

**Bernhard Nauck**

# **International Perspectives on Family Research**



**CHEMNITZ UNIVERSITY OF  
TECHNOLOGY**



**Universität Hamburg**  
DER FORSCHUNG | DER LEHRE | DER BILDUNG

# Structure of the Presentation

1. Introduction: What I think cross-cultural family research (CCFR) should be: a genuine multi-level approach
2. How I set up CCFR with PAIRFAM with post-hoc data harmonization of national panel studies
3. How I made use of PAIRFAM for CCFR: some examples and illustrations
4. How others made use of PAIRFAM: The spread of PAIRFAM in international research

# 1. Conceptual issues

< Volume 50 Issue 1,  
2019 >

*Vol. 50, No. 1, 2019*

## 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Issue

### Cohabitation

- Beyond the Second Demographic Transition: Cohabitation in Chile**   
Alejandra Ramm, Viviana Salinas  
50(1), pp. 75-97  
First published online: May 22, 2019  
[Abstract](#) [Full Text](#) [References](#) [PDF \(474 KB\)](#) [ePub \(94 KB\)](#)

### Marital Quality

- Family-of-Origin Triangulation and Marital Quality of Chinese Couples: The Mediating Role of In-Law Relationships**   
Xiaojiao Yuan  
50(1), pp. 98-112  
First published online: May 22, 2019  
[Abstract](#) [Full Text](#) [References](#) [PDF \(800 KB\)](#) [ePub \(164 KB\)](#)

**Observation:** None of the papers is in any sense „comparative“!

**Question:** Would they have published the same kind of papers referring to populations – say – in the US, Belgium or UK?

### Parenting

- Family's Migration Experience and Distress Among Asian-Canadian Immigrant Youth**   
Jeongyoon Moon, Mónica Ruiz-Casares  
50(1), pp. 7-32  
First published online: May 22, 2019  
[Abstract](#) [Full Text](#) [References](#) [PDF \(808 KB\)](#) [ePub \(128 KB\)](#)
- Exploring Parenting Decisions Among South Korean Mothers with Preschool-Age Children**   
Kaka Shim, Hyunsook Shin  
50(1), pp. 33-50  
First published online: May 22, 2019  
[Abstract](#) [Full Text](#) [References](#) [PDF \(453 KB\)](#) [ePub \(38 KB\)](#)
- Are the Parents All Right? Parental Stress, Ethnic Culture and Intergenerational Relations in Aging Families**   
Barbara A. Mitchell, Andrew V. Wister, Bozena Zdaniuk  
50(1), pp. 51-74  
First published online: May 22, 2019  
[Abstract](#) [Full Text](#) [References](#) [PDF \(819 KB\)](#) [ePub \(46 KB\)](#)

# CCFR in the current research context

Major theoretical challenge in current CCFR:

**Variability in kinship and family institutions and in individual family behavior *despite* similar levels of social differentiation and economic development**

Pragmatic gradual distinctions of family research:

- **Cross-national:** emphasises the effects of national contexts on behavior in families.
  - Typical puzzle: Why was the divorce rate higher in the GDR than in the FRG?
- **Cross-societal:** focusses on the effects of institutional settings on behavior in families.
  - Typical puzzle: Why is the fertility rate in social-democratic welfare regimes higher than in conservative welfare regimes?
- **Cross-cultural:** takes the general institutional structure of societies and the resulting framing of family and kinship relationships into account.
  - Typical puzzle: Why is the Western European kinship system different to the most common uni-lineal kinship in the majority world?

# The multi-level framework of cross-cultural family research

- **Individual Level:** the specific cognitive maps, preferences, and probability expectations that define the culture-bound selection mechanisms and the routine solutions for problem solving, and thus ‘frame’ individual action repertoires.
- **Relational level:** cultural definitions of what is ‘fair’ and meaningful in spousal, intergenerational, and kinship relationships
- **Institutional Level:** the allocation of responsibilities and tasks to intra- and intergenerational relations and to kinship systems and the normative regulation of status transitions in the (family) life cycle
- **Interinstitutional Level:** family tasks related to childcare, to care for the elderly, and mutual insurance against life risks in relation to the institutional setting in the respective society

# Difference to Intra-Cultural Family Research

- In intra-cultural family research, interinstitutional relations and institutional settings are a **constant** and as such only reflected in case of long-term social change
- Intra-cultural family research concentrates on individual choices and relational variability under constraints provided also by such constant institutional settings.
- In contrast, CCFR has to deal (cope, struggle) with variations across all four levels, which has theoretical, methodological and technical implications.

*Methodologically*, complete explanations (would) have to formulate bridging hypotheses across all four levels (whereas intra-cultural family research already may be complete with two-level explanations – the classic Coleman-tub).

*Technically*, CCFR is challenged by the necessity to **disentangle effects on all four levels** (which is currently an illusion), and by **high validity-risks** of implemented measurements.

# Methodological Challenges

- *Research designs planned ex-ante with an **a-priori design*** allow for
  - implementation of similar questions, items and scales developed in advance
  - testing for cross-cultural reliability and validity
  - making use of the full statistical toolbox for establishing measurement equivalence
- *Research designs planned post-hoc with an **a-posteriori design*** based on existing surveys have to take
  - what „is there“
  - have limited possibilities to compare measurements across surveys and measurement equivalence can be established only in rare cases
  - are forced to develop creativity in post-hoc data harmonization

## **2. PAIRFAM as part of CCFR in the „Internationalization Project“**

## Search for

- Countries with significant *differences in family- and kinship systems*
- *Differences in the institutional structure, social welfare regime and cultural values related to marriage and intergenerational solidarity*
- Countries on a *similar/comparable economic level*
- Countries with representative (and available) *longitudinal data-sets*

## **Aiming at the study in an *a-posteriori* design of**

- *Transitions in the life course*, in our case: transitions in young adulthood (to make use one of the strengths of PAIRFAM)
- *Coresidence with kin* in the transition to adulthood

# Societal Characteristics

	Mainland China	Taiwan	Japan	Germany	United States
Welfare Regime	Dualist productivist	Inclusive productivist	Liberal	Corporatist conservative	Liberal
Cultural regime	Collectivistic	Collectivistic	Collectivistic	Individualistic	Individualistic
Kinship system	Patrilineal	Patrilineal	Patrilineal	Bilineal	Bilineal
Geographic extent	Large	Small	Medium	Small	Large

# Characteristics of the Panel Studies

	<b>PAIRFAM</b>	<b>NLSY97</b>	<b>JLPS</b>	<b>TYP</b>	<b>CFPS</b>
Name	Panel Analysis of Intimate Relationships and Family Dynamics	National Longitudinal Survey of Youth 1997	Japanese Life Course Panel Survey	Taiwanese Youth Project	China Family Panel Studies
Starting year	2008/2009	1997	2007	2000	2010
Cohorts	1991-1993, 1981-1983, 1971-1973	1980-1984	1980-1987	1986-1987 1984-1985	1971-1994
Initial sample size	12,402	8,984	4,800	5,541	42,590
Survey interval	annually	annually	annually	annually biennially	biennially
No. of waves	9	17	8	11	4

## Harmonization: the easy ones

- most demographic variables
- various ways of recording age (by birthdate, by self-reported age), but specialties
- if standardized techniques of post-hoc harmonization exist:  
e.g. ISCED, ISCO

## Harmonization: the doable ones

## PAIRFAM (Germany)

household  
rooster

- (1) My Partner
- (2) My biological mother
- (3) My biological father
- (4) My adoptive mother
- (5) My adoptive father
- (6) My step-mother/partner of my father
- (7) My step-father/partner of my mother
- (8) My foster mother
- (9) My foster father
- (10) My child
- (11) Child of my partner
- (12) My sister or my brother, respectively
- (13) My half-sister or my halfbrother, respectively
- (14) My step-sister or my step-brother, respectively
- (15) My adoptive/foster sister or my adoptive/foster brother, respectively
- (16) My grandmother or my grandfather, respectively
- (17) other relative
- (18) My mother-in-law or my father-in-law, respectively (parents of my partner)
- (19) A friend
- (20) Coresident other

## TYP household rooster (Taiwan)

Which family member do you live with ?

- (1) birth father (2) step father (3) adoptive father
- (4) birth mother (5) step mother (6) adoptive mother
- (7) spouse (8) spouse's father (9) spouse's mother
- (10) son(s) (11) daughter(s)
- (12) older brother(s) (13) older sister(s)
- (14) younger brother(s) (15) younger sister(s)
- (16) brother's spouse (17) sister's spouse
- (18) brother's children (19) sister's children
- (20) grandfather (21) grandmother (22) maternal grandfather (23) maternal grandmother
- (24) spouse's older brother (25) spouse's younger brother
- (26) spouse's older sister (27) spouse's younger sister
- (28) spouse's grandfather (29) spouse's grandmother
- (30) spouse's maternal grandfather (31) spouse's maternal grandmother
- (32) fiancée (34) else, please explain:
- (35) none

# Harmonization: the risky ones

## PAIRFAM (Germany)

- How often do you tell your mother/father what you're thinking?
- How often do you share your secrets and private feelings with your mother/father?
- How often does your mother/your father express recognition for what you've done?
- How often does your mother/father show that she/he appreciates you?
- How often do you feel for your mother/father great affection even if you happen to be angry with her/him?

