

MARRIAGE AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT IN THE TWENTIETH CENTURY *

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Abstract

There is an extensive literature discussing how individuals' marriage behavior changes as a country develops. However, no existing data set allows an explicit investigation of the relationship between marriage and economic development. In this paper, we construct new cross-country panel data on marital statistics for 16 OECD countries from 1900 to 2000, in order to analyze such a relationship. We use this data set, together with cross-country data on real GDP per capita and the value added share of agriculture, manufacturing and services sectors, to document two novel stylized facts. First, the fraction of a country's population that is married displays a hump-shaped relationship with the level of real GDP per capita. Second, the fraction of the married correlates positively with the share of manufacturing in GDP. We conclude that the stage of economic development of a country is a key factor that affects individuals' family formation decisions.

JEL Classification: E23; E25; J11; J12

Keywords: Marriage, Fraction of the Married, Economic Development, Structural Transformation, Sectoral Shares, Cross-Country Analysis

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1 Introduction

The evolution of marriage over the development path has attracted extensive attention from demographers, historians and, more recently, of economists (Becker (1981), Schoen, Urton, Woodrow, and Bai (1985), Fernández, Guner, and Knowles (2005), Stevenson and Wolfers (2007), Regalia, Ríos-Rull, and Short (2011), Chiappori, Salanié, and Weiss (forthcoming) and Greenwood, Guner, Kocharkov, and Santos (2016) among many others). As an economy develops, several changes can potentially influence individuals' marriage behavior. These are, for instance, changes in the living location (e.g. urbanization), in the level and the distribution of income, in employment opportunities for men and women, and in laws and institutions. Some of these changes are specific to a particular country, while others are shared by most countries along the process of economic development.

The purpose of this paper is to investigate how economic factors affect individuals' marriage behavior over the development path. Due to the fact that some of the determinants of marriage are specific to a certain country, this task requires data on multiple countries over time. Our first contribution in this paper is thus to construct a comprehensive, cross-country panel data set on marital statistics, which is suitable for our analysis. The existing data sets, such as the data on marriage and divorce created by the United Nations Statistical Division (UNSD) or the Minnesota Population Center's IPUMS International, only allow researchers to study marital statistics from 1950 for some countries and from 1970 for others. This creates a serious limitation for the analysis because at these dates, most OECD countries have already experienced a substantial part of their development process. Therefore, we use census records of each country directly collected from the country's national statistical office, to construct a sample of 16 OECD countries from 1900 to 2000, with data in 10-year intervals.

The second contribution of this paper is to use the constructed data set to analyze the evolution of marriage along the development path. For this purpose, we combine our data set with cross-country data of real GDP per capita, and investigate the relationship between marriage and this economic indicator. To control for countries' heterogeneity, we run a fixed effects regression with the fraction of married population on the left-hand side and a polynomial of real GDP per capita on the right-hand side. Furthermore, for robustness, we employ a nonparametric plot of the fraction of the married over the level of real GDP per capita. Next, by using a similar methodology, we analyze the relationship between the fraction of the married and the value-added shares of broad sectors (agriculture, manufacturing and services) in GDP.

We highlight two main findings. First, we find that the fraction of the married displays

a hump-shaped relationship with the level of GDP per capita. Although the literature has documented this hump shape by using U.S. time series data, the unavailability of long panel data didn't allow previous studies to find a general pattern across countries over the development path. With our unique data set, we confirm that the hump-shaped pattern of marriage is a common feature across OECD countries, and that it is driven by economic development, not by factors which are specific to the U.S. society. Second, we find that the fraction of the married correlates positively with the share of manufacturing in GDP. Sectoral shares represent the relative extent of each sector's economic activities in the whole economy, that evolve as a country develops. Our results suggest that, even controlling for individual countries' heterogeneity, the stage of development, and in particular the process of industrialization first and de-industrialization later, is a key dimension in determining the fraction of married individuals in the population.

Schoen, Urton, Woodrow, and Bai (1985) is the first paper which documents the hump-shape pattern of the fraction of married for the U.S. Recently, two papers, Greenwood and Guner (2008) and Iyigun and Lafortune (2015), have explored economic mechanisms behind this pattern. Greenwood and Guner (2008) suggest that, at early stages of development, technological progress in the household sector, together with economies of scale in household consumption and production, fosters an increase in the fraction of young individuals who leave the nest (parents' home) and marry. At later stages, further technological progress in the household sector allows young people to leave the nest and remain single. Iyigun and Lafortune (2015) also examine U.S. data over the 20th century and document a U-shaped pattern for age at first marriage and an inverted-U pattern for the gender education gap. They propose a two-period frictionless matching model with endogenous education and marriage decisions, and explore the interaction between the timing of marriage and changes in educational attainment.

Our paper also relates to the literature that studies economic growth, structural transformation, and their relationship with the demographic transitions, pioneered by Galor and Weil (1996) and Galor and Weil (2000). Through the lenses of economic growth theory, these two papers provide explanations to the reversal of the relationship between income level and fertility rate during the transition to a modern economy observed in many countries. While the literature is successful in accounting for the long-term trends of population growth, few contributions study the fluctuations of the demographic trends in the last century from the perspective of economic growth and structural transformation. One exception is Kimura and Yasui (2010), who extend the framework of Galor and Weil (1996), and explain the baby boom in the mid twentieth century through the transitions of an economy from a home sector to a male-dominated industry sector, and from a male-dominated industry sector to a

female-friendly service sector. However, they limit their scope to fertility and do not investigate marriage. In terms of manufacturing and marriage, our findings also complement the evidence provided by [Autor, Dorn, and Hanson \(2017\)](#). These authors exploit variations in trade shocks to the manufacturing sector across commuting zones in the U.S., and find that such shocks reduce the marriage “value” of men, thus inducing a decline in the fraction of married in the population. Taken together, the result in [Autor, Dorn, and Hanson \(2017\)](#) and the cross-country evidence in this paper suggest that the share of manufacturing is relevant for the prevalence of marriage both in a development perspective, and in a cross-section dimension of a modern economy like the U.S.

Furthermore, recent research such as [Kongsamut, Rebelo, and Xie \(2001\)](#), [Ngai and Pissarides \(2007\)](#) and [Buera and Kaboski \(2012a\)](#), among many others, studies the causes of the changes in sectoral shares over the development path, attributing a key role in generating this process to the preferences of the representative consumer. However, no contribution has analyzed whether the demand for the three macro-sectors in the economy is linked to the evolution of a particular demographic group. Here we partly fill this gap by showing the relative demand of manufacturing correlates with marriage rates, suggesting that the demographic structure of the population might be a determinant of consumption preferences estimated at the aggregate level.¹

The remainder of the paper is as follows: in Section 2, we discuss the construction of our data set; in Section 3, we provide the analysis of the relationship between marriage and economic development. Section 4 concludes.

2 Historical Cross-Country Panel Data

In this section, we describe the construction of our historical panel data for 16 OECD countries. Due to the short length of the time series in the existing data sets on marriage, we directly obtained data from census records for most of the countries in our sample. The population data are then used to create marital statistics, which we combined with per-capita GDP and value-added shares of three sectors (agriculture, manufacturing, and the service sector). Since marital statistics are often affected by changes in the age structure of the population, we also create series that control for these effects. The remainder of the section describes the details of the data set.

2.1 Data

Our panel data consist of 16 OECD countries with 165 country-year observations. The main sources for our marriage data are population and housing census records, which are either

¹See [Herrendorf, Rogerson, and Valentinyi \(2013\)](#) and [Moro, Moslehi, and Tanaka \(2017\)](#).

i) directly collected from each country’s national statistical office, or ii) obtained from the UNSD’s database on marriage and divorce.²

Country Our country selection is based on the availability of a sufficiently long series of marriage data. Our sample consists of Australia, Belgium, Canada, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, the Netherlands, Norway, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, the U.K. and the U.S.

Time Period Marriage data in our sample are largely based on census records, which are in 10-year intervals (i.e., 1900, 1910, ..., 2000).³ We choose the time period 1900-2000 for two reasons. First, most of the OECD countries achieved substantial economic development during that period. Second, data on marital statistics are not available prior to 1900 for the majority of those countries.

Marital Statistics Population data are collected by sex, age group, and marital status. In all countries’ census records, individuals’ marital status falls into one of the following six categories; *never-married*, *married*, *divorced*, *widowed*, *in a consensual union*, and *separated*.⁴ From these population data, we construct four marital statistics (*fraction of the married*, *fraction of the never-married*, *fraction of the divorced*, and *fraction of the widowed*) for each country for each year. We take the following strategy to construct the marital statistics: i) if the information on individuals in a consensual union is available, we add these individuals to the married group;⁵ ii) if the information on the separated is available, we add these individuals to the divorced group. In particular, the latter strategy is motivated by the fact that in some countries divorce was illegal for many years and that there was a non-negligible number of individuals who reported themselves as separated.

GDP Per Capita The data for real GDP per capita (in 1993 international dollar) are taken from Maddison (2005), similar to the approach taken by Buera and Kaboski (2012b).

²We utilize the UNSD’s data when direct access to census records is not possible. The UNSD collected statistics on marriage and divorce from the vital statistics system and population and housing censuses in each country’s statistical office. For most of cases, the UNSD’s data are equivalent to country’s census records. However, there are three observations which are the estimates created by the UNSD. For a complete description of the data sources for each country, see Appendix A.

³In some countries, censuses were not conducted exactly in 10-year intervals. When this is the case, we look for the closest year within 5 years before and after the year of concern. For example, if the data for 1950 are not available, we consider the available data collected in the year between 1945 and 1955 that is closest to 1950. We list data collection years for all countries in Appendix A.

⁴In some countries, divorce was illegal for many years in the first half of the century. The numbers of divorced individuals are, therefore, not reported. Also, in some other countries, the number of the divorced and that of the widowed are reported in the same category in the earlier periods. For a complete description about which types of marital status are reported, see Appendix A.

⁵The number of individuals in a consensual union is usually reported together with the married. Only in Canada and Norway in the year 2000, the number was reported separately from the married.

TABLE 1 – Descriptive Statistics for the Cross-Country Panel Data

Name of Series	Num. of Observations	Mean	Standard Deviation	Min	Max
Fraction of the Married at Age 15 and Above					
Total Population	165	0.57	0.06	0.43	0.68
Male	165	0.58	0.06	0.43	0.72
Female	165	0.55	0.05	0.43	0.67
Fraction of the Never-Married at Age 15 and Above					
Total Population	165	0.33	0.06	0.20	0.47
Male	165	0.35	0.06	0.22	0.52
Female	165	0.30	0.07	0.17	0.45
Fraction of the Divorced at Age 15 and Above					
Total Population	150	0.03	0.03	0.10/10 ³	0.12
Male	150	0.02	0.03	0.05/10 ³	0.10
Female	150	0.03	0.03	0.10/10 ³	0.13
Fraction of the Widowed at Age 15 and Above					
Total Population	158	0.08	0.01	0.06	0.13
Male	158	0.04	0.01	0.02	0.07
Female	158	0.12	0.02	0.08	0.19
Sectoral Shares					
Agricultural Share	165	0.13	0.11	0.01	0.51
Manufacturing Share	165	0.34	0.07	0.17	0.53
Service Share	165	0.53	0.11	0.25	0.74
Real GDP Per Capita (in 1993 international dollars)	171	8961	6265	1156	26829

Note: In the above table, the number of observations of the fraction of the divorced and that of the fraction of the widowed are both less than that of the fraction of the married. This is because information on the divorced and the widowed is not always available in some countries, and thus we couldn't construct the numbers.

The data cover all the country-year *observations* in our panel data.

Sectoral Share We use cross-country data of value-added sectoral shares from Buera and Kaboski (2012b). They construct historical time series data for nominal value-added shares of three broad sectors, agriculture, manufacturing and services, over the twentieth century for all countries in our sample except Finland. For Finland, we collect the data from Herrendorf, Rogerson, and Valentinyi (2014). The shares represent the relative extent of each sector's economic activities in the whole economy.⁶

2.2 Summary Statistics

Table 1 describes summary statistics for our data set. The top row shows that the fraction of the married in the total population at age 15 and above varies between 0.43 percent and 0.68 percent in our sample. If we compare the fraction of the married across genders, the fraction of married men (0.58 percent) is somewhat higher than that of married women

⁶Sectoral employment shares are another measure of structural transformation. However, historical data are scarce compared to nominal value-added shares.

(0.55 percent). This difference reflects the biological fact that there are more women in the economy because women tend to live longer than men. In addition to the fraction of the married, we also report the fraction of the never-married, the fraction of the divorced, and the fraction of the widowed in the total population at age 15 and above. Furthermore, there are three value-added share variables which we use in our analysis (agriculture, manufacturing, and services). These variables also exhibit considerable variation: the agricultural share ranges from 0.01 percent to 0.51 percent. The manufacturing share ranges from 0.17 to 0.53 percent, while the service share goes from 0.25 to 0.74 percent. In the final row, we also report real GDP per capita (1156 to 26829). This shows a large variation as well, reflecting the fact that most of the countries in our sample achieved significant economic development over the last century.

2.3 Changes in the Age Structure

In the data, older people are more likely to be married than younger people. Therefore, changes in the age structure of the population, which have occurred in most of the countries over the twentieth century, can potentially affect the fraction of the married population over time. The age structure of population has changed due to several reasons. For instance, baby booms occurred in many of the OECD countries in the mid of the century, and life expectancy has improved dramatically during the second half of the century. Moreover, the majority of countries in our sample experienced war(s) at the beginning and/or in the middle of the century.

To analyze the effects of changes in the age structure of the population on marital statistics, we compute two counter-factual time series. In the first, we assume that the age structure of the population in each year is the same as the one in a base year. As a result, this new series only reflects changes in people's marriage behavior at the various ages. In the second, we assume that the age-specific fraction of the married is the same as the one in the base year. So, the second series only reflects changes driven by changes in the age structure of the population.

More specifically, suppose that the data on marital status is collected by J age groups in each period in a country. Let T_t denote the total population of the country, $X_t(j)$ the total population of the j -th age group, and $M_t(j)$ the number of the married in the j -th age group in period t . Then, the country's fraction of the married in year t with the age structure fixed at that in the base year t^* , is obtained by

$$F_t^1 = \sum_{j=1}^J \left[\left(\frac{M_t(j)}{X_t(j)} \right) \left(\frac{X_{t^*}(j)}{T_{t^*}} \right) \right]. \quad (1)$$

Similarly, the country's fraction of the married in year t with the age-specific marriage rates fixed at those in the base year t^* , is obtained by

$$F_t^2 = \sum_{j=1}^J \left[\left(\frac{M_{t^*}(j)}{X_{t^*}(j)} \right) \left(\frac{X_t(j)}{T_t} \right) \right]. \quad (2)$$

The two counter-factual series (1) and (2) are used for robustness checks on our results in the following sections. Similar methods are applied for the fraction of the never-married and for the fraction of the divorced.

3 Empirical Analysis

This section is devoted to analyzing the relationship between marriage and economic development. We first discuss the evolution of the married, the never married and the divorced in the 16 OECD countries. Then, we investigate the relationship between marriage and economic development.

