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FOR DEMOGRAPHY AND  
GLOBAL HUMAN CAPITAL

# Competing intentions and realization

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3rd Generations and Gender User Conference

Vienna 30 November 1 - December 2015



International Institute for  
Applied Systems Analysis

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07/12/2015

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# Outline

1

Correspondence between reproductive intentions and subsequent outcome

2

Reproductive intentions and realizations in presence of a plurality of life aims

3

Intentions competing with childbearing and intentions supporting childbearing

4

A life course approach as unified framework for studying intentions in parallel life domains

# The life course approach

The link between childbearing intentions and behaviour has been investigated **in isolation** from choices and events pertaining to different fields of life.

Since **demographic events** are highly **interdependent**, intended and realized fertility have to be analyzed in the unified framework of individual's life course.

Simultaneous development of **parallel careers** in different life domains: childbearing, partnership, education, employment, migration.

# The literature

Barber (2001) expanded the Theory of Planned Behaviour to include the impact of attitudes related to behaviours competing with childbearing.

Philipov (2009) examined the reproductive intention-behaviour link including the effects of other intentions and behaviors.

The context in which individuals operate affects the sequence and the timing of individual's life course events in important ways (Billari et al 2011).

# Competing or supporting fertility?

- ❖ Multiple roles that young adults face (working and rearing children) can be an **obstacle** to the fulfilment of reproductive intentions (Thomson and Brandreth 1995).
- ❖ Events like entering a partnership can **support** the formation of childbearing intentions and the subsequent realization (Philipov 2009).

# DATA



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Generation and Gender  
Longitudinal Surveys

Austria, Bulgaria, France  
Germany, Georgia,  
Hungary, Lithuania,  
Netherlands,

Years 2002 -- 2013

Target sample: 30,661  
men and women of  
reproductive ages with  
valid answer

36% parity 0, 20% parity1,  
44% parity 2

# SURVEY'S TIMING



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COUNTRY	YEAR OF INTERVIEW												# Years
	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	
Bulgaria			x	x	x	x							4
Georgia					x	x	x	x					4
Germany				x	x	x	x	x					5
France				x	x	x	x						4
Hungary*			x	x	x	x	x	x					6
Netherlands*	x	x	x	x	x	x							6
Austria*							x	x	x	x	x	x	6
Lithuania					x	x	x	x					4
# Countries	1	1	3	5	7	7	6	5	1	1	1	1	

# MODEL

Exponential hazard model

$$h(t | x) = h_0(t) * \exp(\beta X)$$

**Hazard Rate** =  $h(t)$  probability to change parity status at time  $t$  (because of occurrence of **birth event**)

**Explanatory variables:** intention to have a child, to get married (enter a union) to complete study (resume study), to change job (start working), to move in the next three years

**Control variables:** gender, cohort, level of education (partner's level of education), marital status, employment status (partner's level of education) at time of first wave

**Time-varying covariates:** Change in education, change in partnership, change in job, change in dwelling occurred in the inter-survey period



# Selected countries



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Distribution of selected sample by country.