## CFPS (China)

- With whom do you chat most about daily affairs?
- Who is the first person you will talk to when worried or upset?
- Who is the first person you will turn to when in trouble?
- Who is the first relative you will turn to when sick and in need?
- Who is the first person you will turn to when you need to borrow lots of money

## Especially measures of behavior, attitudes and perceptions vary in...

- number of items
- wording of items
- response format
- response range
- the sense of response (e.g. from „always“ to „never“ or from „never“ to „always“)

between surveys

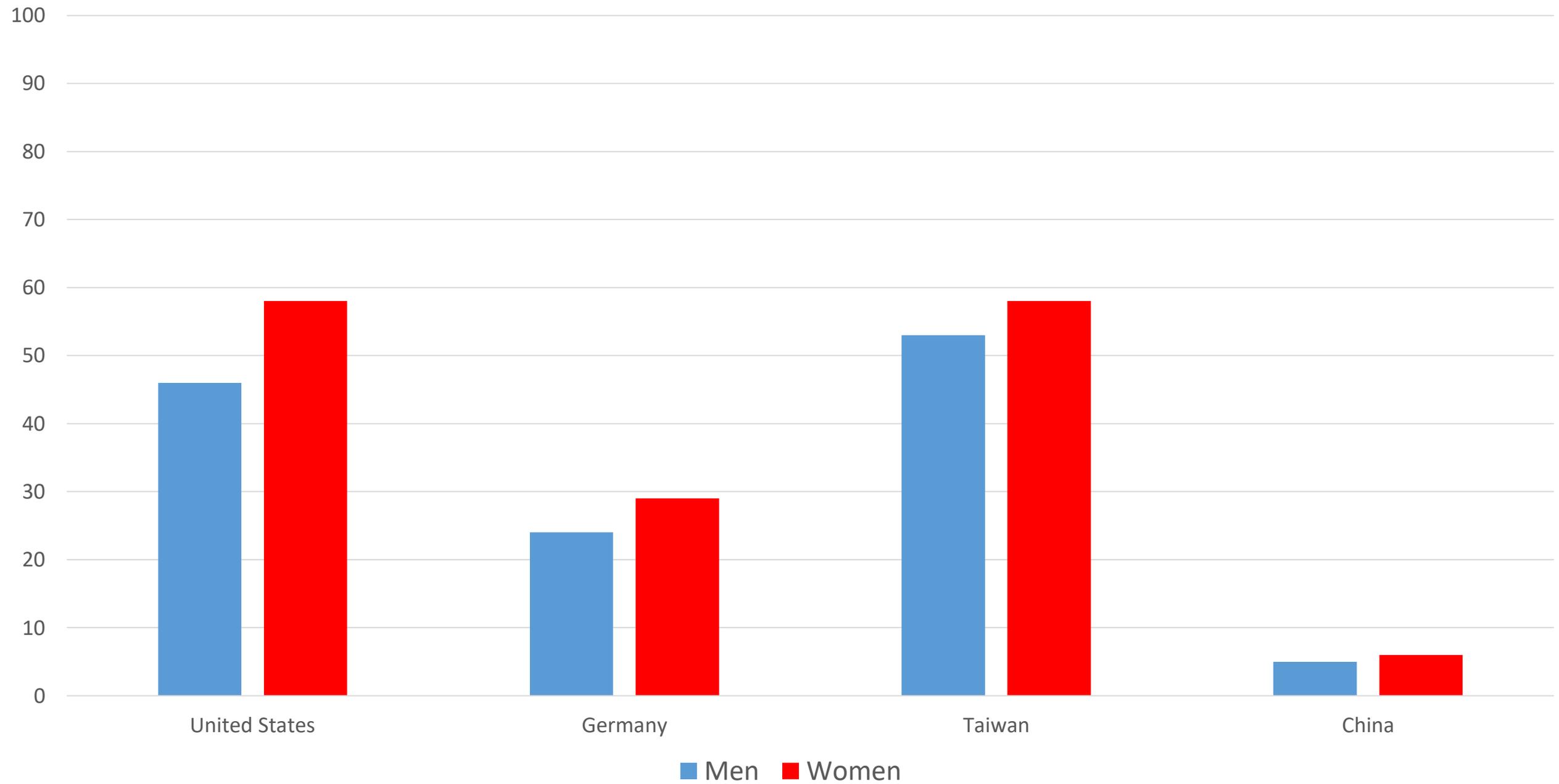
(and sometimes even between waves within surveys)

... not to speak about mode effects of CAPI, PAPI, CASI and the like!

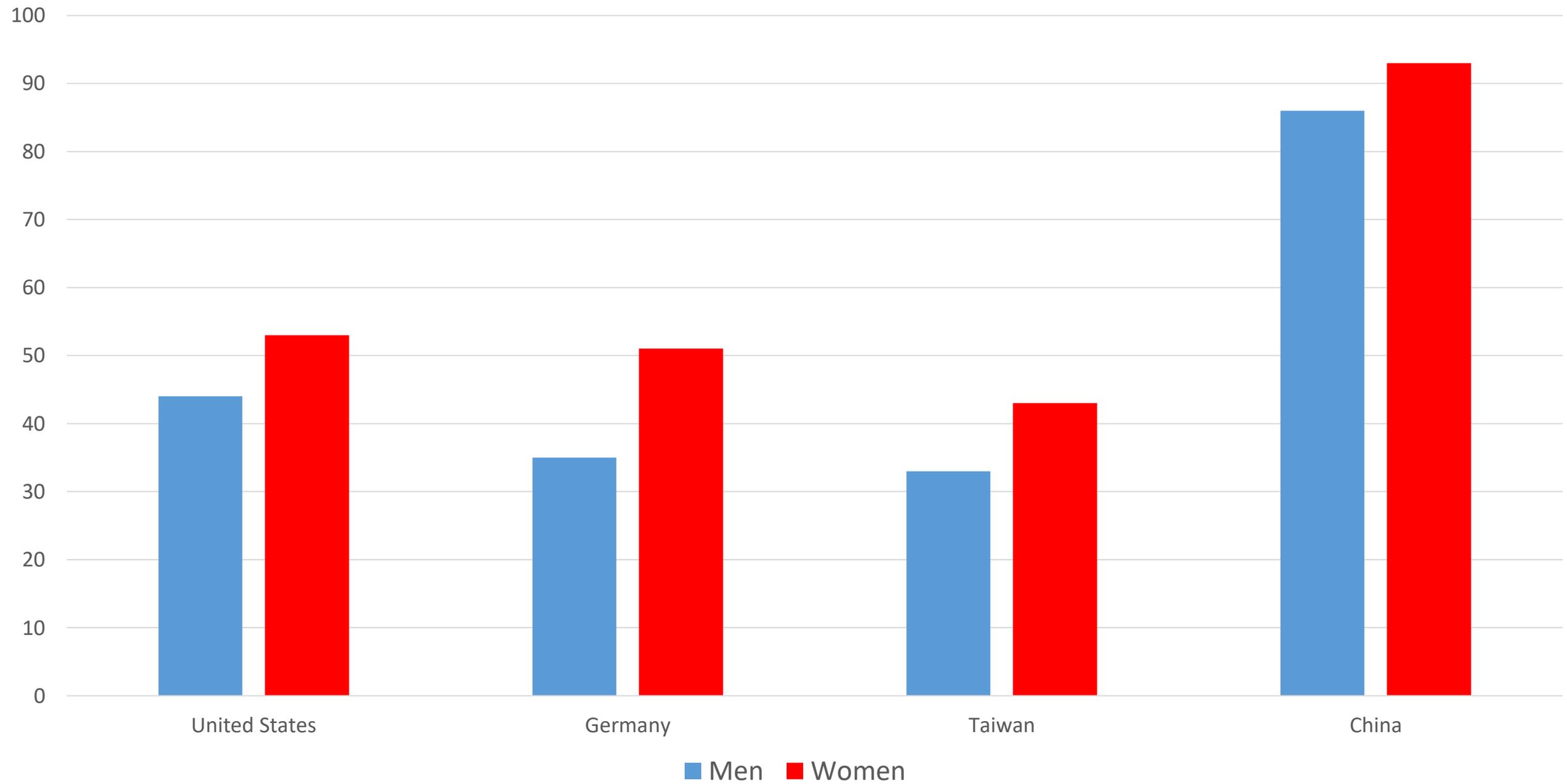
# **3. How we made use of PAIRFAM for CCFR: examples and illustrations**

**Coresidence and Subjective Well-being in the Transition to Adulthood:  
The case of the United States, Germany, Japan, Taiwan and China**

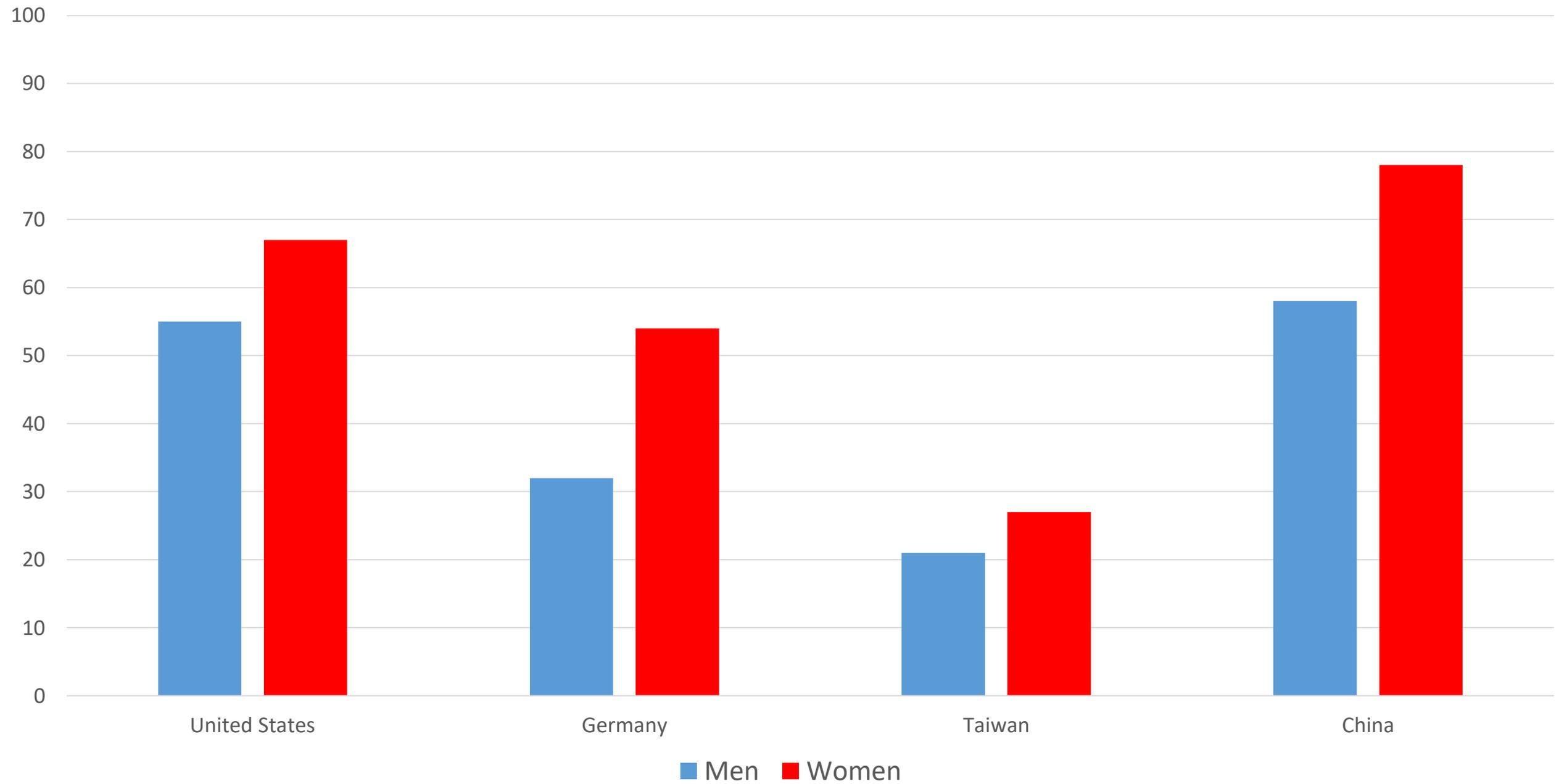
# Got Tertiary Education until Age 30 (Percent)



