Partnership Relations in Context

2nd pairfam Interdisciplinary Conference

September 21-23

Munich

Universität Bremen · TECHNISCHE UNIVERSITÄT CHEMNITZ · UNIVERSITÄT MANNHEIM · LMU

pairfam
Panel Analysis of Intimate Relationships and Family Dynamics

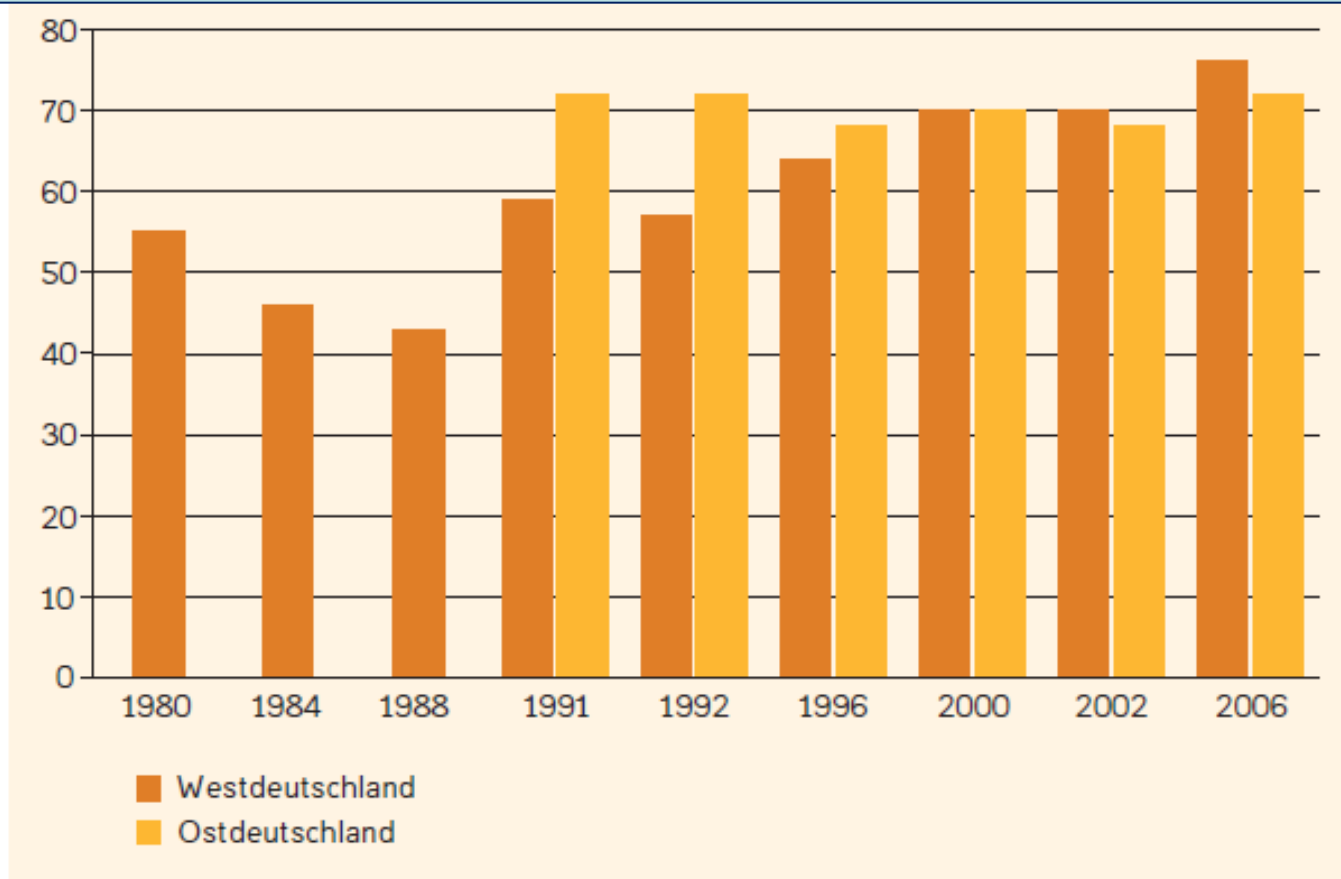**(1) Issues in partnership research**

(2) What is pairfam?

(3) Investigating partnership relations in the pairfam panel

(4) Aims of this conference

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(1) Issues in Partnership Research

Percentage of young adults in West and East Germany endorsing „One needs a family for happiness"

Datenbasis: ALLBUS 1980 – 2006.

Partnership relations matter across the life course

What is Special About Partnership Relations in Adolescence and Young Adulthood?

Developmental models describing changes of romantic relationships across adolescence

	Brown（1999）	Connolly & Goldberg（1999）	Furman & Wehner（1997）
Early Adolescence	Initiation Phase	Initial Infatuation	Developing competence and self confidence
Middle Adolescence	Status Phase	Affiliative Romantic Relationship	Affiliation Sexuality
Late Adolescence	Affection Phase	Intimate Romantic Relationship	Affiliation Sexuality Attachment, Care
Early Adulthood	Bonding Phase	Committed Romantic Relationship	Affiliation Sexuality Attachment, Care

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DEARR-Model (Development of Early Adult Romantic Relationships)

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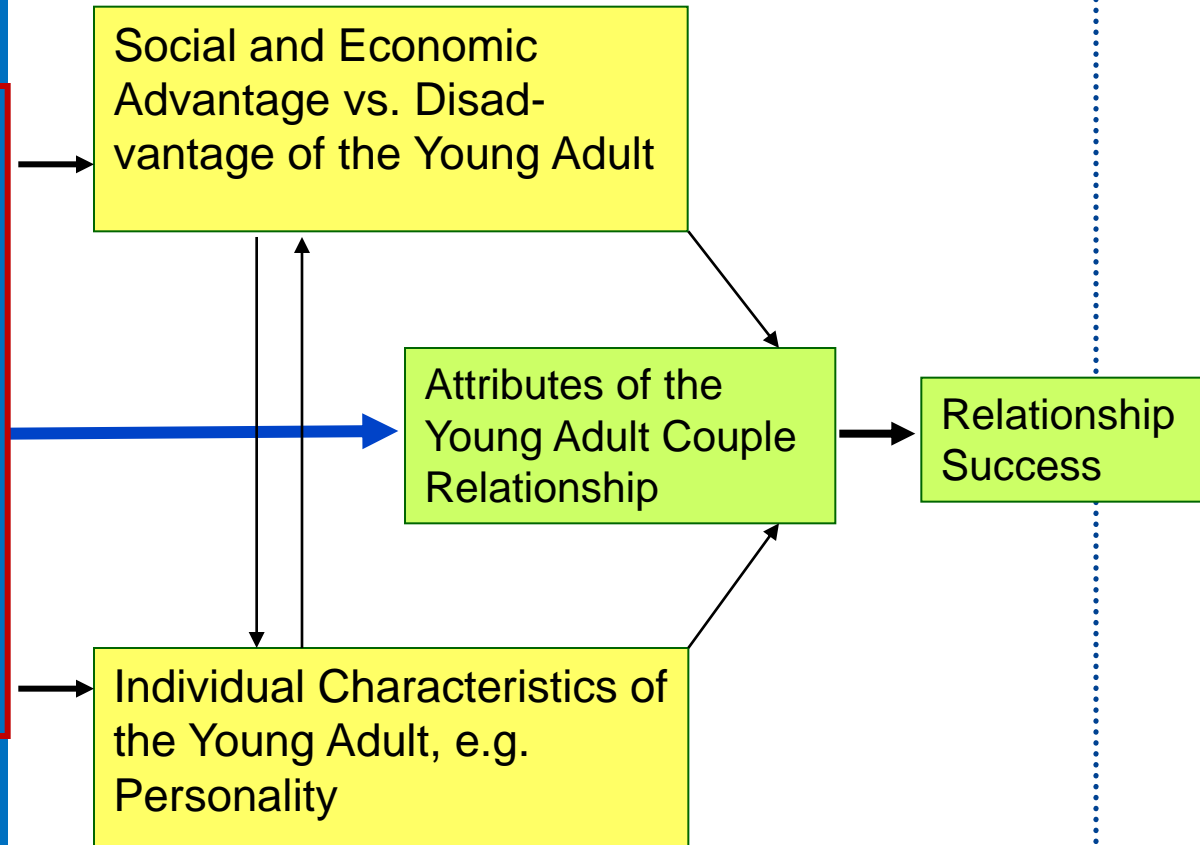Panel Analysis of Intimate Relationships and Family Dynamics

Relationship Promoting vs. Inhibiting Experiences in the Family of Origin

- **Family members' (parents, target children, siblings):**
  - Warm / supportive vs. hostile interactions
  - effective vs. dyfunctional family problem solving
  - Nurturant vs. harsh / inconsistent parenting
  - Positive vs. negative attributions/cognitions
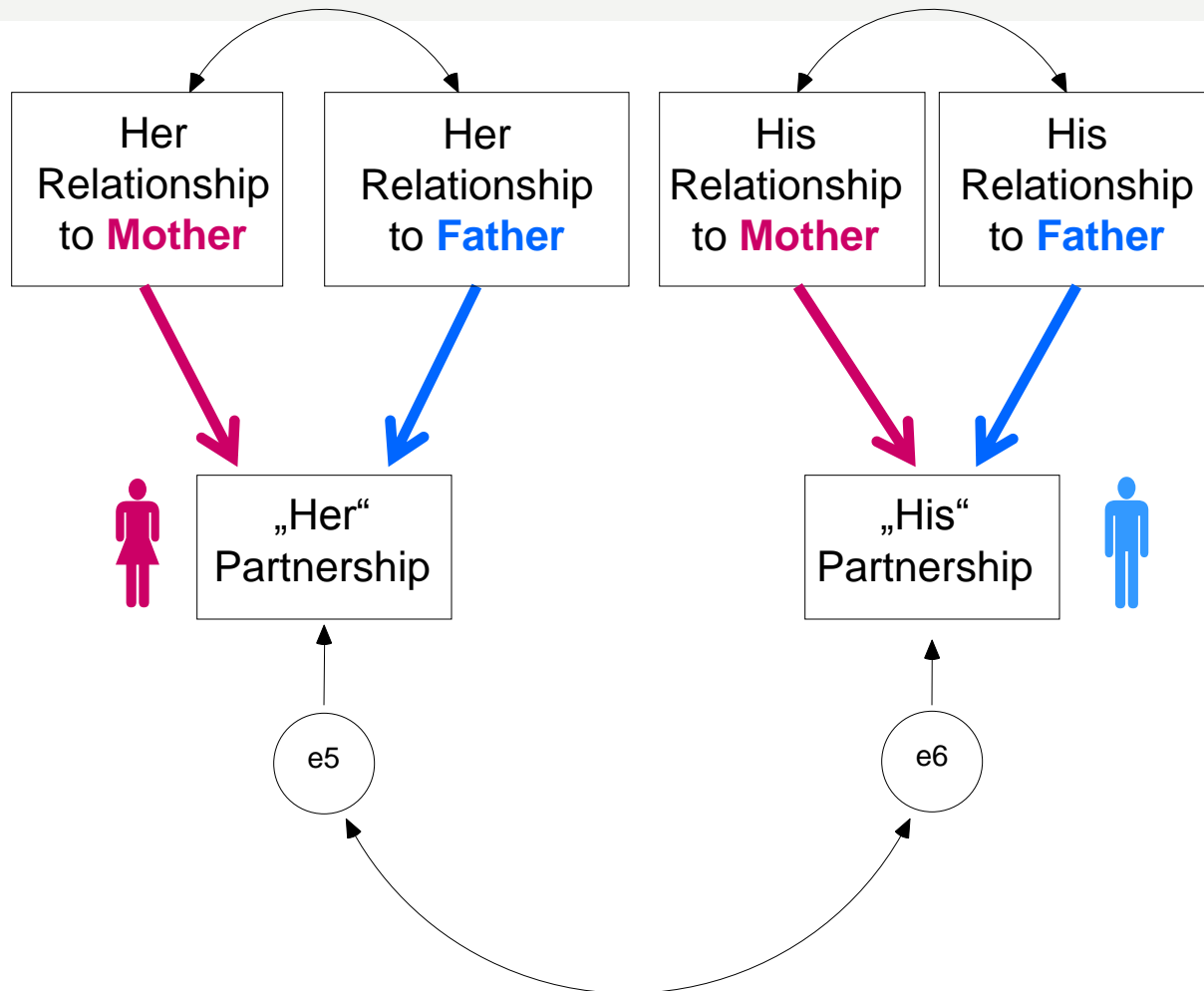 - Emotional in-/stability

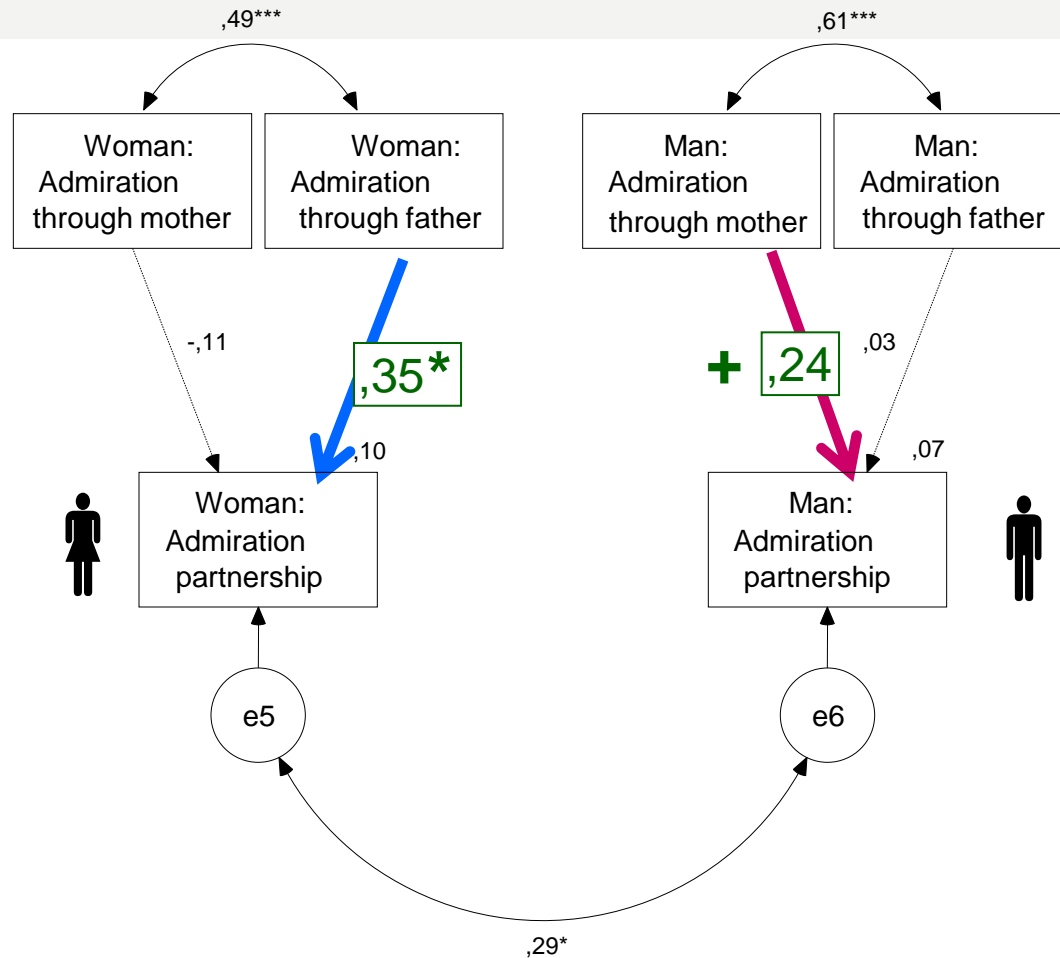- **Family demographic change vs. stability**

- **Family SES**

Social and Economic Advantage vs. Disadvantage of the Young Adult

Attributes of the Young Adult Couple Relationship

Relationship Success

Individual Characteristics of the Young Adult, e.g. Personality

(Bryant & Conger, 2002; Bryant, 2006)

Transmission Model

Evidence for complementary role modeling

Transmission of Admiration/Estimation

,49***

| Woman: Admiration through mother | Woman: Admiration through father |

,61***

| Man: Admiration through mother | Man: Admiration through father |

Modell-Fit:
Chi²=11.223; df=8; BS p=.216 ✓
CFI = .959 ✓
RMSEA = .072 ✓
SRMR = .0838 ✓

