



Wittgenstein Centre

FOR DEMOGRAPHY AND
GLOBAL HUMAN CAPITAL

The non-marital birth ratio on the increase: what is behind?

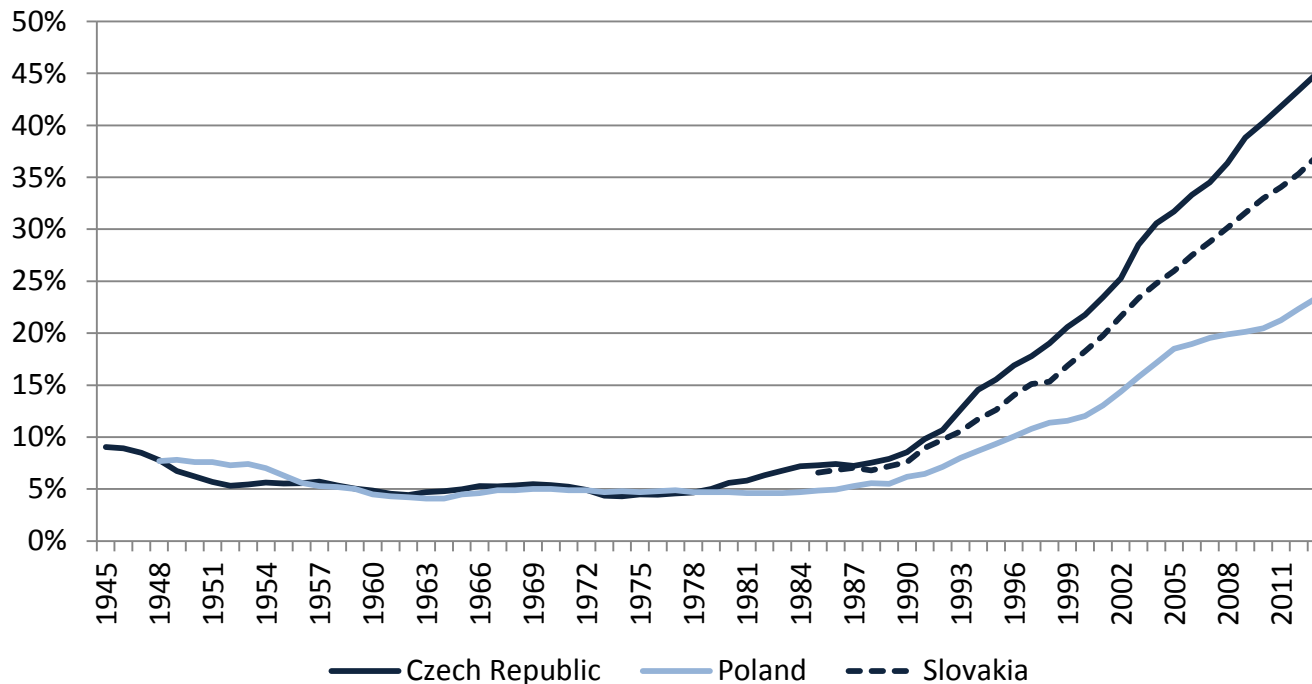
A comparison of trends in the Czech Republic, Poland and Slovakia, 1988-2011

Zuzanna Brzozowska, Michaela Potančoková, Martina Štípková

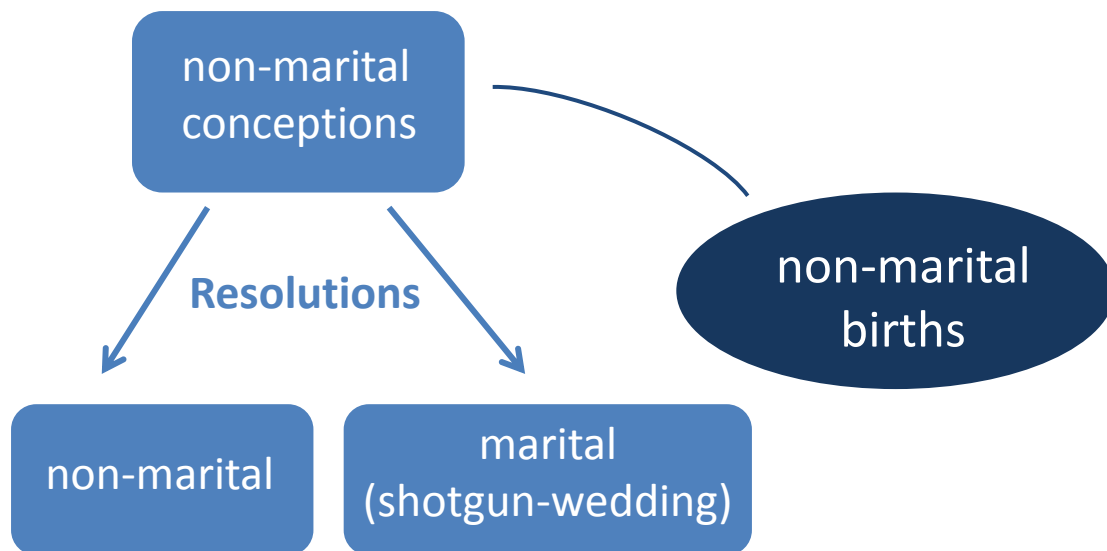
Prague, 11 September 2015

Background

- Throughout the socialist era, the proportion of non-marital births remained stable (5-6%) in all three countries (Kotowska et al. 2008, Potančoková 2008, Štípková 2013)
- Since the late 1980's: it has been on the increase



