Does the Corona Pandemic lead to Social Inequality in Study Success?

Markus Lörz
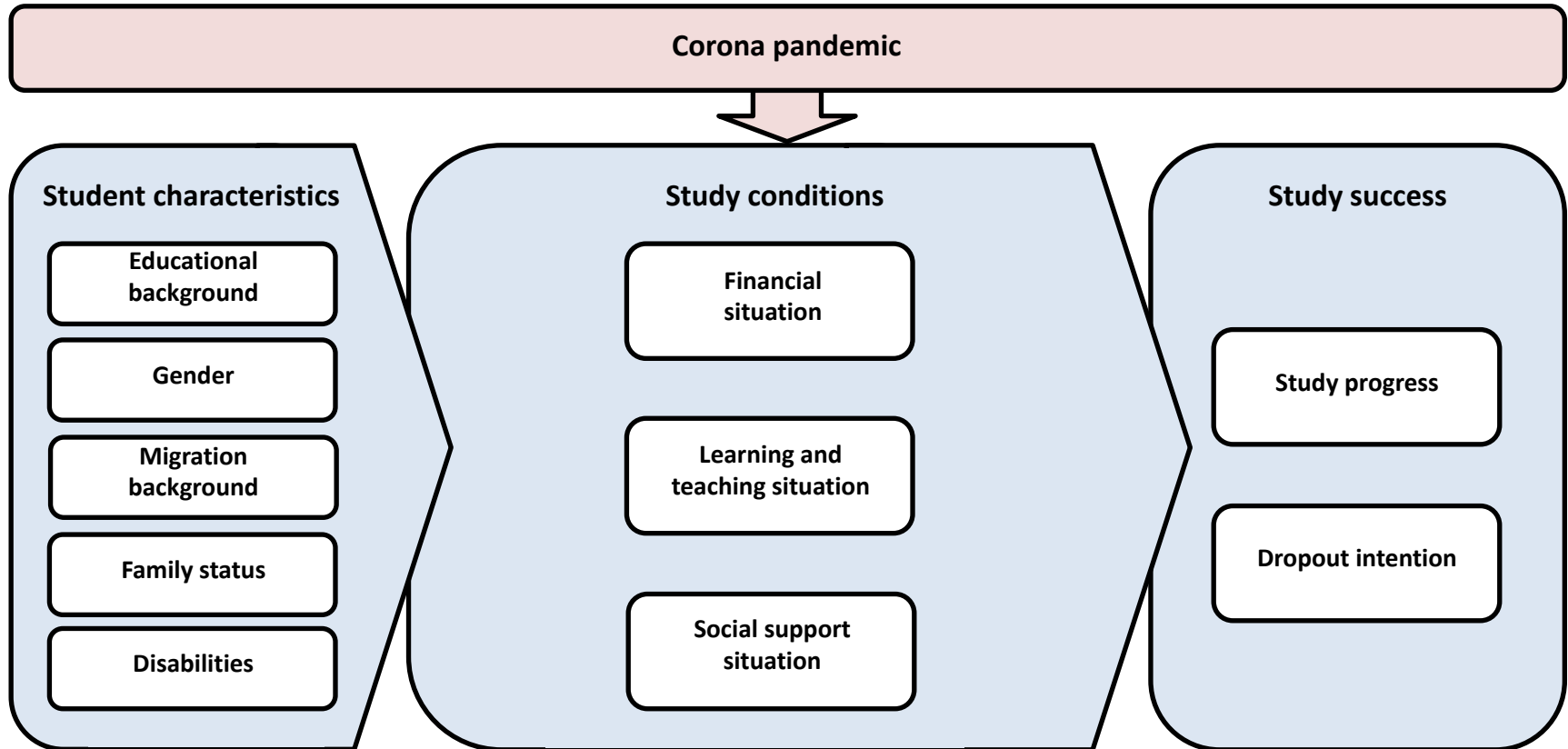
Otto-Friedrich-Universität Bamberg

Consequences of Corona Pandemic in Germany

- Corona pandemic affects…

    … contact situation

    … study situation

    … work situation → short-time work, unemployment

    (Grabka & Göbler 2020; Grabka et al. 2020)

- Many students got into a financially difficult situation

    (Aristovnik et al. 2020; Aucejo et al. 2020)

- Question: Are certain student groups more affected by these changes with regard to study success?

