

# **PARENTAL SEPARATION, RE-PARTNERING AND CHILD(REN)'S LIVING CONDITIONS**

**(FIRST ANALYSES)**

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# MOTIVATION

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- decreased stability of marriages since 1960
- more children affected by divorces and separations
- more re-partnering and step-families

research questions:

1) re-partnering: Which family patterns and relationship constellations follow a separation or divorce?

2) children's living conditions: How does children's place of residence change after a separation or divorce?

Motivation

# RE-PARTNERING – ASSUMPTIONS

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Assumptions

- age: negative effect
- resources: positive effect
- number of children in household: negative effect
- sex: positive effect of being male
- with increasing time, re-partnering more frequent

Data and  
Method

Findings

Summary

# RE-PARTNERING – DATA

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- data
  - pairfam (“Panel Analysis of Intimate Relationships and Family Dynamics”) – release 5.0 (incl. DemoDiff), since 2008/09
    - cohorts: 1971-73, 1981-83, 1991-93
    - yearly interviews; wave 1: approx. 14.000 interviewees
  - FiD (“Familien in Deutschland” / “Families in Germany”) – release 4.0, since 2010
    - family forms: single parents, large families, low income families, child’s birth cohort (2007-2010)
    - yearly interviews; wave 1: approx. 4.500 households
- sample
  - interviewees living with partner and child(ren) in 1<sup>st</sup> interview, participating at least twice and reporting a separation or divorce until end of observation period;  $n_{\text{pairfam}}=261$  (anchors);  $n_{\text{FiD}}=167$  (interviewees)

# RE-PARTNERING – DATA

*Table 1: Socio-demographic characteristics, 1<sup>st</sup> interview*

	<b>pairfam (n=261)</b>	<b>FiD (n=167)</b>
<i>married couples</i>	72,5	54,6
with biological children	82,7	92,2
with at least 1 step-child	17,3	7,8
<i>cohabiting couples</i>	27,5	45,4
with biological children	62,3	68,3
with at least 1 step-child	37,7	28,2
with foster children	0	3,4
<i>% women</i>	58,5	72,0
<i>% families with 3+ children</i>	17,3	24,3

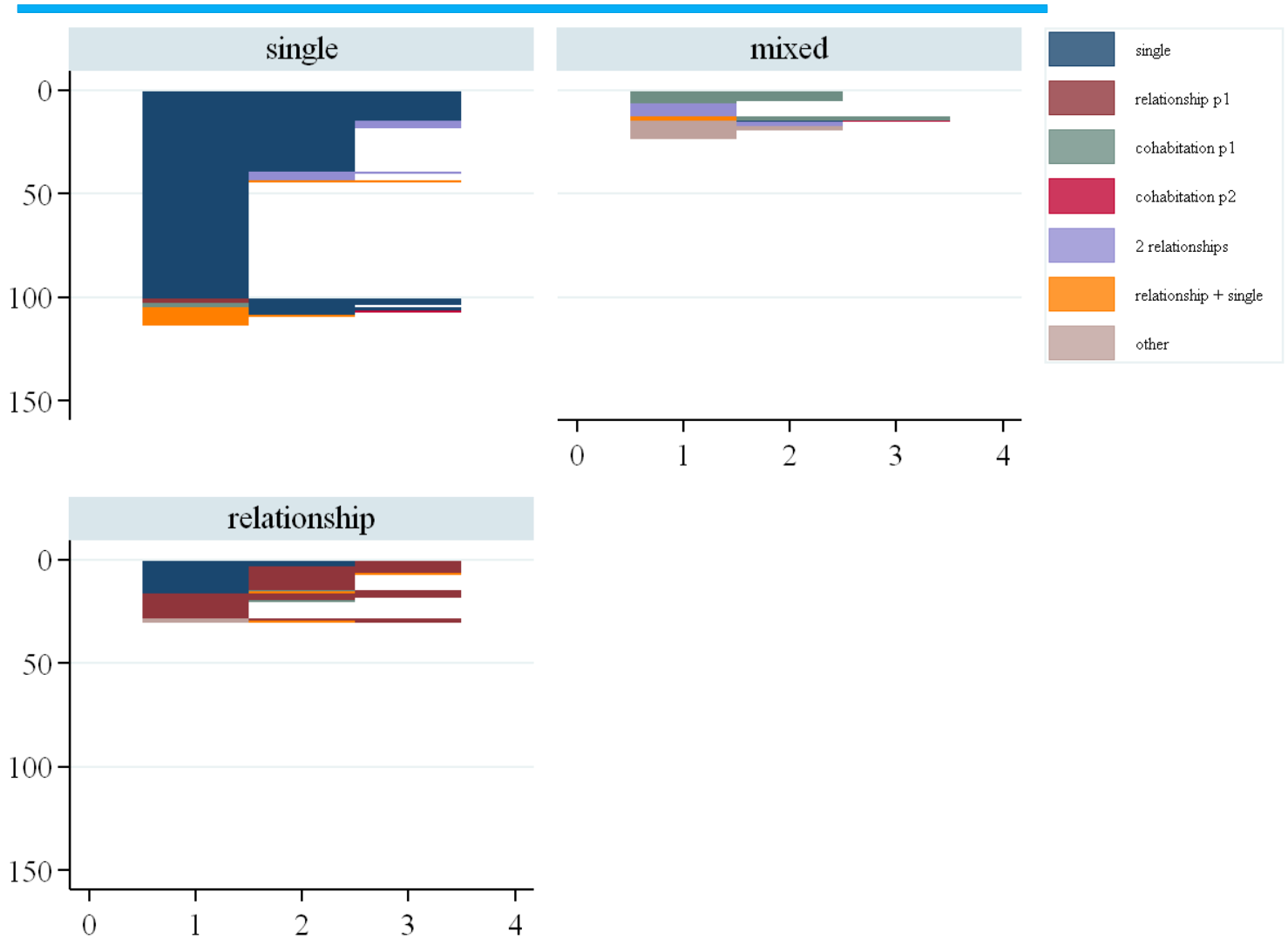
pairfam Release 5.0 & FiD Release 4.0; own calculations; weighted

