

Couple's socioeconomic status and fertility intentions

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Introduction

SES AND FERTILITY INTENTIONS

Literature has shown that fertility intentions are **positively correlated** with:

- Educational attainment of both partners
- Permanent employment positions of both partners
- Income level of male partner

THE JOINT EFFECT of both partners' SES on woman's and man's fertility intentions has been under-investigated.

THIS STUDY addresses the link between **couple's SES and fertility intentions** by considering not only education but also type of occupation and field of education in the measure of socioeconomic status.

Data & Methods

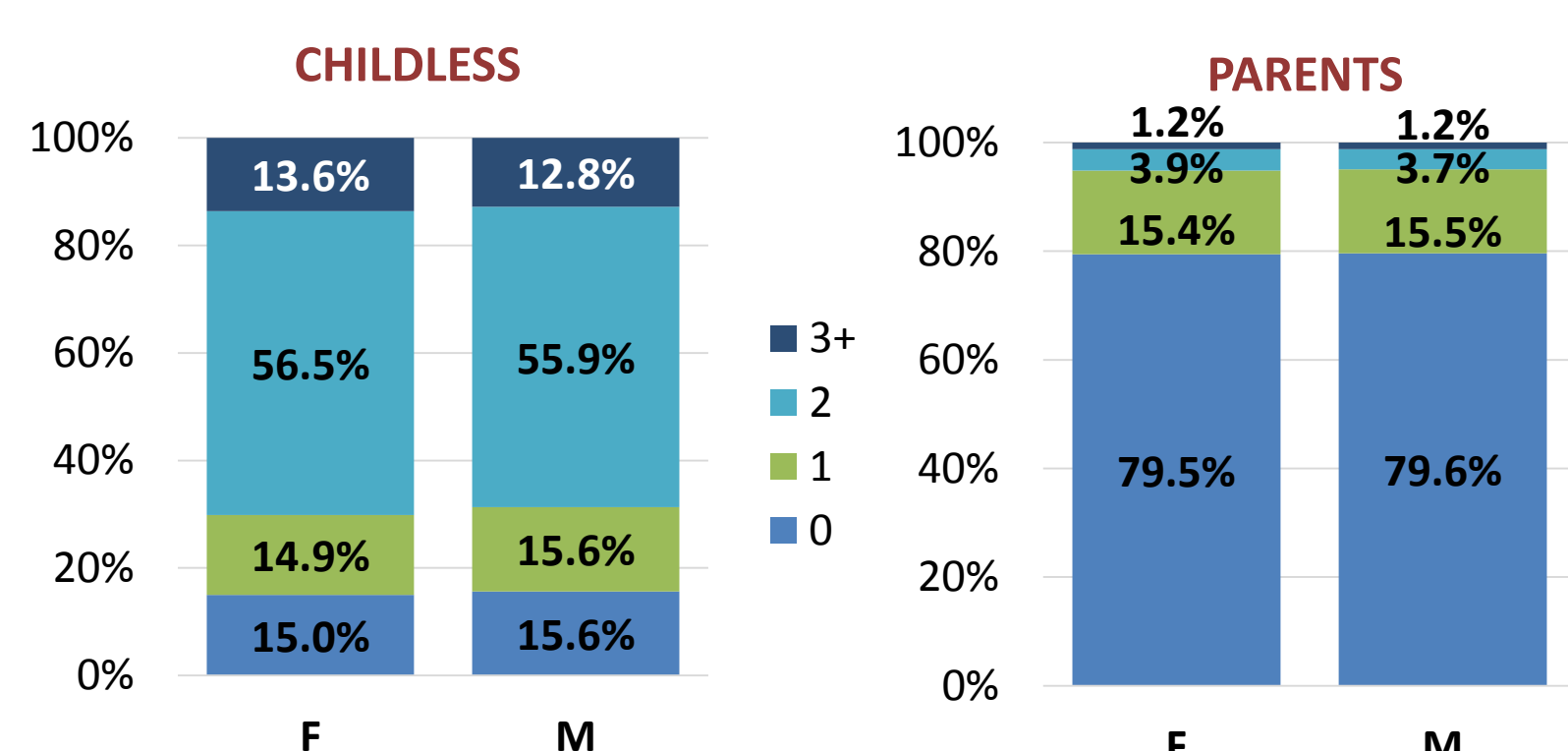
DATASET

- 1st wave of **Generations and Gender Survey (GGS)**: Bulgaria, France, Norway and Poland
- 12838 partnered **women** (ages 18-49, 11% childless, 89% with children)
- 12667 partnered **men** (ages 18+, 10% childless, 90% with children)

