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GLOBAL HUMAN CAPITAL

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

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Background

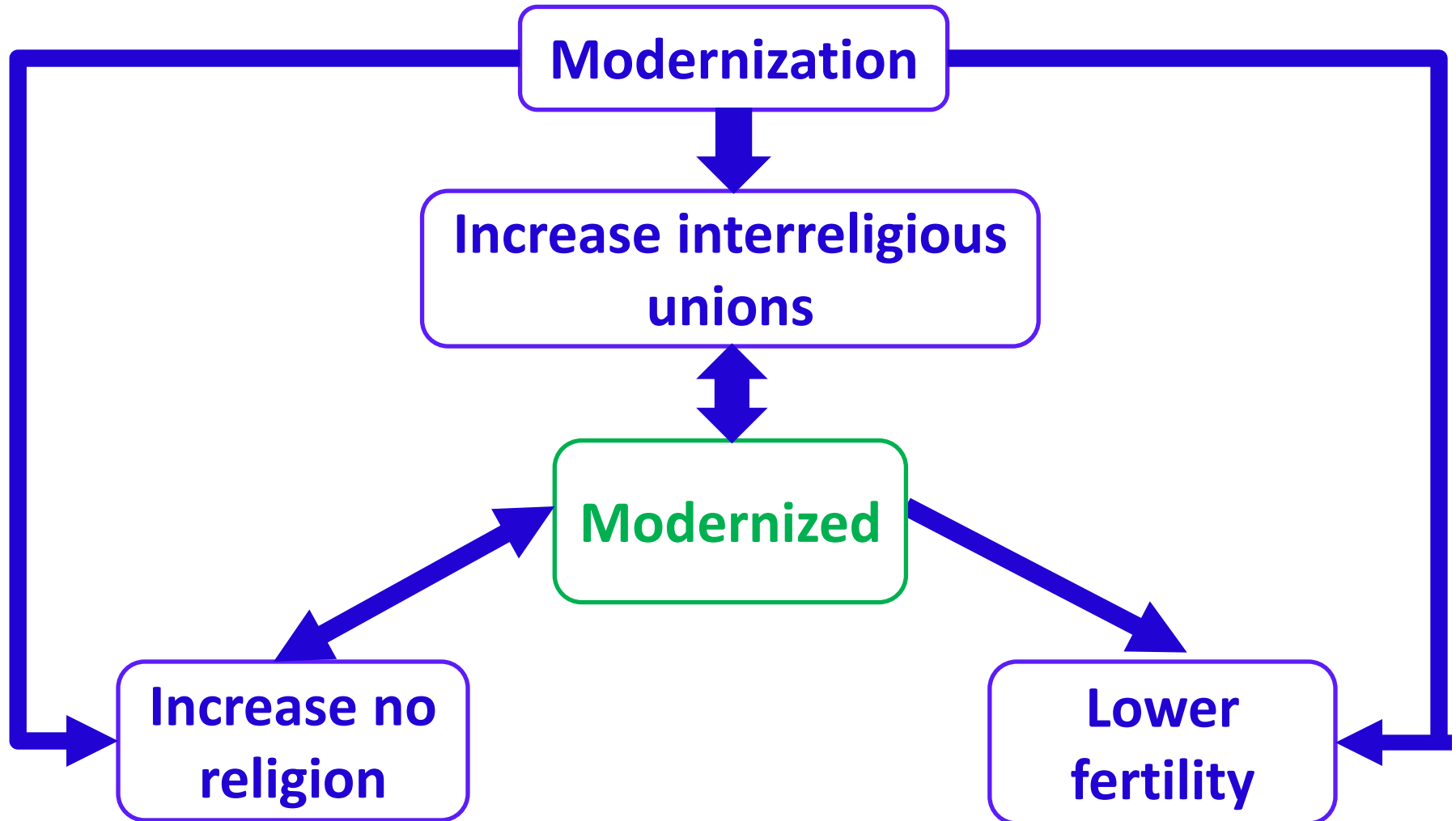


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- Significant social changes during the past decades in Austria
 - Secularization (Goujon et al. 2007)
 - Fertility decline among Catholic population
 - Rise in migration with higher fertility among immigrants
 - Increase in religious diversification (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 ≤ 18 , never married, living with both parents (n=630,626 children)
- Fertility: Women aged ≥ 15 in 1981 and 1991, aged ≥ 16 in 2001 (n=111,041 women)