Possible reasons



Fall of the Iron Curtain →
westernisation:

spread of cohabitation →
non-marital childbearing

more accepted (van de Kaa 2001,
Lesthaeghe 2010) →

decline in shotgun-weddings
(Lesthaeghe & Surkyn 1988, van Iesta
2001, Akerlof et al. 1996, Bachu 1999,
Berrington & Diamond 1999) →

rise in % of non-marital births

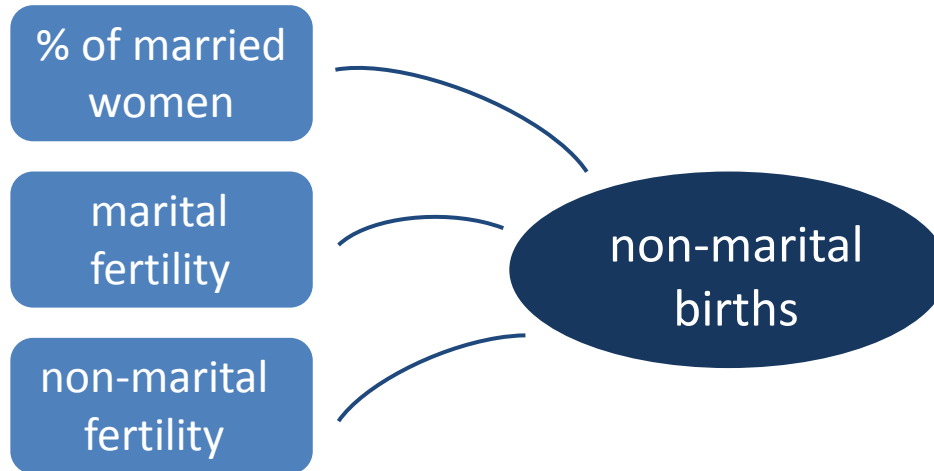
pre-marital sex more
accepted & access to better
contraceptives →

pre-marital sex more spread

(David & Skilogianis 1999, Frejka 2008) →

rise in non-marital
conceptions?

Possible reasons



% nonmar births =

$$(1 - \% \text{ married}) * \text{nonmar birth rate}$$

$$(1 - \% \text{ married}) * \text{nonmar birth rate} + \% \text{ married} * \text{mar birth rate}$$

$$\text{nonmar birth rate} = \frac{\text{nonmar births}}{\text{nonmar women}} * 1000$$

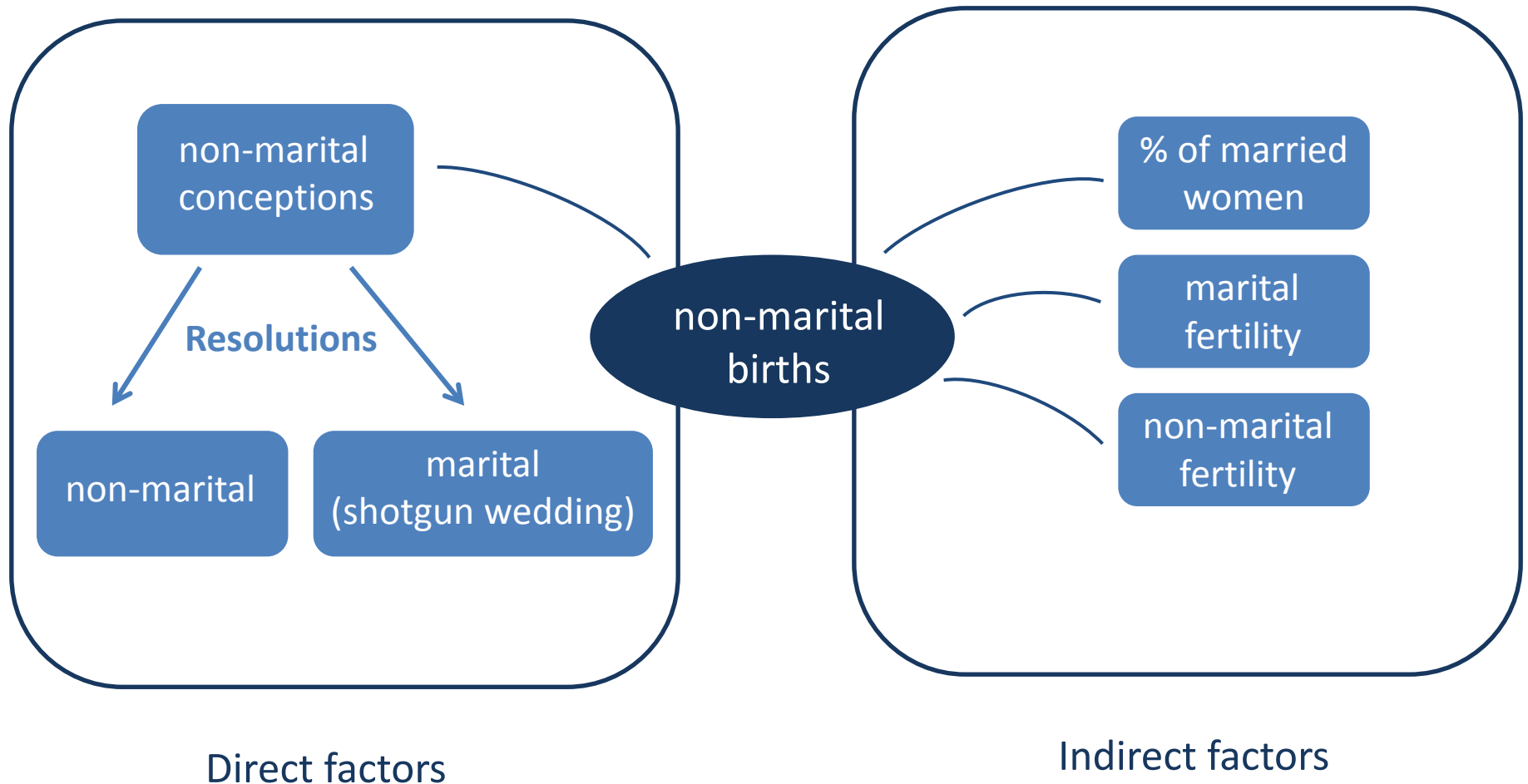
$$\text{mar birth rate} = \frac{\text{mar births}}{\text{mar women}} * 1000$$

