

# Methodological Insights From 14 Years of pairfam

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7<sup>th</sup> pairfam International Conference

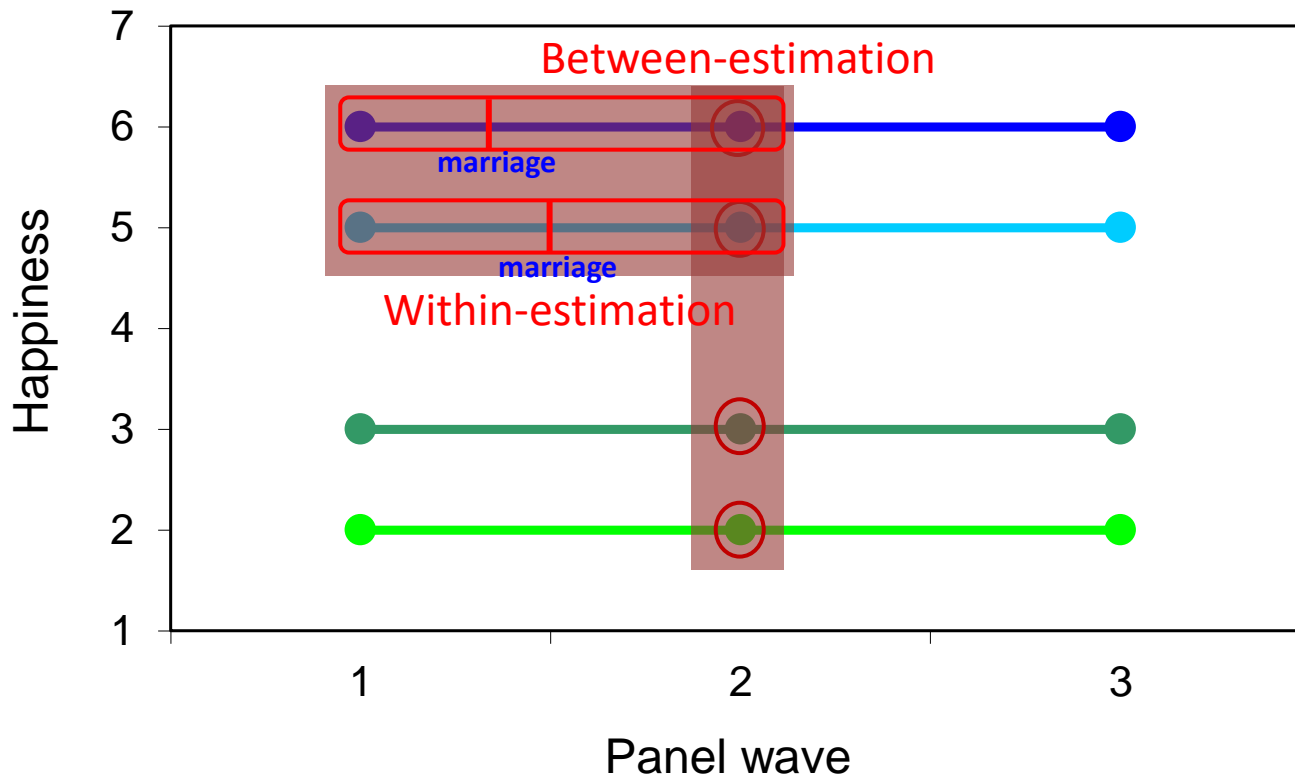
May 13<sup>th</sup>, 2022



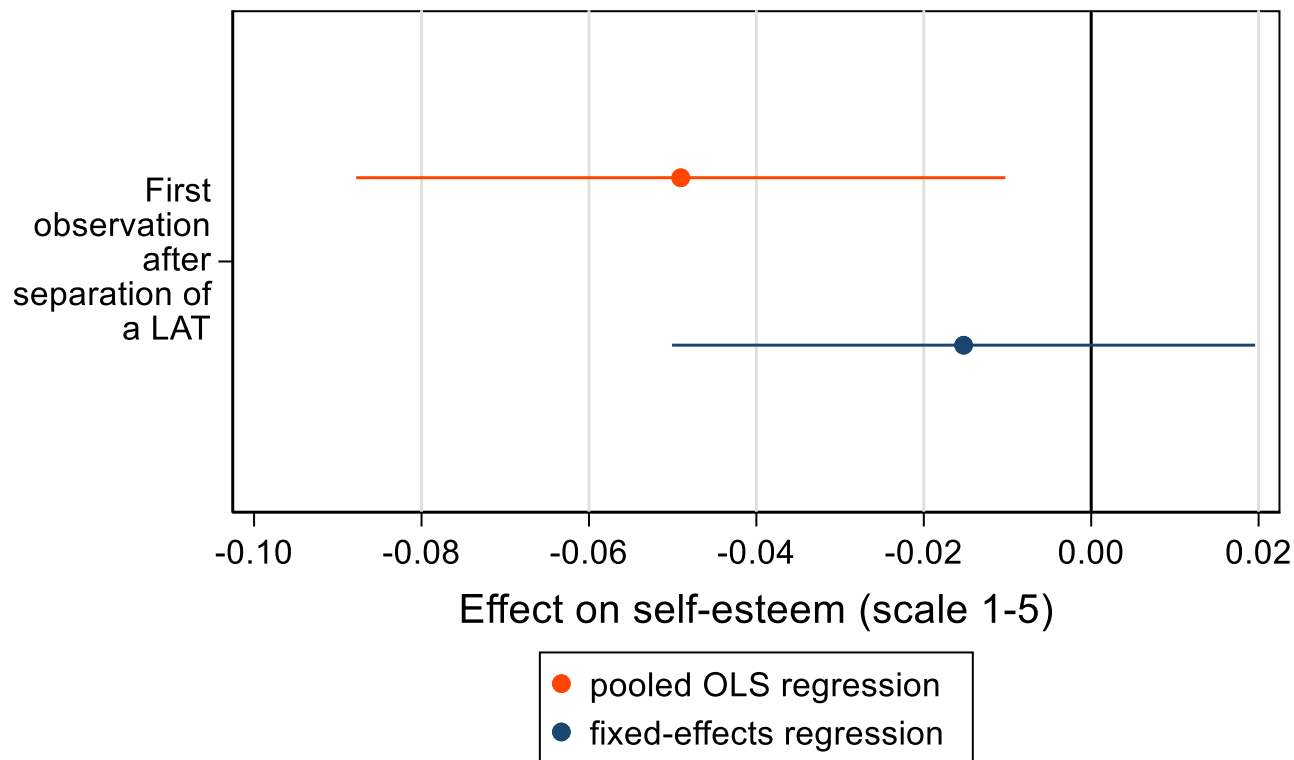
# Overview

- Panel data analysis
  - New insights obtained by within-estimation
- Panel survey methodology
  - Dependent interviewing
  - Non-monotonic design
  - Multi-actor design
  - Interviewer effects
  - Mode effects
  - Panel conditioning

