

The Influence of Occupation on Fertility

Katharina Lutz (Maul)
University of Frankfurt

How does the occupation effect family formation?

Previous research

The effect of occupation on fertility:

Begall/ Mills (2012) for the Netherlands

Bagavos (2010) for Greece

Ekert-Jaffeé et al. (2002) for France and the UK

The effect of field of study on fertility:

Låppegard/ Ronsen (2005) for Norway

Hoem et al. (2006) and Tesching (2012) for Sweden

Martin-Garcia/ Baizan (2006) for Spain

Neyer (2009) for Austria

Theoretical Considerations

Sociology of the Life course:

Life domains interact with each other.

Social Production Function:

Individuals strive for subjective well-being.

Interdependence of Life Domains

Subjective well-being

Physical well-being

Social approval

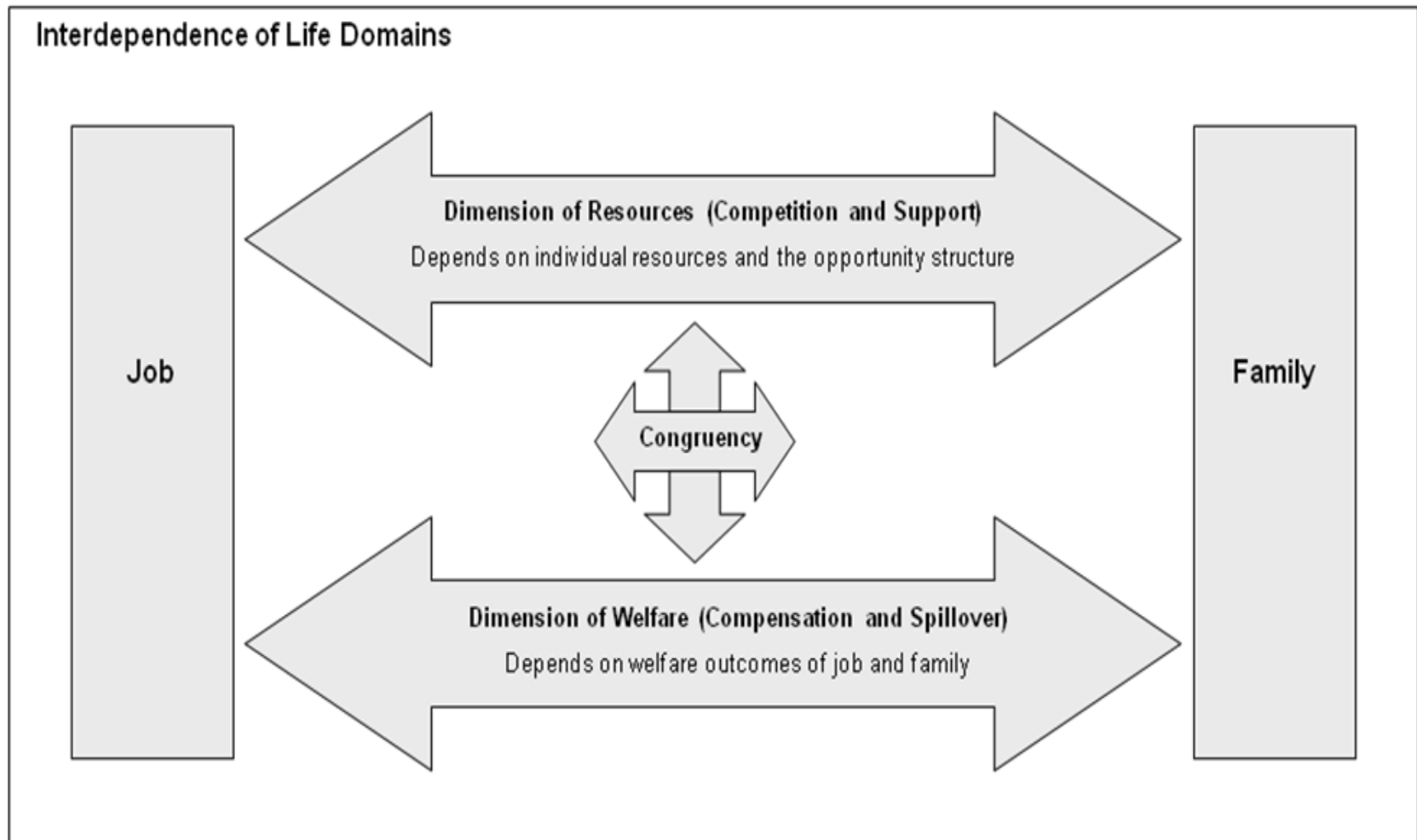
Comfort & Stimulation

Social status, behavioral confirmation & affection

gained by e.g. food, housing, income, challenging job, children

gained by e.g. partnership, children, occupational prestige, income

Interdependence of Life Domains



Hypotheses

*Hypothesis 1: The better the reconciliation in a certain occupation and thus the lower the interdependence of **competition**, the higher is the probability for family formation.*

