Discussion Paper Series

IZA DP No. 18706

June 2026

Dissecting the Gender Gap in Intergenerational Transfers: The Case of Germany

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Abstract

We study gender disparities in intergenerational wealth transfers in Germany over more than four decades, focusing on inheritances and inter vivos gifts. Using individual-level data from the Socio-Economic Panel (SOEP), we document persistent gaps: while women are in some cases more likely to report receiving an inheritance, men are more likely to receive gifts and obtain larger overall transfer amounts. These differences are not uniform. In West Germany, younger women face particularly large disadvantages in gifts, whereas no systematic gaps are observed in East Germany. We also show that transfers, particularly gifts, contribute to the gender wealth gap. Oaxaca–Blinder decompositions indicate that gifts account for a measurable share of the mean gap in 2019, and RIF decompositions reveal that transfer amounts contribute to both explained and unexplained components across the wealth distribution. Despite gender-neutral inheritance law, our findings suggest that testamentary freedom and persistent social norms continue to generate unequal outcomes. Addressing these disparities is essential in preventing wealth transfers from reinforcing intergenerational and gender-based economic inequality.

JEL classification

D64, J16

Keywords

inheritances, gift, gender, SOEP, wealth gap, RIF-regression

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1 Introduction

The wealth gap literature shows that women hold on average less wealth than men (Denton and Boos, 2007). Research has identified several drivers of this disparity, including labor market factors, income, and financial behavior (Sierminska et al., 2010; Ruel and Hauser, 2013; Schneebaum et al., 2018). Yet one key dimension remains understudied: wealth transfers in the form of inheritances and gifts. This omission is surprising, given that about one third of the population receives a transfer at some point in life (Wolff and Gittleman, 2014; Westermeier et al., 2016), and such transfers account for 40%–50% of net wealth (Gale and Scholz, 1994; Wolff and Gittleman, 2014; Alvaredo et al., 2017; Ohlsson et al., 2020). For many households, intergenerational transfers are at least as important as labor market outcomes in shaping wealth accumulation.

In this paper, we provide long-run analysis of gender differences in inheritances and gifts in Germany using individual-level data from the Socio-Economic Panel (SOEP). We draw on multiple survey rounds (1988, 2001, 2019, and 2021), spanning more than four decades of wealth transfers, which allows us to examine both the incidence and amounts of transfers across cohorts, regions, and family contexts. Our analysis reveals persistent disadvantages for women. While women are in some cases slightly more likely to report receiving an inheritance, men receive substantially larger gifts and higher overall transfer amounts - on average about €12,000 more. The disparities are especially pronounced for younger women in West Germany, who receive €22,000 less in inheritances and €31,000 less in gifts than men of the same age group. Decomposition analyses further show that gifts alone account for up to 7% of the gender wealth gap at the mean in 2019, with overall transfers explaining nearly 5% of the gap at the top of the distribution.[1] These findings indicate that despite gender-neutral inheritance law, testamentary freedom and social norms continue to persist in producing unequal outcomes.

The focus on wealth-related transfers is particularly relevant in light of shifting social norms. For example, until 1958, women in Germany were not permitted to open their own bank accounts or control their own finances independently. Historically, primogeniture and other inheritance customs often favored firstborn sons as sole heirs, and gendered expectations persist to this day, with sons frequently perceived as more capable of preserving family wealth or continuing a business (Willenbacher, 2003; Aldamiz-Echevarría et al., 2017). These norms provide important context for understanding why transfer patterns remain unequal despite legal reforms that have taken place in Germany.

Transfers also matter in relation to women's continuing disadvantages in the labor market. Germany's gender pay gap remains high at 16%, above the European average.[2] Early work suggested that transfers might compensate women for labor market disadvantages (Deere and Doss, 2006). More recent studies instead point to different roles in wealth accumulation: women are more often wealth inheritors, while men are more often wealth creators (Bartels et al., 2025). Our findings add nuance by showing that even when women inherit, the size and structure of

[1] This does not consider the opportunity transfers provide in terms of wealth accumulation (see Bartels et al. (2025) for a discussion).

[2] Source: Destatis, `https://www.destatis.de/EN/Themes/Labour/Labour-Market/Quality-Employment/Dimension1/1_5_GenderPayGap.html`, last accessed 20 August 2025.

transfers continue to be at a disadvantage compared to those of men.

We make three contributions to the literature. First, we provide a comprehensive long-run analysis of gender differences in inheritances and gifts in Germany, using repeated SOEP survey waves that cover transfer periods from 1970 to 2020. Second, we document important heterogeneity across East and West Germany, across cohorts, by migration status and by sibling composition, highlighting the role of persistent gender norms in shaping transfer behavior. Third, we assess the extent to which transfers help explain the gender wealth gap, employing both Oaxaca–Blinder and recentered influence function (RIF) decompositions to capture mean and distributional effects. Taken together, our results demonstrate that wealth transfers are a key, yet often overlooked, mechanism through which gender inequalities in wealth are reproduced across generations.

The paper is structured as follows: in section 2 we present the institutional framework and previous findings on gender differences in transfers. We then describe the data used (section 3) and the empirical strategy (section 4). The fifth section presents descriptive findings. These are expanded by linear probability models (LPM) and OLS regressions, and decomposition analyses in section 6. Finally, we give a summary and conclusions (section 7).

2 Background Information: Institutional Framework and Research on Gender Gaps

2.1 Institutional framework

In Germany, a uniform inheritance tax was introduced in 1906. The tax is progressive, with allowances depending on both the relationship to the donor and the value of the assets. Importantly, it is an inheritance tax rather than an estate tax: the tax burden is assessed individually for each inheritor, not on the estate as a whole. In 1974, tax rates were substantially increased, leading to a doubling of tax revenues. Subsequent reforms in 2008 and 2010 raised the tax allowances further. At present, the allowance amounts to €500,000 for spouses and €400,000 for each child, and can be claimed once every ten years.

Under inheritance law, women and men have enjoyed legal equality since the early 19th century (Beckert, 2004). Prior to this, primogeniture (firstborn succession) was commonly applied in Germany. According to this system, the firstborn son was generally the sole heir. In addition, there was the "Anerbenrecht", which meant that when an agricultural property was inherited, it was transferred to a single heir - typically the son - so that the property could be preserved as a single entity. This norm has also been followed with regards to transferring business assets by parents to children (Tisch and Schechtl, 2025). Some regional differences in this regard exist in Germany. In the southwest of the country, agricultural land was typically divided equally among siblings, while in the north, east, and Bavaria, "Anerbenrecht" was largely practiced (Bartels et al., 2024). Despite the equality of women and men in the eyes of inheritance law, a person can be disadvantaged in an inheritance through a will. However, the right to a statutory share remains. This statutory share always amounts to half of what one would inherit if the intestate succession were to apply. Complete disinheritance is only possible to a limited extent if the beneficiary has committed a culpable offense against the testator.

In contrast, gifts enjoy complete testamentary freedom, meaning one can freely dispose of one's assets and specifically favor a single person. There is no right to a statutory share in this case. In Germany, the tax law does not differentiate between inheritance and gift. This means that the tax allowances and tax rates are the same for both.

In addition to inheritance law, other legal frameworks help explain gender differences in wealth and intergenerational transfers. In Germany, women were only allowed to open their own bank accounts and decide for themselves how to spend their money starting in 1958.[3] Until then, husbands managed the assets their wives brought into the marriage, the interest accruing from them, and the salary their wives earned. It was not until 1977 (1st Act to Reform Marriage and Family Law) that the German Civil Code was amended to allow women to work without their husband's permission. Since 1980, a law on equal treatment of women and men in the workplace has ensured that women, at least legally, must receive equal pay for equal work. Nevertheless, differences between women and men in the German labor market continue to exist, likely influenced by gender stereotypes (Lietzmann and Frodermann, 2023), which also vary across regions, especially between East and West Germany (Fuchs et al., 2021).

2.2 The Gender wealth gap and inheritances

The phenomenon of a gender wealth gap (GWG) has been described in a number of papers over the last two decades (e.g. Denton and Boos (2007); Sierminska et al. (2010); Ruel and Hauser (2013)). However, individual wealth information, which allows to describe the GWG for the whole population is essentially only available for a handful of countries: Austria, Estonia, France and Germany. Sierminska et al. (2010) find a significant raw gender wealth gap of €50,000 for married partners in Germany. They show that the gap is largely driven by differences in characteristics between women and men, particularly by the individual's own income and labour market experience (see also Grabka et al. (2015), Lersch (2017), Cordova et al. (2022)). In Austria, the wealth gap within couples is similar in magnitude and amounts to €58,400 (Rehm et al., 2022). Here, bargaining power plays an important role in explaining the gap. In France, the gender wealth gap in 2010 was approximately €12,500 and is mainly due to differences in financial assets: men declare 37% more financial assets than women and hold twice as many shares and bonds (Bonnet et al., 2014). Contrary to the situation in Germany, the gender wealth gap in France widened from €7,000 to €24,000 between 1998 and 2015 (Bessière, 2022). In Estonia the GWP amounts to about €16,000, this corresponds to a relative gap of 45% which is largely due to men being more likely self-employed (Meriküll et al., 2021).

Till date, there are few papers dealing with wealth transfers as an explanation for the gender wealth gap and the existing literature on gender differences in inheritance receipt provides varied results across countries. For example, two papers show no differences in the receipt or amount of inheritances in Germany and Norway (Szydlik and Schupp (2004), Black et al. (2022)). In contrast, O'Brien (2024) finds large differences for a specific sample in the US. In her analysis of Dallas's upper class from 1895 to 1945, women inherited three times more wealth than men and inherited different types of wealth. Nevertheless, much of the literature finds women

[3]Source: `https://www.juracademy.de/recht-interessant/article/gleichberechtigung-frauen-maennern`, last accessed on 25th August 2025

disadvantaged in inheritance matters. For example, using Panel Study of Income Dynamics (PSID) data for the US, Zagheni and Wagner (2015) show that the average inheritance size of male-headed households is almost 2.5 times higher than that of female-headed households, and that this gap widens over time.

This disadvantage also appears in other countries. Horioka (2024) finds that the proportion of those who have received or expect to receive an inheritance is higher for men than women in China, India, Japan, and the United States, with differences ranging from 4 percentage points in India to 14 percentage points in Japan. The author infers that in all four countries parents discriminate against their daughters with respect to intergenerational transfers. Differences are also found in the asset type that is being passed on. This could be due to traditional inheritance laws (Anerbenrecht), which were widespread in many European countries and continue to have their cultural influence. For example, in France real estate and business assets are preferentially distributed to sons in divorces and estate planning (Bessière, 2022). This pattern is particularly evident among individuals at the upper end of the wealth distribution in Germany, where sons disproportionately inherit business and financial equity (Trinh, 2024).

2.3 The inter vivos gift gap

Gifts differ from inheritances in that donors actively choose to transfer wealth to others during their lifetime. They usually occur along the generational line and flow downward, from the older to the younger generation (Kohli, 2004). Gifts are typically received earlier in life than inheritances and are often tied to individual needs or events such as starting a family, entering a career, purchasing real estate, or crises such as divorce and unemployment. Gifts can also serve to strengthen relationships between donor and recipient and to create reciprocity, for example in the expectation of receiving care services later.

When considering these factors, one might expect that gifts are more often given to daughters than to sons, since daughters are often expected to provide more care to the elderly. In fact, parents tend to give gifts preferentially to poorer children (Dunn and Phillips, 1997), and since women generally face worse economic circumstances - due to the gender pay gap and higher likelihood of single parenthood - they are expected to benefit more from these transfers. For example, McGarry (2016) finds that job loss and divorce are strong predictors of parental transfers, and in fact, both the proportion of daughters receiving transfers and the amounts received are higher than for sons. An analysis for Great Britain also shows that, after controlling for various covariates, daughters generally receive more gifts than sons (Boileau and Sturrock, 2025). According to Loxton (2020), parents are 10% to 20% more likely to give a gift to a daughter if they expect care later.

A second strand of literature shows disadvantages for women and daughters in gift recipiency and amounts. In a US study of farmers in the early 1980s, family farms were typically passed from father to son (Salamon et al., 1986). Cross-cultural evidence also shows gendered preferences: Wong (2013) finds that in Korea, sons are more likely to be favored, and in Germany, Leopold and Schneider (2011) show that women are less likely to receive gifts, particularly real estate. Jirmann (2022) and Tisch and Schechtl (2025) emphasize that asset type is critical: using inheritance tax statistics, they show that women receive large gifts less frequently, and when

they do, the amounts are smaller - particularly for business assets that can be tax-exempt under German law. The German tax system, while formally gender-neutral, thus reinforces gender disparities because of parental transfer behaviors and tax exemptions that disproportionately benefit men's inheritances and gifts.

3 Data

We use microdata from the German Socio-Economic Panel (SOEP) (Goebel et al., 2019) (DOI: 10.5684/soep.core.v39eu), a household panel study that began in 1984 and is conducted annually. Questions on inheritances and large gifts have been asked at the individual level in four survey years: 1988, 2001, 2017, and 2019. This is supplemented with annual socio-demographic questions. The inheritance module consists of five questions that can be found in Appendix B: (i) whether an inheritance or a large gift was ever received, (ii) the year in which the transfer was received, (iii) whether it was an inheritance or a gift, (iv) the type of assets (financial assets, real estate, business assets, or other assets), and (v) the value at the time of receipt. Up to three different transfers are recorded separately. The 1988 and 2017 modules differ from the other years in terms of the filter questions: the 2017 module only asks about inheritances and gifts from the last 15 years, and in 1988 only information about inheritances was collected, with a reporting period covering the past 28 years.

Due to the limited reporting period in 2017 and the large temporal overlap with the 2019 module, the 2017 data are not used here. To ensure consistency across rounds and to reduce recall error, the reporting period is limited to the last 18 years. Thus, based on the three waves, the three periods covered are 1970-1988, 1983-2001, and 2001-2019. All amounts are in Euros adjusted for inflation to 2019 values.

Item non-response for these questions is low (0.6% for the filter question in 2001, 0.6% for the reference year, and 0.8% for the transfer amount), and missing responses are replaced using multiple imputation. The 2019 survey includes, for the first time, a special high net worth sample, reducing underestimation at the top of the wealth distribution and improving precision for the very wealthy (Schröder et al., 2020).

Using the three modules, we identify six variables, which are used for estimation: three on the incidence of overall transfers, inheritances and gifts, and three on the amounts, respectively. In addition, since inheritances and gifts are typically one-time, unexpected sources of wealth, in order to provide a complete picture of transfers, we also use the 2021 data on regular payments or financial support from individuals outside the household during the previous year. The survey asks: *"In the last year (2020), have you personally received money or financial support from relatives or other people outside the household?"* For our analysis, we restrict these transfers to those received from parents or parents-in-law. These payments tend to be smaller than inheritances and gifts, and while the framing differs, we treat them as conceptually closer to gifts given their *inter vivos* nature. Here, again we have variables on incidence and amounts. Thus, in total we have eight variables.

4 Empirical strategy

The empirical analysis has four parts. First, we present raw descriptive statistics on the probability of receiving overall transfers, inheritances and gifts (including 2021 regular transfers) and the amounts received, by gender and across the age and personal income distribution. We also take a look at the determinants of receiving the different transfers, separately by gender. Second, we estimate linear probability models and OLS regressions of gender differences in the incidence and amount of transfers (overall, inheritance, gift). Third, we check whether the transfer gap has diminished or increased over time (possibly due to changing social norms and the population getting richer). The results are in the Appendix A8 and described in Appendix D. Finally, we identify the role of transfers in explaining the gap in wealth between women and men and its change over time. For this, we decompose the gender wealth gap using the Oaxaca-Blinder (OB) method[4] at the mean and further apply the recentered influence function (RIF) decompositions for quantiles throughout the distribution.

Baseline specification

For the descriptive section (section 5), our baseline specification, estimated separately by gender is:

$$Y_{it} = \alpha + X'_{it}\gamma + \varepsilon_{it}, \tag{1}$$

where Y_{it} is one of the eight outcomes discussed above and X_{it} is the vector of covariates. The eight outcomes include four indicator variables (0/1) for incidence: (i) any transfer (inheritance or gift), (ii) any inheritance, (iii) any gift, (iv) any regular transfer reported for 2020 in the 2021 survey; and four variables for conditional amounts: (v) total transfer amount, (vi) inheritance amount, (vii) gift amount, (viii) amount of regular transfer. Binary outcomes (i)-(iv) are estimated separately with linear probability models (LPM) and continuous outcomes (v)-(viii) with OLS.

The covariate vector X_{it} includes: current occupation, current employment status, labor market experience (in years), home ownership, age, years of education, region of residence (East/West, current and before 1989), migration background, whether the individual has any siblings, number of brothers and sisters, marital status (married, single, divorced/separated, widowed), total number of children, single parenthood,[5] whether in cohabitation with their partner (living in the same household), whether currently in education, personal and household income quantiles, survey year, state of residence, and a variable indicating if the households belong to the high-wealth subsample. Details on the variables are available in Appendix C and descriptive statistics of all covariates by gender and year are available in Tables A1 and A2 in the Appendix.

Next, in section 6, we identify whether there are significant differences in incidence and

[4]We note the recently augmented name use in some of the literature based on Kitagawa (1955) and point the reader to a discussion of the two methods (Oaxaca and Sierminska, 2025).

[5]The single parenthood indicator captures respondents having at least one child and is not married or cohabiting with their partner. While this variable is fully determined by marital status and number of children (included as covariates), it is retained as a separate covariate for ease of interpretation, particularly when examining gender-specific determinants of outcomes. Its inclusion does not affect the main results.

amounts between women and men by estimating a pooled regression specified by eq.(2):

$$Y_{it} = \alpha + \beta \, Female_i + X'_{it}\gamma + \varepsilon_{it}, \tag{2}$$

where $Female_i$ is an indicator variable equal to 1 for women and 0 otherwise and the rest is as described above. In all cases, the coefficient β captures the conditional gender gap in the outcome. As above, the binary outcomes are estimated using linear probability models (LPM) and OLS is used for continuous variables.

Decompositions

The decompositions are performed for survey years 2001[6] and 2019 (with transfer periods covering 1983 to 2001 for the 2001 survey year and 2001 to 2019 for the 2019 survey year). In these decompositions, *net wealth* is the dependent variable and consists of property wealth, financial assets including private insurances, vehicles, collectibles, business assets less any liabilities. The decompositions are not performed for regular transfer collected in 2021. This leaves us with six transfer variables and allows us to quantify how much of the gender wealth gap can be attributed to differences in transfer incidence and amounts in the form of inheritances and gifts, separately.

