



Intra-Couple (Dis)Similarity on Gender Role Attitudes and the Transition to Parenthood

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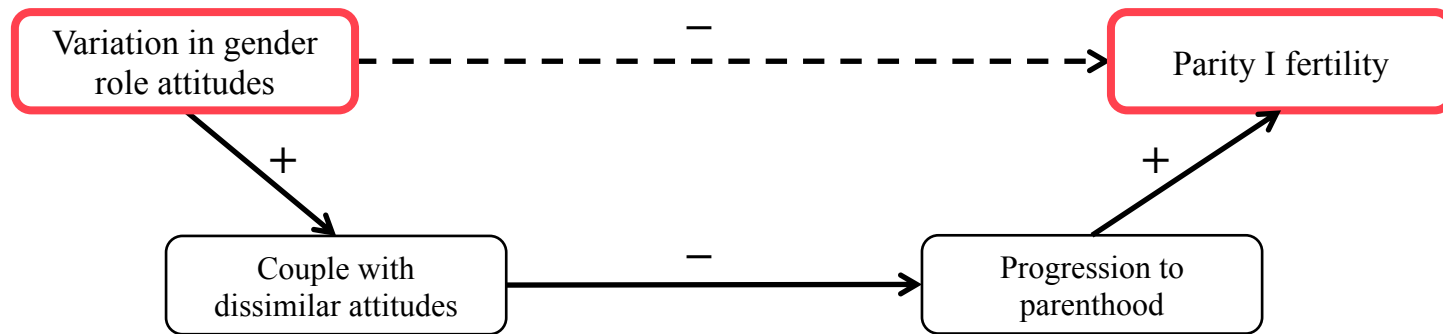
Gender Relations & Fertility, & Childlessness

- Discussion on macro-level association between fertility & gender relations (Cherlin, 2016; Esping-Andersen, 2009; Esping-Andersen & Billari, 2015; Goldscheider, Bernhardt, & Lappegård, 2015; McDonald, 2000a, 2000b)
- Micro-level: individual gender role attitudes & fertility: mixed results (Bernhardt & Goldscheider, 2006; Kaufman, 2000; Miettinen, Basten, & Rotkirch, 2011; Puur, Oláh, Tazi-Preve, & Dorbritz, 2008; Westoff & Higgins, 2009)
 - missing: attitudes of partner & fit/similarity between own attitudes & partners' attitudes
- Focus on fertility rather than childlessness → increase in childlessness driver for German fertility decline of last decades (Bujard & Sulak, 2016)



Framework

= my dissertation project.

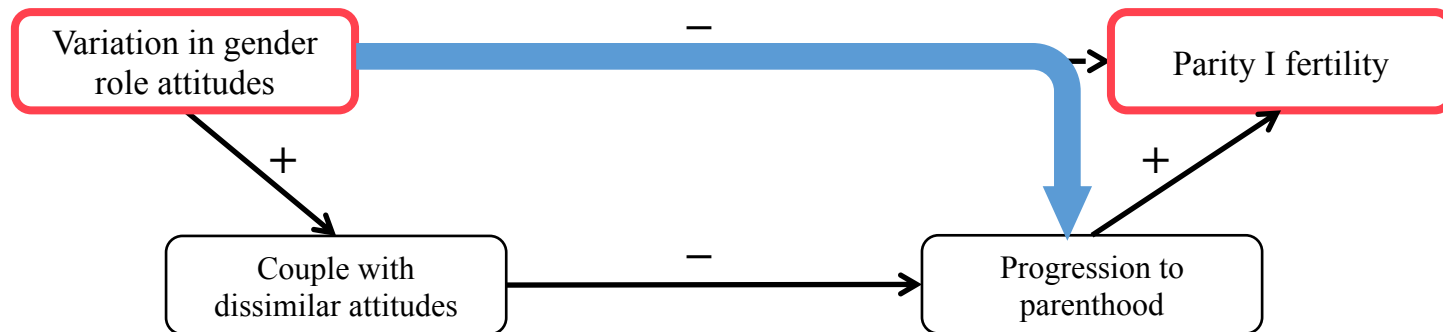




Framework

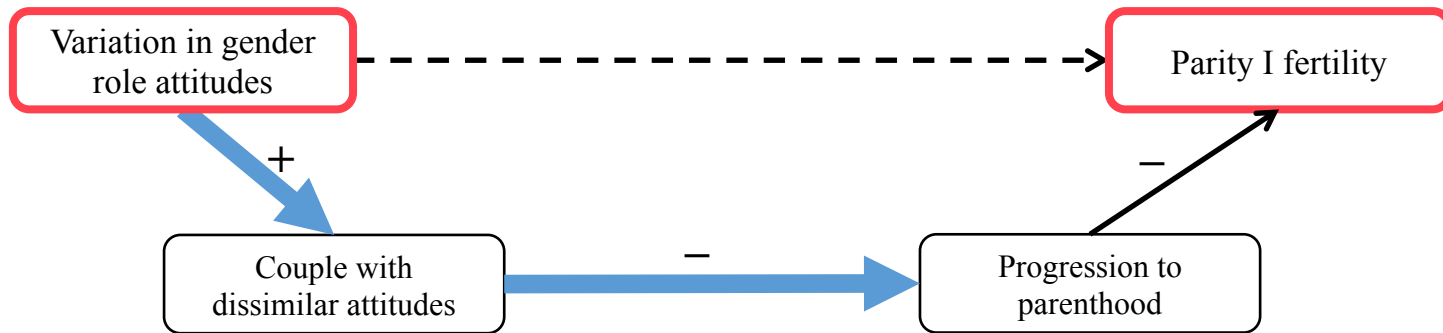
“Societal Agreement on Gender Role Attitudes and Childlessness in 38 Countries”

[conditionally accepted at European Journal of Population]