Corona Pandemic and Higher Education

Corona pandemic

Student characteristics
- Educational background
- Gender
- Migration background
- Family status
- Disabilities

Study conditions
- Financial situation
- Learning and teaching situation
- Social support situation

Study success
- Study progress
- Dropout intention

Research Questions

Focus on social background of students:

(1) Do students from less privileged families have higher financial burdens due to the corona pandemic?

(2) Do higher financial burdens lower study success?

(3) Does the corona pandemic lead to social inequality in study success?

Financial Situation

F

(1)   (2)

B   **S**

(3)

Social Background   Study Success
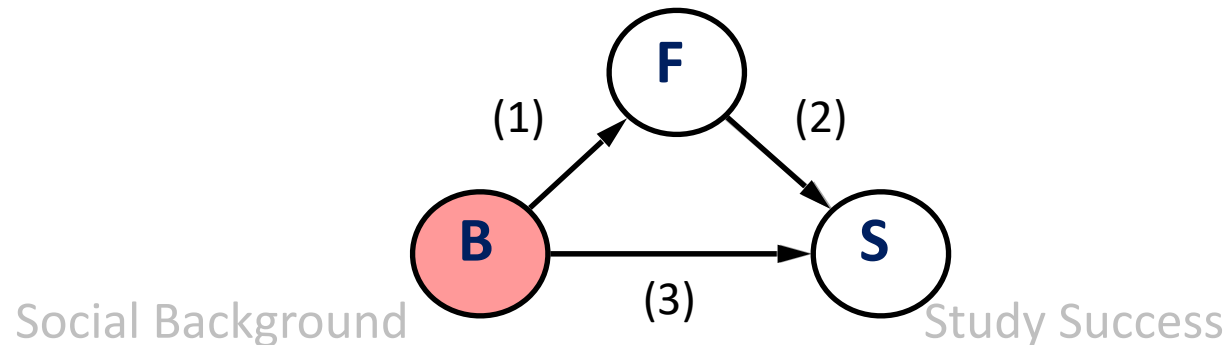
Data

- Germany-wide student survey "Studying in times of the corona pandemic", SITCO (2020)
  23 german universities (of applied sciences)
  n=24.600 cases

- German social survey "Sozialerhebung", SYS (2016)
  23 german universities (of applied sciencs)
  n=5.400 cases

Dependent Variables

Study Success

- Dropout intention

  "To what extent are you currently considering giving up studying"

  [not at all →very often]

- Expected delay in study progress

  "Do you see an extension of your studies due to the Corona

  pandemic as likely?" [no, very unlikely →   yes, very likely]

Independent Variables

Social Background

- Highest parental education

  [non-academic →   academic]

Financial Situation

- Student job situation

  Has the corona pandemic had an effect on your employment?

  [job loss, released, work hours reduced]

- Parental income situation

  Has the corona pandemic had an effect on the income of your

  parents? [worsend →improved]