3.1 Evolution of Marriage in OECD Countries, 1900-2000

Fraction of the Married Figure 1 shows the fraction of the married in total population at age 15 and above for the 16 OECD countries in our sample. In the majority of countries, the fraction of the married rises in the early and mid-twentieth century, peaks between 1960 and 1980, and decreases thereafter. This pattern is robust for males and females, and to changes in the age structure. We document those robustness results in Appendix B and C.⁷

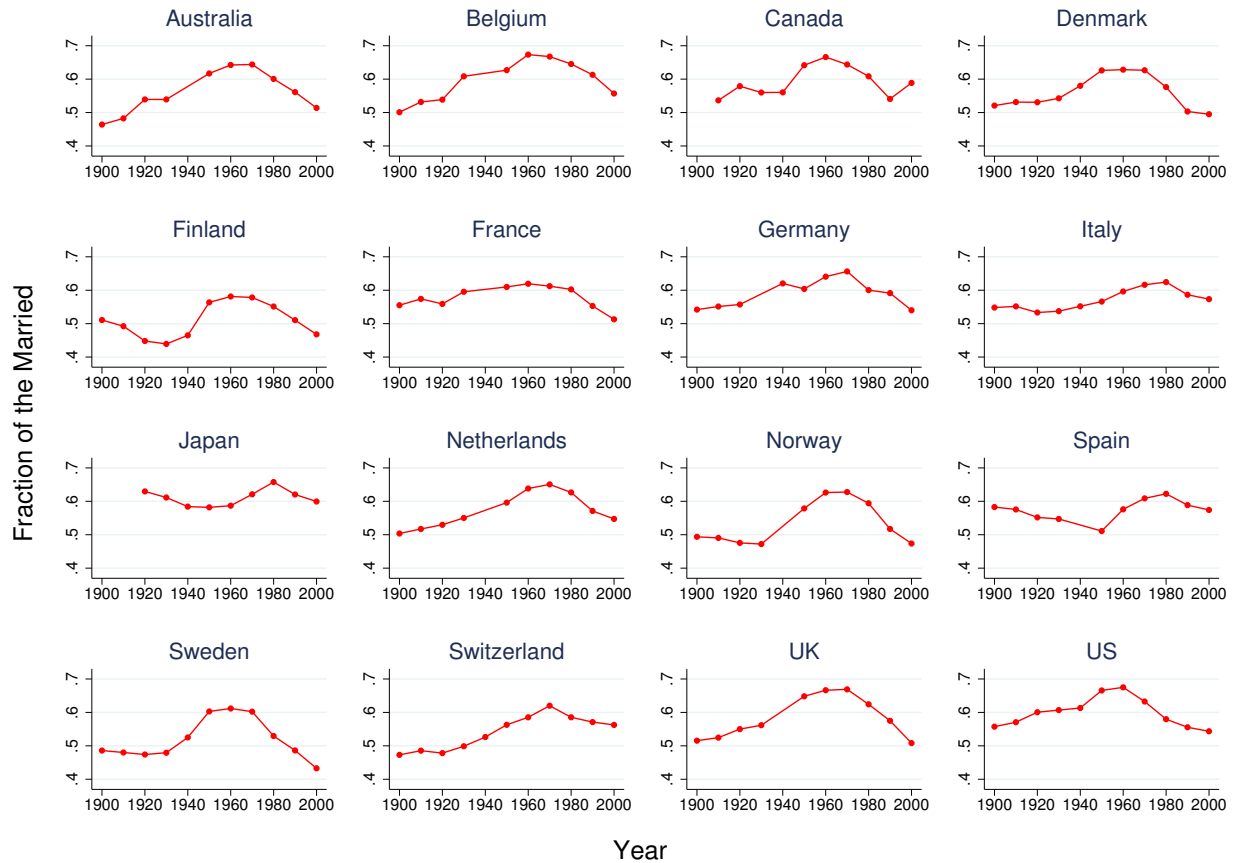
Changes in the Married Table 2 summarizes the information on the changes in the fraction of the married for each country over the last century. The table reports the peak value of the fraction of the married and, the year of the peak (Column (1)), the lowest values before and after the peak and the years they are observed (Columns (2) and (3)), as well as the change in the fraction of the married between those years (Columns (4) and (5)).

In Column (4) and (5), we construct the counter-factual time series discussed in Section 2.3, and report the results in addition to the raw value of the changes from the one trough to the peak and from the peak to the another trough. The numbers in the first bracket $[\cdot]$ are those obtained by keeping the age structure as in the peak year.⁸ Thus, these numbers show changes in people's marriage behavior purely driven by changes in the fraction of the

⁷In addition, we compute the fraction of the married by age group and the flow rate of marriage, which are reported in Appendix D and E.

⁸We use the peak year as the base year because we want to decompose the contribution of the two components both to the increase and to the decline of marriages. Thus, the peak year seems the most natural choice in this context.

FIGURE 1 – Fraction of the Married, Age 15+, OECD Countries, 1900–2000



married in each age group. On the other hand, the numbers in the second bracket ($\cdot$) are those obtained by keeping the age-specific marriage rates fixed to their values in the peak year. These numbers then show changes driven by the evolution of the age structure of the population over time. Due to the lack of age-specific data, the decomposition results are not available for Germany and some years in U.K.

As reported in Columns (4) and (5), there is some variation across countries in terms of the magnitude of the changes in the fraction of the married. Countries like Australia, Belgium, and Norway witnessed the largest increase in the fraction of the married up to the peak (more than 16 percentage points). Other countries experienced an increase of 6 to 15 percentage points. In France, Italy, and Japan, the increase in the fraction of the married was less than 9 percentage points. Regarding the decline from the peak, in countries such as Norway, Sweden, and the U.K., the fraction of the married decreased by more than 15 percentage points after the peak. Other countries experienced a decline of 5 to 13 percentage points.

TABLE 2 – Changes in Fraction of the Married at Age 15+

Country	Value at the Peak (Year)		Lowest before the Peak (Year)		Lowest after the Peak (Year)		Difference between (1) and (2)			Difference between (3) and (1)		
	(1)		(2)		(3)		(4)			(5)		
Australia	0.64	(1970)	0.46	(1900)	0.51	(2000)	0.18	[0.15]	(0.01)	-0.13	[-0.17]	(0.03)
Belgium	0.67	(1960)	0.50	(1900)	0.56	(2000)	0.17	[0.13]	(0.04)	-0.12	[-0.12]	(0.00)
Canada	0.67	(1960)	0.54	(1910)	0.54	(1990)	0.13	[0.09]	(0.02)	-0.13	[-0.14]	(0.02)
Denmark	0.63	(1960)	0.52	(1900)	0.50	(2000)	0.11	[0.07]	(0.03)	-0.13	[-0.15]	(0.02)
Finland	0.58	(1960)	0.44	(1930)	0.47	(2000)	0.14	[0.12]	(0.02)	-0.11	[-0.15]	(0.01)
France	0.62	(1960)	0.56	(1900)	0.51	(2000)	0.06	[0.06]	(0.01)	-0.11	[-0.11]	(0.00)
Germany	0.66	(1970)	0.54	(1900)	0.54	(2000)	0.11	[NA]	(NA)	-0.12	[NA]	(NA)
Italy	0.62	(1980)	0.53	(1920)	0.57	(2000)	0.09	[0.06]	(0.03)	-0.05	[-0.08]	(0.03)
Japan	0.66	(1980)	0.58	(1950)	0.60	(2000)	0.08	[0.01]	(0.09)	-0.06	[-0.08]	(-0.01)
Netherlands	0.65	(1970)	0.50	(1900)	0.55	(2000)	0.15	[0.13]	(0.01)	-0.10	[-0.16]	(0.05)
Norway	0.63	(1970)	0.47	(1930)	0.47	(2000)	0.16	[0.13]	(0.01)	-0.15	[-0.17]	(0.03)
Spain	0.62	(1980)	0.51	(1950)	0.56	(2000)	0.11	[0.10]	(0.01)	-0.06	[-0.06]	(-0.01)
Sweden	0.61	(1960)	0.47	(1920)	0.43	(2000)	0.14	[0.09]	(0.04)	-0.18	[-0.19]	(0.00)
Switzerland	0.62	(1970)	0.47	(1900)	0.56	(2000)	0.15	[0.13]	(0.02)	-0.06	[-0.09]	(0.02)
U.K.	0.67	(1970)	0.52	(1900)	0.51	(2000)	0.15	[NA]	(NA)	-0.16	[-0.18]	(0.02)
U.S.	0.68	(1960)	0.56	(1900)	0.54	(2000)	0.12	[0.07]	(0.02)	-0.13	[-0.13]	(0.00)

Note: In Columns (4) and (5), the numbers in the bracket $[\cdot]$ are the changes in the fraction of the married when we keep the age structure same as that in the peak year. The numbers in the bracket $(\cdot)$ are those when we keep the age-specific marriage rates same as those in the peak year. Due to the lack of age-specific data, we cannot perform the decomposition for Germany and some years in U.K.

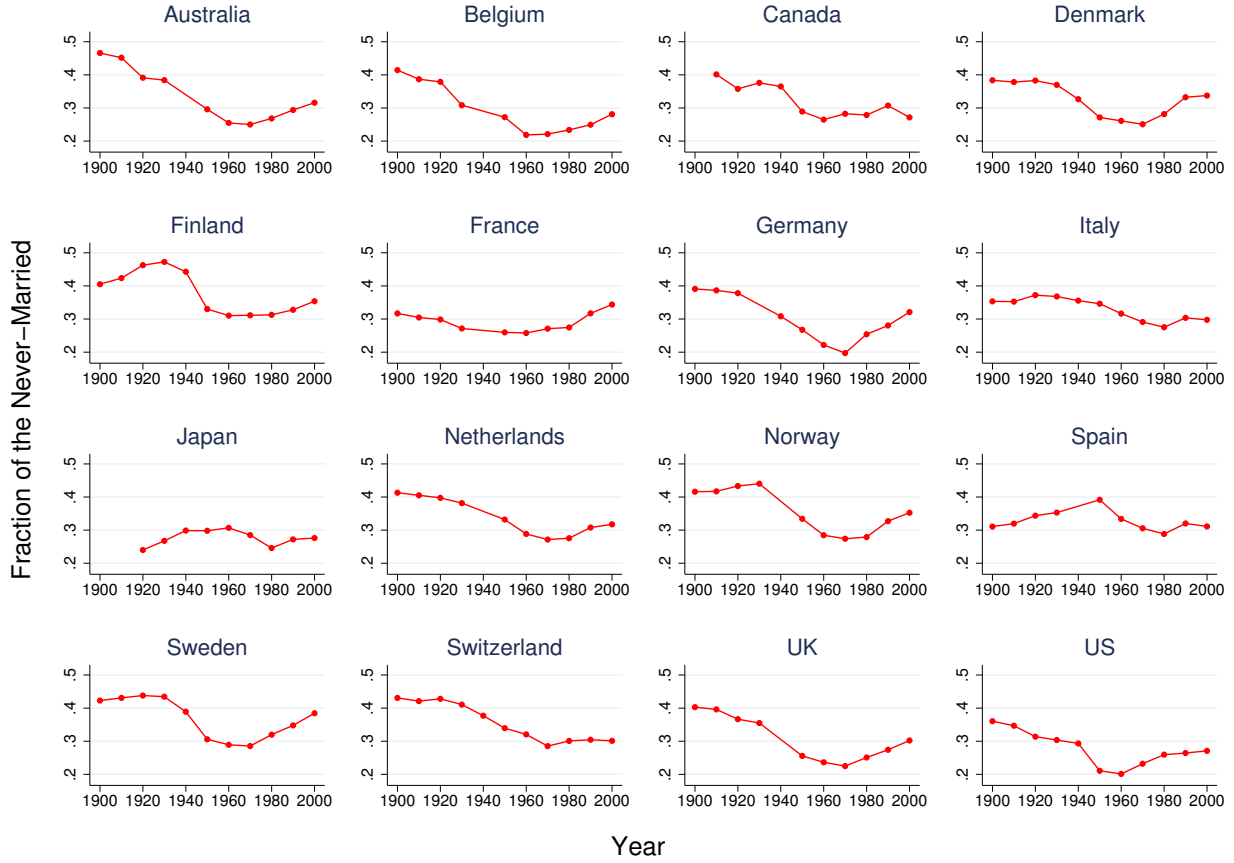
The numbers in brackets in Columns (4) and (5) confirm the idea that the rise and fall of the fraction of the married is driven by changes in marriage behavior within age groups. Changes in the age structure of the population play a small role in accounting for the long-term marriage trends, except for Japan. For this country, the change in the age distribution largely contributed to the rise of the fraction of the married between 1950 and 1980.

Fraction of the Never-Married Figure 2 reports the fraction of the never married in total population at age 15 and above. For most countries a weakly U-shaped pattern is observed. Loosely speaking, for most countries the pattern of the fraction of the never married looks like the mirror image of the fraction of the married, although the magnitude of the changes is different.

Fraction of the Divorced Figure 3 reports the fraction of the divorced (plus the separated) in total population at age 15 and above. For all countries, except for Japan, the number of divorces increases significantly in the second half of the last century, while before 1950 the increase is modest. Some countries display almost no variation in divorces for most of the 20th century. For instance, the data show no trend in Australia until 1950, in Canada until 1960, and in Italy and in the U.K. until 1970. Japan displays a slightly pronounced U-shape, but this country shows almost no variation over the century.

By taking together the information in Figures 2 and 3, it appears that the increasing part

FIGURE 2 – Fraction of the Never-Married, Age 15+, OECD Countries, 1900–2000



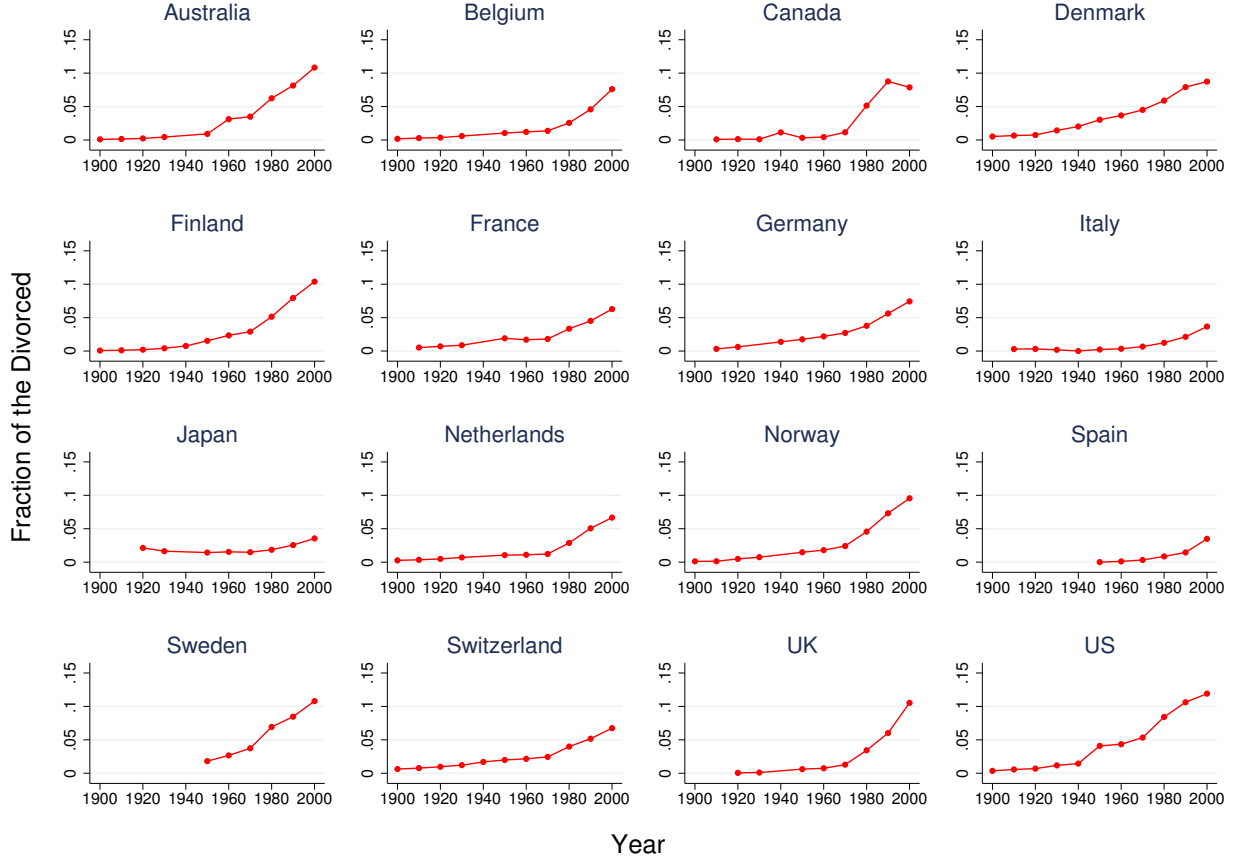
of the hump of the fraction of the married is mainly driven by the decline in the fraction of the never married. On the other hand, the decreasing part of the hump is due to the combination of the decline in the fraction of the never-married and the increase in that of the divorced.

