

Does cultural climate in the region matter?

Utilizing SOEP data and spatial context-level data to analyze mothers' employment re-entry

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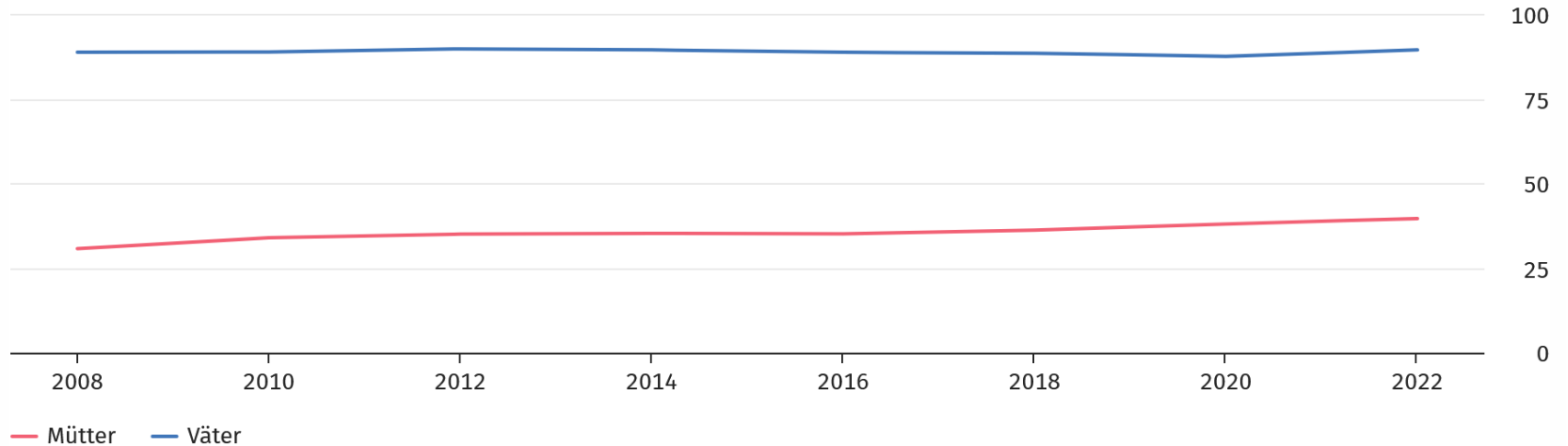
Motivation

Share of employed parents with children under age 3 in household

data: Eurostat, LFS & European Commission

Erwerbstätigenquote von Müttern und Vätern mit mindestens einem Kind unter drei Jahren im Haushalt

in %



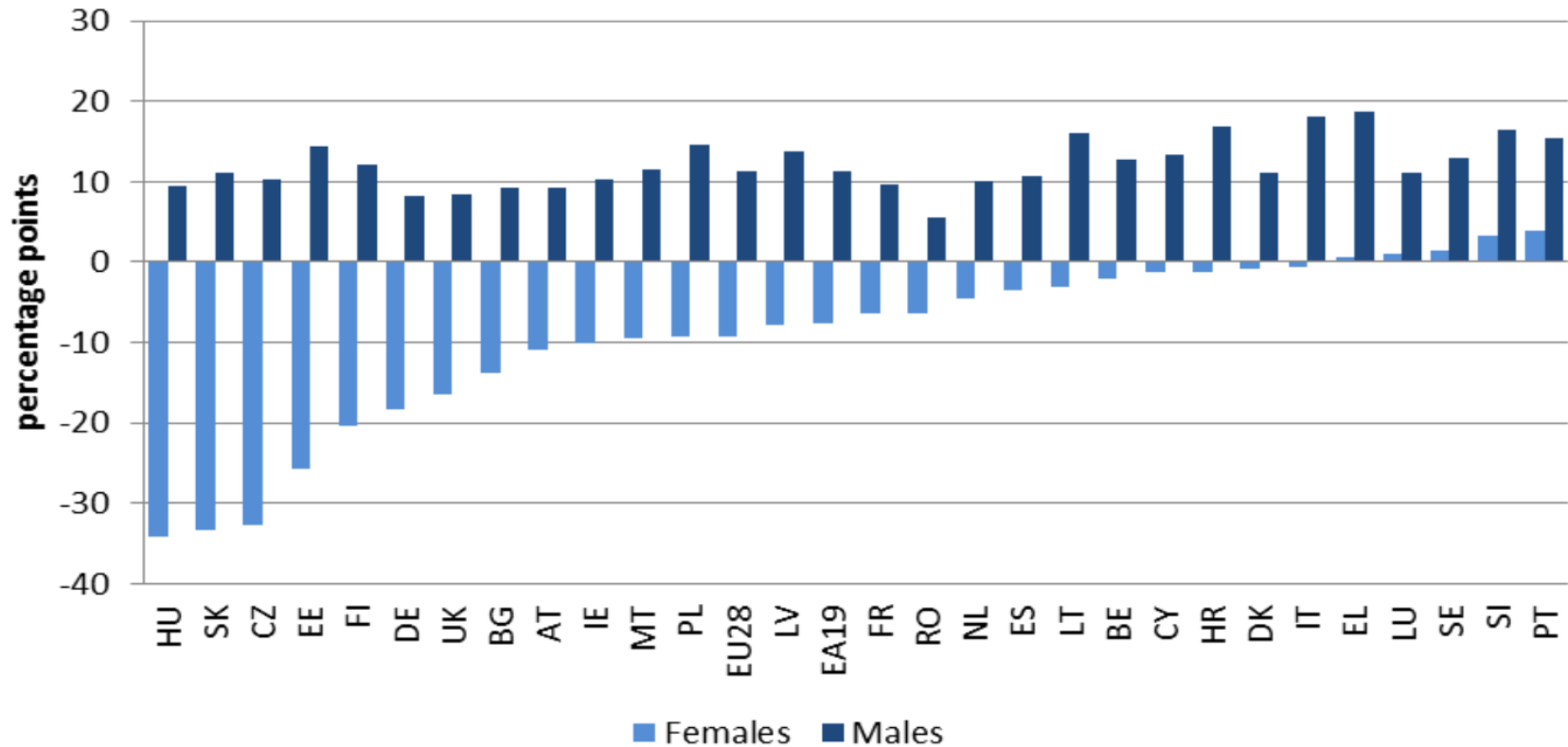
Seit 2020 eingeschränkte Vergleichbarkeit aufgrund Neuregelung des Mikrozensus.
2022: Mikrozensus Erstergebnis.

