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# ***Interreligious unions in Austria and their impact on fertility behaviour and children's religious affiliation***

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Applied Systems Analysis  
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# Background

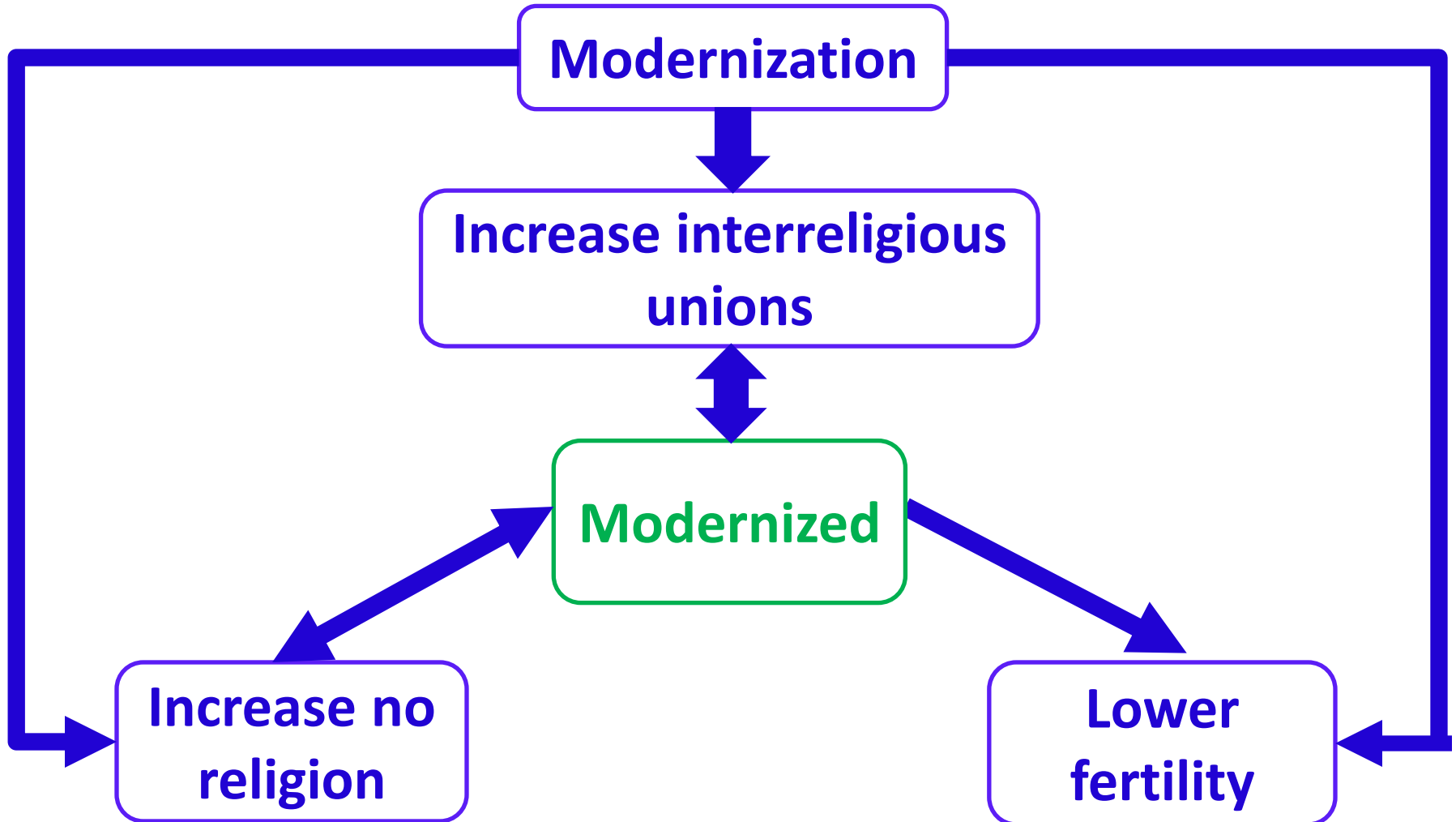


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- Significant social changes during the past decades in Austria
  - Secularization (Goujon et al. 2007)
  - Fertility decline among Catholic population
  - Rise in migration with higher fertility among immigrants
  - Increase in religious diversification (Goujon & Bauer 2014)
- Decline in religious homogamy among Catholics and Protestants (Lutz 1985)



**Fig. 1:** Flowchart of relationships between modernization and family behaviours





# Research questions

- What are **individual characteristics** associated with interreligious partnership formation?
- How does changing **religious composition** in a region of residence influences interreligious partnership formation?
- What is a **religious affiliation of children** of interreligious unions?
- Does **fertility of women in interreligious union** differ from those in endogamous partnership?



# Data

- 1971, 1981, 1991 and 2001 Austrian Population Census (10% sample)
- Obtained via IPUMS International