Since the late 1980s:

rising age at 1st marriage (22-23 to 26-28) & spreading cohabitation → shrinking proportion of married women → rise in % of non-marital births? (Gray et al. 1996 for the US, Ermisch 2001 for GB 1975-1996, Perelli-Harris & Gerber 2011 for Russia 1980-2003)

Changes in marital fertility related to non-marital fertility → rise in % of non-marital births? (Smith et al. 1996, Smith & Cutright 1988 for the US)

Components of non-marital births

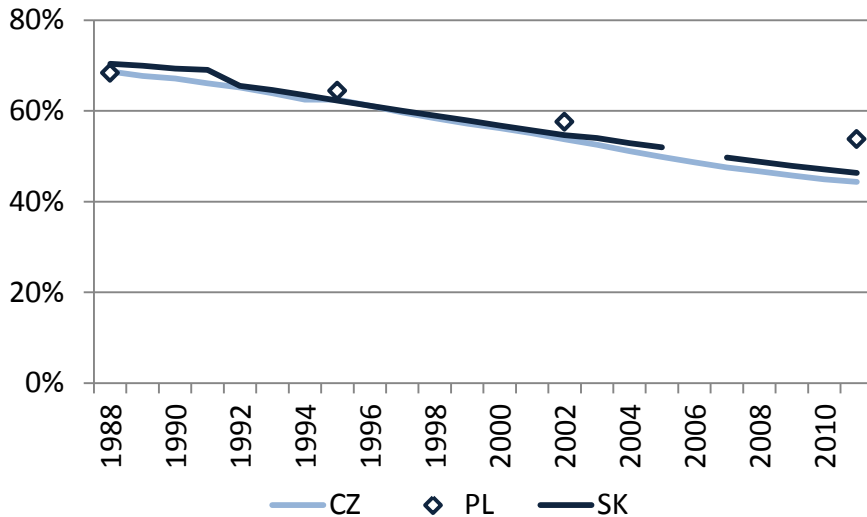


Data

- Birth registers 1992-2010
- Polish population censuses 1988, 1995, 2002 & 2011
- Czech Demographic Yearbooks
- Slovak Republic Population Information 2003 & Eurostat for Slovakia after 2003

