

Urbanization and regional difference in ageing in Europe

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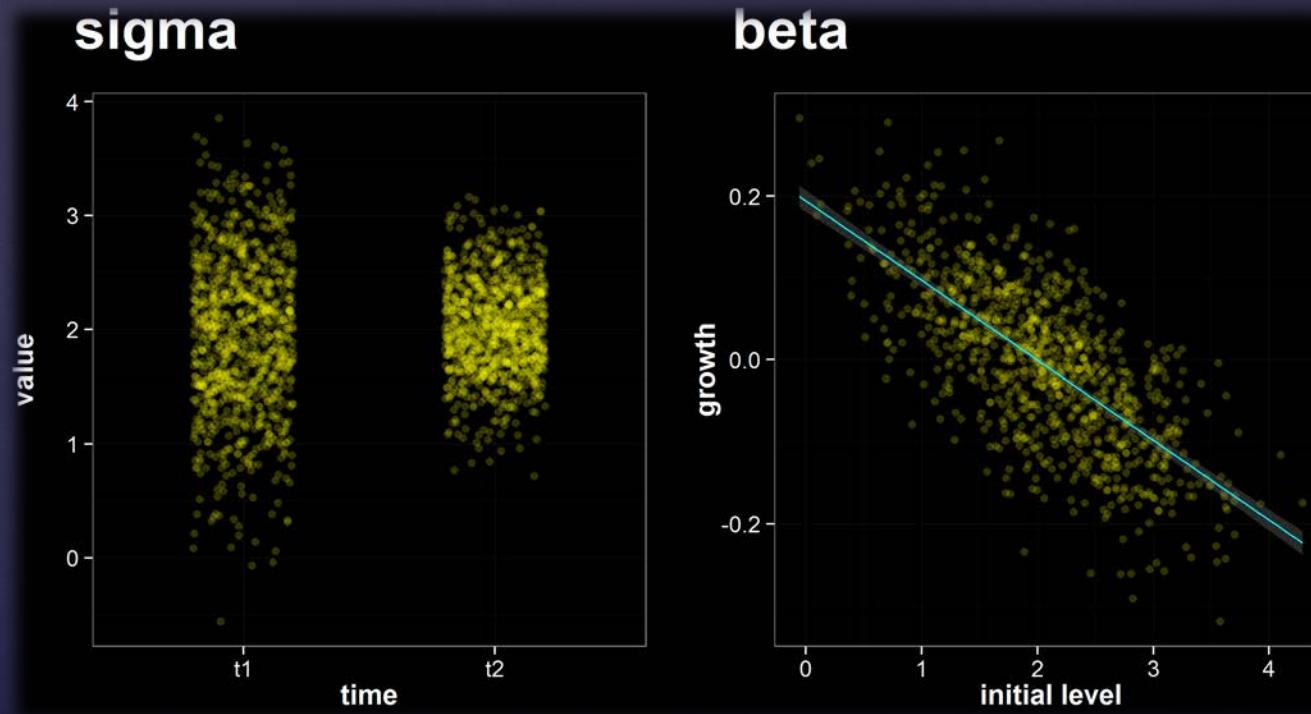
Introduction

We investigate how regional differences in ageing develop over time in Europe

The specific interest lies in the effect of urban/rural divide on convergence in ageing

