Women’s Partnership and Labour Trajectories and Late Transitions to First and Second Births in Spain. The Role of Stability Over the Life Course on the Recuperation of Births

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**MOTIVATION**
1. Trend of motherhood postponement in Europe.
2. Some women are able to recuperate births after a late entry into motherhood.
3. Highly educated women are more likely to experience delays in motherhood and recuperation of births.
4. Highly educated women are more likely to experience more stable partnership and labour trajectories than the lower educated.

What is the role of partnership and labour stability in the occurrence and timing of late transitions to the first child? And on the subsequent recuperation of births?

**THE CONTEXT**
2. Births over the maternal age of 40: 9.8%
3. Instability in the labour market -> contracts of limited duration among young individuals (50% among 25–29 years).
4. Increasing proportion of women with high education (50% among women aged 25–34).

**DATA AND METHODS**

2018 Spanish Fertility Survey (INE) -> longitudinal retrospective survey with information about women’s partnership and labour history (n=14,556).

Cure models among childless women at age 35 (transition to parity 1) and among late mothers (transition to parity 2).

Measurements: Partnership and labour stability up to age 35.

**Results of the mixture cure models. Partnership stability.**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Conditions</th>
<th>Predicted cure fraction</th>
<th>Median age at the event</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>One partner more than 9 years</td>
<td>0.5</td>
<td>37.53 (Ref.)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>One partner up to 9 years</td>
<td>0.5</td>
<td>37.24 (Ref.)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>More than one partner</td>
<td>0.5</td>
<td>36.95+ (Ref.)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No partner</td>
<td>0.5</td>
<td>38.98***</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Results of the mixture cure models. Labour stability.**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Conditions</th>
<th>Predicted cure fraction</th>
<th>Median age at the event</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>One job more than 8 years</td>
<td>0.5</td>
<td>37.54</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>More than one job up to 8 years</td>
<td>0.5</td>
<td>37.69 (Ref.)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>One job up to 8 years</td>
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<td>37.81</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>More than one job more than 8 years</td>
<td>0.5</td>
<td>37.54</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No jobs</td>
<td>0.5</td>
<td>37.75</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**BY EDUCATIONAL LEVEL:**
1. University-educated women are more likely to become mothers after the age of 35, and more likely to have a second child when they had the first one later than 35.
2. If they have unstable partnership trajectories, they are more likely to have late first births as compared to the lower-educated women, and more likely to have a second child.
3. University-educated women with unstable job trajectories are more likely to have a late first birth than the lower-educated, but are more likely to have a second child if they had stable labour trajectories.
4. They tend to reduce birth spacing when they had unstable labour conditions more than the lower-educated.

**TAKING HOME MESSAGES**

1. **Unstable partnership trajectories:**
   - High probability of having a first birth after age 35
   - High probability of having a second child after having a late first birth.
   - Highly educated women are more likely to have a late first birth after unstable partnership trajectories and more likely to have a second child under stable partnership trajectories (increasing spacing).

2. **Unstable labour trajectories:**
   - Do not significantly affect the probability of having a late first child.
   - Highly educated women are more likely to have a late first child when the first was delayed.
   - Highly educated women are more likely to have a second child if they had stable labour trajectories, and are also more likely to have a second child than non-university educated (increasing the spacing).