

Partnership Development and Dynamics: Evidence from *pairfam*

Franz J. Neyer

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Overview

pairfam's Output

- Publications, Impact, Citations

Hot Topics

- Formation, Economic Factors, Sexuality, Personality, Separation

Lessons Learned

- Fresh Views, New Insights, Future Directions

Conclusion

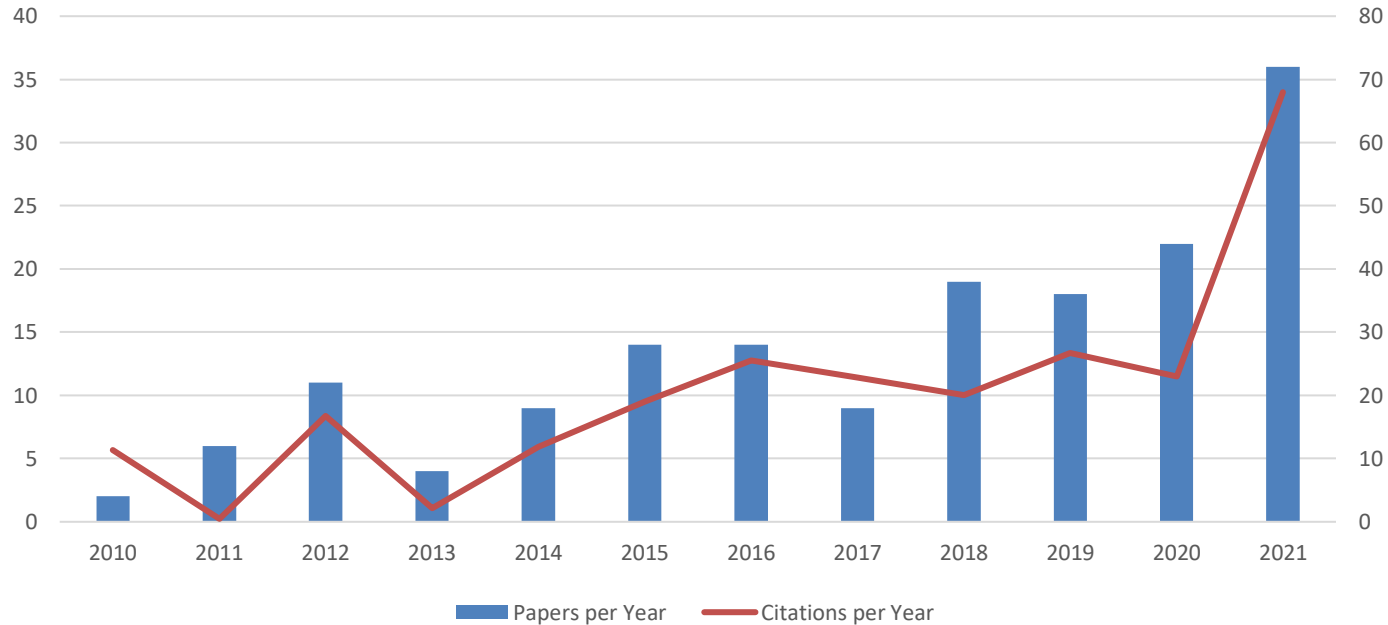
- *pairfam*'s World

***pairfam*'s Output (Partner Relationships)**

166 publications since 2010

131 publications in SSCI journals

Publications & Citations (Partner Relationships)



Publications on Partner Relationships

Most Frequent Outlets (Partner Relationships)

Outlets with ≥ 3 Papers on Partner Relationships		
N papers	Outlet	Impact
10	Demographic Research	2,05
9	Advances in Life Course Research	2,39
8	European Journal of Population	3,11
7	Journal of Marriage and Family	3,90
6	Journal of Family Research	0,41
5	European Sociological Review	2,96
5	Kölner Zeitschrift für Sozialpsychologie und Soziologie	0,82
4	European Journal of Personality	5,84
4	Journal of Social and Personal Relationships	3,04
4	Journal of Family Psychology	2,69
3	Personality and Social Psychology Bulletin	4,38
3	Developmental Psychology	3,85
3	Family Relations	3,08
3	Social Science Research	2,32
Discipline: Sociology Psychology Mixed		