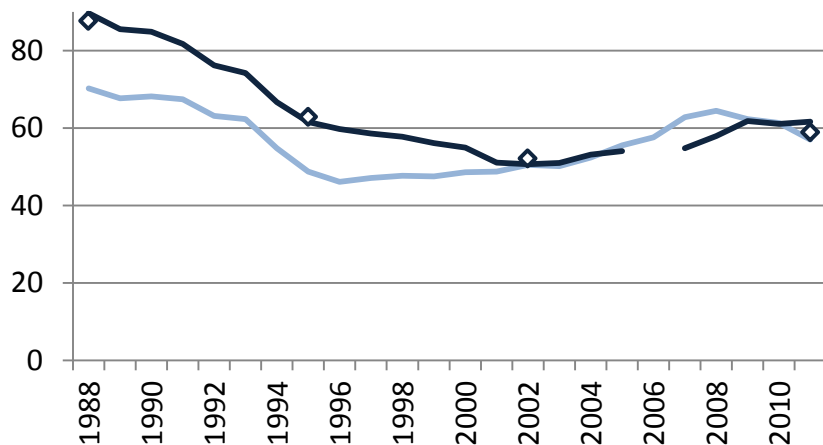
Indirect factors

Proportion of married women

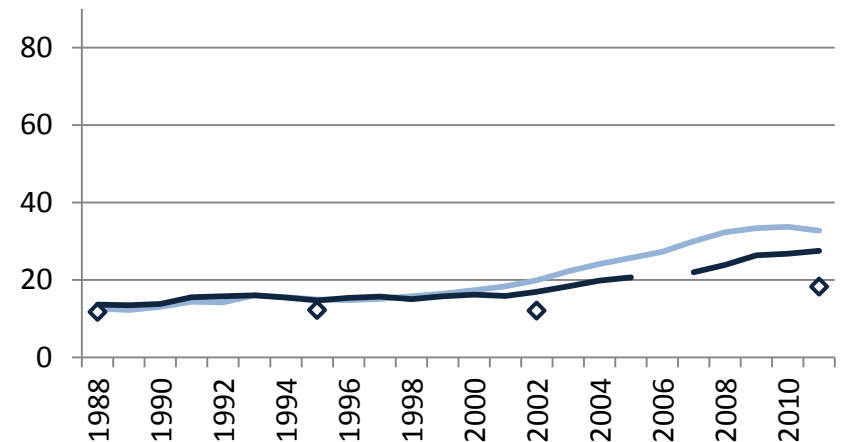


- the share of married women was linearly decreasing from 70% to 55% in PL and 45% in CZ & SK
- marital fertility was declining until the mid-1990s in CZ (from 70 to 45 per 1,000) and the early 2000s in PL and SK (from 80 to 50), then it started to increase (up to 60)
- non-marital fertility remained at about 10 per 1,000 until the early 2000s when it began to rise reaching in 2011 20 in PL and 30 in CZ & SK

