



University of  
Zurich<sup>UZH</sup>

Institute of Sociology

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# **“Same same but different”.**

## **Intergenerational transmission of education: European trends.**

4<sup>th</sup> International SHARE User Conference

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## Introduction

Several distinct approaches to the measurements of socioeconomic background have emerged:

- Conventional model
- Dominance model
- Joined model
- Individual model
- Few research focusing on parental influences including mother's characteristics and changes over time as well as cross-national differences



## Research Questions

- 1. Can we identify country-specific and / or gender differences in the educational participation of young Europeans?**
- 2. Do mothers matter? And if yes, are the achievements of mother and father for their offspring's educational success similar in Europe or can we observe country specific differences and changes over time?**
- 3. Can we identify educational systems that decrease the link between social origin and educational attainment?**



## Theoretical Background

### Different scenarios of parental imprinting

#### Getting stronger

- Changes in the labor market (service sector) → increasing labor force participation of women and greater prominence of successful women as role models

#### Unchanged

- Increased time at work could result in less time to be closely involved in their children's education → mother's socioeconomic characteristics have become no more important compared to that of their male partners

#### Specific but equal

- Effects of parental socioeconomic characteristics are subject specific → mother more important for reading and father for mathematics → in total no differences regarding the formal outcomes



## Data & Methods

- Survey of **H**ealth, **A**geing and **R**etirement in **E**urope (SHARE)
  - Main sample: 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> wave (2004-12), last interview
  - Matching between waves via “childid” (Standard: year of birth and gender, multiple births: plus additional information)
  - Countries: AUT, BEL, CHE, CZE, DEU (FRG & GDR), DNK, EST, ESP, FRA, GRC, HUN, IRL, ITA, NLD, POL, PRT, SVN and SWE
  - Reconstructed to the situation as the children of the respondents were 14 years old
  - Children:
    - ➔ aged 28 and over, born between 1950 and 1980
    - ➔ currently not in an educational program
    - ➔ N=47,835



## Data & Methods // Operationalization

### Dependent variable:

1. Highest educational degree (ISCED-level recoded into virtual years)

### Independent variables:

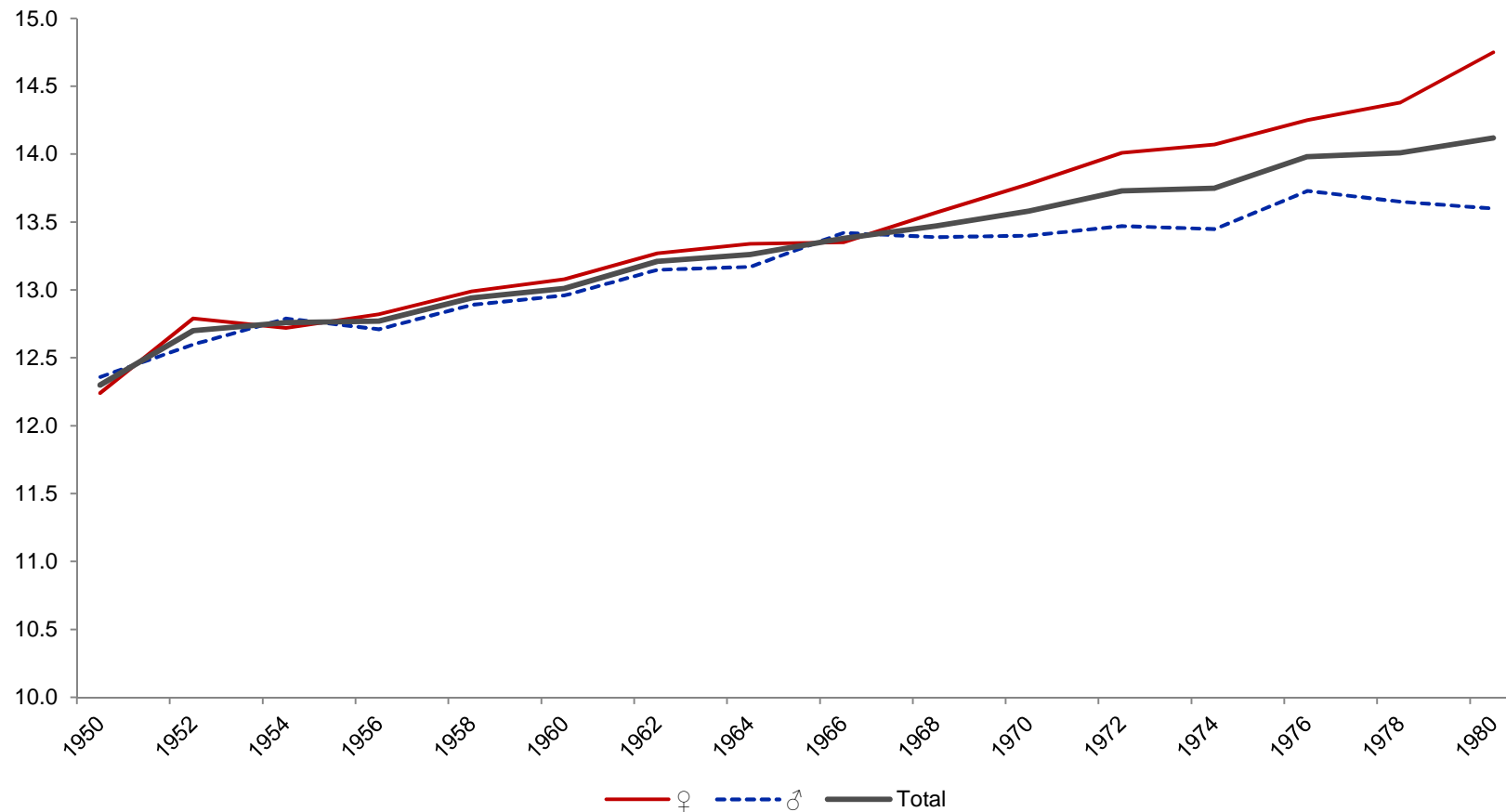
- Parental education of mother and father (ISCED-level recoded into virtual years)
- Gender, cohort, stepparents, number of siblings, birth order, parental age at birth, parental migration, living area during childhood

