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FOR DEMOGRAPHY AND
GLOBAL HUMAN CAPITAL

Cohort trends in childlessness in communist and capitalist Europe

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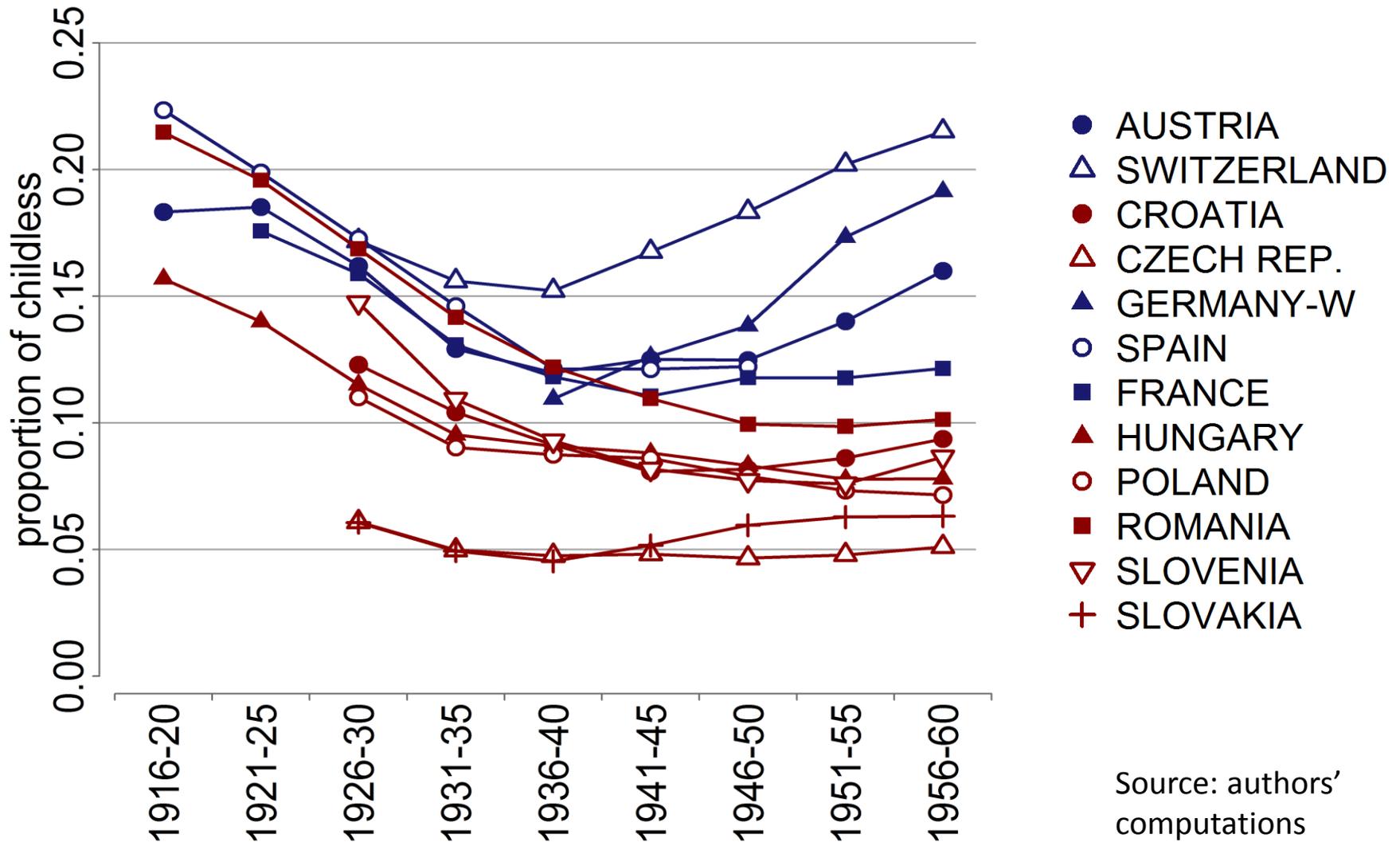
Motivation



