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Family Migration from Sub-Saharan Africa to Europe

Cris Beauchemin (INED, France)

ADAPTING TO CHANGES IN FAMILY MIGRATION:
THE EXPERIENCES OF OECD COUNTRIES
Conference Co-organized by:
US Department of Homeland Security & OECD
18th Nov. 2013, Washington, Tomich Conference Centre

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Context

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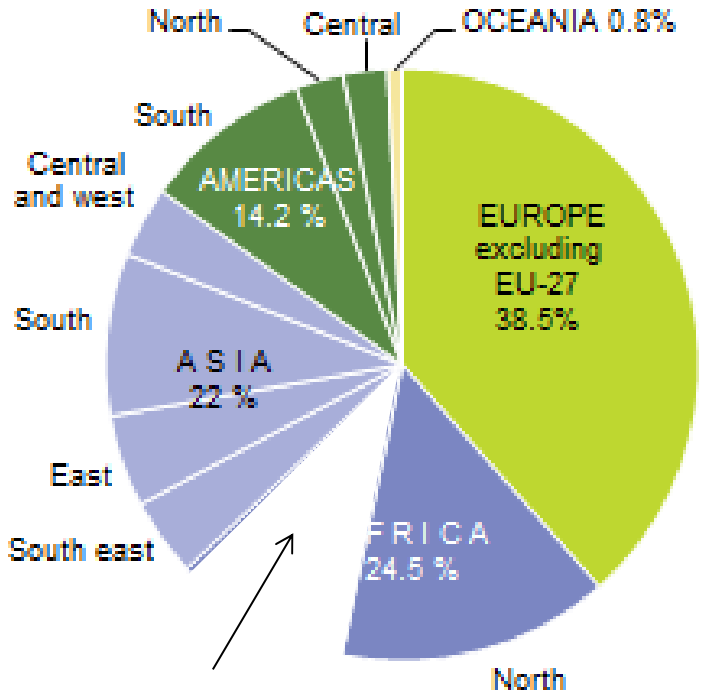
Context

- 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

Context

Citizens of non-EU countries resident in the EU-27 (Eurostat, 2012)



Sub-Saharan Africa (12%)

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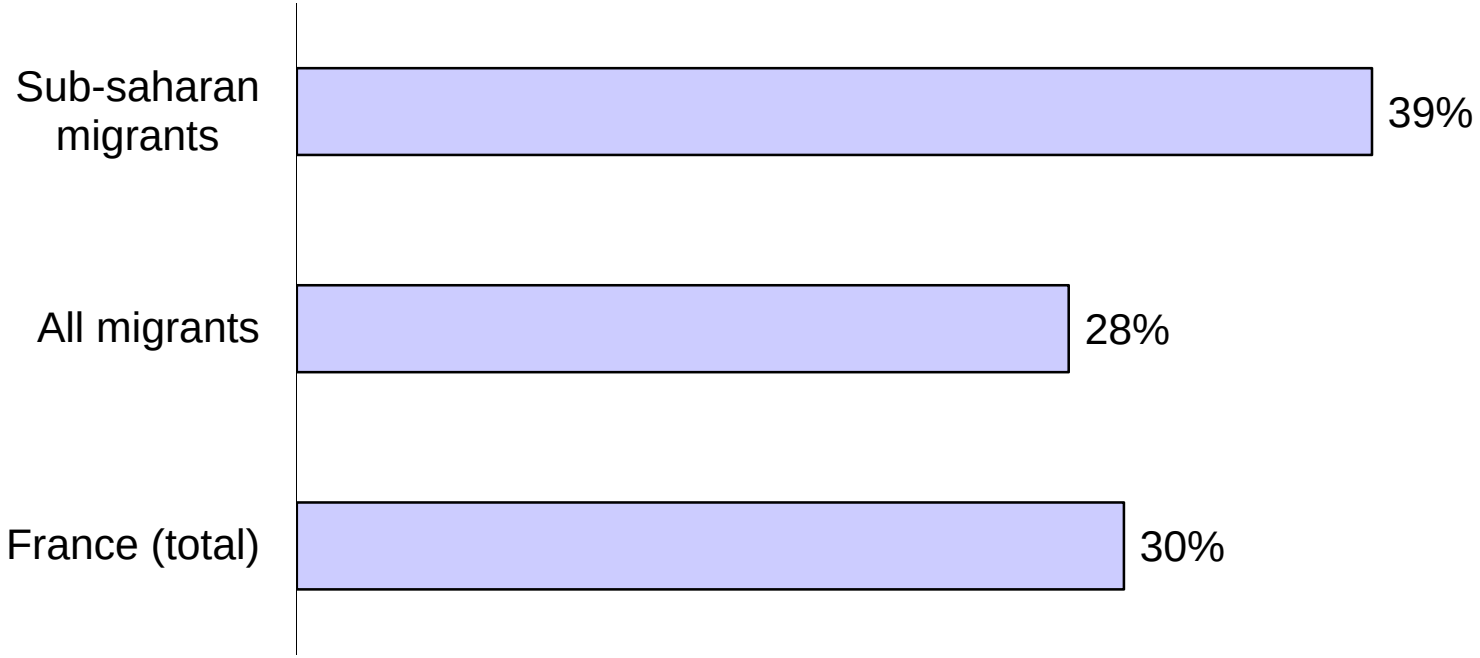
  - Well educated migrants