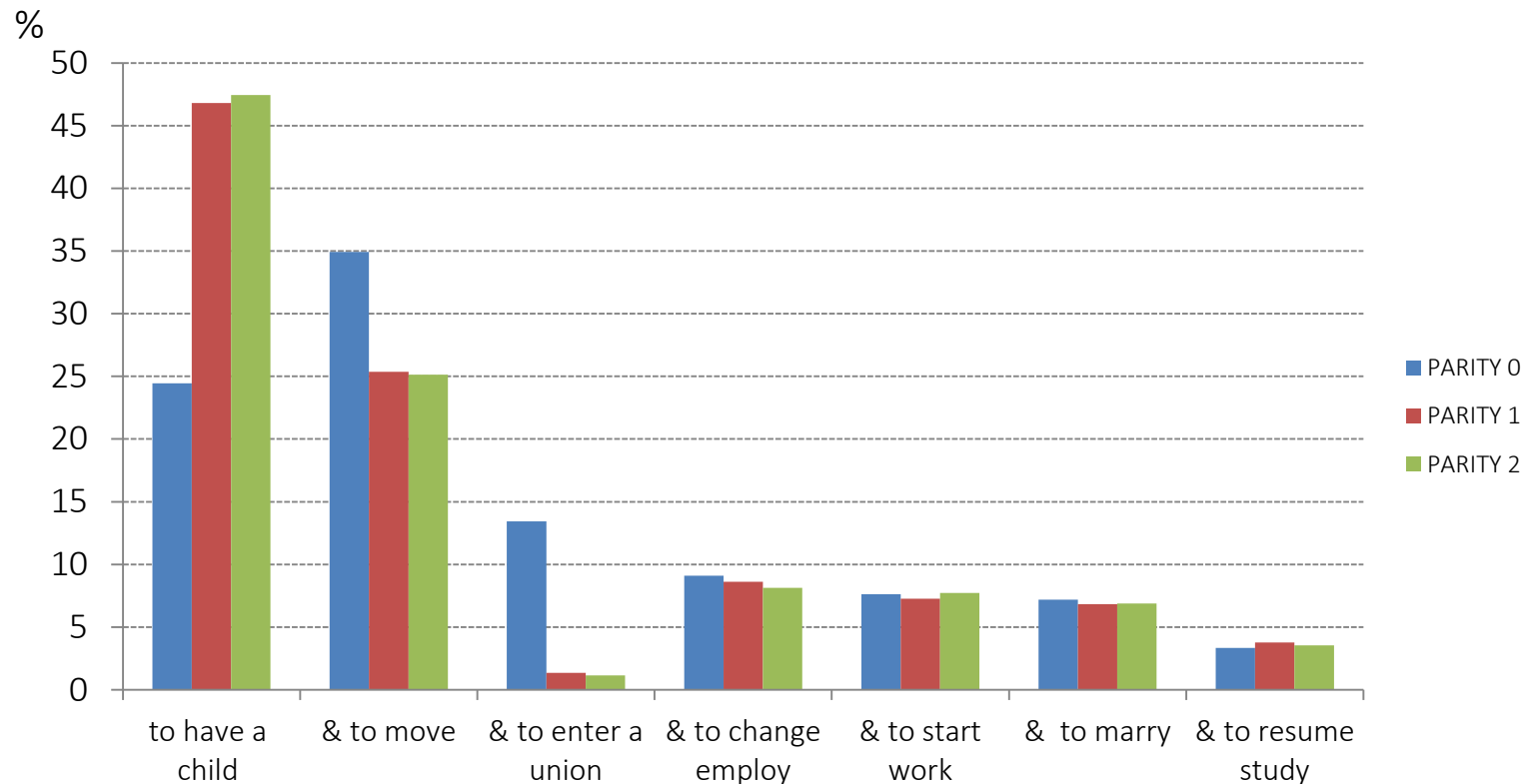
Country	Freq.	Percent
Bulgaria	5,978	19.50
Georgia	5,044	16.45
Germany	1,610	5.25
France	3,648	11.90
Hungary	5,744	18.73
Netherlands	3,512	11.45
Austria	3,912	12.76
Lithuania	1,213	3.96
Total	30,661	100.00

# COMBINATION OF INTENTIONS



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Distribution of childbearing intentions by combination of competing intentions.



Pooled countries dataset. Only individuals with positive childbearing intentions (#7899, 26% of total sample). All the intentions are referred to the short term future of three years

# Childbearing realizations



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Stratified models:	Childbearing intentions	MODEL I		MODEL II		Sample
Parity <b>zero</b>	To have a first child	2.346	***	0.856	***	11,117
Parity <b>one</b>	To have a second child	3.260	***	1.161	***	5,948
Parity <b>two</b>	To have a third child	4.669	***	1.476	***	13,596

Model I includes only short term childbearing intentions

Model II include short term childbearing intentions and competing intentions

Both models are controlled for background variables

# Hazard rates for having a birth. Additive models



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Competing intentions	Hazard rate		Realizations of competing intentions	Hazard rate	
To have a child	1.24	***			
To get married	0.13	*	Enter partnership	0.81	***
To enter a union	0.04				
To complete study	0.36	*	Complete study	0.43	***
To resume study	-0.35	***			
To change work	0.30	***	Change work	0.20	***
To start working	0.27	***			
To move	0.37	***	Move	-0.07	
Model controlled for background variables					