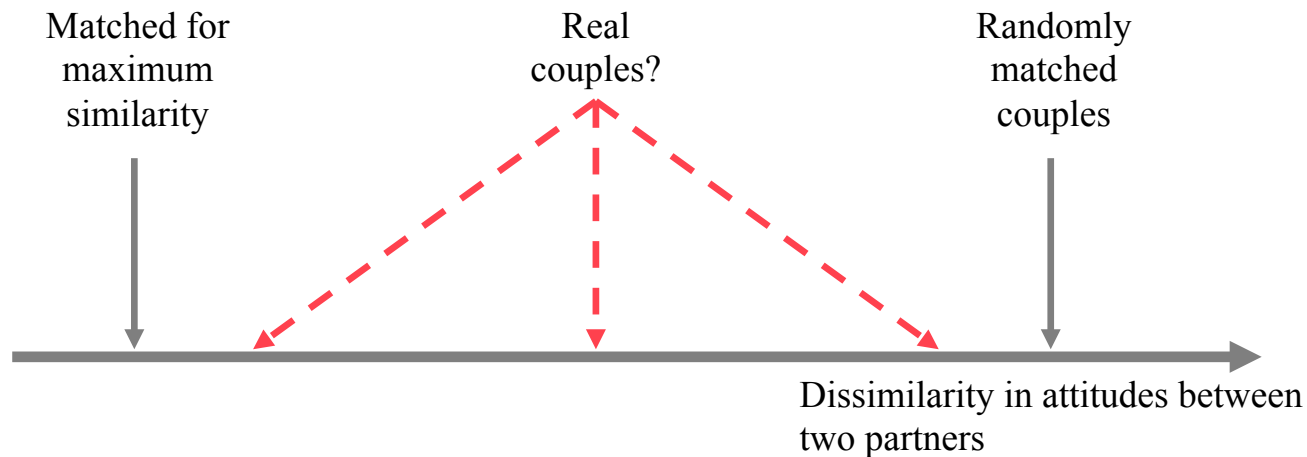


Today's Presentation





Macro-Level Variation → Partner-Level Heterogamy? How Similar are Couples in their Gender Role Attitudes?



1. **Description: Degree of similarity?**
2. [not today]: How does this similarity come about? [Under which behavioral assumptions would we find the observed patterns?]

Why we Might, or Might Not, Expect Similarity

I. Direct Assortative Mating

- + Relevance for relationship
- Lack of information (e.g. Fallesen & Breen, 2016; Brüderl & Kalter, 2001)
- False consensus bias → overestimation of similarity (e.g. Ross, Greene, & House, 1977; Kenny & Acitelli, 2001)
- Low importance in stage of partnership formation

II. Indirect Assortative Mating

- + Assortative mating on e.g. education, religiosity, or political ideology is happening (e.g. Blossfeld 2009; Schwartz 2013)
- ? Are these variables good proxies for gender role attitudes? (Hudde, 2017)

III. Alignment over Time

- ? To what degree? (Kalmijn, 2005; Luo & Klohnen, 2005; Watson et al., 2004)

IV. Differential Separation

- + To some degree (Hohmann-Marriott, 2006; Arranz Becker, 2013)



Data: German Family Panel

- Dyadic information: info from both partners

Case selection:

- [n=4,029] Anchor is in opposite-sex relationship & partner participates in survey
- [n= 2,313] Anchors born 1981-1983 [Ø age at wave 1: women = 25; men = 27]
Duration of relationship max. 7 years [= **important trade-off**]
- [n= 666] Both partners are childless [transition parenthood → change in attitudes]
Non-missing on all attitudinal items for both partners
- [n=641] Non-missing education and religiosity for both partners
- [n=635] “strange cases” dropped: one partner is <18 or >45 [1% of couples]
West: 422 | East: 193



Gender Role Attitudes: Items & Dissimilarity

Gender roles: women

1. Frauen sollten sich stärker um die Familie kümmern als um ihre Karriere.
2. Ein Kind unter 6 Jahren wird darunter leiden, wenn seine Mutter arbeitet.

Gender roles: men

3. Männer sollten sich genau so an der Hausarbeit beteiligen wie Frauen.
 4. Kinder leiden oft darunter, dass sich ihre Väter zu sehr auf die Arbeit konzentrieren.
- Four items do not seem to represent 1 underlying dimension [Cronbach's Alpha <.6]

Dissimilar views = Absolute Difference Score ≥ 2

- Example: Likert-Scale range 1-5
 - female partner: 3; male partner: 5
 - Difference Score $3-5 = -2$
 - Absolute Difference Score = 2 \rightarrow partners have dissimilar views



Gender Role Attitudes: Items & Dissimilarity

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1. Women should be more concerned about their family than about their career.
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Matching for Maximum Similarity

Challenge: matching to maximize similarity on multiple dimensions

Problem: [To us,] It seems impossible to test all possible matches: factorial of 422 has 926 digits.

422! =

096113830125766358768564018939148664260663721667740211051074192723491943103114486696
904791328596598615800949837852832371900591393561044544809438092689514237371976199218
020997020352724890208713008044264191766919762610207001829229286384587392447136395448
157234848108780995486399469163485667585407702085013793615884172082809352431197705046
003440795316563184168428164318578374381896573236977064281646648835958005464833876618
170106319763429236738820776695052825126636454322531054151026297673470267922732891847
534486975071947192035740731806863275675967417219114630180488196282572049231036133755
860946542870554851863699343512277445015096316996046062378895582907651067725986401450
832851512208110607468178366129871774073902367112831380998101052404010106057737923976
67328544760431469273644315657274742873944639056325292778468084285440000000000000000
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Matching for Maximum Similarity: Simulating Speed-Dating. The ‘Rules’:

- Continue dating until everyone has found a match → potentially meet same person numerous times
- Reduce expectations over time

Matching for Maximum Similarity:

Simulating Speed-Dating. The 'Rules':

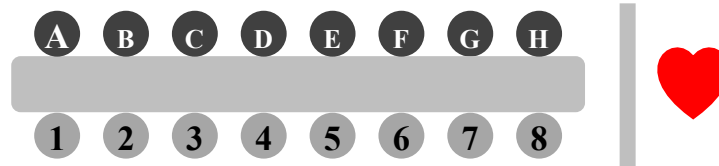
1st round: expectation = partner with similar answers to all 4 items

Matching for Maximum Similarity:

Simulating Speed-Dating. The 'Rules':

1st round: expectation = partner with similar answers to all 4 items

Initial 'seating': random

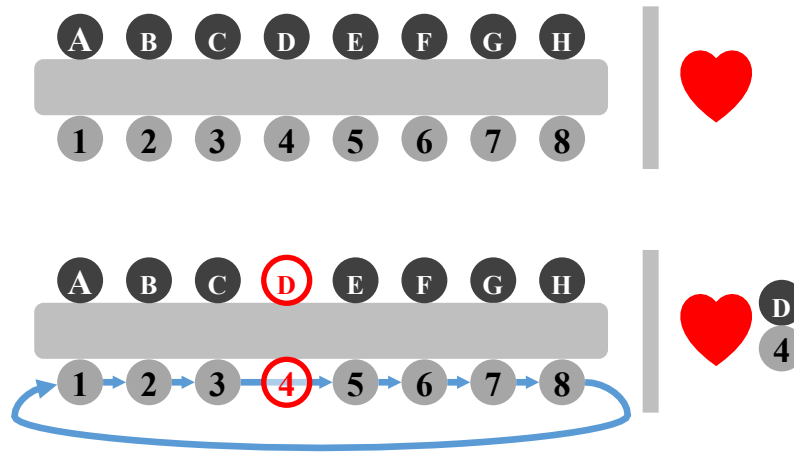


Matching for Maximum Similarity:

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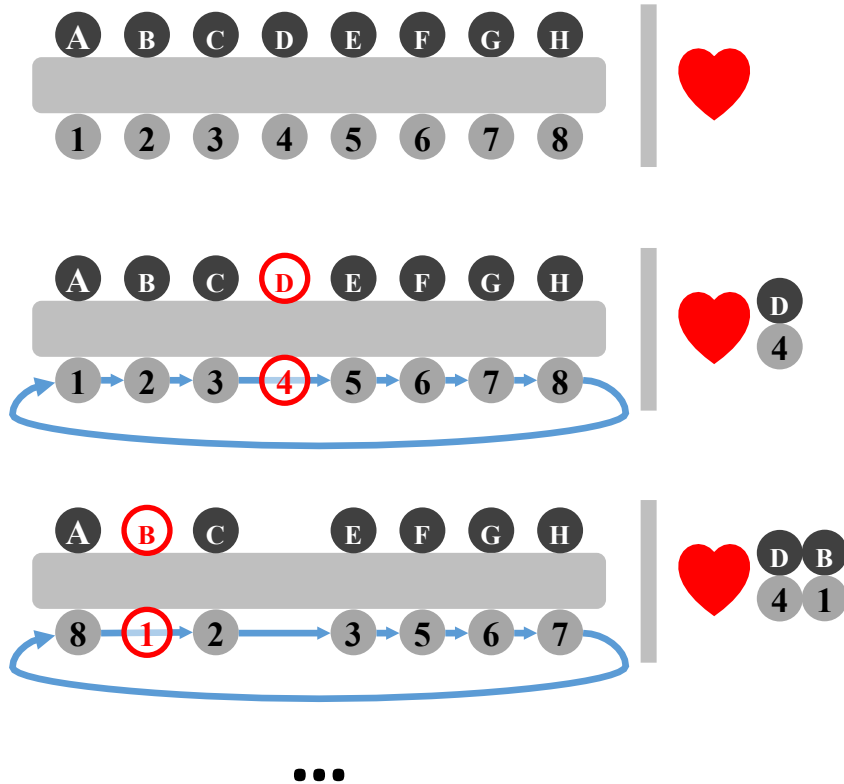
D&4 = match → leave table;
rest: rotate.



Matching for Maximum Similarity:

Simulating Speed-Dating. The 'Rules':

1st round: expectation = partner with similar answers to all 4 items

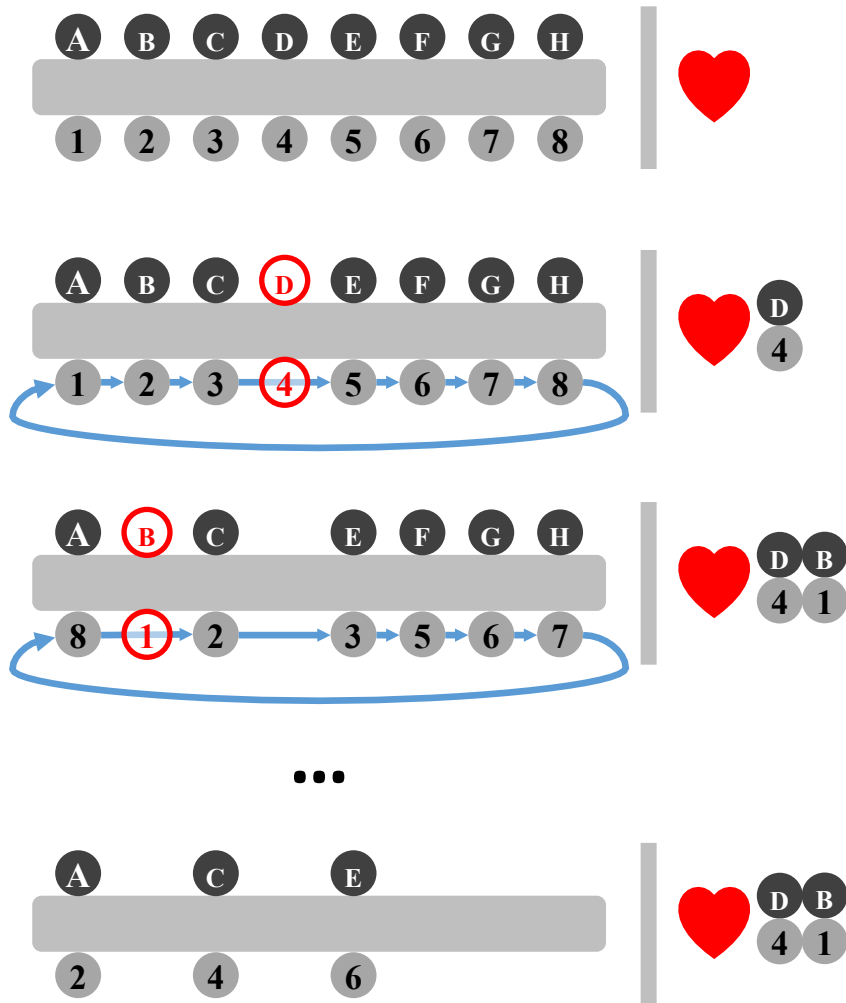


B&1 = match → leave table;
rest: rotate.

Matching for Maximum Similarity:

Simulating Speed-Dating. The 'Rules':

1st round: expectation = partner with similar answers to all 4 items



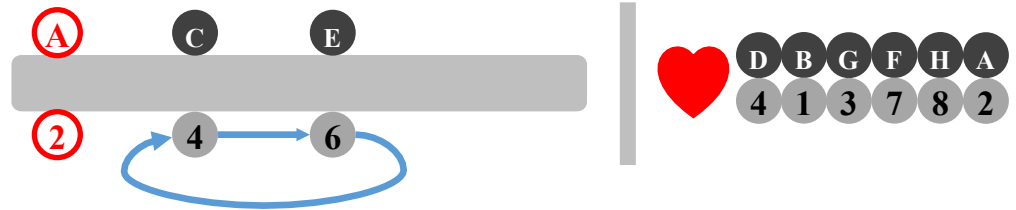
6 people unmatched → no partner with 0 diss. points available → **ROUND 2**

Matching for Maximum Similarity:

Simulating Speed-Dating. The 'Rules':

2nd round: expectation = partner with similar answers to 3 out of four items

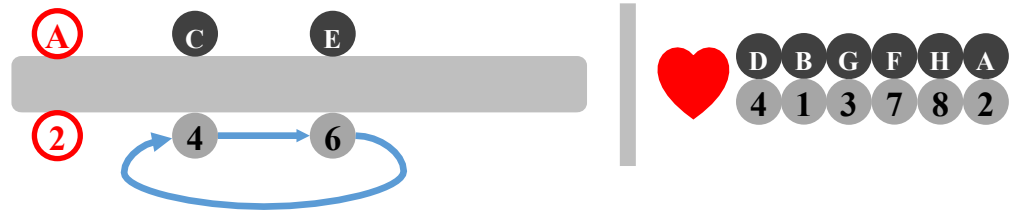
A&1 were no match in round 1, but are in round 2.



