



MAX-PLANCK-INSTITUT
FÜR DEMOGRAFISCHE
FORSCHUNG

MAX PLANCK INSTITUTE
FOR DEMOGRAPHIC
RESEARCH

The Changing Importance of Women's Labor Market Position for Union Formation

*Evidence from European Cohorts Born between the 1940s and the
1980s*

André Grow, Laboratory of Digital and Computational Demography, MPIDR
Jan Van Bavel, Unit Family and Population Studies, KU Leuven
Barcelona, February 07, 2020



European Research Council

Established by the European Commission





Changes in women's economic role



Increasing educational advantage



Increasing labor force participation



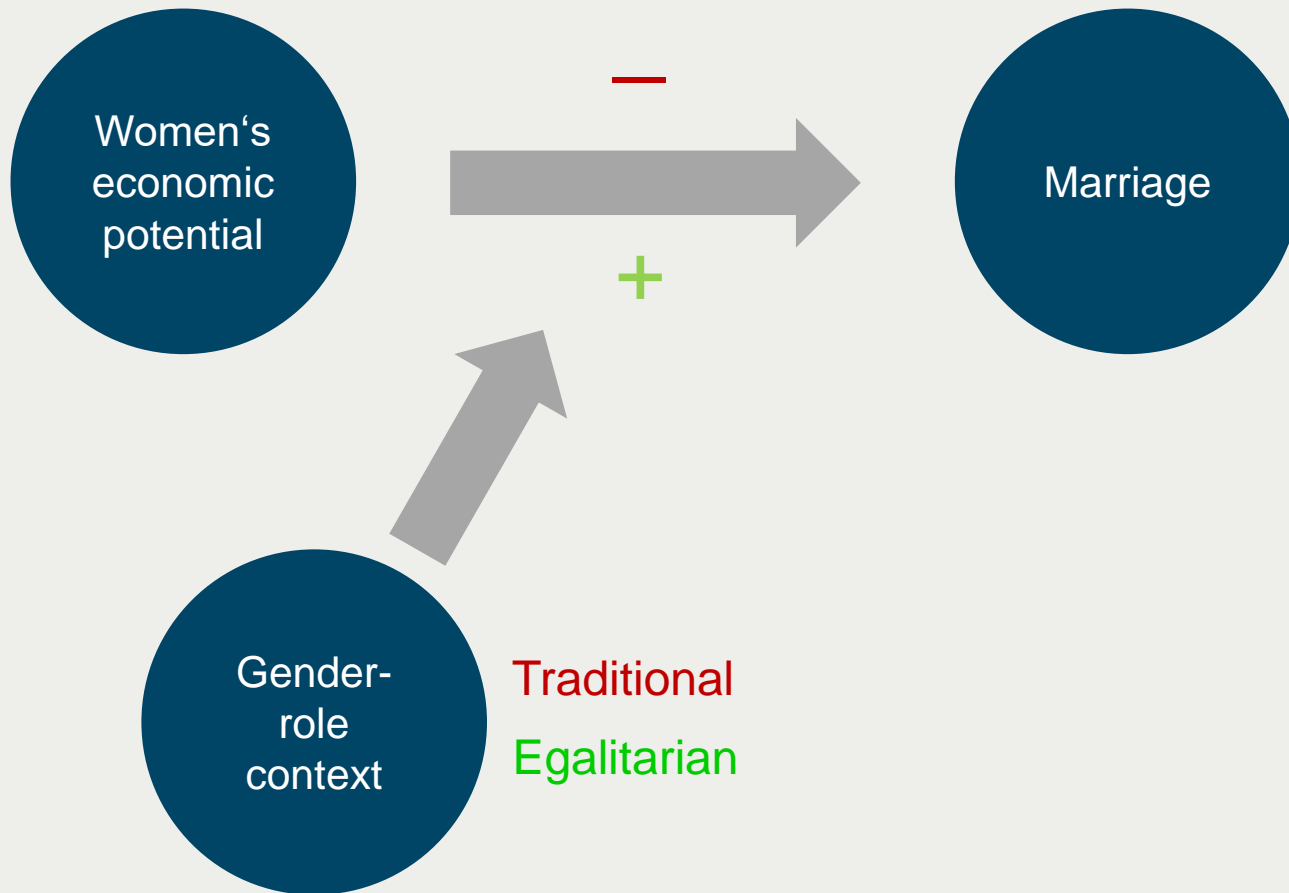
Increasing contributions to household income

How have these changes affected marriage?



