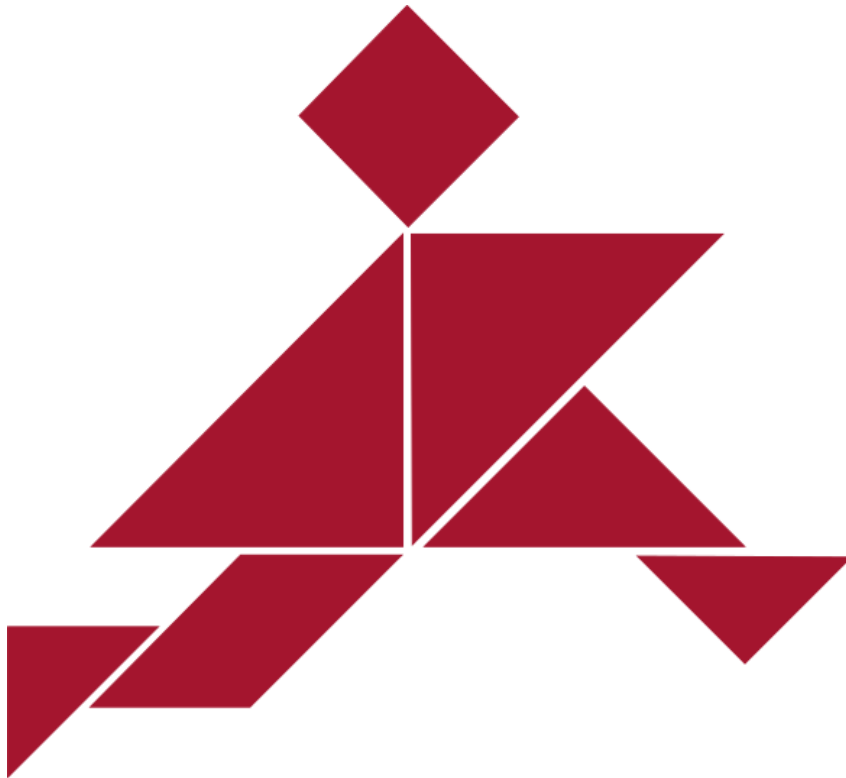

THE INTRICACIES OF FAMILY INCLUSIVENESS, FAMILY NETWORKS AND SPATIALITY

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INVITED PRESENTATION AT THE
CONFERENCE «FAMILY SCIENCE»



Swiss National Centre of Competence in Research

OVERCOMING VULNERABILITY: LIFE COURSE PERSPECTIVES

■ Demographic reserves

- Significant family members come from a latent matrix of relationships (Riley, 1983) from which most of the emotional and instrumental exchanges are drawn, and family configurations constructed (Bengston, 2001; Puur et al., 2011; de Carlo et al., 2014).
- Strongly vary in relation to the life course of individuals (marriage, delayed parenthood, childlessness, etc.) and the life course of their parents and siblings

■ Family inclusiveness :

