

Migrants in interethnic partnerships: between preferences and structural opportunities

Anne-Kristin Kuhnt, Monika Obersneider

Aim of study

- Learn more about the role of cultural boundaries (ethnicity, religion) in the social integration process of different migrant groups (generation, origin – country of birth) in Germany
 - Focus on Turkish and ethnic German migrants
- Examine key characteristics of partner choice and compare them among interethnic (migrant-native) and intraethnic (migrant-migrant) couples

Background

- Germany is currently the most important immigration country in Europe (IOM 2021)
- In 2022, 28.7% (23.8 million individuals) of all individuals living in Germany did not acquire German citizenship by birth or had a parent who was not born as a German citizen (Federal Statistical Office of Germany 2023)
- Turkish and ethnic German migrants represent the two largest groups of migrants in Germany (Federal Statistical Office of Germany 2023)
- In 2019, 7% of all new marriages were binational (Federal Agency for Civic Education 2021)

Data & Methods

- German Family Panel pairfam, Wave 11
- Detailed information on the migration-related background of both partners (country of birth)
- Information on non-marital and LAT-partnerships

Descriptives

Figure 1: Characteristics of interethnic partnerships

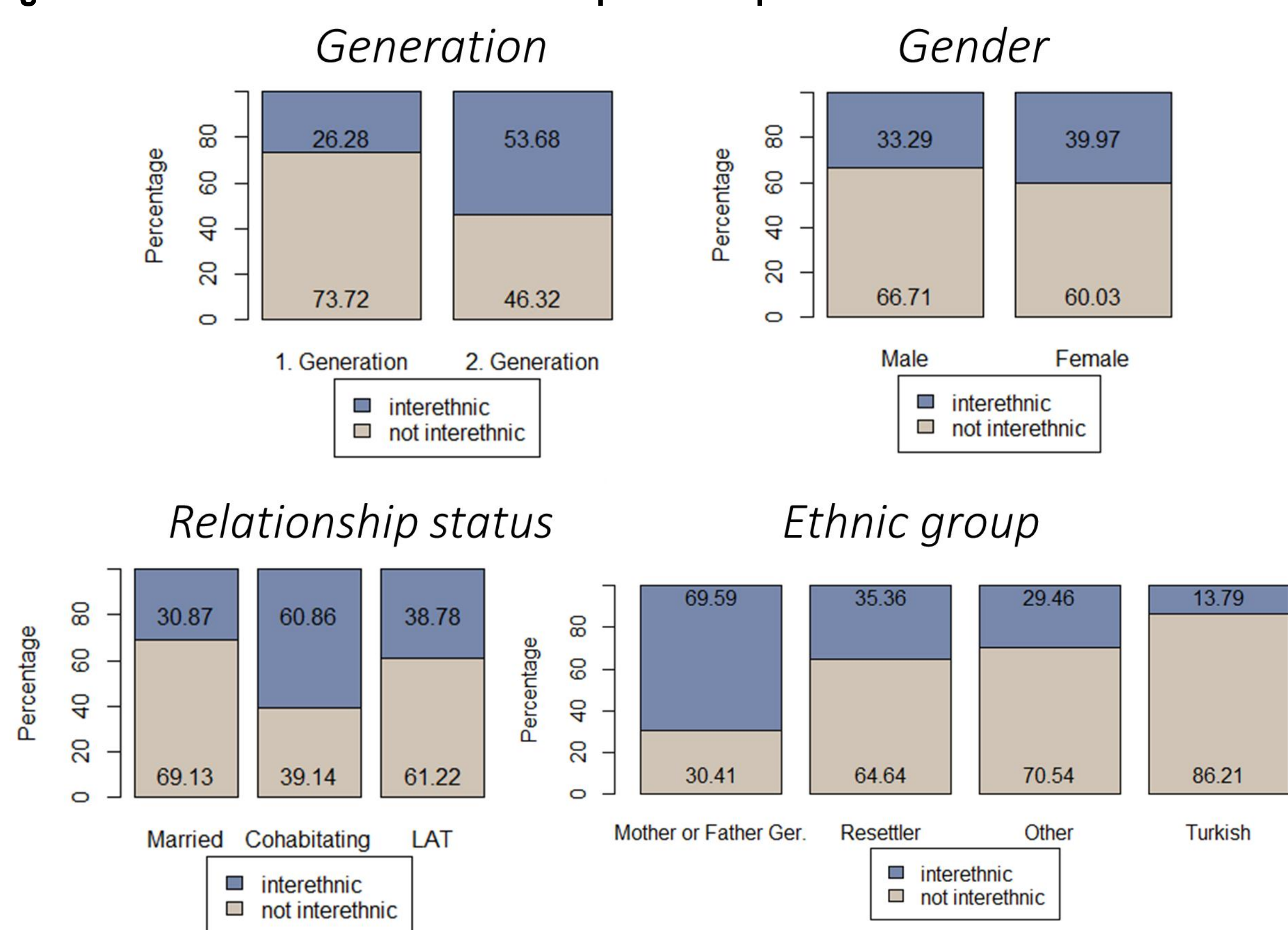
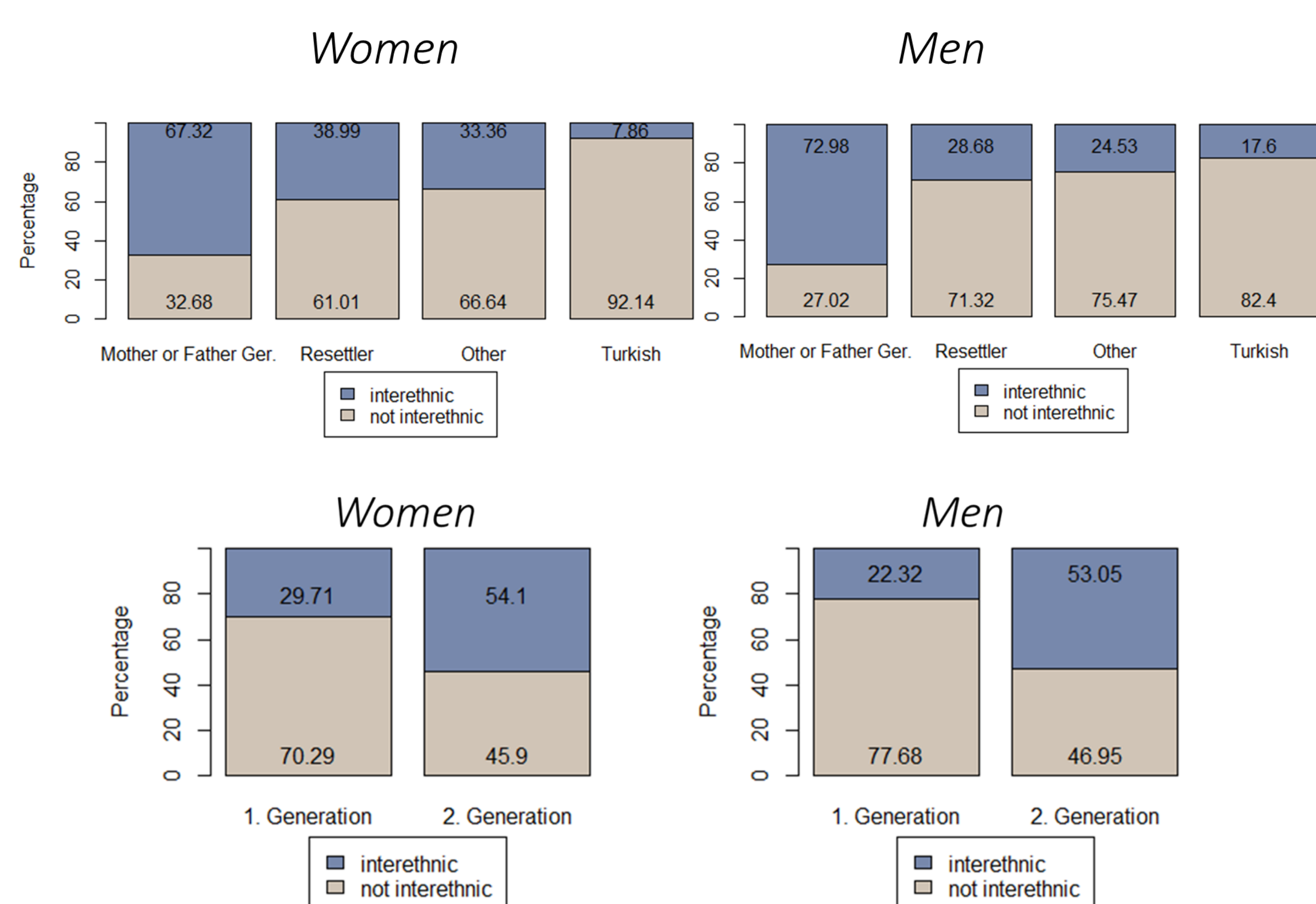