Matching for Maximum Similarity:

Simulating Speed-Dating. The 'Rules':

2nd round: expectation = partner with similar answers to all 4 items



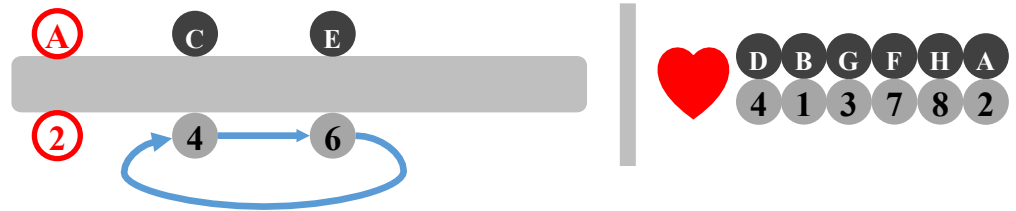
→ ROUND 3 → ROUND 4

...

Matching for Maximum Similarity:

Simulating Speed-Dating. The 'Rules':

2nd round: expectation = partner with similar answers to all 4 items



...

EVERYONE IS MATCHED.

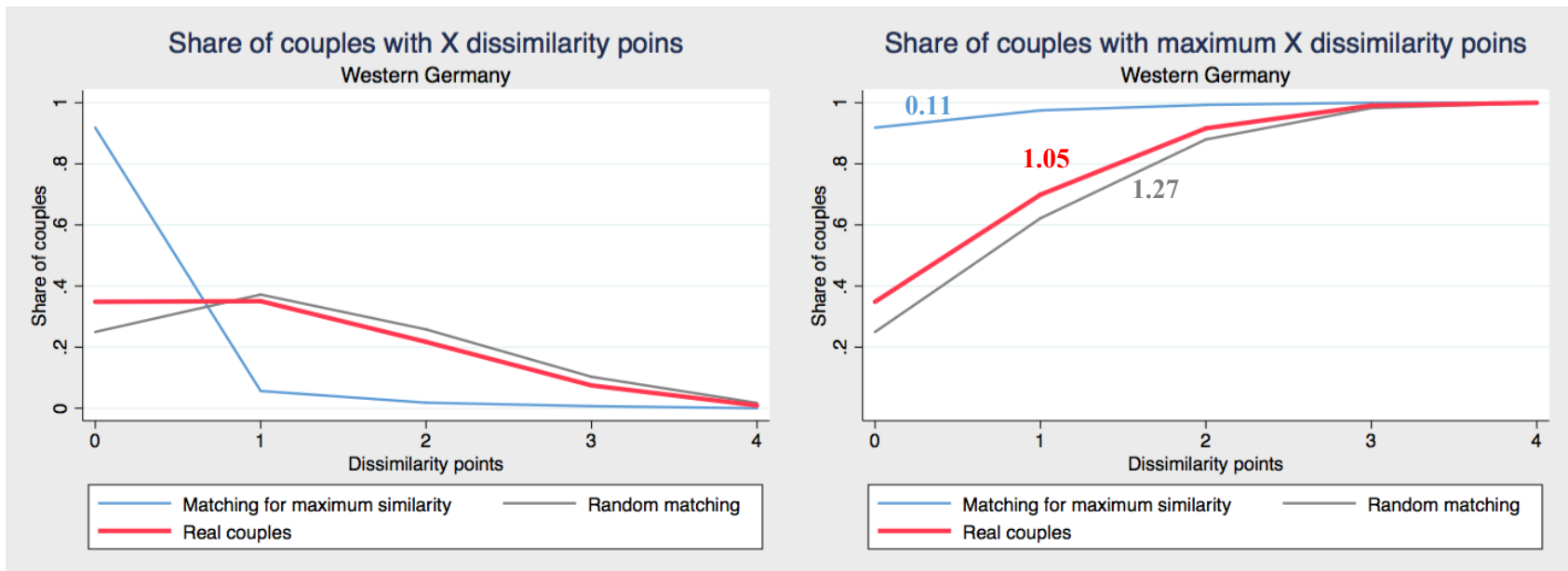


Matching is likely not *the perfect one*, but it is Pareto-optimal: we could not give anyone a 'better' match without at the same time giving someone else a worse match.



How Similar are Partners? Comparing Real Couples with Synthetic Couples [West]

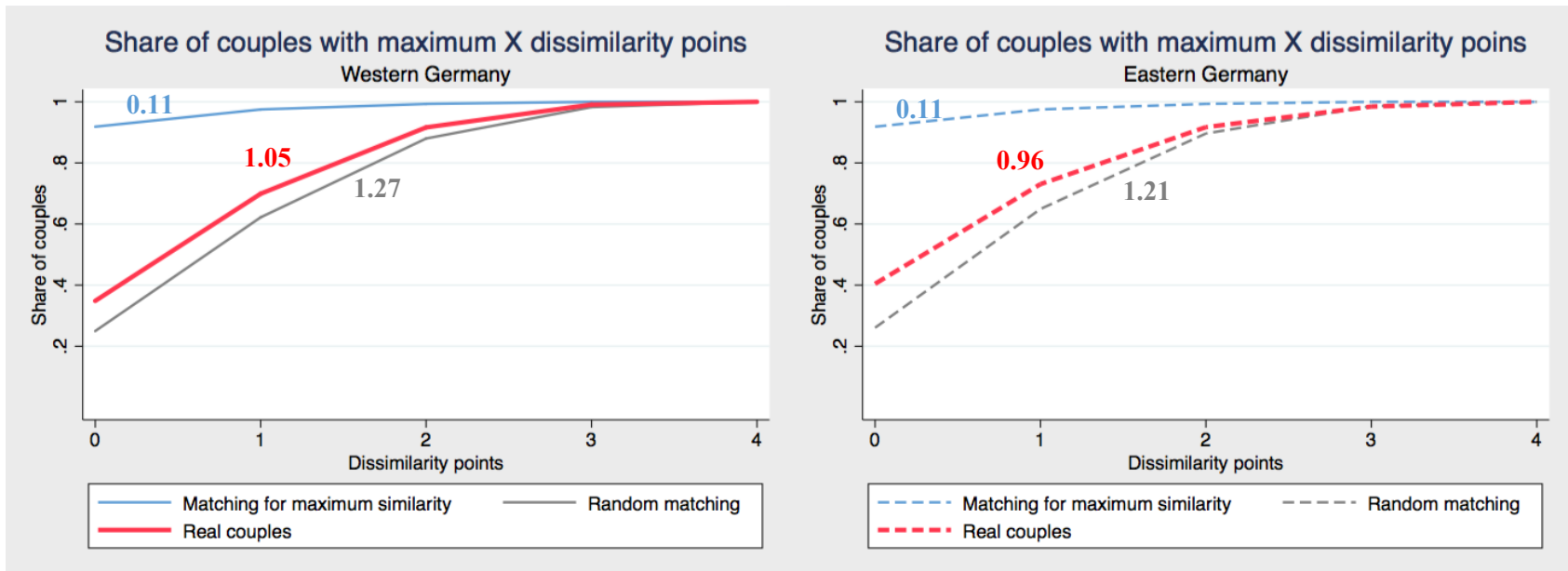
Distribution of dissimilarity points by type of matching.





