



Multifaceted Impact of Education on Women's Fertility in Norway

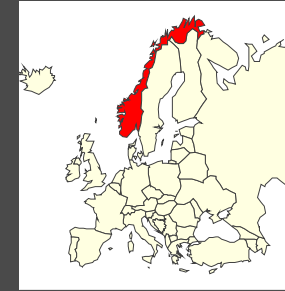
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Kiel, 1. February 2006

Two arguments about fertility, labour market attachment and family policy

- Generous family policies directed at working women are necessary in order to maintain fertility at a sustainable level
 - The current family policies in Norway need to be reformed in order to facilitate the compatibility between work and family for women in all parts of the labour market
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The Norwegian setting



■ Fertility

- Total fertility rate of 1.8

■ Education

- Almost one third of young women aged 19-24 years registered in higher education

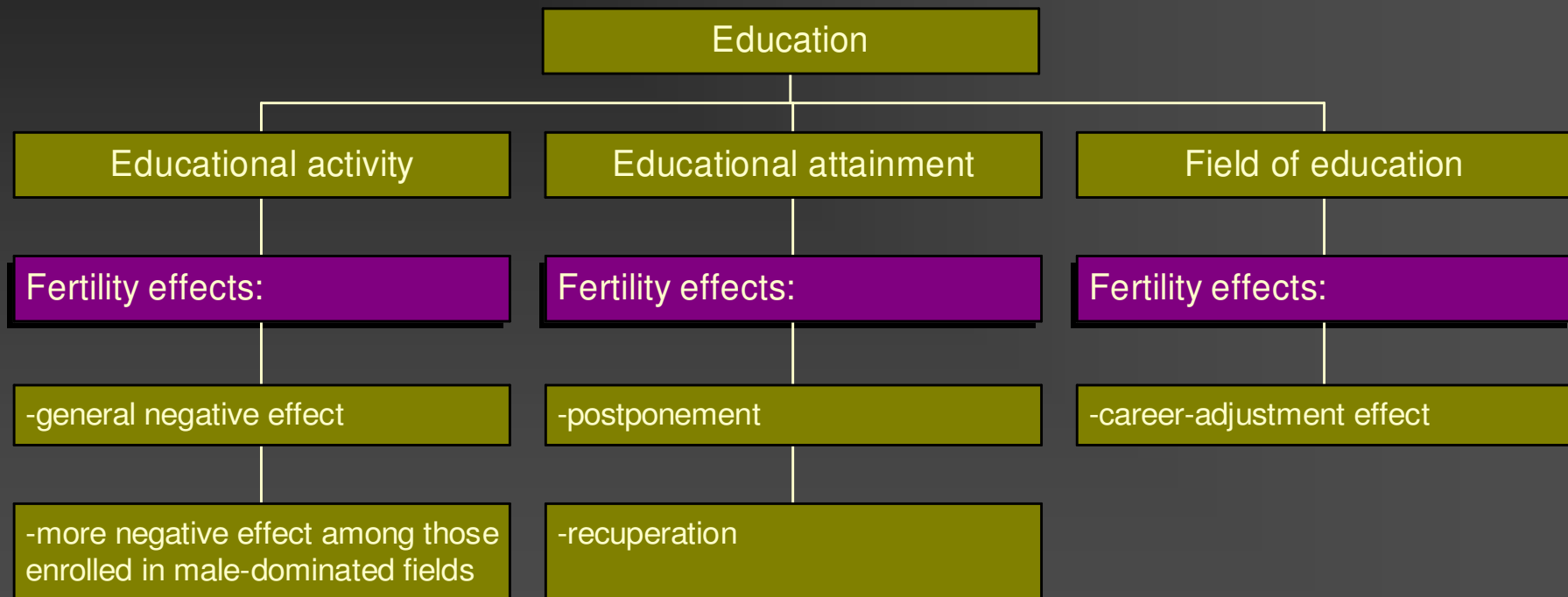
■ Employment

- Three of four mothers with children under age 3 are in paid employment
- 40% of mothers with children under age 3 work part time
- half of all women in paid employment work in occupations where half or more of the employed persons are women