MEASURES OF FERTILITY INTENTIONS

- **Intention** to have a(nother) child
- **Number** of additionally intended children

FIG. NUMBER OF ADDITIONALLY INTENDED CHILDREN



MEASURES OF SES

- **Educational level**: low (ISCED 0-2), medium (3-4), high (5-6)
- **Educational field**:
 - **Humanities** and Art (1);
 - **Social Sciences**, business and law, Health and Welfare (2);
 - **Science, Engineering**, manufacturing and construction (3);
 - **Basic** programmes, Agriculture, Services and other (4)
- **Occupation**:
 - **Professionals**, legislators, senior officials, managers (1);
 - **Technicians** and associate professionals, Clerks (2);
 - **Service**, trades workers, machine operators, assemblers (3);
 - **Agricultural**, forestry and fishery workers (4);
 - **Basic** occupations (5)

CONTROL VARIABLES

Age of a woman, age of a man, type of settlement, cohabitation, previously married, union duration, number of children, country

MODEL

Zero-Inflated Poisson (ZIP) that combines two states:

- **zero** with the probability p (logistic regression on the intention **not** to have a child)
- **count** with the mean λ (Poisson regression on a given number of children)

Results – Odds Ratios of Intending A(nother) Child

FIG. 2. ODDS RATIOS OF INTENTION TO STAY CHILDLESS BY EDUCATIONAL STATUS AND SEX. CHILDLESS WOMEN AND MEN

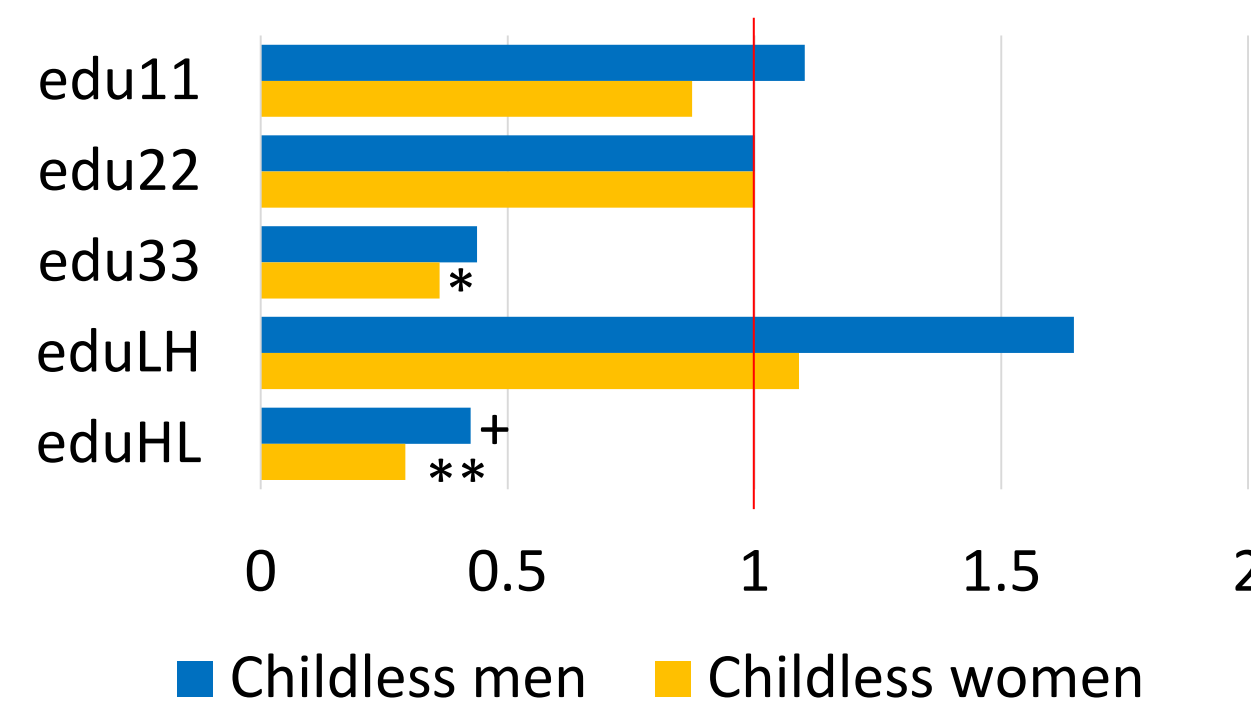
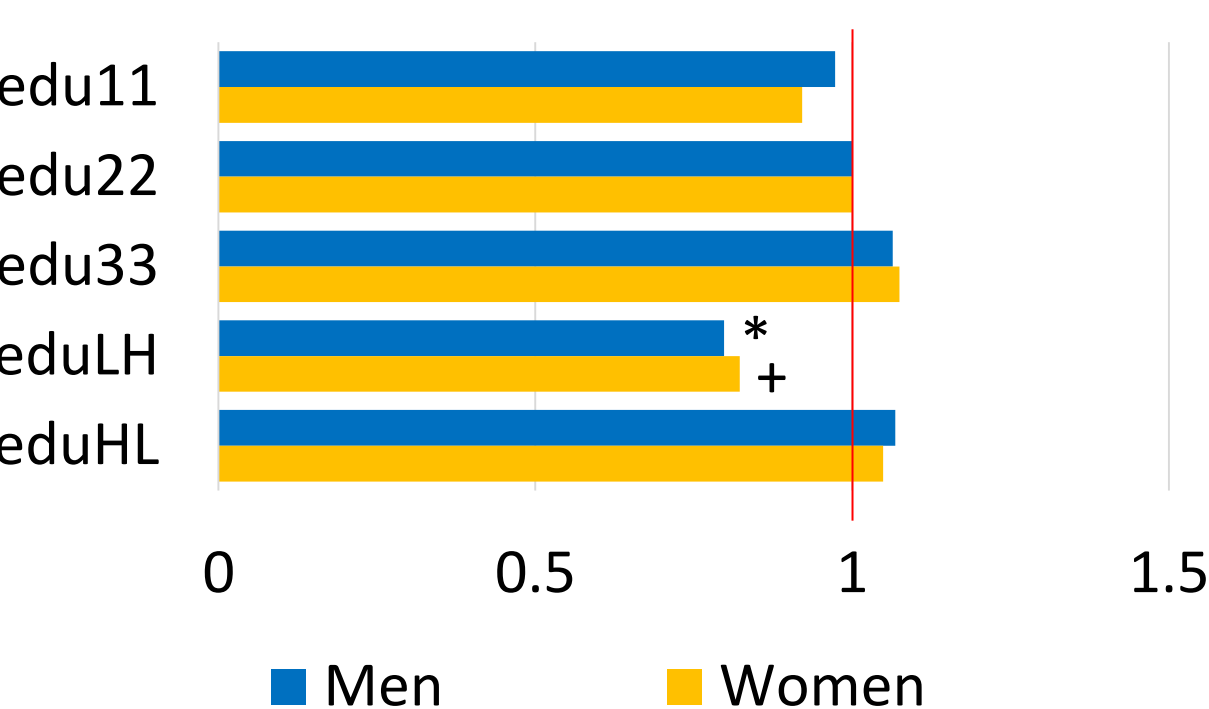


FIG. 3. RELATIVE RISKS OF INTENDING ADDITIONAL CHILDREN BY EDUCATIONAL STATUS AND PARENTS



EDUCATION

- **Hypogamous** couples are more likely to intend to remain childless (Fig.2)
- **Hypergamous** couples are more likely to have another child (Fig.3)

Reference: medium educated partners, in the field of **basic programmes**, working in **basic occupations**

