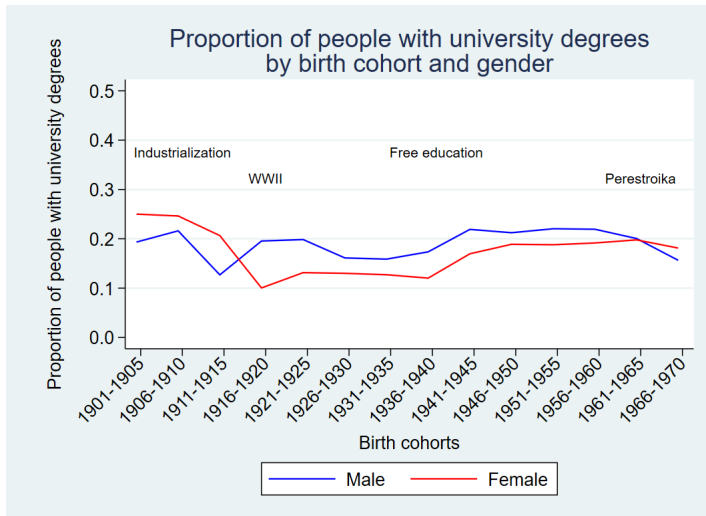
Sample size > 300



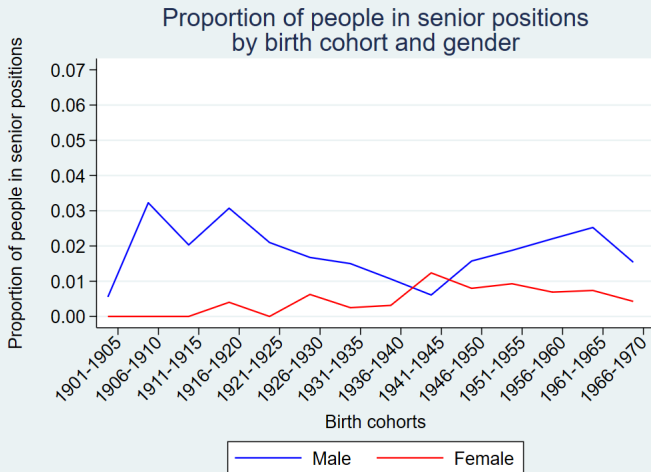
# ONE GENERATION BACK - EVIDENCE FROM THE SOVIET PERIOD



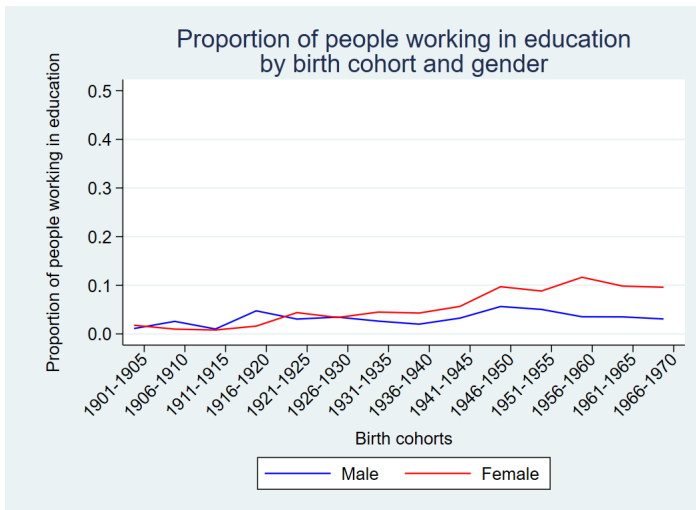
# ONE GENERATION BACK - UNIVERSITY DEGREE



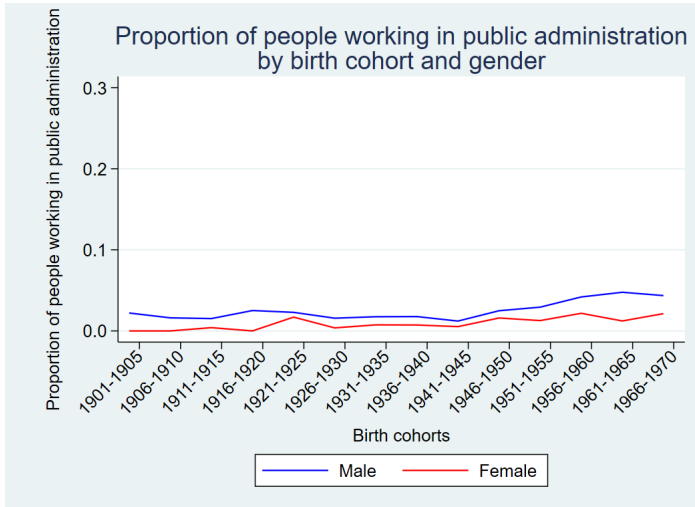
# ONE GENERATION BACK - SENIOR POSITIONS



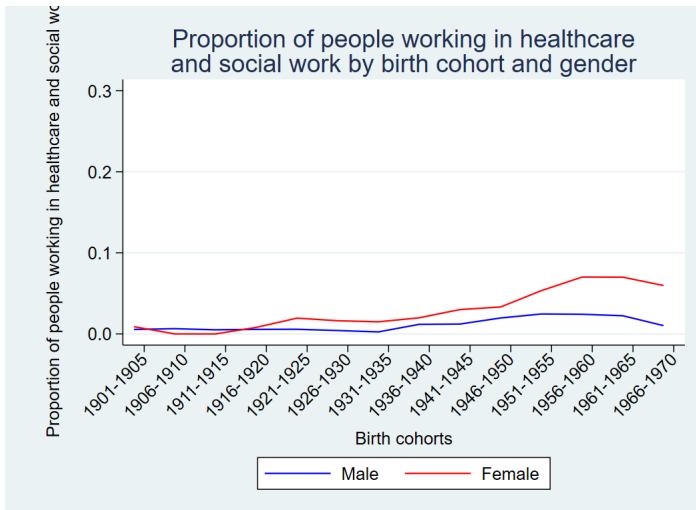
# ONE GENERATION BACK - EDUCATION



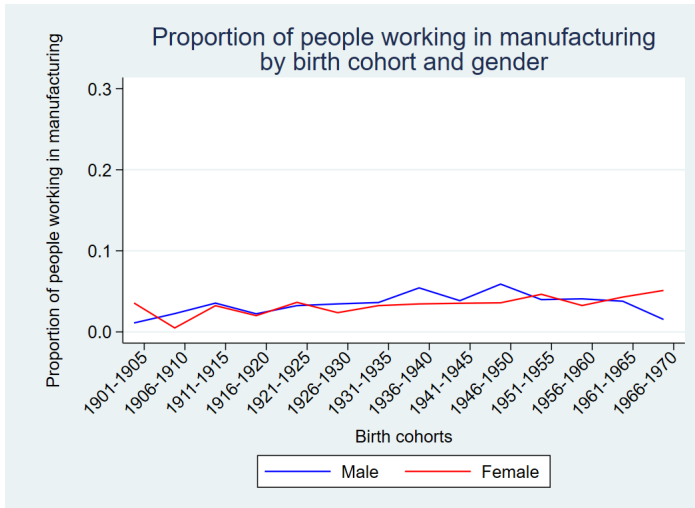