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Motivation

Employment - impact of parenthood in 2014

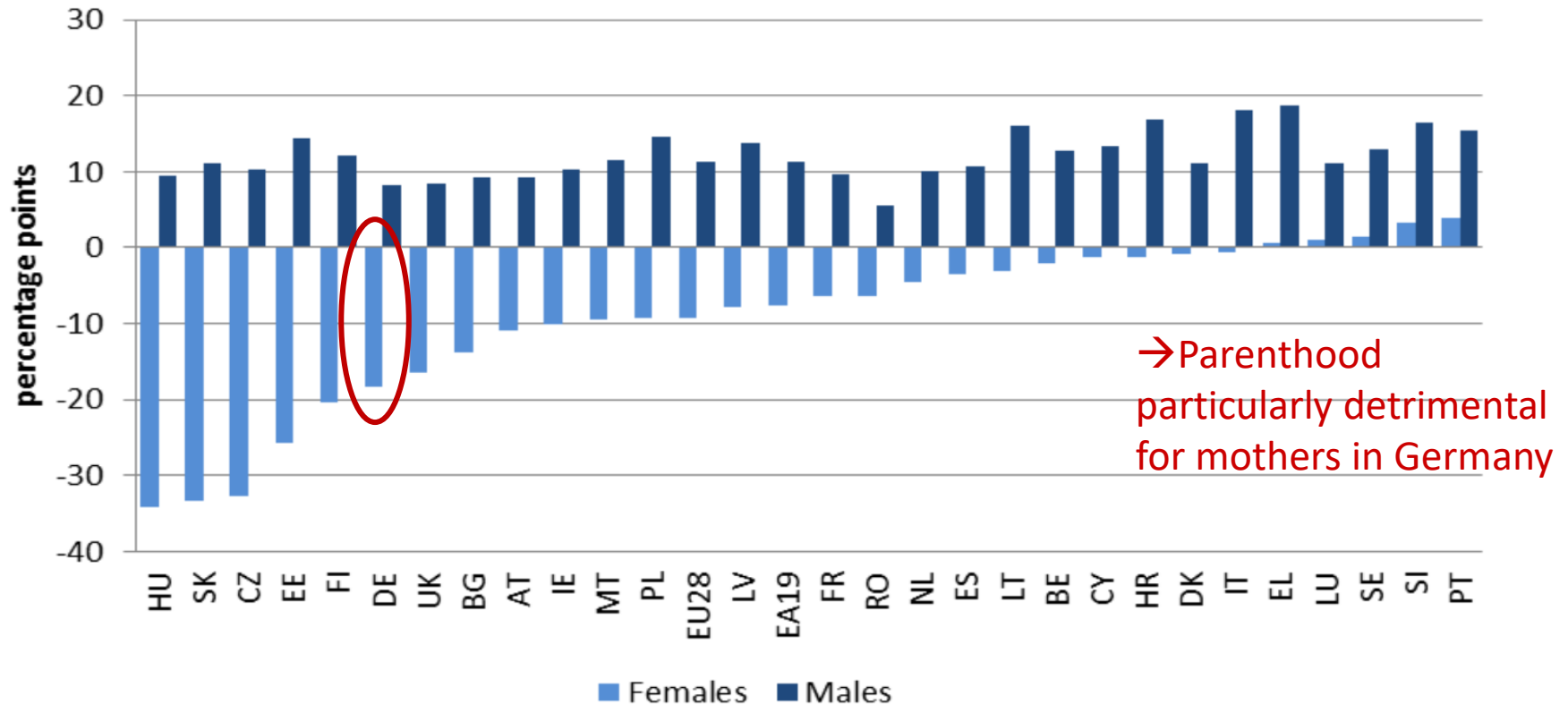
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Motivation

Employment - impact of parenthood in 2014

data: Eurostat, LFS & European Commission



Previous research

- Research on mothers' employment has repeatedly demonstrated **impact of individual-level determinants** (e.g. education, occupation, earnings, marital status) (e.g. Charles et al. 2001)
- More recently: shift towards **institutional/structural explanations on regional level** (e.g. childcare provision) (Zoch & Hondralis 2017)
- Research on individual gender ideologies: "**working mothers**" represent contested topic; **ideologies are susceptible to contextual conditions** (e.g. different welfare-state regimes or policies, Morgan 2006; Zoch & Schober 2018)
- Very recent: research using **regional votes** in Switzerland shows **conservativeness of regions** affects individuals' decisions and actions (i.e. occupational and study choices Kuhn & Wolter 2023; Osikominu et al. 2020, Palffy et al., 2023).

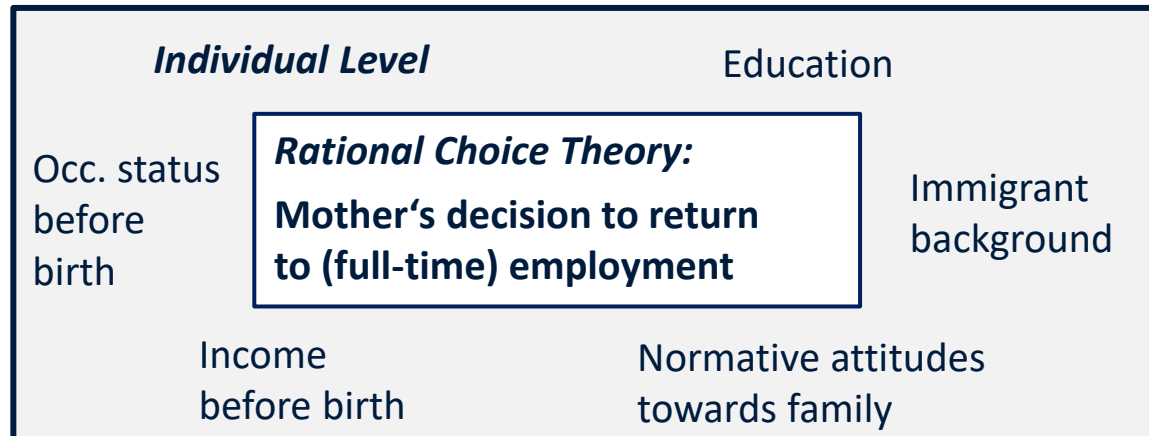
Research questions

- To what extent is **mothers' return to employment after childbirth** influenced by regional factors?
- Which role does **regional cultural/conservative climate** play and how can we **measure** this?

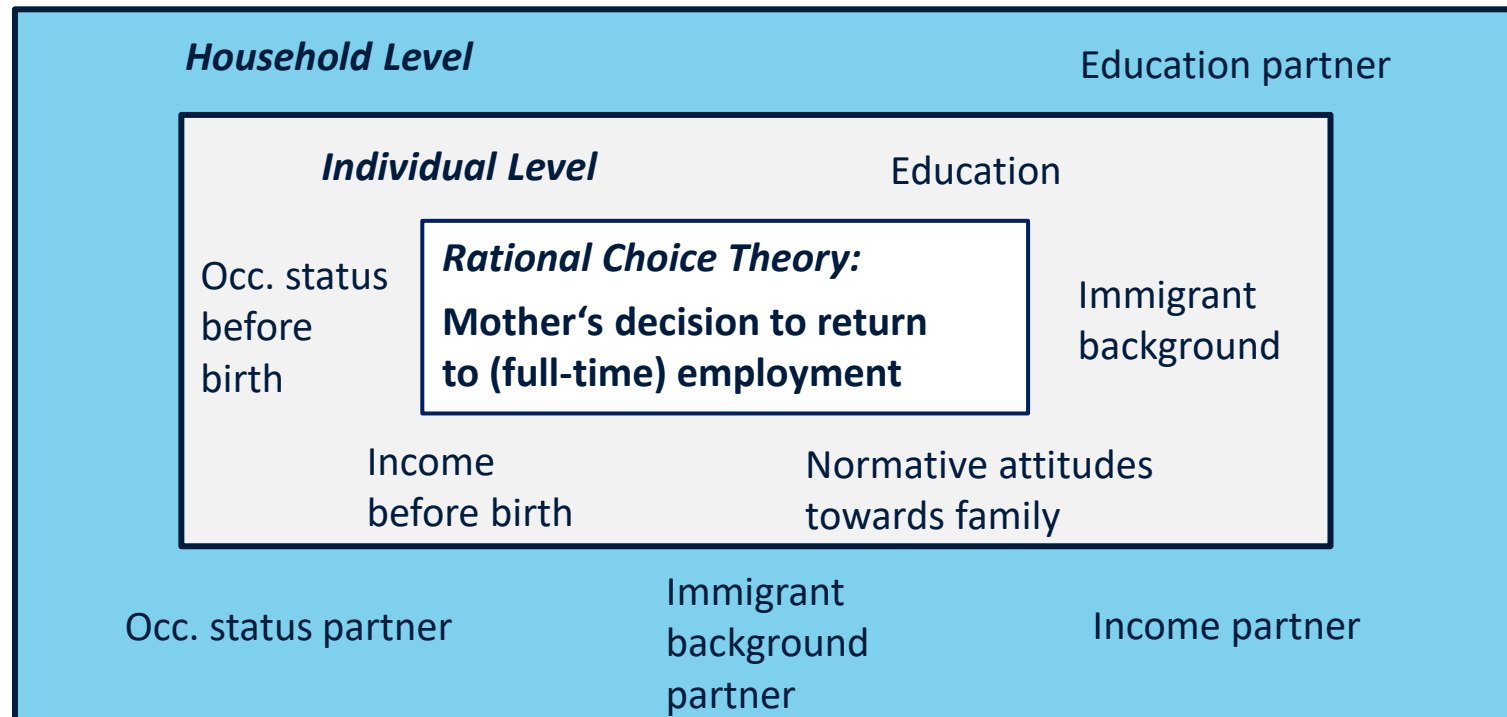
Conceptual model

Rational Choice Theory:
**Mother's decision to return
to (full-time) employment**

