Birth masculinity in the Western Balkans

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Primary sources

- Sex ratio at birth: *annual birth registration*
- Child sex ratio: *censuses*
- Survey-base estimates
- Limitations:
  - Birth registration series by sex not systematically available; missing during conflict periods
  - Change in political/administrative definition
  - Missing censuses
  - Small sample in surveys

SRB series: major issues

- BiH, KOS, MK, GR, SRB, TR: incomplete series with missing years (conflict, new administrative entities, unpublished)
- KOS, ALB: potential (selective?) underreporting
- KOS, BiH: no recent census (KOS 2011)
- CG: small number of annual births
National trends in Southeast Europe

Countries considered
- Stable countries: Albania, Bulgaria, Greece, Romania
- Changing administration, but stable borders: Croatia, Macedonia (FYROM), Montenegro
- Changing borders or new entities: Bosnia Herzegovina (RS), Serbia, Kosovo
- Also included for comparison: Turkey
- Excluded: Slovenia, Hungary, and other adjacent countries

SRB: 3-year moving averages

Three categories
1. No significant deviation from the biological standard: Bulgaria, Romania, Turkey
2. Ambiguous cases: Bosnia Herzegovina, Croatia, Greece, Serbia,
3. Confirmed cases of skewed sex ratio at birth: Albania, Kosovo, Macedonia, Montenegro
Business as usual

Isolated hikes

The hypothesis of war conditions

Clear differences

"Did the 1991-1995 Wars in the Former Yugoslavia affect Sex Ratio at Birth?" European Journal of Epidemiology, Volume 21, Number 1 / 2006
### SRB in affected countries

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country/regions</th>
<th>SRB</th>
<th>Period</th>
<th>Data type</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>East and South East Asia</td>
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<tr>
<td>China (Mainland)</td>
<td>118.1</td>
<td>2009</td>
<td>Census estimate</td>
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<tr>
<td>Viet Nam</td>
<td>111.2</td>
<td>2010</td>
<td>Annual demographic survey</td>
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<td>South Asia</td>
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<tr>
<td>India</td>
<td>110.6</td>
<td>2006-08</td>
<td>Sample registration</td>
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<td>Caucasus</td>
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<td>Azerbaijan</td>
<td>117.6</td>
<td>2009</td>
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<td>Armenia</td>
<td>115.8</td>
<td>2008</td>
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<td>Georgia</td>
<td>111.9</td>
<td>2006</td>
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<td>Southeast Europe</td>
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<td>Albania</td>
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<td>2008</td>
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<td>Montenegro</td>
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<td>Kosovo</td>
<td>112</td>
<td>2010</td>
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<td>Macedonia</td>
<td>109</td>
<td>2009</td>
<td>Birth registration</td>
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<tr>
<td>Rest of Europe and North America</td>
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<td>Asian or Albanian diasporas</td>
<td>107-110</td>
<td>2000-99</td>
<td>Special studies</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Spatial and ethnic disparities in affected countries (child sex ratios)

**Kosovo**
- No census data
- Birth registration data based on 31 municipalities (Komuna or opština) are available only from 2005 and correspond to limited samples: no mapping possible
- No disaggregated analysis possible at this stage

**Macedonia, 2002**
- Sex ratio below 10 years
- 84 municipalities (Opštine/Општини)
Macedonia: preliminary conclusions

- Modest but undeniable SRB imbalance
- SRB distribution greatly varies across opštine in 2002
- Close association between Albanian percentage and higher SRB
- SRB = 111 among Albanians and 105 in the rest of the population?

Montenegro: preliminary conclusion

- Distinct SRB imbalance in the country
- Small number of populations/births is a source of difficulty
- Slightly visible geographical patterns towards East and South
- No Albanian association in Ulcinj
- Weak association with Muslims/Bosniak and negative association with Serbian (vs. Montenegrin) population
Albania: preliminary conclusions

- Distinct geographical variations in SRB levels within the country
- Complex patterns including northern highlands and littoral areas as high SRB areas
- Rather weak association with presumed distribution of Catholics
- No visible association with socio-cultural variables (linguistic, age at marriage) or economic development (HDI)

What we know

- Cultural determinants may predominate over other social or economic factors
- Birth masculinity in SE Europe has a distinct "Albanian flavor"
- The SRB of Albanian immigrants in Greece and Italy is also close to 110
What we don’t know

- Exact situation and timing of inception and intensification in several countries
- Mechanisms of sex selection: parity, previous births, methods used, role of private vs. public facilities
- Variations in discriminatory practices by SES and other variables
- Specific dimensions of gender discrimination (old and new forms) conducive to prenatal discrimination and potential effect of social change

Thank you, merci, Hvala, Благодаря, Falemenderit, Mutlu, Еуχαριστώ, Tesekkür ederim, Благодарам, etc.