



Men's education and post-divorce roles of fatherhood

Repartnering strategies as the missing link

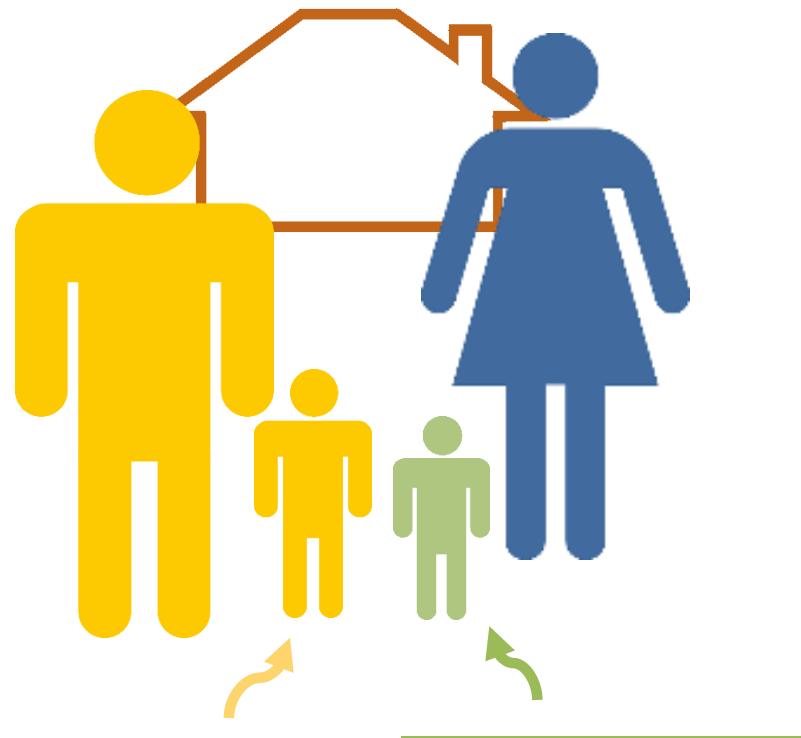
Christine Schnor,

Sofie Vanassche & Jan Van Bavel

KU LEUVEN

Divorced men's father roles at home

Biological father role

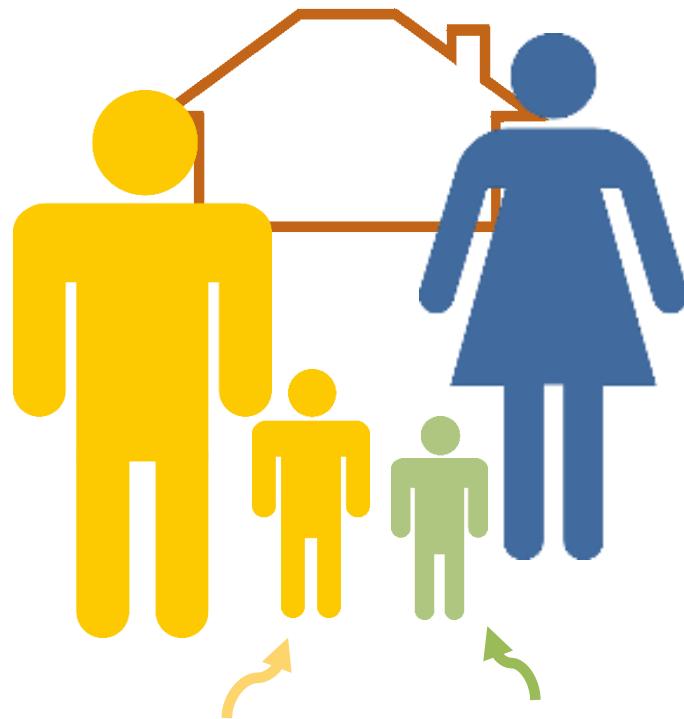


**man's child from
previous relation**

**Child with new
partner**

Divorced men's father roles at home

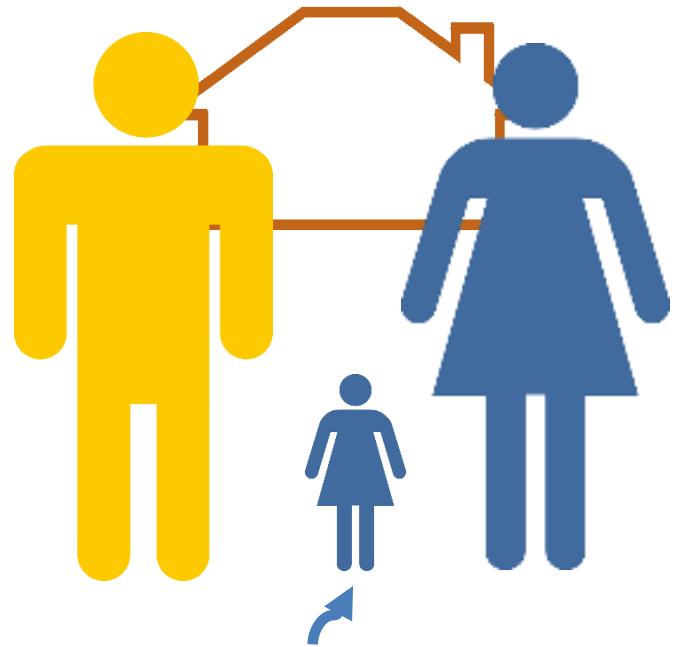
Biological father role



man's child from
previous relation

Child with new
partner

Stepfather role



Female partner's child
from previous relation

Motivation



Divorced men: Stepfathers or biological fathers?

- Education often works as divider of life course patterns
- Men are assigned the role of economic provider,
but whether they fulfill this role at home can depend on
 - (1) their *capacity* (educational background)
 - (2) their *willingness* to contribute (biological link to family)

Motivation



Divorced men: Stepfathers or biological fathers?

