



ドイツ日本研究所 German Institute for Japanese Studies (DIJ)

International Symposium

*November 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup>, 2008 at the Center for the Advancement of Working Women (CAWW)*

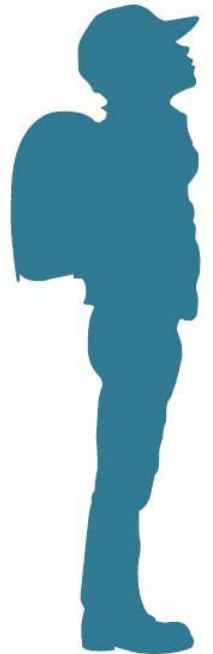
# ***Fertility and Social Stratification Germany and Japan in Comparison***

*Thursday, November 6<sup>th</sup>, 2008*

*Section 1: Social Class, Social Reproduction and Fertility*

## **“Links between Natural and Social Reproduction in Germany”**

PowerPoint by **Steffen Hillmert**  
(University of Tübingen)



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# **Links between natural and social reproduction in Germany**

Steffen Hillmert

University of Tübingen

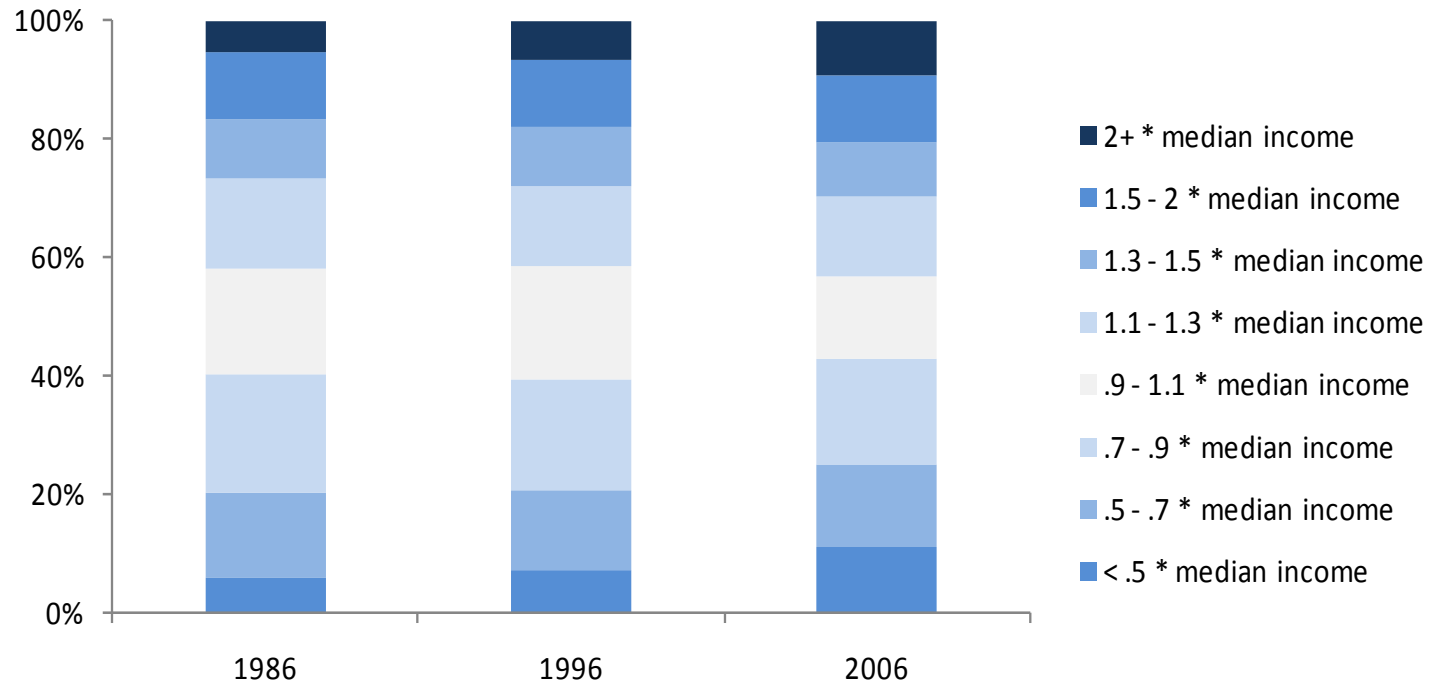
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# Social inequality

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- Specific structures of social inequality in particular societies
- Distribution of advantage and disadvantage and their development over time. Different dimensions, levels and forms of inequality
- Special case: Social stratification, i.e. the hierarchical arrangement of social classes or strata within a society
- Degree of inequality (e.g., income dispersion)

# Income inequality, 1986 - 2006



GSOEP data on weighted net household income; 1986: West Germany only  
Grabka/Frick 2008: 103

# Social stratification

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- **A macro-level perspective:**
- Degree of inequality (e.g., income dispersion)
- Distribution of social collectivities and their reproduction over time
  
- **A micro-level perspective:**
- Individual mobility / chances
- Social mobility as the movements of individuals among positions of the social structure
- *Intra*-generational vs. *inter*-generational mobility
- *Absolute* vs. *relative* mobility ('social fluidity')

