THE EVOLUTION OF MARRIAGE, HOUSEHOLDS, AND THE SOUTH AFRICAN LABOUR MARKET: AN ANALYSIS OF HOUSEHOLD SURVEY DATA, 1995-2018

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HOW THE SOUTH AFRICAN WELFARE SYSTEM WORKS

- Non-contributory: elderly, children, disabled

- Contributory: UIF, private pensions

- Excluded: working-age individuals without a disability

HOW THIS CAME ABOUT

- Migration was/is a core part of the care regime from Apartheid era
- Masks the role and importance of the household
- This is the driver of core demographic changes

UNEMPLOYMENT RATE (OFFICIAL)
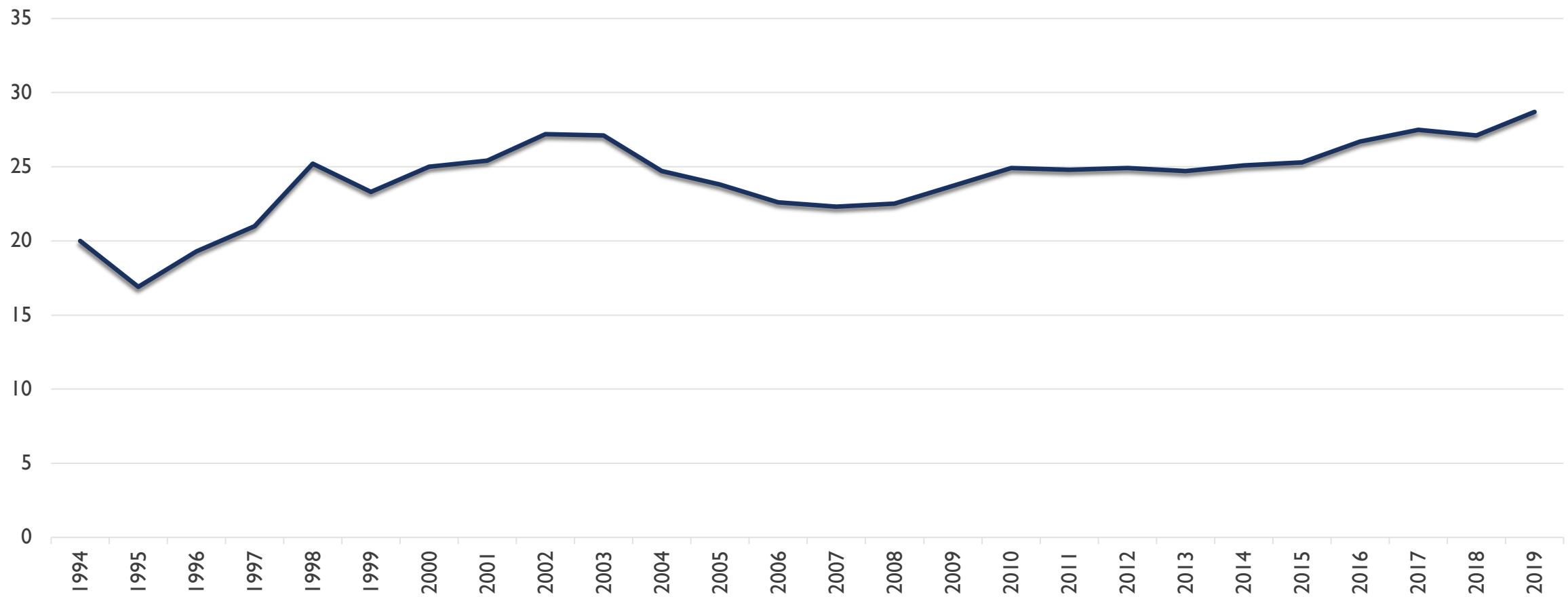
CARE & CARE REGIMES

- Four stages of care: (1) caring about, (2) caring for, (3) caregiving, and (4) care receiving. Broder conception of care.

- The second stage: "responsibility to meet a need that has been identified. Simply seeing a need for care is not enough to make care happen; someone has to assume the responsibility for organizing, marshalling resources or personnel, and paying for the care work that will meet the identified needs" (Tronto 1998, 16–17).