- Education often works as divider of life course patterns
- Men are assigned the role of economic provider,
but whether they fulfill this role at home can depend on
 - (1) their *capacity* (educational background)
 - (2) their *willingness* to contribute (biological link to family)

Research question

Are there education-specific roles of fatherhood following a divorce?

Background

Men's educational level is positively related

- to their attractiveness on the (re)partner market
- to their reproductive outcome

Background

Men's educational level is positively related

- to their attractiveness on the (re)partner market
- to their reproductive outcome

Prior studies show that highly educated divorced men

- more often coreside with their children
- less often repartner a mother
- are as likely to have a child with the new partner as less educated men (once repartnered)

Background

Men's educational level is positively related

- to their attractiveness on the (re)partner market
- to their reproductive outcome

Prior studies show that highly educated divorced men

- more often coreside with their children
- less often repartner a mother
- are as likely to have a child with the new partner as less educated men (once repartnered)

Hypothesis

- More educated men are more often in the role of a biological father
- Less educated men are more often in the role of a stepfather

Data & Methods

Data

“Divorce in Flanders” project (2009-2010)
Dutch-speaking Belgian couples
1/3 intact marriages, 2/3 divorced
1st marriage cohorts 1971-2008

Sample description

- N=1,111 divorced men, followed in first 7 years after divorce
- no educational gradient in first-marriage biological fatherhood (69% fathers) and mean age at divorce (34 years)

Method

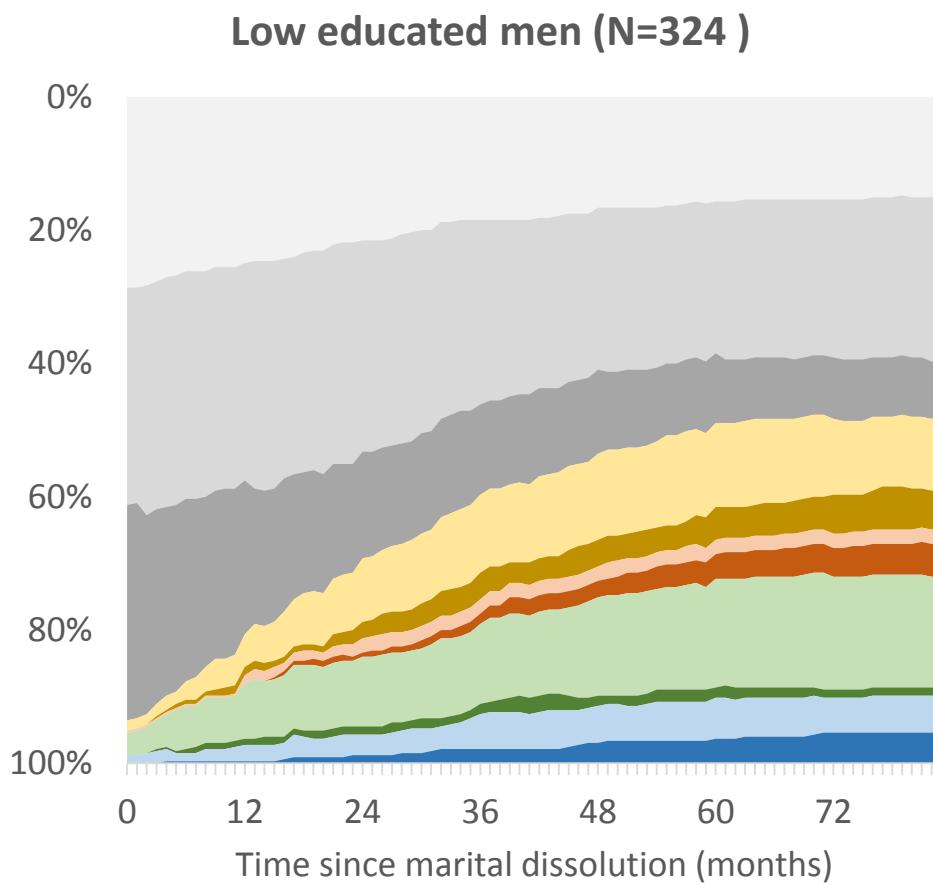
- Chronogram (state-distribution plots)
- Multinomial logit and probit models, predictive margins

Men's partnership and family trajectories

- descriptive results -

Men's partnership and family trajectories

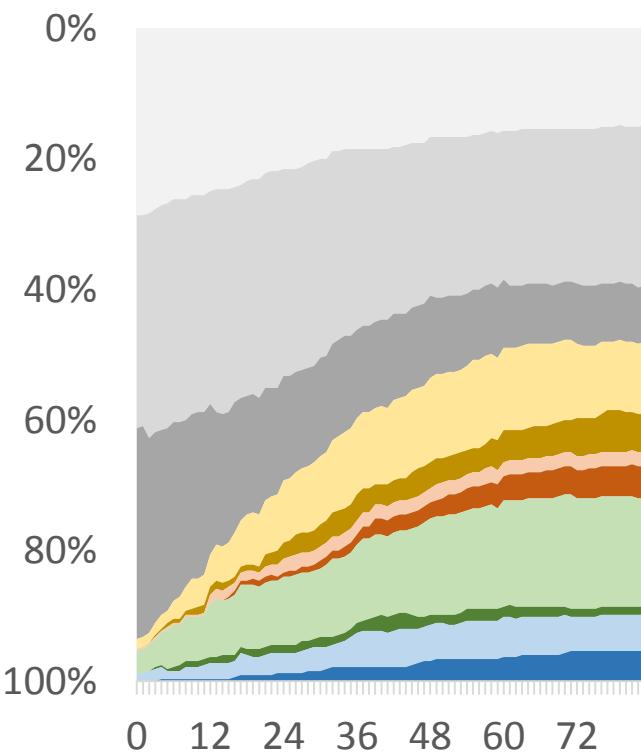
Descriptive results: Chronogram (state-distribution plot)



