

Who Moves to Whom?

Gender Differences in Moving to a First Shared Residence

Maria Brandén and Karen Haandrikman

Research motives

Couples move more often for the sake of the man than for the woman (e.g. Cooke, 2008)

Moving for the sake of a partner likely has consequences on the social and professional networks of the mover

What about moves when forming a union?

- Is the woman more likely to move to the man?
- Does the woman move over longer distances?
- If so; why?

Research background

Indications that women are more inclined to move to men when forming a union:

- Couples live closer to the man's parents than the woman's (e.g. Blaauboer et al., 2011; Løken et al., 2013)
- Women's migration propensity is higher than men's in the year of marriage (Mulder and Wagner, 1993; Fischer and Malmberg, 2001)
- It is more common for couples to start a union in the man's previous dwelling (Statistics Sweden, 2012)

Why does the woman more often move to her partner?

1. **Age and age differences:** Men are often older and more established on the housing and labor market
2. **Family ties:** Women leave home earlier and move more when young, whereas men live closer to their parents
3. **Labor market ties:** Women are enrolled longer in education, slowing down labor market establishment
4. **The education paradox:** Women's higher education could increase their likelihood to move to a partner (transferability of human capital) or decrease it (having a lot invested in a career)
5. **Occupational sex segregation:** Female dominated occupations exist all across the country
6. **Bargaining power:** Women earn less than men

Data

Swedish register data; 143,016 individuals

Married or had a child in 2008

Backtracked until latest year not living together, until 1991 at the earliest

Euclidean distance between the two partners' previous dwellings and first joint dwelling based on coordinates

Results

Figure 1: Who moves to whom?

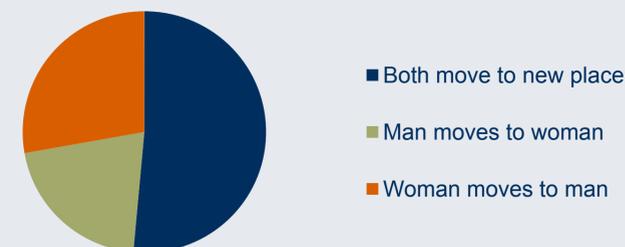


Figure 2: Kilometers moved when forming a union. Means

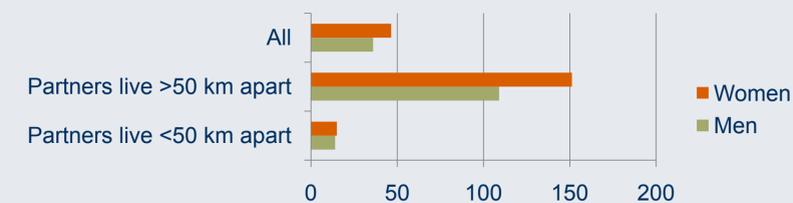


Figure 3: The likelihood to move when forming a union for women as compared to men (Logistic regression and odds ratios)

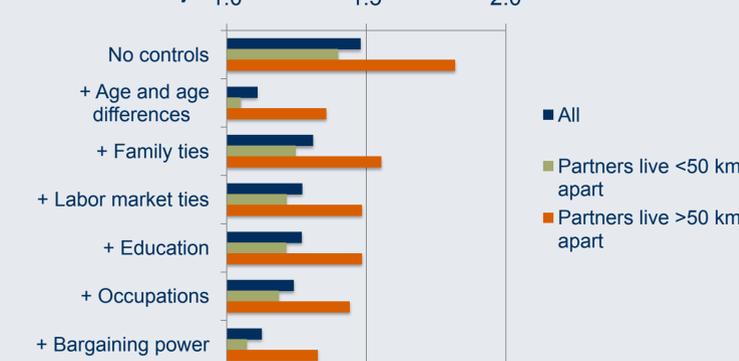
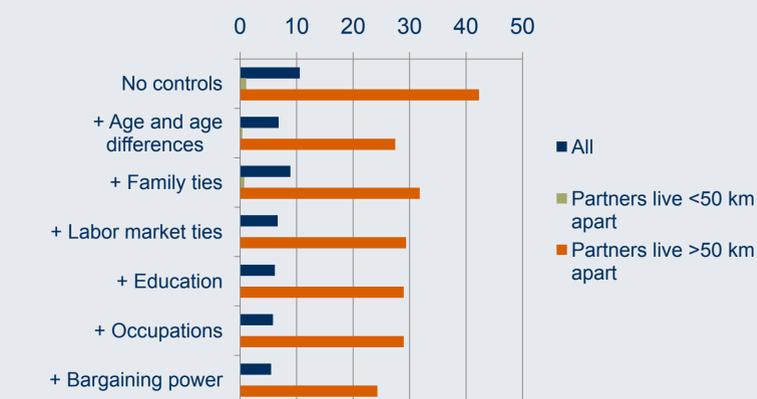


Figure 4: Kilometers moved when forming a union for women as compared to men (OLS regression)



Conclusions

The woman moves more often when forming a union, and is moving longer distances

Especially evident when partners live far apart prior to union formation

One third is explained by age differences

Ties, education, occupation and bargaining power also have explanatory power

Discussion

Half of the gender difference in distance moved remains unexplained: Gender roles in action?

Further analyses on who moves the longer distance

Couple analyses including partner characteristics