FIG. 4. RELATIVE RISKS OF INTENDING ADDITIONAL CHILDREN BY MALE AND FEMALE EDUCATIONAL FIELD. MEN

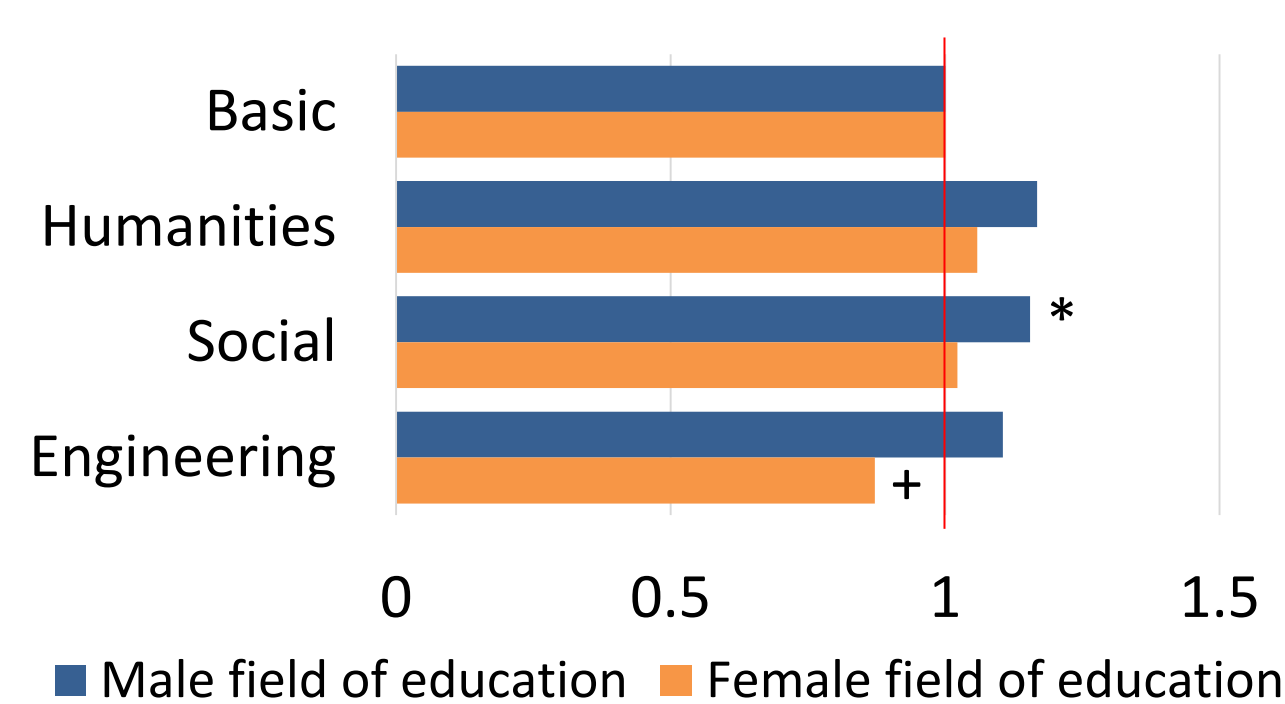
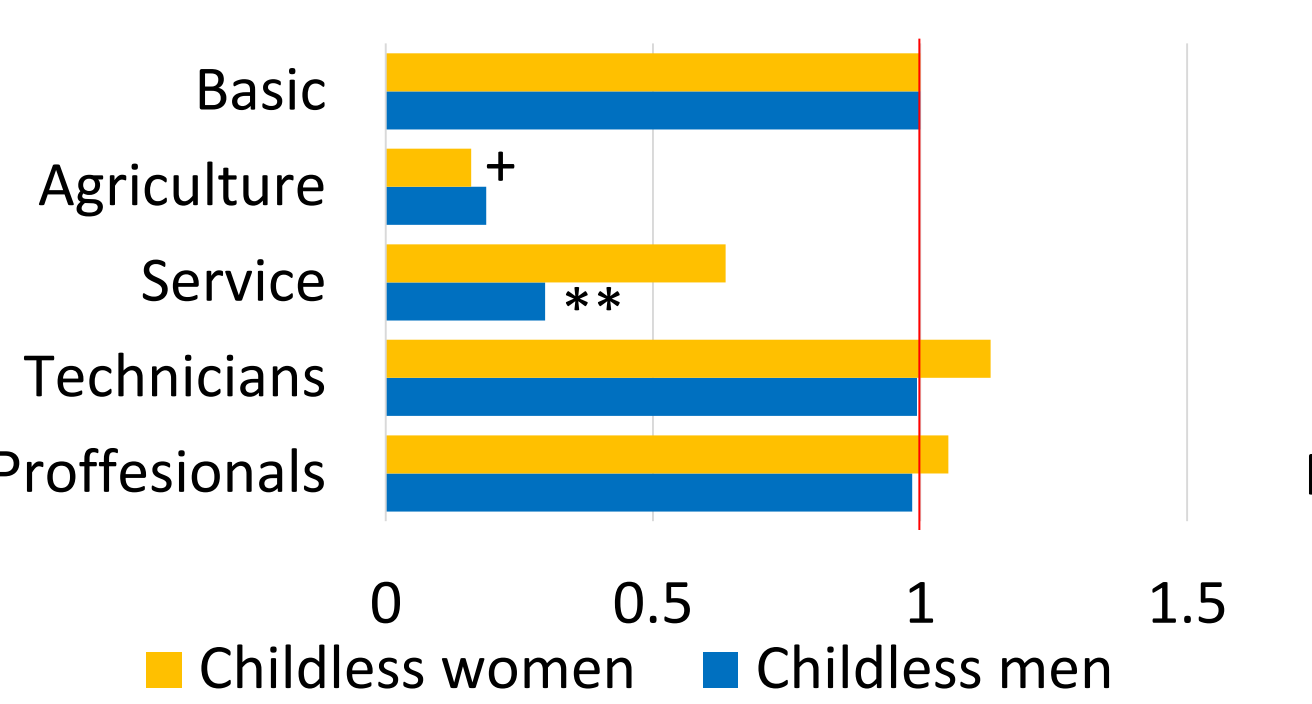


