Family Migration from Sub-Saharan Africa to Europe

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ADAPTING TO CHANGES IN FAMILY MIGRATION: THE EXPERIENCES OF OECD COUNTRIES
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Context
African migration as a major policy concern

- Since 2005, European migration policy driven by tragedies at its southern borders (Ceuta & Melilla, Canary Islands, Lampedusa)

- In France, African migration commonly stigmatized in the public debate, including by Ministers (as relayed by medias)
  - “African invasion” in 2009
  - Riots in 2005 → undesirable migrants (polygamy, uneducated migrants)
  - Reunification reconsidered for African migrants in 2013

In fact
- A minority in stocks and flows of migrants in Europe
Citizens of non-EU countries resident in the EU-27 (Eurostat, 2012)
• African migration as a major policy concern

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    • “African invasion” in 2009
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• In fact
  – A minority in stocks and flows of migrants in Europe
  – Well educated migrants
Percentage of male migrants with tertiary education in France (2008, TeO Survey)

- Sub-saharan migrants: 39%
- All migrants: 28%
- France (total): 30%
• African migration as a major policy concern
  
  – Since 2005, European migration policy driven by tragedies at its southern borders (Ceuta & Melilla, Canary Islands, Lampedusa)

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• In fact
  
  – A minority in stocks and flows of migrants in Europe
  – Well educated migrants
  – Less family reunification than the average
Percentage of reunified migrants in France
(2008, TeO Survey)

Sub-Saharan migrants
- Males: 11%
- Females: 22%

All migrants
- Males: 18%
- Females: 29%
• African migration as a major policy concern
  
  – Since 2005, European migration policy driven by tragedies at its southern borders (Ceuta & Melilla, Canary Islands, Lampedusa)
  
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• In fact
  – A minority in stocks and flows of migrants in Europe
  – Well educated migrants
  – Less family reunification than the average
  – … and a strong propensity to “live apart together across borders“ (LAT-AB)
Family Arrangements of African Migrants in Europe
1/4 has no nuclear family

Significant numbers of transnational families (20 to 60%)…

Source: MAFE Project; Mazzucato et al. (2013)
Transnational Families by European receiving Country

- Significant differences per European receiving country
- Longer history of migration
- Migrants’ characteristics (refugees)
- Policy context

Source: MAFE Project; Mazzucato et al. (2013)
• Policy constraint?
  − Restrictive measures to limit reunification in the 1990s in Europe

• Social norms
  − Extended families
  − fosterage
  − « couples of low consistency » (Findley, 1997)
  − « Ubiquitous families » in Congo (Lututala 1989)
  − LAT as a common arrangement (Pilon 2006)

• Economic reasons to live apart
  − Better for earning maximization (reunification is costly)
  − Better for risk sharing and mutual insurance
  − Migration to reach a target before returning and reunifying at origin
Parents and Children: Separation & Reunification
Reunification with Children: When and Where?

10 years after separation:
- 1/4 were reunified in Europe
- 1/2 were joined in Ghana by their returnee parent
- 1/4 of the left-behind children are still separated from their migrant parent

Reunification in Europe is not the more likely outcome of a separation period.

Source: MAFE Project; Mazzucato et al. (2013)
10 years after separation,
- more than 30% of the children are still separated from their parent(s) in most groups (exceptions: south-east Asia, EU15 in France)
- Higher levels of sep’: SS Africa in F. and Sp., East Eur. In Sp
Proportion of Second Generation Adults Born and Living in France who Spent at Least 1 Year out of France during their Childhood

- **G2 (total)**: 5% females, 5% males
- **Southern Eur'**: 4% females, 3% males
- **Maghreb**: 6% females, 7% males
- **Subsahar' Afr.**: 12% females, 21% males

Source: 2008, TeO Survey
Conclusions
• A conceptual shift:
  • rather “Family Migration between Sub-Saharan Africa and Europe”
  • than “Family Migration from Sub-Saharan Africa to Europe”
  • Also: other groups

• A statistical challenge
  • Generating data with a double-view of migration and family
  • Amount of split families? For how long?
  • What are the explanatory factors? Political vs. other factors

• Studying the consequences of separation
  • In home countries,
    – Well-being of left behind (or sent back) children?
  • In destination countries
    – School success and economic integration of lately reunified children?
    – Re-integration of returning children of the second generation?
    – Effect of isolation on migrants integration?
References
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  – Also available at: [http://www.ined.fr/fichier/t_telechargement/57450/telechargement_fichier_en_wp17_gonzalez.et.al.pdf](http://www.ined.fr/fichier/t_telechargement/57450/telechargement_fichier_en_wp17_gonzalez.et.al.pdf)

• More info:
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