

ISER Seminar – University of Essex
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Neighborhood Disadvantage and Residential Mobility from Early Life into Adulthood: Impacts on Socio-Economic Outcomes

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LIFE
LONG
MOVE



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Universitat Autònoma
de Barcelona

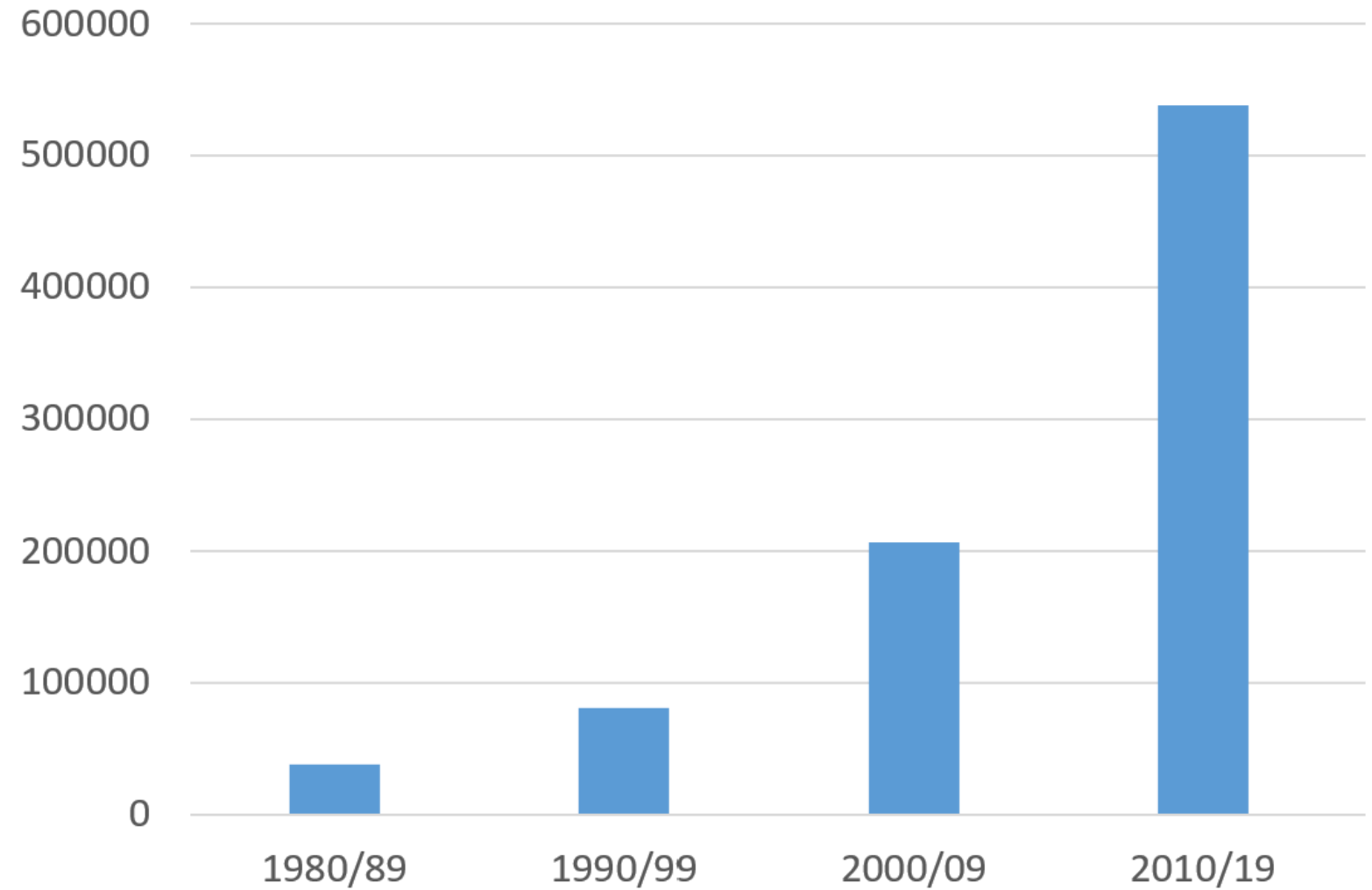


CED
Centre d'Estudis
Demogràfics

1. Research approach and project
 1. Lifetime migration approach
 2. The lifelongmove project

2. Neighborhood Disadvantage and Residential Mobility from Early Life into Adulthood: Impacts on Socio-Economic Outcomes
*With **Maël Lecoursionnais, Riccardo Valente and Maria Brandén***

Number of documents returned by *Google Scholar* containing the search terms “migration” and “longitudinal”



Advantages of longitudinal data and methods

Measurement – Track time-related processes

- Change in outcomes over time
e.g. health or wage profiles after migration
- Sedentarism and persistence in mobility practices
- Sequential processes
e.g. realization of prior mobility intentions

Modelling – Better assessments of causality w/ non-experimental data

- Account for time-constant unobserved heterogeneity (omitted variable bias)
- Model reciprocal and recursive causation
- A wide range of adequate designs
e.g. estimating treatment effects, isolating maturation processes from generational differences, exploiting incomplete info on timing to events,...

Research advances

- 1) Spatial mobility over an individual's life course
 - Complex interdependencies between spatial mobility and (trigger) life events
 - Time dynamics underlying outcomes of spatial mobility
- 2) Stratification and selectivity of (in)mobile populations
- 3) Social embeddedness – spatial mobility as relational practices
 - Inequalities and power relations within and across households
 - Linking individuals to social ties beyond the household
- 4) Macro-level processes and change
 - Role of (change in) context for individual migration decisions
 - Role of selective migration for context-level change

A discrete-time approach dominates in migration research, where the focus is on

- single events and practices
(movers vs stayers; migration often regarded as permanent)
- point-in-time and life stage-specific analyses
(migrations isolated from individuals' wider trajectories)

Observation I: Migration is (often) *repeated* over individual lifetimes

Return migration
accounts for 25% of
global migration flows
and transit migration 10%

(Azose and Raftery, 2019)

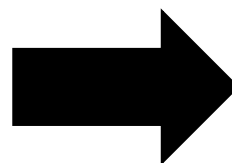
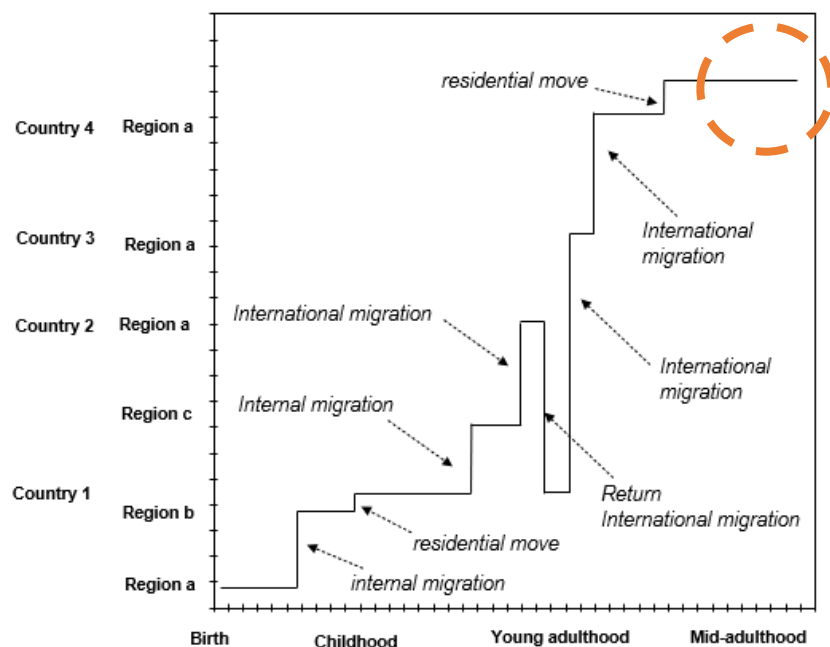
Europeans moved between
5 times (Denmark) and 1.6
times (Greece) in their early
and mid-adulthood

(Bernard, 2017)

