

# College Characteristics and Assortative Mating Patterns among First-Generation College Graduates

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\*This work was conducted prior to the author joining the Census Bureau. The views expressed here are those of the author and not necessarily those of the U.S. Census Bureau.

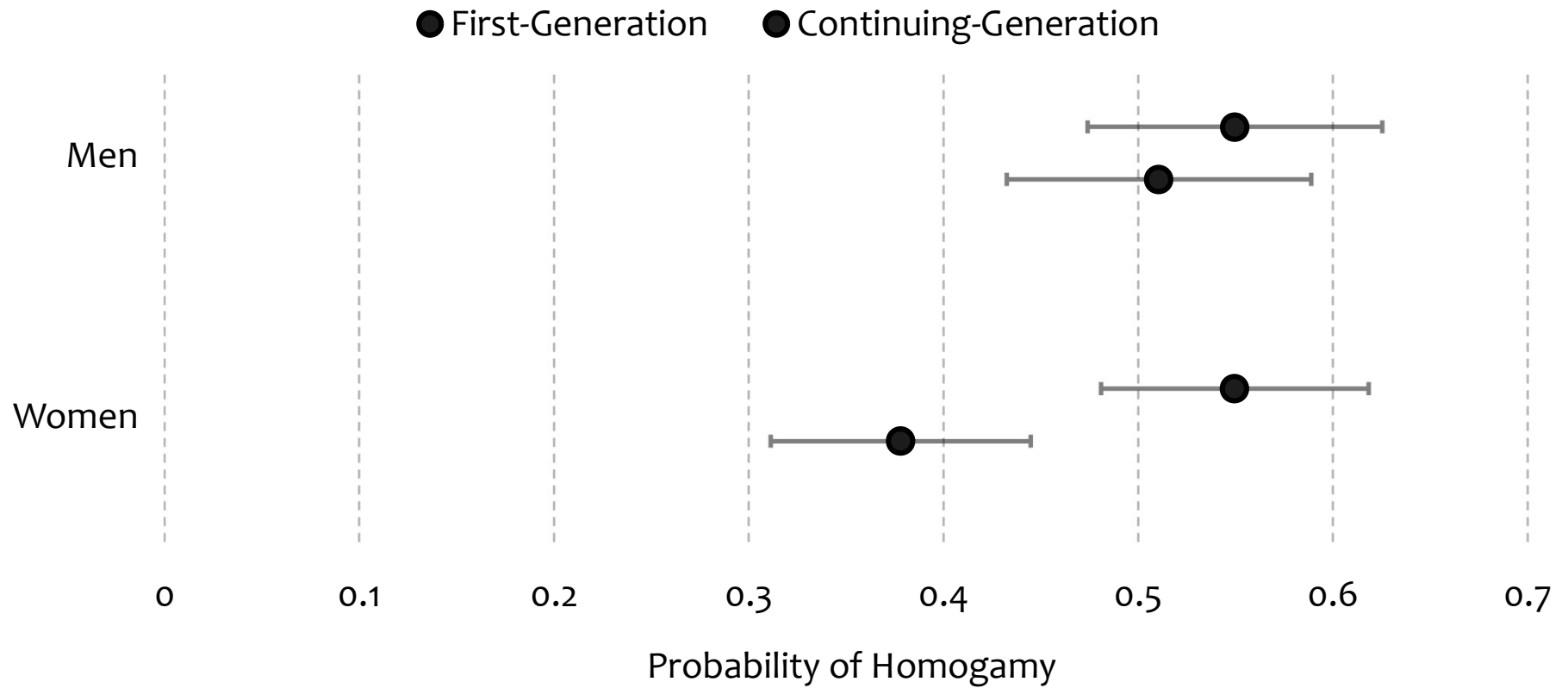
# College as a “Great Equalizer”?

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- Association between parents' and children's economic outcomes is reduced or eliminated among those who earn a bachelor's degree
- This does not appear to be the case for non-economic outcomes, like marriage

# College as a “Great Equalizer”?

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# Can Accounting for the College Attended Explain the Gap?