# Got Married until Age 30 (Percent)



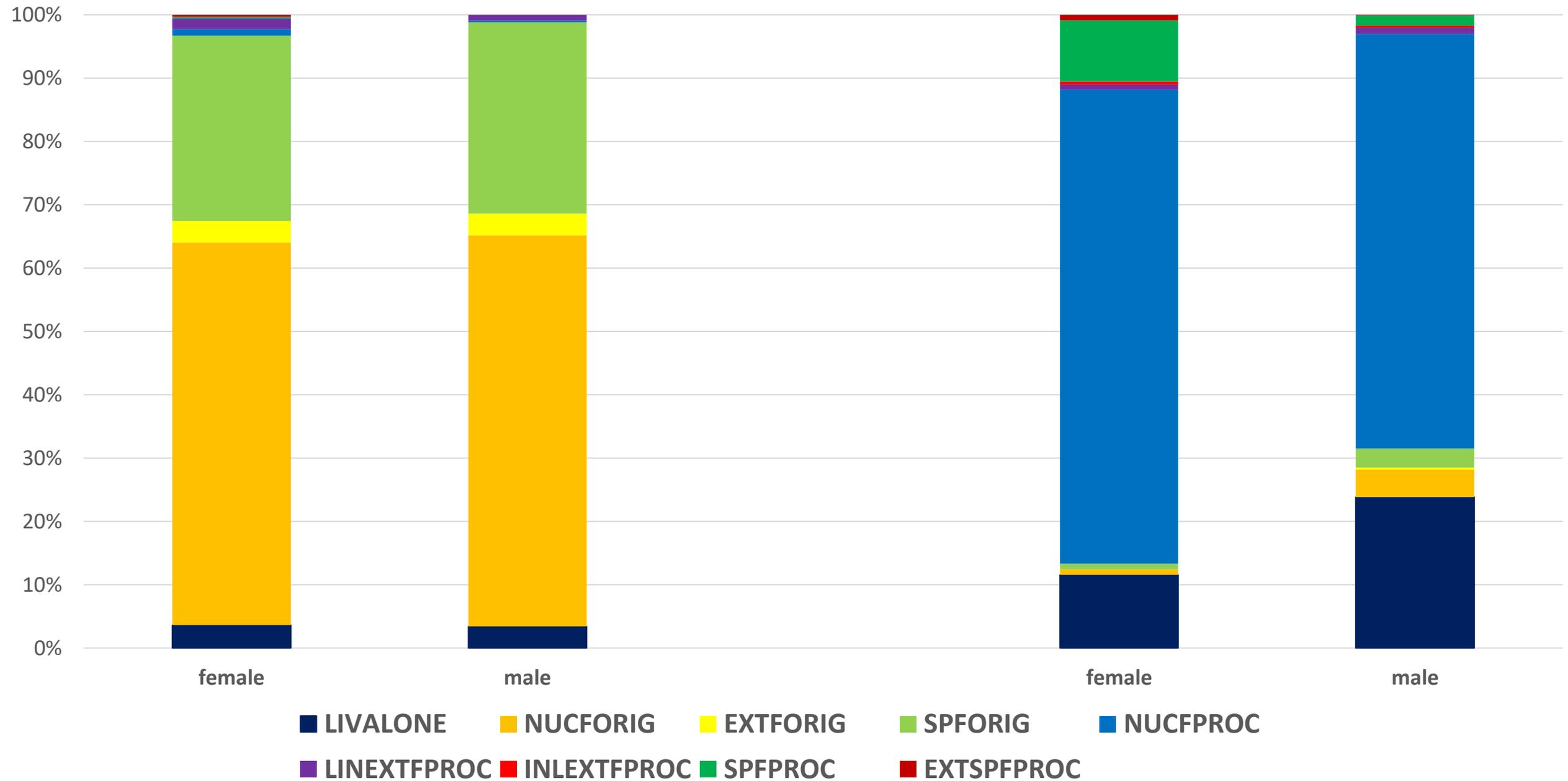
# Became Parent until Age 30 (Percent)



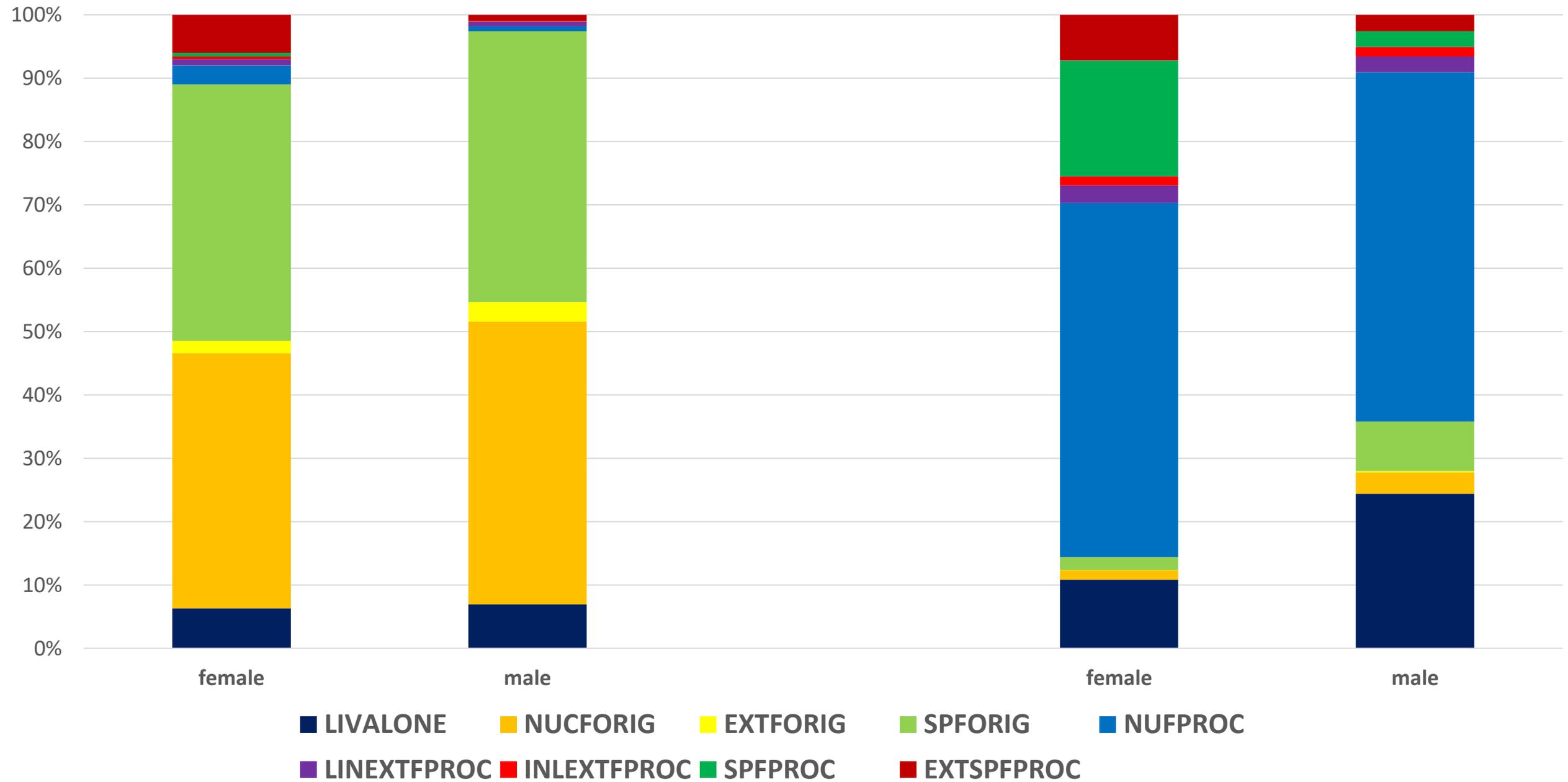
# Types of Coresidence

1. LIVALONE: Living alone, i.e. without members of the family or kinship, without partner or spouse or children, without in-laws
2. Nuclear FAMORIG: living with both parents (and siblings), but without kinship, without spouse or children, without in-laws
3. Extended FAMORIG: living with parents and kinship members, without spouse, children, in-laws
4. SingleParent FAMORIG: living with only one parent, in case with supplement family or kinship, without spouse, children, or in-laws
5. Nuclear FAMPROC: living with a partner or spouse, in case with children, without parents, siblings, kinship or in-laws
6. Extended FAMPROC: living with a partner or spouse, in case with children, and with parents, siblings or in-laws
7. SingleParent FAMPROC: living with children with no partner or spouse, with no parents, siblings, kinship or in-laws