### Methods:

- Linear regressions
  - by country and cohort (1950-1959, 1960-1969, 1970-1980)



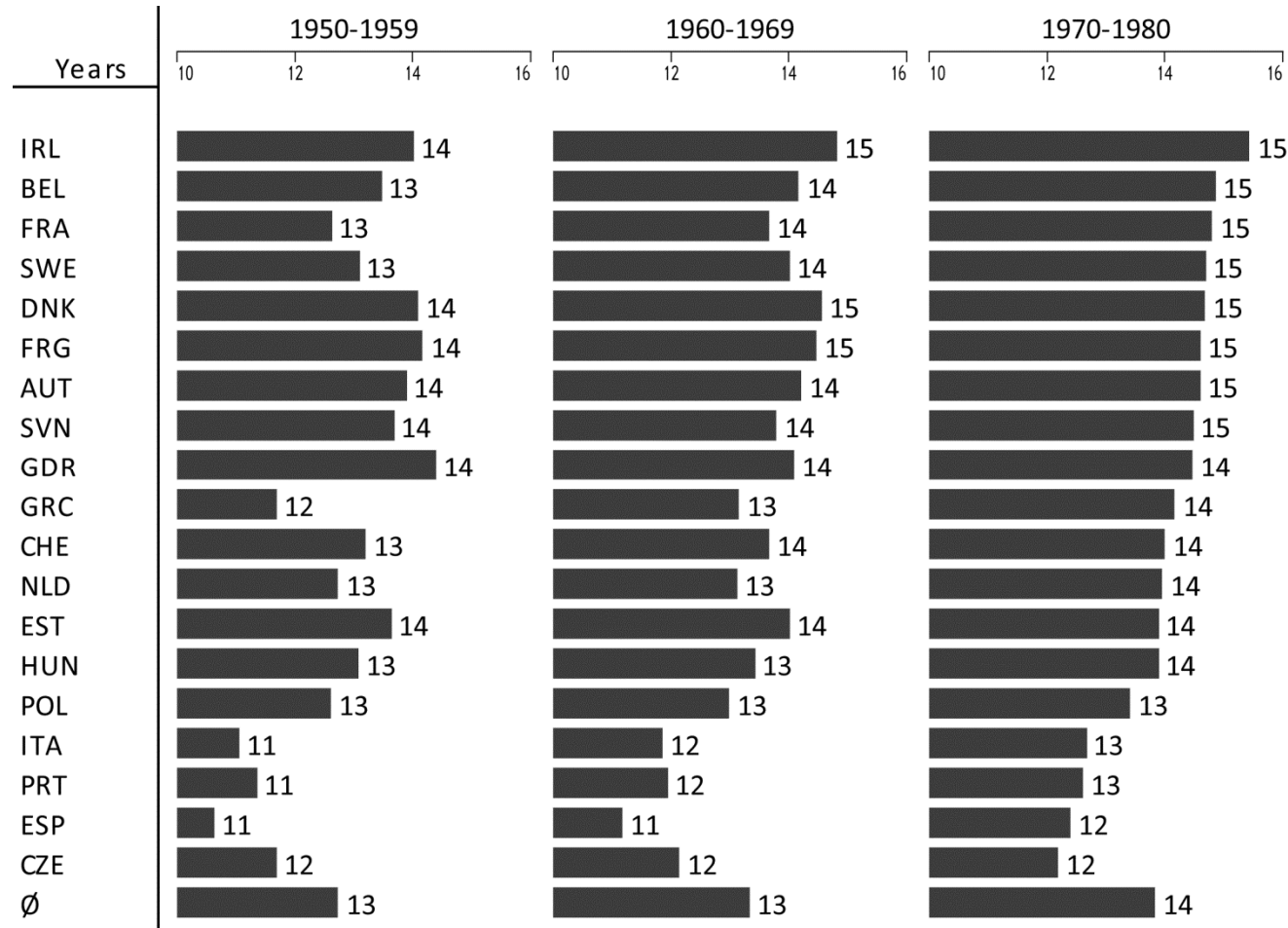
## Empirical Results // Educational attainment over time