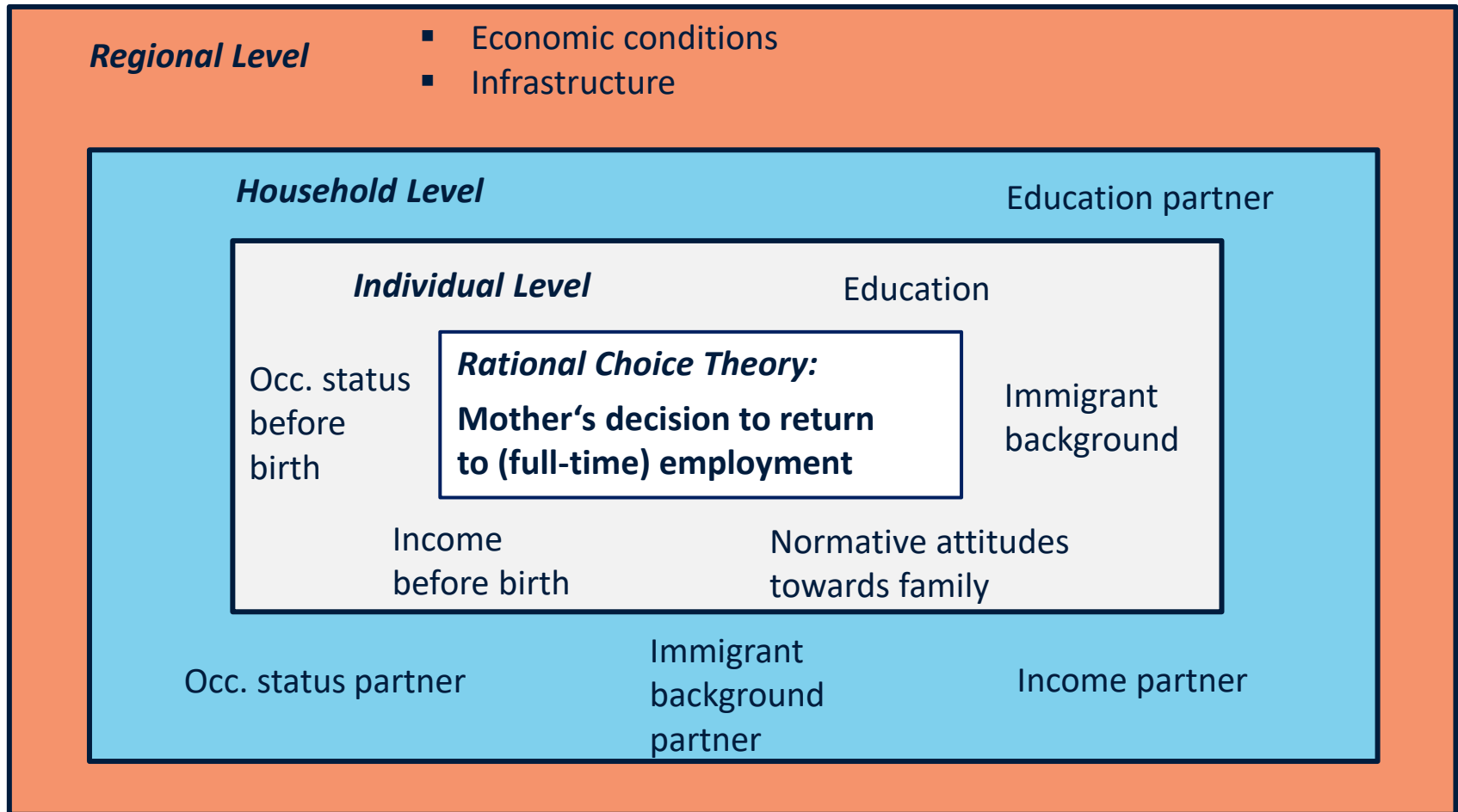
Conceptual model



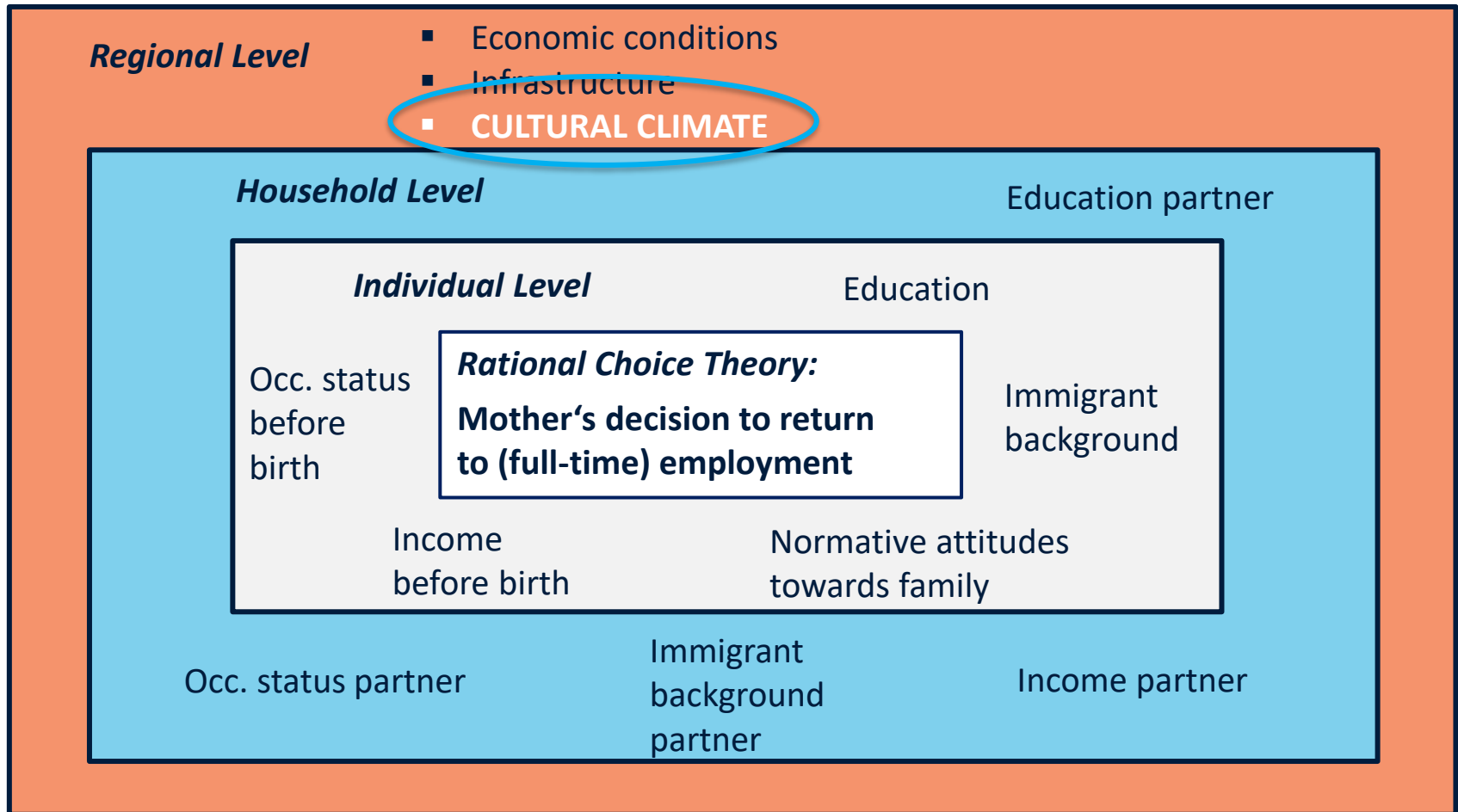
Conceptual model



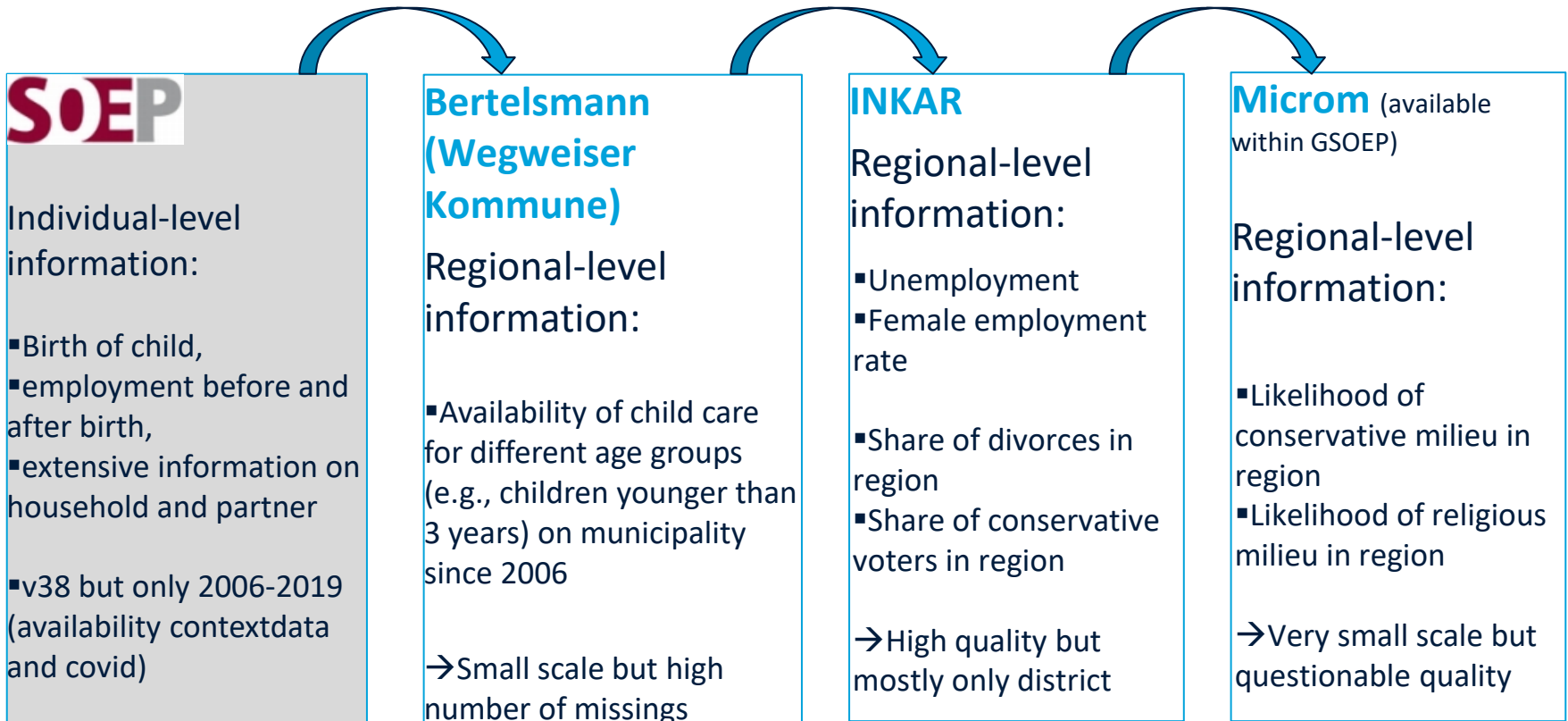
Conceptual model



Conceptual model

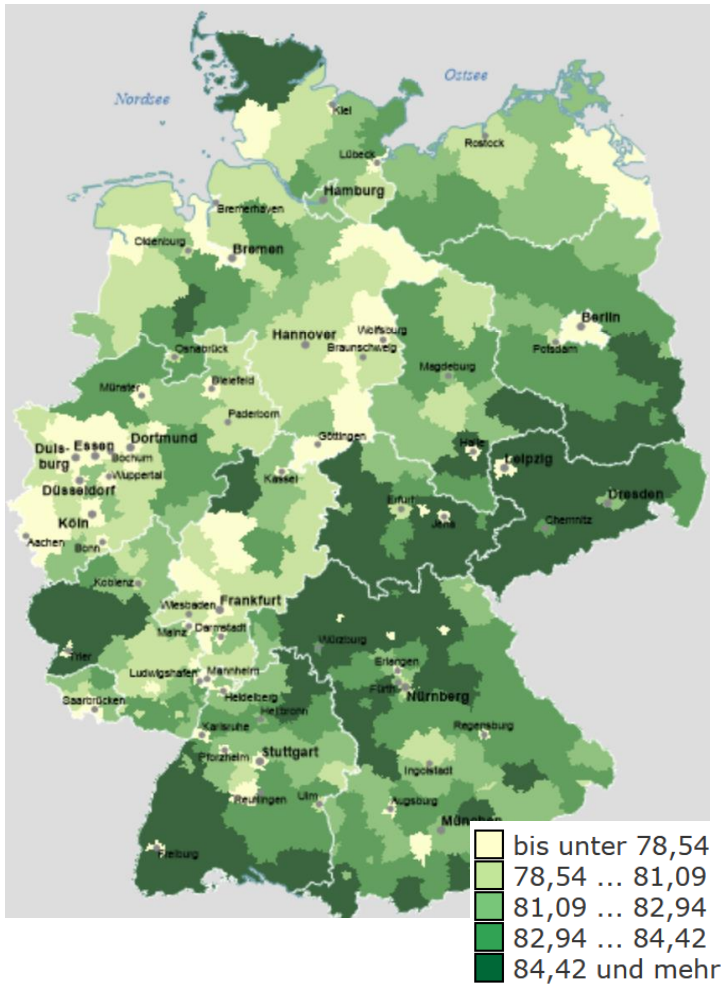


Data