-,11

,35*

+ ,24

,03

,10

,07

Woman: Admiration partnership

Man: Admiration partnership

e5
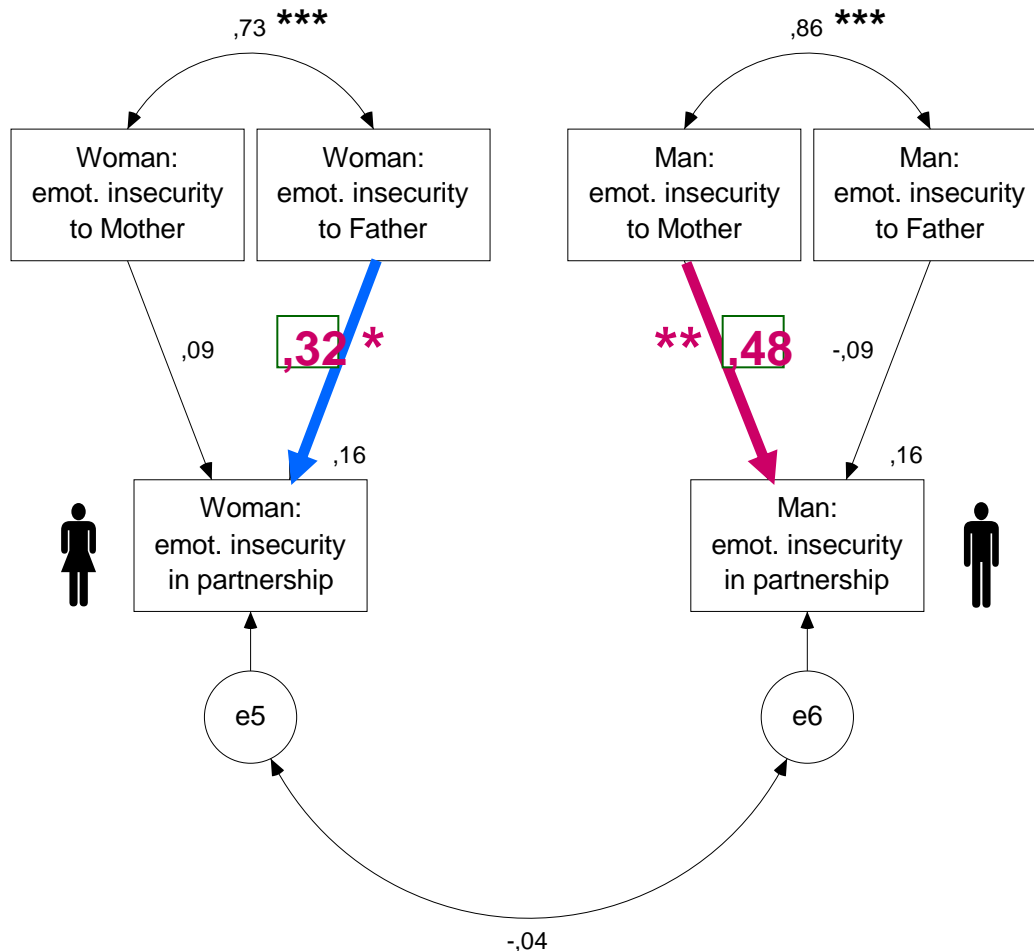
e6

,29*

Experienced admiration / estimation by the opposite-sex parent

→ perceived admiration / estimation in the current romantic relationship

Effects on Emotional Security:
Transmission of Attachment Experiences

Model-Fit:
Chi²=12.401; df=8; BS p=.187 ✓
CFI = .98
RMSEA = .077
SRMR = .1301

,73 ***

,86 ***

Woman: emot. insecurity to Mother

Woman: emot. insecurity to Father

Man: emot. insecurity to Mother

Man: emot. insecurity to Father

,09

,32 *

** **,48**

-,09

,16

,16

Woman: emot. insecurity in partnership

Man: emot. insecurity in partnership

e5

e6

-,04

N = 93 couples

**Complementary
Role Learning**

The broader focus on context:

- **The role of peers & social networks**
- **The family-work interface**
- **Mobility demands**
- **Migration**
- **Economic risks**
- **The personal context: life histories and personality**

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Nichteheliche Geburten 2007
nach Kreisen

Anteil der nichtehelichen
Geburten an allen Geburten
[%]

60 - 72
50 - 60
40 - 50
30 - 40
25 - 30
20 - 25
14 - 20

Durchschnittswerte [%]
Deutschland   30,8
neue Länder u. Berlin 56,9
alte Länder   24,6

Staatsgrenze
Ländergrenze
Kreisgrenze
+ Landeshauptstadt

Quelle: Statistisches Bundesamt 2008

0   50   100 km

Autor: Atlasredaktion
Kartografie: S.Dutzmann
© Leibniz-Institut für Länderkunde 2009

Rates of children born to unmarried parents.
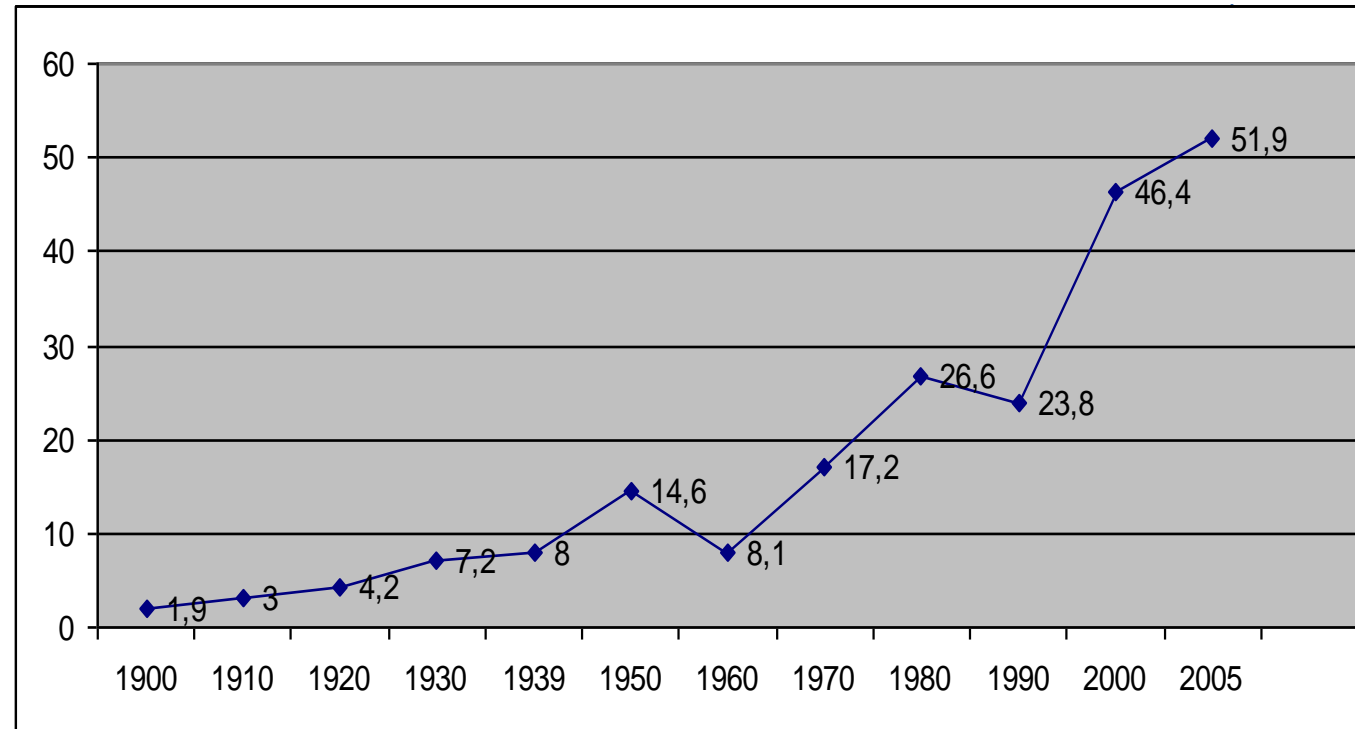
Very high in East Germany （＞ 60%）

Risk for parental separation for children born out of wedlock:
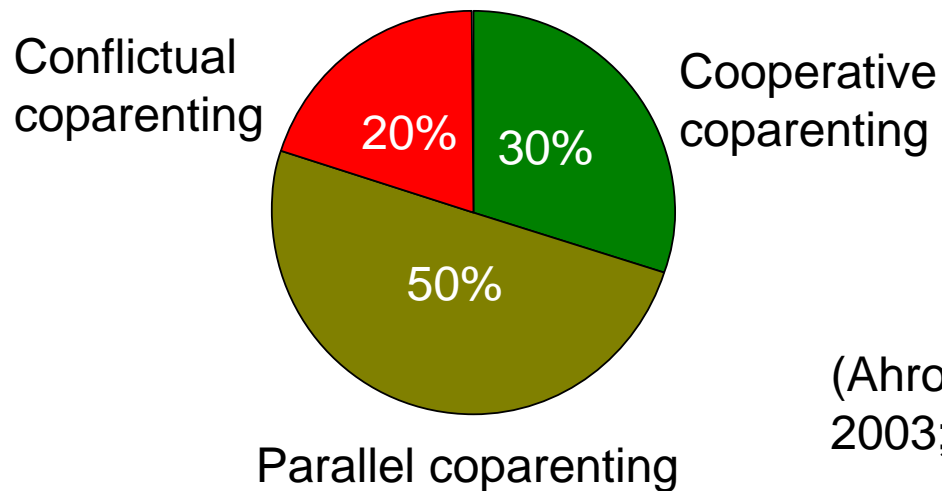During the first 4 yours of children's lives: 21%
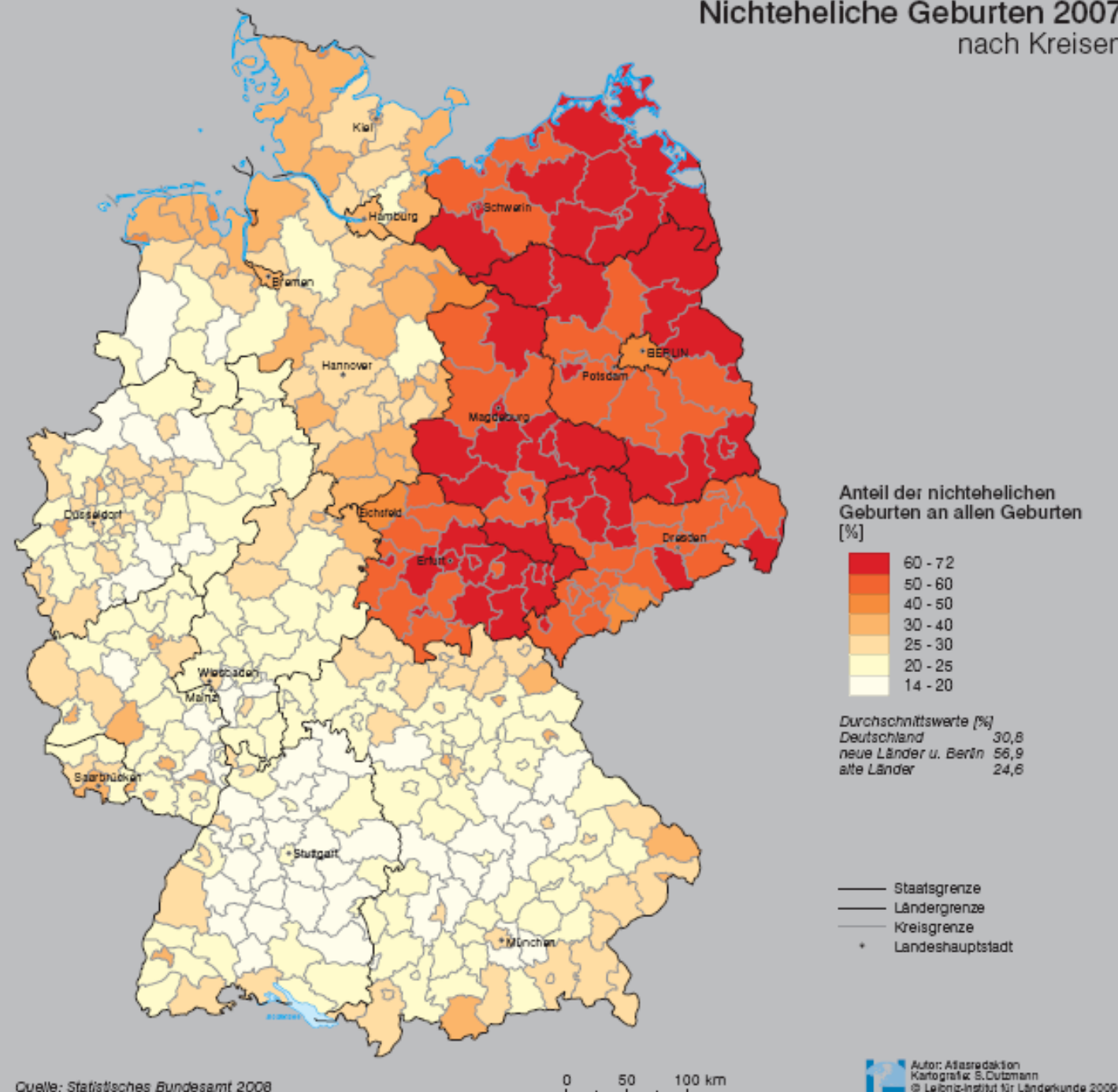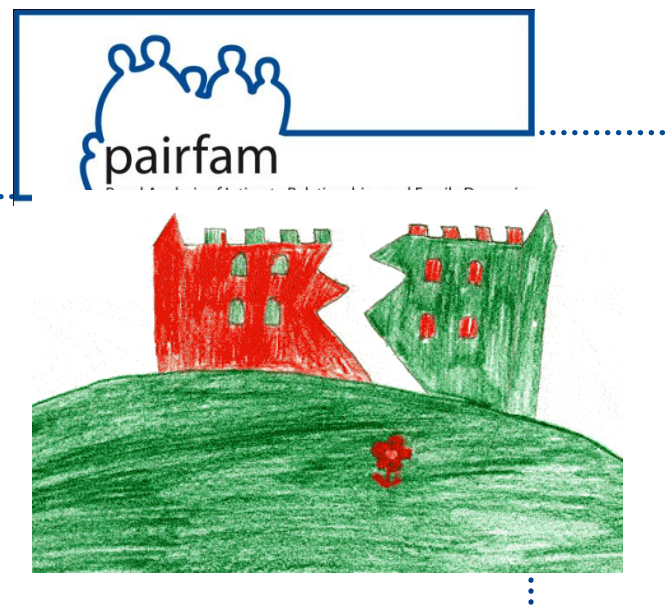
The Relation between Divorces and Marriages in Germany since 1900:
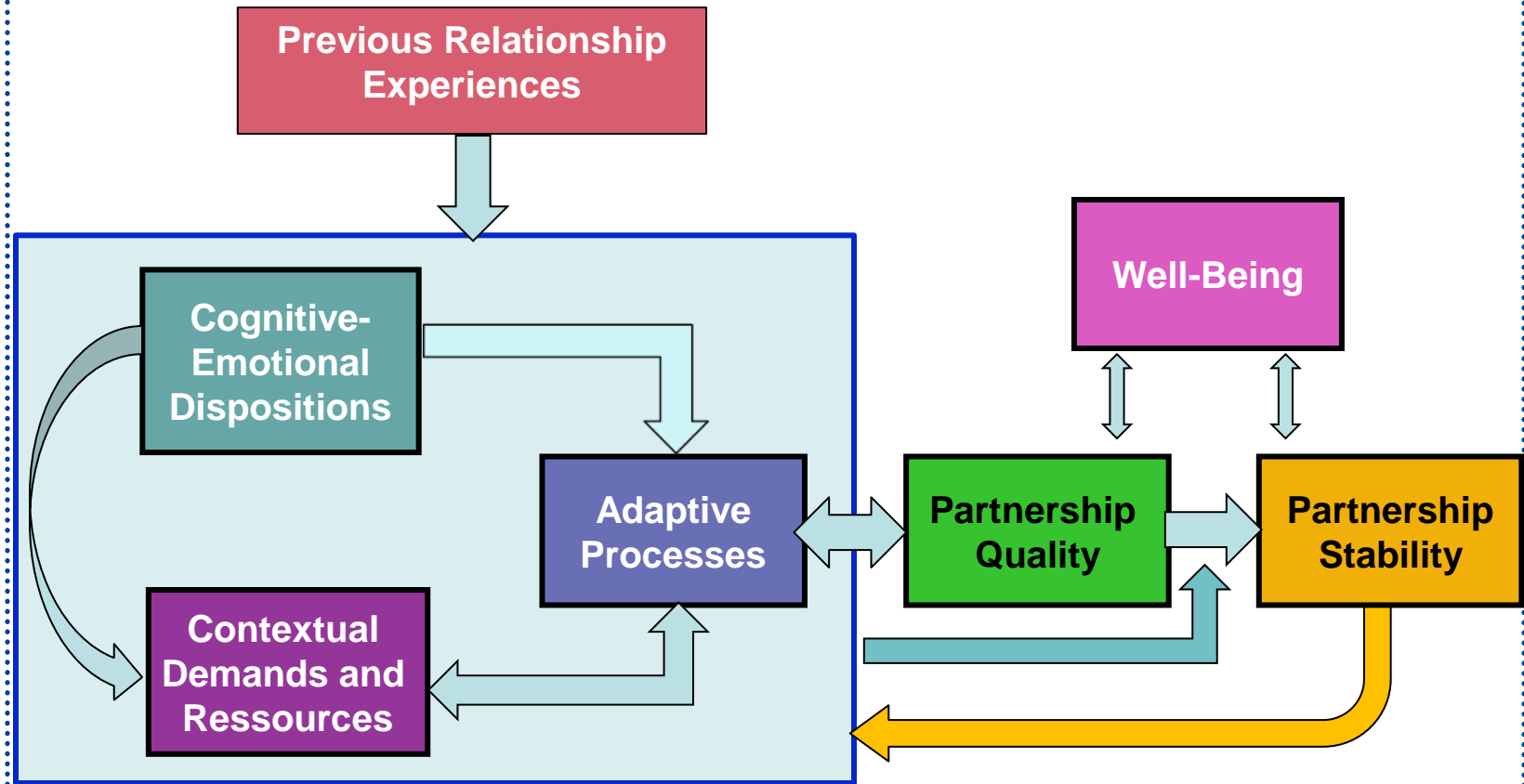Number of Divorces per 100 Marriages

Conflictual coparenting

Cooperative coparenting

20% 30%

50%

Parallel coparenting

(Ahrons, 1981; Hetherington & Kelly, 2003; Sbarra & Emery, 2005)

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Panel Analysis of Intimate Relationships and Family Dynamics

Partnership Model

(2) What is pairfam ?