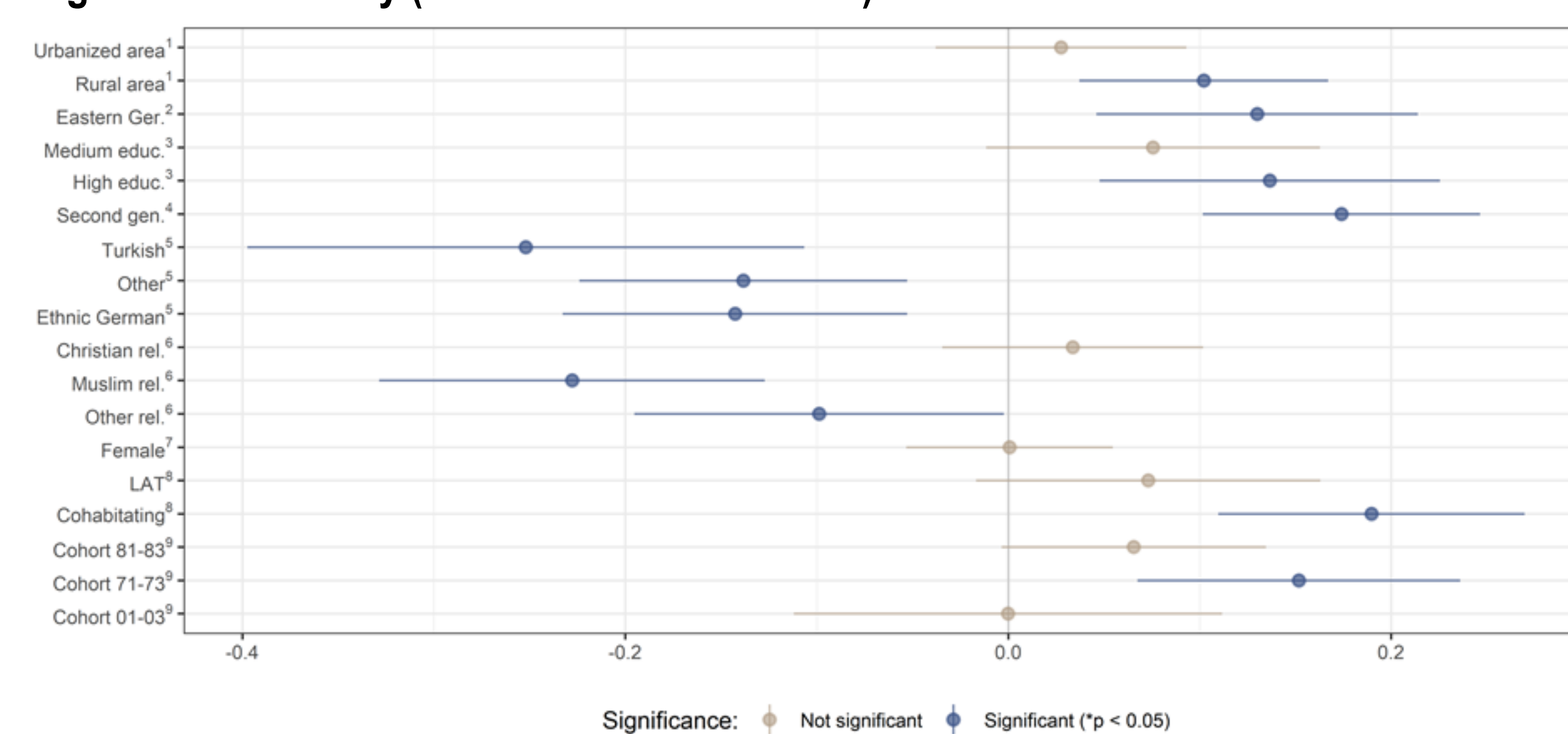
Figure 2: Women and men in interethnic partnerships by ethnicity and migrant generation



Source figure 1-2: Own computation with weighted pairfam 11.0 (2018/19) data (Brüderl et al. 2021)
N = 1,856; Nwomen = 1,045; Nmen = 811

