

# Belonging to the Neighbourhood, Residential Mobility, and the Transition to Parenthood

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FOR DEMOGRAPHY AND  
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## Motivation

- We exist in and are influenced by our **sociospatial** surroundings.
- Our connection to the neighbourhood and the people in it provides several aspects associated with the transition to parenthood: **familiarity, security, resource and information exchange, and emotional well-being**.
- However, **residential mobility** is common in young adulthood. But moving has **social costs**.
- We can proxy the subjective connection to the local area through the **sense of belonging to the neighbourhood**.

## Questions

### Research Question 1

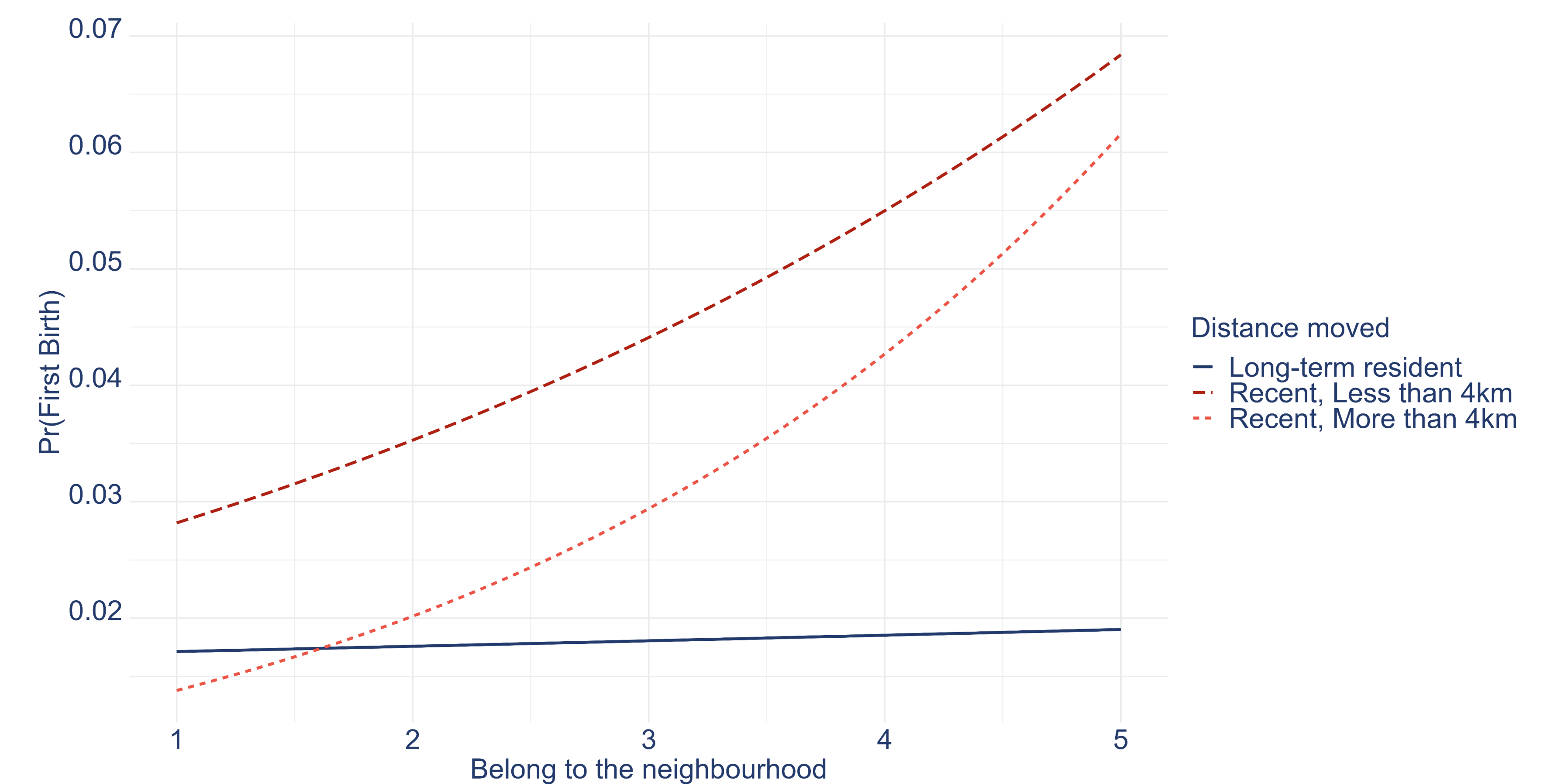
- *How is the sense of belonging in the neighbourhood associated with the transition to parenthood?*
- H1: A stronger sense of belonging will be positively associated with having a first child.

### Research Question 2

- *How does the relationship differ for those that have recently moved and does it depend on the distance of the last move?"*
- H2: Belonging to the neighbourhood will be more positively associated with parenthood for recent movers than long-term residents. Long-distance movers will have a more positive association than short-distance movers.