# Panel design allows for within-estimation



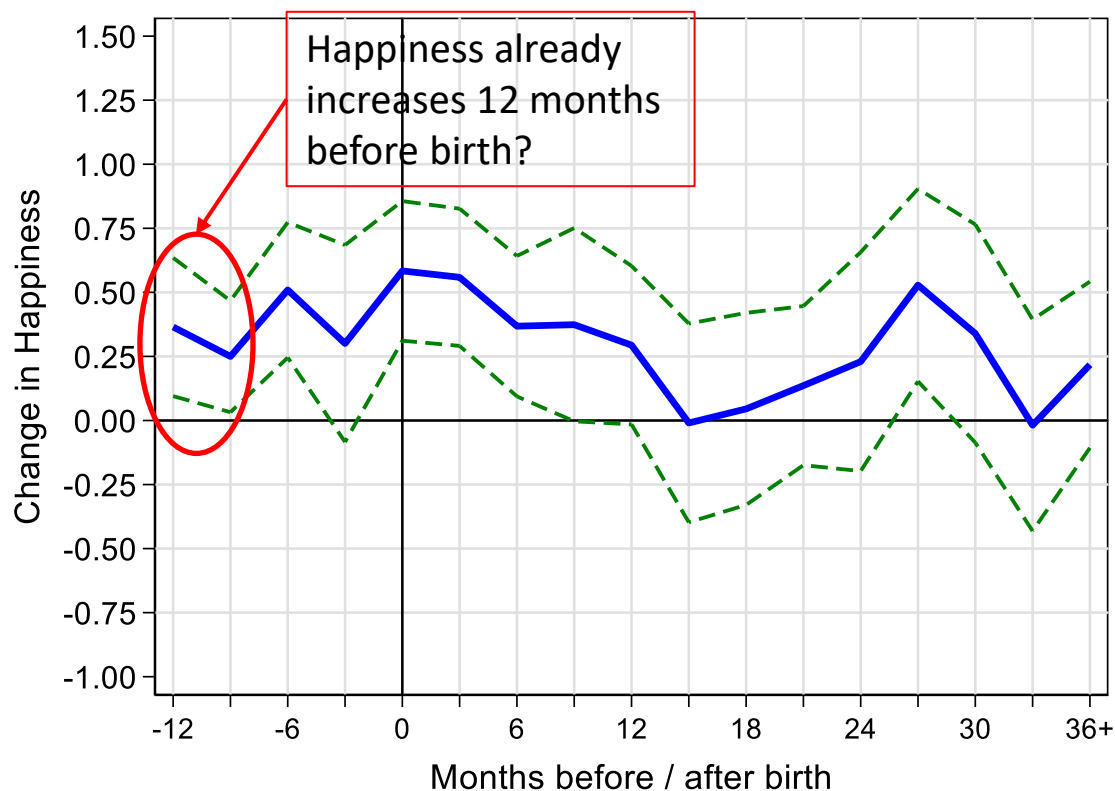
# Within-estimation overturns many established results



**The effect of a separation on self-esteem**

Data: pairfam V11.0  
 only pairfam main sample  
 Source: own computations  
 Controls: age, wave 1  
 N person-years: 17,221  
 N persons: 4,432  
 N separations: 2,203

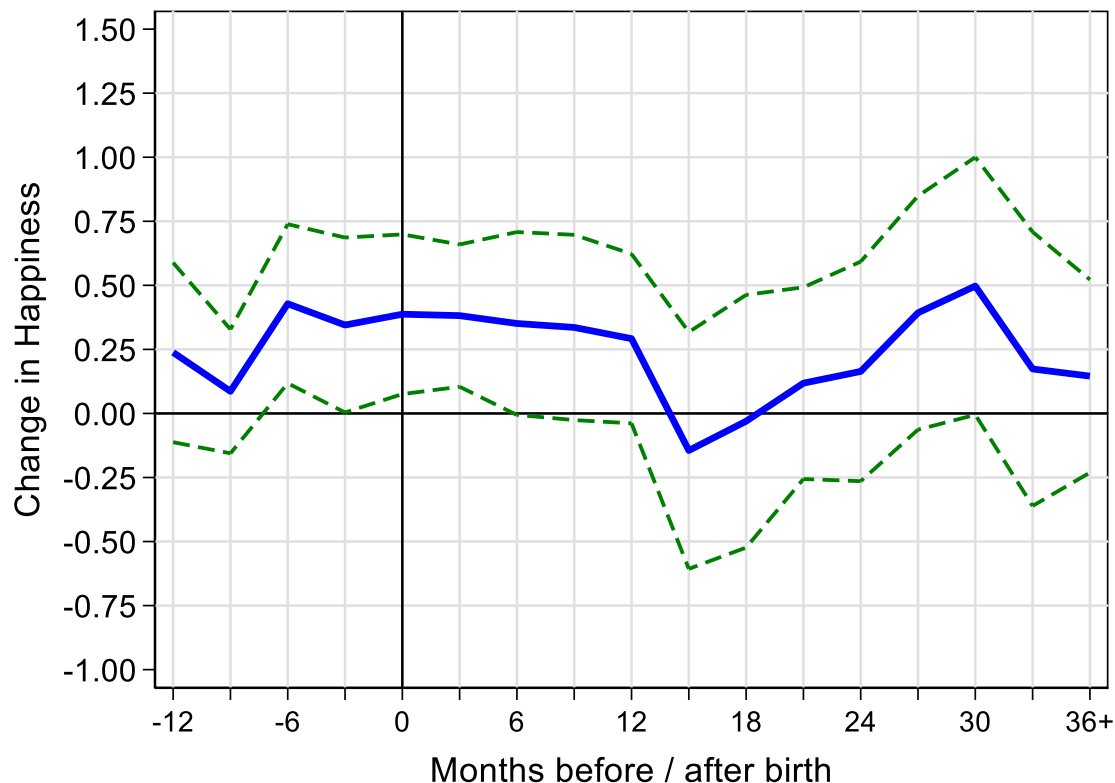
# Within-estimation provides impact functions