Panel Analysis of Intimate Relationships and Family Dynamics

➢ **An infrastructure project funded by the German Research Council to promote empirical research in the domain of personal relationships & family life**

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Aims:

- Providing a large longitudinal data set for scientific use

- Interdisciplinary approach

- Addressing a variety of (current & classical) issues in family research

- Theoretically based assessment program

- Allowing for use in a variety of more specific theoretical contexts

Principle Investigators: **Bernhard Nauck, Chemnitz**
Josef Brüderl, Munich
Johannes Huinink, Bremen
Sabine Walper, Munich

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Topics addressed in pairfam:

- **Formation, quality, and dissolution of partnership relations**

- **Intergenerational relationships: exchange, support, affective ties**

- **Fertility decisions and family formation & extension**

- **Child rearing and parent-child relationships in different family contexts**

- **Social Inequality ⇆ Family Development**

3 age cohorts each 4,000 anchor participants

Anchor-Persons

Population: German speaking persons in private households

Cohort 1
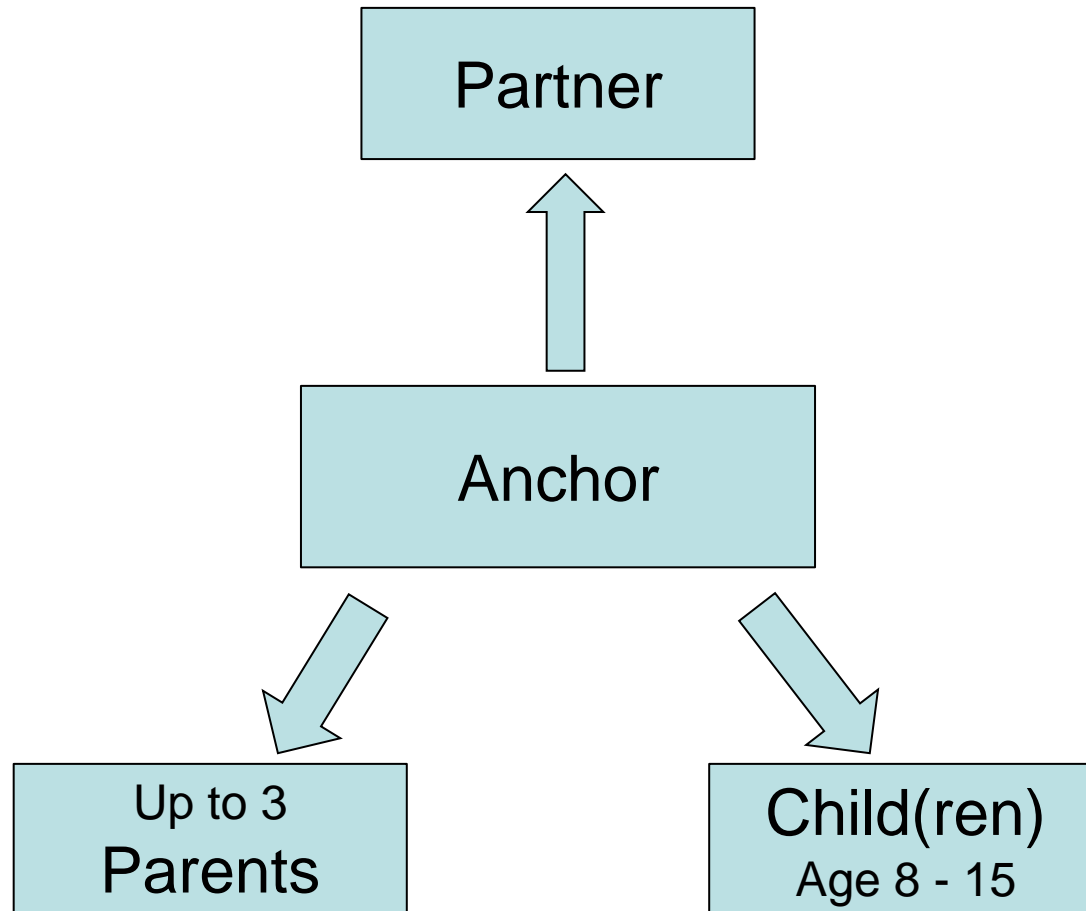Born 1991-93
Age 15-17
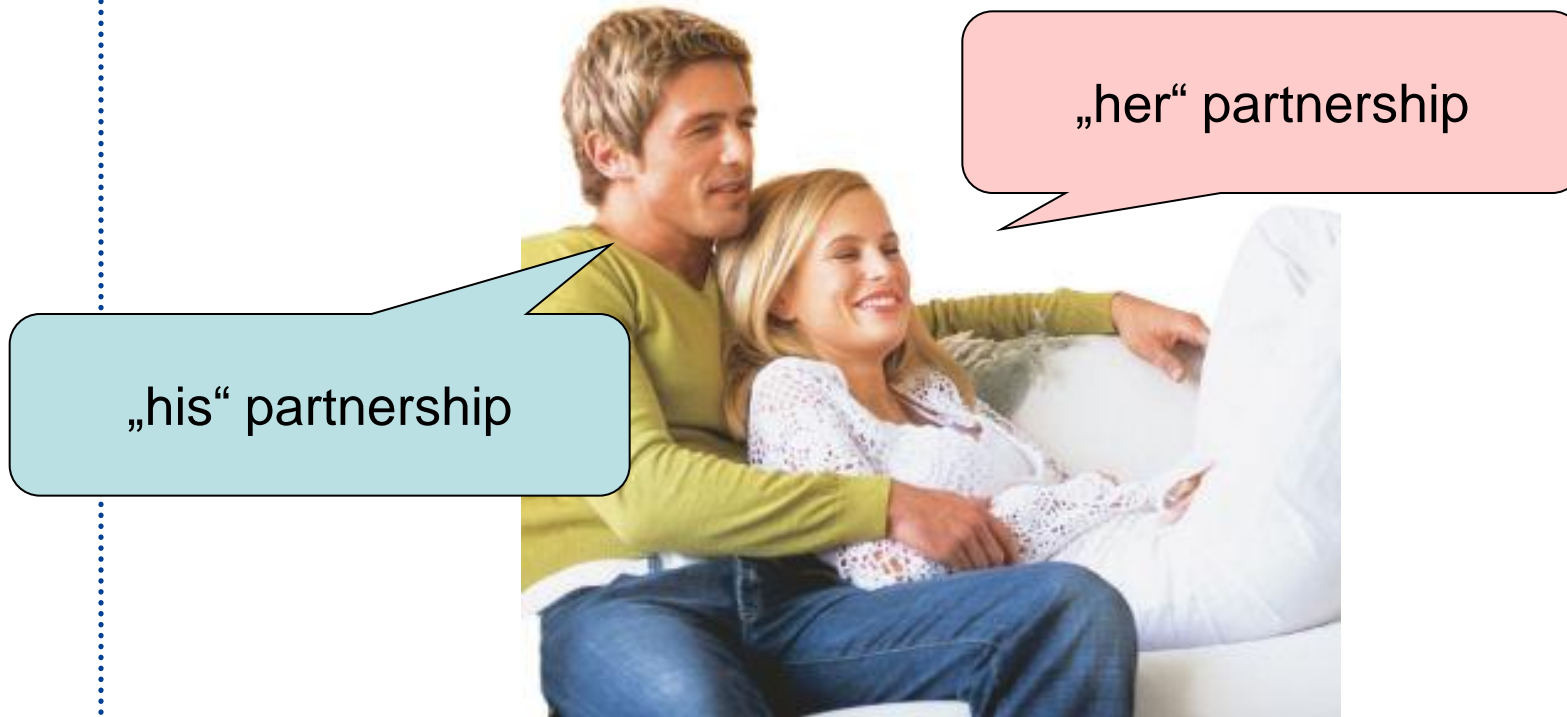(wave1)

Cohort 2
Born 1981-83
Age 25-27
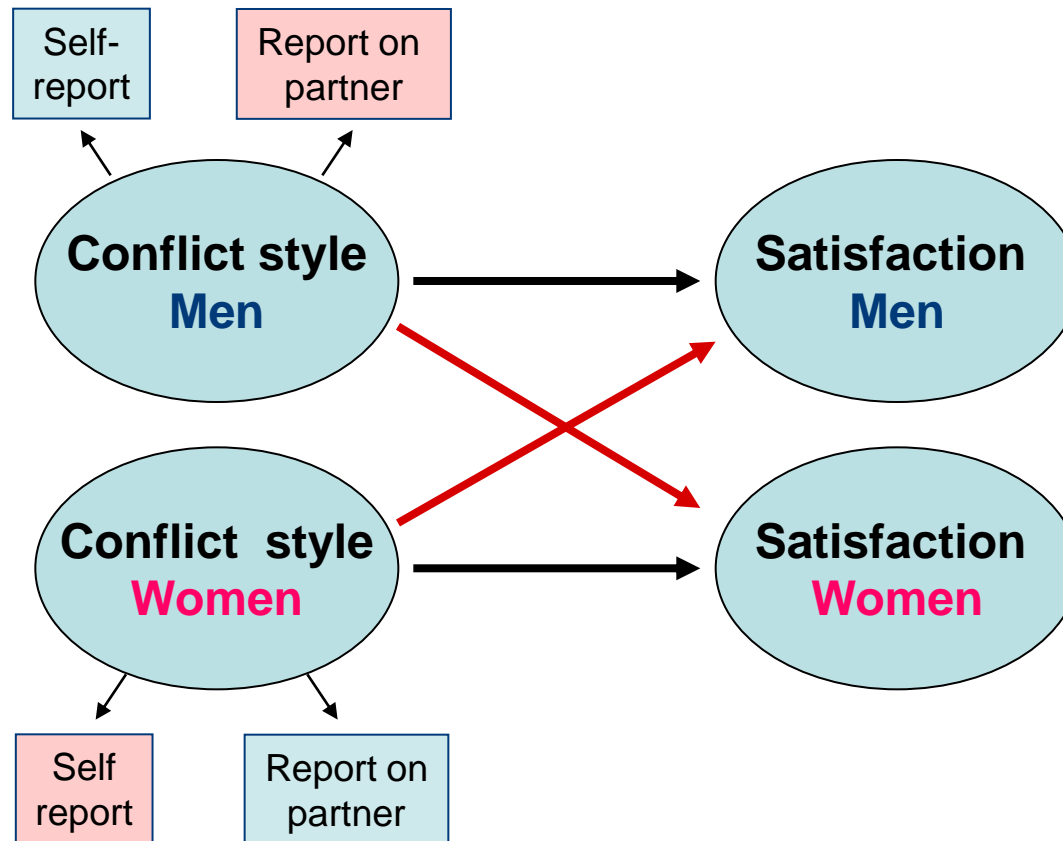(wave 1)

Cohort 3
Born 1971-73
Age 35-37
(wave 3)

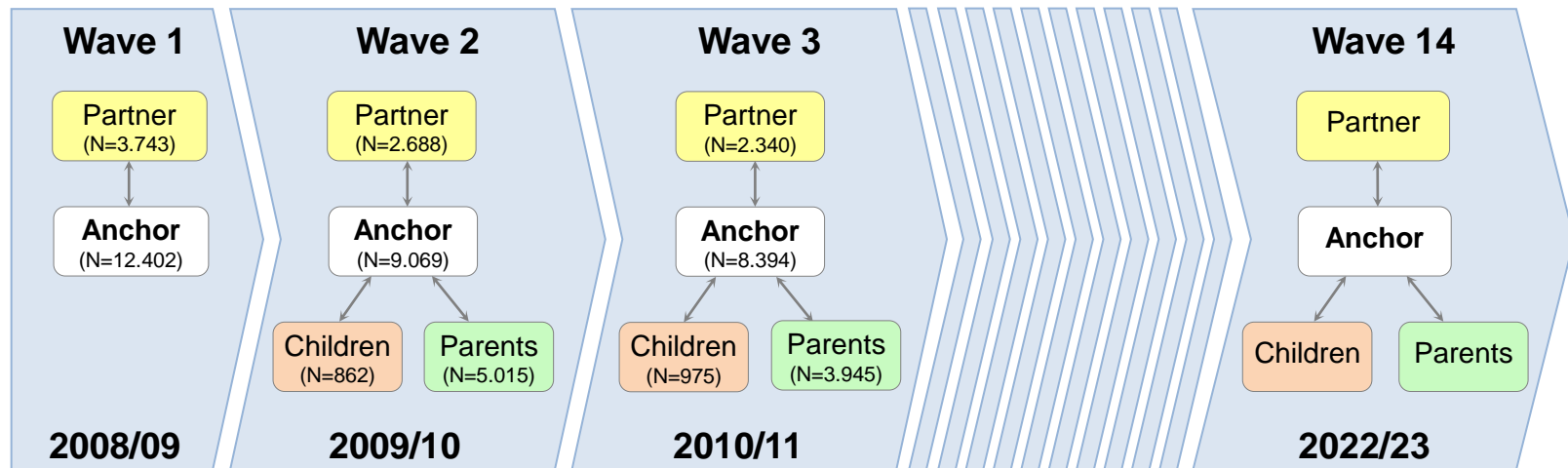# The multi-actor design in pairfam:

Dyadic data allow to compare:

„her" partnership

„his" partnership

where we are

Annual assessments since 2008/2009

Wave 1 — Partner (N=3.743), Anchor (N=12.402) — 2008/09

Wave 2 — Partner (N=2.688), Anchor (N=9.069), Children (N=862), Parents (N=5.015) — 2009/10

Wave 3 — Partner (N=2.340), Anchor (N=8.394), Children (N=975), Parents (N=3.945) — 2010/11

Wave 14 — Partner, Anchor, Children, Parents — 2022/23

we are here

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Sample Development

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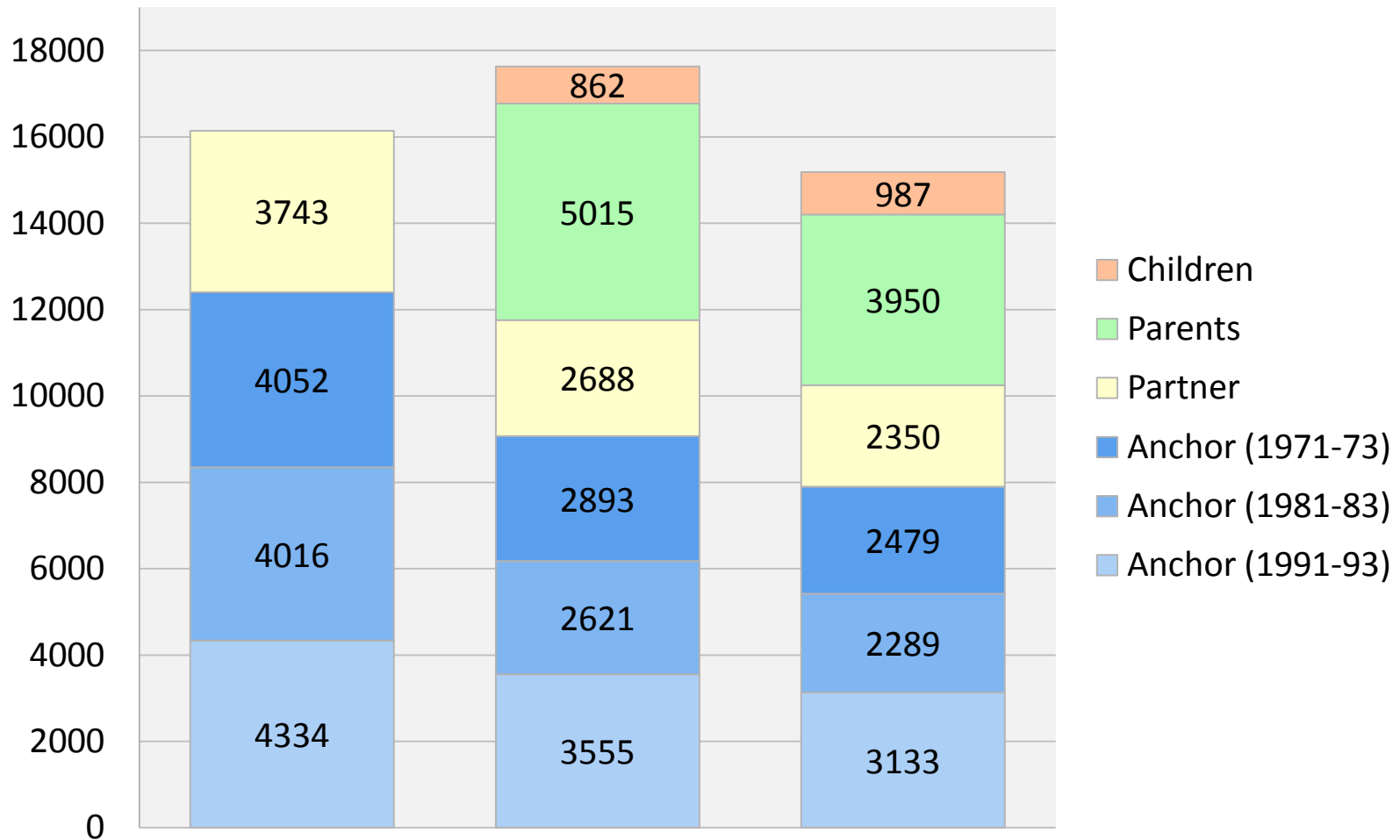
CAPI + CASI:

- **Retrospective biographical information**
  (life history calendar, once)
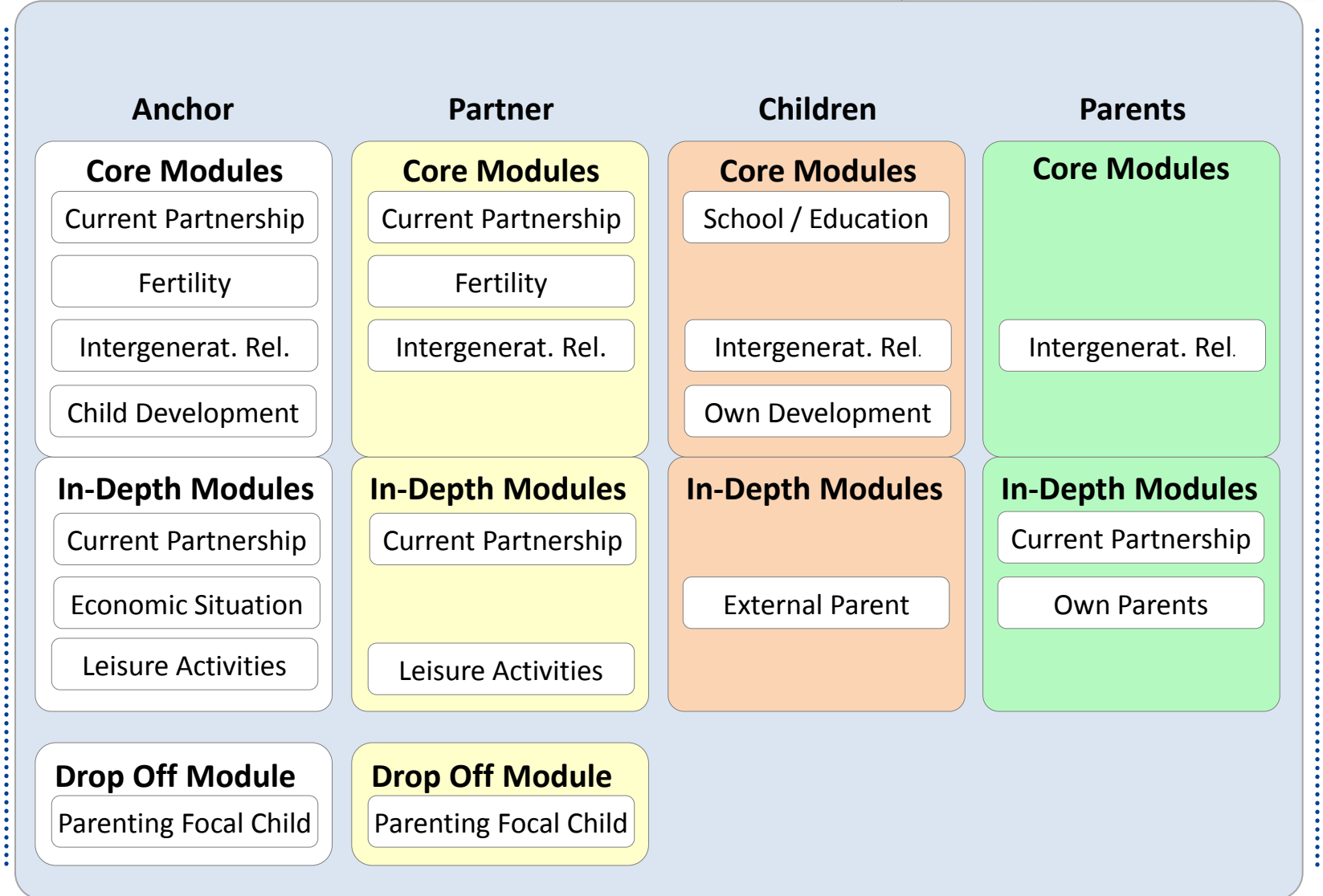
- **Update on biographical information**
  (event history calendar, each wave)

- **Core modules for each domain** (each wave)

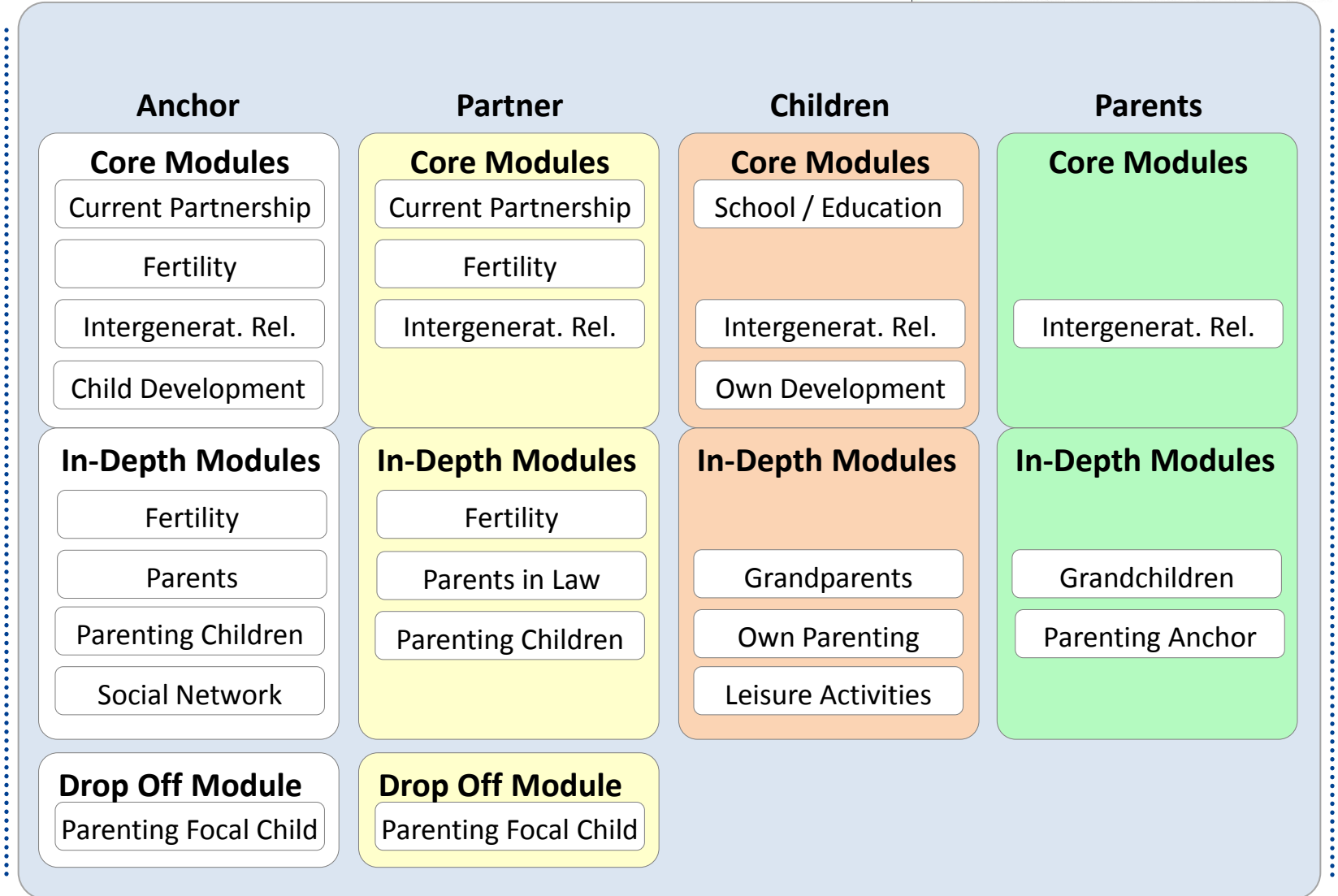- **In-depth modules** (rotated, every 2nd wave)

Written questionnaire:

- Parents with child 8- 15 y.: drop-off for focus child

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program of wave 5

Anchor	Partner	Children	Parents
Core Modules	**Core Modules**	**Core Modules**	**Core Modules**
Current Partnership	Current Partnership	School / Education	
Fertility	Fertility		
Intergenerat. Rel.	Intergenerat. Rel.	Intergenerat. Rel.	Intergenerat. Rel.
Child Development		Own Development	
In-Depth Modules	**In-Depth Modules**	**In-Depth Modules**	**In-Depth Modules**
Current Partnership	Current Partnership		Current Partnership
Economic Situation		External Parent	Own Parents
Leisure Activities	Leisure Activities		
Drop Off Module	**Drop Off Module**		
Parenting Focal Child	Parenting Focal Child		

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program of wave 6

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Anchor	Partner	Children	Parents
Core Modules	**Core Modules**	**Core Modules**	**Core Modules**
Current Partnership	Current Partnership	School / Education	
Fertility	Fertility		
Intergenerat. Rel.	Intergenerat. Rel.	Intergenerat. Rel.	Intergenerat. Rel.
Child Development		Own Development	
In-Depth Modules	**In-Depth Modules**	**In-Depth Modules**	**In-Depth Modules**
Fertility	Fertility		
Parents	Parents in Law	Grandparents	Grandchildren
Parenting Children	Parenting Children	Own Parenting	Parenting Anchor
Social Network		Leisure Activities	
Drop Off Module	**Drop Off Module**		
Parenting Focal Child	Parenting Focal Child		

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pairfam team

Methods and Socio-Demography (Mannheim):
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Bernadette Huyer-May, Volker Ludwig, Dr. Claudia Schmiedeberg,
Mirte Scholten, Nina Schumann, Philipp Schütze

Intergenerational Relationships (Chemnitz):
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Timing, Spacing and Stopping of Fertility (Bremen):
Prof. Dr. Johannes Huinink, Dr. Petra Buhr

Partnership, Parenting and Child Development (Munich):
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Dr. Carolin Thönnissen, Dr. Eva-Verena Wendt, Barbara Wilhelm

Survey Management and Administrative Coordination
Dr. Jette Schröder (Mannheim), Dr. habil. Anja Steinbach (Chemnitz)

User Support and Public Relations
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user statistics
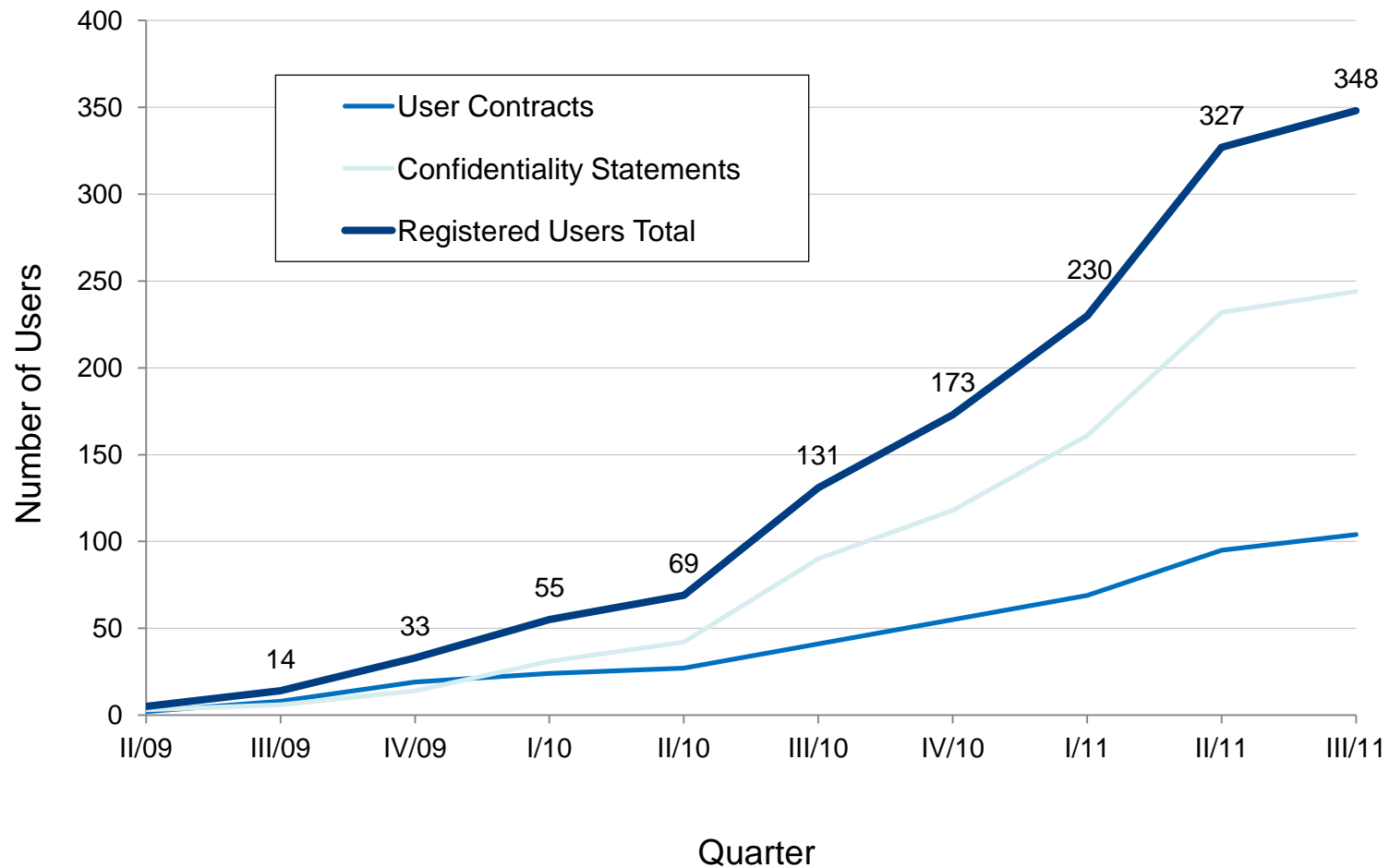
(3) Investigating Partnership Relations in the pairfam Panel

General focus on:

I. **Partnership Formation and the Institutionalization of Partnership Relations**

II. **Determinants & Outcomes of Partnership Quality**

III. **Predictors and Consequences of Separation/Divorce**

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Sample Development:
Respondents with Partner by Cohort and Wave

	Wave 1	Wave 1 (longitudinal)	Wave 2
Cohort 1	1120 (26.7%)	894 (25.9%)	1158 (33.5%)
Cohort 2	2727 (70.0%)	1790 (70.1%)	1807 (70.8%)
Cohort 3	3311 (83.6%)	2348 (83.0%)	2352 (83.2%)
Overall %	7158 (59.4%)	5032 (56.9%)	5317 (60.2%)
Total Sample	12056	8836	8836

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Sample Development:
Respondents with Partner in Wave 2

N=8836	New Partner	Stable Partnership	Breakup
Cohort 1	758 (21.9%)	400 (11.6%)	494 (14.3%)
Cohort 2	217 (8.5%)	1590 (62.3%)	200 (7.8%)
Cohort 3	109 (3.9%)	2243 (79.3%)	105 (3.7%)
Total	1084 (12.3%)	4233 (47.9%)	799 (9.0%)

Note: „new partner" and „breakup" may overlap.

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Partner Participation in Waves 1 and 2: Dyadic Data

	Wave 1	Wave 2	W1+W2 Same Partner participated
Cohort 1	335 (19.5%)	295 (25.9%)	88 (22.0%)
Cohort 2	1416 (48.9%)	945 (52.3%)	739 (46.5%)
Cohort 3	1952 (57.4%)	1412 (60.0%)	1204 (53.7%)
Total	3703 (46.2%)	2652 (49.9%)	2031 (48.0%)

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Research examples:

(1) Values in partnership relations

(2) Autonomy and Relatedness: The role of need fulfillment in partnership relations

(3) Predictors and consequences of conflict

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Beziehungen und Familienleben in Deutschland namics

External opportunity structure

Mobilisation of resources

| Psychosocial dispositions: values / expectations | Individual resources + restrictions | Subjective Well-Being |

Evaluation of resources

Basic needs:
physical comfort, affection, status, autonomy, competence

(1) Values in Partnership Relations

Values of partnership: positive and negative expectations regarding partnership

➡ Who values what?

➡ How are values linked to partnership experiences + behavior?

➡ How are values linked to partnership satisfaction - in the light of (mis)matching experiences + behavior?