## Sample

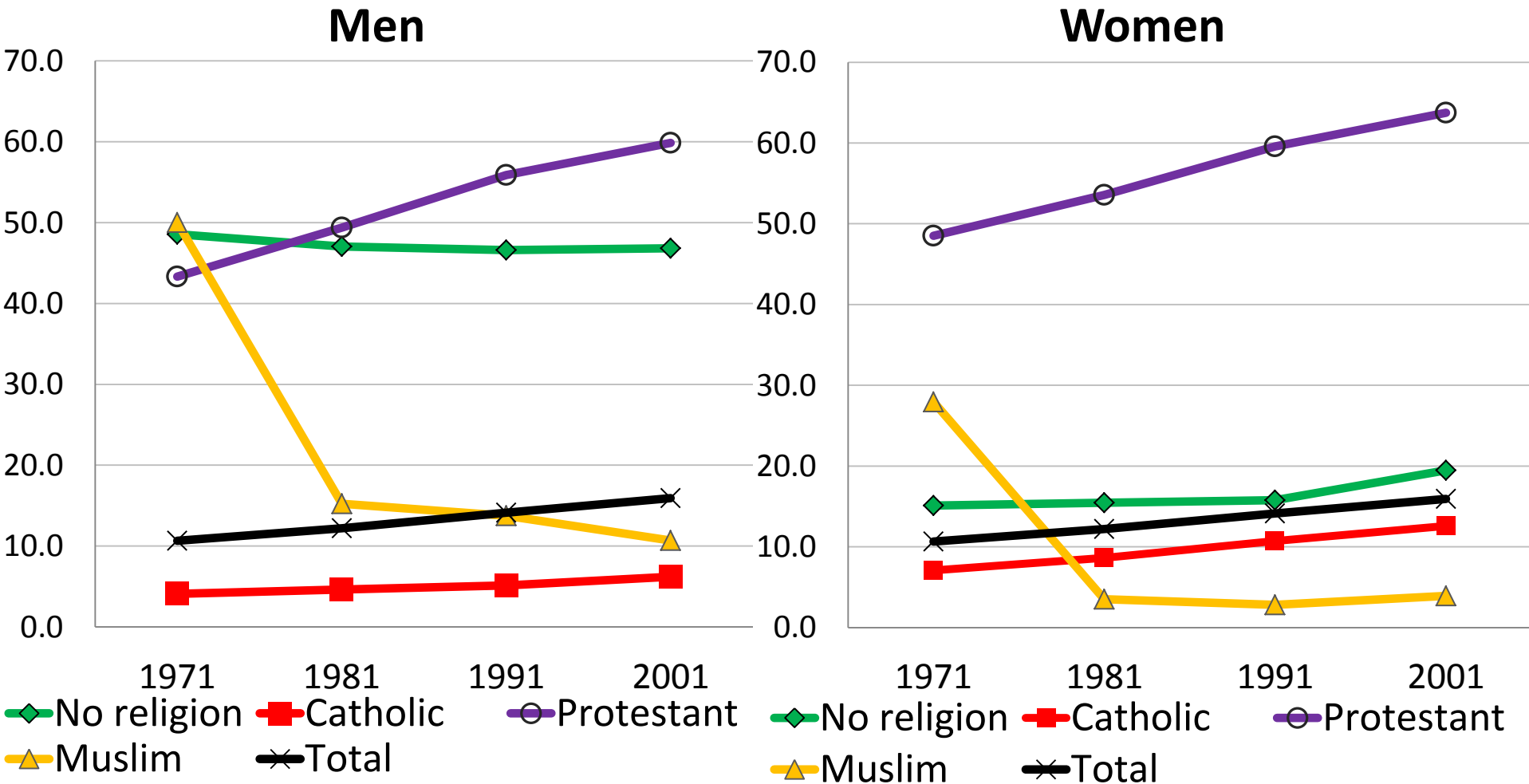
- Interreligious unions: Men and women currently in partnership and living with a spouse/partner (n=708,286 couples)
- Religion of children: Children aged  $\leq 18$ , never married, living with both parents (n=630,626 children)
- Fertility: Women aged  $\geq 15$  in 1981 and 1991, aged  $\geq 16$  in 2001 (n=111,041 women)

# Interreligious partnership



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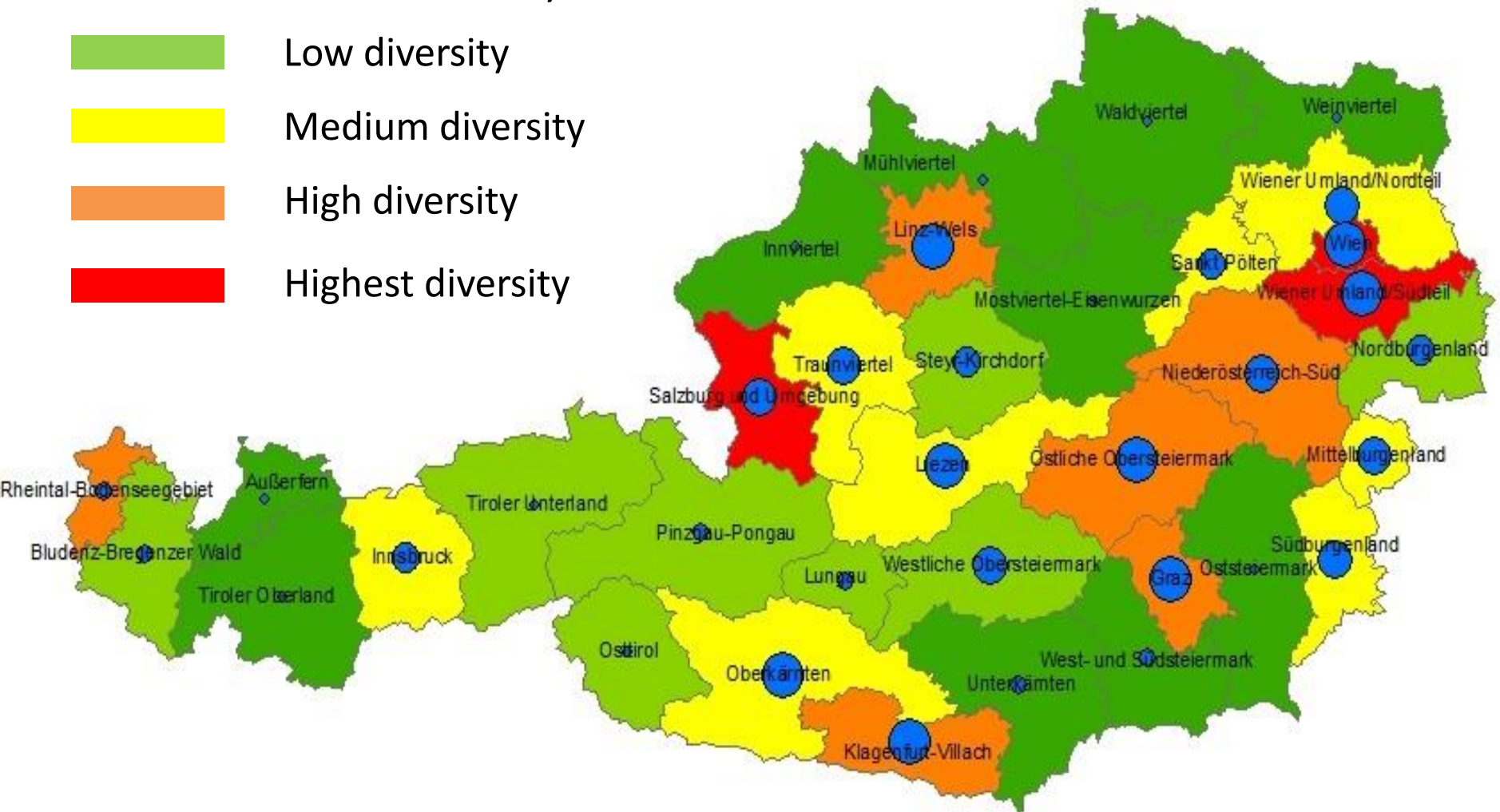
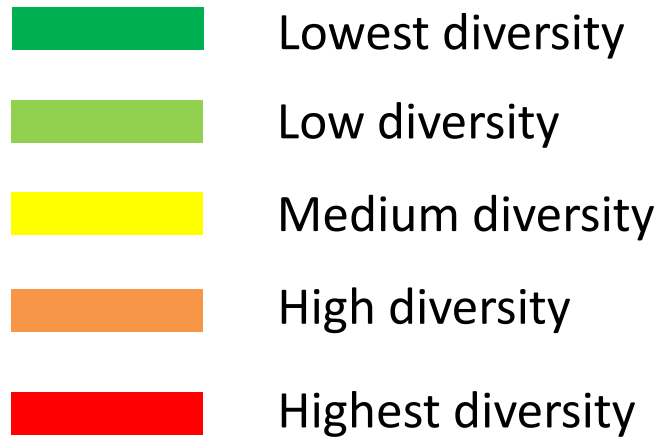
**Fig. 2:** % distribution of interreligious unions by gender and Census year



