

# Leaving the Parental Home:

## A Comparison between the United States, Taiwan and Germany

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# I. Conceptual and Theoretical Considerations

### The explanandum: leaving the parental home

- Status transition in the life course
- Interdependent with other status transitions
  - School – work trajectory
  - Partnership – parenthood trajectory
- Change in the household composition
- Change in intergenerational relationships
  
- Depends on the societal institutionalization of the life course

### The 3 countries: United States, Germany and Taiwan

#### Almost similar economic level

- US ranking 6<sup>th</sup>, Germany 15<sup>th</sup> and Taiwan 16<sup>th</sup> in GDP per capita worldwide

#### Clear differences in the institutional structure, social welfare regime and cultural values related to marriage and intergenerational solidarity

- US scores 91, Germany 67 and Taiwan 17 on the Individualism-Scale (Hofstede 1980)

## Some demographic characteristics

	Germany	USA	Taiwan
Life expectancy at birth	83/78	81/76	83/76
Total fertility rate	1,4	1,9	1,1
Marriage age	30,7/33,5	26,6/28,6	29,5/31,9
Divorce rate (per 1.000 inhabitants)	2,2	3,6	2,4
Age at first birth	29,2	25,4	29,6
GDP per capita	45,085	53,143	39,767

## The major traditional cultural divide

(Hajnal 1965; 1982):

**Taiwan** (and the Majority World)

- Patrilineal descent, patrilocal housing

**Germany and the United States** (and the special Northwestern European Pathway)

- Bilineal descent, neolocal housing

### **Patrilineal societies** (Taiwan):

- Staying with the family of origin until marriage (for daughters) and beyond (for – the oldest – sons)
- „Filial piety“ regulates normatively the responsibility of the offspring for the welfare of the parents and lifelong economic intergenerational solidarity
- Maintaining close relations to parents as „successful“ transition to adulthood

But:

- Strong emphasis on success in higher education of the children and job seeking in urban metropolises make early (temporal) separation from parents a necessity

### **Bilineal societies** (Germany; USA):

- Early and permanent home leaving based on early economic independence of the generations
- „One household – one marriage“ (Laslett 1977) regulates the primarily intra-generational solidarity
- Economic independence and establishing an own household as „successful“ transition to adulthood

But:

- Extended stay in higher education of the children, instable transitions from the educational to the occupational system and insecure intra-generational solidarity (divorces) make early separation from parents unlikely

## Institutionalization of the school-work trajectory

*Taiwan*: Strong institutionalization (long inclusion of the entire population in the educational sector)

*Germany*: Moderate institutionalization ("Dual system" of academic and vocational training)

*United States*: Weak institutionalization and "individualized" life courses (extensive moratorium and early transition into work)

## Theoretical assumptions

- The stronger the institutionalization of the life course, the more "structural" factors and the less "individual incentives" are predictive for home leaving.
- An institutionalized patrilineal kinship system results in incentives for delayed home leaving and high prevalence of returning. A bilinear kinship system results in incentives for early neolocal housing.

## Research questions and hypotheses

- Does homeleaving vary systematically between the three countries?
- The variability and diversity of leaving the parental home is lowest in Taiwan and highest in the United States (*Life-Course-Institutionalization Hypothesis*)
- The prevalence of leaving the parental home is lowest in Taiwan and highest in the US. Gender differences are highest in Taiwan and lowest in the US (*Kinship-Hypothesis*).

## II. Design of the Study

## Less fuzzy solution than usual

Analysis of changes in the household composition during the life course

here in specific:

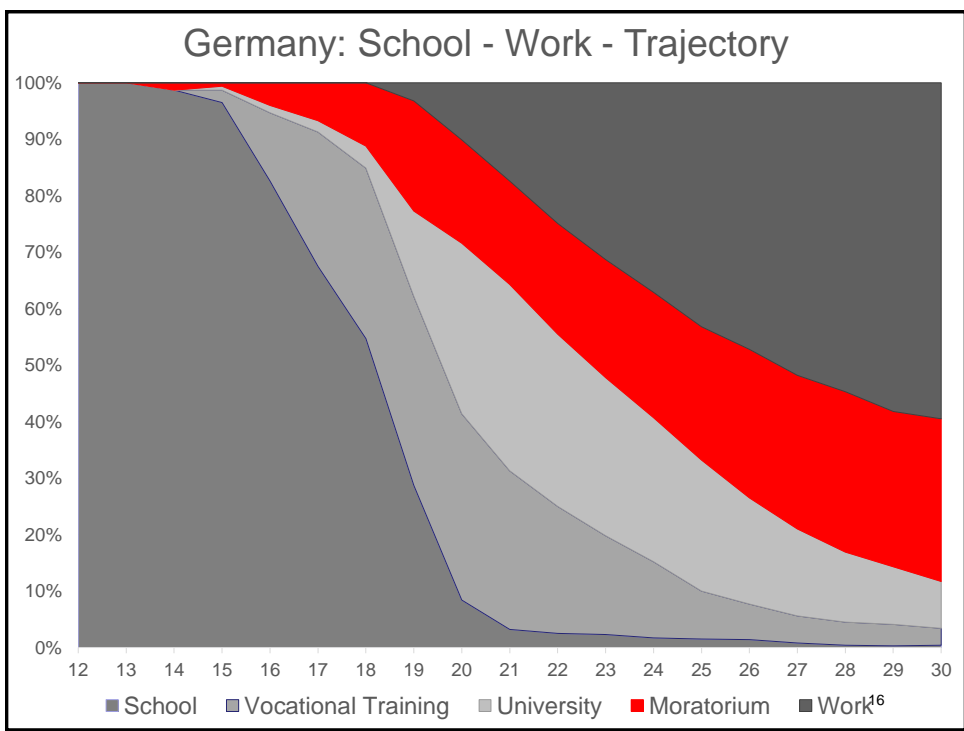
**Living of children in one household with one or both biological or step-parents**

