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Gender and Re-partnering after Divorce in Four Central European and Baltic Countries

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This paper analyses the demographic and social determinants of re-partnering after divorce in four transitional Baltic and Central European countries (Estonia, Lithuania, Poland and Hungary) that despite their common transitional paths after the 1990s developed distinct political economies and possess different gender and family cultures. This paper explores how the re-partnering chances of divorced women and men are shaped by the social divisions of gender, parenthood, age and education within various transitional societal contexts. In general, the findings support the argument on the relevance and mediating role of the societal context in the process of re-partnering. Although we found an overall gender disadvantage in re-partnering across all countries, in more traditional contexts, parenthood undermines the chances for women but not for men to re-partner. The negative effect of older age for re-partnering after divorce is almost universal for men, but context sensitive for women. Education does not affect women's chances to re-partner, but does play a significant role in the attractiveness of men in more traditional settings. The analysis is based on the partnership and parenthood histories recorded in the Generations and Gender Survey other nationally representative data sets.