3.2 Marriage and Economic Development

Methodology To study the relationship between marriage and economic development, we first follow the approach in [Buera and Kaboski \(2012b\)](#) to control for country-specific effects in each data series. That is, we regress each data series (the fraction of the married in the total population at age 15 and above, and the value-added share of each sector) on a cubic function of log of real GDP per capita with country dummies:

$$s_{i,t} = \Phi(\log[real_GDP_per_capita]) + D_i + \epsilon_{i,t}, \quad (3)$$

FIGURE 3 – Fraction of the Divorced, Age 15+, OECD Countries, 1900–2000



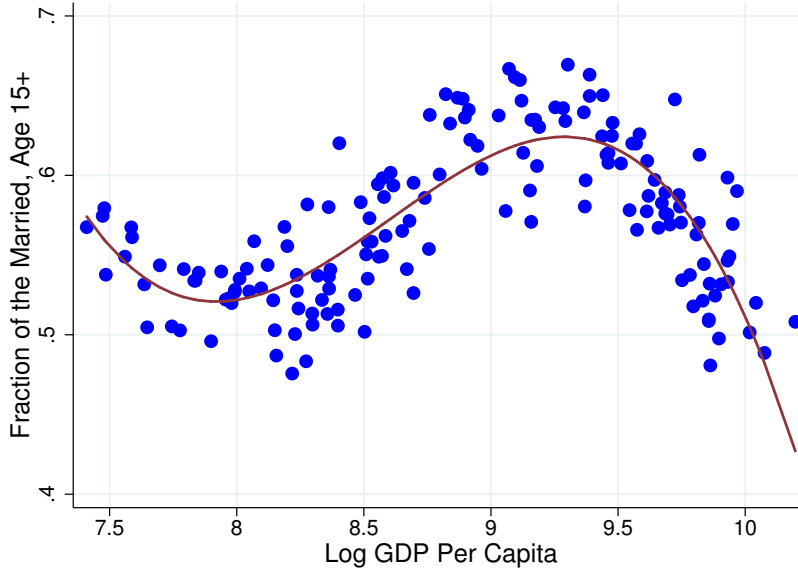
where $\Phi(\cdot)$ is a cubic polynomial, $s_{i,t}$ denotes the value of each data series for country i in period t , D_i is country i 's dummy to capture the country-specific effect, and $\epsilon_{i,t}$ is an error term. Then, we subtract the estimated country-fixed effects from the raw data.

In order to confirm that our results don't depend on the choice of the specific functional form in (3), we also use a nonparametric plot. Specifically, we apply a kernel smoothed local linear regression with a rule of thumb bandwidth.⁹

Evolution of Marriage on the Economic Growth Path Figure 4 reports the relationship between the fraction of the married and log real GDP per capita, controlling for country-fixed effects. The evolution of marriage displays a clear hump-shaped pattern as the income level increases. From the level of log real GDP per capita of around 8 to 9.25, there is an increase in the fraction of married population, followed by a steep decline. At the level of log real GDP per capita of around 10, the fraction of the married is at a similar level as it is for a log real GDP per capita of around 8. While the decline in the fraction of

⁹For details about a kernel regression, see [Cameron and Trivedi \(2005\)](#) for example.

FIGURE 4 – Fraction of the Married, Age 15+, by GDP Per Capita, OECD Countries, 1900–2000



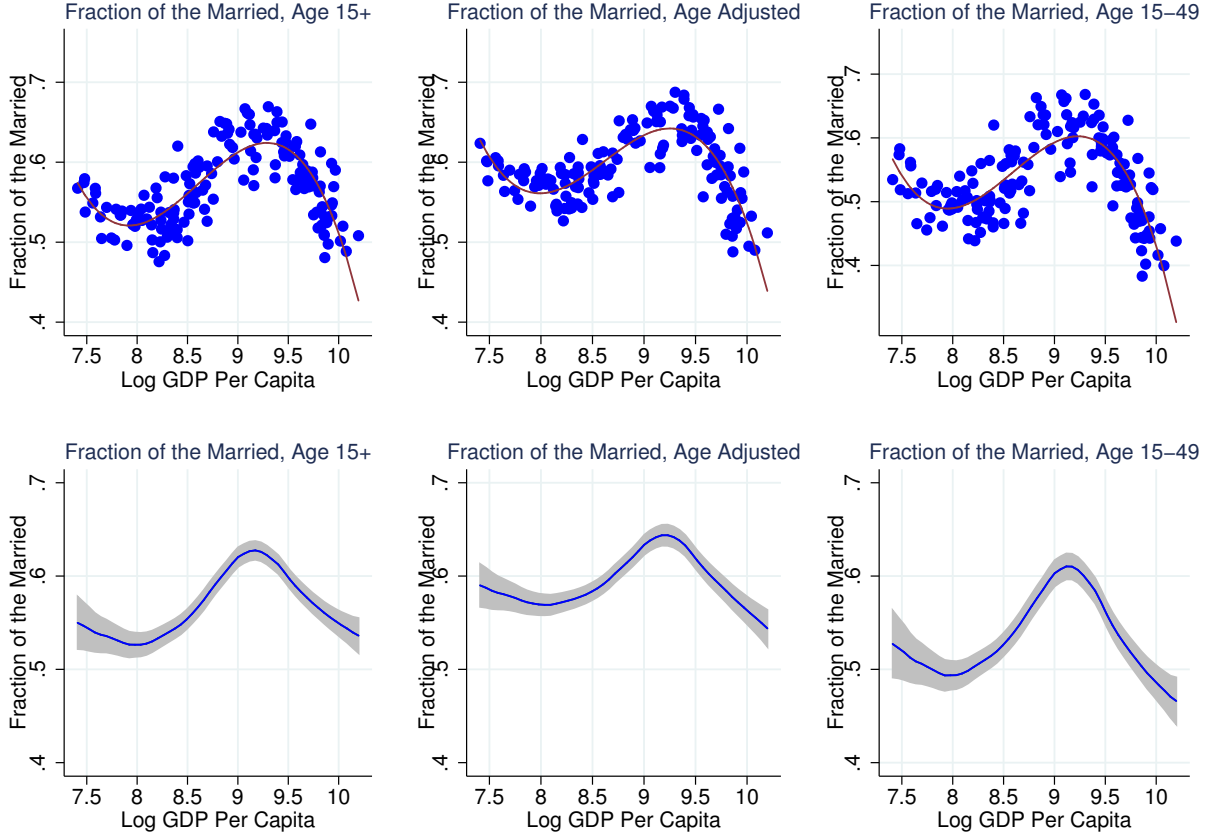
the married in the last decades is a well documented fact, the evidence on the systematic increase in marriages occurring at lower levels of income as GDP grows, is novel.

Although Figure 4 shows a clear hump-shaped pattern of the fraction of the married, such a pattern can be due to the fact that we are using raw marriage data, which are exposed to changes in the age structure, or that we are employing a particular econometric methodology. Therefore, we check that our finding is robust to various treatments. In Figure 5, we first consider the age-adjusted measure of the fraction of the married, because a change in the structure of the population can, per-se, affect the fraction of the married. We apply the method of Equation (1) in Section 2.3 by setting the year 2000 as the base year. Thus, the computed age-adjusted series fixes the population structure to the one in the year 2000.¹⁰ The top-middle panel reports the relationship of the age-adjusted fraction of the married with log real GDP per capita. The resulting pattern is very close to the one shown from the raw data, displayed in the top-left panel for comparison. Next, we consider the population between 15 and 49 years old, in order to shut down the effect of the changes in life expectancy. This is reported in the top-right panel of Figure 5. Again, the resulting relationship is very close to the one in the top-left panel. It is important to note that, in all three figures, the top of the hump-shape coincides with a level of log real GDP per capita of 9.25.

Finally, we address a potential methodological issue. It is possible that the hump-shaped

¹⁰Note that, unlike the decomposition analysis in Section 3.1, here we use the common base year, 2000, for the age-adjusted series because we are pooling all countries together. However, the choice of the base year doesn't change our results significantly.

FIGURE 5 – Fraction of the Married by GDP Per Capita, OECD Countries, 1900–2000



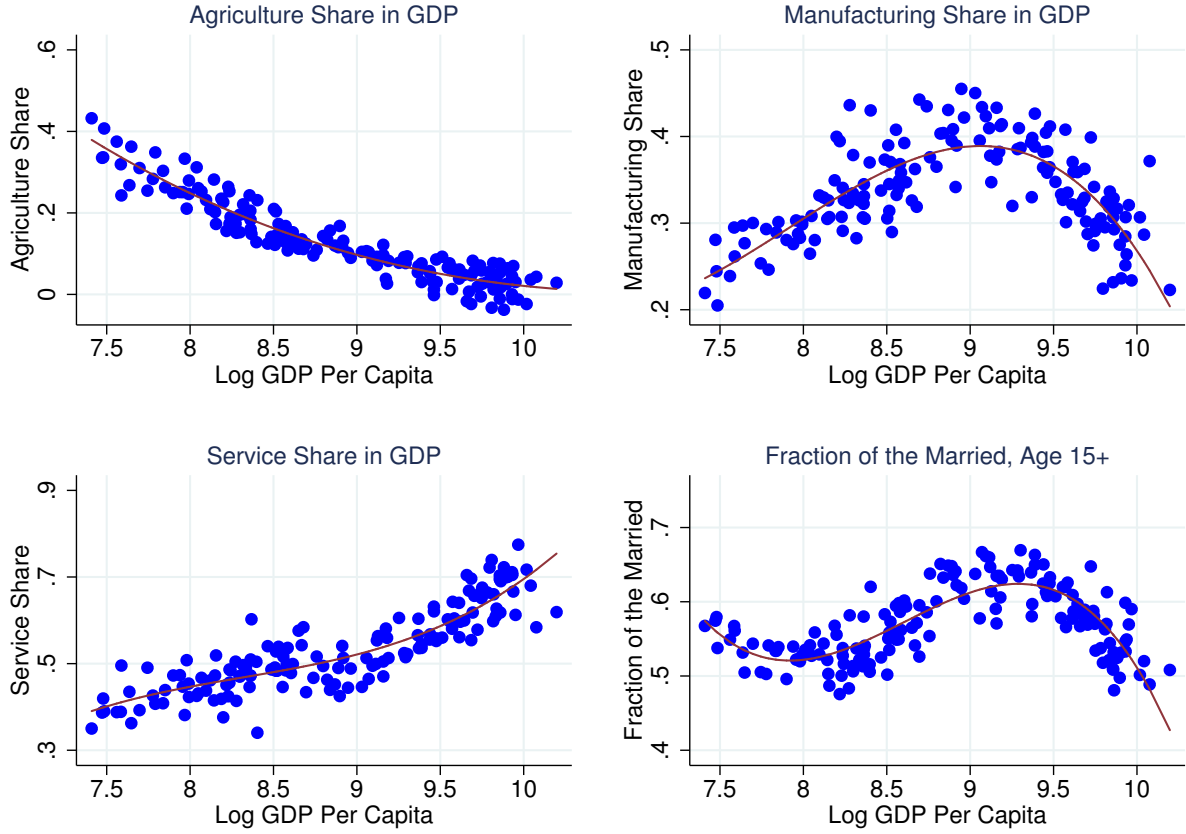
Note: In the bottom 3 panels, gray areas indicate 95 percent confidence intervals.

pattern of the fraction of the married is due to the particular cubic relationship that we assume when we control for fixed effects. In the bottom panels of Figure 5, we report the results of nonparametric plots of the fraction of the married against log real GDP per capita. For the three different measures of the fraction of the married, raw, age-adjusted, and aged 15–49, the estimation provides a clear hump-shaped relationship. Also, the top of the hump again coincides with a level of log real GDP of 9.25.

Marriage and Industrial Structure In the previous subsection, we showed how the fraction of the married evolves as GDP per capita grows. However, GDP growth is a synthetic measure of economic activities, and does not provide information on distributional changes of income over the development path, especially between men and women.¹¹ If economic opportunities for the two sexes improve in different ways as GDP grows, marital

¹¹Economic theories which explain how the sectoral composition affects relative income of men and women are provided by Galor and Weil (1996), Rendall (2010), and Ngai and Petrongolo (forthcoming). Empirical evidence is documented in Rendall (2013), Olivetti and Petrongolo (2014), and Olivetti (2014).

FIGURE 6 – Scatter Plots of Fraction of the Married and Sectoral Shares by GDP Per Capita (Fixed Effects Controlled), OECD Countries, 1900–2000



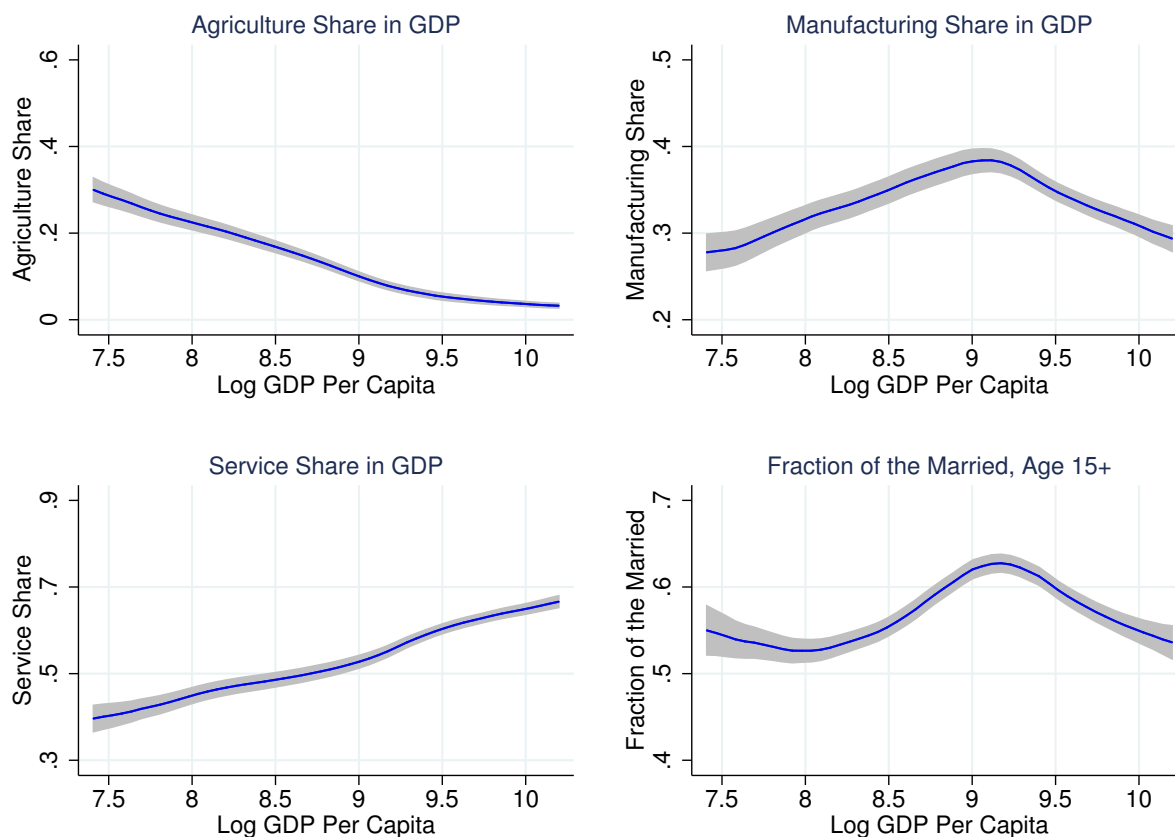
incentives of individuals might also be affected, as many previous studies pointed out.¹² Indeed, [Goldin \(1995\)](#) argues that, relative to men, women appear to be historically barred from the manufacturing sector, due to social norms or employer preferences. Thus, with a rise of manufacturing as a share of GDP, women might work more at home and less in the market, experiencing a decline in the average wage relative to men.¹³ On the other hand, with the modern rise of the services sectors, the female labor force participation rate and wages soar, as described in [Ngai and Petrongolo \(forthcoming\)](#).¹⁴ Therefore, it seems

¹²For how changes in economic opportunities alter gains of marriage from specialization and change individuals' incentives to marry, see [Becker \(1973\)](#), [Lam \(1988\)](#), [Chade and Ventura \(2002\)](#), and [Regalia, Ríos-Rull, and Short \(2011\)](#) among others.

¹³[Rendall \(2017\)](#) finds that in the U.S. wives with a husband working in manufacturing have a smaller probability of working in the market. In related work, we show that the process of structural transformation is tightly linked to the amount of labor devoted to work at home. See [Moro, Moslehi, and Tanaka \(2017\)](#).