**in the transition to adulthood under varying cultural conditions**

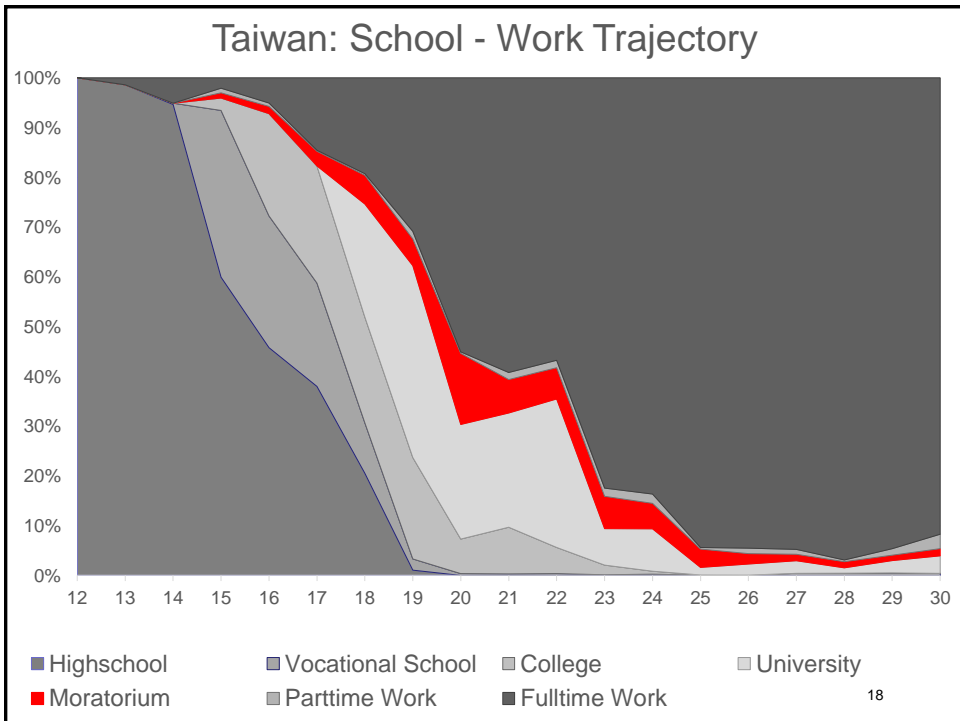
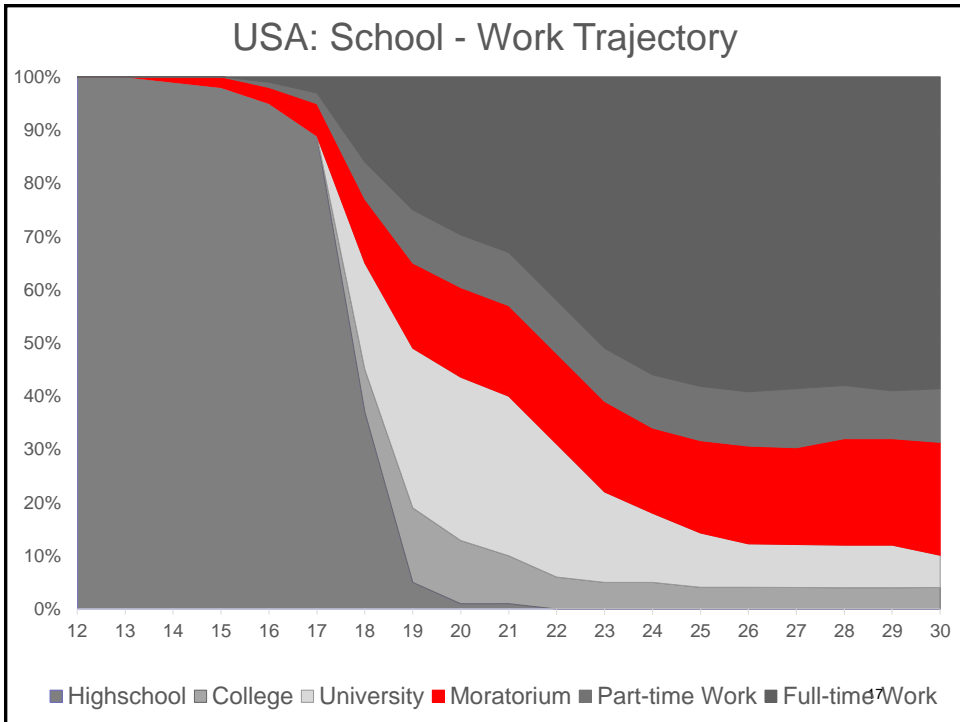
## Characteristics of the Panel Studies