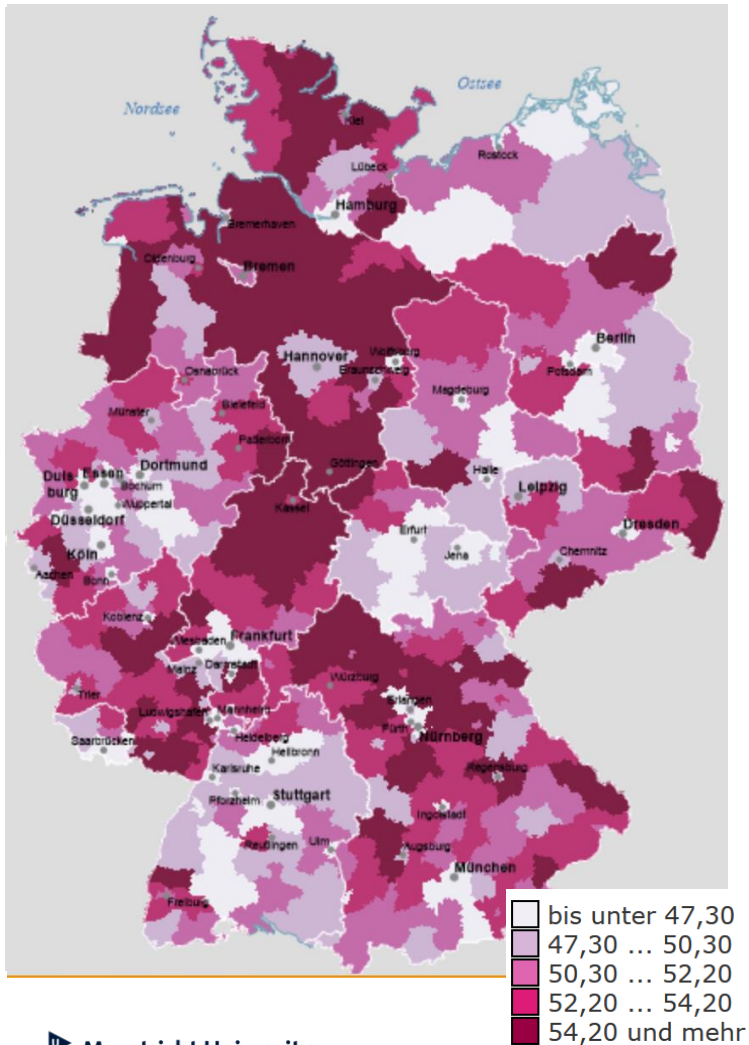
Data

Female employment participation



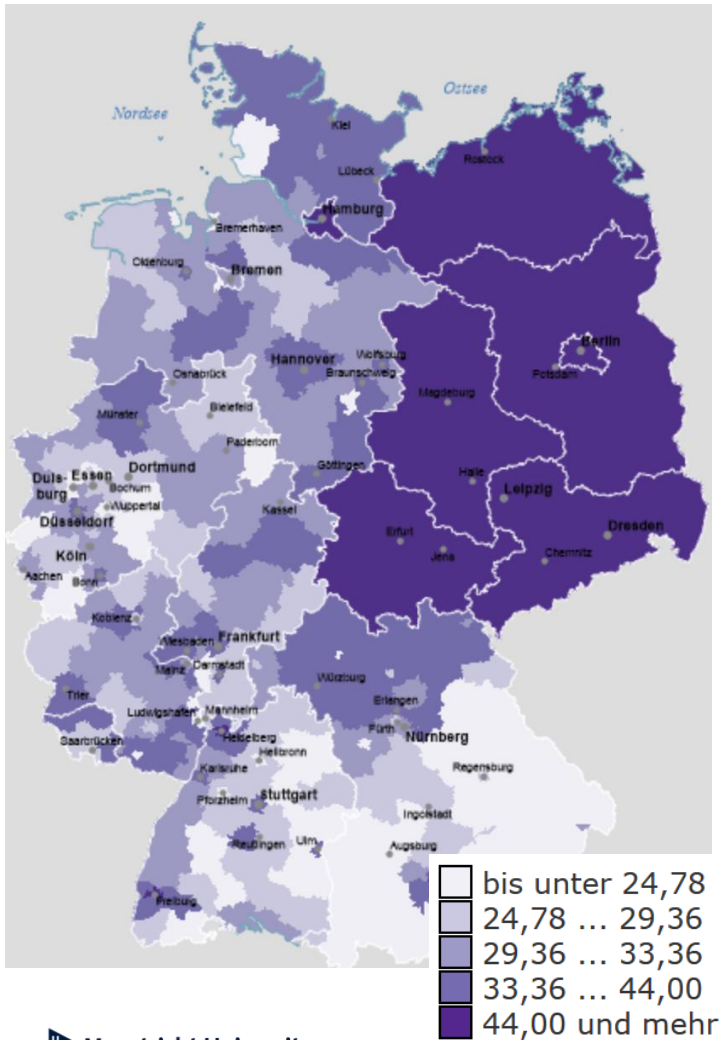
Data

Share of part-time employment (women)



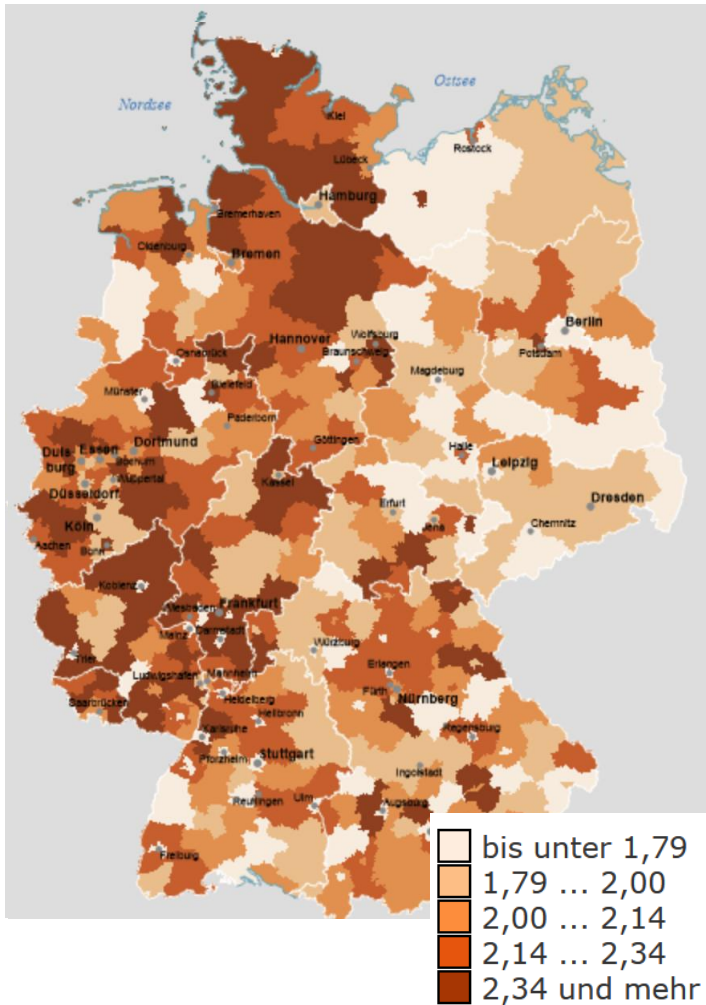
Data

Child care availability under age 3



