

Partnership paths following divorce and cohabitation dissolution

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Introduction

- Increasing number of individuals dissolve their partnerships and form second and higher order unions
- + Positive effect of repartnering on household income, other resources and well-being
- Negative effect on children, transition is a potential stressor, increased instability of higher order unions

Background

- Cohabitations usually connected to more transitions to and from new partnerships than marriages (Cavanagh and Huston 2006; Graefe and Lichter 1999; Raley and Wildsmith 2004)
- Greater stigma associated with divorce
- Greater relationship "baggage" of divorced individuals (Poortman and Lyngstad 2007)
- declining effect hypothesis (Albertini and Garriga 2011)

Methods

- GGS 1st wave, women only
- Event-history analysis
- **Dependent variables:** Time to new partnership, formation, time to dissolution of second partnerships
- **Controls:** duration of previous partnership, type of previous partnership, child presence in previous partnership, age at exiting previous partnership, education (time varying), child presence (time varying), cohort, country + marriage (time varying), child presence (time varying) and age at start of the second union

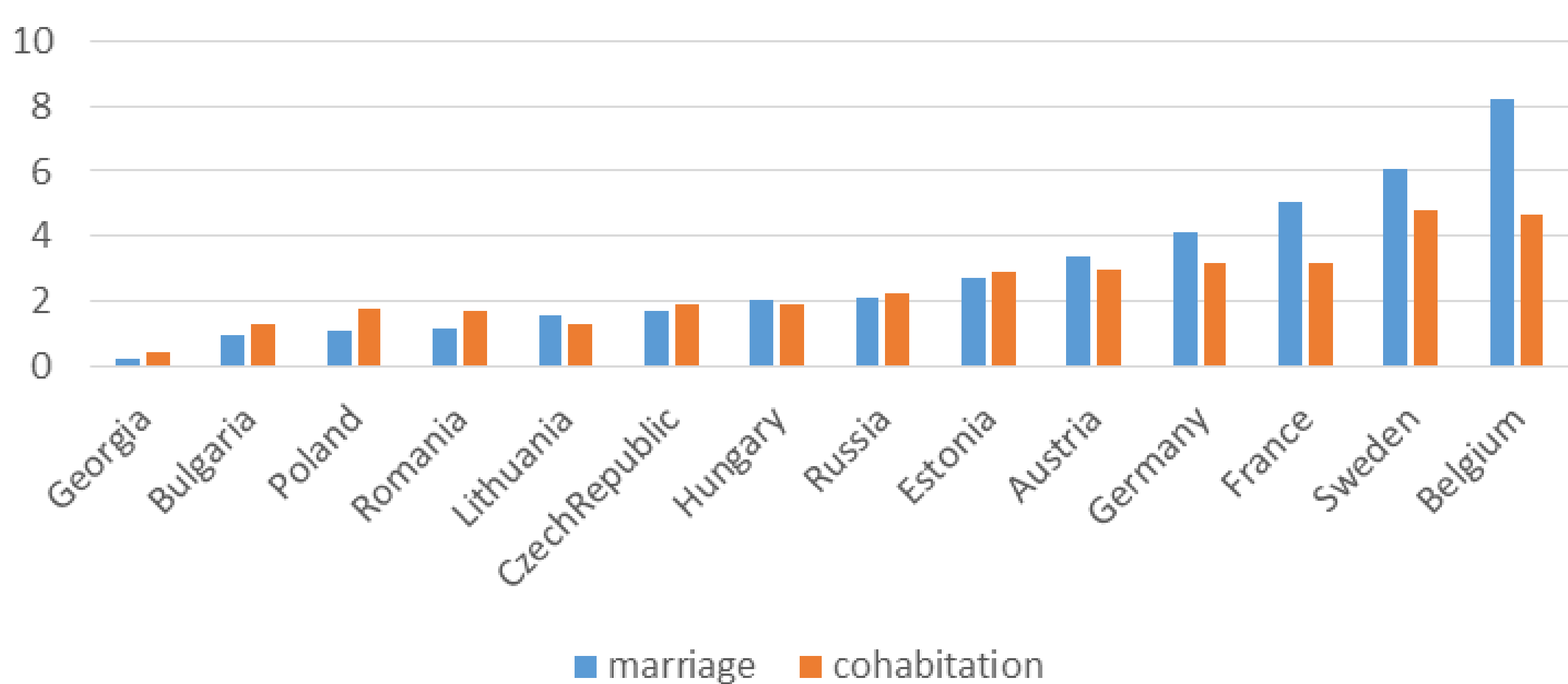
Research Questions and Hypotheses

How do former cohabiters and married individuals differ in their partnership paths in cross-national comparison?