# Hazard rates for having a birth. Interactive models



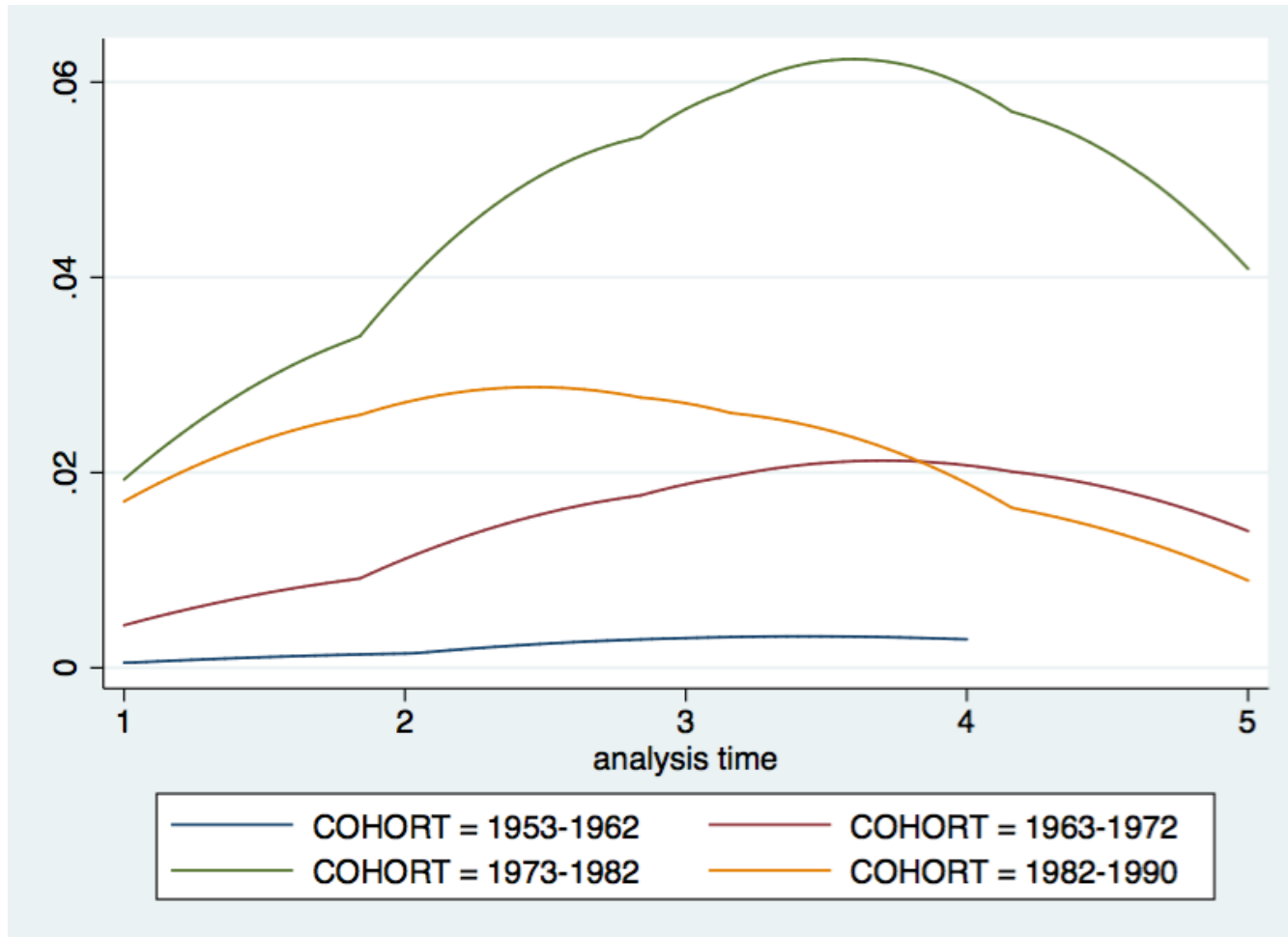
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Competing intentions	Hazard rate		Interactions between child and competing intentions	Hazard rate	
To have a child	1.34	***			
To get married	0.57	***	Get married * child	-0.55	***
To enter a union	0.43	***	Enter union * child	-0.54	***
To resume study	-0.55	***	Resume study * child	0.27	
To change work	0.39	***	Change work * child	-0.14	
To start working	0.57	***	Start work * child	-0.34	***
To move	0.52	***	Move * child	-0.23	**
Model controlled for background variables					



