

PARTNERS' RELATIVE EDUCATION AND FERTILITY ACROSS EUROPE

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Background

- Relationship between women's or men's education on fertility prominent issue in demography
- Education structures life courses, is marker of social status, earnings potential, negotiating power
- Educational expansion among women, changing gender ratios in educational attainment, increase in the incidence of hypogamy
- Implications of relative education for couples' childbearing decision-making
- Vast empirical research on education fertility relationship, but interaction between his and her education usually disregarded

Research Question

- What is the relationship between couples' educational pairings and their second & third + higher parity birth risks?
- Which couples / educational pairings have the highest birth risks?

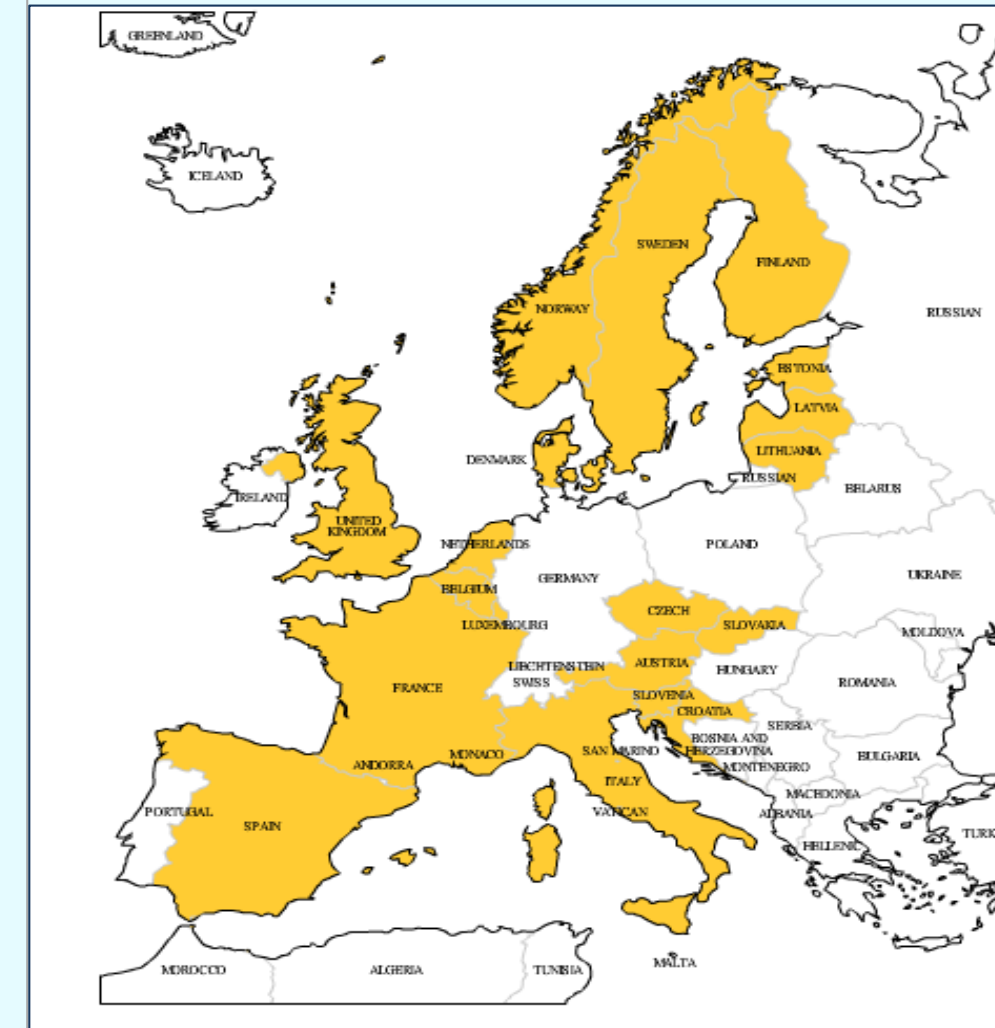
Theoretical Motivation

Argument
 Economic theory of role specialization (Becker 1991)
 Pooling resources (Oppenheimer 1988 & 1994) and/or egalitarian values
 Bargaining approach/power relations (Blood and Wolfe 1960)

Prediction
 Hypergamous couples higher rate than couples with highly educated women
 Both highly educated highest transition rate
 She highly educated with lower educated partner higher rate than both highly educated