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- College campuses as marriage markets
  - Up to 30 % of college graduates meet their spouse in college
- Development of networks that extend beyond college

# College Characteristics and Homogamy

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Characteristic	Relationship to Homogamy
Distance from Home	↑ distance, ↑ homogamy
Selectivity	↑ selectivity, ↑ homogamy
Gender Composition	↑ opposite gender, ↑ homogamy
SES Composition	↑ SES, ↑ homogamy

# Data and Methods

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- National Longitudinal Survey of Youth 1997
- Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System
- Outcome:
  - Married BA+, married <BA, never married
- First-generation vs. continuing-generation graduates

# Data and Methods

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- Discrete-time, competing risk event history models
- *time* and *time*<sup>2</sup> baseline hazard
- Allow different marriage hazards for men and women

# Data and Methods

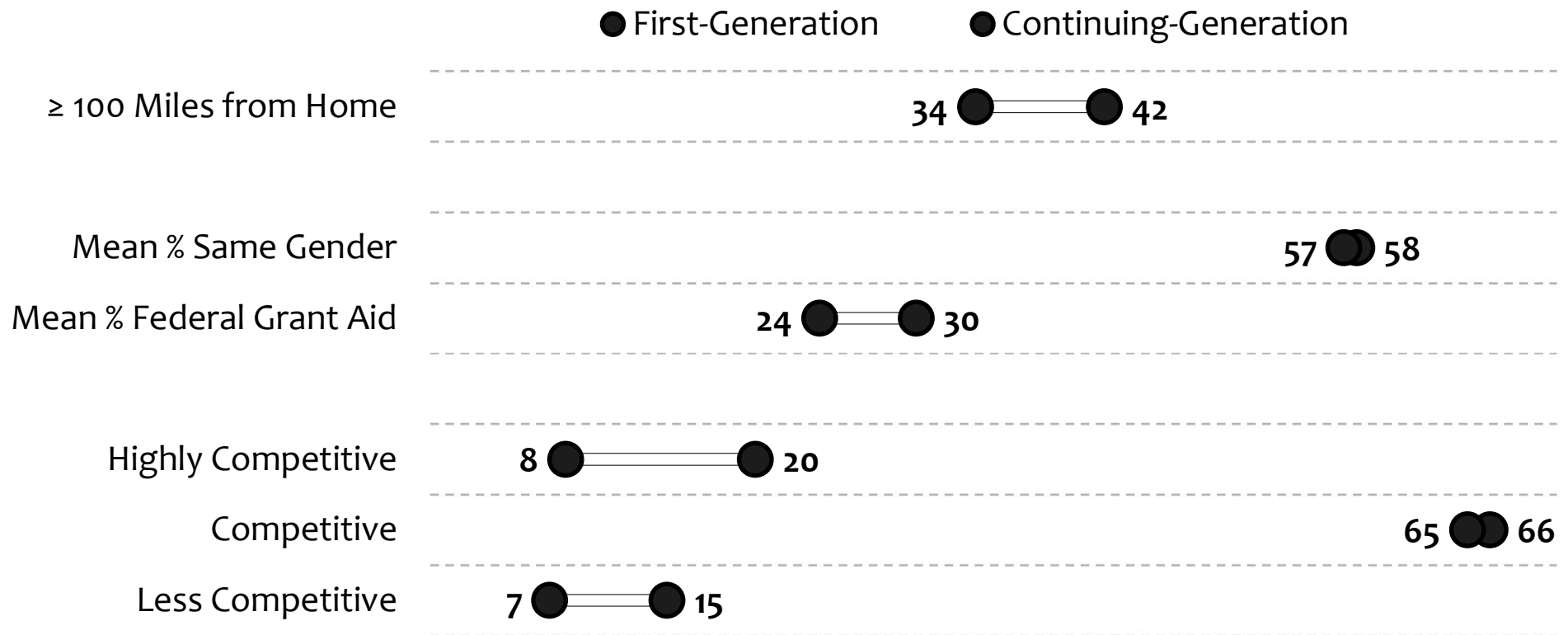
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- College Characteristics
  - Distance from home (100+ miles)
  - Gender composition (% same gender)
  - SES composition (% receiving federal grant aid)
  - Selectivity (*Barron's*)
    - Highly competitive, competitive, less competitive
- Controls

