

“Migration, social networks, support, and satisfaction across life course”

8th ESFR Conference

Changing family relations – gender and generations

Symposium:

Social networks and social support of older migrants

Martina Brandt, Jennifer Fietz & Judith Kaschowitz

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Relevance, background & theory

- **Rapidly changing society → changing context**
- **Increasing diversity and ageing, but also retrenchment of the welfare state**
 - e.g., in 2015, share of foreign population 11.2% in Germany (2008: 8.2 %)*
 - e.g., between 1990 and 2015, share of people in their sixties and older doubled from 35% to 72%
 - e.g., in 2014, at-risk-of-poverty rate after social transfers 16.7% (2008: 15.2 %)

* without migration background

Albert, Labs, & Trommsdorff 2010; Antonucci & Akiyama 1995; Cantor 1979, Carstensen 1991, 1992; Clayton & Pontusson 1998; Connidis & Davies 1990; Davis & Todd 1985; Dietzel-Papakyriakou & Olbermann 2001; Dykstra 2009; Ferrera & Rhodes 2000; Friedkin 1982; Granovetter 1973; Greenbaum 1982; Kahn & Antonucci 1980; Korpi & Palme 2002; Larson et al. 1986; Lin 1999; Litwak 1985; Litwak & Szelenyi 1969; Liu & Duff 1972; Manow & Seils 2000; Pries 2010; Schimany & Baykara-Krumme 2012; Silverstein & Bengtson 1991; Stat. Bundesamt 2015a & b; Weiss 1974.

- **Social networks gain importance to compensate for deprivation, e.g. family, friends, and neighbors**
 - Focus on family (bonding capital, strong ties) → Spend much time, intense, emotional, confiding, reciprocal
 - **Functions:** emotional, social and practical (long-term) support, e.g. long-term care; contribution to the psychological well-being; security and orientation
 - **Structure:** homogenous in social status, and knowledge; heterogeneous in age, more conflictual; termination of contact is painful
 - **Life course:** the older the more relevant, e.g. social integration and support in old age

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Current research

Current research

- **Compared to Germans, migrants are more vulnerable**
 - e.g. social and health status
- **International research on social networks emphasizes supportive character concerning social- and health status, life satisfaction, activity and participation**
 - e.g. most support in parent-child relationships
 - e.g. smaller networks increase health problems
- **German research on networks postulates migrants have more bonding capital**
 - e.g. Turkish migrants have smaller networks which comprise family members
 - e.g. Networks of Vietnamese female migrants comprise more family members and more friends living abroad
- **Limitations of German research**
 - e.g. small sample sizes, often focus on comparisons between Germans and Turks, cross-sectional data analysis prevents studying changes during individual life course and integration process
 - Stuck in Granovetter's dichotomy of bonding and bridging capital

Alwin 2012; Blasius et al. 2008; Brandt et al. 2008; Brandt et al. 2012; Bundesministerium für Arbeit und Soziales 2013; Burt 1992; Deindl & Brandt 2016; Deindl et al. 2015; Fried et al. 2004; Friedrichs & Blasius 2000; Gestring et al. 2006; Granovetter 1973; Hank 2007; Hank et al. 2013; Janßen & Polat 2006; Kecskes 2003; Kecskes & Wolf 1996; Nauck & Lotter 2014; O'Neil et al. 2011; RKI & Stat. Bundesamt 2008; Rogers 1995; Ryan 2011; Siegrist & Wahrendorf 2009; Stat. Bundesamt 2010; Tang et al. 2009

Research interest & aim



Research interests

- Network characteristics
- Social support
- Satisfaction with network

Main question

- How do differences in network characteristics (share of relatives as closely related persons) and support (in terms of long-term care) by the network affect satisfaction with the social network (family life)?

Research interests & aim

	“Network characteristics“	“Social support“	“Satisfaction“
Method	Cross-sectional / longitudinal	Cross-sectional / longitudinal	Cross-sectional / longitudinal
Dependent variable	Share of relatives as closely related persons	Person who would help in case of long-term care	Satisfaction with family life
Independent variables	Family members (N) Share of relatives abroad		
		Share of relatives as closely related persons Friends of foreign origin as closely related persons	
			Person who would help in case of long-term care
Further questions	1. Differences between migrants and Germans? 2. Differences between various migrant groups? 3. Differences between migrant generations? 4. Do network characteristics, social support and satisfaction with network change over time (respectively integration process/by generations or age)?		

Data, variables & method

- **Data: German Socio-Economic Panel (SOEP)**

- 2001 N=22 255, 2006 N=22 321, 2011 N=21 050

- **Dependent variables**

- Share of relatives as closely related persons (max. three important persons)
 - Helpers in case of long-term care (1st mentioned): family, others, professionals, no one
 - Satisfaction with family life (0 “not at all” to 10 “very much”) – not asked in 2001

- **Main independent variables**

- Migrants: Persons, who migrated to Germany (1st generation), whose parents or grandparents migrated to Germany (at least one parent) (2nd and further generations)

	DE	TR	Ex-YU	GR	IT	RO	PL	Ex-SU
obs.	56 287	1 762	943	428	881	520	857	1 579

- Number of closer and more distant family members (at max. 12)
 - Shares of relatives abroad (related to the number of family members (at max. 12))
 - Friends of foreign origin as closely related persons (max. three important persons)

- **Controls**

- Age, sex, education, employment status, occupation, income, children >16 in household, general satisfaction

- **Methods**

- Cross-sectional (linear, multinomial logit regressions) and longitudinal (fixed-effects) models

Results

Descriptive results

“Network characteristics”

