



Center for Social Inequality Studies

Partner's employment insecurities and childbirth over the last 20 years

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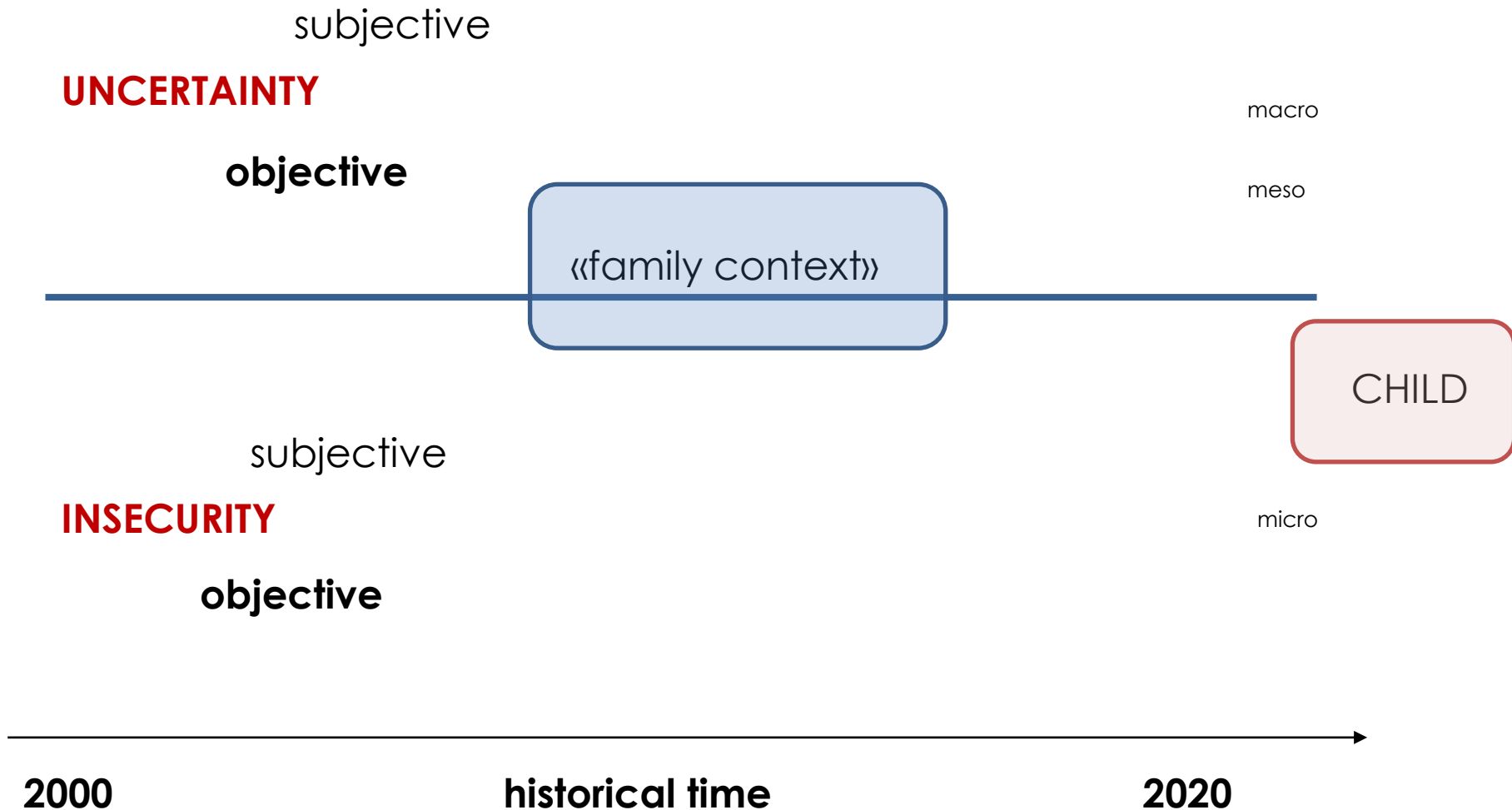
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Fertility decisions depend on employment insecurity and contextual uncertainty



Uncertainty regional level, lags, FE is better?
net of ind. level

Insecurity and its changing effects over time

heterogeneous effect ?

distinguish temp. insecurity from other dimensions

Family perspective

to have a partner matters -> relevance of the partner market

partner's employment: compensation?

gendered effects

EU- LFS, Italy 2000-2020,

age 15 to 49, not retired or permanently disabled, not studying or in military service.