Observation: Migration trajectories are diverse and complex

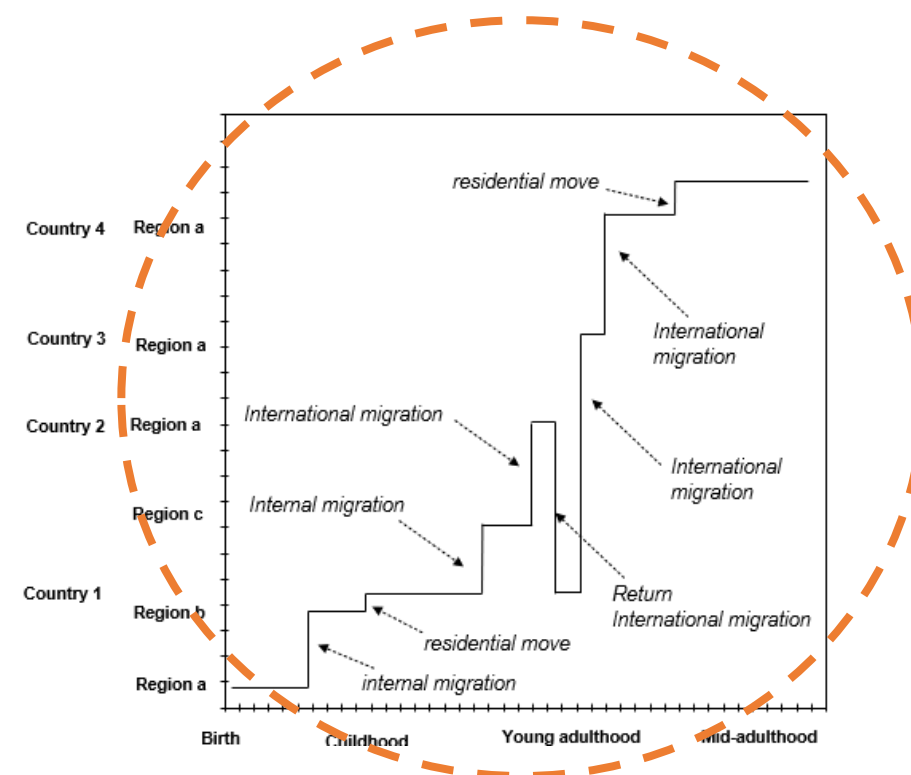
Migration events

Last recoded migration



Migration trajectories

Migration histories



Mazzucato *et al.*

Mobility trajectories of young lives (MO-TRAYL)

Analyse mobility data of young Ghanaians growing up in and between the Netherlands and Ghana

Single internal and international move

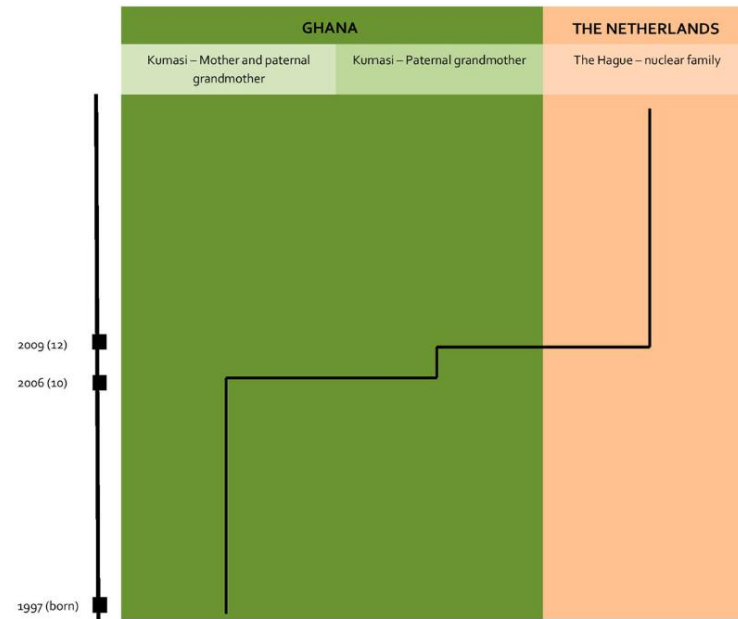


Figure 1. Elyah's mobility trajectory. Source: Fieldwork, 2015–2016.

Multiple moves

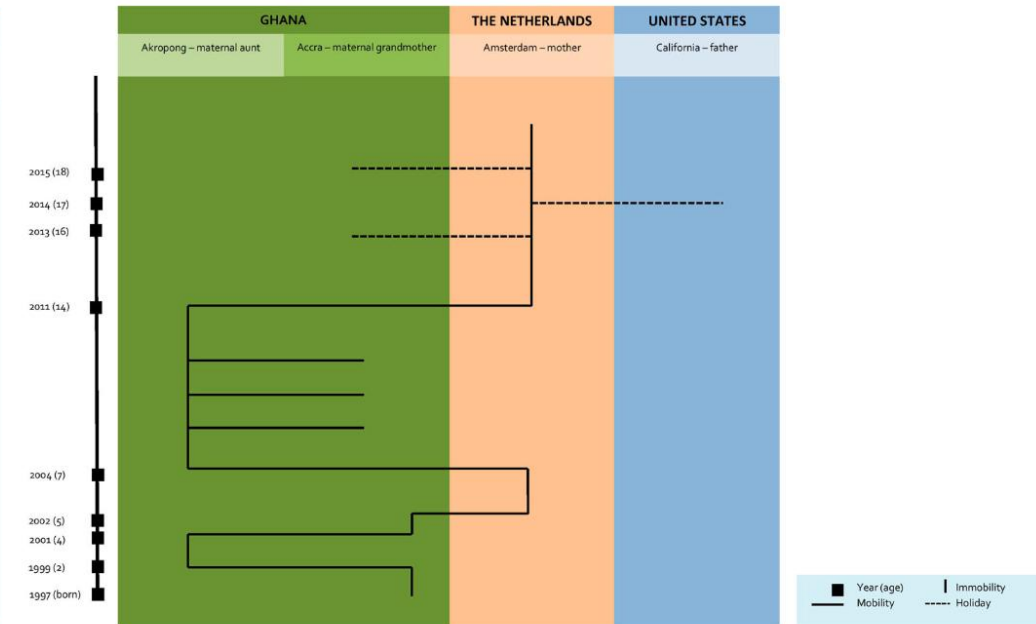


Figure 4. Akua's mobility trajectory. Source: Fieldwork, 2015–2016.

Mobility trajectories as alternative categories beyond first/second generation migrants, focusing on differences within migrant groups and emphasizing links between internal and international movement

Observation III: Individuals' backgrounds and earlier life experiences matter for outcomes over the life course

“Those who moved more often as children and adolescents moved more often as adults, and were more likely to move in response to several life course transitions”

Myers (1999):

Residential mobility as a way of life: Evidence of intergenerational similarities.

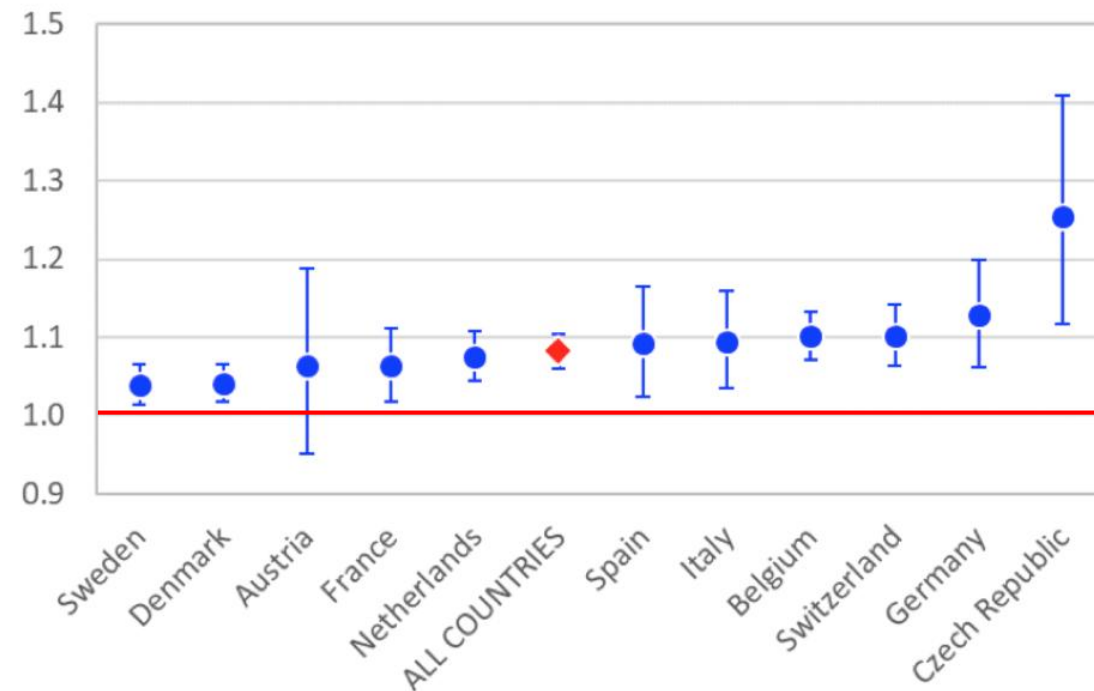
Intergenerational reproduction of migration behaviour

Bernard and Vidal (2020):

Do childhood migration experiences affect migration behaviour in adulthood?