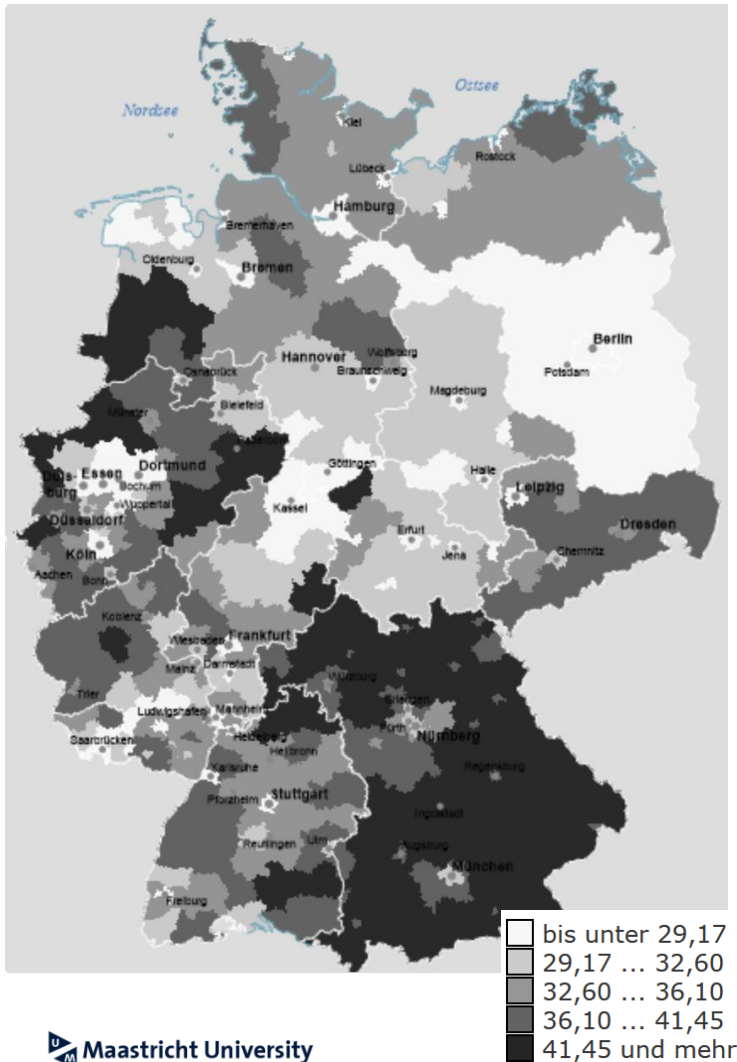
Data

Divorce rates per 1000 inhab. older 18



Data

Share of conservative voters (CDU)



Data

Correlations between regional indicators

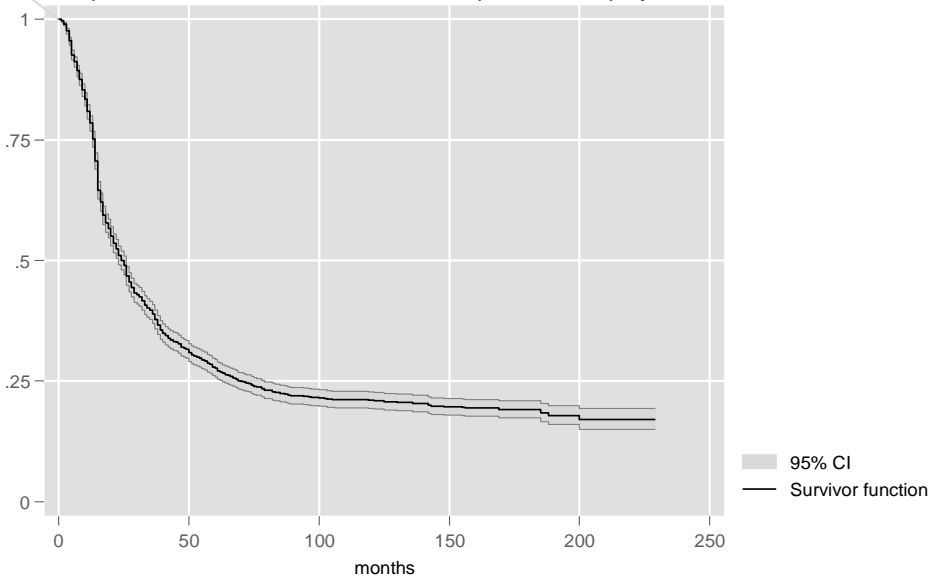
data: GSOEP & INKAR & microm & Bertelsman