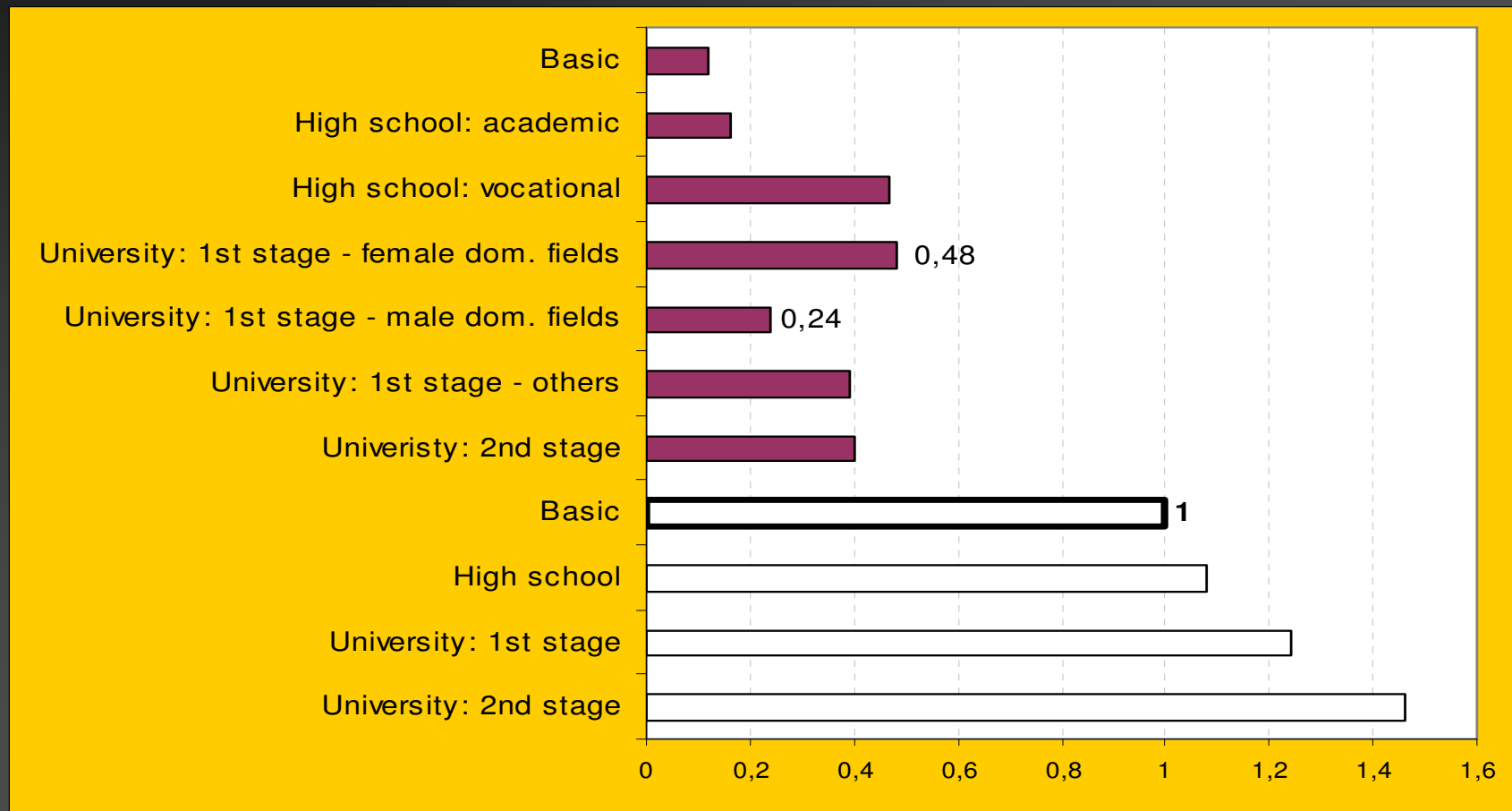
Education and fertility

- Postponement of parenthood
 - Investment in employment career
 - Increasing the childcare cost of having children
 - Increasing the career cost of having children
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Different effects of education on fertility