Context

Percentage of male migrants with tertiary education in France
(2008, TeO Survey)



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An interesting case?

- African migration as a major policy concern
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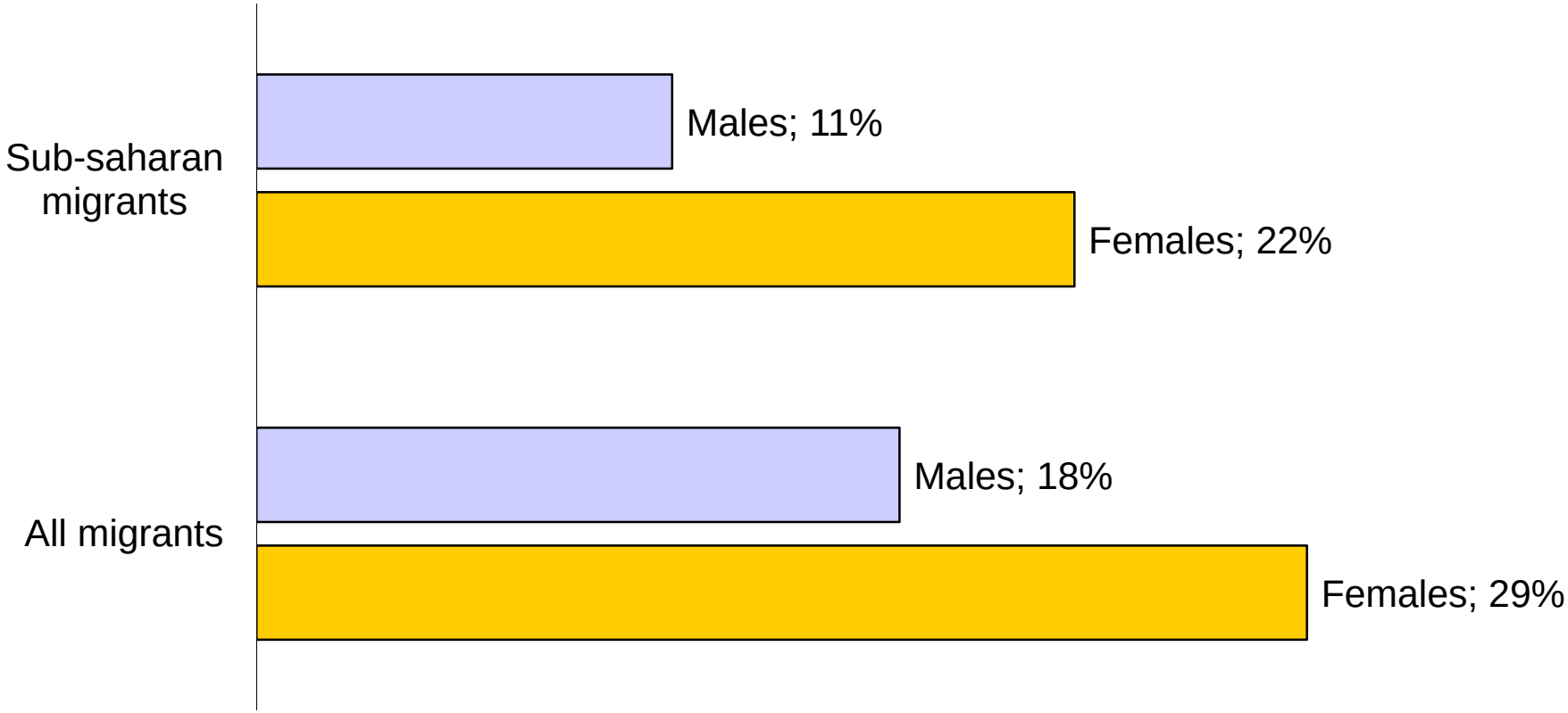
  - Well educated migrants
  - Less family reunification than the average

