Voter's power in aging societies – How an aging and shrinking society effects a political system

by

Lars Weber & Veit Schulz

Summary

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Research Question

- How will the demographical change effect the political sector?

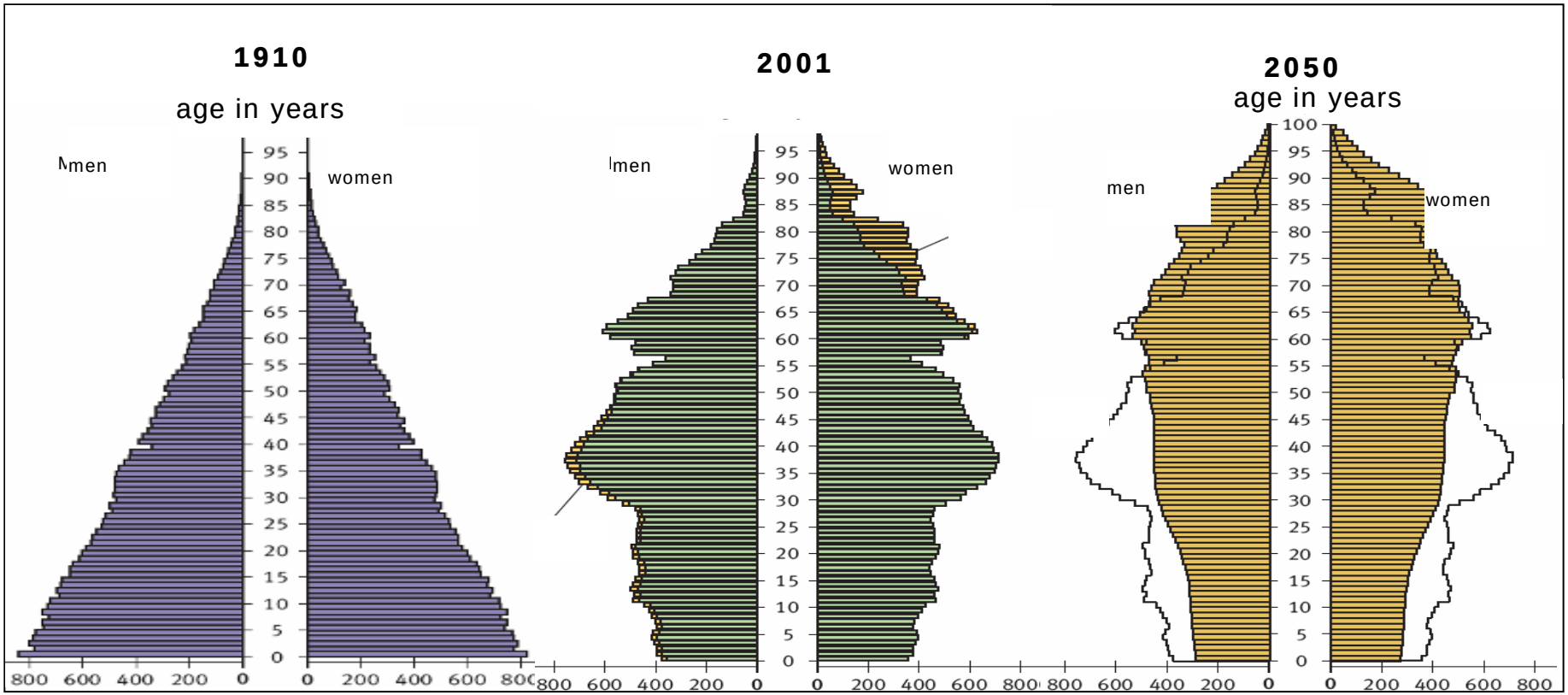
Main Assumptions

- on the case of Germany
- voters participation differs in the age groups
  (highest participation – elderly people; lowest participation – twenty-some-things)
- no political tendencies or parties are included in this model
- only a policy orientated view which is independent from parties

Further Research

- Implementation of European and transnational migration
- Survey of different European Countries
- Further policy options to analyze possible strategies

Demographic Trends



- Life expectancy increases - people become older
- Total fertility rate (TFR) below sustainable level - continuously decline

