

Characteristics of Social Relationships and extended employment beyond the pensionable age: a cohort study

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Objectives

To examine which characteristics of social relationships predict extended employment beyond the pensionable age among aging workers.

Methods

- Finnish Retirement and Aging Study, FIREA (n=3228, 83 % women)
- Register-based individual pensionable date and self-reported actual retirement date; no extension (<3 mo), short extension (3 mo to 1 y), long extension (≥1 y)
- Baseline survey 18 months prior to the pensionable date; marital status, spouse's working status, financial difficulties, social network size, social engagement frequency, care giving

Table 1. Baseline characteristics of the study population

Baseline characteristics	Men n=544		Women n=2684	
Age, mean (SD)	62.6	(1.4)	62.6	(1.2)
	n	%	n	%
Occupational status				
Upper grade, non-manual	263	49	798	30
Lower grade, non-manual	110	20	867	33
Manual	167	31	990	37
Chronic disease, yes	277	55	1643	65
Mental disorders, yes	60	13	425	18

Results

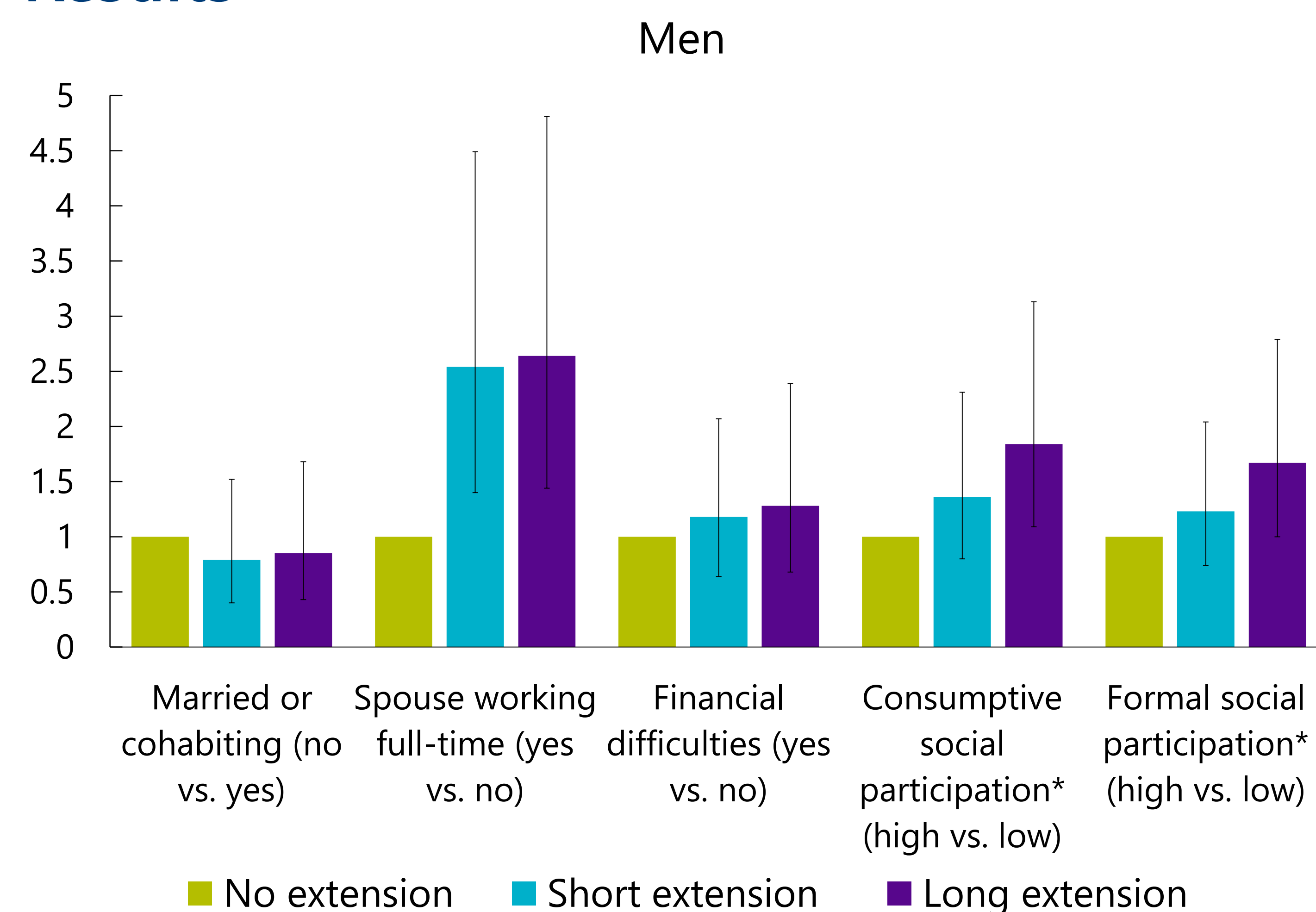


Figure 1. Association (OR, 95% CI) between characteristics of social relationships and short (n=97) and long (n=101) extension of employment in men (no extension (n=346) as a reference group). Adjusted for age, occupational status, chronic conditions and mental health