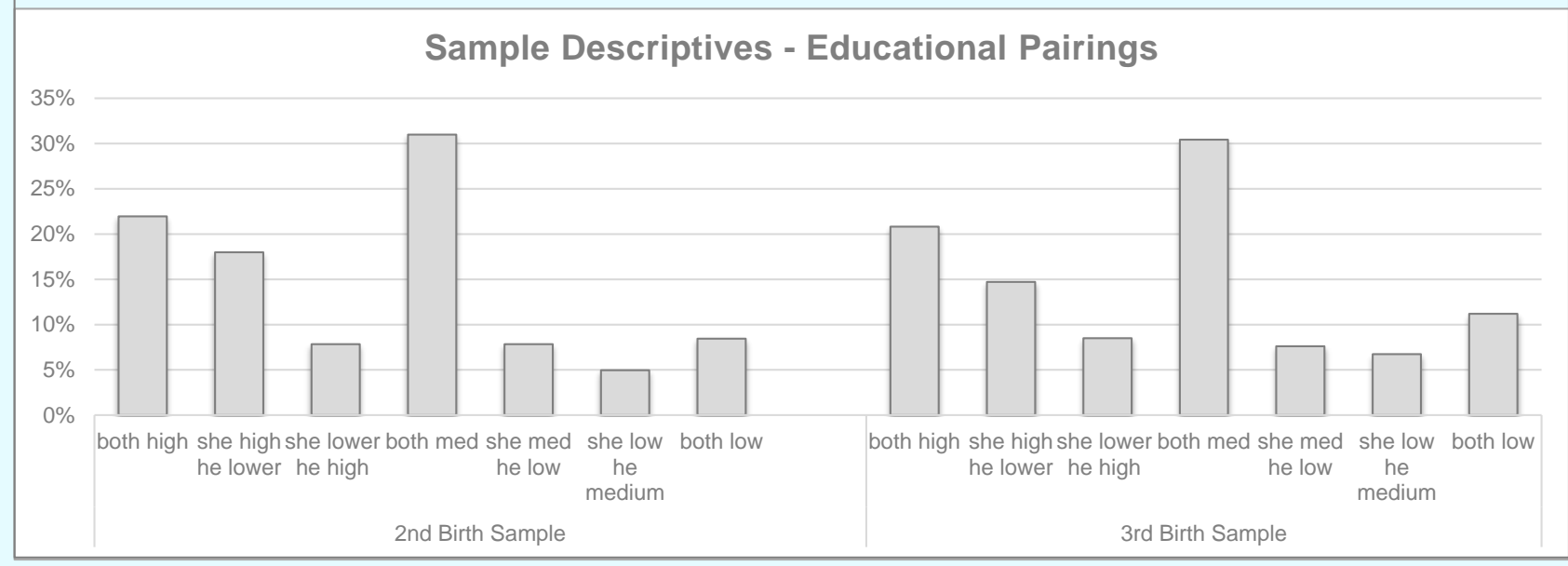
Data

- EU-SILC longitudinal sample (Survey on Income & Living Conditions):
- Launched in 2003, ongoing
 - Usually 4 year-household panel
 - No full fertility-, partnership-, education- or employment- histories
 - 8/2014 release, covering 2012 as last year



COUNTRY	2 nd Birth Sample	3 rd Birth Sample
AT	2,575	1,809
BE&LU	4,061	3,610
CZ&SK	5,369	3,365
EE&LV<	7,018	3,302
ES	6,655	3,879
FI&DK	4,747	4,723
FR	4,820	4,488
IT	10,237	5,135
NL	3,001	3,797
NO	2,336	2,762
SE	2,068	2,039
SI	3,889	2,476
UK	2,083	1,661
TOTAL	65,458	46,771