Control Variables

- Sex, age, field of study

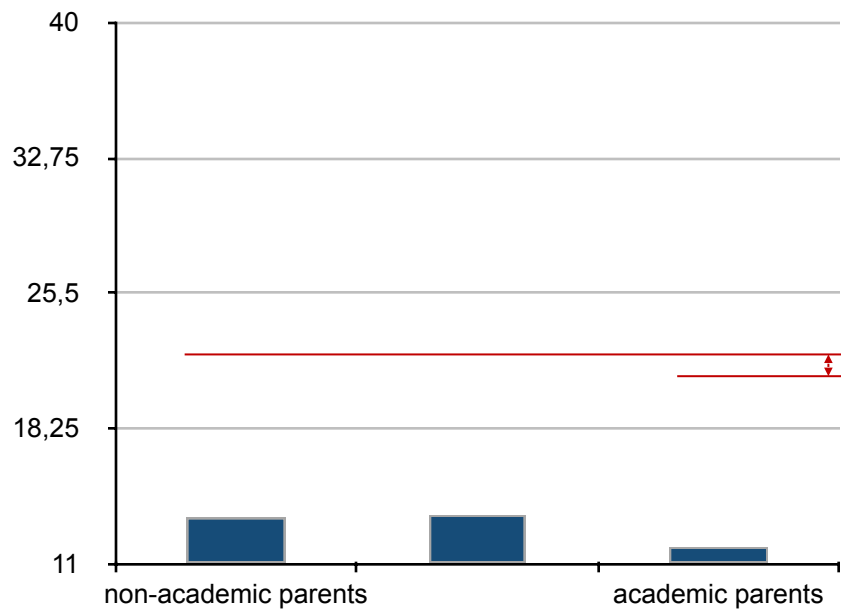# Methods

Description

- Bivariat associations
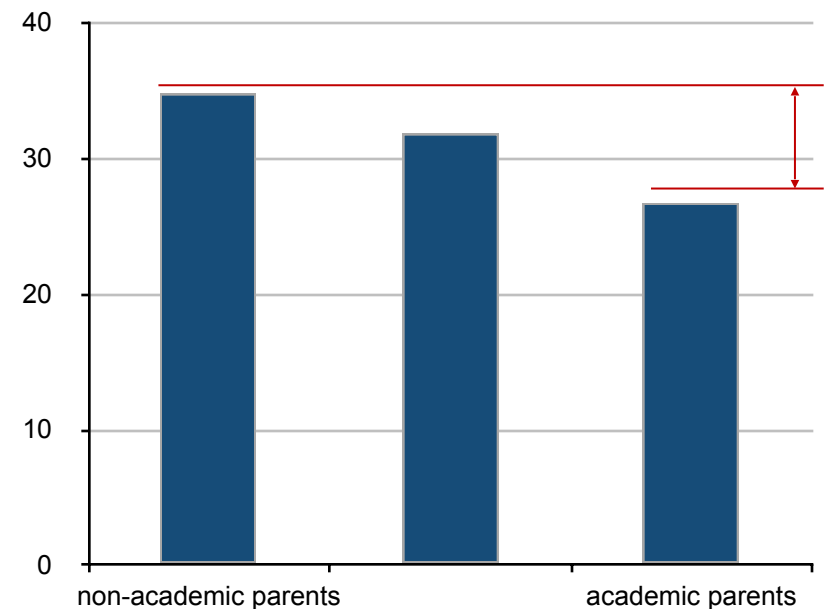- Development of social inequality

Logistic Regression

- Mechanisms of social inequality

Financial Situation by Social Background

student jobs:
difficult job situation
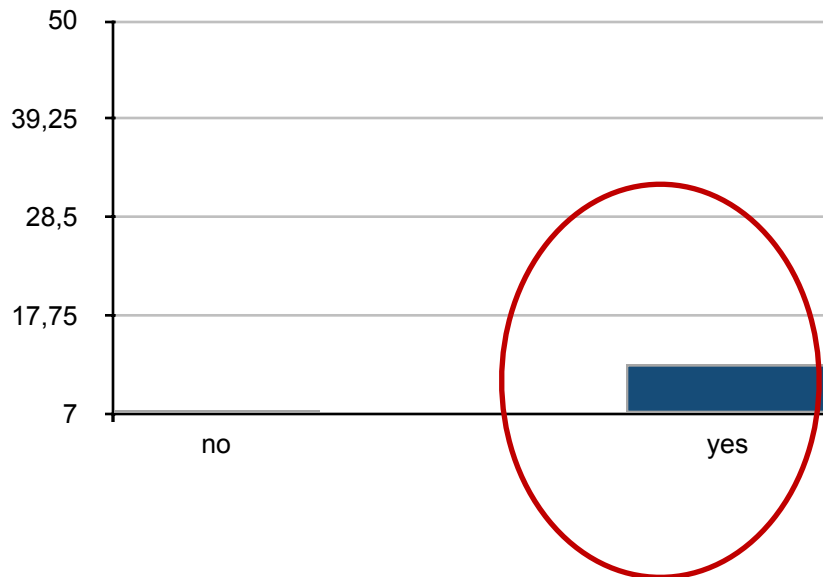
parental income:
worse income situation
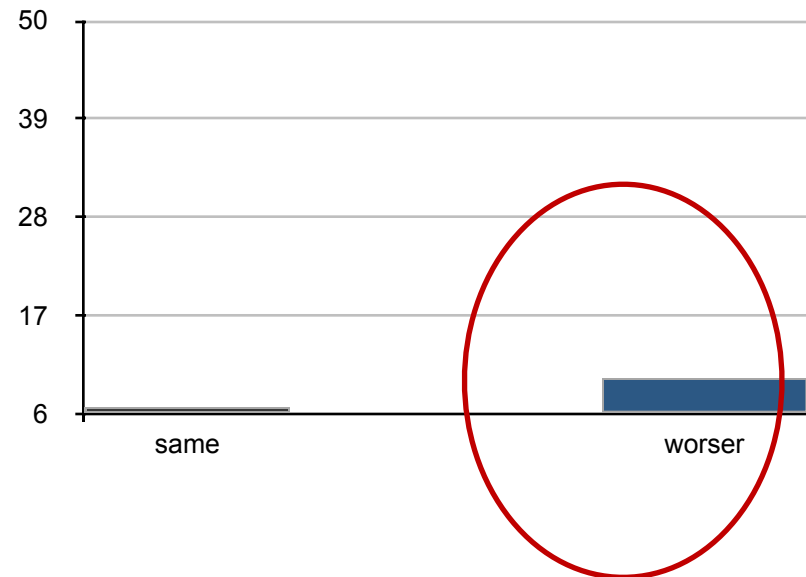
Dropout Intention by Financial Situation

