

The Nature of Cohabitation in Contemporary Russia

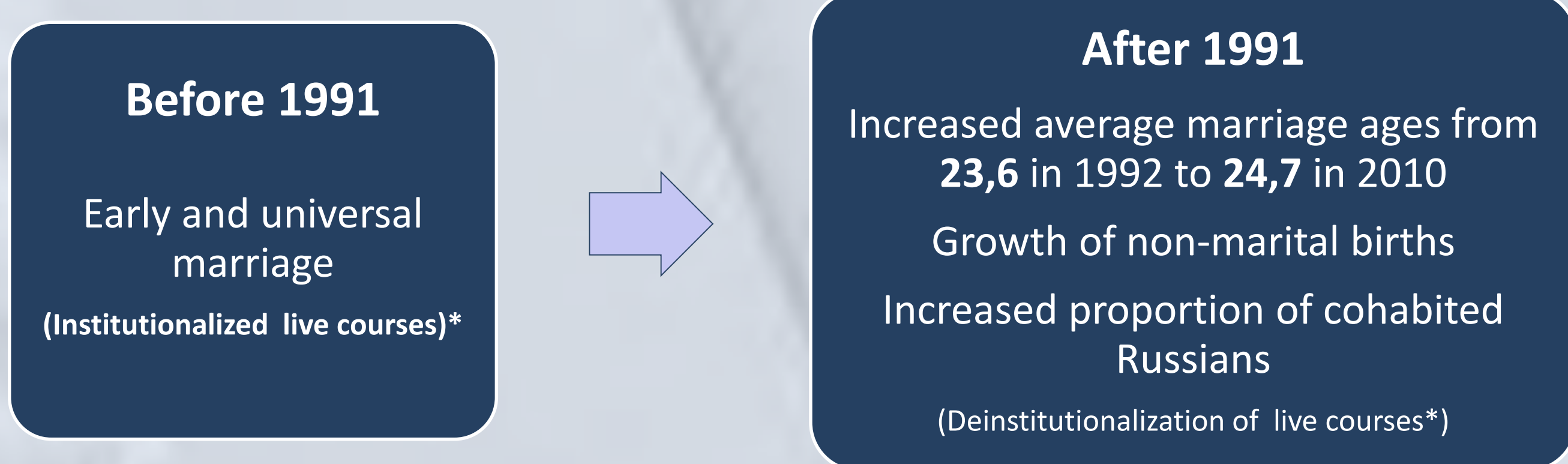
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Research Background

Soviet Union Collapse:



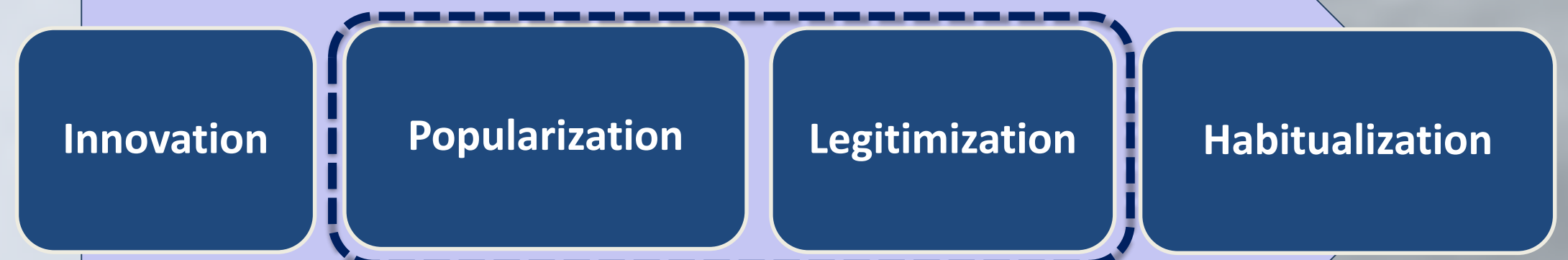
Second Demographic transition is coming to Russia?

Research problem: what is the nature of cohabitation in Russia?