# RE-PARTNERING – METHOD

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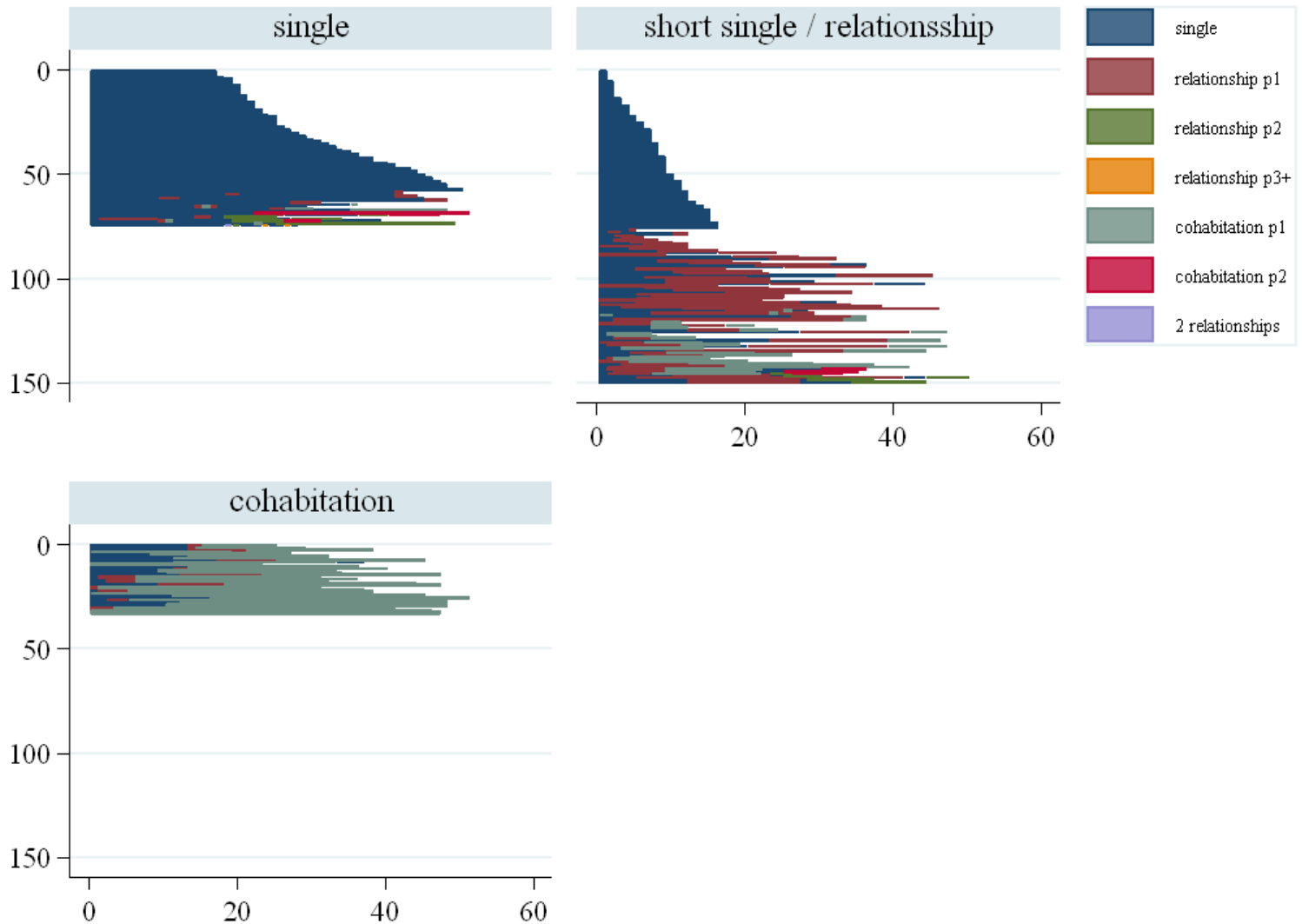
- sequence analysis
  - sequence: ordered list of elements, e.g. relationship status
  - sequences are the entity of analysis
  - description, visualization, comparison & grouping
- operationalization
  - spell data: monthly (pairfam) / yearly (FiD) after separation
  - relationship status:
    - single
    - relationship plus partner number after separation
    - cohabitation plus partner number after separation
    - missing information
    - double information for spells with two status information
    - other for spells with three status information
- analysis: stata – sq package