# Fig. 3: Religious diversity and share of interreligious unions by regions in 2001



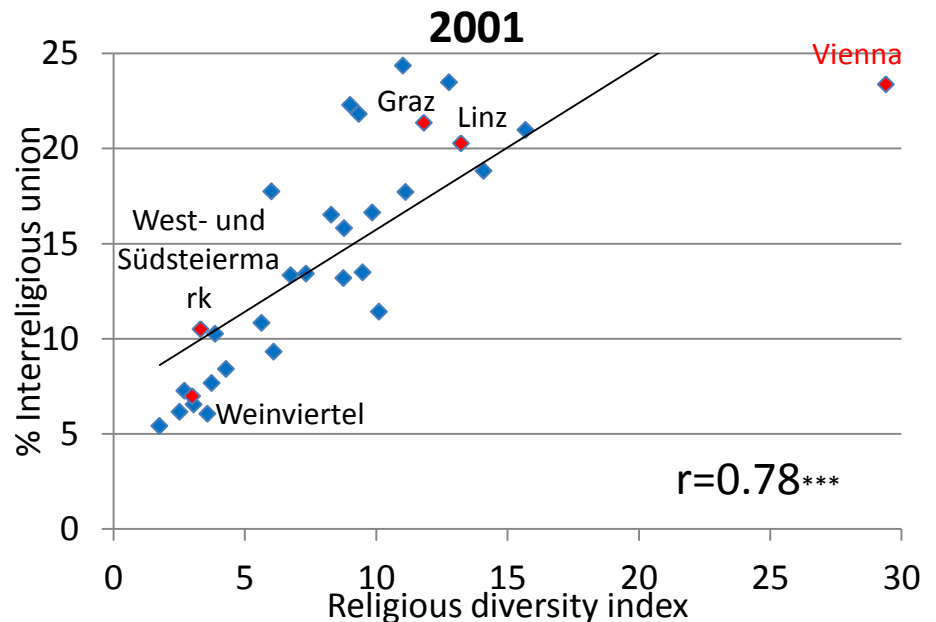
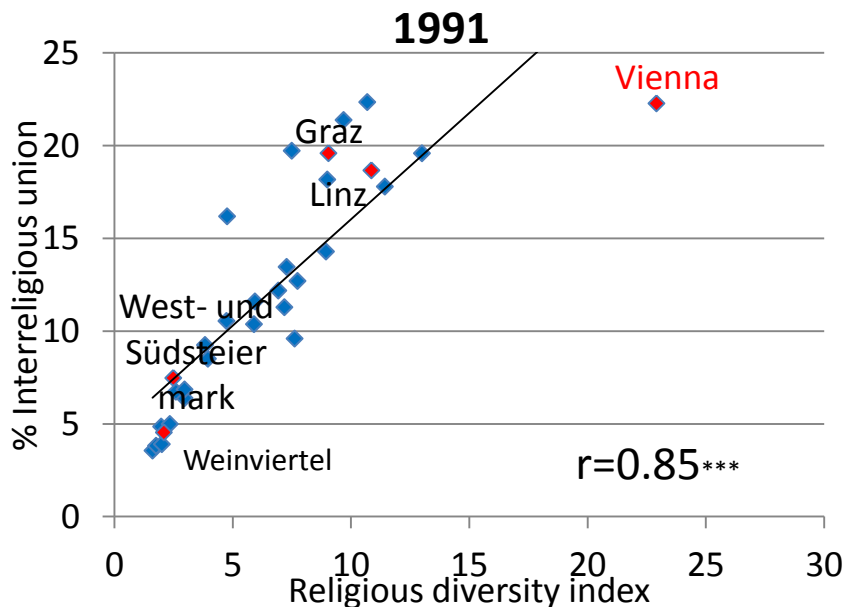
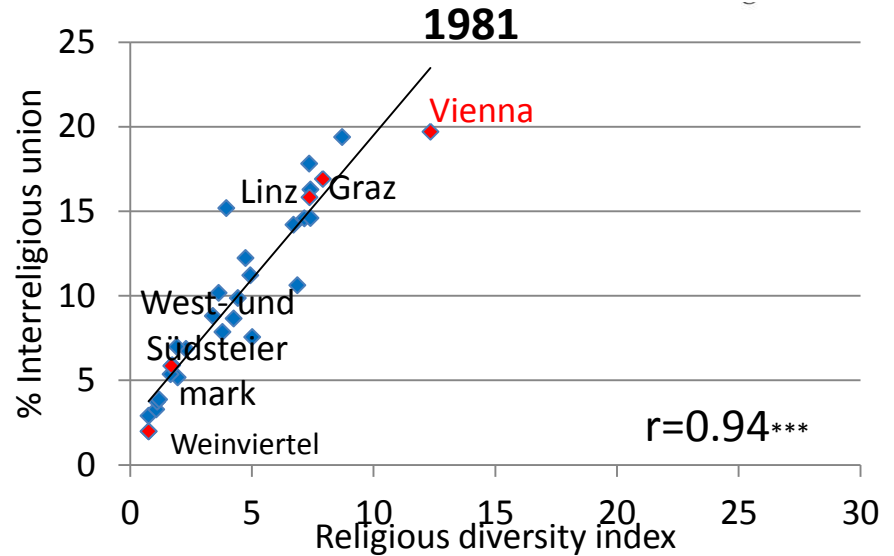
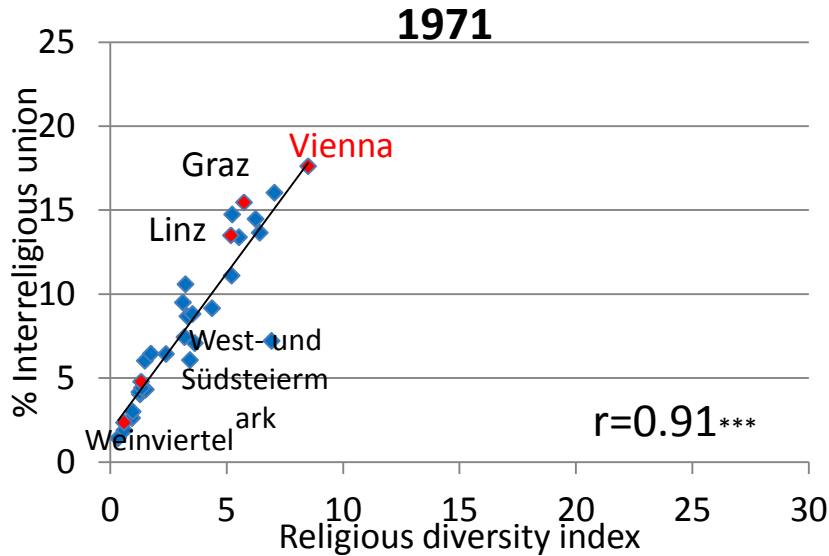
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# Interreligious partnership