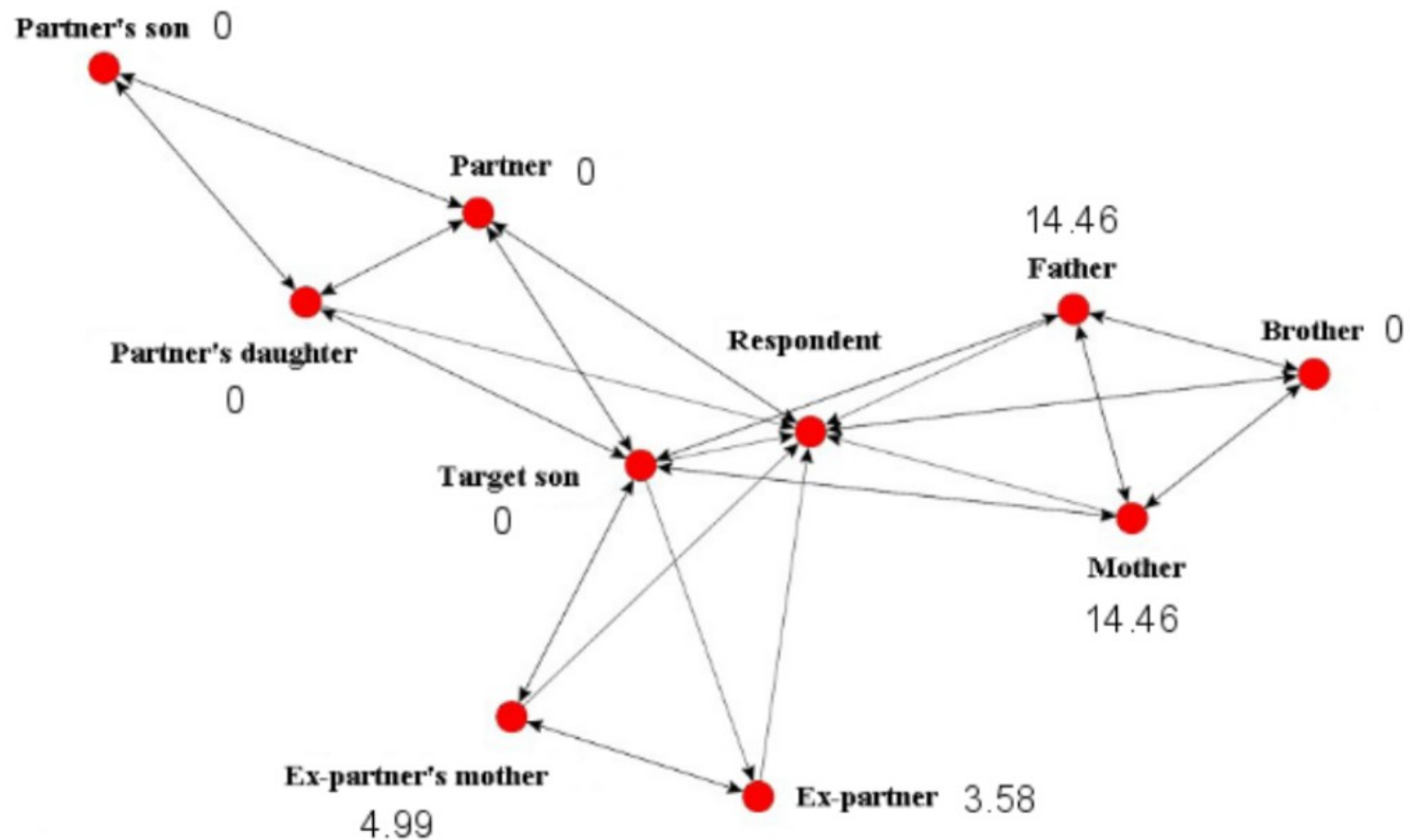
- The extent to which the statuses of significant family members deviate from the **definition of family as nuclear** (either in a restricted sense as household members, or in reference to the “family of orientation”). It refers to permeable boundaries of family beyond the nuclear family (Castren & Widmer, 2015)
- Is associated with larger social capital capital, in particular bridging **social capital** (Widmer, 2016)
- Is stronger in higher strata of society
- **Linkage with spatiality ?**

Stepout study

- 300 women who lived on a regular basis with at least one child aged between 5 and 13 and a partner (cohabiting or married) in Geneva (Switzerland).
- In half of the cases, the child aged between 5 and 13 is the biological child of the respondent but not of her coresident partner. The partner or the respondent may have other children, either with the respondent or with another partner, living with them or elsewhere.
- In the other half of the cases, the child aged between 5 and 13 is the biological child of both the respondent and the partner.
- Reference: Castrén, A.-M., Widmer, E.D.(2015). Insiders and outsiders in stepfamilies: Adults' and children's views on family boundaries . *Current Sociology*. Vol. 63(1), pp. 35-56.