## Social stratification / Sources of inequality

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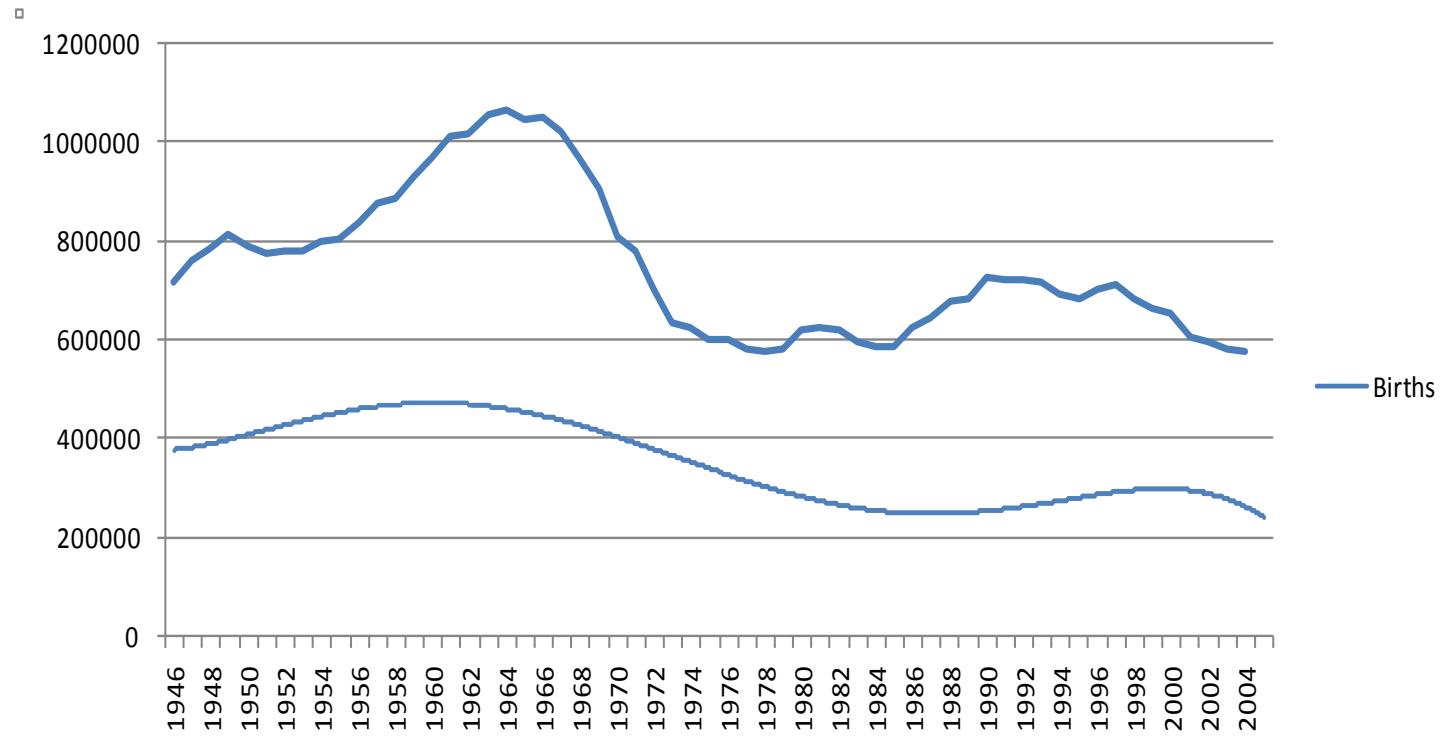
- Labor market
  - Education
  - Marriage / Social homogamy
  - Fertility
- 
- Importance of demographic processes for dynamic analysis of stratification
  - Natural reproduction as the necessary basis of social reproduction -> Overall timing/speed of reproduction
  - Social differentiation / (Mutual) relationships!

# Fertility in Germany

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- Fluctuations ("baby boom" etc.)
- Long-term decline in overall fertility
- Changes in women's ages when giving birth