# RESULTS (1/6)

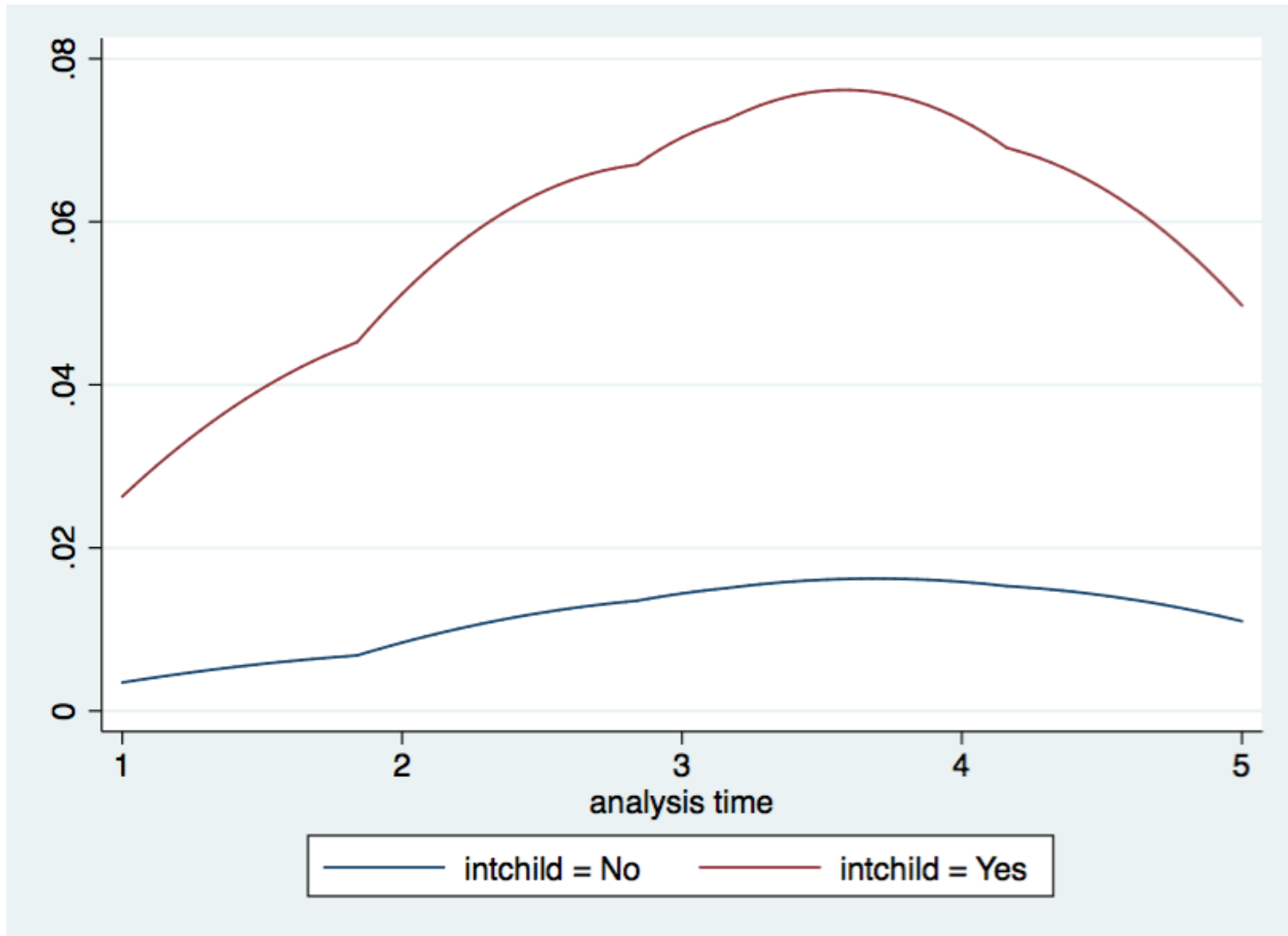
Hazard rate of having a(nother) child by cohorts