Hypothesis 2: Earning potentials for women effect family formation negatively (opportunity costs).

*Hypothesis 3: The welfare production in the occupation correlates negatively with family formation (**compensation**).*

*Hypothesis 4: The connection between the occupation and family development is influenced by individual attitudes (**congruency**).*

Hypothesis 5: The level of education exceeds the effect of the occupation.

Data and Method

Data:

German Life History Study (GLHS)

Retrospective employment and family history

1971 cohort

Aggregate variables on job characteristics from IAB and BIBB

Method:

Cluster analysis according to job characteristics

Event history analysis to first births:

How does the job cluster influence first birth?

How does the effect change when controlling for level of education?

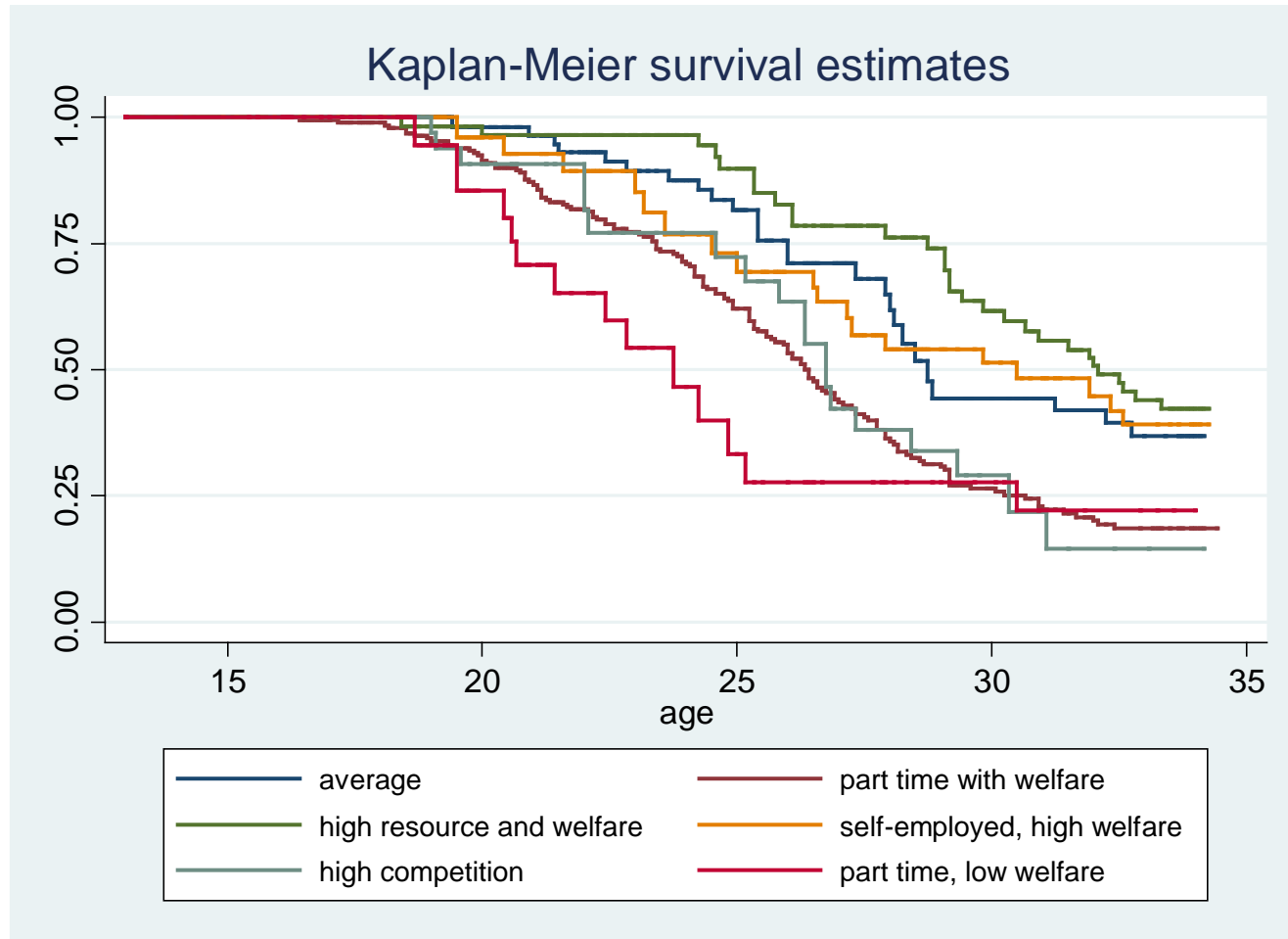
Simultaneous modeling of being in a job and transition to first birth:

Are there selective groups in job cluster?

Occupational Clusters

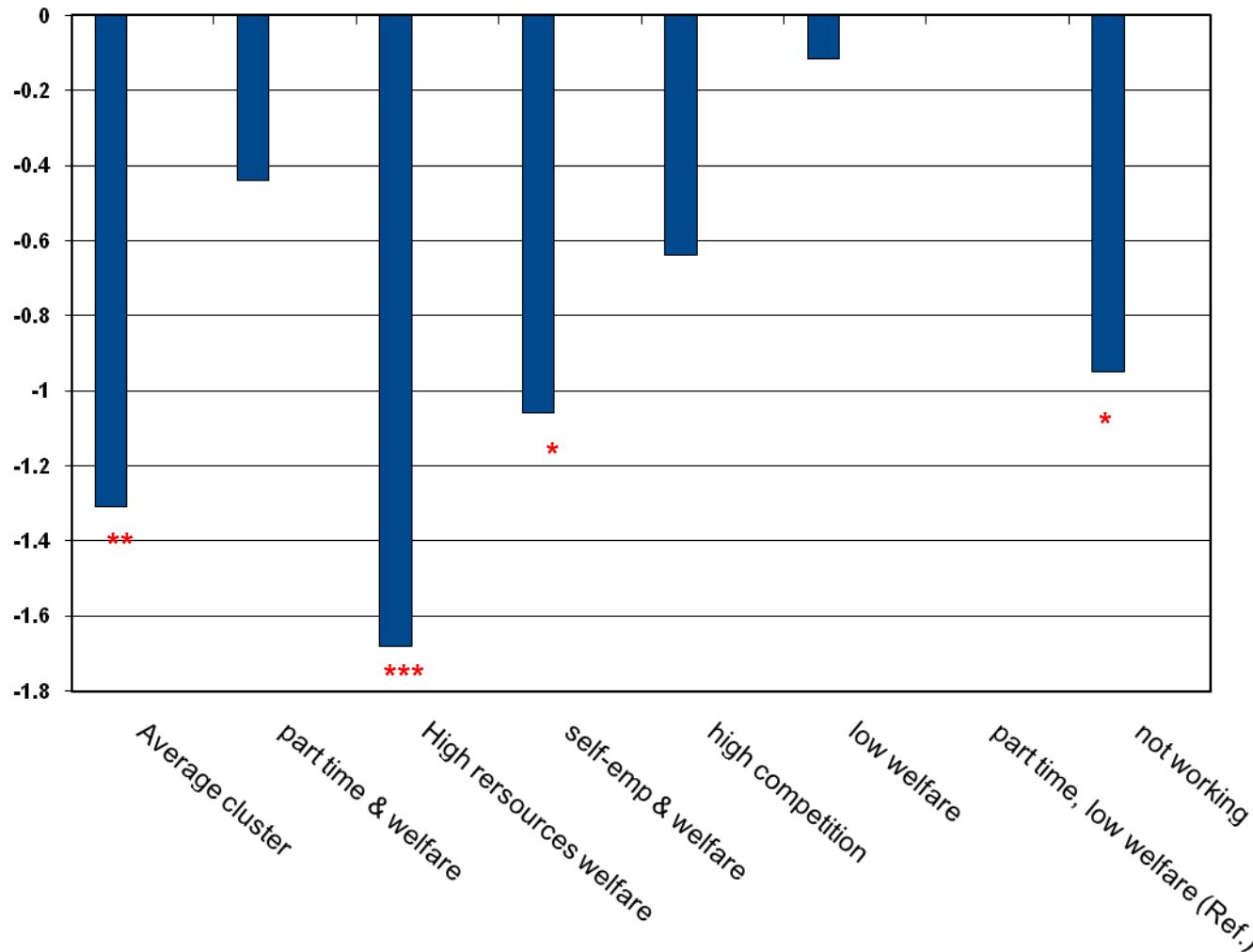
- 1 - Average Occupations (average resources and welfare gains)
 - 2 - Part time & welfare (few working hours & income and good welfare)
 - 3 - High resources & welfare (high income and good welfare)
 - 4 - Self-employed & welfare (high income and good welfare)
 - 5 - Self-employed & low welfare
 - 6 - High competition (unfavorable working time & average welfare)
 - 7 - Low welfare (average resources & low welfare)
 - 8 - Low resources, low welfare
 - 9 - Low support (low income & average welfare)
 - 10 - Part time & low welfare (few working hours & income and low welfare)
- } Academics