Source: SHARE, wave 1, 2 and 4 (2004/12), N=19 countries based on 47,835 individuals, own calculations.



## Empirical Results // Educational attainment by country and cohort



Source: SHARE, wave 1, 2 and 4 (2004/12), N=19 countries based on 47,835 individuals, own calculations.

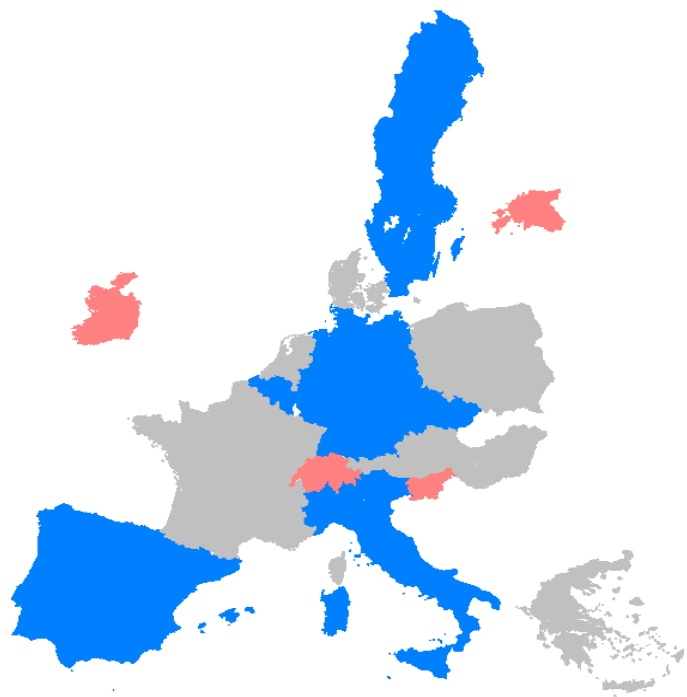




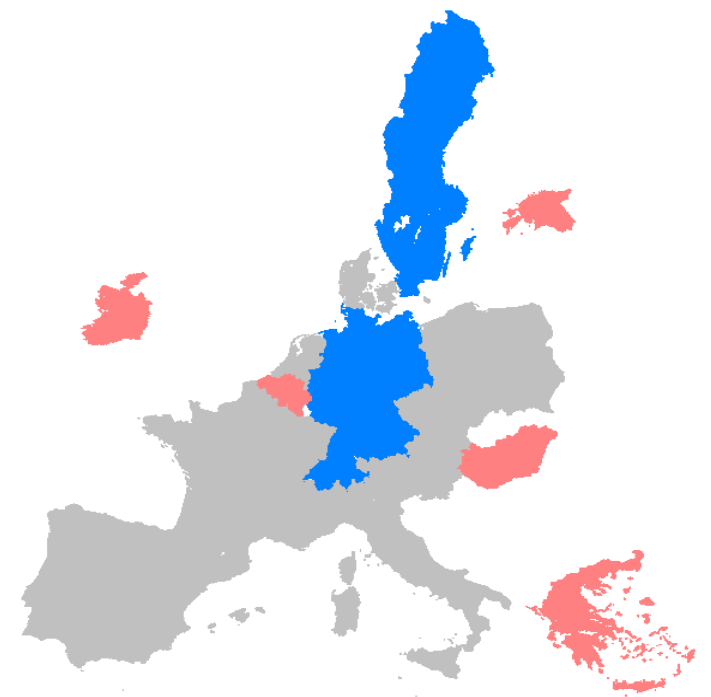
## Empirical Results // Who matters more?