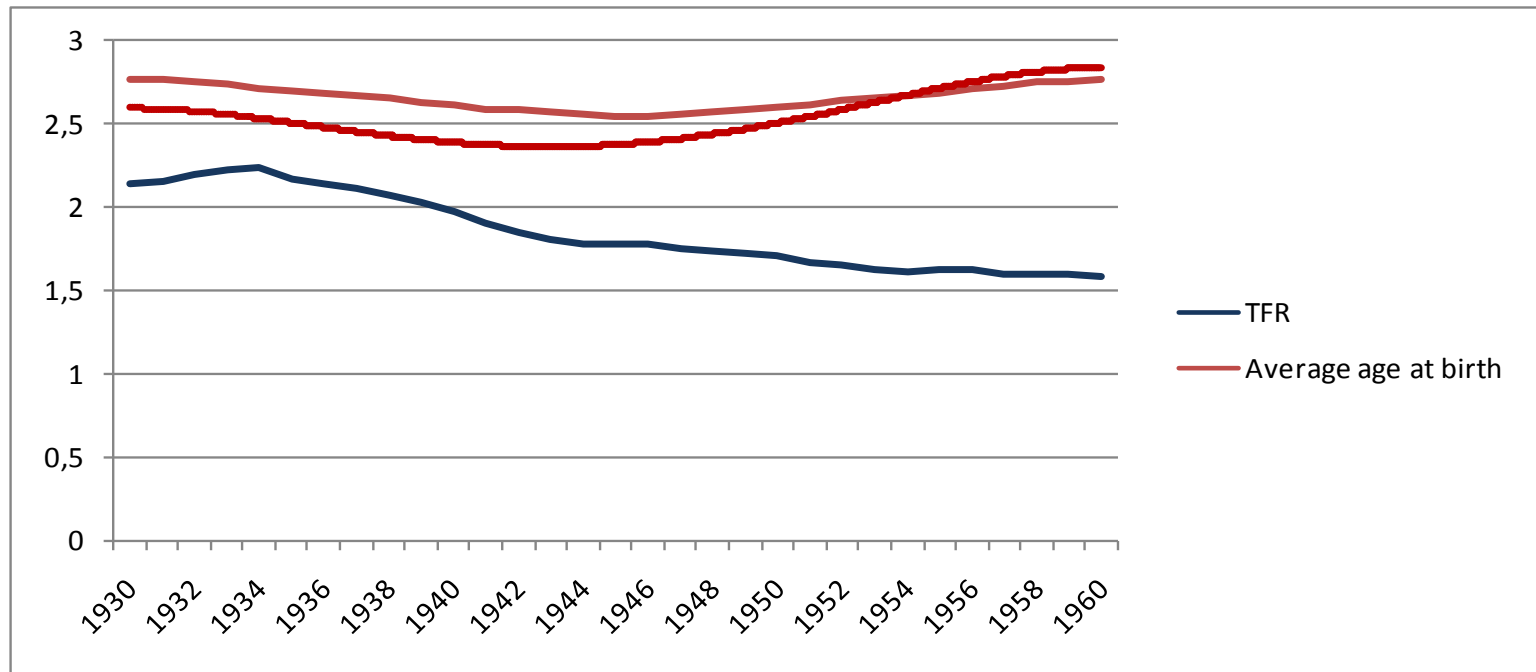
# Fertility



Dotted line: TFR = Total fertility rate (period), smoothed curve  
Statistisches Bundesamt (2005)



## Fertility, by mother's birth cohort



Dotted line: median age at first birth (smoothed line).

Statistisches Bundesamt (1999), German Life History Study; own calculations

## Social differences in fertility

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- Education-related differences in *level* (no. of children)
- Education-related differences in *timing*
- -> Interaction with historical trends (e.g., rapid educational expansion)

## Social homogamy

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- Decline in (particular) intentional links between education and marriage
- But: Changing opportunity structures *in favor of* educational homogamy:
  - Macro level (similar 'marginal' educational distributions)
  - Micro level (role of particular institutions; increasing homogeneity along educational careers)
- Changing preferences?

# Social homogeneity



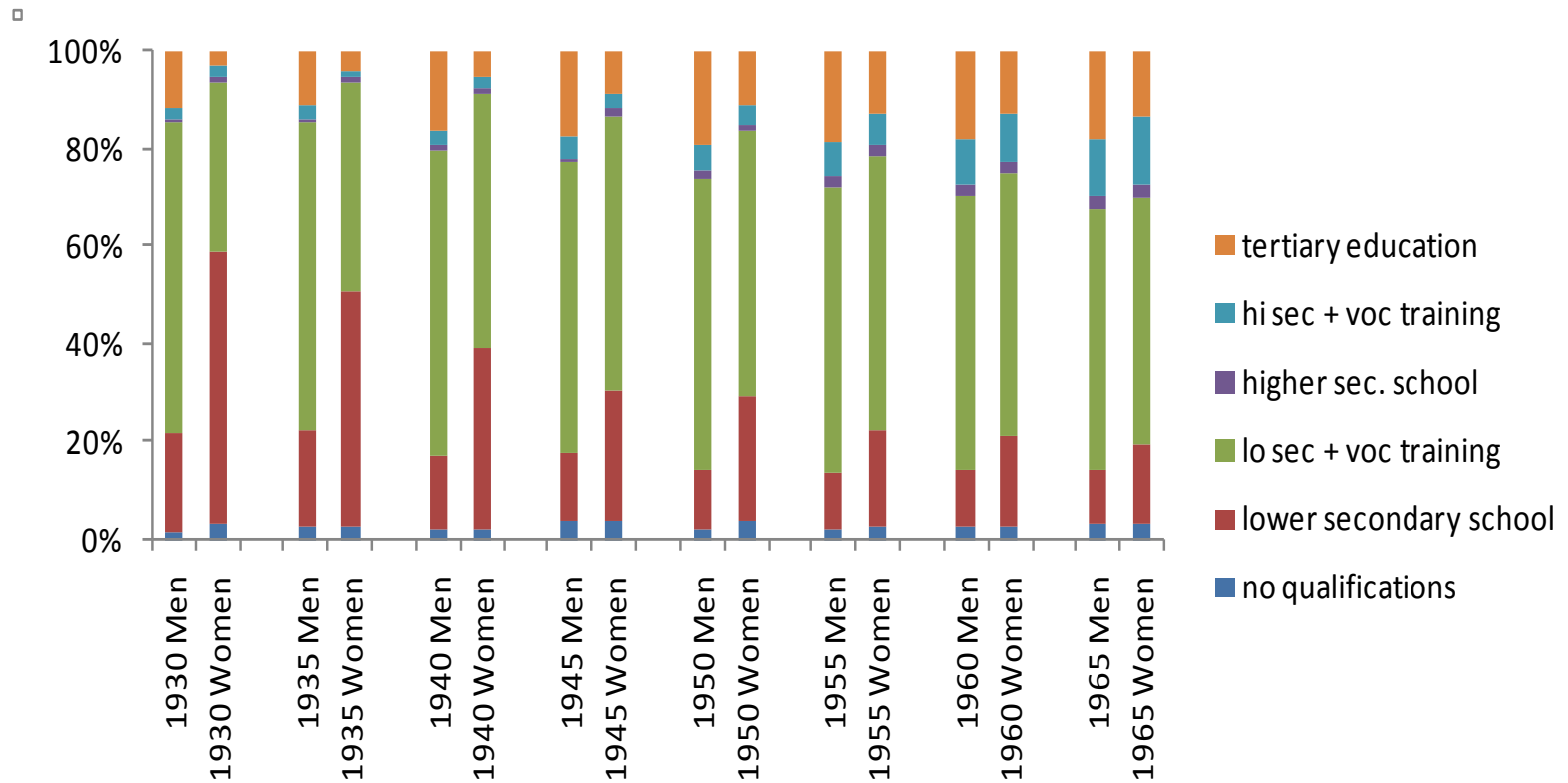
Wirth 2000: 141; 6 cat. according to CASMIN  
(Data Microcensus 1993)