*Mills, Blossfeld

Authors of the approach:

Sobotka,
Toulemon,
Kiernan

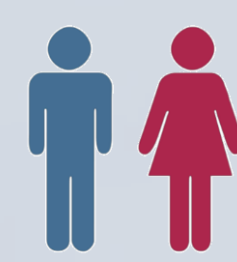


	(cohabitation as marginal phenomenon)	(cohabitation as a prelude to marriage)	(cohabitation as a substitute for marriage)	(cohabitation and marriage are indistinguishable)
Diffusion	is practiced by marginal groups of the society	spreads among persons from the various social strata		
Permanency	short duration or a short pre-marital experience	lasts longer and is less likely to be converted into marriage		
Cohabitation as a family arrangement	pregnancy is a reason for marriage	parenthood becomes more and more common among cohabiting couples		

Database

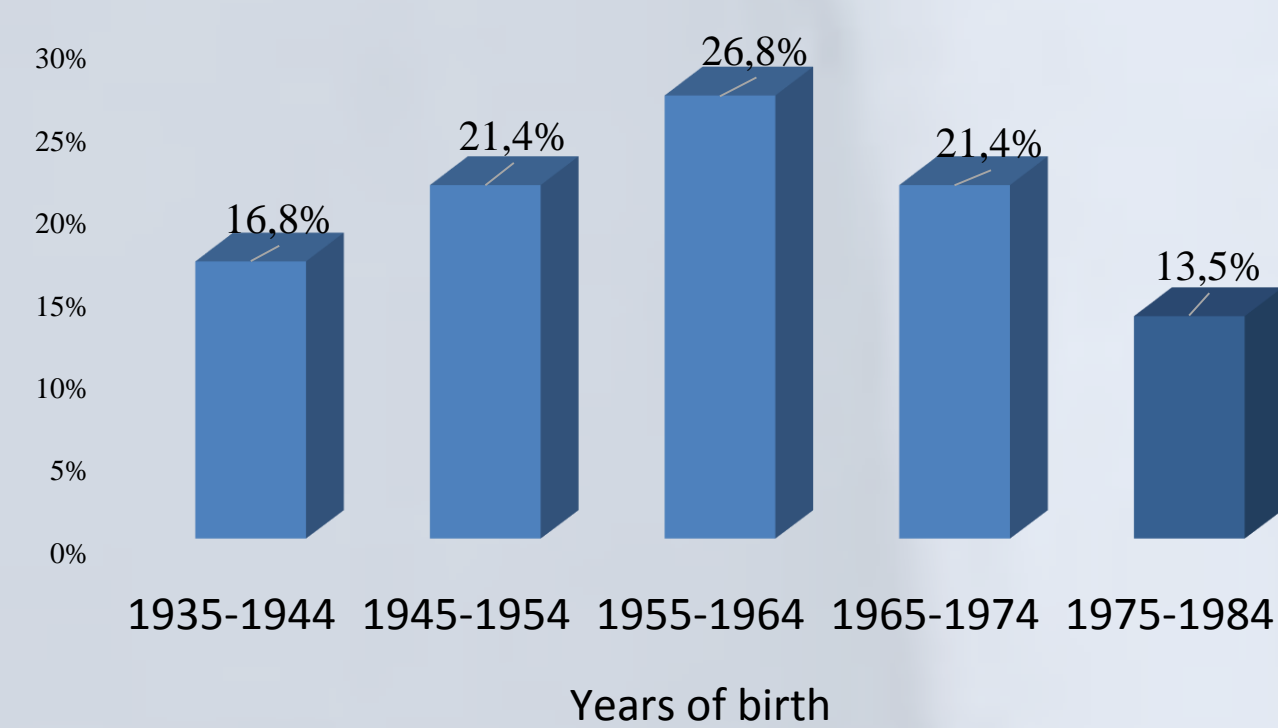
Panel data of the Russian part of Generations and Gender Survey (GGs-panel: 2004, 2007, and 2011): 4948 interviews