Interreligious partnership



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

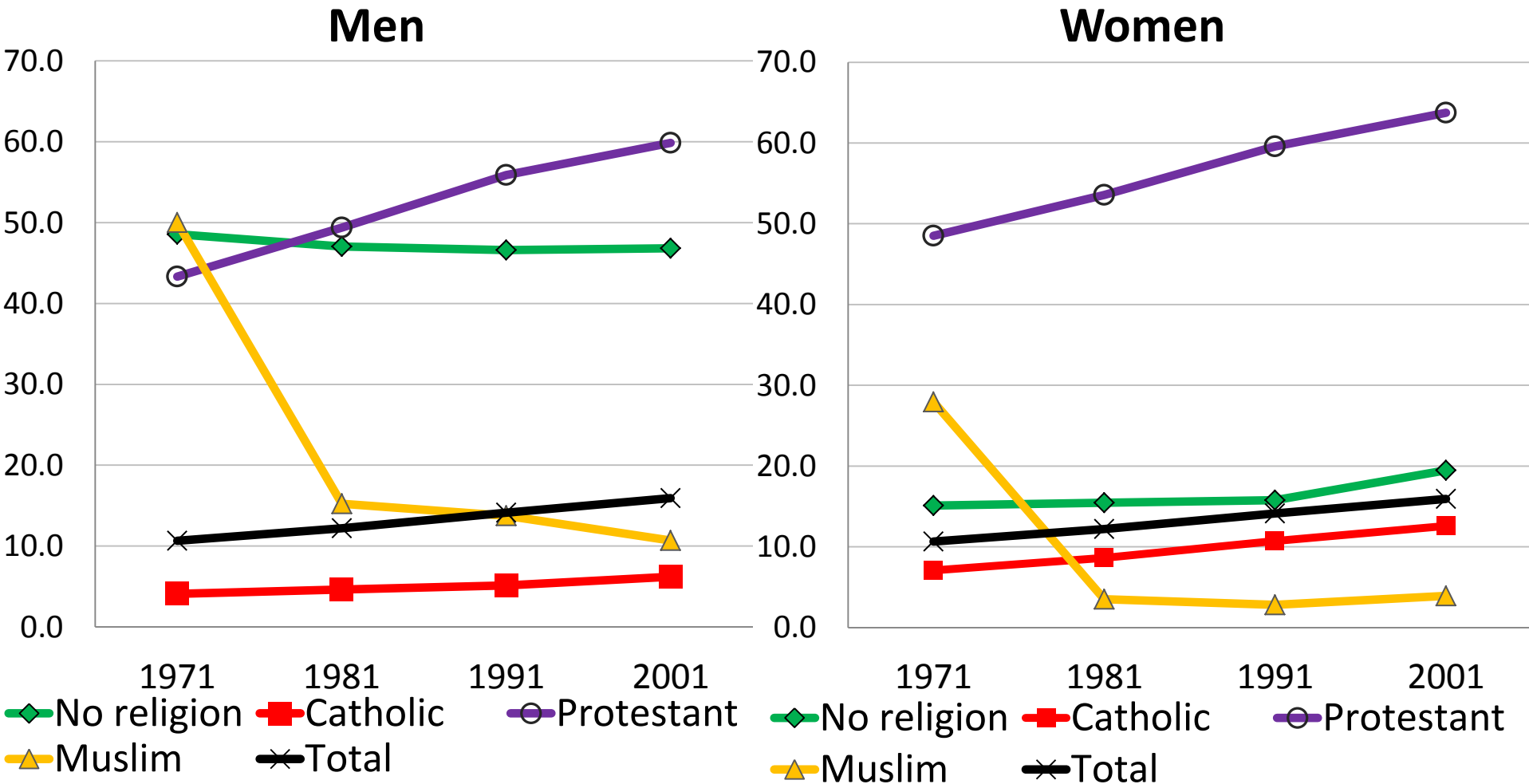
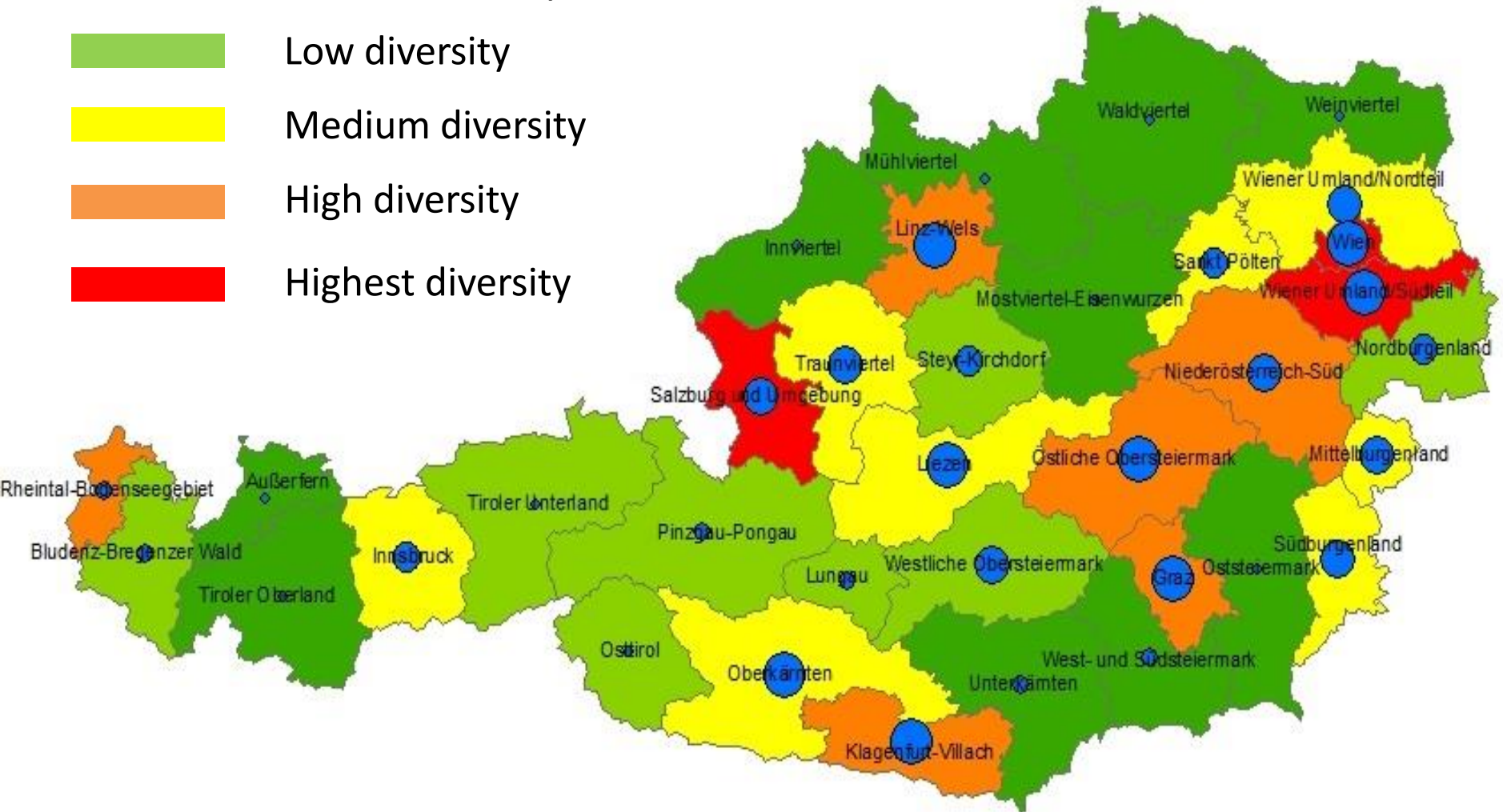
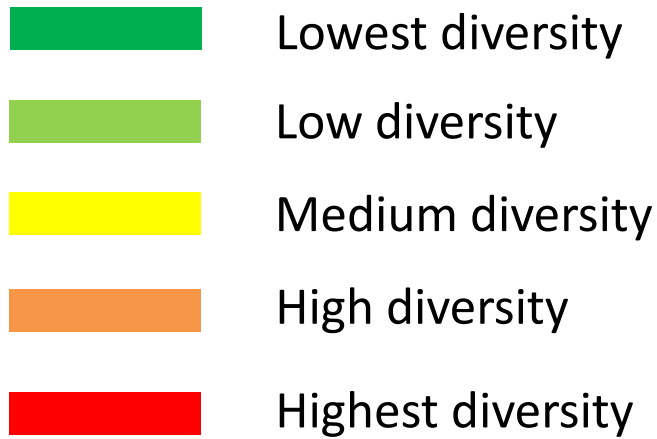