- Childhood moves (ages 0-17) significantly increase the likelihood of moving internally or internationally in adulthood (ages 18-50)
- Particularly true in countries where moving (as a child) is less common

Figure 2 Incidence rate ratios of the number of moves in childhood on adult moves, 1946-1957 birth cohorts



*Analysis based on retrospective records for representative samples of individuals aged 50+ in 11 European countries

Lifetime migration approach

Migration as

- a temporal process that is recurrent, repeated and reinforcing
- interdependent forms of movement at multiple spatial scales
- underlying life course and inter-generational mechanisms

Growing calls to adopt a *broader* life course perspective in migration research:

Findlay et al. 2015; Coulter et al 2016; Vidal and Huinink 2019;
McCollum et al. 2020; Bernard 2022

IUSSP Panel on lifetime migration (2023-2027)

The panel seeks to advance conceptual and methodological innovation by shifting the focus from isolated migration events to life-course trajectories, promoting longitudinal data infrastructures, the application of life-course methods, and stronger theoretical foundations for understanding migration as a trajectory-based process.



• Alicia Adsera • Princeton University Member 	• Aude Bernard • University of Queensland Co-chair 	• Blessing Mberu • African Population and Health Centre Member 	• Clara Mulder • University of Groningen Member 
• Jose Irineu Rigotti • Universidade Federal de Minas Gerais Member 	• Helga de Valk • Netherlands Interdisciplinary Demographic Institute Member 	• Sergi Vidal • Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona Co-chair 	• Michael White • Brown University Member 

IUSSP: International Union for the Scientific Study of Population

Panel website: <https://www.iussp.org/en/panel/lifetime-migration>



IUSSP Panel on lifetime migration (2023-2027)

1

Recognise the **heterogeneity of migration behaviour** from lifetime sedentarism to one-time migration, repeat and chronic migration

2

Integrate internal and international migration as part of the same continuum of population movement and identify links over the life course

3

Establish **how migration trajectories are associated with individual life chances** and societal wellbeing and inequalities

Panel activities

- Training courses, special sessions at international conferences, workshops, webinars,...
- Forthcoming actions:
 - Special issue in *Comparative population Studies* (2026): **“Migration Trajectories across the Life Course”**
 - Workshop at the European Population Conference (June 2026): **“Global perspectives in lifetime migration data infrastructures”**
 - Symposium at SLLS (July 2026): **“Mobility and Migration Trajectories and Health Inequalities Across the Life Course”**
 - Data module proposals for Wave 3 of the Generations and Gender Survey Programme



LIFE LONG MOVE

Understanding spatial mobility
from early life into adulthood

**European Research Council
Consolidator Grant (CoG)**

Ref: 101043981

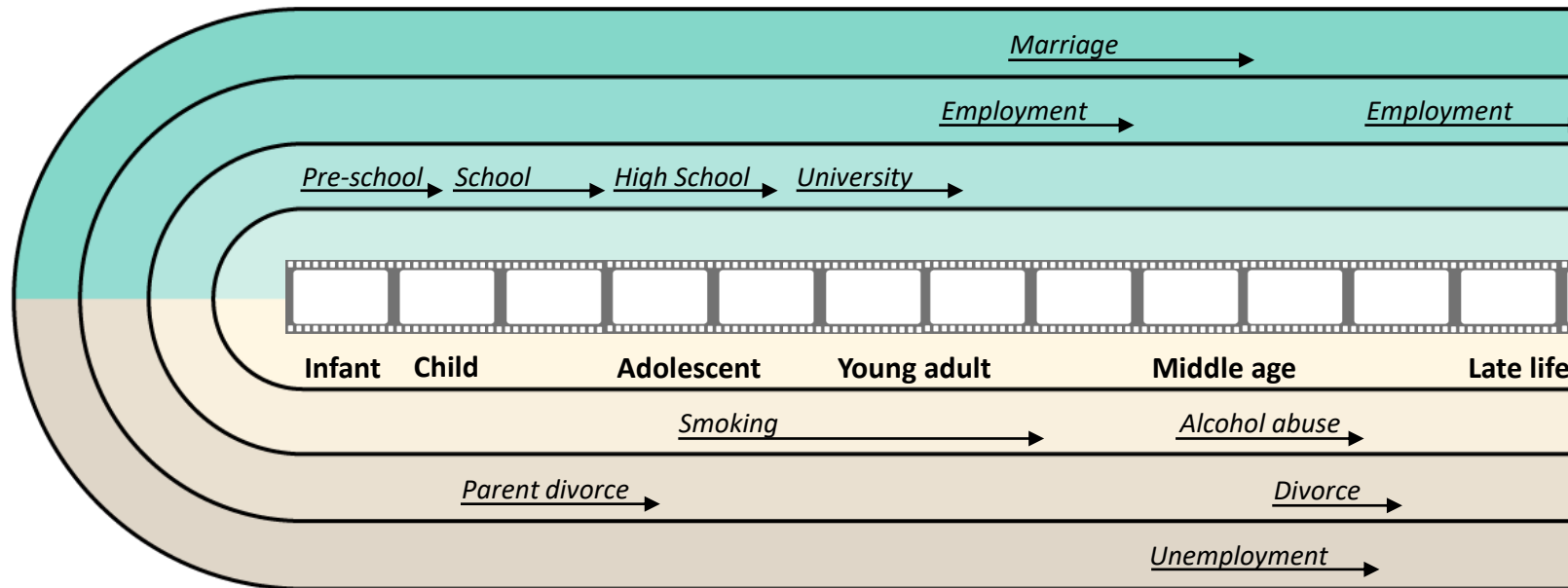
Period: Jan 2023 – Dec 2027



European Research Council
Established by the European Commission

LIFELONGMOVE addresses how spatial mobility unfolds through life, from early childhood into adulthood.

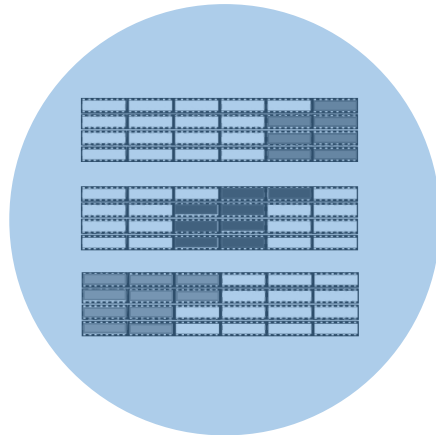
It integrates separate bodies of mobility research in childhood and adulthood to provide new insights on the pathways, resources, and strategies underlying mobility over the life course.



- LIFELONGMOVE situates spatial mobility within the wider life trajectory – **lifetime migration perspective**
- LIFELONGMOVE tracks individual movement throughout life exploiting European **longitudinal data infrastructure**

How is spatial mobility “lived”?