Demographic Trends

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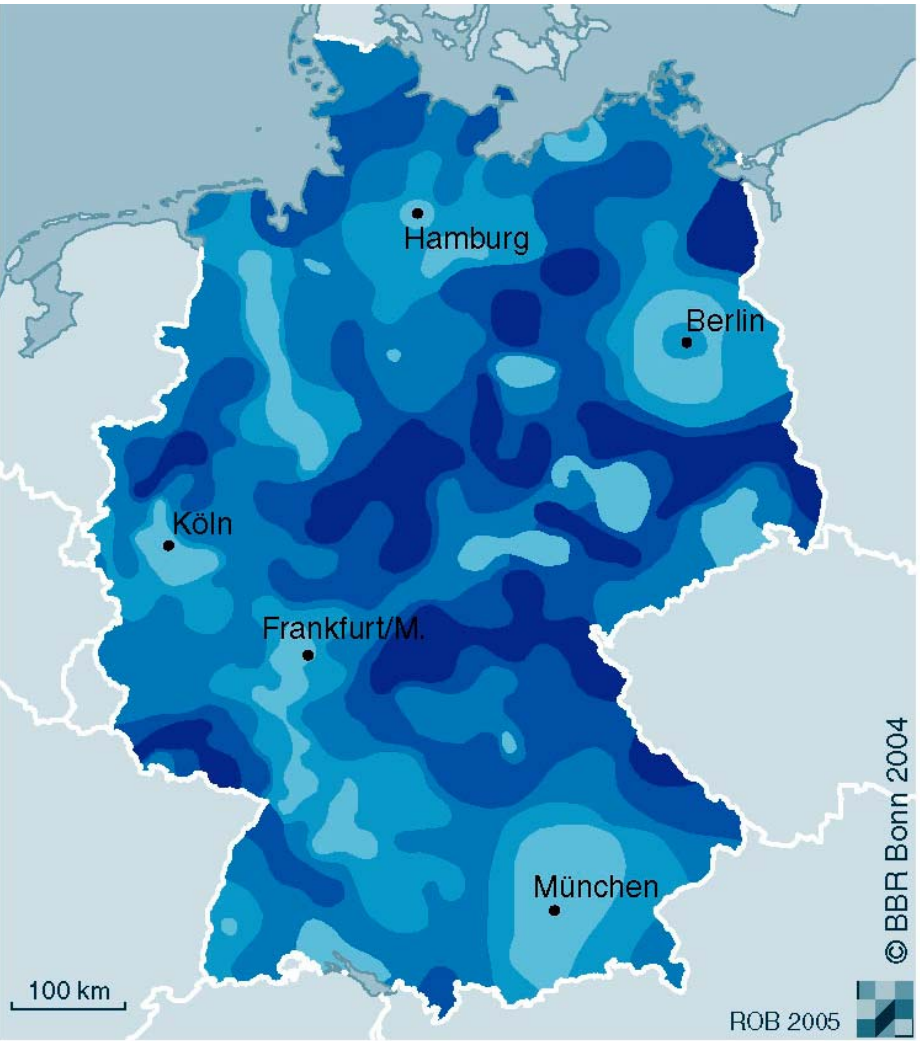
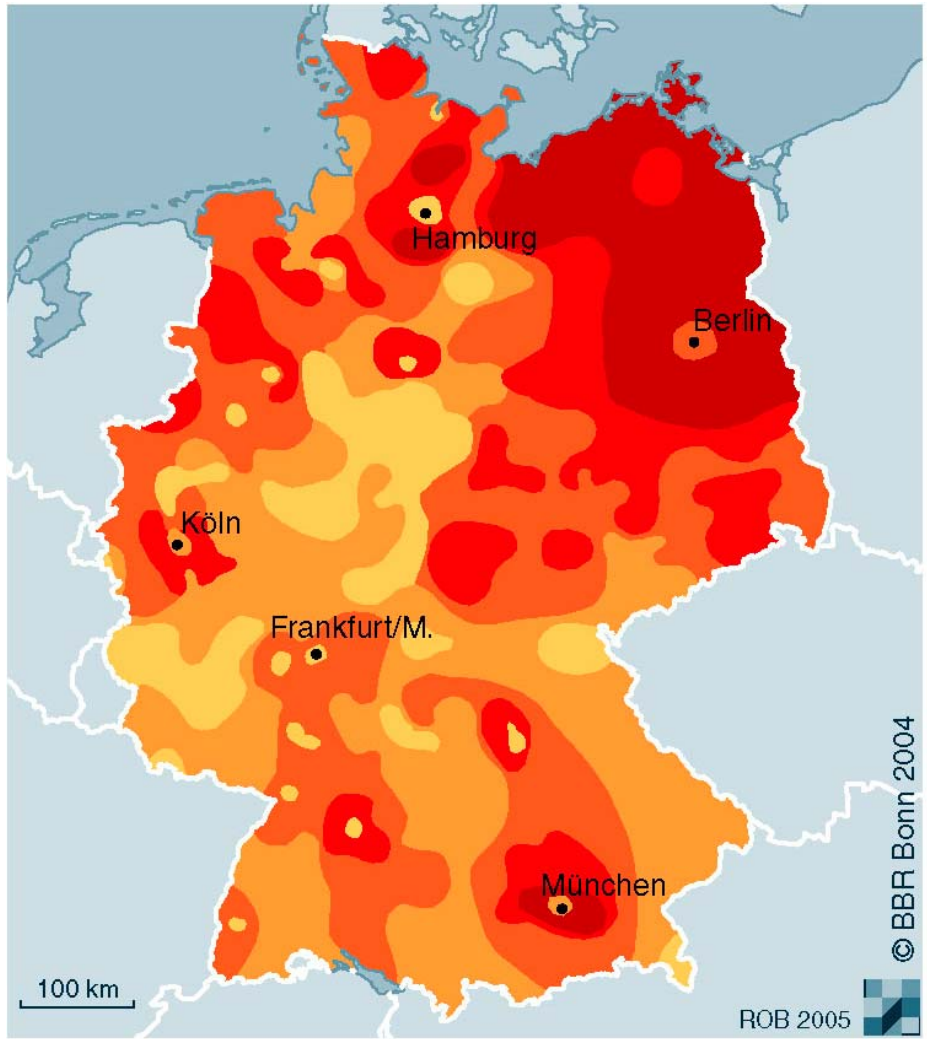
children (6 – 16 years) till 2020