Fig. 3: Religious diversity and share of interreligious unions by regions in 2001



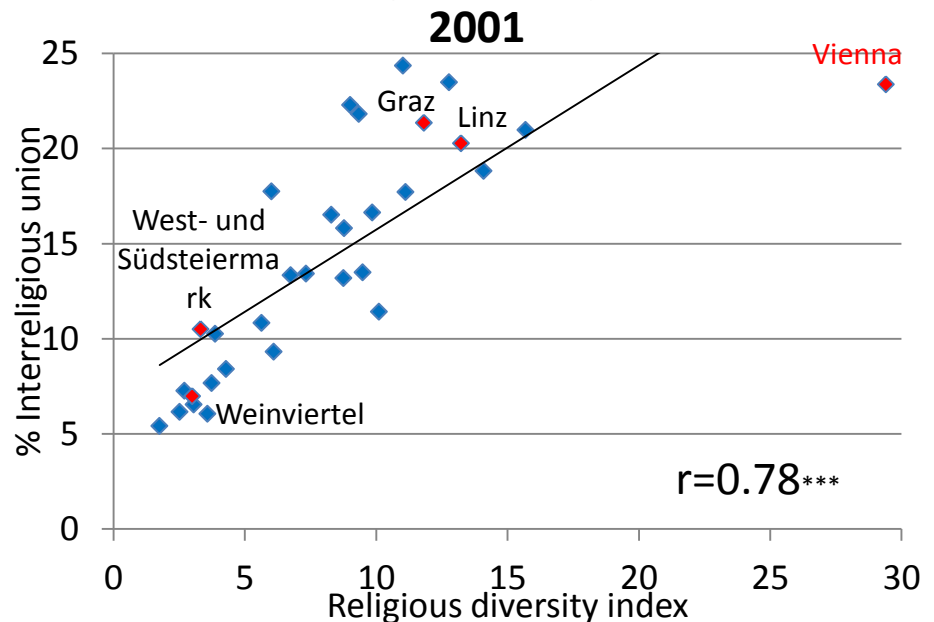
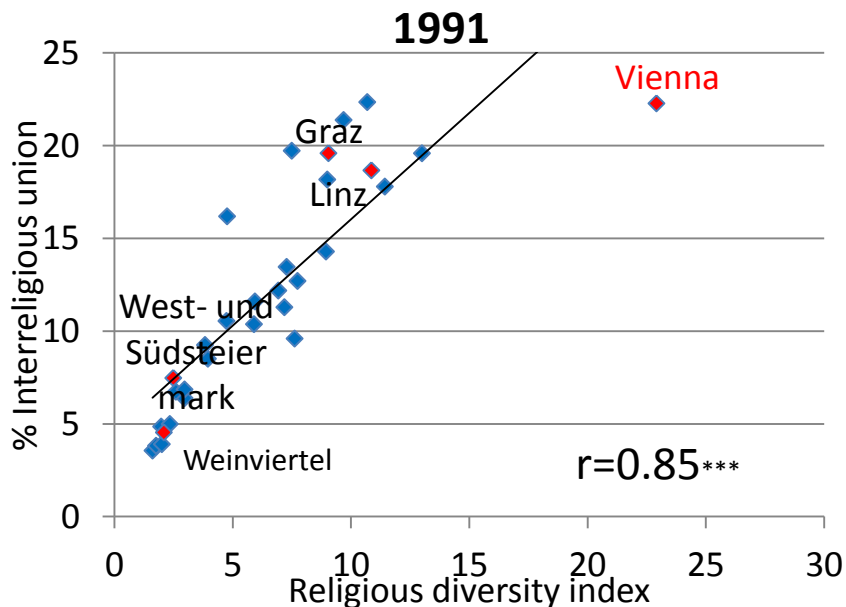
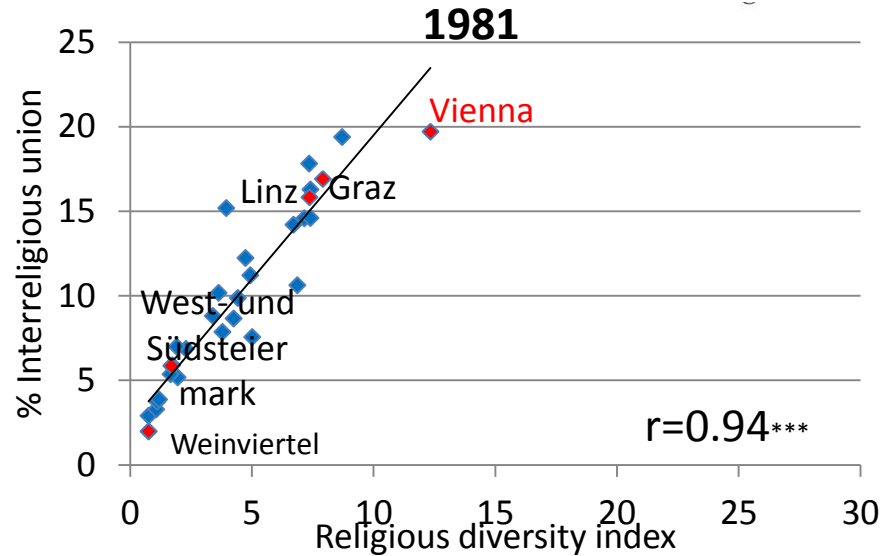
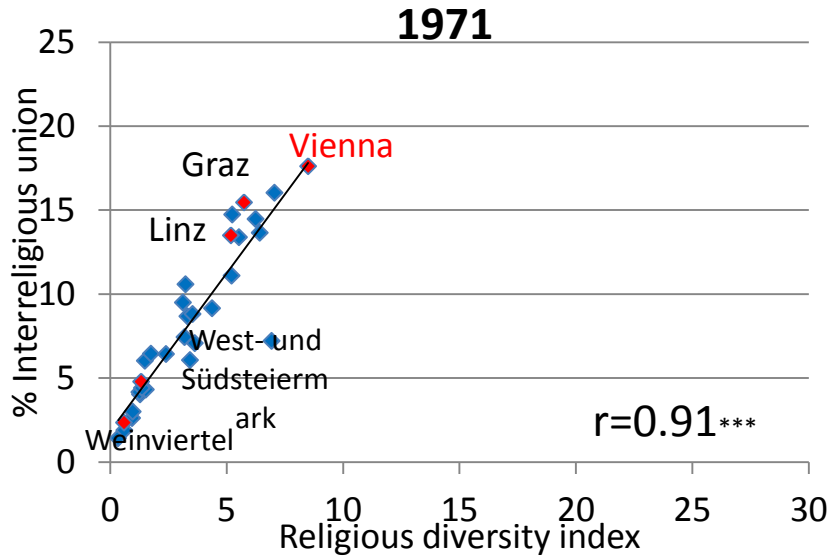
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Interreligious partnership