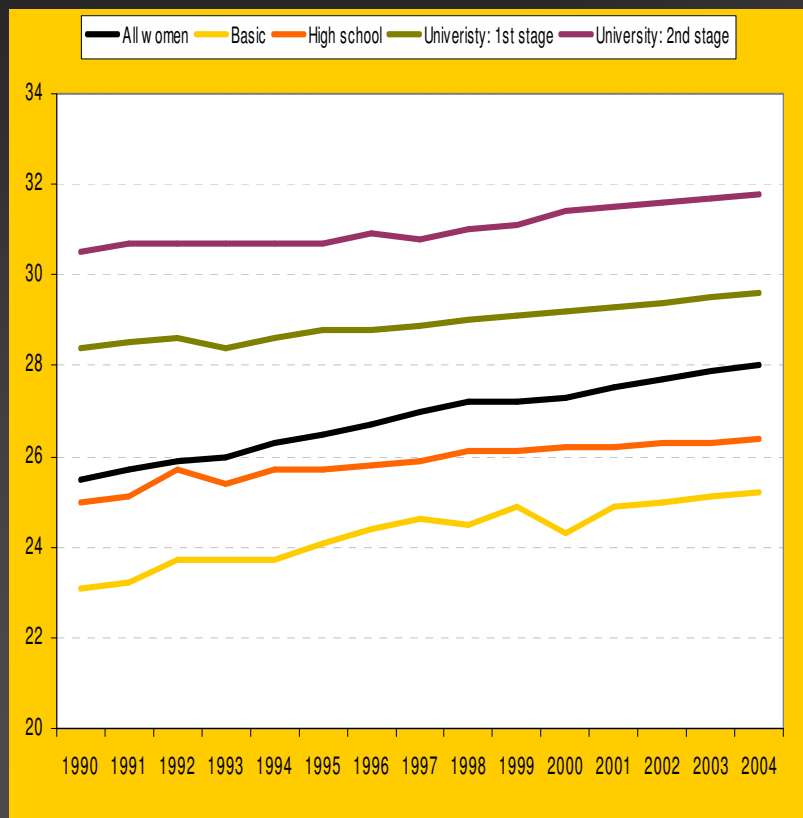


Educational activity

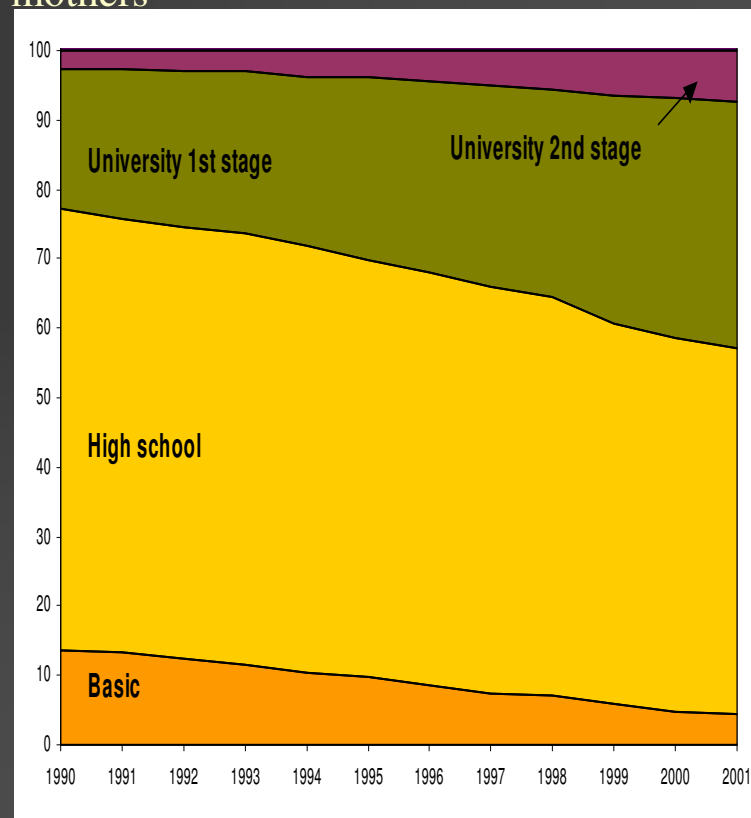


Postponement of motherhood

