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## BACKGROUND

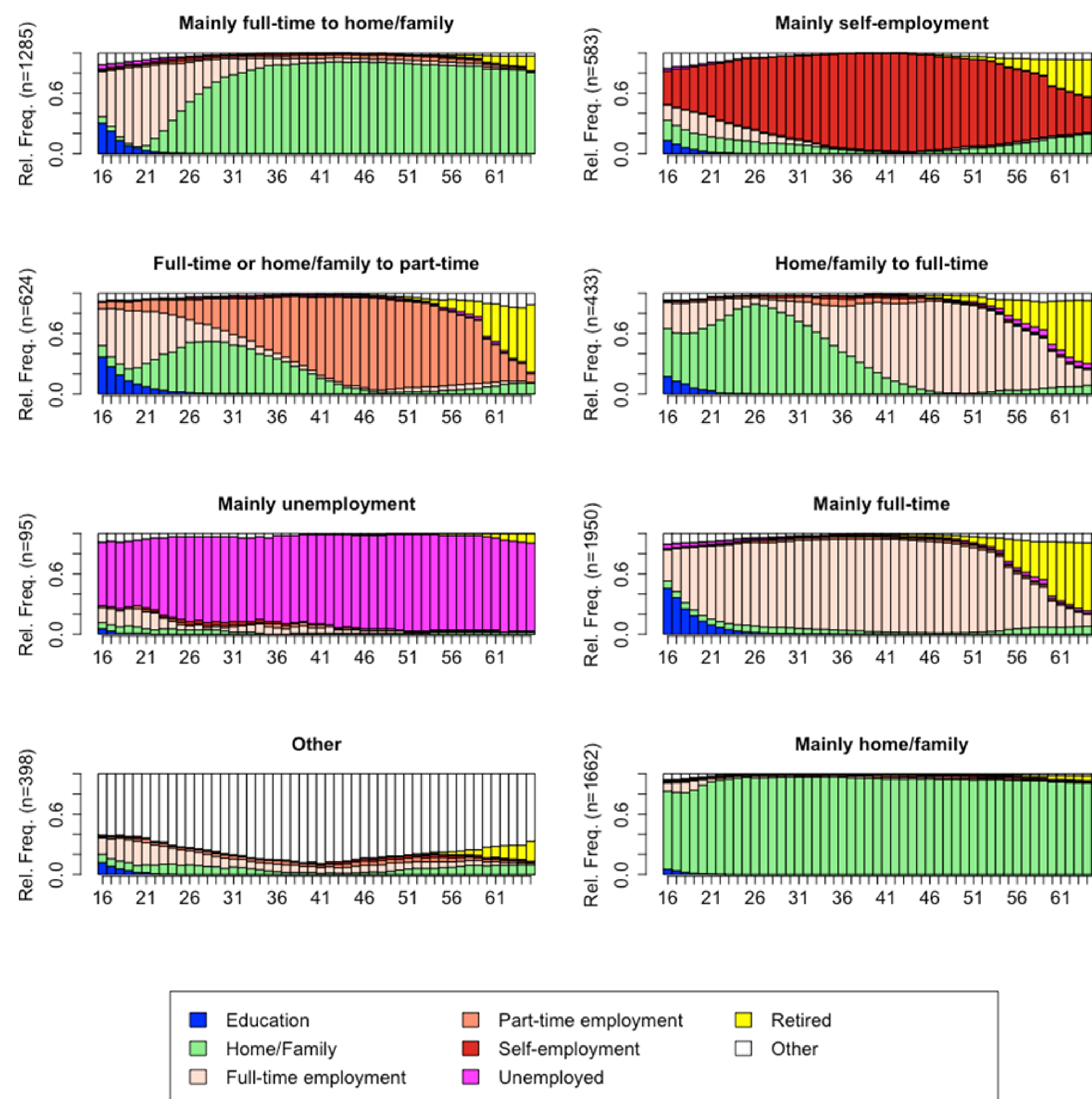
- **Life course theory and accumulation of dis/advantage:** timing, sequence, context of events and experiences over one's life course shape trajectories and influence health (Dannefer, 2003)
- We spend a large portion of our lives at work and **working conditions** and **lifetime exposure to work** affect later life health (Lu et al., 2017; Nilsen et al., 2019)
- **Cancer:** long latency period
  - Lifestyle behaviors, socioeconomic conditions, occupation: exposures, stressful conditions,...
  - Timing and sequence of events (sensitive period) + accumulation

## OBJECTIVE

To assess how employment trajectories predict cancer onset in later life among women.

## METHODS

- Survey of Health, Ageing and Retirement in Europe (**SHARE**), 2004-2020: **6809 women**, mean age 70 years (55-99), from 14 European countries.
- **Life calendar** on past employment life (16-65 years) → **sequence analysis**
- **Cancer:** self-reported overall and breast cancer
- **Logistic regression**
  - adjusted for age, birth cohort, attrition, body mass index, smoking, multimorbidity, and physical activity



## RESULTS

- **Risk** of all types of cancer (N=781) compared to women in the 'Mainly home/family' trajectory higher in:
  - Mainly full-time to home/family: OR 1.51 (95% CI 1.19-1.93)
  - Mainly full-time: 1.73 (1.40-2.16)
  - Full-time or home/family to part-time: 2.28 (1.70-3.05)
  - Other: 1.47 (1.02-2.09)
- For **breast** cancer (N=353), results were similar

## KEY MESSAGES

- Women's **employment trajectories** associated with **cancer risk** in later life
- The **domestic and family work** trajectory is associated with the lowest risk
- **Fulltime work trajectories** associated with highest risk
- **Potential explanations: occupational health risks? Health-related lifestyle?**

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## References

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 Nilsen C, Anel R, Darin-Mattson A et al. *BMC Public Health* 2019;19:1125.