We apply the methodological framework of convergence analysis

Introduction : two concepts of convergence



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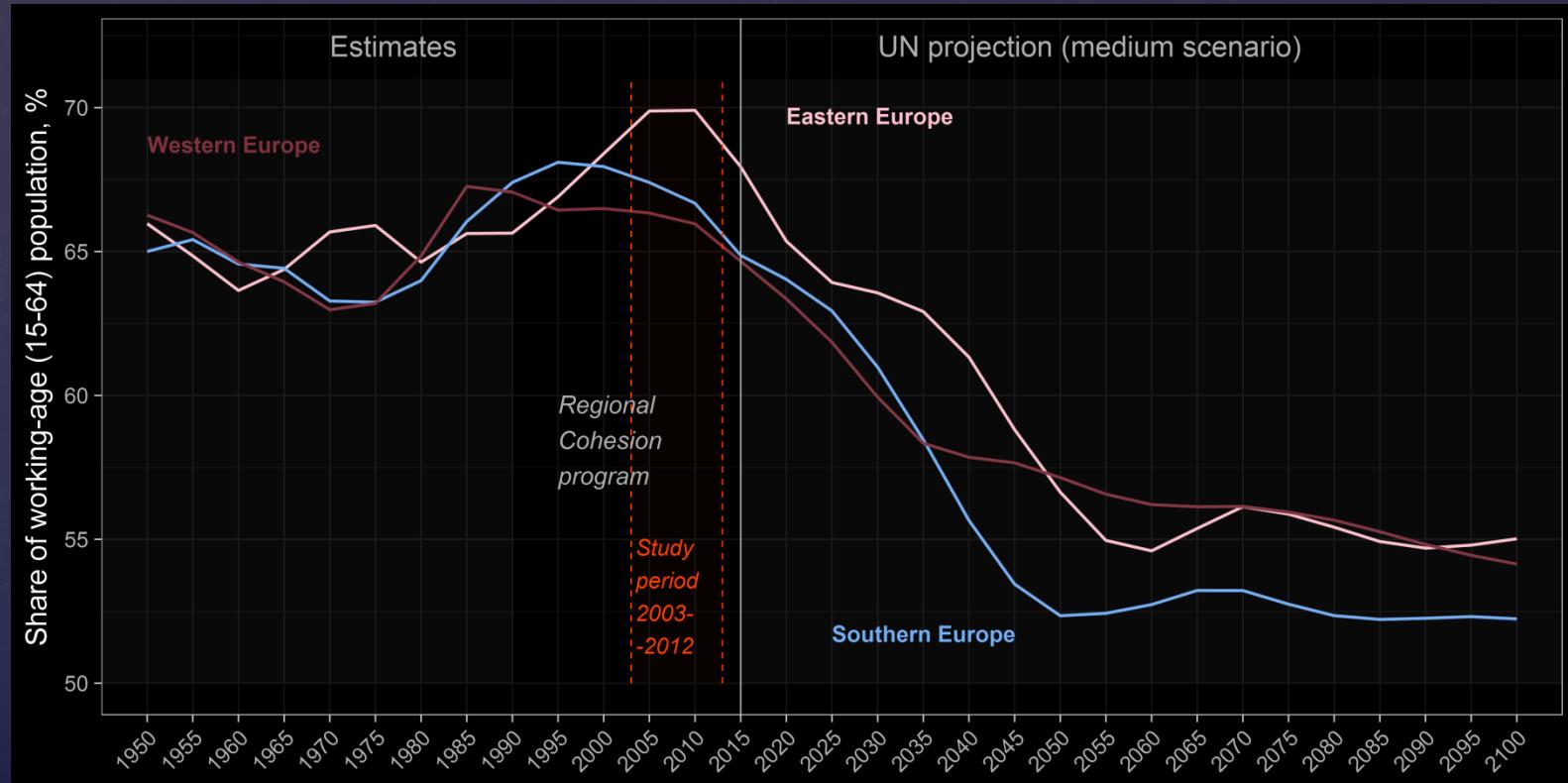
Measure variable is the Share of working age population (population aged 15-64 to total population)

The two alternative hypotheses

H1: convergence in ageing

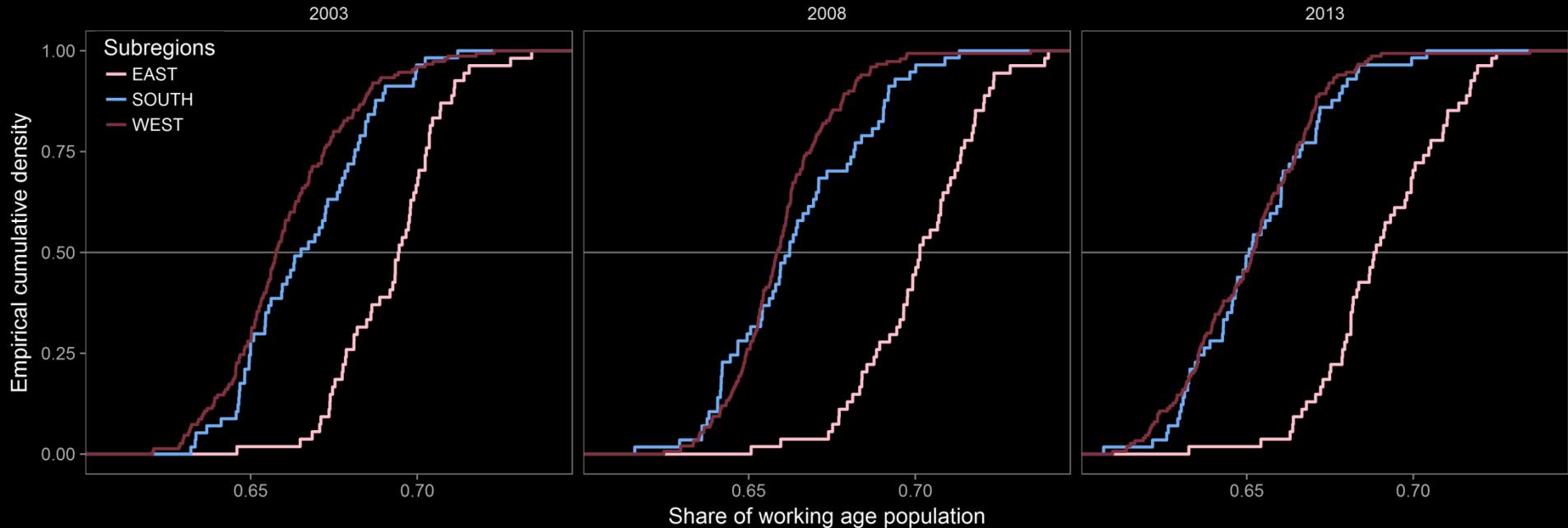
It seems reasonable to expect convergence in ageing at the end of the **Demographic Transition** in Europe: countries move along the Demographic Transition path with varying timing and pace, and the differences should diminish by the end of the process