N 3.551.953 individuals (1.758.968 men and 1.792.985 women)

3.550.795 once missing values are excluded

«**Fertility**» : presence of a child below 1yr in the household

«**Insecurity**»:

ideal: instability observed over the career

«precarity» understood as job-loss risk and unpredictability of future

de facto: employment situation the previous year:

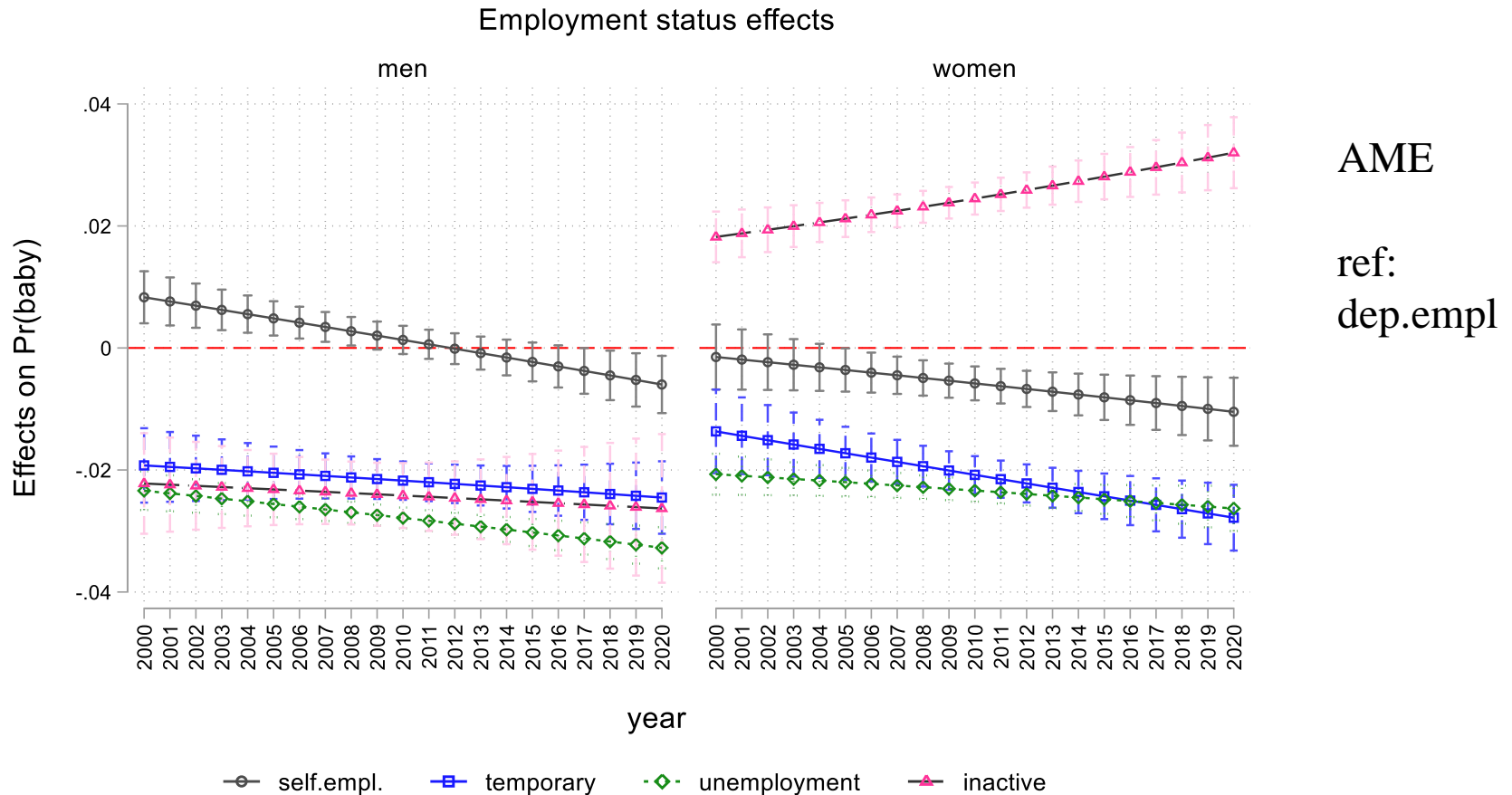
not working, unemployment, permanent, temporary contract