1950-1959

1970-1980



■ MOTHER (CHE, EST, IRL, SVN)  
■ EQUAL (AUT, DNK, FRA, GRC, HUN, NLD, POL)  
■ FATHER (BEL, CZE, ESP, FRG, GDR, ITA, PRT, SWE)

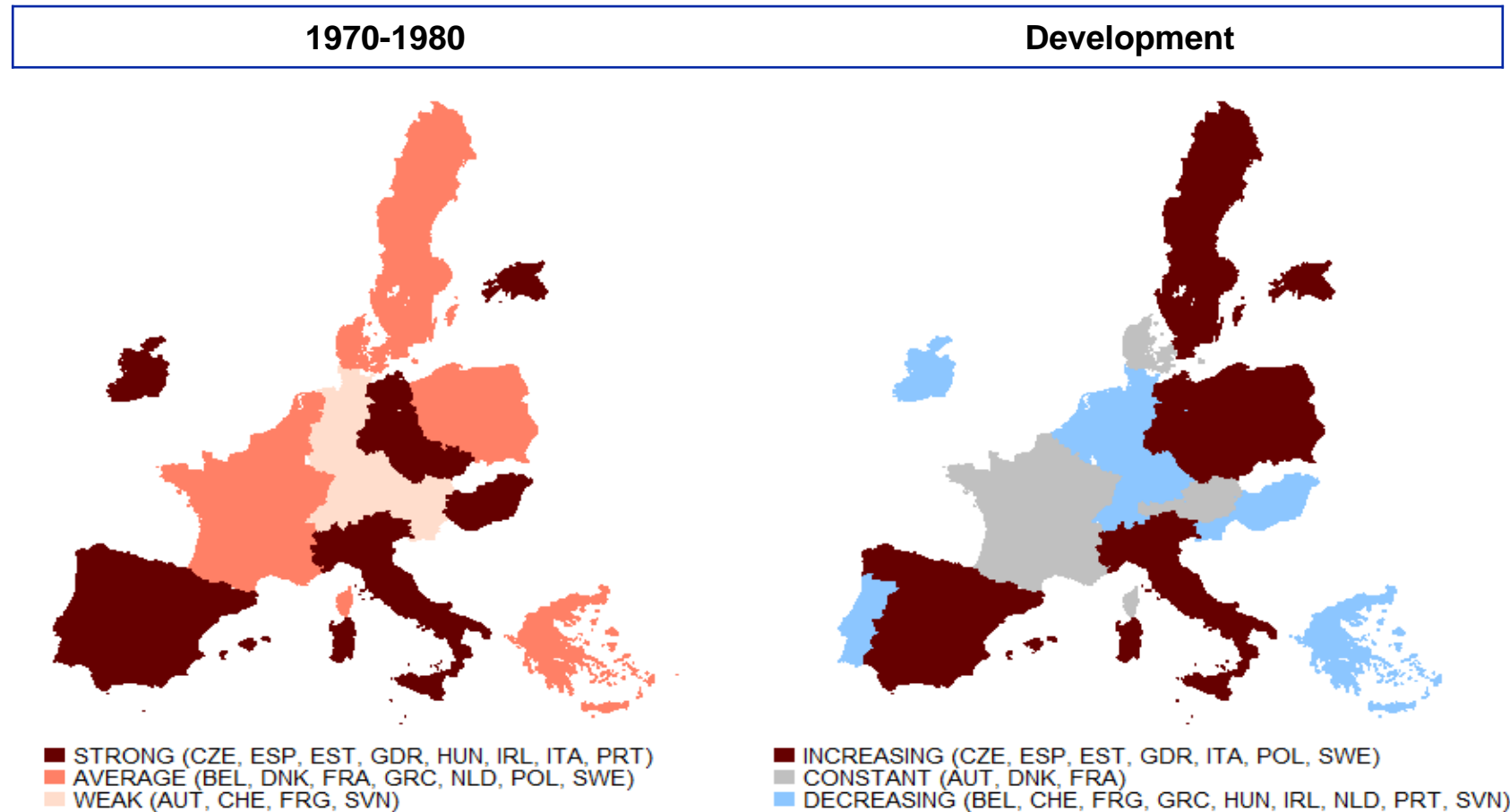


■ MOTHER (BEL, EST, GRC, HUN, IRL)  
■ EQUAL (AUT, CZE, DNK, ESP, FRA, ITA, NLD, POL, PRT, SVN)  
■ FATHER (CHE, GDR, FRG, SWE)

Source: SHARE, wave 1, 2 and 4 (2004/12), N=19 countries based on 10,232 (left) and 19,545 (right) individuals, own calculations.