32% of men

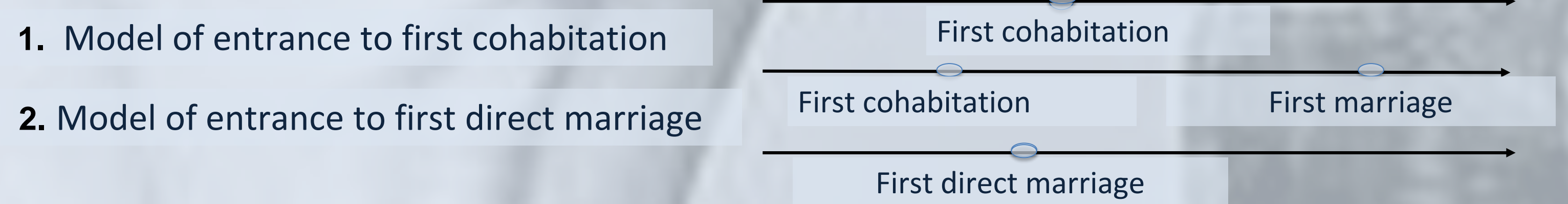


68% of women

Generations	
By period of socialization	By year of birth
Soviet	1935-1944
	1945-1954
	1955-1964
	1965-1974
Modern	1975-1984



Research Models (EHA, Cox Regression)