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Scale	Sample Item	# Items	Chron-bach's Alpha
Affection	*How strongly do you expect to find affection and security in a partnership?*	2	.53
Status	*How strongly do you expect to gain financial advantages from a partnership?*	2	.66
Autonomy	*How strongly do you expect to find tolerance for your own interests in a partnership?*	1	-
Negative Expectations	*How strongly do you fear to experience stress in a partnership?*	4	.69

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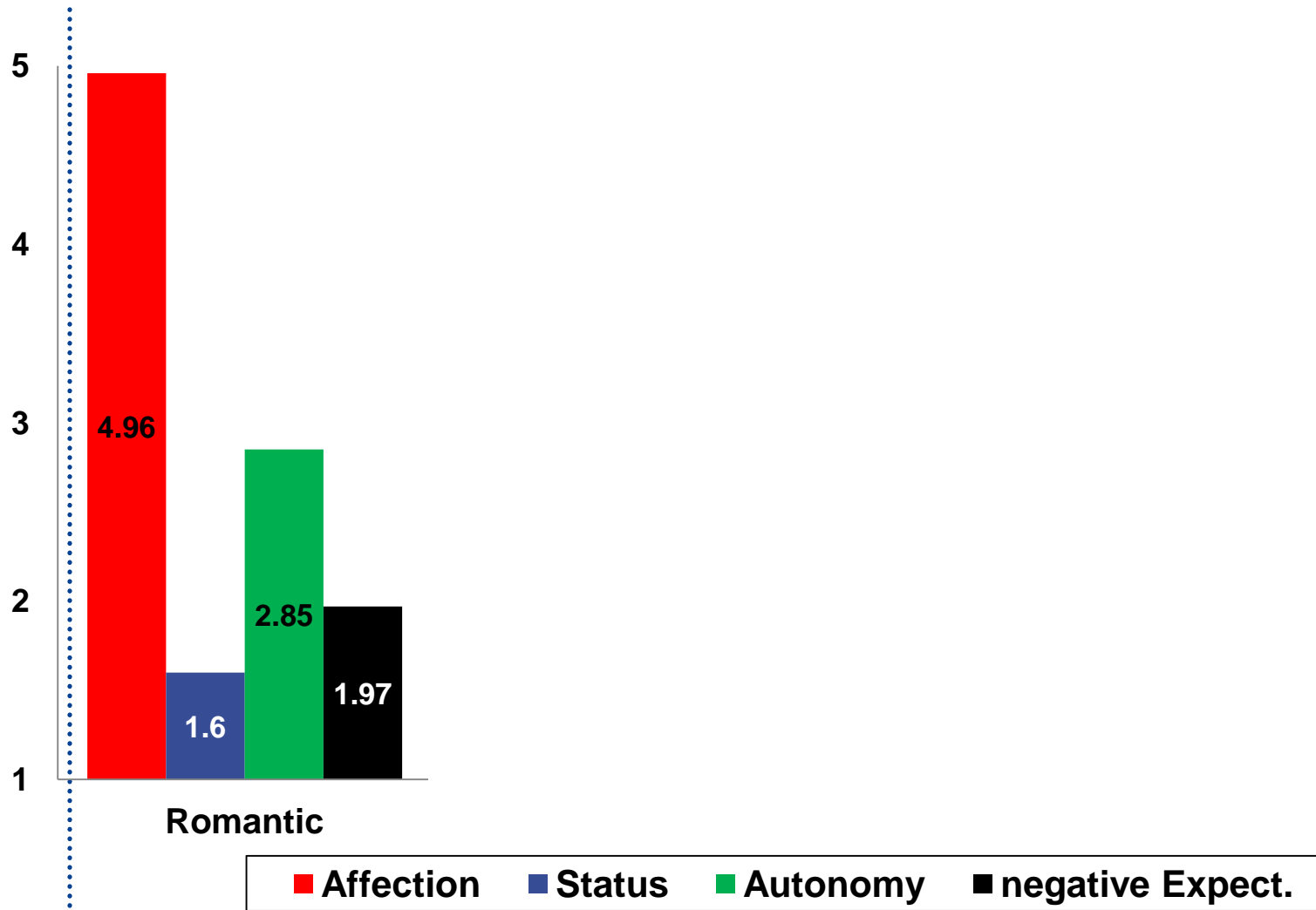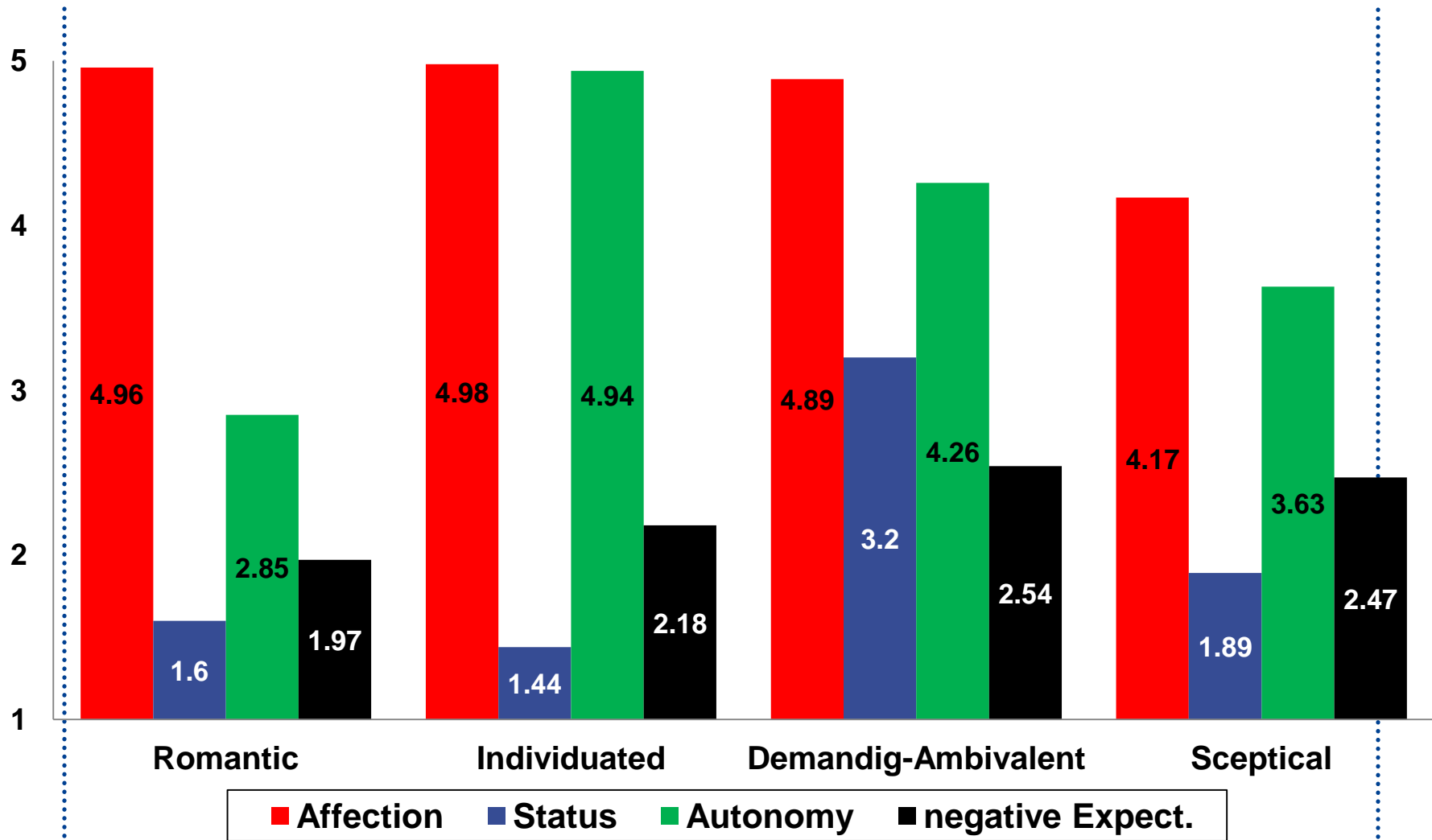
Distribution of Types: (n = 11,651)
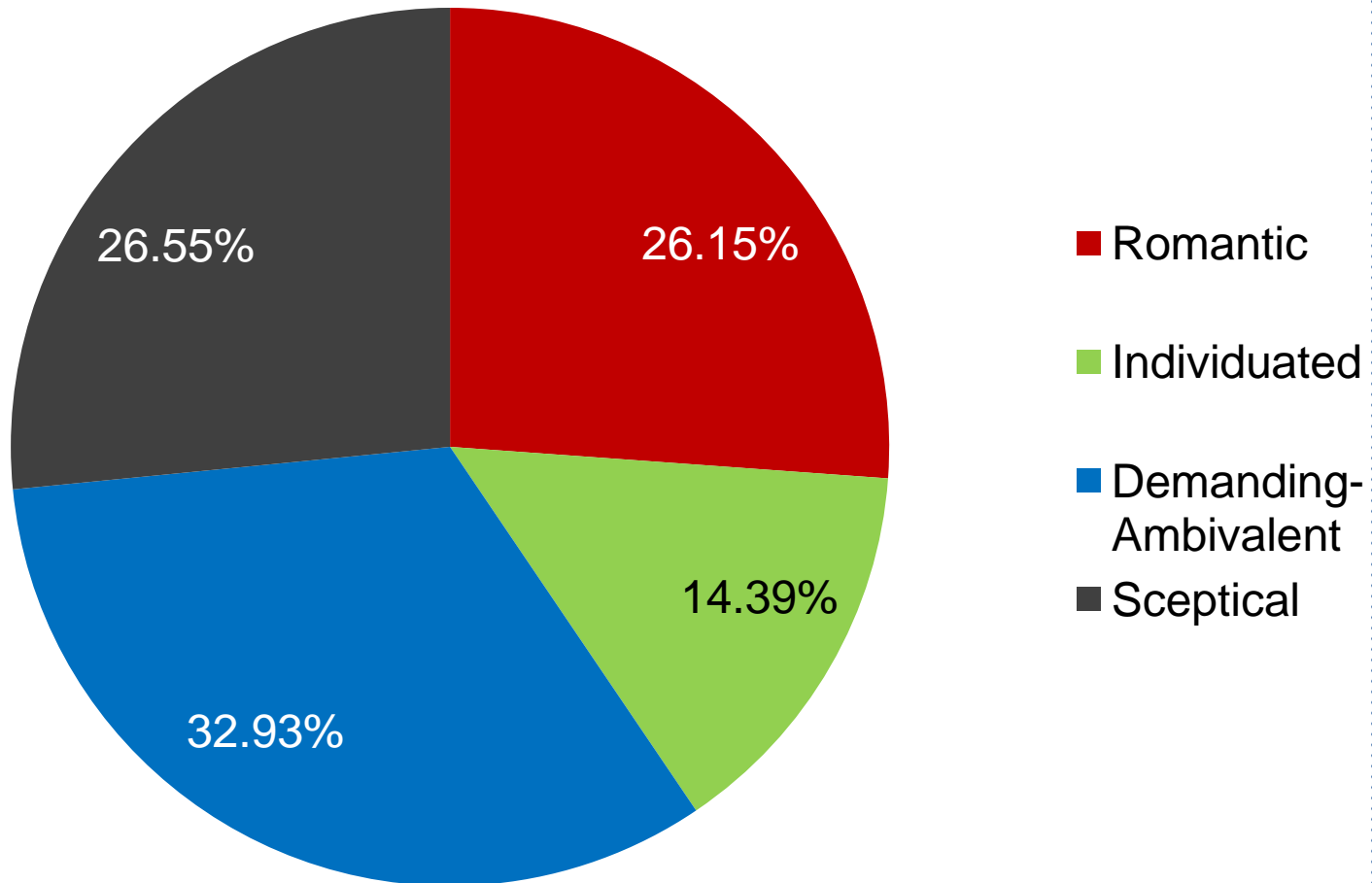
Legend:
- Romantic — 26.15%
- Individuated — 14.39%
- Demanding-Ambivalent — 32.93%
- Sceptical — 26.55%