«**Uncertainty**»: regional unemployment levels, lagged (various), FE

Controls: sex, age, education, (occupation ESEG, income deciles)

Partner presence, employment situation (t-1)

Employment insecurity



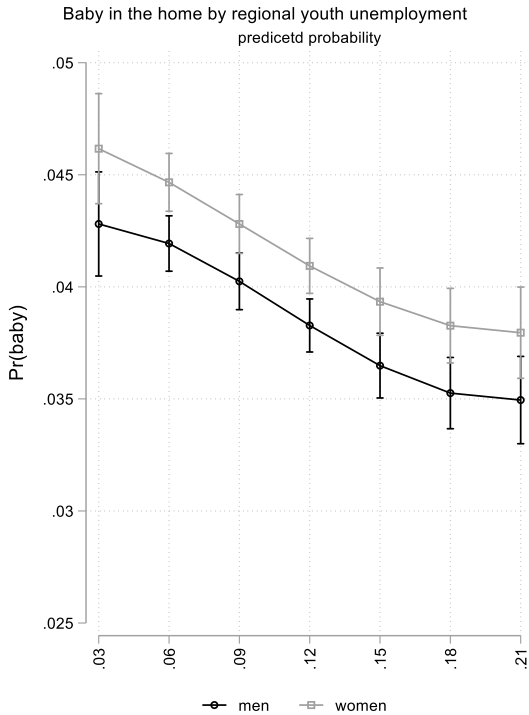
fertility decisions are related to individual level employment insecurities, represented by non-permanent contracts and unemployment.

this **temporal insecurity** persists net of economic and occupational situations, underlining its relevance as a separate dimension of insecurity

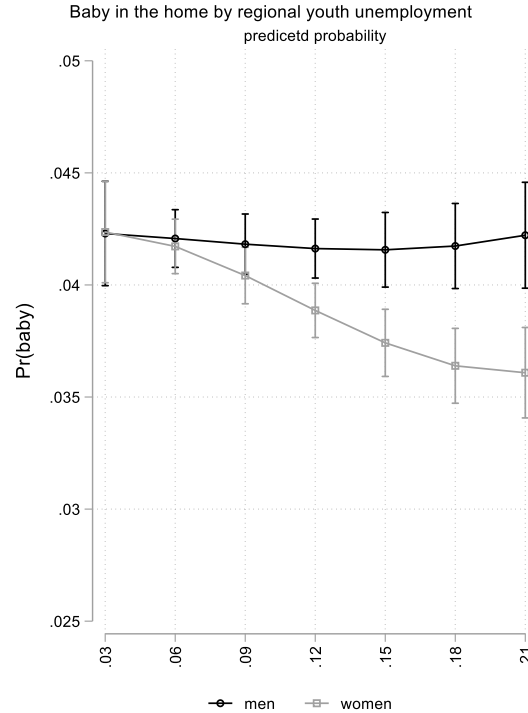
these effects are not homogenous cross the population → gender, education: insecure employment situations appear to be (slightly) more inhibitory for fertility among the more educated

Uncertainty (regional unemployment)