Transition to first births



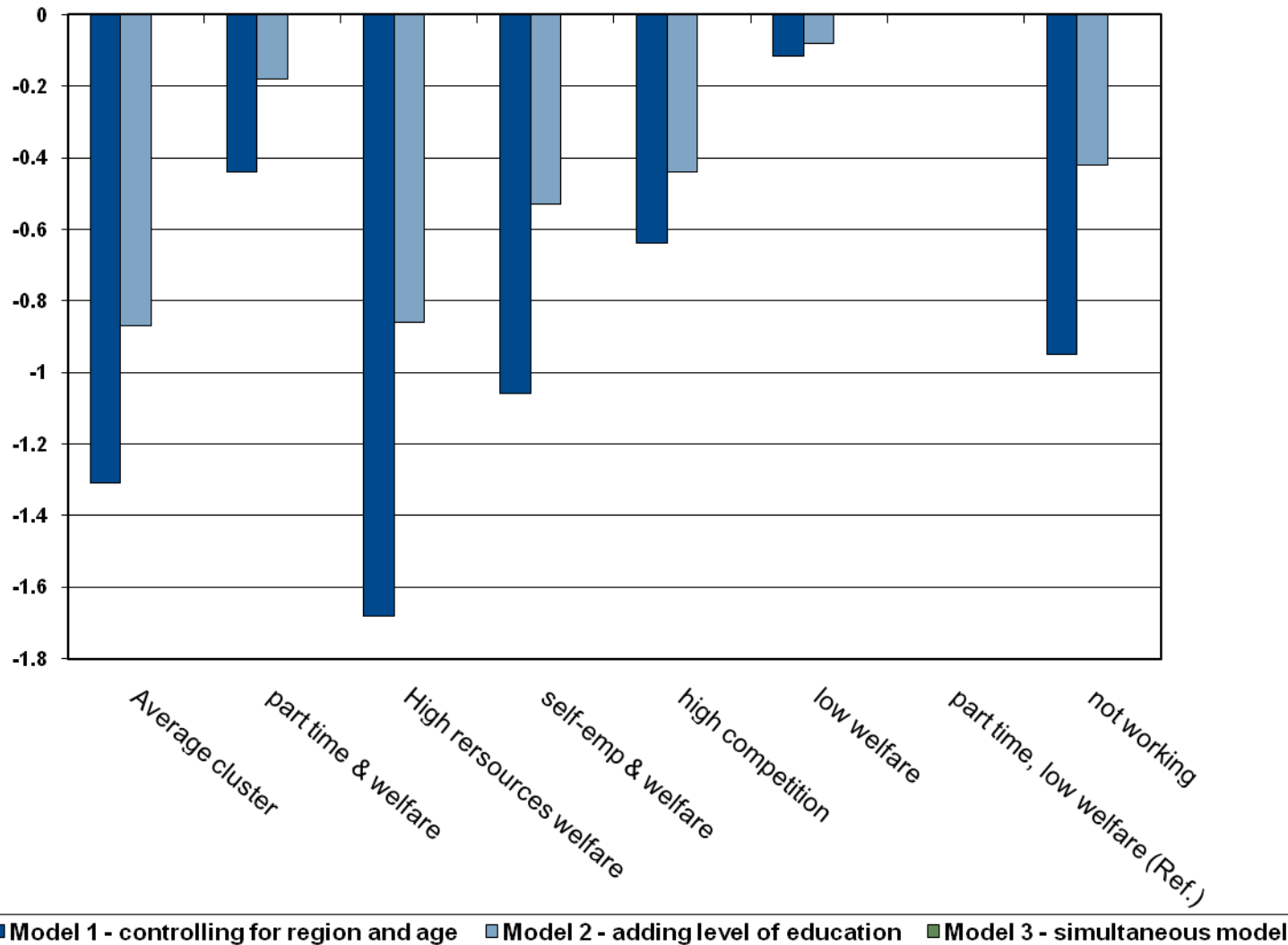
Source: GLHS, cohort 1971, own estimations