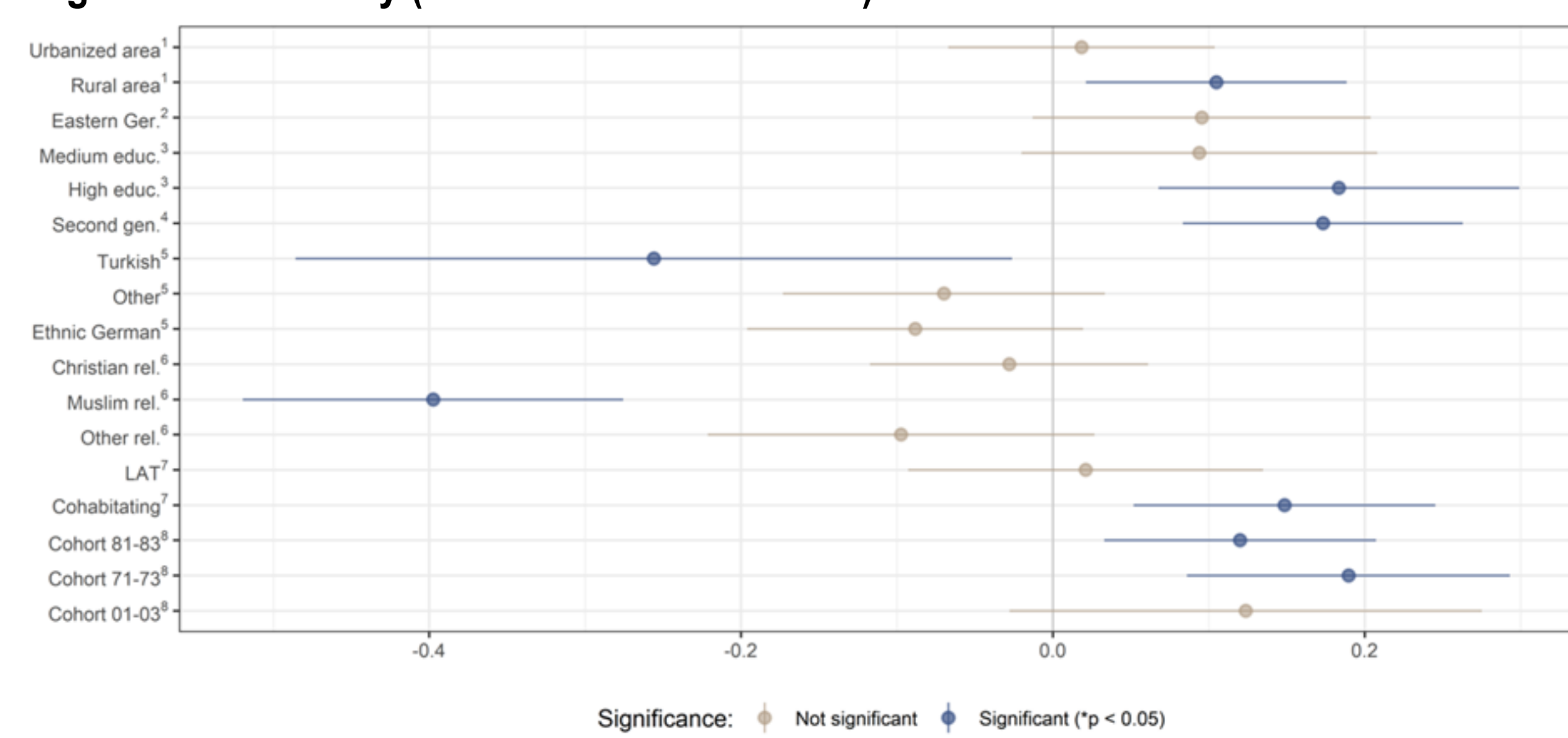
Findings

Figure 3: Logistic regression analysis for estimating interethnic partnerships of migrants in Germany (AME coefficients with CI)



