

# Economic and Social integration of Syrian Refugees and their intention to stay in Germany

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# Outline

- 1 Research questions
- 2 Literature review
- 3 Data
- 4 Methodology
- 5 Results
- 6 Conclusion

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# Research questions

- What is the impact of economic and social integration of Syrian refugees on their intention to stay in Germany?
- What are the determinants of both economic and social integration including the two-way causality between them?
- What are the other relevant determinants of the three outcome variables?

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## Understanding integration (Ager and Strang 2008)

- **'Markers and means'**: Employment, Education, Housing and Health.
- **'Social connection'**: social bonds, bridges and links with the state's structures.
- **'Facilitators'**: Cultural knowledge.
- **'Foundation'**: Rights and citizenship.

# Return migration and integration

- De Haas and Fokkema, 2011: Only sociocultural factors matter for the return decision.
- Neoclassical theory (Sjaastad, 1962; Todaro, 1976; Duleep, 1994): "Return of failure" vs The new economics of labor migration (Piore, 1979; Stark, 1991): "Return of success".
- Waldorf, 1995; Jensen and Pedersen, 2007; Dustmann, 2008; Constant and Massey, 2002: Negative impact of integration on the decision to return.

# Economic and social integration

- **Economic integration:** Damm, 2014, 2009; Chiswick and Miller, 1996; De vroomer and Van Tubergen, 2010; Danzer and Ulku, 2008; Bevelander and Lundh, 2007.
- **Social integration:** Hainmueller et al., 2017; Avitabile et al., 2013; Dustmann, 1996.

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# Data Source

The IAB-BAMF-SOEP refugee survey 2016 conducted by :

- The Institute for Employment Research (IAB).
- The German Institute for Economic Research (DIW Berlin) for the Socio-Economic Panel (SOEP).
- The Research Centre on Migration, Integration, and Asylum of the Federal Office of Migration and Refugees (BAMF-FZ).

The sample includes 2,132 Syrian adult refugees between 18 and 64 years old.

## Main dependent variables

- **Intention to stay permanently in Germany:** 1 if the respondent would like to stay permanently in Germany, 0 otherwise.
- **Economic integration:** Employment status (1 for employed, 0 otherwise).
- **Social integration indicator** (using Polychoric ACP):
  - Feeling outsider or not (ordinal variable with 5 categories)
  - German speaking (ordinal from 1 to 5)
  - Number of German friends

## Main explanatory variables

- **Individual characteristics:** age, sex (1 for female), marital status (1 for single), education level, labor experience (worked before or not) and arrival year.
- **Religion:** Sunni Muslim or not.
- **Family networks:** Having one of his relatives in Germany (Partner, children, at least one parent/sibling).
- **Social networks:** number of Syrian friends, number of friends from other countries.
- **Living in a refugee accommodation or not.**

# Descriptive analysis

- 83 % of the refugees have the intention to stay permanently in Germany.
- Only 9 % are currently working.
- 50 % of the refugees have occasionally the feeling of being outsiders.
- 50 % of the refugees speak averagely German.
- The mean number of German friends is 5.

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# Model

**Conditional Mixed Process method** (Amemiya (1973), Heckman (1977), Shmidt (1978) and Wilde (2000))

- system of simultaneous equations and different kinds of dependent variables (continuous, binary, ordinal, multinomial)
- based on the normal distribution of the errors and deals with endogeneity issues.

## List of instruments

- **Economic integration:** The unemployment rate among the foreigners in Germany in the same county of residence in which each refugee resides (2011) (**Bevelander and Lundh, 2007**).
- **Social integration:** The reciprocity social norm (**Phillimore et al., 2018**)=an index from several negative reciprocity actions (Insult, serious wrong, difficult position).

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VARIABLES	(1) Intention to Stay	(2) Employment	(3) Social Integration
Employment	-0.179 (0.773)		0.669*** (0.16)
Social integration	0.768*** (0.24)	0.301* (0.167)	
Gender	0.0157 (0.299)	-0.375*** (0.143)	0.0661 (0.136)
Age	0.00939 (0.00635)	0.00491 (0.00851)	-0.0150*** (0.00503)
Single	-0.513* (0.291)	0.182 (0.163)	-0.0418 (0.117)
Arrival year 2013	0.00395 (0.984)	1.249*** (0.186)	-0.516** (0.264)
Arrival year 2014	-0.218 (0.401)	0.473*** (0.116)	-0.0912 (0.122)
Arrival year 2016	0.422 (0.517)	-0.550 (0.355)	-0.00528 (0.282)

VARIABLES	(1) Intention to Stay	(2) Employment	(3) Social Integration
Lower secondary	-0.362*** (0.117)	-0.0375 (0.150)	0.220* (0.118)
Upper secondary	-0.559*** (0.126)	-0.0320 (0.142)	0.276** (0.108)
Bachelor	-0.402** (0.215)	-0.250 (0.259)	0.280 (0.203)
Master	-0.708* (0.404)	0.160 (0.423)	-0.0498 (0.270)
Doctoral studies	-0.157 (0.326)	-0.186 (0.409)	-0.0476 (0.326)
Education abroad	-0.181** (0.0815)	-0.00698 (0.115)	0.106 (0.0908)
Sunni	0.0130 (0.118)	-0.110 (0.121)	-0.0347 (0.104)

VARIABLES	(1) Intention to Stay	(2) Employment	(3) Social Integration
Partner in Germany	-0.171 (0.253)	-0.0805 (0.258)	0.472* (0.268)
Child in Germany	-0.410* (0.224)	-0.334** (0.131)	0.356*** (0.119)
Parent in Germany	0.0869 (0.113)	-0.0456 (0.131)	0.0529 (0.103)
Sibling in Germany	-0.0727 (0.0695)	-0.00248 (0.0960)	0.0696 (0.0752)
N friends same country	-0.00323 (0.00866)	-0.00945** (0.00459)	0.00594 (0.00651)
N friends other countries	-0.0196* (0.0112)	0.00860 (0.00773)	0.0217*** (0.00637)
English speaking proficiency	-0.274 (0.204)	0.195* (0.118)	0.138 (0.0950)
Worked before	0.0897 (0.529)	0.661*** (0.152)	-0.453*** (0.126)

VARIABLES	(1) Intention to Stay	(2) Employment	(3) Social Integration
Refugee accommodation	-0.0566 (0.179)	-0.229** (0.102)	0.171* (0.0938)
Unempl rate among foreigners		-0.00727* (0.00411)	
Negative reciprocity			-0.0874*** (0.0187)
Constant	1.257 (1.885)	-1.833*** (0.383)	1.275 (0)
Observations	1,890	1,890	1,890

Standard errors in parentheses  
 \*\*\*  $p < 0.01$ , \*\*  $p < 0.05$ , \*  $p < 0.1$

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# Conclusion

- People that are more socially integrated in the German society have more incentives to stay.
- There is a bidirectional causal relationships between both social and economic integration.
- The arrival year, the level of education, the family context, the social networks, and the residence in a refugee accommodation are relevant determinants for the intention to stay permanently in Germany and for both economic and social integration.