# RESULTS (2/6)

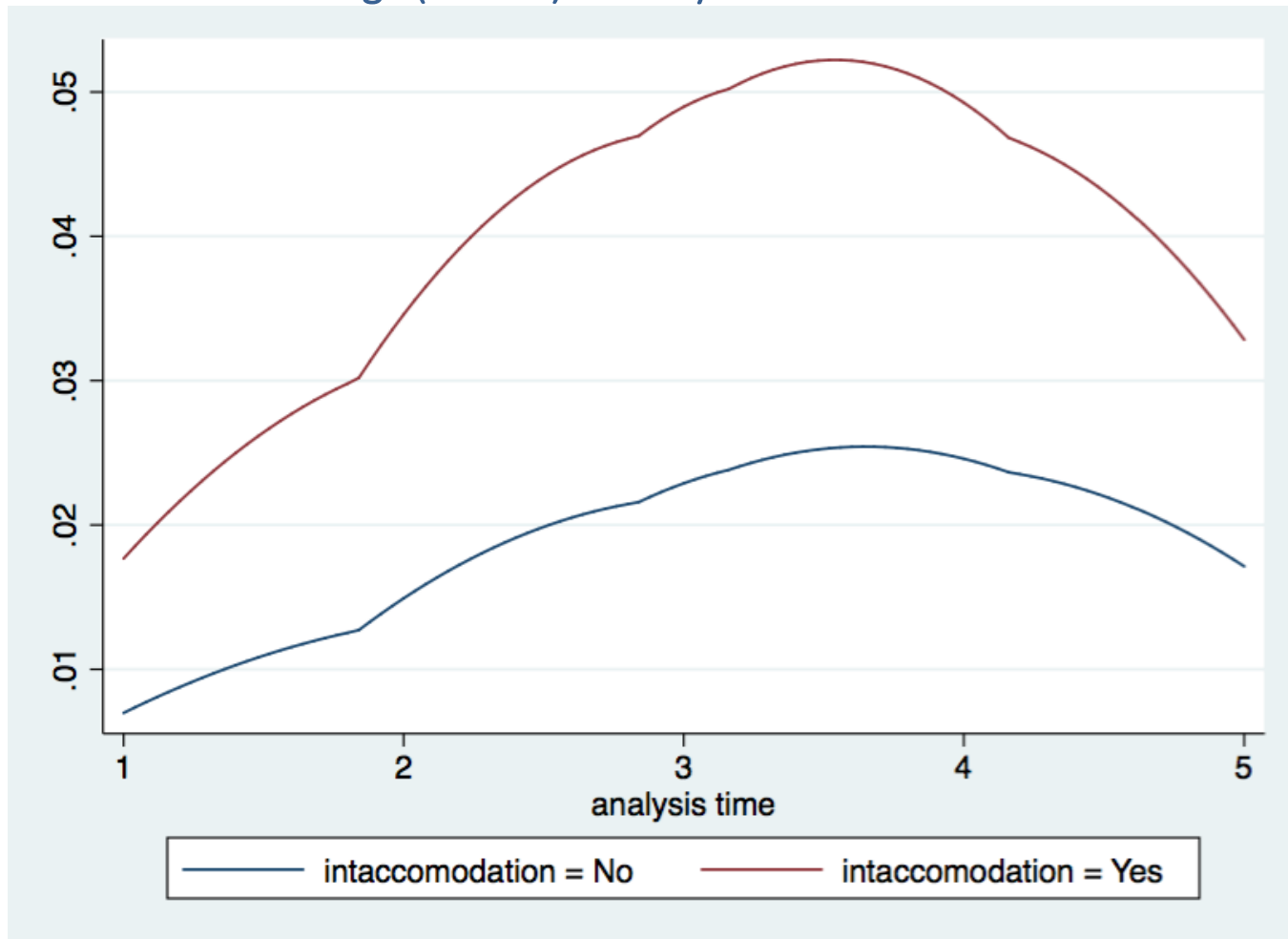
Hazard rate of having a(nother) child by child intentions