**The effect of the birth of a first child on fathers' happiness**

Data: pairfam V6.0  
 Source: Bauer/Brüderl/Kneip (2016)  
 Does a first child make parents happy?  
 FE-Regression  
 Controls: age, wave, relationship status  
 N person-years: 11,227  
 N persons: 3,905

# Within-estimation provides impact functions

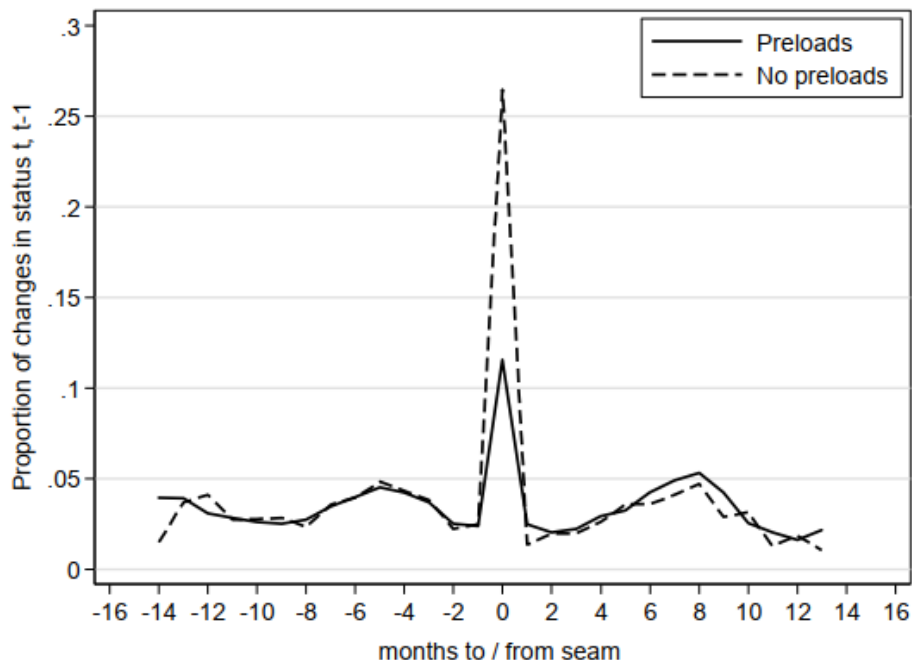


Controlling for  
“satisfaction with sex”

→ The anticipation effect  
vanishes

Ludwig & Brüderl (2021) What You Need  
to Know When Estimating Impact  
Functions. CPOS 46: 453-486.