Percentage of reunified migrants in France
(2008, TeO Survey)



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  - Less family reunification than the average
  - **… and a strong propensity to "live apart together across borders" (LAT-AB)**

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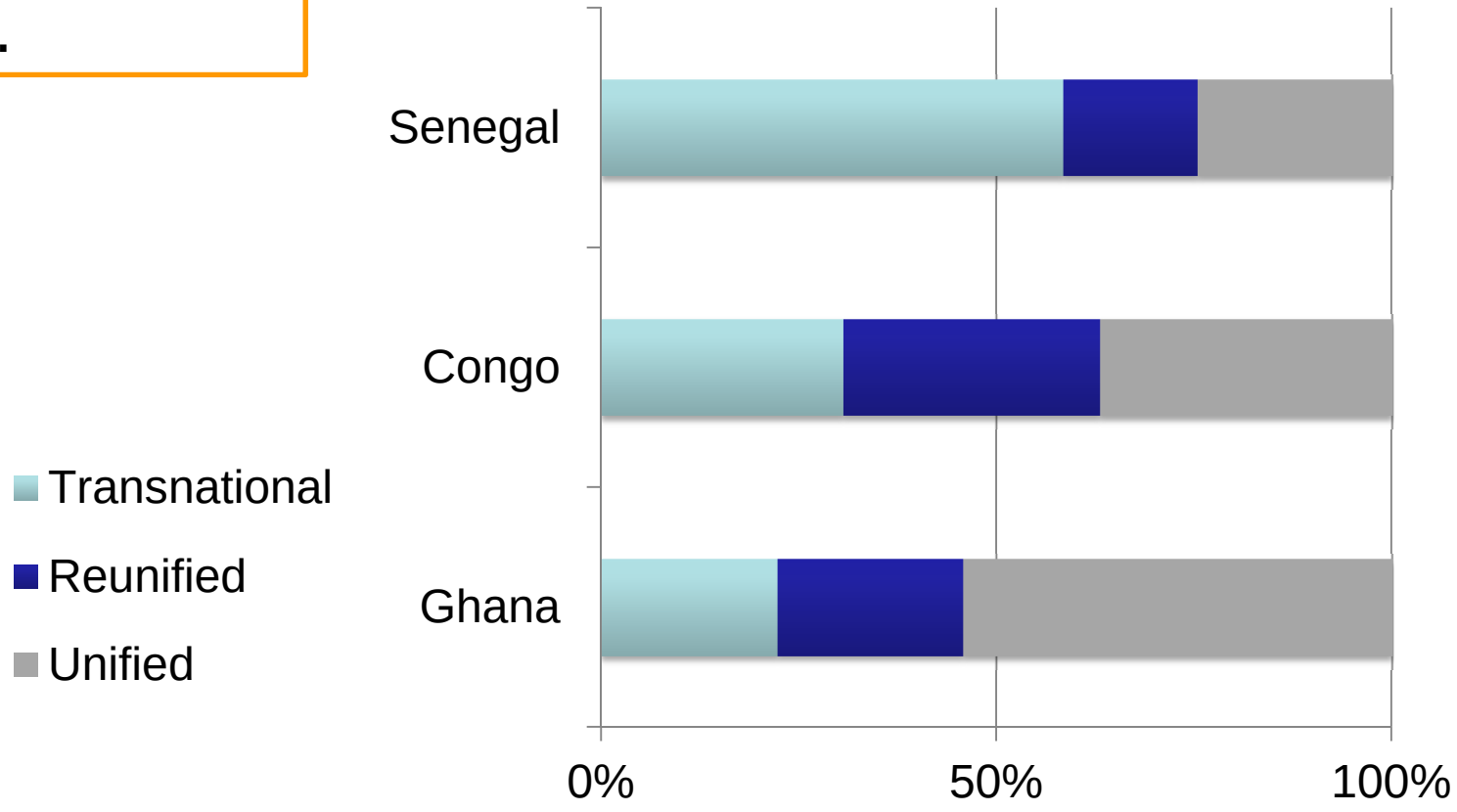
Family Arrangements of African Migrants in Europe

