



# Childlessness and Profession

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## Childlessness

- Rising childlessness in Germany
- Common explanation is the level of education
- Higher educated stay childless because...
  - Long education
  - Lower family orientation
  - Irreconcilability of family and career
- But the possibilities do not necessarily differ between the levels of education, but between different professions.
  - Structural differences
  - Value differences



## Questions

- In what professions do we find a high or low percentage of childless women?
- What kind of occupational structures hinder or encourage the birth of a first child?



## Previous Research

- Hoem/Neyer/Andersson (2006) showed for women in Sweden an effect of the educational field on childlessness which is higher than the one of the educational level.
- Neyer (2007) found both effects of the educational level and of the professional field for Austria.
- Dorbritz (2003) found effects of the profession for Germany.



## Theoretical Background

Theoretical background is the theory of the social production function (Lindenberg/Frey 1993; Huinink/Feldhaus 2007).

- Actors want to maximize their individual welfare.
- There is a cost-benefit evaluation.
- This evaluation is influenced by the external opportunity structure, the individual resources and the internal opportunity structure.



## Hypotheses

1. The external opportunity structures differ between the professions.
  2. The individual resources differ between the professions.
  3. The internal opportunity structures differ between the professions.
- Because of this the percentage of childlessness differs between professions.



## Waves 2001-2005

|                                | <b>Women</b> |
|--------------------------------|--------------|
| <b>N</b>                       | 15,178       |
| <b>Working</b>                 | 65.2 %       |
| <b>&gt; 42</b>                 | 52 %         |
| <b>&gt; 42 &amp; childless</b> | 16 %         |