# Education

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- Educational expansion since 1950s...
- General school education, higher education, and also vocational training
- Especially for females

# Educational expansion



Data: Microcensus 2000 (West Germany), own calculations

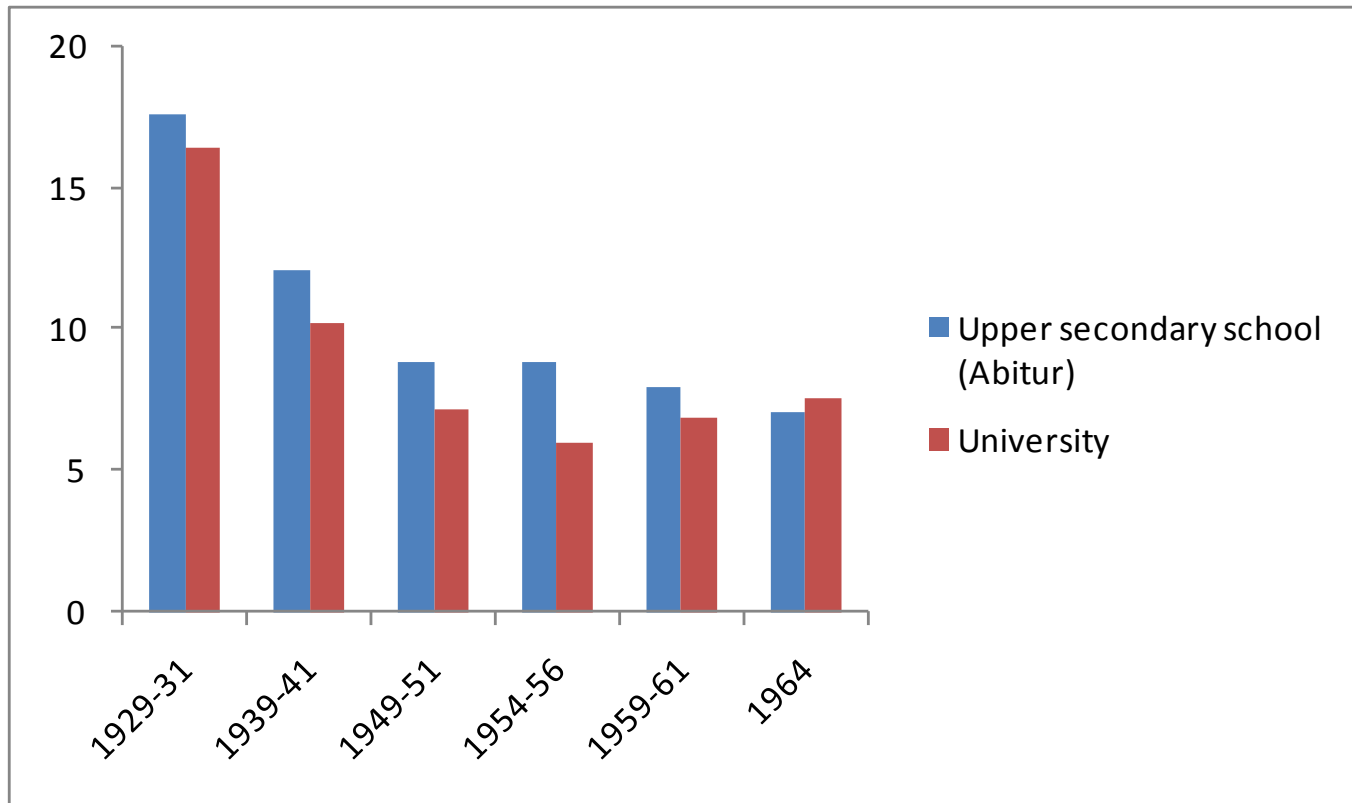
## Differential access to education

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- Selection and self-selection
- In particular: Persistent relevance of social origin: economic and cultural restrictions
- 1960s/1970s: declining (opportunity) costs, better regional supply; then stagnating

## Relative chances of (higher-level) educational attainment, by high/low origin

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Reported are relative chances of attaining this particular level of education vs. not attaining it by educational background (odds ratio). Educational background: Parents' education (Upper secondary education vs. below)  
Data: West German Life History Study, own calculations



## Towards an integrative approach

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- Inter-generational social mobility:
- Conventional research: Start from *children's generation*:
- "Where do they come from?"
- E.g, compare educational attainment by social/educational *background* (i.e., parents' education)
- Individual educational 'chances' of the children  
(-> cf. focus on individual life chances, individual rights...)
- But as an analytical measure of mobility: *Conditional* on existence and no. of children