**Fig. 4:** Correlation between religious diversity index and share of interreligious unions in 35 Austrian regions (NUTS3) 1971-2001





# Interreligious partnership



**Multivariate results:** Logistic estimates of probability of being in interreligious unions by gender

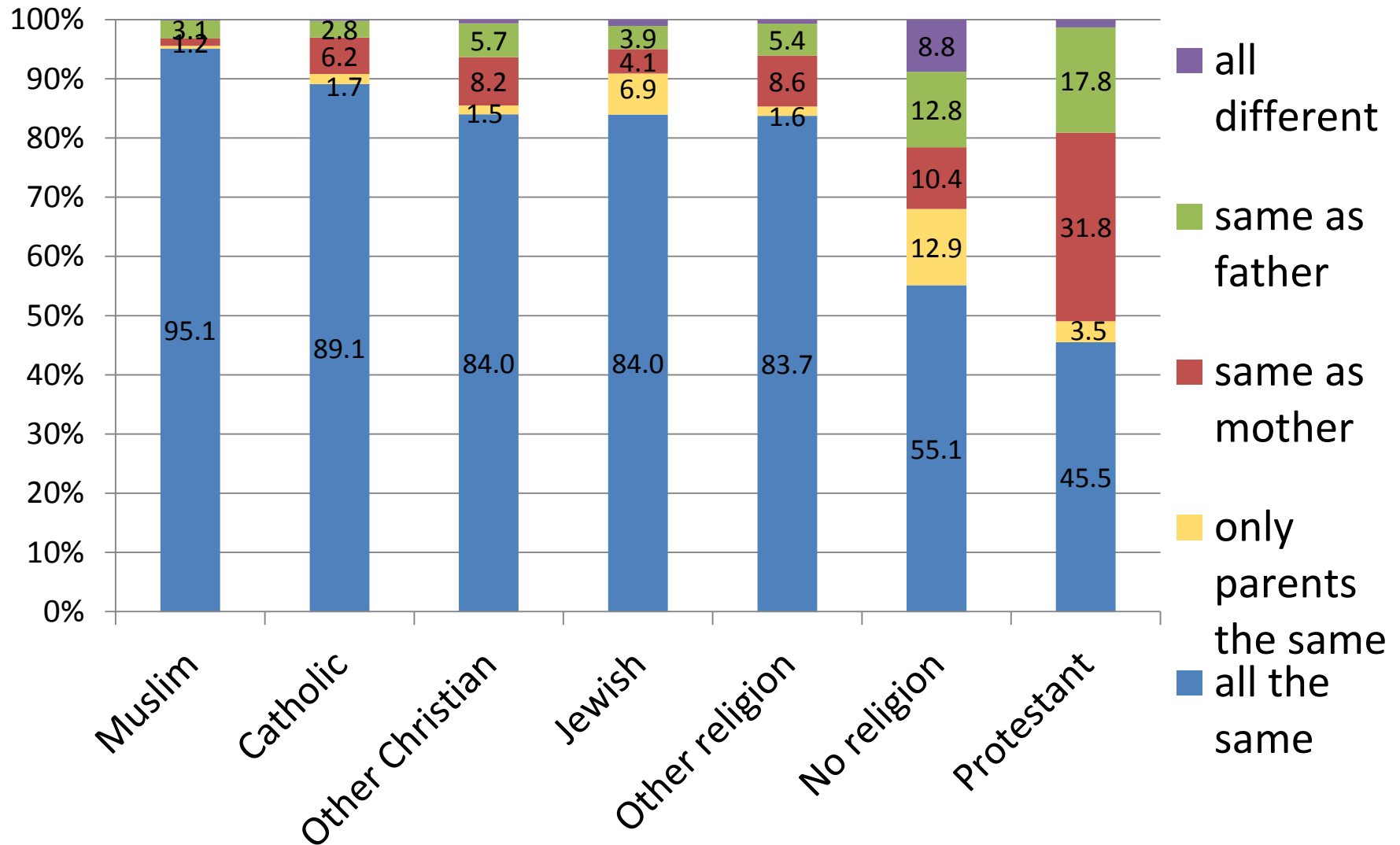
- **Positively associated with “modern” characteristics**
  - High education
  - Having no religion
  - Hypogamy partnership (i.e. female education > male education)
  - Cohabitation/remarriage
- **Opportunity matters**
  - Catholics is the most common group being partnered with in an interreligious union.
  - Positively associated with religious diversity