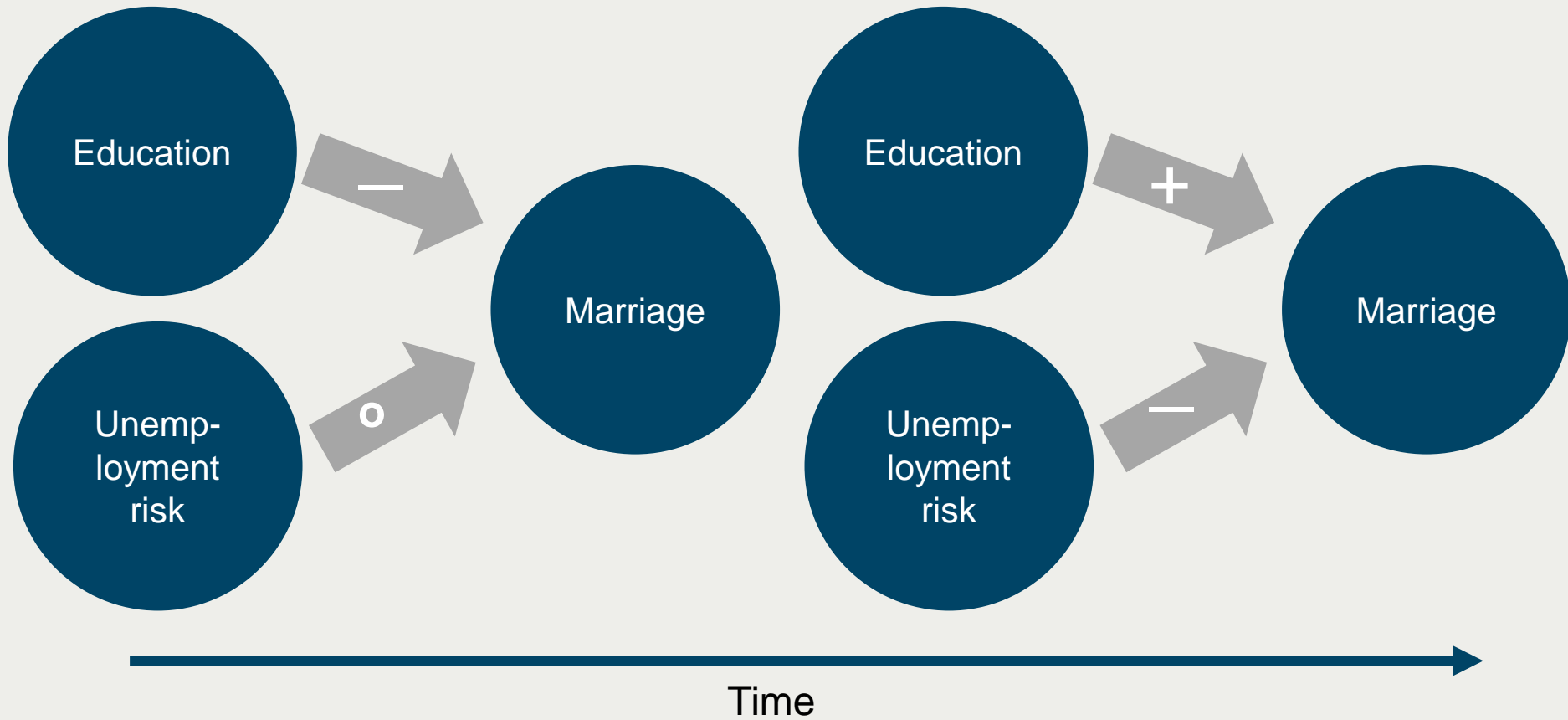


Gender-role context perspective





Specific hypotheses



T1: 1950s

T2: 2000s

More traditional

More egalitarian





DATA AND METHODS





- European Labour Force Survey
 - Focus on 9 countries (BE, DE, ES, GR, IE, IT, LU, PT, UK) in which all variables are available (1992–2014)
 - Women aged 40–49 years (i.e., born between 1943 and 1974)
- Variables
 - DV: *marital status* (married or not married)
 - IVs: *year* (1992–2014), *unemployment risk* (0–1), and *educational attainment* (tertiary or less than tertiary)
 - Control: employment status (employed, unemployed, or inactive)





