

## The Changing Social Selectivity of Living Together in West Germany – A Cohort-Related Analysis of Cumulated Microcensuses

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### Main Research Questions

- (1) Does the proportion of persons living together with a partner decrease?
- (2) Is living together with a partner social selective? Does it change?

### Theoretical Background

- Economics of the family:
- reduced incentives to marry, but still strong incentives to live together
  - improved employment prospects for women, less traditional division of labour

### Data Base

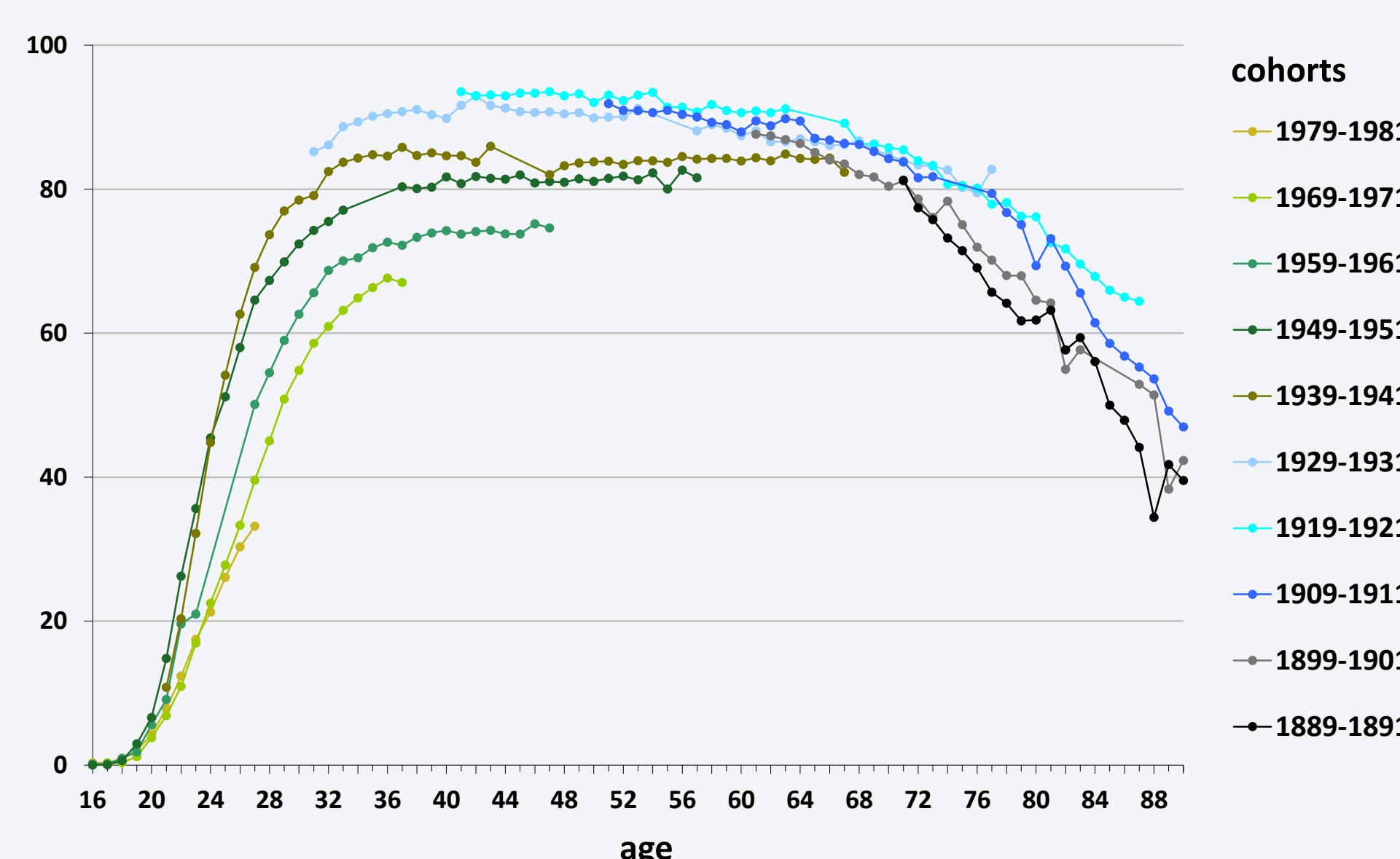
- GESIS-Microcensus Trendfile, 1962-2006
- birth cohorts from 1870 onwards
- Germans, living in West-Germany, aged 16-92 (sample size  $\cong$  10 million)