The Family Network Method (FNM, Widmer, 1999): **Defining family configurations**

- “I will start by asking you to write down the first names of the people in your family who are significant for you at this time”
- “By significant, I mean those people in your family that have played a role, either positive or negative, in your life during the past year”
- An example of a list: *Mother, Partner, Mother's son, Mother's mother, Mother's partner, Father, Father's partner, Father's daughter, Father's sister*
(Widmer, E.D., Aeby, G. et Sapin, M. (2013). Collecting Family Network Data. *International Review of Sociology* . Vol. 23, n° 1, pp. 27-46)



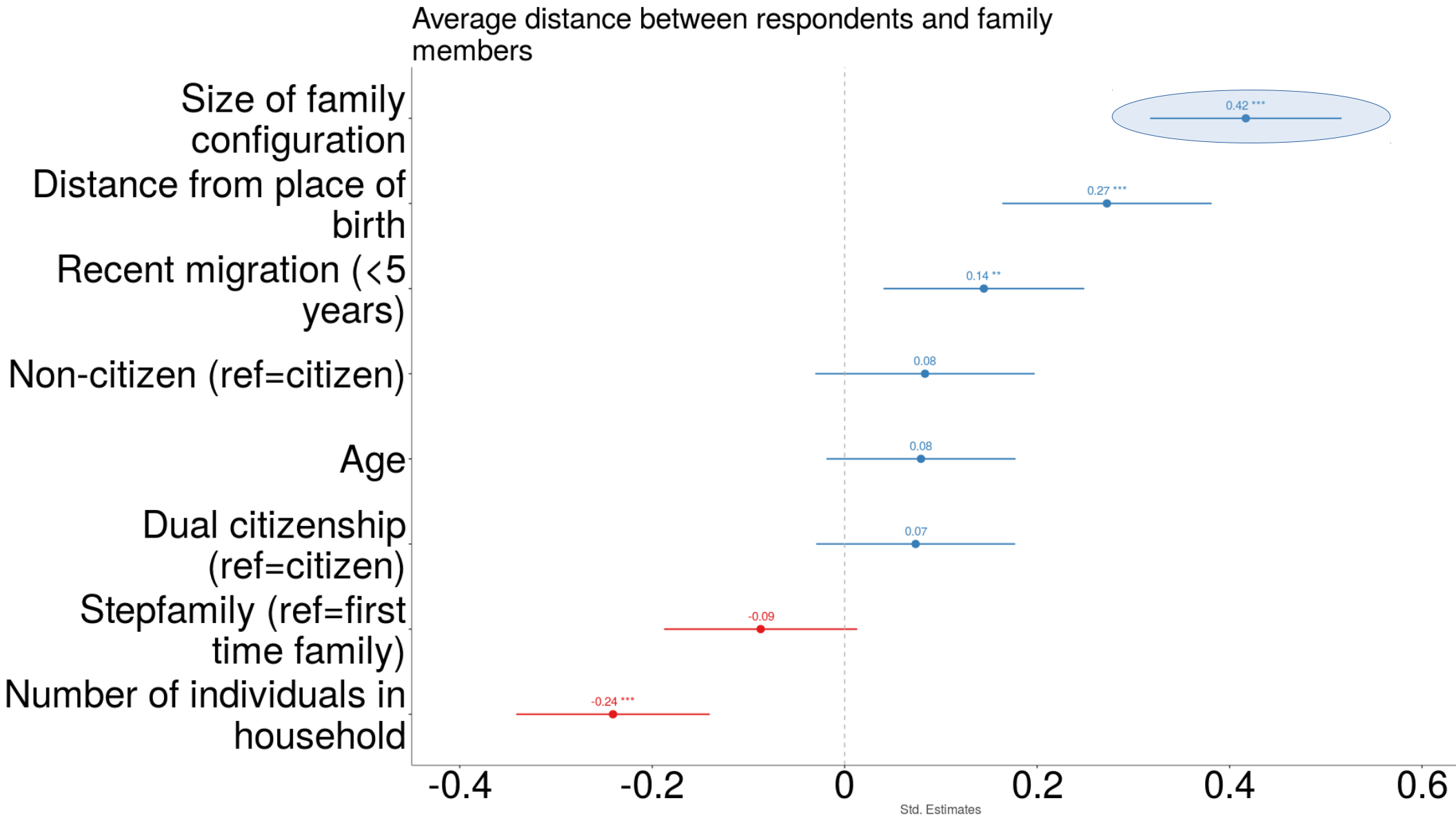
Network density: 0.39

Respondent's betweenness centrality: 0.19

Average distance respondent-alter: 4.17 km

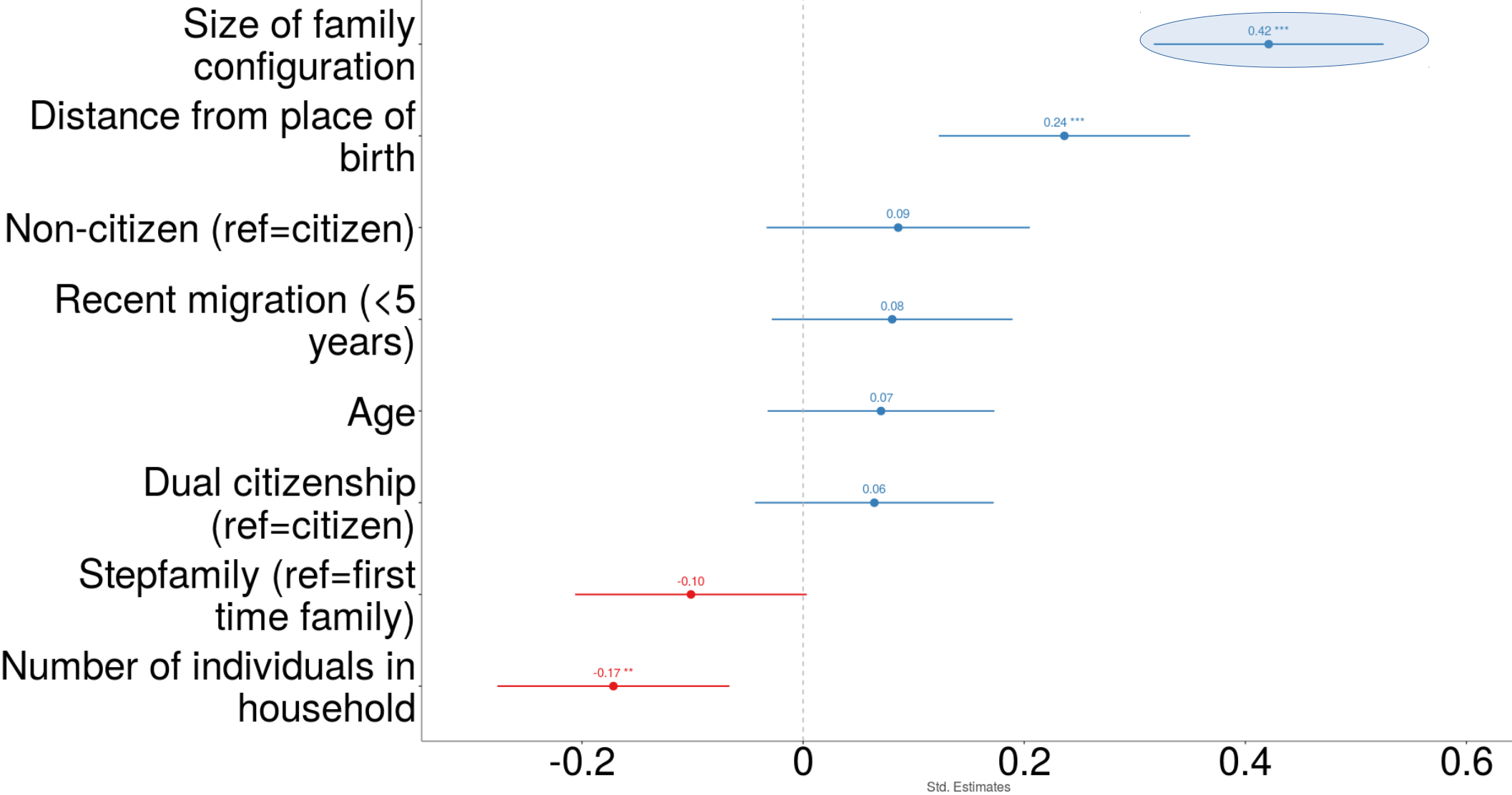
Average distance between all network members: 6.68 km