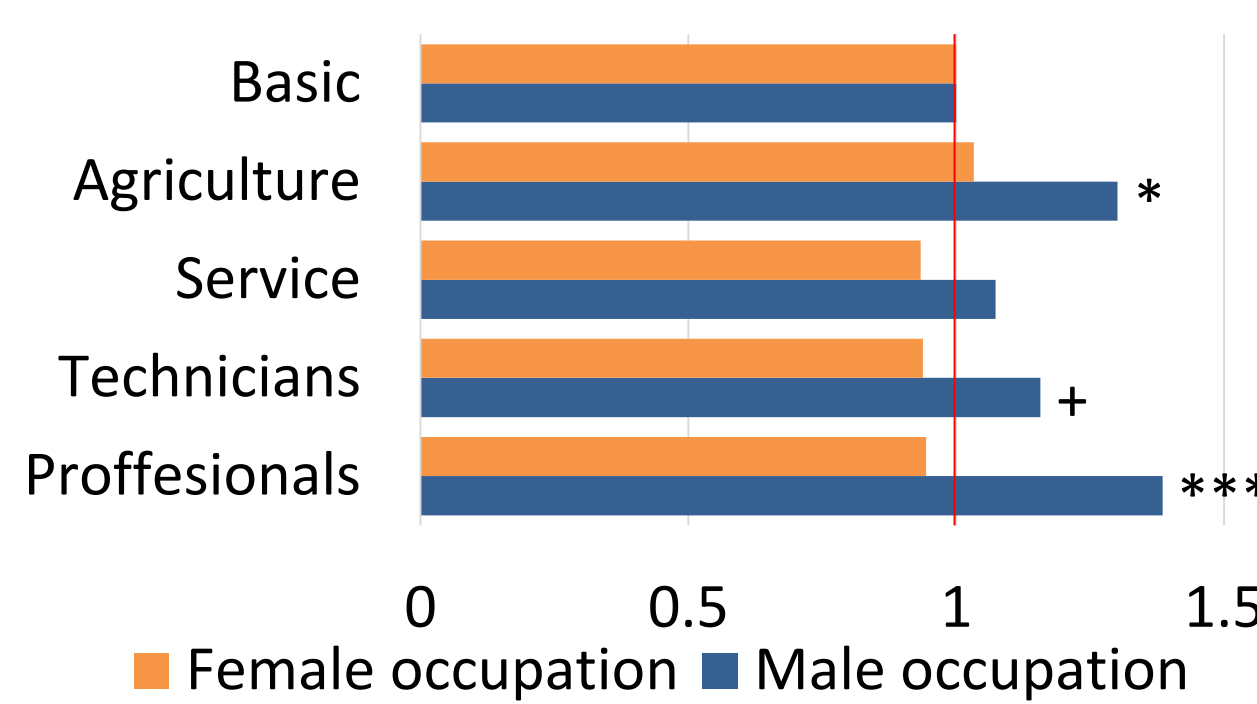
FIG. 5. ODDS RATIOS OF INTENTION TO STAY CHILDLESS BY MALE OCCUPATION AND SEX. CHILDLESS WOMEN AND MEN