Quelle: BBR (2005): Raumordnungsbericht 2005. Berichte Bd. 21, Bonn. Seite 38

elderly people (over 70) till 2020



Quelle: BBR (2005): Raumordnungsbericht 2005. Berichte Bd. 21, Bonn. Seite 38

Stakeholders

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Children orientated Adults (between 20 and 60 years)

- Adults who have children
- family orientated thinking
- favor policies which will not shift a financial burden into the fare future and supports young families

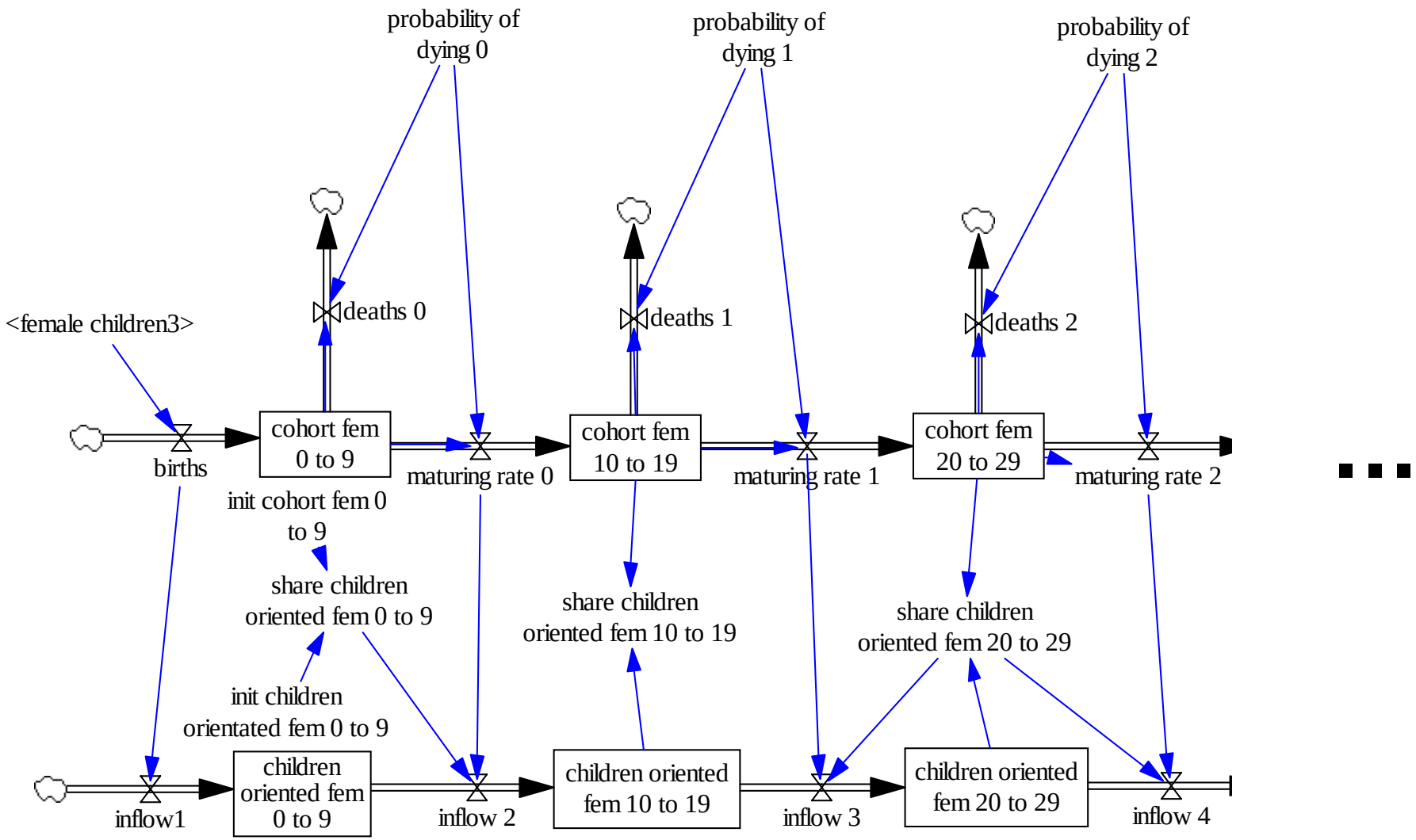
Indifferent Individuals (between 20 and 60 years)