Asynchronous demographic dividend in Europe



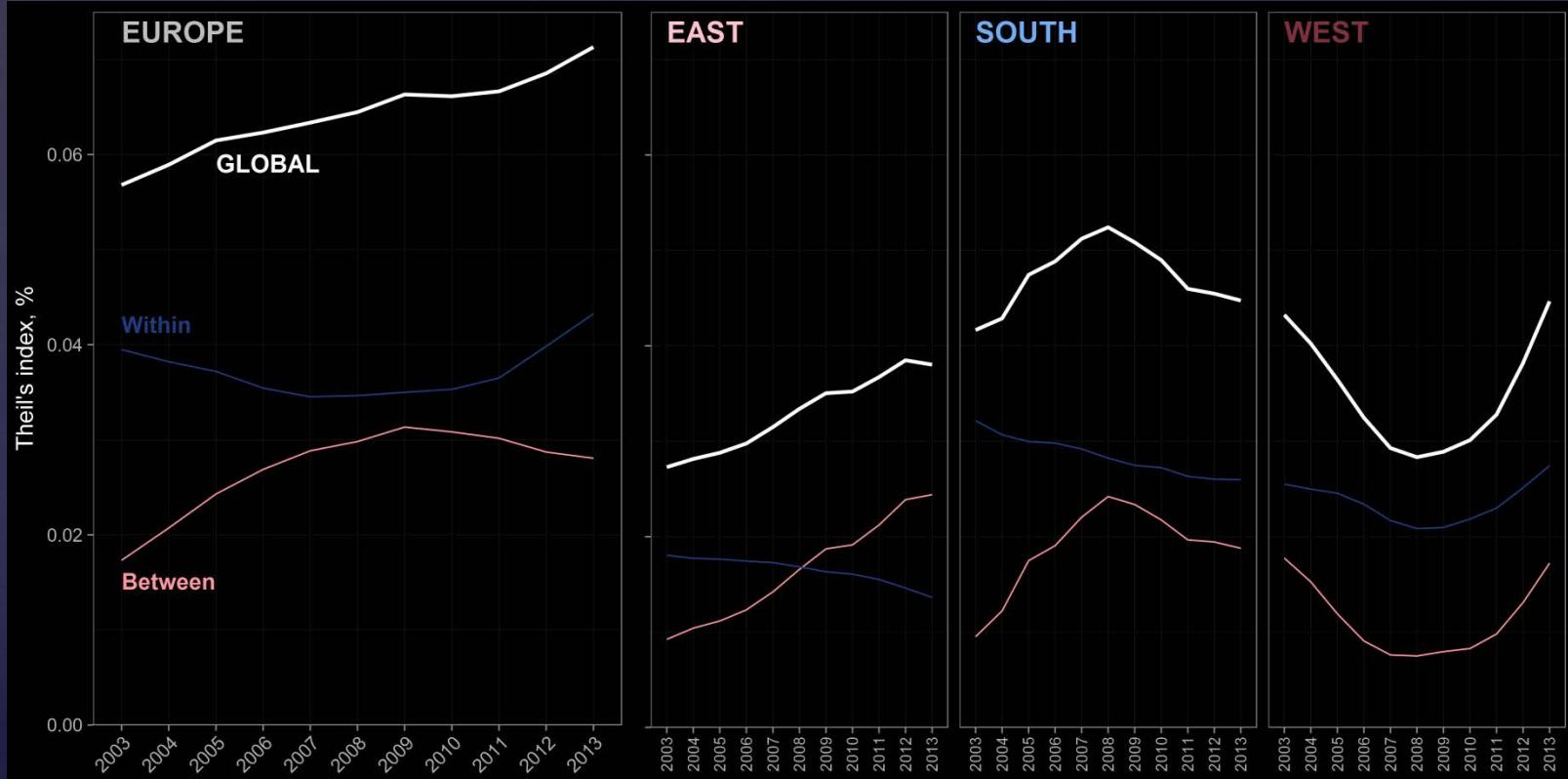
UN Population Division. (2015). World Population Prospects: The 2015 Revision.
Retrieved from <http://esa.un.org/unpd/wpp/DVD/>

Subregions: the huge difference



Sothern and Western Europe leveled; Eastern Europe diverged first, then started to converge towards the rest of Europe

Subregions: decomposition of Theil's T



The two alternative hypotheses

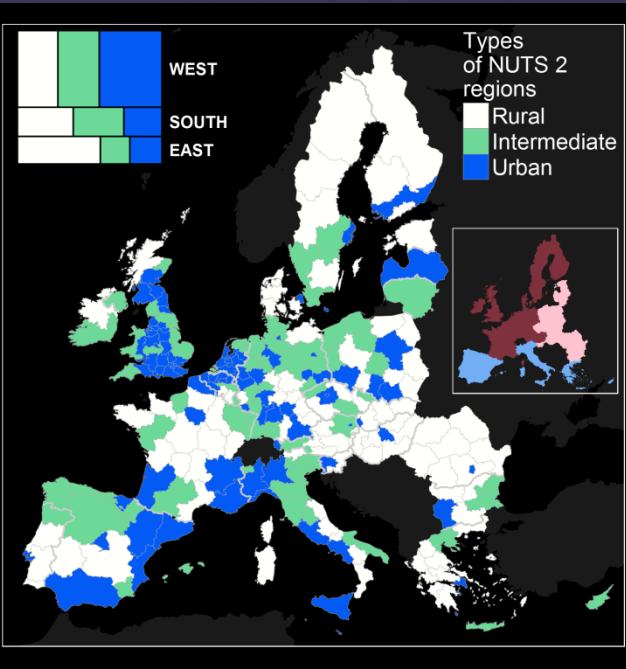
H1: convergence in ageing

It seems reasonable to expect convergence in ageing at the end of the **Demographic Transition** in Europe: countries move along the Demographic Transition path with varying timing and pace, and the differences should diminish by the end of the process