## High Childlessness (women 43 and older)

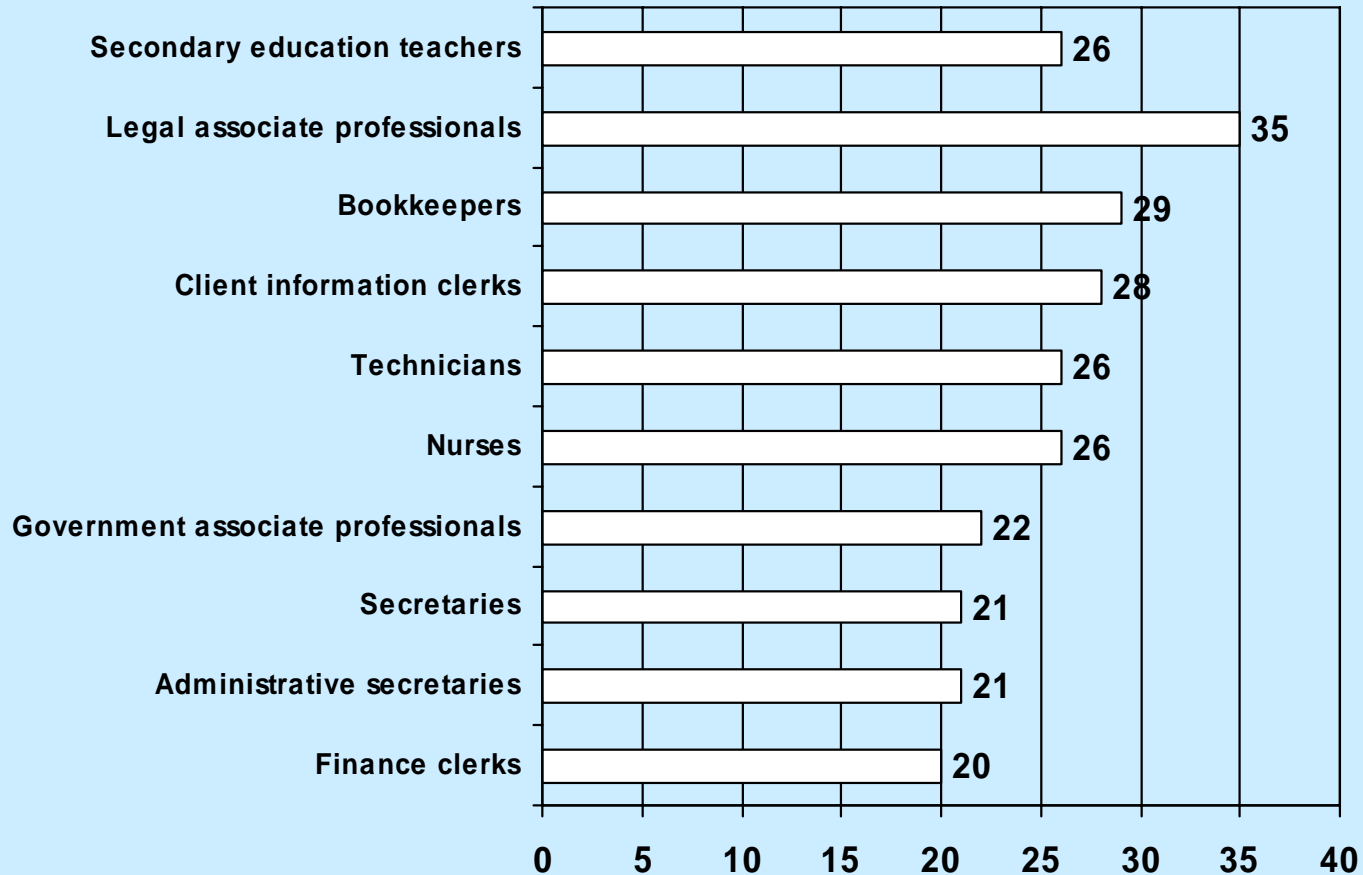
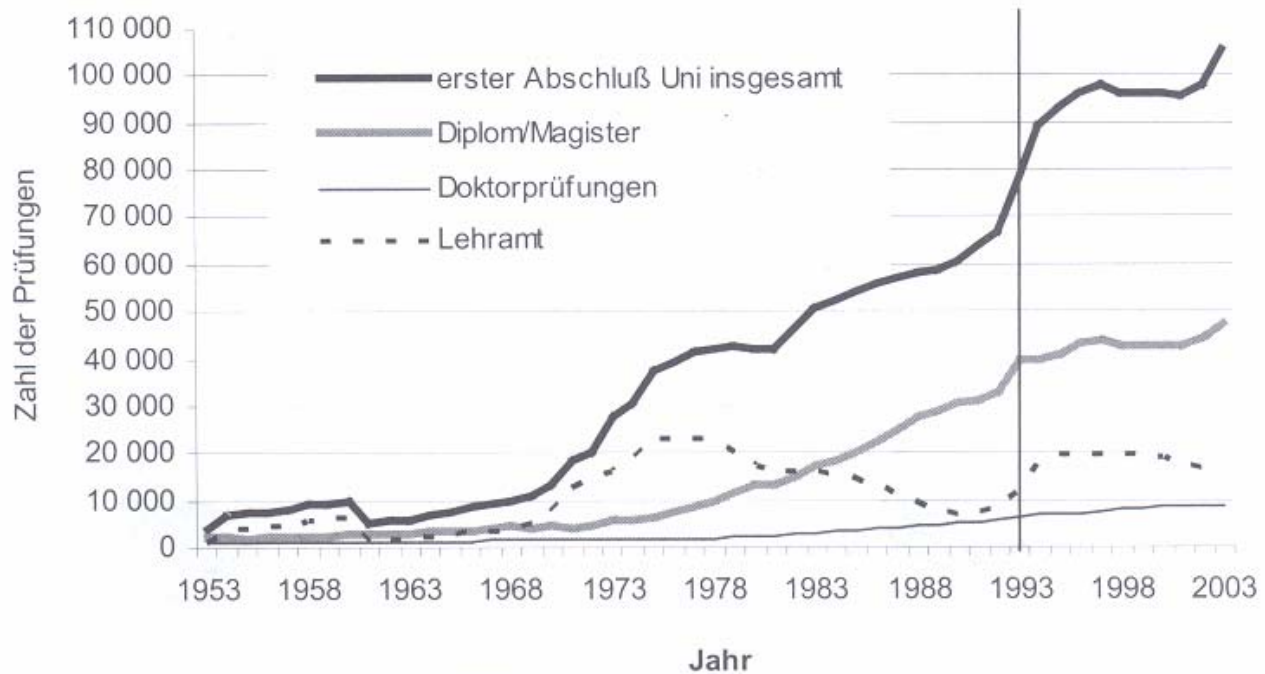