Marital births per 1,000 married women 15-49

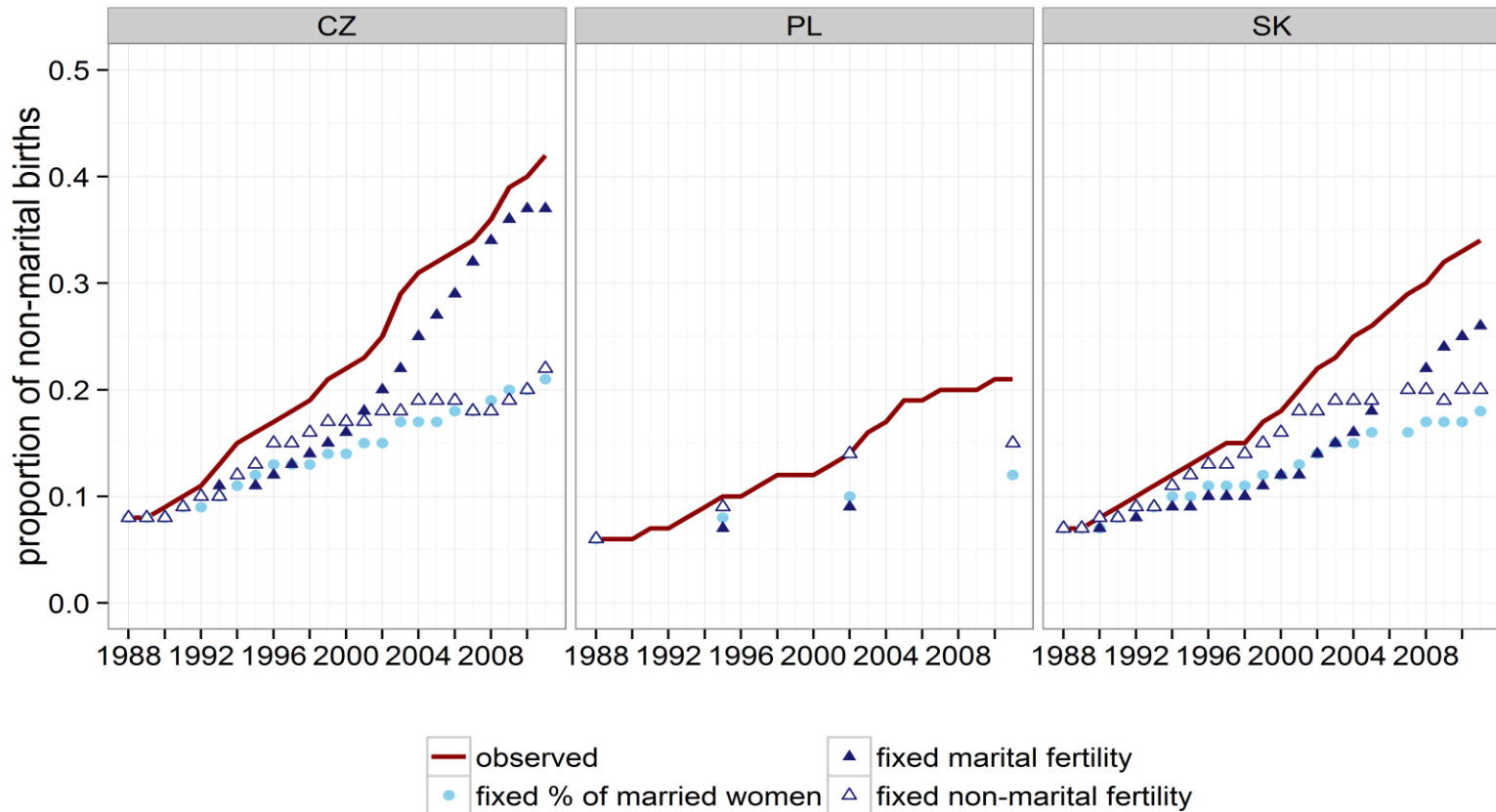


Non-marital births per 1,000 unmarried women 15-49



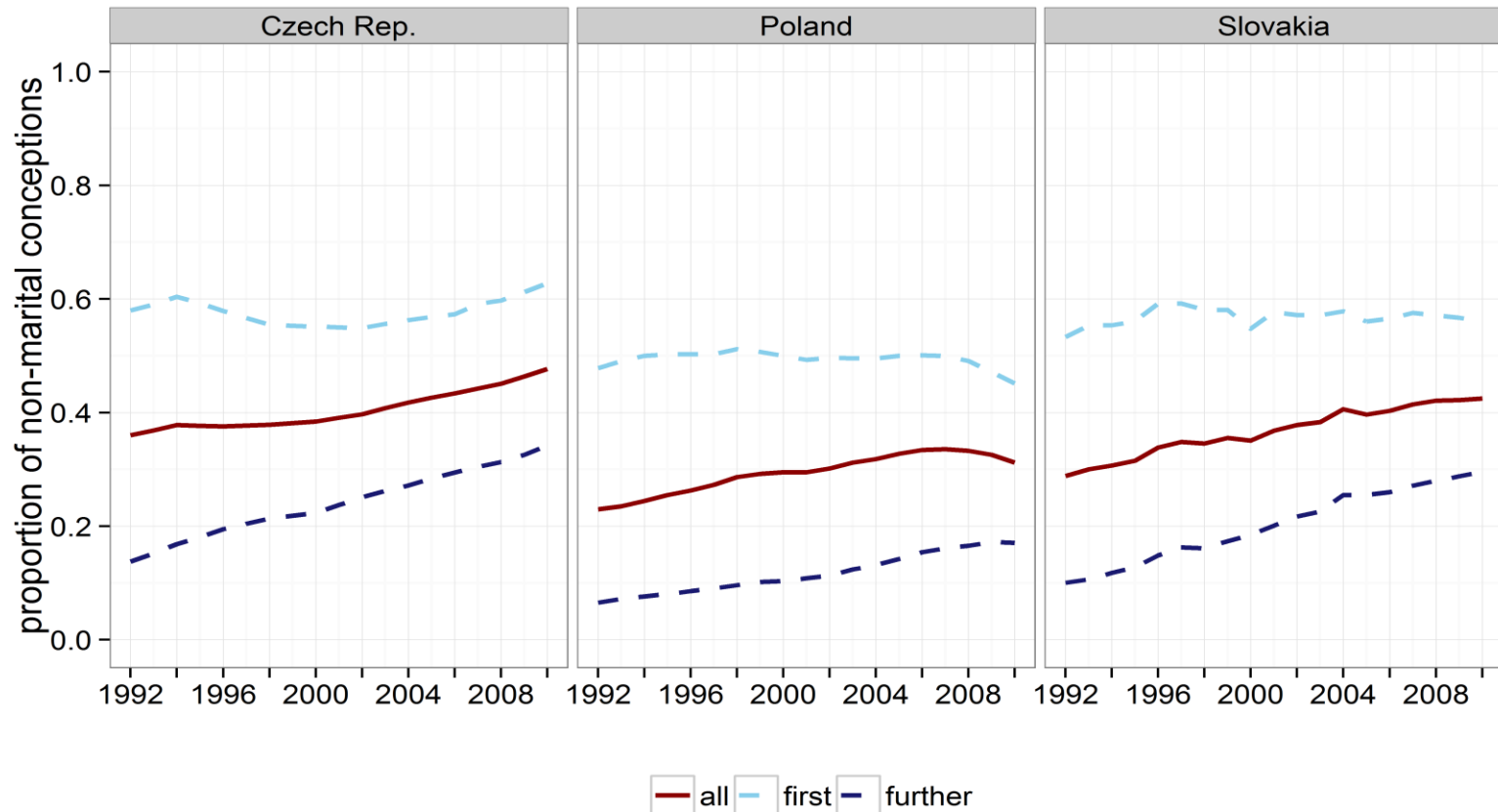
Indirect factors: if fixed in 1988

In CZ the share of non-marital births was largely pushed by the declining % of married women & the faster increase in non-marital fertility. In PL and SK these two factors were most important, too, but the longer decline and then slower rise in marital fertility played a bigger role than in CZ.