- *Caring for* is a significant part of what private households in South Africa provide to the unemployed every day.

- This has in large part altered the composition of households in South Africa and increased the care burden of households. It is furthermore the composition of the household which will determine the extent to which women are burdened with the responsibility of unpaid care in their households.

- Care regime defined by the parts the household, the state, and the market takes care of.

METHODOLOGY

- October household survey and general household survey (1995-2018, in 2 yearly intervals) to look at trends in household composition, labour market status, and marital status.

- Exclusions: survey periods in which there is not distinction between cohabiting and married couples.

- Use descriptive statistics and inferential statistics (multinomial logit regression) to mainly study household composition in relation to marital status and labour force status.

HOUSEHOLD COMPOSITION

Household Type	Individuals present	Household Category
Single Person	Head	Nuclear
Couple	Head + Partner	
Nuclear Family	Head + Partner + Child(ren)	
Single Parent	Head + Child(ren)	
Three Generation	Head + (Child(ren) + Grandchild(ren)) or (Parents + Child(ren)) + (Parents + Grandparents)	Complex
Skip Generation	Head + (Grandchildren/Great-grandchildren) or (Grandparents/Great-grandparents)	
Multi Generation	Head + (Parents + Children + Grandchildren) or (Parents + Grandparents + Children)	
Complex Related	Household in which everyone is related, but does not fit any of the other household definitions.	
Child-Headed	All members of the household younger than 16 years old.	Other
Siblings Only	Head + Siblings	
Complex Unrelated	A household with at least one unrelated member.	

SAMPLE SUMMARY STATISTICS

	1995	1997	1999	2005	2006	2008	2010	2012	2014	2016	2018
Age	34.4	34.786	34.578	35.279	35.263	35.223	35.224	35.451	35.674	35.942	36.252
Male	0.476	0.478	0.48	0.487	0.487	0.486	0.488	0.488	0.489	0.49	0.491
Fenale	0.524	0.522	0.52	0.513	0.513	0.514	0.512	0.512	0.511	0.51	0.509
African	0.745	0.749	0.752	0.765	0.768	0.773	0.777	0.783	0.789	0.796	0.801
Coloured	0.095	0.095	0.095	0.094	0.093	0.092	0.094	0.092	0.092	0.09	0.089
Indian	0.03	0.03	0.03	0.028	0.029	0.029	0.029	0.029	0.029	0.028	0.029
White	0.13	0.127	0.123	0.113	0.111	0.106	0.1	0.096	0.091	0.086	0.081
Nuclear	0.36	0.29	0.267	0.239	0.256	0.246	0.223	0.221	0.219	0.217	0.216
Extended	0.403	0.477	0.435	0.451	0.419	0.449	0.491	0.48	0.494	0.461	0.473
Other	0.041	0.05	0.061	0.055	0.056	0.07	0.06	0.069	0.059	0.063	0.059
Employed	0.447	0.402	0.452	0.45	0.458	0.475	0.481	0.494	0.499	0.506	0.507
Unemployed	0.244	0.277	0.285	0.3	0.296	0.287	0.319	0.248	0.27	0.266	0.273
NEA	0.309	0.321	0.263	0.25	0.245	0.238	0.2	0.258	0.232	0.228	0.22
Never Married	0.454	0.467	0.474	0.484	0.491	0.505	0.505	0.517	0.521	0.516	0.522
Married	0.438	0.411	0.391	0.338	0.331	0.33	0.306	0.299	0.297	0.301	0.291
Cohabiting	0.044	0.054	0.066	0.106	0.107	0.101	0.122	0.121	0.12	0.122	0.128
Divorced/Separated	0.027	0.03	0.034	0.031	0.028	0.027	0.026	0.024	0.024	0.024	0.026
Widowed	0.037	0.038	0.035	0.042	0.042	0.037	0.041	0.04	0.038	0.036	0.033
Size	5.544	5.693	5.215	4.94	4.799	4.922	4.999	4.926	4.998	4.696	4.734

