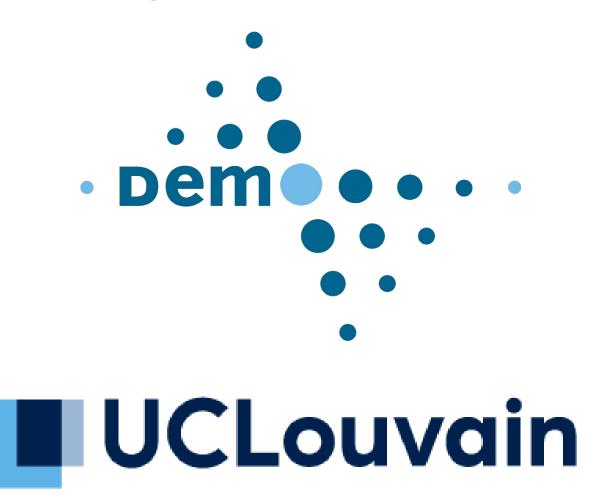
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Moving out and moving on: the impact of mobility and union dissolutions on mental health in Belgium





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Background

- There is a large contribution of the literature on how union dissolutions increase the risk of depression (Naess et al., 2015; Rhoades et al., 2011; Switek, Easterlin, 2018)
- Separation is often accompanied with a **rise in depressive symptoms** before the separation and remains high after the separation (For people aged 50 and more: Tosi and van den Broek, 2020).
- **Residential mobilities** imply breaks in social ties and request changes that can damage mental health (Magdol, 2002; Oishi, 2010)

Aim

This research aims to

a) see how depression risk varies before, during and after the separation in the Belgian context

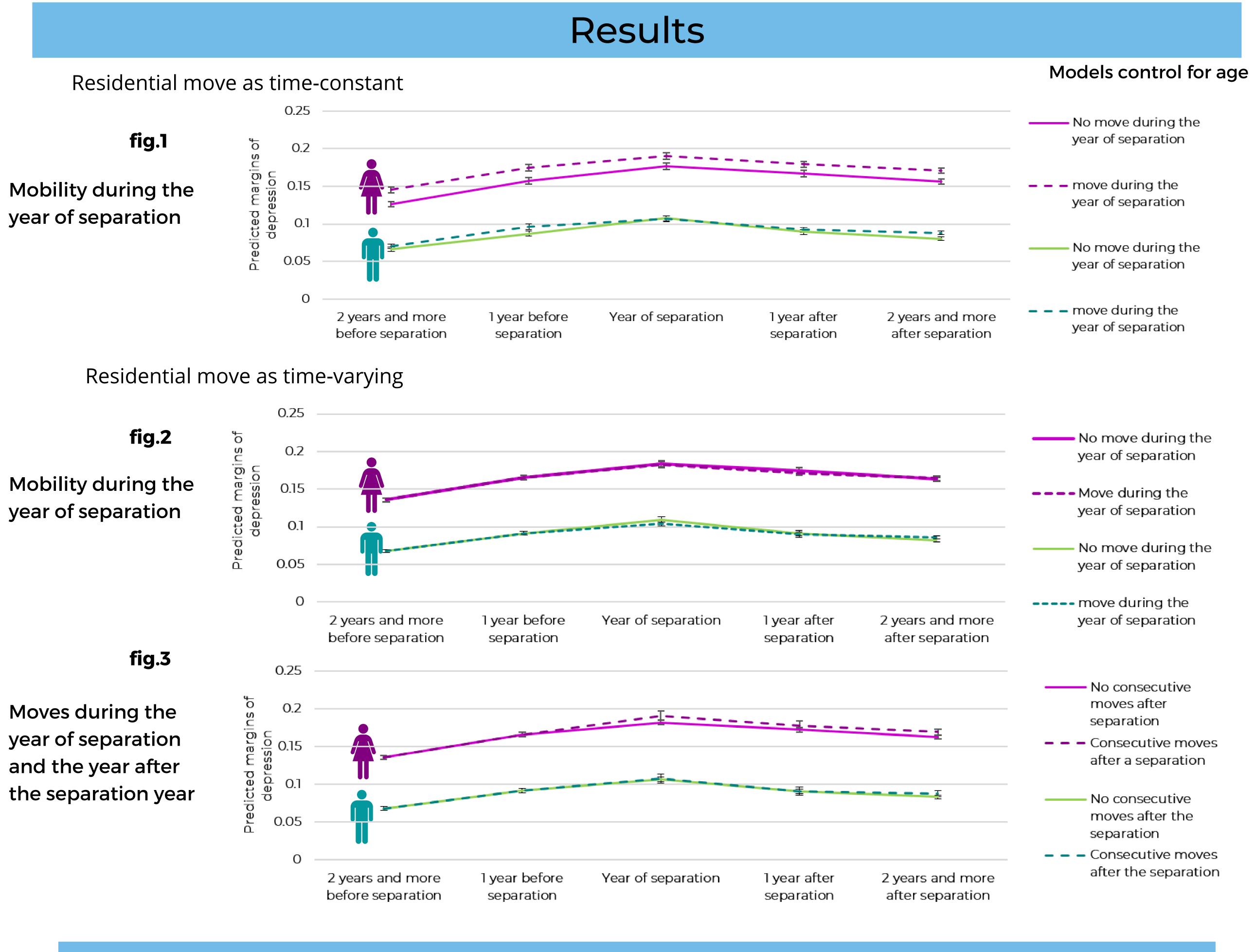
Does this follows the same pattern as other contexts?

b) question the little studied relation between depression risk and residential mobility in a context of separation.

Does moving at the moment and/or just after the separation change the relation between union dissolution and depression?

Data and Methods

- Data from the Socialist Belgian health insurance
 - Yearly observations on the period 2009-2018.
- Population: **20 to 64 year-old adults** who were in a married or unmarried coresidential relationship on January 1st 2009.
- Outcome: Depression risk measured by antidepressants consumption
 - Depression is clinicially declared above 90 Defined Daily Doses (DDD).
- Methods: Random-effect logit models
 - Results are **s**hown in Predicted margins
- Covariates: age, sex, couple status, parental status, (long-term) unemployment, access to preferential fees (proxy for low-income households), (long-term) work incapacity, change of antidepressant prescriber, partner's antidepressants consumption.



Conclusion

- Results indicate that the relation between depression and separation in the Belgian context includes an anticipation effect and short-term consequences.
- Women who move during their separation year show a higher risk of depression on the whole period
 - Possible selection effect or reversed causality
- Women who cumulate two moves during the separation year and the following year show a short-term increase in their depression risk.
 - Higher risk of deprivation for women after a separation.
- Possible underestimation
 - Antidepressants intake depend on access to medical care and acherence to treatment.

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