

The social assimilation of immigrants

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Assimilation: a brief overview

- The basic equation:

$$\ln w_{it} = \beta_0 X_{it} + \beta_1 ls_{it} + \beta_2 (ls_{it})^2 + \varepsilon_{it}$$

where w : wage, X : individual characteristics, ls : length of stay in the host country

- Two key issues
 - Cohort effects
 - Return migration

Assimilation in the sociology literature

The different paradigms

- The straight line assimilation process
- The melting pot
- The bumpy line
- The segmented line

Ethnic diversity and performance

- The Alesina La Ferrara approach:
 - Enjoyment of the public good is decreasing in ethnic variety (greater distance from preferred type, dislike of contacts across types)
- A key question: is the latter effect attenuated by better education?
 - The negative impact of ethnic fragmentation is mitigated by higher income per capita

What this paper does

- Focus on migrants and natives social activities
- Distinguish between two kinds of social activities:
 - In the neighborhood (“How often do you talk to your neighbor?”)
 - More broadly (“How often do you meet friends or relatives not living with you whether here at home or elsewhere?”)
- Assess migrants’ assimilation
- Highlight the effect of education

The empirical analysis

- Use of the ECHP
- The basic specification:
 $D_i = f$ (household size, age, education, gender, employment status, marital status, immigrant, length of stay)
- Control for attrition
- Pooling and random effects

How representative is the ECHP?

COUNTRY	CITIZEN.	BORN	RESID.	OECD
Denmark	3.00	4.34	6.60	3.80
Netherlands	1.37			5.00
Belgium	6.65	8.53	10.07	9.10
France	5.34	10.11	11.26	
Ireland	1.53	4.69	10.46	2.70
Italy	0.08	1.90	2.64	1.60
Greece	1.01			
Spain	0.77	1.92	5.32	1.20
Portugal	1.36	3.58	8.85	1.60
Germany(SOEP)	5.74			8.60
Luxembourg(PSELL)	32.41	34.00	34.97	32.60
Austria	5.85	10.10	10.10	9.00
Finland	1.30			1.40
Sweden	4.87			6.00
UK(BHPS)	2.20	0.40	0.45	3.00

Population by country of birth

FOREIGN COUNTRY OF BIRTH

COUNTRY	Natives	EU-15	Other Eu.	Africa	America	Asia	Australia	Total
Denmark	7063	89	74	18	20	88	1	7353
Belgium	7459	385	87	137	21	21	0	8110
France	16107	480	114	558	17	80	0	17356
Ireland	11420	463	3	9	35	13	9	11952
Italy	21470	139	120	64	54	7	6	21860
Spain	21910	163	30	46	168	4	1	22322
Portugal	14913	109	4	215	70	5	0	15316
Austria	8539	165	493	14	13	38	0	9262
Total	108881	1993	925	1061	398	256	17	113531

“How often do you talk to neighbours?”

	Most Days	1 or 2 week	1 or 2 month	Less	Never	Total
NATIVES						
Denmark	30.09	41.47	14.84	9.05	4.55	100
Belgium	29.21	39.94	17.5	8.97	4.38	100
France	0	45.72	31.22	23.05	0	100
Ireland	56.75	32.29	7.24	2.15	1.57	100
Italy	51.12	28.57	9.86	5.61	4.83	100
Spain	65.88	23.16	5.89	2.89	2.19	100
Portugal	59.25	27.55	8.1	3.04	2.07	100
Austria	38.16	42	12.99	4.64	2.21	100
Total	44.03	32.91	12.94	7.44	2.69	100
IMMIGRANTS						
Denmark	31.96	36.88	13.75	11.52	5.89	100
Belgium	35.27	38.6	13.66	8.09	4.38	100
France	0	47.26	32.65	20.09	0	100
Ireland	50.4	34.55	8.67	3.44	2.94	100
Italy	45.88	30.43	13.46	5.6	4.63	100
Spain	55.07	27.77	8.38	4.05	4.73	100
Portugal	42.64	34.69	12.82	5.08	4.77	100
Austria	35.82	38.91	12.94	7.13	5.19	100
Total	30.33	38.46	17.78	10.13	3.3	100