# RESULTS (3/6)

Hazard rate of having a(nother) child by intentions to move

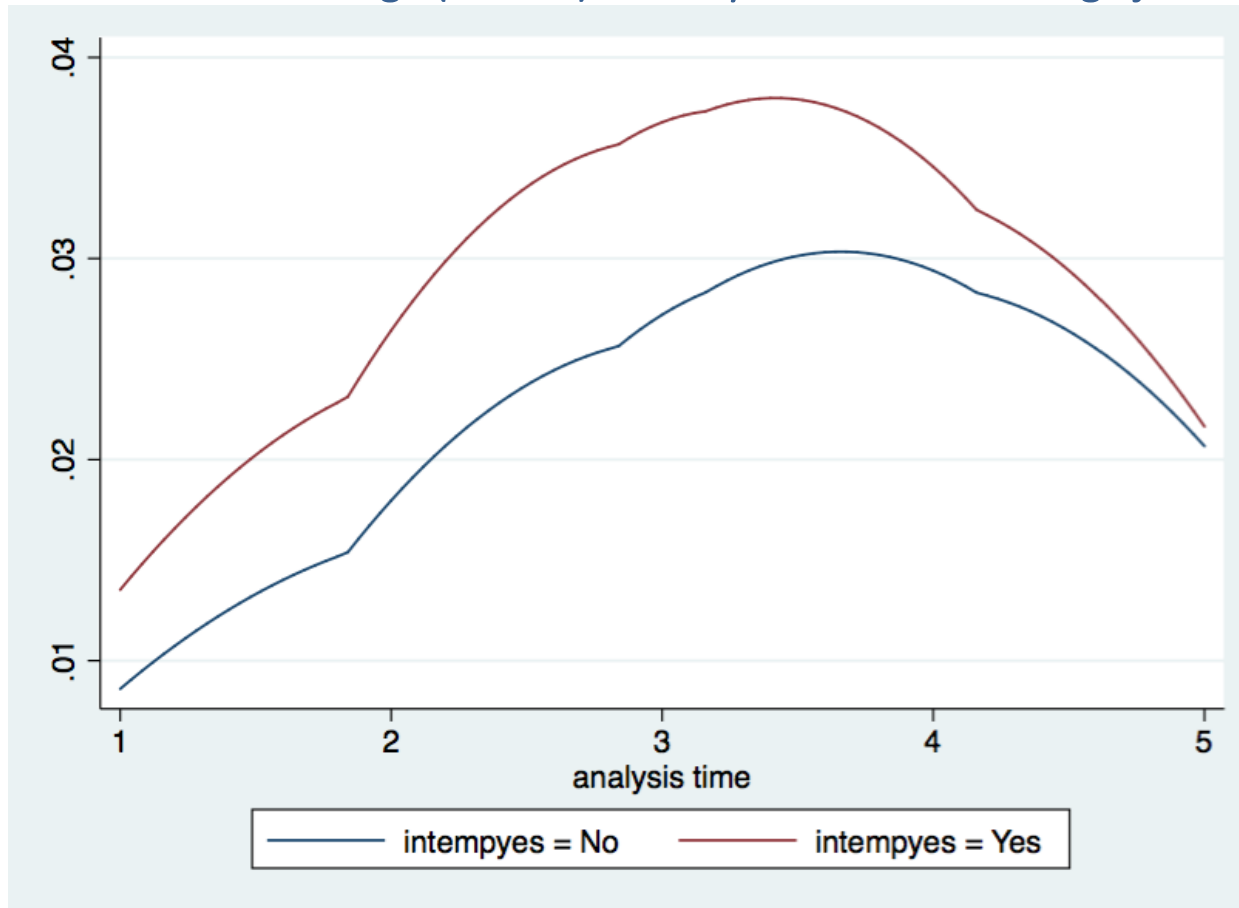