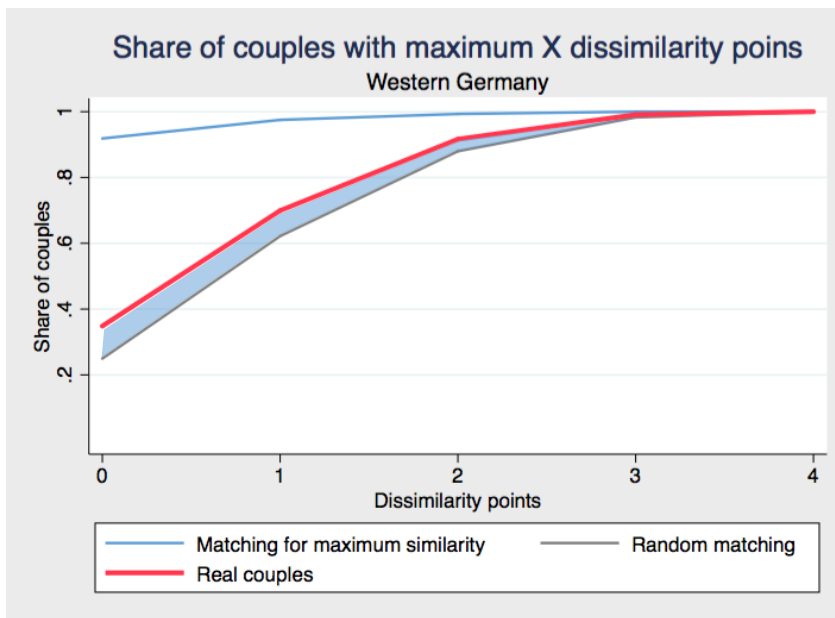
How Similar are Partners? Comparing Real Couples with Synthetic Couples [West&East]

Distribution of dissimilarity points by type of matching.





How does the Observed (Low Degree of) Similarity Come About?



Direct assortative mating

+ **Indirect assortative mating**

+ **Alignment over time**

+ **Differential Separation**

= **Observed degree of similarity**



...So Does (Dis)Similarity Matter for the Transition to Parenthood?



...in the Stage of Potential Progression to Parenthood: Estimated Similarity & Relevance

In the Beginning of the Relationship

- I. People just don't know partner's attitudes
- II. False consensus effect/ bias
- III. Low importance in stage of partnership formation
- IV. Overestimation of convergence

What has changed?

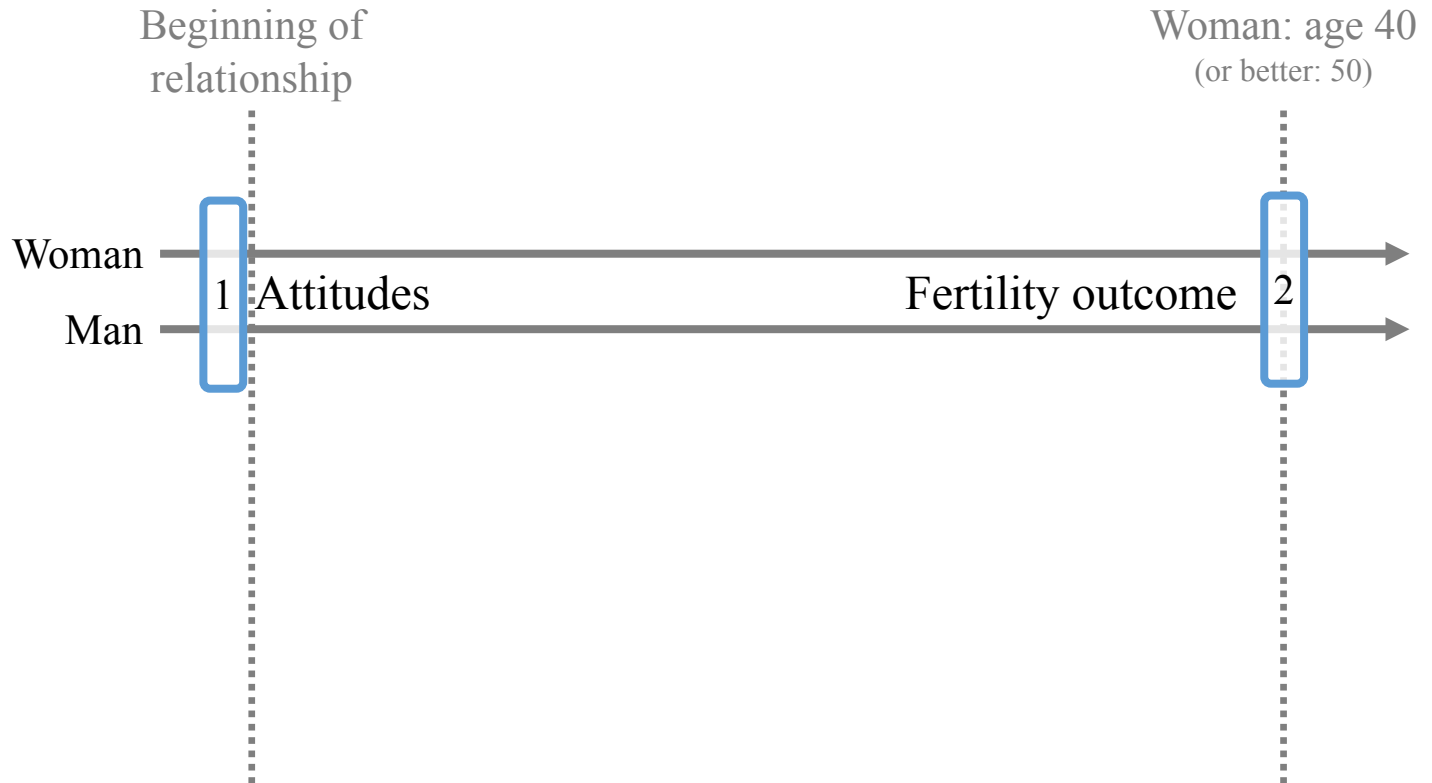
- more confidence in judgement
- better quality of judgement
- greater importance
- maybe less convergence than expected / hoped