Objective: To document the diverse and complex pathways of lifelong mobility (from childhood into adulthood)



Assessing heterogeneity
in lifelong mobility
pathways



Deciphering
continuities and
disruptions



Unmasking population
heterogeneity

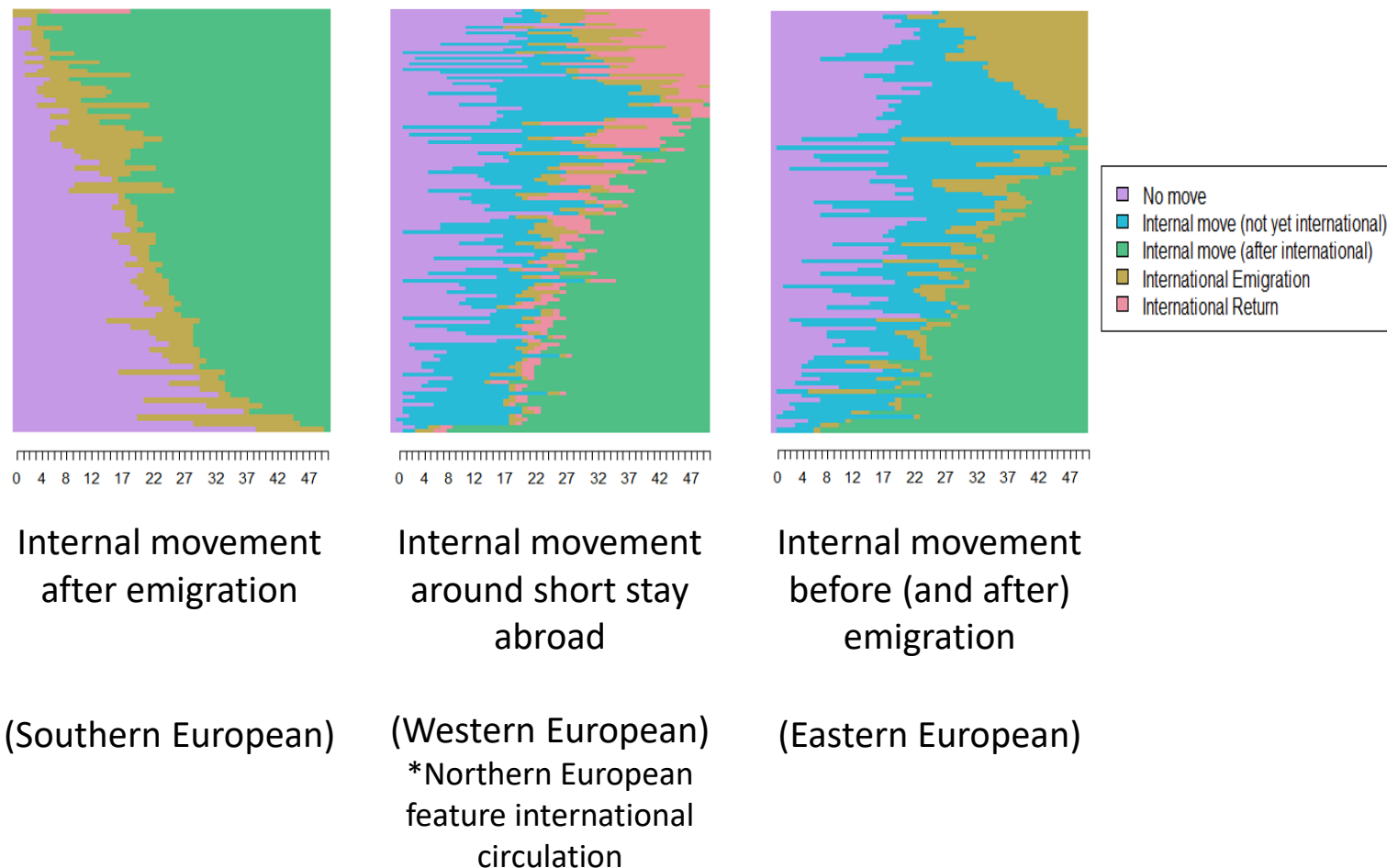
Bernard and Vidal
(2023, *Population Studies*)

Heterogeneity in internal and international migration trajectories in 20 European countries

Lifetime migration data (age 0 to 50) for a cohort born between 1950 and 1965 (Data source: SHARE)

Used sequence analysis to unveil the diverse internal-international migration patterns over the life course

Selection of typical migration trajectory patterns



How earlier life influences movement?

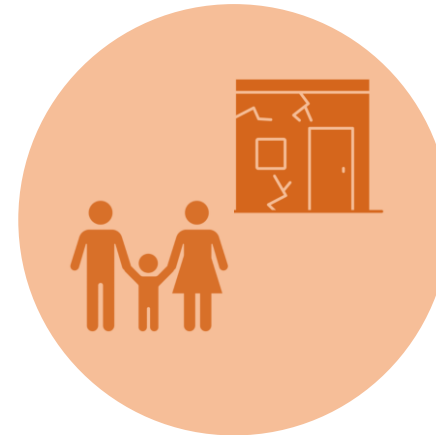
Objective: To establish whether and how childhood mobility experience influence spatial mobility over the life course



Ties to places



Attitudes and
capabilities



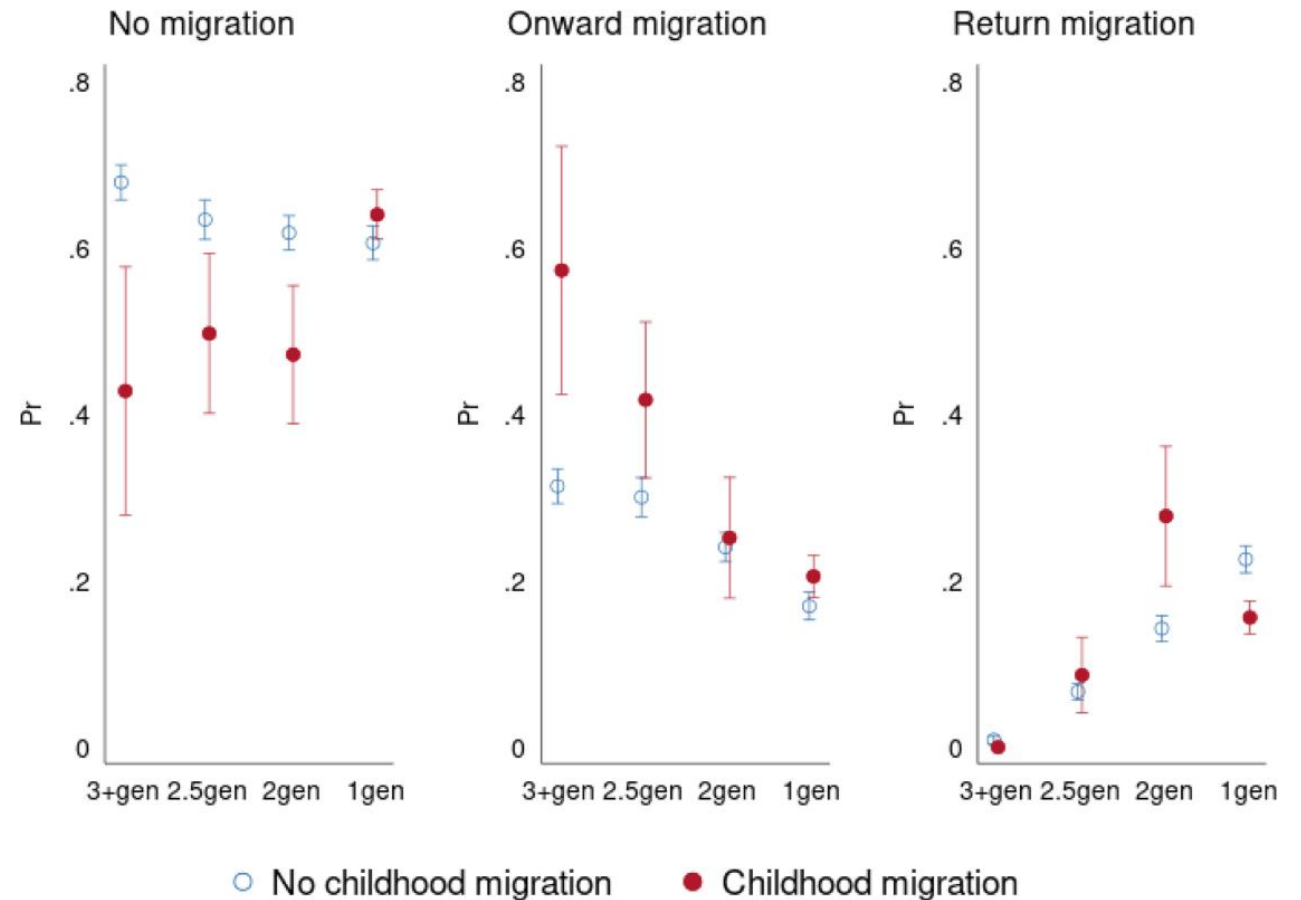
Early-life
(dis)advantages

Brunori, Caron and Vidal
(2026, *International Migration Review*)

Are **immigrant descent** and **childhood migration experiences** relevant to migration intentions in adulthood?