OCCUPATION

- **Men** are **less likely** to intend to remain **childless** if employed in **Service** (Fig. 5).
- **Women** are **less likely** to intend to be childless if working in **Agriculture** (Fig. 5).
- **Women** are **more likely** to intend to have **an additional child** if the male partner works in **Agriculture** or as **Technician** or **Professional** (Fig. 6).

FIG. 6. RELATIVE RISKS OF INTENDING ADDITIONAL CHILDREN BY MALE AND FEMALE OCCUPATION. WOMEN

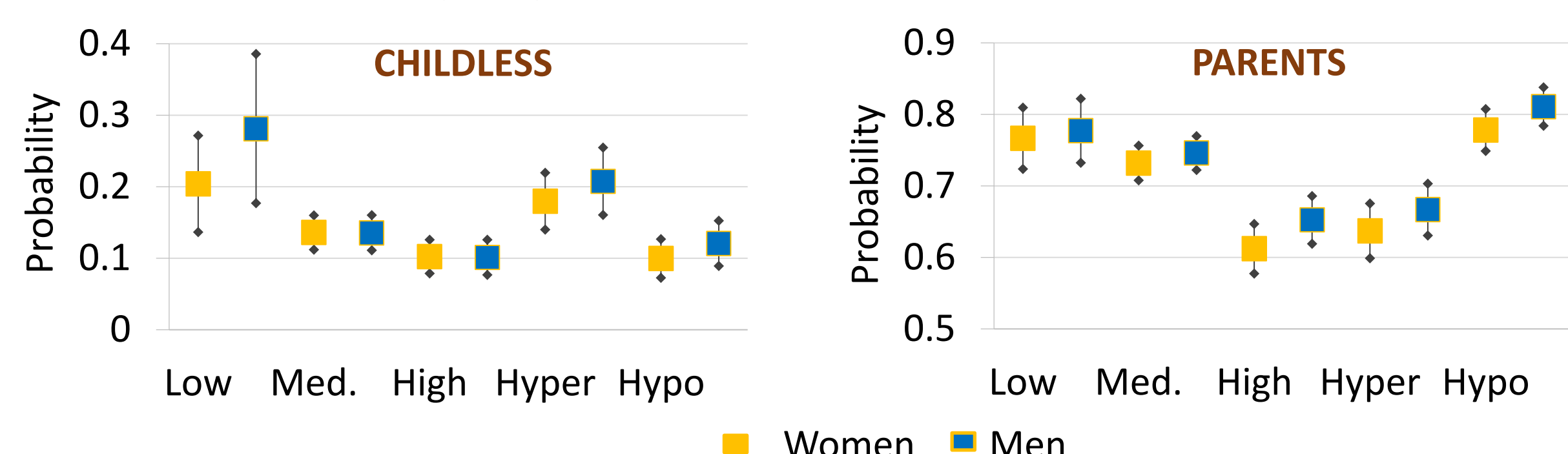


FIELD OF EDUCATION

- **Men** being in a relationship with a woman educated in **Engineering** are **less likely** to intend to have **another child** (Fig. 4)
- **Men** educated in **Social Science** are **more prone** to have **additional children** (Fig. 4)

Results – Predicted Intentions by Couple's SES

FIG. 7. PREDICTED PROBABILITY OF INTENDING ZERO ADDITIONAL CHILDREN BY COUPLE'S SES AND SEX (+/- SE)