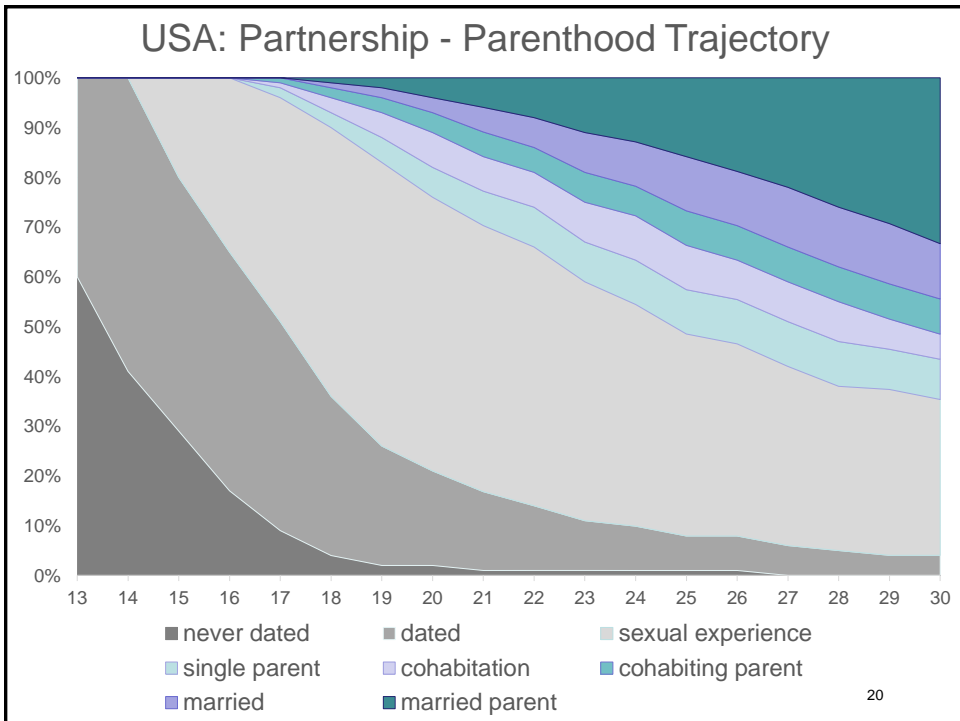
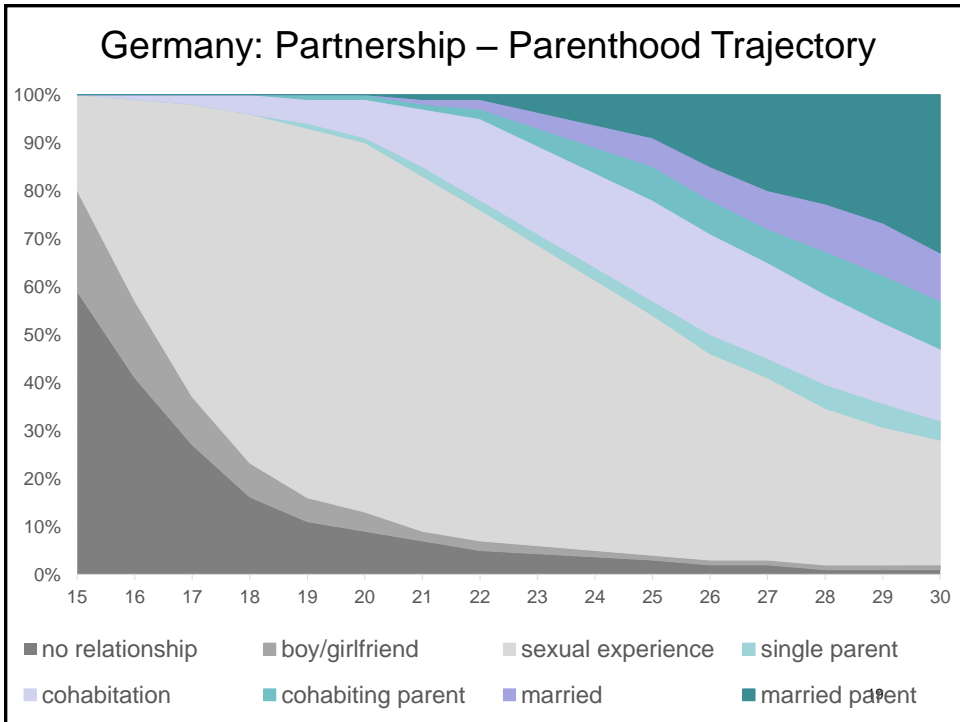
	PAIRFAM	NLSY97	TYP
Name	Panel Analysis of Intimate Relationships and Family Dynamics	National Longitudinal Survey of Youth 1997	Taiwanese Youth Project
Starting year	2008/2009	1997	2000
Cohorts	1991-1993, 1981-1983, 1971-1973	1980-1984	1986-1987, 1984-1985
Initial sample size	12.402	8.984	5.541
Survey interval	annually	annually	annually bi-annually
No. of waves	6	15	11