Evidence from France (TeO2 data) suggests that

- Populations with a more **recent immigrant descent** tend to express higher return migration aspirations but lower onward migration aspirations
- Direct **migration experiences in childhood** are associated with greater openness toward migration overall (and particularly returns for recent immigrant background)



Predicted probabilities of having **no, onward or return migration intentions** by immigrant descent and childhood migration experience

What are the consequences of lifelong mobility?

Objective: To document the impacts of lifelong mobility on life conditions



Socio-economic
outcomes



Family outcomes



Health outcomes

Neighborhood Disadvantage and Residential Mobility from Early Life into Adulthood: Impacts on Socio-Economic Outcomes

With Maël Lecoursionnais, Riccardo Valente and Maria Brandén

Persistence and change in residential environment shape socio-economic outcomes

- Exposure to **disadvantaged neighborhoods** can lead to cumulative disadvantage and lower long-term attainment (Sampson et al., 2002; Galster, 2012; Chetty et al., 2016; Brandén & Haandrikman, 2023)
- **Residential mobility** alters contextual exposure, potentially offering upward mobility (*mobility as opportunity*)—but frequent or forced moves can disrupt stability and reinforce disadvantage (*mobility as disruption*) (South & Deane, 1993; Clark & Coulter, 2015; Coley & Kull, 2016; Kuyvenhoven et al., 2022).
- **Selection into neighborhoods** complicates causal inference, especially among those with residential choice (Sharkey and Elwert, 2011; van Ham and Manley, 2012; Slater, 2013).

Despite the interrelatedness of residential contexts and mobility over the life course...

- The bulk of research assesses **residential contexts and residential mobility separately**
- Research is **life stage specific**, despite socio-spatial dynamics in adulthood can amplify or mitigate earlier disadvantages

Neighborhood disadvantage and residential mobility as interconnected processes shaping socio-economic outcomes

- **Context Change:** Moving from more to less disadvantaged areas —or *vice versa*—alters exposure to opportunities and risks
- **Compound effect:** Instability or the disruptions associated with moving can combine with contextual disadvantage to produce effects that are greater than the sum of their parts

Neighborhood disadvantage and residential mobility since birth as interconnected socio-spatial processes shaping socio-economic outcomes in early adulthood

1. Whether context disadvantage and residential mobility accumulates from birth and over the life course to collectively influence socio-economic attainment (**Long-term cumulative associations**)
2. Whether the effects of context disadvantage and mobility on socio-economic attainment vary by age at exposure (**Sensitive periods**)
3. Whether recent socio-spatial dynamics can mitigate the role of earlier socio-spatial disadvantages for socio-economic attainment (**Lifetime dynamics of persistence and change**)

Data come from Swedish linked registers available for scientific use

- Individuals born between 1990 and 1993 who remained in Sweden until 2022, though short gaps were allowed (N=467,219)

Measures

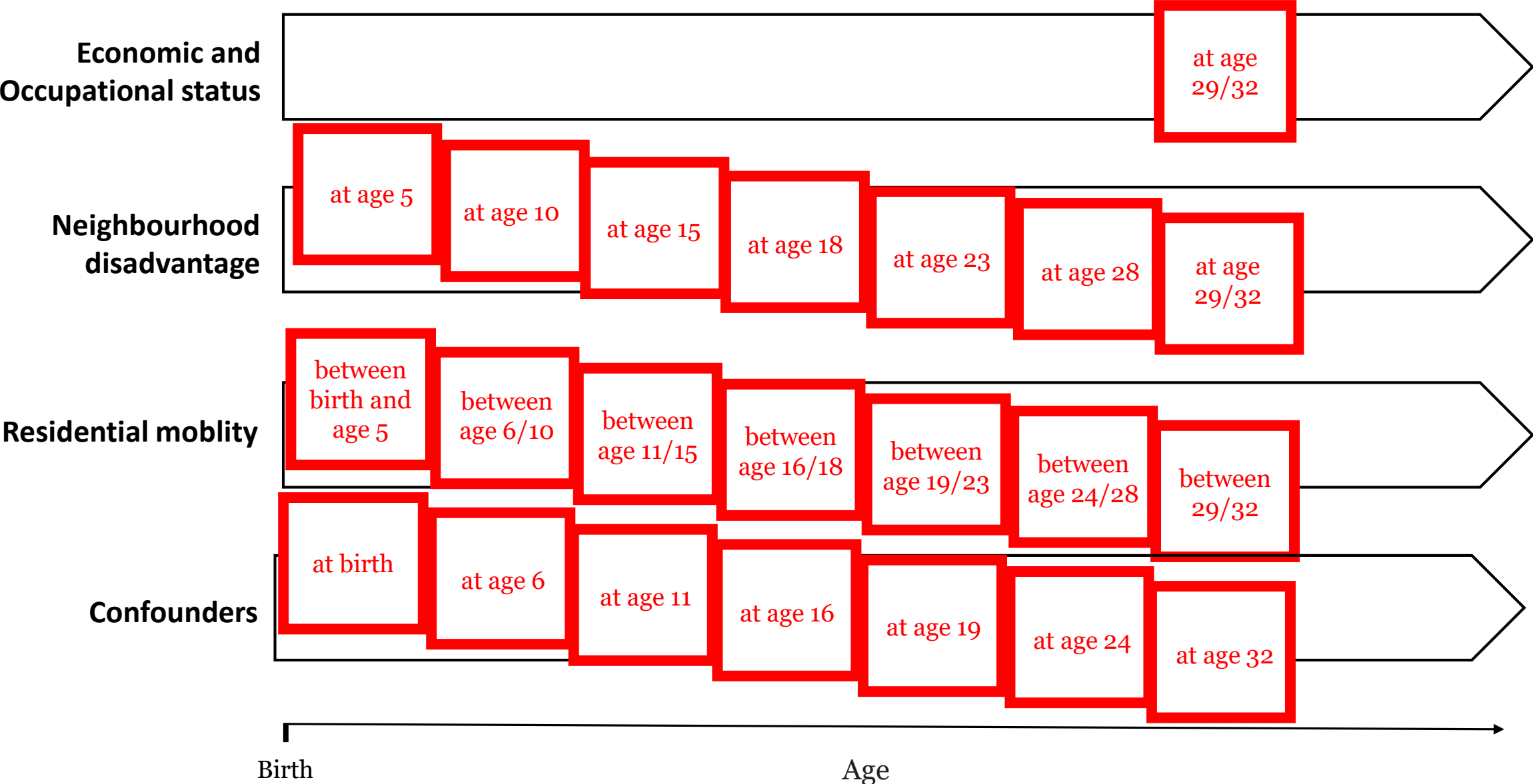
- **Socio-economic outcomes**

- (i) Economic: income higher than 5 IBA (advantage); in social welfare (disadvantage)
- (ii) Occupational: in an upper-class occupation (advantage); in working-class occupation (disadvantage)