- singels or in a part time relationship
- strong individual thinking
- favor policies which pay off in a certain time frame

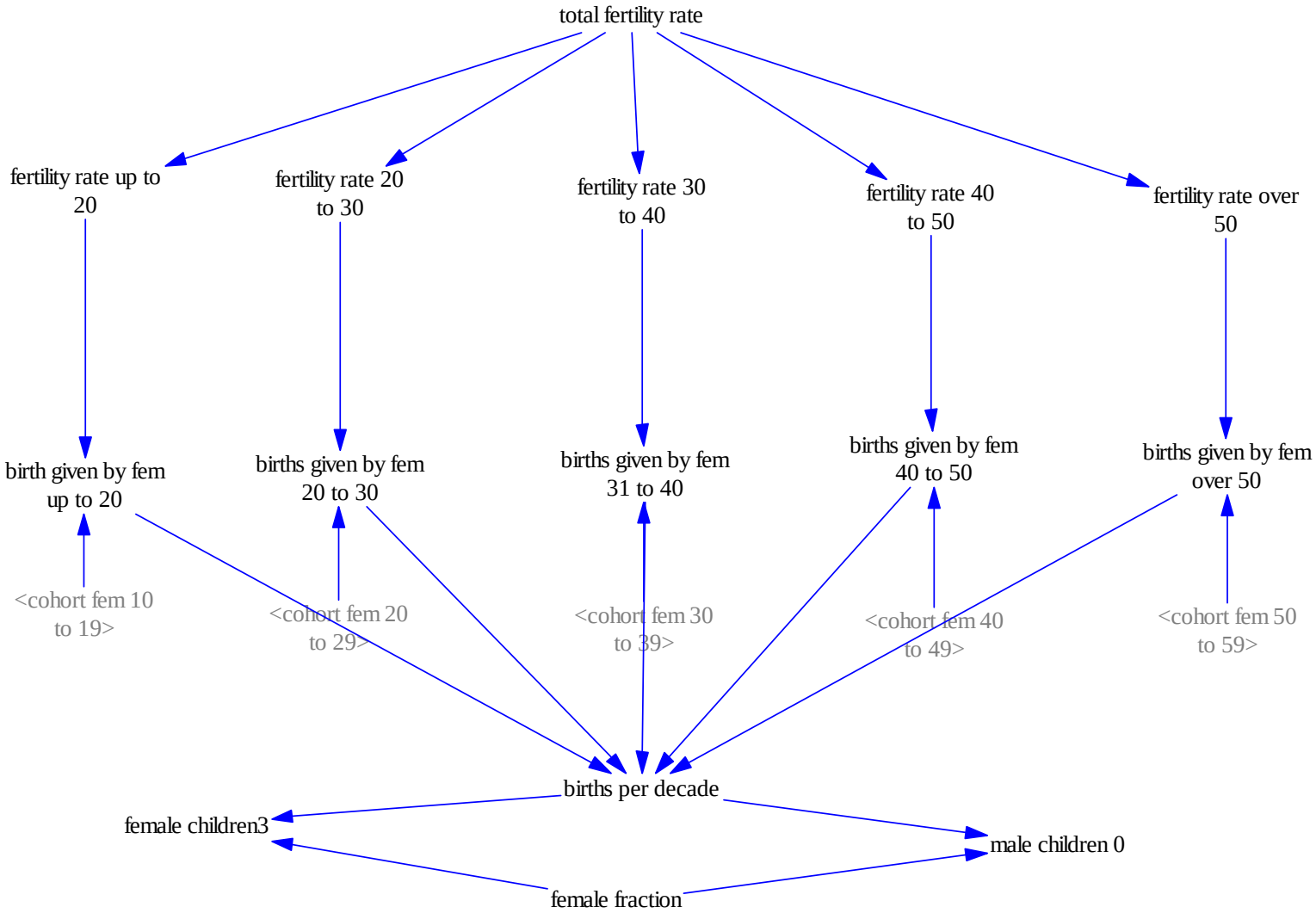
Retired Adults (older than 60 years)

- would like to live their life intensively
- favor policies which pay off in the present or near future

