

Interparental conflict trajectory: Does the type of custody matter?

Štěpánka Lehmann, Jana Barvíková

Research Institute for Labour and Social Affairs, Prague, Czech Republic

Context

- Research on child physical custody after parental separation in Central and Eastern Europe lacking
- The share of children growing up in shared custody increasing in Czechia¹ - it may be ordered even in highly conflictual cases
- Most research find JPC favourable for children² x growing number of authors conclude that the well-being of children does not result from the type of custody but from the characteristics of families that choose JPC³

Dilemma of intense parental conflict

- Do positives of JPC outweigh the disadvantages of the child being exposed to the parental conflict⁴ or does the conflict harm children in JPC more than in SPC⁵?
- Does the practice of JPC mitigate the conflict⁶ or not?

Questions

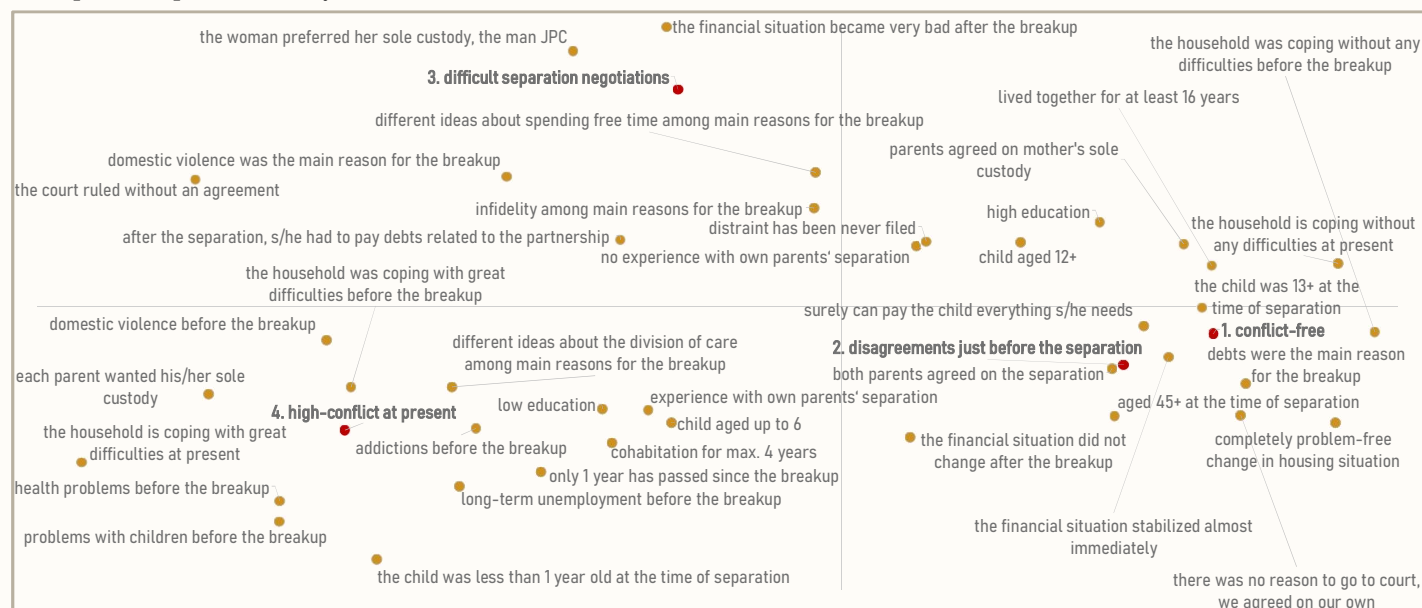
- What influences the trajectory and possible escalation of parental conflict?
- Is it related to the type of custody?
- Does it play a role whether the custody was ordered by the court?

Problems

- No longitudinal data
- Complexity of conflict

- Conflict results in a law suit but the fact that the court ruled without a parental agreement doesn't imply a subsequent escalation

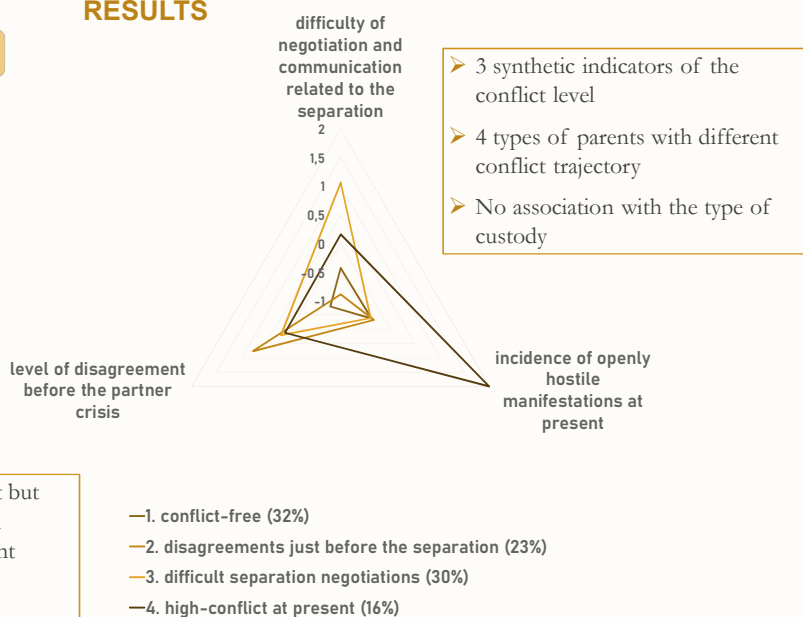
Multiple correspondence analysis



Data and Methodology

- 2021 questionnaire survey with 1982 parents caring for minors after the break-up (47% with equally divided care)
- Principal component analysis → synthetic indicators of the conflict level
- Cluster analysis → typology of parents
- χ^2 tests, multiple correspondence analysis → map of association

RESULTS



References

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Štěpánka Lehmann, Ph.D.

stepanka.lehmann@rilsa.cz

rilsa

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VÝZKUMNÝ ÚSTAV PRÁCE A SOCIÁLNÍCH VĚCÍ

Note: The two graphs dimensions shown explain 93.7% of the chi-square variability. Distance measure = χ^2 , standardized by centering both rows and columns, symmetric normalization.
Source: Child in parental conflict 2021.