Other Outlets (Partner Relationships)

Sociology:

- **Demography (3,98), Population, Space and Place (3,81), Population and Development Review (3,43), European Societies (2,92), Population Studies (2,40), Chinese Sociological Review (2,08)**

Psychology:

- **Journal of Personality and Social Psychology (7,67), Journal of Personality (5,12), Social Psychology and Personality Science (4,45) ...**

Mixed:

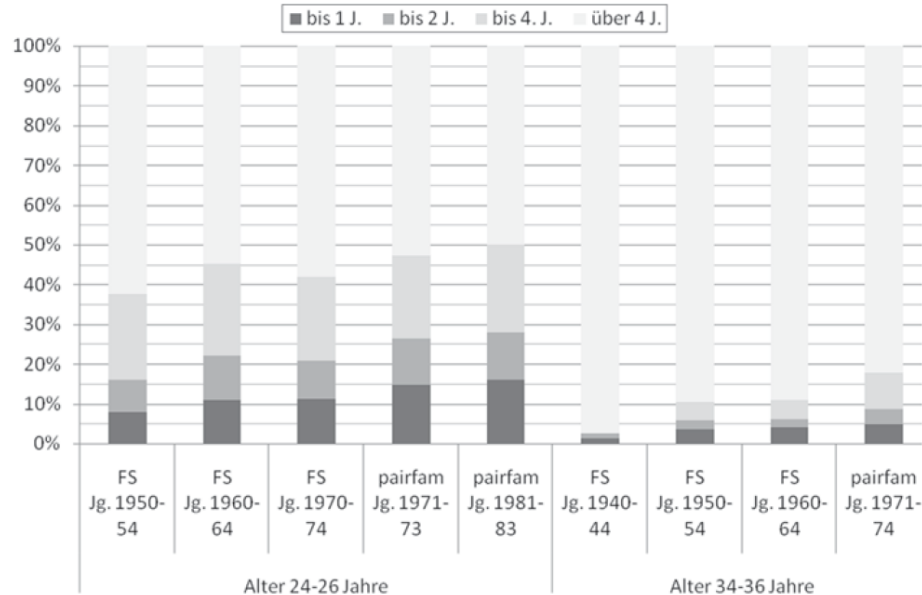
- **Proceedings of the National Academy of Science (11,00), The Journal of Sex Research (5,14), Archives of Sexual Behavior (4,51), Journal of Youth and Adolescence (4,38), Journal of Happiness Studies (3,85), Housing Studies (3,51), Journal of Youth Studies (2,59), Human Nature (2,44) ...**

Hot Topics: Formation

Social Change in Pair Bonding and Partnership Initiation?