# RESULTS (4/6)

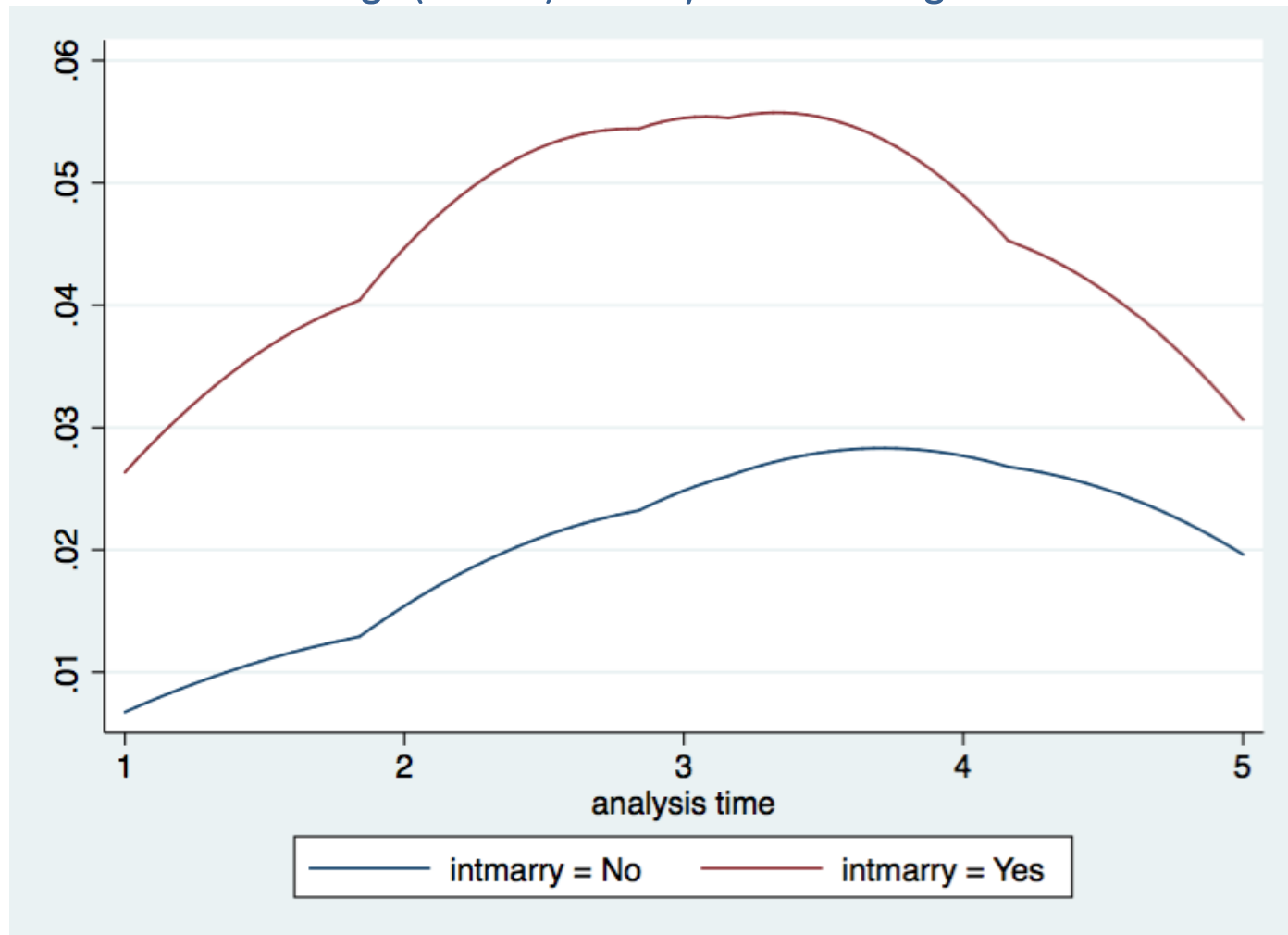
Hazard rate of having a(nother) child by intention to change job