HOUSEHOLD COMPOSITION X MARITAL STATUS
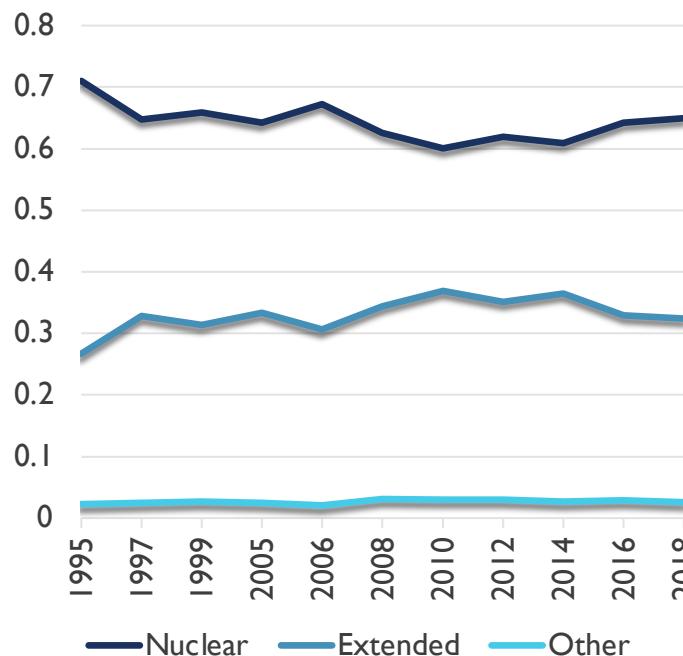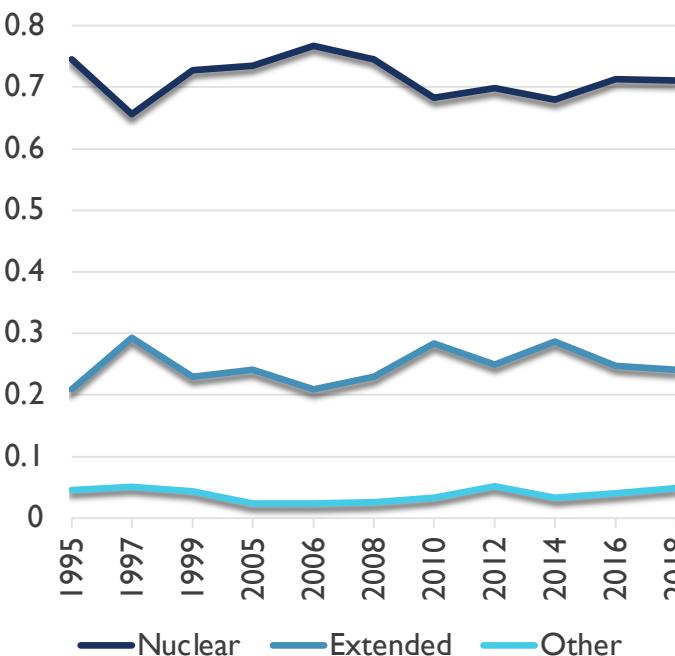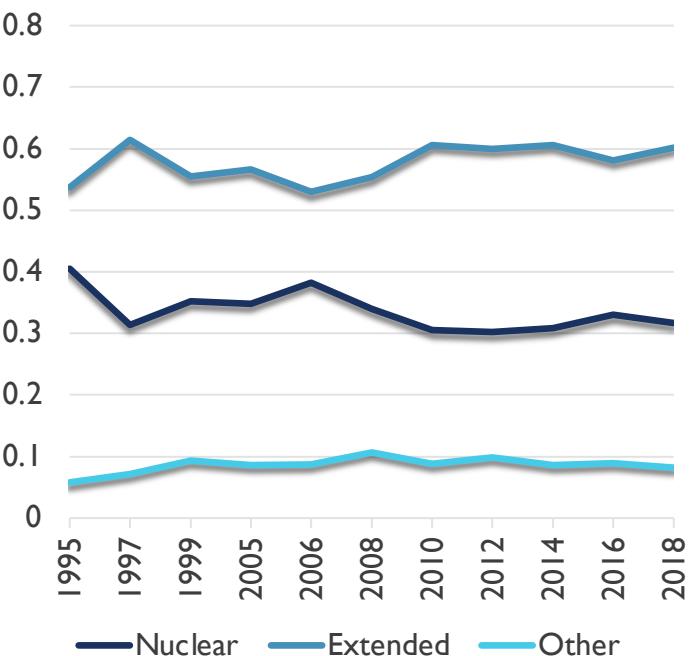
HOUSEHOLD COMPOSITION X LABOUR MARKET STATUS