Model – Aging Chain



Model – Total Fertility Rate



Scenarios

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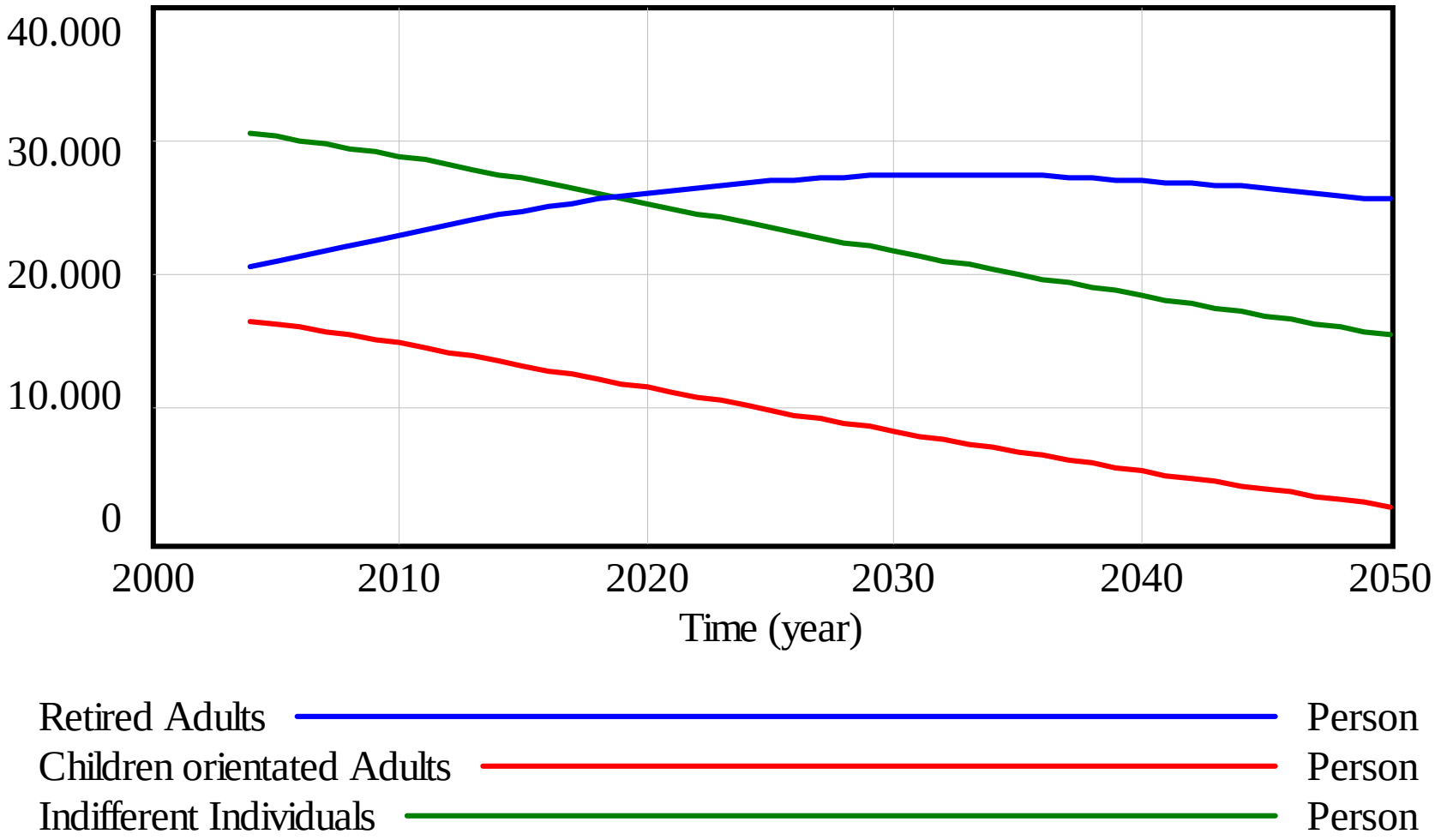
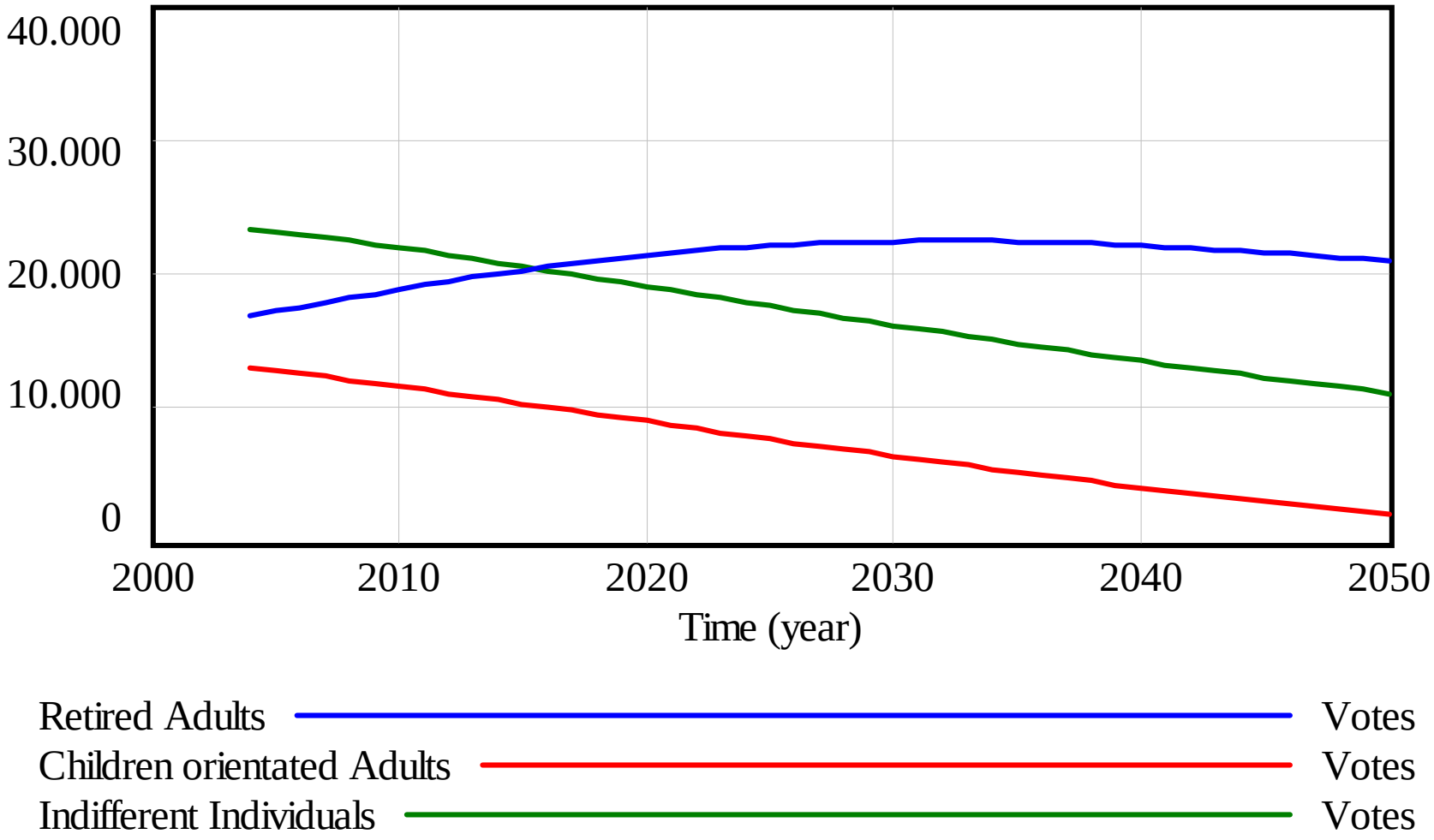
1. **Current Situation**
   - TFR 1.34
   - no net-migration
2. **Voting Right for Children**
   - each child gets one vote
   - votes added to children orientated adults
   - no net-migration
3. **Total Fertility Rate increases to the sustainable level of 2.10**
   - no net-migration
4. **Total Fertility rate 2.10 plus voting right for children**
   - no net-migration