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

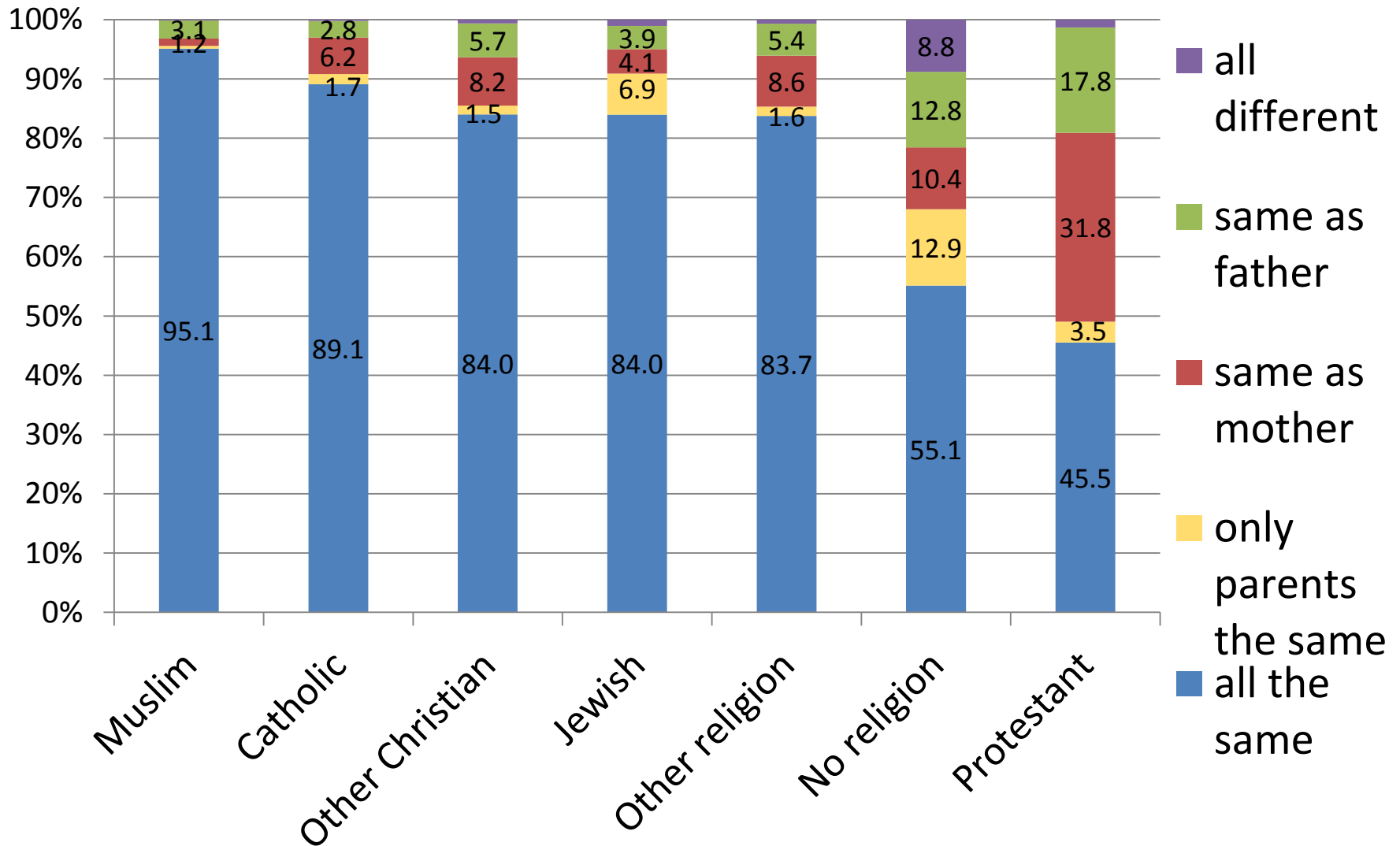
- **Positively associated with “modern” characteristics**
 - High education
 - Having no religion
 - Hypogamy partnership (i.e. female education > male education)
 - Cohabitation/remarriage
- **Opportunity matters**
 - Catholics is the most common group being partnered with in an interreligious union.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

