

Cumulative deprivation and fear of immigration in Germany: An intersectional, dynamic life course approach

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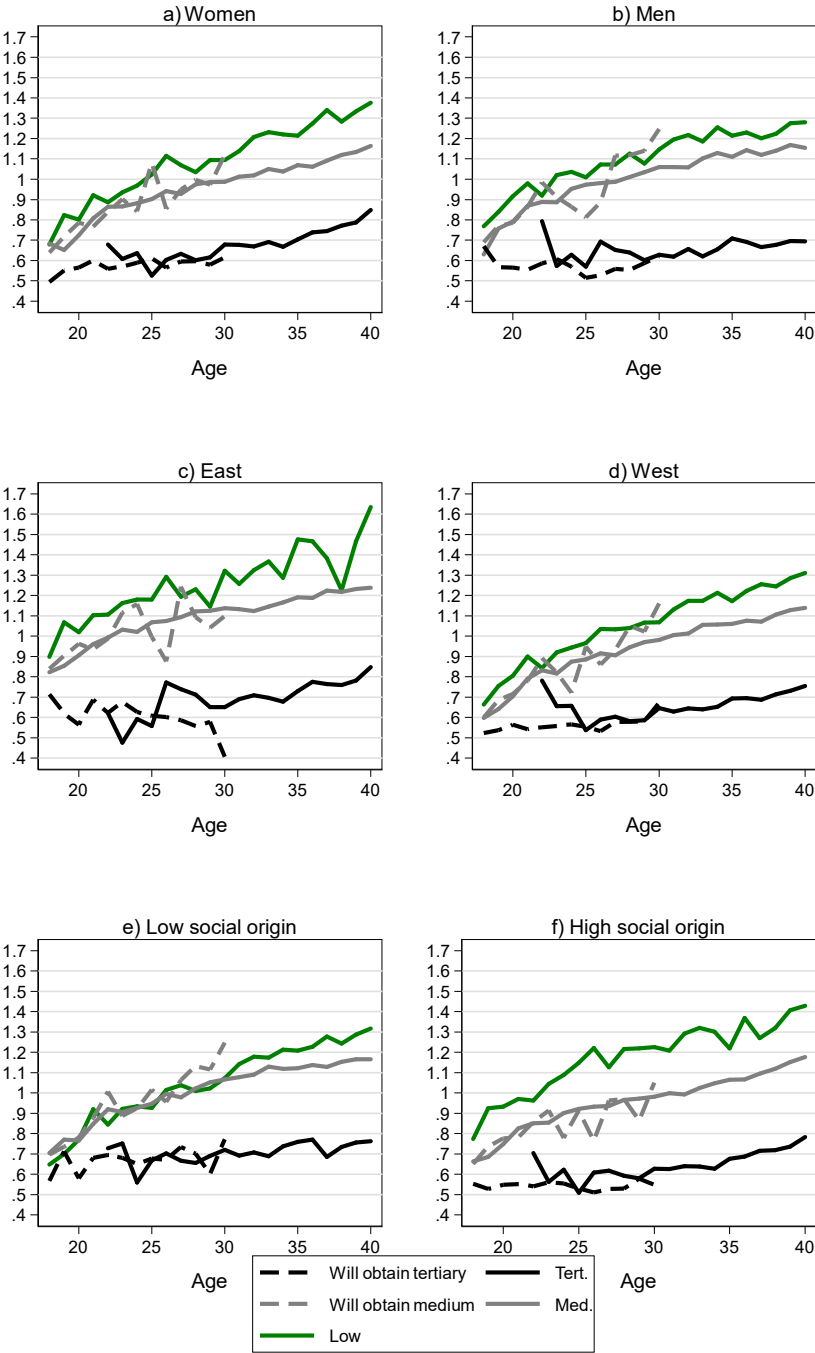
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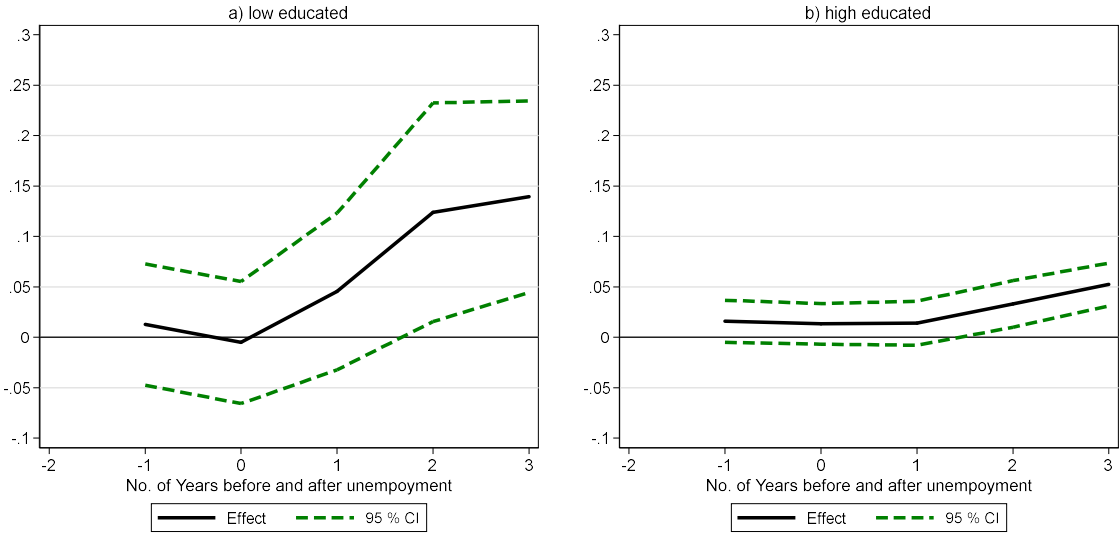
While a large literature on the determinants of negative attitudes towards immigration exists, only very few studies use panel data to assess dynamic interdependencies over the life course. This contribution employs an intersectional life course perspective to examine how cumulative deprivation experiences increase the fear of immigration. I use multi-cohort panel data (SOEP v33, 1999-2016) and employ growth curve modelling techniques and distributed fixed effect models. Being a key determinant of risks and chances over the life course I examine how educational attainment shapes age-specific trajectories. To scrutinize implications of the intersectional approach, I assess heterogeneity in education-specific trajectories by geographic origin (East-West-Germany), social origin (parental education) and gender. To test the proposition that low educational achievement increases the risk and vulnerability of negative critical life events that increase fear of immigration, I test how becoming and staying unemployed affects the fear of immigration on an individual level.

Figure 1: Fear of immigration on a 3-point scale by age, educational level, and sociodemographic characteristics (conditional profile plots based on random effects growth curves)



Fear of immigration differs only slightly between individuals from different educational groups at age 18. However, fear of immigration increases significantly stronger for low and medium educated individuals than for the high educated.

Figure 2: Fear of immigration and unemployment by educational level (conditional effect plots based on distributed fixed effects models)



Becoming unemployed increases the fear of immigration. The effect is stronger for the low than for the high educated. Overall, the results are consistent with the notion that cumulative socio-economic deprivation experiences increase the fear of immigration.