	Female empl. rate	Child care (under age 3)	Divorce rate	Conservative voters	Traditional milieu	Religious milieu
Female employment rate	1					
Child care (under age 3)	0.703	1				
Divorce rate	-0.202	-0.345	1			
Conservative voters	-0.354	-0.443	-0.062	1		
Traditional milieu	-0.047	-0.023	0.016	0.012	1	
Religious milieu	-0.049	-0.004	-0.017	0.024	0.304	1

Dependent Variable

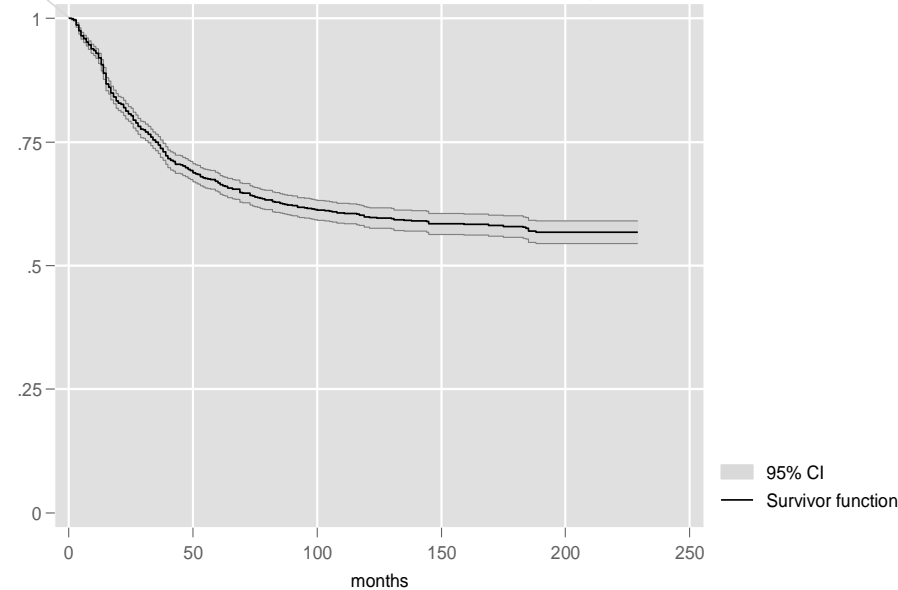
Return to at least part-time employment

Kaplan-Meier estimate; Return to full or part time employment