Oaxaca-Blinder decomposition

We first decompose the gender wealth gap at the mean using the Oaxaca-Blinder method (Oaxaca, 1973; Blinder, 1973). Let $\bar{W}_m$ and $\bar{W}_f$ denote mean net wealth for men and women, $\bar{X}_m$ and $\bar{X}_f$ the mean covariate vectors, and $\hat{\beta}_m$ and $\hat{\beta}_f$ the estimated coefficients from group-specific regressions:

$$\bar{W}_m - \bar{W}_f = (\bar{X}_m - \bar{X}_f)'\hat{\beta}_f + \bar{X}'_f(\hat{\beta}_m - \hat{\beta}_f). \tag{3}$$

The covariate vector includes demographic, socioeconomic, migration, and regional controls mentioned previously, excluding homeownership, along with each of the six transfer outcomes in turn. We exclude homeownership as it represents an asset that may itself be inherited or directly affected by transfers, and thus would bias the decomposition on the role of inheritances in wealth gaps. The first term is the *explained* component (differences in endowments), and the second is the *unexplained* component (differences in returns to endowments). Reporting the decomposition separately by transfer type allows us to identify which specific forms of transfers contribute most to explaining the gender wealth gap.

RIF decomposition

To analyse the gender wealth gap across the wealth distribution, we apply the RIF regression decomposition method (Firpo et al., 2009). For a statistic $v(F)$ (here, the τ-quantile q_τ of net wealth), the recentered influence function is defined as:

[6]Since the information on wealth and inheritances in 2001 and 2002 does not come from the same survey there may be a slight under-reporting of the influence of transfers on the gender wealth gap in 2002.

$$\text{RIF}(W_i; q_\tau) = q_\tau + \frac{\tau - 1\{W_i \leq q_\tau\}}{f_W(q_\tau)}, \tag{4}$$

where $f_W(q_\tau)$ denotes the conditional density of wealth at q_τ. We then regress $\text{RIF}(W_i; q_\tau)$ on X for men and women separately to obtain β_m^τ and β_f^τ, and decompose:

$$q_\tau^m - q_\tau^f = (\bar{X}_m - \bar{X}_f)'\hat{\beta}_f^\tau + \bar{X}_f'(\hat{\beta}_m^\tau - \hat{\beta}_f^\tau). \tag{5}$$

This approach allows us to evaluate how much of the gender wealth gap at different points in the distribution (e.g., the 25th, 50th, and 90th percentiles) can be explained by transfers. In practice, we include one transfer outcome at a time alongside the full set of controls (as above), distinguishing six cases: overall transfer incidence, overall transfer amounts, inheritance incidence, inheritance amounts, gift incidence, and gift amounts. In contrast to the Oaxaca–Blinder decomposition, which focuses on mean differences, the RIF decomposition highlights heterogeneity across the wealth distribution.

5 Descriptive Statistics

We first present the incidence and amounts of overall transfers, inheritances and gifts over time for women and men separately. Next, given that a strong age effect has been found in the timing of transfers (Bartels et al., 2025), we examine them across the age distribution. Finally, to confirm the fact that the more wealthy are more likely to receive transfers, we take into account the personal income distribution and disaggregate the incidence and amounts by income quantiles.

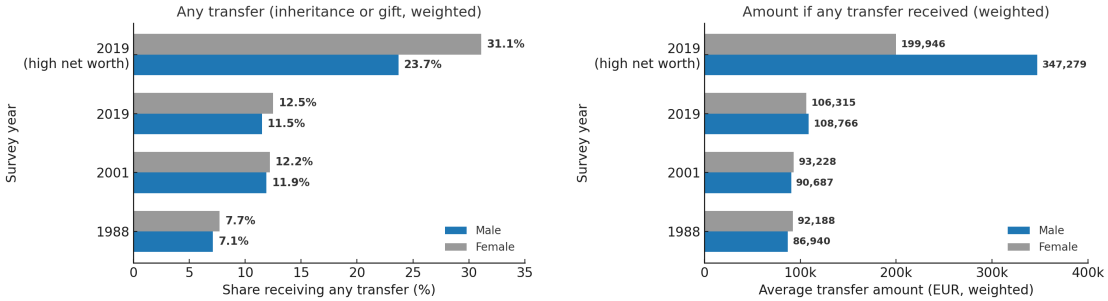
5.1 Incidence and amounts

Figures 1, 2 and 3 show the probability of receiving transfers, inheritances and gifts, respectively in the last 18 years and, conditional on receipt, the average amounts. Our discussion is focused on inheritances and gifts. For the three observed periods, the incidence for inheritance (Figure 2) remains relatively stable between 7% and 9%, with a slight advantage for women for the regular sample, which turns to a 5 ppt advantage in the *rich* sample. The average inheritance amount varies only marginally between the first two periods, with slightly higher values for women. This pattern reverses in the third period (2001-2019), when men receive on average around €103,000 in real terms - approximately €10,000 more than women. In the rich sample the amounts are about €100,000 higher for men (even though incidence is higher for women).

Turning to gifts (Figure 3), the probability of receiving a gift in each of the last 18 years is approximately 3%-5%, with slightly higher rates for men. The average amount of gifts has increased modestly over time, more so for women than for men, such that in the second period, women's average gift amounts exceed men's. Note that data on gifts was not collected in 1988. In the rich sample, the incidence is higher for women (at 12%). Yet, the amounts are again higher for men (€396,000 vs. €228,000 for women).

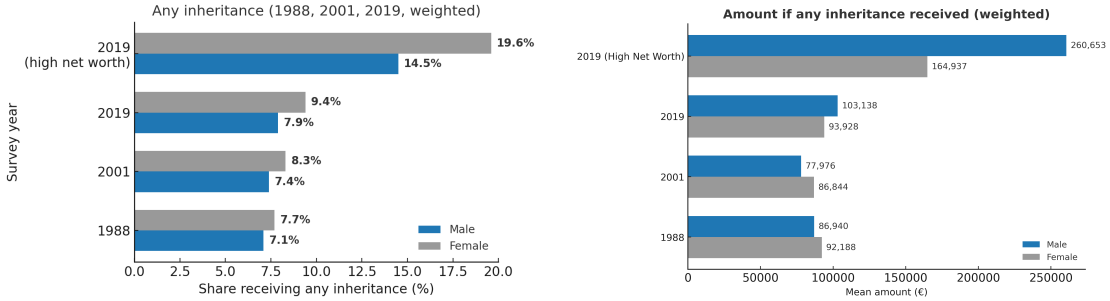
When inheritances and gifts are considered together (Figure 1), women are slightly more likely to receive a transfer, while the amounts do not vary much between genders, except in the

Figure 1: Incidence and amounts of Any Transfer received for women and men.



Note: The figure shows the incidence (left panel) and conditional amounts (right panel) of receiving any inheritance or gift within the past 18 years. All amounts are expressed in 2019 euros. Estimates are weighted using population weights.

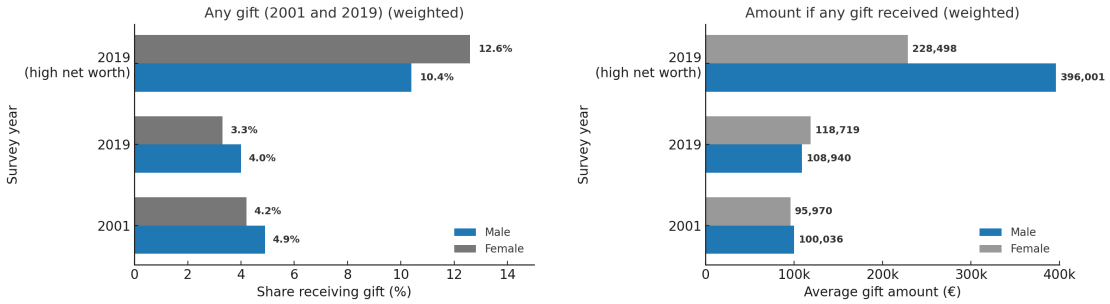
Figure 2: Incidence and amounts of Any Inheritances received for women and men.



Note: The figure shows the incidence (left panel) and conditional amounts (right panel) of receiving any inheritance within the past 18 years. All amounts are expressed in 2019 euros. Estimates are weighted using population weights.

rich sample.

Figure 3: Incidence and amounts of Any Gifts received for women and men.

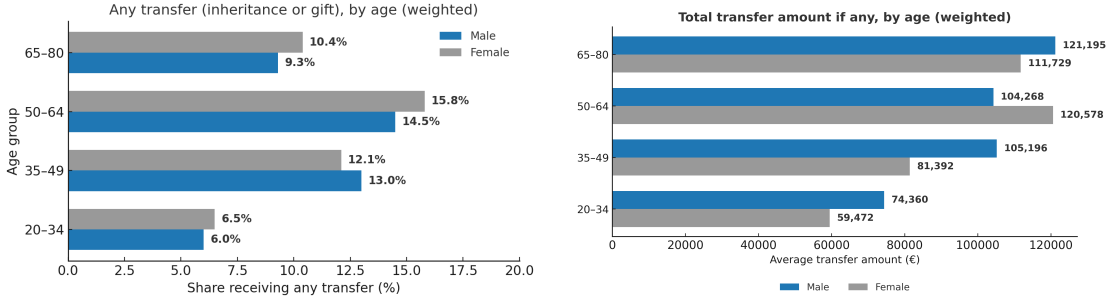


Note: The figure shows the incidence (left panel) and conditional amounts (right panel) of receiving any gift within the past 18 years. All amounts are expressed in 2019 euros. Estimates are weighted using population weights.

As noted earlier, inheritances and gifts typically are received by women and men at different stages of the life course. This pattern is confirmed in our data. We combine all survey years and find that the incidence of transfers increases until the 50-64 age groups and then falls (Figure 4). Transfers combine inheritances, which are less frequently received at younger ages (Figure 5), and gifts, which are concentrated in earlier and middle adulthood (Figure 6). Gifts are most commonly reported in the 35-49 age group (measured at survey year), while inheritances peak in the 50-64 group. Gender differences in inheritance incidence are more pronounced in favor of women in the two older age groups, reflecting higher female life expectancy and inheritances

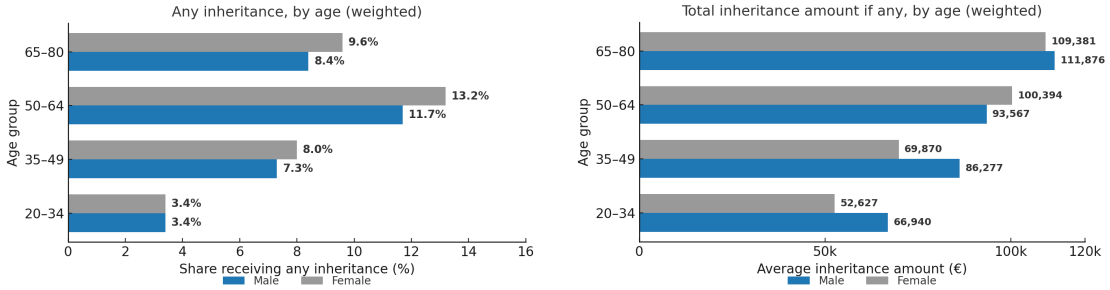
received from deceased husbands. For gifts, the largest gender gap is in favor of men (about 2 percentage points) in the 35-49 group. Inheritance amounts rise with age and are in favor of men apart from the 50-64 age group. Gift amounts show no clear age gradient, yet again are in favor of men, apart from the 50-64 age group.

Figure 4: Incidence and amounts of Any Transfer received for women and men by age



Note: The figure shows the incidence of receiving any inheritance or gift by age group, using the combined SOEP samples from 1988, 2001, and 2019 (including the additional high net worth sample in 2019).Estimates are weighted using population weights, and all amounts are adjusted to 2019 euros.

Figure 5: Incidence and amounts of Any Inheritances received for women and men by age



Note: The figure shows the incidence and conditional amounts of inheritances by age group, based on the combined SOEP samples from 1988, 2001, and 2019 (including the high net worth subsample in 2019). Estimates are weighted using population weights, and all amounts are adjusted to 2019 euros.

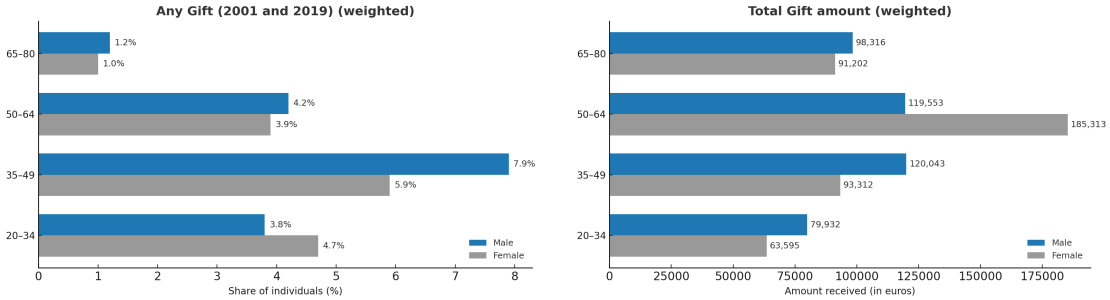
5.2 Across the income distribution

Given that personal income and savings are key building blocks of wealth accumulation (Semyonov and Lewin-Epstein, 2013), we therefore examine transfers across the income distribution, recognizing that higher social status - often linked to higher income - is associated with more frequent and larger transfers. We pool the 1988, 2001 and 2019 survey years.

Based on the literature, the expectation is that both the incidence and amounts of inheritances and gifts increase with income (Morelli et al., 2021). Figures 7 and 8 broadly confirm this: in higher income quintiles, a larger share of individuals report receiving inheritances or gifts. Across all quintiles, women have a higher incidence of receiving inheritances; the same pattern holds for gifts (except for the 5th quintile).

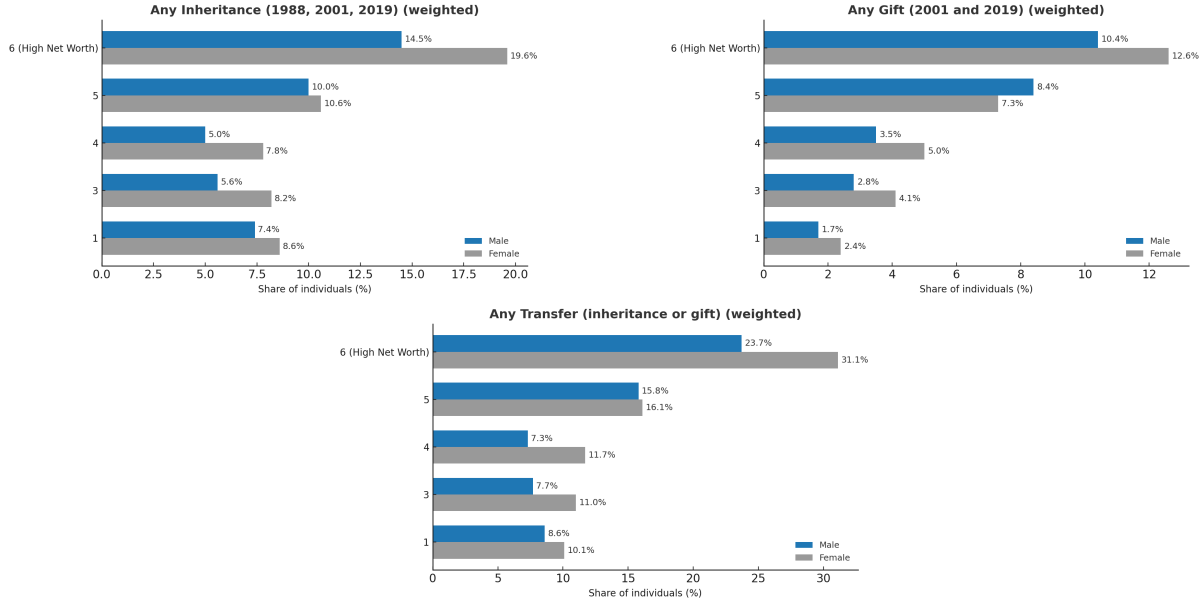
In terms of amounts, the picture is more mixed. Women tend to receive higher average transfer amounts in the lower and middle parts of the distribution (particularly in the 1st and 3rd quantiles), and in the 5th quantile women receive on average €33,000 more in gifts. By contrast, men inherit larger sums in the 5th quintile (around €15,000 more). In the high net

Figure 6: Incidence and amounts of Any Gifts received for women and men by age



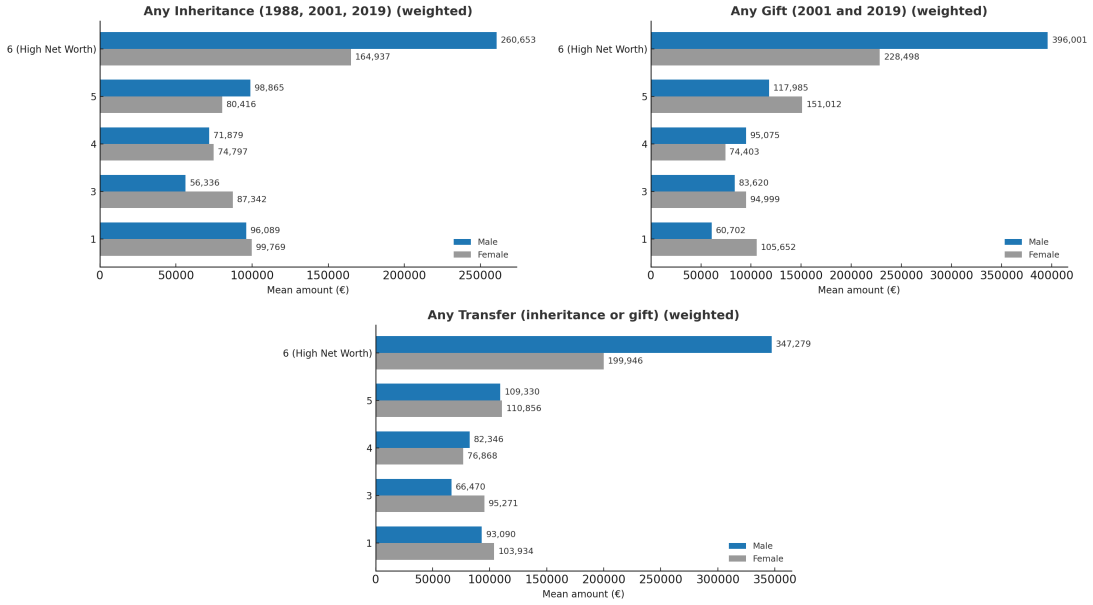
Note: The figure shows the incidence and conditional amounts of gifts by age group, based on the SOEP samples from 2001 and 2019 (including the high net worth subsample in 2019). Information on gifts was not collected in 1988. Estimates are weighted using population weights, and all amounts are adjusted to 2019 euros.

Figure 7: Incidence of Transfers received across the personal income distribution for women and men.



Note: The figure shows the incidence of inheritances, gifts, and any transfers across the personal income distribution (based on gross personal labor income), using SOEP data from 1988, 2001, and 2019 (including the high–net–worth sample in 2019). Quantile 2 is omitted because around 40 percent of individuals in the sample report zero personal income, so the first meaningful break occurs thereafter. Quantile 6 corresponds to the high–net–worth subsample surveyed in 2019. All estimates use population weights

Figure 8: Amounts of Transfers received across the personal income distribution for women and men.