H2: divergence in ageing

The process of **urbanization** is likely to contribute to a divergent pattern of ageing: Urbanized regions tend to attract population at working ages, while rural regions are left with a higher proportion of people out of the labor market

Urban / Rural typology of NUTS-2 regions



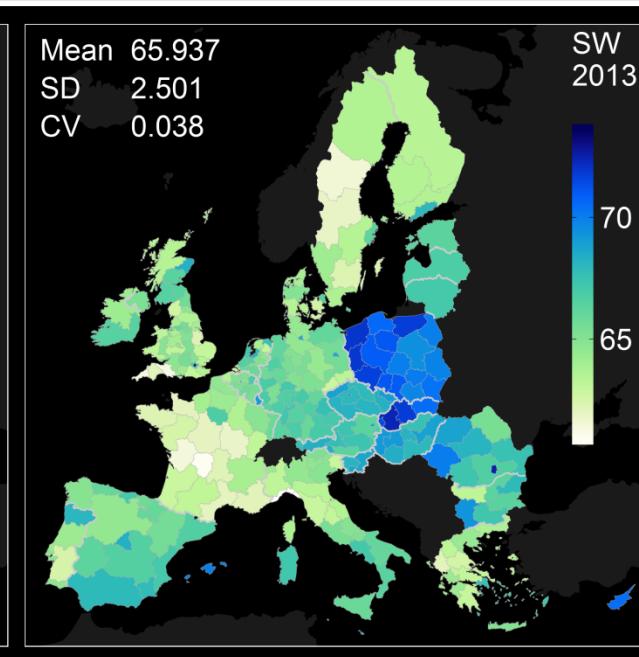
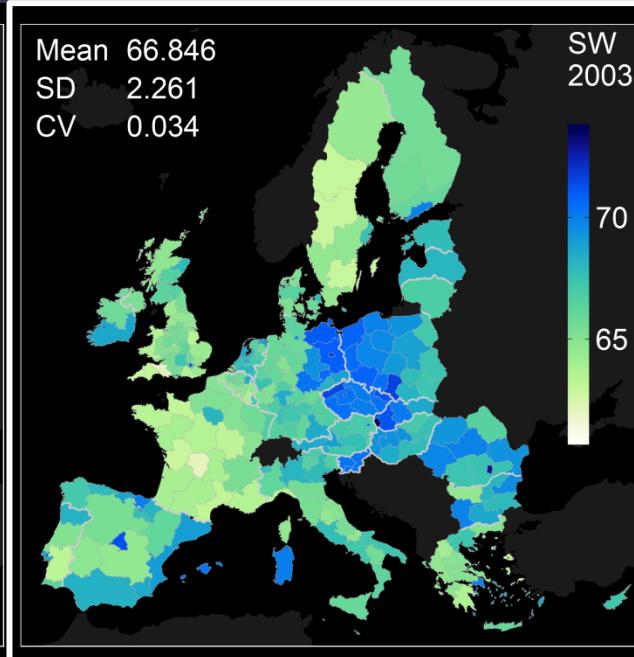
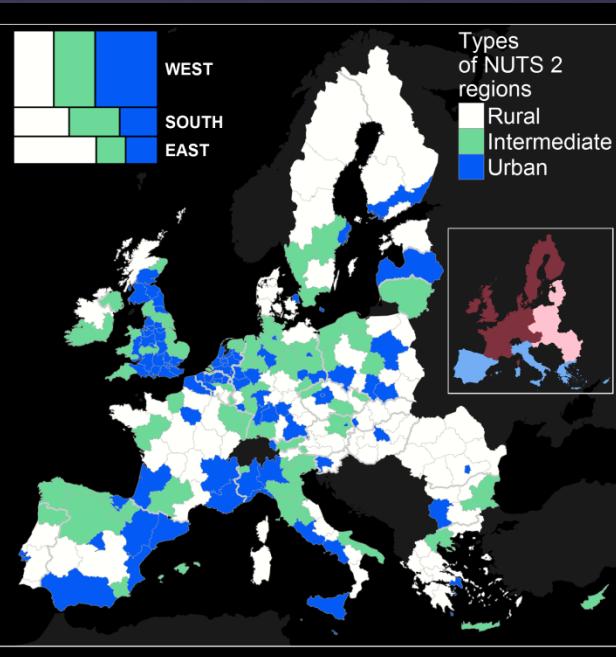
Official Eurostat typology of urban/rural region exists only for NUTS-3 level of administrative division

The vast majority of data is aggregated at NUTS-2 level of administrative division

De Beer, J., Erf, R., & Huisman, C. (2012). *The growth of the working age population: differences between rural and urban regions across Europe* (NEUJOBS No. D 8.1). The Hague: NIDI.