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)

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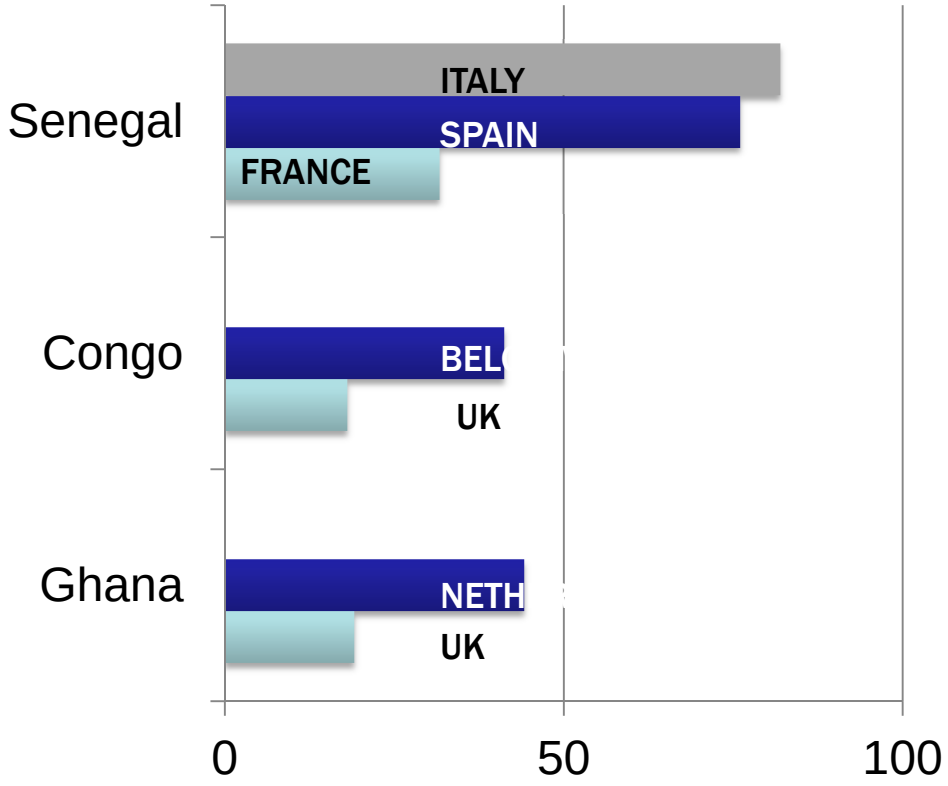
Transnational Families

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)

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Rationale?

- 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

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Parents and Children: Separation & Reunification

Reunification with Children: When and Where?