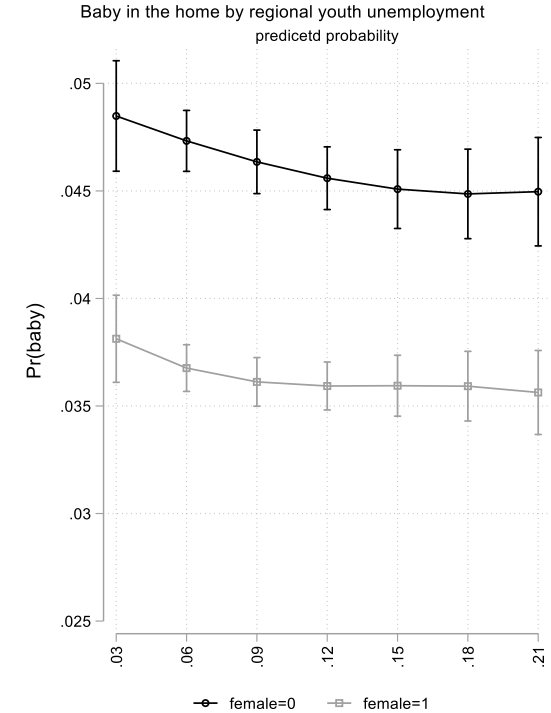
Regional unempl levels
basic controls
(age, education, national time trend)



pred probality
net of own empl. sit



+ partners empl. sit.

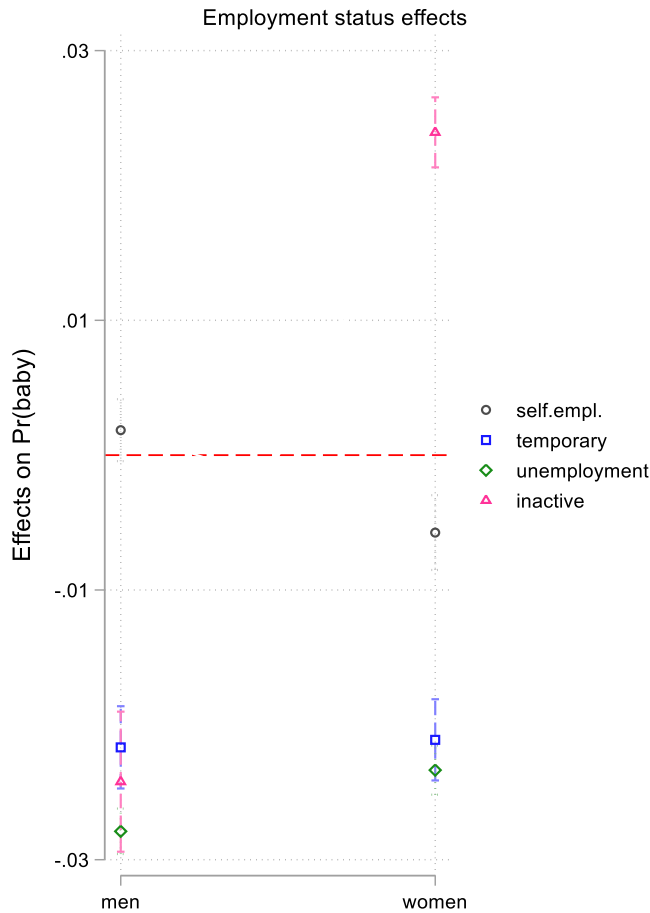


fertility decisions are related to contextual level employment uncertainties (lagged measures, also with FE), uncertainty hampers fertility.

BUT: this is actually due to the relation to own (men) or partners (women) employment situation.