Employed   **Unemployed**   **NEA**
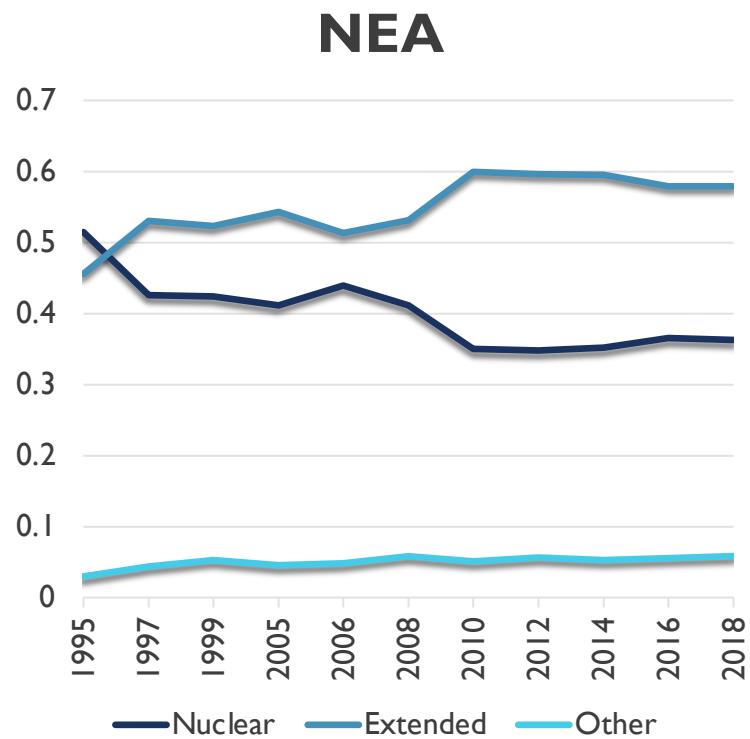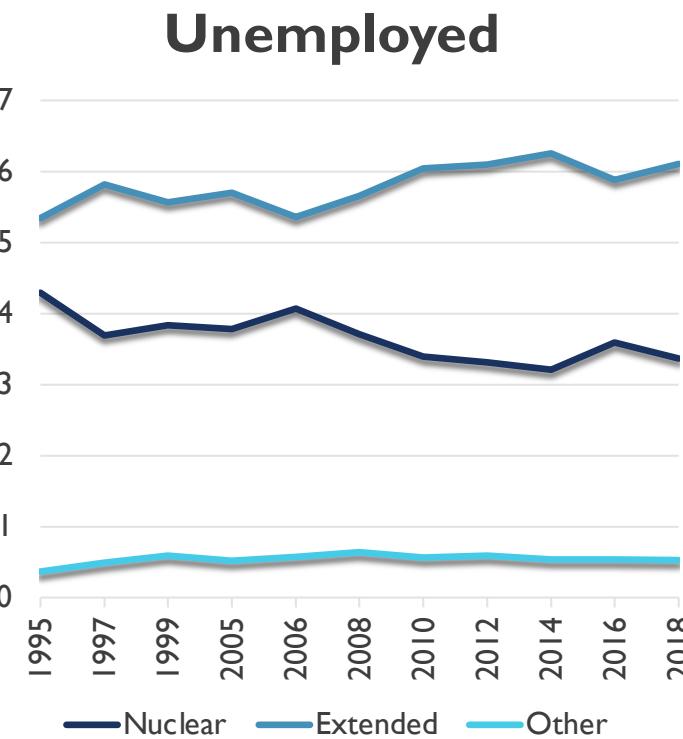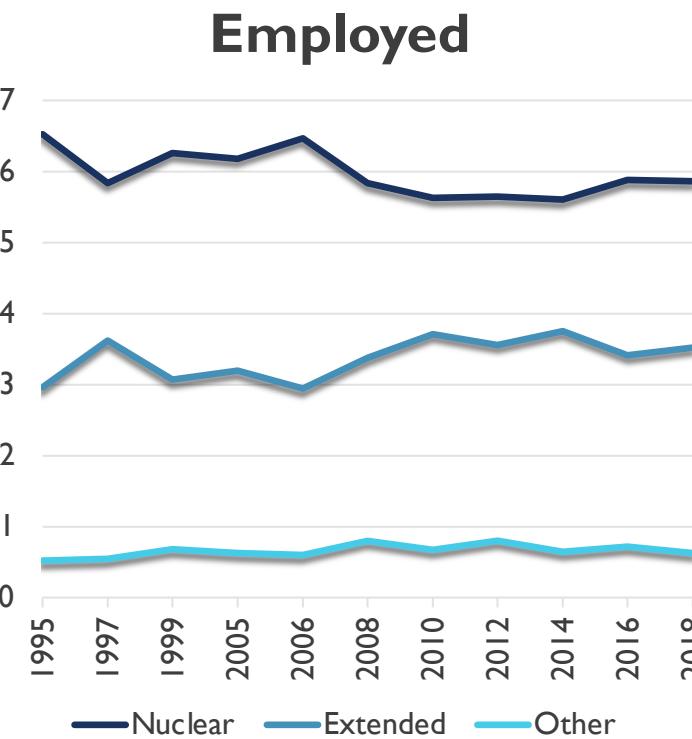
	Pooled	Male	Female
Extended			
Female	0.214***		
	(0.010)		
Age	-0.051***	0.000	-0.101***
	(0.003)	(0.004)	(0.004)
Age2	0.001***	0.000***	0.002***
	(0.000)	(0.000)	(0.000)
Ref: African			
Coloured	-0.332***	-0.353***	-0.301***
	(0.035)	(0.039)	(0.035)
Indian	-0.267***	-0.168***	-0.363***
	(0.039)	(0.044)	(0.040)
White	-0.784***	-0.716***	-0.838***
	(0.046)	(0.050)	(0.045)
Ref: NEA			
Employed	0.020	-0.072**	0.082***
	(0.015)	(0.023)	(0.018)
Unemployed	0.175***	0.133***	0.218***
	(0.015)	(0.023)	(0.018)