# RE-PARTNERING – FINDINGS – FiD data



FiD Release 4.0; own calculations

# RE-PARTNERING – FINDINGS – pairfam data



pairfam Release 5.0; own calculations



# CHILDREN'S LIVING SITUATION – ASSUMPTIONS

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- changes: usually one change in living situation after separation
- number of residences: children have one residence
- parent's sex: children live more often with mother than with father or both parents
- kinship: children live with biological parent, not step-parent

# CHILDREN'S LIVING SITUATION – DATA

- data
  - pairfam – release 5.0 (incl. DemoDiff), since 2008/09
- sample
  - children living with anchor who lives with partner, participates at least twice and reports a separation or divorce until end of observation period; anchor information about children;  $n_{\text{children}}=477$

Table 2: Children's (socio-demographic) characteristics, 1<sup>st</sup> interview

<i>mean number children/household (sd)</i>	2,2 (0,1)
<i>mean age (sd)</i>	6,3 (0,4)
<i>% female</i>	55,8
<i>% changes after separation (without missings)</i>	
no change	9,6
1 change	86,3
2 changes	4,2

# CHILDREN'S LIVING SITUATION – METHOD

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- sequence analysis

- operationalization

- available data: for every interview after separation

- children's living situation (according to anchor)

mother

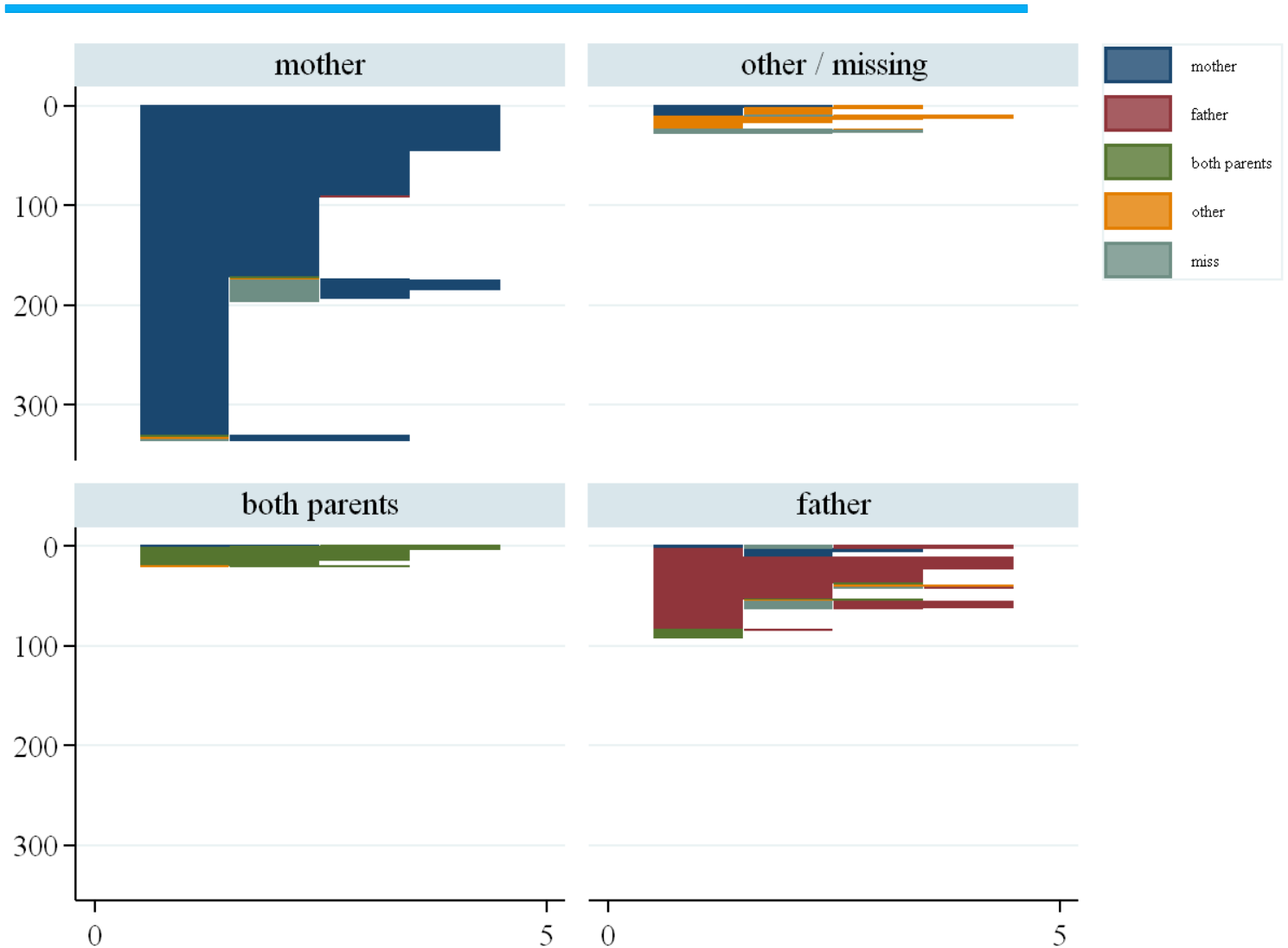
father

both parents

other (with anchor + own flat / with anchor + other relatives  
/ with anchor + institution / with anchor + other / only own  
flat or flat-sharing / only institution / only other)

missing (including child deceased)

# CHILDREN'S LIVING SITUATION – FINDINGS



# SUMMARY

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- re-partnering
  - both data sets: single & relationship cluster; only pairfam: cohabitation cluster
  - younger interviewees more often in relationship / cohabitation
  - interviewees with low income more often single & cohabiting
  - no effect children
  - women more often single
  - influence of time differs between pairfam & FiD
- children's living conditions
  - most children change residence once
  - most children live only with mother
  - more children live only with father than with both parents
  - children live with biological parent

Motivation

# NEXT STEPS

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Assumptions

Data and  
Method

Findings

Summary

- re-partnering
  - FiD data in monthly timeslots
  - sequence analysis for both data sets simultaneously
  - regression on clusters
  - analyze relationship history from age 16 until separation
- children's living conditions
  - account for siblings
  - regression analyses

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# APPENDIX – METHOD

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- specifications for sequence analysis:
  - optimal matching: Needleman-Wunsch algorithm, indel cost=1, substitution cost=2
  - cluster method: Ward
  - selection on cluster number: combination of Calinski-Harabasz pseudo-F index and Duda-Hart  $Je(2)/Je(1)$  index