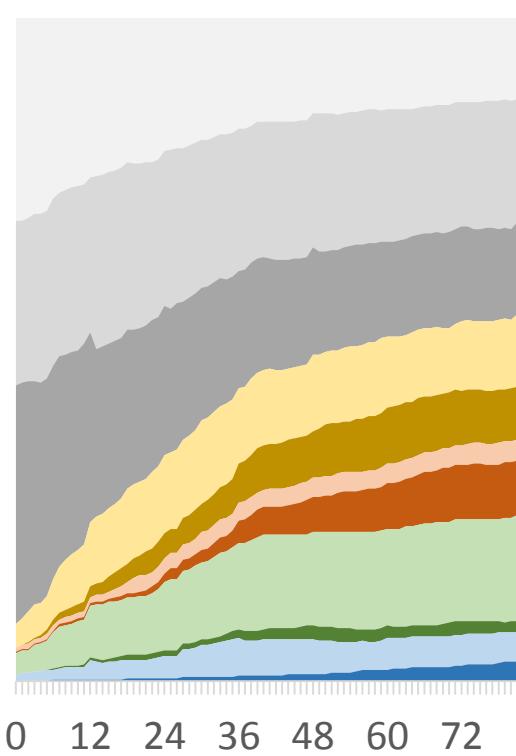
No common child with new partner	Common child with new partner
'single & childless'	/
'single & no res father role'	
'single & res father'	
'couple'	'nuclear family'
'stepmother family'	'stepmother family & child'
'stepfather family'	'stepfather family & child'
'stepparents family'	'stepparents family & child'

Descriptive results: Chronogram (state-distribution plot)

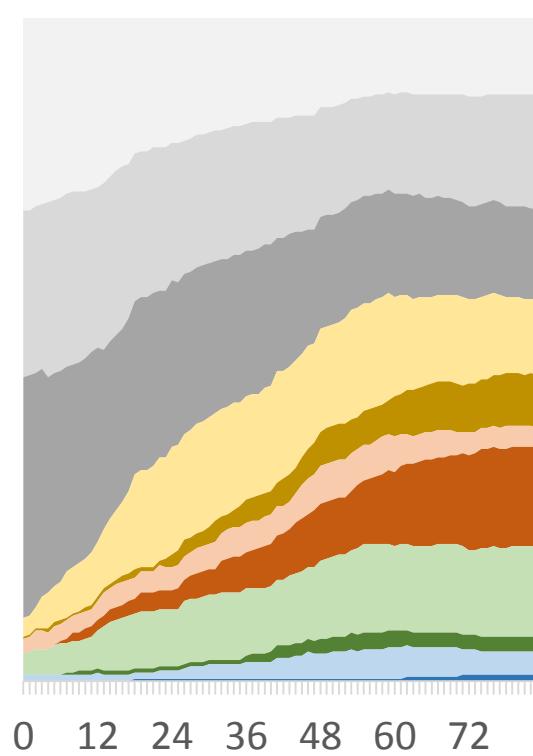
Low educated men
(N=324)



Medium educated men
(N=474)



Highly educated men
(N=313)



No common child

- 'single & childless'
- 'single & no res father role'
- 'single & res father'
- 'couple'
- 'stepfather family'
- 'stepmother family'
- 'stepparents family'

Common child

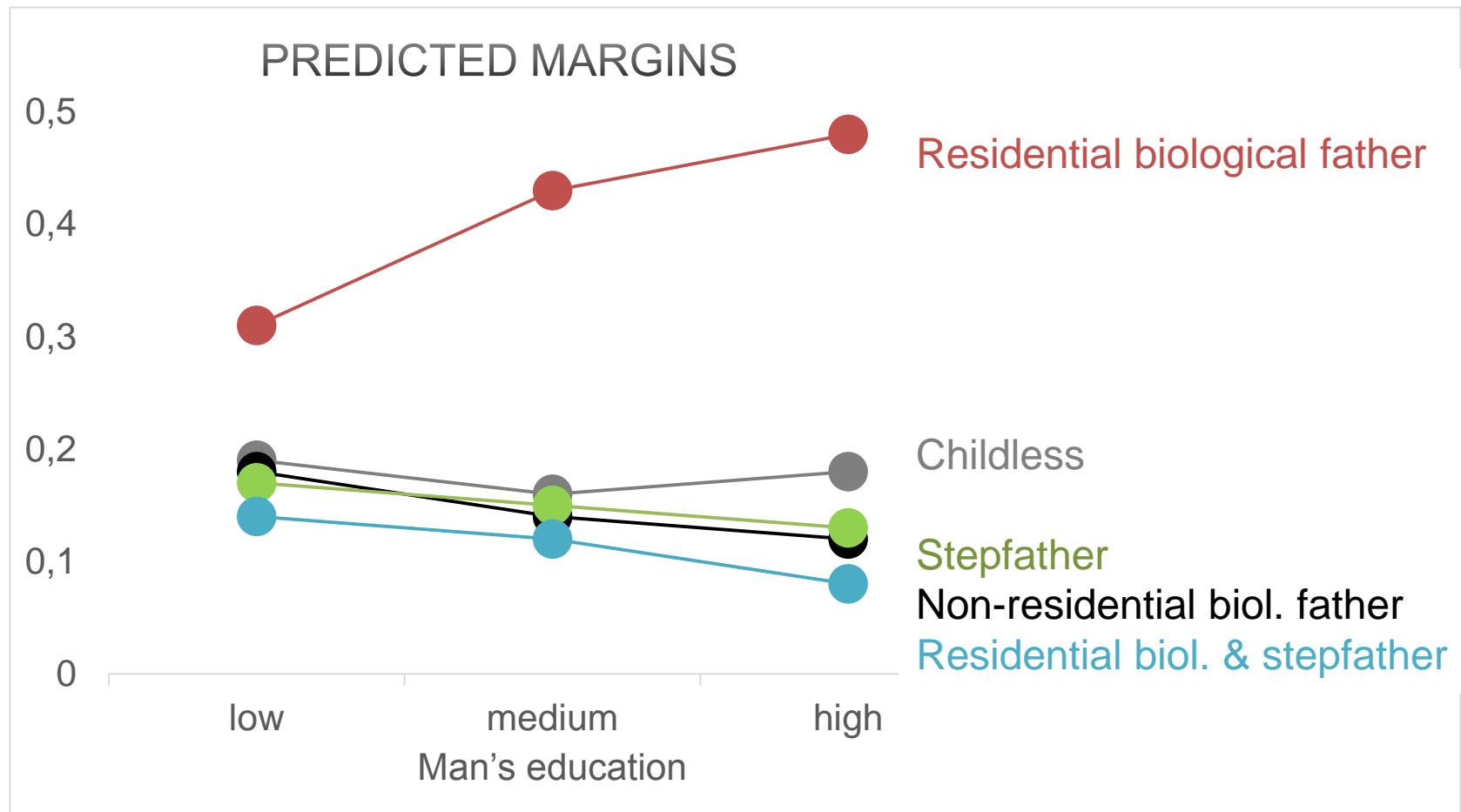
- /
- 'nuclear family'
- 'stepfather family & child'
- 'stepmother family & child'
- 'stepparents family & child'