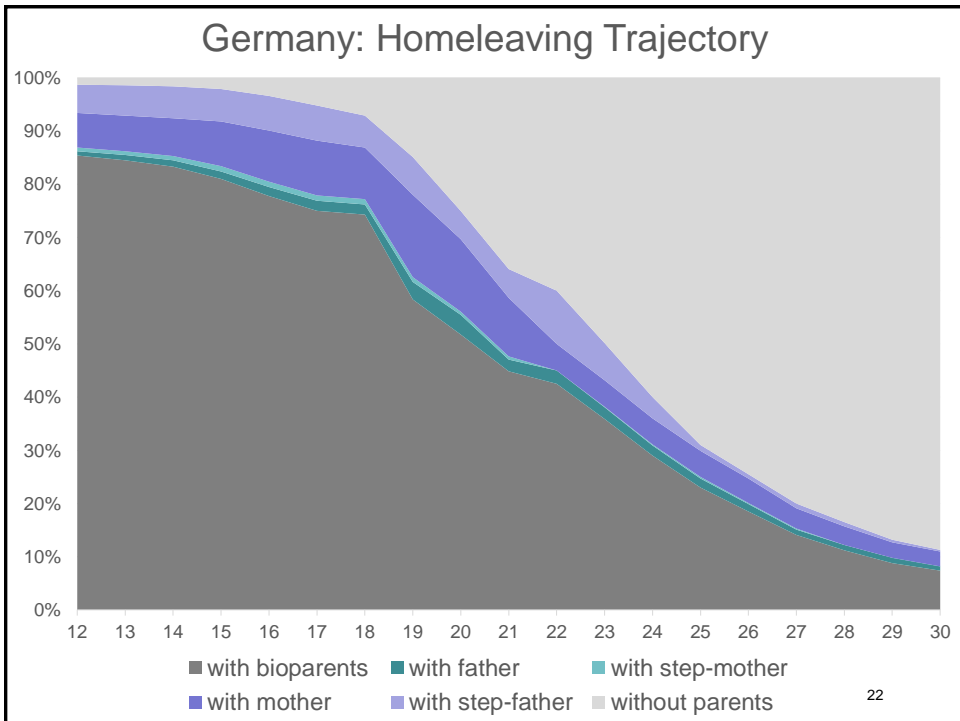
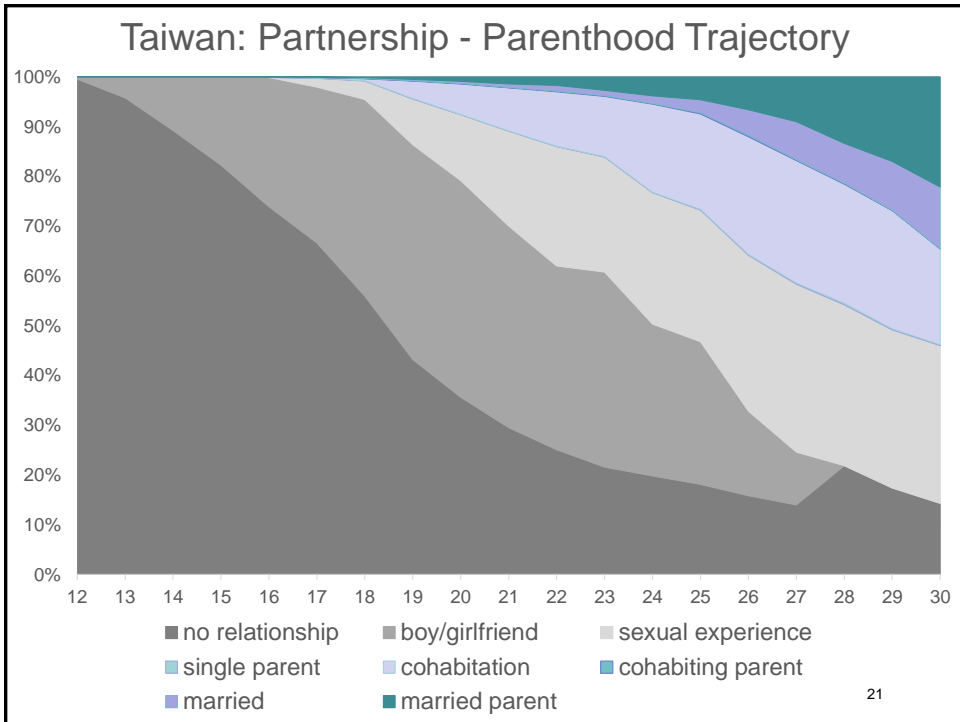
### III. Descriptive Results