Transition to first births

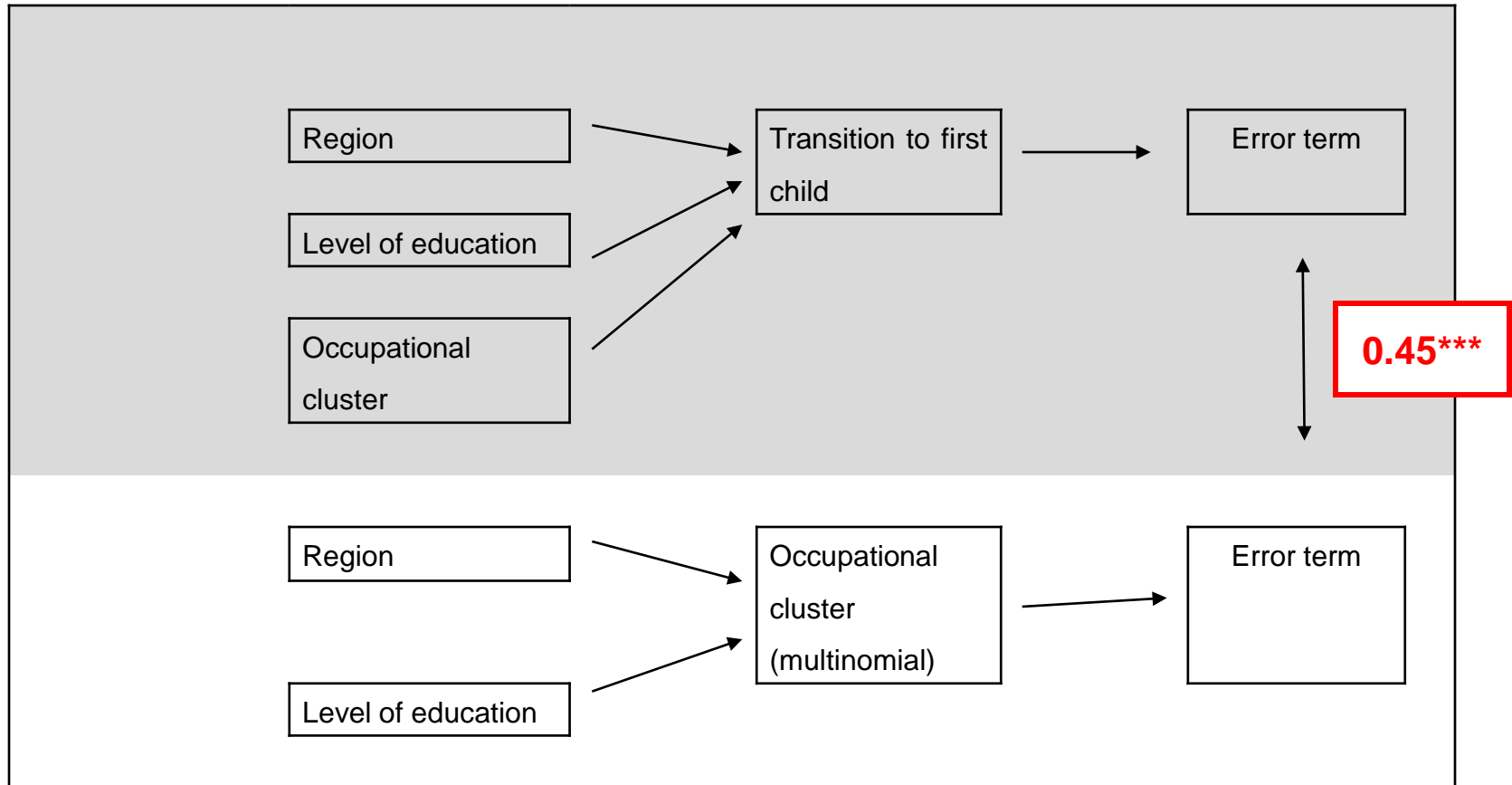


■ Model 1 - controlling for region and age ■ Model 2 - adding level of education ■ Model 3 - simultaneous model