¹⁴In their recent work, [Bertrand, Cortés, Olivetti, and Pan \(2016\)](#) show that the increase in the market wage of skilled women, can produce an increase or a decrease in the relative marriage rate of skilled and unskilled women, depending on the social norms in the country.

FIGURE 7 – Nonparametric Plots of Fraction of the Married and Sectoral Shares by GDP Per Capita, OECD Countries, 1900–2000



Note: Gray areas indicate 95 percent confidence intervals.

natural to analyze how marriage relates to changes in sectoral shares in GDP (structural transformation) that occur as GDP grows.¹⁵

To investigate if there is a relationship between structural transformation and marriage, in Figure 6 we report the evolution of the GDP share of the three broad sectors (agriculture, manufacturing, and services) against log real GDP per capita, controlling for country-specific fixed effects.¹⁶ The figure shows that, as countries become richer, the importance of agriculture in the economy shrinks, while that of services increases. The manufacturing sector instead, displays a hump-shaped pattern.

In the bottom-right panel of Figure 6, we report the fraction of the married in the population at age 15 and above. Notably, the graph displays a behavior that is similar to

¹⁵For how sectoral shares change as an economy grows, see Buera and Kaboski (2012b) and Herrendorf, Rogerson, and Valentinyi (2014) among many others.

¹⁶The method to control fixed effects is similar to the one we earlier applied for the fraction of the married.

FIGURE 8 – Scatter Plots of the Fraction of the Married on the Manufacturing Share in GDP, OECD Countries, 1900–2000



Note: The straight lines are the fitted values and the gray areas indicate 95 percent confidence intervals.

TABLE 3 – Correlation between Fraction of the Married and Manufacturing Share

Series Name	Fraction of the Married		
	Age 15+	Age 15+ Adjusted	Age 15-49
Correlation with Man. Share	0.49	0.46	0.49

that of the manufacturing sector. In particular, the peak of the estimated curve is found at the same level of log real GDP per capita both for marriage and for manufacturing. The pattern is more evident by looking at the results of the nonparametric plot shown in Figure 7.

To confirm the positive correlation between the fraction of the married and the manufacturing share in GDP, Figure 8 shows the scatter plots of the fraction of the married on the manufacturing share for three different definitions. The left panel shows the plot of the married in the population at age 15 and above, the middle panel shows the age-adjusted series while the right panel shows those of the married in the population between 15 and 49 years old. All figures report a positive correlation between the manufacturing share and the fraction of the married in our sample of OECD countries during the period 1900–2000. Table 3 reports the correlation coefficients with the manufacturing share for the three series, which are 0.49, 0.46, and 0.49, respectively.

Our results on marriage appear to be consistent with the theory described in [Goldin](#)

(1995). As income grows, the industrial structure of the economy benefits men and women in different ways. Manufacturing sectors provide more employment opportunities and increase relative wages of men, while service sectors do the same thing for women. This, in turn, affects the incentives to marry. The mechanism is also highlighted in Autor, Dorn, and Hanson (2017). They exploit trade shocks from China across commuting zones in the U.S., and find that a decline in the manufacturing share reduces prevalence of marriage among young women. They also document that such a shock has a large negative impact on men’s relative annual earnings, arguing that it reduces the number of “marriageable” males, which supports the theory of Goldin (1995). Consistent with their finding, our cross-country evidence suggests that, the sectoral share of manufacturing is related to the rise and fall of prevalence of marriage observed in the OECD countries over the last century.

4 Conclusion

In this paper, we provided a newly constructed data set on marital statistics across countries and over time that is suitable for quantitative analysis. To our knowledge, this is the most comprehensive data set on marriage available for OECD countries. Our data span the entire twentieth century, during which several social, technological, economic, institutional and demographic changes took place, including world shocks such as the two great wars. Thus, our data set is potentially suitable to analyze the relationship between marriage and several social changes, allowing researchers to control for individual countries’ idiosyncratic conditions. We used this data set to analyze the relationship between marriage and economic development. Although there is a large body of literature that discusses the role of economic conditions to account for changes in marriage over the development path, no study could provide a quantitative assessment of this relationship. Our quantitative results shed light on the effect of sectoral composition in the economy on family formation.

We have shown that the fractions of the married displays a clear hump-shaped pattern as income grows. One interpretation of such a non-monotonic relationship is that, as GDP grows, the distribution of income becomes more even or uneven between the two genders. As the economic status of men and women is a key factor in marital decisions, the fraction of the married can move following a change in the gender distribution of income. A well known factor that can affect such distribution is the process of structural transformation. The idea is that some sectors of the economy (namely the manufacturing sector) favor male labor relative to female labor, so a rise of the value-added share of these sectors in the economy can affect the distribution of income between men and women. This being the case, a relationship between structural transformation and marriage should be clearly observable.

To investigate the above possibility, we use our cross-country data set together with the

data on value-added shares of agriculture, manufacturing and services of our 16 OECD countries. We find a positive relationship between marriage and the manufacturing share. Thus, our results indicate that the industrial structure of the economy is related to the pattern of marriage observed in OECD countries over the last century. Finally, it is due noting here that we limit our analysis to the period 1900–2000 because this is when most OECD countries have experienced significant changes in their manufacturing share.¹⁷ However, as many countries had their demographic transition under way in the late 19th century, it is possible that there is a more pronounced decline in marriage rates preceding the twentieth century hump in those countries.¹⁸ We leave this investigation for future research.

¹⁷See, for example, [Herrendorf, Rogerson, and Valentinyi \(2014\)](#).

¹⁸[Galor \(2005\)](#) discusses the decline in fertility rates and population growth and the associated enhancement of technological progress and human capital formation during this period.

Appendix

A Data Source

This Appendix reports the data sources for each of the OECD countries in our sample. There are eight special cases, which could apply for a country-year observation in Table A.1. These eight cases are as follows.

(*1) Information on the number of *divorced* individuals is not available.

- France (1900), Germany (1900), and Sweden (1900-1950) report the number of *divorced* individuals and that of *widowed* individuals together. Therefore, we cannot obtain each number.
- Spain (1900-1930), Italy (1900), and the U.K. (1900-1910) don't even have a category of *divorced* individuals or that of *separated* individuals.

(*2) Information on the number of *widowed* individuals is not available.

(*3) Data have information on the number of individuals who are *separated*.

(*4) Data have information on the number of individuals who are *in a consensual union*.

(*5) Data have information on the number of individuals who are *previously in a consensual union*.

- Norway (2000) reports this number. However, the category doesn't provide information on the reason of the separation from a consensual union. Therefore, we couldn't determine whether we should consider these individuals as the *divorced* or the *widowed*. Thus, we didn't use this information in the analysis.

(*6) The *married* category includes individuals who are *in a consensual union*.

(*7) The *divorced* category includes individuals who are *separated*.

(*8) Data are based on the UNSD's estimates.

In Table A.1 below, we put remarks (*1–8) to indicate whether each case applies for a country-year observation.

TABLE A.1 – Summary of Data Sources

Country	Year	Data Year ¹⁹	Data Sources	Age Groups ²⁰
Australia	1900	1901	Statistical Yearbook 1901 (p.175-179)	0-14, 15-59 (5-year intervals), 60-80 (10-year intervals), 80+
	1910	1911	Census 1911 (Vol. III, Part IX, Table 3-4, p.1078-1081)	0-13, 14-20 (1-year intervals), 21-99 (5-year intervals), 100+
	1920	1921	Census 1921 (Vol. I, Part VIII, Table 8-9, p.494-497)	0-99 (5-year intervals), 100+
	1930	1933	Census 1933 (Vol. II, Part XVIII, Table 5, p.1118-1119)	0-99 (5-year intervals), 100+
	1940	-	No available data	-
	1950	1947 (*3)	Census 1947 (Vol. I, Part X, Table 5, p.604-605)	0-99 (5-year intervals), 100+
	1960	1961 (*3)	Census 1961 (Bulletin No. 31, Table 17-18, p.35-38)	0-14, 15-99 (5-year intervals), 100+
	1970	1971 (*3)	Census 1971 (Bulletin No. 3, Part 9, Table 1, p.1)	0-14, 15-99 (5-year intervals), 100+
	1980	1981 (*3)	Census 1981 (Catalogue No. 2452.0, Table 43, p.81)	15-64 (5-year intervals), 65+
	1990	1991 (*3)	Census 1991 (Catalogue No. 2710.0, Table 3, p.14)	15-64 (5-year intervals), 65+
Belgium	2000	2001 (*3)	The UNSD's data on marriage and divorce ²¹	15-99 (5-year intervals), 100+
	1900	1900	Statistical Yearbook 1914 (p.70-73)	0-14, 15-99 (5-year intervals), 100+
	1910	1910	Statistical Yearbook 1914 (p.70-73)	0-14, 15-99 (5-year intervals), 100+
	1920	1920	Statistical Yearbook 1933 (p.26-27)	0-14, 15-99 (5-year intervals), 100+
	1930	1930	Statistical Yearbook 1940 (p.36-37)	0-14, 15-99 (5-year intervals), 100+
	1940	-	No available data	-
	1950	1947	Statistical Yearbook 1955 (p.46-47)	0-14, 15-99 (5-year intervals), 100+
	1960	1961	Statistical Yearbook 1965 (p.69)	0-84 (5-year intervals), 85+
	1970	1970	Statistical Yearbook 1975 (Table 12, p.33)	0-84 (5-year intervals), 85+
	1980	1981	The UNSD's data on marriage and divorce	0-14, 15-74 (5-year intervals), 75+
Canada	1990	1991 (*8)	The UNSD's data on marriage and divorce	0-14, 15-74 (5-year intervals), 75+
	2000	2001	The UNSD's data on marriage and divorce	0-14, 15-99 (5-year intervals), 100+
	1900	-	No available data	-
	1910	1911	Census 1921 (Vol. II, Table 29, p.140-141)	15-99 (5-year intervals), 100+
	1920	1921	Census 1921 (Vol. II, Table 29, p.140-141)	15-99 (5-year intervals), 100+
	1930	1931	Census 1931 (Vol. III, Table 12, p.94-95)	0-14, 15-99 (5-year intervals), 100+
	1940	1941 (*3)	Census 1941 (Bulletin C-10, Table 3, p.6)	15-24 (5-year intervals), 25-64 (10-year intervals), 65-69, 70+
	1950	1951	The UNSD's data on marriage and divorce	0-14, 15-74 (5-year intervals), 75+

¹⁹ *Data Year* column reports the actual year when the data were collected.

²⁰ *Age Groups* column describes the structure of age groups. For example, “0-14” indicates a group of individuals whose age is between 0 and 14.

²¹ UNSD stands for the United Nations Statistics Division.

1960	1961	The UNSD's data on marriage and divorce	0-14, 15-74 (5-year intervals), 75+
1970	1971	The UNSD's data on marriage and divorce	0-14, 15-74 (5-year intervals), 75+
1980	1981 (*3)	The UNSD's data on marriage and divorce	0-14, 15-74 (5-year intervals), 75+
1990	1991 (*3)	The UNSD's data on marriage and divorce	0-14, 15-74 (5-year intervals), 75+
2000	2001 (*3, *4)	The UNSD's data on marriage and divorce	0-14, 15-99 (5-year intervals), 100+
Denmark			
1900	1901 (*3)	Statistical Yearbook 1904 (Table 6, p.10-11)	0-99 (5-year intervals), 100+
1910	1911 (*3)	Statistical Yearbook 1914 (Table 7, p.11)	0-99 (5-year intervals), 100+
1920	1920 (*3)	Census 1921 (Table 2, p.22-23)	0-99 (5-year intervals), 100+
1930	1930 (*3)	Census 1930 (Table IIa, p.22-23)	0-99 (5-year intervals), 100+
1940	1940 (*3)	Census 1944 (Table IIa, p.28-29)	0-99 (5-year intervals), 100+
1950	1950 (*3)	Statistical Yearbook 1954 (Table 10, p.12)	0-79 (5-year intervals), 80+
1960	1960 (*3)	Statistical Yearbook 1963-64 (Table 11, p.31)	0-89 (5-year intervals), 90+
1970	1970 (*3)	Statistical Yearbook 1970 (Table 11, p.42)	0-89 (5-year intervals), 90+
1980	1980	Statistical Yearbook 1980 (Table 10, p.21)	0-89 (5-year intervals), 90+
1990	1990	Statistical Yearbook 1990 (Table 40, p.31)	0-94 (5-year intervals), 95+
2000	2000	Danish Statistical Database 2000 (Table BEF1)	0-94 (5-year intervals), 95+
Finland			
1900	1900	Statistical Yearbook 1905 (Table 13a, p.29)	0-99 (5-year intervals), 100+
1910	1910	Statistical Yearbook 1914 (Table 15a, p.43)	0-99 (5-year intervals), 100+
1920	1920	Statistical Yearbook 1924 (Table 14, p.87)	0-99 (5-year intervals), 100+
1930	1930	Statistical Yearbook 1935 (Table 16, p.43)	0-99 (5-year intervals), 100+
1940	1940	Statistical Yearbook 1948 (Table 22, p.28)	0-99 (5-year intervals), 100+
1950	1950 (*3, *6)	The UNSD's data on marriage and divorce	0-14, 15-74 (5-year intervals), 75+
1960	1960 (*3, *6)	The UNSD's data on marriage and divorce	0-14, 15-74 (5-year intervals), 75+
1970	1970 (*3, *6)	The UNSD's data on marriage and divorce	0-14, 15-74 (5-year intervals), 75+
1980	1980	The UNSD's data on marriage and divorce	0-14, 15-74 (5-year intervals), 75+
1990	1991 (*8)	The UNSD's data on marriage and divorce	0-14, 15-74 (5-year intervals), 75+
2000	2000	The UNSD's data on marriage and divorce	0-14, 15-99 (5-year intervals), 100+
France			
1900	1901 (*1, *2)	Statistical Yearbook 1905 (Table 3, p.7)	0-94 (5-year intervals), 95+
1910	1911	Statistical Yearbook 1914-15 (Table 3, p.9)	0-4 (1-year intervals), 5-99 (5-year intervals), 100+
1920	1921	Statistical Yearbook 1927 (Table 5, p.8)	0-9 (10-year intervals), 10-19 (5-year intervals), 20-69 (10-year intervals), 70+
1930	1931	Statistical Yearbook 1936 (Table 5, p.9)	0-9 (10-year intervals), 10-19 (5-year intervals), 20-69 (10-year intervals), 70+
1940	-	No available data	-

1950	1953	Statistical Yearbook 1953 (Table 1, p.10-12)	0-99 (5-year intervals), 100+
1960	1962 (*6)	The UNSD's data on marriage and divorce	0-14, 15-74 (5-year intervals), 75+
1970	1968	The UNSD's data on marriage and divorce	0-14, 15-74 (5-year intervals), 75+
1980	1982	The UNSD's data on marriage and divorce	0-14, 15-74 (5-year intervals), 75+
1990	1990	The UNSD's data on marriage and divorce	0-14, 15-74 (5-year intervals), 75+
2000	1999	The UNSD's data on marriage and divorce	0-14, 15-99 (5-year intervals), 100+
Germany			
1900	1900 (*1, *2)	Statistical Yearbook 1904 (Table 7.B, p.6)	0-14, 14-15, 15-20 (3-year intervals), 20-21, 21-99 (5-year intervals), 100+
1910	1910	Statistical Yearbook 1914 (Table 8, p.8-9)	0-100 (1-year intervals), 101+
1920	1925	Statistical Yearbook 1933 (Table 10, p.16-17)	0-99 (1-year intervals), 100+
1930	-	No data available	-
1940	1939	Statistical Yearbook 1943 (Table 10, p.24)	0-73 (1-year intervals), 74-93 (5-year intervals), 94+
1950	1950 ²²	GDR Statistical Yearbook 1956 (Table 9, p.19)	0-14, 15-17, 18-20, 21-74 (5-year intervals), 75+
1950	1950	FRG Statistical Yearbook 1953 (Table 10, p.43)	0-14, 15, 16-17, 18-19, 20, 21-69 (5-year intervals), 70+
1960	1964	GDR Statistical Yearbook 1968 (Table 11, p.523)	0, 1-2, 3-4, 5-14 (5-year intervals), 15-17, 18-74 (1-year intervals), 75-100 (5-year intervals), 101+
1964	1964	FRG Statistical Yearbook 1966 (Table 10, p.40)	0-14, 15-74 (5-year intervals), 75+
1970	1971	GDR Statistical Yearbook 1974 (Table 1, p.417)	0-18, 18-79 (1-year intervals), 80+
1970	1970	FRG Statistical Yearbook 1974 (Table 10, p.48)	0-14, 15-74 (5-year intervals), 75+
1980	1981	GDR Statistical Yearbook 1984 (Table 6, p.347)	0, 1-2, 3-4, 5-14 (5-year intervals), 15-17, 18-79 (1-year intervals), 80+
1980	1980	FRG Statistical Yearbook 1983 (Table 3.10, p.62)	0-14, 15-74 (5-year intervals), 75+
1990	1990	Statistical Yearbook 1993 (Table 3.12, p.67)	0-14, 15-79 (5-year intervals), 80+
2000	2001	Statistical Yearbook 2003 (Table 3.12, p.61)	0-14, 15-79 (5-year intervals), 80+
Italy			
1900	1901 (*1)	Census 1901 (Table 3, p.337)	0-14 (1-year intervals), 15-20 (3-year intervals), 21-99 (5-year intervals), 100+
1910	1911 (*1, *3) ²³	Census 1921 (No.55, p.180-181)	15-99 (5-year intervals), 100+
1920	1921 (*1, *3)	Census 1921 (No.55, p.180-181)	15-99 (5-year intervals), 100+
1930	1931 (*3)	Census 1931 (Vol. 4, Part 2, Table 8, p.66-69)	0-99 (5-year intervals), 100+
1940	1936	Census 1936 (Vol. 3, Part 1, Table 5, p.114-118)	0-99 (5-year intervals), 100+

²²For the period 1950-1980, we combine the data of German Democratic Republic (GDR) and that of Federal Republic of Germany (FRG) to compute the marital statistics.