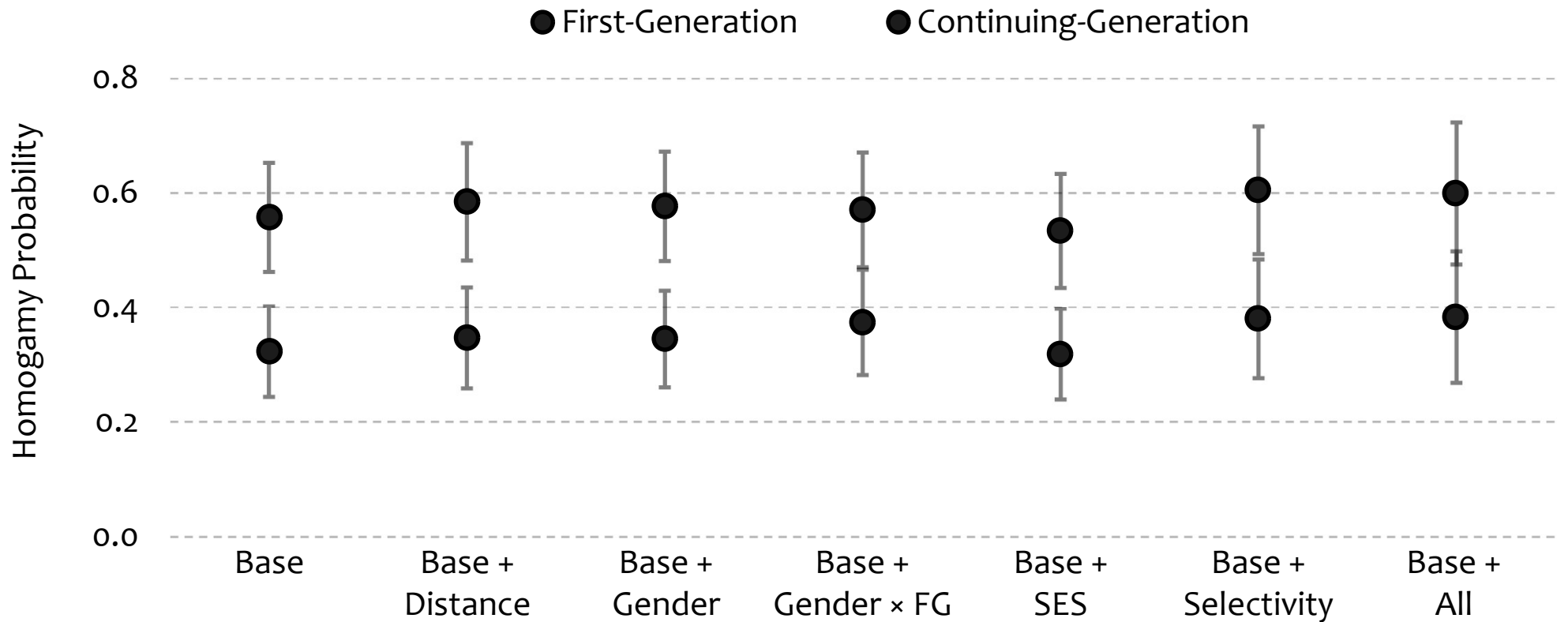


# Results: College Characteristics among Women

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# Results: Model Predictions for Women



# If Not College Characteristics, Then What?

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- Increasing gender imbalance in number of college graduates
- Post-college experiences
  - Workplace differences
  - Geographic mobility
- Partner preferences

# Thank you

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