Two-stage analytical approach

- Stage 1: approximate women's unemployment risk by propensity scores derived from the male sample (separately by country)
- Stage 2: predict women's marital status with a logistic regression model (separately by country)





RESULTS

$N = 1,153,044$ women age 40–49





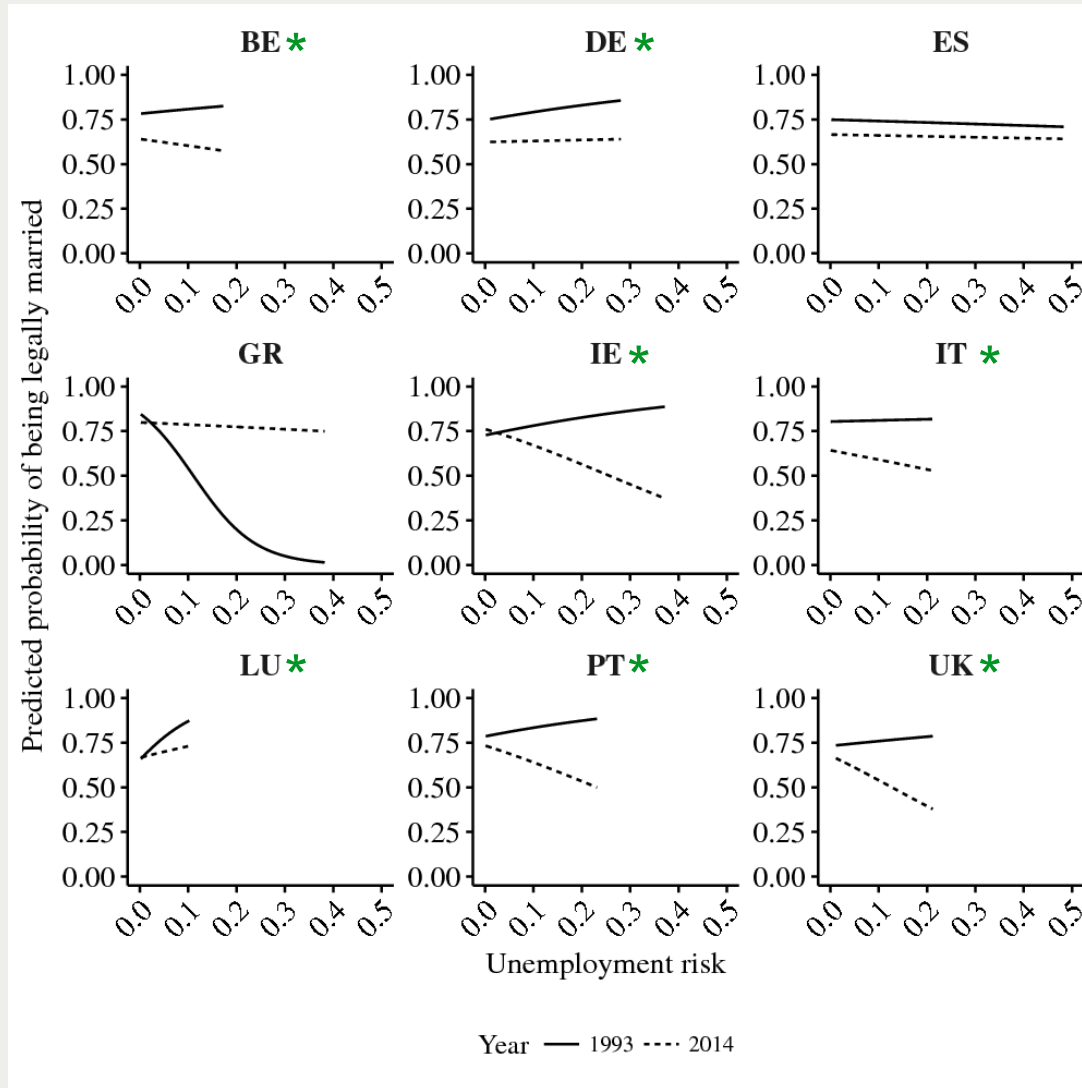
Descriptive results

Variable	BE	DE	ES	GR	IE	IT	LU	PT	UK
Married	70%	71%	73%	81%	74%	77%	69%	81%	68%
Highly educated	36%	24%	31%	23%	35%	15%	26%	16%	32%
Employment status									
Employed	88%	88%	75%	85%	84%	83%	88%	90%	88%
Inactive	8%	6%	13%	8%	12%	13%	9%	6%	9%
Unemployed	4%	5%	13%	7%	4%	4%	3%	4%	3%
Unemployment risk (mean)	.044	.063	.138	.049	.058	.035	.025	.041	.055