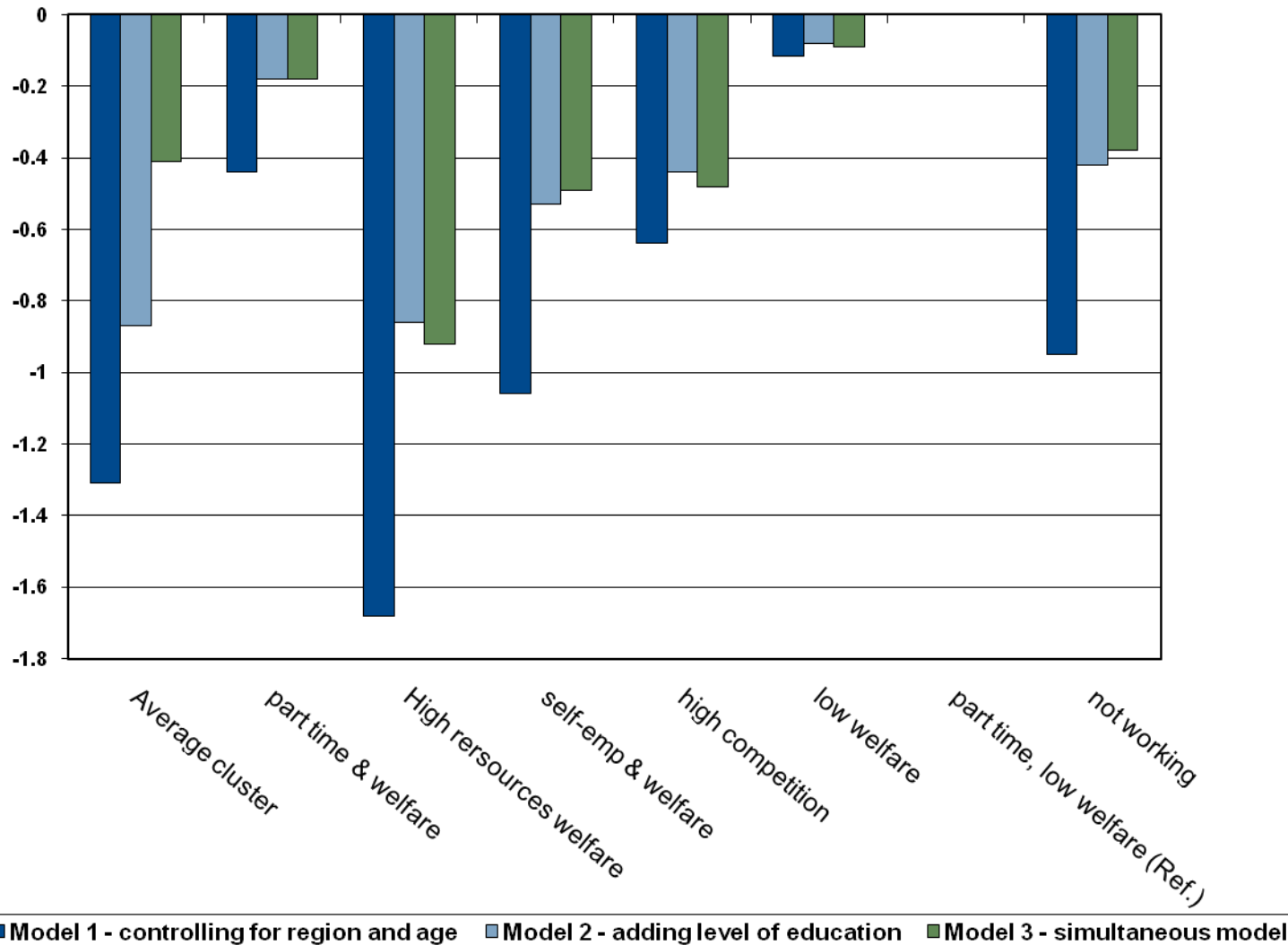
Transition to first births



Simultaneous Equation



Transition to first births



Conclusion

Findings:

- **Compensation processes between job and family**
- **Effect of occupation on fertility is minor compared to other countries**
- **Level of education exceeds occupation effect**
- **Selection into occupational groups**

Thank you for your attention.

k.lutz@soz.uni-frankfurt.de