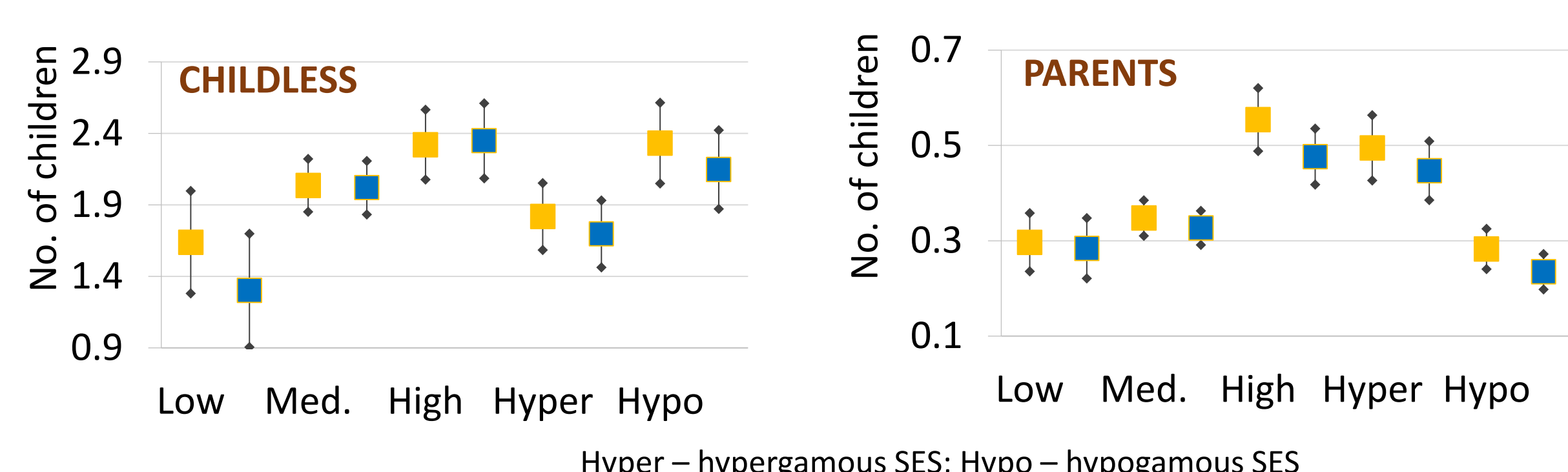
CHILDLESS

- **Low homogamous** and **hypergamous** couples have the highest probability of intending to stay **childless** (Fig. 7).
- **High homogamous** and **hypogamous** couples are expected to have the largest intended family size (Fig. 8).

PARENTS

- Having **hypogamous** or **low** SES increases the probability of intending zero additional children. In turn, **high** and **hypergamous** SES lead to higher chances of intending another child (Fig. 7).
- One out of two couples with **high** or **hypergamous** SES wants to have an additional child while only one in four **hypogamous** unions intends to enlarge the family (Fig. 8).

FIG. 8. PREDICTED NUMBER OF INTENDED CHILDREN BY COUPLE'S SES AND SEX (+/- SE)



Discussion

HOMOGAMY: female SES = male SES
HYPOGAMY: female SES > male SES
HYPERGAMY: female SES < male SES

CONCLUSION

- **Homogamy** at high educational level favours fertility intentions.
- **Hypergamity** predicts bipolarization of fertility intentions (either no child or, if any, many).
- **Hypogamy** enhances the start of childbearing but also the limitation of complete family size.
- The effect of partners' combined **educational attainment** on fertility intentions is **not gendered**.
- The effect of partners' **educational fields** and **occupations** on fertility intentions is **gendered**.

STRENGTHS

- The model used predicts the **intention** to have a child and the **number** of intended children by taking into account the interdependence between negative and positive fertility intentions.
- The results show the effect of SES on fertility intentions by combining **a couple-level approach** with a broad definition of socioeconomic status.

LIMITATIONS

- The study selects **only countries** in which **detailed data** on both partners' SES are available.
- The study selects **only people in a union**.

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