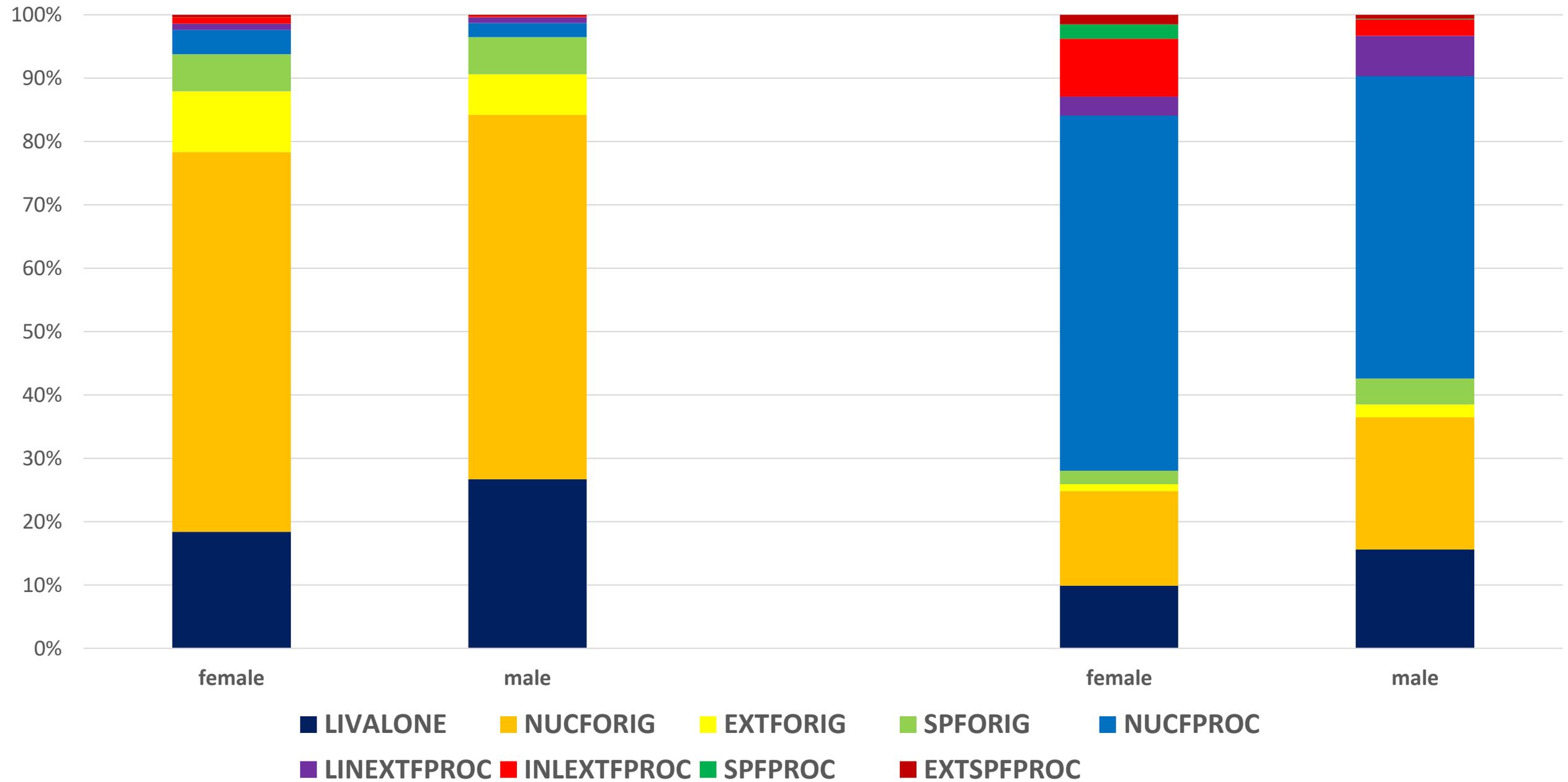
# Germany: Coresidence at Age 16-18 and 33-35



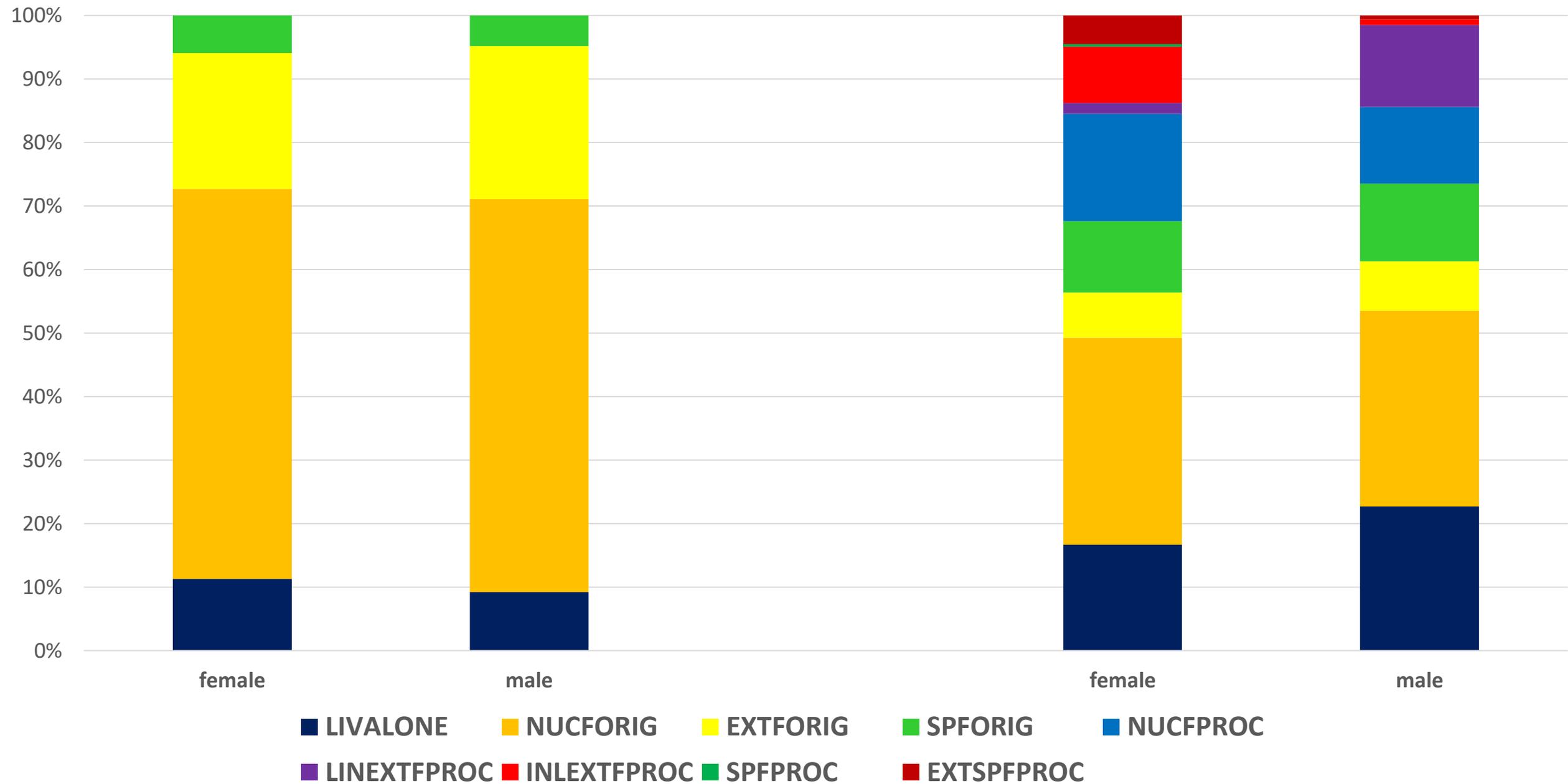
# United States: Coresidence at Age 16-18 and 33-35



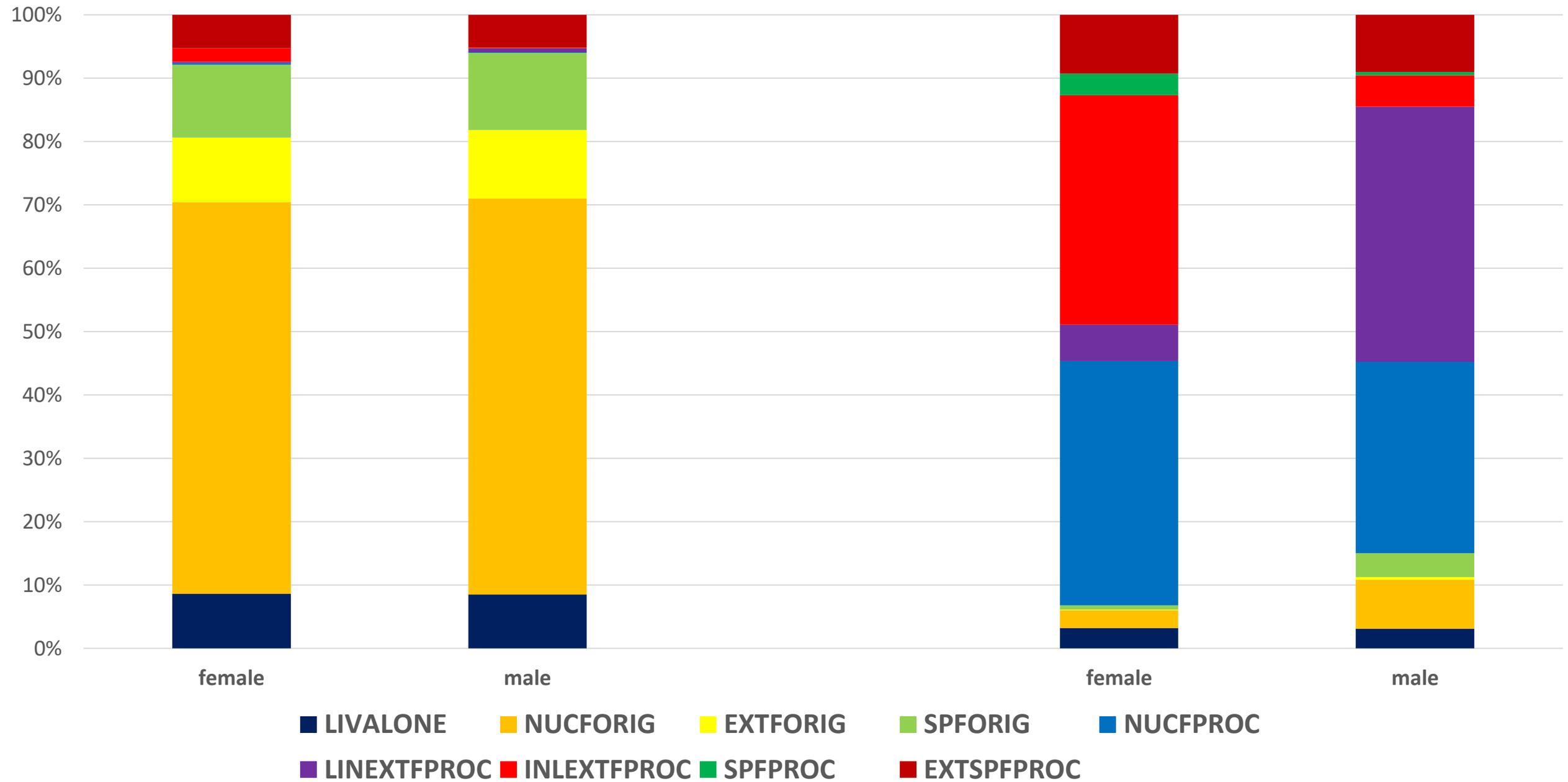
# Japan: Coresidence at Age 20-22 and 33-35