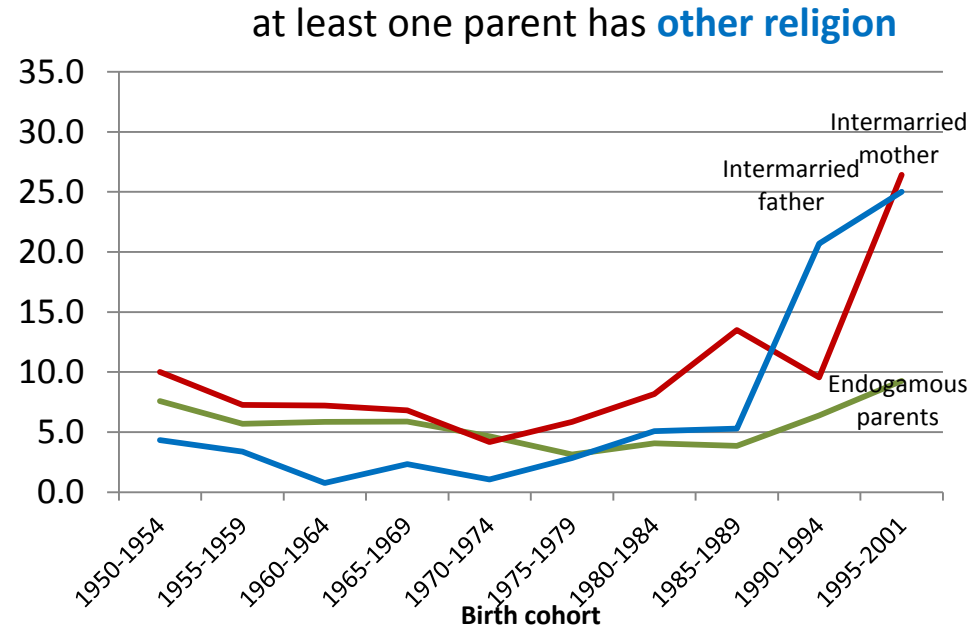
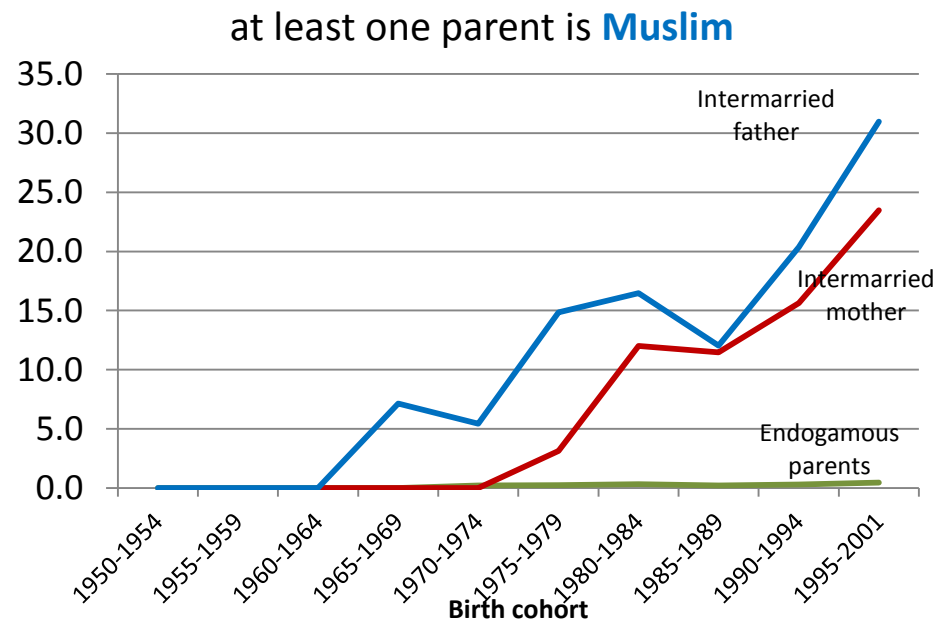
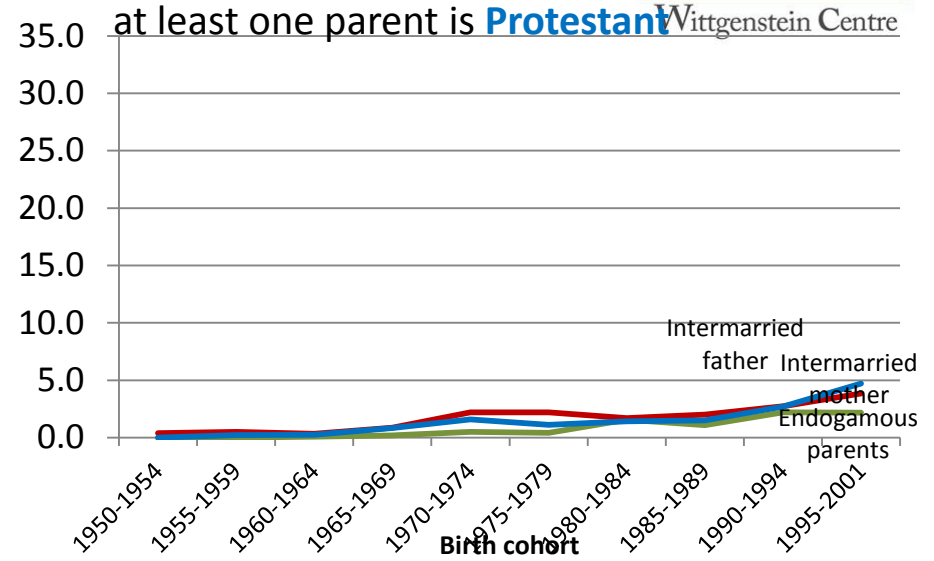
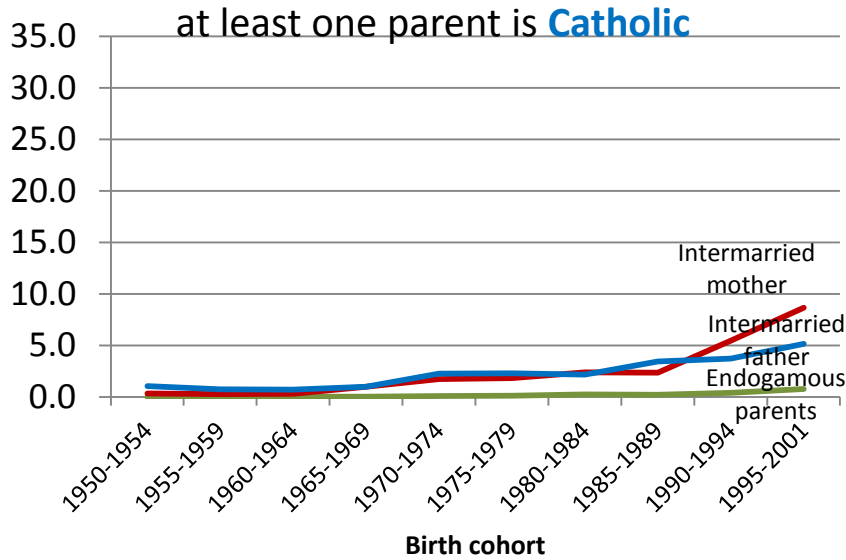