## **Inter-generational social/educational *reproduction***

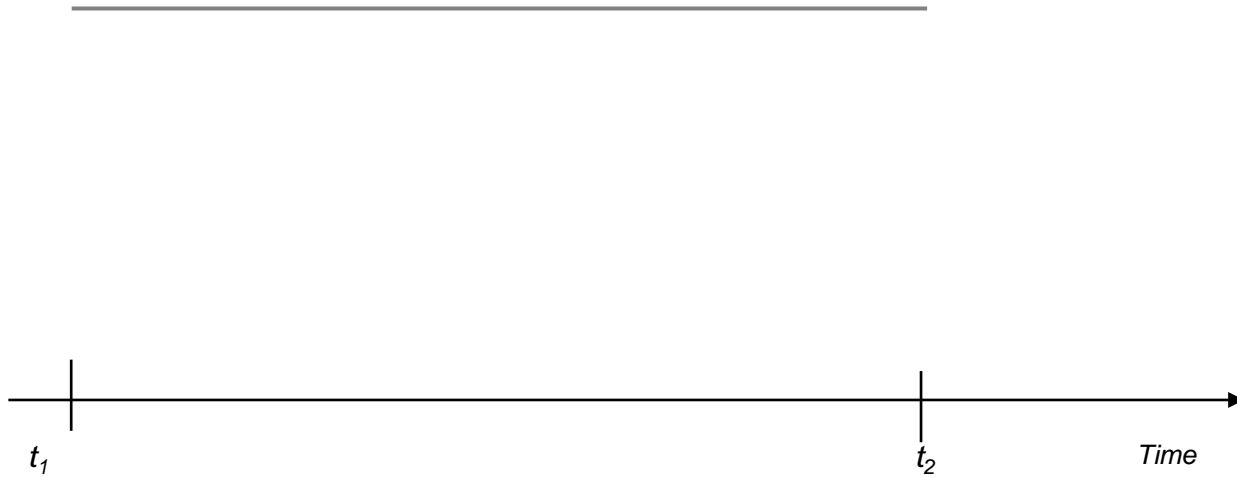
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- Start from *parents' generation* (particular parental cohorts)
- "Where do they go?"
- Look not only at conditional chances of education, but also at population process (cf. Mackenroth 1953; Mare & Maralani 2006 etc.)
- (Historical) timing!
- Micro level approach:
- *Partial processes* of inter-generational reproduction:

# Demographic and social reproduction

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Life course 1



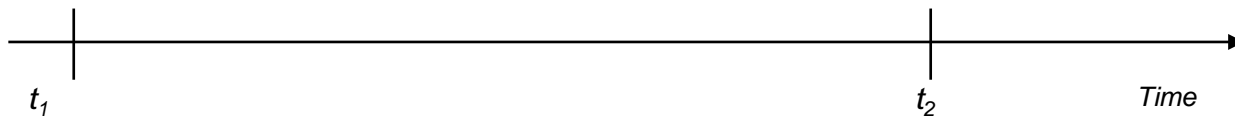
# Demographic and social reproduction

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Life course 1

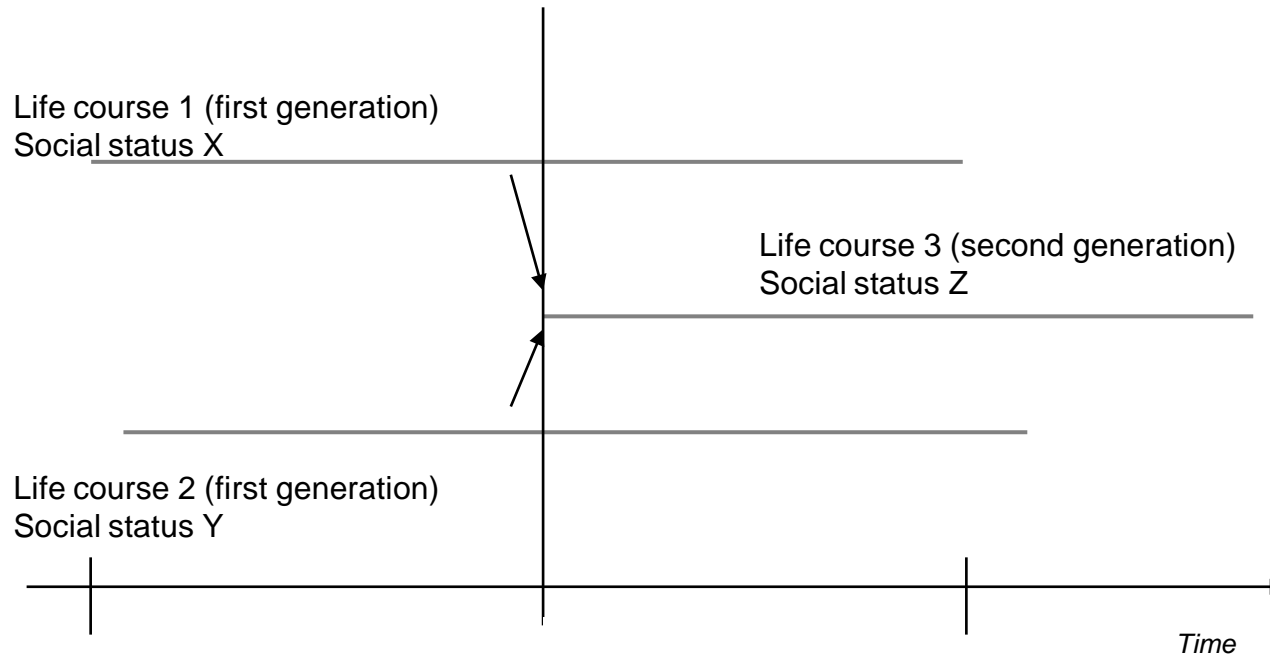


Life course 2



# Demographic and social reproduction

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## ***Partial processes of inter-generational educational reproduction***

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(1) Selective union formation

(2) Selective fertility, conditional on (1)

(3) Selective educational and status attainment,  
conditional on (1) and (2)

