

Stability and change in pathways from origins to destinations via education: a comparison of the 1958 and 1970 cohorts

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Background

Background:

Sullivan, A., Parsons, S., Green, F., Wiggins, R. D., & Ploubidis, G. (2018). The path from social origins to top jobs: social reproduction via education. *The British journal of sociology*.

- Is lack of 'DESO' specific to social class outcome or BCS70 generation?
- Have pathways (mediators) to unequal outcomes changed?

Path between childhood origins and mid-life destinations: mediators

- Childhood cognitive scores
- Private schools
- Qualifications

The UK's Longitudinal Studies

TIMELINE

CENTRE FOR
LONGITUDINAL
STUDIES

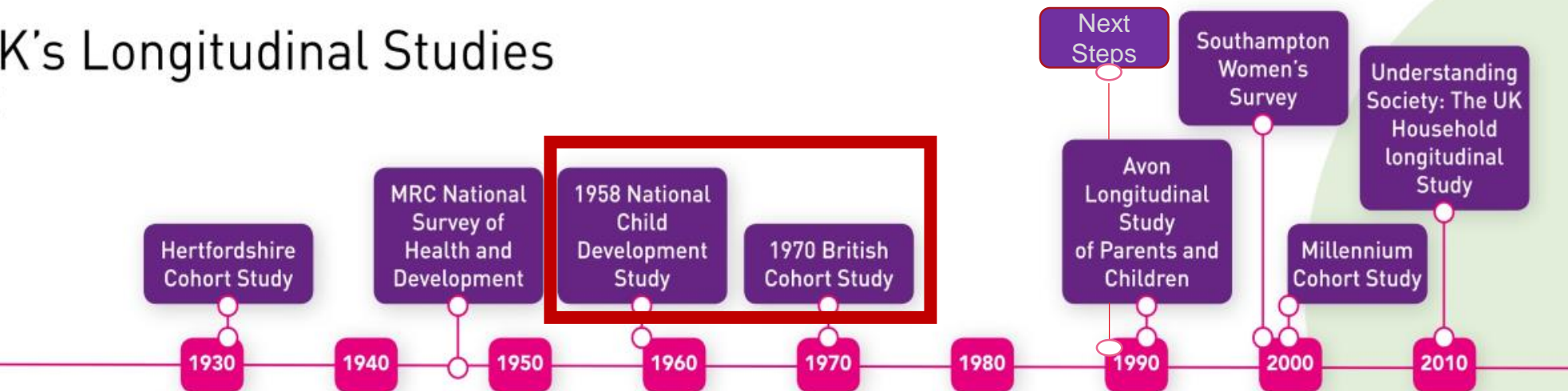


PHOTO: NATIONAAL ARCHIEF

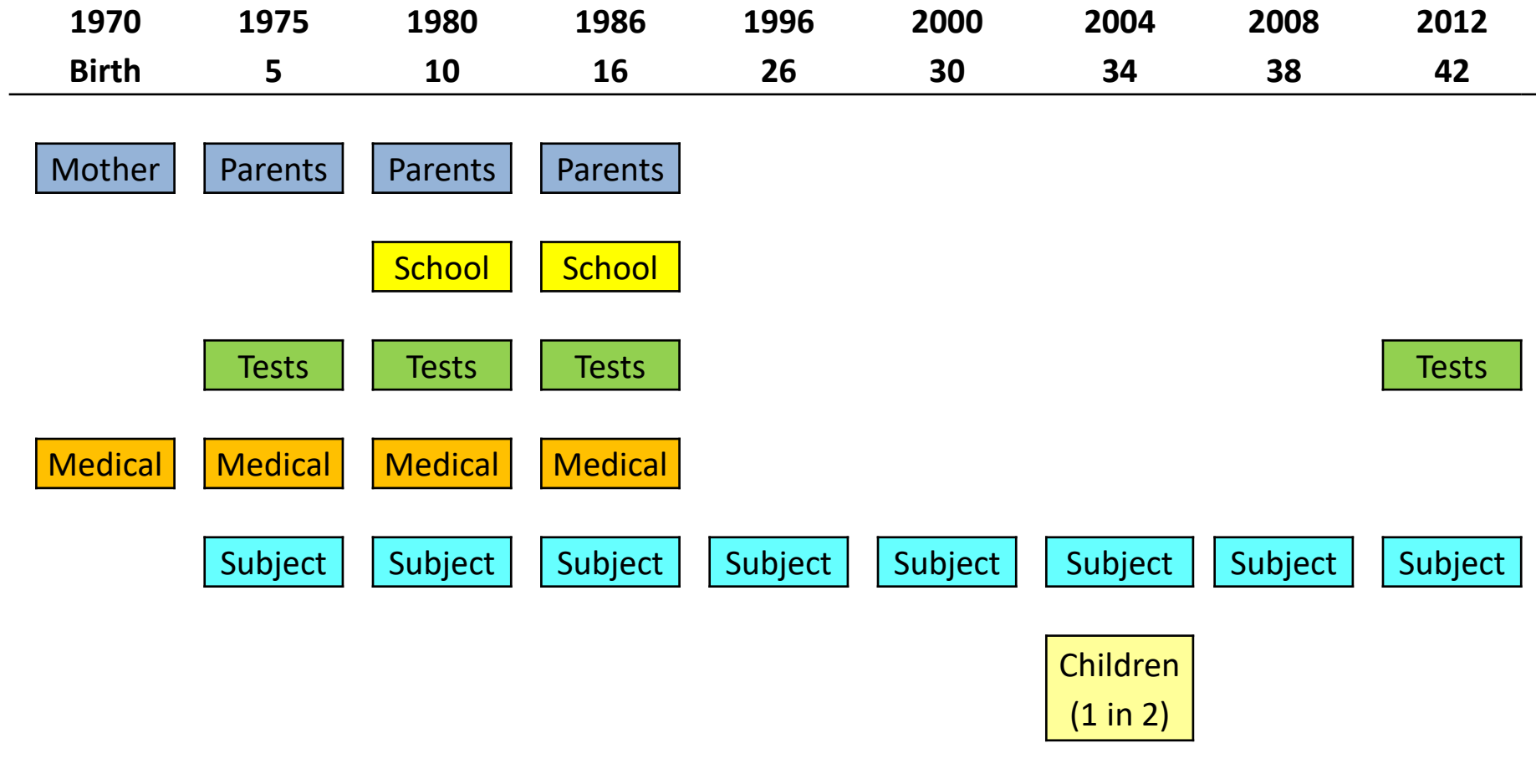


Data: BCS70

- Data collected about births and families of just over 17,000 babies born in England, Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland in one week in 1970
- 9,841 cohort members in study aged 42
Multiple Imputation used throughout project to 'fill in' missing values (conditional on birth characteristics, school type and outcome: n for analyses $\approx 8k$).
- This project repaired 1986 secondary school type variable, previously only available for 40% of sample.