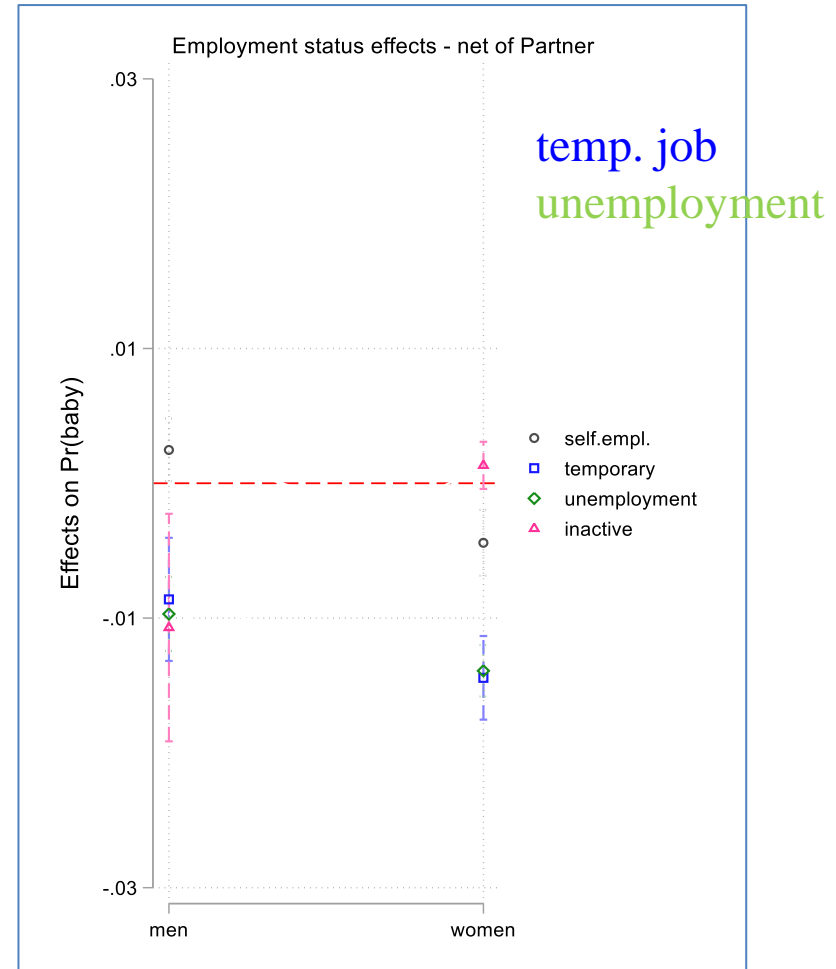
Employment Insecurity and Partner Effects