Results of regression analysis I (standardized coefficients)



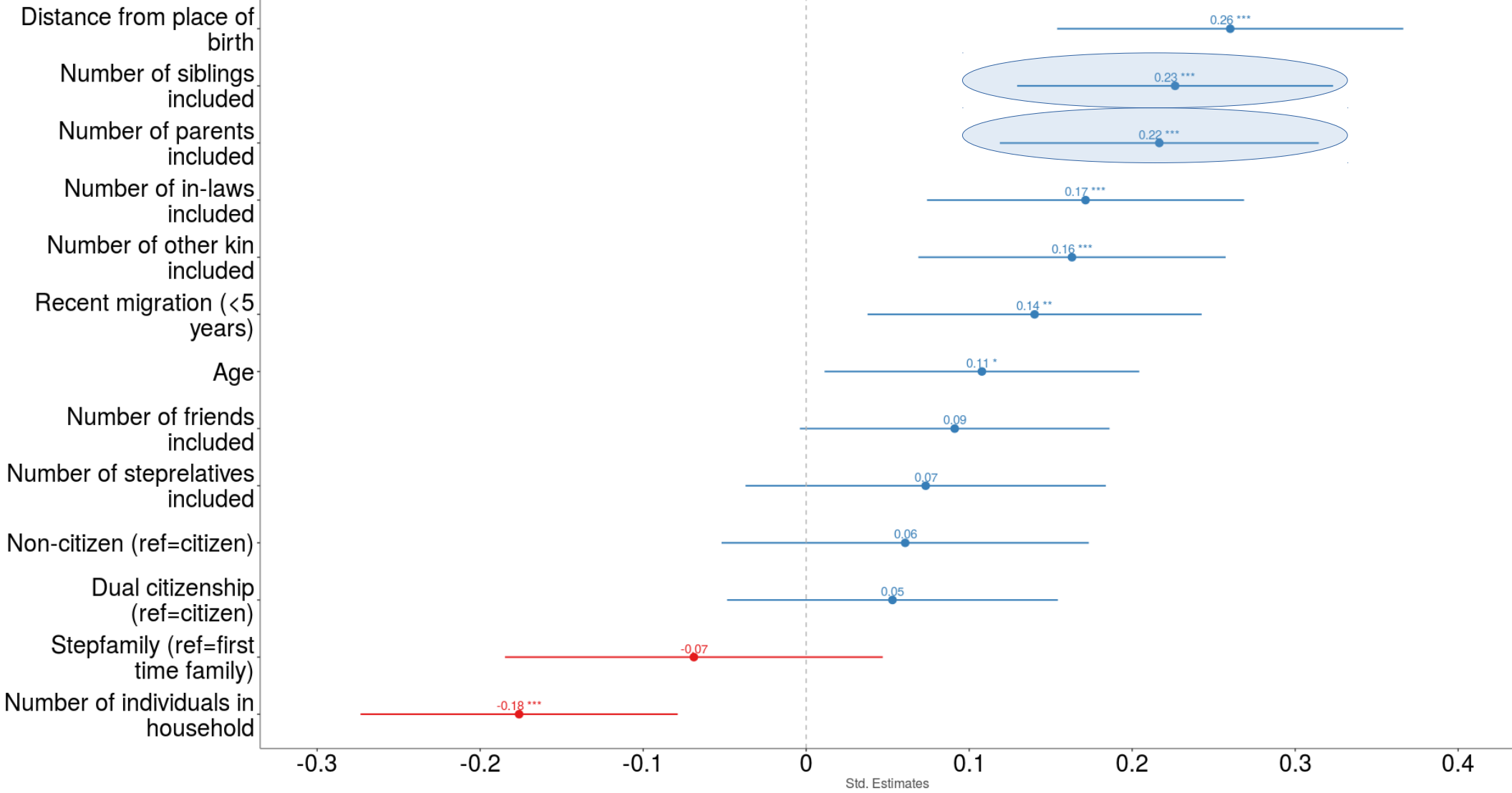
Results of regression analysis II (standardized coefficients)