Sources of information



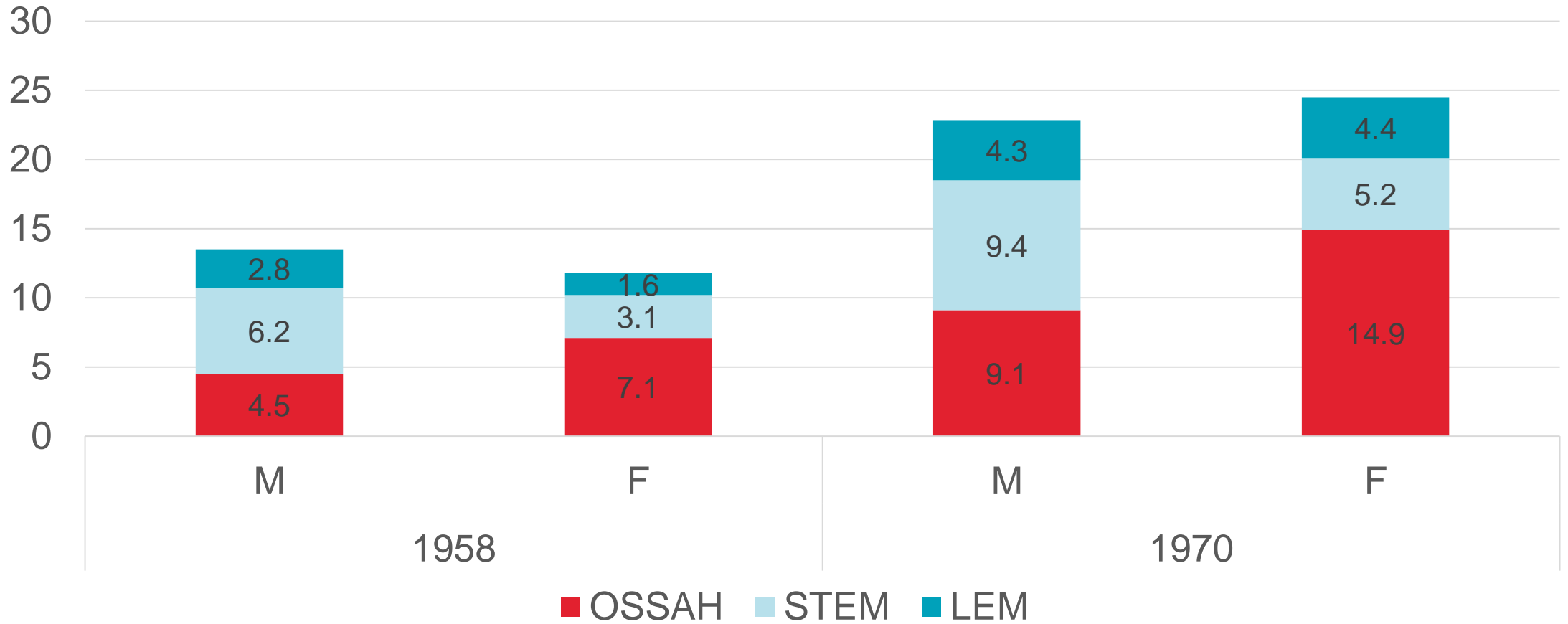
Methods

- Structural Equation Models
- Multiple Imputation
- Separate analyses for women and men