MULTINOMIAL LOGIT REGRESSION

Ref: Never Married			
Married	-1.398***	-1.302***	-1.424***
	(0.022)	(0.025)	(0.025)
Cohabiting	-1.522***	-1.438***	-1.555***
	(0.028)	(0.031)	(0.029)
Divorced/Separated	-0.154***	-0.028	-0.206***
	(0.027)	(0.043)	(0.034)
Widowed	-0.277***	-0.431***	-0.311***
	(0.024)	(0.055)	(0.028)
Size	0.647***	0.630***	0.674***
	(0.010)	(0.009)	(0.011)
Constant	-2.844***	-3.600***	-1.920***
	(0.083)	(0.094)	(0.094)

MULTINOMIAL LOGIT REGRESSION (CONT.)

DISCUSSION

- Smaller households tend to be nuclear, includes cohabiting and married individuals, as well as the employed.

- Extended households consist of never married individuals, the unemployed, and tend to be larger in size.

- Additionally, men are more likely to be found in nuclear households and women in extended households.

- These results give credence to studies which have shown how financial barriers to marriage prevents people from forming certain households and engaging in marital contracts (Casale & Posel, 2010).

- Rise of cohabiting households, which not only house the employed, but also tend to be nuclear. Given the barriers which exist to household formation, cohabiting households reflect groups of people who are deviating from *cultural* norms and also have greater *economic* freedom.

THANK YOU