



UNINTENDED PREGNANCY: A GENEAOLOGY OF IDEA OBJECTS

Kelsey Q. Wright

University of Wisconsin, Madison
Center for Demography and Ecology,
Holtz Center for Science and Technology Studies
kwright22@wisc.edu

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Research Question

What ideas about unintended pregnancy have been developed in peer-reviewed publication networks, and how have these ideas diffused over time and in relation to each other?

Background



“It is well-established that current measures of pregnancy intentions fail to capture the complexity of couples' lived experiences and decisions regarding reproductive decision making. **Despite limitations, these measures guide programs, policy, and clinical practice.**” - Gomez et al, 2018

Background



“The risk is particularly high for certain demographic groups, including those making up **lower socioeconomic status and minority groups.**” – Daugherty, 2016

Background



“Racial/ethnic, socioeconomic, and educational disparities in the rates of unplanned pregnancy is a **stubborn public health problem.** ...women of color still have a 2-fold increased risk of teen pregnancy. This difference is **believed to be a main driver of limited educational advancement, career progression, poverty, and socioeconomic disparities.**” - Parks and Peipart, 2016

Peer-Reviewed Publication Grounded Analysis

Focus on **evolution of ideas over time**, **fields of study**, roles, and affiliations in generating momentum of expertise around idea objects, and **how unintended pregnancy is related to other objects directionally**

Analytic Steps



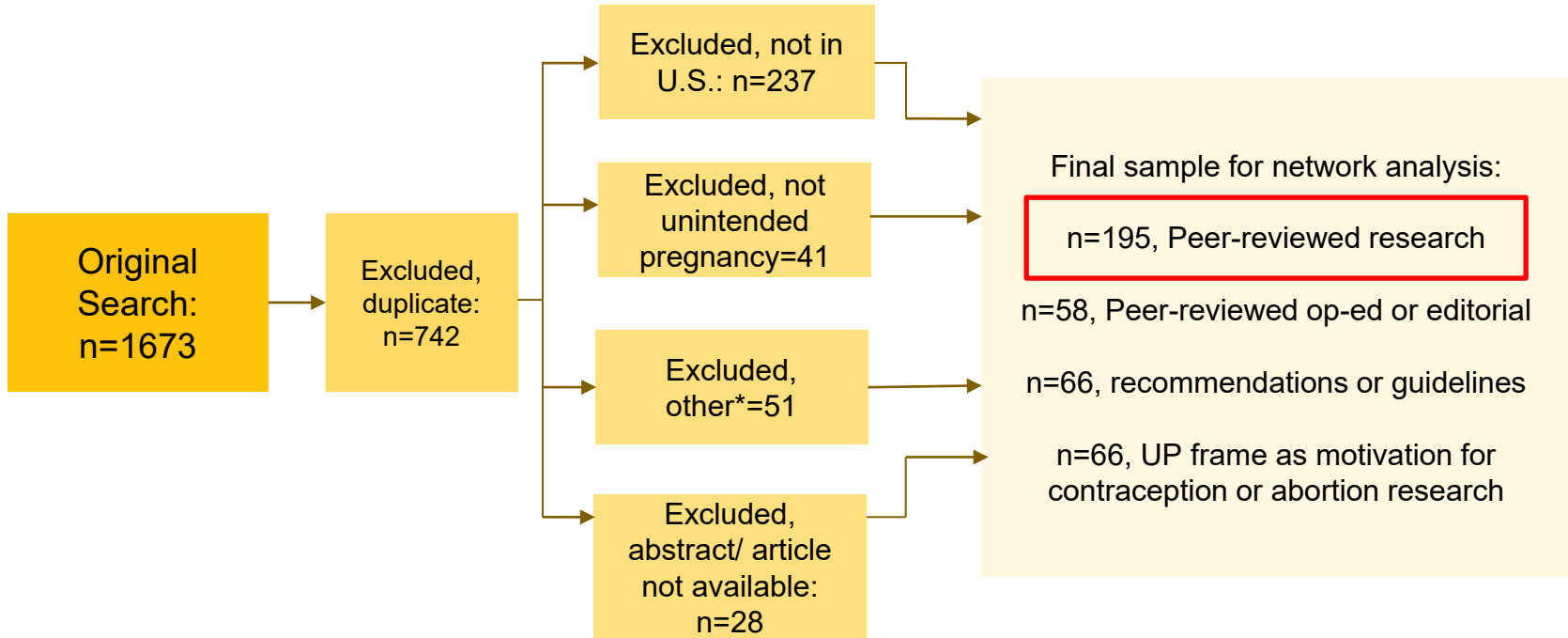
1. Apply adapted systematic review methodology to identify included peer-reviewed articles