Children's religious affiliation



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



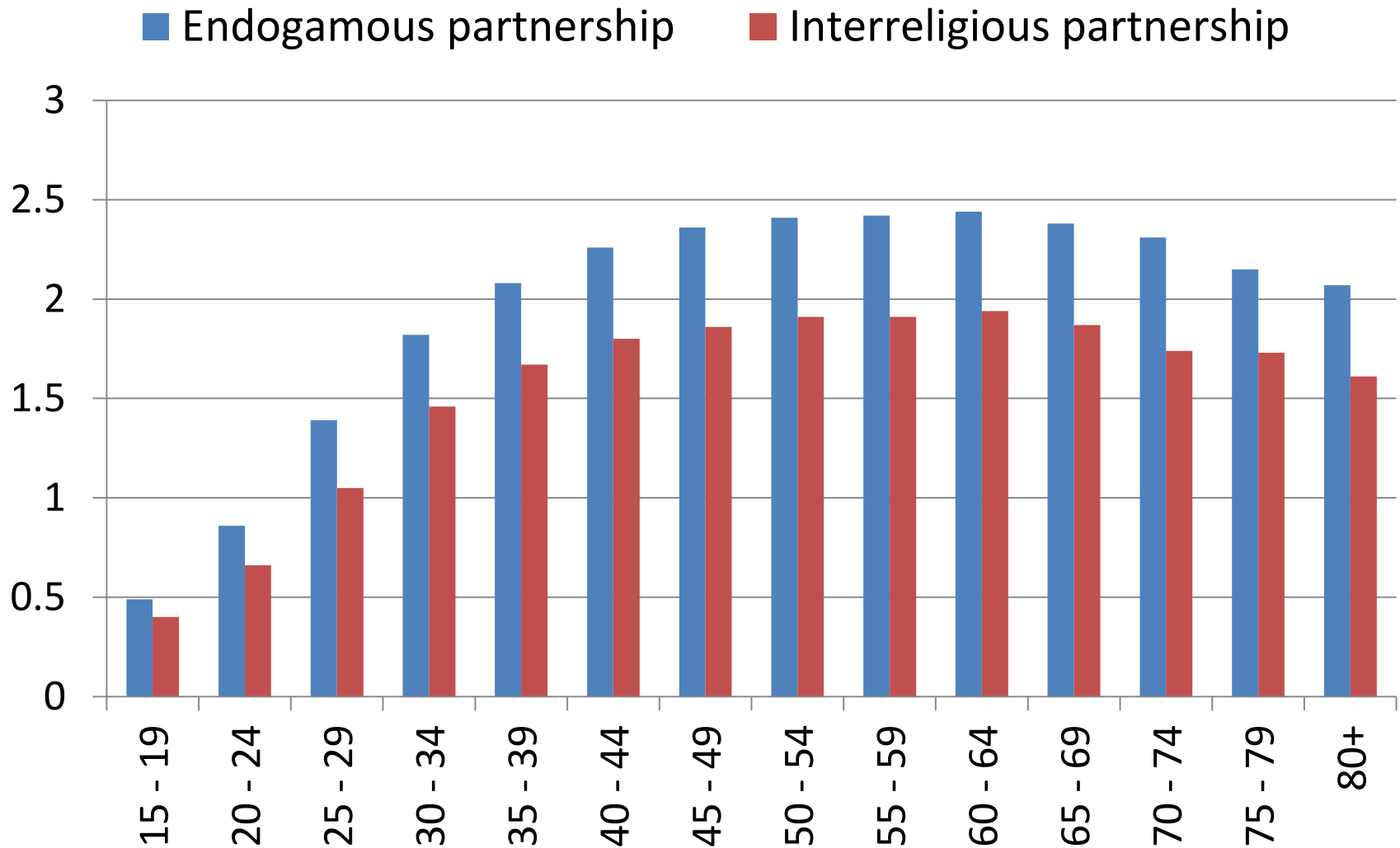
Multivariate results: Logistic estimates of probability of having no religion for children aged ≤ 18

