

# Youth poverty and school-to-work transitions in six European countries

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European Survey Users Conference  
Mannheim March 2015



# Outline

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- ▶ Why this research
- ▶ Aims and Research Questions
- ▶ Method
- ▶ Results
- ▶ Key findings



# Changes in youth transitions

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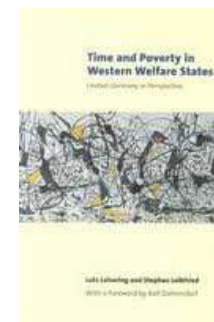
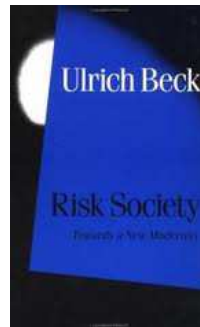
- ▶ There are growing concerns that transitions are becoming both longer (Walther, 2006) and more uncertain (Beck, 1992)
  - ▶ Delay in the key transitions (entering the labour market, leaving home, having children) (Eurostat, 2014)
  - ▶ Rising unemployment (ILO, 2013)
  - ▶ High youth poverty rates (Iacovou, 2009, OEC, 2014)
- ▶ The debate: Are all young people equally exposed to these 'new' risks?



# Growing up in the risk society?

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- ▶ Ulrich Beck argued that in the new 'risk society' risks are pervasive and individualised
- ▶ Leisering and Liebfried argued a 'democratisation' of risks



- ▶ Other researchers claim that risks are equally or even more patterned than in the past (Bynner et al., 2003; Paugam, 2007; Roberts, 2009; Pintelon et al., 2014)
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# Aims and Research Questions

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- ▶ This paper examines to what extent individual background (gender and poverty) shape early labour market transitions in six European countries with different welfare systems: Denmark, Belgium, France, the UK, Italy and Spain (Walther, 2006)
- 1. Trend over time: Is there a strengthening/weakening of the patterning of youth transitions?
- 2. Cross-national variations: Are the trends identified consistent across countries?



# Methods

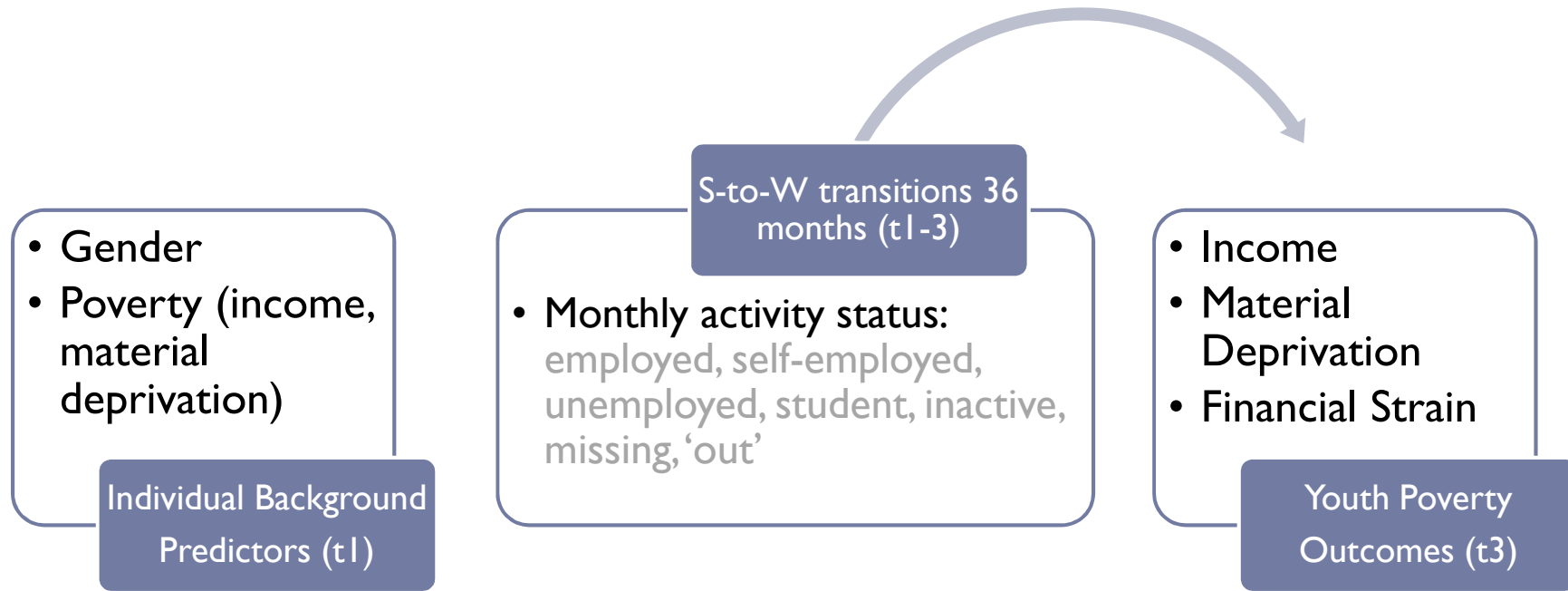
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- ▶ Since the economic recession can be seen as an exceptional period, the paper compared two periods of economic growth
- ▶ Future research will look at changes resulting from the recession
  