Notes: The figure shows the average amounts of inheritances, gifts, and any transfers received across the personal income distribution, using SOEP data from 1988, 2001, and 2019 (including the high net worth sample in 2019). Quantile 2 is omitted because roughly 40 percent of individuals in the sample report zero personal income, so the first meaningful break occurs afterwards. Quantile 6 corresponds to the high net worth subsample surveyed in 2019. Amounts are expressed in 2019 euros and weighted using population weights.

worth sample, men consistently receive substantially higher amounts across all transfer types.

5.3 Regression determinants of incidence and amounts

To complete the descriptive section, we estimate equation 1 and focus on identifying the main determinants of incidence and amounts. Regressions are estimated separately for women and men. We begin with the first two models on overall transfers, where inheritances and gifts are combined. The results are in Table A3 in the Appendix. We focus on covariates yielding significant results. Homeowners are significantly more likely to receive transfers and to receive larger amounts, possibly because the property itself may have been the subject of the transfer. The presence of siblings is significantly negatively correlated with the probability of receiving any transfer or inheritance for both men and women. This pattern suggests that transfers are more concentrated when there are fewer potential recipients. The number of brothers has a consistently negative effect on transfer and inheritance incidence for both sexes and is additionally associated with lower transfer and inheritance amounts for women. The number of sisters, by contrast, matters mainly for women: it reduces the probability of receiving any transfer or gift, as well as the amounts received from both inheritances and overall transfers. These patterns, as shown in Table A3, are consistent with traditional inheritance norms—such as primogeniture or gendered preferences within families—that may disadvantage women when transfers are distributed across multiple siblings. For women, part-time employment is positively correlated with the incidence of transfers, whereas unemployment is negatively correlated. When it comes to age, incidence is lower for the youngest and oldest groups compared to 35-44 year

olds (as in Figure 4). Years of education have a positive effect on both incidence and amounts for women and men. Former citizens of the GDR[7] have significantly lower incidence and levels of transfers, as expected due to lower wealth levels. Individuals with a direct or indirect migration background are also significantly less likely to receive transfers. Among women, being single, divorced, or widowed is positively correlated with transfer incidence, with widows also receiving higher amounts, as found earlier in Bartels et al. (2025). Being self-employed (with employees) plays a role for men in terms of the transfer and inheritance amount. Finally, higher household income is positively associated with the probability of receiving transfers, with the fifth quintile having the highest likelihood (as in Figure 7).

6 Regression results

6.1 Overall and differences by age

In the previous section, we identified raw gender differences at both the extensive and intensive margin of receiving wealth transfers and discussed their determinants. Next, we examine whether gender differences persist after controlling for previously identified covariates. We estimate eight models, distinguishing between incidence and amount, separately for inheritances and gifts, then combined for both types of transfer. Transfers are pooled over observation years. In addition, we estimate two models for regular transfers in 2021.

We begin with pooled regressions (Eq.(2)), which control for whether the respondent is a woman or a man. We report only the coefficient of interest - β - on the *Female* variable (see Table 1). For incidence, no gender differences are observed for any transfers (column 1) or inheritances alone (column 2), but women are significantly less likely to receive gifts (column 3). For amounts, only the combined transfers indicator shows a significant negative effect of €12,000 for women (column 4). When inheritances and gifts are examined separately (columns 5 and 6), the signs remain negative but are not significant, possibly due to small sample sizes. For regular transfers (columns 7 and 8), women are significantly less likely to receive them, but no significant differences in amounts are observed. Overall, we identify a gap in incidence for gifts and regular transfers in favor of men.

Given observed differences in the timing of transfers between women and men, we split the sample by age (Table 2). Panel A shows results for those under 50, Panel B for those 50 and over. The results in Table 1 are confirmed for the younger sample. A gap in transfer amounts exists in favor of men, which is driven by the gap in gifts (amounts and incidence). Women are less likely to receive gifts and receive on average €26,000 less. Women are also significantly less likely to receive regular transfers from parents, but there are no differences in the amounts. Among older individuals, women are more likely to receive inheritances (by 1 percentage point), which is consistent with their longer life expectancy and the likelihood of inheriting from deceased husbands. Yet, the amounts received are not significantly different.

[7] See section 6.2.

Table 1: Gender differences in incidence and amounts received in transfers (inheritances, gifts, regular transfers).

	Any transfer	Any inheritance	Any gift	Total transfer (amount)	Total inheritance (amount)	Total gift (amount)	Regular transfer (2021)	Regular Transfer (amount)
	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	(8)
Female	-0.002	0.001	-0.004*	-12,235*	-10,668	-8,109	-0.011**	-444
	(0.004)	(0.003)	(0.003)	(7,313)	(7,177)	(13,229)	(0.005)	(2,200)
Constant	-0.087*	-0.100**	0.058*	3,728	45,005	79,872	0.120***	20,327
	(0.052)	(0.044)	(0.035)	(212,750)	(28,057)	(239,784)	(0.046)	(15,661)
N	44,070	44,070	40,463	5,254	3,590	1,824	13,686	779
R-sq	0.072	0.051	0.045	0.161	0.144	0.230	0.113	0.167
Controls	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES

*Note: Columns (1)–(6) use pooled SOEP waves (1988, 2001, 2019). Incidence refers to any transfer received in the 18 years preceding the survey year (e.g., 2001–2019 for the 2019 survey). Information on gifts is only available for 2001 and 2019. All amounts are in 2019 euros and are estimated conditional on receipt. Columns (7)–(8) use data from the question on parental transfers from the 2021 survey. All regressions include demographic, family, labor market, education, migration, relationship, income controls. Col(1)-(6) year and state fixed effects. (see Section 4). Standard errors in parentheses. *** $p \leq 0.01$, ** $p \leq 0.05$, * $p \leq 0.1$.*

Table 2: Gender differences in transfers by age group

Panel A: Under 50								
	Any transfer	Total transfer (amount)	Any inheritance	Any gift	Total inheritance (amount)	Total gift (amount)	Regular transfer (2021)	Regular Transfer (amount)
	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	(8)
Female	-0.008	-3,187***	-0.002	-0.007*	-16,324	-26,284*	-0.025**	225
	(0.005)	(1,113)	(0.004)	(0.004)	(10,620)	(14,649)	(0.010)	(1,893)
Constant	0.005	4,817	0.029	0.029	29,105	20,643	0.267***	10,743
	(0.058)	(13,627)	(0.044)	(0.048)	(44,756)	(228,424)	(0.089)	(13,573)
N	23,434	23,367	23,434	20,803	1,239	1,248	5,622	613
R-sq	0.072	0.072	0.030	0.051	0.162	0.272	0.119	0.163
Controls	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES
Panel B: 50 and above								
	Any transfer	Total transfer (amount)	Any inheritance	Any gift	Total inheritance (amount)	Total gift (amount)	Regular transfer (2021)	Regular Transfer (amount)
	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	(8)
Female	0.010	1,828	0.012**	-0.004	-6,126	31,929	-0.004	-9,777
	(0.006)	(1,809)	(0.006)	(0.003)	(9,809)	(30,012)	(0.004)	(12,531)
Constant	-0.213*	-38,442	-0.277**	0.102	59,080	173,044	-0.020	92,045*
	(0.126)	(38,945)	(0.117)	(0.069)	(41,462)	(156,515)	(0.049)	(53,345)
N	20,636	20,426	20,636	19,660	2,351	576	8,064	166
R-sq	0.073	0.055	0.053	0.041	0.143	0.208	0.029	0.314
Controls	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES

*Note: Columns (1)–(6) use pooled SOEP waves (1988, 2001, 2019). Incidence refers to any transfer received in the 18 years preceding the survey year (e.g., 2001–2019 for the 2019 survey). Information on gifts is only available for 2001 and 2019. All amounts are in 2019 euros and are estimated conditional on receipt. Columns (7)–(8) use data from the question on parental transfers from the 2021 survey. All regressions include demographic, family, labor market, education, migration, relationship, and income controls. Col (1)-(6) also year and state fixed effects (see Section 4). Standard errors in parentheses. Results are reported separately for respondents below age 50 and those 50 and above. *** $p \leq 0.01$, ** $p \leq 0.05$, * $p \leq 0.1$.*

6.2 Regional patterns

Next, we examine regional patterns (Table 3) across Germany. Two decades after reunification, average net wealth in East Germany still remains significantly lower than in West Germany (Grabka and Halbmeier, 2019). Consequently, it is expected that both the probability of receiving wealth transfers and the amounts received are markedly lower in the former region (see

Table A3 in the Appendix for overall regression results). In the literature, the extent to which gender differences in transfers persist across regions has received little attention although East Germany is a particularly interesting case due to its history. For example, during the German Democratic Republic (GDR) era,[8] women were formally treated equally to men. This was reflected in notably high female labor force participation rates compared to the West Germany(Nickel, 2009). If these social and cultural influences persist, we would expect no gender differences in transfers in this region. Indeed, our results show no significant gaps in either the incidence or amount of transfers in East Germany (Panel B of Table 3).

In contrast, the picture in West Germany aligns with the notion of more traditional (discriminatory) stereotypes and gender gaps are present (Panel A of Table 3) (see for the different gender stereotypes in the two regions Cooke (2006)). The incidence gap is significant not only for one-time transfers (gifts) (col. 3) but also for regular transfers (col. 7). Moreover, a gender gap in amounts is also present: men receive on average €17,000 more in total transfers (col. 4) and €14,000 more in inheritances alone (col. 5). The amounts for gifts also show a negative coefficient for women (col. 6), but the effect is not statistically significant.

Table 3: Gender differences in transfers in East and West Germany.

Panel A: West Germany								
	Any transfer	Any inheritance	Any gift	Total transfer (amount)	Total inheritance (amount)	Total gift (amount)	Regular transfers (2021)	Regular Transfer (amount)
	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	(8)
Female	-0.001	0.004	-0.006*	-17,302**	-14,283*	-12,021	-0.016***	250
	(0.005)	(0.004)	(0.003)	(8,814)	(8,561)	(16,622)	(0.006)	(2,562)
Constant	-0.100*	-0.129**	0.075*	6,276	59,451*	88,297	0.146***	16,459
	(0.059)	(0.051)	(0.041)	(224,598)	(31,573)	(259,831)	(0.055)	(19,285)
N	33,613	33,613	30,100	4,217	2,906	1,438	10,310	568
R-sq	0.079	0.056	0.049	0.145	0.128	0.212	0.109	0.208
Controls	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES
Panel B: East Germany								
	Any transfer	Any inheritance	Any gift	Total transfer (amount)	Total inheritance (amount)	Total gift (amount)	Regular transfers (2021)	Regular Transfer (amount)
	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	(8)
Female	-0.003	-0.003	-0.003	7,983	-486	1,429	0.002	-5,576
	(0.007)	(0.006)	(0.004)	(11,881)	(12,237)	(19,552)	(0.009)	(4,660)
Constant	0.025	0.053	0.039	-46,398	-34,864	65,527	0.071	6,256
	(0.105)	(0.088)	(0.064)	(63,295)	(56,507)	(87,990)	(0.085)	(34,488)
N	10,457	10,457	10,363	1,037	684	386	3,376	211
R-sq	0.047	0.031	0.038	0.251	0.245	0.402	0.142	0.268
Controls	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES

*Note: Columns (1)–(6) use pooled SOEP waves (1988, 2001, 2019). Incidence refers to any transfer received in the 18 years preceding the survey year (e.g., 2001–2019 for the 2019 survey). Information on gifts is only available for 2001 and 2019. All amounts are in 2019 euros and are estimated conditional on receipt. Columns (7)–(8) use data from the question on parental transfers from the 2021 survey. All regressions include demographic, family, labor market, education, migration, relationship, and income controls. Col(1)-(6) also year and state fixed effects (see Section 4). Standard errors in parentheses. Results are reported separately for respondents currently residing in the territories of the former East and West Germany. *** $p \leq 0.01$, ** $p \leq 0.05$, * $p \leq 0.1$.*

We further examine the interaction of age and region (Table 4). The top two panels are

[8]The German Democratic Republic (GDR), or East Germany, existed from 1949 to 1990 as a socialist state controlled by the Socialist Unity Party (SED) and closely linked to the Soviet Union, with a planned economy, strict political control, and extensive surveillance. The regime ended with the fall of communism in 1989 and Germany's reunification in 1990.

for West Germany and the bottom two for East Germany. There are no statistically significant results for East Germany. The results for West Germany are stronger than the overall results in Table 2. Here, the incidence of transfers driven by gifts is in favor of men and the amounts of all one-time transfers are lower for women. The amount of inheritances for younger women is even lower than for the whole sample - by €22,000. The gift gap remains substantial and is also higher (rises to €31,000). The incidence of regular parental transfers is more in favor of men. These patterns suggest that parental behavior in wealth transfers in West Germany (and not East Germany) favors men and is likely shaped by gendered norms that disadvantage women. Older women in West Germany have a higher probability of inheriting something, possibly from their male partner, at least due to their higher life expectancy – as already mentioned.

Table 4: Gender differences in transfers by age and region

Panel A: West Germany — Under 50								
	Any transfer	Total transfer (amount)	Any inheritance	Any gift	Total inheritance (amount)	Total gift (amount)	Regular transfer (2021)	Regular Transfer (amount)
	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	(8)
Female	-0.009*	-4,058***	-0.002	-0.009*	-22,204*	-31,238*	-0.040***	946
	(0.006)	(1,403)	(0.004)	(0.005)	(12,905)	(18,715)	(0.011)	(2,213)
Constant	0.002	-289	0.014	0.039	26,559	38,239	0.301***	15,792
	(0.066)	(16,604)	(0.050)	(0.056)	(51,770)	(256,478)	(0.105)	(16,465)
N	18,272	18,219	18,272	15,707	982	992	4,281	440
R-sq	0.079	0.075	0.034	0.056	0.159	0.255	0.118	0.197
Controls	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES
Panel B: West Germany — 50 and above								
	Any transfer	Total transfer (amount)	Any inheritance	Any gift	Total inheritance (amount)	Total gift (amount)	Regular transfer (2021)	Regular Transfer (amount)
	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	(8)
Female	0.015*	1,714	0.017**	-0.003	-6,680	37,967	-0.003	-25,308
	(0.008)	(2,415)	(0.007)	(0.004)	(11,709)	(38,151)	(0.005)	(15,590)
Constant	-0.228	-51,774	-0.328**	0.149*	69,685	139,698	-0.015	228,880***
	(0.151)	(49,705)	(0.141)	(0.084)	(46,046)	(177,689)	(0.062)	(73,030)
N	15,341	15,158	15,341	14,393	1,924	446	6,029	128
R-sq	0.077	0.054	0.056	0.042	0.126	0.191	0.035	0.409
Controls	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES
Panel C: East Germany — Under 50								
	Any transfer	Total transfer (amount)	Any inheritance	Any gift	Total inheritance (amount)	Total gift (amount)	Regular transfer (2021)	Regular Transfer (amount)
	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	(8)
Female	-0.002	20	-0.003	-0.002	8,728	-13,835	0.014	-3,234
	(0.009)	(1,385)	(0.007)	(0.007)	(17,998)	(17,549)	(0.021)	(4,306)
Constant	0.066	29,844	0.112	0.030	48,955	92,644	0.141	-18,043
	(0.126)	(18,874)	(0.094)	(0.091)	(90,641)	(82,966)	(0.174)	(31,155)
N	5,162	5,148	5,162	5,096	257	256	1,341	173
R-sq	0.055	0.075	0.027	0.042	0.268	0.473	0.142	0.253
Controls	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES
Panel D: East Germany — 50 and above								
	Any transfer	Total transfer (amount)	Any inheritance	Any gift	Total inheritance (amount)	Total gift (amount)	Regular transfer (2021)	Regular Transfer (amount)
	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	(8)
Female	-0.004	1,788	0.000	-0.007	-5,351	13,196	-0.006	-45,255
	(0.010)	(2,247)	(0.009)	(0.005)	(16,786)	(53,001)	(0.007)	(28,164)
Constant	-0.031	16,452	-0.008	0.019	-21,190	332,132	0.015	48,877
	(0.230)	(53,671)	(0.209)	(0.115)	(89,054)	(388,421)	(0.082)	(116,552)
N	5,295	5,268	5,295	5,267	427	130	2,035	38
R-sq	0.053	0.062	0.036	0.046	0.283	0.510	0.032	0.987
Controls	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES

Note: Columns (1)–(6) use pooled SOEP waves (1988, 2001, 2019). Incidence refers to any transfer received in the 18 years preceding the survey year (e.g., 2001–2019 for the 2019 survey). Information on gifts is only available for 2001 and 2019. All amounts are in 2019 euros and are estimated conditional on receipt. Columns (7)–(8) use data from the question on parental transfers from the 2021 survey. All regressions include demographic, family, labor market, education, migration, relationship, and income controls. Col (1)-(6) also year and state fixed effects (see Section 4). Standard errors in parentheses. Results are reported separately for respondents below age 50 and those 50 and above, and by current residence in the territories of the former East and West Germany. *** $p \leq 0.01$, ** $p \leq 0.05$, * $p \leq 0.1$.

6.3 Differences due to the migration background

The share of immigrants and individuals with a migrant background in Germany has steadily increased over time, rising from less than 11% in 1988 to 15% in 2001 and over 20% in 2019. Furthermore, traditional role models are likely to continue to be widespread within certain migrant groups, notably among Turkish migrants, the largest such group in Germany. Consequently, we analyze transfer patterns with regards to the migration background (Table 5), defining migrants as individuals who immigrated to Germany themselves ("direct migrants") or children of at least one such immigrant ("indirect migrants"). Here, we examine the pooled regression from Eq.(2) and focus on the coefficient for the *Female* variable. Among migrants, we find no significant gender effects (Panel B of Table 5). Among the native-born population, however, women receive significantly smaller inheritances - on average €13,000 less (Panel A of Table 5) - and have a lower incidence of regular transfers from parents. Thus, transfers appear gendered among natives but not among migrants.

The absence of significant effects among migrants may reflect both the relatively small sample size and growing heterogeneity within the migrant population. While traditional origin countries such as Turkey remain important, recent migration flows increasingly include EU citizens relocating under the freedom of establishment and freedom to provide services. These newer arrivals are, on average, younger and more highly educated - characteristics that are generally associated with less adherence to traditional gender roles. An investigation of the patterns among more specific migrant groups are left for future research.