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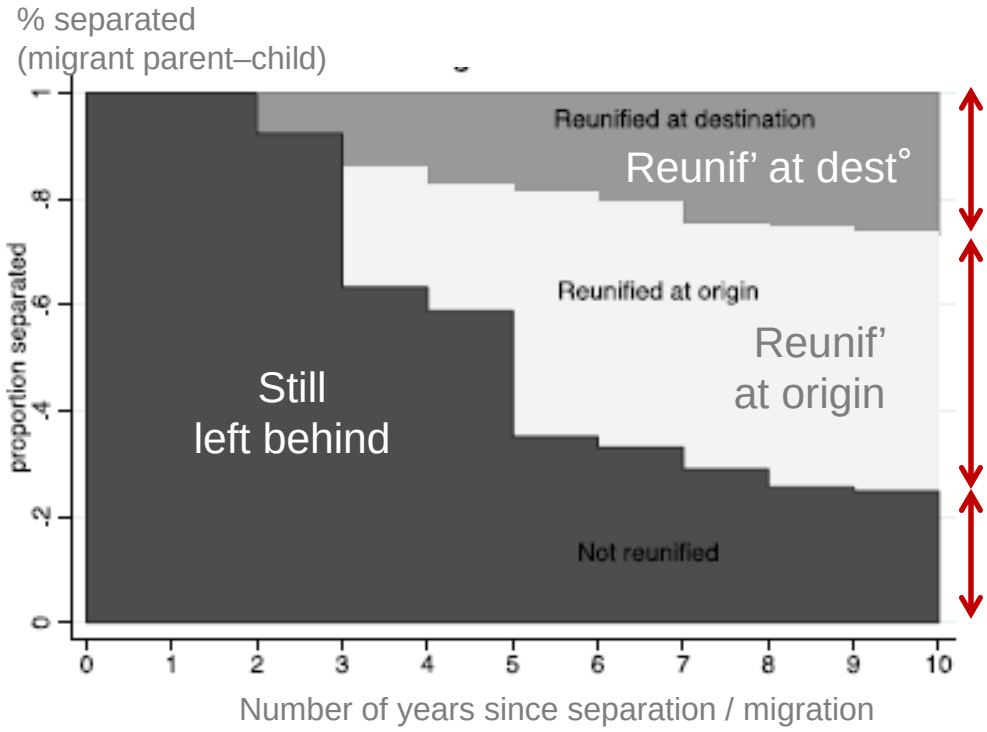
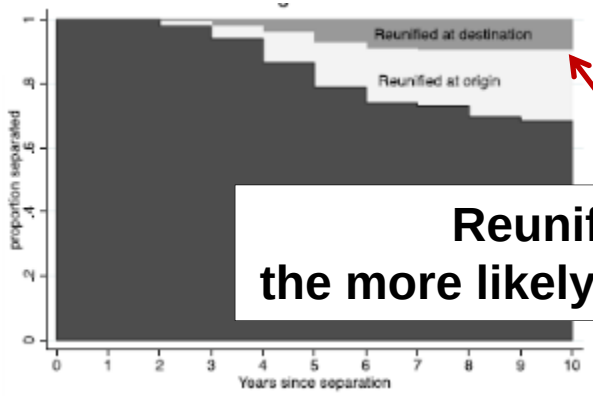
Ghana



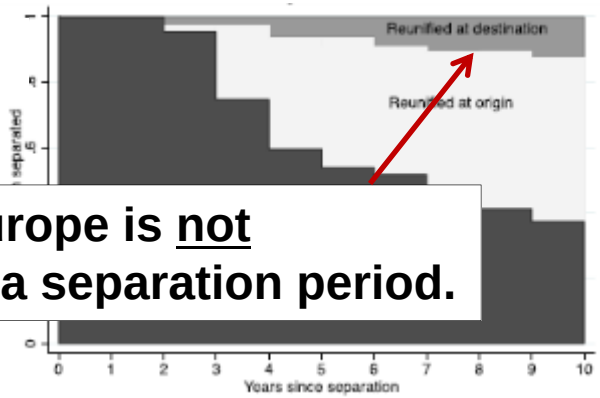
10 years after separation:

- **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**

Senegal



Congo



Reunification in Europe is <u>not</u> the more likely outcome of a separation period.

