Living to tell the tale

Family, survival, and the genocide of the Maya-Achi in Guatemala

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Post-conflict fertility behaviour

1. Fertility drops during mortality crises
   - Malnutrition, psychological stress, changes in marital behaviour (Abu-Musa et al., 2008)
2. Followed by temporary surges in fertility
   - Post-WWII 'baby-boom' (Van Bavel & Reher, 2013)
   - Angola (Agadjanian & Prata, 2002); Cambodia (Heuveline & Poch, 2007)
   - China after the 1958-1961 famine (Ashton, 1984)
3. Higher fertility amongst young women (Cetorelli, 2014; Nobles et al., 2015)

Why does fertility increase after conflict?

1. Replacement effects
   - 1.1 Own-child mortality (Hossain et al., 2007)
   - 1.2 Collective mortality (Nobles et al., 2015)
2. Spouse separation-reunification
   - 2.1 Increases in marital fertility (Heuveline & Poch, 2007)
   - 2.2 Higher share of women at risk of pregnancy (Van Bavel & Reher, 2013)

The case: Rio Negro

- Guatemalan civil war (1960-1996)
- Rio Negro, an indigenous community (~1000 inhabitants)
- 44% population killed in mass killings around **1982**
- Possible genocide

Research questions

1. *What drove post-conflict fertility recovery in Rio Negro?*

2. *What was the role of replacement fertility and spouse reunification in the recovery?*

Descriptive analysis

1. Conflict Mortality
2. Post-conflict fertility
   - 2.1 Number of children (completed fertility)
   - 2.2 Timing of childbirth (age-specific fertility rates)

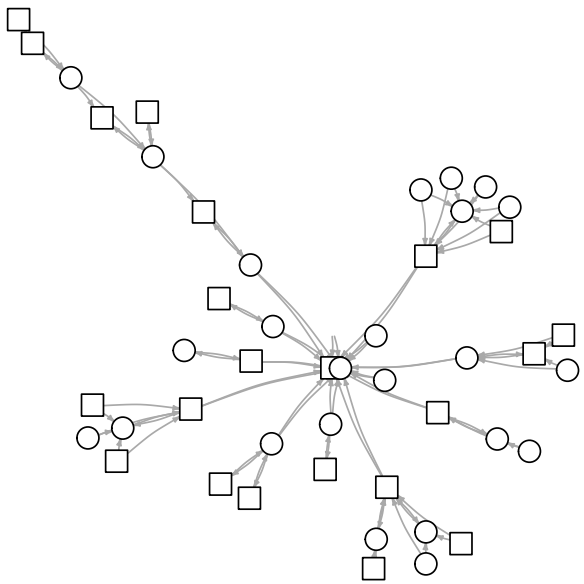
Cohort composition (women only)

Cohort	Age at genocide	Years of birth	Cohort size
Pre-war	20-29	1953-1962	159
War	10-19	1963-1972	246
Post-war	0-9	1973-1982	395

Data

- Demographic data on one village (1960-2015)
  - Reconstructed from genealogies
  - 3556 unique individuals
- Fieldwork Nov 2015 - Nov 2016