2. Inductive qualitative coding of included peer-reviewed articles, where the coding object is the article itself, rather than the specific text

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Search String: (("unintended") OR ("unwanted") OR ("unplanned") OR (teen*) OR ("mistimed")) AND ("pregnancy") OR (birth) OR ("fertility"))
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Included Papers



Breakdown of included peer-reviewed research

- 94 journals, with the majority of the journals being in medical specialties (i.e. OBGYN oncology) (24%) or interdisciplinary Sexual and Reproductive Health journals (28%)
- Main argument or point of paper:
 - 38% argued that unintended pregnancy is associated with X
 - 23% argued that X causes unintended pregnancy
 - 19% estimated the unintended pregnancy rate for some population
 - 12% argued that unintended pregnancy has X consequences
 - 5% estimated unintended pregnancy rate due to an intervention
 - 4% were about measurement issues

The following themes are tested by authors as ***potential causes, consequences, or correlates*** of Unintended Pregnancy

Correlates, n=75

Age
Chronic Illness
Discrimination
Legislation
Race/Ethnicity
Sexual Behavior
Sexuality
Social network
Specific medical condition

1
1

- Contraception
- Negative maternal behavior
- Obesity
- Previous unintended pregnancy
- Substance Use

- Cohabitation or marital dynamics
- Mental disorder
- Psychological orientation
- Socioeconomic Status
- Violence, IPV, and Repro Coercion

None

Causes, n=45

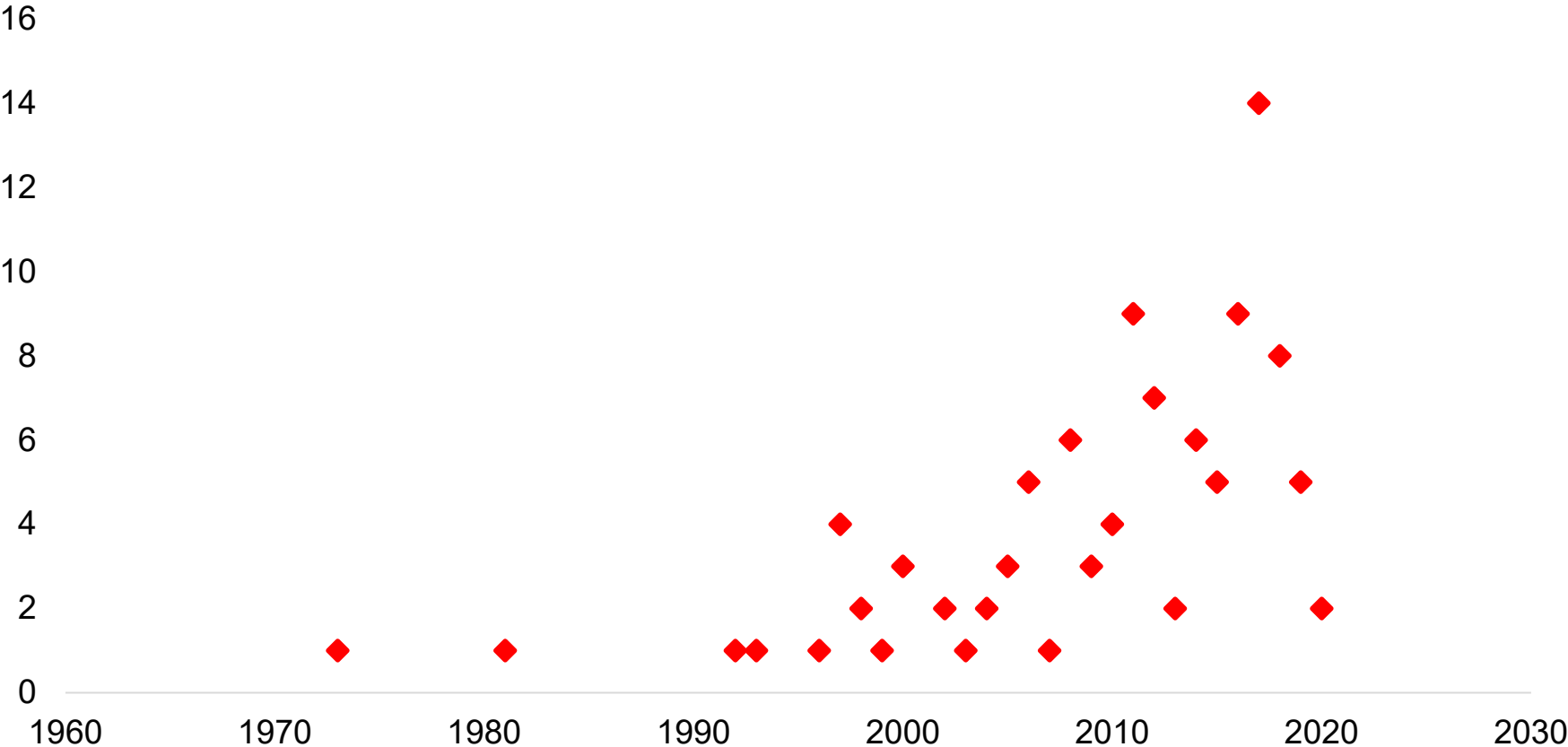
Abortion
Adverse life experiences
Family dynamics
Morality