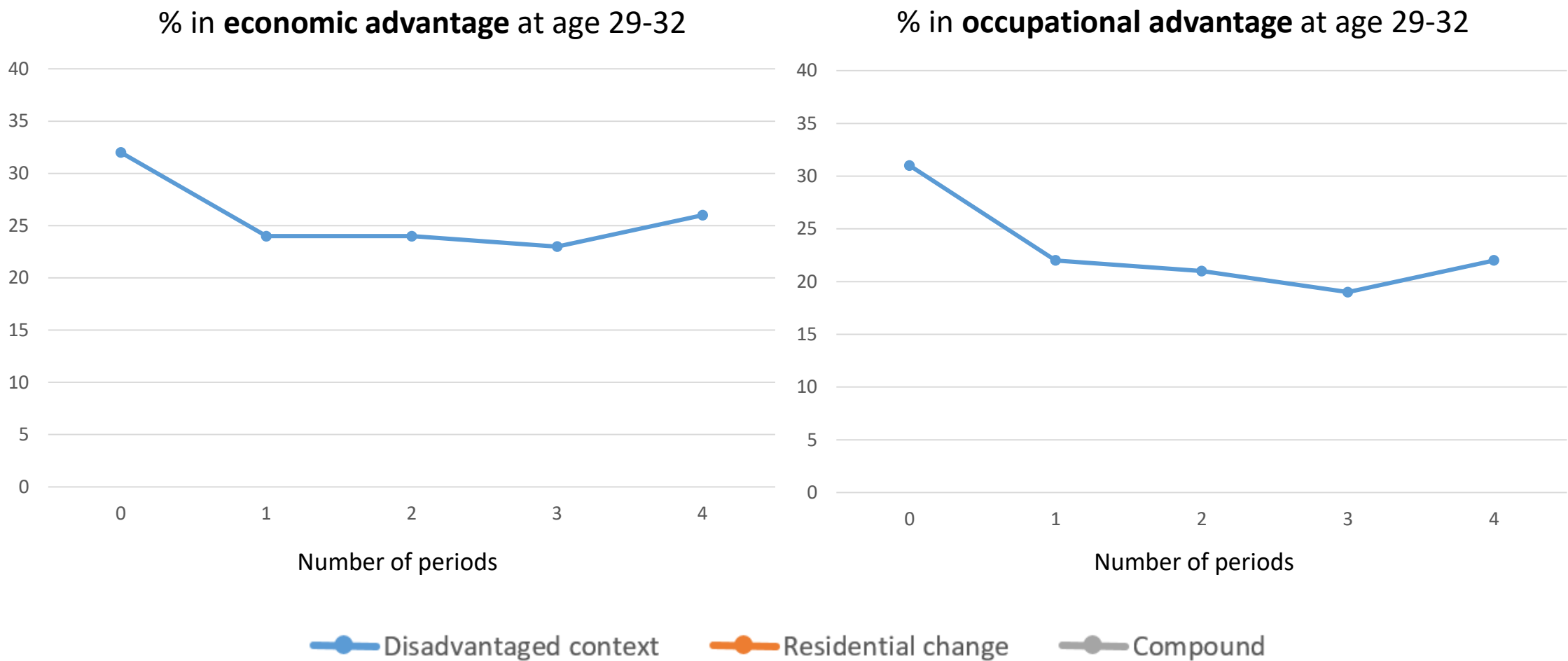
- **Socio-spatial dynamics**

- (i) Disadvantage context: residence in a DeSO area at the top quintile of an index of context disadvantage
- (ii) Residential mobility: Change in DeSO area (any type)

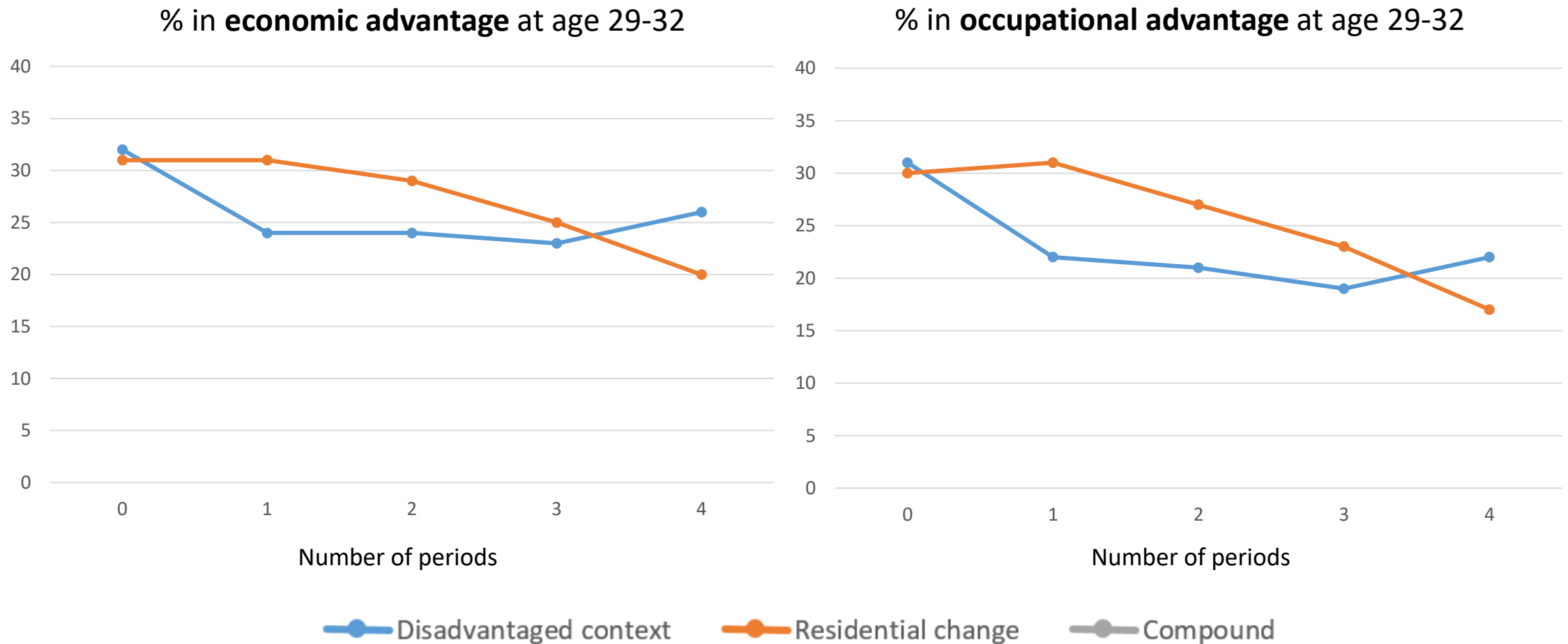
- **Confounders:** gender, birth cohort, migrant background, parental education, parental union dissolution, parental coresidence, sibship size, educational attainment, employment status, and family status



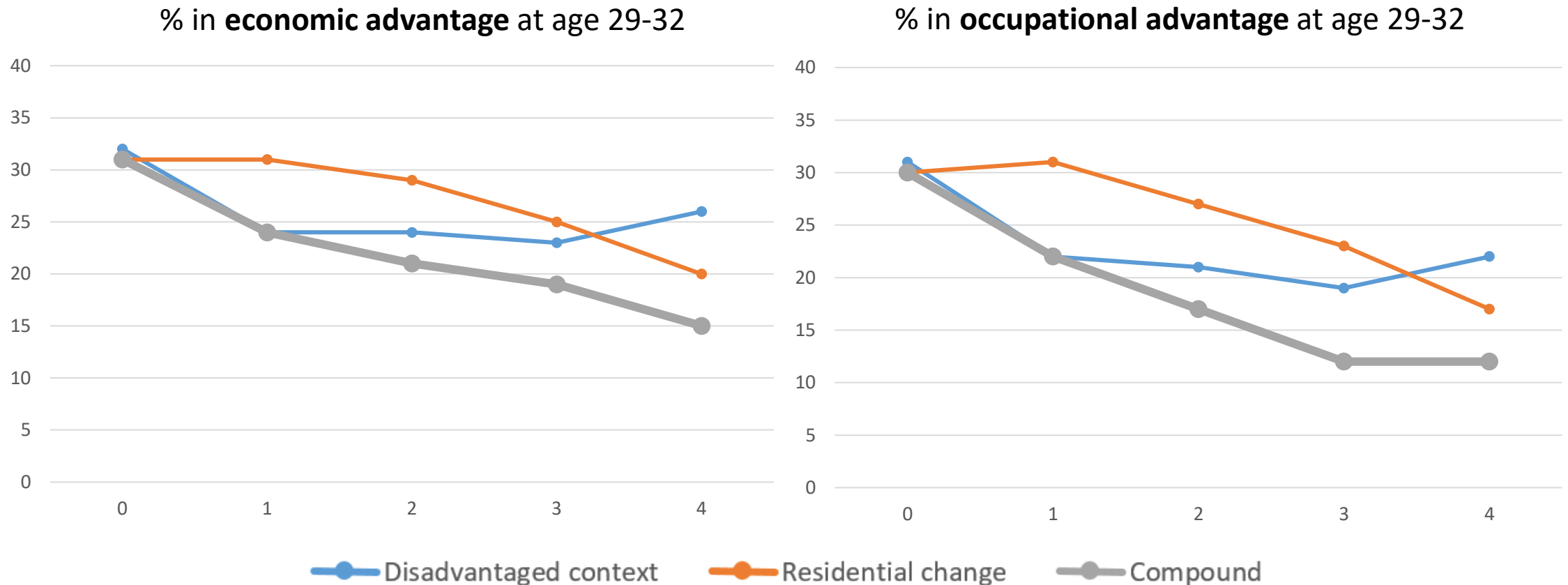
Cumulative exposures to residential context and mobility during childhood