Abbildung III.5

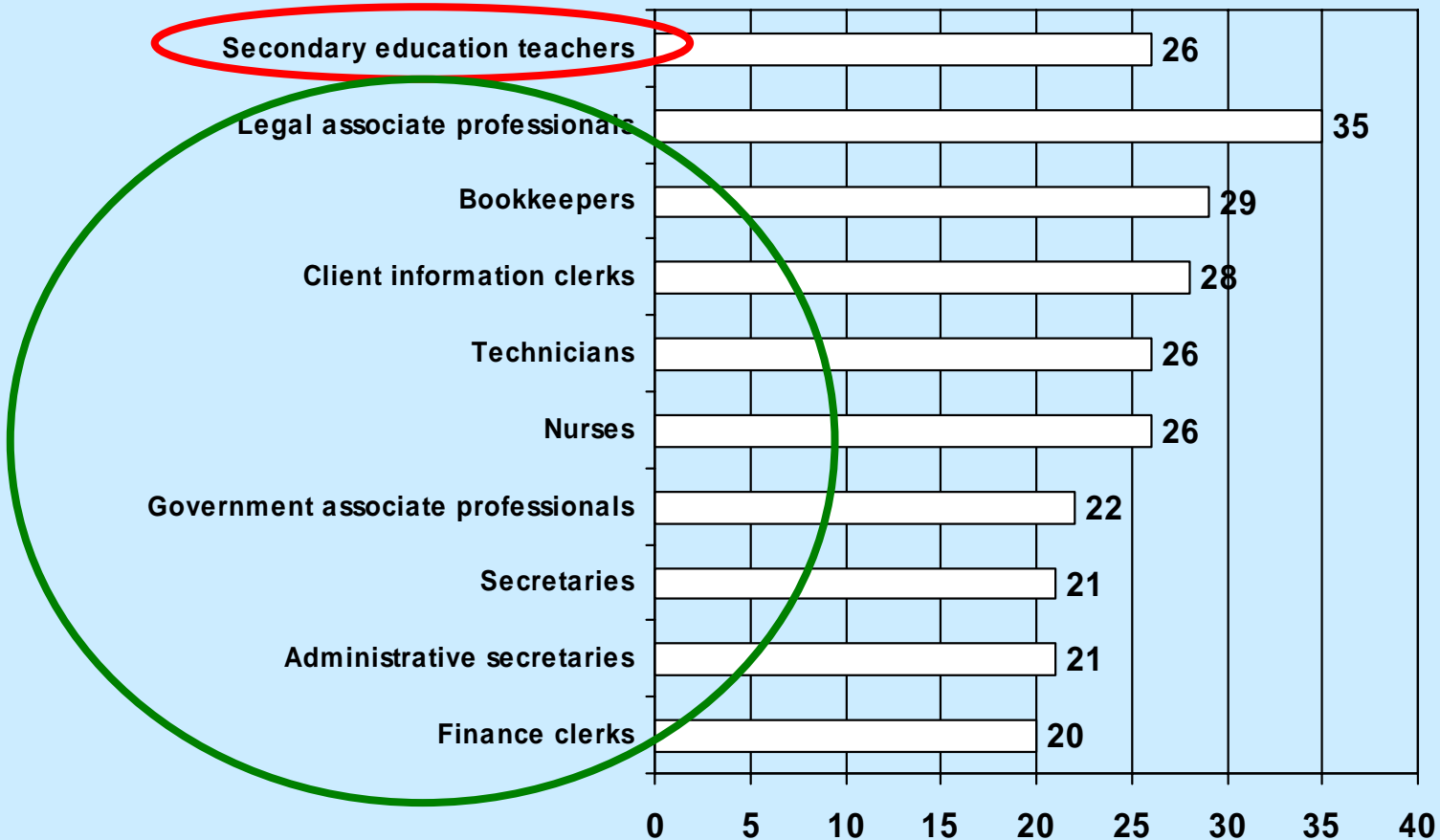
### Bestandene Prüfungen von Frauen seit 1953\*



\* 1953 bis 1992 früheres Bundesgebiet, seit 1993 Deutschland  
Quelle: Statistisches Bundesamt 2004, Hochschulstatistik

