







VOC Workshop

March 29th – 31th, 2012, University of Konstanz, Germany Gisela Trommsdorff



#### Contents

- The Original VOC Study
- Theoretical and methodological deficits
- The Value of Children and Intergenerational Relations Study
- Revised and extended model
- Connecting context and individual development over the life-span





### Conceptual model for the Value of Children Study

## SOCIO-DEMOGRAPHIC FACTORS

#### Background

Education

Urban experience

Wife's employment history

Age

Sex

Age at marriage

#### Situation

Income

Wife's current employment

Parity

# PSYCHOLOGICAL AND SOCIAL ORIENTATION

Decision mindedness Modernity Media exposure

Small-family press

Childbearing press

#### VALUE OF CHILDREN

#### Positive values

Emotional benefits

Economic benefits and security

Self-enrichment and development

Identification with children

Family cohesiveness and

continuity

#### **Negative values**

**Emotional costs** 

Economic costs

Restrictions or opportunity costs

Physical demands

Family costs

#### Large-family values

Sibling relationships

Sex preferences

Child survival

#### Small-family values

Societal costs

Maternal health

#### FERTILITY AND FAMILY PLANNING

#### Birth control

Knowledge

Attitude

Use

#### Family size

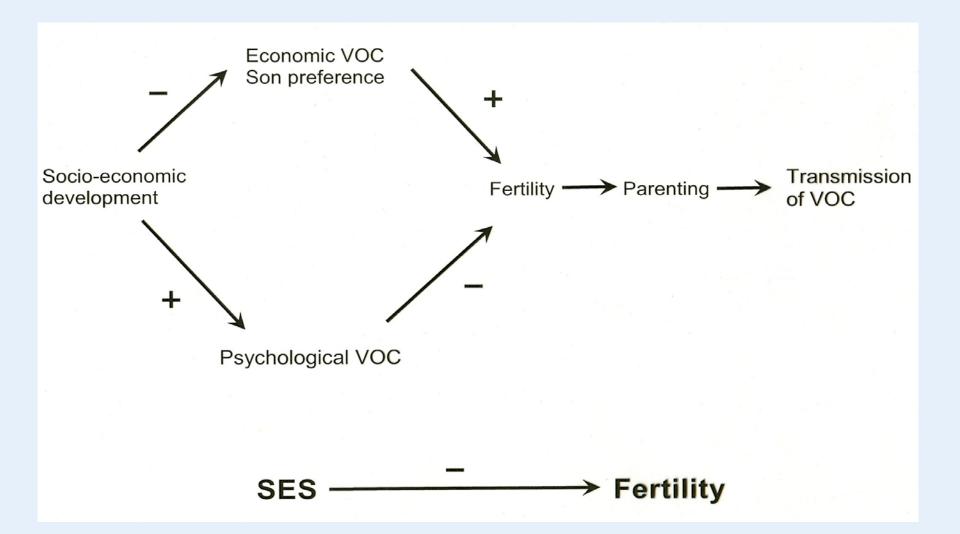
Actual

Desired

Ideal



## **Modification of Mediational Model**





# Why is the study of VOC and Intergenerational Relations necessary?

- World wide demographic changes (population growth and decline; increasing longevity) and
- Related socio-economic and cultural changes





























## In a famished land, children as barter



Akhtar Mohammed watching his son, Sher, 10, whom he traded to a wealthy farmer in exchange for a monthly supply of whea



## **Questions for a Revised VOC Study**



# From the Original VOC Study to the VOC and Intergenerational Relations Study

- Basic research questions and design: from context to behavior: economic status and fertility rate)
- Extension of the original model: sociological and psychological questions
  - Values, parenting, life long development, and intergenerational relations in times of social change
  - Using more differentiated methodologies: multilevel; person and variable approach