w/o partner controls



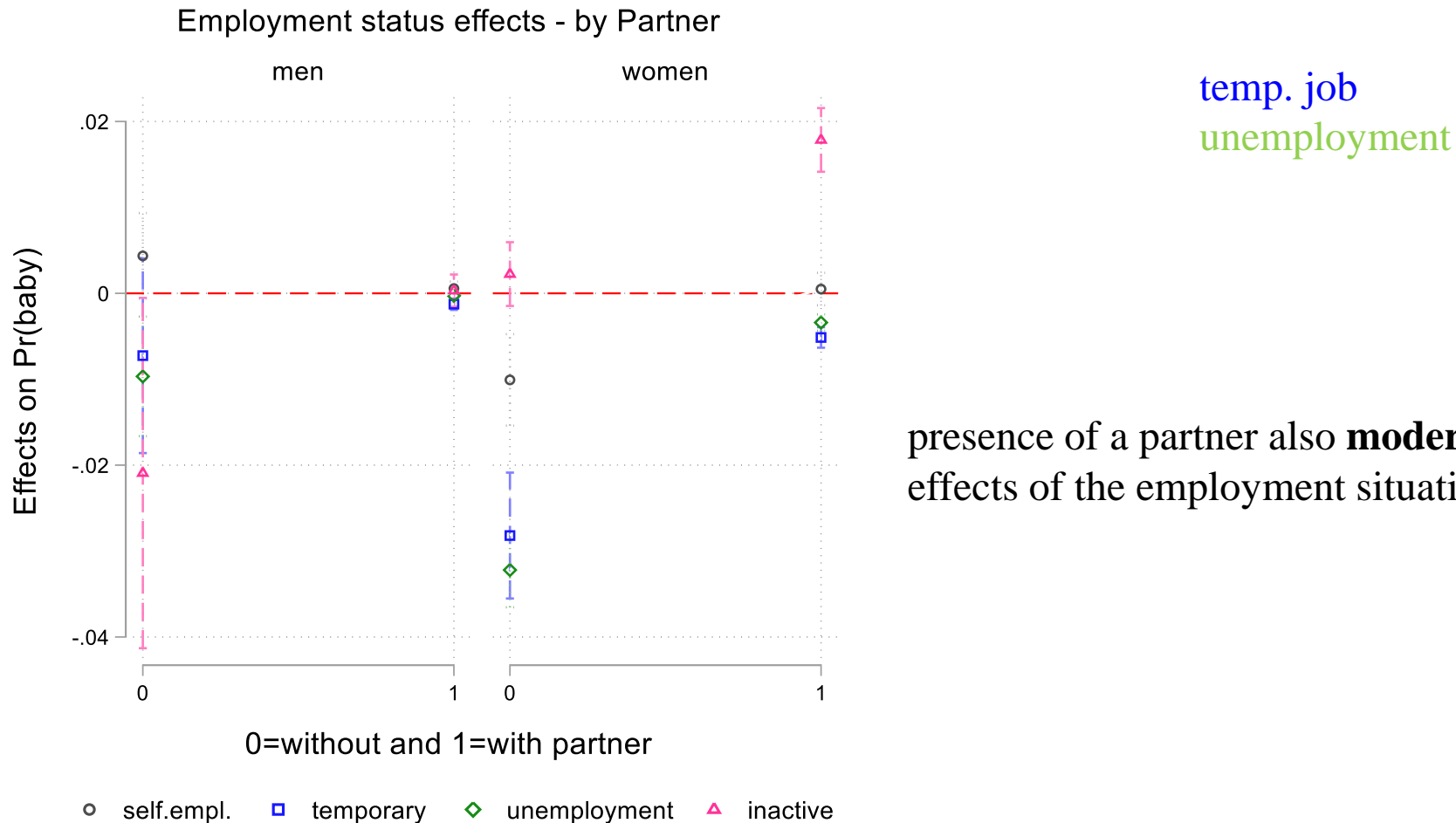
partner mrkt?
for men

net of partner



the presence of a partner **mediates** the effects of employment situations.
For men effects are about halved by controlling for the presence of a partner, for women reduced by about one third, and the strong positive effect of inactivity basically disappears.

Employment Insecurity and Partner effects (0/1)