Illustration of eff. unemployment risk

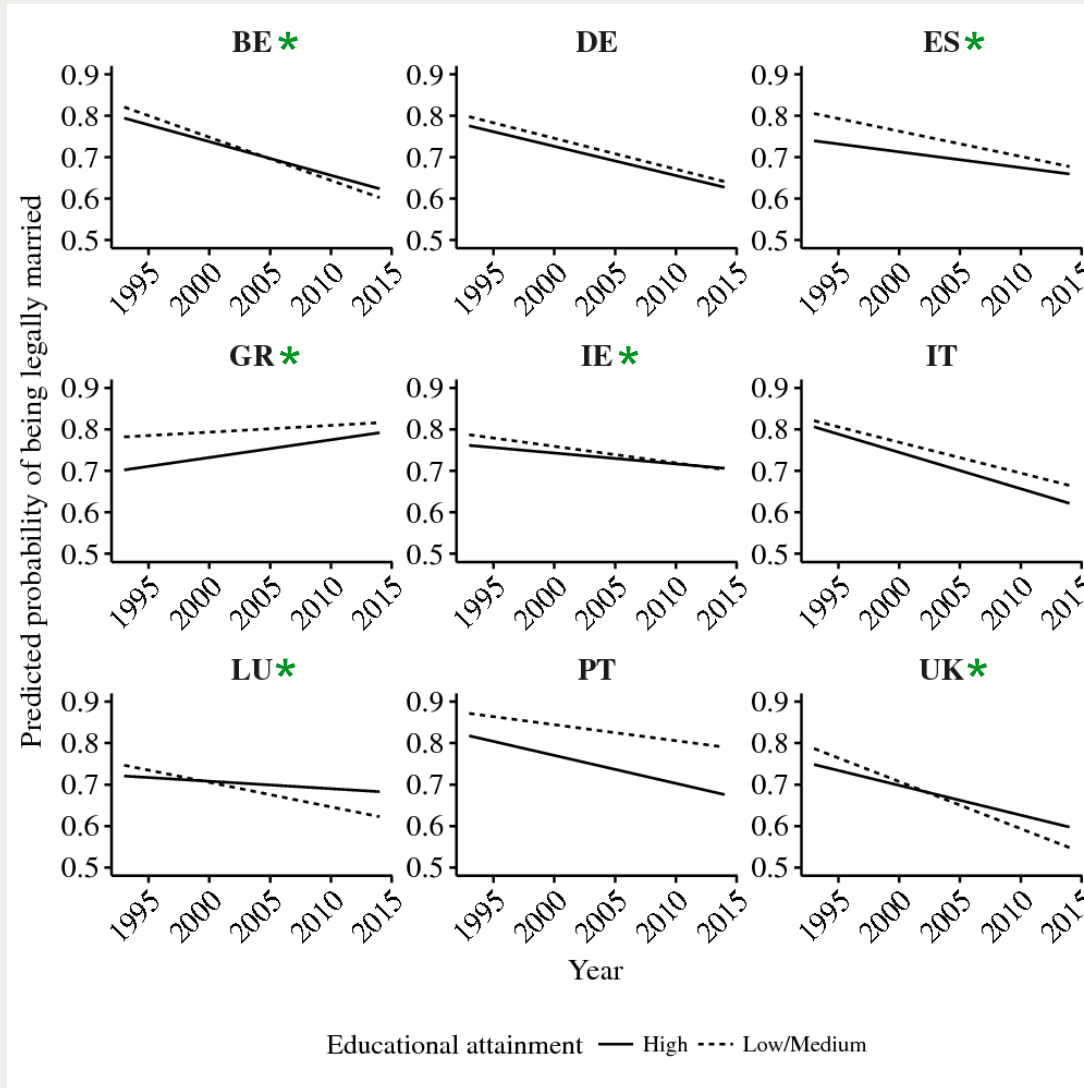


* Hypothesis supported





Illustration of eff. educational attainment



* Hypothesis supported





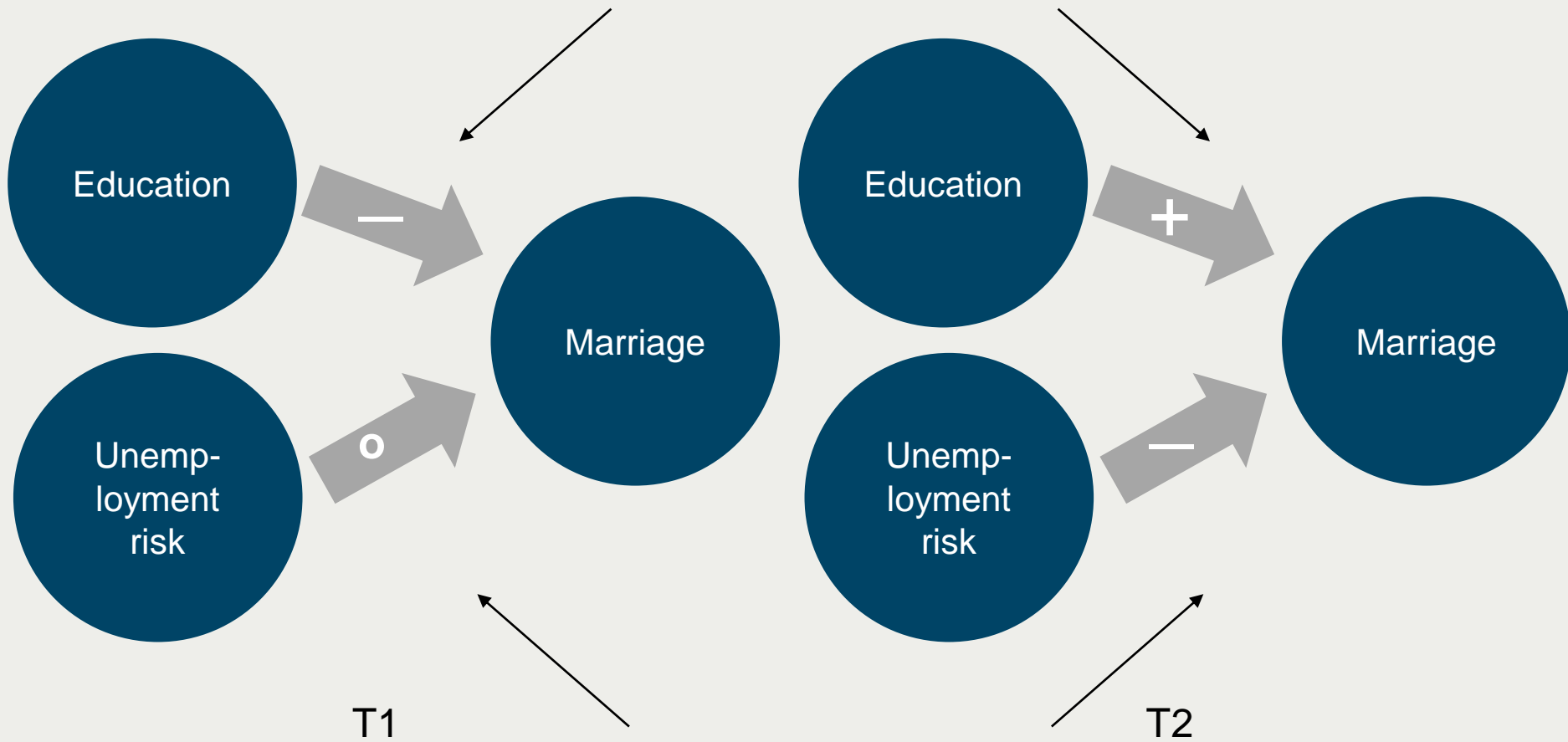
PRELIMINARY CONCLUSION





Conclusion

Supported in 6 out of 9 countries



T1

T2

Supported in 7 out of 9 countries





Outlook

- Include additional countries in the analysis
- Include additional indicators of women's economic potential
- Include indicators to directly measure the gender-role context





THANK YOU FOR YOUR ATTENTION!

The research leading to these results has received funding from the European Research Council under the European Union's Seventh Framework Programme (FP/2007-2013)/ERC Grant Agreement no. 312290 for the GENDERBALL project.

Eurostat, the European Commission, and the national statistical offices collecting the data have no responsibility for the results and conclusions which were drawn in this paper based on the European Labour Force Survey data.