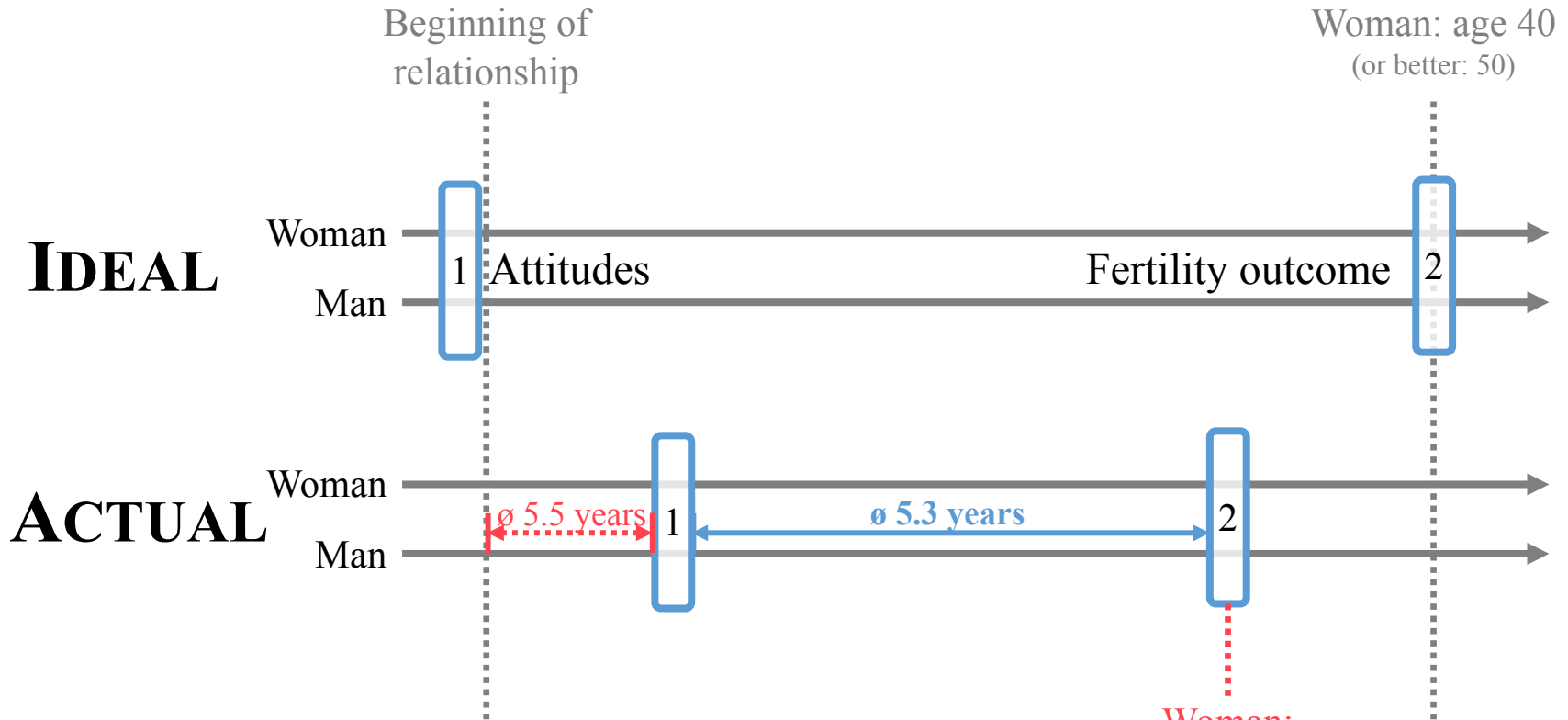
Ideal Data Structure

IDEAL





Ideal & Actual Data Structure



Case selection [n=705]:

- Opposite-sex couples [n = 3,375]
- Both partners childless at wave 1 [n = 1,066]
- *Anchor*-person participated in more than 1 wave [n = 830]
- Listwise deletion [n = 705]



Method

$$\text{Childbirth}_{t_max} = \beta_0 + \beta_1 * \text{att.part1}_{t_1} + \beta_2 * \text{att.part2}_{t_1} + \beta_3 * \text{dissimilarity}_{t_1} + \beta_4 * \text{controls}_{t_1} + \varepsilon$$



$$Childbirth_{t_{max}} = \beta_0 + \beta_1 * att.part1_{t1} + \beta_2 * att.part2_{t1} + \beta_3 * dissimilarity_{t1} + \beta_4 * controls_{t1} + \varepsilon$$

Childbirth [A]

- = 1: Anchor has child of which initial partner is second parent
- = 0: anything else [childless continuation, separation/ re-partnering]

Three Outcomes [B]

- = 2: Childbirth & still in relationship
- = 1: No childbirth & still in relationship
- = 0: No childbirth & separation

[Dropped: childbirth & separation]



$$Childbirth_{t_max} = \beta_0 + \beta_1 * att.part1_{t1} + \beta_2 * att.part2_{t1} + \beta_3 * dissimilarity_{t1} + \beta_4 * controls_{t1} + \varepsilon$$

Gender roles: women

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Linear variables [as i.factor as robustness check]



$$Childbirth_{t_{max}} = \beta_0 + \beta_1 * att.part1_{t1} + \beta_2 * att.part2_{t1} + \beta_3 * dissimilarity_{t1} + \beta_4 * controls_{t1} + \varepsilon$$

Dissimilar views = Absolute Difference Score ≥ 2

- Example: Likert-Scale range 1-5
 - female partner: 3; male partner: 5
 - Difference Score 3-5 = -2
 - Absolute Difference Score = 2 -> partners have dissimilar views

Is an association explained by the difference, as such, or rather by single values (of both partners?) → control for both partners' single values (Gattis et al., 2004; Griffin et al., 1999; Kenny et al., 2006; Watson et al., 2004)