# Children's religious affiliation



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**Fig. 5:** % distribution of children's religion by father's and mother's religion

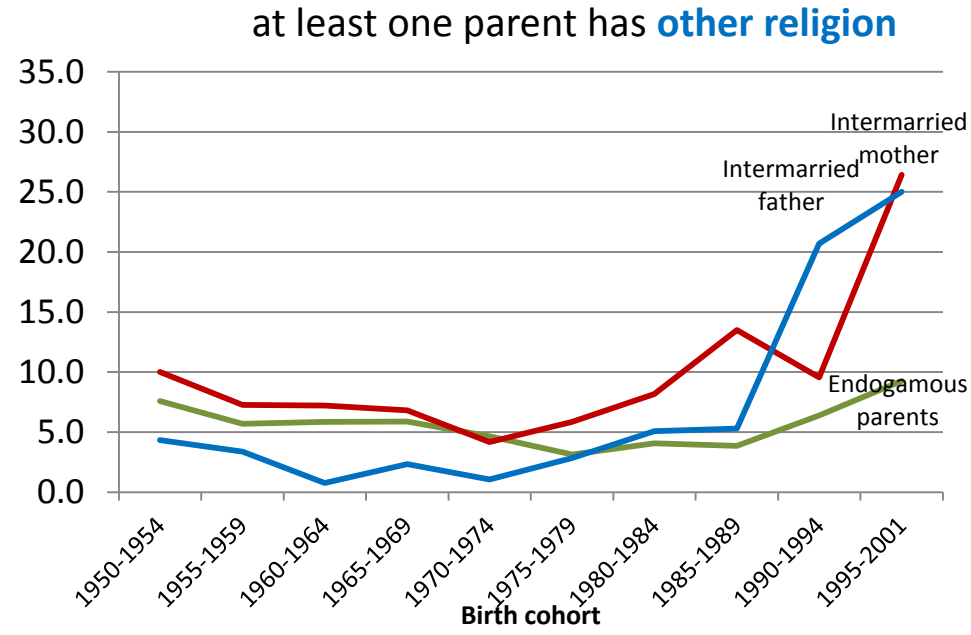
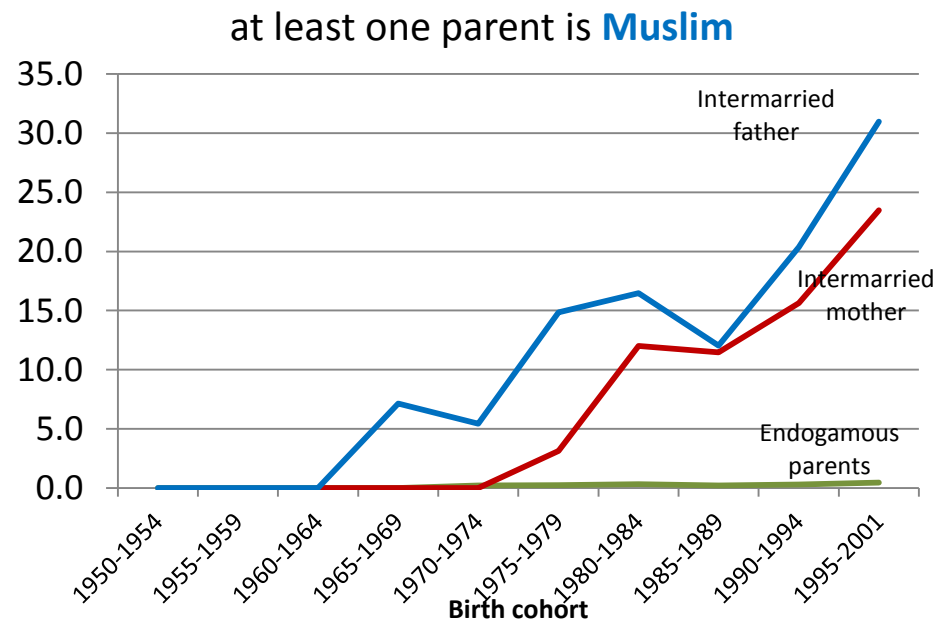
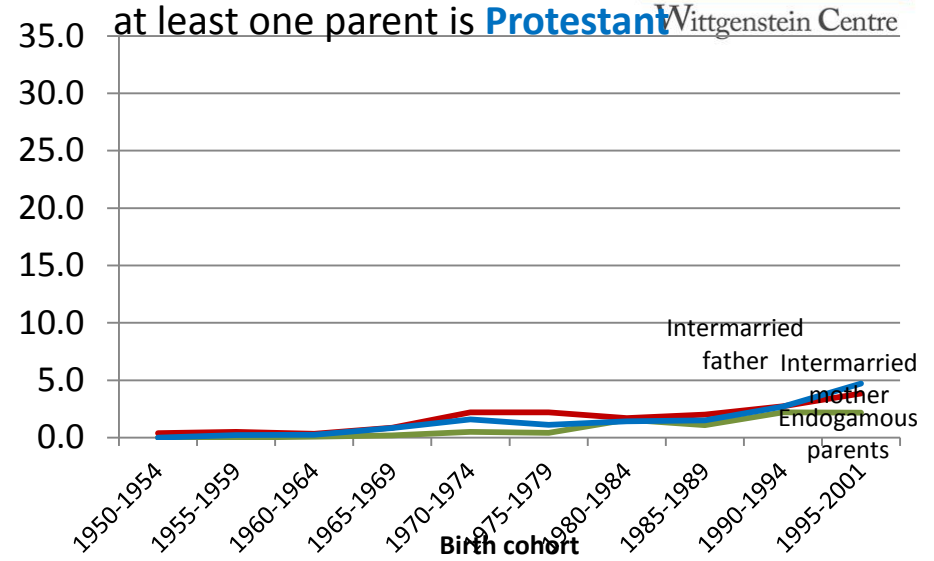
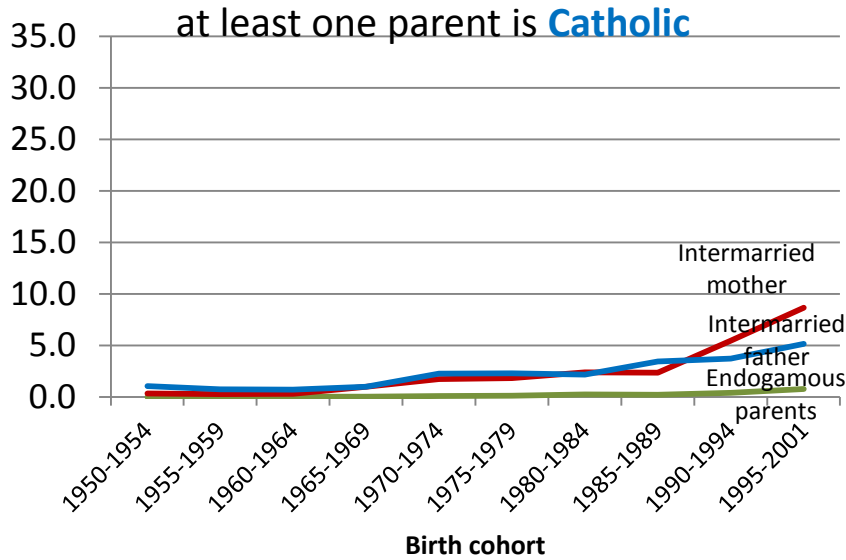