Scenario 1
Current Situation Development of the Stakeholder



Scenario 1
Current Situation Development of votes of the Stakeholder



Scenario 2
voting right for children current TFR of 1.3

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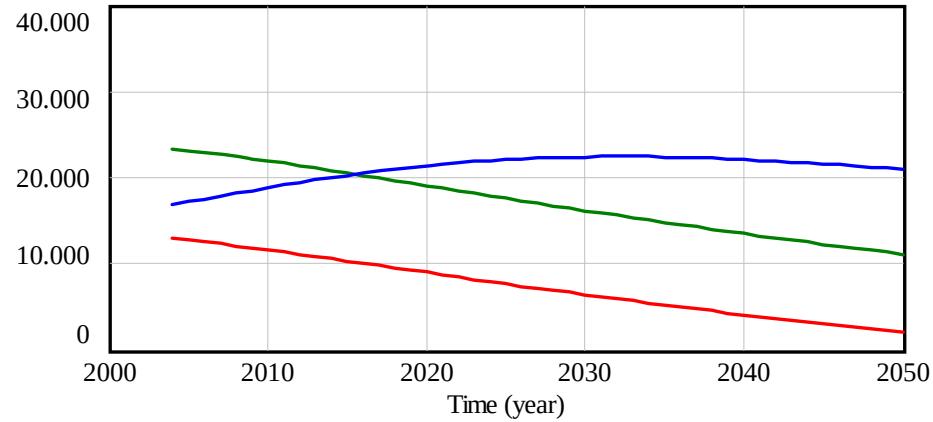
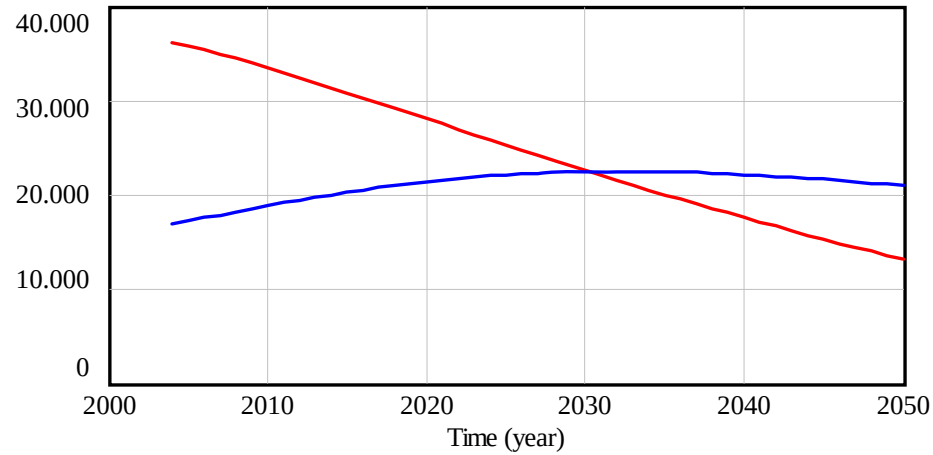
Without voting right for children