Table 5: Gender differences in incidence and amounts received in transfers by migration status

Panel A: Natives								
	Any transfer	Any inheritance	Any gift	Total transfer (amount)	Total inheritance (amount)	Total gift (amount)	Regular transfer (2021)	Regular Transfer (amount)
	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	(8)
Female	0.000	0.002	-0.003	-13,020*	-10,557	-8,459	-0.014***	-1,120
	(0.004)	(0.004)	(0.003)	(7,717)	(7,605)	(13,723)	(0.005)	(2,580)
Constant	-0.099	-0.116**	0.071*	8,039	35,376	104,739	0.140**	26,209
	(0.062)	(0.053)	(0.043)	(215,677)	(29,560)	(241,251)	(0.055)	(18,247)
N	35,505	35,505	32,764	4,800	3,279	1,666	11,095	659
R-sq	0.064	0.046	0.045	0.160	0.142	0.241	0.125	0.180
Controls	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES
Panel B: Migrants								
	Any transfer	Any inheritance	Any gift	Total transfer (amount)	Total inheritance (amount)	Total gift (amount)	Regular transfer (2021)	Regular Transfer (amount)
	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	(8)
Female	-0.006	0.001	-0.005	-937	-17,433	-41,307	0.005	2,378
	(0.006)	(0.005)	(0.004)	(24,623)	(23,536)	(60,102)	(0.010)	(1,901)
Constant	-0.079	-0.064	-0.018	4,857	53,440	20,062	0.105	3,953
	(0.077)	(0.065)	(0.050)	(106,996)	(99,966)	(274,746)	(0.086)	(8,014)
N	8,565	8,565	7,699	454	311	158	2,591	120
R-sq	0.074	0.053	0.039	0.240	0.329	0.352	0.085	0.540
Controls	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES

Note: Columns (1)–(6) use pooled SOEP waves (1988, 2001, 2019). Incidence refers to any transfer received in the 18 years preceding the survey year (e.g., 2001–2019 for the 2019 survey). Information on gifts is only available for 2001 and 2019. All amounts are in 2019 euros and are estimated conditional on receipt. Columns (7)–(8) use data from the question on parental transfers from the 2021 survey. All regressions include demographic, family, labor market, education, migration, relationship, and income controls. Col(1)-(6) also year and state fixed effects (see Section 4). Standard errors in parentheses. *** $p \leq 0.01$, ** $p \leq 0.05$, * $p \leq 0.1$.

6.4 Differences due to the presence of siblings

The literature has shown that sibling composition can significantly influence parental transfer patterns. For instance, Mishkin (2021) documents that daughters are less likely to receive entrepreneurship opportunities from fathers when a son is present - suggesting that intergenerational resources are actively diverted toward male siblings. Based on such evidence, we examine whether discriminatory patterns in wealth transfers arise depending on the sibling composition. We expect gendered stereotypes to be particularly pronounced when a woman has at least one brother, as parents may favor sons over daughters in distributing inheritances or gifts. At the same time, women are preferred care-takers, thus, among individuals with sisters, men may be advantaged relative to women, since sons are often viewed as less suitable for these tasks. Conversely, in the absence of siblings, no gender differences are expected, as there is no intra-familial competition for transfers.

Table 6 presents four separate regressions based on the presence and type of siblings. In the first case, we restrict the sample to individuals without siblings. Consistent with our expectation, no significant gender effects are found in any of the eight specifications. In the second case, we consider only those without brothers. Again, no significant gender differences emerge across the eight specifications.

In the third case, we focus on individuals with at least one brother. Here, gender stereotypes appear to be at work: significant effects are observed for the amount of inheritance and for the incidence of regular transfers. Specifically, daughters with brothers receive, on average, €18,000 less in inheritances. We also observe a similar disadvantage in the incidence of regular transfers.

In the final case, we look at individuals with at least one sister. Here, too, we find a negative coefficient for the amount of inheritance and incidence of regular parental transfers, highlighting how men with sisters receive more transfers compared to women with sisters. We do not find any evidence that women receive higher amounts than men.

Table 6: Gender differences in incidence and amounts received in transfers by sibling status

	Any transfer	Any inheritance	Any gift	Total transfer (amount)	Total inheritance (amount)	Total gift (amount)	Regular transfer (2021)	Regular Transfer (amount)
Panel A: No siblings								
	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	(8)
Female	-0.010	-0.010	-0.002	-23,345	-22,524	-26,197	0.003	-3,793
	(0.009)	(0.008)	(0.006)	(16,475)	(18,088)	(27,026)	(0.011)	(5,181)
Constant	-0.082	-0.066	0.027	50,042	52,430	218,688	0.206**	8,462
	(0.132)	(0.113)	(0.096)	(73,472)	(69,648)	(328,209)	(0.100)	(47,723)
N	7,374	7,374	6,909	959	655	329	2,686	152
R-sq	0.087	0.070	0.046	0.157	0.165	0.290	0.133	0.582
Controls	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES
Panel B: Individuals with No Brothers								
	Any transfer	Any inheritance	Any gift	Total transfer (amount)	Total inheritance (amount)	Total gift (amount)	Regular transfer (2021)	Regular Transfer (amount)
	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	(8)
Female	-0.003	0.000	-0.004	-10,873	-3,903	-11,349	-0.006	1,140
	(0.006)	(0.005)	(0.004)	(10,570)	(10,585)	(19,274)	(0.007)	(2,148)
Constant	-0.084	-0.092	0.060	-20,166	43,107	16,623	0.029	12,827
	(0.082)	(0.070)	(0.058)	(215,989)	(42,558)	(260,647)	(0.076)	(20,759)
N	17,810	17,810	16,606	2,342	1,565	846	6,047	375
R-sq	0.071	0.052	0.046	0.153	0.142	0.261	0.113	0.346
Controls	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES
Panel C: Individuals with One or More Brothers								
	Any transfer	Any inheritance	Any gift	Total transfer (amount)	Total inheritance (amount)	Total gift (amount)	Regular transfer (2021)	Regular Transfer (amount)
	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	(8)
Female	-0.002	0.001	-0.004	-13,275	-18,266*	1,881	-0.016**	-657
	(0.005)	(0.004)	(0.003)	(10,169)	(9,844)	(18,977)	(0.006)	(3,752)
Constant	-0.096	-0.108*	0.054	53,014	48,563	213,904***	0.179***	30,702
	(0.066)	(0.057)	(0.043)	(40,764)	(36,965)	(79,776)	(0.058)	(23,070)
N	26,260	26,260	23,857	2,912	2,025	978	7,639	404
R-sq	0.073	0.051	0.046	0.187	0.179	0.235	0.120	0.267
Controls	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES
Panel D: Individuals with One or More Sisters								
	Any transfer	Any inheritance	Any gift	Total transfer (amount)	Total inheritance (amount)	Total gift (amount)	Regular transfer (2021)	Regular Transfer (amount)
	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	(8)
Female	-0.001	0.002	-0.004	-13,564	-15,269*	-483	-0.013**	-11
	(0.005)	(0.004)	(0.003)	(9,695)	(9,140)	(19,218)	(0.006)	(2,331)
Constant	-0.090	-0.139**	0.093**	39,537	84,248**	21,436	0.026	25,137
	(0.069)	(0.060)	(0.045)	(211,697)	(34,805)	(265,333)	(0.066)	(17,266)
N	25,733	25,733	23,391	2,894	2,018	962	7,513	407
R-sq	0.072	0.048	0.050	0.202	0.179	0.287	0.121	0.192
Controls	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES

Note: Columns (1)–(6) use pooled SOEP waves (1988, 2001, 2019). Incidence refers to any transfer received in the 18 years preceding the survey year (e.g., 2001–2019 for the 2019 survey). Information on gifts is only available for 2001 and 2019. All amounts are in 2019 euros and are estimated conditional on receipt. Columns (7)–(8) use data from the question on parental transfers from the 2021 survey. All regressions include demographic, family, labor market, education, migration, relationship, and income controls. Col(1)-(6) also year and state fixed effects (see Section 4). Standard errors in parentheses. Results are reported separately by sibling composition. *** $p \leq 0.01$, ** $p \leq 0.05$, * $p \leq 0.1$.

6.5 Decomposing the gender wealth gap (OB and RIF)

The final section of the results examines the relevance of transfers for the gender wealth gap given the substantial role of transfers as a share of wealth (discussed at the beginning of the paper). We use individual net wealth as the outcome variable. We first perform a mean decomposition using the Oaxaca-Blinder (OB) method (following equation (3) in the Empirical Strategy section), then decompose the wealth gap at different points in the wealth distribution using the RIF regression (following equations (4) and (5)). The full set of covariates includes all demographic, socioeconomic, migration, and geographic controls described earlier excluding homeownership.[9] In each specification, we consider one of the six transfer-related variables: any transfer, inheritance only, and gift only - each separated by incidence and amount (excluding regular transfers from 2021 for the remainder of the analysis). This setup allows us to isolate the explanatory power of inheritances and gifts at both the extensive and intensive margins in accounting for gender differences in net wealth. In Tables 7 and 8, we report the transfer variable only (see the "Note" in these tables).

Table 7: Oaxaca decomposition results across six outcomes (2001)

	Any Transfer	Transfer Amount	Any Inheritance	Inheritance Amount	Any Gift	Gift Amount
	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)
Overall						
Males	121,328***	120,624***	121,328***	120,911***	121,328***	121,044***
	(3,718)	(3,734)	(3,718)	(3,727)	(3,718)	(3,726)
Females	88,930***	88,085***	88,930***	88,372***	88,930***	88,644***
	(2,382)	(2,373)	(2,382)	(2,376)	(2,382)	(2,379)
Difference	32,398***	32,539***	32,398***	32,539***	32,398***	32,399***
	(4,416)	(4,425)	(4,416)	(4,420)	(4,416)	(4,421)
Explained	47,942***	48,639***	47,405***	47,867***	50,065***	50,558***
	(7,592)	(7,634)	(7,501)	(7,573)	(7,617)	(7,589)
Unexplained	-15,544**	-16,100**	-15,007**	-15,328**	-17,667***	-18,159***
	(6,812)	(6,753)	(6,791)	(6,792)	(6,813)	(6,768)
Explained						
Transfer Var	-348	491	-519	-180	177	647
	(553)	(733)	(458)	(518)	(368)	(553)
Unexplained						
Transfer Var	3,140	-531	2,056	-946	1,230	577
	(2,417)	(1,462)	(2,275)	(1,333)	(1,007)	(735)
Constant	-173,641	1,455	-142,832	35,556	-179,445	-266,222***
	(206,421)	(141,558)	(209,269)	(172,903)	(204,050)	(87,271)

Note: SOEP 2001 wave. All regressions include demographic, family, labor market, education, migration, relationship, and income controls, except homeownership as described in Section 4; coefficients are omitted for brevity. "Transfer Var" corresponds to the outcome in each column (e.g., inheritance amount in column 4). Full estimation results are available in Table A4 in the Appendix. Standard errors in parentheses. *** $p \leq 0.01$, ** $p \leq 0.05$, * $p \leq 0.1$.

The gender wealth gap is about €32,000 in 2001 in favor of men and €241,000 in 2019 (Table 8). This increase is largely driven by higher real estate and business asset values due to the inclusion of the wealthy sample in 2019, which was not available in 2001. Business assets are by far more frequently owned by men.

In the 2001 survey year, none of the six specifications yield significant results in terms of the significance of the transfers for explaining the gender wealth gap. This changes in 2019 (Table 8). In column 1, the incidence of any transfer has statistically significant explanatory power for the wealth gap, but only for the unexplained part, amounting to €37,618 - indicating that men

[9]The complete list of covariates is provided in the notes to Tables A4 and A5.

Table 8: Oaxaca decomposition results across six outcomes (2019)

	Any Transfer	Transfer Amount	Any Inheritance	Inheritance Amount	Any Gift	Gift Amount
	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)
Overall						
Males	429,527***	421,195***	429,527***	426,496***	429,527***	424,243***
	(24,124)	(24,219)	(24,124)	(24,203)	(24,124)	(24,145)
Females	188,490***	178,936***	188,490***	183,718***	188,490***	183,753***
	(15,449)	(15,073)	(15,449)	(15,243)	(15,449)	(15,285)
Difference	241,037***	242,258***	241,037***	242,778***	241,037***	240,490***
	(28,647)	(28,526)	(28,647)	(28,603)	(28,647)	(28,576)
Explained	248,419***	253,424***	246,323***	251,008***	254,356***	253,029***
	(31,657)	(32,649)	(31,543)	(32,015)	(31,887)	(32,511)
Unexplained	-7,381	-11,166	-5,286	-8,230	-13,319	-12,540
	(27,670)	(26,806)	(27,649)	(27,465)	(27,188)	(26,770)
Explained						
Transfer Var	-114	21,354**	-1,116	7,126	2,436	17,171*
	(1,755)	(9,058)	(1,120)	(4,684)	(1,977)	(9,299)
Unexplained						
Transfer Var	37,618**	58,305***	21,220*	38,305***	17,055	22,175
	(16,742)	(23,285)	(12,023)	(15,534)	(11,530)	(15,431)
Constant	549,492	201,980	391,143	939,167	322,583	-351,779
	(364,655)	(482,622)	(421,668)	(743,398)	(417,805)	(798,706)

*Note: SOEP 2019 wave. All regressions include demographic, family, labor market, education, migration, relationship, and income controls, except homeownership as described in Section 4; coefficients are omitted for brevity. "Transfer Var" corresponds to the outcome in each column (e.g., inheritance amount in column 4). Full estimation results are available in Table A5 in the Appendix. Standard errors in parentheses. *** $p \leq 0.01$, ** $p \leq 0.05$, * $p \leq 0.1$.*

obtain a higher return from transfers. This pattern is more evident in column 2: the amount of any transfer contributes to both the explained (€21,354) and unexplained (€58,304) parts, with positive coefficients in both cases. Thus, larger transfers widen the gender wealth gap at the mean. The size of gifts also plays a role in explaining the wealth gap (€17,174). Focusing on inheritances (column 4), the amount again matters in the unexplained part, with a value of €38,304 in favor of men.

Other key explanatory factors for the gender wealth gap include labor market variables such as occupation, labor market experience, and income, as well as migration background and East-West residence and origin. In column 1, the explained part fully accounts for the observed gap, while the unexplained part accounts for only around 3%, with little variation across specifications/ columns. The full results are available in Tables A4 and A5 in the Appendix.

Next, we apply the RIF regression to explore the distributional effects of transfers, focusing on the 25th, 50th, and 90th percentiles (Tables A6 and A7 in the Appendix). The same covariates are used as in the OB decomposition. In 2001, transfers do not play a role in the explained part across the distribution in all specifications. They do contribute to the unexplained part. In particular, any transfers, inheritances and gifts show consistently positive and significant effects across the distribution (except inheritances at the top), suggesting higher returns to transfers for men. For example, the effect of gift amounts ranges from €99 at the 25th percentile to €264 at the median and €4,299 at the 90th percentile. The relative contribution of gifts to the unexplained part is small at the lower and middle of the distribution (1-5%), but rises to 6-9% at the upper end.

In 2019, the gender wealth gap is €3,644 at the 25th percentile, €39,149 at the median, and €347,053 at the 90th percentile. The factors used in the decomposition fully explain the gap at

the median (120%) and near the top (101%). These include demographic characteristics (age, number of siblings), occupational factors (current occupation, professional experience), personal income, migration background, and region of residence. For the transfer variables, the 2019 results indicate that not the incidence, but amounts of transfers contribute to explaining the wealth gap. The amount of a gift has a significant impact on the explained portion, contributing €78 at the 25th percentile, €374 at the median, and €9,988 at the 90th percentile. However, relative to the wealth gap at each percentile, the explained contribution of gifts is small, at just 1%–2.9%. The contribution of inheritances is smaller, but significant. More broadly, overall transfers also play a notable role at the top of the distribution: they account for €16,149 of the explained component at the 90th percentile, corresponding to nearly 5% of the observed gender wealth gap. In addition, overall transfers contribute positively to the unexplained portion at both the median and the 90th percentile, suggesting that differential returns to transfers continue to favor men at higher levels of the wealth distribution.

7 Discussion and Conclusions

In addition to regular savings, wealth transfers in the form of inheritances and gifts play a central role in wealth creation (Szydlik, 2004). While prior studies have documented gender wealth gaps in Germany and elsewhere (e.g., Sierminska et al., 2010; Bartels et al., 2025), relatively few studies have examined gender differences in the incidence and amount of such transfers, and existing evidence has been mixed.

Our results point to persistent disadvantages for women in the transfer process. Although women are in some cases slightly more likely to report having received an inheritance, this pattern is not uniform and appears mainly in certain subgroups (e.g., older women). By contrast, men consistently benefit more from the size of transfers, particularly gifts. The disparities are clearest in West Germany and among younger cohorts, where women receive €22,000 less in inheritances and €31,000 less in gifts compared to men of the same age group. These results align with the persistence of gendered family norms in West Germany, where it is likely that sons are often still viewed as primary custodians of family wealth or business continuity. In East Germany, however, no systematic gender gaps emerge, suggesting that socialist-era policies and different normative environments may have fostered more equal treatment in transfers. We also highlight the role of sibling composition, which provides further evidence of gendered transfer dynamics. Women with brothers are disadvantaged in both the likelihood and amount of transfers, consistent with the idea that sons are prioritized as heirs when parental resources are divided. Conversely, men with sisters appear relatively advantaged. These findings resonate with related work showing that daughters are less likely to inherit entrepreneurial resources when brothers are present (Mishkin, 2021), and suggest that similar dynamics extend to financial wealth.

Beyond documenting patterns, we also show that inheritances and gifts contribute - albeit modestly - to the gender wealth gap. In 2019, decomposition results indicate that gifts explain up to 7% of the mean wealth gap, and overall transfers account for roughly 5% of the gap at the 90th percentile. The RIF analysis further highlights that transfers tend to contribute

positively to the unexplained component of the gap, pointing to differential returns that favor men. Although small in relative terms, these effects are economically meaningful given the large absolute wealth differences at the top of the distribution.

Several open questions remain. First, the mechanisms driving these gaps are difficult to disentangle with survey data. Are women explicitly passed over in favor of male siblings, or do transfers reflect strategic family decisions linked to business succession, caregiving roles, or expectations about financial stewardship? Second, measurement challenges persist: some transfers, especially widowhood-related inheritances, appear to be under reported, leading to potential underestimation of gender gaps. Third, while we document regional heterogeneity, the precise role of legal reforms, inheritance tax policy, and evolving norms around equal treatment of sons and daughters warrants further study. Fourth, although we do not find transfer gaps for migrants, disentangling the heterogeneity of this group is left for future research.

Overall, our findings highlight that wealth transfers are not gender-neutral. They remain embedded in social norms and family practices that disadvantage women, especially in West Germany and within families where siblings compete for resources. As inheritances and gifts account for a rising share of total wealth in advanced economies, unequal transfer practices risk perpetuating gender disparities into future generations. Future research should further explore how evolving norms, legal frameworks, taxation, and family dynamics mediate gender equality in wealth accumulation.

Data availability: The SOEP data is not publicly accessible due to data protection regulations. Only researchers with a valid data usage agreement with the SOEP Research Data Center (RDC-SOEP) will be granted access to the data `https://www.diw.de/en/diw_01.c.678568.en/research_data_center_soep.html`

Funding declaration: This research has been supported by the German Research Foundation (DFG), grant numbers LE3612/5-1.

Author contributions: M.G. and E.S. had the fundamental idea for this paper. The empirical work was largely carried out by K.S. in collaboration with M.G. and E.S. The writing of the text was primarily done by E.S. and M.G. All authors reviewed the final manuscript.

Compliance with ethical standards: does not apply

Conflict of interest: The author declares no competing interests.