Motivation

- Trends in cohort childlessness in the 20th century:
 - changing
 - lower levels in Eastern than in Western Europe (socialist vs. capitalist countries)

Motivation: trends in childlessness

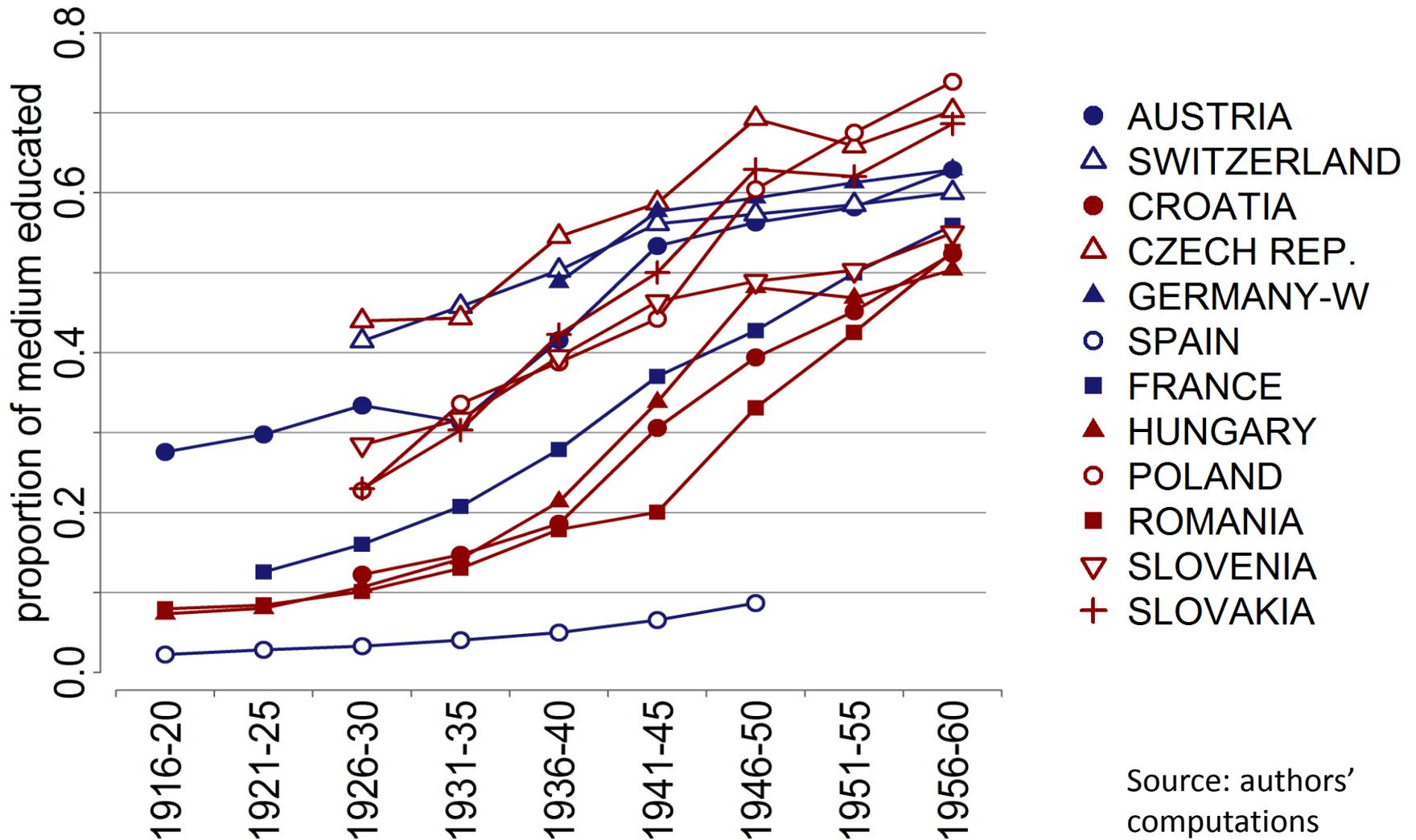




Motivation

- Trends in cohort childlessness in the 20th century:
 - changing
 - lower levels in Eastern than in Western Europe (socialist vs. capitalist countries)
 - accompanied by massive female educational expansion