# Children's religious affiliation



**Fig. 6:** % children with no religion by birth cohort and parents' types of partnerships (excluding parents with no religion)

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# Children's religious affiliation



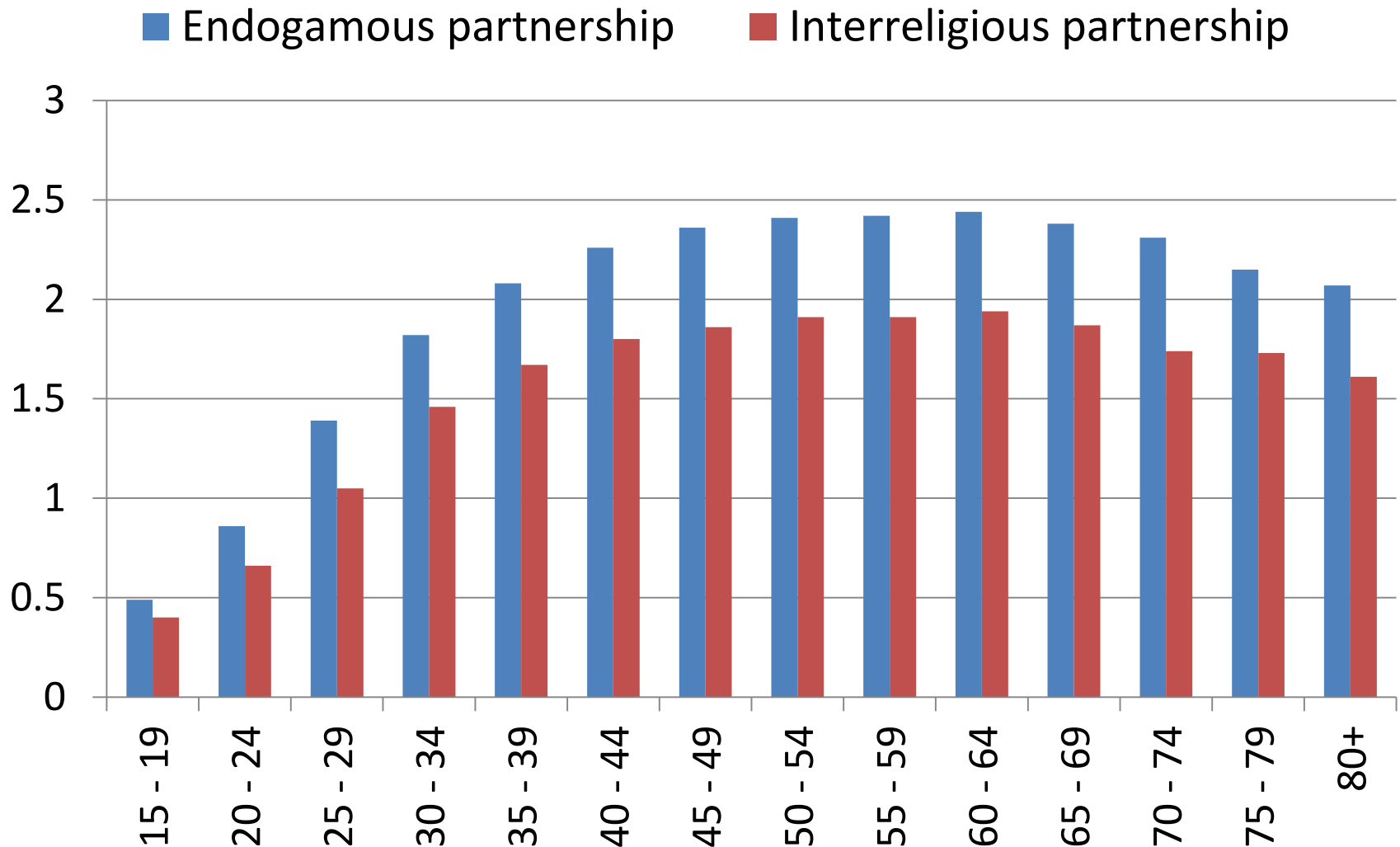
**Multivariate results:** Logistic estimates of probability of having no religion for children aged  $\leq 18$

- **Positively associated with “modern” characteristics**
  - Education of both parents
  - Birth cohort
- **Place of residence matters**
  - Living in Vienna, Graz, Salzburg (compared to Linz)