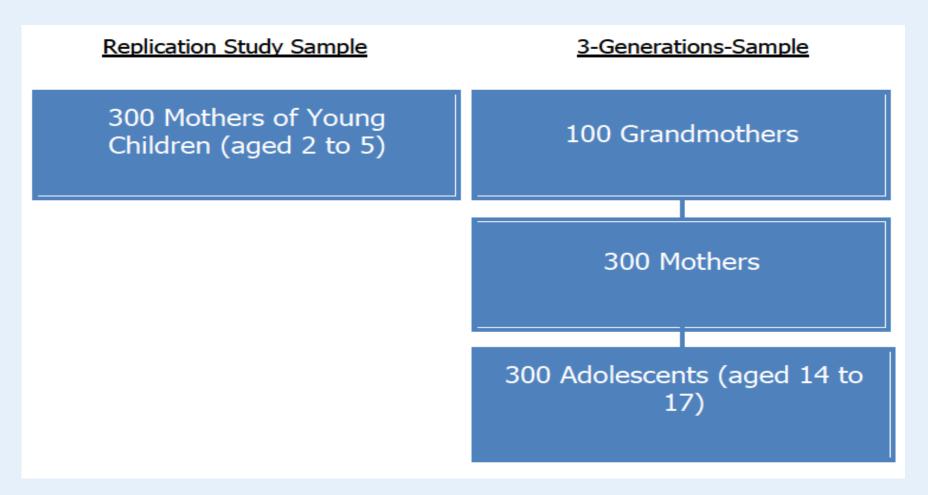
## **Bridging Context and Individual Development**

## The role of cultural context, values and parent-childrelations over the life-span and during socio-economic change for

- positive and negative value of children
- intergenerational relations (support; solidarity)
- life-long development
- transmission of values over the generations
- life satisfaction



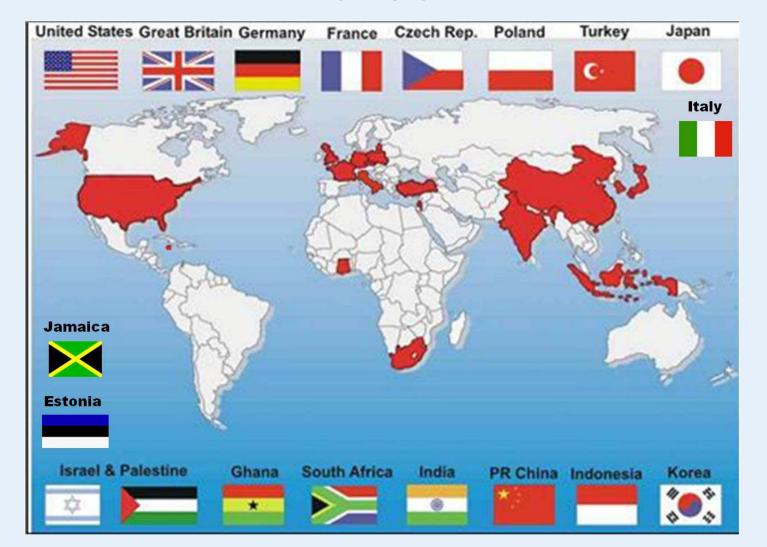
# Design





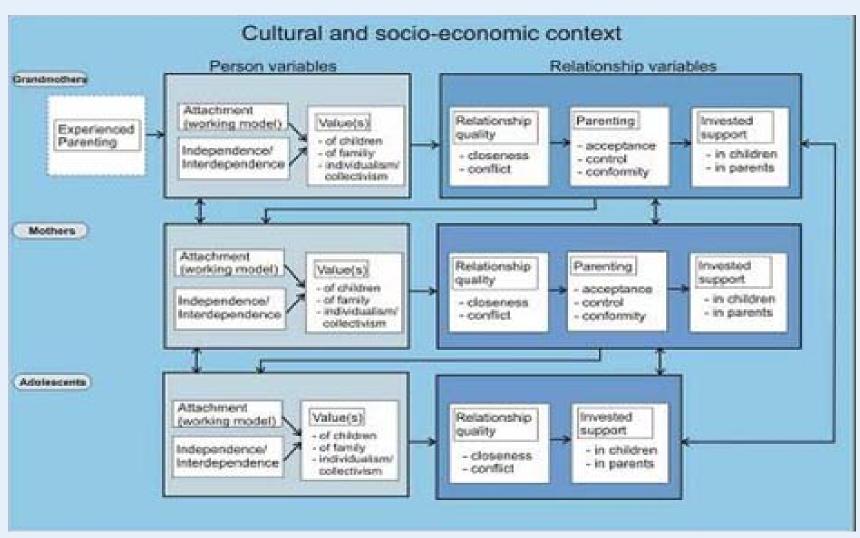


## Länder











# Thank you for your attention!





**Appendix** 

## Culture, values, and parent-child relations