Motivation: educational expansion





Motivation

- Childlessness varies much by the level of education
 - the relationship expected to be positive
 - but it can change over time
(like in Finland or Sweden, Andersson et al. 2009)
- How were education, educational specific childlessness and the overall level of childlessness interrelated?
- Existing studies:
 - Country comparisons: not by level of education
(Frejka 2008, Rowland 2007, Sardon and Robertson 2002)
 - By education: one-country or -region studies (Andersson et al. 2009 for Scandinavia, Hayford 2013 for the US, Kneale and Joshi 2008 for the UK, van Agtmaal-Wobma and van Huis 2008 for the Netherlands, Van Bavel 2014 for Belgium)



Our questions

1. What are the educational differences in ultimate childlessness in different European countries?
2. How did they change over birth cohorts?
 - a. Did childlessness among **highly** educated decrease with time as they were becoming less and less selective?
 - b. Were the levels of childlessness among women with **medium** and **low** education becoming more similar with time? What mattered more: background or acculturation?
3. What was the role of growing educational attainment and of childlessness within educational groups?
4. How did the capitalist and communist countries differ?



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Data and Methods



Data & Methods

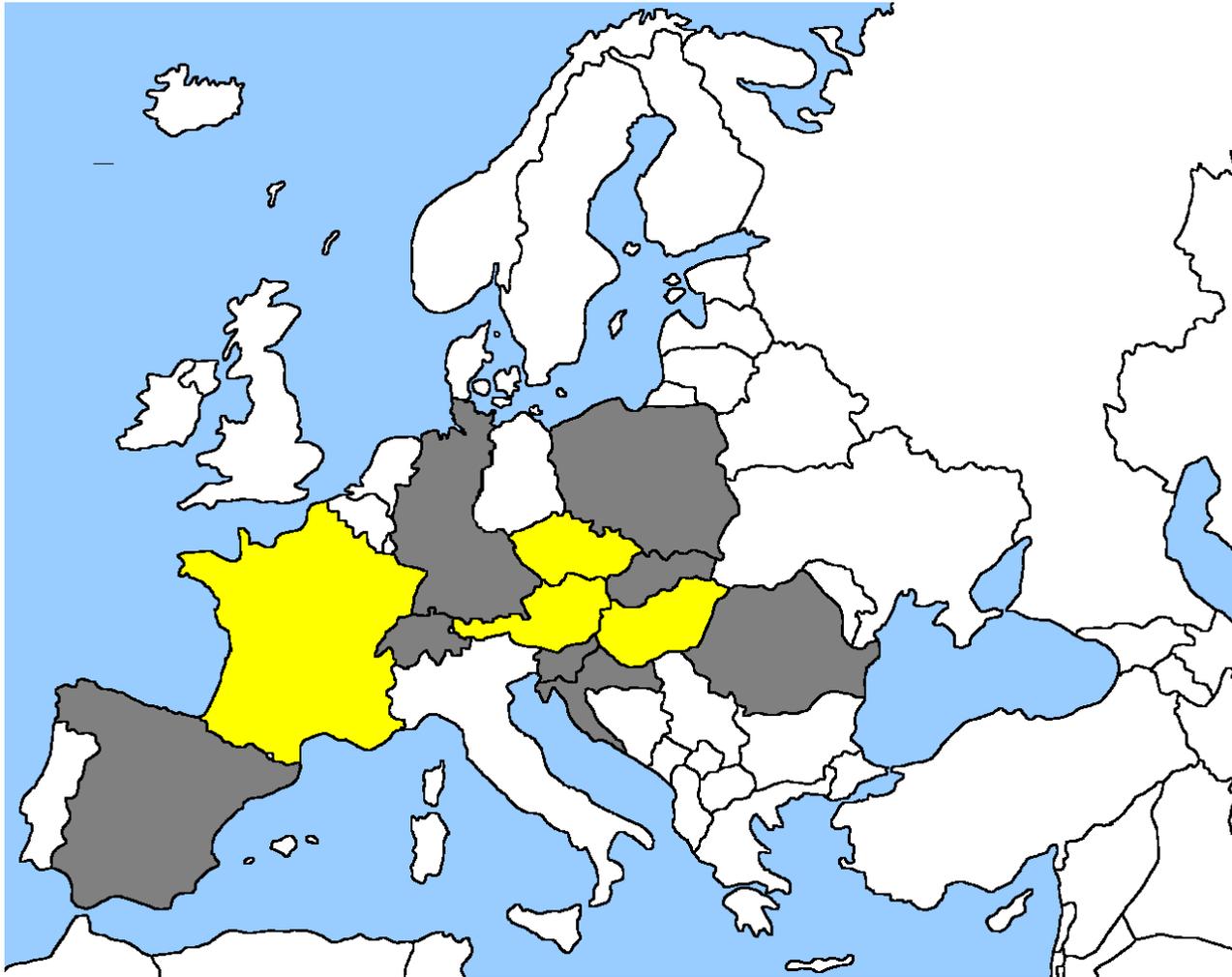
- (Micro)Censuses & one large-scale survey
- Conducted in the 1990s and 2000s
- 12 European countries