=> Full cycle of inter-generational social reproduction

## Empirical analysis

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- Total effect of social reproduction as a result of partial processes
  - Precise historical developments?
- (1) Estimate partial processes (West Germany, 1945+) separately (on the basis of various data sources and estimation models)
  - (2) **Combine** these results (by micro simulation)
  - (3) Look at some counterfactual scenarios to assess relative importance of the partial processes

## Data and Modelling

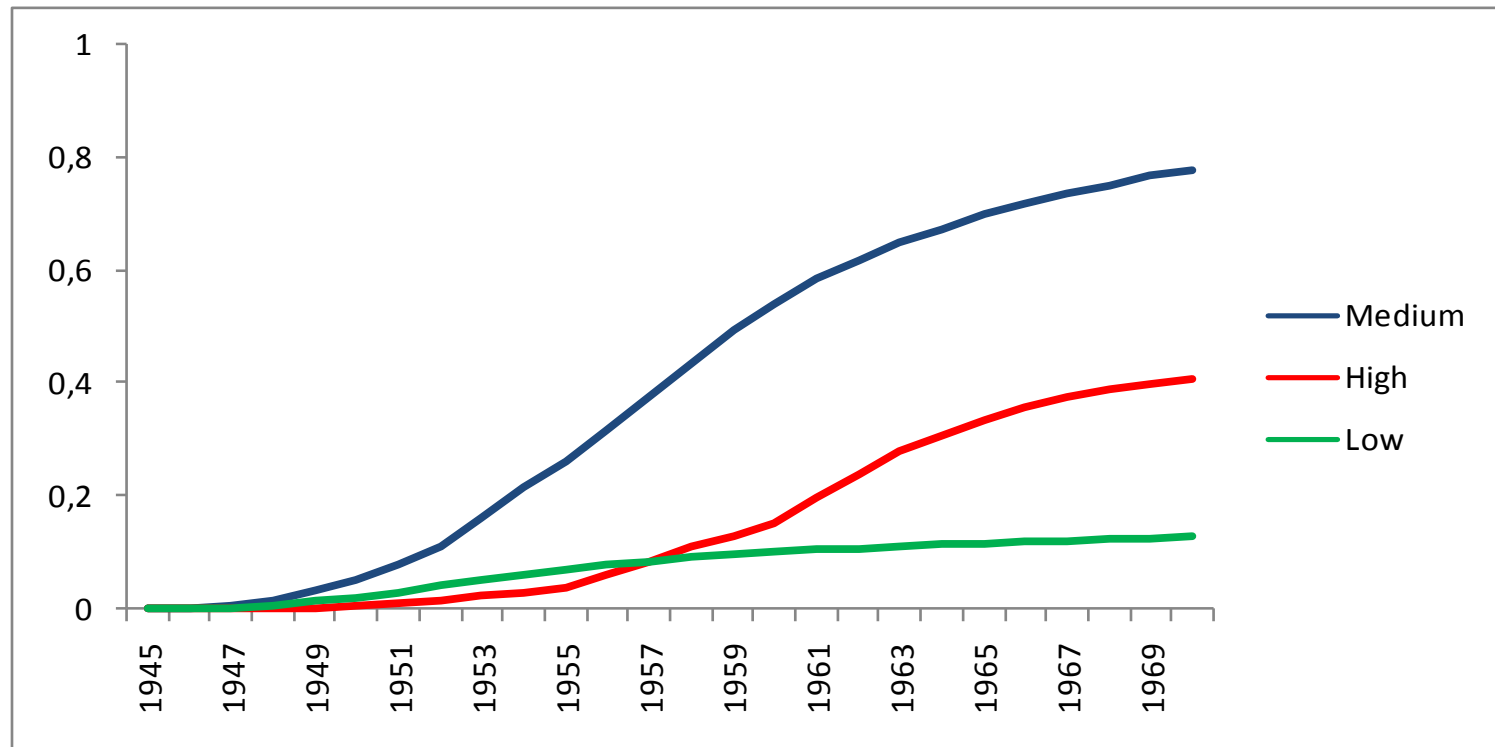
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- Combination of data from official records (e.g., fertility rates) and survey data
- Reproduction data on women only
- Combination of numerical data and parameter estimation
- Historical description -> No modelling of trade-offs between the dimensions