Average distance between family members



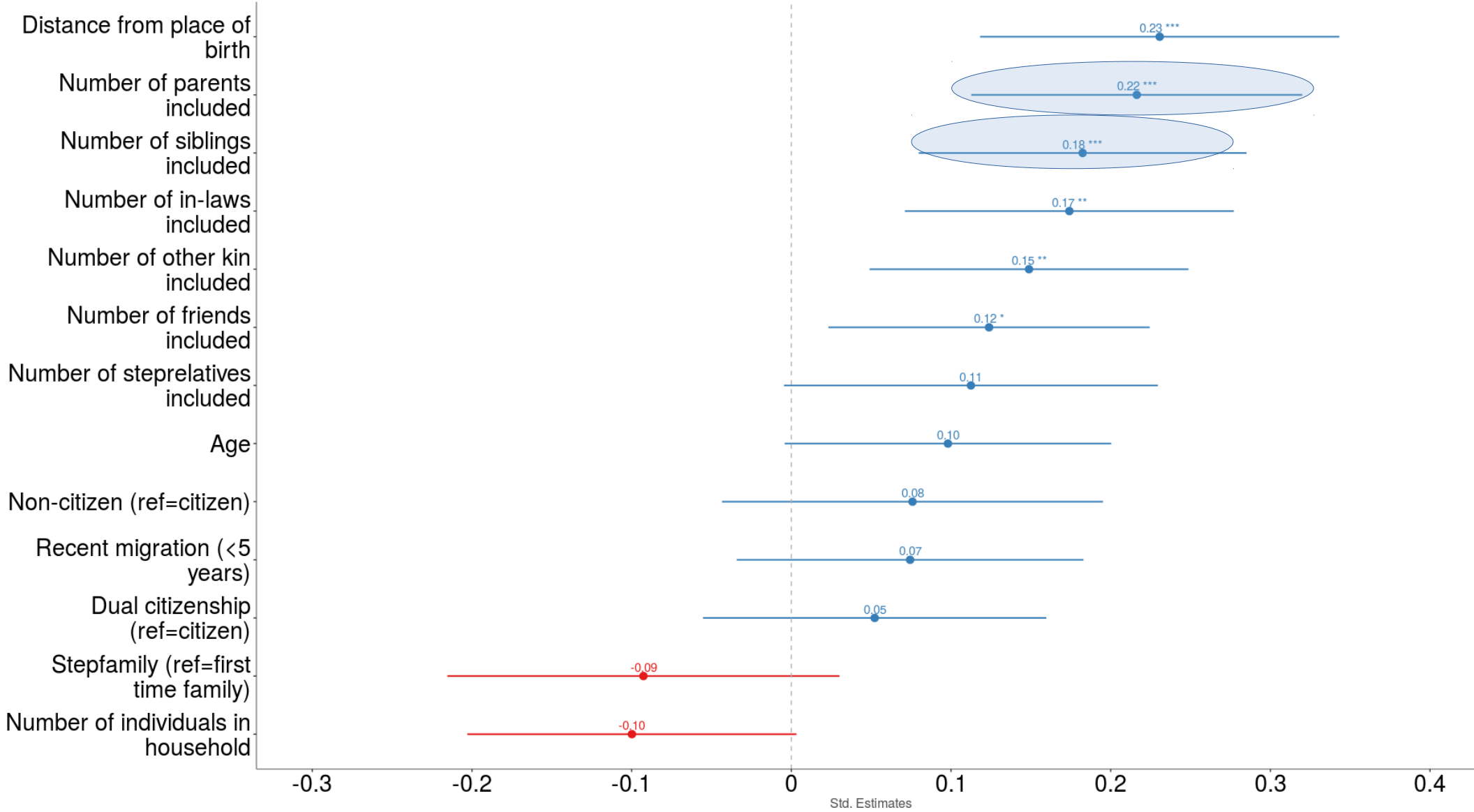
Results of regression analysis III (standardized coefficients)