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Appendix A: Tables

Table A1: Descriptive statistics of covariates by survey wave and gender

	1988		2001		2019		2021	
	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female
	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	(8)
Occupation								
Not employed	26.9%	53.5%	34.4%	50.4%	34.2%	42.3%	34.2%	42.4%
Apprentice	4.7%	3.8%	3.6%	3.0%	3.3%	2.4%	3.0%	2.1%
Blue collar	37.2%	16.4%	26.4%	11.0%	14.8%	6.4%	12.8%	5.0%
Self employed (solo)	0.8%	0.4%	3.3%	2.0%	3.6%	2.8%	2.2%	1.9%
Self employed (with employees)	5.6%	3.3%	4.3%	1.6%	9.0%	3.2%	6.9%	2.8%
Salaried	18.3%	20.9%	23.1%	29.7%	31.7%	39.7%	37.1%	41.9%
Civil servant	6.6%	1.7%	4.9%	2.3%	3.3%	3.2%	3.7%	4.0%
Home owner	41.8%	40.0%	51.1%	49.1%	47.4%	45.1%	45.3%	44.1%
Employment status								
Full time / Vocational / Short-time	71.4%	30.9%	61.9%	28.6%	56.4%	26.9%	57.3%	29.0%
Part-time and marginal	1.9%	15.7%	3.7%	21.2%	9.7%	31.3%	9.4%	29.5%
Unemployed	26.7%	53.4%	34.3%	50.2%	33.9%	41.9%	33.3%	41.5%
Family								
Total number of births	1.31	1.88	1.38	1.72	1.59	1.76	1.48	1.67
Has a sibling	88.4%	87.2%	87.3%	86.7%	89.4%	89.1%	88.8%	89.2%
Number of brothers	0.54	0.54	0.93	0.89	0.77	0.82	0.76	0.80
Number of sisters	0.48	0.55	0.87	0.91	0.72	0.80	0.72	0.80
Labour market experience (years)								
Full-time	18.16	9.05	21.13	12.22	21.34	11.47	20.12	11.09
Part-time	0.34	2.56	0.41	3.66	1.29	6.26	1.42	6.37
Unemployment	0.41	0.36	0.62	0.63	1.14	1.31	1.12	1.32
Age								
15–24	19.8%	17.7%	12.0%	11.5%	10.8%	10.0%	10.5%	9.7%
25–34	20.2%	19.6%	16.6%	16.9%	13.5%	13.7%	15.2%	13.7%
35–44	17.8%	18.7%	22.1%	21.6%	16.7%	19.4%	16.4%	18.5%
45–54	20.3%	18.1%	17.4%	16.8%	22.0%	21.4%	19.2%	20.6%
55–64	12.8%	12.5%	16.3%	15.0%	17.1%	16.9%	17.8%	17.7%
65–74	5.6%	8.0%	11.1%	10.9%	11.4%	10.9%	12.1%	11.7%
75+	3.5%	5.5%	4.5%	7.3%	8.4%	7.7%	8.8%	8.1%
Years of education	10.77	10.21	11.70	11.28	12.08	12.00	12.27	12.26
Current residence: East Germany	3.4%	3.3%	26.6%	26.5%	22.9%	23.2%	22.8%	23.0%
Pre-1989 residence								
West Germany	–	–	67.6%	66.8%	47.1%	46.7%	44.0%	44.8%
East Germany	–	–	27.6%	28.3%	17.7%	19.9%	16.1%	18.8%
Lived outside Germany	–	–	4.8%	4.9%	17.9%	17.1%	18.7%	17.0%
Born after 1989	–	–	–	–	17.3%	16.3%	21.2%	19.5%
Migration background								
None	69.3%	72.7%	82.5%	83.1%	68.5%	70.2%	66.0%	69.1%
Direct migrant	28.5%	25.0%	14.0%	13.4%	26.3%	24.1%	29.4%	25.8%
Indirect migrant	2.1%	2.3%	3.5%	3.5%	5.2%	5.7%	4.6%	5.0%
Relationship status								
Married	64.0%	63.0%	63.9%	59.8%	61.5%	56.2%	59.9%	55.2%
Single	28.1%	20.4%	26.0%	20.9%	27.0%	22.6%	29.1%	23.9%
Divorced/Separated	5.6%	6.5%	7.3%	9.5%	9.2%	14.3%	8.5%	14.3%
Widowed	2.3%	10.2%	2.8%	9.8%	2.3%	6.8%	2.5%	6.6%
High net worth sample	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	10.7%	6.1%	7.2%	5.2%
Single parent	3.9%	6.4%	3.3%	6.8%	4.4%	11.3%	4.1%	10.5%
Currently in education	6.4%	5.0%	4.7%	5.2%	3.5%	3.4%	3.9%	3.7%
Currently cohabiting with partner	4.5%	4.7%	16.2%	16.5%	16.3%	18.2%	15.7%	17.8%

Note: SOEP 1988, 2001, 2019, and 2021 waves; unweighted. Shares are shown for categorical variables and means for continuous variables. "–" indicates not collected/defined in that wave.

Table A2: Descriptive statistics of covariates by survey wave and gender (continued)

	1988		2001		2019		2021	
	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female
	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	(8)
Personal income quintile								
1	26.9%	53.8%	34.5%	50.3%	33.2%	41.1%	33.5%	42.1%
2	–	–	–	–	–	–	1.7%	2.4%
3	11.1%	27.7%	10.4%	24.2%	12.7%	22.8%	16.2%	24.3%
4	28.8%	13.2%	23.3%	17.0%	18.4%	18.1%	21.2%	19.0%
5	33.2%	5.3%	31.8%	8.4%	25.0%	11.9%	27.3%	12.2%
6 (high net worth)	–	–	–	–	10.7%	6.1%	–	–
Household income quintile								
1	16.6%	23.3%	17.8%	23.7%	17.6%	18.9%	19.3%	20.8%
2	20.3%	19.7%	20.6%	20.2%	17.2%	19.3%	19.5%	20.3%
3	20.5%	19.4%	19.4%	18.2%	17.7%	18.9%	19.8%	20.2%
4	21.2%	18.9%	22.5%	20.6%	18.7%	19.1%	20.3%	20.0%
5	21.4%	18.6%	19.7%	17.2%	17.6%	17.5%	21.2%	18.6%
6 (high net worth)	–	–	–	–	11.2%	6.4%	–	–
N	4,931	5,040	10,665	11,544	14,295	14,888	9,559	10,165

Note: SOEP 1988, 2001, 2019, and 2021 waves; unweighted. Shares are shown for categorical variables and means for continuous variables. "–" indicates not collected/defined in that wave. Distribution by state of residence is included in regressions but omitted here for brevity.

Table A3: Main regression results by gender — Panel A1: (1)–(6)

	(1) Any transfer Male	(2) Any transfer Female	(3) Any inheritance Male	(4) Any inheritance Female	(5) Any gift Male	(6) Any gift Female
Occupation (Reference: Not Employed)						
Apprentice	0.0337	0.0149	0.0715	0.0154	-0.0442	0.000813
	(0.0801)	(0.0595)	(0.0679)	(0.0511)	(0.0564)	(0.0396)
Blue Collar	0.0284	0.0181	0.0663	0.0261	-0.0483	-0.00945
	(0.0784)	(0.0579)	(0.0665)	(0.0497)	(0.0553)	(0.0385)
Self employed (solo)	0.0627	0.0563	0.0911	0.0597	-0.0346	-0.00136
	(0.0790)	(0.0590)	(0.0670)	(0.0507)	(0.0556)	(0.0392)
Self employed (with employees)	0.0561	0.0549	0.0727	0.0506	-0.0206	0.00763
	(0.0789)	(0.0591)	(0.0669)	(0.0507)	(0.0556)	(0.0394)
Salaried	0.0515	0.0315	0.0771	0.0358	-0.0327	-0.00278
	(0.0784)	(0.0577)	(0.0664)	(0.0495)	(0.0552)	(0.0384)
Civil Servant	0.0642	0.0183	0.0811	0.0111	-0.0231	0.00488
	(0.0790)	(0.0591)	(0.0669)	(0.0507)	(0.0557)	(0.0393)
Home Owner	0.0544***	0.0574***	0.0277***	0.0364***	0.0317***	0.0267***
	(0.00507)	(0.00487)	(0.00429)	(0.00418)	(0.00351)	(0.00327)
Employment Status (Ref: Full time/Vocation/In short-time work)						
Parttime and Marginal	0.0249**	0.0167**	0.0111	0.00387	0.0150*	0.0155***
	(0.0116)	(0.00726)	(0.00985)	(0.00623)	(0.00788)	(0.00485)
Unemployed	0.0281	0.0465	0.104	0.0555	-0.0744	-0.0182
	(0.0812)	(0.0621)	(0.0688)	(0.0533)	(0.0573)	(0.0412)
Total kids	-0.00752***	-0.00481**	-0.00585***	-0.00625***	-0.00230	0.00158
	(0.00204)	(0.00197)	(0.00173)	(0.00169)	(0.00143)	(0.00134)
Any sibling	-0.0168**	-0.000507	-0.0139**	0.00374	-0.00243	-0.00313
	(0.00733)	(0.00705)	(0.00621)	(0.00606)	(0.00506)	(0.00472)
Number of brothers	-0.00612***	-0.00764***	-0.00391**	-0.00512***	-0.00301**	-0.00328**
	(0.00203)	(0.00203)	(0.00172)	(0.00175)	(0.00142)	(0.00138)
Number of sisters	-0.00352	-0.00362*	-0.00183	-0.00101	-0.00268*	-0.00307**
	(0.00216)	(0.00198)	(0.00183)	(0.00170)	(0.00150)	(0.00134)
Survey year						
2001	0.0438***	0.0476***	-0.00701	0.00258		
	(0.00880)	(0.00857)	(0.00746)	(0.00736)		
2019	0.0422***	0.0410***	-0.00405	0.00419	-0.00769**	-0.0103***
	(0.00959)	(0.00940)	(0.00813)	(0.00807)	(0.00378)	(0.00351)
Full time experience (years)	-0.000248	-0.000194	0.000242	-0.000219	-0.000631**	0.0000229
	(0.000447)	(0.000273)	(0.000379)	(0.000234)	(0.000308)	(0.000183)
Parttime experience (yrs)	0.000149	0.00173***	-0.0000883	0.00118***	0.000214	0.000676***
	(0.000965)	(0.000362)	(0.000818)	(0.000311)	(0.000651)	(0.000240)
Unemployment (yrs)	-0.00104	-0.00196**	-0.0000603	-0.00104	-0.000645	-0.000878
	(0.00107)	(0.000867)	(0.000906)	(0.000745)	(0.000721)	(0.000566)
Age (ref: 35–44)						
< 25	-0.0688***	-0.0511***	-0.0304**	-0.0450***	-0.0470***	-0.0135
	(0.0145)	(0.0126)	(0.0123)	(0.0108)	(0.0104)	(0.00890)
25–34	-0.0368***	-0.0190**	-0.0146*	-0.0270***	-0.0273***	0.00640
	(0.00929)	(0.00806)	(0.00787)	(0.00693)	(0.00658)	(0.00556)
45–54	0.0103	0.00542	0.0268***	0.0156***	-0.0148**	-0.0113**
	(0.00834)	(0.00703)	(0.00707)	(0.00604)	(0.00579)	(0.00473)
55–64	0.00686	0.0364***	0.0558***	0.0723***	-0.0509***	-0.0413***
	(0.0116)	(0.00836)	(0.00980)	(0.00718)	(0.00797)	(0.00563)
65–74	-0.0155	0.0118	0.0480***	0.0575***	-0.0681***	-0.0524***
	(0.0151)	(0.0104)	(0.0128)	(0.00895)	(0.0104)	(0.00697)
> 74	-0.0773***	-0.0578***	-0.00653	-0.00443	-0.0768***	-0.0612***
	(0.0166)	(0.0122)	(0.0141)	(0.0105)	(0.0113)	(0.00803)
Years of education	0.0110***	0.0123***	0.00727***	0.00839***	0.00468***	0.00488***
	(0.000897)	(0.000875)	(0.000760)	(0.000751)	(0.000617)	(0.000580)
East Germany (current residence)	0.0156	0.00878	-0.00789	-0.00906	0.0227*	0.0184
	(0.0183)	(0.0176)	(0.0156)	(0.0151)	(0.0124)	(0.0115)

Table A3: Main regression results by gender — Panel A2: (1)–(6), continued

	(1) Any transfer Male	(2) Any transfer Female	(3) Any inheritance Male	(4) Any inheritance Female	(5) Any gift Male	(6) Any gift Female
Pre-1989 residence (Ref: West Germany)						
East	-0.0539***	-0.0533***	-0.0307***	-0.0315***	-0.0269***	-0.0205***
	(0.00954)	(0.00887)	(0.00809)	(0.00762)	(0.00634)	(0.00572)
Lived outside	-0.0351***	-0.0537***	-0.0135	-0.0355***	-0.0160*	-0.0134*
	(0.0119)	(0.0111)	(0.0101)	(0.00954)	(0.00827)	(0.00749)
Born after 1989	-0.0300**	-0.0432***	-0.0214**	-0.0319***	-0.00343	-0.0122
	(0.0120)	(0.0116)	(0.0101)	(0.00993)	(0.00818)	(0.00766)
Migration status (Ref: Native)						
Direct migrant	-0.0492***	-0.0291***	-0.0386***	-0.0138*	-0.0193***	-0.0222***
	(0.00852)	(0.00835)	(0.00723)	(0.00717)	(0.00625)	(0.00591)
Indirect migrant	-0.0270**	-0.0349***	-0.0104	-0.0161*	-0.0194**	-0.0145**
	(0.0113)	(0.0106)	(0.00956)	(0.00912)	(0.00766)	(0.00698)
Relationship status (Ref: Married)						
Single	-0.00872	0.0187**	0.000531	0.0286***	-0.0141**	-0.00504
	(0.00894)	(0.00890)	(0.00757)	(0.00765)	(0.00627)	(0.00603)
Divorced/Separated	-0.0115	0.0232***	-0.0155*	0.0206***	0.00337	0.00547
	(0.00948)	(0.00858)	(0.00803)	(0.00737)	(0.00652)	(0.00570)
Widowed	0.0169	0.0550***	0.0148	0.0566***	0.00252	0.000647
	(0.0147)	(0.00937)	(0.0125)	(0.00805)	(0.00997)	(0.00625)
Rich sample	0.0468*	0.147***	0.0608***	0.0856***	-0.00740	0.0560***
	(0.0244)	(0.0236)	(0.0207)	(0.0202)	(0.0164)	(0.0154)
Single parent	-0.000149	0.000486	0.00767	0.00729	-0.00725	-0.00844
	(0.0123)	(0.00857)	(0.0104)	(0.00736)	(0.00853)	(0.00568)
Currently in education	0.0222	0.0157	0.0191	0.00782	0.00449	0.00807
	(0.0151)	(0.0140)	(0.0128)	(0.0120)	(0.0107)	(0.00952)
Living with partner (same hh)	0.00465	0.00191	0.00269	-0.00385	0.00289	0.00495
	(0.00774)	(0.00725)	(0.00656)	(0.00623)	(0.00528)	(0.00479)
Personal income quantile (Ref: 1/2)						
Quantile 3	-0.0189	0.00787	0.0331	0.0223	-0.0459***	-0.0271*
	(0.0250)	(0.0244)	(0.0212)	(0.0209)	(0.0168)	(0.0160)
Quantile 4	-0.0281	-0.00205	0.0256	0.00582	-0.0458***	-0.0217
	(0.0242)	(0.0245)	(0.0205)	(0.0211)	(0.0163)	(0.0161)
Quantile 5	-0.0195	0.00463	0.0224	0.00894	-0.0327**	-0.0171
	(0.0241)	(0.0250)	(0.0204)	(0.0215)	(0.0162)	(0.0165)
HH income quantile (Ref: 1)						
Quantile 2	-0.00522	0.00513	0.000115	0.0138**	-0.00765	-0.00591
	(0.00818)	(0.00717)	(0.00693)	(0.00616)	(0.00568)	(0.00483)
Quantile 3	0.00239	0.0110	0.00763	0.0209***	-0.00441	-0.00949*
	(0.00839)	(0.00754)	(0.00711)	(0.00648)	(0.00584)	(0.00508)
Quantile 4	0.0108	0.0124	0.0147**	0.0183***	-0.00551	-0.00548
	(0.00859)	(0.00786)	(0.00728)	(0.00675)	(0.00598)	(0.00530)
Quantile 5	0.0158*	0.0305***	0.0187**	0.0299***	-0.00220	0.00384
	(0.00936)	(0.00860)	(0.00793)	(0.00738)	(0.00653)	(0.00582)
State of residence FE	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES
Constant	-0.0498	-0.131**	-0.110	-0.106*	0.112*	0.0185
	(0.0849)	(0.0657)	(0.0720)	(0.0564)	(0.0596)	(0.0434)
N	21052	23018	21052	23018	19302	21161
R-squared	0.073	0.075	0.047	0.057	0.052	0.042

Table A3: Main regression results by gender — Panel B1: (7)–(12)