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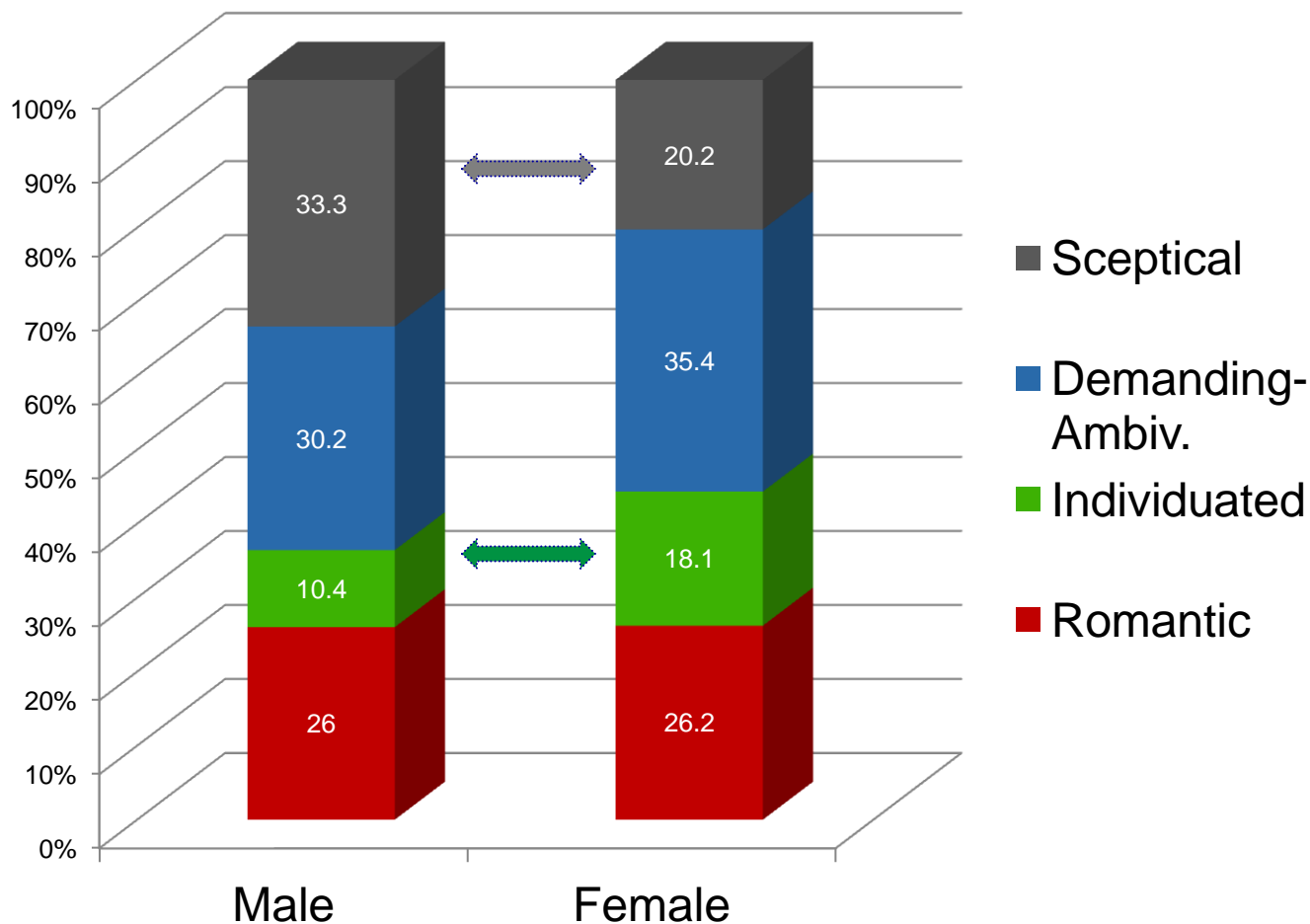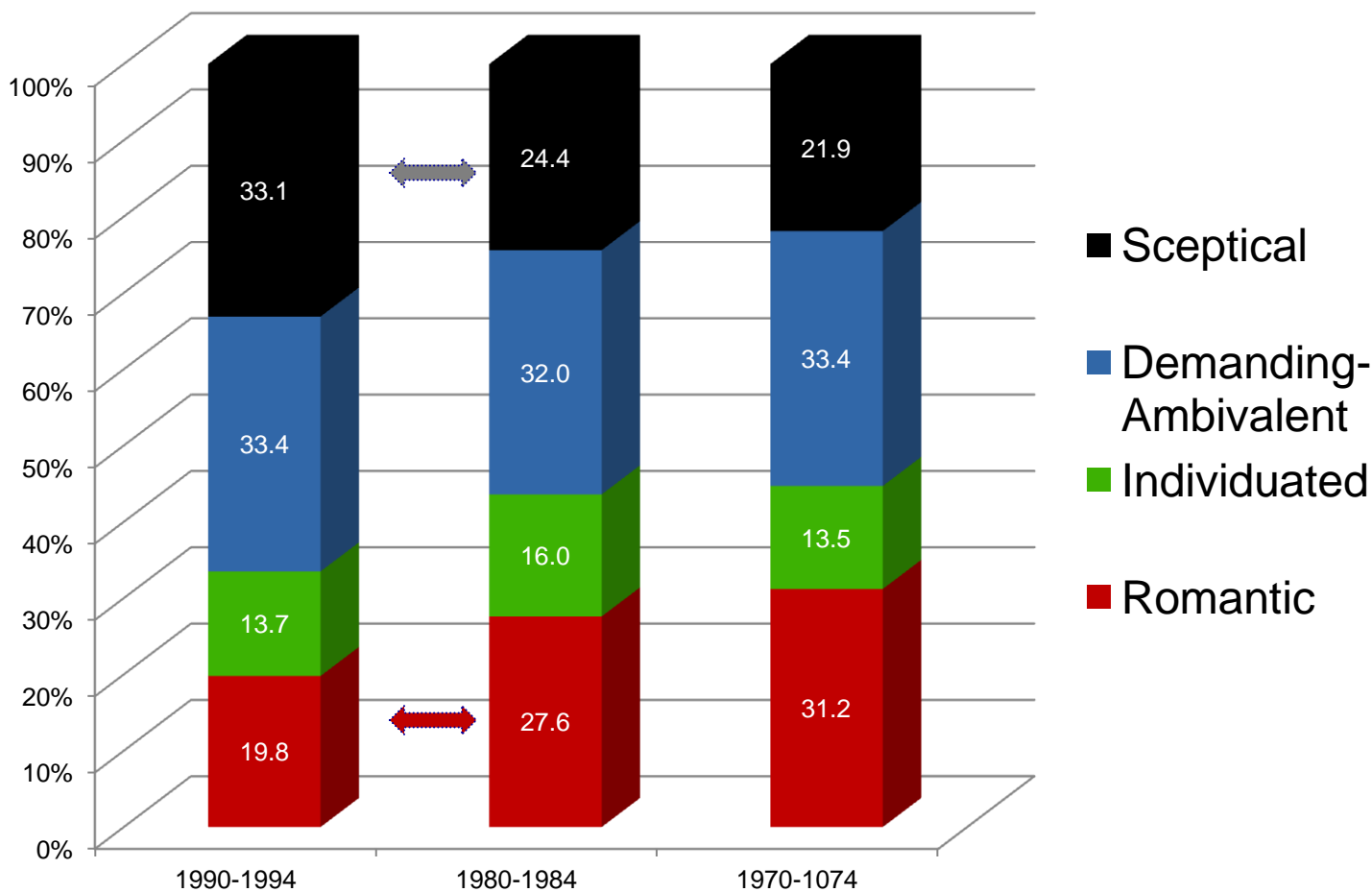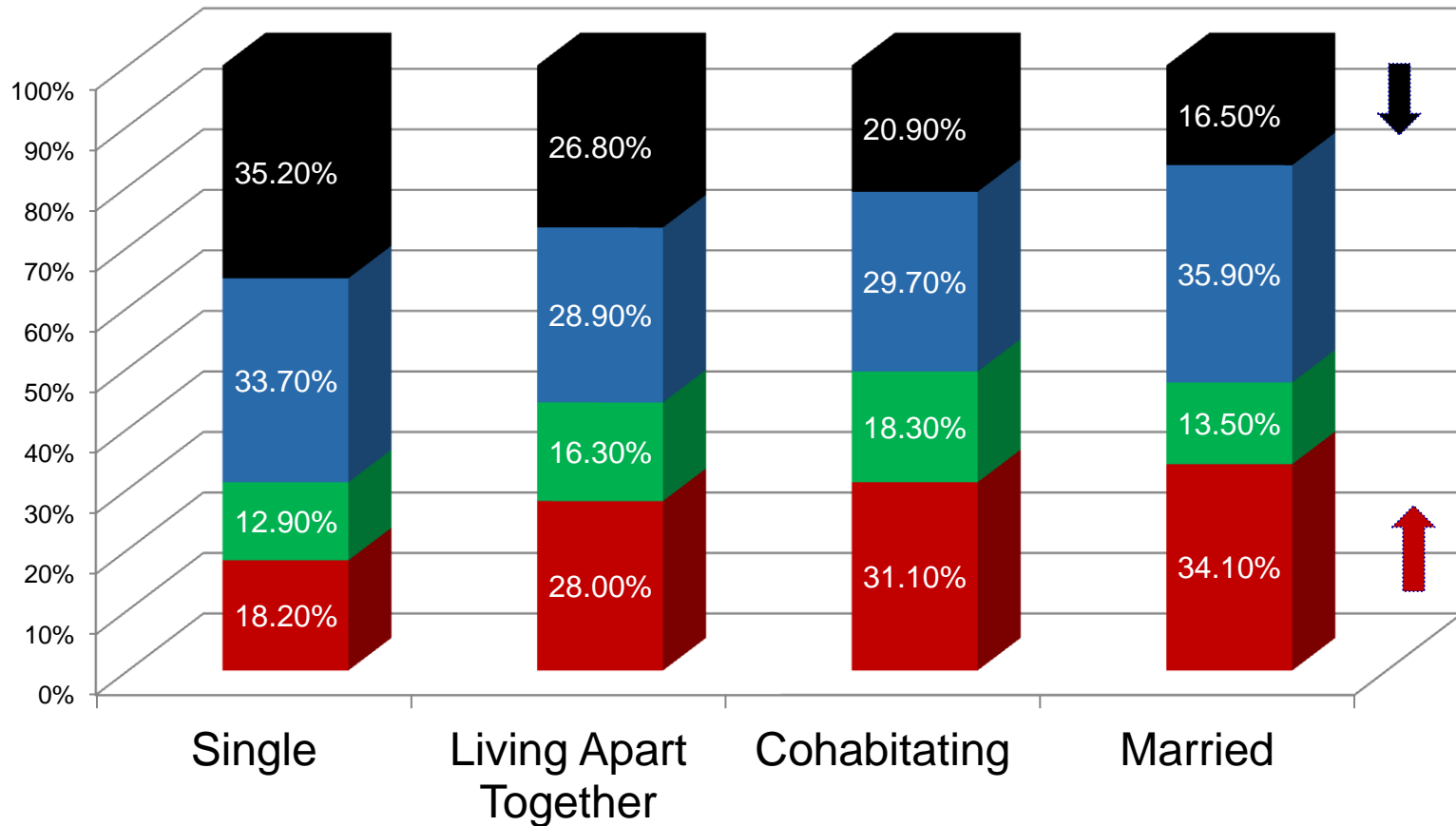
Differences by Level of Education:
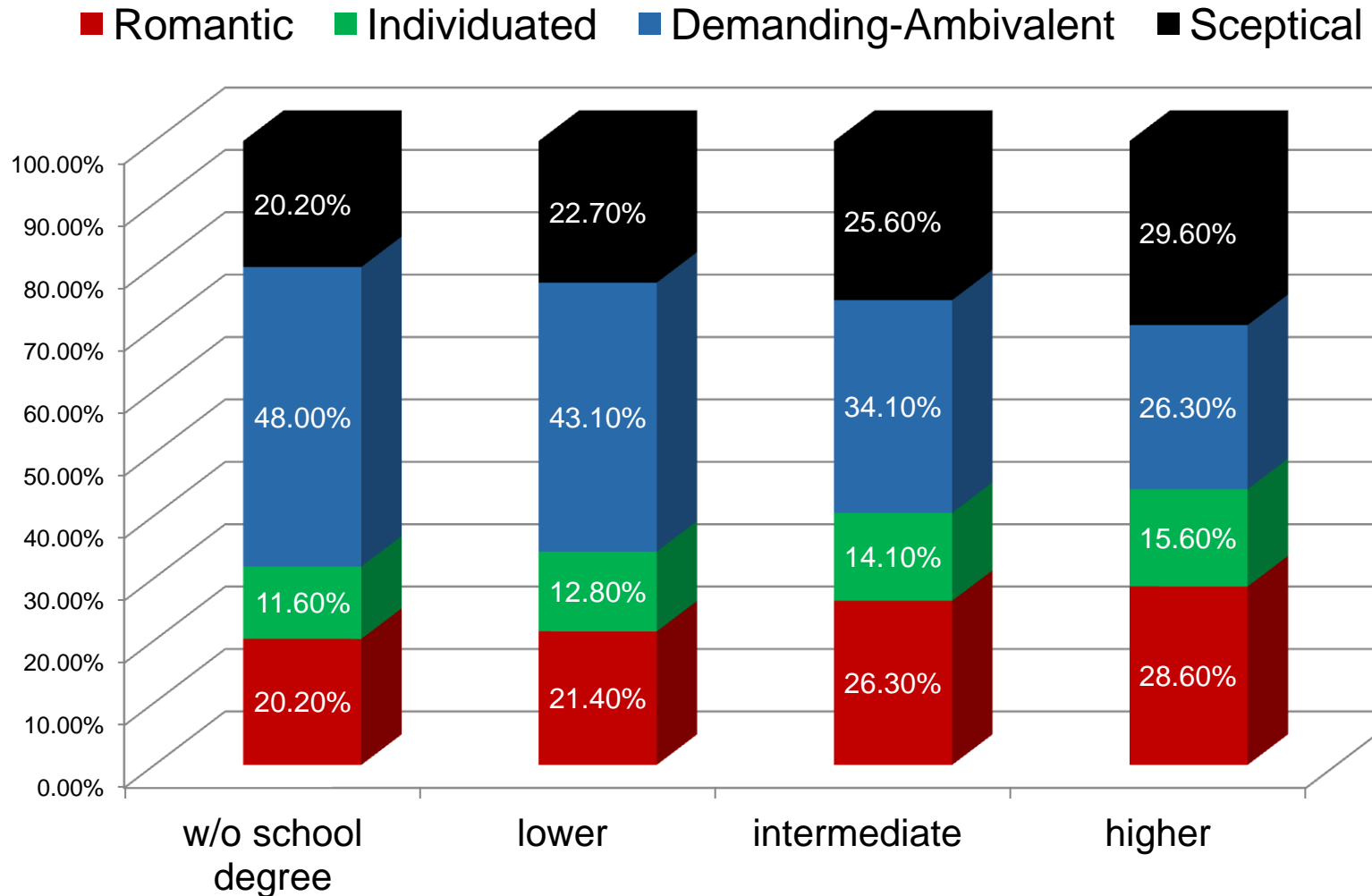
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Experiences in the partnership relation by value type:

	Best off	Worst off
Conflict Frequency	**Romantic Individuated**	**Demanding-Ambivalent**
Partner's Verbal Aggression	**Romantic Individuated**	**Demanding-Ambivalent**
Partner's Avoidance	**Romantic**	**Demanding-Ambivalent Sceptical**
Partner's Manipulation	**Romantic Individuated**	**Demanding-Ambivalent Sceptical**
Partner's Constructive Behavior	**Romantic Individuated**	**Demanding-Ambivalent Sceptical**

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Own behavior in the partnership relation by value type:

	Best off	Worst off
Verbal Aggression	**Romantic**	**Demanding-Ambivalent**
Avoidance	**Romantic**	**Demanding-Ambivalent** **Sceptical**
Manipulation	**Romantic** **Individuated** **Sceptical**	**Demanding-Ambivalent**
Constructive Behavior	**Romantic** **Individuated**	**Sceptical**

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Emotions & cognitions in the partnership by value type:

	Best off	Worst off
Fear of Love Withdrawal	**Romantic** **Individuated**	**Demanding-Ambivalent** **Sceptical**
Engulfment Anxiety	**Romantic** **Individuated**	**Sceptical**
Emotional Ambivalence	**Romantic** **Individuated**	**Demanding-Ambivalent** **Sceptical**
Hostile Attributions	**Romantic**	**Demanding-Ambivalent** **Sceptical**

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Satisfaction with domains of life:

■ Romantic ■ Individuated ■ Demanding-Ambiv. ■ Sceptical

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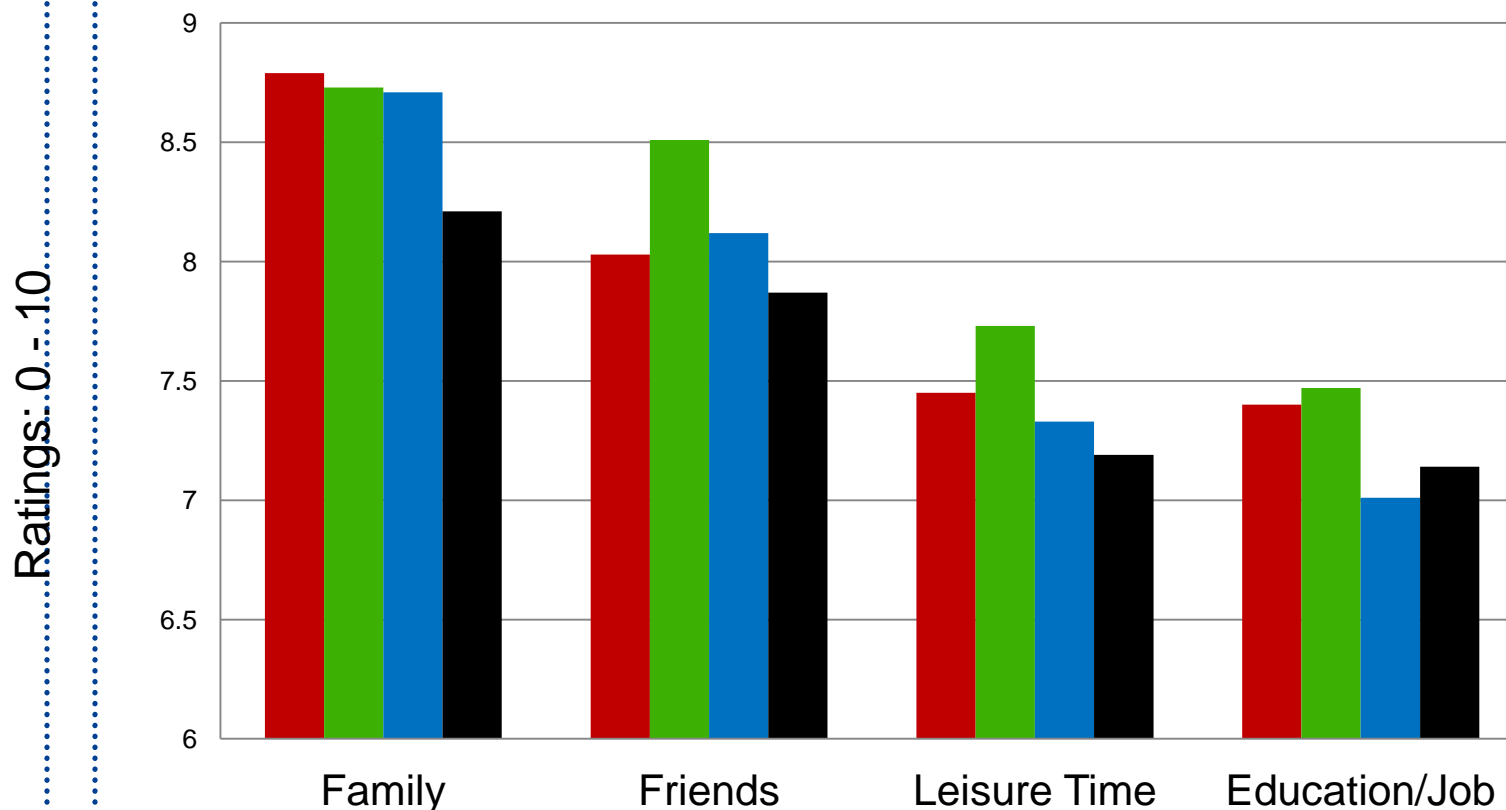
Who copes best (or least) with being single?
Satisfaction with being single by value type and age