student jobs:

difficult job situation

parental income:

worse income situation
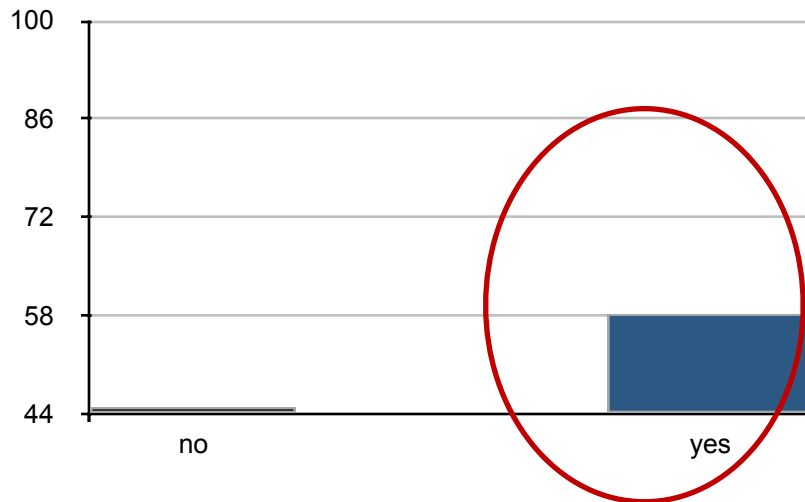
Diagrammtitel

Diagrammtitel
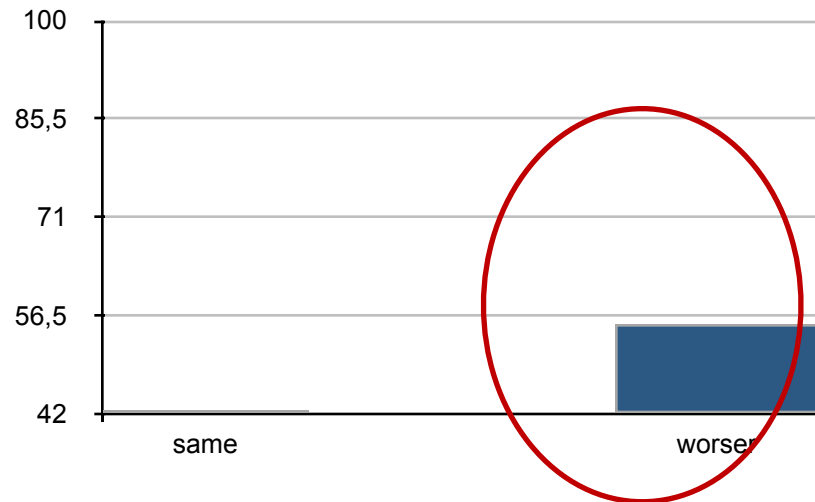
Delay in Study Progress by Financial Situation

student jobs:

difficult job situation
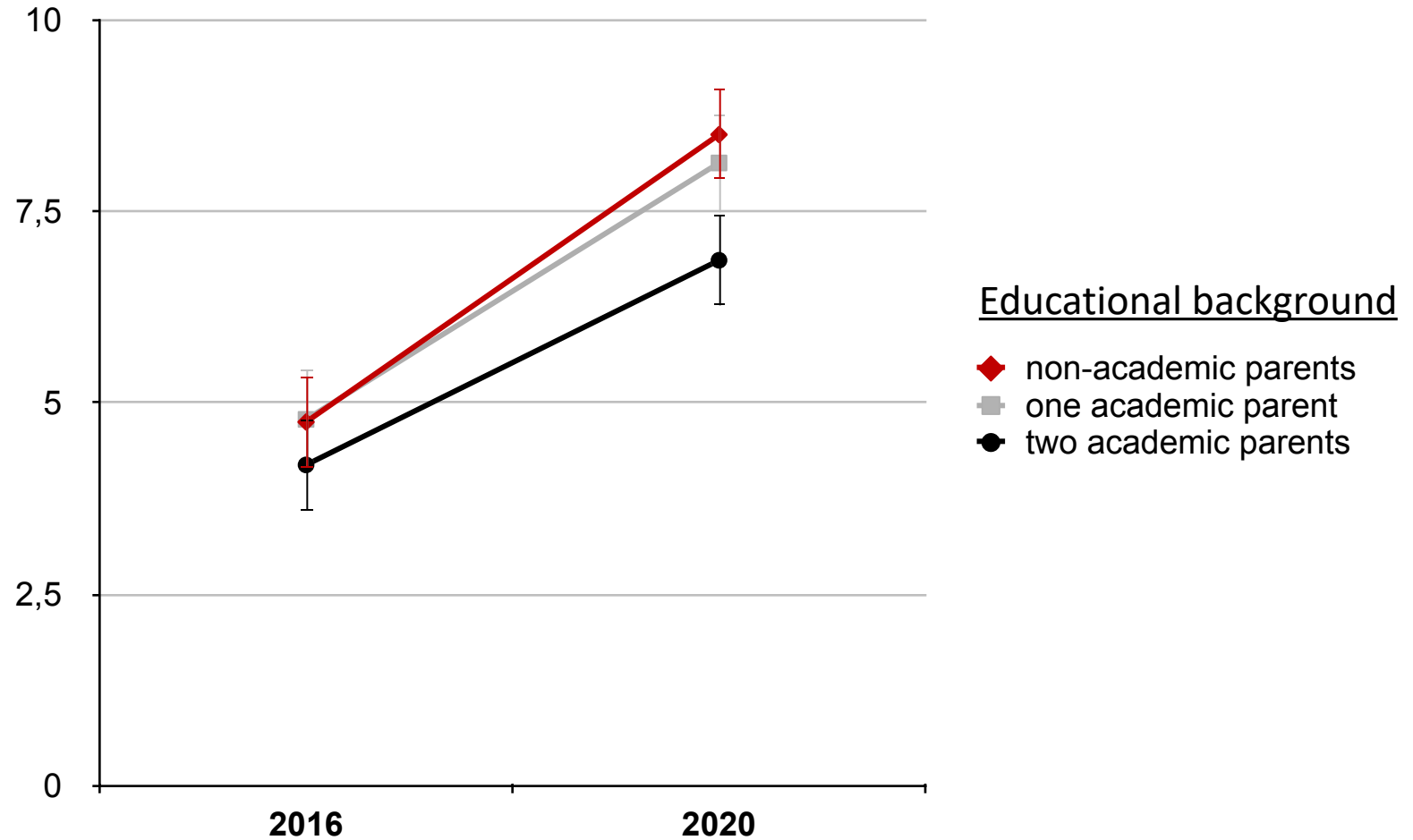
parental income:

worse income situation

Diagrammtitel

Diagrammtitel

Dropout Intention by Social Background

Educational background

- non-academic parents
- one academic parent
- two academic parents

Dropout Intention by Social Background

	M1	M2	M3
Academic background			
- both parents	-.014***		
- one parent	-.002		
- no parent (*Ref.*)			
Financial situation			
- worse student work			
- worse parent income			
Controls	x		
Pseudo-R^2	.002		
Wald-Chi^2	8		
n	23883		