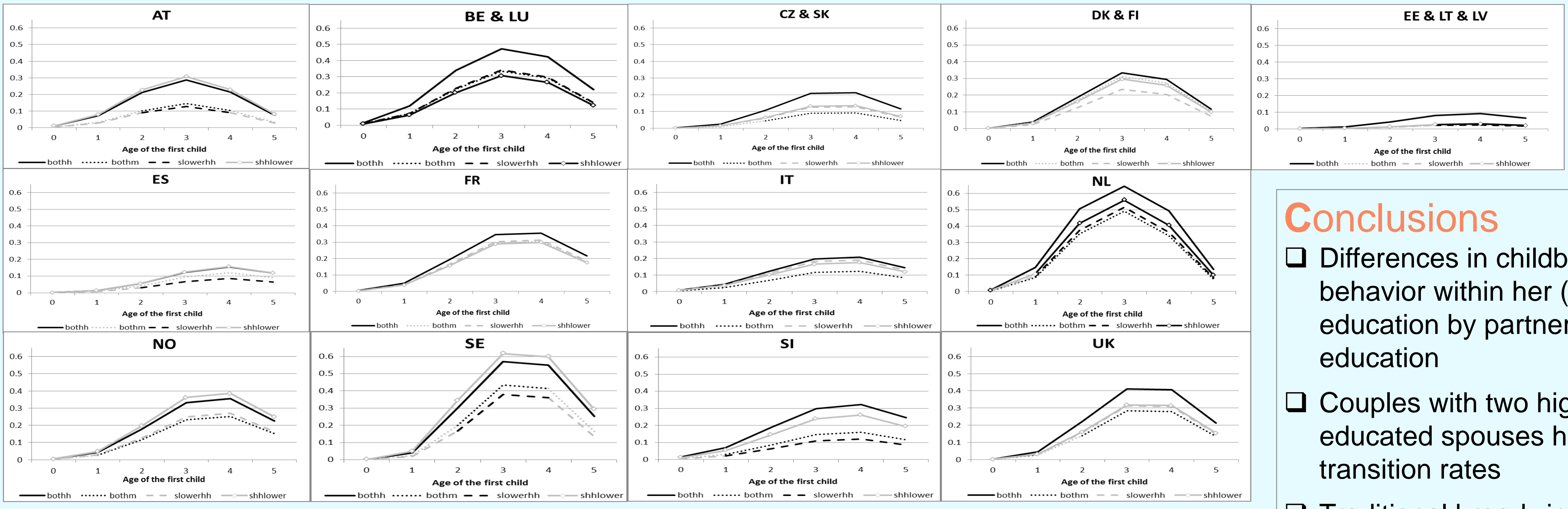
Descriptives



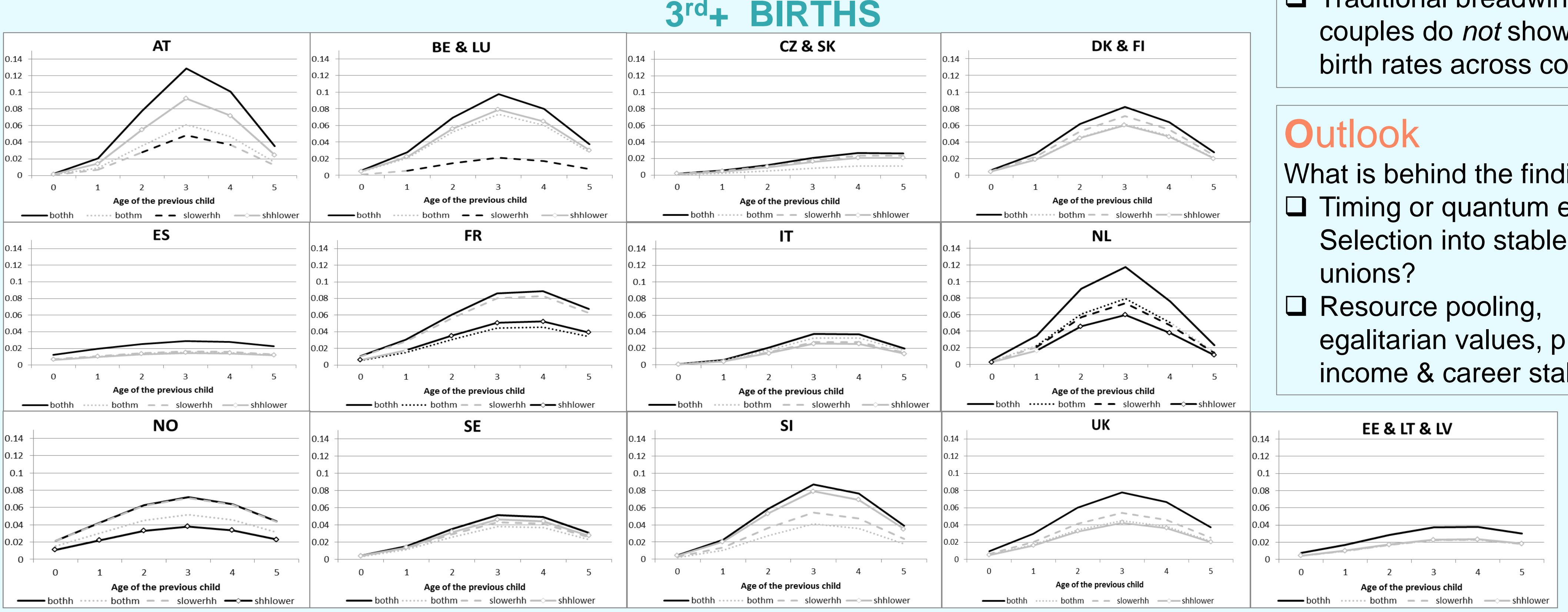
Analytical Strategy

- Discrete time event history models with random effects
- Separate models by parity & country

Results



2ND BIRTHS



3RD+ BIRTHS

Conclusions

- Differences in childbearing behavior within her (&his) education by partner's education
- Couples with two highly educated spouses highest transition rates
- Traditional breadwinner couples do *not* show highest birth rates across countries

Outlook

- What is behind the findings?
- Timing or quantum effects? Selection into stable unions?
 - Resource pooling, egalitarian values, projected income & career stability?

Predicted values; black lines differ significantly from each other. Models control for: enrollment (lagged), marital status, partners' age difference, her age at first birth, period effects.