

## The role of the extended family in union formation and dissolution in Korea

The prevalence of multigenerational family households has decreased drastically in the past several decades in Korea, but ties among extended family members, especially those between adult children and their parents, continue to perform important functions for the family. This study examines the effects of parental characteristics on adult children's first marriage and its dissolution (i.e., divorce or separation), and explores how intergenerational relations intersect with gender and class status in affecting family life outcomes in Korea. The findings from the analysis

Primary data are from the Korean Labor and Income Panel Study, which is a longitudinal survey conducted every year from 1998 based on an original sample of 5000 households. This study uses waves 1 through 10 to examine factors affecting transition to first marriage and transition to divorce or separation of the first marriage. To utilize the rich information from each wave of data, the analysis highlights only those transitions occurred during the 10 waves of survey. The logit model was used based on person-wave data. Some preliminary results are presented in Tables 1 and 2 for sample characteristics and multivariate analysis for transition to marital dissolution (divorce or separation), respectively.

Preliminary findings from the logit analysis based on person-wave data show that parents' higher socioeconomic status increases the probabilities of both first marriage and its dissolution, but the effects differ by respondent's gender. The social context and theoretical implications will be discussed.

**Table 1. Characteristics of the Panel Sample of the First Married**

Variable	men sample				women sample			
	Mean	sd	Min	Max	Mean	sd	Min	Max
Age at wave 1	30.3	5.0	19	38	29.3	5.4	19	38
<u>Education</u>								
high school or less	0.46		0	1	0.63		0	1
junior college	0.15		0	1	0.15		0	1
university	0.39		0	1	0.22		0	1
<u>Spouse education</u>								
high school or less	0.51		0	1	0.42		0	1
junior college	0.17		0	1	0.14		0	1
university	0.25		0	1	0.35		0	1
<u>Work Characteristics</u>								
<b>low earnings</b>	0.06		0	1	0.16		0	1
<b>long working hours</b>	0.16		0	1	0.04		0	1
<u>Couple's parent characteristics</u>								
professional at R's age 14	0.16		0	1	0.17		0	1
<b>wife's parent coresiding</b>	0.01		0	1	0.01		0	1
<u>Family life satisfaction score</u>								
with family relationships	3.82	0.61	1	5	3.76	0.63	1	5
Event of divorce or separation	0.05		0	1	0.05		0	1

NOTE: 1) number of cases: men sample: person=2257 person-wave=12289  
 women sample: person=2685 person-wave=15345  
 2) The variables of bold letters are time-varying covariates and the means are based on person-wave data.

Table 2. Covariates of Dissolution (Divorce or Separation) of First Marriages

	Male sample		Female sample	
	Model 1 Odds Ratio	Model 2 Odds Ratio	Model 1 Odds Ratio	Model 2 Odds Ratio
age	0.5 *	0.5 ^	0.5 **	0.5 **
age squared	1.0 *	1.0 ^	1.0 *	1.0 *
age cubed	1.0 *	1.0 ^	1.0 *	1.0 *
<u>Education (high school or less)</u>				
junior college	0.5 *	0.5 ^	0.4 *	0.4 *
university	0.4 **	0.4 **	0.7	0.8
<u>Spouse education (high school or less)</u>				
junior college	0.4 *	0.4 *	0.4 *	0.5 *
university	0.5 ^	0.5	0.4	0.4 **
<u>Work characteristics (no. not working)</u>				
low earnings	2.6 ***	2.5 ***	1.3	---
long working hours	1.4	1.4	1.9 ^	2.0 *
<u>Couple's parent characteristics</u>				
father professional at 14	2.5 ***	2.6 ***	1.1	1.1
wife's parent coresiding	5.0 ***	5.1 ***	4.2 ***	4.1 ***
<u>Family life satisfaction score</u>				
with family relationships		0.5 ***		0.6 ***
Number of observations	12240	12240	15280	15280
LR chi square	83(11)	99(12)	66(11)	84(11)
Pseudo R <sup>2</sup>	0.07	0.08	0.05	0.06

note: Logit Analysis of Person-Wave Data (equivalent to piecewise constant event history analysis)