## Results

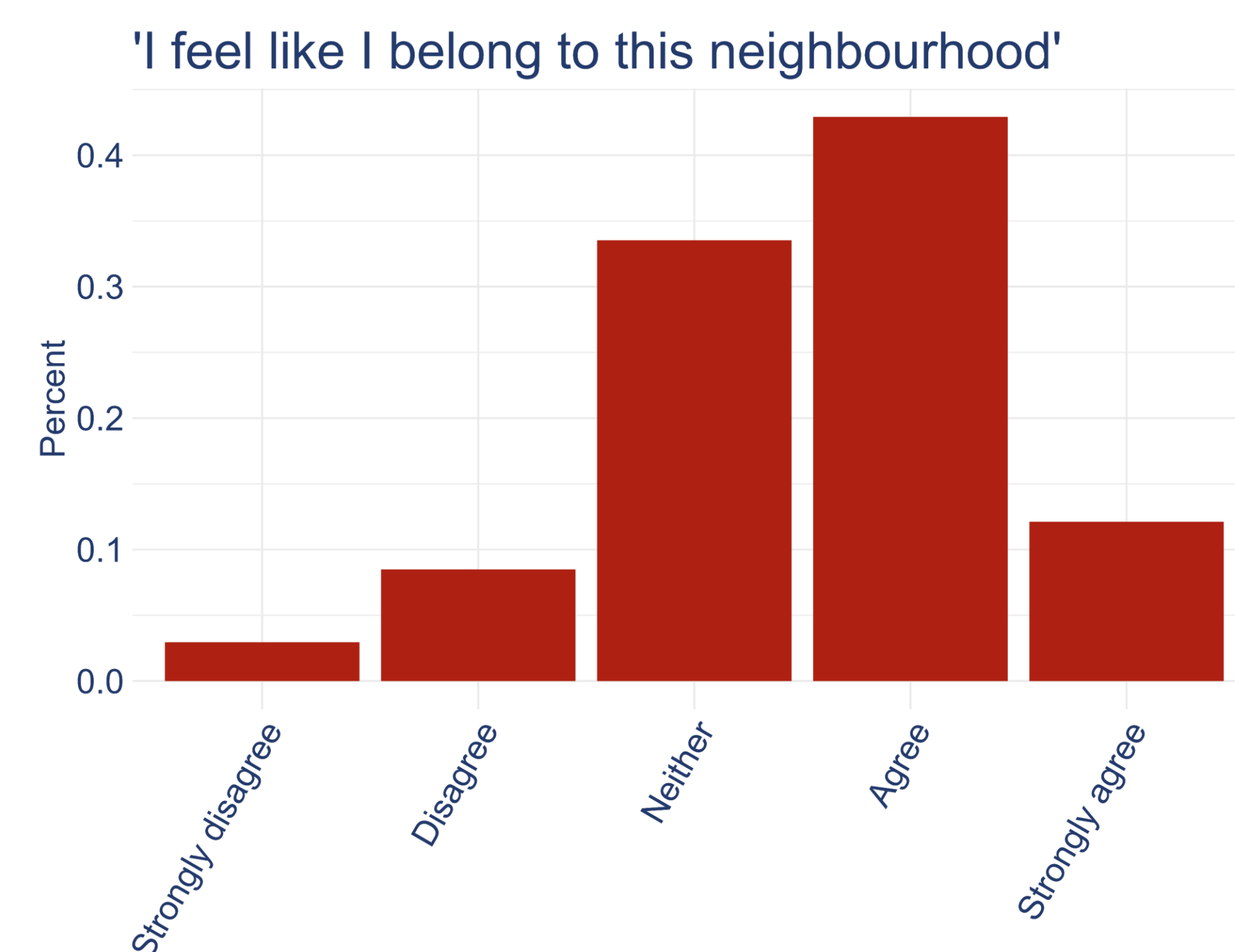
- A stronger sense of belonging to the neighbourhood is **positively associated** with parenthood.
- The relationship **depends on the length of time in the current residence**.
- While **short-distance moves are more positively associated with parenthood than long-distance moves**, the relationship between belonging and parenthood follows a **similar trend**.



**Note:** Data from UKHLS (2009-2020). Weighted. Predicted probability of interaction term. Recent move is considered within the previous 4 years. Controlled for sex, age, age-squared, survey wave, life satisfaction, partnership status, activity status, educational attainment, housing tenure, parent's distance, the desire to move, and urbanicity.

## Data & Analysis

- **Data:** United Kingdom Household Longitudinal Study (Waves 1, 3, 6, & 9)
- **Sample:** Childless, partnered individuals, ages 18-45; N = 16,798
- **Dependent:** Live first birth
- **Explanatory:** Belong to the neighbourhood (Bruckner's Neighbourhood Cohesion Index)
- **Interaction:** Time in current residence and distance of the last move
- **Model:** Multilevel Logit Regression clustered at the individual level



## Conclusion

1. **Geographic place** is more than objective characteristics but also a **subjective connection** to the local area
  - a. If a neighbourhood **does not provide security, emotional stability, and healthy social networks**, it is suboptimal for parenthood
2. For recent movers, a **stronger sense of belonging** can **ease the transition to parenthood** in three key ways:
  - a. A sign of **integrating into the local networks**
  - b. A desire to **settle down** and emotionally invest
  - c. The neighbourhood provides a **sense of security**

## Contact

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