	(7) Transfer Amount Male	(8) Transfer Amount Female	(9) Inheritance Amount Male	(10) Inheritance Amount Female	(11) Gift Amount Male	(12) Gift Amount Female
Occupation (Reference: Not Employed)						
Apprentice	50055.4	40121.0	55780.1	-52555.2	7593.5	42419.7
	(64398.7)	(198408.7)	(64123.5)	(63650.8)	(121706.2)	(215285.1)
Blue Collar	43263.5	45182.3	47476.4	-39797.0	-46428.0	30238.3
	(40557.9)	(195563.3)	(36270.3)	(33941.1)	(93905.5)	(211240.0)
Self employed (solo)	59497.8	81716.5	66753.2*	-15039.3	-31966.9	102969.3
	(40972.5)	(195568.1)	(36573.0)	(32430.0)	(95037.8)	(211762.7)
Self employed (with employees)	107564.3***	136465.9	64890.1*	33169.1	95081.9	144933.0
	(37938.3)	(195637.5)	(33307.9)	(31631.7)	(90670.5)	(211306.5)
Salaried	35220.7	67988.6	48734.0	-13326.7	-61984.6	40993.0
	(38531.1)	(195078.7)	(33953.5)	(30305.8)	(91331.7)	(209983.7)
Civil Servant	11622.1	56692.9	25589.2	-374.4	-75561.0	2127.2
	(41683.0)	(195855.9)	(37654.9)	(35943.7)	(94958.6)	(211770.0)
Home Owner	28444.4**	28754.8***	19012.7*	22716.3***	22430.4	13869.8
	(11126.7)	(8693.2)	(10734.4)	(8514.6)	(20783.5)	(16107.6)
Employment Status (Ref: Full time/Vocation/In short-time work)						
Parttime and Marginal	6688.0	6272.9	-12165.9	-431.4	70658.2*	12497.6
	(21404.3)	(11804.7)	(21296.2)	(12161.0)	(38536.0)	(20402.3)
Unemployed	0	100878.0	0	0	0	145218.1
	(.)	(196695.2)	(.)	(.)	(.)	(215455.7)
Total kids	5469.1	-5594.1	3059.8	-6856.9**	6846.5	-6417.8
	(4463.5)	(3631.0)	(4227.1)	(3425.2)	(8514.2)	(7282.8)
Any sibling	-22720.7	7361.6	-26557.4*	2142.1	-18690.8	4059.8
	(14182.6)	(11849.7)	(13671.3)	(11680.5)	(26744.1)	(21800.7)
Number of brothers	1757.1	-12688.2***	5541.2	-10885.6***	-7283.8	-13798.7*
	(5132.7)	(4052.7)	(4785.0)	(3874.2)	(10533.4)	(7956.7)
Number of sisters	-4334.5	-14496.5***	-5388.0	-13924.6***	-655.4	-9092.0
	(5094.4)	(3974.6)	(4909.5)	(3667.5)	(9585.3)	(8769.9)
Survey year						
2001	7048.6	8486.4	-4632.2	-6530.9	0	0
	(22312.2)	(19095.7)	(18781.3)	(16063.4)	(.)	(.)
2019	25283.5	21924.1	6361.6	2071.9	26736.0	23308.8
	(23030.1)	(19706.7)	(19362.5)	(16777.6)	(20972.9)	(16518.6)
Full time experience (years)	71.19	309.0	490.6	197.9	166.8	-803.8
	(959.2)	(472.0)	(883.3)	(422.9)	(1970.7)	(1200.9)
Parttime experience (yrs)	-326.8	-317.6	1801.1	-226.7	-3220.3	-2155.5
	(1989.1)	(574.4)	(1958.3)	(521.3)	(3613.0)	(1347.3)
Unemployment (yrs)	-1565.8	-1582.4	-1284.6	-797.9	-811.9	-4938.5
	(2707.5)	(1860.3)	(2377.6)	(1640.4)	(6817.5)	(5159.9)
< 25	-33067.1	-40861.3	755.0	-31458.5	-104777.2	-61313.5
	(41877.9)	(32369.2)	(46026.2)	(37747.1)	(67941.0)	(50152.6)
25–34	741.4	-4529.9	35142.0	-3133.3	-26384.6	-18027.1
	(20392.0)	(15153.6)	(22461.5)	(17969.8)	(32653.0)	(22976.5)
45–54	21501.5	15778.5	20778.0	12560.3	32961.9	33365.8*
	(16307.4)	(11532.3)	(17353.2)	(11992.7)	(27794.7)	(19685.6)
55–64	-1137.5	28292.2**	9940.2	38835.1***	-10391.8	62945.2**
	(23732.9)	(13315.2)	(23459.7)	(12999.9)	(45526.8)	(29202.5)
65–74	-32862.9	-11530.8	-14572.8	11392.5	-11052.1	-9652.0
	(31543.0)	(17609.9)	(29907.2)	(16676.9)	(74894.4)	(44156.0)
> 74	1307.2	11523.3	17367.8	26777.3	-58743.5	66570.2
	(37153.6)	(23141.1)	(34012.5)	(20931.3)	(151613.9)	(83244.6)
Years of education	3830.1**	6484.4***	5706.4***	6029.7***	-7144.2**	2181.1
	(1888.7)	(1555.1)	(1795.1)	(1527.7)	(3631.8)	(2888.8)
East Germany (current residence)	-6743.3	-24431.5	2983.2	-3916.6	-60272.2	-11095.6
	(39897.9)	(33037.4)	(38747.3)	(32969.6)	(73221.5)	(60402.5)

Table A3: Main regression results by gender — Panel B2: (7)–(12), continued

	(7) Transfer Amount Male	(8) Transfer Amount Female	(9) Inheritance Amount Male	(10) Inheritance Amount Female	(11) Gift Amount Male	(12) Gift Amount Female
Pre-1989 residence (Ref: West Germany)						
East	-90267.3***	-67895.3***	-78944.7***	-73527.1***	-93840.4**	-52119.8*
	(22231.8)	(17098.8)	(21690.2)	(17091.1)	(40458.5)	(29868.7)
Lived outside	6310.8	-24356.2	-19984.9	8487.9	93274.9	-104464.5*
	(39960.4)	(26899.4)	(39203.0)	(25774.3)	(74494.1)	(56897.7)
Born after 1989	-53073.7	-54326.2*	-38283.9	-41215.4	-53539.6	-49180.2
	(32473.7)	(27944.5)	(37243.5)	(35269.4)	(49626.5)	(39521.2)
Migration status (Ref: Native)						
Direct migrant	-41786.6	-14504.9	-22955.3	-12593.5	-91335.6*	24450.3
	(25764.8)	(18143.4)	(24308.2)	(16275.5)	(51287.0)	(45354.5)
Indirect migrant	-25614.0	12906.2	7983.1	4401.7	-91349.9**	-2430.8
	(26694.8)	(21956.5)	(27239.1)	(22654.2)	(45050.9)	(33544.2)
Relationship status (Ref: Married)						
Single	19163.4	24410.0	14096.6	35942.4**	49652.6	-20588.6
	(18808.2)	(16041.9)	(18630.7)	(15496.8)	(33780.3)	(30686.3)
Divorced/Separated	26828.5	15565.1	49987.9**	13601.3	-22394.0	22992.0
	(20663.5)	(15525.5)	(20830.6)	(14430.6)	(35812.6)	(32731.7)
Widowed	43295.5	97484.8***	56730.8**	106651.7***	9055.4	-4608.5
	(31438.5)	(15338.3)	(26550.3)	(13366.2)	(106847.2)	(49153.9)
Rich sample	150914.2***	139552.8***	96511.3***	79406.0***	259426.7***	239003.2***
	(40142.4)	(30355.9)	(35543.8)	(28881.7)	(92996.0)	(59841.5)
Single parent	15742.3	-11012.3	-16466.8	-7934.0	32459.2	-37095.8
	(29904.8)	(15932.0)	(28978.0)	(15181.2)	(55318.6)	(32878.0)
Currently in education	-23290.9	-14783.6	-11541.6	-8563.1	-6995.6	-29247.6
	(40680.4)	(32206.1)	(43091.2)	(37406.2)	(70699.9)	(48474.8)
Living with partner (same hh)	12053.3	-9876.9	-20045.5	-12926.4	31181.4	6278.2
	(17225.8)	(13330.4)	(17473.1)	(12883.8)	(29690.5)	(25739.7)
Personal income quantile (Ref: 1/2)						
Quantile 3	-79468.0*	28854.4	-71036.7*	21828.5	2747.2	76431.1
	(40674.5)	(30665.7)	(37000.3)	(29570.1)	(89824.6)	(58496.6)
Quantile 4	-55647.6	1444.5	-65061.9*	-5717.6	65767.2	62104.8
	(38472.4)	(31011.2)	(34768.1)	(30008.6)	(86841.1)	(58925.1)
Quantile 5	-62153.1*	-5282.8	-67545.7**	-24623.5	65806.1	78984.0
	(37514.8)	(31680.0)	(33521.5)	(30677.7)	(86263.1)	(59958.4)
HH income quantile (Ref: 1)						
Quantile 2	-2492.7	-9892.0	3880.1	-10707.1	-37099.4	-1988.1
	(21492.8)	(14415.0)	(19941.1)	(13385.9)	(45446.9)	(30882.5)
Quantile 3	4875.7	21569.0	6187.6	25284.6*	-25413.9	57.03
	(20692.8)	(14715.6)	(19635.0)	(13872.8)	(40619.7)	(30733.1)
Quantile 4	1914.9	6587.2	-898.7	26740.7*	-12700.5	-35968.8
	(20456.8)	(14871.4)	(19424.7)	(14332.2)	(39826.2)	(29715.9)
Quantile 5	17763.3	20696.5	8327.6	37168.1**	11478.4	-26219.8
	(21375.6)	(15455.1)	(20497.4)	(14927.3)	(40633.7)	(30339.8)
State of residence FE	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES
Constant	54962.4	-70706.5	25364.7	36246.5	236671.4**	-48524.7
	(52515.0)	(201926.7)	(48105.2)	(35006.8)	(98836.7)	(233207.3)
N	2491	2763	1673	1917	895	929
R-squared	0.189	0.142	0.163	0.159	0.277	0.205

Table A3: Main regression results by gender — Panel C1: (13)–(16)

	(13)	(14)	(15)	(16)
	Regular transfer	Regular transfer	Regular transfer (amount)	Regular transfer (amount)
	Male	Female	Male	Female
Apprentice	0.128*	0.0208	928.1	-4862.9
	(0.0725)	(0.0529)	(25151.6)	(12526.3)
Blue Collar	0.0130	0.0173	-3341.5	-3925.9
	(0.0684)	(0.0478)	(25196.3)	(13186.4)
Self employed (solo)	0.00629	0.0833*	-5053.5	-1950.6
	(0.0700)	(0.0496)	(27842.5)	(12836.1)
Self employed (with employees)	0.0210	0.0240	-1493.5	6710.9
	(0.0688)	(0.0489)	(25472.6)	(14985.5)
Salaried	0.0221	0.0297	-198.2	-1972.8
	(0.0681)	(0.0466)	(24776.1)	(11965.4)
Civil Servant	-0.0114	0.00482	-5794.3	-1510.7
	(0.0694)	(0.0486)	(26901.6)	(13367.1)
Home Owner	0.00549	-0.0158**	8738.3*	9907.7***
	(0.00665)	(0.00643)	(4606.8)	(2970.2)
Parttime and Marginal	0.0639***	0.0170**	-1087.3	-2925.9
	(0.0126)	(0.00848)	(6411.4)	(3390.0)
Unemployed	-0.0482	-0.00916	8300.1	6480.0
	(0.0743)	(0.0529)	(27787.3)	(13382.7)
Total kids	0.00465*	0.000476	1420.7	-2893.6*
	(0.00273)	(0.00272)	(2235.6)	(1529.3)
Any sibling	-0.000173	-0.00970	-945.7	-1566.2
	(0.00924)	(0.00921)	(6084.2)	(3710.3)
Number of brothers	-0.00461	-0.00723***	-833.4	1198.3
	(0.00282)	(0.00280)	(2356.6)	(1565.8)
Number of sisters	-0.00331	-0.00322	-4577.2**	-1771.8
	(0.00294)	(0.00276)	(2183.2)	(1357.3)
Full time experience (years)	-0.000643	-0.000555	522.6	-561.6*
	(0.000542)	(0.000377)	(461.0)	(287.9)
Parttime experience (yrs)	0.00106	0.0000592	733.3	-247.9
	(0.000942)	(0.000434)	(642.3)	(281.1)
Unemployment (yrs)	-0.00386***	-0.000214	-100.9	-1077.1***
	(0.00112)	(0.000897)	(938.0)	(407.7)
< 25	0.0149	0.112***	7541.6	1547.4
	(0.0251)	(0.0245)	(10939.3)	(7275.1)
25–34	0.0240	-0.000277	7738.0	6932.6
	(0.0175)	(0.0172)	(8968.9)	(6150.7)
45–54	-0.0185*	-0.0249***	-10945.7	-485.8
	(0.0112)	(0.00925)	(7325.7)	(4087.9)
55–64	-0.0443***	-0.0493***	-5326.7	6292.5
	(0.0143)	(0.0111)	(11074.7)	(5873.3)
65–74	-0.0935***	-0.0851***	45787.9**	5715.1
	(0.0193)	(0.0145)	(22322.1)	(15426.6)
> 74	-0.0990***	-0.0868***		
	(0.0207)	(0.0158)		
Years of education	0.00205*	0.00848***	223.3	638.9
	(0.00118)	(0.00117)	(650.4)	(513.4)
East Germany (current residence)	0.0214	-0.00145	-5084.6	-7071.9
	(0.0218)	(0.0205)	(12970.3)	(7689.9)

Table A3: Main regression results by gender — Panel C2: (13)–(16)

	(13)	(14)	(15)	(16)
	Regular transfer	Regular transfer	Regular transfer (amount)	Regular transfer (amount)
	Male	Female	Male	Female
East (pre-1989)	-0.00518	0.00392	-8647.3	-8847.5**
	(0.0108)	(0.0102)	(6911.5)	(4145.7)
Lived outside	0.0154	0.000970	-10918.0	-6016.1
	(0.0163)	(0.0154)	(16118.3)	(7278.9)
Born after 1989	0.0573***	0.0692***	-864.2	-16272.5**
	(0.0193)	(0.0194)	(9134.6)	(7000.6)
Direct migrant	-0.0573***	-0.0236*	203.1	-681.7
	(0.0133)	(0.0131)	(12965.0)	(5837.8)
Indirect migrant	-0.0503***	-0.0364***	-2543.2	-1641.1
	(0.0134)	(0.0128)	(7009.4)	(4132.5)
Single	-0.0206*	-0.0110	-3066.7	-3858.4
	(0.0112)	(0.0112)	(7440.8)	(4634.8)
Divorced/Separated	-0.0224**	0.00443	20648.8**	7203.6
	(0.0113)	(0.0100)	(8246.6)	(4615.1)
Widowed	-0.00648	-0.00979	-11271.6	5126.3
	(0.0171)	(0.0122)	(21310.8)	(11038.7)
Rich sample	-0.00827	0.00350	27076.6***	4564.7
	(0.0122)	(0.0135)	(9355.5)	(7384.0)
Single parent	-0.0201	-0.0280***	-4666.8	-5450.5
	(0.0153)	(0.0102)	(7149.6)	(4323.7)
Currently in education	0.232***	0.103***	-3835.3	-11498.0**
	(0.0230)	(0.0226)	(8211.8)	(5005.1)
Living with partner (same hh)	0.0344***	0.0188**	1751.7	1127.8
	(0.00952)	(0.00890)	(4623.1)	(2990.2)
Quantile 3 (pers. income)	-0.0958***	-0.0417	1484.3	-1747.2
	(0.0319)	(0.0290)	(14862.3)	(9602.2)
Quantile 4 (pers. income)	-0.102***	-0.0632**	2657.5	-5367.9
	(0.0312)	(0.0293)	(15460.2)	(10066.3)
Quantile 5 (pers. income)	-0.0902***	-0.0629**	2377.1	-6973.5
	(0.0314)	(0.0301)	(15682.6)	(10823.6)
Quantile 2 (HH income)	-0.0521***	-0.0289***	-1385.3	-1247.6
	(0.0107)	(0.00941)	(6324.6)	(3645.5)
Quantile 3 (HH income)	-0.0622***	-0.0530***	-4133.6	-2473.4
	(0.0110)	(0.00987)	(6265.3)	(4099.4)
Quantile 4 (HH income)	-0.0587***	-0.0574***	-3994.8	-2389.9
	(0.0116)	(0.0107)	(6502.9)	(4449.1)
Quantile 5 (HH income)	-0.0678***	-0.0636***	-1585.5	-2478.0
	(0.0126)	(0.0119)	(6618.8)	(4610.9)
State of Residence FE	YES	YES	YES	YES
Constant	0.183**	0.0775	-1769.8	28904.6
	(0.0797)	(0.0585)	(35163.2)	(17712.8)
N	6335	7351	344	435
R-sq	0.127	0.114	0.216	0.208

*Note: Columns (1)–(12) use pooled SOEP waves (1988, 2001, 2019). Incidence refers to any transfer received in the 18 years preceding the survey year (e.g., 2001–2019 for the 2019 survey). Information on gifts is only available for 2001 and 2019. All amounts are in 2019 euros and are estimated conditional on receipt. Columns (13)–(16) use data from the question on parental transfers from the 2021 survey. All regressions include demographic, family, labor market, education, migration, relationship, and income controls. Col(1)-(12) also year and state fixed effects (See section 4). Standard errors in parentheses. Results are reported separately by gender. *** $p \leq 0.01$, ** $p \leq 0.05$, * $p \leq 0.1$.*

Table A4: Oaxaca decomposition results across six outcomes (2001) (Full Estimation)

	Any Transfer	Transfer Amount	Any Inheritance	Inheritance Amount	Any Gift	Gift Amount
	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)
Overall						
Males	121328.1***	120624.1***	121328.1***	120910.8***	121328.1***	121043.5***
	(3718.11)	(3734.49)	(3718.15)	(3727.01)	(3718.16)	(3725.64)
Females	88929.66***	88084.75***	88929.66***	88371.86***	88929.66***	88644.26***
	(2381.72)	(2373.43)	(2381.75)	(2376.09)	(2381.77)	(2379.20)
Difference	32398.44***	32539.36***	32398.44***	32538.89***	32398.44***	32399.25***
	(4415.53)	(4424.88)	(4415.58)	(4420.00)	(4415.60)	(4420.51)
Explained	47941.97***	48638.99***	47405.00***	47867.06***	50065.06***	50558.16***
	(7591.51)	(7634.11)	(7500.79)	(7573.34)	(7617.41)	(7588.96)
Unexplained	-15543.53**	-16099.63**	-15006.56**	-15328.17**	-17666.62***	-18158.91***
	(6812.43)	(6752.94)	(6791.40)	(6791.91)	(6813.43)	(6767.71)
Explained						
Transfer Variable	-348.06	491.26	-519.39	-179.64	177.26	647.37
	(552.93)	(732.67)	(458.26)	(518.08)	(367.64)	(552.66)
Demographic & Education	-214.23	4.55	72.92	140.73	33.95	236.02
	(1111.33)	(1085.77)	(1106.85)	(1100.53)	(1097.47)	(1090.55)
Occupation	5713.95	12401.69***	3631.68	3876.59	6069.81	12271.30***
	(6549.41)	(3571.15)	(8732.06)	(8644.69)	(6234.83)	(3572.71)
Employment Status	5764.60	-1348.79	8869.79	6065.30	6876.96	2747.48
	(18327.51)	(17588.66)	(19000.06)	(19429.00)	(17772.18)	(16712.36)
Lifetime Work Experience	28973.91***	29339.12***	28518.04***	28968.77***	30575.29***	30672.13***
	(5873.69)	(5851.35)	(5838.97)	(5855.59)	(5885.54)	(5861.53)
Personal Income	8880.85	8586.61	7767.79	9885.06	6810.88	4484.59
	(17130.32)	(17289.90)	(16981.42)	(17477.97)	(16653.63)	(16411.61)
Relationship & Children	-1162.32	-1081.42	-1256.32	-1120.52	-790.35	-809.62
	(1689.08)	(1687.16)	(1677.01)	(1677.09)	(1703.74)	(1707.50)
Residence & Migration	279.53	199.76	267.70	186.52	274.55	277.07
	(593.01)	(571.21)	(609.82)	(599.15)	(618.78)	(607.17)
Unexplained						
Transfer Variable	3139.97	-531.32	2055.67	-945.62	1230.02	577.47
	(2417.06)	(1461.84)	(2274.59)	(1332.85)	(1006.56)	(734.97)
Demographic & Education	-103573.6**	-90656.55*	-95822.91*	-79848.47	-112487.7**	-114189.4**
	(52464.11)	(51764.18)	(52370.49)	(51928.78)	(52130.48)	(52052.35)
Occupation	242101.5***	18852.02	233661***	7478.57	248018.1***	244814.9***
	(81349.21)	(34583.20)	(83365.76)	(42217.26)	(80917.37)	(78520.02)
Employment Status	-36998.87	-25860.66	-54293.57	41898.19	-36541.97	24773.74
	(87826.61)	(86247.41)	(89452.56)	(90348.15)	(86390.16)	(84726.01)
Lifetime Work Experience	17463.40	19963.23	15583.28	16873.33	20946.42*	22135.19*
	(12573.08)	(12628.59)	(12529.45)	(12641.79)	(12631.66)	(12629.82)
Personal Income	3347.76	132.78	-2798.52	-32012.59	1434.22	-9139.61
	(80284.84)	(80700)	(80248.31)	(82793.36)	(79076.66)	(78921.25)
Relationship & Children	-6197.54	18354.44	-8498.59	18231.62	-1614.86	31521.98
	(18489.29)	(21145.93)	(18456.10)	(21120.36)	(18690.99)	(21496.09)
Residence & Migration	1858.41	3091.75	-132.22	-8420.88	1605.94	6558.74
	(13672.77)	(16016.18)	(13720.04)	(14362.33)	(13523.79)	(12524.34)
Constant	-173641.1	1455.49	-142832.4	35556.31	-179445	-266221.5***
	(206420.6)	(141558.4)	(209268.5)	(172903.3)	(204049.6)	(87270.69)

Note: SOEP 2001 wave. ***Transfer Variable*** *corresponds to the outcome in each column (e.g., inheritance amount in column 4).* ***Demographic & Education*** *includes age, age squared, years of education, whether the respondent has siblings, and the number of brothers and sisters.* ***Occupation*** *includes seven categories listed in Appendix C.* ***Employment Status*** *distinguishes full-time, part-time, and unemployed workers.* ***Lifetime Work Experience*** *measures years spent unemployed, employed full-time, and employed part-time.* ***Personal income*** *is based on quintiles of individual income.* ***Relationship & children*** *includes marital status, single parenthood, cohabitation status, and number of children.* ***Residence & migration*** *captures whether the current residence is in East or West Germany, residence prior to 1989 (East or West), and migration status. See Appendix C for further details on variable definitions. Standard errors in parentheses.* *** $p \leq 0.01$, ** $p \leq 0.05$, * $p \leq 0.1$.