- Methods of descriptive demography
 - Trends
 - Standardisation (direct and indirect)

Data & Methods



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Presented:
the results
for Austria,
France,
Hungary &
the Czech
Republic

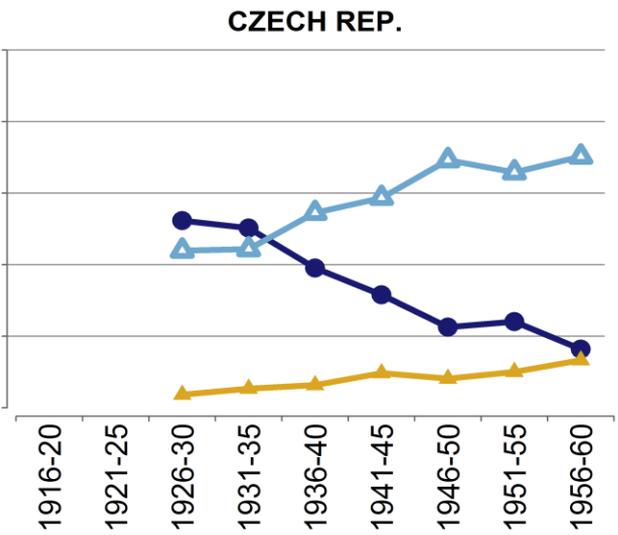
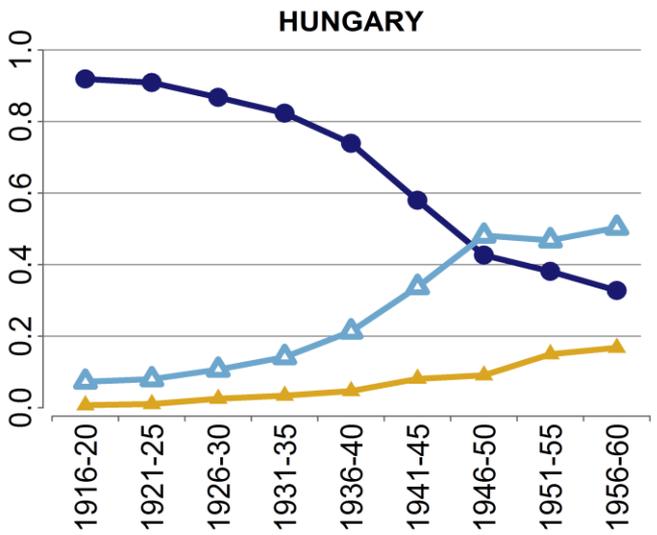
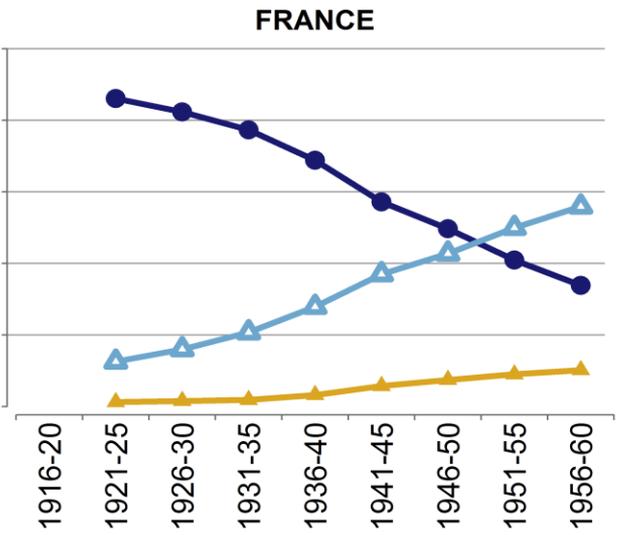
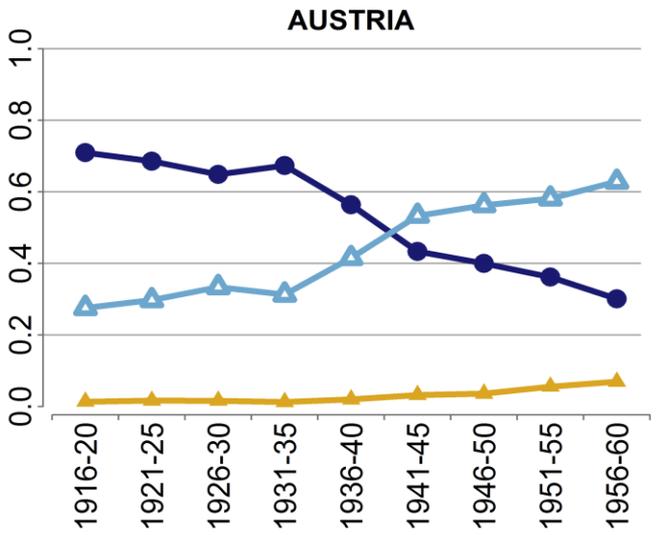
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