# RESULTS (5/6)

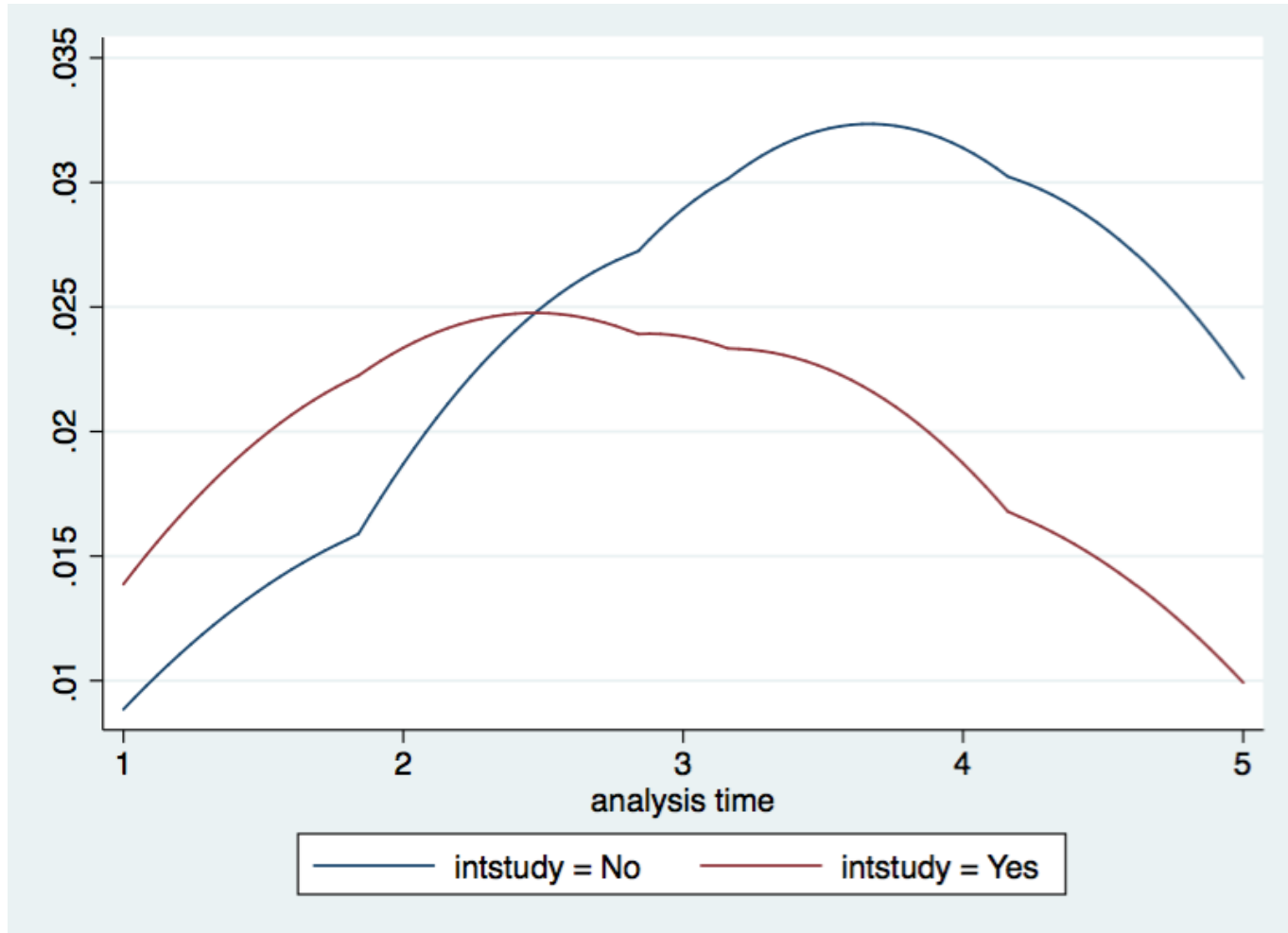
Hazard rate of having a(nother) child by intention to get married





# RESULTS (6/6)

Hazard rate of having a(nother) child by intention to resume study



# Conclusion

Our analysis suggests that:

- People form their intentions to have a(nother) child in a context of multiple *life aims* and childbearing competes with many other *life goals*;
- Most of the *competing intentions* support to the realization of childbearing intentions (only resumption of study does not)
- *Realization* of competing intentions in parallel life domains support the realization of childbearing intentions but delay the birth of a child
- *Life course approach* is the most appropriate framework to analyse the correspondence between fertility intentions and subsequent outcomes