Table A5: Oaxaca decomposition results across six outcomes (2019) (Full Estimation)

	Any Transfer	Transfer Amount	Any Inheritance	Inheritance Amount	Any Gift	Gift Amount
	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)
Overall						
Males	429527***	421194.6***	429527***	426496.1***	429527***	424242.5***
	(24124.26)	(24219.22)	(24124.34)	(24203.07)	(24124.26)	(24145.05)
Females	188489.9***	178936.3***	188489.9***	183718.1***	188489.9***	183752.9***
	(15448.57)	(15072.80)	(15448.58)	(15242.59)	(15448.56)	(15284.88)
Difference	241037.1***	242258.3***	241037.1***	242778.1***	241037.1***	240489.7***
	(28646.79)	(28526.48)	(28646.86)	(28602.89)	(28646.78)	(28576.40)
Explained	248418.6***	253423.8***	246323.4***	251007.7***	254356.4***	253029.4***
	(31657.18)	(32648.57)	(31543.01)	(32015.29)	(31887.15)	(32511.46)
Unexplained	-7381.46	-11165.5	-5286.23	-8229.55	-13319.31	-12539.72
	(27670.20)	(26806.35)	(27649.35)	(27464.93)	(27188.46)	(26769.98)
Explained components						
Transfer Variable	-114.20	21354.08**	-1115.75	7126.43	2435.72	17171.44*
	(1754.99)	(9058.24)	(1120.34)	(4684.16)	(1977.39)	(9299.19)
Demographic & Education	5846.16	4723.69	6058.35	4437.71	6965.87*	7649.66**
	(3944.26)	(3877.43)	(3971.45)	(3967.71)	(3901.02)	(3819.25)
Occupation	58471.34***	52771.57***	59808.21***	58460.48***	59177.95***	53046.40***
	(13606.93)	(13021.44)	(13887.10)	(13767.26)	(13483.90)	(12567.00)
Employment Status	21202.21	14504.72	19091.65	17285.29	17043.87	15916.31
	(32532.34)	(32528.86)	(32570.93)	(32860.42)	(32654.58)	(32685.36)
Lifetime Work Experience	91018.44***	94802.22***	88198.57***	94216.74***	95440.26***	87649.17***
	(27594.89)	(27727.82)	(27608.94)	(27729.31)	(27755.11)	(27484.76)
Personal Income	85189.94***	75570.01***	86674.20***	80529.27***	85121.28***	82099.75***
	(20457.27)	(21350.76)	(20465.24)	(20959.18)	(20697.84)	(20864.46)
Relationship & Children	-16529.55**	-12013.58*	-16305.68**	-13622.90*	-15567.31**	-14199.19**
	(7567.44)	(7130.05)	(7566.28)	(7424.67)	(7535.84)	(7225.14)
Residence & Migration	3509.80**	2001.09	4109.83**	2883.56*	3965.51**	3872.36**
	(1655.36)	(1520.21)	(1688.04)	(1487.98)	(1773.96)	(1784.39)
Unexplained components						
Transfer Variable	37618.21**	58304.91**	21219.80*	38304.56**	17054.74	22175.18
	(16741.83)	(23284.56)	(12022.84)	(15533.65)	(11530.17)	(15431.48)
Demographic & Education	172581.9	197630.30	191953.90	152611.40	253205.20	320771.60
	(331104.40)	(330781.20)	(320358.10)	(322265.70)	(329216.20)	(314063.80)
Occupation	7380.70	484.99	844057.00***	722434.10***	840362.60***	34645.38
	(43762.81)	(78406.82)	(257732.50)	(242646.10)	(257890.90)	(38596.94)
Employment Status	-225205.00	-152204.80	-223929.00	-237007.60	-213639.00	358041.90
	(224431.20)	(273074.20)	(224324.50)	(225939.00)	(224084.00)	(395073.70)
Lifetime Work Experience	-42443.72	-40263.15	-47295.72	-61302.21	-37688.71	-26300.28
	(93013.20)	(91087.02)	(93081.46)	(92431.31)	(92865.24)	(92263.86)
Personal Income	-365921.80	-361818.50	-1048670.00***	-1493058.00***	-1042980.00***	-341346.10
	(308478.00)	(437358.70)	(252400.00)	(413212.00)	(252916.10)	(313635.60)
Relationship & Children	-38167.20	166363.80	-49285.17	-10316.01	-45076.86	-65600.22
	(69078.35)	(154888.40)	(68572.14)	(69320.36)	(69016.70)	(69079.22)
Residence & Migration	-69231.35	-50594.38	-53433.13	7675.33	-85363.15	32608.89
	(72362.82)	(32891.52)	(74523.83)	(80084.28)	(66335.82)	(43572.03)
Constant	549491.60	201979.80	391142.60	939166.60	322582.70	-351779.10
	(364654.80)	(482622.40)	(421667.80)	(743397.80)	(417804.70)	(798705.70)

Note: SOEP 2019 wave with high net worth sample. ***Transfer Variable*** *corresponds to the outcome in each column (e.g., inheritance amount in column 4).* ***Demographic & Education*** *includes age, age squared, years of education, whether the respondent has siblings, and the number of brothers and sisters.* ***Occupation*** *includes seven categories listed in Appendix C.* ***Employment Status*** *distinguishes full-time, part-time, and unemployed workers.* ***Lifetime Work Experience*** *measures years spent unemployed, employed full-time, and employed part-time.* ***Personal income*** *is based on quintiles of individual income.* ***Relationship & children*** *includes marital status, single parenthood, cohabitation status, and number of children.* ***Residence & migration*** *captures whether the current residence is in East or West Germany, residence prior to 1989 (East or West), and migration status. See Appendix C for further details on variable definitions. Standard errors in parentheses.* *** $p \leq 0.01$, ** $p \leq 0.05$, * $p \leq 0.1$.

Table A6: Oaxaca–RIF decomposition at the 25th (Q25), 50th (Q50), and 90th (Q90) percentiles, grouped by outcome (2001)

Panel A: Any Transfer and Transfer Amount

	Any Transfer			Transfer Amount		
	Q25	Q50	Q90	Q25	Q50	Q90
	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)
Males	1889.35***	33864.11***	311048.7***	1717.67***	33456.65***	309426.9***
	(586.90)	(1080.48)	(7467.58)	(585.73)	(1082.49)	(7573.19)
Females	20304.61***	19611.15***	237473.7***	20187.38***	19442.27***	233942.8***
	(239.48)	(665.66)	(4930.87)	(238.91)	(664.87)	(4814.72)
Difference	-18415.26***	14252.96***	73575.03***	-18469.71***	14014.38***	75484.12***
	(633.88)	(1269.08)	(8948.64)	(632.58)	(1270.37)	(8974.12)
Explained	9013.09***	14540.05***	83678.81***	9041.66***	14941.52***	87424.05***
	(1537.93)	(2664.89)	(17142.77)	(1543.36)	(2686.29)	(17148.6)
Unexplained	-27428.35***	-287.09	-10103.78	-27511.37***	-927.14	-11939.93
	(1646.00)	(2783.21)	(18018.98)	(1653.07)	(2815.83)	(17874.51)
Expl. Transfer Var	-35.02	-118.83	-913.93	16.55	81.03	1335.39
	(55.47)	(187.92)	(1447.25)	(24.78)	(120.85)	(1988.69)
Unexpl. Transfer Var	1011.10***	1647.95***	12864.16***	166.55***	294.11	5813.74**
	(172.84)	(397.84)	(4528.78)	(52.13)	(202.34)	(2567.68)
Unexpl. Constant	-142012.7***	-84120.33**	278269.1	-88101.71***	-50422.89*	249652.4
	(21860.76)	(35375.16)	(427273.9)	(20077.39)	(28594.55)	(272826.7)

Panel B: Any Inheritance and Inheritance Amount

	Any Inheritance			Inheritance Amount		
	Q25	Q50	Q90	Q25	Q50	Q90
Males	1889.35***	33864.11***	311048.7***	1786.72***	33676.61***	310079.1***
	(586.90)	(1080.51)	(7467.72)	(585.74)	(1083.32)	(7515.28)
Females	20304.61***	19611.15***	237473.7***	20204.04***	19495.95***	235593.5***
	(239.48)	(665.68)	(4930.90)	(238.69)	(664.70)	(4864.40)
Difference	-18415.26***	14252.96***	73575.03***	-18417.32***	14180.65***	74485.63***
	(633.88)	(1269.10)	(8948.78)	(632.51)	(1270.99)	(8952.19)
Explained	9015.19***	14548.32***	82526.34***	9058.95***	14935.76***	87128.53***
	(1542.06)	(2678.25)	(17062.02)	(1549.19)	(2698.55)	(16914.39)
Unexplained	-27430.45***	-295.36	-8951.32	-27476.26***	-755.10	-12642.89
	(1651.39)	(2804.58)	(17961.31)	(1658.92)	(2829.42)	(17709.60)
Expl. Transfer Var	-39.98	-135.41	-1307.47	-4.83	-28.42	-492.93
	(34.57)	(115.35)	(1119.60)	(13.96)	(81.84)	(1419.08)
Unexpl. Transfer Var	534.11***	709.66**	5713.20	81.22**	79.72	1626.77
	(134.85)	(312.35)	(3710.01)	(36.72)	(137.08)	(2018.30)
Unexpl. Constant	-139809***	-74865.07**	353640.4	-99716.04***	-39520.89	12605.47
	(22560.83)	(37444.75)	(455892.2)	(17151.19)	(31290.12)	(321548.9)

Panel C: Any Gift and Gift Amount

	Any Gift			Gift Amount		
	Q25	Q50	Q90	Q25	Q50	Q90
Males	1889.35***	33864.11***	311048.7***	1818.52***	33646.82***	311339.2***
	(586.90)	(1080.50)	(7467.74)	(585.00)	(1080.97)	(7550.07)
Females	20304.61***	19611.15***	237473.7***	20217.58***	19557.29***	236201.9***
	(239.48)	(665.67)	(4930.99)	(238.88)	(664.90)	(4899.31)
Difference	-18415.26***	14252.96***	73575.03***	-18399.06***	14089.52***	75137.31***
	(633.88)	(1269.09)	(8948.85)	(631.89)	(1269.08)	(9000.38)
Explained	9230.76***	15282.25***	89290.17***	9176.81***	15221.74***	95377.74***
	(1543.72)	(2668.42)	(17135.63)	(1536.82)	(2674.11)	(17160.55)
Unexplained	-27646.02***	-1029.29	-15715.15	-27575.87***	-1132.21	-20240.43
	(1653.76)	(2795.58)	(18002.73)	(1647.53)	(2806.72)	(17939.58)
Expl. Transfer Var	20.36	71.28	488.11	27.27	114.87	1703.74
	(42.21)	(147.56)	(1012.67)	(23.74)	(98.93)	(1460.42)
Unexpl. Transfer Var	392.03***	757.30***	7029.27***	99.68***	264.32**	4299.79***
	(93.58)	(217.54)	(2695.62)	(33.86)	(121.99)	(1525.02)
Unexpl. Constant	-143033.1***	-87692.62**	264360.7	-70980.03***	-55190.24***	-267164.2*
	(21817.89)	(34735.87)	(421513.1)	(14115.64)	(21052.24)	(136893.6)

*Note: SOEP 2001 wave. All regressions include demographic, family, labor market, education, migration, relationship, and income variables as described in the notes of Tables A4 and A5. "Transfer Var" corresponds to the outcome in each panel (e.g., inheritance incidence and amount in Panel B). Standard errors in parentheses. *** $p \leq 0.01$, ** $p \leq 0.05$, * $p \leq 0.1$.*

Table A7: Oaxaca–RIF decomposition at the 25th (Q25), 50th (Q50), and 90th (Q90) percentiles, grouped by outcome (2019)

Panel A: Any Transfer and Transfer Amount

	Any Transfer			Transfer Amount		
	Q25	Q50	Q90	Q25	Q50	Q90
	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)
Males	5660.97***	69197.87***	702422.6***	5336.94***	67769.63***	683278.5***
	(799.88)	(1972.49)	(21071.84)	(791.62)	(1948.43)	(21085.99)
Females	2016.36***	30048.19***	355369.4***	1685.85***	28584.08***	350158.1***
	(634.97)	(836.19)	(7217.29)	(628.43)	(815.02)	(7026.85)
Difference	3644.61***	39149.68***	347053.2***	3651.09***	39185.56***	333120.4***
	(1021.27)	(2142.41)	(22273.56)	(1010.74)	(2112.02)	(22226.01)
Explained	22400.59***	46976.31***	351170.8***	22211.44***	45830.00***	360431.5***
	(1725.36)	(4021.56)	(37790.08)	(1708.21)	(3968.39)	(36688.23)
Unexplained	-18755.98***	-7826.63*	-4117.56	-18560.35***	-6644.44	-27311.07
	(1872.11)	(4114.94)	(36753.88)	(1857.97)	(4070.78)	(35090.08)
Expl. Transfer Var	-5.20	-18.43	-162.17	110.99***	571.90***	16149.17***
	(79.89)	(283.17)	(2491.84)	(35.53)	(178.26)	(4966.91)
Unexpl. Transfer Var	-1.10	3709.06***	24737.6**	-33.61	783.03***	24806.0***
	(275.45)	(714.15)	(10474.97)	(72.08)	(224.99)	(4932.57)
Unexpl. Constant	6488.08	-80678.9	1263522***	-14331.27	-212629.2***	-391309.8
	(36536.84)	(53408.11)	(321158.3)	(32280.81)	(51923.43)	(300933.0)

Panel B: Any Inheritance and Inheritance Amount

	Any Inheritance			Inheritance Amount		
	Q25	Q50	Q90	Q25	Q50	Q90
Males	5660.97***	69197.87***	702422.6***	5473.35***	68022.63***	696389.7***
	(799.88)	(1972.51)	(21071.97)	(796.47)	(1949.84)	(21578.54)
Females	2016.36***	30048.19***	355369.4***	1803.16***	29270.49***	352091.5***
	(634.97)	(836.20)	(7217.41)	(632.07)	(825.27)	(7125.69)
Difference	3644.61***	39149.68***	347053.2***	3670.20***	38752.14***	344298.2***
	(1021.28)	(2142.43)	(22273.72)	(1016.80)	(2117.30)	(22724.63)
Explained	22297.12***	46564.66***	347535.8***	22346.08***	46169.53***	364303.2***
	(1730.59)	(4012.83)	(37779.83)	(1725.76)	(3986.57)	(37861.05)
Unexplained	-18652.52***	-7414.97*	-482.53	-18675.88***	-7417.39*	-20005.0
	(1879.82)	(4113.83)	(36803.99)	(1876.87)	(4095.17)	(36535.29)
Expl. Transfer Var	-55.34	-221.44	-1955.70	43.97*	234.57*	6700.47*
	(50.66)	(201.57)	(1803.38)	(25.41)	(132.79)	(3778.98)
Unexpl. Transfer Var	-272.20	1994.92***	13149.75	-71.99	532.62***	19051.93***
	(226.57)	(583.97)	(8629.64)	(70.16)	(205.31)	(4942.45)
Unexpl. Constant	-11130.27	-84871.9	1397128***	-1363.28	-119902.6**	1105170***
	(31335.42)	(52211.72)	(327588.6)	(35175.54)	(51341.03)	(313432.4)

Panel C: Any Gift and Gift Amount

	Any Gift			Gift Amount		
	Q25	Q50	Q90	Q25	Q50	Q90
Males	5660.97***	69197.87***	702422.6***	5514.21***	68058.03***	692069.6***
	(799.88)	(1972.51)	(21071.93)	(795.50)	(1949.34)	(20791.87)
Females	2016.36***	30048.19***	355369.4***	1897.81***	29549.38***	352417.2***
	(634.98)	(836.20)	(7217.45)	(631.74)	(828.78)	(7079.24)
Difference	3644.61***	39149.68***	347053.2***	3616.40***	38508.65***	339652.4***
	(1021.28)	(2142.43)	(22273.70)	(1015.83)	(2118.21)	(21964.00)
Explained	22617.63***	47672.26***	357941.7***	22272.28***	45850.04***	350225.9***
	(1732.55)	(4061.77)	(37778.46)	(1720.67)	(3985.87)	(36978.16)
Unexplained	-18973.02***	-8522.58**	-10888.5	-18655.88***	-7341.39*	-10573.45
	(1882.87)	(4171.66)	(36751.76)	(1871.68)	(4096.65)	(35811.36)
Expl. Transfer Var	89.44	287.49	2790.15	78.70***	374.77***	9988.06***
	(63.42)	(203.69)	(2018.05)	(26.06)	(121.64)	(3161.84)
Unexpl. Transfer Var	244.79*	1566.36***	13444.64**	11.72	223.87**	6342.08***
	(126.52)	(348.08)	(5869.51)	(34.47)	(112.37)	(2348.54)
Unexpl. Constant	-8606.88	-89161.51*	1381375***	-20569.72	-140829.5***	1108750***
	(31358.26)	(51974.08)	(327888.8)	(32024.70)	(53629.26)	(339666.4)

Note: SOEP 2019 wave. All regressions include variables as described in the notes of Tables A4 and A5. "Transfer Var" corresponds to the outcome in each panel (e.g., inheritance incidence and amount in Panel B). Standard errors in parentheses. *** $p \leq 0.01$, ** $p \leq 0.05$, * $p \leq 0.1$.

