

# Parents' synchronized working arrangements during the COVID-19 pandemic: a recurrent event analysis

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## INTRODUCTION

- The COVID-19 pandemic has drastically altered the working conditions around the world. In response, parents had to reconsider and adjust their time allocation decisions. One of these joint decisions relates to the coordination of their working arrangements.
- In this study, we investigate whether parents' changes of working arrangements (home to/from workplace) were synchronized during the pandemic and whether family characteristics moderated synchronization.

## DATA & METHODS

- We use the Familydemic Survey conducted in CA, DE, IT, PL, SE & the US in 2021. We generate the event history data on respondents' who are parents and their partners' exits from a particular working arrangement, i.e., working from home (WFH) or working at the workplace (WAW).
- We run the analysis for parents in heterosexual relationships.
- We estimate the following model using a logistic random effects estimator:

$$\log\left(\frac{p_{ti}}{1-p_{ti}}\right) = \alpha Synchron_{ti} + \beta x_{ti} + u_{ti}, \text{ where}$$

$p_{ti}$  - probability of parent's exit from WFH (model 1) / WAW (model 2),

$Synchron_{ti}$  - binary indicator of partner's exit from WFH / WAW in the same month as parent's exit

- Synchronization occurs whenever parent's exit happens the same month as his/her partner's exit.