²³During the period 1910-1920, the data for Italy have no information on *divorced* individuals. Instead, they report the number of *legally separated* individuals.

Japan	1950	1951 (*3)	Census 1951 (Vol. 7, Table 20, p.123)	0-99 (5-year intervals), 100+
	1960	1961 (*3)	Census 1968 (Vol. 6, Table 2, p.120)	0-99 (5-year intervals), 100+
	1970	1971 (*3)	Census 1974 (Vol. 5, Table 2, p.232-233)	0-99 (5-year intervals), 100+
	1980	1981 (*3)	Census 1981 (Vol. 5, Table 12, p.191-192)	0-99 (5-year intervals), 100+
	1990	1991 (*3)	Census 1991 (Vol. 1, Table 2.1, p.73-74)	0-99 (5-year intervals), 100+
	2000	2001 (*3)	Census 2001	0-99 (5-year intervals), 100+
	1900	-	No available data	-
	1910	-	No available data	-
	1920	1920	Census Record 1920	15-84 (5-year intervals), 85+
	1930	1930	Census Record 1930	15-84 (5-year intervals), 85+
	1940	1940	Census Record 1940	15-84 (5-year intervals), 85+
	1950	1950	Census Record 1950	15-79 (5-year intervals), 80+
Netherlands	1960	1960	Census Record 1960	15-84 (5-year intervals), 85+
	1970	1970	Census Record 1970	15-84 (5-year intervals), 85+
	1980	1980	Census Record 1980	15-84 (5-year intervals), 85+
	1990	1990	Census Record 1990	15-84 (5-year intervals), 85+
	2000	2000	Census Record 2000	15-84 (5-year intervals), 85+
	1900	1899 (*3)	Statline Databank Netherlands	0-99 (5-year intervals), 100+
	1910	1909 (*3)	Census 1909 (Table II, p.375-378)	0-99 (5-year intervals), 100+
	1920	1921 (*3)	Census 1921 (Table II, p.247-249)	0-99 (5-year intervals), 100+
	1930	1930 (*3)	Statline Databank Netherlands	0-99 (5-year intervals), 100+
	1940	-	No available data	-
	1950	1950	Statline Databank Netherlands	0-94 (5-year intervals), , 95+
	1960	1960	Statline Databank Netherlands	0-94 (5-year intervals), , 95+
Norway	1970	1970	Statline Databank Netherlands	0-94 (5-year intervals), , 95+
	1980	1980	Statline Databank Netherlands	0-94 (5-year intervals), , 95+
	1990	1990	Statline Databank Netherlands	0-94 (5-year intervals), , 95+
	2000	2000	Statline Databank Netherlands	0-94 (5-year intervals), , 95+
	1900	1901 (*3)	Statistical Yearbook 1904 (Table 5, p.6-7)	0-104 (5-year intervals), 105+
	1910	1910	Census 1914 (Table 4, p.82-94)	0-99 (5-year intervals), 100+
	1920	1920 (*6)	Statistical Yearbook 1926 (Table 8, p.8)	0-104 (5-year intervals), 105+
	1930	1930 (*6)	Statistical Yearbook 1935 (Table 7, p.6-7)	0-99 (5-year intervals), 100+
	1940	-	No available data	-
	1950	1950 (*3)	Census 1953 (Table 3, p.144-155)	0-14 (5-year intervals), 15-17, 18-19,

1960	1960 (*3)	Census 1963 (Table 3, p.94-105)	20-99 (5-year intervals), 100+ 0-14 (5-year intervals), 15-17, 18-19, 20-104 (5-year intervals), 105+ 0-89 (5-year intervals), 90+ 0-14, 15-74 (5-year intervals), 75+ 0-14, 15-74 (5-year intervals), 75+ 0-89 (5-year intervals), 90+
1970	1970 (*3)	Census 1971 (Table 1, p.24-25)	
1980	1980 (*3, *8)	The UNSD's data on marriage and divorce	
1990	1990 (*3)	The UNSD's data on marriage and divorce	
2000	2000 (*3, *4, *5)	Statistical Yearbook 2000 (Table 63, p.79-80)	
Spain			
1900	1900 (*1)	Census 1900 (Vol. 3, p.296-297)	0-4, 5-10 (1-year intervals), 11-50 (5-year intervals), 51-100 (10-year intervals), 101+
1910	1910 (*1)	Census 1910 (Vol. 3, p.402-403)	0-4, 5-10 (1-year intervals), 11-50 (5-year intervals), 51-100 (10-year intervals), 101+
1920	1920 (*1)	Census 1920 (Vol. 3, p.276-277)	0-4, 5-10 (5-year intervals), 11-13, 14-15, 16-17 18-20, 21-60 (5-year intervals), 61-100 (10-year intervals), 101+
1930	1930 (*1)	Census 1930 (Vol. 2, p.4-5)	0-4, 5-10 (5-year intervals), 11-13, 14-15, 16-17 18-20, 21-60 (5-year intervals), 61-100 (10-year intervals), 101+
1940	-	No available data	-
1950	1950	Census 1960 (Vol. 3, Table XIII, p.490-495)	0-108 (1-year intervals), 109+
1960	1960 (*7)	The UNSD's data on marriage and divorce	0-14, 15-79 (5-year intervals), 80+
1970	1970 (*7)	Census 1970 (Vol. 3, Table 9, p.6-7)	0-84 (1-year intervals), 85+
1980	1981 (*7)	Census 1981 (National Results, General Characteristic, Table 1.8)	0-14, 15-84 (5-year intervals), 85+
1990	1991 (*3)	Census 1991 (National Results, General Characteristic, Table 1.9)	0-14, 15-84 (5-year intervals), 85+
2000	2001 (*3)	Census 2001 (National Results, Basic Demographic Characteristics)	0-17, 18-39 (1-year intervals), 40-99 (5-year intervals), 100+
Sweden			
1900	1900 (*1, *2)	Lundström (1999) (Table 62, p.63)	0-89 (5-year intervals), 90+
1910	1910 (*1, *2)	Lundström (1999) (Table 62, p.63)	0-89 (5-year intervals), 90+
1920	1920 (*1, *2)	Lundström (1999) (Table 62, p.63)	0-89 (5-year intervals), 90+
1930	1930 (*1, *2)	Lundström (1999) (Table 62, p.63)	0-89 (5-year intervals), 90+
1940	1940 (*1, *2)	Lundström (1999) (Table 62, p.63)	0-89 (5-year intervals), 90+
1950	1950	Lundström (1999) (Table 62, p.63)	0-89 (5-year intervals), 90+
1960	1960	Lundström (1999) (Table 62, p.63)	0-89 (5-year intervals), 90+
1970	1970	Lundström (1999) (Table 62, p.63)	0-89 (5-year intervals), 90+
1980	1980	Lundström (1999) (Table 62, p.63)	0-89 (5-year intervals), 90+
1990	1990	Lundström (1999) (Table 62, p.63)	0-89 (5-year intervals), 90+
2000	2000	Statistical Yearbook of Sweden 2002	0-99 (5-year intervals), 100+
Switzerland			
1900	1900	Ritzmann-Blickenstorfer (1996)	0-14, 15-84 (5-year intervals), 85+

1910	1910	(Table B10A, p.118 and Table B11A, p.120) Ritzmann-Blickenstorfer (1996)	0-14, 15-84 (5-year intervals), 85+
1920	1920	(Table B10A, p.118 and Table B11A, p.120) Ritzmann-Blickenstorfer (1996)	0-14, 15-84 (5-year intervals), 85+
1930	1930	(Table B10A, p.118 and Table B11A, p.120) Ritzmann-Blickenstorfer (1996)	0-14, 15-84 (5-year intervals), 85+
1940	1940	(Table B10A, p.118 and Table B11A, p.120) Ritzmann-Blickenstorfer (1996)	0-14, 15-84 (5-year intervals), 85+
1950	1950	(Table B10A, p.118 and Table B11A, p.120) Ritzmann-Blickenstorfer (1996)	0-14, 15-84 (5-year intervals), 85+
1960	1960	(Table B10A, p.118 and Table B11A, p.120) Ritzmann-Blickenstorfer (1996)	0-14, 15-84 (5-year intervals), 85+
1970	1970	(Table B10A, p.118 and Table B11A, p.120) Ritzmann-Blickenstorfer (1996)	0-14, 15-84 (5-year intervals), 85+
1980	1980	(Table B10A, p.118 and Table B11A, p.120) Ritzmann-Blickenstorfer (1996)	0-14, 15-84 (5-year intervals), 85+
1990	1990	(Table B10A, p.118 and Table B11A, p.120) Ritzmann-Blickenstorfer (1996)	0-14, 15-84 (5-year intervals), 85+
2000	2000	The UNSD's data on marriage and divorce	0-14, 15-99 (5-year intervals), 100+
United Kingdom ²⁴	1900	Census 1901 (Table 24, p.224)	0-14, 15-24 (5-year intervals), 25-84 (10-year intervals), 85+
	1910	Census 1911 (Table 1, p.1-2)	0-14, 15-99 (5-year intervals), 100+
	1920	Census 1921 (Table 32, p.127-126)	0-99 (1-year intervals), 100+
	1930	Census 1931 (Table 18, p.141-142)	0-14, 15-99 (5-year intervals), 100+
	1940	No available data	-
	1950	UN Demographic Yearbook, Historical Supplement 1948-1997 (Table 12, p.561-562)	0-14, 15-74 (5-year intervals), 75+
	1960	UN Demographic Yearbook, Historical Supplement 1948-1997 (Table 12, p.561-562)	Male: 0-14, 15-74 (5-year intervals), 75+ Female: 0-14, 15-84 (5-year intervals), 85+
	1970	Office for National Statistics: Population Estimates by Marital Status, Mid-1971 to Mid-1981	0-84 (1-year intervals), 85+
	1980	Census 1981 (Table 1, p.1-2)	0-14, 15-94 (5-year intervals), 95+
	1981		
	1982		
	1983		
	1984		
	1985		

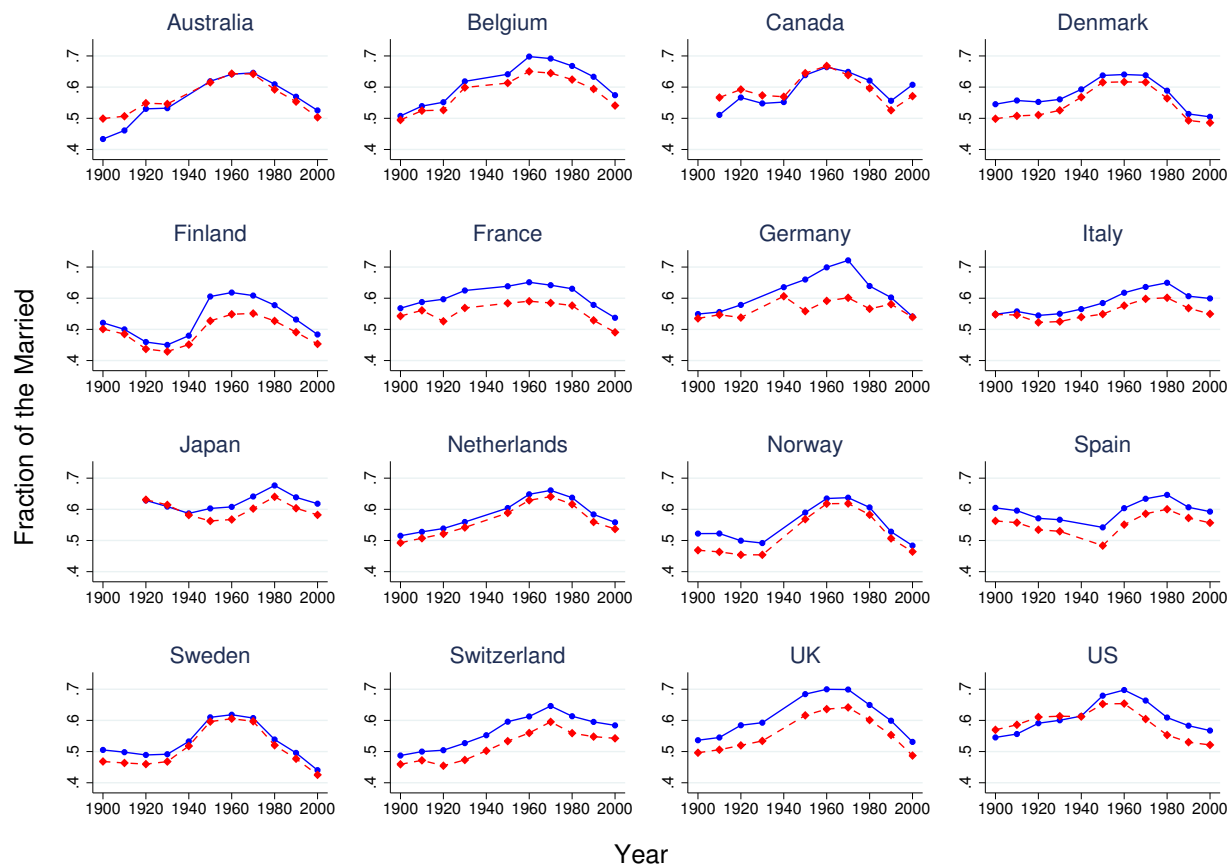
²⁴Data in the year 1900 and those in the years 1950-1970 are for England and Wales only.