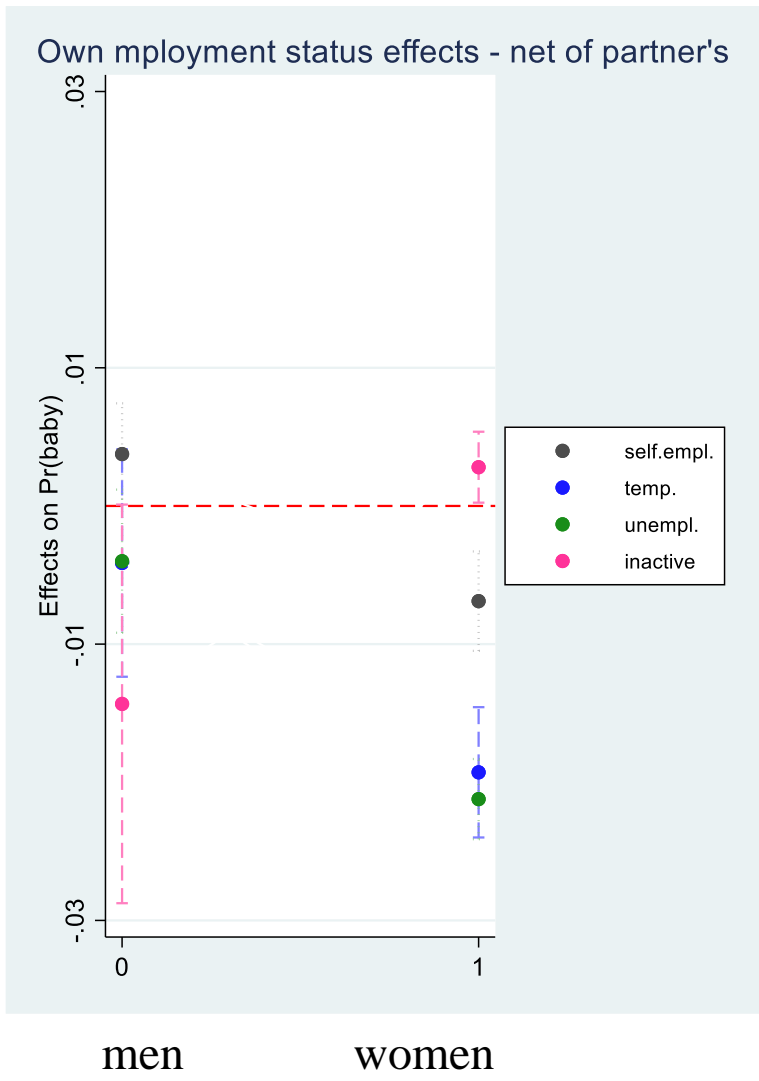
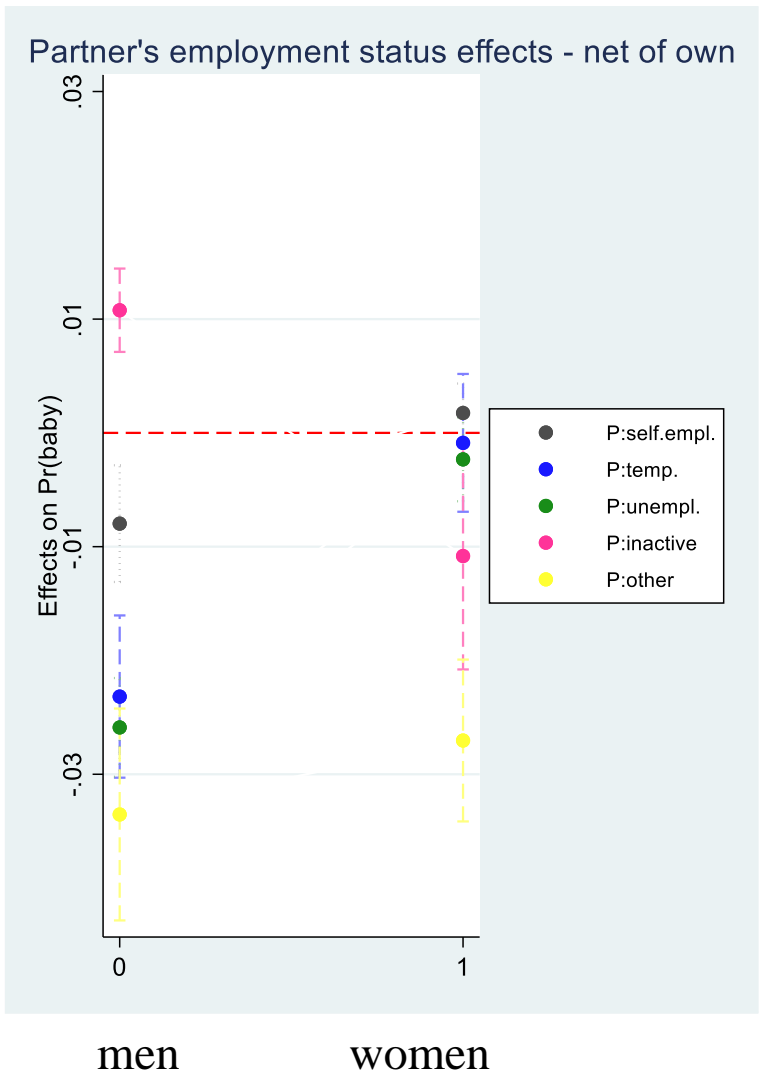
presence of a partner also **moderates** the effects of the employment situation

different channels of the employment effects for men and women.

For **men**, the relevance of the employment situation seems to be related to the marriage market, as employment appears to be of no importance once the person lives with a female partner.