- ▶ Data: Longitudinal two periods
- ▶ Young people aged 16-30
  - ▶ ECHP 1994-96 (n=20.283)
  - ▶ SILC 2005-2007 (n= 10.327)



# Indicators

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x2  
EHP + SILC



# Comparability issues

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## ▶ ECHP vs SILC

- ▶ Pure panel vs rotational design
- ▶ In-put harmonised vs Out-put harmonised (countries)
- ▶ Variables: some differences in the definition + measurement of
  - ▶ Income
  - ▶ Material deprivation
  - ▶ Activity status

## ▶ Limitations in terms of comparability

## ▶ The best data available

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## Analysis proceeded in four steps

Sequence  
Analysis  
(OM+CA)

- Trajectories (36 months)

Descriptive  
statistics

- Identification of 'risky trajectories' (poverty outcomes t3)

Logistic  
Regression

- Predictors of risky trajectories (t1)

Marginal  
Effects

- Comparison of effects


# Sequence clusters

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- ▶ Most similar sequences grouped using CA: 6 clusters SILC, 7 clusters ECHP

Figure xx. School to work transition clusters

ECHP (1994-96)		SILC (2005-07)
Stable employment		Stable employment
Unemployment		Unemployment
Unstable employment + self-employment		Unstable employment
		Self-employment
Student		Student
Inactivity		Inactivity
Transition dominated trajectories		Transition dominated trajectories



# Successful and Risky transitions

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# Incidence of risky transitions

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**Percentage of young people in each "risky" cluster by country**

		Denmark	Belgium	France	UK	Italy	Spain
1994-96	Unemployment	9	9	7	7	21	18
	Inactivity	2	4	7	11	9	10
	Total	11	13	14	18	30	28
2005-07	Unemployment	4	7	6	3	14	8
	Inactivity	1*	3	5	8	7	3
	Total	5	11	11	11	21	11



# Risk across countries

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- ▶ Highest prevalence of risky transitions **Italy + Spain** (90s only)
- ▶ High inactivity rates observed in the **UK**
- ▶ Denmark, Belgium and France most successful in ensuring stable education/full time transitions
- ▶ Partial fit with Welfare Regime theory
  - ▶ Risky transitions more prevalent in sub-protective regimes (Brizinsky-Fay, 2007)
  - ▶ Employment centred regimes associated with more structured transitions (Walther, 2006)
  - ▶ But also big differences within regimes (part. Spain vs Italy)



# Regression Analysis

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- ▶ Individual country logistic regressions
- ▶ Predictors
  - ▶ Gender
  - ▶ Age
  - ▶ Living arrangements (parents, partner)
  - ▶ Children & Children\*Gender
  - ▶ Educational attainment
  - ▶ Poverty
    - ▶ Income poverty
    - ▶ Material deprivation