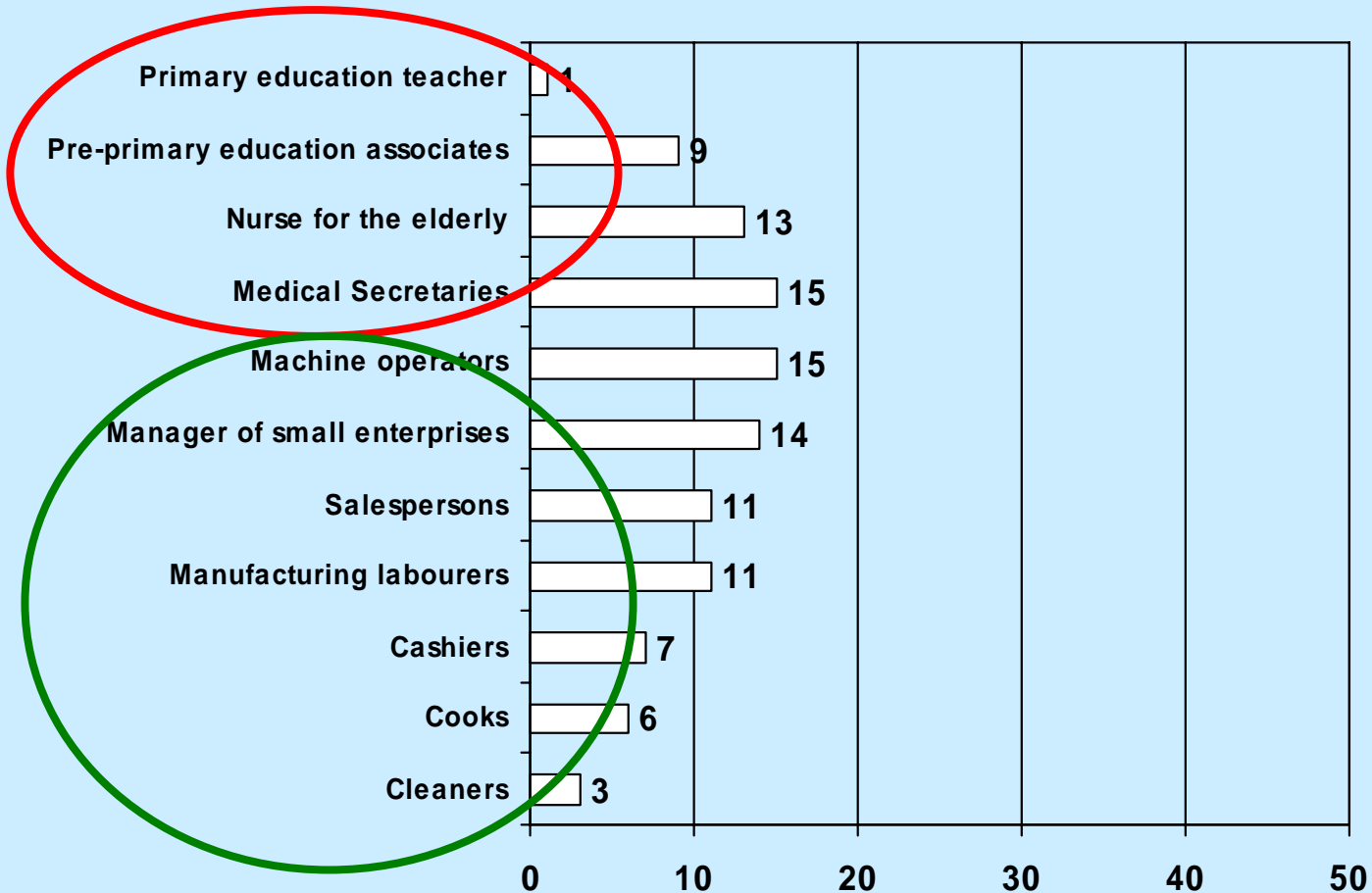


## High Childlessness (women 43 and older)





## Low Childlessness (women 43 and older)





## Groups of professions (women)

- 1. Professions which hinder fertility, secondary teachers
- 2. Professions which hinder returning, administration professions
- 3. Professions which encourage fertility, care-related professions
- 4. Professions which encourage mothers, marginal professions



# Effect of the professional group and education on having at least one child (women): Logistic Regression (Odds Ratios)

|                            | Model 1        | Model 2        | Model 3      | Model 4       |
|----------------------------|----------------|----------------|--------------|---------------|
| Lower Education            | <b>1.29**</b>  |                | 0.85         | 0.87          |
| Higher Education           | <b>0.58***</b> |                | <b>0.61*</b> | <b>0.62*</b>  |
| Administrative professions |                | 1.21           | 0.89         | 0.90          |
| Care-related professions   |                | <b>2.06**</b>  | 1.62         | 1.63          |
| Marginal professions       |                | <b>3.17***</b> | <b>2.58*</b> | <b>2.67**</b> |
| Partnership                |                |                |              | <b>1.72**</b> |
| Pseudo-R <sup>2</sup> (N)  | 0.02 (7448)    | 0.03 (1832)    | 0.04 (1668)  | 0.04 (1668)   |

Source: GSOEP 2001-2005, own calculations, \* = p < 0.05; \*\* = p < 0.01; \*\*\* = p < 0.001,

<sup>1</sup> Reference: middle education; <sup>2</sup> Reference: secondary teachers; <sup>3</sup> Reference: no partner



## Conclusions

- Effects of the professional field can not be explained by the educational level alone.
- In traditional female, care-related professions, women tend to return to their jobs after they had children.
- In other professions, mostly in administration, women do not return to their jobs but change to marginal jobs.
- Childlessness in academic professions can not be studied sufficiently yet.



## Outlook

- The conclusions have to be verified in longitudinal analysis.
- Men have to be included to be able to analyse dyads.
- Analysis of the timing of the first and second child.
- Qualitative Research on values.



Thank you for your attention.

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