Family id: 37



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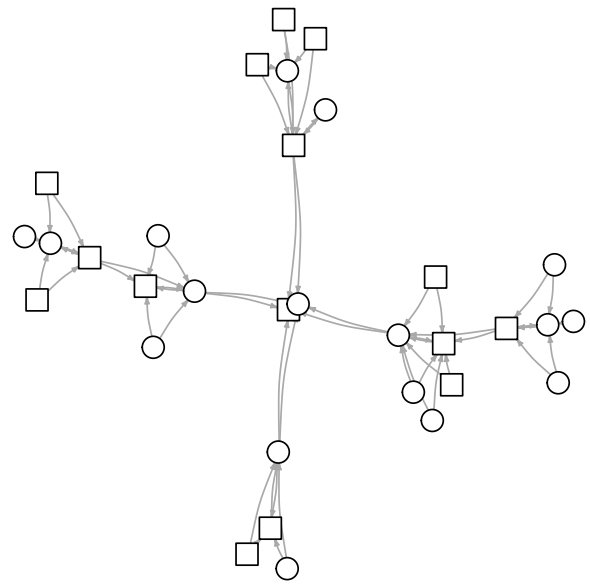
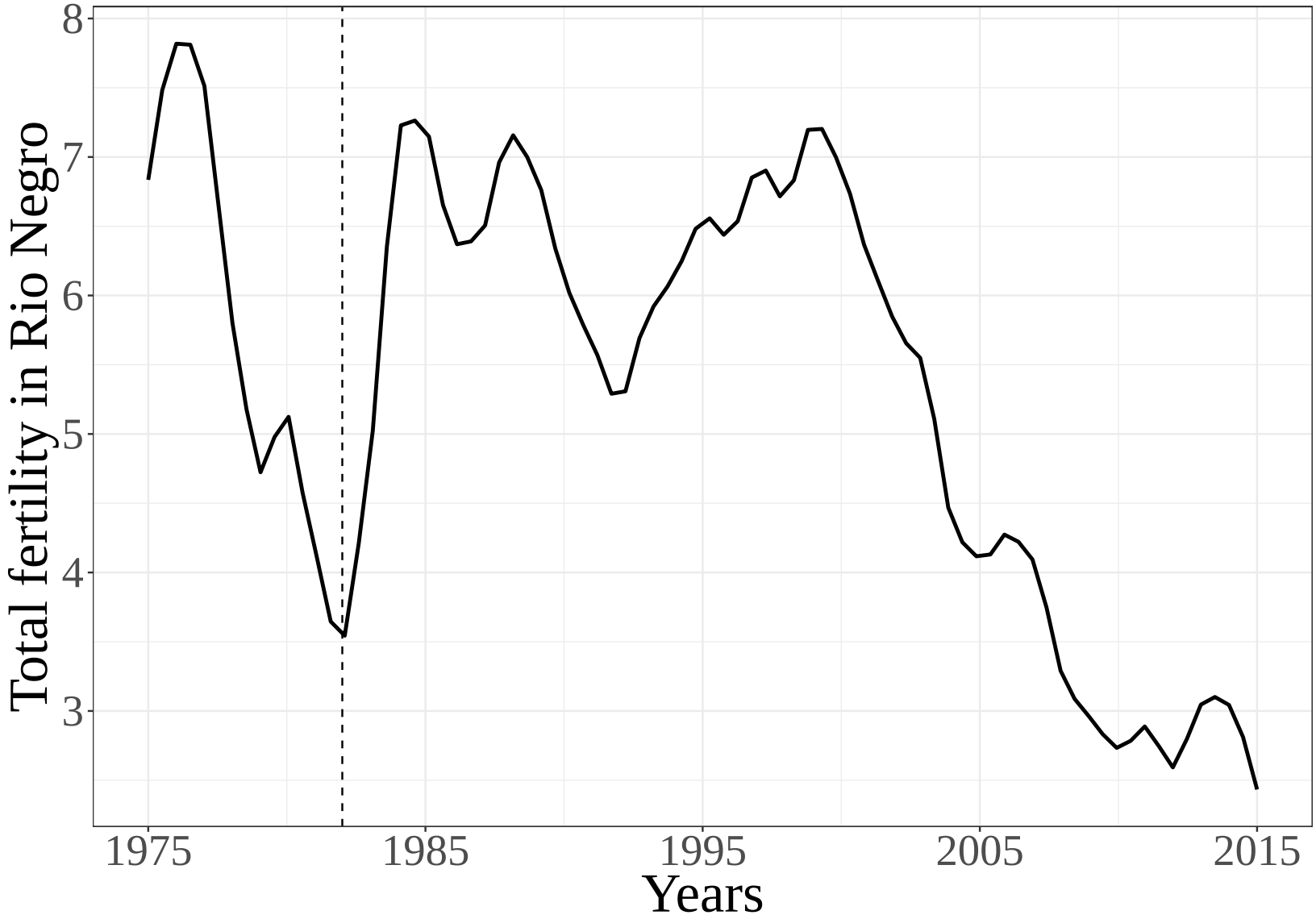
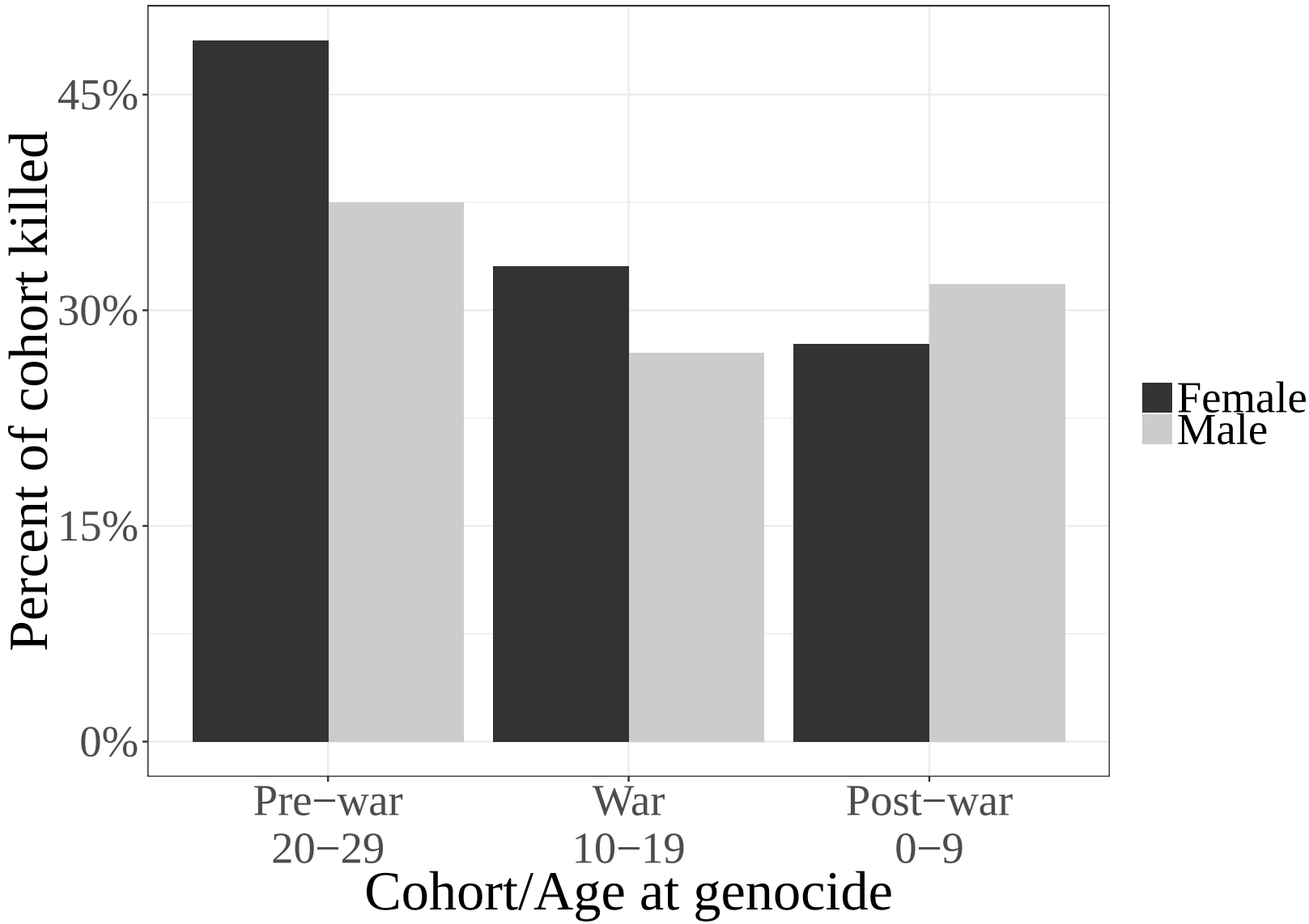