Education-specific roles of post-divorce fatherhood

- multivariate results -

Residential fatherhood roles

in the first 7 years following first marriage dissolution



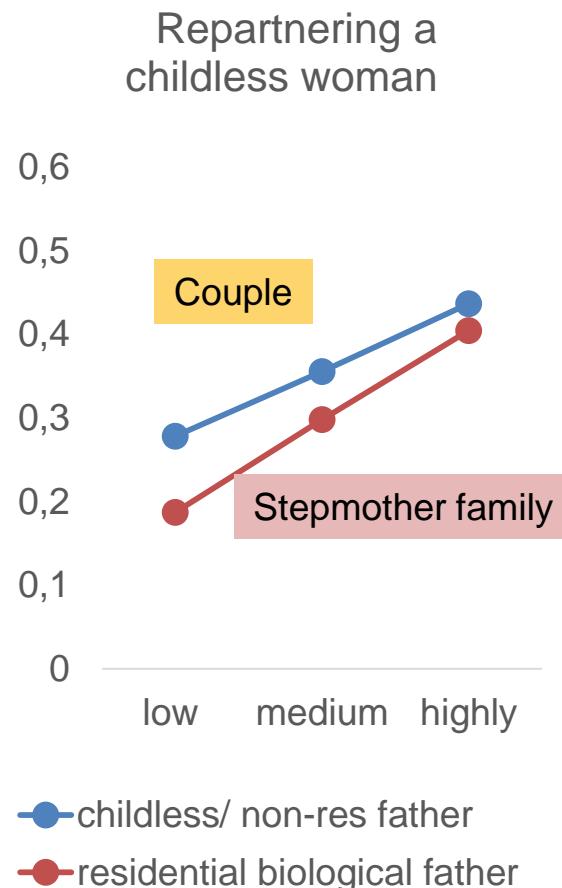
Predicted margins, based on results from multinomial logit model;
all shown results significant on $p<0.05$ or $p<0.01$ level;
other control covariates: man's age at marital dissolution, year of divorce

Men's education and repartnering

- multivariate results -

Men's education and repartnering in the first 7 years following first marriage dissolution

PREDICTED MARGINS



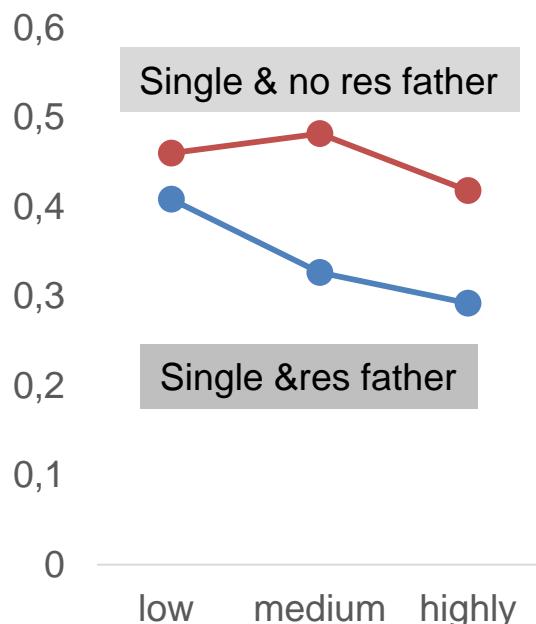
Figures: Predicted margins, based on results from multinomial logit model

all shown results significant on $p < 0.05$ or $p < 0.01$ level; other control covariates: man's age at marital dissolution, number and age of children from first marriage, year of divorce

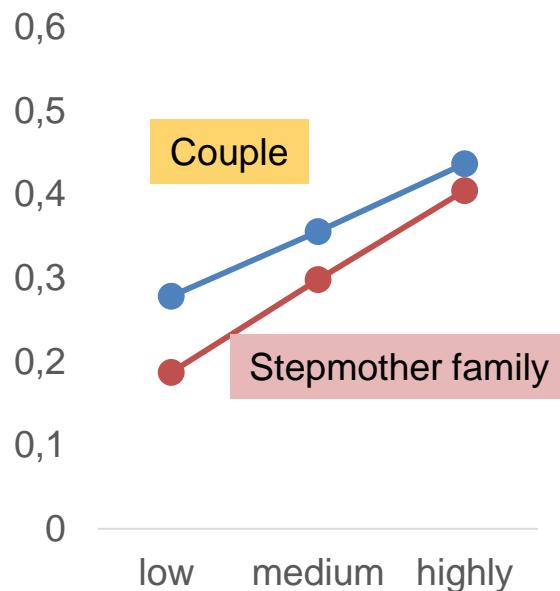
Men's education and repartnering in the first 7 years following first marriage dissolution