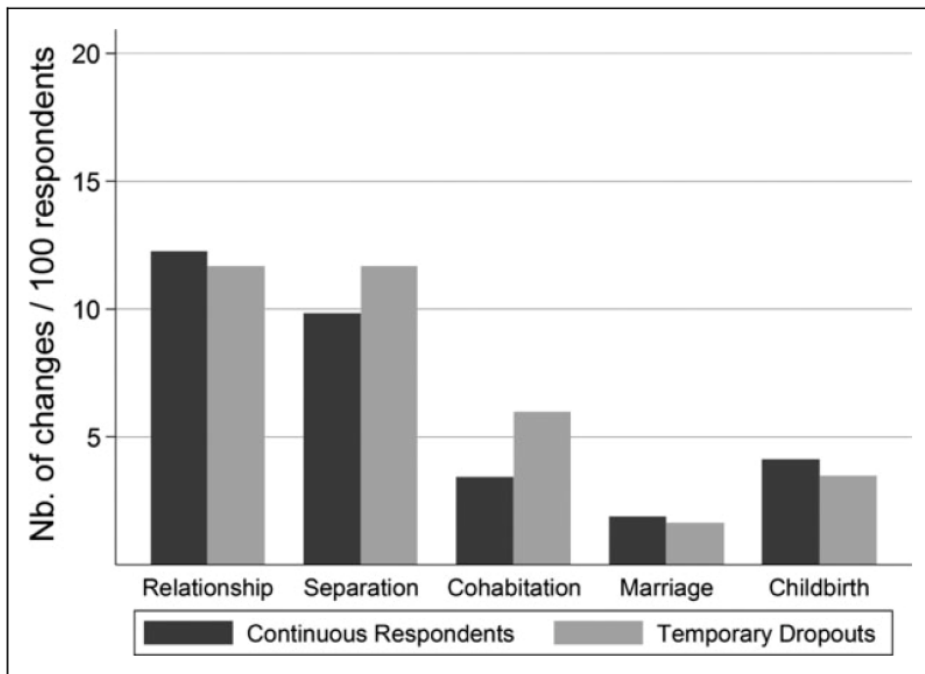
# A graphical event-history calendar and dependent interviewing improve data quality



- In wave 2 we introduced an event-history calendar and dependent interviewing
- An experiment showed that this design reduces the seam effect

Brüderl, Castiglioni, Ludwig, Pforr, & Schmiedeberg (2017)  
 Collecting Event History Data with a Panel Survey.  
 Methods, data, analyses, 11/1, 45-66.

# A non-monotonic design is a good idea: Temporary drop-outs improve the panel data



- The inclusion of temporary drop-outs increases sample variability regarding life changes
- But example analyses indicate that substantive conclusions would not be different without temporary drop-outs

Müller & Castiglioni (2017) Do Temporary Dropouts Improve the Composition of Panel Data? An Analysis of “Gap Interviews” in the German Family Panel pairfam.



# The multi-actor design works – but surveying parents proved challenging

- Parent survey terminated in wave 8: anchors were reluctant to provide parental addresses, in particular for stepparents

	Mother	Father	Stepmother	Stepfather
Consent rate (waves 1-8)	42%	35%	25%	13%

- Interviewer effects exist (Schröder et al. 2016), but are not decisive, as anchors' consent to contacting parents was not higher if asked in the CASI (Schmiedeberg et al. 2016)

Schmiedeberg, Castiglioni, & Schröder (2016) Secondary Respondent Consent in the German Family Panel. *Bulletin de Méthodologie Sociologique*, 131, 66-77.

Schröder, Schmiedeberg, & Castiglioni (2016) The effect of interviewers' motivation and attitudes on respondents' consent to contact secondary respondents in a multi-actor design. *Survey Methods: Insights from the Field*, 7587.