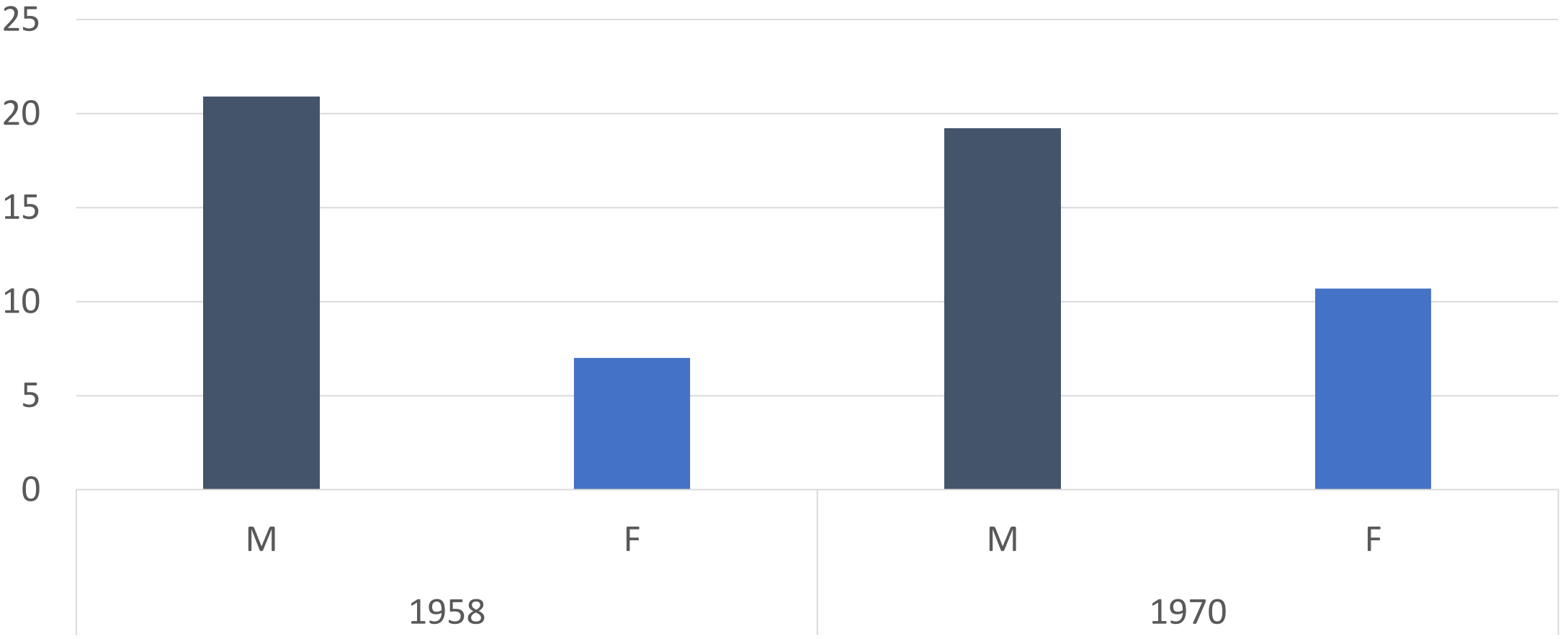
Childhood characteristics

	NCDS		BCS70	
	Men	Women	Men	Women
Family Background				
RGSC I or II	19.5	18.4	24.4	23.8
Father edu 18+	4.8	4.8	10.1	10.0
Mother edu 18+	2.9	3.4	6.6	6.7
CM				
Private school	6.9	5.6	6.5	5.8