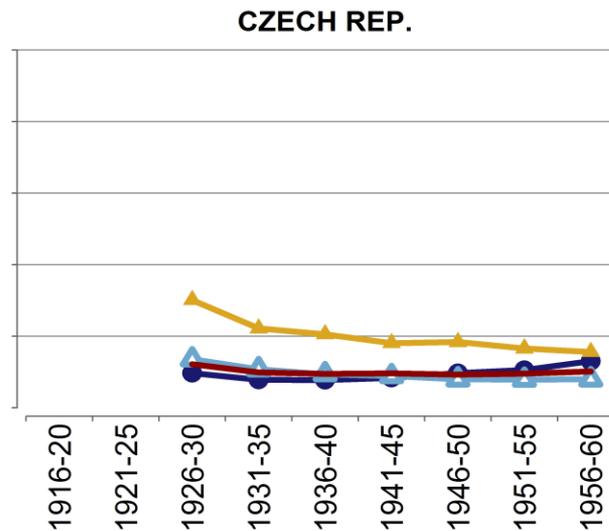
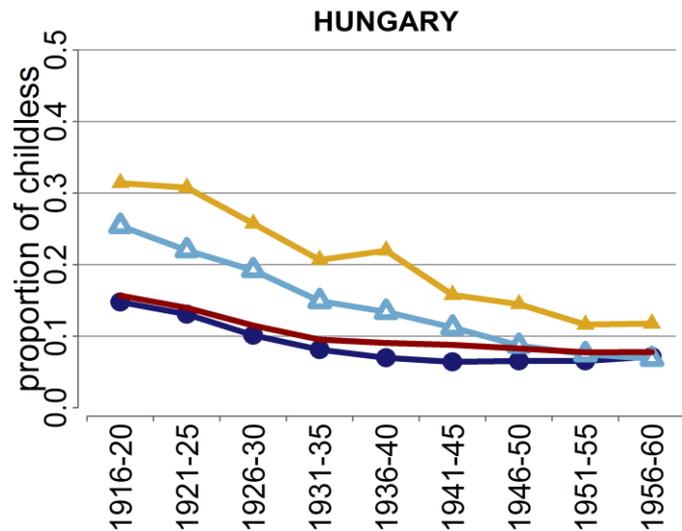
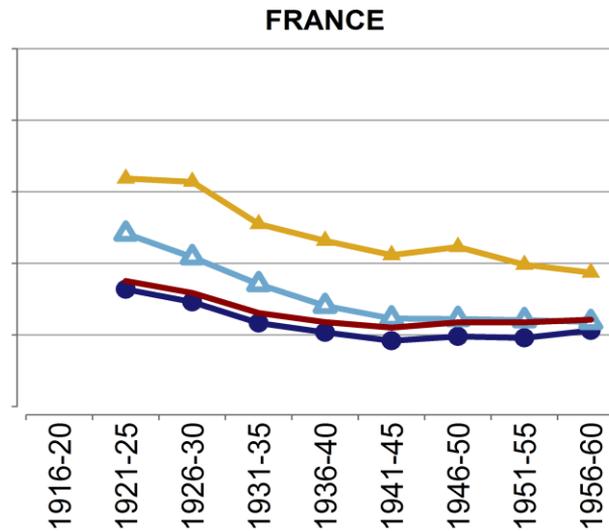
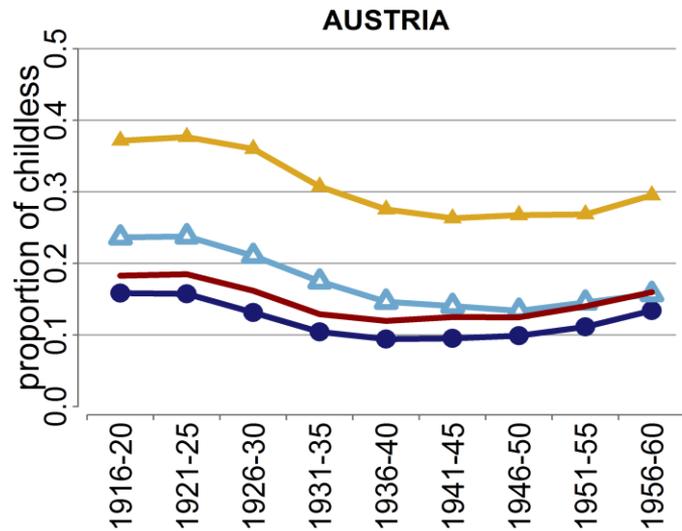
Trends in education and childlessness