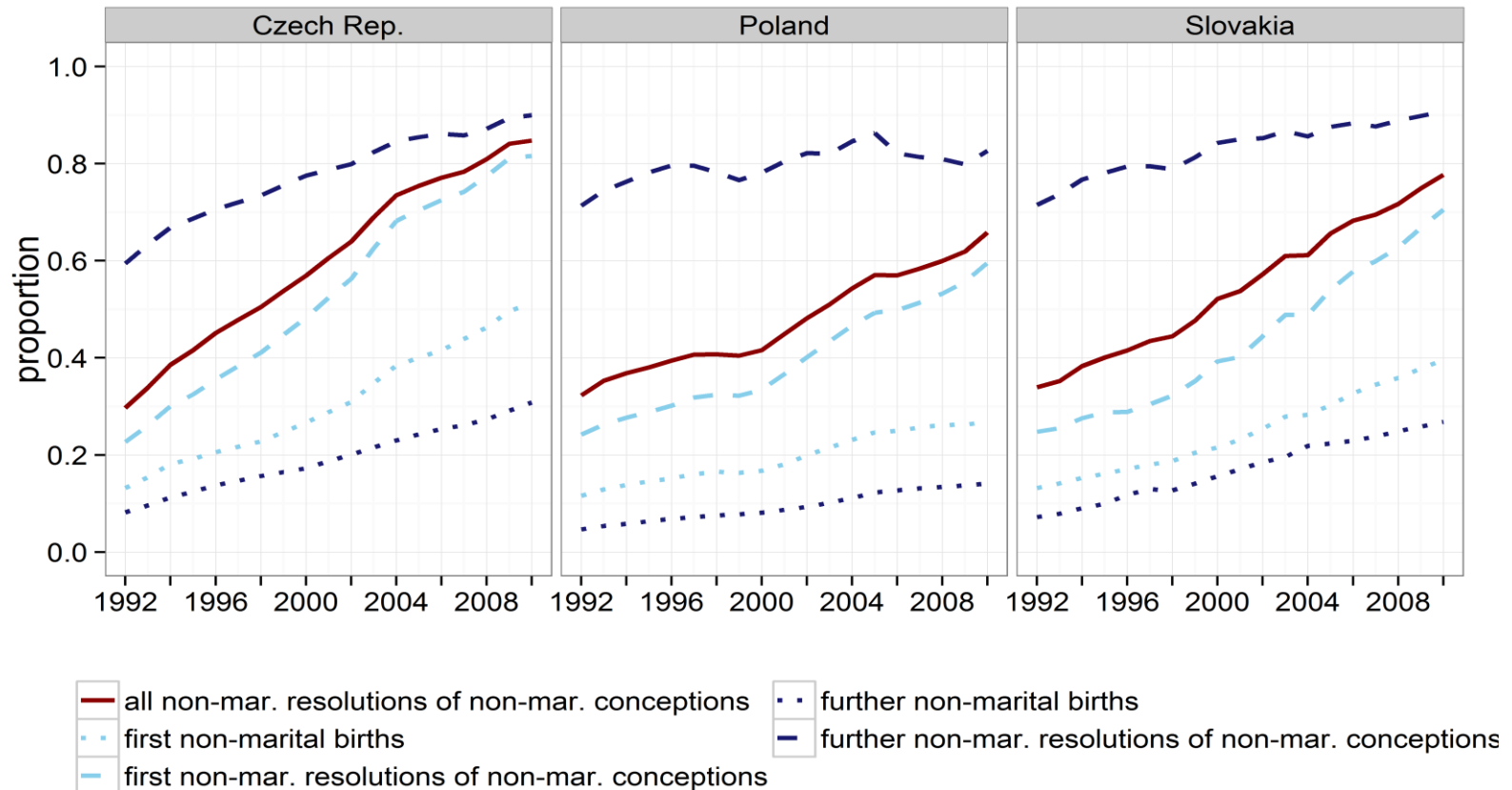
Direct factors: non-marital conceptions

The share of non-marital conceptions increased mainly due to second and further non-marital conceptions; the share of non-mar. conceptions among first births was rather stable.