<http://www.neujobs.eu/publications/working-papers/growth-working-age-population-differences-between-rural-and-urban-region>

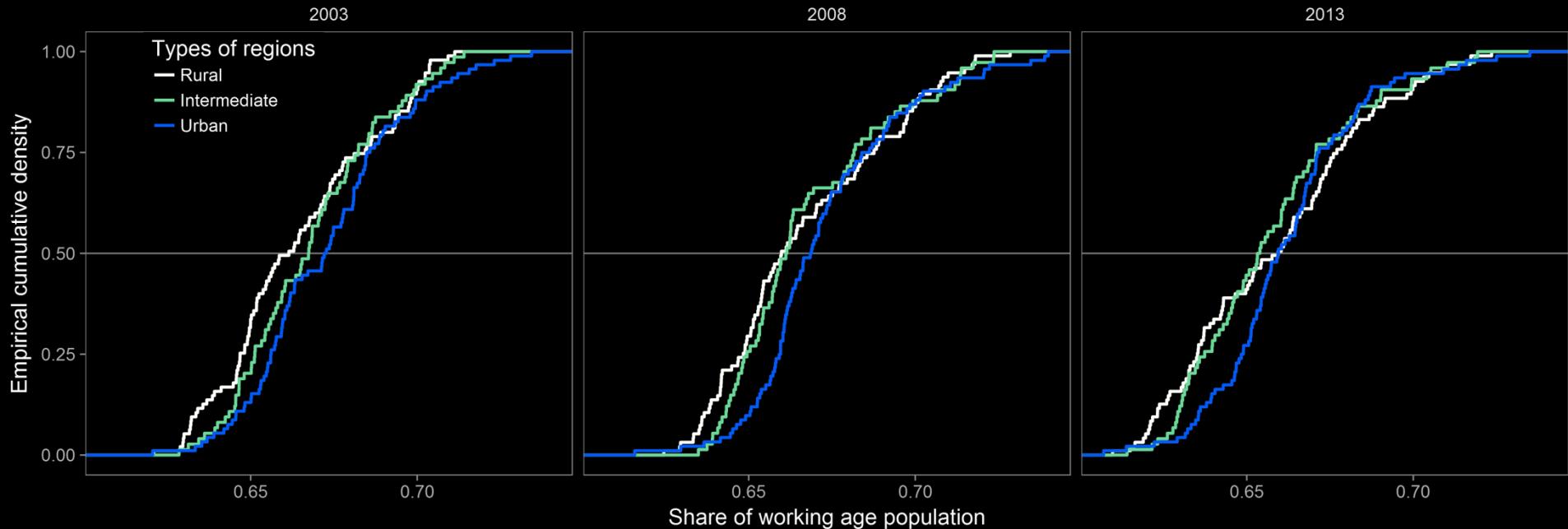
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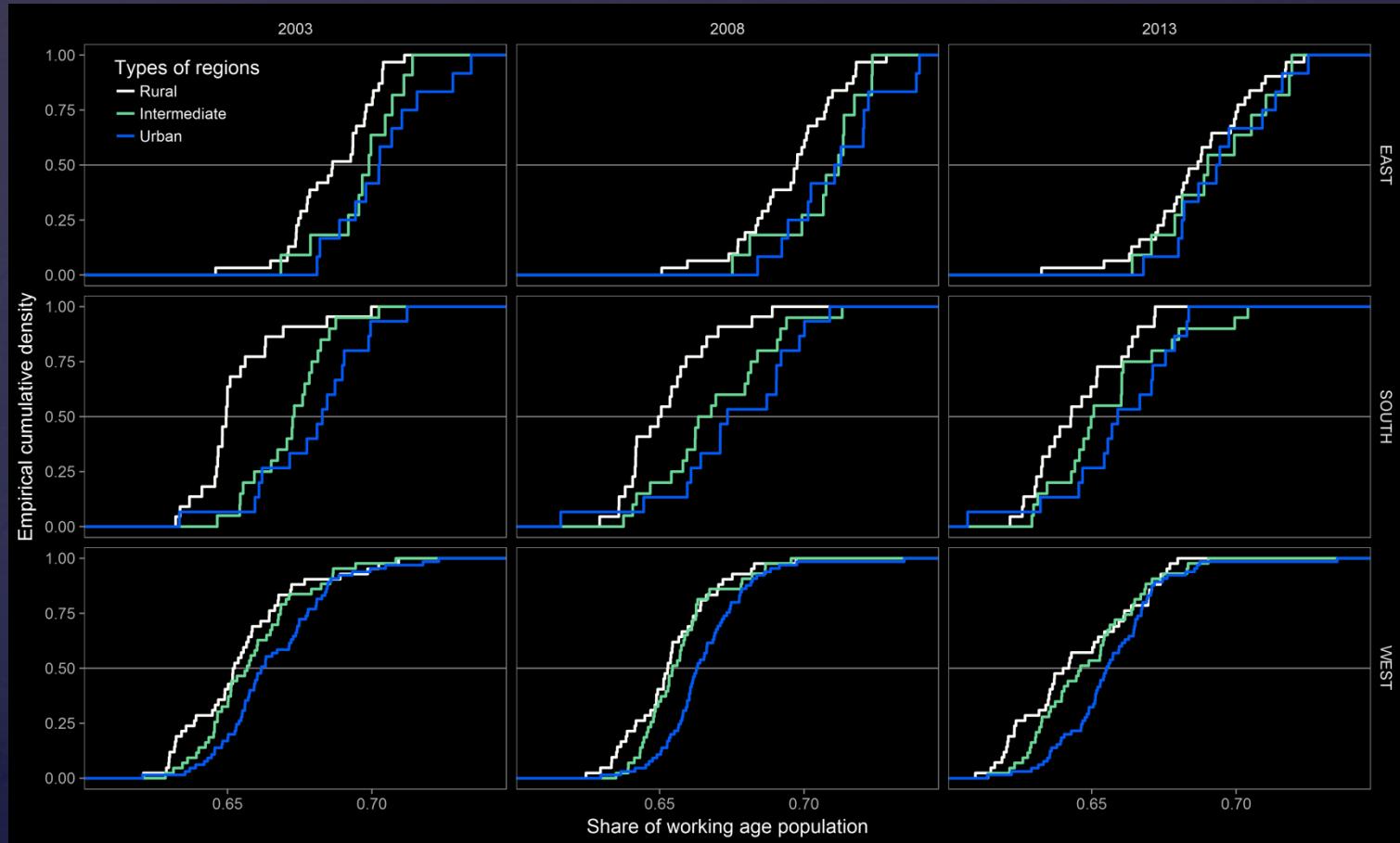
Empirical cumulative density