Educational expansion over birth cohorts



- low
- ▲ medium
- ▲ high

Childlessness by level of education



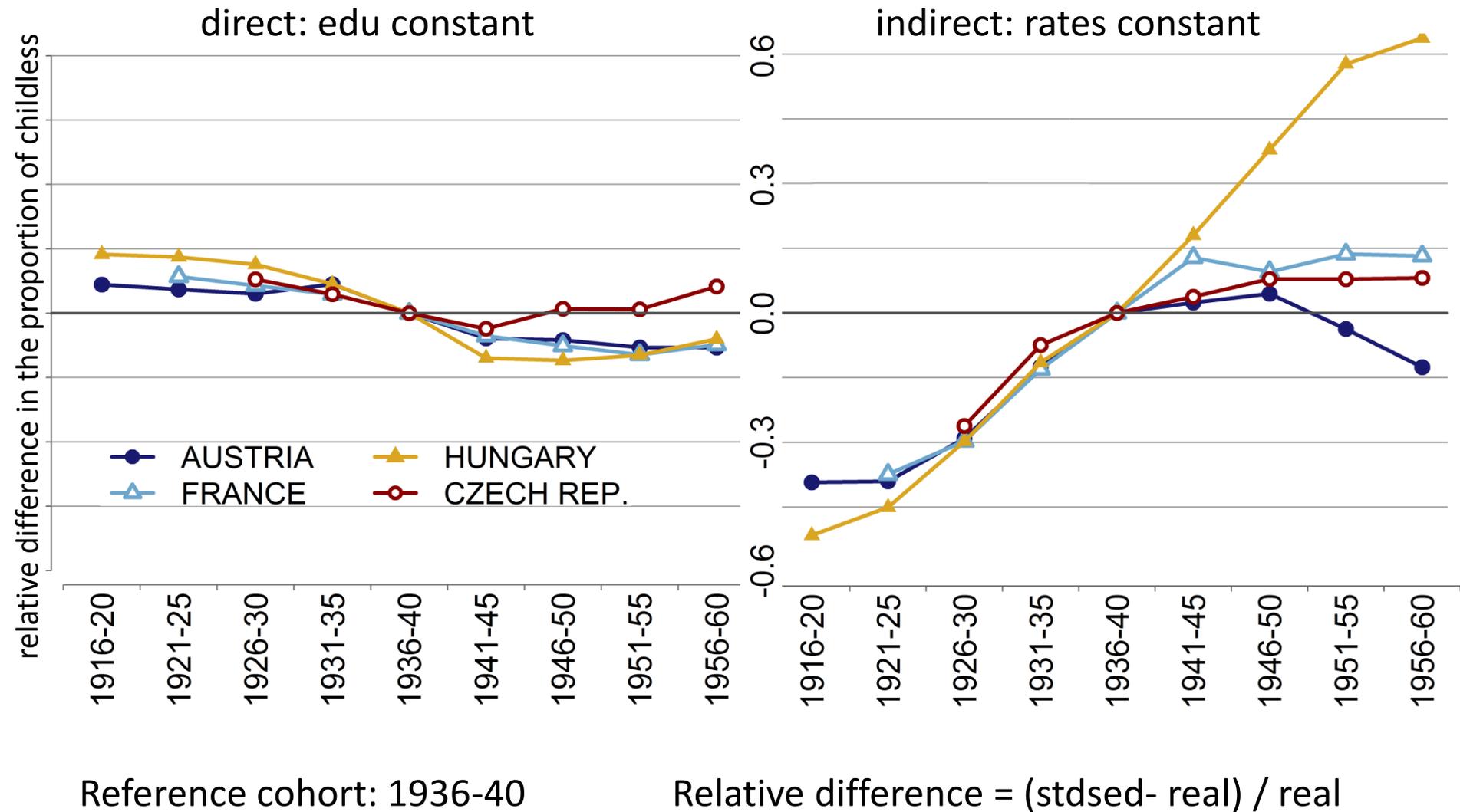
- low
- ▲ medium
- ▲ high
- all



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Direct and indirect standardisation

Standardisation





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Conclusions



Conclusions

1. The educational gradient in ultimate childlessness: **positive**
 - but of very different steepness and changing in some countries:
 - Czech Rep., Slovakia & Hungary:
low > medium in the youngest cohorts
 - France, Poland & Slovenia:
low = medium in the youngest cohorts



Conclusions

2. The educational gradient over cohorts:

- a. Decrease in childlessness among **highly** educated?

Yes: France, Hungary, Romania and the Czech Republic

Slightly: Spain, Croatia, Poland, Slovenia and Slovakia

No: Austria, West Germany and Switzerland

- b. Levels of childlessness among women with **medium** and **low** education more similar with time?

Yes (except for Switzerland and Spain) ->
background more important than acculturation?

Conclusions



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3. The role of:

- growing educational attainment: surprisingly small
- childlessness within educational groups: crucial



Conclusions

4. **Communist** Europe versus **capitalist** Europe:
 - **Lower** levels of childlessness
 - After an initial decrease in all the countries, childlessness increased again in capitalist countries but not in communist countries
 - The educational differences tended to be **smaller**
 - In both regions, rates within educational groups were very much driving the overall change in childlessness, even if in different directions



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THANK YOU

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