

Muslim Fertility Transitions: From Majority Countries to Europe and Australia

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Room BENVENUTI

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Islam, the world's second largest religion after Christianity, encompasses over two billion followers. Fertility among Muslims, both globally and among Muslim migrants in Europe, has often been higher than that of other groups, fueling a simplistic “religiosity” explanation of Muslim demography. This view, however, overlooks the diversity within Islam and the powerful influence of regional, cultural, and socioeconomic contexts. Treating Muslim fertility as monolithic obscures the complex demographic transitions occurring across Muslim-majority societies and diasporas.

This presentation first examines fertility levels, trends, and patterns in Muslim-majority countries. It then analyses fertility among Muslim migrant women in Europe and Australia across multiple birth cohorts. The findings contribute to broader comparative research on the fertility behaviour of immigrants, highlighting how religion and origin contexts shape demographic trajectories. The results also provide insights relevant to European debates on Muslim integration and demographic change.



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