Appendix B: Inheritance and Gift Module Questionnaires

Figure 1: SOEP Inheritance Module, 1988

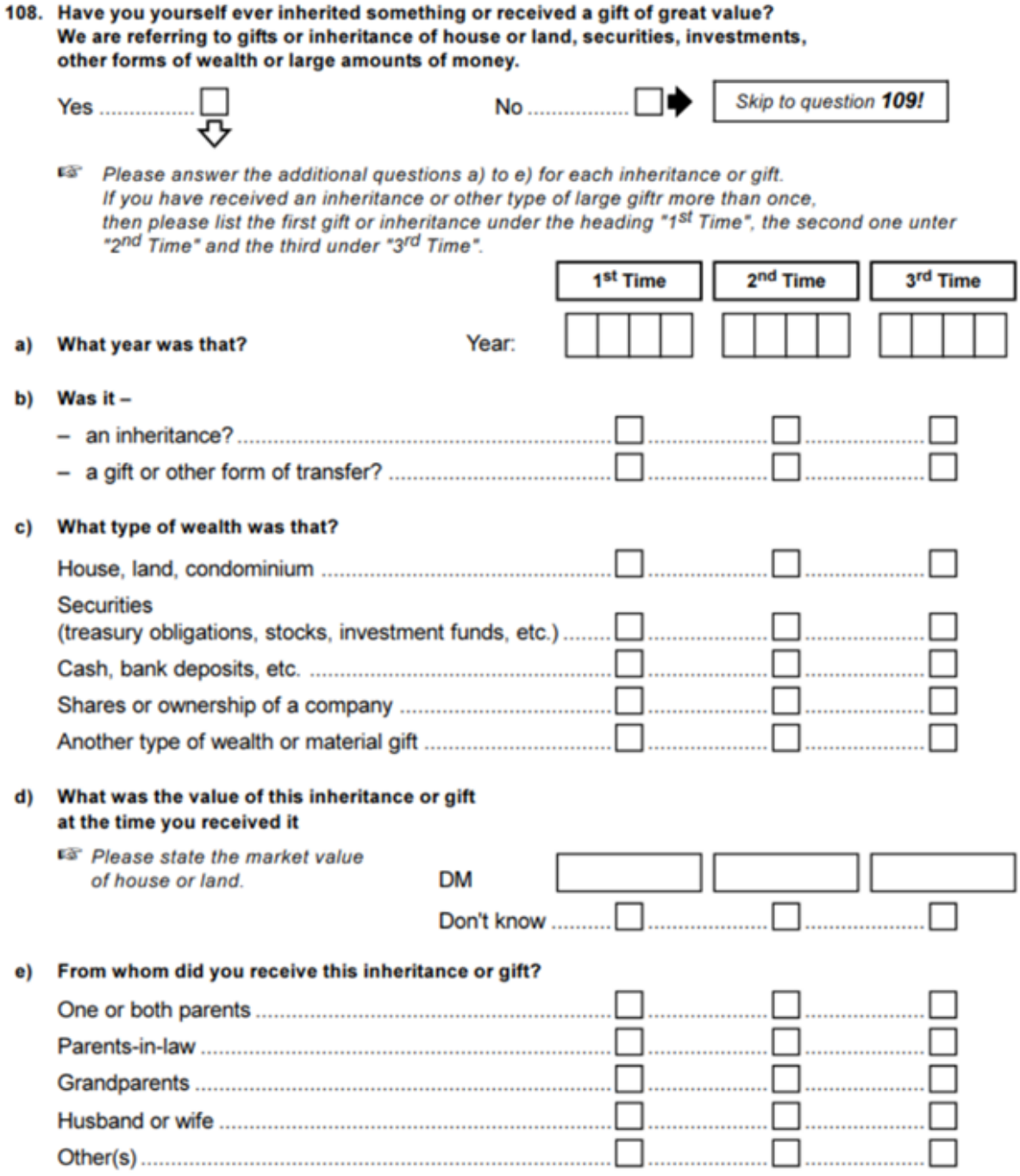
11. Haben Sie (oder ein anderes Haushaltsmitglied) nach 1960 einmal eine Erbschaft gemacht, bei der Ihnen Haus- und Grundbesitz, Wertpapiere, Beteiligungen oder sonstiges Vermögen zugeflossen ist?

Ja ..... ☐ Nein ..... ☐ → *Weiter mit Frage 12!*

Bitte für jede Erbschaft die Zusatzfragen 11A - 11D ausfüllen!

	1. Erbschaft	2. Erbschaft	3. Erbschaft
11A Welche Person in diesem Haushalt hat die Erbschaft gemacht? Vorname			
11B In welchem Jahr war das?	19	19	19
11C Um welche Art von Vermögen ging es dabei?			
Haus- und Grundbesitz	☐	☐	☐
Wertpapiere oder Beteiligungen	☐	☐	☐
Bargeld, Bankguthaben usw.	☐	☐	☐
11D Wie hoch war der damalige Wert dieser Erbschaft etwa (abzüglich eventueller Schulden)? Betrag in DM			
Weiß nicht	☐	☐	☐

Figure 2: SOEP Inheritance and Gift Module, 2001



108. Have you yourself ever inherited something or received a gift of great value?
We are referring to gifts or inheritance of house or land, securities, investments, other forms of wealth or large amounts of money.

Yes ☐ ⇩ No ☐ ➡ *Skip to question **109!***

☞ *Please answer the additional questions a) to e) for each inheritance or gift. If you have received an inheritance or other type of large giftr more than once, then please list the first gift or inheritance under the heading "1st Time", the second one unter "2nd Time" and the third under "3rd Time".*

		1st Time	2nd Time	3rd Time
a)	**What year was that?** Year:	☐☐☐☐	☐☐☐☐	☐☐☐☐
b)	**Was it –**			
	– an inheritance?	☐	☐	☐
	– a gift or other form of transfer?	☐	☐	☐
c)	**What type of wealth was that?**			
	House, land, condominium	☐	☐	☐
	Securities (treasury obligations, stocks, investment funds, etc.)	☐	☐	☐
	Cash, bank deposits, etc.	☐	☐	☐
	Shares or ownership of a company	☐	☐	☐
	Another type of wealth or material gift	☐	☐	☐
d)	**What was the value of this inheritance or gift at the time you received it**			
	☞ *Please state the market value of house or land.* DM			
	Don't know	☐	☐	☐
e)	**From whom did you receive this inheritance or gift?**			
	One or both parents	☐	☐	☐
	Parents-in-law	☐	☐	☐
	Grandparents	☐	☐	☐
	Husband or wife	☐	☐	☐
	Other(s)	☐	☐	☐

Figure 3: SOEP Inheritance and Gift Module, 2017

155. Have you personally received an inheritance or larger endowment in the last 15 years?

We are referring mainly to transfers of home or property ownership, securities, participating interests, and other assets or larger sums of money.

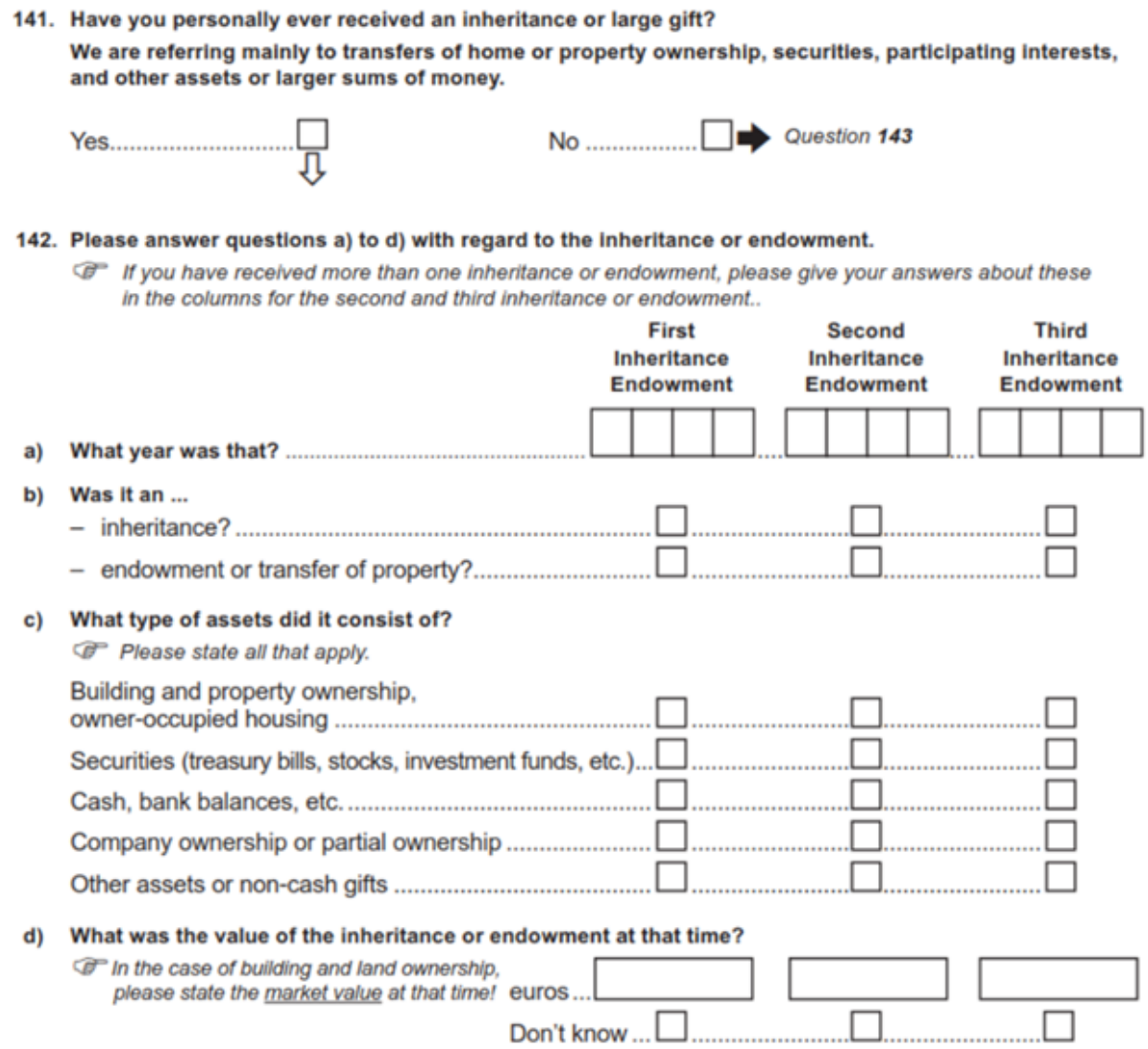
Yes ☐ ⇩ No ☐ ➡ *Question **157!***

156. Please answer questions a) to d) with regard to the inheritance or endowment.

☞ *If you have received more than one inheritance or endowment, please give your answers about these in the columns for the second and third inheritance or endowment..*

		First Inheritance Endowment	Second Inheritance Endowment	Third Inheritance Endowment
a)	**What year was that?**	☐☐☐☐	☐☐☐☐	☐☐☐☐
b)	**Was it an ...**			
	– inheritance?	☐	☐	☐
	– endowment or transfer of property?	☐	☐	☐
c)	**What type of assets did it consist of?** ☞ *Please state all that apply.*			
	Building and property ownership, owner-occupied housing	☐	☐	☐
	Securities (treasury bills, stocks, investment funds, etc.)	☐	☐	☐
	Cash, bank balances, etc.	☐	☐	☐
	Company ownership or partial ownership	☐	☐	☐
	Other assets or non-cash gifts	☐	☐	☐
d)	**What was the value of the inheritance or endowment at that time?** ☞ *In the case of building and land ownership, please state the market value at that time!*			
	euros	☐	☐	☐
	Don't know	☐	☐	☐

Figure 4: SOEP Inheritance and Gift Module, 2019



141. Have you personally ever received an inheritance or large gift?

We are referring mainly to transfers of home or property ownership, securities, participating interests, and other assets or larger sums of money.

Yes ☐ ⇩ No ☐ ➡ *Question* ***143***

142. Please answer questions a) to d) with regard to the inheritance or endowment.

☞ *If you have received more than one inheritance or endowment, please give your answers about these in the columns for the second and third inheritance or endowment..*

		First Inheritance Endowment	Second Inheritance Endowment	Third Inheritance Endowment
a)	**What year was that?**	☐☐☐☐	☐☐☐☐	☐☐☐☐
b)	**Was it an ...**			
	– inheritance?	☐	☐	☐
	– endowment or transfer of property?	☐	☐	☐
c)	**What type of assets did it consist of?**			
	☞ *Please state all that apply.*			
	Building and property ownership, owner-occupied housing	☐	☐	☐
	Securities (treasury bills, stocks, investment funds, etc.)	☐	☐	☐
	Cash, bank balances, etc.	☐	☐	☐
	Company ownership or partial ownership	☐	☐	☐
	Other assets or non-cash gifts	☐	☐	☐
d)	**What was the value of the inheritance or endowment at that time?**			
	☞ *In the case of building and land ownership, please state the market value at that time!* euros ...			
	Don't know ...	☐	☐	☐

Appendix C: Variable definitions and coding

Outcomes We study eight outcomes: (i) any transfer (inheritance or gift), (ii) any inheritance, (iii) any gift, (iv) total transfer amount (conditional on any transfer), (v) inheritance amount (conditional on any inheritance), (vi) gift amount (conditional on any gift), (vii) any regular transfer from parents reported for 2020 in the 2021 survey, and (viii) regular transfer amount (conditional on any regular transfer). For (i)–(vi), incidence refers to any transfer received in the **18 years preceding the survey year**: 1970–1988 (1988 survey), 1983–2001 (2001 survey), and 2001–2019 (2019 survey). For (vii)–(viii), the reference period is 2020 only. Outcomes (i)–(iii) and (vii) are estimated using linear probability models; (iv)–(vi) and (viii) by OLS.

Monetary amounts are reported in 2019 euros and are conditional on receipt. For transfer amounts, we use information on up to two transfers listed by respondents. The share of individuals reporting two or more transfers is minimal (less than 2%).

For Oaxaca decompositions, we use net wealth information available in the 2001 and 2019 rounds and include the high wealth sample for 2019.

Covariates (with reference categories):

Demographic & Education:

Age < 25; 25–34; 35–44 (reference category); 45–54; 55–64; 65–74; > 74.

Education Years of schooling; a dummy for whether they're current in education.

Siblings Any siblings; Number of brothers; Number of sisters.

Occupation: Based on 7 categories - Not employed (reference category); Apprentice; Blue collar; Self-employed (solo); Self-employed (with employees); Salaried; Civil servant;

Employment status: Full-time/Vocation/In short-time work (reference category); Part-time or marginal; Unemployed.

Lifetime Work Experience:

Labour market experience (years) Full-time experience; Part-time experience; Unemployment duration

Personal income: Personal income quintile based on gross personal labour income. Quintile 1 includes a large mass of respondents (around 40%) with zero labour income; Quintile 2 is absent in most years but available separately in 2021 (merged with Quintile 1 in descriptive outcomes for brevity). Household income quintiles with Quintile 1 as the reference;

Relationship & children:

Children Total number of children;

Marital status Married (reference category); Single; Divorced/Separated; Widowed;

Single parenthood Whether the individual is a single parent. (Number of children > 0 and not married and not cohabiting)

Cohabitation Whether living with the partner in the same household

Residence & migration:

Region of residence East Germany (current residence dummy)

Pre-1989 residence Whether lived in West Germany (reference category) or East Germany; Lived outside Germany; Born after 1989 (for those this was not applicable to).

Migration background Direct migrant (first-generation; respondent born abroad without German citizenship at birth); Indirect migrant (second-generation; at least one parent born abroad/without German citizenship at birth); Native (reference category)

State of Residence Federal states (Länder).

Other:

Home ownership Whether the individual is the owner of the dwelling they are residing in (not used in decompositions)

Survey year 1988, 2001, 2019 and 2021. Data from 2021 is not included in the pooled regressions.

High-wealth subsample Dummy for inclusion in the 2019 high net worth sample.

Appendix D: Transfer gaps over time

To test whether the likelihood of receiving transfers has increased over time, we estimate the following regression model using data from 2001 and 2019:

$$y_{ik} = \alpha + \beta_1 \text{Female}_i + \beta_2 \text{Year2019}_k + \beta_3 (\text{Female}_i \times \text{Year2019}_k) + \gamma X_{ik} + \epsilon_{ik} \quad (1)$$

Here, y_{ik} denotes one of the inheritance-related outcomes (e.g., whether an individual received any inheritance, or the amount received but without information for regular transfers from 2021), and X_{ik} includes a full set of controls described earlier (e.g., demographic, socioeconomic, migration, and geographic variables). The coefficient on the interaction term β_3 captures whether the gender gap in inheritances has changed between the survey years 2001 and 2019.

We restrict the analysis to 2001 and 2019 because the survey question on inheritances was framed similarly in these years, asking whether the respondent had *ever* received a gift or inheritance. In contrast, in 1988 only information on inheritances had been collected and also for a restricted period. Table A8 indicates no significant changes in incidence and amounts have taken place over time. We find some decrease in incidence over time (in inheritances and gifts) and overall amounts. Thus, over time, with the backdrop of rising wealth levels, we do not see any more gendered results.

Table A8: Exploring Gender Gaps in Transfers over Time (2001 vs. 2019)

	Any transfer	Any inheritance	Any gift	Total transfer (amount)	Total inheritance (amount)	Total gift (amount)
	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)
Female	-0.00255	0.00005	-0.00356	-1809.1	-586.3	-993.9
	(0.00543)	(0.00459)	(0.00348)	(1471.4)	(984.4)	(996.5)
Year 2019	-0.00661	0.000412	-0.0087***	2392.7*	1492.5	961.9
	(0.00527)	(0.00446)	(0.00337)	(1430.0)	(956.2)	(967.8)
Female × 2019	0.00129	0.00299	-0.00136	109.2	58.95	-350.8
	(0.00663)	(0.00561)	(0.00424)	(1798.2)	(1202.5)	(1217.1)
Constant	-0.0407	-0.104**	0.0572	-146.2	-9677.7	10000.9
	(0.0546)	(0.0461)	(0.0349)	(14907.3)	(9881.9)	(10103.7)
N	40463	40463	40463	40186	40286	40361
R-sq	0.071	0.052	0.045	0.058	0.037	0.034
Controls	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES

*Note: SOEP pooled 2001, 2019 waves. 2001 is the reference year. Estimates follow specification (1) in App.D. Incidence refers to any transfer received in the 18 years preceding the survey year. Amounts are in 2019 euros, conditional on receipt. All regressions include demographic, family, labor market, education, migration, relationship, and income controls, as well as state fixed effects, as described in section 4. The coefficient of interest is the interaction term Female × 2019, which captures whether gender gaps changed between 2001 and 2019. Standard errors in parentheses.*** $p \leq 0.01$, ** $p \leq 0.05$, * $p \leq 0.1$.