■ Romantic   ■ Individuated   ■ Demanding-Ambiv.   ■ Sceptical
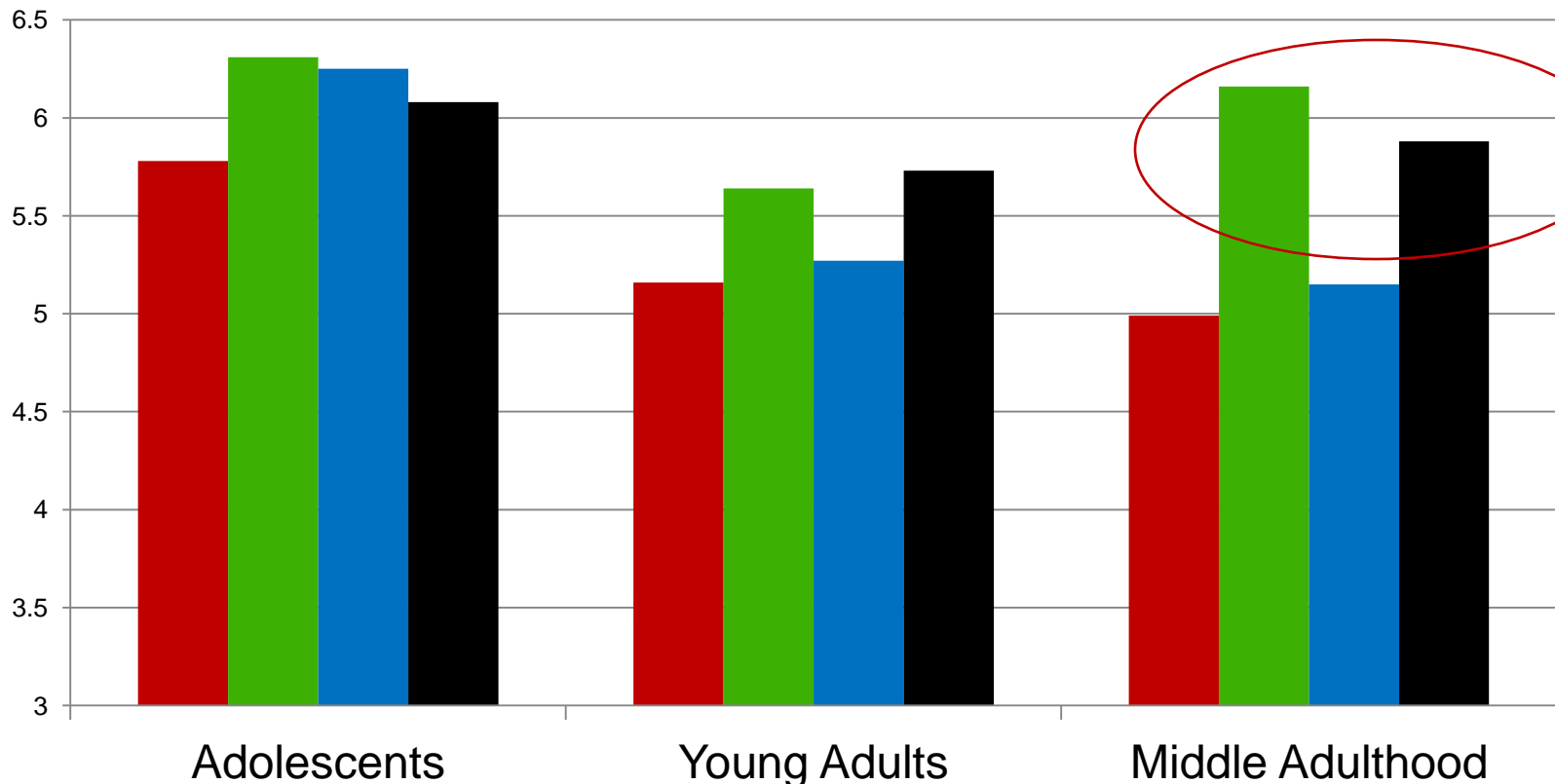
Adolescents   Young Adults   Middle Adulthood

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Beziehungen und Familienleben in Deutschland

Do values moderate the effects of relationship experiences on partnership satisfaction?
Findings from multiple regressions:

	Romantic		Individuated		Demanding-Ambivalent		Sceptical	
	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female
Being valued by partner	.26	.25	.18	.36	.32	.26	.26	.35
Auton-omy	.08	.05	.21	.14	.02	.13	.03	.11

Yes, but only for men….

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Beziehungen und Familienleben in Deutschland namics

Values of partnership do matter:

They match relationship experiences.

Direction of effects? → Longitudinal analyses

They matter for satisfaction with many life domains.

However: No matter what people expect from a partnership: feeling valued by the partner matters most for partnership satisfaction

Against all stereotypes: Most men profit little from autonomy.

But there may be „gendered rationality" as men with individuated orientation do.

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(2) The Influence of Autonomy and Relatedness on Partnership Satisfaction

- **Autonomy & Relatedness = 2 basic human needs which coexist and regulate each other with likely benefit** (Guisinger & Blatt, 1994)

- **Not bipolar and always in conflict** (Murray, 1938)!

- **Best: achieving a good balance between both**

  - **Empirical support:** e.g. Rankin, Esquer et al. (1997); La Guardia et al. (2000

  - **Similar ideas in other theoretical approaches:** Bakan, (1966); Helgeson & Fritz (1994); Harter et al. (1997); Neff & Harter (2002, 2003)

Research Question & Hypothesis

Longitudinal Effects of need fulfillment and balance in partnership relations on partnership satisfaction?

Relatedness-Hypothesis

The fulfillment of the need of relatedness is more important for the functioning of the partnership then the fulfillment of the need of autonomy.

Balance-Hypothesis

An equal integration of Relatedness and Autonomy in a partnership is particularly beneficial.

Here: First dyadic test of gender specific Actor- and Partnereffects

Sample & Method

Data from the first 2 Waves of pairfam – 2nd & 3rd Cohort

⇨ **N = 1914 couples** who participated in both waves
(Cohort 2: 723 / Cohort 3: 1191 couples)

Mean Age Wave 1: 32.72 years (SD=5.85 years)
(Men: 34.08/ 6.02; Women: 31.34/ 5.51)

Mean Relationship Duration: 9.35 years (SD = 5.77y)

Wave 1: married: 66.1% / cohabit.: 91.6%

Wave 2: married: 70.2% / cohabit.: 94.0%

61.6% of couples (N=1172 coup.) had mutual child/ren in Wave 1
(1169 living with child/ren in the same household)

Indicators

Relatedness in partnership relations (Wave 1, α = .73)

- **Intimacy** (self-disclosure) 2 Items: e.g.: *„How often do you share your secrets and private feelings with [name partner]?"*
- **Admiration** (by partner) 2 Items: e.g.: *„How often does [name partner] show that he/she appreciates you?"*

Adapted from Network Relationship Inventory (NRI) by Furman & Burmester, 1985 (rating: 1=never; 5=always):

Autonomy in partnership relations (Wave 1, α = .72)

- Adapted from Couple Climate Scales by Schneewind & Kruse (2002) 4 Items (rating: 1=not at all; 5=absolutely)
  - Sample item: *„I can settle my personal matters by myself without causing conflict with [name partner]"*

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Indicators

Partnership Satisfaction (Wave 1 & 2)

- Single item from the Relationship Assessment Scale (RAS) by Hendrick et al. 1998; German: Sander & Böcker, 1993) (rating: 0=Very dissatisfied, 10=Very satisfied):
    - *„Overall, how satisfied are you with your relationship?"*

Method

Cluster Analysis → identifying groups with different levels of Autonomy & Relatedness

Dyadic Analysis - first test for gender-specific actor- and partner effects of need fulfillment and -balancing on partnership satisfaction

2-Step Cluster Analysis: 4 Types of Need Fulfillment

Autonomy ■ Autonomie ■ ■ Relatedness
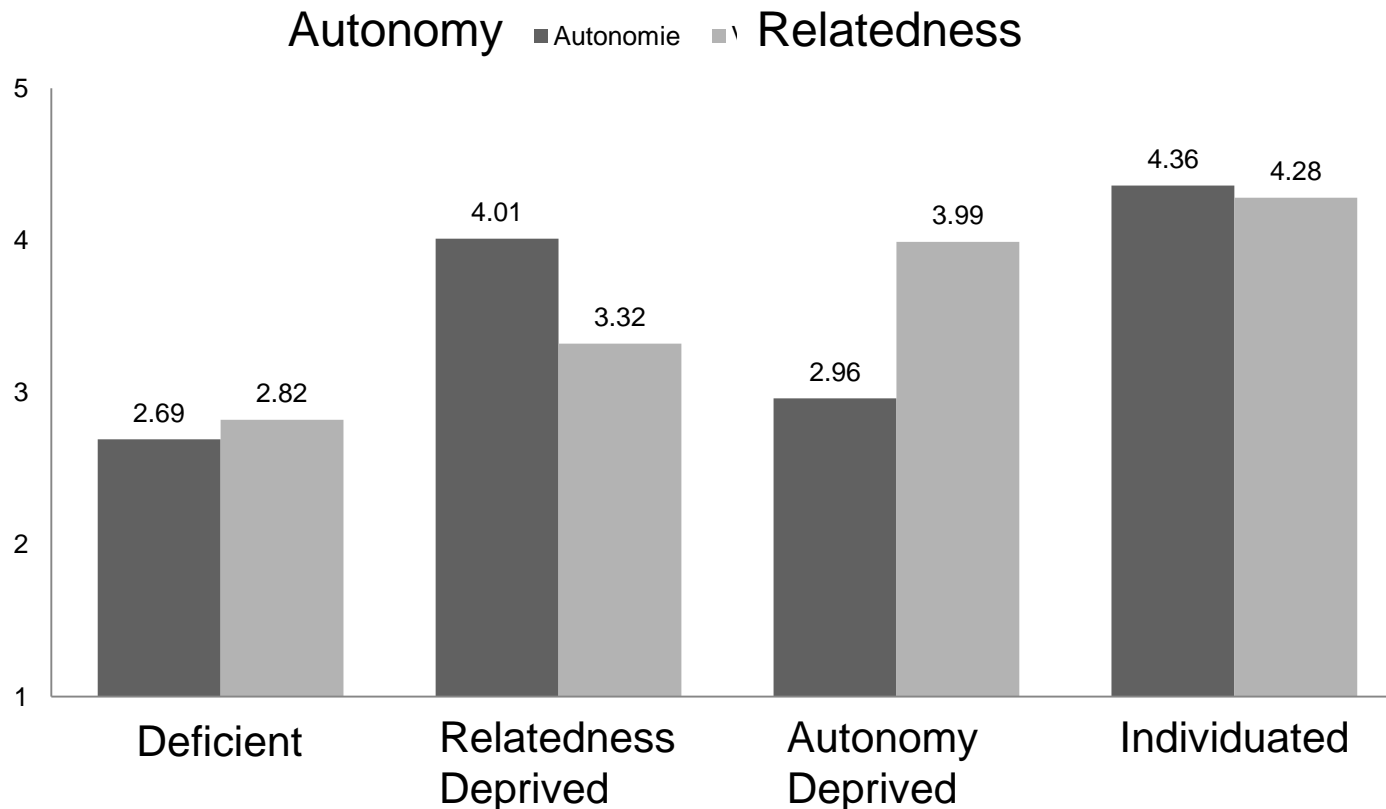
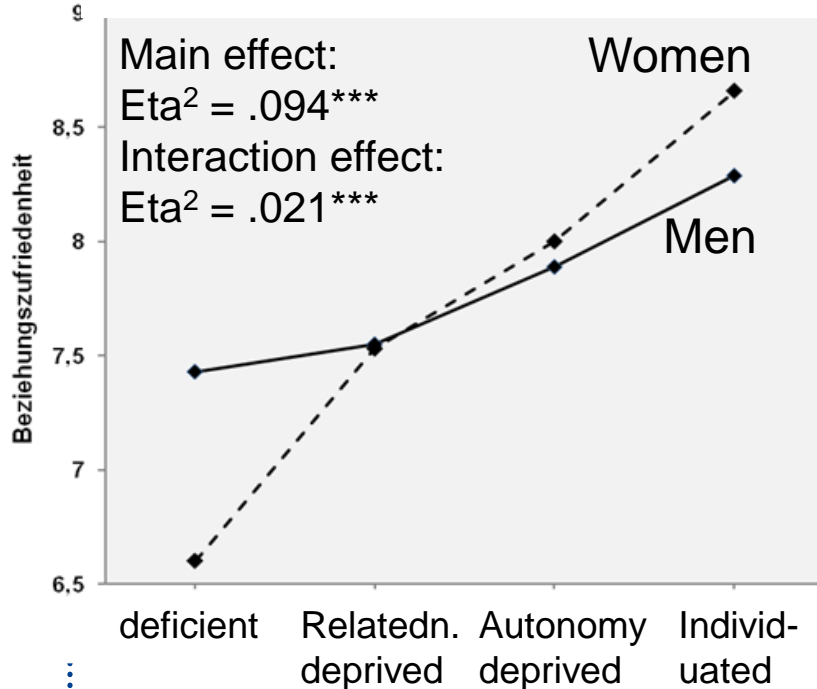Gender: More „Deficient" and more „Autonmy Deprived" among men
Age: More „Deficient" and „Relatedness Deprived" among older cohort
Relationship duration: More „Deficient" and more „Relatedness Deprived" for longer partnership duration (> 2 years)
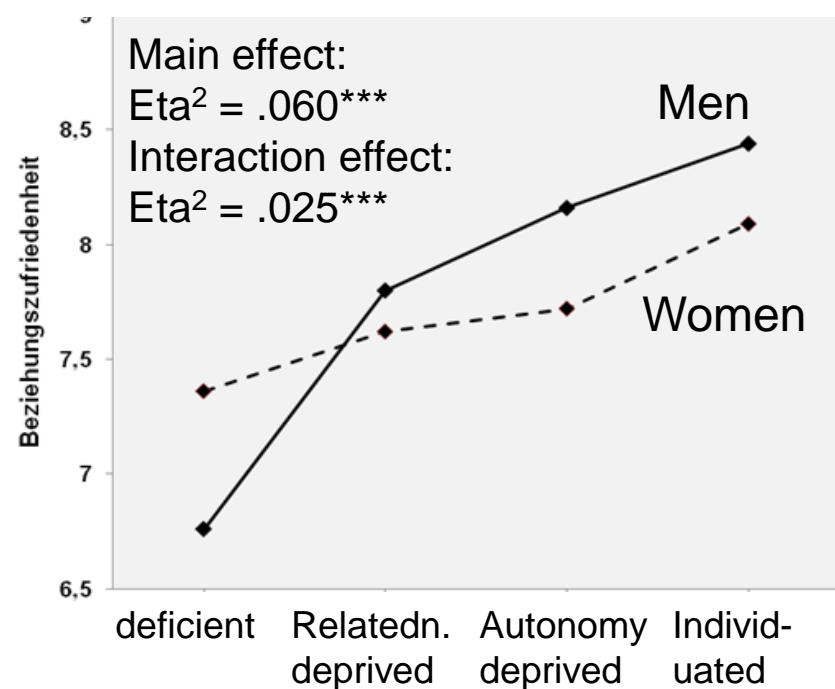Education: More „Deficient" and „Autonomy Deprived" for lower educated

Significant Interaction Effects of Need Fulfillment and Gender on Partnership Satisfaction W2 ➡ Stronger Actor effects

Effects of women's need fulfillment

Effects of men's need fulfillment

Main effect:
$Eta^2 = .094***$
Interaction effect:
$Eta^2 = .021***$

Women

Men

Main effect:
$Eta^2 = .060***$
Interaction effect:
$Eta^2 = .025***$

Men

Women

Controlling for age, cohabitation, relationship duration, and partnership satisfaction W1
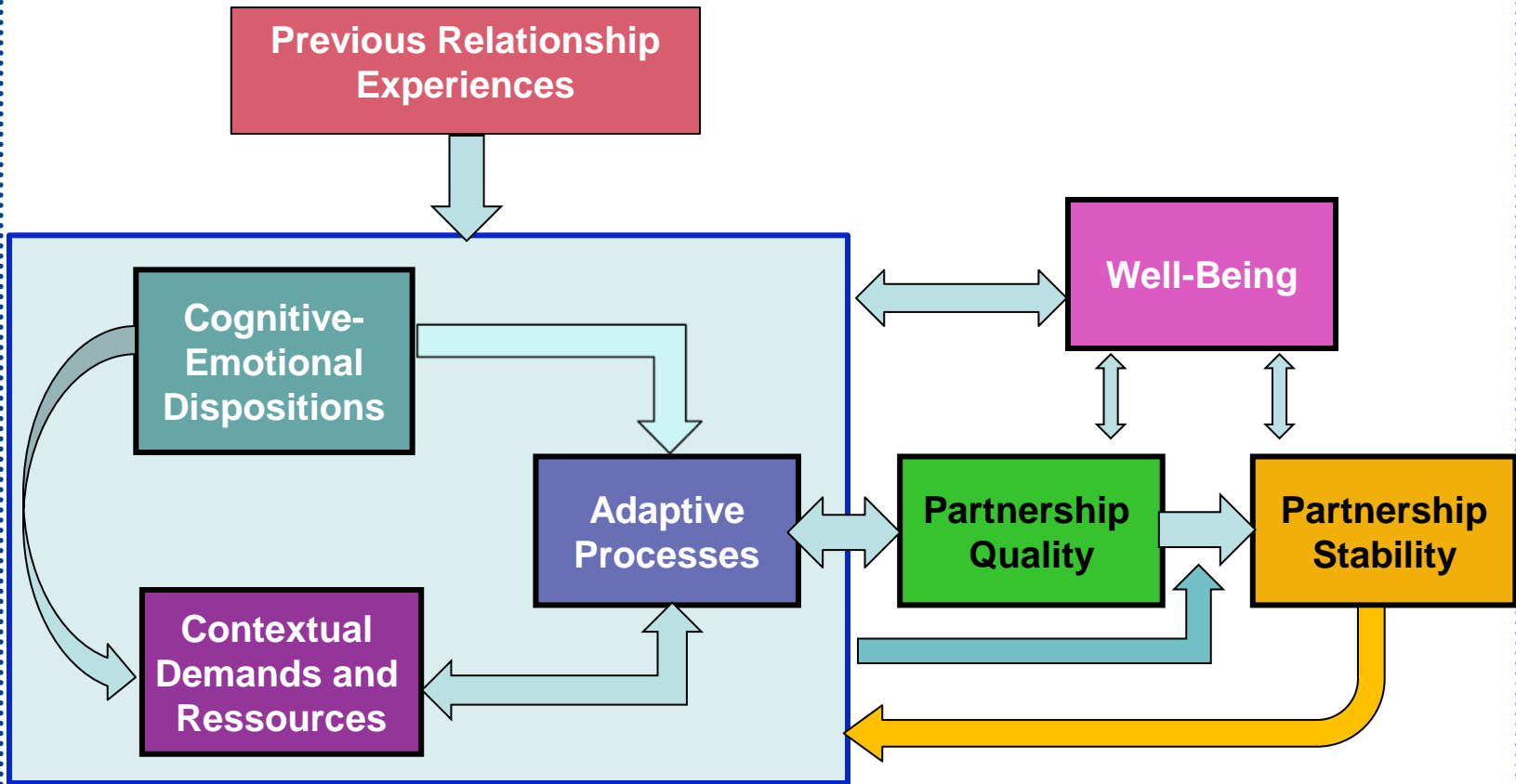
Summary:

- **Longitudinal dyadic effects** (controlling for previous partnership satisfaction)!

