Age, Period, and Cohort Effects on Social Attitudes in Eurasia

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Goals

- Examine how the analysis of age, period, and cohort effects can assist in understanding the effects of the past twenty years of marked social, economic, and political change in Eurasia.

- Investigate the salience of these effects for variation within such countries as the Soviet Union.

- Explore how these effects may alter socio-political attitudes and sources for regime support and resistance across the former Soviet Union.
Life Course Perspective

- The effects of change at a given point in time are filtered through age dependent characteristics of individuals.

- The contextual context of events alters the ways in which they influence individual attitudes.

- The effects of change are carried forward across the life span of individuals.
Russia’s Voters, 2010

(Rosstat)
## Age and Experience Across the Transition, Russian Federation

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<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Event/Action</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1975</td>
<td>Brezhnev Soyuz 18 Helsinki Act</td>
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<td>1980</td>
<td>Brezhnev Grain Embargo Olympics</td>
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<td>1985/86</td>
<td>Gorbachev Chernobyl Oil falls Glasnost</td>
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<td>1990/1</td>
<td>Peoples Deputies SU ends Yelstin Shock therapy</td>
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<td>1995</td>
<td>High Mig. To Russia, Chechyna Yeltsin</td>
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<td>2000</td>
<td>98 crisis 2nd Chechen War 30% in ex. poverty, Putin</td>
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<td>2005</td>
<td>Putin (71%), Kursk, Andijan, Khordorkovsky</td>
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<td>2010</td>
<td>Census, Oligarchs on trial, Poverty declines by 50% since 00, Medvedev</td>
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Russian youth (18-30)
- Tend to display more socially conservative attitudes
- Adhere to more traditional divisions of childcare
- Report higher levels of nationalism

Russians 60+
- Display higher level of support for social programs
- Report lower levels of nationalism (controlling for R/U)
- Adhere to more equitable divisions of child care
Variations in Health and Well Being, RLMS 2006-2008

Males:
Health remains worse among 50-59 cohort (chronic disease, BMI, degenerative diseases)
Health behaviors among younger men (15-24) are actually worse than the crisis cohort at that age

Females:
Reproductive health crisis
Perceptions of control
Self perceived health among the elderly is improving
Variations Across the Region

- Demographic determinism
  - Cohort size matters (social mobility)
  - Youth populations are inherently unstable
  - Economic downturns present significant challenges

How well does this fit the region?

- Migration as an escape value
- Huge youth populations in Central Asia
- Unique relationships with age, period and cohort
Conclusions: Should Transitologists be broken down by Age and Sex?

- Explorations of the last twenty years, and the years to come can benefit from careful consideration of age, period, and cohort effects.

- History can be written on populations, but more attention to how changes in the social structure impact individuals can be potentially potent in unpacking social attitudes.

- Age, period, and cohort patterns in Russia and Eurasia are unique and instructive, allowing an excellent opportunity for enhancing and challenging existing theories.