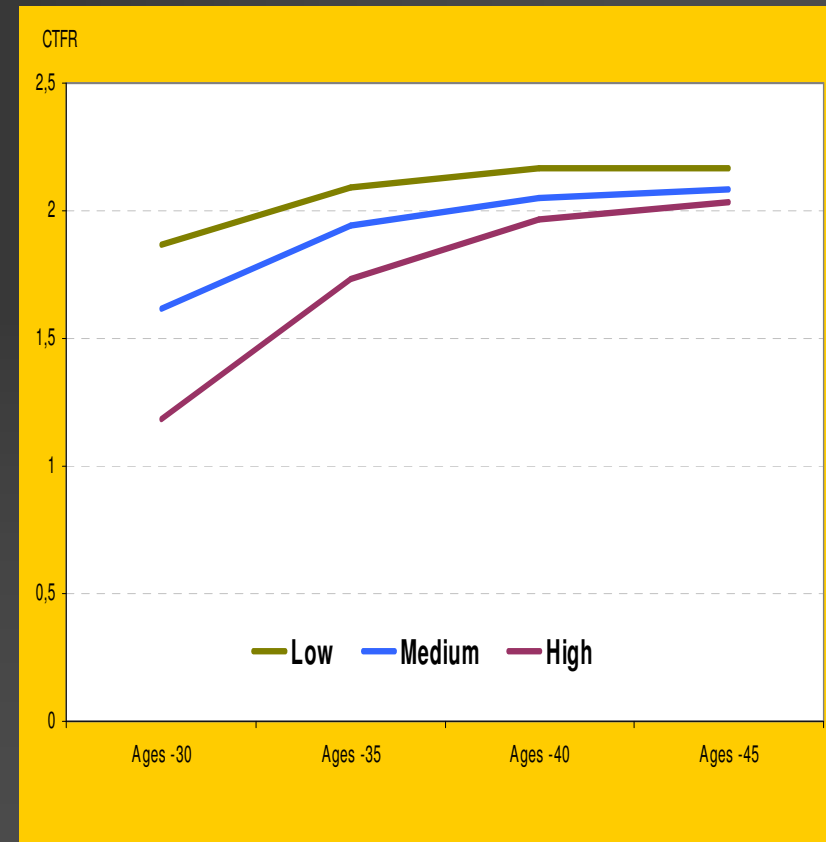
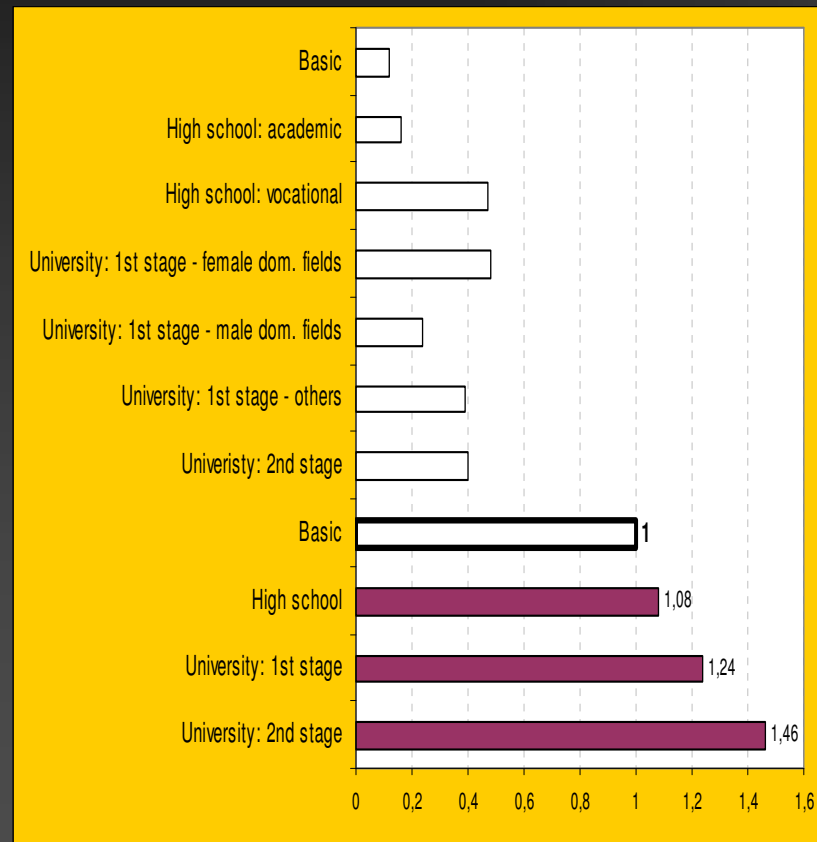
Mean age at first birth