# Taiwan: Coresidence at Age 16-18 and 28-30



# China: Coresidence at Age 16-18 and 33-35



# Analytic strategy for Coresidence and Well-being

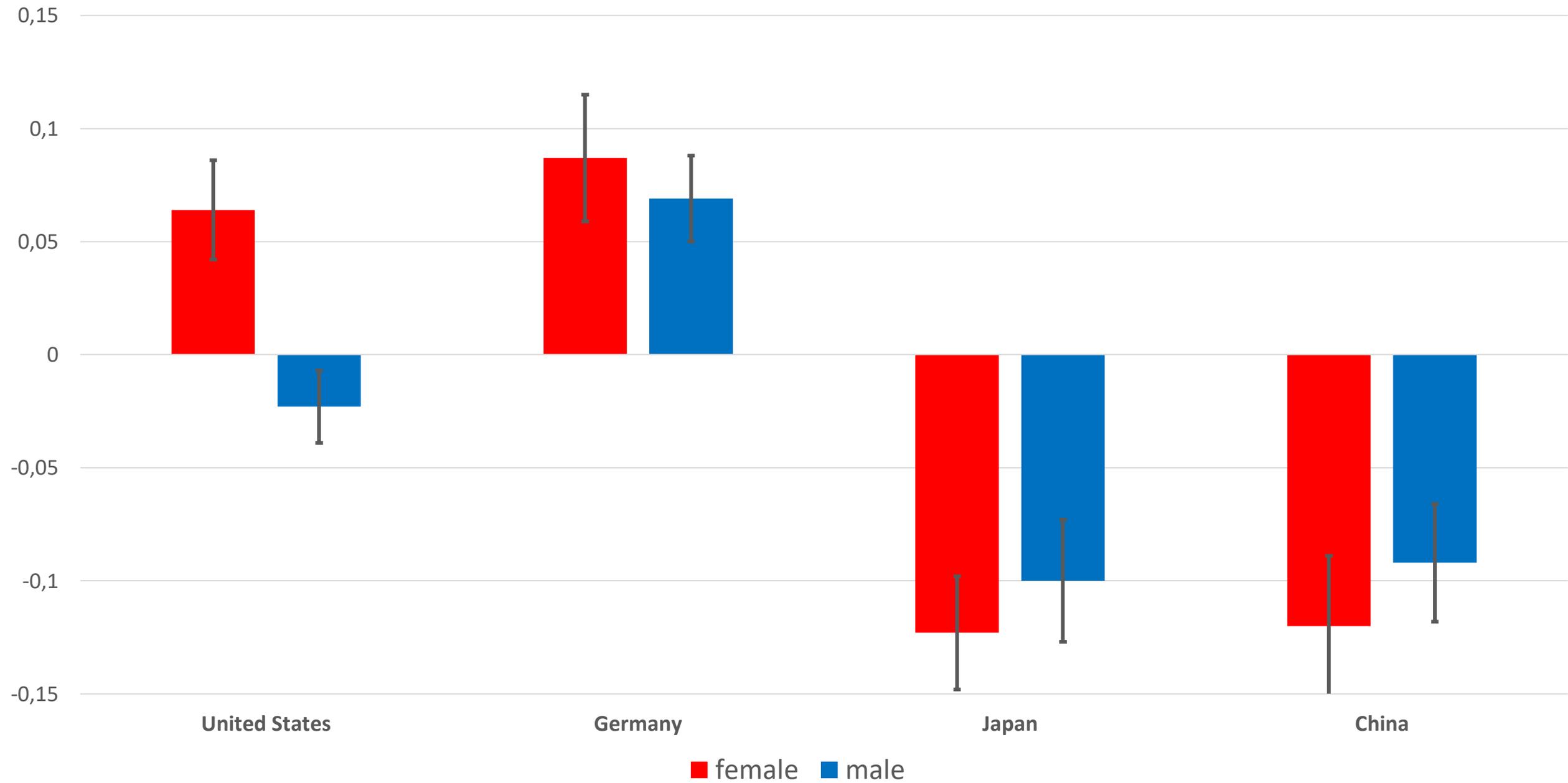
## Data harmonization

- Identification of the household-type at each age between 20 -35
- Well-being = absence of depression
- Different well-established depression scales in the 5 panel studies
- z-standardization of the multiple item scales of subjective well-being across all waves and age 20 - 35

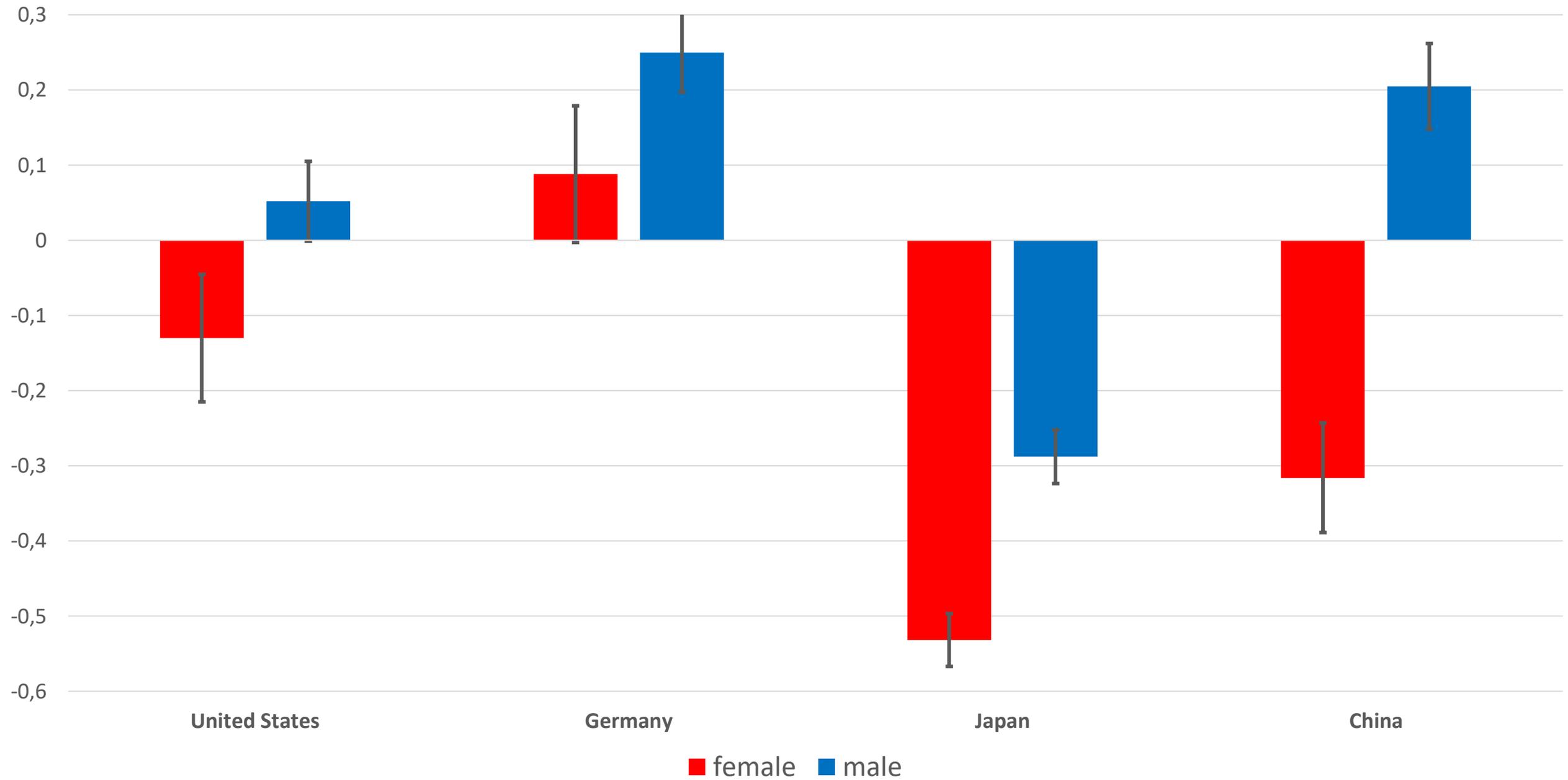
## Data analysis

- Identical models for each sex in each country separately
- Adjusted means for age, urban residence, economic status and educational attainment
- Fixed-effect-regressions of well-being on coresidence-types, controlling for age