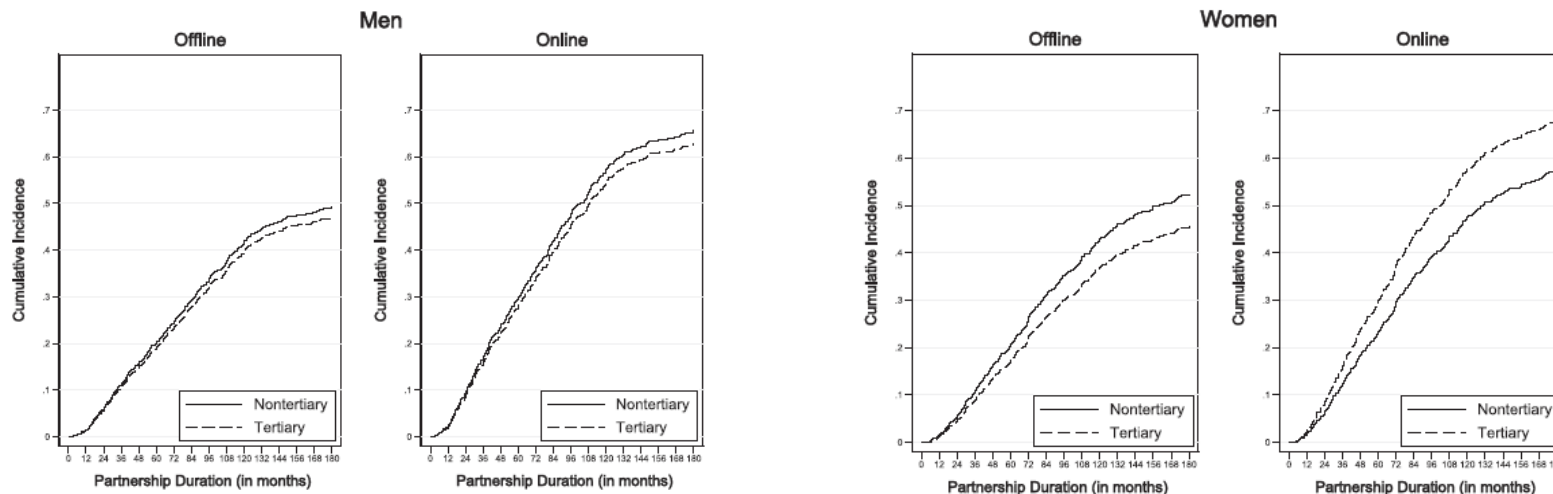
Hot Topics: Formation I

Eckhard (2015). Abnehmende Bindungsquoten in Deutschland. *Kölner Zeitschrift für Soziologie und Sozialpsychologie*.



Hot Topics: Formation II

Potarca (2021). Online Dating is Shifting Educational Inequalities in Marriage Formation in Germany. *Demography*.



Hot Topics: Economic Factors

Do economic resources or psychological characteristics predict division of housework? Or both?

Hot Topics: Economic Factors I

Nitsche & Grunow (2016). Housework over the course of relationships. Gender ideology, resources, and the division of housework from a growth-curve perspective. *Advances in Life Course Research*.

Estimated multilevel LGMs of division of housework trajectories (5 *pairfam* waves; 774 couples).

Found that egalitarian gender ideology of both partners predicts more egalitarian division-trajectories, while neither absolute nor relative economic resources matter.

Hot Topics: Economic Factors II

Stauder & Röhlke (2022). The partner market as a resource in couples' bargaining on housework division. *Journal of Marriage and Family*.

Studied the relative effect of higher number of alternative partners (e.g., local sex ratio) and economic resources (i.e., income) on the bargaining process (8 *pairfam* waves, 4,848 couples, loglinear RE models).

Found that a favourable partner market position is beneficial for one's bargaining position when he/she is economically more attractive than his/her partner!

Hot Topics: Sexuality

Can people be sexually satisfied when not being in a stable relationship?

How does sexual satisfaction change over the course of partner relationships?

Hot Topics: Sexuality I

Park et al. (2021). Singles' Sexual Satisfaction is Associated With More Satisfaction With Singlehood and Less Interest in Marriage. *Personality and Social Psychology Bulletin*.

Sexual satisfaction predicts satisfaction with singlehood and less desire for partner (cross-sectional, controlling for life satisfaction & sexual frequency).

But singles higher in sexual satisfaction are less likely to remain single throughout the following years.

Hot Topics: Sexuality II

Schmiedenberg et al. (2016, 2017). *Archives of Sexual Behavior*.

Sexual satisfaction steadily declines after first year of relationship – controlling for sexual frequency and other covariates such as health, intimacy, and conflict styles (2,814 participants, *pairfam* waves 2-4).

Intraindividual changes in sexual frequency and satisfaction correlated with changes in life satisfaction (5,582 participants; *pairfam* waves 2-6).