## Proportion of internal group reproduction over time: descendants of the 1930 birth cohort

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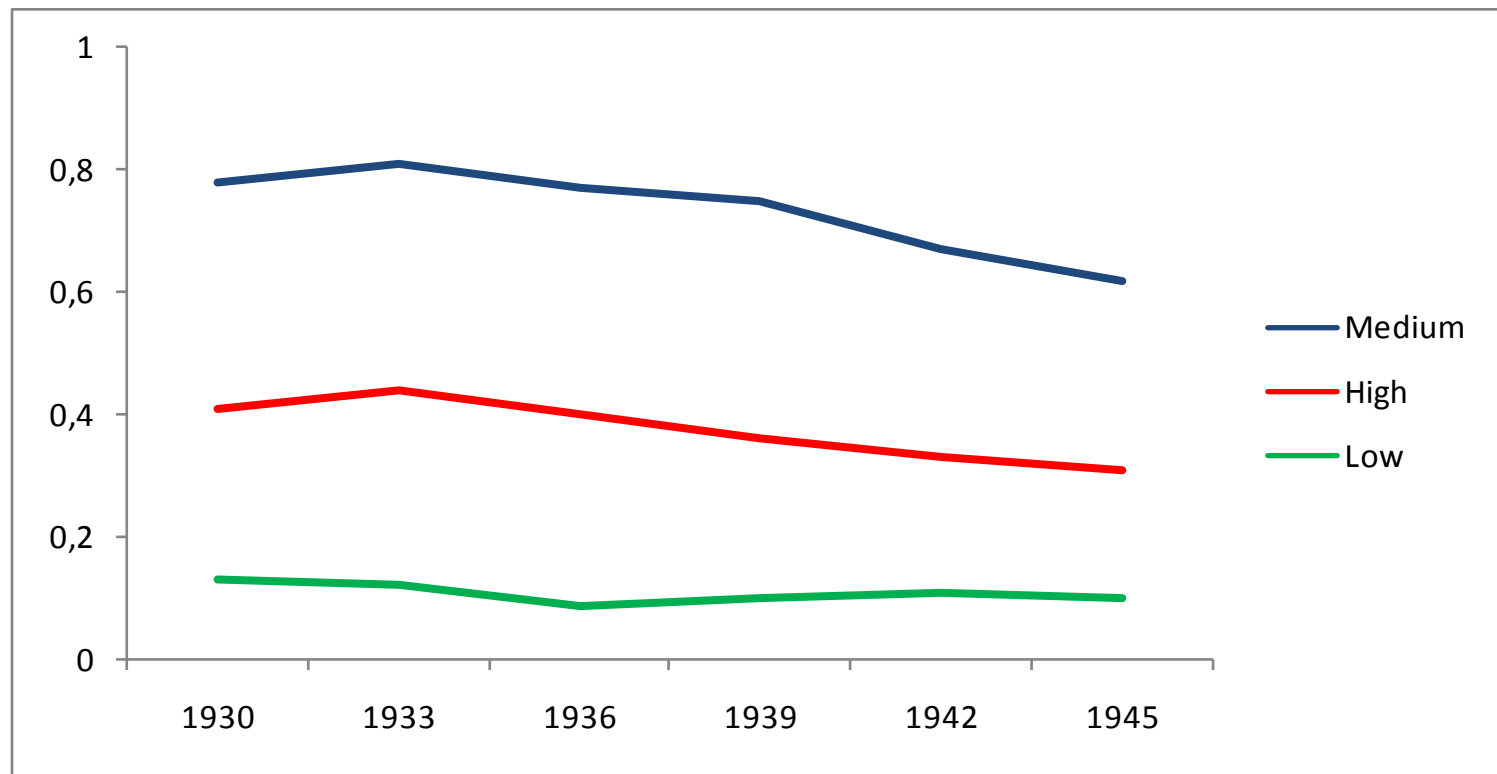
## Historical trends

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- Look at the social reproduction not only of one birth cohort
- But: *Compare* rates of social reproduction across (the descendants of) various birth cohorts
- Look at pairs of generations (mothers and daughters)

# Proportion of group reproduction by mother's birth cohort

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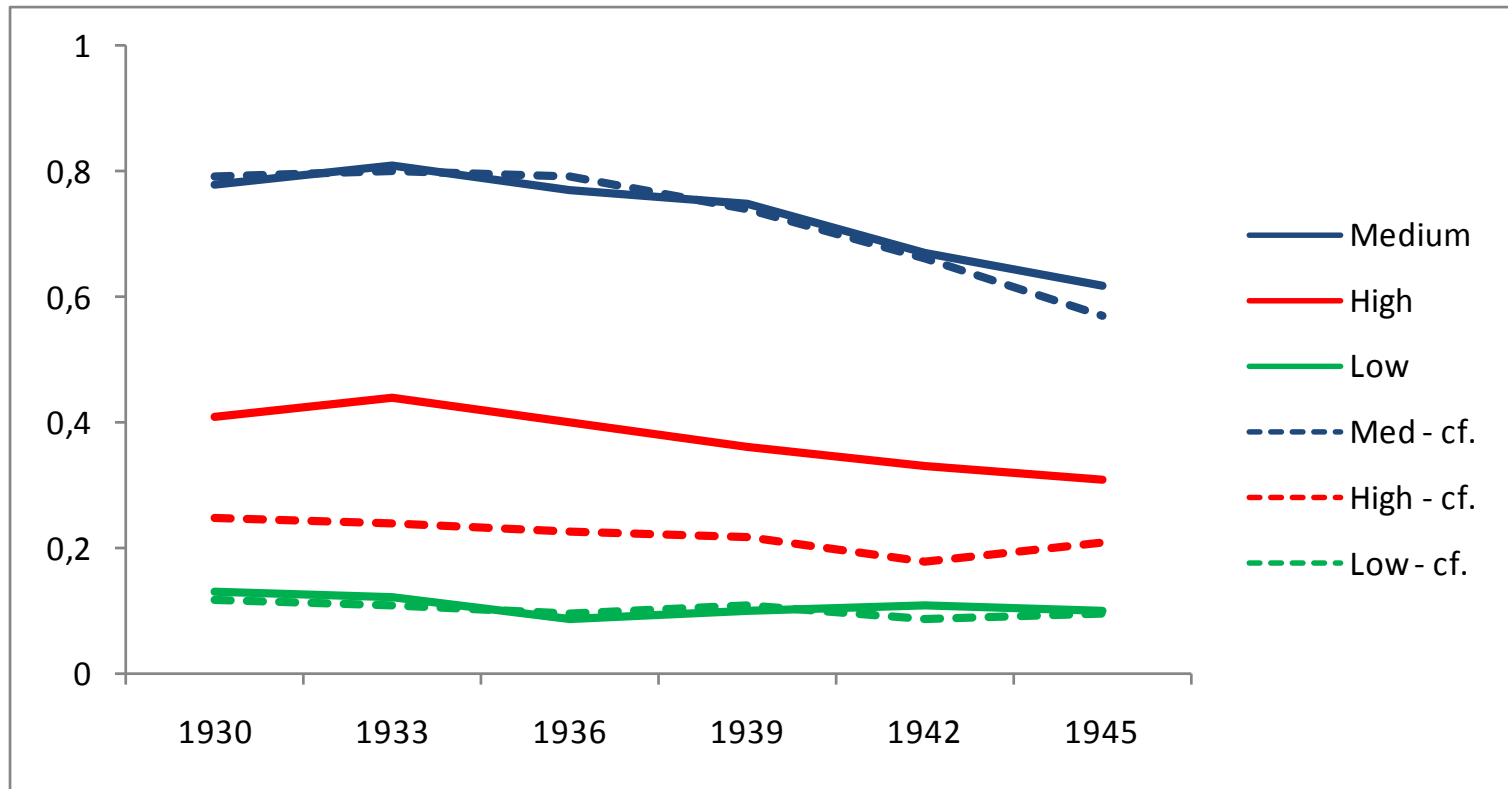
## Some counterfactuals