Delay in Study Progress by Social Background
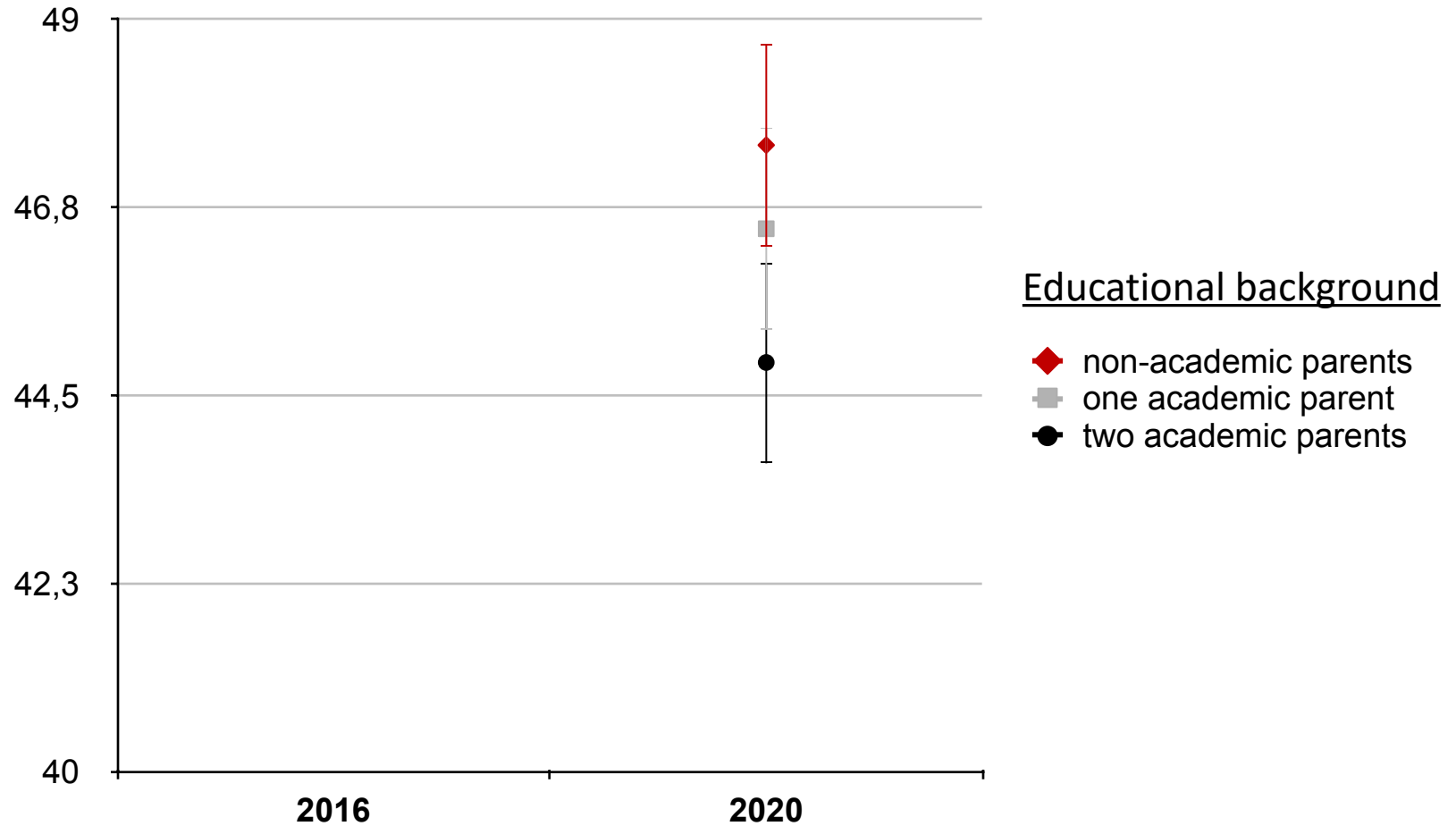
Delay in Study Progress by Social Background

	M1	M2	M3
Academic background			
- both parents	-.032***		
- one parent	-.015		
- no parent (*Ref.*)			
Financial situation			
- worse student job			
- worse parent income			
Controls	x		
R^2	.003		
Wald-Chi^2	68		
n	23883		

Conclusion

Results

- Students from less educated parents have a higher risk to intend to drop out

- Students from less educated parents expect more often a study delay due to the corona pandemic

- The difficult financial situation of student parents is one reason for this phenomenon

Further Research

- Learning conditions
- International comparison

Thank you!

Contact:
Prof. Dr. Markus Lörz
Chair of Sociology, with special emphasis on Social Inequalities
University of Bamberg
markus.loerz@uni-bamberg.de

Appendix

Theoretical Considerations

Why should the Corona Pandemic lead to social inequality in study success?

- **Rational Choice Theory**: Individual decisions based on expected benefits, **costs** and success probabilities

- Low-SES-Parents more often work in low-wage-sector.
- The low-wage-sector is more affected by the Corona Pandemic
- Financial support is more important in low-SES-families

Delay in Study Progress (OLS-Regression)

	M1	M2	M3
Academic background			
- one parent	-.105***	-.096**	-.065*
- both parents	-.054	-.054*	-.043
- no parent (*Ref.*)			
Financial situation			
- worse student work		.501***	.432***
- worse parent income			.397***
Controls			
- gender	-.10***	-098***	-.107***
- semester	.01**	.006**	.007**
- field of study	.01	-.005	-.001
Constante	3.27***	3.27***	3.06***
R^2	.002	.014	.028
F-Wert	8	44	78
n	23883	23883	23883

Interaktionseffekt Erwerbssituation)