

Family, Kinship Structure and Marital Dissolution in Indonesia

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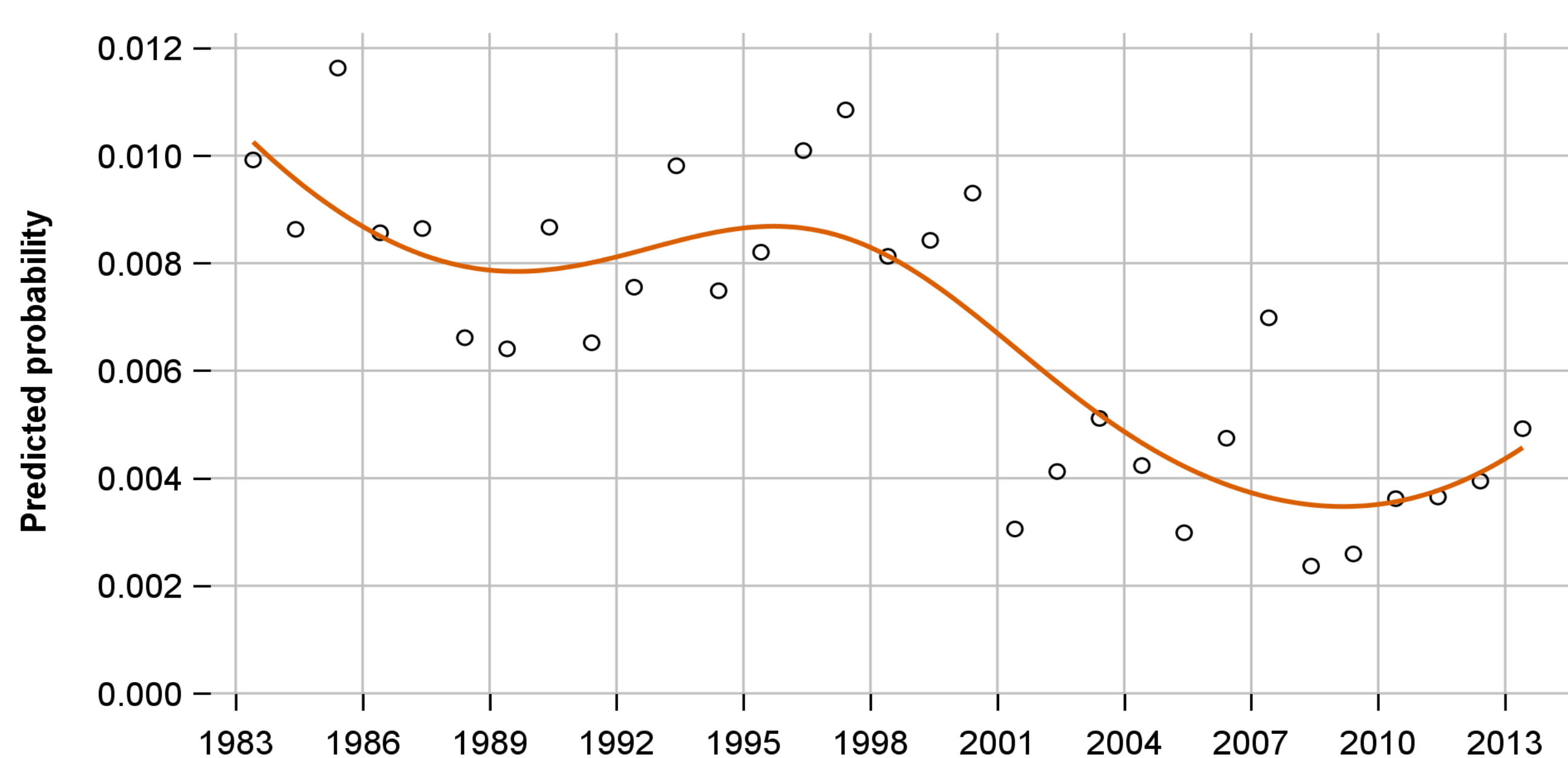
Objectives

- To investigate the changes in dissolution of first marriage in Indonesia— between 1983 and 2013.
- To examine the influence of family structure on marital dissolution.
- Analyses are based on five rounds of longitudinal data from the Indonesian Family and Life Surveys (IFLS) conducted between 1993 and 2014

Marriage and Divorce in Indonesia

- Historically, marriage was nearly universal and early marriage was the norm, and divorce rates were high
- Shift from historically arranged marriages to predominately self-choice marriages now
- Marriage is seen as a key marker for transition to adulthood and no significant social barriers for divorce
- Reformasi has brought about changes in the gender system and ideational shifts in views about family, individualism and personal fulfilment
- Increased public role of religion and changes in the way Islam is being practiced
- Liberalization of media, politics and structural changes
- Also secular increases in enrolment and attainment of higher education for both men and women

Probability of Divorce or Separation, Indonesia, 1983-2013



Divorce Trends

- The figure shows dramatic drop in divorce rates in the years following *reformasi*, with signs of upward increase since late 2000s
- The trends point towards increasing marital stability in the time period following reformasi

Family System and Kinship

- Egalitarian gender roles with flexible membership and greater autonomy for women
- Post-marital residence characterized by bilocal (or ambilocal) patterns
- Greater autonomy and access to natal support could potentially influence marital stability

Methodology

- Analyze the effect of household structure on divorce
- Dependent variable: First marriage ending in divorce or not.
- Key independent variable is household type at the time of first marriage classified as below
- Controls include age, religion, education, ethnicity, marriage age, marital status of parents and social economic status

Household type	Measure
Simple family household	Married couple only
Extended household 1	Conjugal family with at least a/both parent(s) of respondent, with or without other related/non-related co-resident relations
Extended household 2	Conjugal family with at one/both parent(s)-in-law of respondent, with or without other related/non-related co-resident relations
Other household	Any other types of household that do not fall under the above categories

Key findings

- Family structure after first marriage measured by living arrangements has significant influence on divorce
- Women who stayed with their own parents after marriage have between 25 and 35 per cent higher odds of divorce compared to couples who lived on their own or couples who lived with husband's family
- Muslims enter marriage earlier than other groups but no statistically significant difference in divorce
- Ethnic difference: Javanese have later marriage than Sunda or Balinese. Ethnic differences also seen in divorce but the group ordering is different.

Compared to women with college or university education

	Odds ratio of divorce or separation
No education	16.7**
Junior general	6.8**
Senior general	2.2*

Discussion

- There are clear shifts in the marriage system including changes in marital stability
- Some of these shifts could be attributed to changes brought about *reformasi*
- Family structure has a significant influence on marital stability
- Further investigation is needed to understand the linkages between family structure and divorce