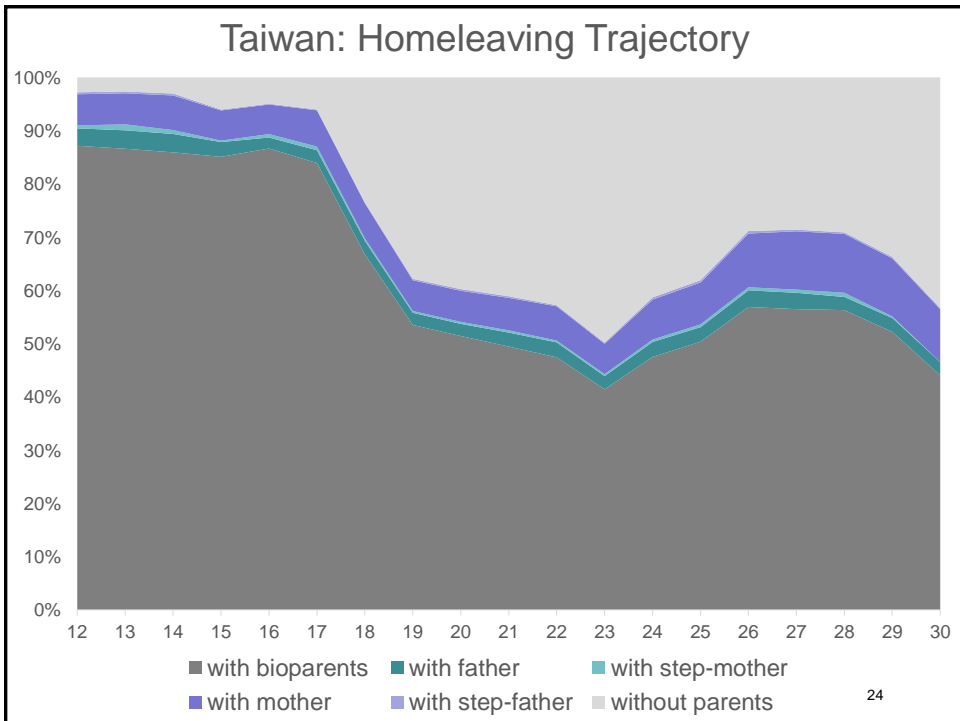
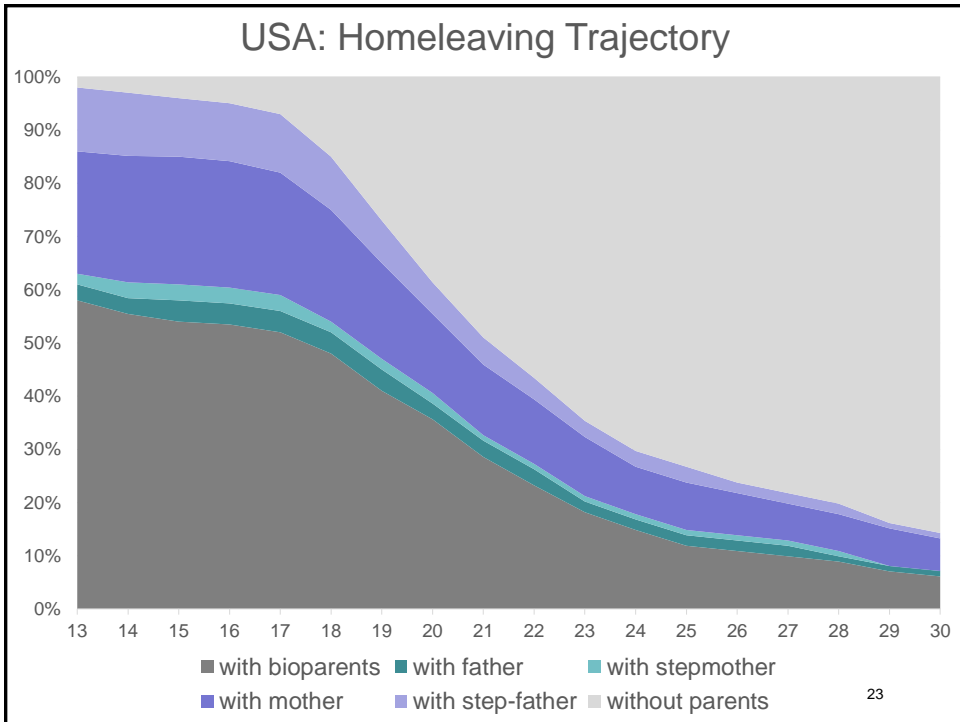