PREDICTED MARGINS

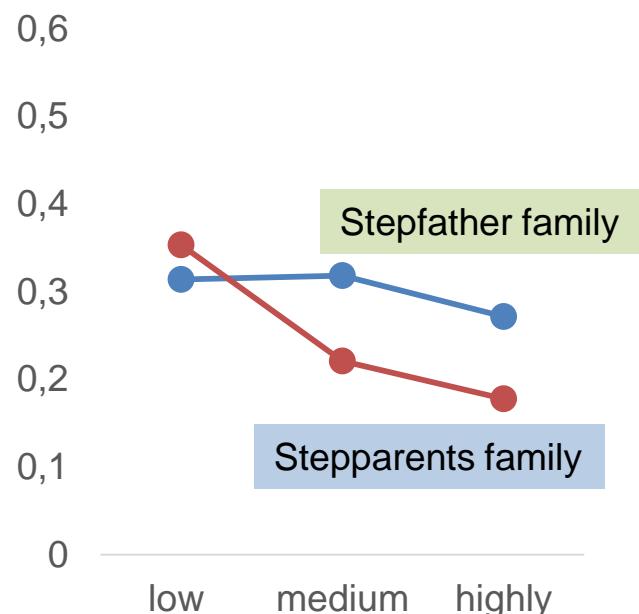
Remain unpartnered



Repartnering a
childless woman



Repartnering a mother



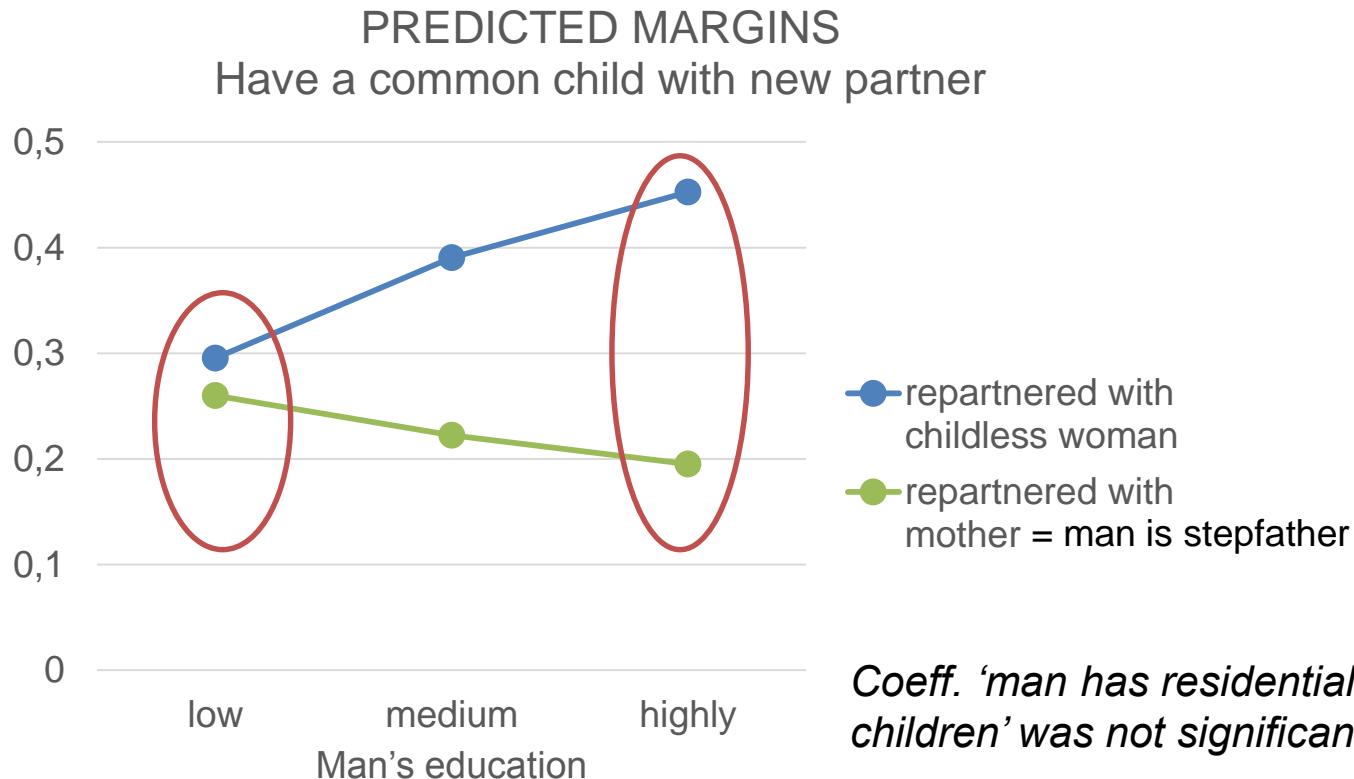
- childless/ non-res father
- residential biological father

Figures: Predicted margins, based on results from multinomial logit model
all shown results significant on p<0.05 or p<0.01 level; other control covariates: man's age at marital dissolution,
number and age of children from first marriage, year of divorce

Men's education and new family formation

- multivariate results -

Men's education and new family formation



Coeff. 'man has residential children' was not significant.

Tables: Predicted margins, based on results from multinomial logit model
all shown results significant on p<0.05 or p<0.01 level;
other control covariates: man's and woman's age at union formation, residential children, year of divorce

Conclusion

Men's education is linked to their post-divorce roles of fatherhood

- *Highly educated men* are more likely to have biological links to the children they live with.
- *Less educated* are more likely to be in the role of a stepfather.

Conclusion

Men's education is linked to their post-divorce roles of fatherhood

- *Highly educated men* are more likely to have biological links to the children they live with.
- *Less educated* are more likely to be in the role of a stepfather.

Reason: men's repartnering strategies differ by their education.

Highly educated men tend more to live with their children from first marriage, to repartner with childless women and to father children in this union.

Conclusion

Men's education is linked to their post-divorce roles of fatherhood

- *Highly educated men* are more likely to have biological links to the children they live with.
- *Less educated* are more likely to be in the role of a stepfather.

Reason: men's repartnering strategies differ by their education.

Highly educated men tend more to live with their children from first marriage, to repartner with childless women and to father children in this union.

Potential consequence: Reproduction of social inequality

Low educated men are less likely to act as the economic provider in the family (lower capacity and willingness)

Thanks for your attention!