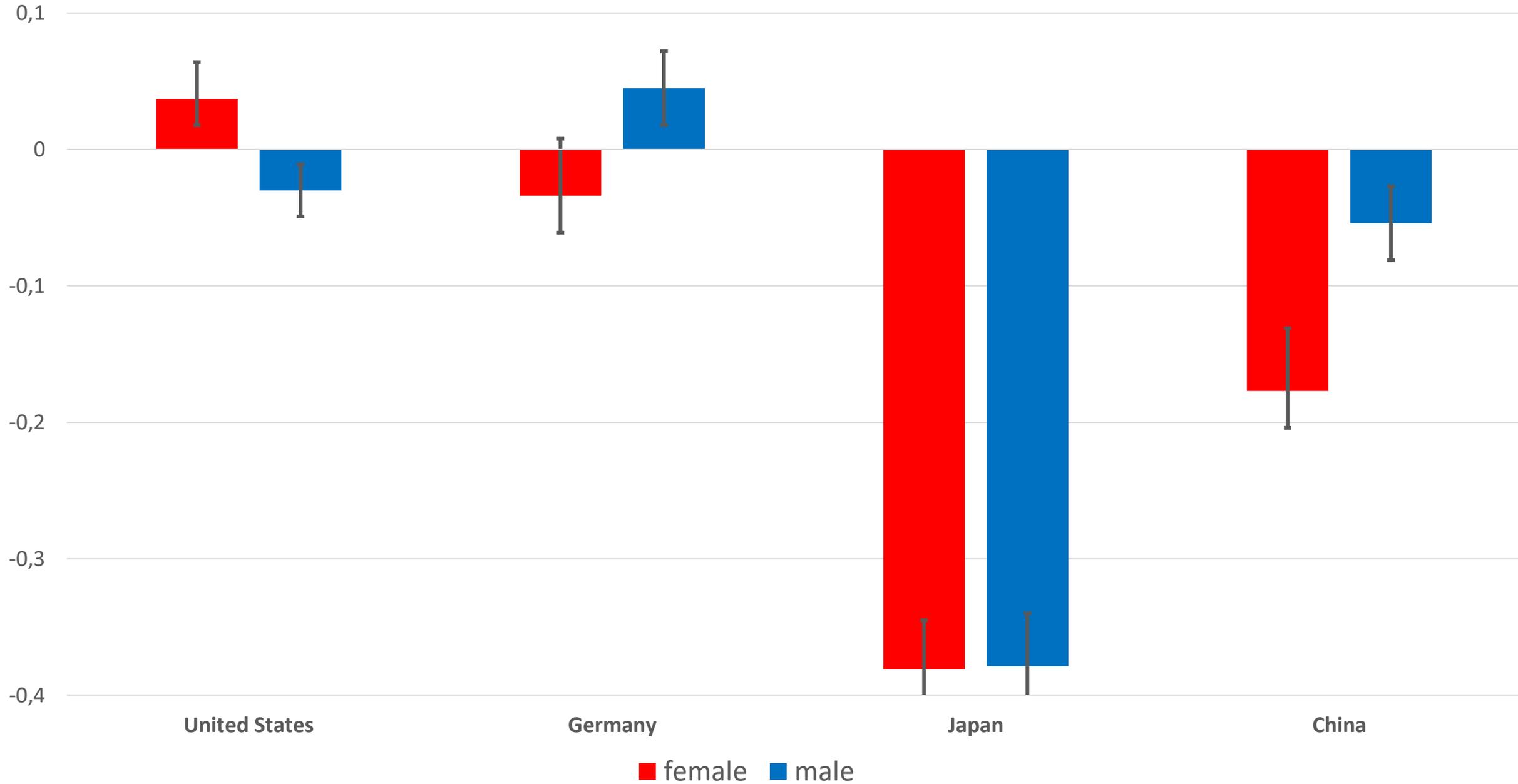
# FE: Living alone and Well-being



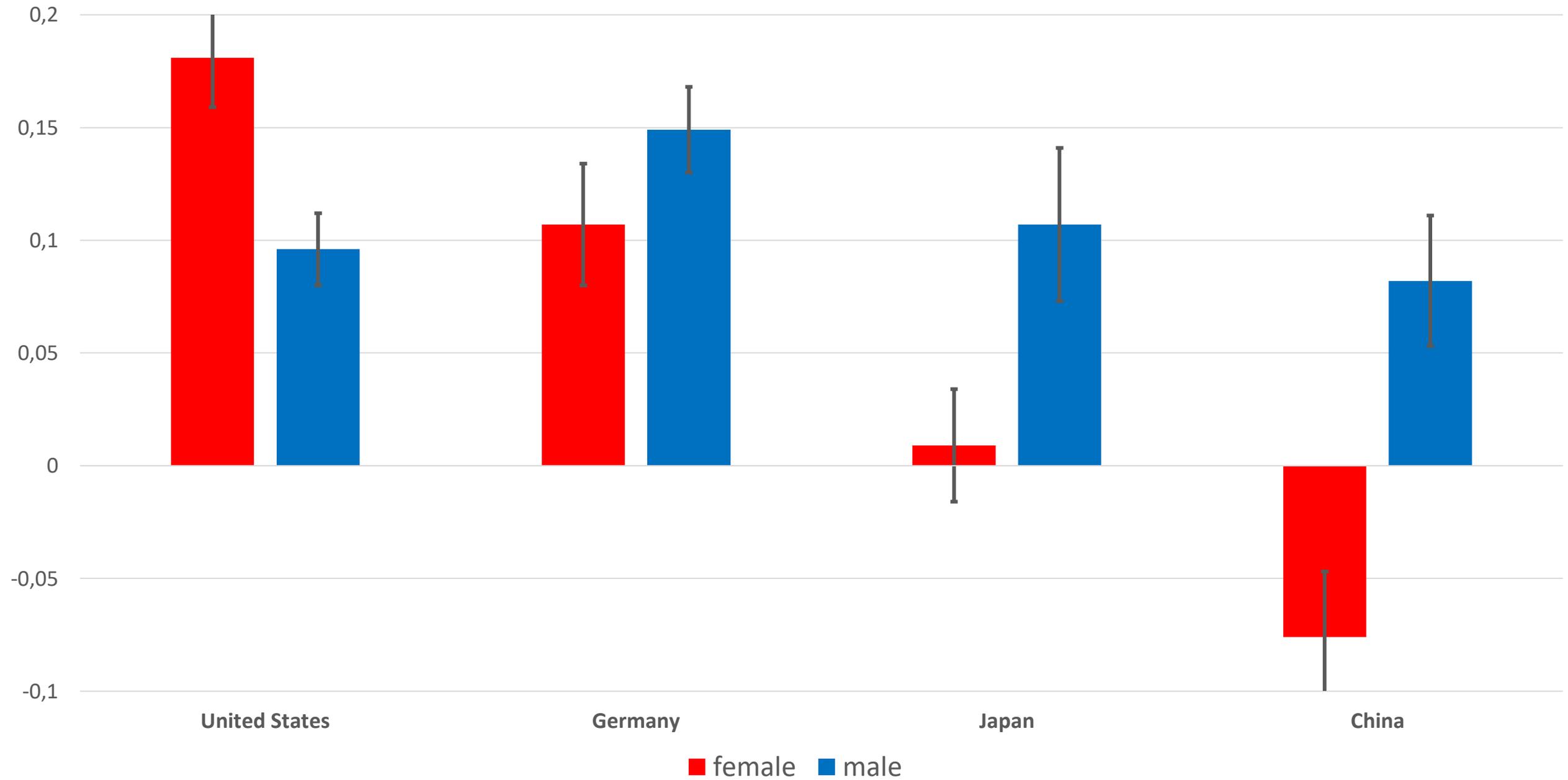
# Extended Family of Origin and Well-being



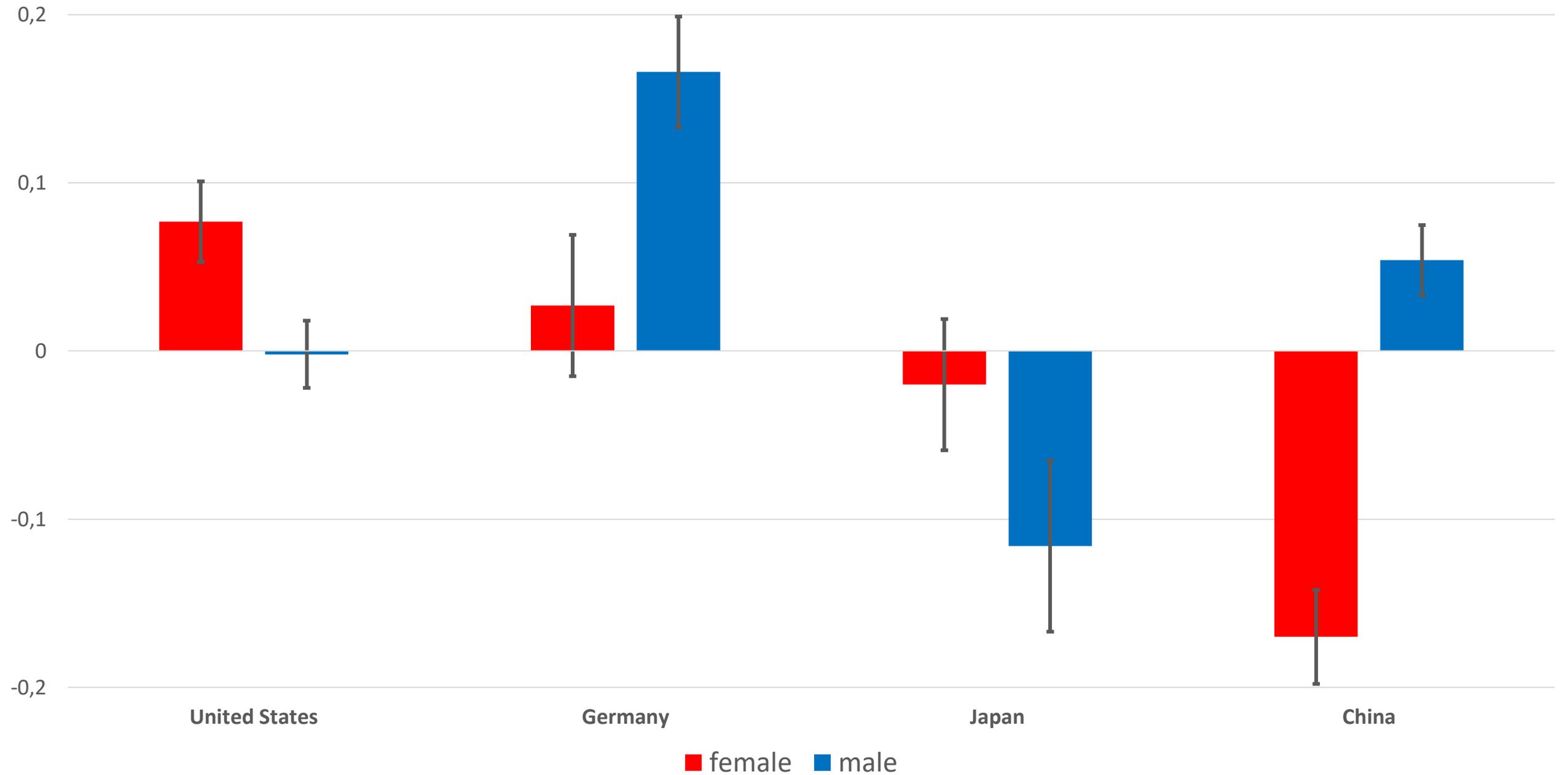
# Single Parent Family of Origin and Well-being



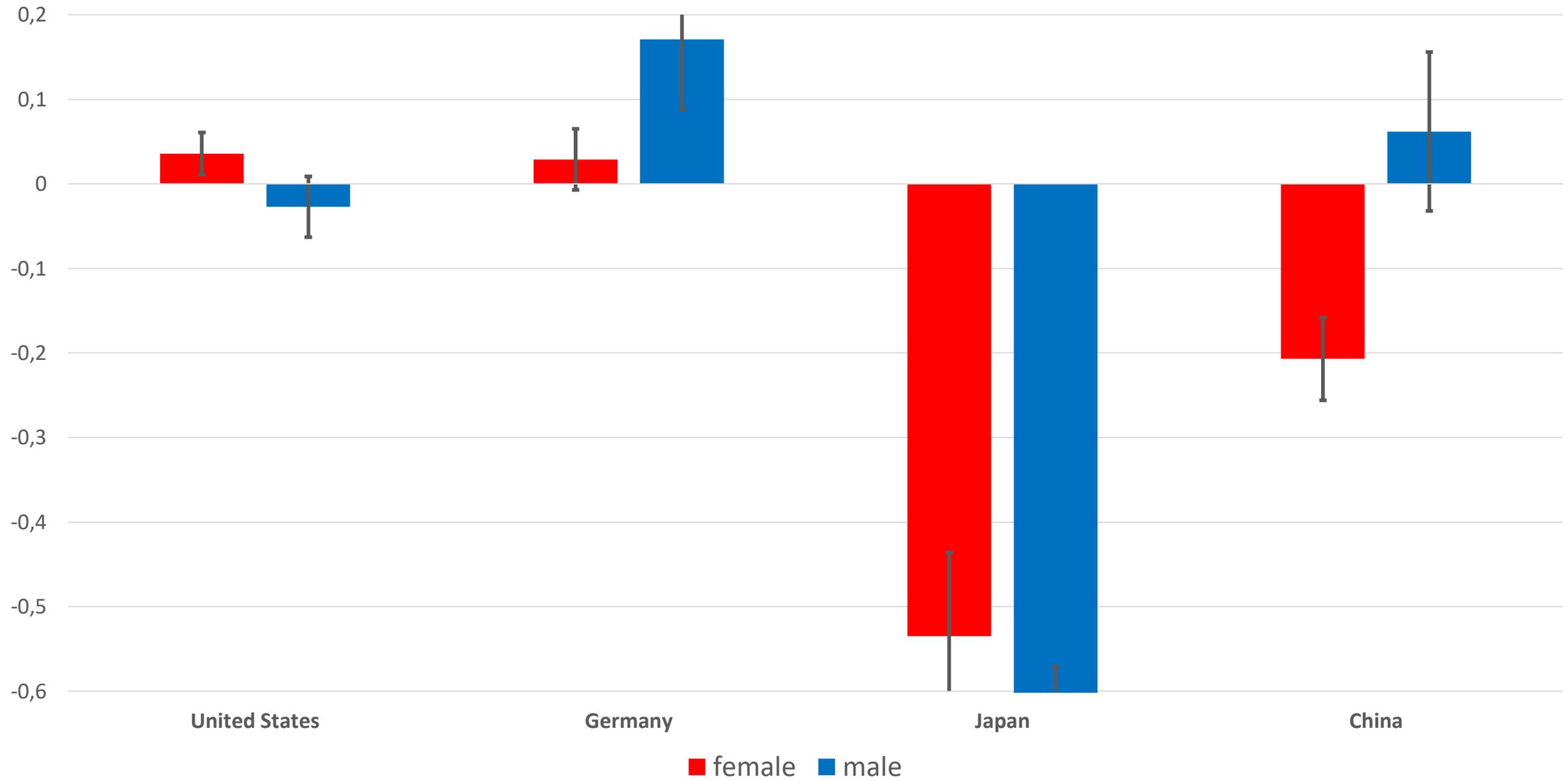
# Nuclear Family of Procreation and Well-being