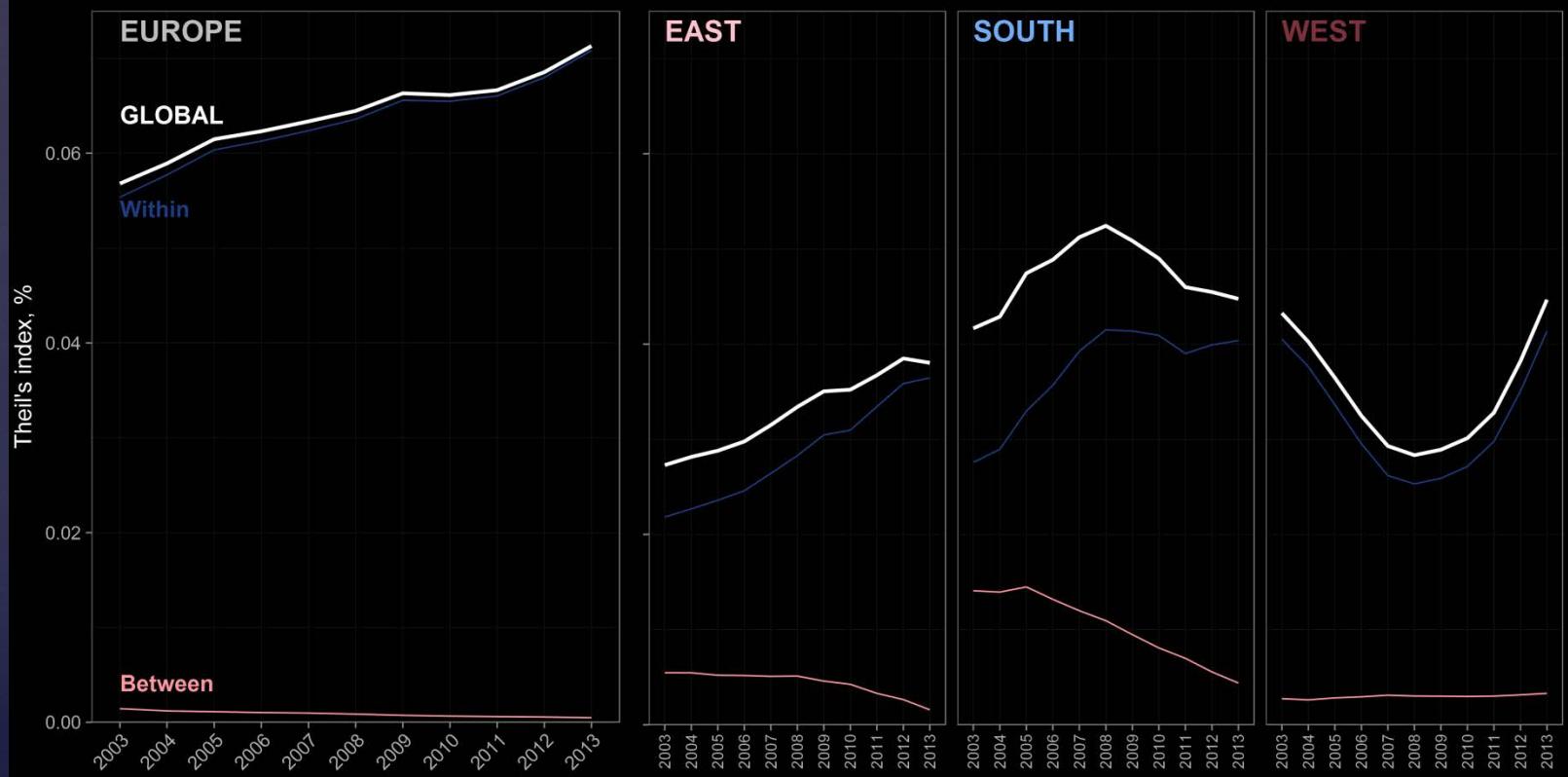
Convergence in the upper half of the distribution; divergence in the lower half of the distribution. **Strangely**, small difference

SPLIT BY SUBREGIONS

apparently, there is some convergence



Decomposition of Theil's T



Conclusions

The differences between **subregions** of Europe contribute to divergence in ageing in the 1st part of the study period; the convergent developments begin in the 2nd subperiod.