- **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



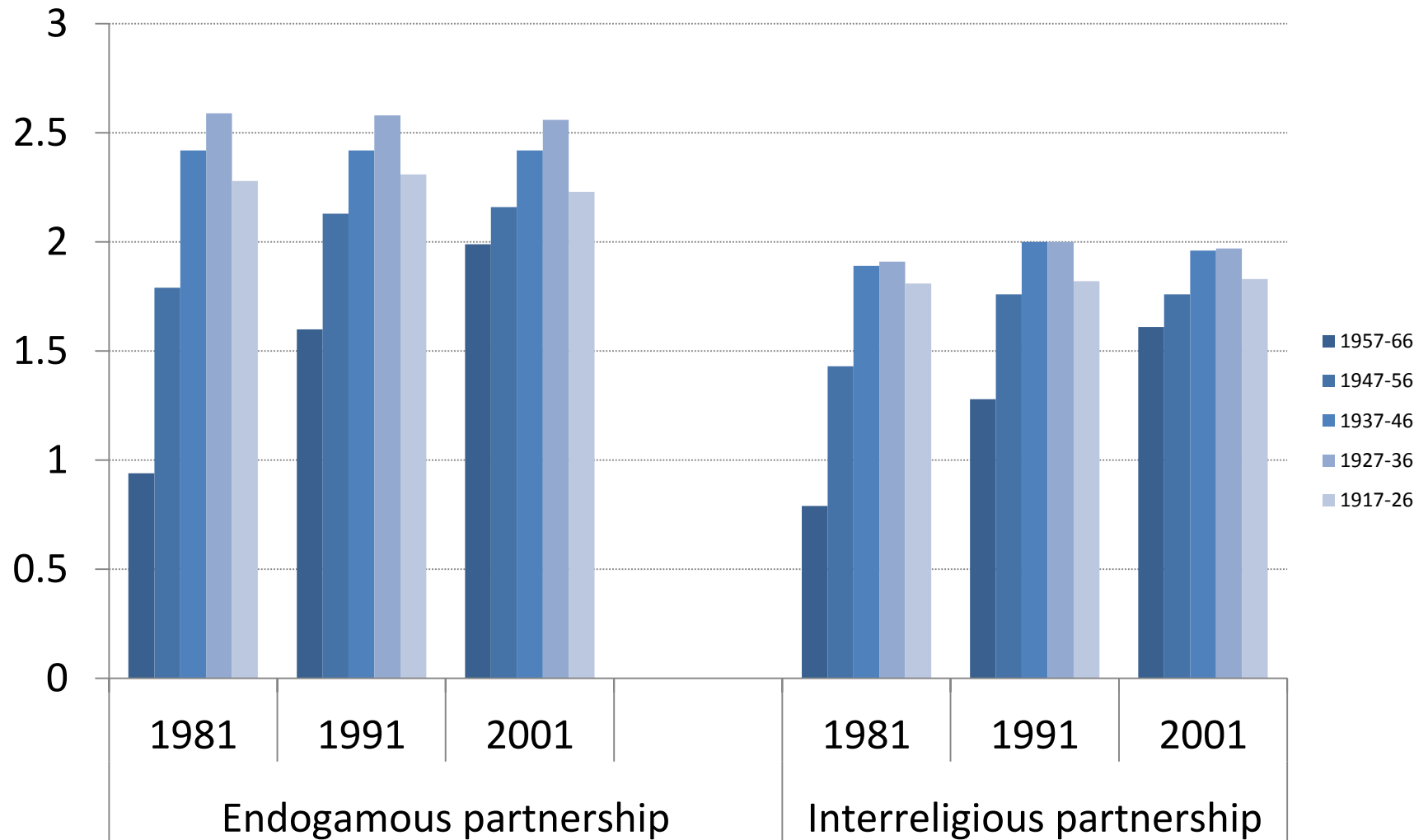
Fig. 7: Mean number of children ever born for women by age group and type of partnership: 1981, 1991, 2001