## Similar risk factors identified across countries

	ECHP 1994-96						SILC 2005-07					
	Denmark	Belgium	France	UK	Italy	Spain	Denmark	Belgium	France	UK	Italy	Spain
Female	0.63	1.68	0.66**	0.33**	0.98	1.05	#	1.21	1.04	0.38*	1.06	1.33
Child	0.89	0.57	0.53***	0.55**	0.34***	0.27***		0.31	0.46	2.07	0.53	0.35
Female*Child	5.57***	4.58**	5.26***	11.52***	4.89***	5.23***		13.78***	16.55***	12.06***	18.06***	16.93**
Partner 94	0.76	1.08	2.28***	0.92	1.62*	3.01***		0.86	1.67	0.58	1.37	1.43
Parents 94	0.23**	0.73	2.39***	0.28***	1.19	1.41		0.57	3.87***	1.08	3.47***	2.36
Age 94 (ref:16-19)												
20-25	1.85	2.29	4.05***	1.65	2.30***	1.92***		8.84**	4.52***	1.67	1.99***	2.45***
26-30	1.77	2.02	4.65***	1.80*	1.44**	2.48***		6.87*	5.92***	2.16	2.39***	2.61***
ISCED 3+	0.32***	0.20***	#	0.56***	0.66***	0.36***		0.20**	0.29***	0.12***	0.44***	0.21***
Income Poor 94	0.99	12.40***	1.99***	4.10***	2.74***	2.46***		5.29***	2.57***	5.22***	3.27***	2.47***
Deprived 94	2.46***	1.26	2.26***	3.58***	1.89***	1.46***		4.11***	3.89***	1.80	2.26***	1.73**
N	1,338	1,029	3,492	2,386	4,929	4846		795	2,237	962	3,362	1994
McFadden R2	0.14	0.29	0.11	0.27	0.11	0.16		0.31	0.25	0.35	0.18	0.20

Note: 95% Confidence Intervals in brackets

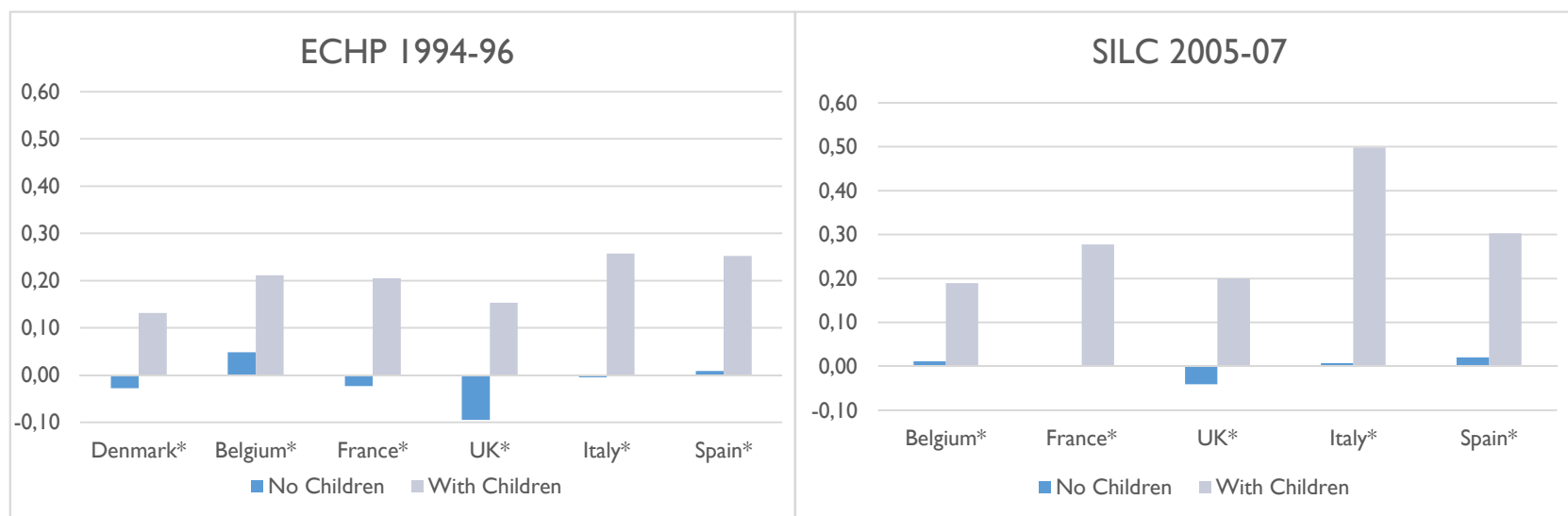
Significance levels: \* $p < 0.05$ , \*\*  $p < 0.01$  \*\*\* $p < 0.001$