# Extended Family of Procreation and Well-being



# Single Parent Family of Procreation and Well-being



IV.

# Analytic strategy for Coresidence Choices

# Co-residence Choices: Nested Logit Model, separate for each country

- Only observations included, where respondent lives in t1 in a family of origin (nuclear, extended, single headed)
- Level 1: stay or move
  - Predictors: Parents' emotional support, parents' income
- Level 2: destination in t2
  - Reference: nuclear family of origin
  - Categories: extended family of origin, single parent family of origin, living alone, nuclear family of procreation, extended family of procreation, single parent family of procreation
  - Predictors (time constant): gender, minority, urbanity,
  - Predictors (time dependent): into occupation, into marriage, into parenthood, extended family of origin in t1, single parent family of origin in t1
  - Interaction: gender x time dependents

## Level 2: Gender-specific probability of **moving into** a householdtype

<b>Sons</b> (reference daughters)	Extended family of origin	Single parent family of origin	Living alone	Nuclear family of procreation	Extended family of procreation	Single parent family of procreation
China	-2.92***	-1.72*	-1.48	-1.49***	-1.48***	-
Taiwan	-0.51***	-0.53***	-0.03	-	0.07	-
Germany	-0.40**	-0.25**	-0.82***	-0.85***	-0.84***	-0.96*
United States	-0.34***	-0.27***	-0.35***	-0.38***	-0.42***	-0.49***

Reference: nuclear family of origin

Controlled for: age, male\*age, minority, urbanity, occupation entry, marriage entry, parenthood entry, male\*occupation, male\*marriage, male\*parenthood, extended family of origin at  $t_1$ , single parent family of origin at  $t_1$

# Level 1 Probability of **moving out** of a family of origin between $t_1$ and $t_2$

	China	Taiwan	Germany	United States
Parents' emotional support <sup>1)</sup>	-.14***	-.37***	-.19***	-.13***
Parents' equivalent income	-.18*	.02	.05**	.02

<sup>1)</sup> Measured in the 1st wave of each survey

Practical message to learn:

**If you want to get rid of your children some time, don't be too emotionally supportive, when they are teenagers!**

## **4. The Internationalization Project and the spread of PAIRFAM**

# Among other places, PAIRFAM was in Vegas, Cape Town, Yokohama



... but, of yourse, for scientific purposes only  
and for promoting PAIRFAM as a scientific use file





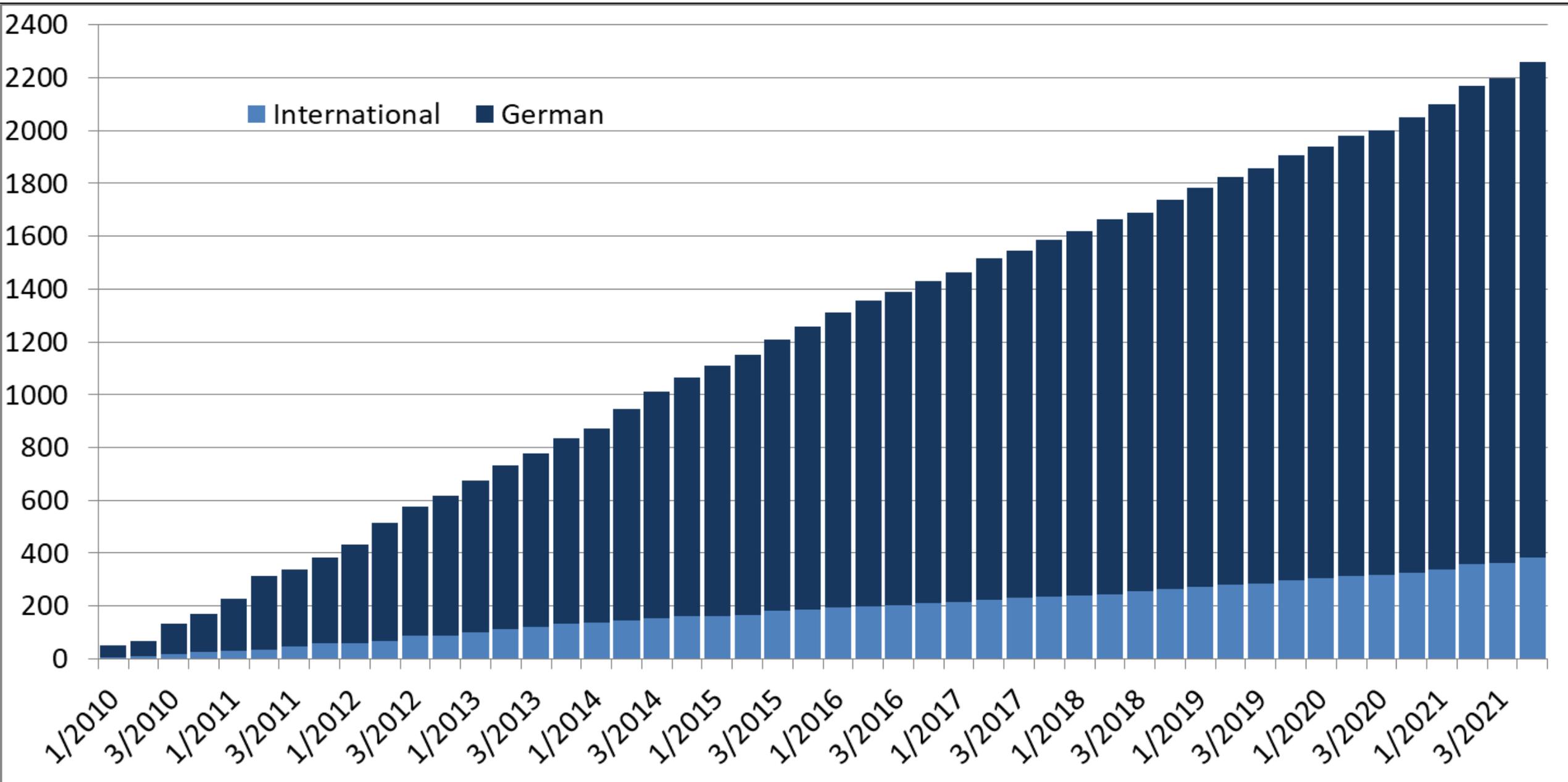
*Research in Germany. 107<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of the American Sociological Association (ASA) in Denver, USA. August 17 - 20, 2012.*





**30th International Congress of Psychology (ICP) in Cape Town, South Africa. July 22 - 27, 2012.**

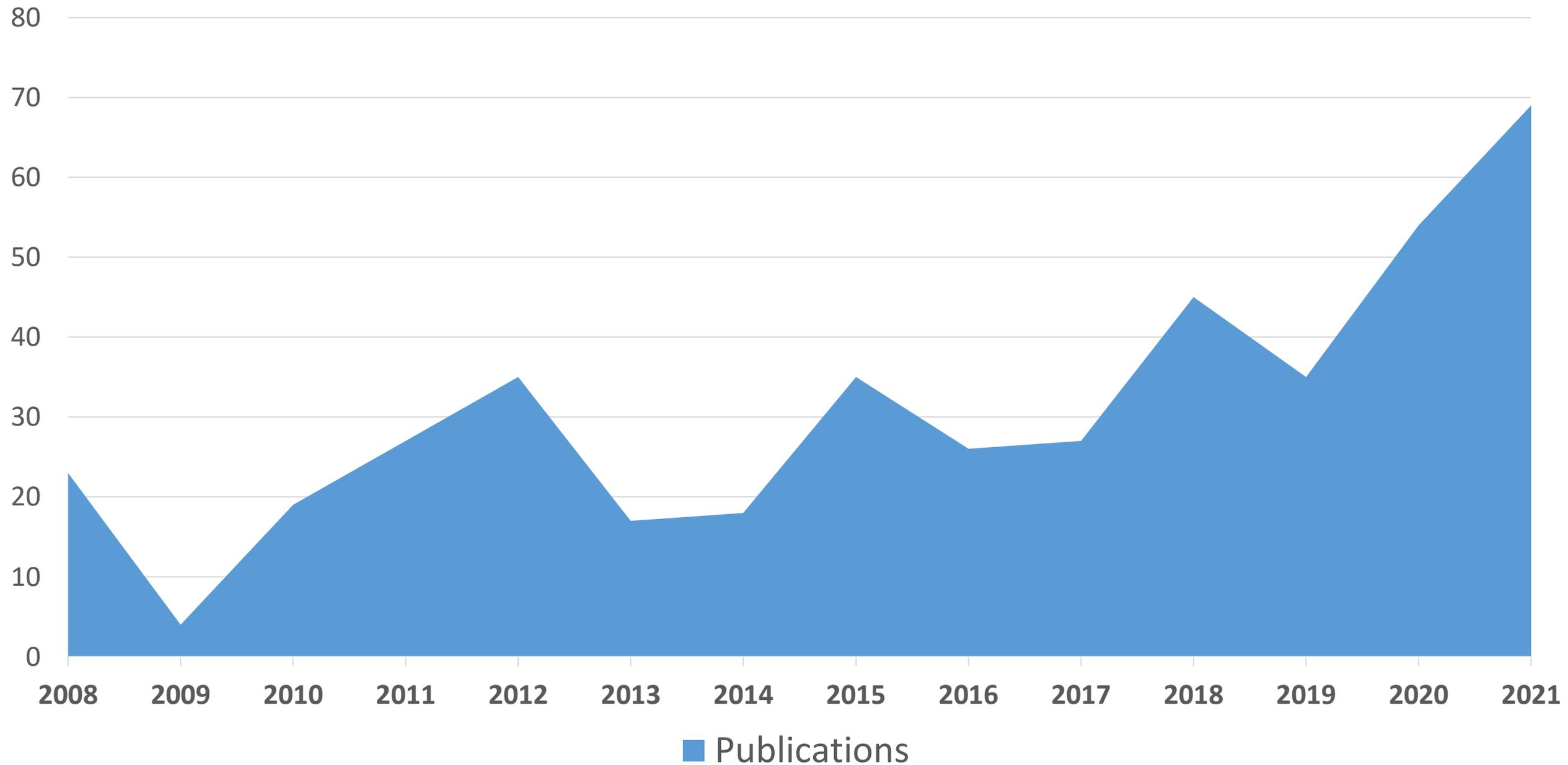
# Users from German and International Institutions