*Consumptive social participation included e.g. cultural activities, studying, religious activities; Formal social participation included e.g. club and societal activities

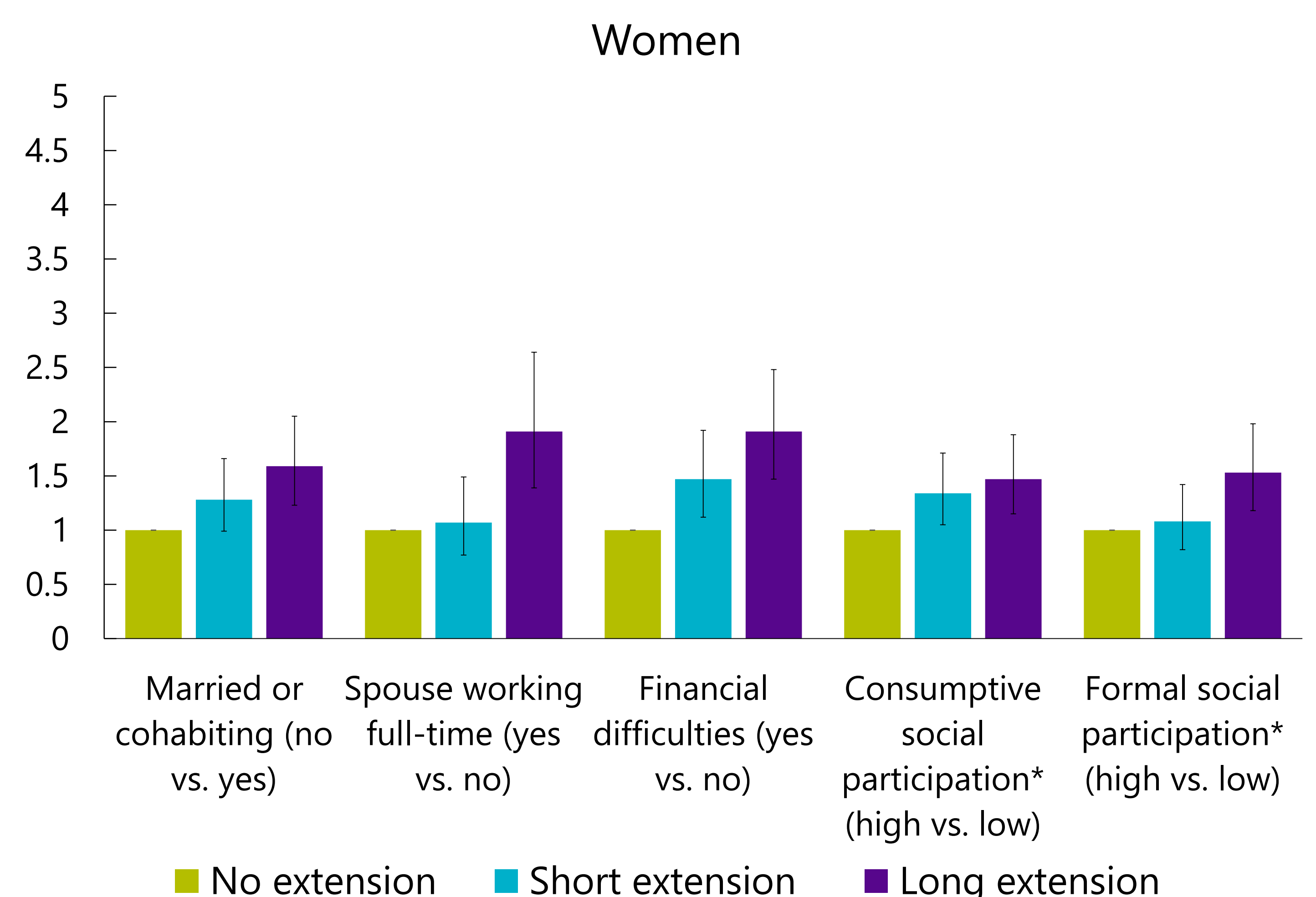


Figure 2. Association (OR, 95% CI) between characteristics of social relationships and short (n=407) and long (n=385) extension of employment in women (no extension (n=1892) as a reference group). Adjusted for age, occupational status, chronic conditions and mental health

Conclusions

Characteristics of social relationships, such as not being married or cohabiting and financial difficulties in women, and spouse's working status and high social engagement frequency (consumptive and formal social participation) in men and women associated with different length of extension of employment beyond the pensionable age.