Source : MAFE Project ; Mazzucato et al. (2013)

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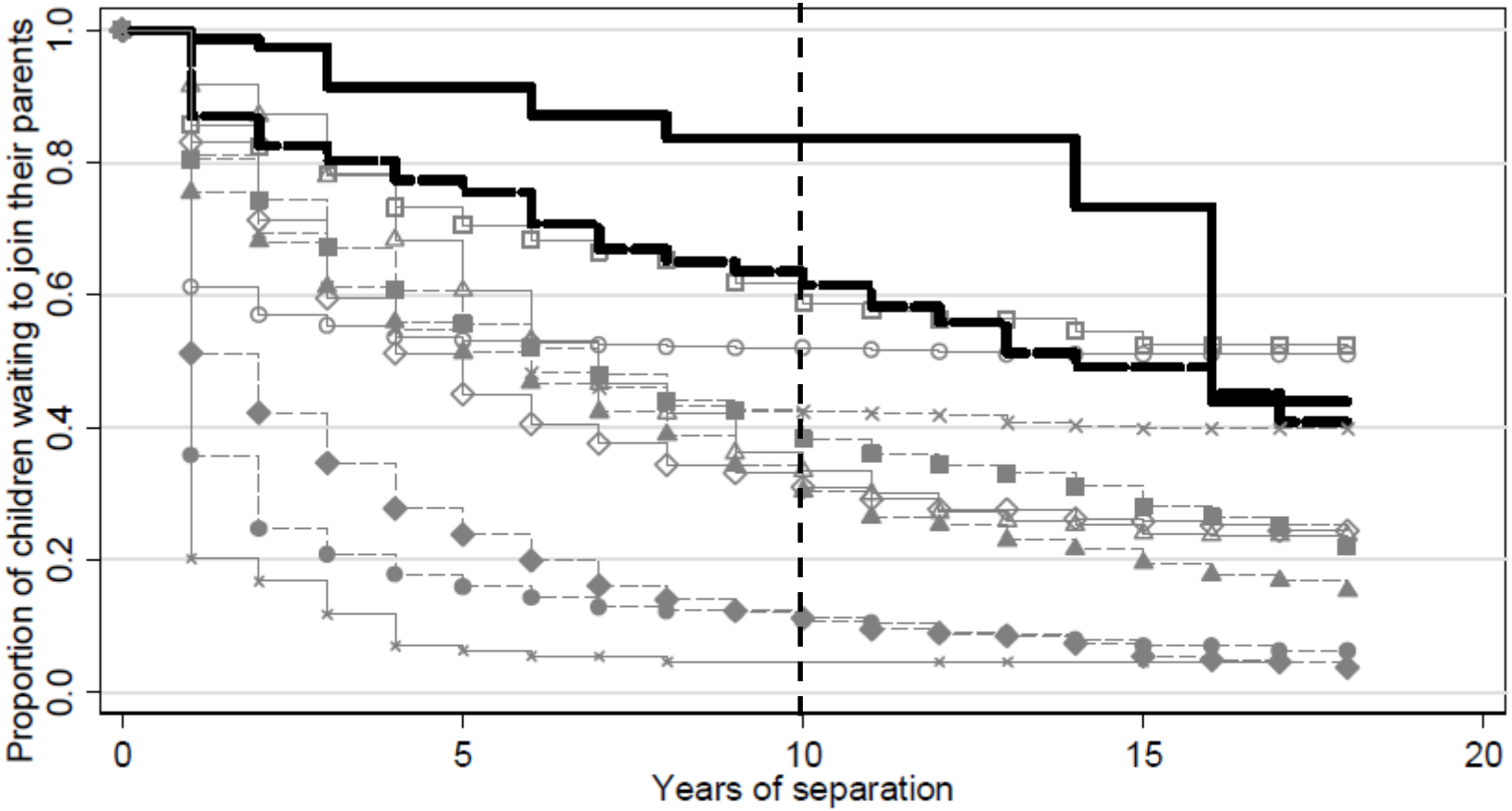
Reunif' in Spain and France



10 years after separation,

- **more than 30% of the children are still separated from their parent(s) <u>in most groups</u> (exceptions: south-east Asia, EU15 in France)**
- **Higher levels of sep': SS Africa in F. and Sp., East Eur. In Sp**