## Fertility by partnership type



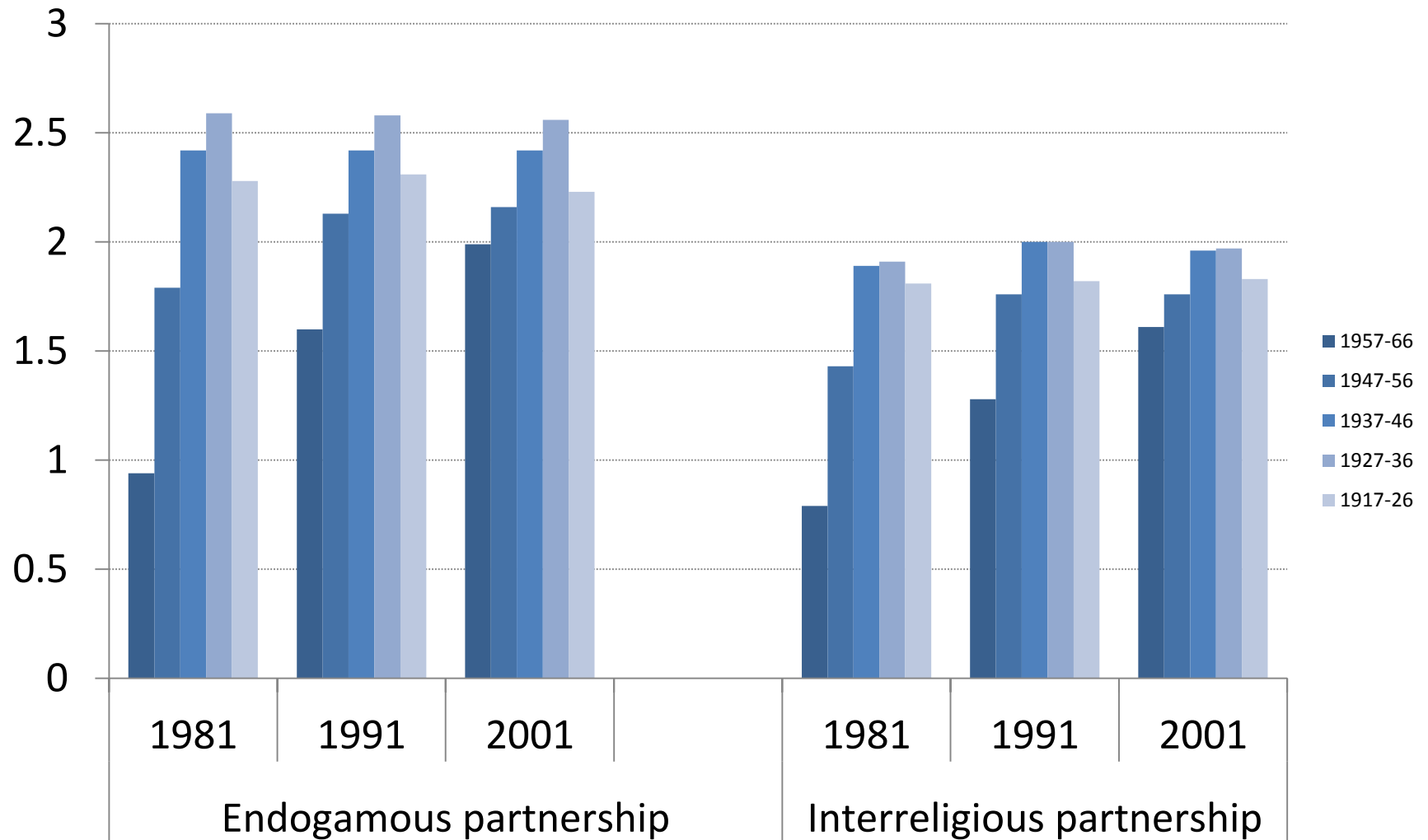
**Fig. 7:** Mean number of children ever born for women by age group and type of partnership: 1981, 1991, 2001



## Fertility by partnership type



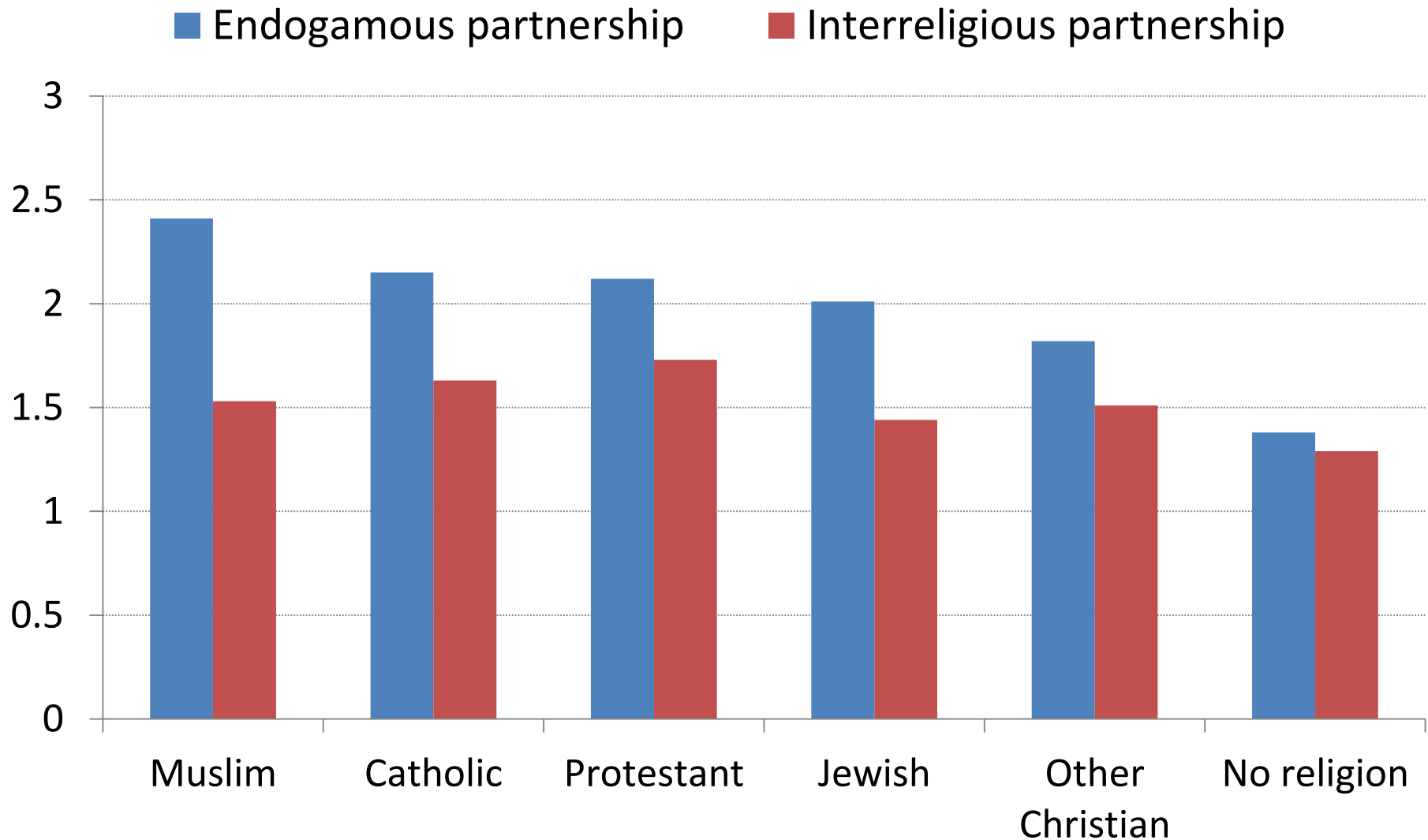
**Fig. 8:** Mean number of children ever born for women by birth cohort and type of partnership: 1981, 1991, 2001