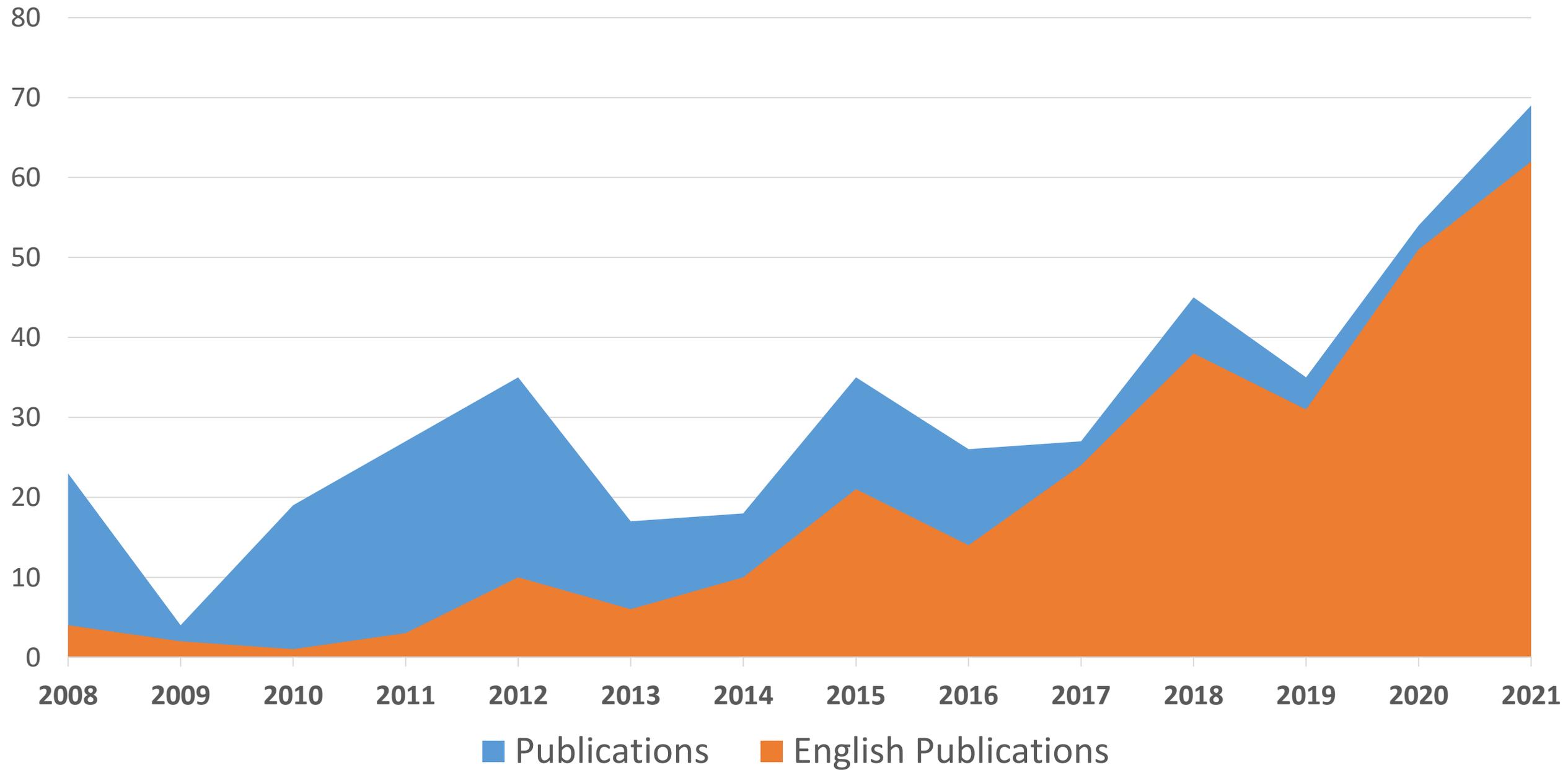
# User Locations of PAIRFAM 2008 - 2021



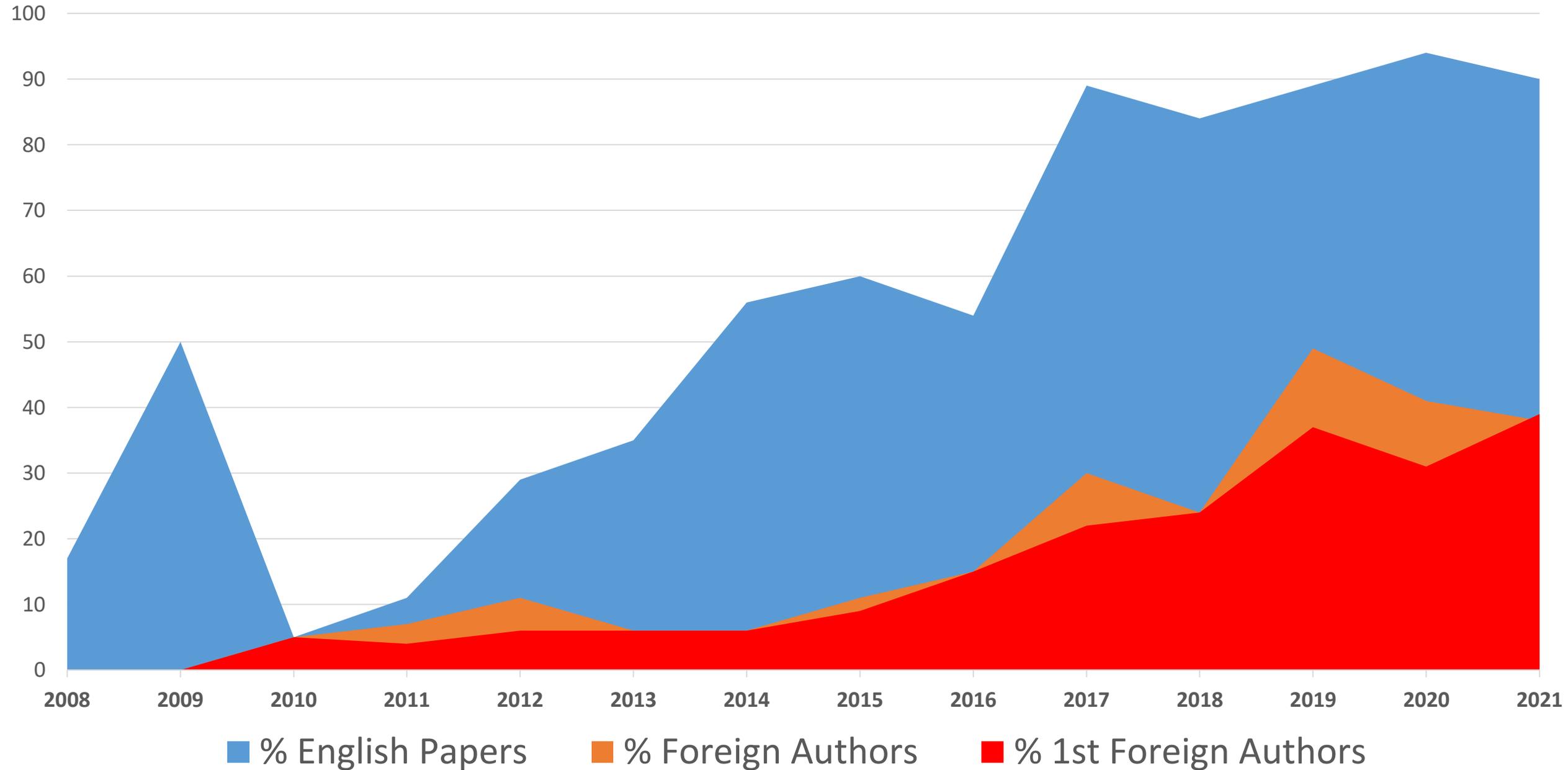
# Papers Based on PAIRFAM Data 2008 - 2021



# Papers Published in English



# Percent of Authors from Foreign Institutions



# PAIRFAM

has found its place  
in the international scientific community

- Nauck, Bernhard, Nicolai Groepler & Chin-Chun Yi. (2017). How Kinship Systems and Welfare Regimes Shape Leaving Home: A Comparative Study of the United States, Germany, Taiwan, and China. *Demographic Research*, 36 (38), 1109-1148.
- Nauck, Bernhard, & Qiang Ren. (2018). Coresidence in the Transition to Adulthood: The Case of the United States, Germany, Taiwan and Mainland China. *Chinese Review of Sociology* 50 (4), 443-473.
- Fulda, Barbara E., Bernhard Nauck & Qiang Ren (2019). The Transition to Adulthood in China, Germany and the USA: Prevalence and Timing in Private and Professional Life. *Chinese Journal of Sociology*, 5 (2), 193-213.
- Nauck, Bernhard & Qiang Ren (2021): Coresidence with kin and subjective well-being in the transition to adulthood: A comparison of the United States, Germany, Japan, and China, *Chinese Journal of Sociology* 7 (1), 22 - 47.
- Nauck, Bernhard (2021): Cross-cultural Perspectives in Family Research, in: Michaela Kreyenfeld & Norbert F. Schneider (Eds.), *Research Handbook on Sociology of the Family*. Cheltenham, UK: Edward Elgar, 42 - 59.



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