- **Stronger actor effects** than partner effects:

- **In line with the balance hypothesis:** „Individuated" proves best, for women & men

- **In line with the relatedness hypothesis:** „Relatedness Deprived" is worse off than „Autonomy Deprived"

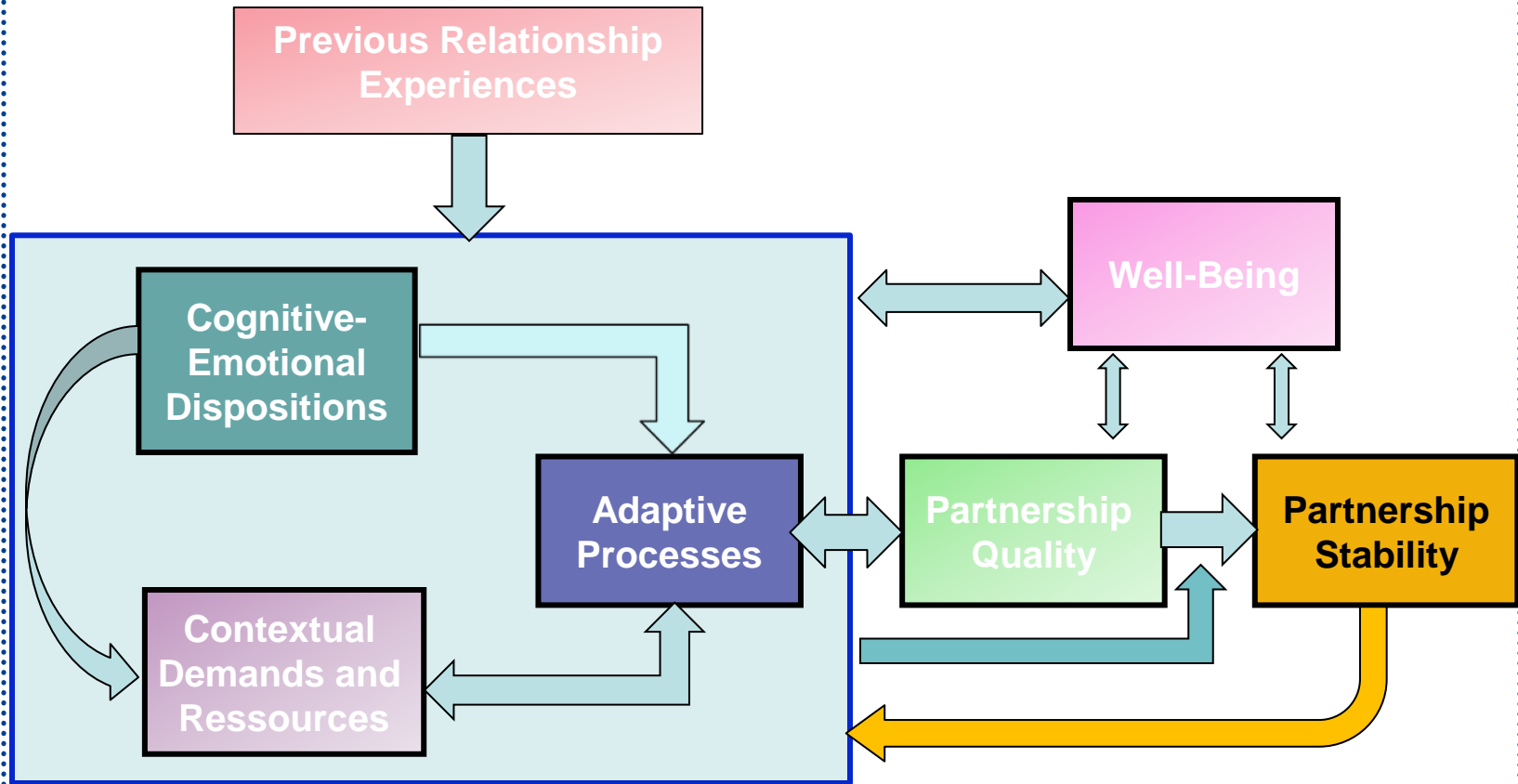- „Deficient" proves worst

(3) Predictors and Consequences of Conflict in Couple Relations

- The role of hostile attributions in the context of attachment anxiety

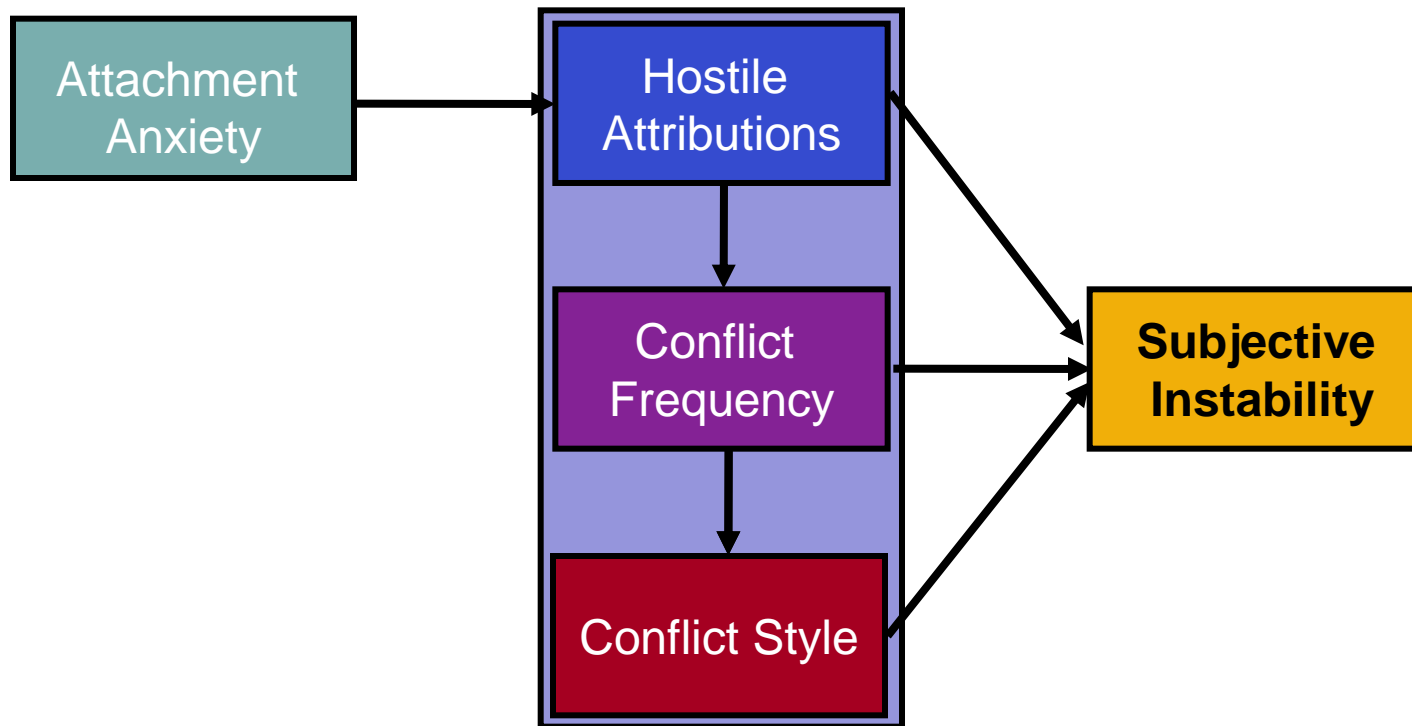- Effects of conflict on subjective instability of the relationship

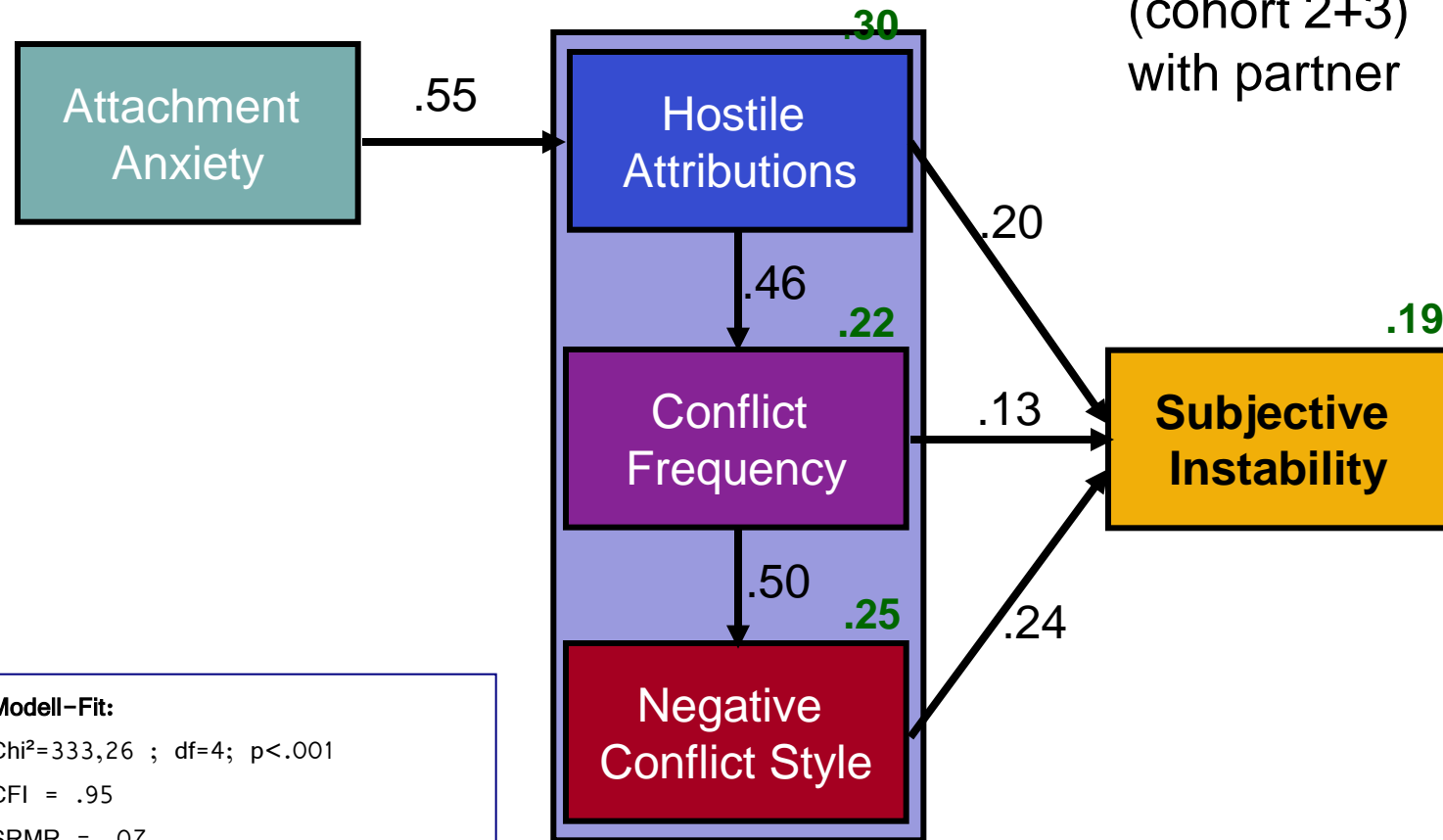**Partnership Model**

Partnership Model

Vulnerability-Adaption-Model

N = 5.615
Only adults
(cohort 2+3)
with partner

.30
Attachment Anxiety —.55→ Hostile Attributions

.20

.46

.22
Conflict Frequency

.13

.50

.25
Negative Conflict Style

.24

.19
Subjective Instability

Modell-Fit:

Chi²=333,26 ; df=4; p<.001

CFI = .95

SRMR = .07

RMSEA = .12

pairfam
Panel Analysis of Intimate Relationships and Family Dynamics

Vulnerability-Adaption-Model: Multi-Group-Analysis

Blau = Männer
Rot = Frauen
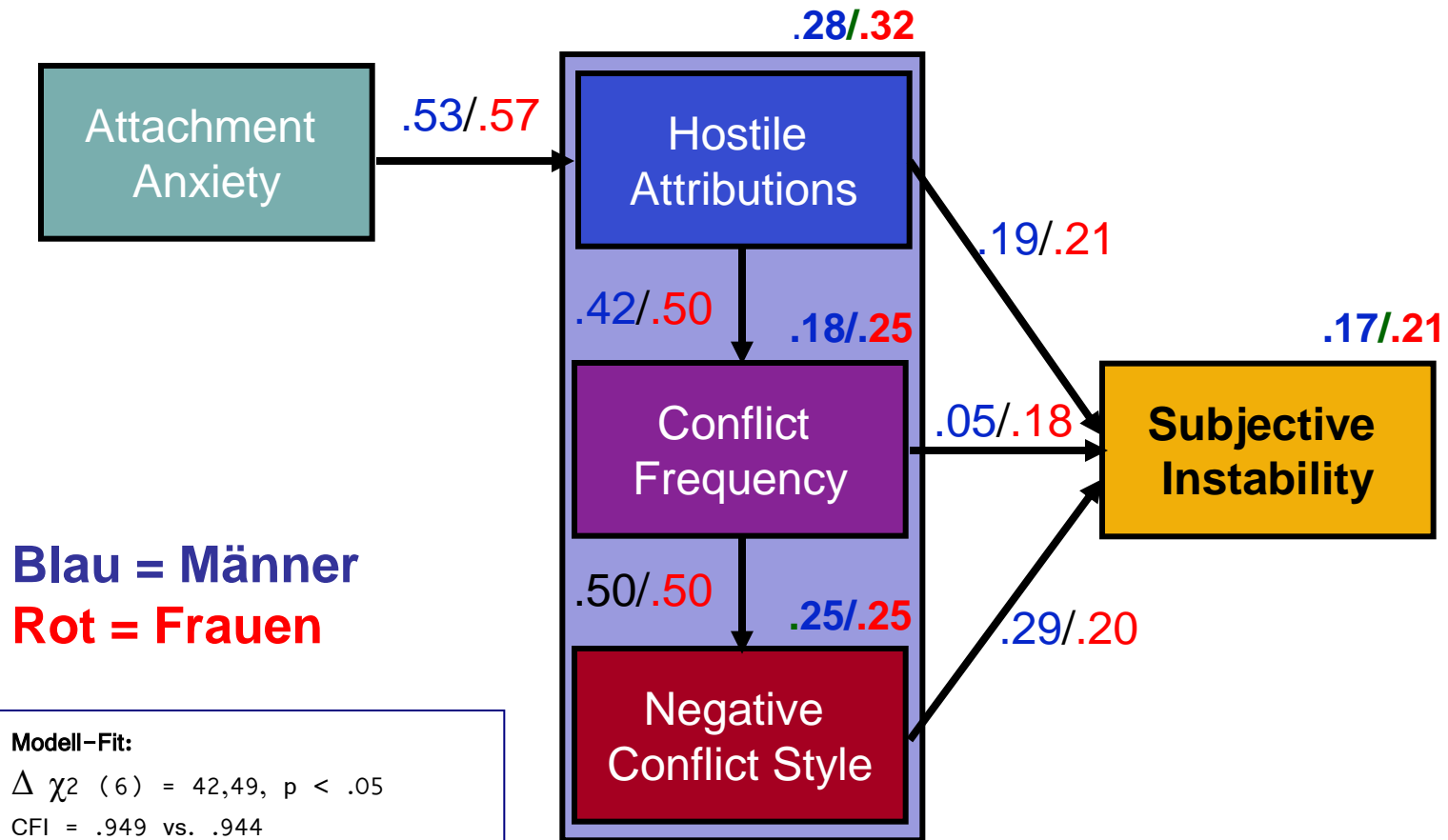
Modell-Fit:
$\Delta \chi2$ (6) = 42,49, p < .05
CFI = .949 vs. .944
RMSEA = .086 vs. .069

Attachment Anxiety → .53/.57 → Hostile Attributions .28/.32
Hostile Attributions → .42/.50 → Conflict Frequency .18/.25
Hostile Attributions → .19/.21 → Subjective Instability
Conflict Frequency → .05/.18 → Subjective Instability
Conflict Frequency → .50/.50 → Negative Conflict Style .25/.25
Negative Conflict Style → .29/.20 → Subjective Instability .17/.21

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Aims & Issues of this Conference:

- **Changing partnerships in changing contexts**

- **Gender and personality issues**

- **Developmental perspectives: Partnership relations in adolescence and early adulthood**

- **Partnership relations and child development & intergenerational transmission**