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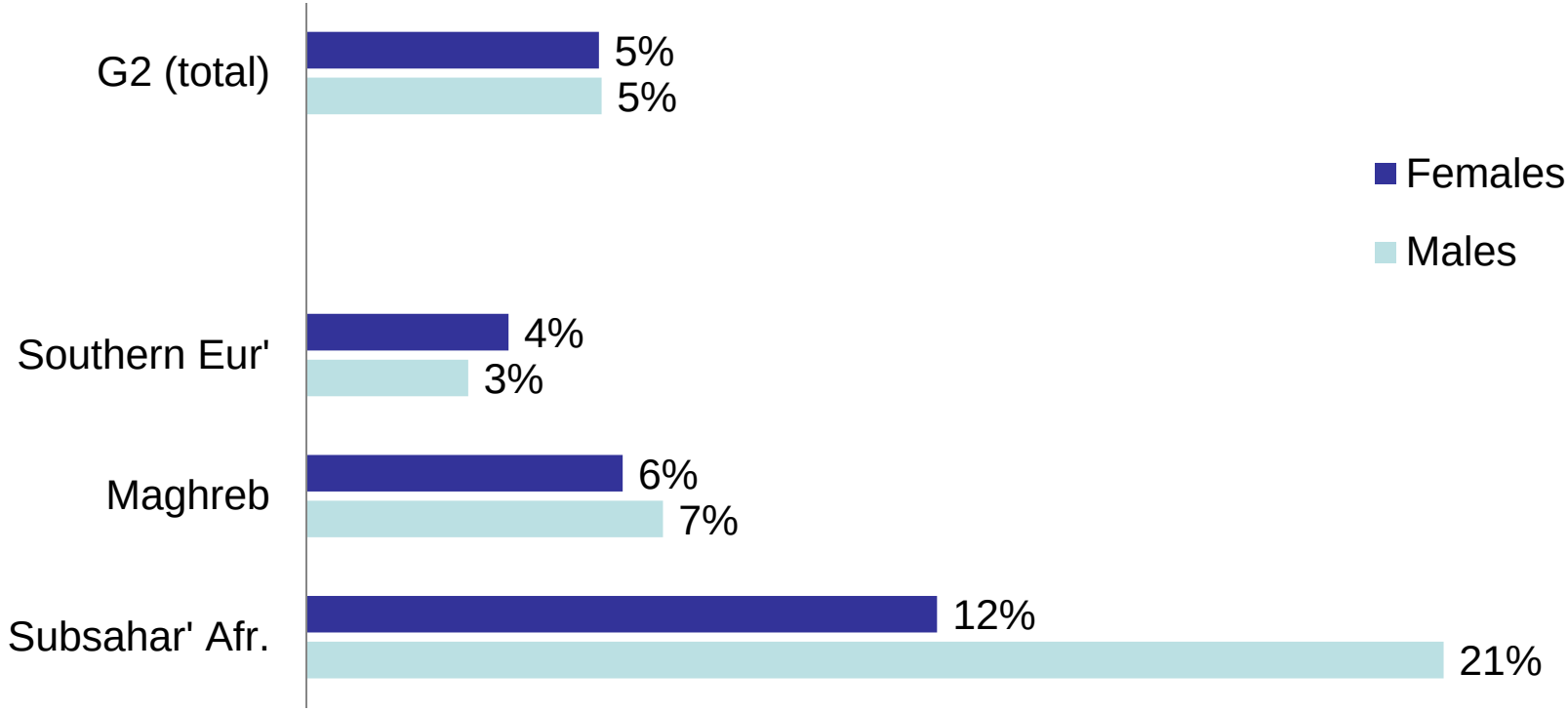
Sent Back Children

Proportion of Second Generation Adults Born and Living in France who Spent at Least 1 Year out of France during their Childhood



Source: 2008, TeO Survey

Conclusions

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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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- More info:
  - MAFE Project: http://mafeproject.site.ined.fr/
  - TeO Survey: http://teo_english.site.ined.fr/ & http://teo.site.ined.fr/

- Contact:
  - Cris.beauchemin@ined.fr