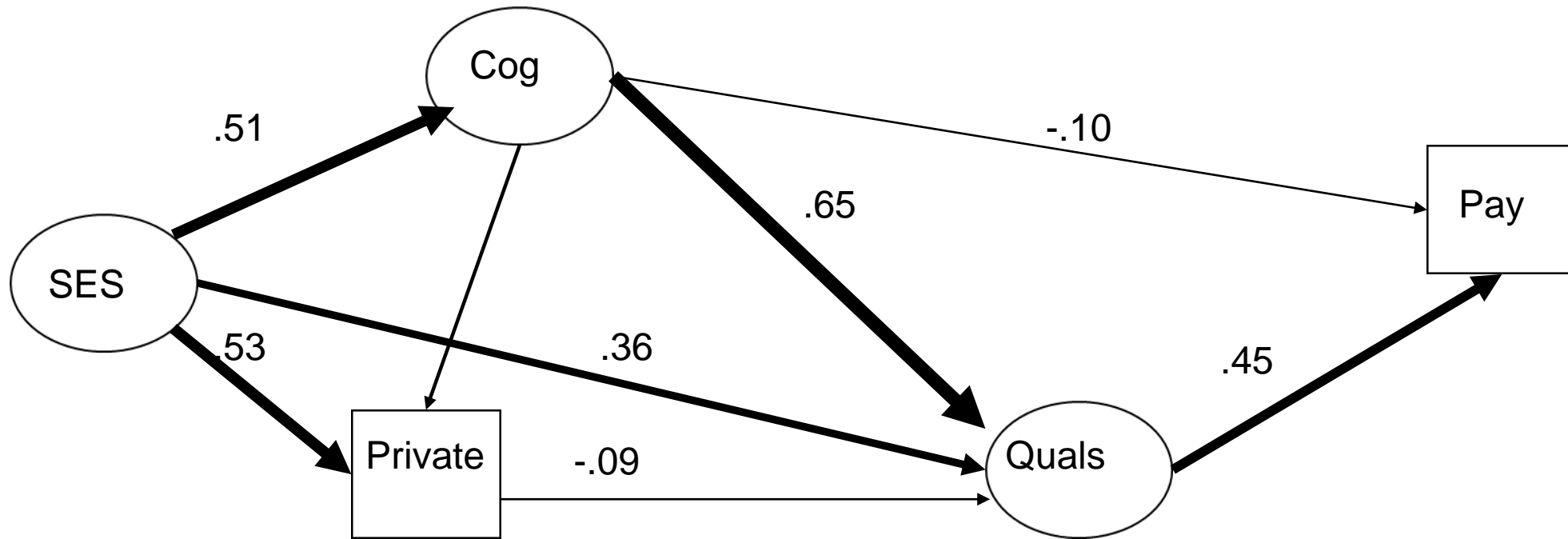
Degree attainment by age 42



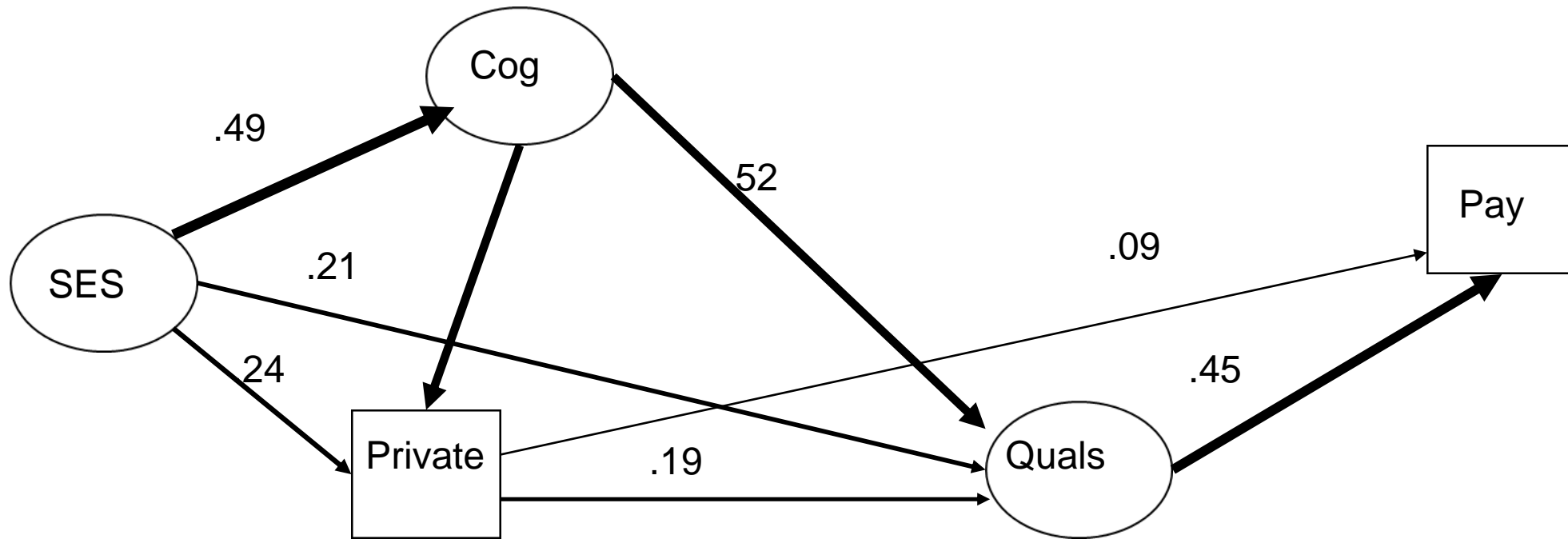
Salariat by 42



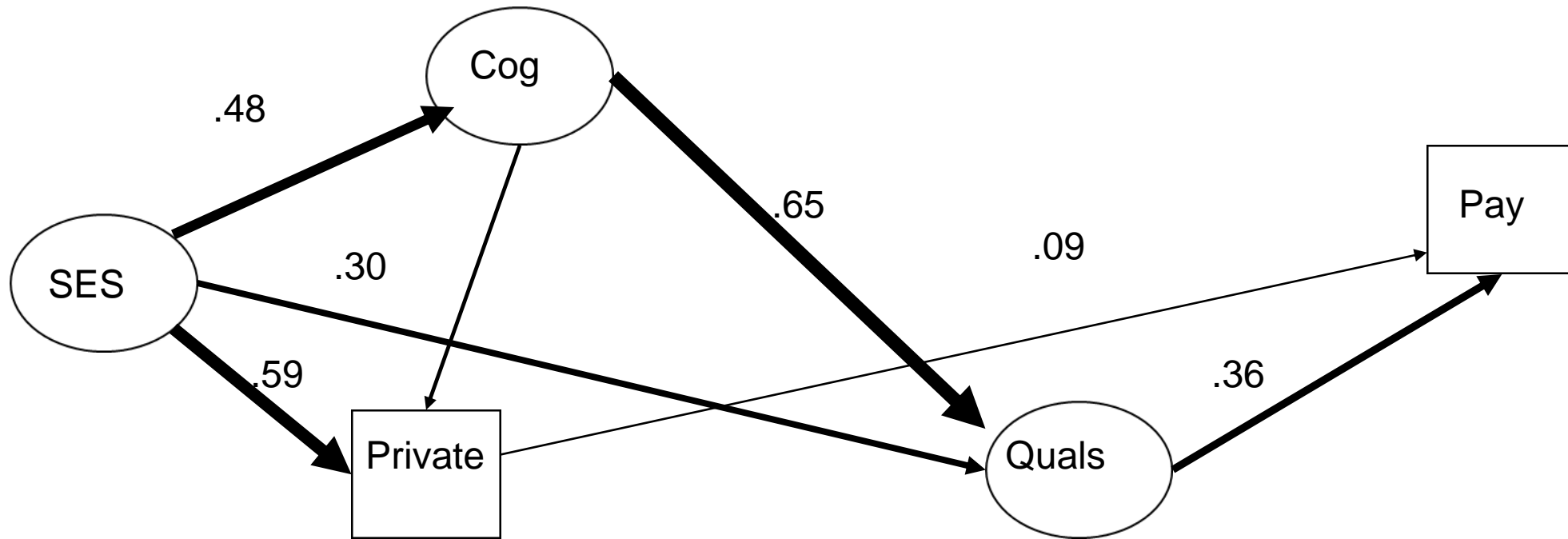
1958 women