1990	1991	UN Demographic Yearbook, Basic Population Characteristics 1985-2004 (Vol. 1, Table 2, p. 344-345)	0-14, 15-74 (5-year intervals), 75+
2000	2001 (*3)	UN Demographic Yearbook, Basic Population Characteristics 1985-2004 (Vol. 1, Table 2, p.344-345)	0-15, 16-19 (1-year intervals), 20-89 (5-year intervals), 90+
United States			
1900	1900 (*3)	Ruggles, Genadek, Goeken, Schroeder, and Sobek (2015)	0-130 (1-year intervals)
1910	1910 (*3)	Ruggles, Genadek, Goeken, Schroeder, and Sobek (2015)	0-130 (1-year intervals)
1920	1920 (*3)	Ruggles, Genadek, Goeken, Schroeder, and Sobek (2015)	0-130 (1-year intervals)
1930	1930 (*3)	Ruggles, Genadek, Goeken, Schroeder, and Sobek (2015)	0-130 (1-year intervals)
1940	1940 (*3)	Ruggles, Genadek, Goeken, Schroeder, and Sobek (2015)	0-130 (1-year intervals)
1950	1950 (*3)	Ruggles, Genadek, Goeken, Schroeder, and Sobek (2015)	0-130 (1-year intervals)
1960	1960 (*3)	Ruggles, Genadek, Goeken, Schroeder, and Sobek (2015)	0-130 (1-year intervals)
1970	1970 (*3)	Ruggles, Genadek, Goeken, Schroeder, and Sobek (2015)	0-130 (1-year intervals)
1980	1980 (*3)	Ruggles, Genadek, Goeken, Schroeder, and Sobek (2015)	0-130 (1-year intervals)
1990	1990 (*3)	Ruggles, Genadek, Goeken, Schroeder, and Sobek (2015)	0-130 (1-year intervals)
2000	2000 (*3)	Ruggles, Genadek, Goeken, Schroeder, and Sobek (2015)	0-130 (1-year intervals)

B Marriage Pattern by Sex

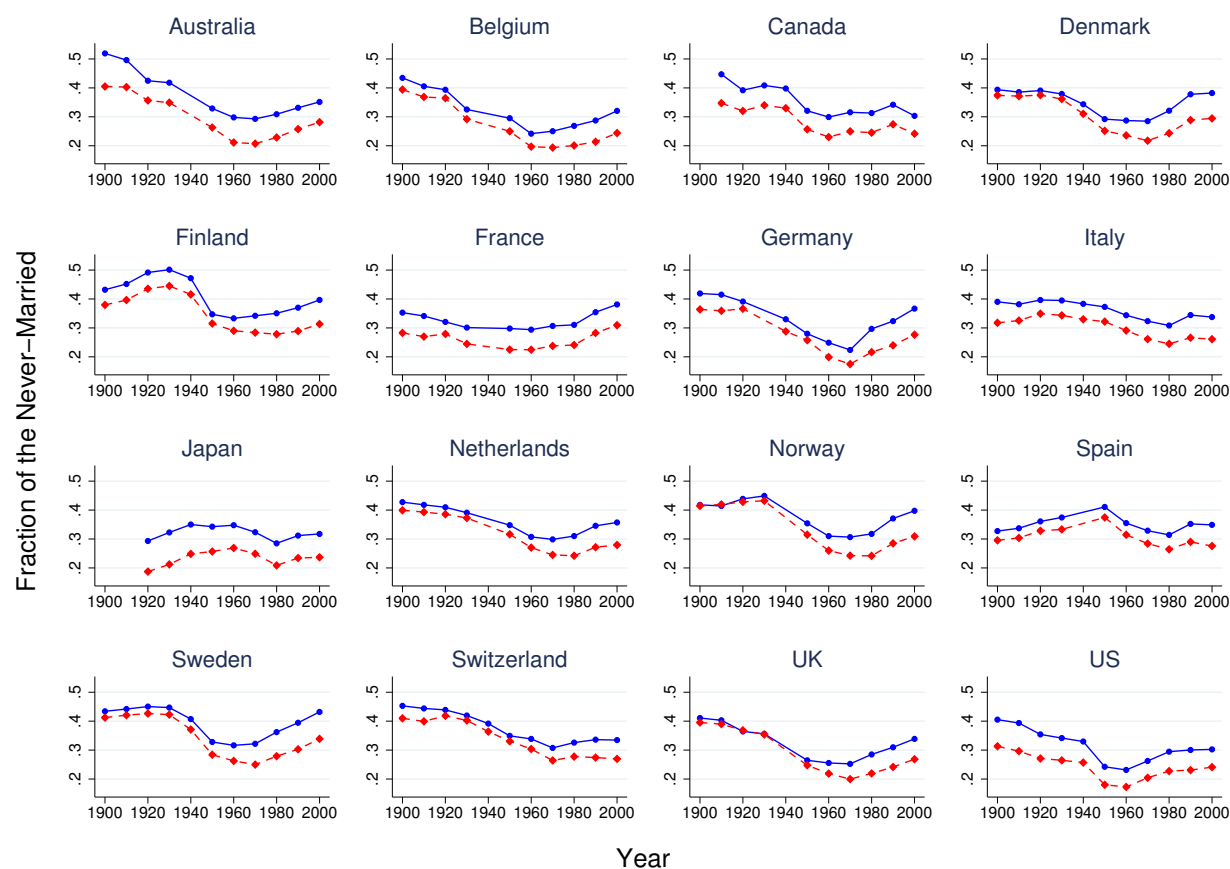
In Figures A.1, A.2, and A.3, we show the fraction of the married, the never-married, and the divorced for males and females separately.

FIGURE A.1 – Fraction of the Married by Sex, Age 15+, OECD Countries, 1900–2000



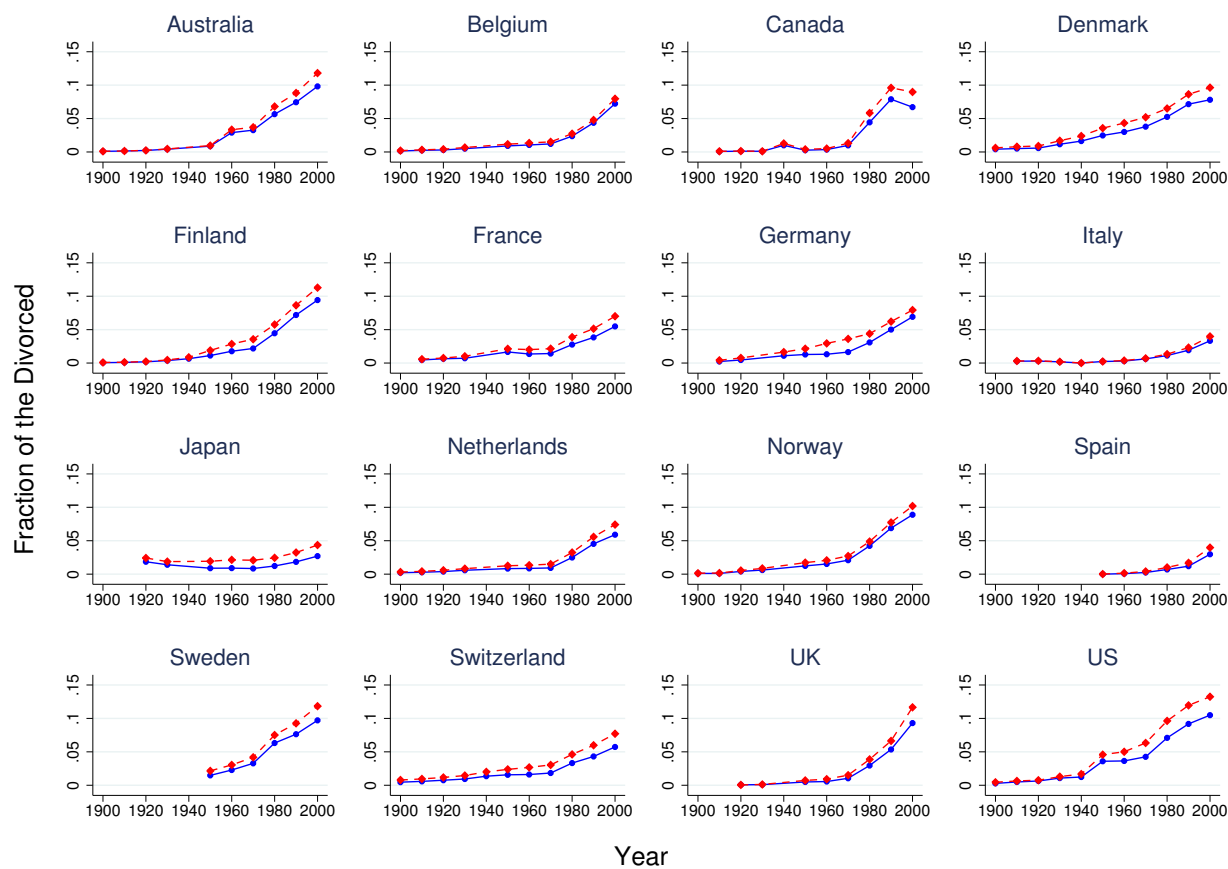
Note: The blue and solid line is the one for males. The red and dashed line is the one for females.

FIGURE A.2 – Fraction of the Never-Married by Sex, Age 15+, OECD Countries, 1900–2000



Note: The blue and solid line is the one for males. The red and dashed line is the one for females.

FIGURE A.3 – Fraction of the Divorced by Sex, Age 15+, OECD Countries, 1900–2000

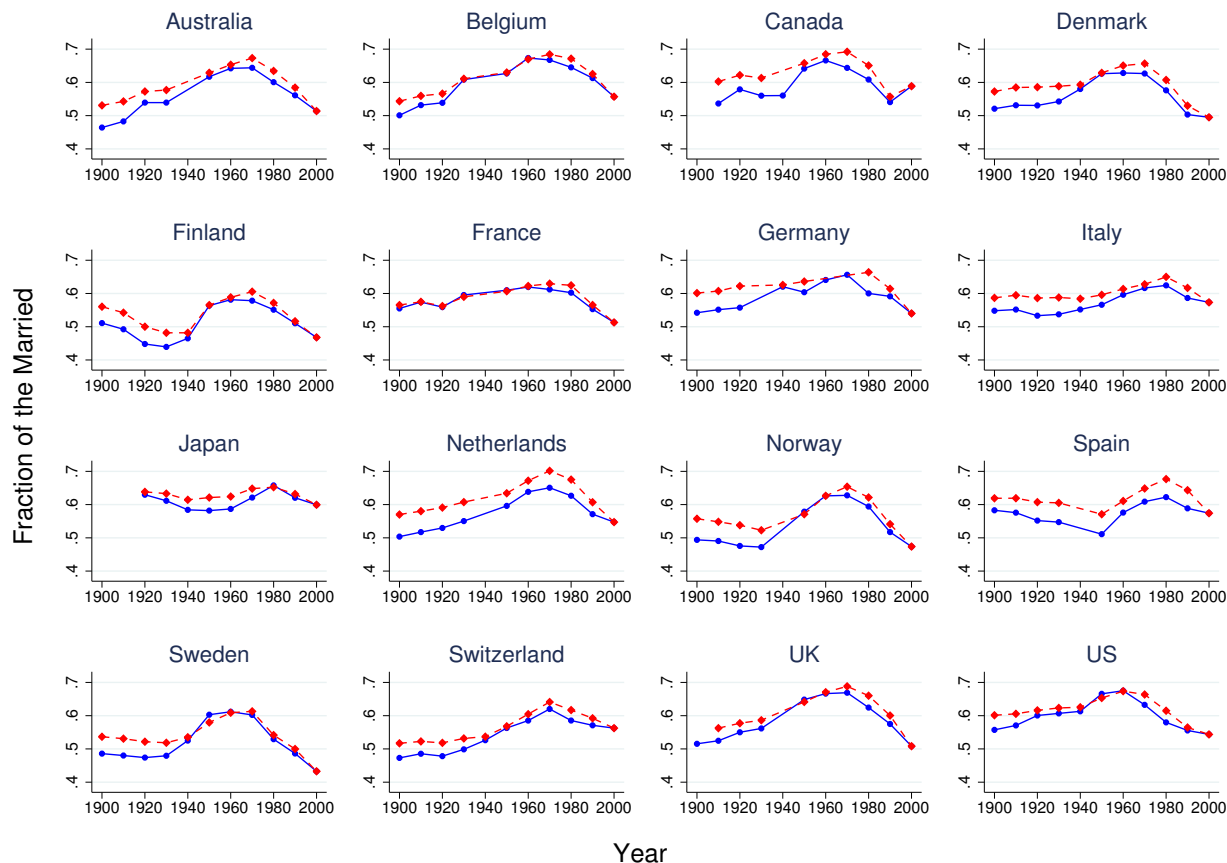


Note: The blue and solid line is the one for males. The red and dashed line is the one for females.

C Adjustment of the Age Structure

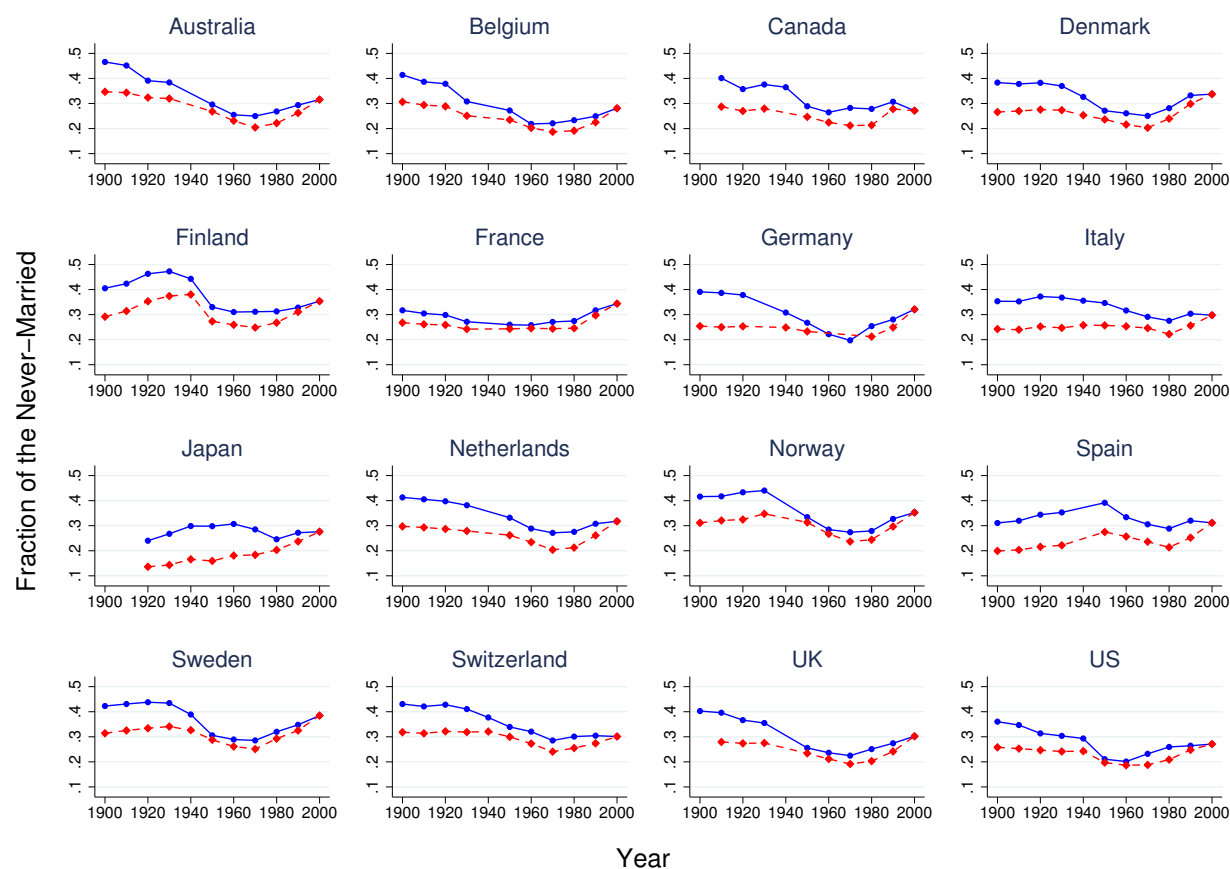
In Figures A.4, A.5, and A.6, we plot the age-adjusted series of the fraction of the married, the never-married, and the divorced together with the original series, respectively. For the age-adjusted series, we apply the method of Equation (1) in Section 2.3 setting the year 2000 as the base year.