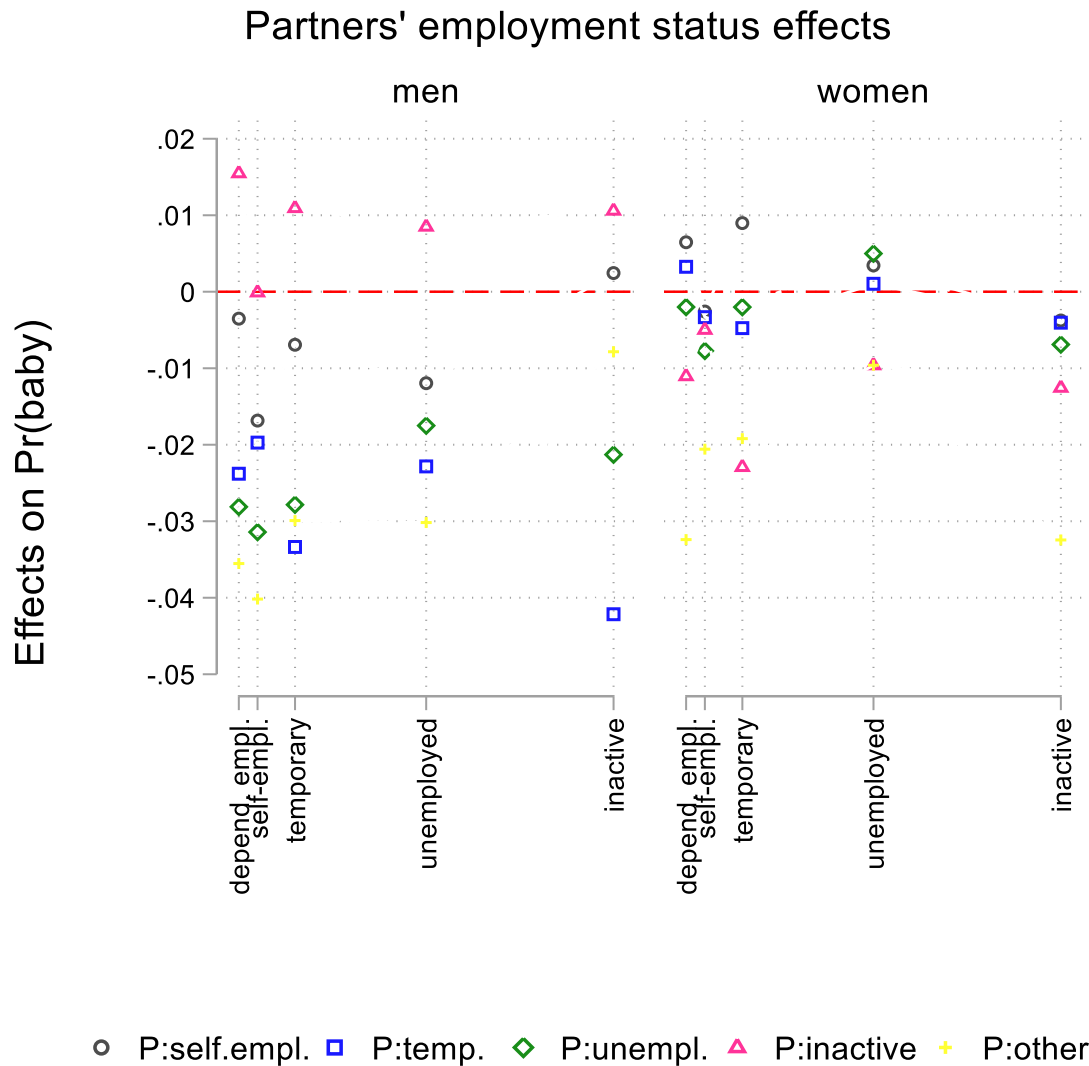
For **women** the reduction in effects is relevant, but differences persist also when she cohabits with a male partner. Her position matters. Inactivity increases fertility for partnered women only

Partner's and own empl effects, for those with partner – what counts more?



temp. job
unemployment

Employment insecurity and Partner effects



For men, the negative effects of instability are to a large extent due to a worse position on the partner market.

For women, own employment status remains relevant, also net of her partner's situation.

Once a partnership is built, it is the women's employment situation to be decisive for fertility decision.

1. Insecurity (micro)

Re-confirmed its relevance, which increases over time, especially for women!

Effects depend in individual's characteristics (and on context)

2. Uncertainty (macro)

Net of individual level employment insecurity, uncertainty does not make much of a difference

→ the subjective part is of little relevance, maybe

3. Partner Effects

For men, insecurity-effects pass through the partner market: once a partner is found, effects are limited.

For women, no hints that her position would be less relevant than his.

Overall, his employment insecurity hampers the formation of a partnership, hers hampers the decision to have the baby.



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Thanks for your attention!

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