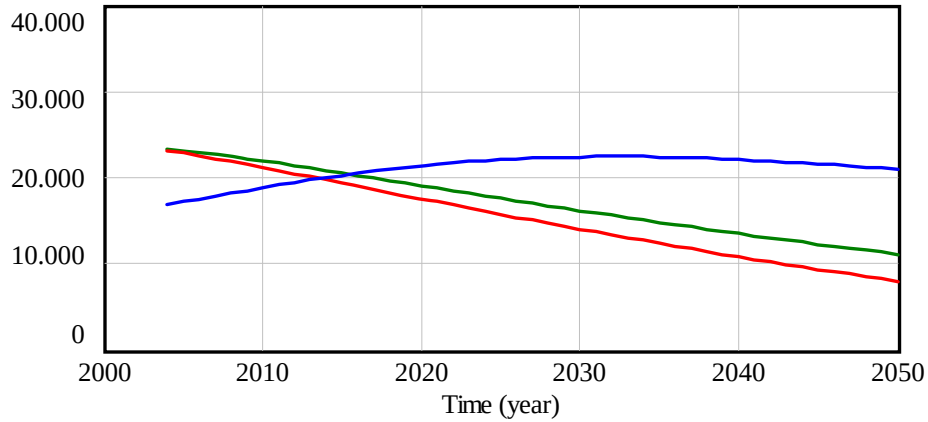


Retired Adults — Votes
Children orientated Adults — Votes
Indifferent Individuals — Votes

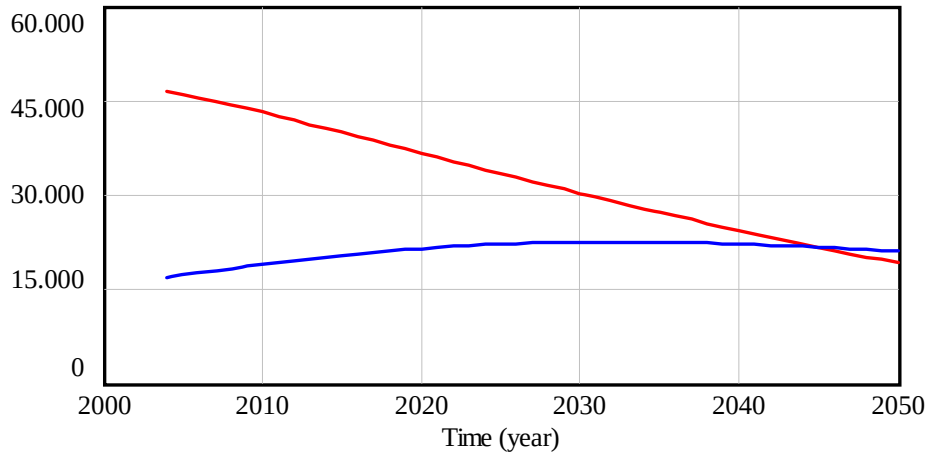


Retired Adults — Votes
Children orientated Adults + Indifferent Individuals — Votes

With voting right for children



Retired Adults — Votes
Children orientated Adults (with Children) — Votes
Indifferent Individuals — Votes



Retired Adults — Votes
Children orientated Adults (with children) + Indifferent Individuals — Votes

Scenario 3 and 4 - increase of the TFR to sustainable 2.10 plus voting rights for children