# Ego-centered networks are prone to interviewer effects

- We find implausibly small network sizes and large interviewer effects in the ego-centered network module in wave 2 (ICC 0.4)

	Full sample	„normal“	„fraudulent“	„diligent“
Network size	4.30	4.31	1.62	12.02
# interviewers	341	328	7	6
# interviews	9069	8628	330	111

Brüderl, Huyer-May, & Schmiedeberg (2012) Interviewer Behavior and the Quality of Social Network Data. In: Winker, Menold, & Porst (Eds.) Survey Standardization and Interviewers' Deviations – Impact, Reasons, Detection and Prevention.

# Social desirability bias depends on question mode

- Self-esteem
  - Wave 1: face-to-face question (CAPI)
  - Wave 2 ff: self-administered question (CASI)

Frage 113

Variable  
per1\_

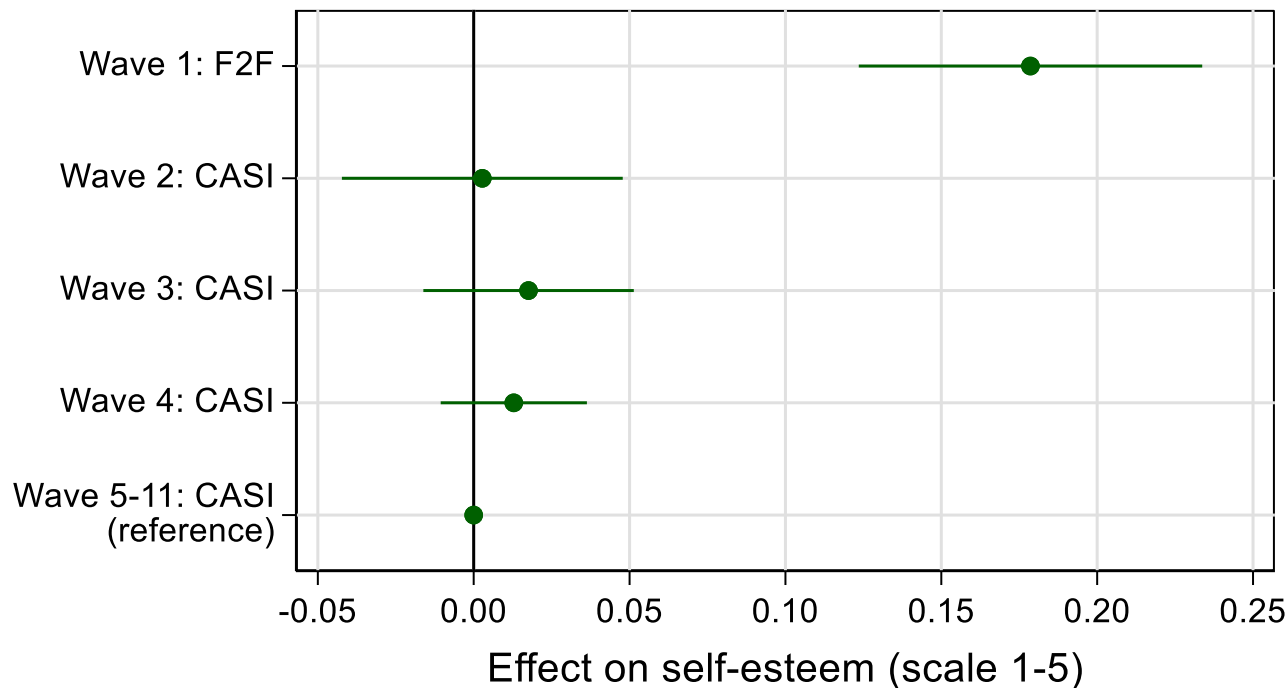
Nun geht es darum, wie Sie sich selbst sehen. Inwiefern treffen die folgenden Eigenschaften auf Sie zu?

per1i2      Manchmal denke ich, dass ich wertlos bin.

per1i7      Ich mag mich so, wie ich bin.

per1i13     Alles in allem bin ich mit mir selbst zufrieden.