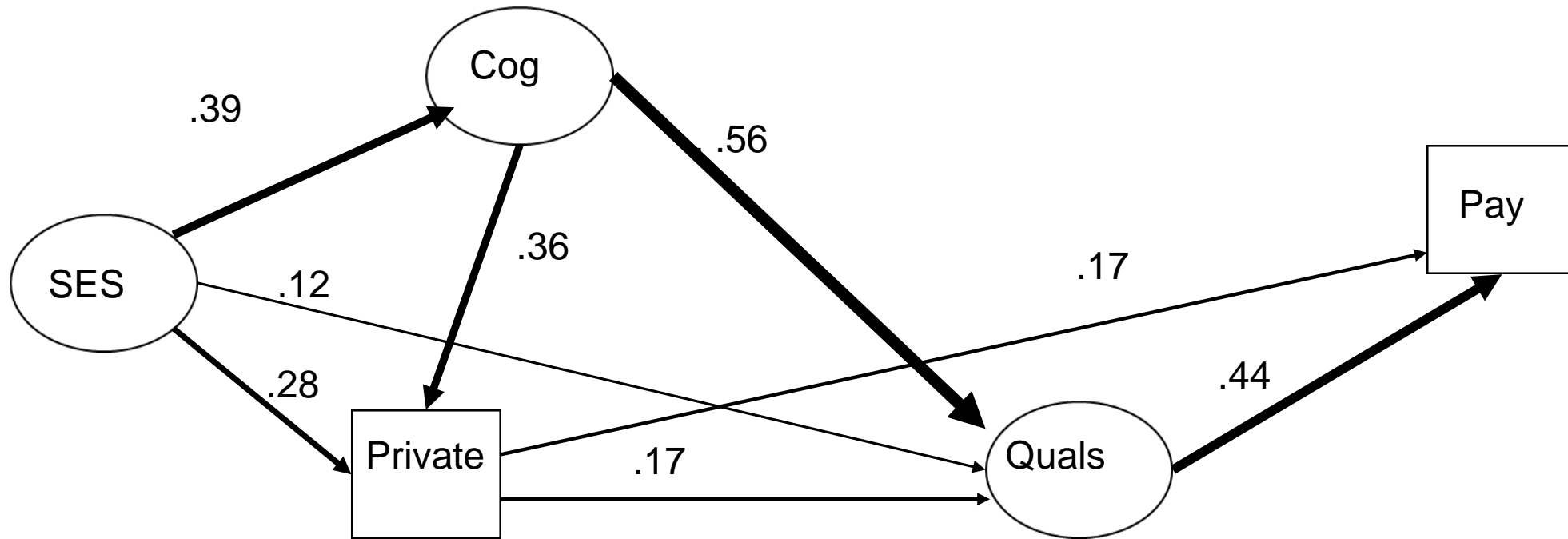
1970 women



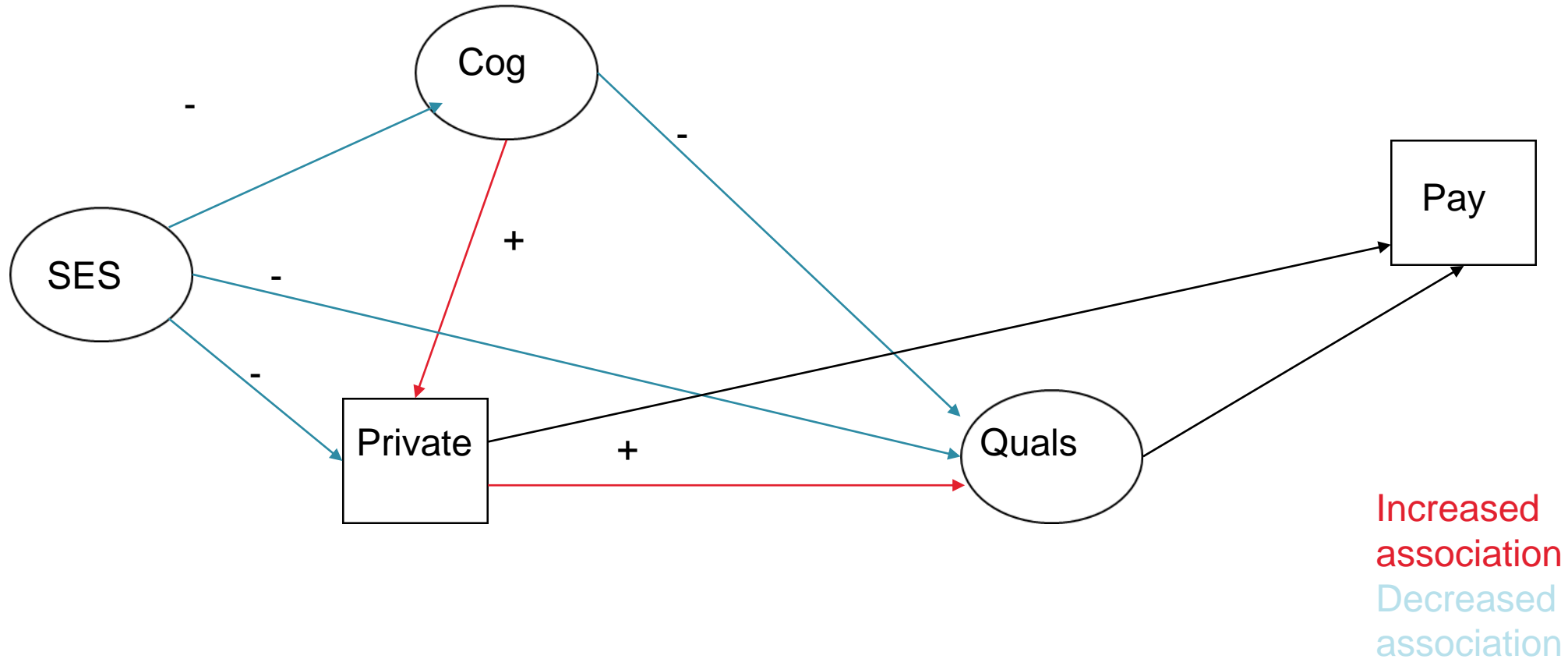
1958 men



1970 men



Summary of cross cohort changes



Changes in total effects

	SES-Qualifications		SES- Pay	
	Men	Women	Men	Women
NCDS				
Direct	0.300	0.363		
Indirect	0.315	0.272	0.289	0.265
Total	0.615	0.635	0.263	0.258
BCS70				
Direct	0.122	0.206		
Indirect	0.297	0.336	0.25	0.294
Total	0.419	0.542	0.242	0.259

Conclusions

- No DESO
- Increased role of private schools
- Decreased association between SES and qualifications
- No change in overall origins-destinations association