### (1) Trends in Living Together with a Partner – Across the Life Course of Cohorts

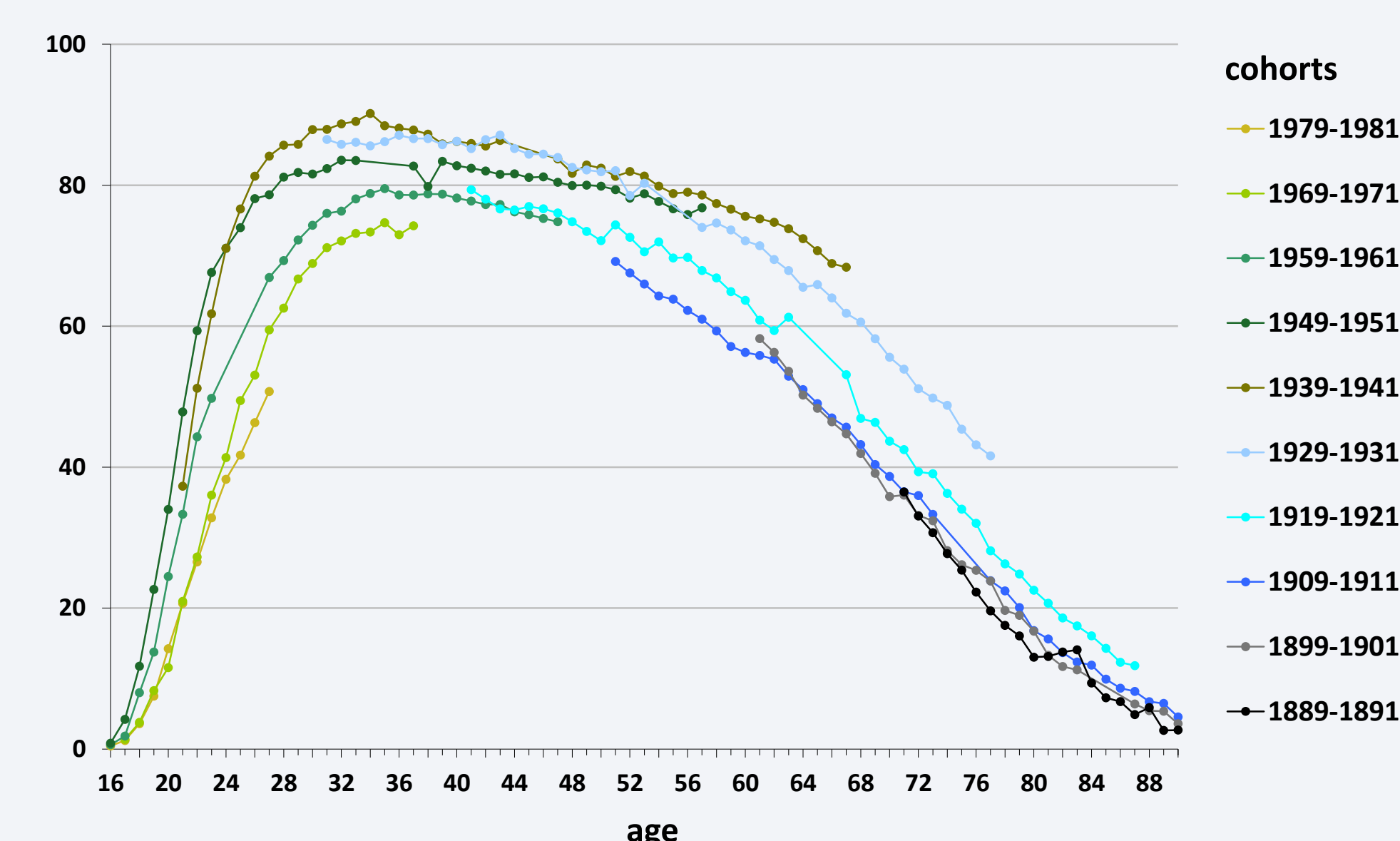
Living together with a partner shows ...

- a falling trend in younger ages, indicating that union formation is postponed
- a falling trend in middle adulthood, indicating that union formation is decreasing and/or union dissolution is increasing
- a rising trend in old age, in particular for women, as a result of unbalanced sex ratios in the cohorts affected by Second World War and more balanced sex ratios in younger cohorts

Proportion of **men** living together with a partner, by age and cohort (in %)



Proportion of **women** living together with a partner, by age and cohort (in %)