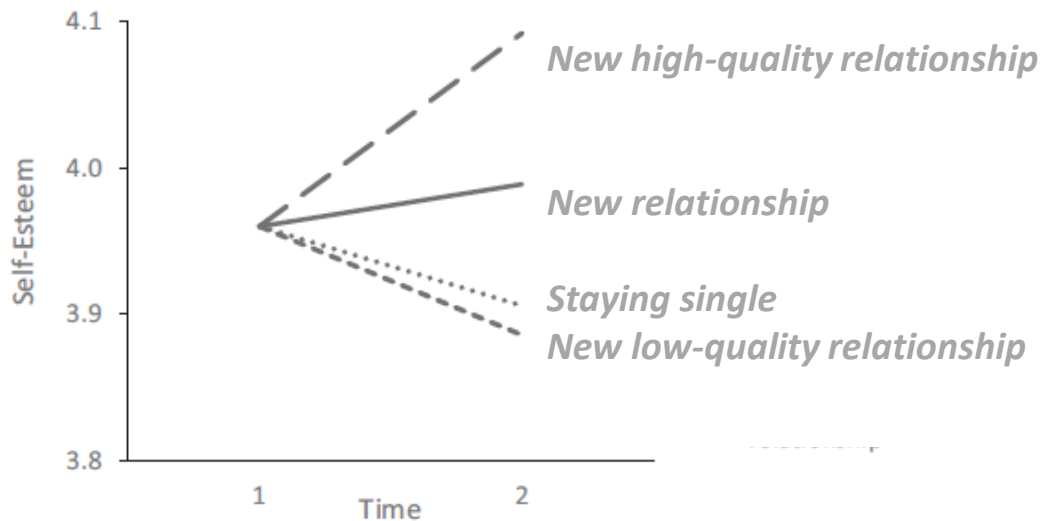
Hot Topics: Personality

Do personality traits predict relationship transitions and change in response to them?

How do personality traits influence relationship quality and stability?

Hot Topics: Personality I

Luciano & Orth (2017). Transitions in Romantic Relationships and Development of Self-Esteem. *Journal of Personality and Social Psychology*.



Hot Topics: Personality II

Kreuzer & Gollwitzer (2021). Neuroticism and satisfaction in romantic relationships. *European Journal of Personality*.

Longitudinal Actor-Partner-Interdependence Mediation Models (APIMeM) over 3 subsequent *pairfam* waves ($N = 2,090$ couples).

Effects of Neuroticism on later dissatisfaction are mediated by intra- and interpersonal processes (i.e., cognitive, emotional, behavioral).

Most consistent effects for cognitive processes (i.e., hostile attributions).

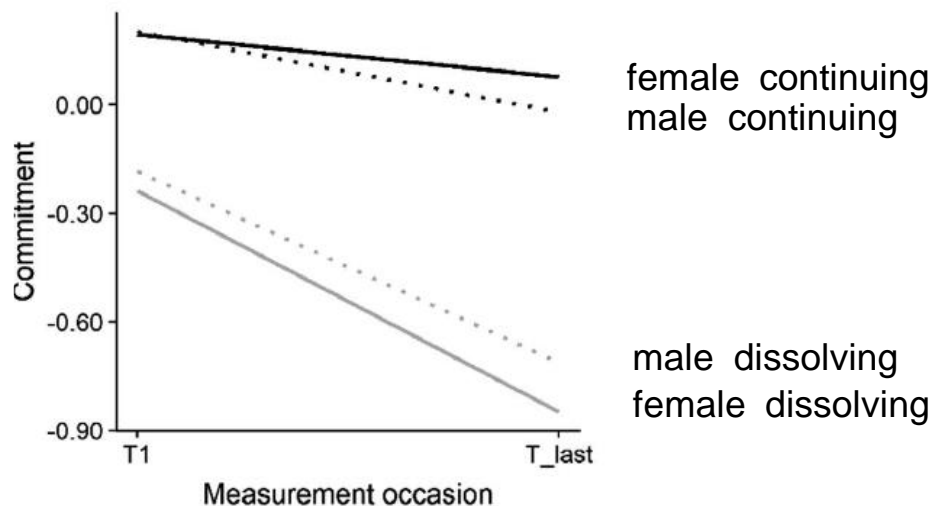
Hot Topics: Separation

What predicts separation?

Accumulating distress and/or increasing discrepancies?

Hot Topics: Separation

Finn et al. (2020). Happily (N)ever After? Codevelopment of Romantic Partners in Continuing and Dissolving Unions. *Developmental Psychology*.



Lessons Learned: Fresh Views

Apples Don't Fall Far From the Tree?

Birds of a Feather Flock Together?

Lessons Learned: Fresh Views I

Hiekel & Vidal (2020). Childhood family structure and complexity in partnership courses. *Social Science Research*.

Alternative family structure in childhood may have an impact on complex patterns of partnerships in adulthood (as shadow of the past vs. turning point).

Determined „cumulative index of partnership complexity“ (i.e., first dissolution followed by further transitions in/out or across unions) using retrospective & prospective data of 1,402 participants (9 *pairfam* waves).