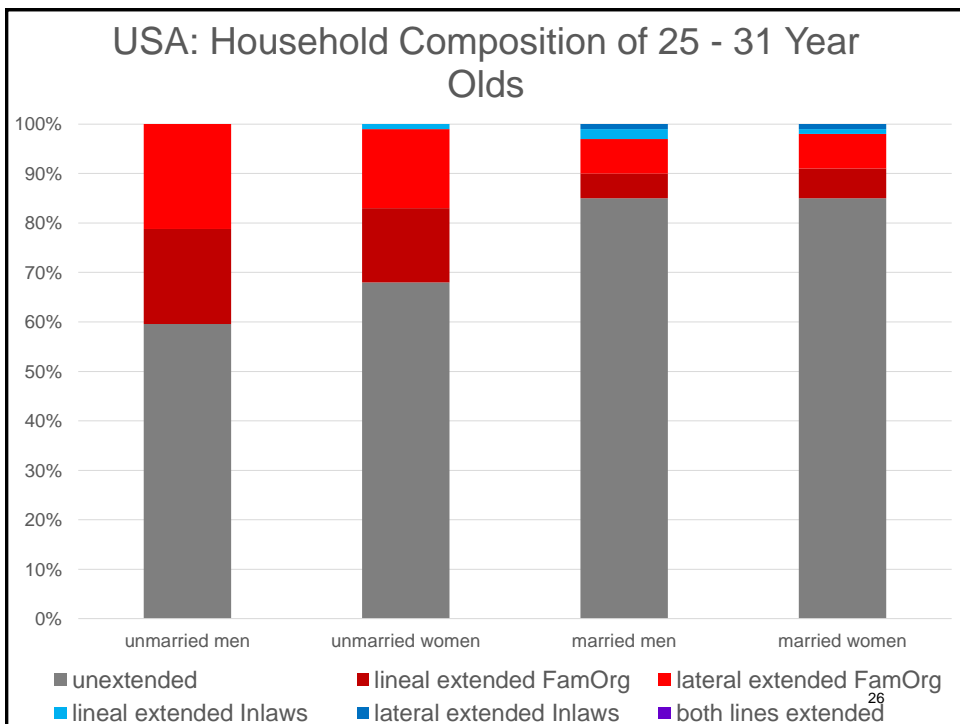
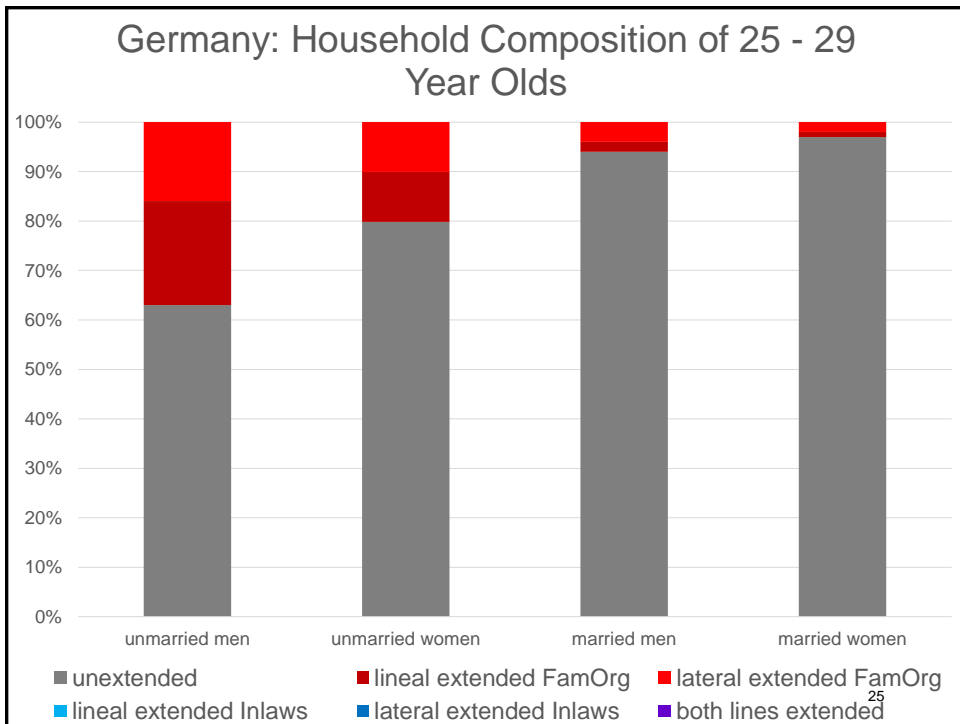


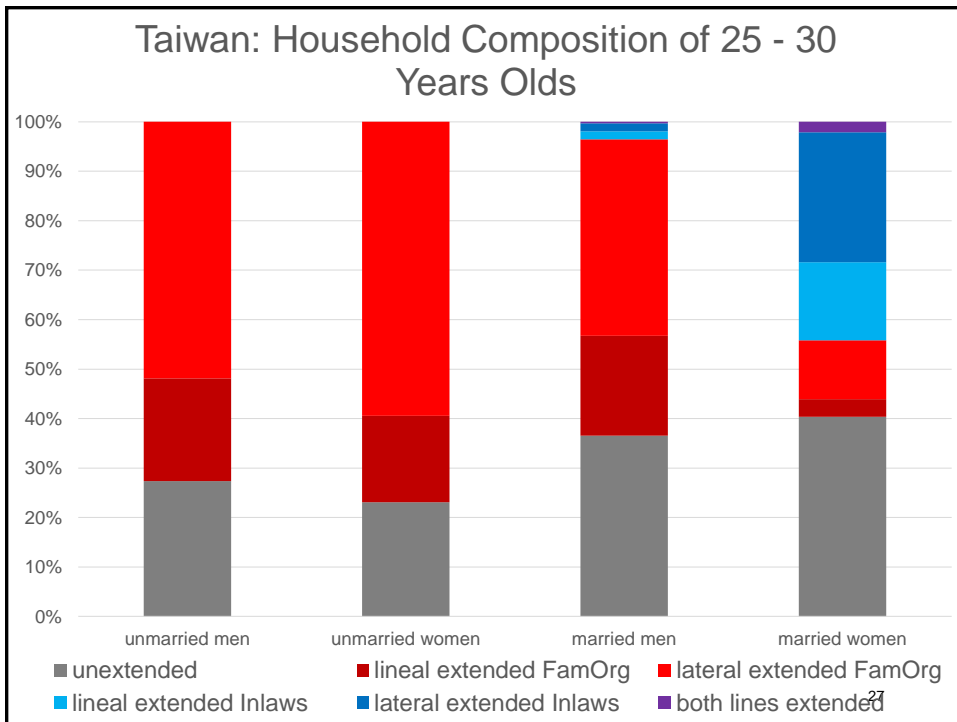















## Discussion

- Strong inverse effects of the institutionalization of school-work-trajectories on individualized choices of home leaving
- Strong effects of the institutionalized kinship system (patrilineal/patrilocal vs. bilineal/neolocal) on the timing of home leaving (and return) and the interrelation with the establishment of intimate relationships