## Empirical Results // Importance of social background



Source: SHARE, wave 1, 2 and 4 (2004/12), N=19 countries based on 19,545 (left) and 29,777 (right) individuals, own calculations.



## Conclusion

- Overall, an **increasing** of educational levels in Europe
- trend towards an **equalization** of parental influences and **decreasing** but still **important** link between social origin and educational attainment
- Still **differences** between the countries:
  - Educational outcomes: North ↗, South ↘
  - Parental imprinting:
    - ↗ Mother: BEL, EST, GRC, HUN, IRL
    - ↗ Father: CHE, DEU, FRA, SWE
  - Family background:
    - ↗ Strong: CZE, ESP, EST, GDR, HUN, IRL, ITA, PRT
    - ↘ Weak: AUT, CHE, FRG, SVN



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**Thank you for your attention!**



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# Appendix



## Empirical Results // Multivariate estimations: country specific

	Total			1950-1959			1960-1969			1970-1980		
	Mother's education	Father's education	R <sup>2</sup>	Mother's education	Father's education	R <sup>2</sup>	Mother's education	Father's education	R <sup>2</sup>	Mother's education	Father's education	R <sup>2</sup>
AUT	0.19***	0.16***	0.14	0.22***	0.17***	0.14	0.13***	0.21***	0.16	0.17***	0.19***	0.13
BEL	0.21***	0.24***	0.21	0.21***	0.29***	0.24	0.18***	0.26***	0.2	0.23***	0.17***	0.18
CHE	0.15***	0.18***	0.14	0.23***	0.15***	0.18	0.18***	0.25***	0.17	0.09**	0.15***	0.12
CZE	0.25***	0.28***	0.25	0.19***	0.34***	0.25	0.23***	0.28***	0.25	0.28***	0.24***	0.26
DNK	0.20***	0.22***	0.15	0.21***	0.24***	0.17	0.15***	0.21***	0.13	0.20***	0.21***	0.17
FRG	0.13***	0.19***	0.14	0.05	0.16***	0.17	0.16***	0.20***	0.14	0.11**	0.20***	0.16
GDR	0.10**	0.27***	0.19	0.03	0.28***	0.24	0.17***	0.20***	0.21	0.02	0.37***	0.27
ESP	0.21***	0.23***	0.29	0.13***	0.27***	0.22	0.24***	0.21***	0.26	0.24***	0.24***	0.30
EST	0.31***	0.15***	0.23	0.26***	0.20***	0.24	0.32***	0.15***	0.2	0.29***	0.13***	0.27
FRA	0.22***	0.19***	0.21	0.19***	0.22***	0.18	0.25***	0.16***	0.2	0.18***	0.19***	0.19
GRC	0.18***	0.16***	0.25	0.14***	0.16***	0.23	0.16***	0.18***	0.21	0.24***	0.14***	0.18
HUN	0.27***	0.18***	0.27	0.15***	0.16***	0.33	0.26***	0.15***	0.25	0.31***	0.19***	0.29
IRL	0.23***	0.13***	0.18	0.21***	0.09***	0.25	0.12***	0.23***	0.18	0.31***	0.09***	0.21
ITA	0.23***	0.25***	0.27	0.16***	0.32***	0.26	0.25***	0.21***	0.24	0.23***	0.27***	0.28
NLD	0.20***	0.24***	0.19	0.24***	0.27***	0.22	0.21***	0.24***	0.18	0.19***	0.20***	0.17
POL	0.16***	0.15***	0.14	0.11***	0.13***	0.12	0.17***	0.14***	0.12	0.17***	0.16***	0.16
PRT	0.28***	0.28***	0.43	0.29*	0.35**	0.55	0.23***	0.30***	0.43	0.30***	0.26***	0.48
SVN	0.17***	0.14***	0.13	0.21***	-0.02	0.13	0.17***	0.22***	0.16	0.15***	0.14***	0.09
SWE	0.14***	0.22***	0.19	0.10**	0.26***	0.17	0.17***	0.18***	0.11	0.16***	0.25***	0.19
Average	0.22***	0.23***	0.26	0.19***	0.25***	0.24	0.22***	0.23***	0.25	0.23***	0.21***	0.26

\*\*\* p ≤ 0.01, \*\* p ≤ 0.05, \* p ≤ 0.10

Source: SHARE, wave 1, 2 and 4 (2004/12), N=19 countries based on 47,835 individuals, own calculations.