Question or comments?
Christine.Schnor@soc.kuleuven.be



The study has been funded by the Flemish agency for Innovation by Science and Technology (IWT grant agreement no. 080039 for the Divorce in Flanders project) and the European Research Council (ERC grant agreement no. 312290 for the GENDERBALL project).

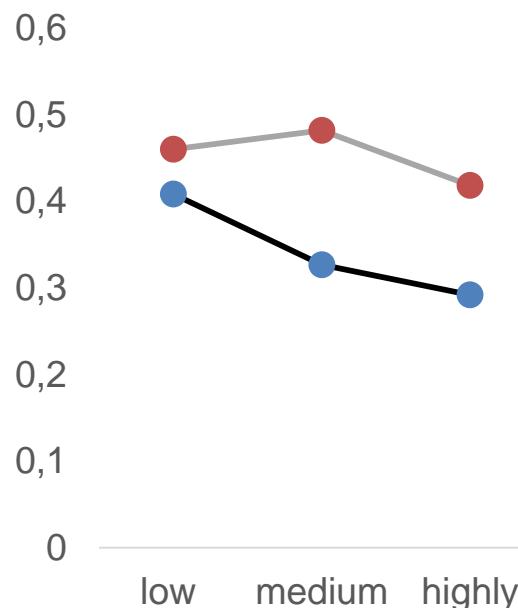
KU LEUVEN

Repartnering

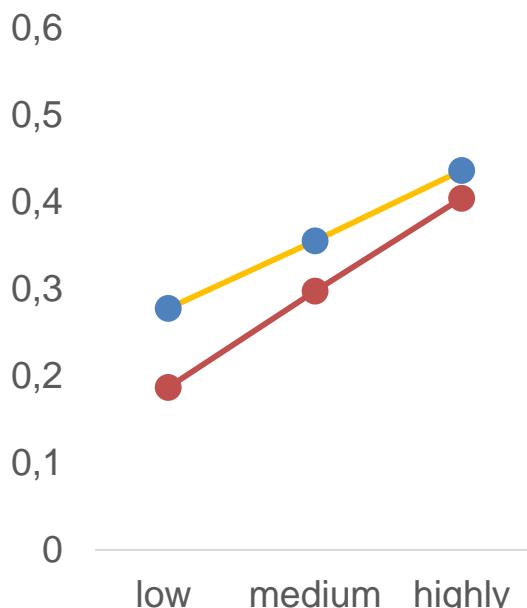
in the first 7 years following first marriage dissolution

PREDICTED MARGINS

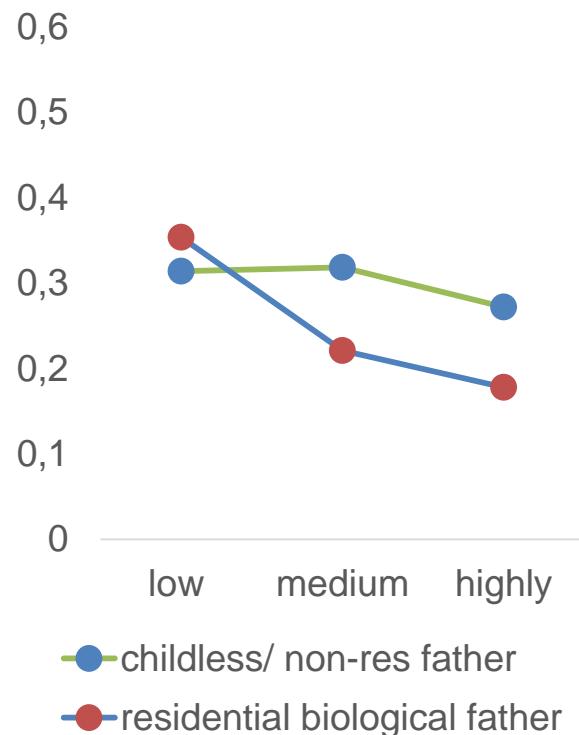
(1) Remain unpartnered



(2) Repartnering a childless woman



(3) Repartnering a mother



Figures: Predicted margins, based on results from multinomial logit model

all shown results significant on p<0.05 or p<0.01 level;

other control covariates: man's age at marital dissolution, number and age of children from first marriage, year of divorce

Multivariate findings I

Residential fatherhood roles

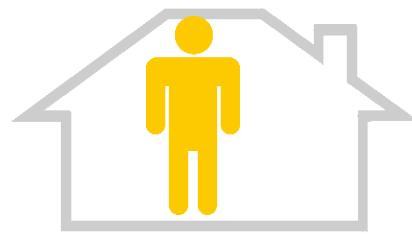
in the first 7 years following first marriage dissolution

	low	medium	high	Educational gradient
Childless	0.19	0.16	0.18	
Non-residential father	0.18	0.14	0.12	
Residential biological father	0.31	0.43	0.48	
Stepfather	0.17	0.15	0.13	
Residential bio. & stepfather	0.14	0.12	0.08	

Table: Predicted margins, based on results from multinomial logit model;
all shown results significant on p<0.05 or p<0.01 level;
other control covariates: man's age at marital dissolution, year of divorce

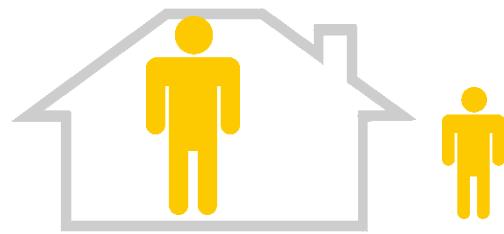
Partnership and family trajectories by divorced men's education

Men's partnership and family trajectories



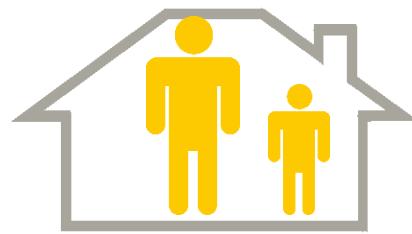
No common child with new partner	Common child with new partner
'single & childless'	/
'single & no res father role'	
'single & res father'	
'couple'	'nuclear family'
'step-father family'	'step-father family & child'
'step-mother family'	'step-mother family & child'
'step-parents family'	'step-parents family & child'