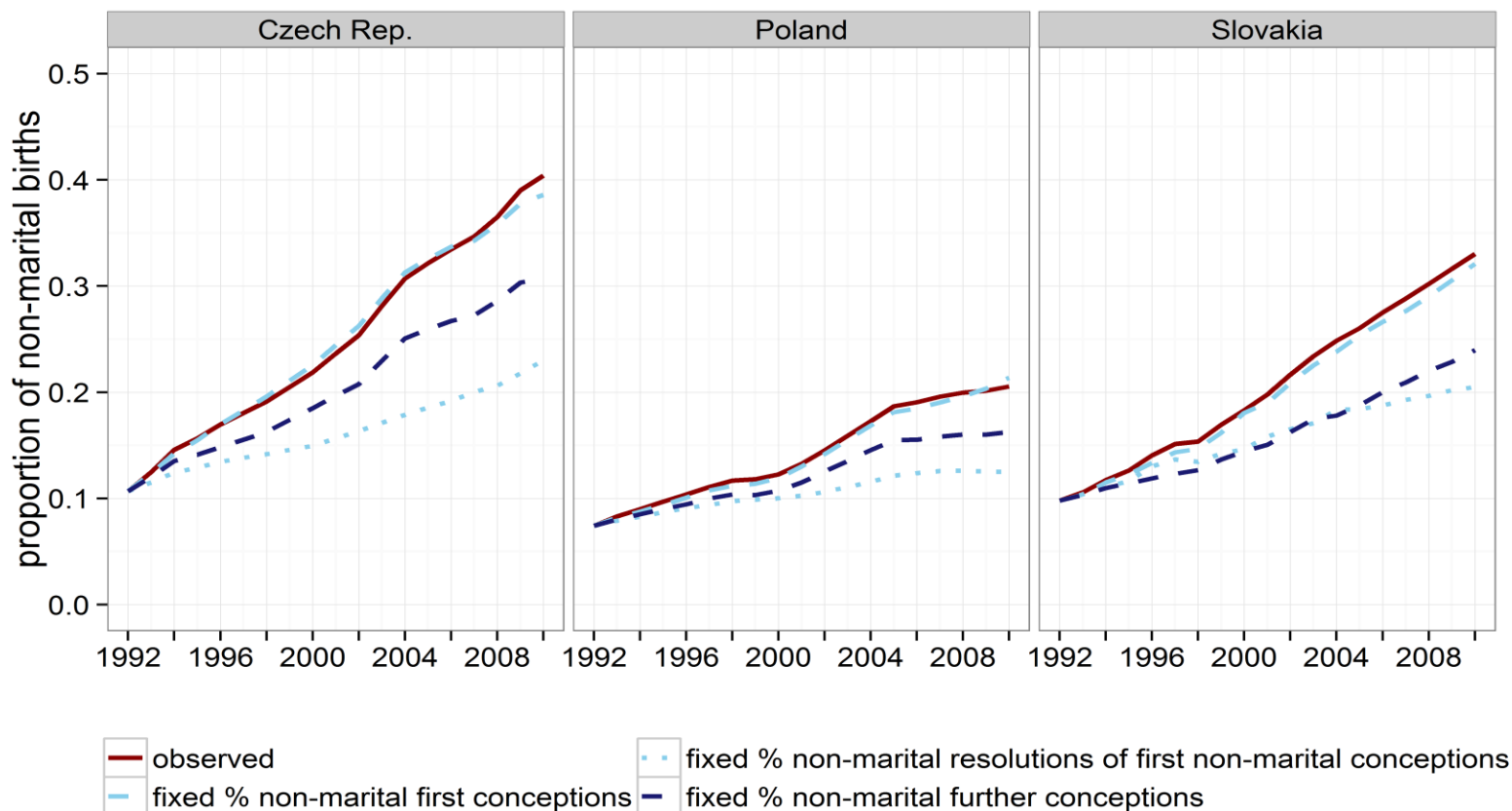
Direct factors: non-marital resolutions

The share of non-mar. resolutions of non-mar. conceptions increased faster among first births than among further births. The same holds for the proportion of non-marital births.



Direct factors: if fixed in 1992

The most important factor was the strongly rising share of non-mar. resolutions of first non-mar. conceptions – had it been the same as in 1992, the share of non-mar. births would have been 40% lower in 2010. Also, the upsurge in non-marital conceptions of second and further births pushed the proportion of non-mar. births considerably (by 20% in PL and 30% in SK).



Conclusions

The rising share of non-marital births driven by:

- Declining % of married women ->
 - marrying later because of the educational expansion?
 - marrying later because of cohabitation?
[cohabitation = preludium rather than an alternative to marriage] (Kreidl & Štipková 2012, Matysiak 2009, Matysiak & Mynarska 2010)
- Non-marital fertility staying stable in the 1990s (when marital fertility declining)
 - postponing marriage, but not childbearing?
 - selection effect?
 - ???