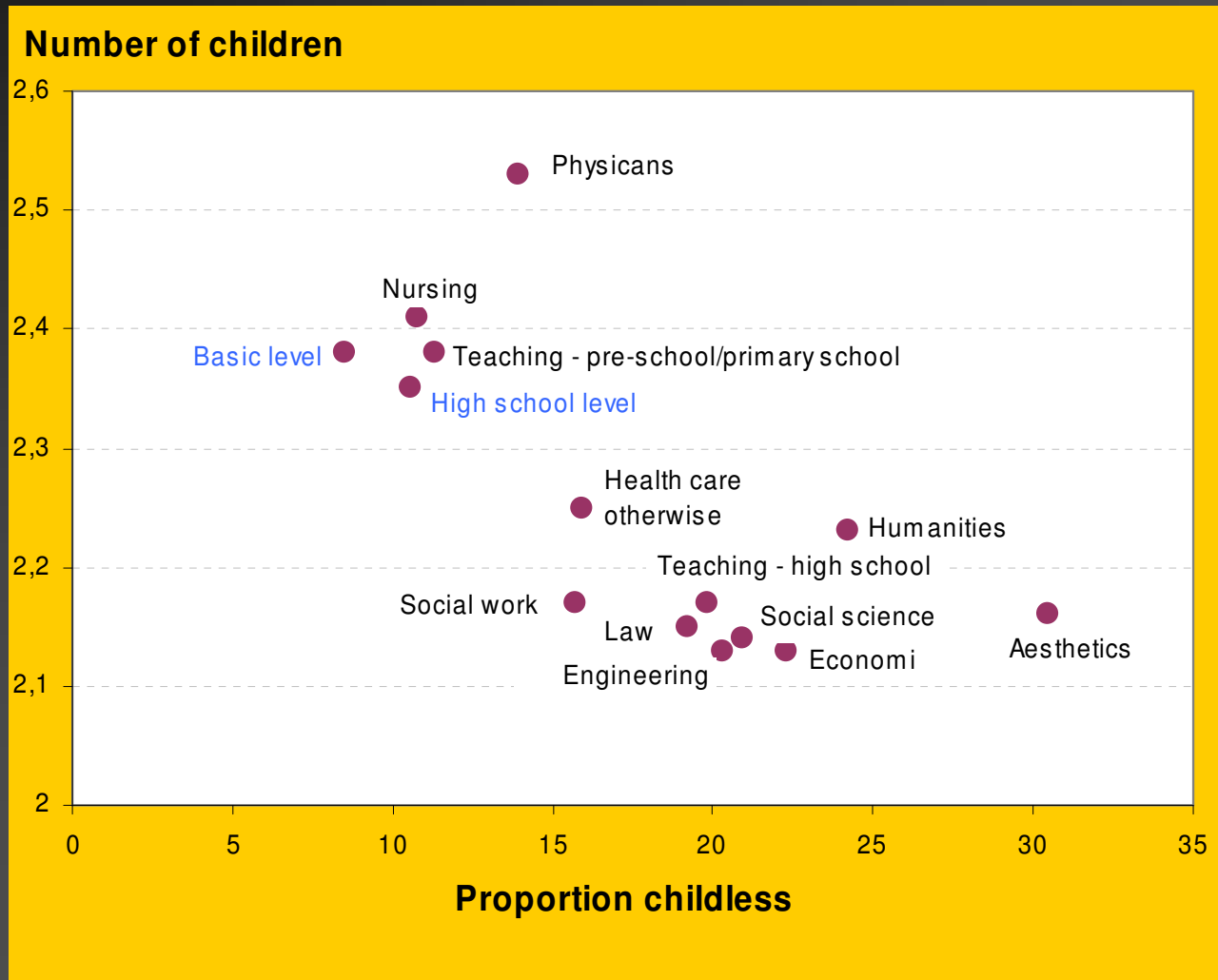
Educational attainment among first birth mothers



Recuperation of fertility



Field of education



Family policy and the labour market

- “Gender equality light”
 - high degree of female participation in paid work
 - high degree of female part-time work
- Equality between women in the labour market
 - labour market connection
 - fixed and temporary contracts
 - career-costs



Fertility and gender equality

- Fathers involvement in childcare
 - more equal division of use of parental leave between the parents = more equal division of the career cost of having a baby
 - more active role of fathers in childcare will probably stimulate fertility





End of talk