## RESULTS

Fig. 1. RE and pooled results on parent's exits from WFH to WAW

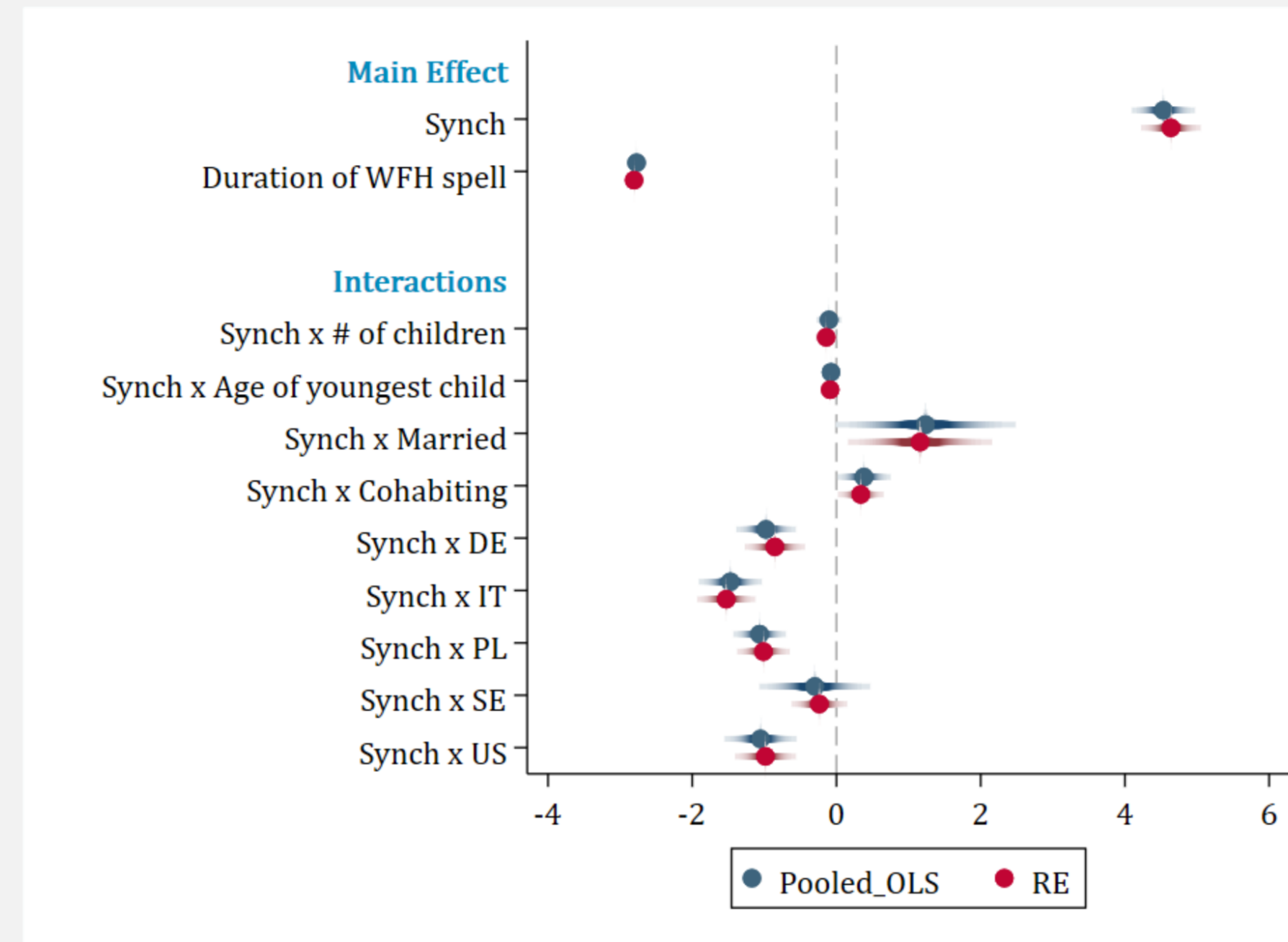
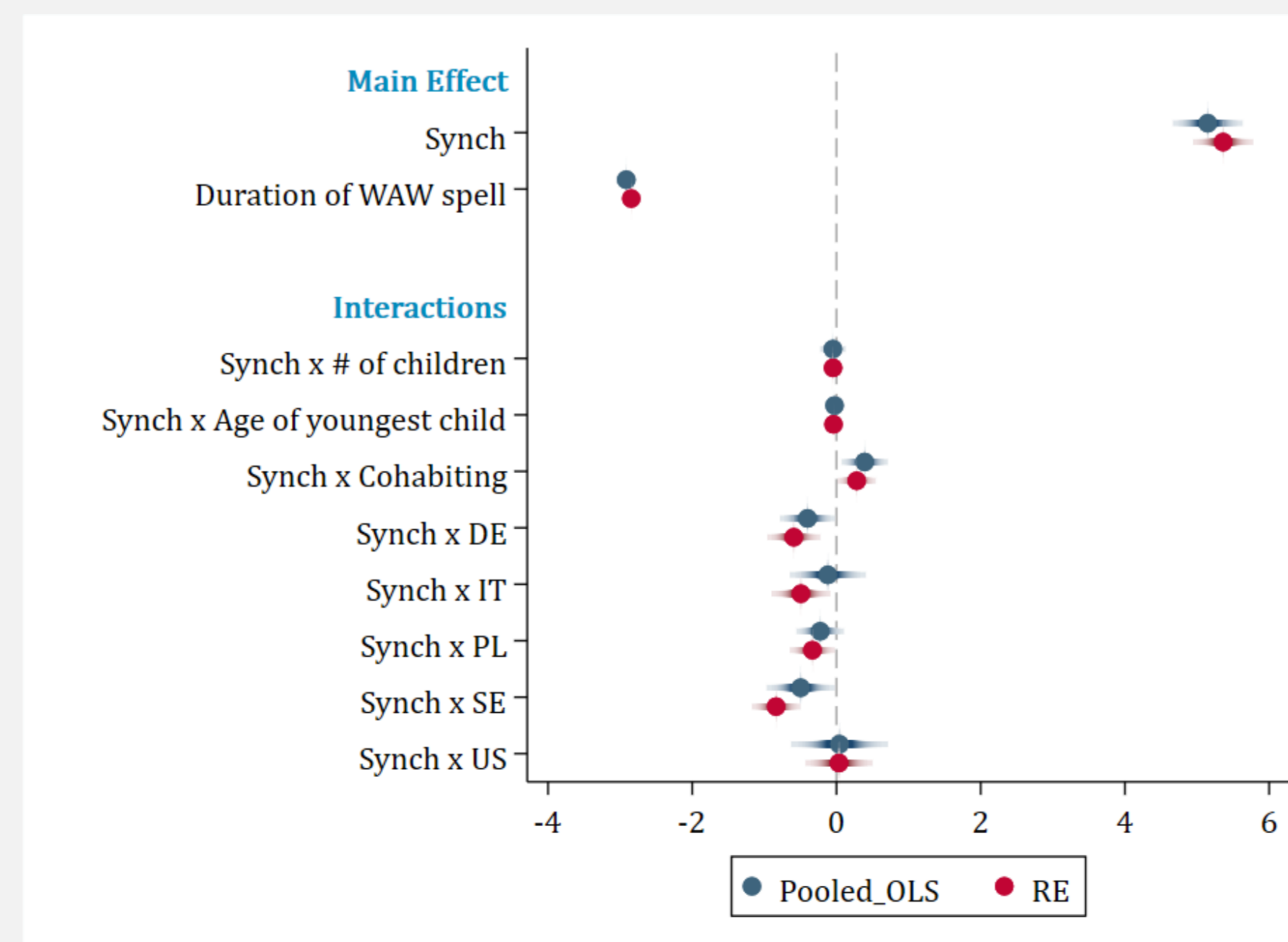


Fig. 2. RE and pooled results on parent's exits from WAW to WFH



## RESULTS (Cont.)

- The more extended the working arrangement spell, the less likely individuals exit this particular arrangement.
- The number of children and their age seem to slightly diminish the likelihood of synchronization.
- Synchronized exits from WFH seem to be more prevalent among married and cohabiting couples.
- Cohabiting couples appear to be more likely to synchronize their exits from WAW compared to other families.
- Gender differences in synchronization are small and hardly significant (not shown on the figures)

## CONCLUSIONS

- Parents are inclined to synchronize their choice of working arrangements during the Covid-19 pandemic.
- However, such synchronization is moderated by family characteristics.
- European parents seem less likely to synchronize their transition to WFH compared to their Canadian and American counterparts.

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