H1 supported

Contrary to our aspirations, **urban/rural** differences do not lead to divergence in population ageing.

H2 not supported

To challenge further our research, there is “baseline” divergence in population ageing at the end of the study period, that is **not explained** by the differences between subregions or urban/rural divide

thank you

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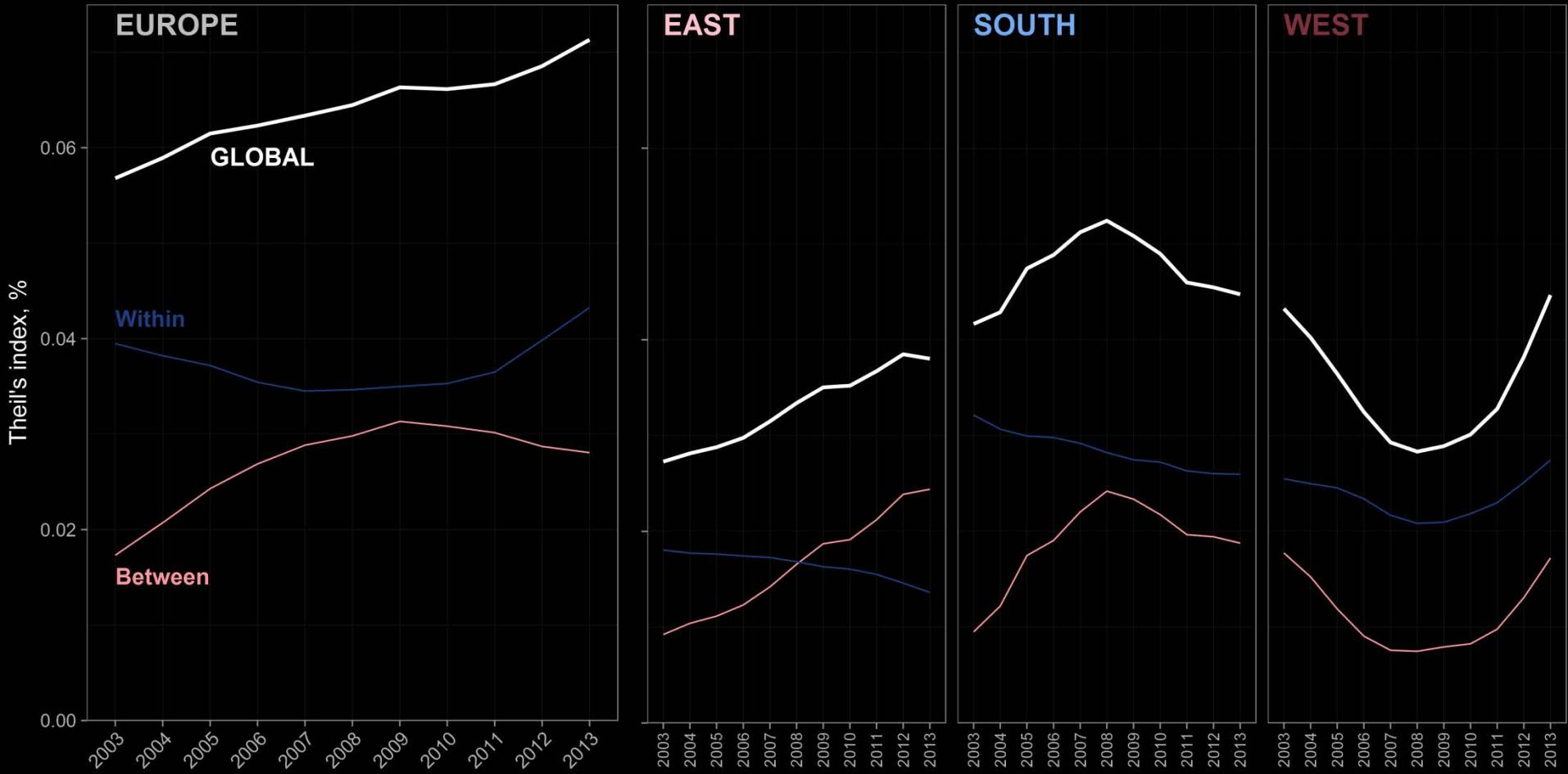
JOOP DE BEER