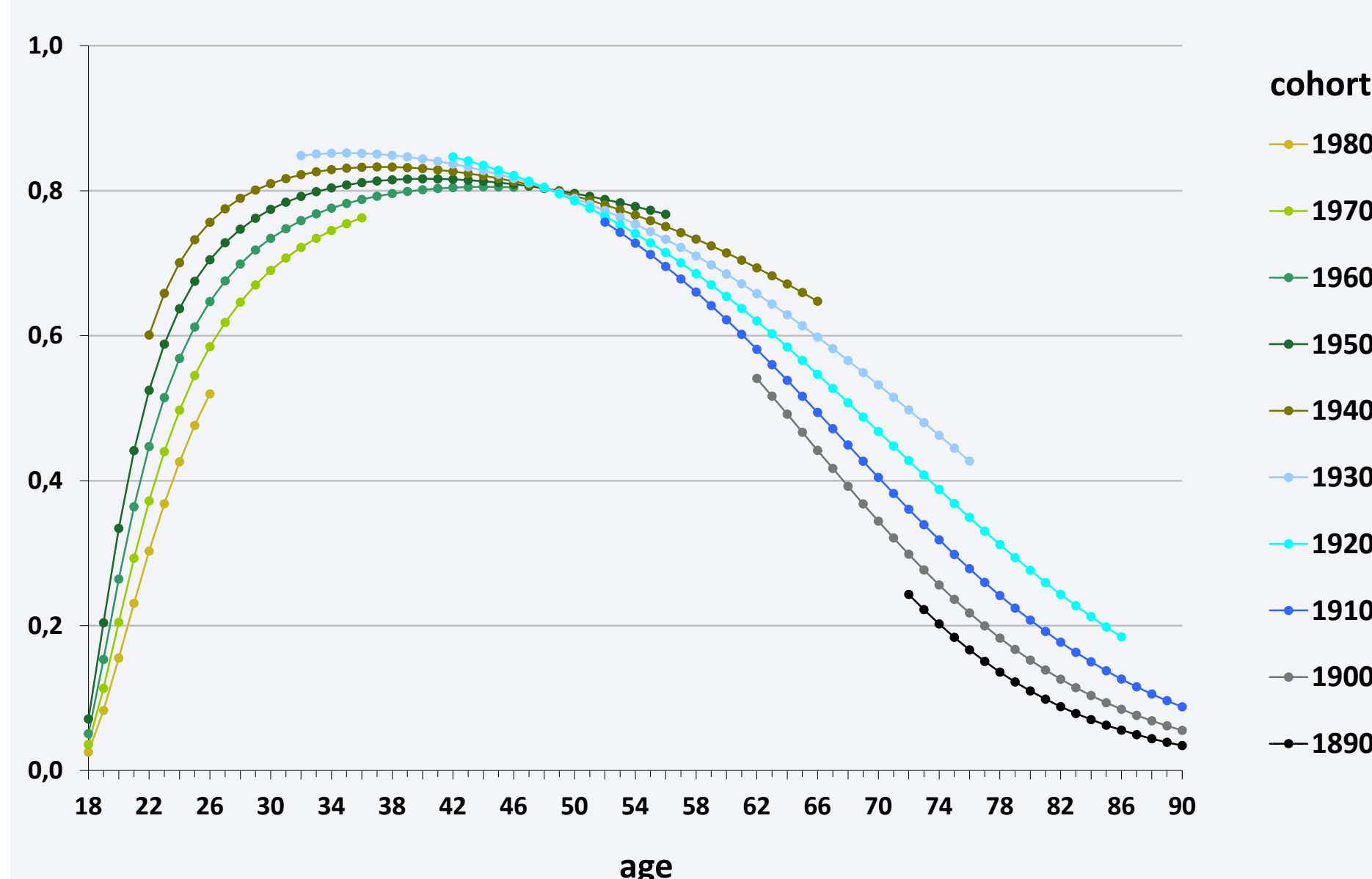


### (2) Social Selective Patterns of Living Together with a Partner

#### Logistic Regression Modelling

- age and logarithm of age to model the sickle-shaped trend of living with a partner over the life course
- cohort and interaction of age and cohort to model the age-specific trend in living with a partner over the cohorts

Predicted probability of **women** living together with a partner, by age and cohort



#### Effects of Education

**Men:** low impact of education, relatively low odds of living together with a partner only for those without qualification

**Women:** clear negative effect of education

Living together with a partner: effects of education ( $\beta$ -coefficients)

	men	women
without vocational education	-0,51*	-0,15*
elementary education and vocational training	0	0
intermediate general education and vocational training	-0,02	-0,27*
general maturity certificate and vocational training	-0,15*	-0,44*
technician / master craftsman	0,24*	-0,44*
lower tertiary education	0,10*	-0,62*
higher tertiary education	-0,10*	-0,64*
still in school / training	-1,13*	-1,70*
Nagelkerke R <sup>2</sup>	0,38	0,32

\* p<0,001

#### Changes in Effects of Education

**Men:** effects of education remain rather stable over the cohorts

**Women:** slight change in the educational effects over the cohorts, greatest decrease in the odds among women without qualification

Predicted probability of **women** living with a partner, age 35, by education and cohort