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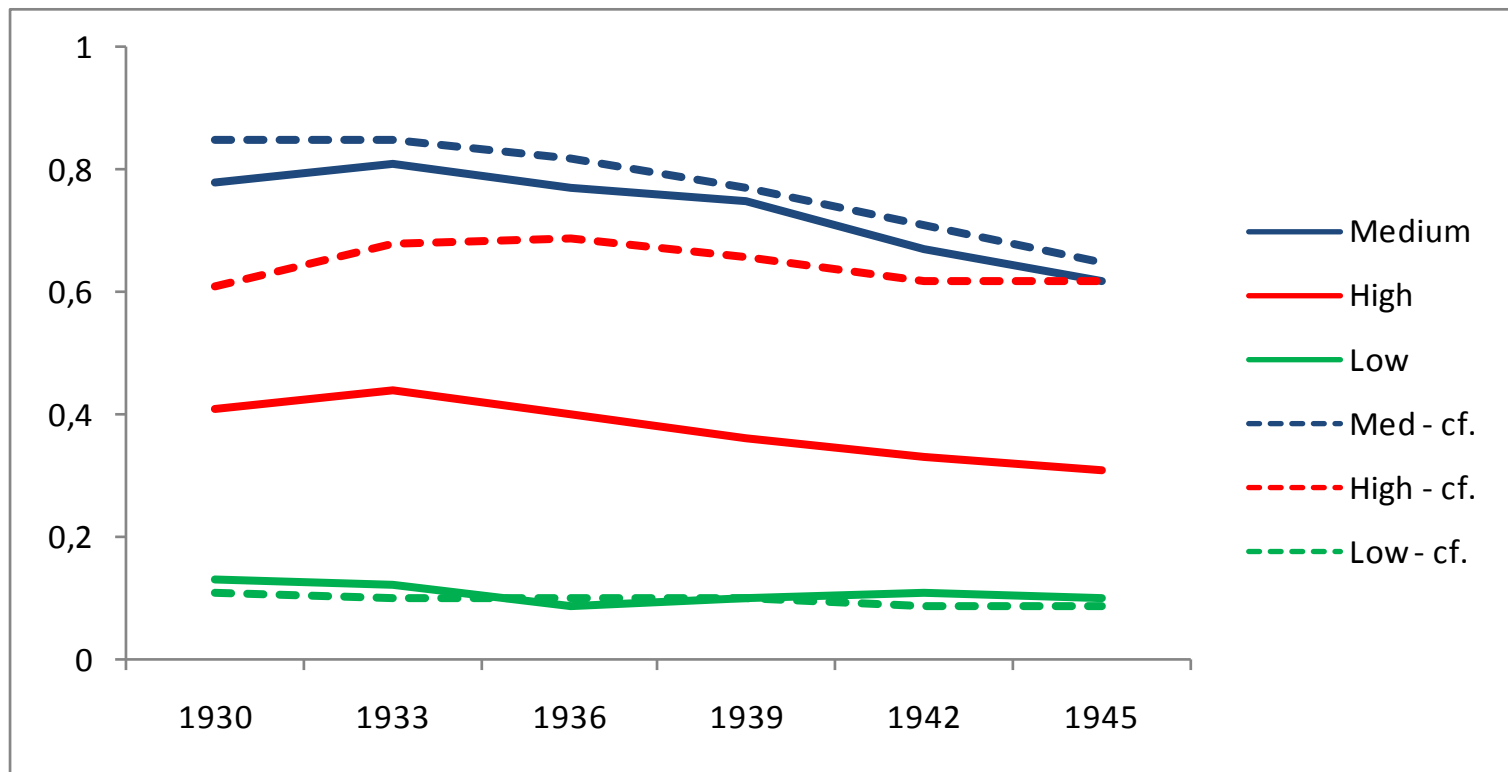
- Assess relative contribution of partial processes
- In particular: demographic processes
- ‘Switch off these processes and compare results with empirical trends
- *Ceteris paribus* - assumption...

## Counterfactuals (1): No social homogamy/Marriage at random

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## Counterfactuals (2): Equal fertility



# Summary

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- Historical trends:

Patterns of inter-generational educational inequality/social fluidity relatively stable

- But: here selected dimensions /groups ...

## Conclusions

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- Empirically:  
Importance of different processes in social reproduction, including demographic processes
- Conceptually:
  - Close links between areas of demography and stratification research
  - Pay attention to units of analysis in social mobility research: mobility chances of individuals vs. couples; men vs. women; etc.
- Theoretically:  
Relationships between specific institutions and a variety of social mechanisms