# n.d.



# Risky transitions AME female, young people with and without children

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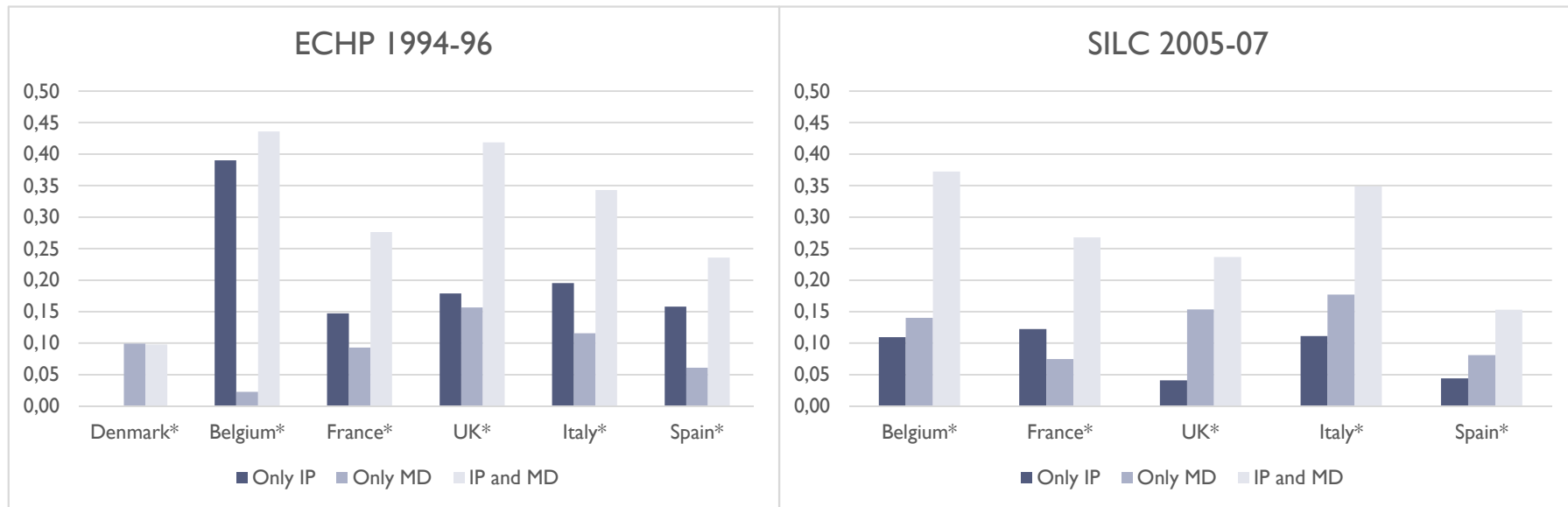
\* Significant effect observed in the regression

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# Risky transitions AME poverty, young people with and without children



**IP: Income Poverty**

**MD: Material Deprivation**

\* Significant effect observed in the regression



# Key findings

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- ▶ Transitions to adulthood remain strongly gendered **young women** more likely to follow a risky trajectory (part. Inactivity) → This effect is mediated by motherhood
- ▶ **Youth Poverty** is associated with increased probability of following a risky transition
- ▶ Somehow weaker effects in the second period (2005-07) in the UK and Spain – but no consistent trend
- ▶ Cumulative effect of income and material deprivation
- ▶ Democratisation? What about the recession?



## ...continued

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- ▶ Transitions that are more strongly related with **poverty** at the end of the period (unemployment and inactivity dominated trajs), are also strongly associated with poverty at the beginning of the observation period.
  - ▶ Path dependence? Persistent poverty? (8-35% poor 3 years)
  - ▶ Fluctuations around the poverty line?
  - ▶ Spirals of disadvantage (Paugam, 1995)?
- ▶ This is true for all three 'end' poverty indicators (income, deprivation and financial strain) – interesting given the lack of overlap between these



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# Thank you!

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