Determinants of “local” socialization

COVARIATES	POOLED	POOLED	NATIVES	EU IMM.	NON EU IMM.	POOL., NO EU
Household size	0.049 ***	0.050 ***	0.050 ***	0.061	0.019	0.049 ***
Age	0.014 ***	0.014 ***	0.013 ***	0.019 ***	0.003	0.013 ***
Highest ed.	-0.369 ***	-0.369 ***	-0.367 ***	-0.326 *	-0.345 ***	-0.369 ***
Intermediate ed.	-0.150 ***	-0.151 ***	-0.148 ***	-0.198 *	-0.195 *	-0.151 ***
Gender	0.218 ***	0.218 ***	0.221 ***	0.175	0.172 *	0.220 ***
Employment	-0.238 ***	-0.239 ***	-0.236 ***	-0.490 ***	-0.238 **	-0.236 ***
Spouse	0.386 ***	0.387 ***	0.398 ***	0.128	0.260 **	0.395 ***
Africa	-0.074	0.101			-0.006	-0.053
America	-0.128	0.047			0.138	0.049
Asia	-0.595 ***	-0.421 **			-0.408 **	-0.361 **
Immigrant	-0.129 **					-0.722 ***
Immigrant EU		-0.053				
Immigrant non EU		-0.303 ***				
Length 6-15				0.322	0.202	0.209 *
Length 16-25				0.074	0.587 ***	0.545 ***
Length >25				0.170	0.755 ***	0.737 ***
Constant	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Country dummies	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Time dummies	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Pseudo R2	0.119	0.119	0.119	0.101	0.090	0.120

Legend:

*p<0.05; **p<0.01; *** p<0.001

Determinants of “broad” socialization

COVARIATES	POOLED		POOLED		NATIVES	EU IMM.	NON EU IMM.	POOL., NO EU				
Household size	-0.071	***	-0.071	***	-0.072	***	-0.055	-0.067	**	-0.072	***	
Age	-0.025	***	-0.025	***	-0.025	***	-0.028	***	-0.027	***	-0.025	***
Highest ed.	0.110	***	0.110	***	0.114	***	-0.043	0.184		0.115	***	
Intermediate ed.	0.135	***	0.135	***	0.139	***	0.112	0.044		0.133	***	
Gender	-0.091	***	-0.091	***	-0.086	***	-0.124	-0.197	*	-0.090	***	
Employment	-0.125	***	-0.125	***	-0.130	***	-0.029	-0.085		-0.129	***	
Spouse	-0.053	***	-0.052	***	-0.045	**	-0.311	**	-0.082		-0.045	**
Africa	-0.115		-0.087						-0.042		-0.244	**
America	-0.487	***	-0.460	***					-0.039		-0.456	***
Asia	-0.437	***	-0.409	**					-0.231		-0.358	*
Immigrant	-0.005										-0.304	**
Immigrant EU			0.008									
Immigrant non EU			-0.033									
Length 6-15						0.033		0.037		0.022		
Length 16-25						0.378		0.465	***	0.381	**	
Length >25						0.479	*	0.625	***	0.588	***	
Constant	Yes		Yes		Yes		Yes		Yes		Yes	
Country dummies	Yes		Yes		Yes		Yes		Yes		Yes	
Time dummies	Yes		Yes		Yes		Yes		Yes		Yes	
Pseudo R2	0.086		0.086		0.086		0.124		0.054		0.086	

Legend:

*p<0.05; **p<0.01; *** p<0.001

Robustness checks

- Random effects
- Ordered logit
- Heckman selection model

Further extensions: *the role of immigrants networks*

- Do immigrant networks
 - foster assimilation?
 - cause segregation?
- French data on immigrants association should cast light on this issue

Summing up..

- Household size has an opposite effect on “local” and “broad” socialization
- Similarly, age has a positive (negative) effect on “local” (“broad”) socialization
- Educated individuals tend to socialize less (more) in the neighborhood (outside it)
- Immigrants tend to socialize less, but catch up with natives over a relatively long period of time

How close are definitions by country of birth and residence?

RESIDENCE	BORN								Total
	Mis.	Native	EU-15	Other Eu.	Africa	America	Asia	Australia	
Missing	1	258	0	0	0	0	0	0	259
Natives	0	105991	0	0	0	0	0	0	105991
EU 15	11	1415	1936	54	42	22	17	2	3499
Other European Countries	3	219	13	859	2	6	6	0	1108
Africa	1	393	17	4	1001	2	6	0	1424
America	2	526	19	6	8	368	2	1	932
Asia	0	31	7	2	7	0	225	0	272
Australia	0	48	1	0	1	0	0	14	64
Total	18	108881	1993	925	1061	398	256	17	113549