Cumulative exposures to residential context and mobility during childhood

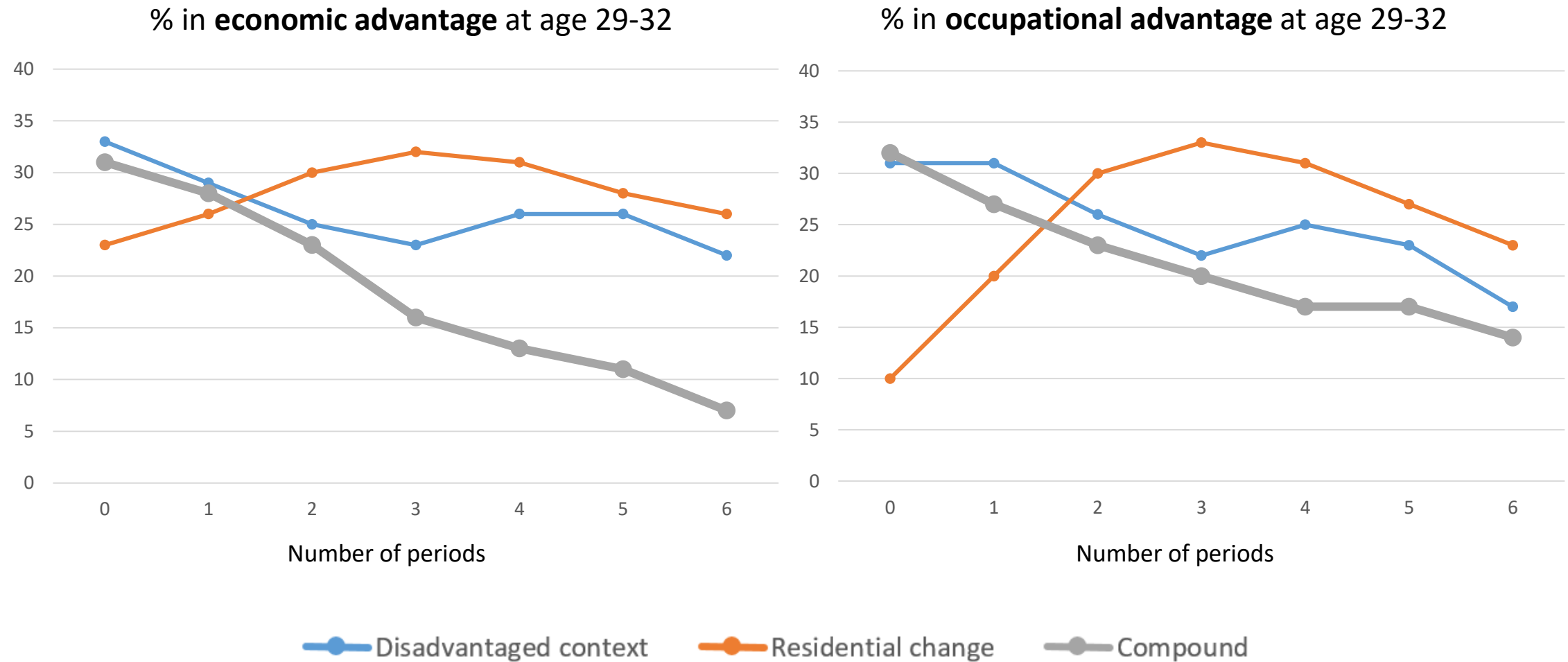


Cumulative exposures to residential context and mobility during childhood



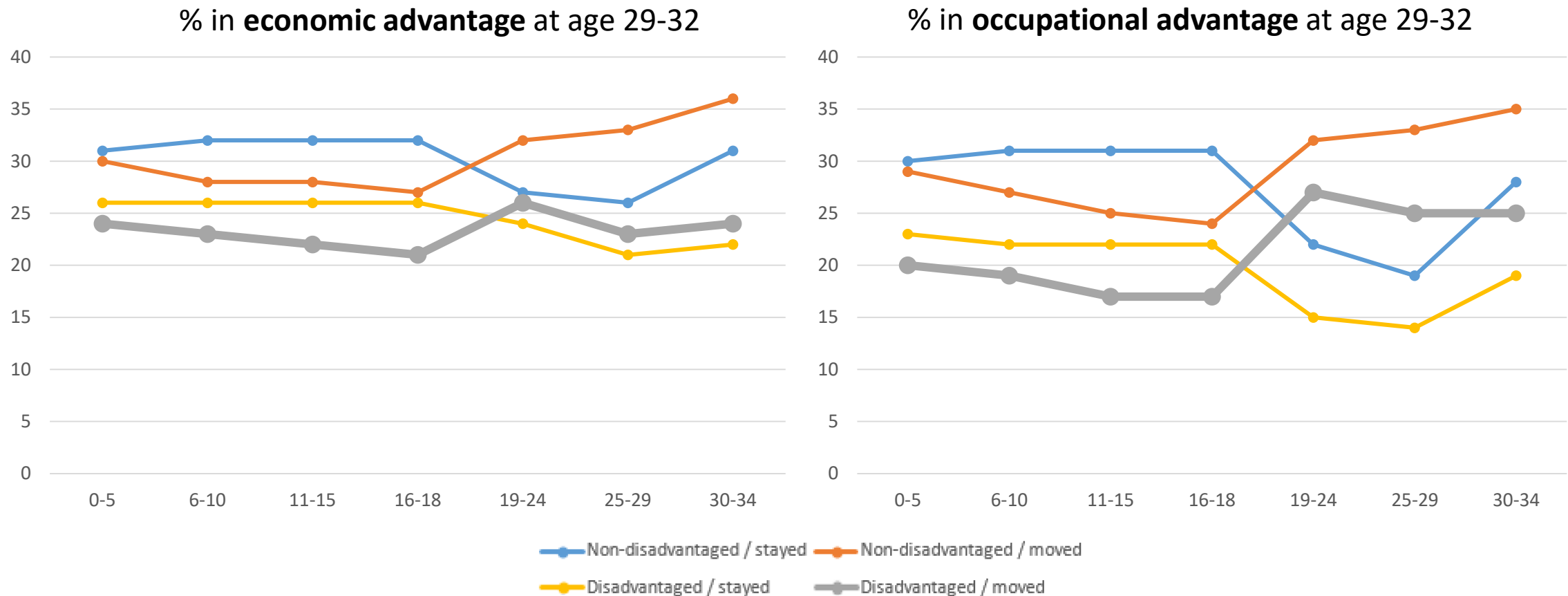
Socio-economic advantage decreases as cumulative exposure to **contextual disadvantage** and **residential mobility** increases throughout childhood.

Cumulative exposures to residential context and mobility in childhood and early adulthood