Men's partnership and family trajectories



No common child with new partner	Common child with new partner
'single & childless'	/
'single & no res father role'	
'single & res father'	
'couple'	'nuclear family'
'step-father family'	'step-father family & child'
'step-mother family'	'step-mother family & child'
'step-parents family'	'step-parents family & child'

Men's partnership and family trajectories

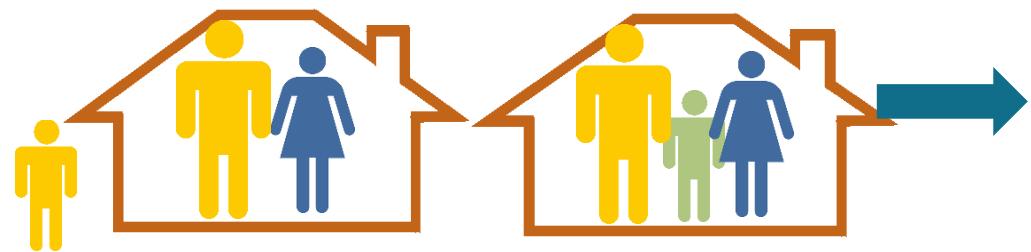


No common child with new partner	Common child with new partner
'single & childless'	/
'single & no res father role'	
'single & res father'	
'couple'	'nuclear family'
'step-father family'	'step-father family & child'
'step-mother family'	'step-mother family & child'
'step-parents family'	'step-parents family & child'

Men's partnership and family trajectories

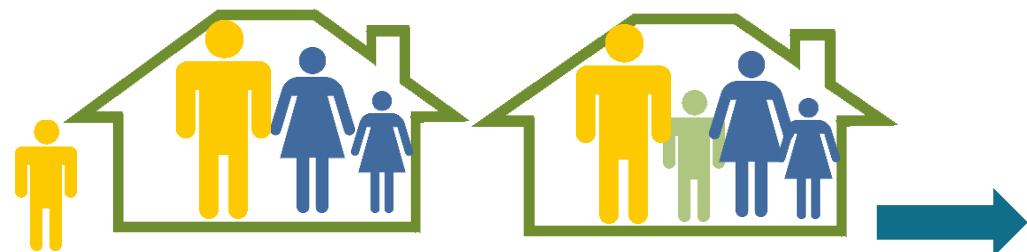
No common child with new partner	Common child with new partner
'single & childless'	/
'single & no res father role'	
'single & res father'	
'couple'	'nuclear family'
'step-father family'	'step-father family & child'
'step-mother family'	'step-mother family & child'
'step-parents family'	'step-parents family & child'

Men's partnership and family trajectories



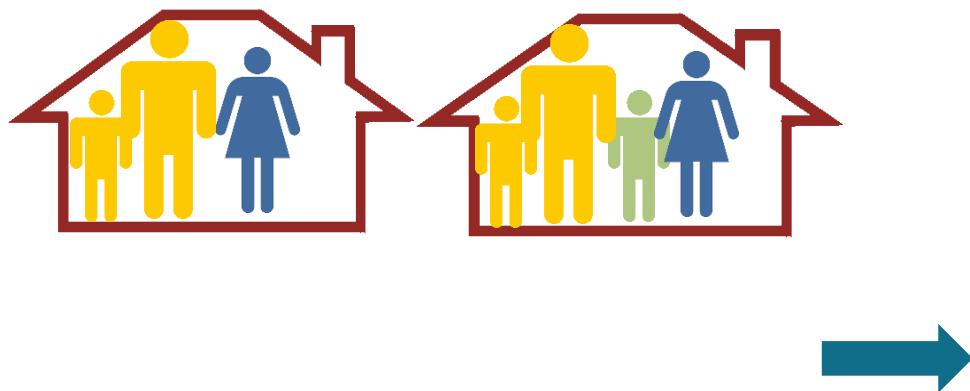
No common child with new partner	Common child with new partner
'single & childless'	/
'single & no res father role'	
'single & res father'	
'couple'	'nuclear family'
'step-father family'	'step-father family & child'
'step-mother family'	'step-mother family & child'
'step-parents family'	'step-parents family & child'

Men's partnership and family trajectories



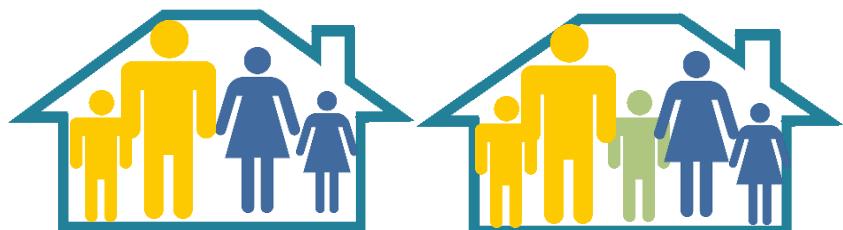
No common child with new partner	Common child with new partner
'single & childless'	/
'single & no res father role'	
'single & res father'	
'couple'	'nuclear family'
'step-father family'	'step-father family & child'
'step-mother family'	'step-mother family & child'
'step-parents family'	'step-parents family & child'

Men's partnership and family trajectories



No common child with new partner	Common child with new partner
'single & childless'	/
'single & no res father role'	
'single & res father'	
'couple'	'nuclear family'
'step-father family'	'step-father family & child'
'step-mother family'	'step-mother family & child'
'step-parents family'	'step-parents family & child'