Did fertility recover after the genocide?



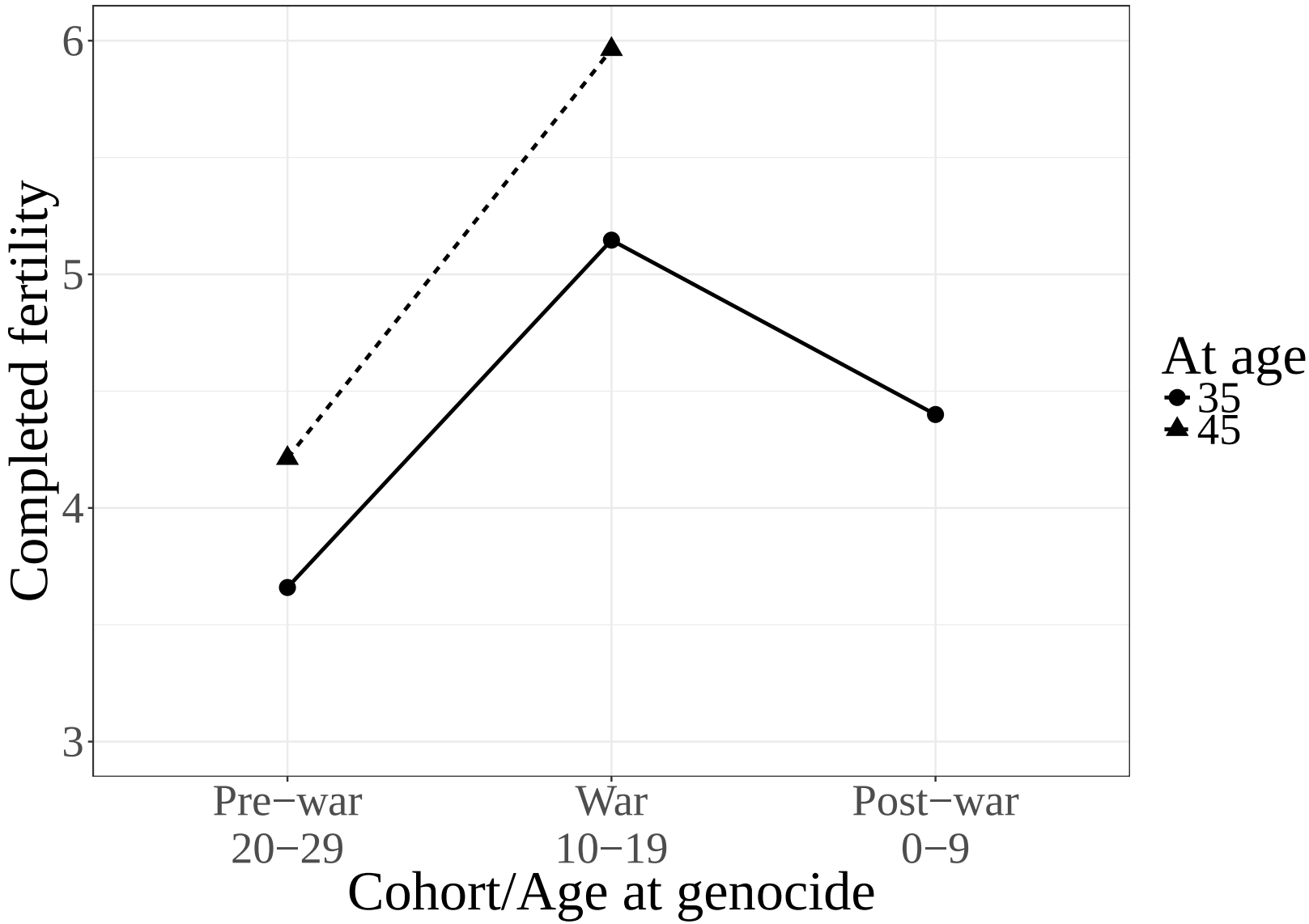
Mortality > Conflict-deaths by cohort



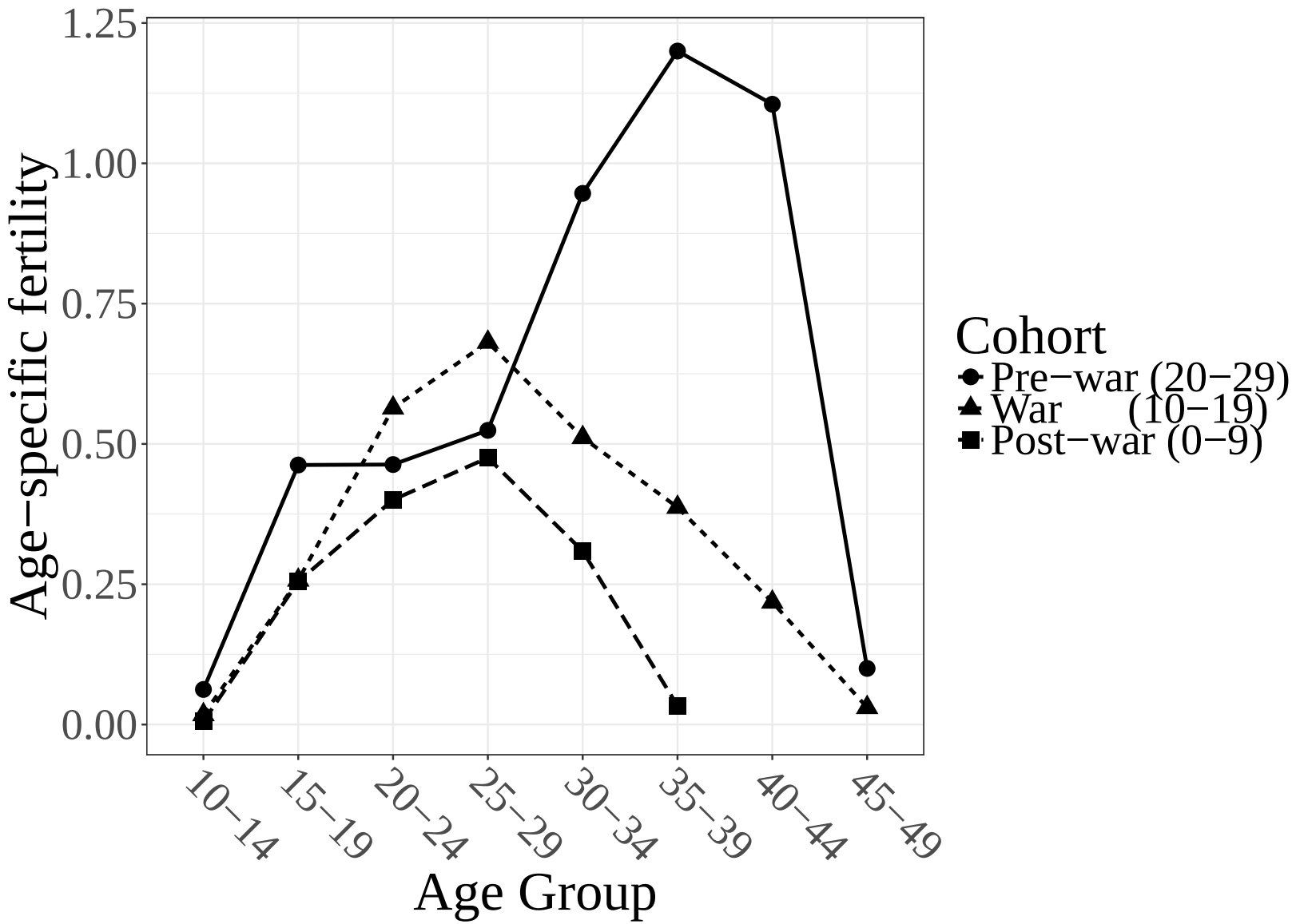
Mortality > Own-child deaths

Cohort	Age at genocide	Cohort	Had child %	Lost child %
Pre-war	20-29	1953-1962	77.65	50.59
War	10-19	1963-1972	8.20	4.92
Post-war	0-9	1973-1982	0.00	0.00

Fertility > Total number of children



Fertility > Timing of childbirth



Discussion > Cohort effects on psot-conflict fertility

- Older women (20-29)
  - More affected (mortality, sexual violence, stigma)
  - Extended reproductive age
  - Did not contribute the most children
- Younger women (10-19)
  - Less affected by the war (own-mortality and relatives lost)
  - Timing: more time to bear children
  - Contributed most children after the genocide

Conclusions

1. Replacement effects
   - 1.1 Depend on conflict-mortality distribution
   - 1.2 Older cohorts have more relatives to lose (including children)
   - 1.3 But less time to replace them
2. Spouse reunification
   - 2.1 Possible effect
   - 2.2 Most children were from younger women who did not postpone their fertility
3. Social pressure on younger women (next paper!)

Limitations

1. Data
    - 1.1 Cohort choice: data less reliable in distant past
    - 1.2 External factors
2. Analysis and generalisability
    - 2.1 Small numbers
    - 2.2 Non-probabilistic sample

Thank you!

Find out more about the data collection on my talk tomorrow:

“Innovative data collection & processing” session

Thursday 9:00-10:30