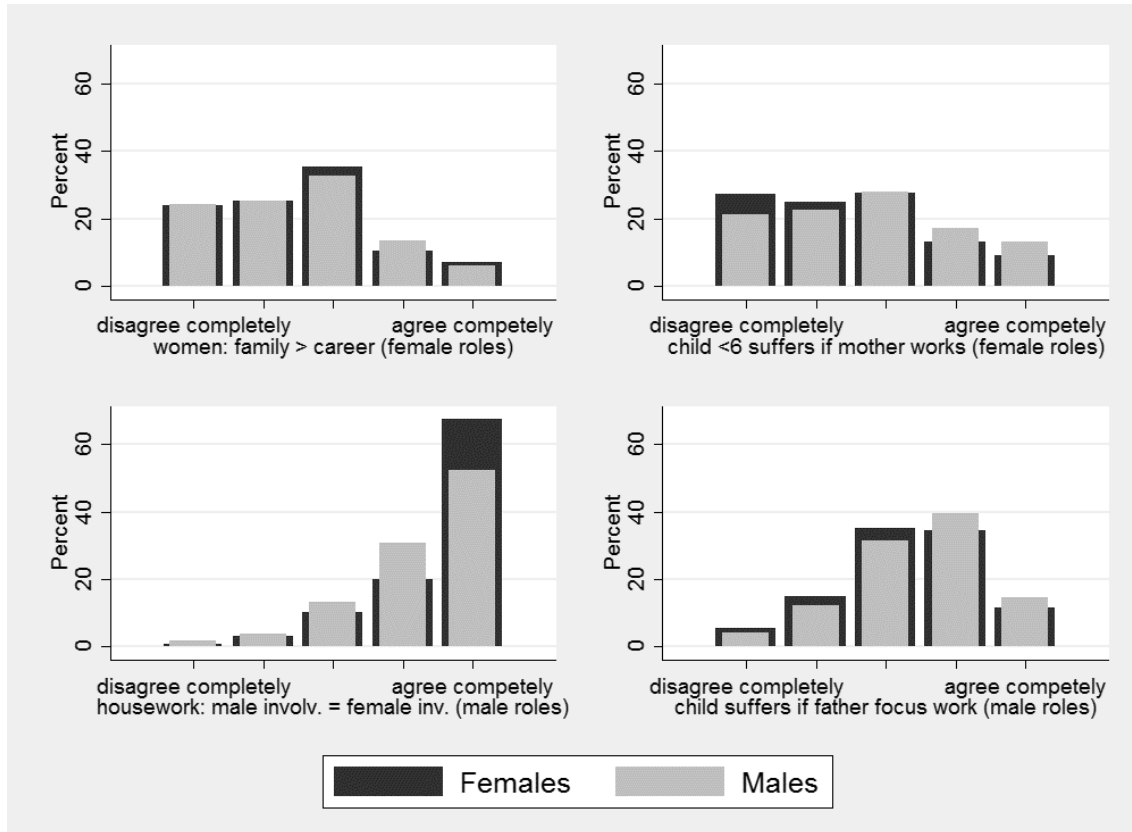
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- age [both partners + dissimilarity]
- duration of relationship
- duration between first and last observation [as yearly dummies + interaction with age of female-partner]
- education [ISCED of both partners + dummy for dissimilarity in education]
- east/west
- no control for cohabitation / marriage etc. → assumption that these variables are endogenous



Responses to items

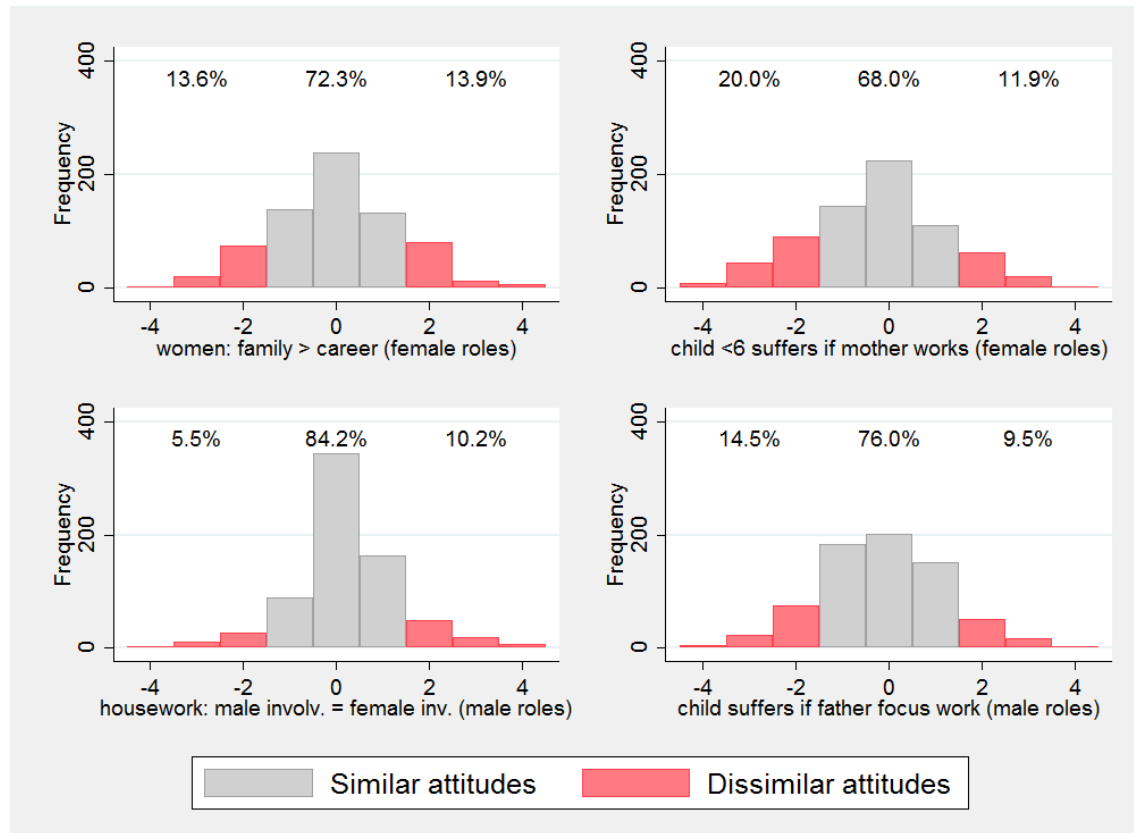




(Dis)similarity Between Partners

Difference scores = value of female partner – value of male partner

-> positive value: female partner agrees more





Regressions

Dissimilarity in attitudes & childbirth

	(1)	(2)	(3)
	OR	OR	OR
GENDER ROLE ATTITUDES: INDIVIDUAL VALUES			
Female partner			
1. women: family > career	1.021	1.047	1.049
2. child <6 suffers if mother works	0.908	0.913	0.915
3. housework: male involv. = female inv.	0.825	0.862	0.864
4. child suffers if father focus work	0.954	0.964	0.962
Male partner			
1. women: family > career	1.220*	1.228*	1.228*
2. child <6 suffers if mother works	0.956	0.978	0.977
3. housework: male involv. = female inv.	1.054	1.125	1.127
4. child suffers if father focus work	1.114	1.114	1.112
GENDER ROLE ATTITUDES: DISSIMILARITY BETWEEN PARTNERS			
Dissimilarity on...			
All items	0.829 ⁺		
Male & female roles separately			
female roles (items 1&2)		0.651**	
male roles (items 3&4)		1.190	
Single items			
women: family > career			0.608*
child <6 suffers if mother works			0.694 ⁺
housework: female involv. = male involv.			1.199
child suffers if father focus work			1.176
AIC	852.6	848.4	852.2
Share of couples with childbirth by last observation	40.34%	40.34%	40.34%
Observations	705	705	705



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Dissimilarity in attitudes & childbirth

	(1) OR	(2) OR	(3) OR
GENDER ROLE ATTITUDES: INDIVIDUAL VALUES			
Gender roles: women	1.021	1.047	1.049
1. Frauen sollten sich stärker um die Familie kümmern als um ihre Karriere.	0.000	0.010	0.015
2. Ein Kind unter 6 Jahren wird darunter leiden, wenn seine Mutter arbeitet.			
GENDER ROLE ATTITUDES: DISSIMILARITY BETWEEN PARTNERS			
Dissimilarity on...			
All items			
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Size of association? Predicted probability of transition to parenthood.