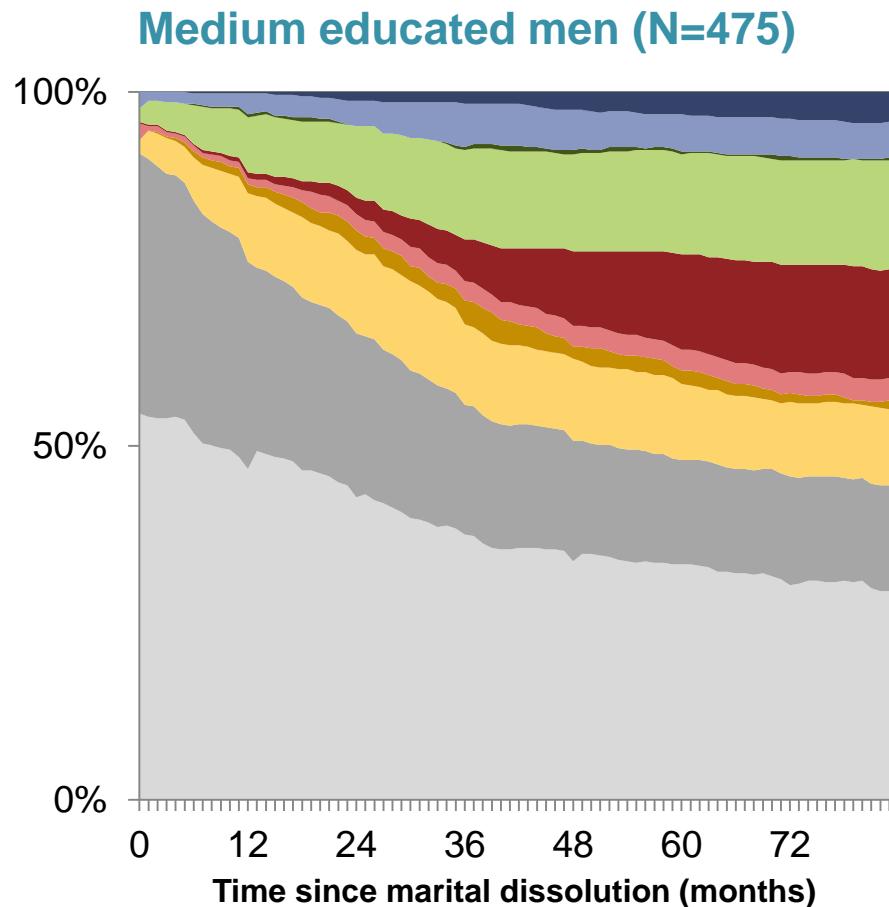
Men's partnership and family trajectories



No common child with new partner	Common child with new partner
'single & childless'	/
'single & no res father role'	
'single & res father'	
'couple'	'nuclear family'
'step-father family'	'step-father family & child'
'step-mother family'	'step-mother family & child'
'step-parents family'	'step-parents family & child'

Descriptive results

Partnership and family trajectories

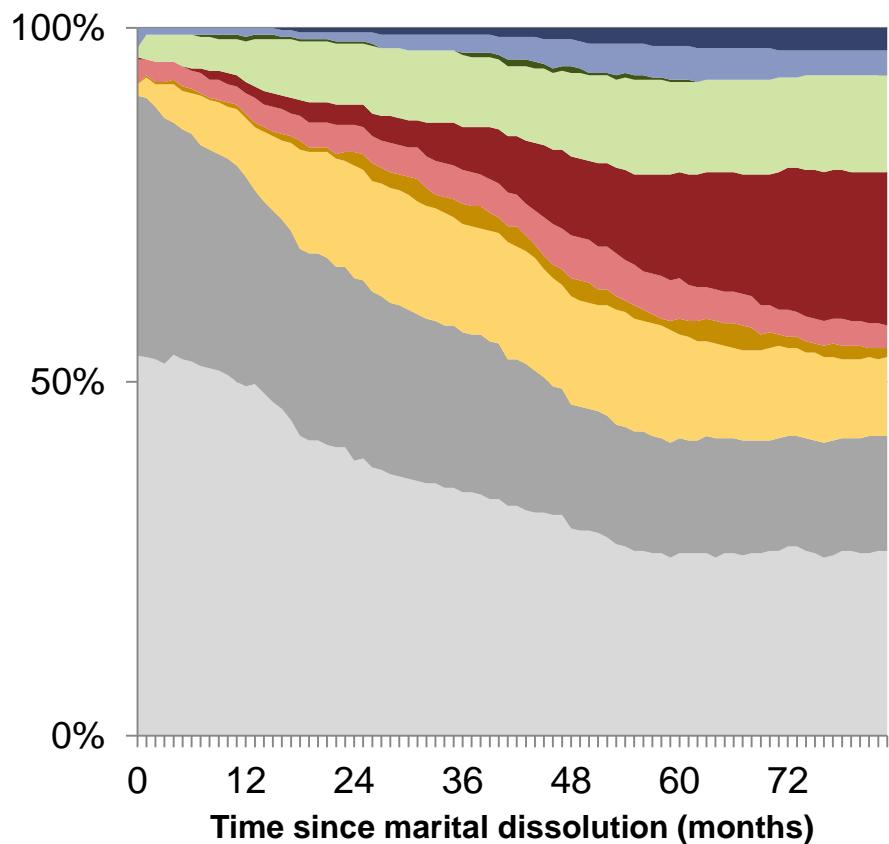


No common child	Common child
'single & childless'	/
'single & father'	
'couple'	'nuclear family'
'step-father family'	'step-father family & child'
'step-mother family'	'step-mother family & child'
'step-parents family'	'step-parents family & child'

Descriptive results

Partnership and family trajectories

Highly educated men (N=314)



No common child	Common child
'single & childless'	/
'single & father'	
'couple'	'nuclear family'
'step-father family'	'step-father family & child'
'step-mother family'	'step-mother family & child'
'step-parents family'	'step-parents family & child'

Multivariate findings I

Residential fatherhood

Residential childless	'single & childless'	'couple'
Residential biological father	'single & father'	'nuclear family'
	'step-mother family'	'step-mother family & child'
Residential stepfather	'step-father family'	
Residential biological and stepfather		'Step-father family & child"
	'step-parents family'	'Step-parents family & child'