Average distance between respondents and family members

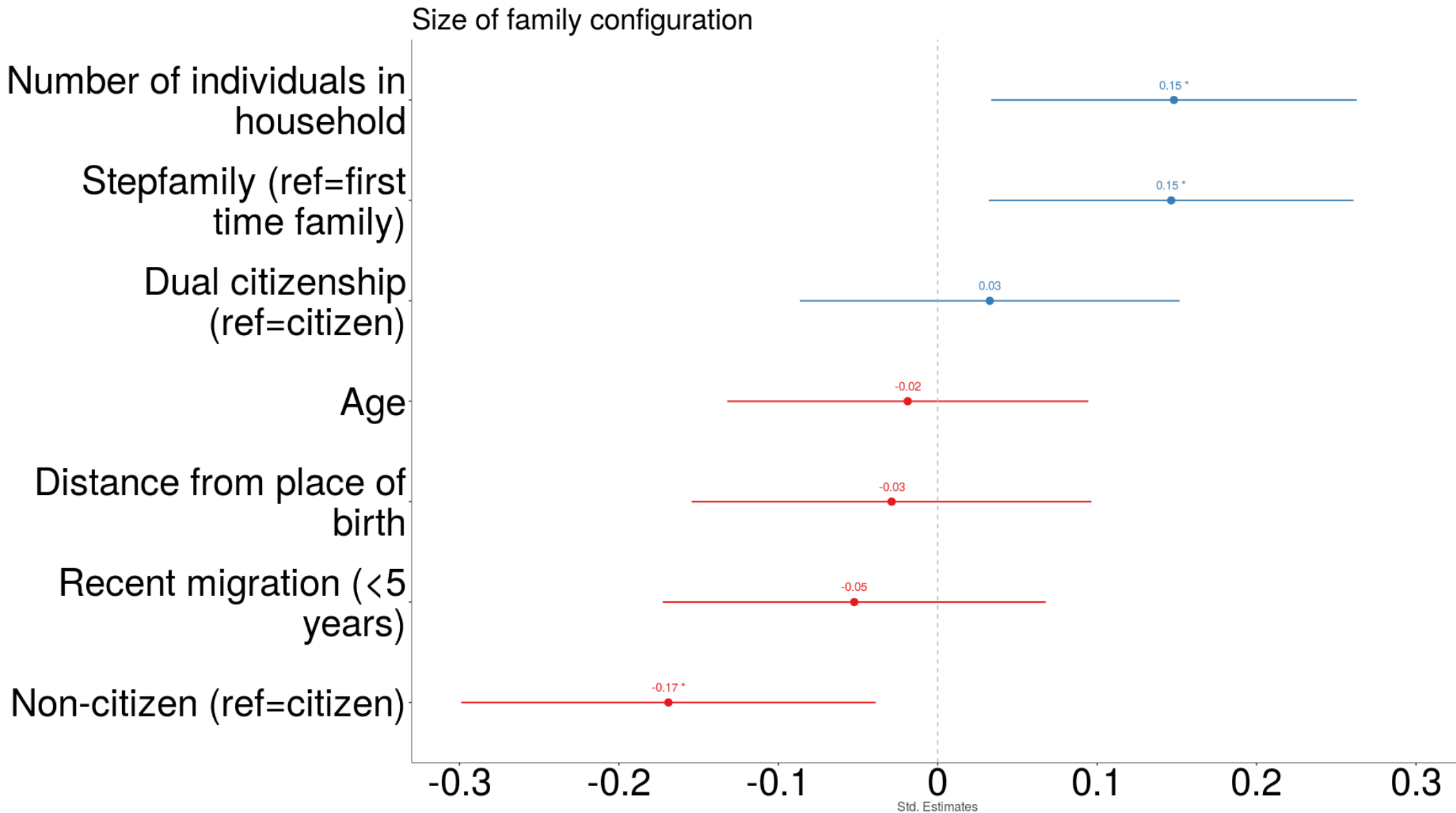


Results of regression analysis IV (standardized coefficients)

Average distance between family members



Results of regression analysis III (standardized coefficients)



To conclude...

- Widmer, E.D., Viry, G. (2017). Family inclusiveness and spatial dispersion: The spatial consequences of having large and diversified family configurations. *Open Journal of Social Sciences*. Vol. 5, pp. 350-367.