FIGURE A.4 – Age-Adjusted Fraction of the Married, Age 15+, OECD Countries, 1900–2000



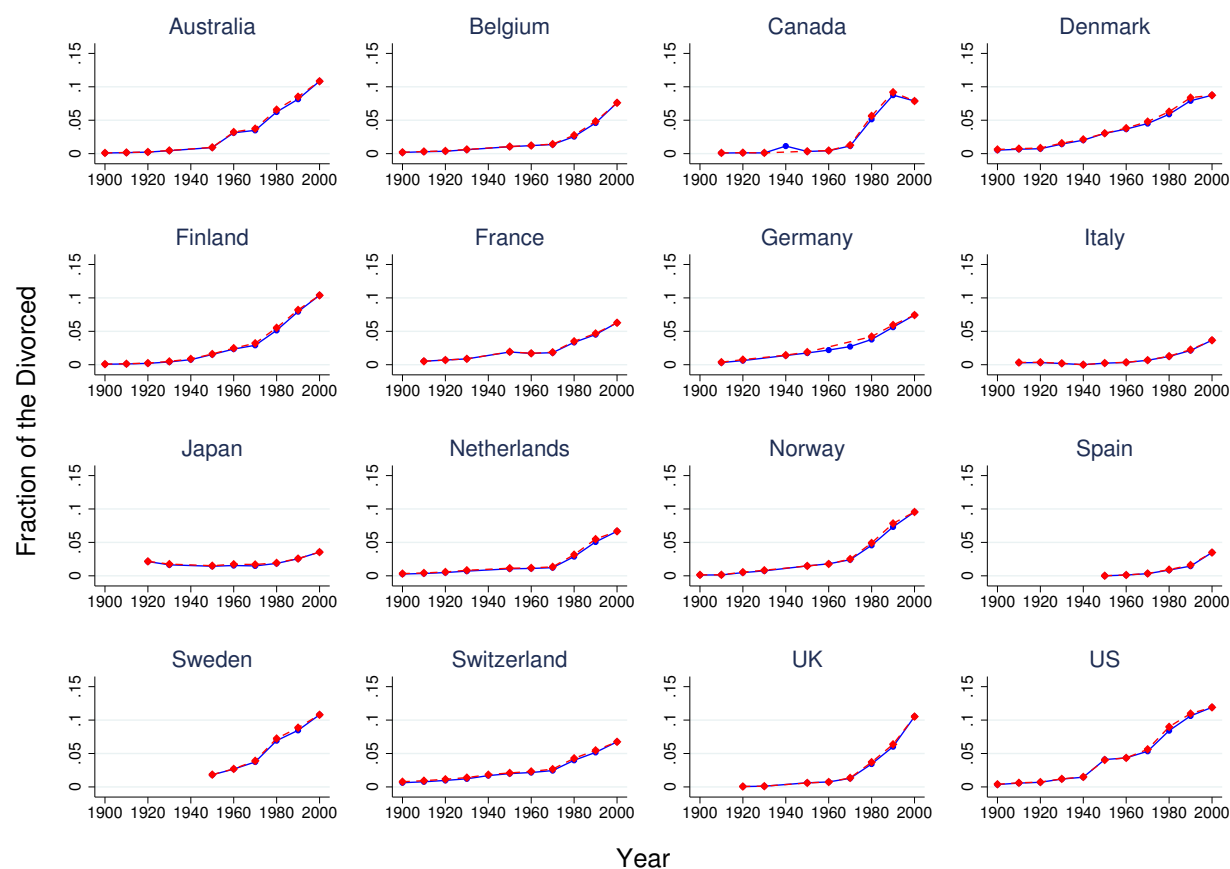
Note: The blue and solid line is the original series. The red and dashed line is for the age-adjusted one.

FIGURE A.5 – Age-Adjusted Fraction of the Never-Married, Age 15+, OECD Countries, 1900–2000



Note: The blue and solid line is the original series. The red and dashed line is for the age-adjusted one.

FIGURE A.6 – Age-Adjusted Fraction of the Divorced, Age 15+, OECD Countries, 1900–2000



Note: The blue and solid line is the original series. The red and dashed line is for the age-adjusted one.

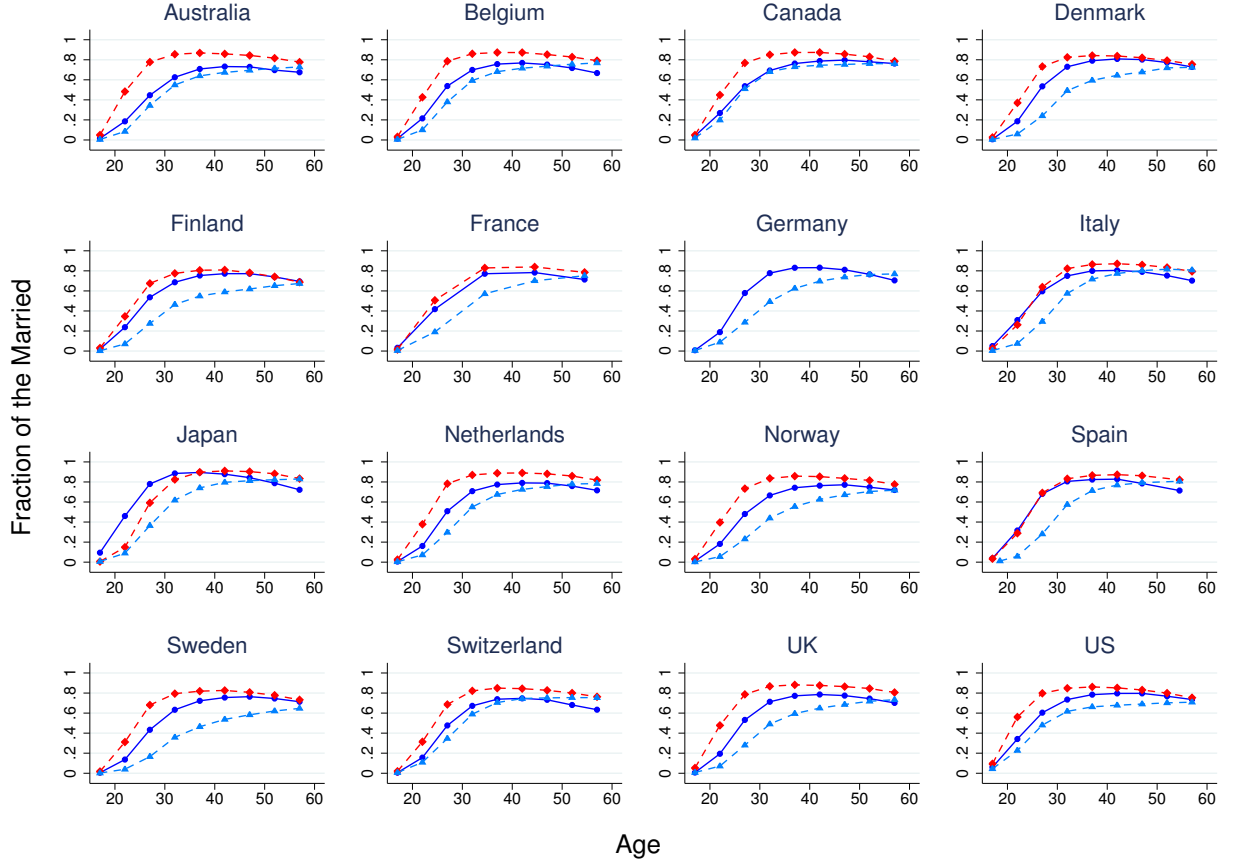
D Marital Statistics by Age Group

In this Appendix, we report the evolution of the age distribution of the married, the never-married and the divorced over time. We report the age distribution for the initial, the final and the peak year (of the fraction of married) for each country.

Figure A.7 reports the fraction of the married by 5-year age group.²⁵ In a large group of countries (Australia, Belgium, Canada, Denmark, Finland, Netherlands, Norway, Sweden, Switzerland, the U.K. and the U.S.), the increase in the fraction of married in the peak year is largely due to younger generations (20 to 40 years old) rather than older generations. In other countries like France, Italy, Japan and Spain, this increase of the fraction of the married among younger generations at the peak year did not emerge. For Germany, data availability prevents the calculation of the age distribution at the peak year. The pattern for the fraction of the never-married, reported in Figure A.8, mirrors that for the fraction of the married. In the first group of countries, in which marriage increases more for younger generations, the fraction of the never-married decreases more for such a group than for the rest of the population. Instead, in France, Italy, Japan and Spain, younger generations display a similar behavior as the rest of the population in terms of the never-married as well. Finally, Figure A.9 shows how the fraction of the divorced has increased over time. It increased especially among middle-age groups (around 50 years old). As a result, the fraction of divorced displays a notable hump-shaped pattern across age groups in the end year.

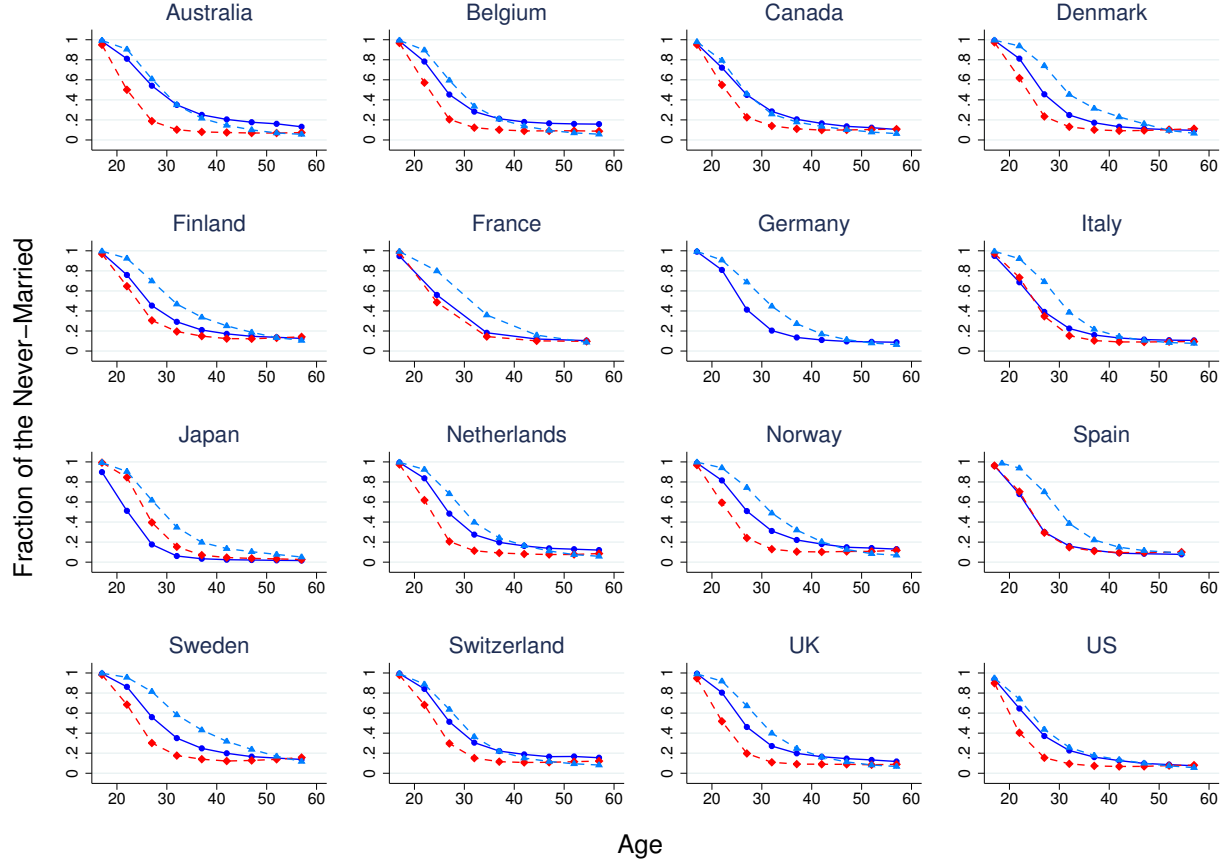
²⁵For France, the marital statistics are available only by 10-year age group.

FIGURE A.7 – Fraction of the Married by Age Group, OECD Countries



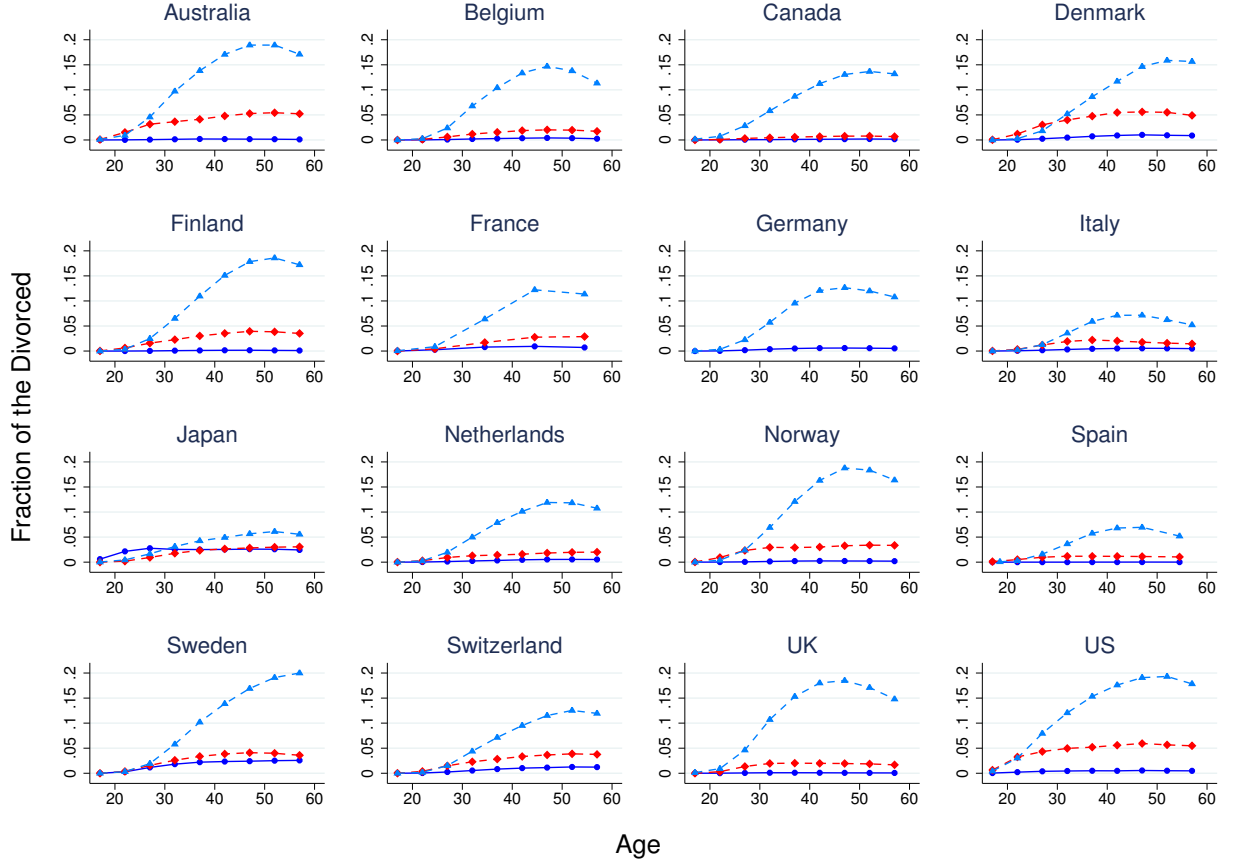
Note: The blue-solid line is for the initial year, the red-dashed line is for the peak year and the light-blue-dashed line is for the end year. The initial year is set to 1900 for all countries except for Canada and Japan. For Canada, the initial year is 1910 while for Japan the initial year is 1920 due to availability of the data. The peak year for each country is defined as the peak year of the fraction of the married in Column (1) in Table 2. The end year is 2000 for all countries. For Germany, the data points at the peak year are missing due to the lack of data discussed in Section 3.1. For France, the marital statistics are available only by 10-year age group.

FIGURE A.8 – Fraction of the Never-Married by Age Group, OECD Countries



Note: The blue-solid line is for the initial year, the red-dashed line is for the peak year and the light-blue-dashed line is for the end year. The initial year is set to 1900 for all countries except for Canada and Japan. For Canada, the initial year is 1910 while for Japan the initial year is 1920 due to availability of the data. The peak year for each country is defined as the peak year of the fraction of the married in Column (1) in Table 2. The end year is 2000 for all countries. For Germany, the data points at the peak year are missing due to the lack of data discussed in Section 3.1. For France, the marital statistics are available only by 10-year age group.

FIGURE A.9 – Fraction of the Divorced by Age Group, OECD Countries



Note: The blue-solid line is for the initial year, the red-dashed line is for the peak year and the light-blue-dashed line is for the end year. The initial year is set to 1900 for Australia, Belgium, Denmark, Finland, Netherlands, Norway, Switzerland and the US. For Canada, France, Germany, and Italy, the initial year is 1910 due to the availability of the divorce data. For Japan and the UK, the initial year is 1920. For Spain and Sweden, the initial year is 1950. The end year is 2000 for all countries. For Germany, the data points at the peak year are missing due to the lack of data discussed in Section 3.1. For France, the marital statistics are available only by 10-year age group.