Fertility by partnership type



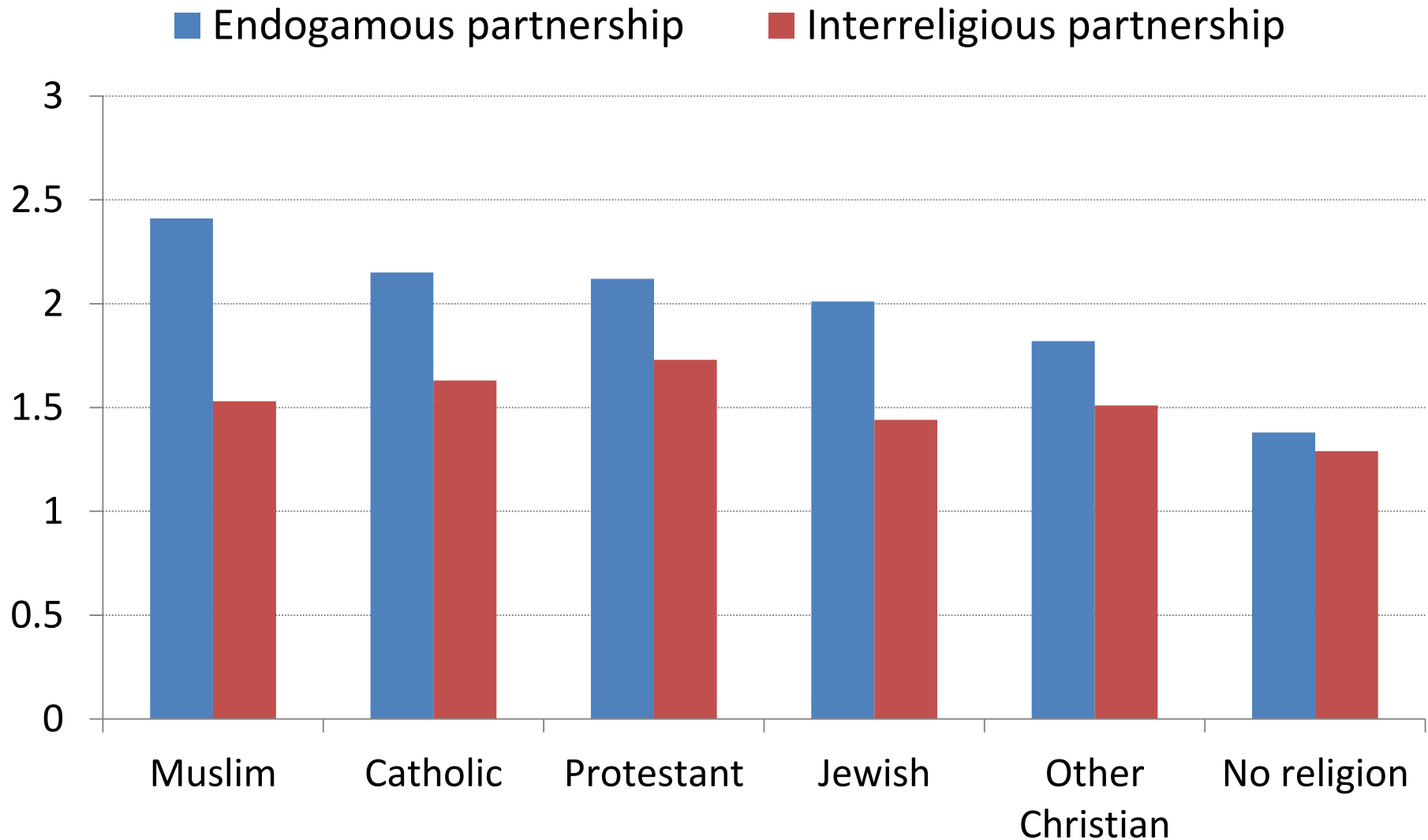
Fig. 8: Mean number of children ever born for women by birth cohort and type of partnership: 1981, 1991, 2001



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!

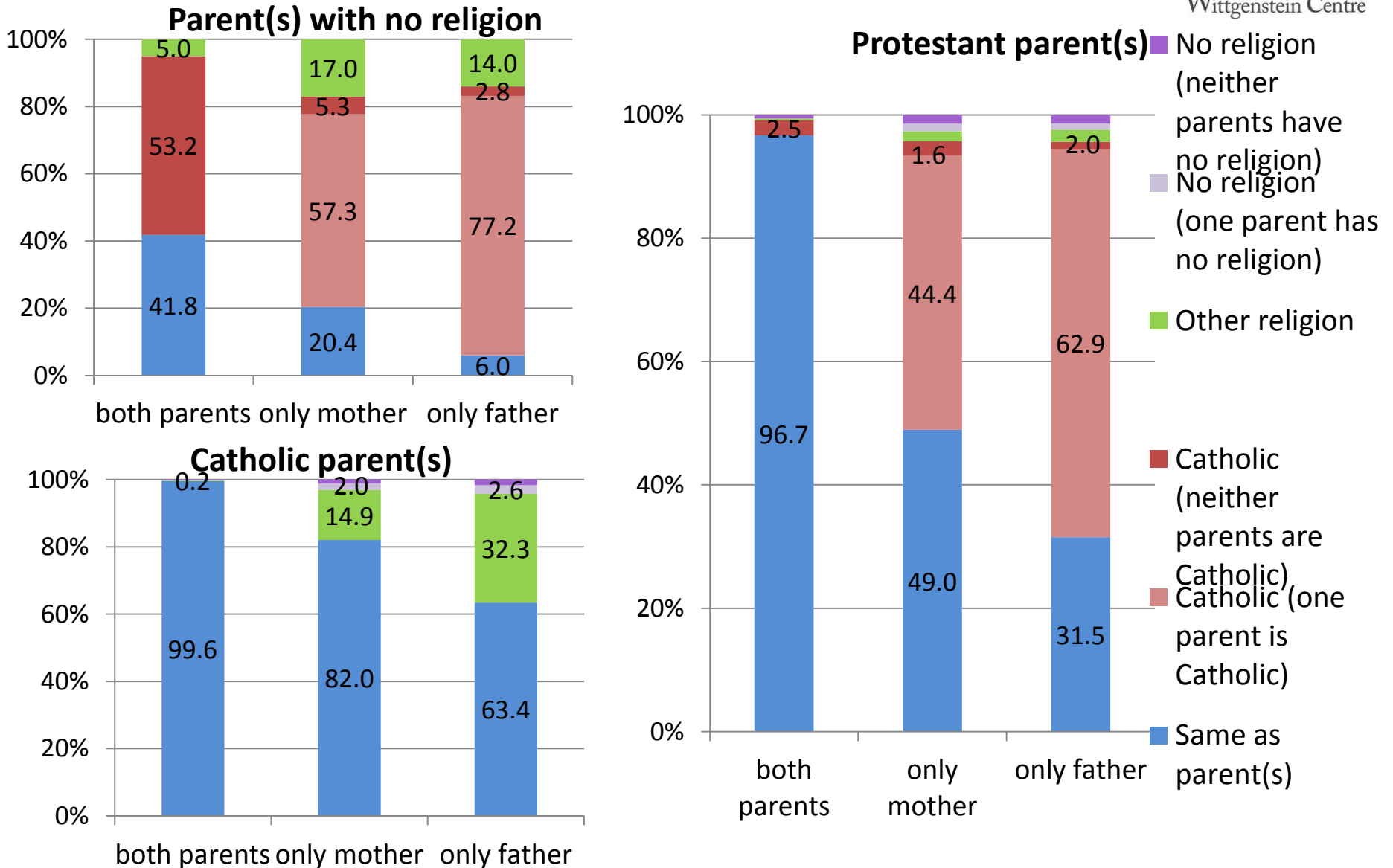
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Children's religious affiliation



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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)