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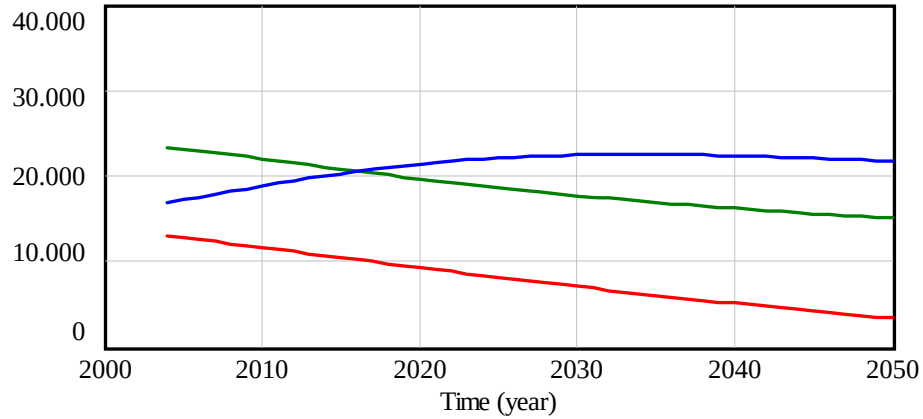
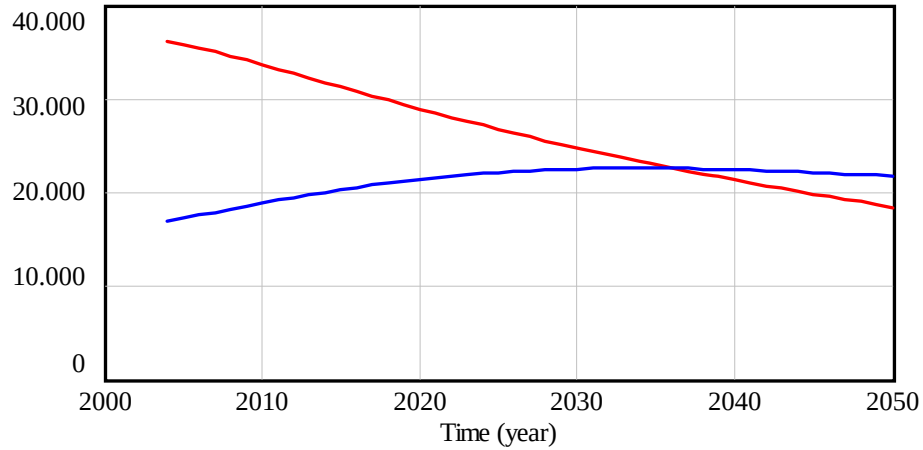
Scenario 3 – TFR 2.10

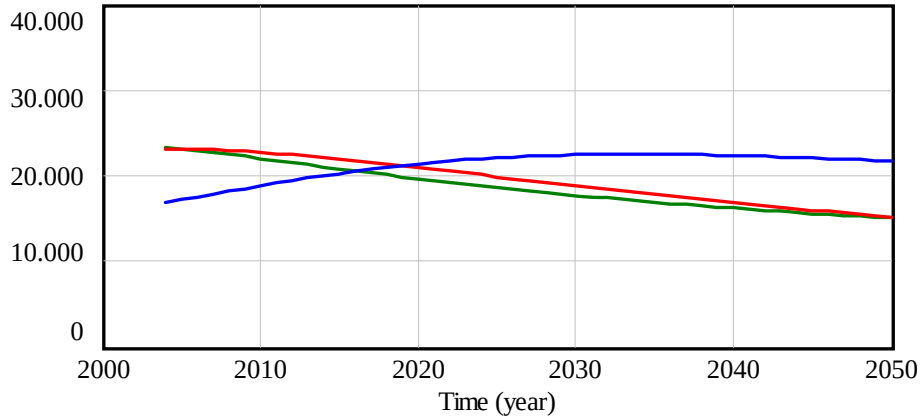


Retired orientated — Votes
Children orientated — Votes
Individuals — Votes

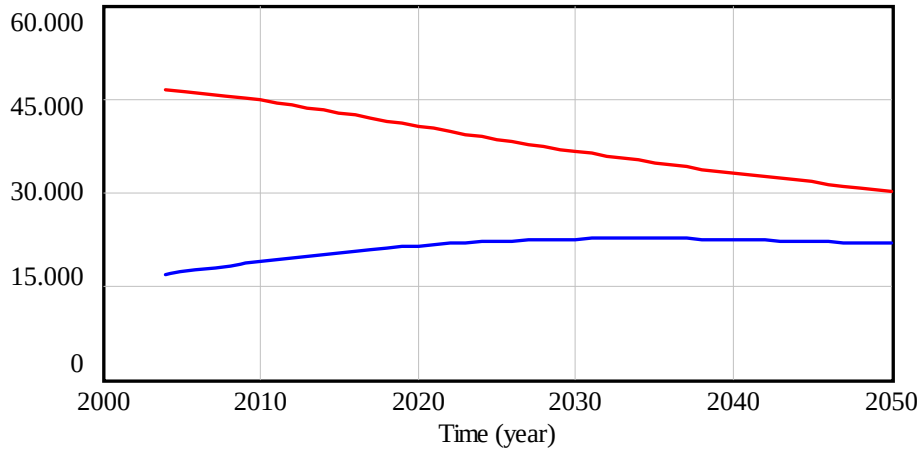


Retired orientated — Votes
Children orientated + Individuals — Votes

Scenario 4 – TFR 2.10 plus voting rights



Retired Adults — Votes
Children orientated Adults (with Children) — Votes
Indifferent Individuals — Votes



Retired Adults — Votes
Children orientated (with children) + Individuals — Votes

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