## Fertility by partnership type



**Fig. 9:** Mean number of children ever born for women by religion and type of partnership: 1981, 1991, 2001





# Discussion

- Less **“traditional”** individuals are more likely to be in interreligious unions
- Interreligious partnership accelerates **“modernization”**
  - Increasing the chance of children having no religion
  - Having lower fertility
- **Caveat:** Data available up to 2001
- **Next step:** Comparative analysis with other countries e.g. Switzerland





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**THANK YOU!**

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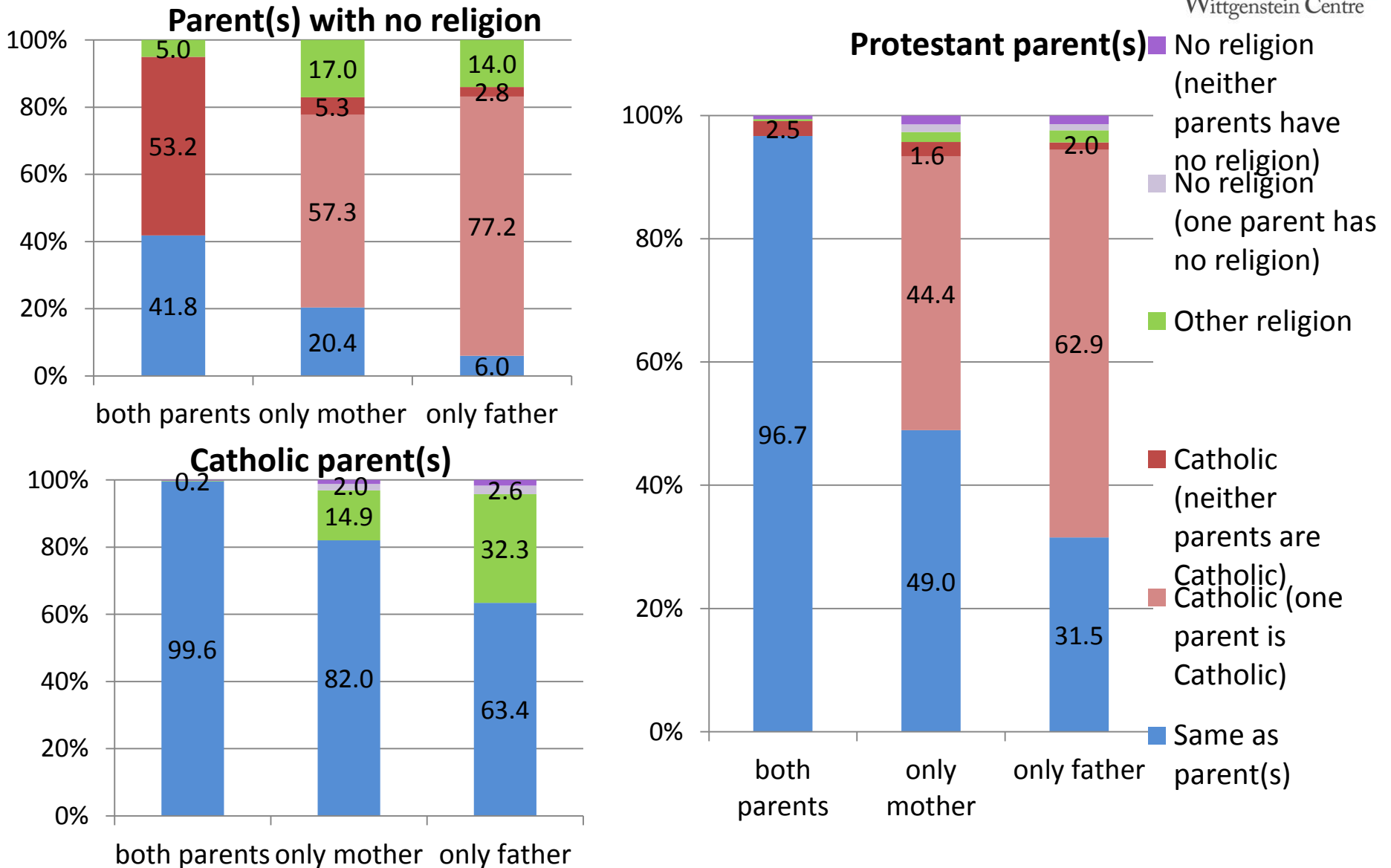


# Children's religious affiliation



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**Figure 10:** % distribution of children's religion by father's and mother's religion and partnership type



# Children's religious affiliation



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Figure 10: (continued)