# ONE GENERATION BACK - PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION



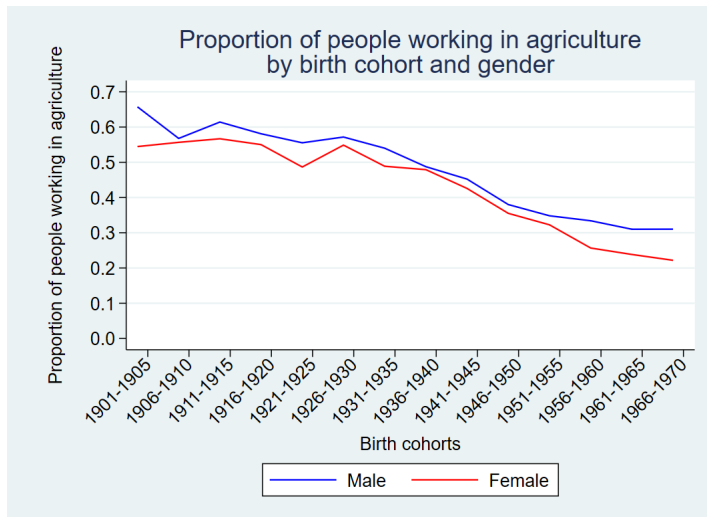
# ONE GENERATION BACK - HEALTHCARE



# ONE GENERATION BACK - MANUFACTURING

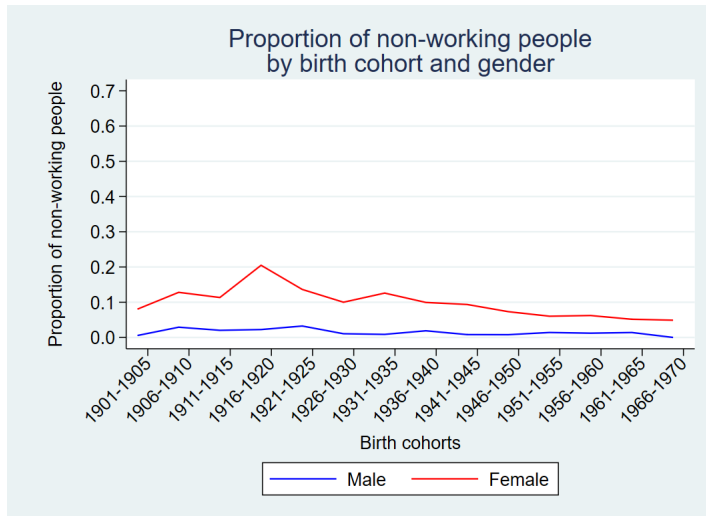


# ONE GENERATION BACK - AGRICULTURE





# ONE GENERATION BACK - UNEMPLOYMENT



# NEXT STEPS

- ▶ Deep dive into the existence of persistence in son preference and the mechanisms behind it
- ▶ Backlash or window dressing?