# Social desirability bias depends on question mode



**Mode effects on self-esteem**

Data: pairfam V11.0  
 only pairfam main sample  
 Source: own computations  
 FE-regression  
 Controls: age,  
 relationship status  
 N person-years: 69,863  
 N persons: 12,345

# Local weather does not affect life satisfaction measurement

- We used geo-coded pairfam data combined with reports from nearby weather stations to test whether responses concerning life satisfaction are biased by local weather
- Contrary to some other studies, we do not find associations of local weather at the day of the interview (or the days before) with measures of life satisfaction or satisfaction with specific life domains (e.g., relationship, work, social life)

Schmiedeberg & Schröder (2014) Does Weather Really Influence the Measurement of Life Satisfaction? Social Indicators Research, 117, 387-399.

# Partners being present at the interview may be beneficial to data quality

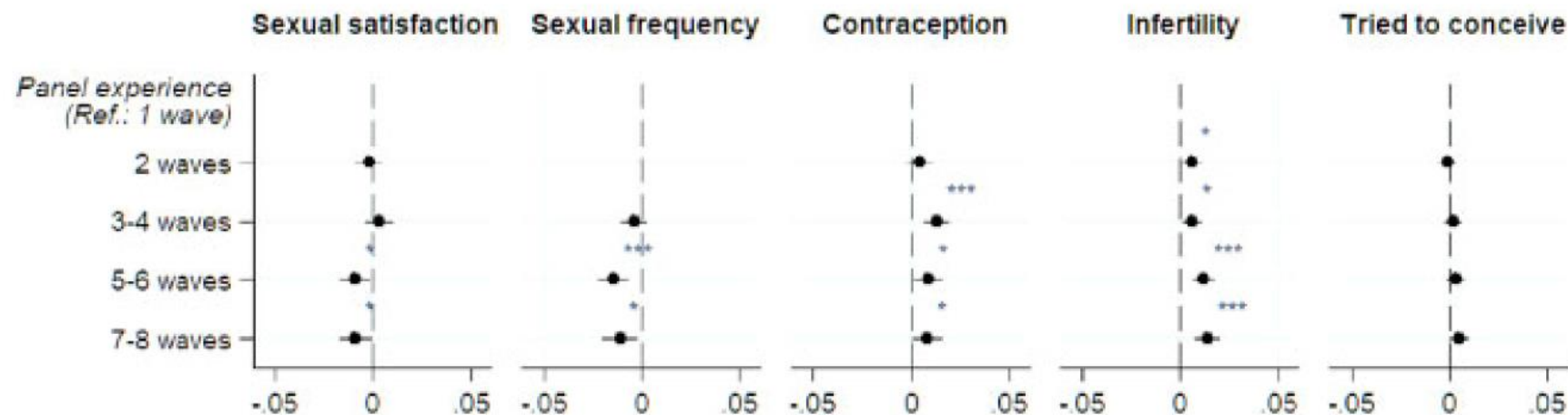
- Third-party presence at F2F interviews is regarded as compromising data quality – but there may be exceptions
- Responses concerning the division of household seem to be more exact – less overstated – if partners are present:
  - Respondents' own share of housework is lower
  - Sum of respondents' and partners' share is lower

	Male anchor respondents		Female anchor respondents	
	Anchor report	Partner report	Anchor report	Partner report
Partner presence (linear FE coefficients)	-0.28***	0.01	-0.23***	0.05

Schröder & Schmiedeberg (in press). Effects of Partner Presence During the Interview on Survey Responses. Sociological Methods & Research.

# Panel conditioning: Respondents do not get used to answering sensitive questions

- No clear pattern of attenuating refusal with panel experience
- Rather effects of age and life situation (cohort specific effects)



Müller & Schmiedeberg (2020). Do respondents get used to answering sensitive questions? *Public Opinion Quarterly*, 84/3, 654–674.

**Thank you for your attention!**