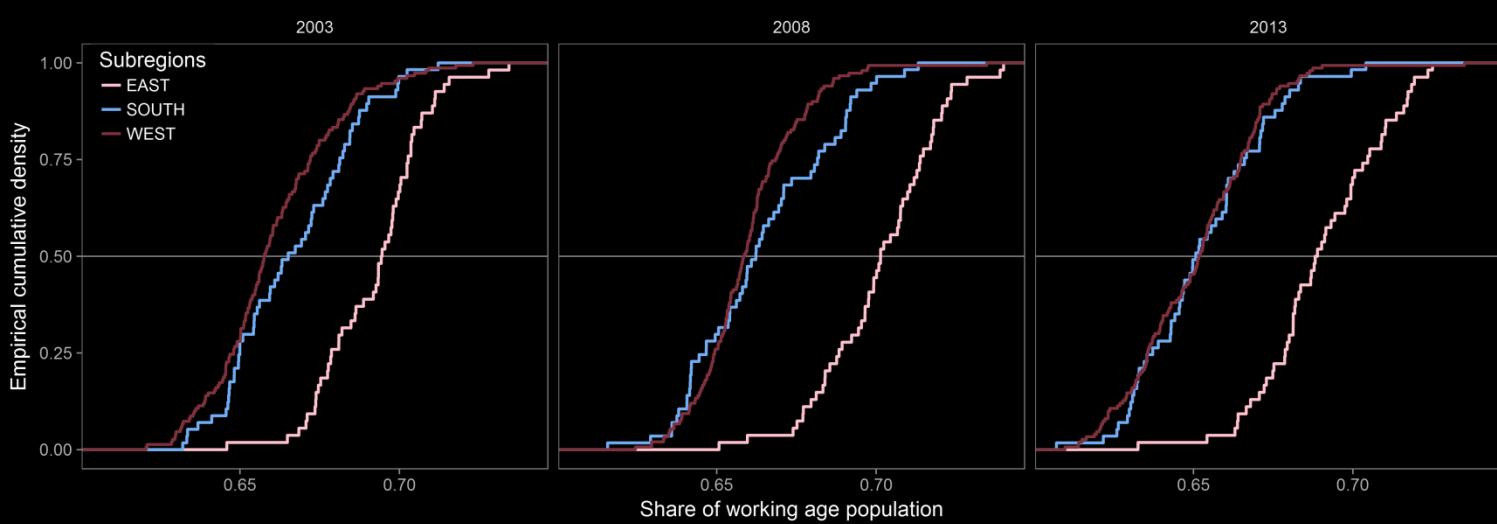
LEO VAN WISSEN

NIDI is an institute of the Royal Netherlands Academy of Arts and Sciences KNAW and is affiliated to the University of Groningen
www.nidi.nl

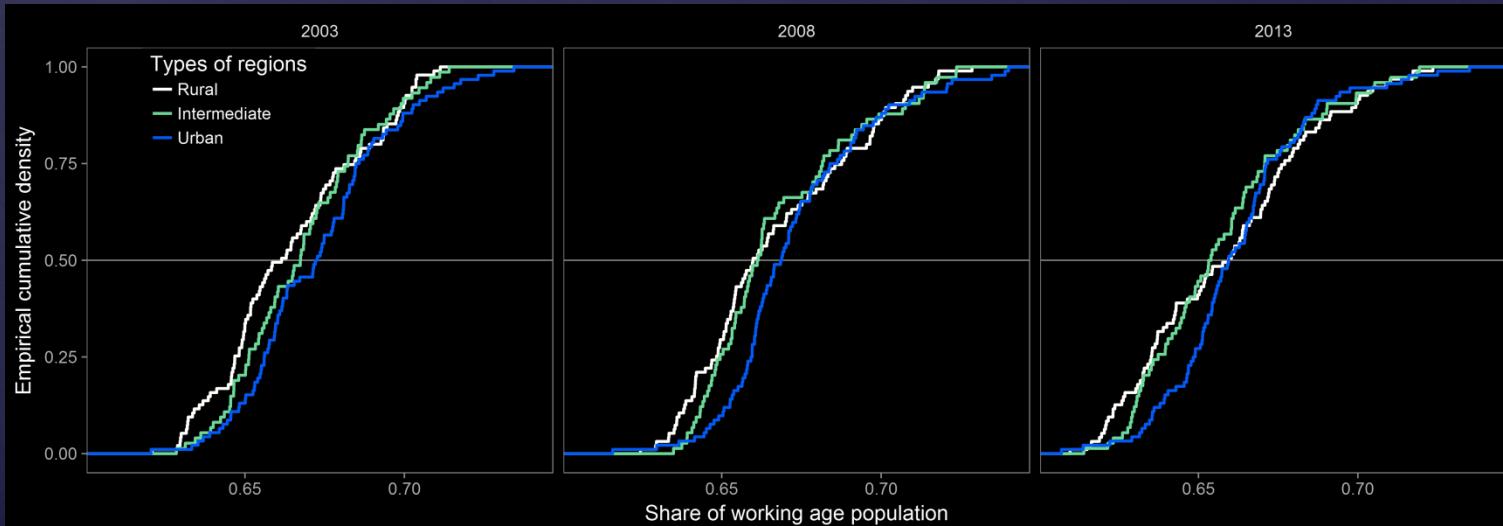


Subregions: decomposition of Theil's T





sub



urb / rur