None

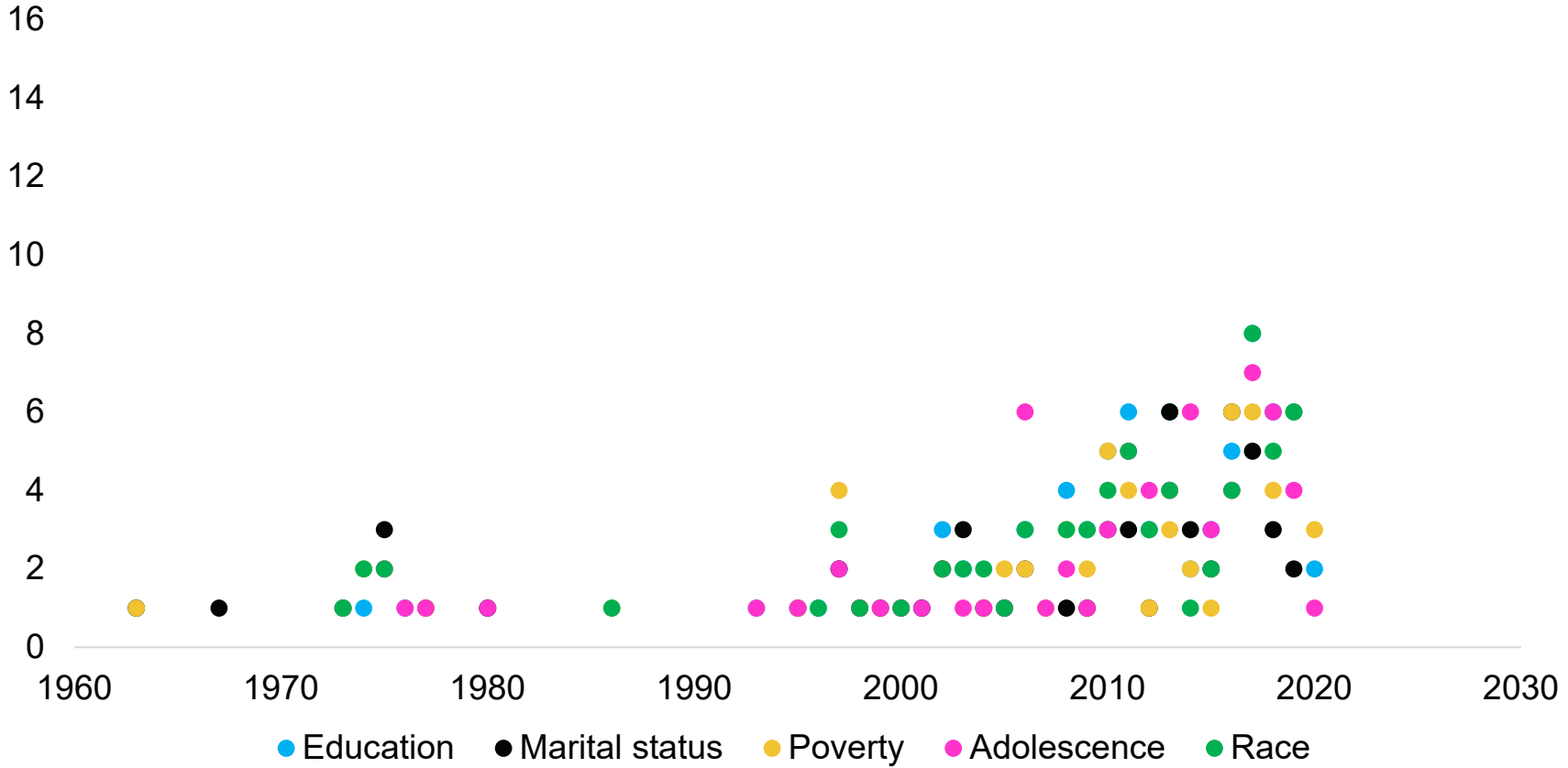
Consequences, n=23

Negative maternal, fetal, or child psychological outcomes
Stigma

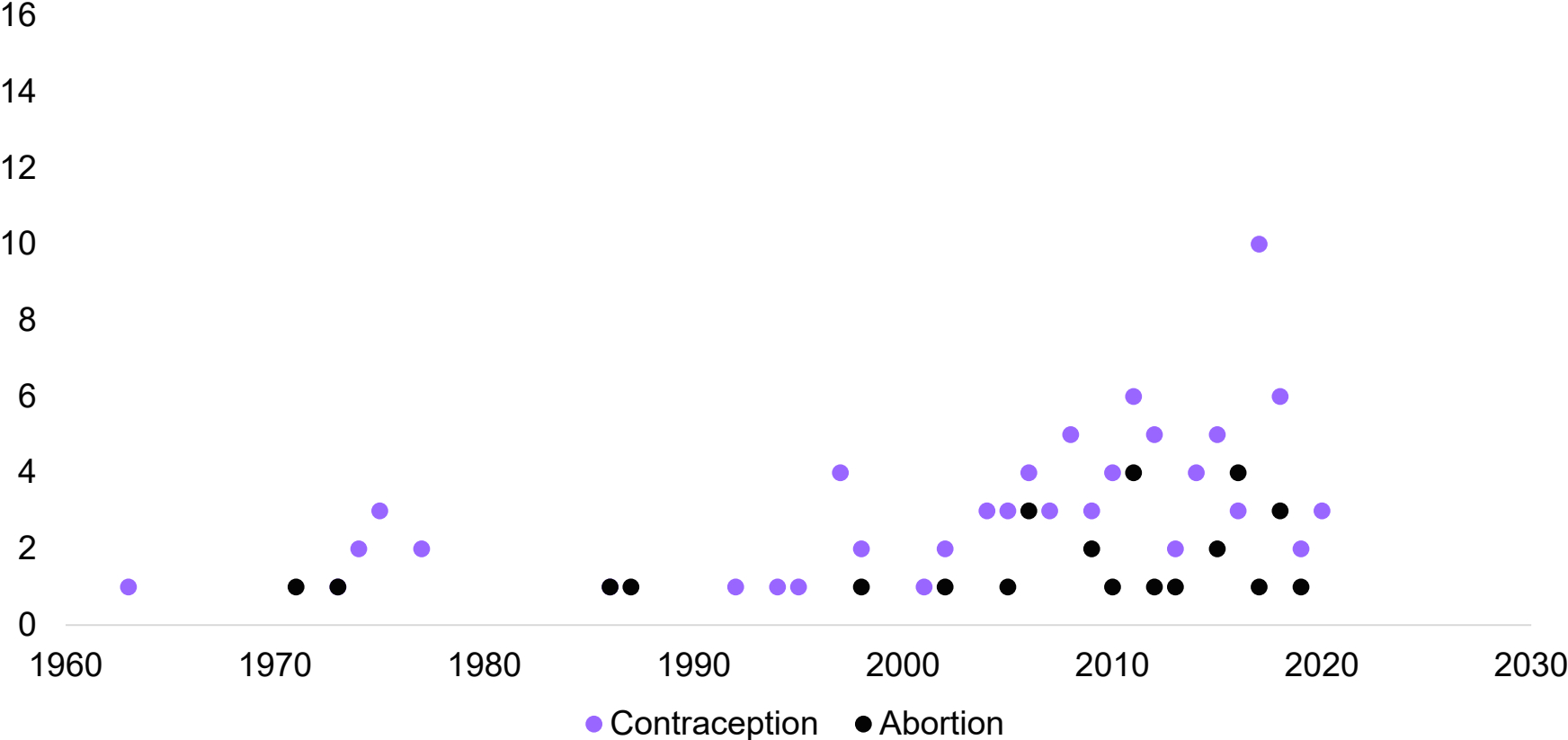
Time Trend: Risk Discourse



Time Trend: Sociodemographic Characteristics



Time Trend: Contraception and Abortion Discourse



Co-occurrence of themes

Substance use	Risk
Violence	Marital status
Contraception	Women's behavior as blamed for UP Negative physiological effect of unintended pregnancy Risk
Sociodemographic characteristics co-occur	

Next Steps

- Compare and contrast to articles coded as op-eds/commentaries, recommendations, and with unintended pregnancy as the justification for research
- Citation Network Analysis – social network analysis of papers included to look at citation and field boundaries over time
- Integrate with larger study (including critical discourse analysis of congressional hearings about contraceptive programs) to examine how the idea of unintended pregnancy as a racial, low-class, and adolescent “problem” has stuck in the U.S. public
- I welcome feedback, particularly on theoretical frameworks to incorporate

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Questions?

Contact: kwright22@wisc.edu