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## IV. Multivariate Results

### Analytical approach

- Dependent Variable: the first move-out of the parental household
- Discrete time event history analysis (logit model based on data in long format)
- Separate models for the 3 countries with identical covariates
- Missing values were replaced by multiple imputation
- Upper age limit of 30 years

## Summary Statistics

	Germany	United States	Taiwan
No. Of Events	943	5325	1516
Nagelkerke's R <sup>2</sup>	.12	.10	.17

The following graphs display results of the multivariate analysis

- All other factors are controlled for
- Results are also controlled for „age“ (centered) and „age<sup>2</sup>“
- Displayed are average marginal effects

## Thank you for your attention!

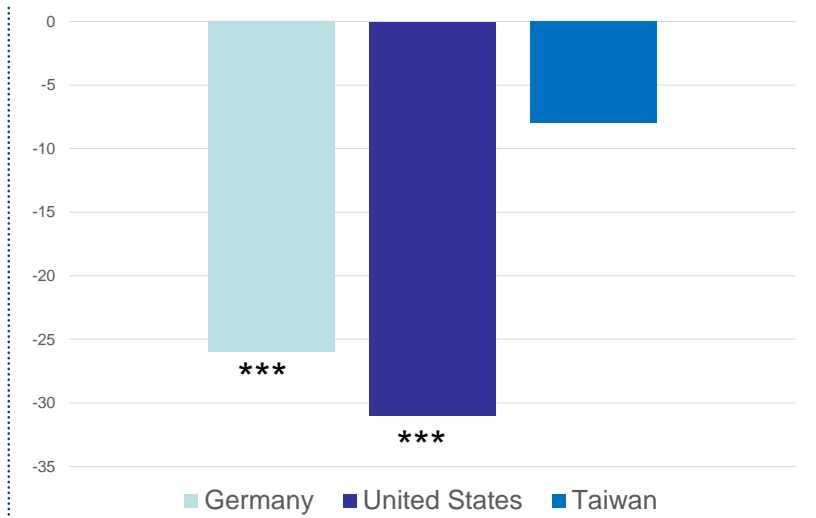
Comments and Suggestions are welcome to

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[www.pairfam.de](http://www.pairfam.de)

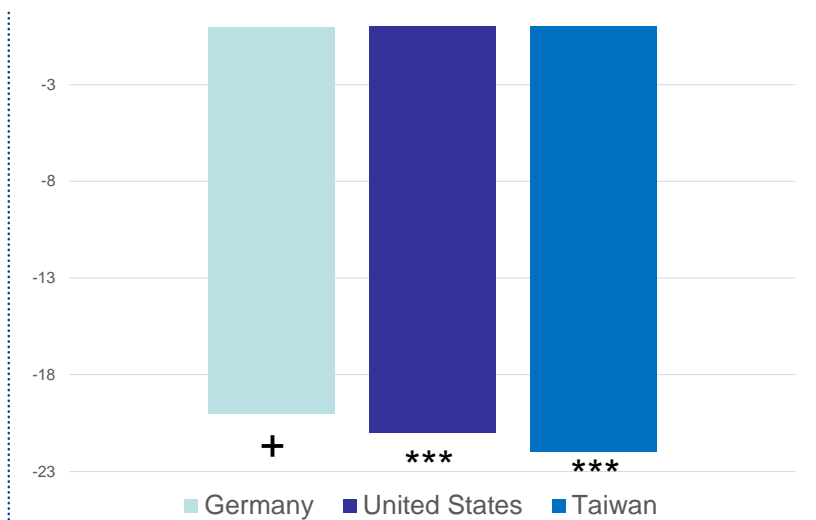


## Gender Differences (Men)



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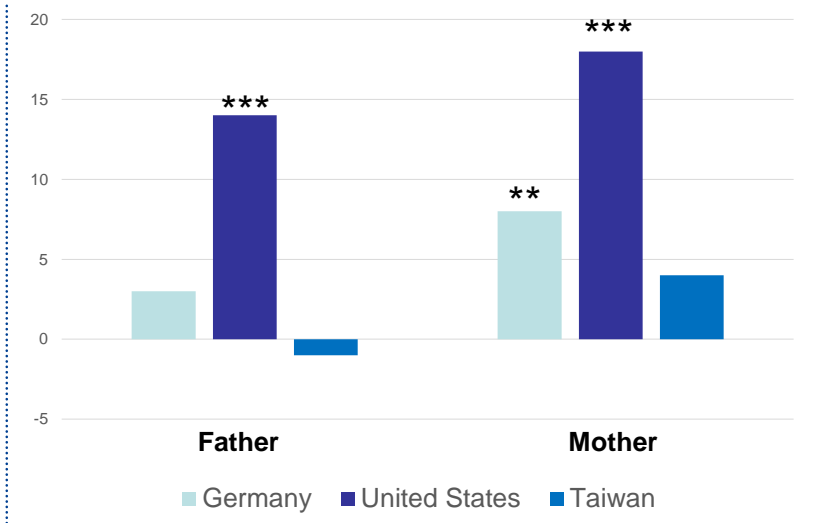
## Urban Residence