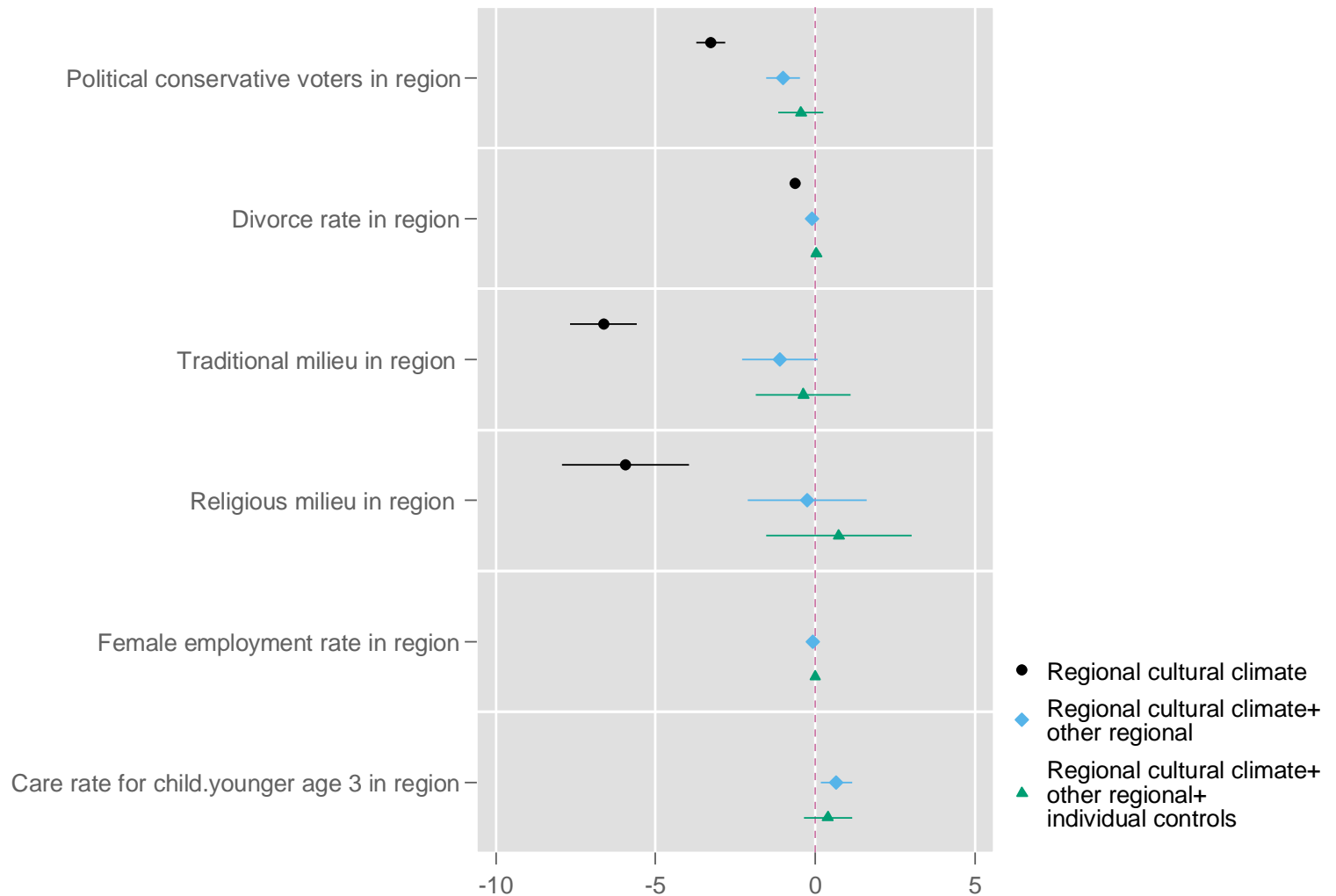
Return to full-time employment

Kaplan-Meier estimate; Return to full time employment



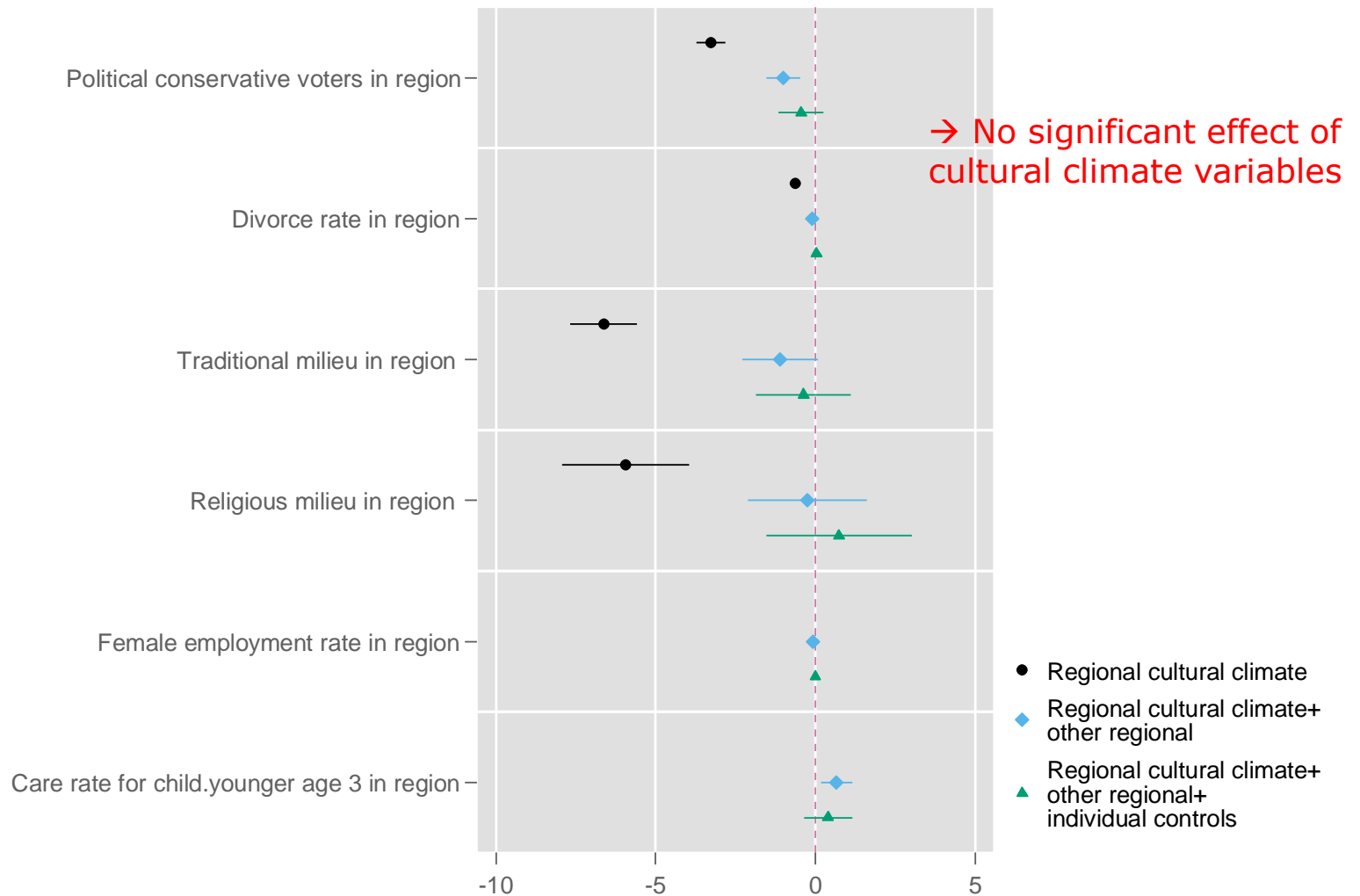
Results

Event history analysis: return to **full or part-time** employment



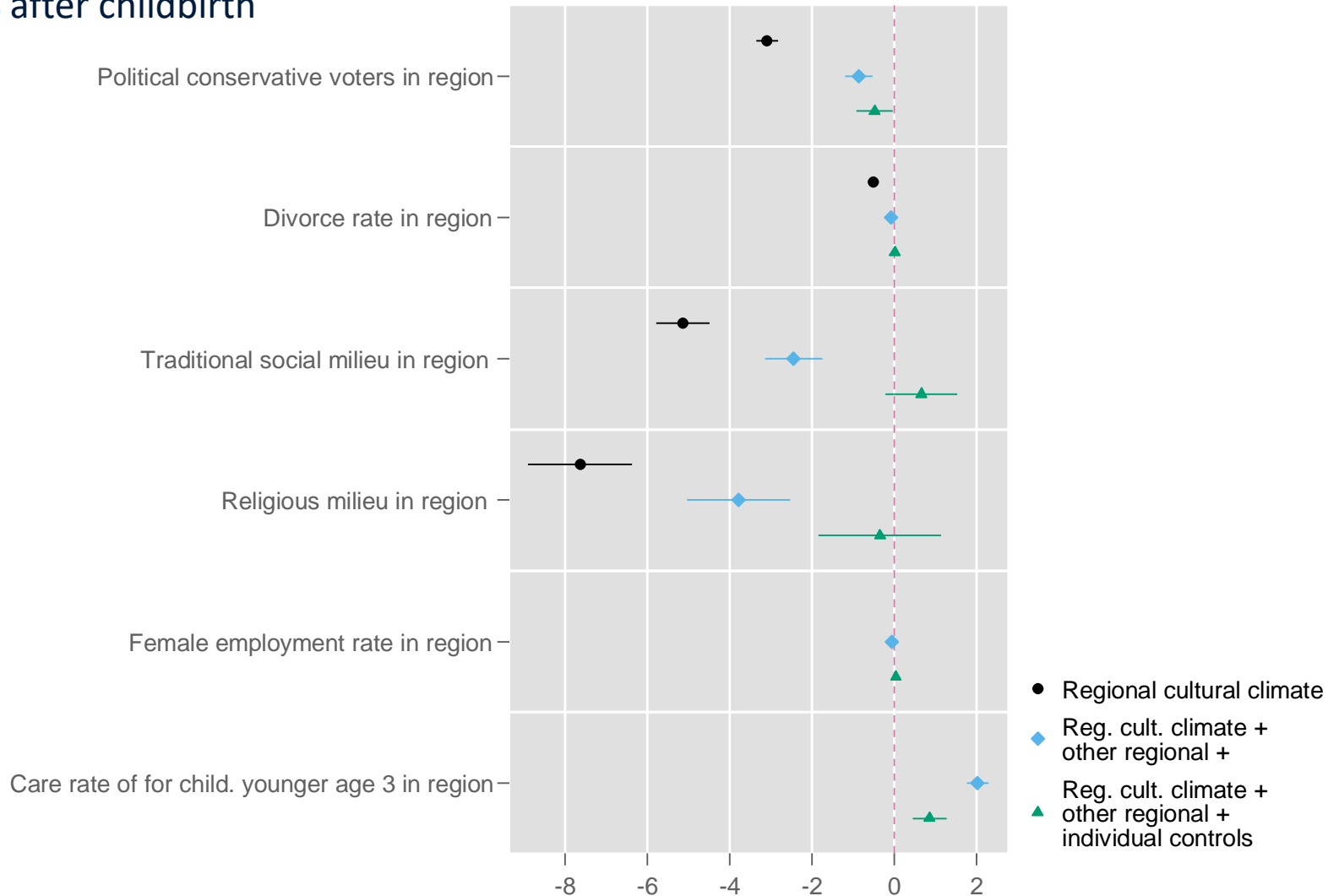
Results

Event history analysis: return to **full or part-time** employment



Results

Event history analysis: return to **full or part-time** employment **within the first 12 months** after childbirth