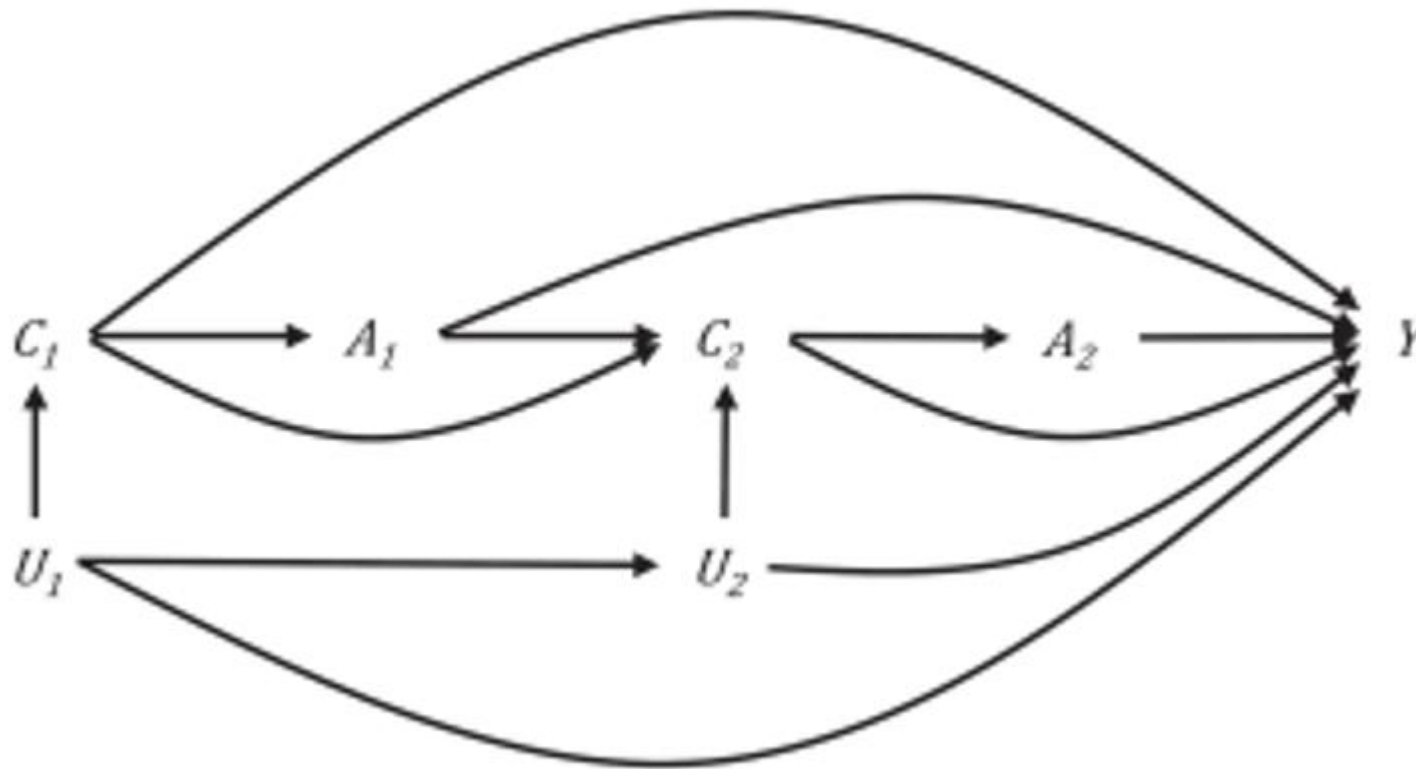
The cumulative pattern of combined exposure intensifies in adulthood.

Age-specific exposures to residential context and mobility



Context disadvantage combined with residential mobility (within or into such context)
is most detrimental in childhood

Time-varying treatment and confounding



Conditioning naively on a time-varying confounder affected by past treatment engenders **overcontrol bias** and **selection bias**

Regression-with-residuals (Wodtke 2018)

- Regression-based estimation of a constrained structural nested mean model
- Residualize time-varying confounders to obtain unconfounded associations relaxing the assumption that previous treatments do not alter values of confounders

Steps:

- Regress time-varying confounders at time t on treatment and confounders at time $t-1$
- Use the residualized confounders in a linear probability model

Cumulative effects of residential context and mobility on socio-economic outcomes

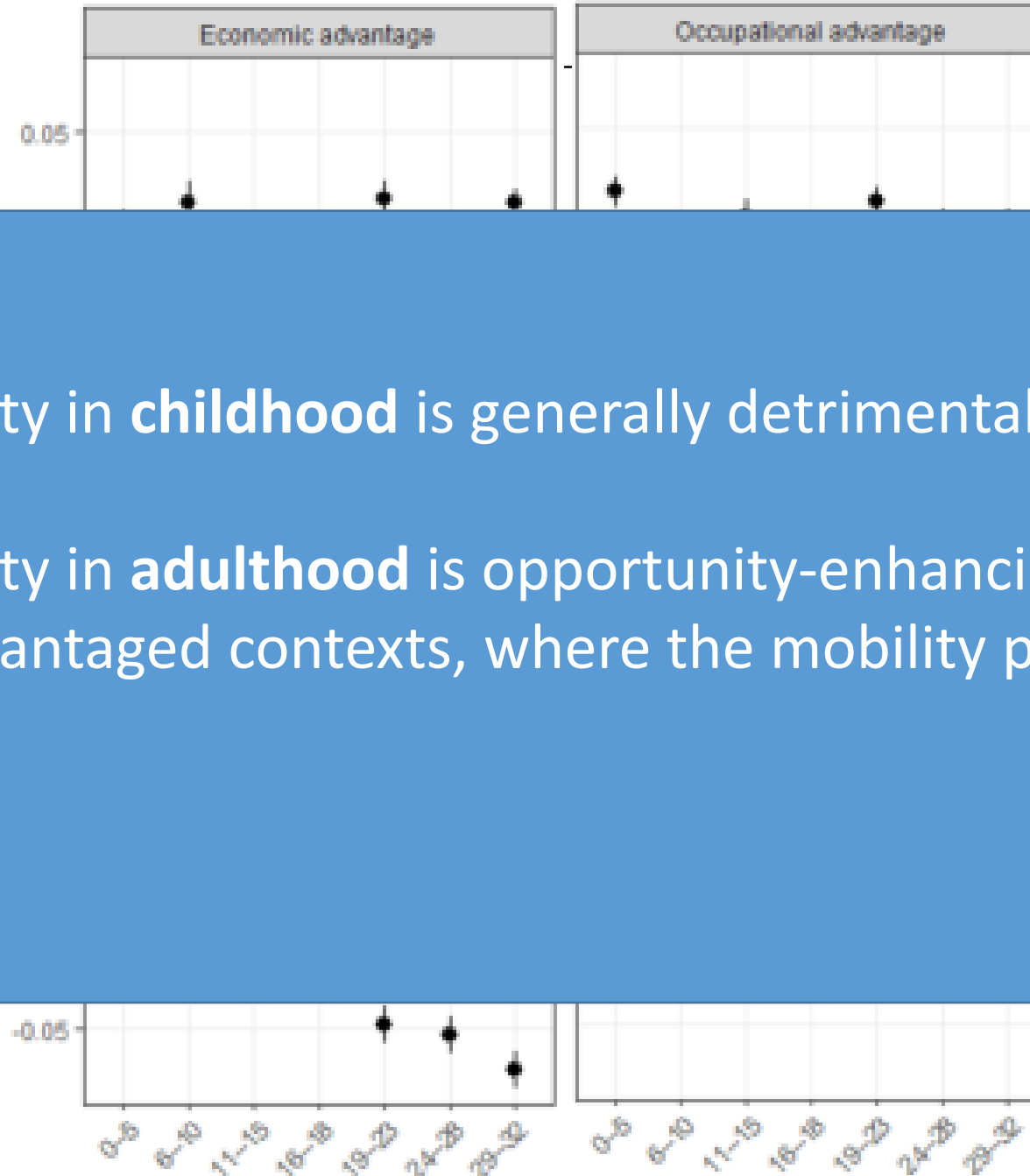
- Prolonged **exposures to disadvantaged neighborhoods** are particularly consequential when combined with (frequent) **residential mobility**

Residential mobility (cumulative)

Age-specific effects of

res
and
eco

- Residential mobility in **childhood** is generally detrimental
- Residential mobility in **adulthood** is opportunity-enhancing—unless it occurs in disadvantaged contexts, where the mobility premium largely disappears



Lifetime dynamics of persistence and change in residential context and mobility on socio-economic outcomes

- Potential consequences of (earlier) exposure to disadvantaged contexts can be attenuated by improvements in contextual conditions.
- Change in adult ages can be particularly opportunity-enhancing.

Note: Number of moves is a control variable in the models

1. **Residential instability magnifies context effects:** In disadvantaged contexts, moves are often constrained and disruptive
2. **Effects vary across life stages:** Residential mobility affects negatively children even in advantaged contexts; and it is only detrimental to adults in disadvantaged contexts
3. **Improvements in contextual conditions works:** consequences of early life disadvantages are contingent on how residential contexts evolve thereafter, nuancing cumulative-exposure and sensitive-period arguments

Takeaway – Neighbourhood disadvantage and residential mobility are interrelated processes, and need to be collectively considered to improve our understanding of the reproduction of socio-economic inequality over the life course.

Limitations

- Unobserved heterogeneity / multi-generational processes might still affect estimates
- Issues with context disadvantage measurements



LIFELONGMOVE

Thank you!

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<https://vidalsergi.wordpress.com>

<https://webs.uab.cat/lifelongmove/>

@neverminded - X



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