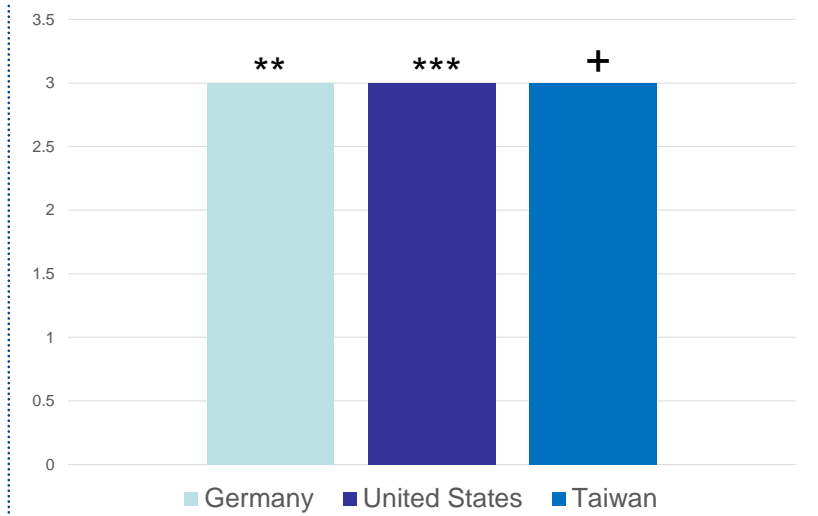
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# a. „Push“-Factors

## Educational Degree of Parents

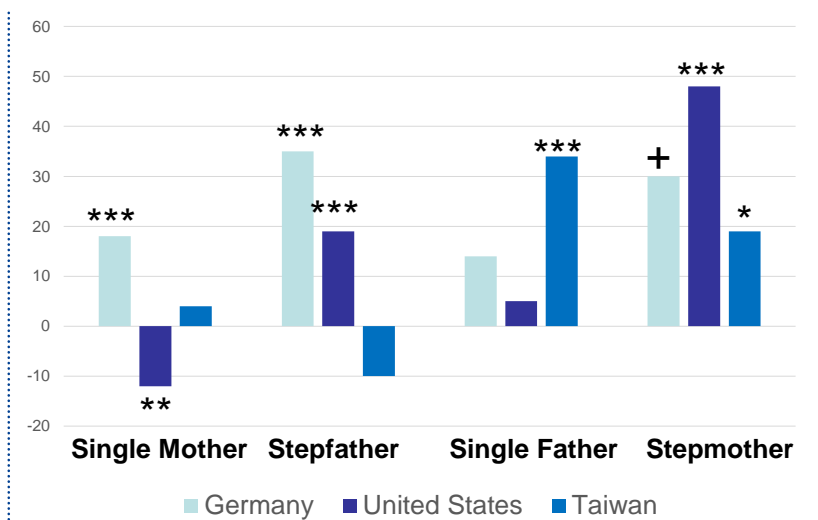


## Number of Siblings



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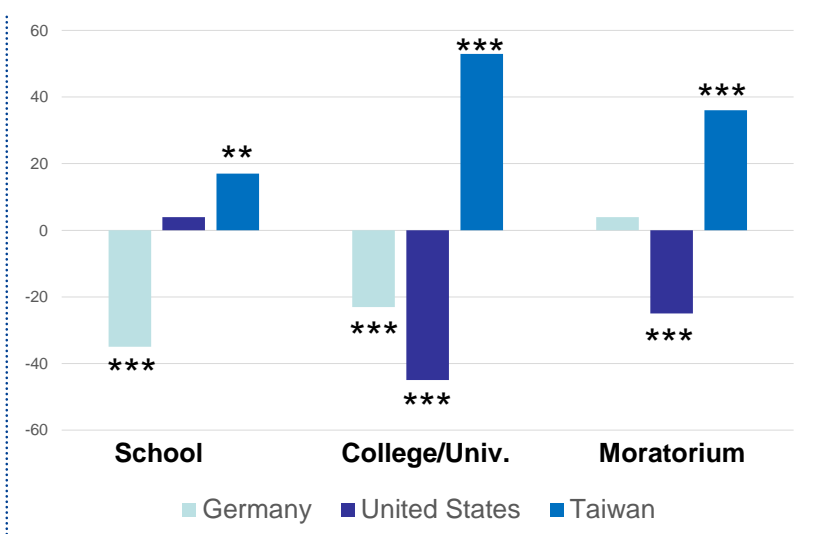
## Household Type (Ref: with both biological Parents)



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## b. „Pull“-Factors

### School-Work Trajectory (Ref.: Employed)



## Being in a Relationship