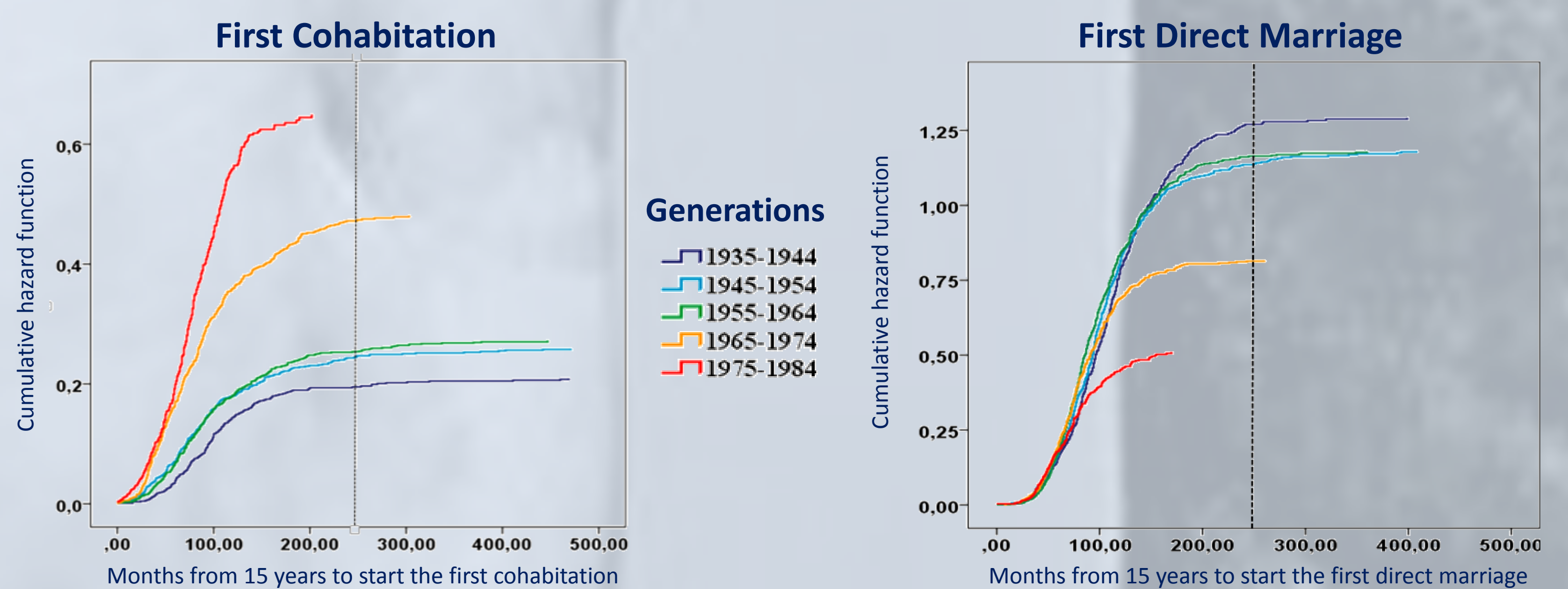


	Model 1	Model 2
Event	Entrance to first cohabitation	Entrance to first direct marriage
Subject	Respondents in the age of 15+	
Time	Months from 15 years to first cohabitation	Months from 15 years to first direct marriage
Stratification	Generation	
Predictors	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> gender place of residence educational level religiosity 	

Factors of Entrance to Cohabitations and Direct Marriages (EHA, Cox Regressions)

	First Cohabitation	First Direct Marriage
Number of events	1444	3135
Predictors	Exp(B)	
Gender ref: men	1,181***	1,182***
Educational level ref: higher	1***	1***
Secondary general	1,654***	0,960
Secondary vocational	1,438***	1,098**
Place of residence ref: urban	0,732***	1,224***
Religiosity ref: religious	1,411***	0,793***

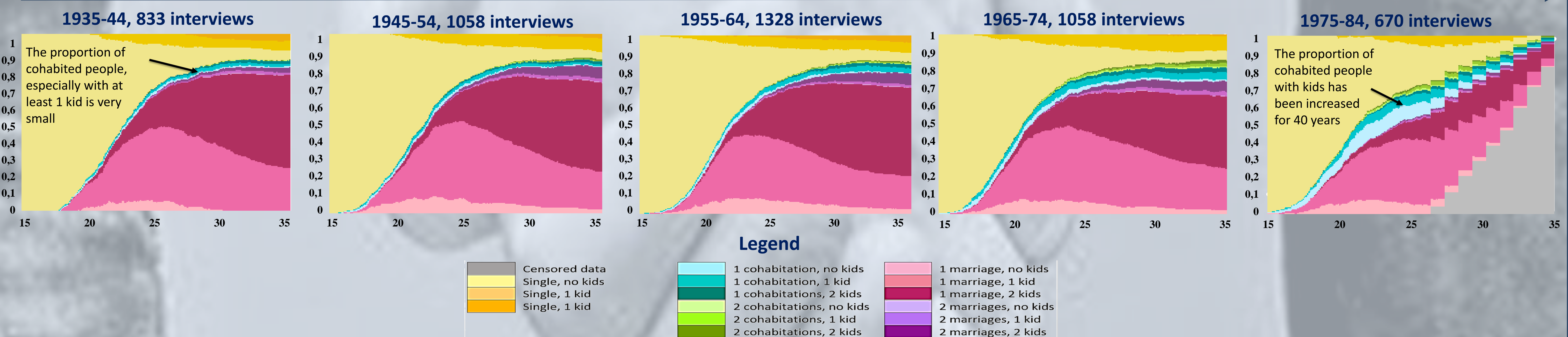
***The coefficient is statistically significant (95%)



Sequences* of Matrimonial and Reproductive Events

"Soviet Union" generations

"Modern" generations



Conclusions

- The analysis revealed opposite trends of matrimonial behavior: the younger Russian people are, the higher their risk to start the first cohabitation and the lower the risk to have the direct marriage as first matrimonial event.
 - Cohabitation is not a complete alternative to marriage in our country yet, but the proportion of the Russians from various social strata for whom cohabitation does not grow into a marriage rises.
 - Young non-religious people who get higher education in big cities start to consider non-marital union appropriate for childbearing and childrearing. It is a sign that cohabitation is close to become an independent social institution.
- Given these outcomes, we conclude that Russia has almost reached the third stage of cohabitation diffusion.

Our previous work is available here: http://papers.ssrn.com/sol3/papers.cfm?abstract_id=2513302

Acknowledgments

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Literature and sources

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