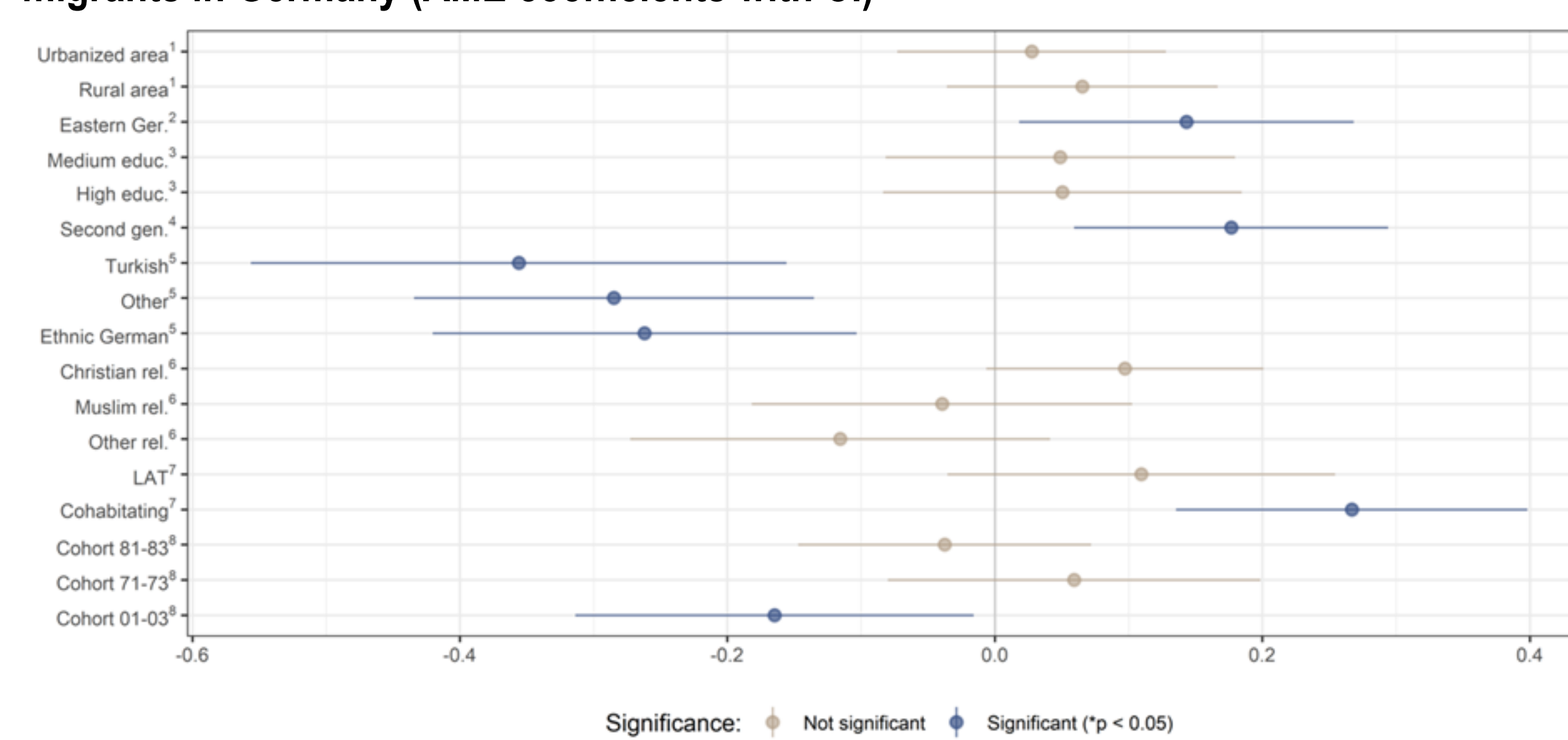
*N = 1,098; AIC = 1,249; Pseudo-R²(Nagelkerke) = 0.31; Ref.: ¹Urban area; ²Western Ger.; ³Lower education; ⁴First Gen.; ⁵Half German; ⁶No religion; ⁷Male; ⁸Married; ⁹Cohort 91-93

Figure 4: Logistic regression analysis for estimating interethnic partnerships of female migrants in Germany (AME coefficients with CI)



*N = 692; AIC = 799; Pseudo-R²(Nagelkerke) = 0.31; Ref.: ¹Urban area; ²Western Ger.; ³Lower education; ⁴First gen.; ⁵Half German; ⁶No religion; ⁷Married; ⁸Cohort 91-93

Figure 5: Logistic regression analysis for estimating interethnic partnerships of male migrants in Germany (AME coefficients with CI)



*N = 406; AIC = 440; Pseudo-R²(Nagelkerke) = 0.40; Ref.: ¹Urban area; ²Western Ger.; ³Lower education; ⁴First Gen.; ⁵Half German; ⁶No religion; ⁷Married; ⁸Cohort 91-93

Source figure 3-5: Own computation with not weighted pairfam 11.0 (2018/19) data (Brüderl et al. 2021)

What is new?

- Comparing migrants in interethnic partnerships with migrants living in a partnership with a migrant with the same or another non-native ethnicity
- Including non-marital partnerships and LAT partnerships
- Including spatial dimensions (size and place of residence)

What can we learn?

- Average probability of being in an interethnic relationship is higher for the second generation than for the first generation – signal for greater social openness among subsequent generations
- Both preferences and structural opportunities of migrants are relevant for living in interethnic partnerships
- Different patterns can be observed by gender
- Findings could be embedded in microsimulations: estimate varying relationship patterns based on immigration