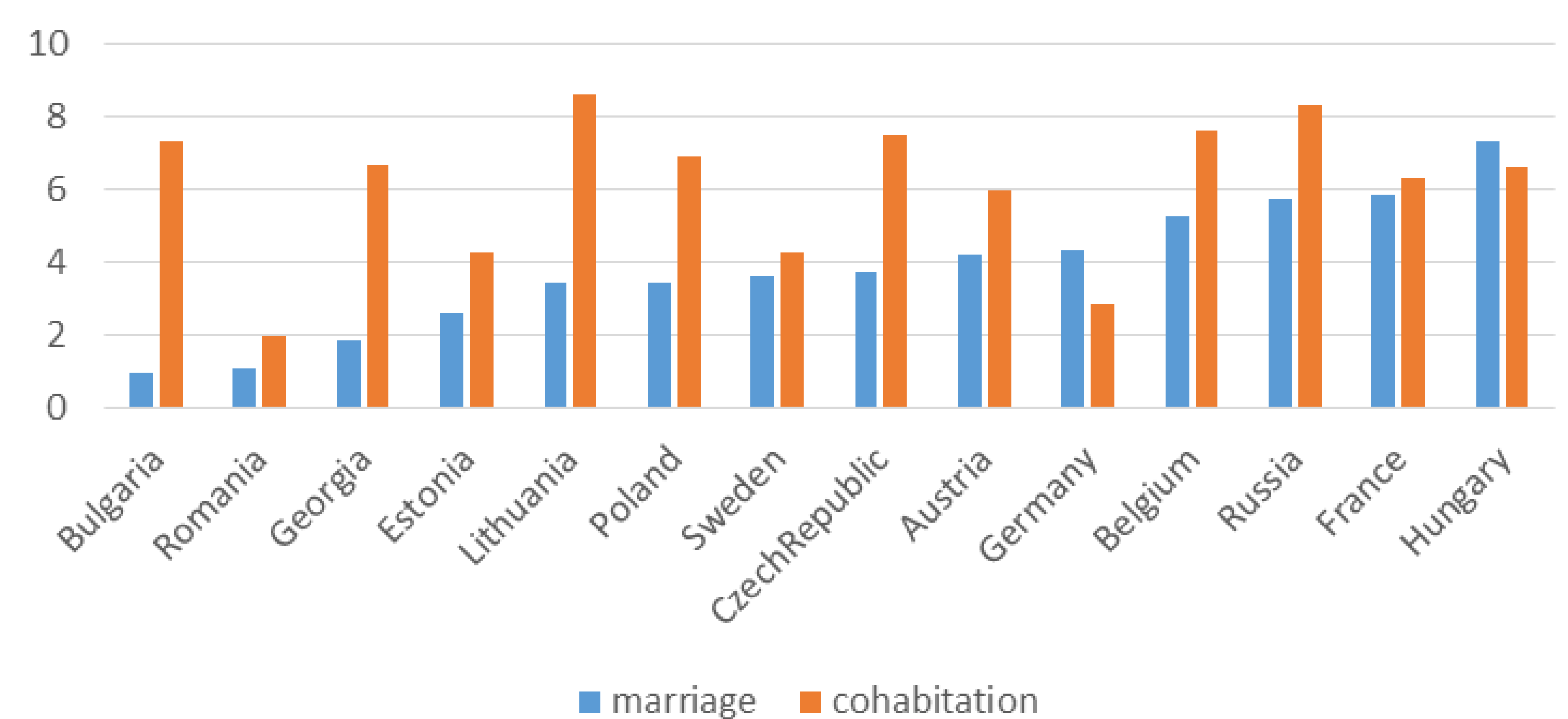
H1: Former cohabiters form a new relationship faster than former marrieds.

H2: Former cohabiters are more likely to dissolve their second partnerships.

Risk of repartnering after marriage and cohabitation dissolution



Risk of dissolution of the second union after marriage and cohabitation dissolution



Summary of results

- Women who experienced cohabitation dissolution are more likely to enter into second coresident partnership than formerly married women
- This effect is driven by characteristics of former cohabiters (younger age, childlessness...)
- In western European countries people are much more likely to enter into second unions after divorce
- Former cohabiters are generally more likely to dissolve their second unions
- Smaller difference in dissolution risk for formerly married and cohabiting in western European countries

Conclusions & Discussion

- We observe international variation in the pace in which individuals move to second unions and in the stability of the second unions
- Lower stigma of divorce in western European countries - declining effect hypothesis (Albertini and Garriga 2011)

Literature:
Albertini, Marco and Anna Garriga. 2011. "The Effect of Divorce on Parent-child Contacts: Evidence on Two Declining Effect Hypotheses." *European Societies* 13(2):257-78.
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