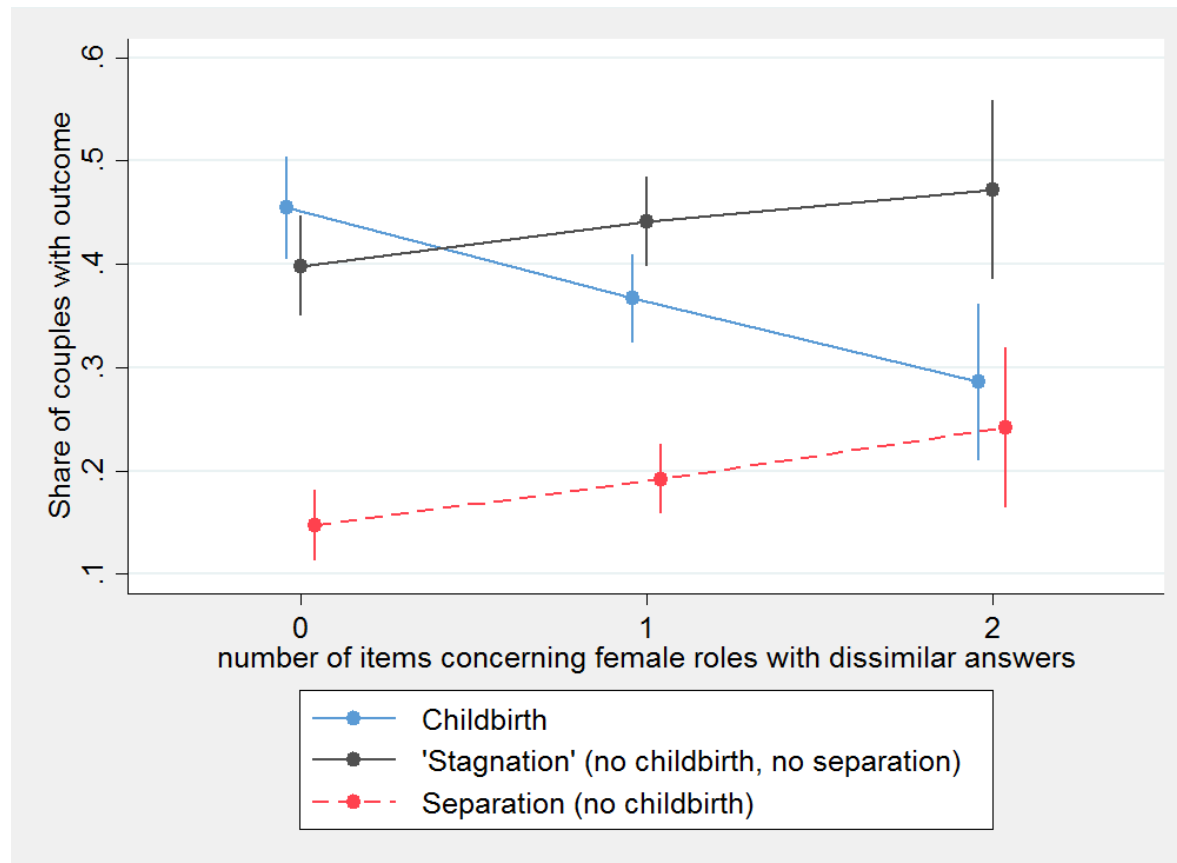
Similar answers to 1.&2.: 45%
 Dissimilar answers to 1. or 2.: 37%
 Dissimilar answers to 1. & 2.: 30%

0.829+





Dissimilarity in attitudes & three competing outcomes



Predicted probabilities of outcomes, multinomial logistic regression.



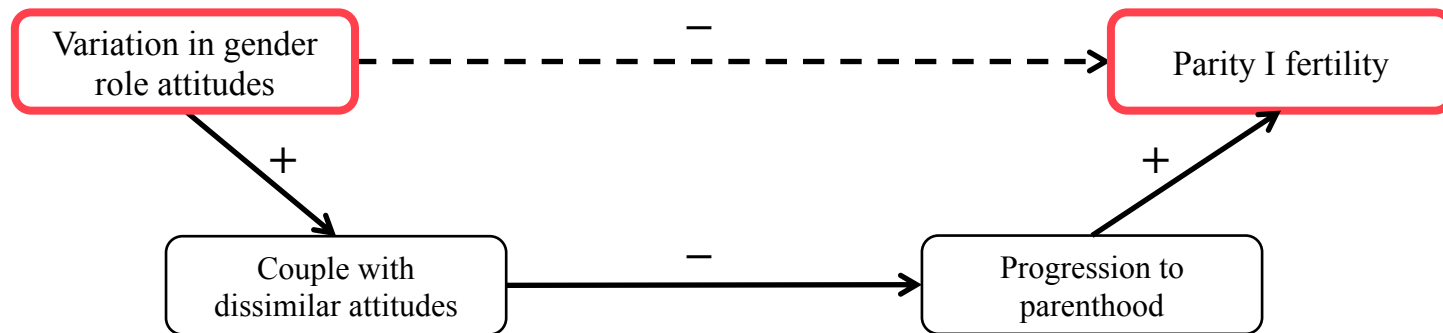
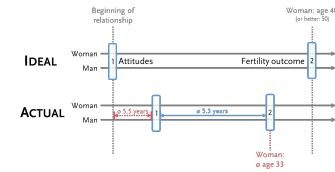
Robustness checks

- ✓ Intended pregnancies
- ✓ Different measures for dissimilarity (linear & square ADS [rather than dummies])
- ✓ Only couples that we observe until wave 8 (n=421)
- ✓ Heterogeneous effects: East / West?
- ✓ Individual variables: introduce as factors / leave out completely
- ✓ Endogeneity? -> control for relationship satisfaction



Conclusion

- Drawbacks:
 - Data-structure: attitudes not measured at beginning of relationship; outcome not measured at end of reproductive phase
 - Gender role items probably not ideal





Danke!

Thank for your attention!

We'd be happy to hand you hardcopy of the manuscript, or send it to you via E-Mail, and hear more comments!

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