E Flow Rate of Marriage

In this Appendix, we calculate the flow rate of marriage by age group for each country. We infer the flow rate from the cross-sectional age distribution of the number of the never-married in each census year t . For a given country, denote the number of never-married females in the j -th age group in 5-year intervals as $S_t^f(j)$. Denote the probability that a single female in the j -th age group will marry within a year as $m_t^f(j)$. Then, the number of never-married females evolves according to:

$$S_t^f(j+1) = S_t^f(j) [1 - m_t^f(j)]^5 [1 - \pi_t^f(j)]^5, \quad (4)$$

where $\pi_t^f(j)$ is the mortality rate for a female in the j -th age group. Then, from Equation (4), we can derive

$$m_t^f(j) = 1 - \left[\left(\frac{S_t^f(j+1)}{S_t^f(j)} \right) \left(\frac{1}{(1 - \pi_t^f(j))^5} \right) \right]^{\frac{1}{5}}. \quad (5)$$

We infer the mortality rate $\pi_t^f(j)$ from the cross-sectional age distribution of the population in each census year. Namely, the mortality rate $\pi_t^f(j)$ is given by

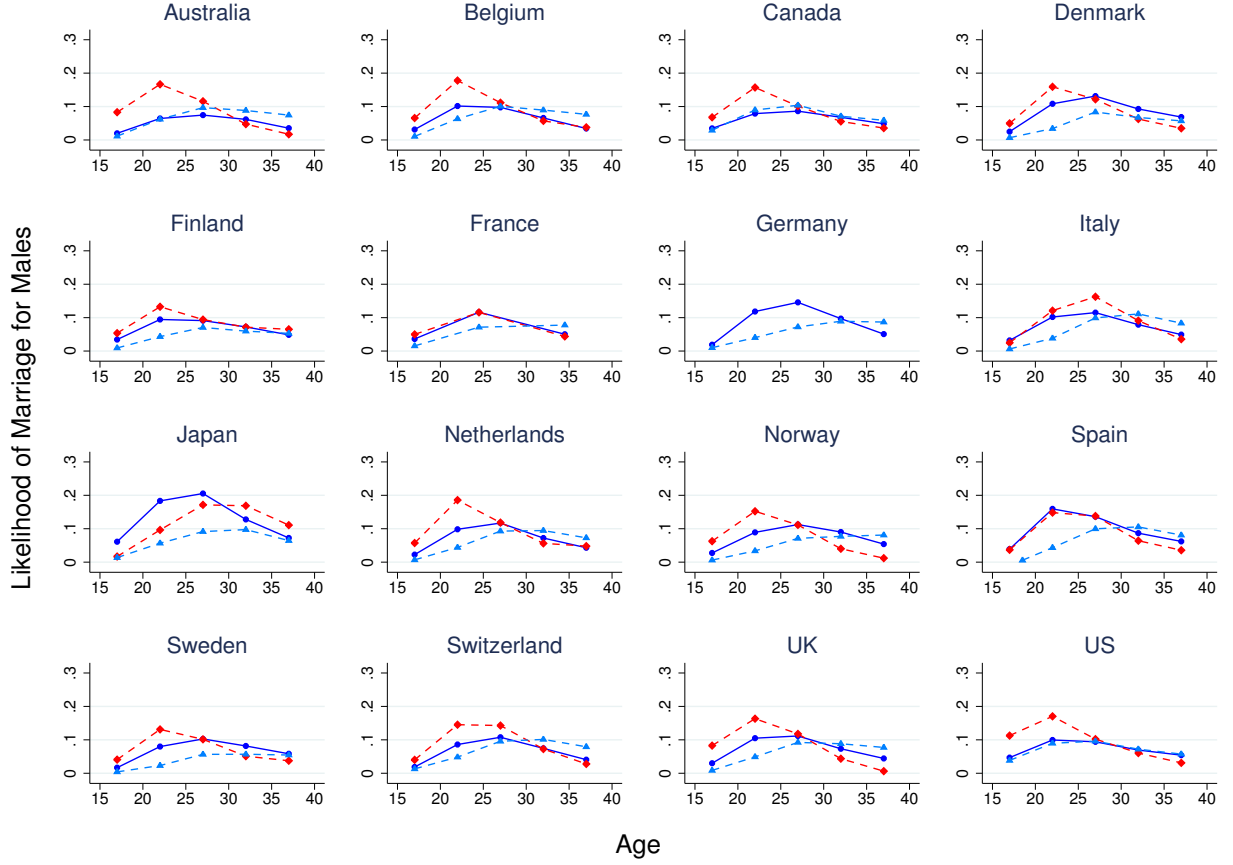
$$\pi_t^f(j) = 1 - \left[\left(\frac{T_t^f(j+1)}{T_t^f(j)} \right) \right]^{\frac{1}{5}}$$

where $T_t^f(j)$ is the total number of females in the j -th age group in year t . Given the number of the never-married and the mortality rate for each age group, Equation (5) gives the annual likelihood of marriage by age group for a specific year.

Figures (A.10) and (A.11) plot the calculated flow rate by age group for males and females, respectively. We report the flow rate for the initial, the final and the peak year for each country.²⁶ In these figures, the X-axis shows the middle point of age for each age group starting from the 15-19 years old group. The Y-axis labels the annual likelihood of marriage. The figures show that the annual likelihood of marriage increases for the younger age groups during the peak year. This pattern is observed both for males and females for most of the countries except for France, Italy, Japan and Spain. For males, the largest increase is found especially in the 20-24 years old group, while for females it is in the 15-19 years old group.

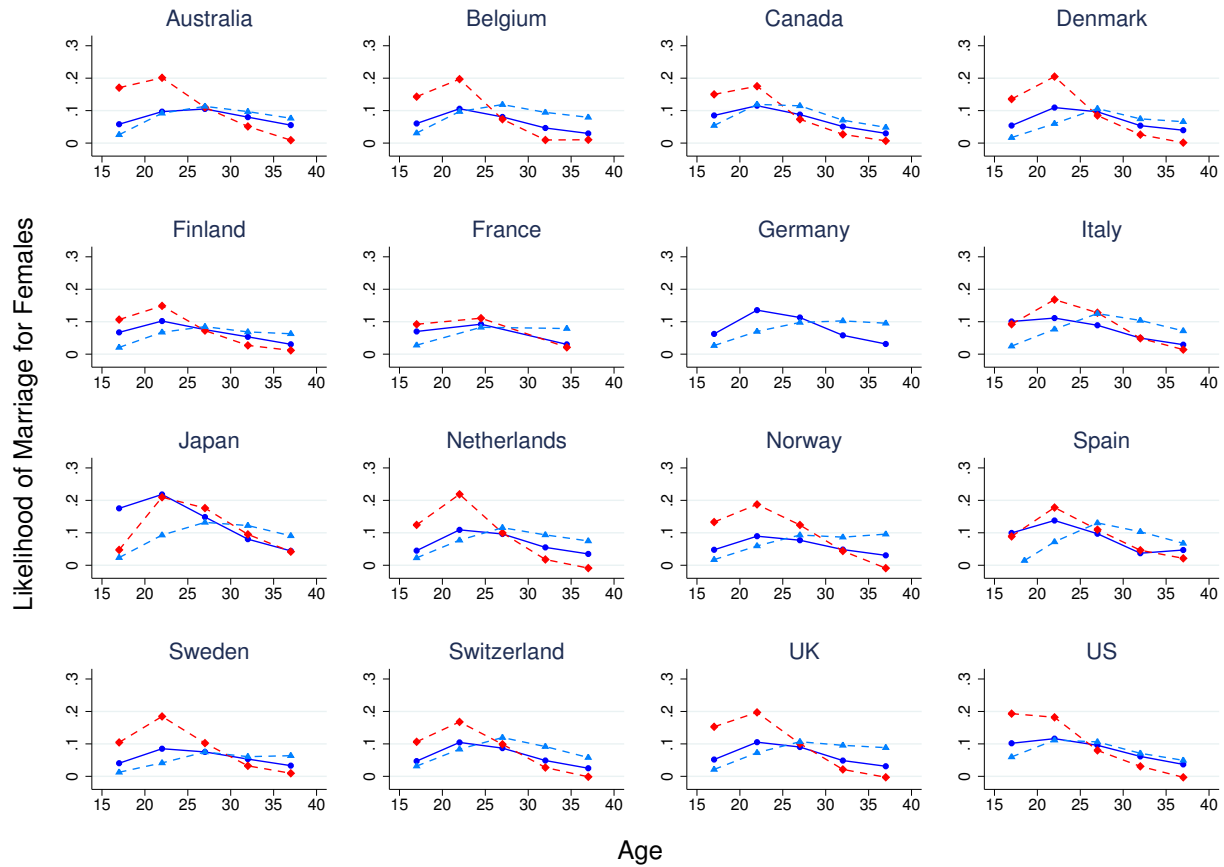
²⁶For France, since the marital statistics are available only by 10-year age group, we calculate the flow rate by 10-year age group.

FIGURE A.10 – Male’s Annual Likelihood of Marriage by Age Group, OECD Countries



Note: The blue-solid line is for the initial year, the red-dashed line is for the peak year and the light-blue-dashed line is for the end year. The initial year is set to 1900 for all countries except for Canada and Japan. For Canada, the initial year is 1910 while for Japan the initial year is 1920 due to availability of the data. The peak year for each country is defined as the peak year of the fraction of the married in Column (1) in Table 2. The end year is 2000 for all countries. For Germany, the data points at the peak year are missing due to the lack of data discussed in Section 3.1. For France, since the marital statistics are available only by 10-year age group, we calculate the flow rate also by 10-year age group.

FIGURE A.11 – Female’s Annual Likelihood of Marriage by Age Group, OECD Countries



Note: The blue-solid line is for the initial year, the red-dashed line is for the peak year and the light-blue-dashed line is for the end year. The initial year is set to 1900 for all countries except for Canada and Japan. For Canada, the initial year is 1910 while for Japan the initial year is 1920 due to availability of the data. The peak year for each country is defined as the peak year of the fraction of the married in Column (1) in Table 2. The end year is 2000 for all countries. For Germany, the data points at the peak year are missing due to the lack of data discussed in Section 3.1. For France, since the marital statistics are available only by 10-year age group, we calculate the flow rate also by 10-year age group.

F Regression Analysis

In this Appendix, we investigate whether the positive correlation between the fraction of the married and the manufacturing share is robust after controlling for other variables in the regression analysis. In the analysis, the dependent variable is the nominal value added share in manufacturing. Similar to the existing literature in this field we employ several control variables: the sex ratio (the ratio of the number of males to the number of females), the total fertility rate, and the crude birth rate.²⁷ We control for the sex ratio because sex ratio imbalances can cause an increase or a decrease of marriages as documented in [Angrist \(2002\)](#) and [Abramitzky, Delavande, and Vasconcelos \(2011\)](#). The fertility rate and the crude birth rate are included in our regression analysis as [Greenwood, Guner, and Knowles \(2003\)](#) argue that the decision to get married and to have children are tightly linked.

Table [A.2](#) reports the regression results for the fraction of married men at age 15 and above for the raw data (Columns 1 through 4) and the age-adjusted data with the year 2000 as the base year (Columns 5 through 8), respectively, with or without country fixed effects. Similarly, Table [A.3](#) reports the results of the same regressions for women. The coefficient on the manufacturing share is significant and positive for both men and women in all specifications; for men it ranges between 0.46 and 0.61, while for women it ranges between 0.38 and 0.55. If we consider the specification in Column (1) in both Tables, the results imply that one percentage point increase in manufacturing share raises the fraction of married men, by 0.48 percentage points, and fraction of married women by 0.44 percentage points. The results for the sex ratio are consistent with [Angrist \(2002\)](#) and [Abramitzky, Delavande, and Vasconcelos \(2011\)](#). The coefficient of the sex ratio for male's regression is negative for all the specifications and significant at 5 percent level for the six out of all the eight specifications. For women, it is positively significant at 1 percent level for all specifications. Again, if we take the specification in Column (1) in the both tables, the results imply that one percent increase in the sex ratio decreases the fraction of married men by 0.07 percentage points, while it increases the fraction of married women by 0.41 percentage points. Finally, note that the coefficients of the total fertility rate and the crude birth rate often change their signs, and seem to have only negligible effects on the fraction of the married. These results confirm that the positive correlation between the fraction of the married and the nominal value added share of manufacturing is robust after controlling for other things which could possibly affect marriage.

²⁷For the sex ratio, we compute it from census records. For total fertility rate, we combine the data from [Chesnais \(1992\)](#) with the data from World Development Indicators (WDI) at World Bank. For the crude birth rate, the data are from [Mitchell \(2007\)](#). Both the total fertility rate and the crude birth rate are reported annually. Therefore, we average the annual data to obtain decennial data.

TABLE A.2 – Regression Results for Men at Age 15 and Above

	(1) Raw	(2) Raw	(3) Raw	(4) Raw	(5) Adjusted	(6) Adjusted	(7) Adjusted	(8) Adjusted
Manufacturing Share	0.4804** (0.0533)	0.6064** (0.0544)	0.4649** (0.0535)	0.6018** (0.0552)	0.4673** (0.0522)	0.5554** (0.0543)	0.4579** (0.0520)	0.5502** (0.0549)
Ln(Sex Ratio 15+)	-0.0705 (0.0759)	-0.1752* (0.0825)	-0.1380 (0.0859)	-0.2253** (0.0844)	-0.1634* (0.0729)	-0.2370** (0.0811)	-0.2309** (0.0816)	-0.2780** (0.0843)
Ln(Total Fertility Rate)	-0.0200 [†] (0.0115)	-0.0220* (0.0099)			0.0344** (0.0116)	0.0298** (0.0102)		
Ln(Crude Birth Rate)			-0.0206 [†] (0.0122)	-0.0327** (0.0097)			0.0384** (0.0124)	0.0271* (0.0104)
Constant	0.4397** (0.0217)	0.3983** (0.0217)	0.4816** (0.0420)	0.4688** (0.0338)	0.4370** (0.0223)	0.4013** (0.0232)	0.3542** (0.0438)	0.3453** (0.0379)
Country Fixed Effect	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes
R-square	0.32	0.62	0.32	0.62	0.31	0.62	0.32	0.61
N	152	152	155	155	148	148	151	151

Robust standard errors in parentheses

[†] $p < 0.10$, * $p < 0.05$, ** $p < 0.01$

TABLE A.3 – Regression Results for Women at Age 15 and Above

	(1) Raw	(2) Raw	(3) Raw	(4) Raw	(5) Adjusted	(6) Adjusted	(7) Adjusted	(8) Adjusted
Manufacturing Share	0.4360** (0.0493)	0.5457** (0.0528)	0.4217** (0.0496)	0.5413** (0.0540)	0.3899** (0.0517)	0.4671** (0.0539)	0.3758** (0.0518)	0.4642** (0.0555)
Ln(Sex Ratio 15+)	0.4087** (0.0728)	0.3197** (0.0806)	0.3421** (0.0823)	0.2674** (0.0834)	0.4103** (0.0711)	0.2769** (0.0845)	0.3648** (0.0713)	0.2454** (0.0815)
Ln(Total Fertility Rate)	-0.0118 (0.0111)	-0.0142 (0.0095)			-0.0134 (0.0104)	-0.0161 [†] (0.0092)		
Ln(Crude Birth Rate)			-0.0124 (0.0116)	-0.0237* (0.0093)			-0.0140 (0.0111)	-0.0259** (0.0092)
Constant	0.4430** (0.0197)	0.4090** (0.0215)	0.4685** (0.0387)	0.4596** (0.0326)	0.4660** (0.0207)	0.4539** (0.0221)	0.4957** (0.0398)	0.5127** (0.0340)
Country Fixed Effect	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes
R-square	0.30	0.60	0.27	0.58	0.26	0.59	0.24	0.58
N	152	152	155	155	148	148	151	151

Robust standard errors in parentheses

[†] $p < 0.10$, * $p < 0.05$, ** $p < 0.01$

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