Multivariate regression models predict occurrence and levels of complexity by alternative family structure in childhood (i.e., single parent, stepfamily).

Lessons Learned: Fresh Views II

Arránz-Becker (2012). Effects of similarity of life goals, values, and personality on relationship satisfaction and stability. *Personal Relationships*.

Investigated whether „Birds of a feather flock together“ based on the first 2 *pairfam* waves (3,674 couples) using dyadic profile analyses.

Substantiated that individual characteristics predict outcomes better than dyadic similarity.

Lessons Learned: New Insights

Parental Leave and Relationship Satisfaction after the 2007 Reform?

Loneliness as Predictor rather than Outcome?

Lessons Learned: New Insights I

Goldacker et al. (2022). Shared leave, happier parent couples?
European Journal of Social Policy.

Studied effects of (1) parental leave duration and (2) 2007 parental leave reform on relationship satisfaction (N > 1,000 *pairfam* couples).

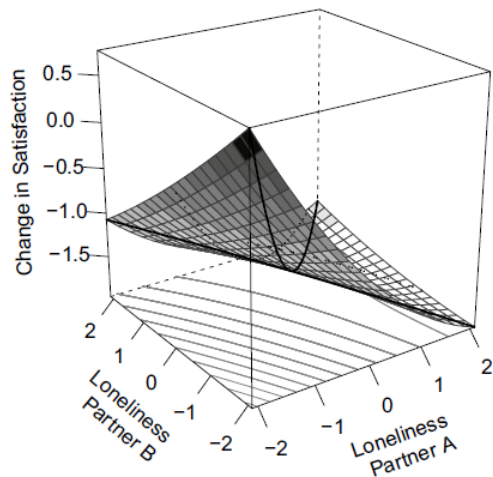
Both partners' relationship satisfaction decrease with increasing duration of solo maternal leave.

However, the 2007 reform was associated with higher mothers' relationship satisfaction – driven primarily by the reduction in mothers' solo leave duration but not by the increase in fathers' leave.

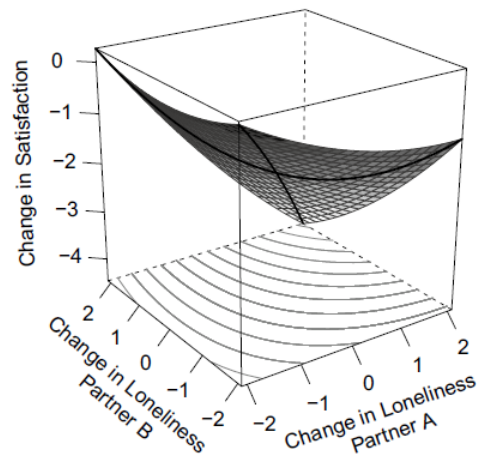
Lessons Learned: New Insights II

Mund & Johnson (2021). Lonely me, lonely you. *Journal of Happiness Studies*.

Similarity and Change in Satisfaction



Change in Loneliness and Change in Satisfaction



Lessons Learned: Future Directions

Cross-level Interactions?

Social Network Perspectives?

Lessons Learned: Future Directions I

Obersneider et al. (2019). Regional Sex Ratio and the Dissolution of Relationships in Germany. *European Journal of Population*.

Studied micro-level (satisfaction, norms, investments) and macro-level effects (regional sex ratio) on partnership dissolution.

Conducted discrete-time multilevel event-history analysis (6 *pairfam* waves; retro- and prospective data on 14,101 relationships).

Found more evidence for micro-level effects, no evidence for cross-level interaction!

Lessons Learned: Future Directions II

Rözer et al. (2018). Families' Division of Labour and Social Networks in the 21st century. Revisiting Elizabeth Bott's Classical Hypothesis. *Journal of Family Issues*.

Studied reciprocal effects between social network variables and couples' division of labour (CLP models, *pairfam* waves 2-4; N = 2,477).

Social network indicators predict the division of labour. But stronger effects were found for the reverse!

Conclusions: *pairfam*'s World

- ...is greater than the sum of its parts.
- ...remains unexplored beyond the mainstream.
- ...will continue to set new directions of couple research.

Conclusions: *pairfam*'s World

Thanks to the *pairfam* team for many years of cooperation!