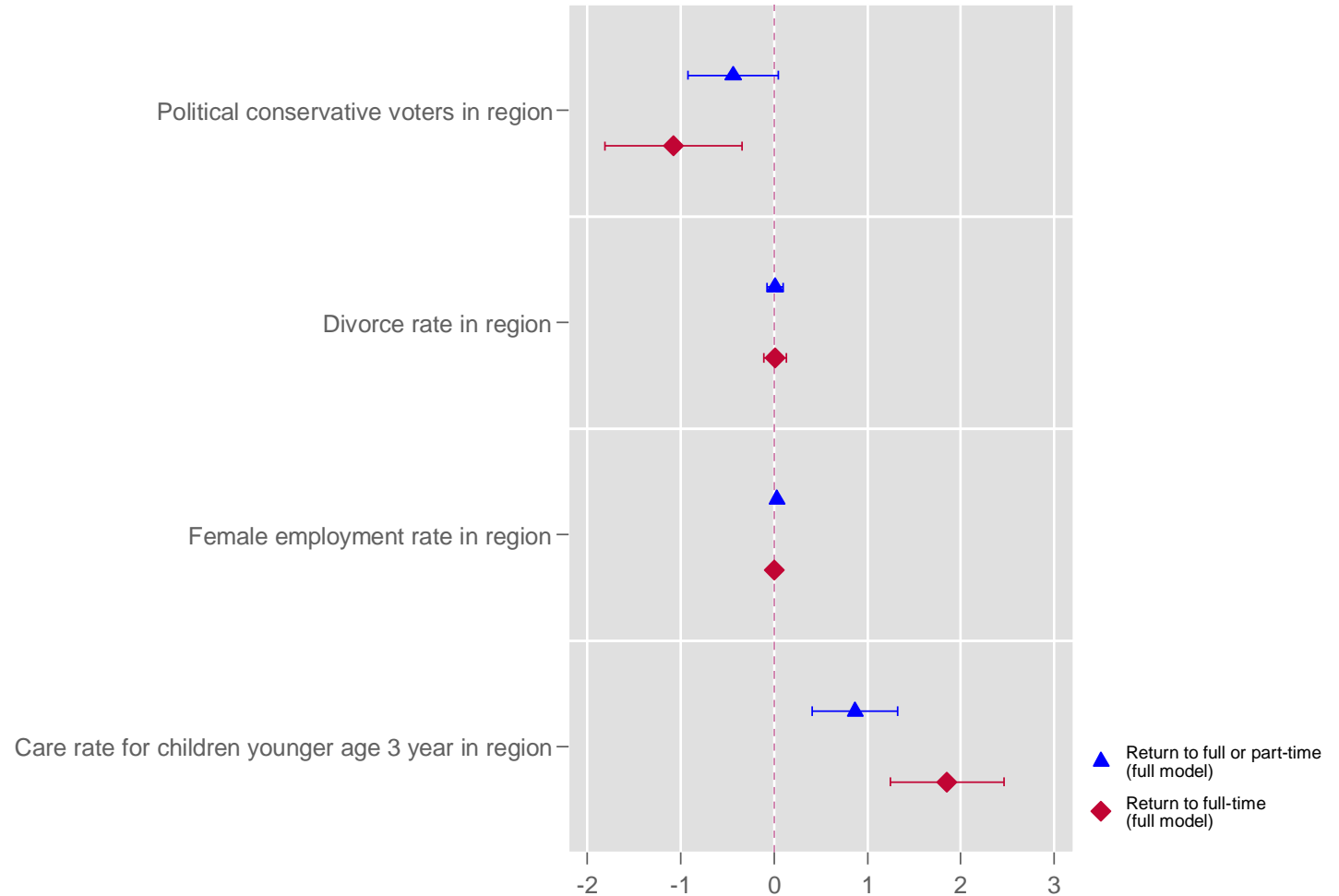
Results

Event history analysis: return to **full or part-time** employment **within the first 12 months** after childbirth



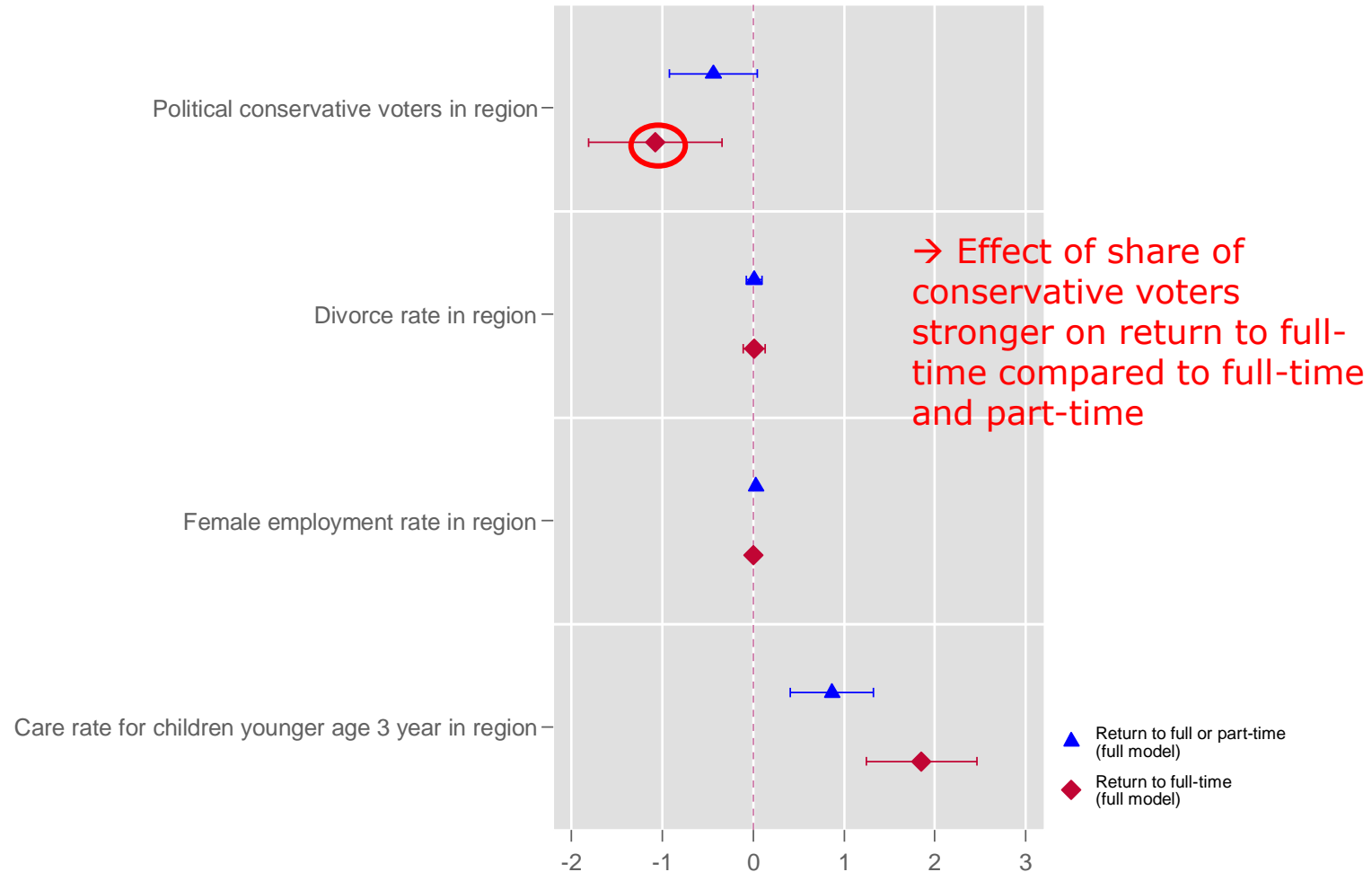
Results

Panel model: **return to full or part-time employment** versus **return to full-time employment**



Results

Panel model: **return to full or part-time employment** versus **return to full-time employment**



Summary

We find:

- In addition to regional (infra)structural factors **significant effects** of **cultural climate in region**
- Most important variable: **share of conservative voters in region**
- Effects are particularly pronounced for
 - **return to employment within the first 12 months** and
 - for **return to full-time employment**

Outlook

- More testing **alternative measures** of local and regional climate and regional level of aggregation

- **Interactions** between regional cultural indicators and other factors (e.g., city size, education)

Contact

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Descriptive results					
Independent variables:					
	mean	sd	min	max	%
Mother information					
Year of birth (mother)	1974.4	6.8	1943	1994	
Year of birth (child)	2005.7	4.8	2000	2014	
Education (years)	13.0	2.8	7	18	
Income (month before maternal leave)	1,197.9	645.1	0	6,000	
ISEI88 (month before maternal leave)	47.7	15.9	16	90	
Migration background (ref. no mig. back.)					24
Married (ref. unmarried)					63.3
Attitude (women should focus on family more than work: 0=agree/4=disagree)	3.2	0.8	1	5.3	
Partner information					
Year of birth	1971.4	7.2	1941	1995	
Education (years)	13.2	2.8	7	18	
Income (time of birth of child)	1,227.3	686.6	0	6,000	
ISEI88 (time of birth of child)	48.4	15.8	16	90	
Local/regional information					
Female occupation rate in region	45.7	3	37.1	53.7	
Care rate under age 3 in region	20.1	17.1	0	70.1	
Share of conservative voters in region	40.2	10	15.1	73.7	
Divorce rate in region	2.7	0.5	0.5	8	
Likelihood of traditional milieu in region	17.8	4.7	2.7	34.4	
Likelihood of religious milieu in region	7.4	3.0	0	27.7	
City size (between 20,000 and 100,000, ref. less than 20,000)					17.6
City size (more than 100,000, ref. less than 20,000)					61.5
West Germany (ref. East Germany)					74.5
N					1,692