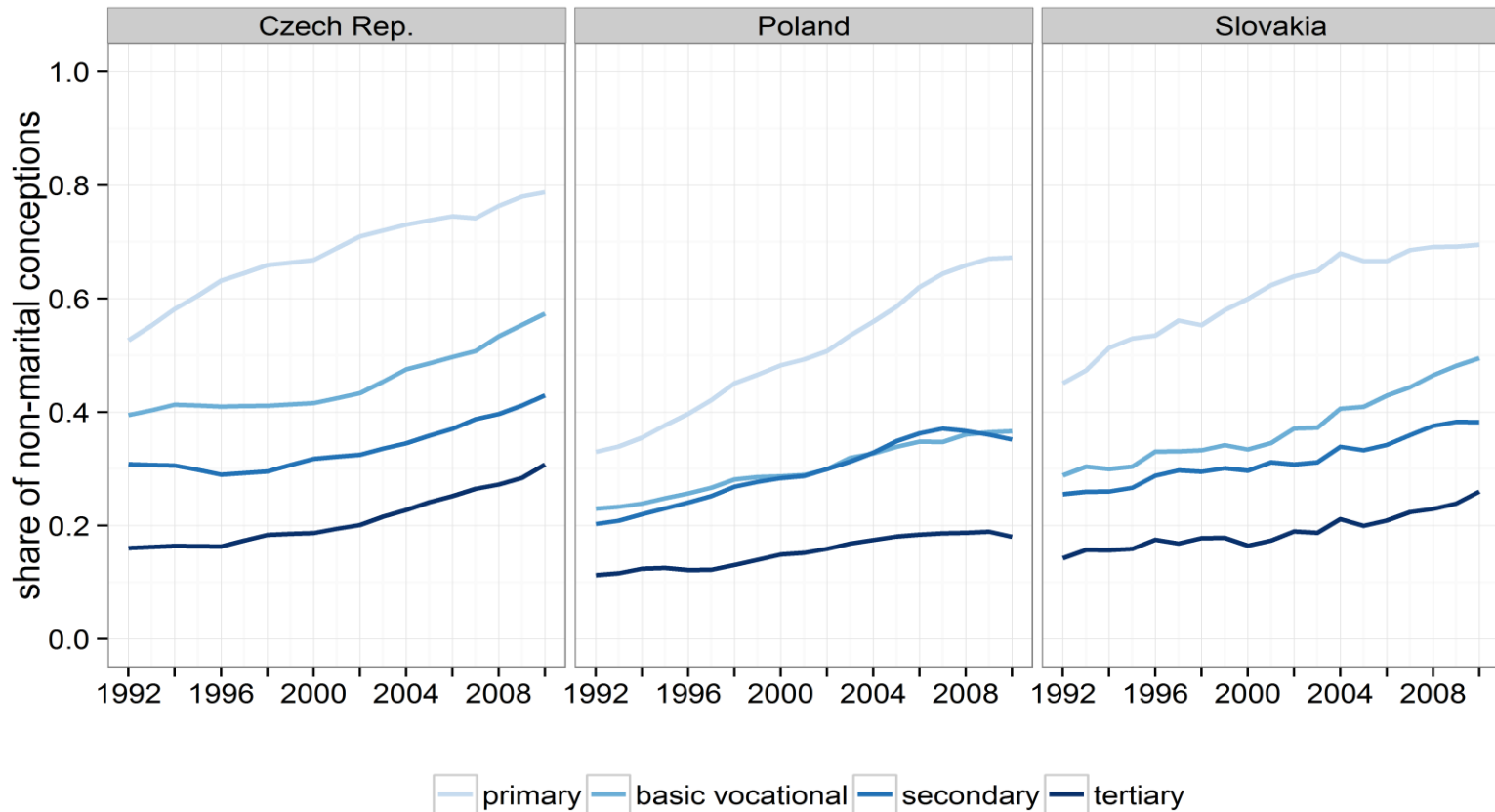
Conclusions

The rising share of non-marital births driven by:

- The resolutions of the non-marital conceptions
 - non-marital births rather than shotgun-marriages
- The rising share of second and further non-marital conceptions ->
 - spreading cohabitation?

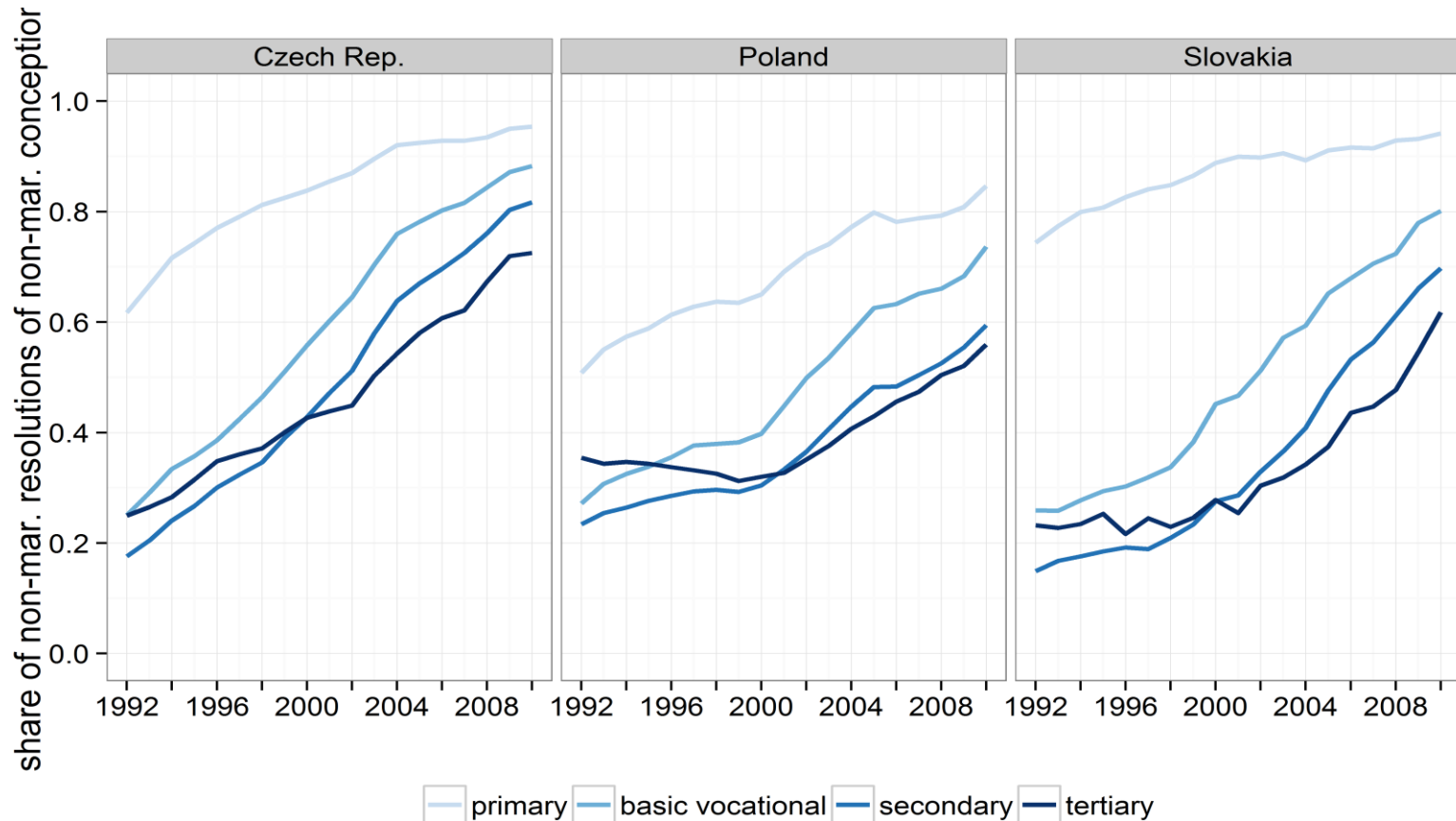
Conclusions

The share of non-marital conceptions: huge educational differences



Conclusions

The share of non-marital resolutions of non-mar. conceptions: declining educational differences (steep increases among the better educated)





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THANK YOU VERY MUCH

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