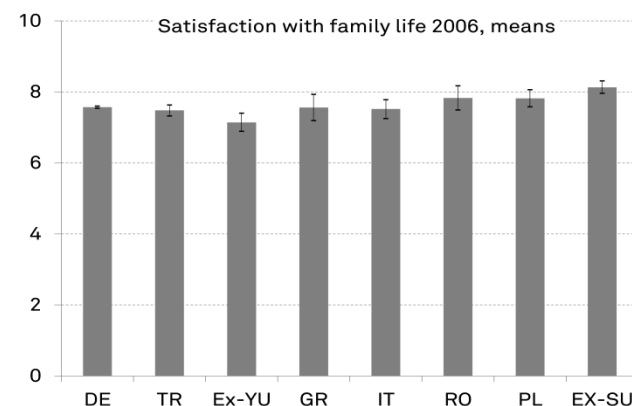
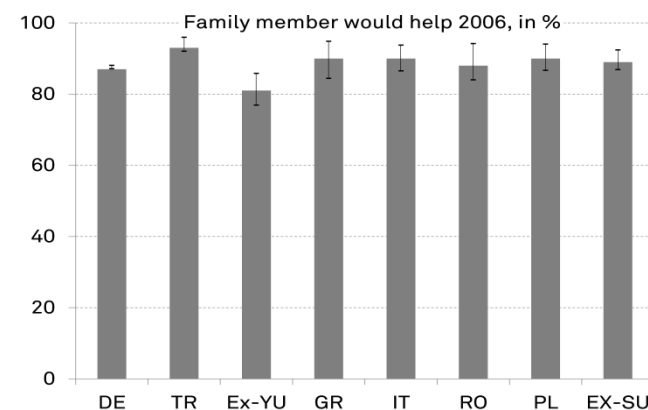
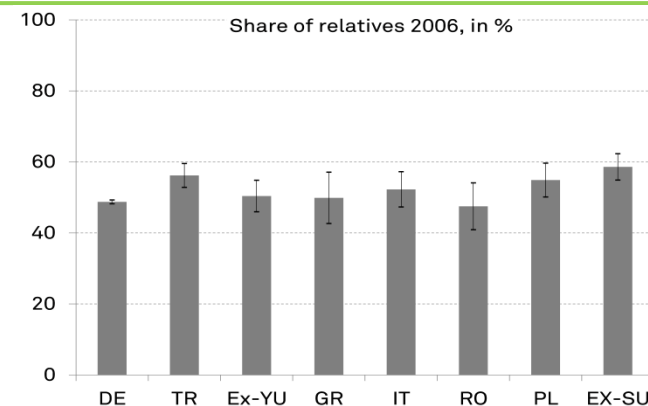
- Small differences by country of origin
- Turkish and Soviet migrants highest shares
- 1st generation migrants: highest share of relatives (not shown)

“Social support”

- Family as main source of care supply
- Turkish migrants mention family members most often and Yugoslavian migrants least
- Polish, Yugoslavian and Soviet migrants have no helpers most often (not shown)

“Satisfaction”

- No sign. differences between Germans and migrants
- Little differences between migrants
- 2nd generation migrants little more satisfied (not shown)



Network characteristics

Multivariate results: Share of relatives as closely related persons

	2001 (N= 19 856)	2006 (N= 18 198)	2011 (N= 13 267)
Age	+	+	+
Family (N)	+	+	+
Share of relatives abroad	-		
Turkish origin	+	+	
Yugoslavian origin			+
Greek origin			-
Italian origin	+		
Romanian origin	+		
Polish origin	+	+	
Former Soviet origin	+	+	+

Control variables: gender; education; employment status; income; children under 16 in house hold; Reference categories: German origin; + / - $p < 0.05$; Adj. R^2 (in model order) = 0.07 0.08; 0.07; All F-tests $p < 0.001$

Longitudinal analysis (FEM) (not shown)

- With increasing age, the share of relatives increases
- This applies to all individuals of different origin and generations

- Differences between Germans and migrants concerning network characteristics confirmed
 - More bonding capital
 - Applies to all network characteristics (not shown)
 - Turkish and Soviet migrants have slightly higher shares of relatives than other migrants (not shown)
- Rather age than generational effects explain the share of relatives
- Determinants of network characteristics do not show cultural differences

Social support

Multivariate results: Availability of helpers in case of long-term care

Ref. Family	No one			Friends			Professionals		
	'01	'06	'11	'01	'06	'11	'01	'06	'11
Age				+		+	+	+	+
Family (N)	-	-	-	-	-	-			-
Share of relatives abroad				+	+				
Share of relatives	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Share of friends with foreign origin							-	-	

Control variables: gender; education; employment status; income (except 2001); children under 16 in house hold; Reference categories: Family; 2001 N= 19 772; 2006 N= 18 097; 2011 N= 13 165; + / - p<0.05; McFadden R² 2001=0.04, 2006= 0.03, 2011=0.04; All Likelihood-ratio tests p<0.001; all Hosmer-Lemshow tests p=1.0.

Longitudinal results (FEM) (not shown)

- With increasing age, family members are less often named as primary helpers
- With increasing number of family members and share of relatives, family is named more often

- Bonding capital functions as resource of social support
- Lack of bonding capital increases importance of other network partners or professionals to care
- Age weakens availability of social support by family members
- Relationship between network characteristics and availability of helpers does not depend on country of origin
 - Only differences concerning Turkish migrants as they name professionals less often (not shown)

Satisfaction

Multivariate results: Satisfaction with family life

	2006 (N= 17 186)	2011 (N= 12 403)
Age	+	+
Family (N)		
Share of relatives	+	
Share of friends of foreign origin	-	
Family members abroad		-
No one helps in case of ltc	-	-
Friends help in case of ltc	-	-
Professionals help in case of ltc	-	-
1 st migrant generation	+	+
2 nd migrant generation		

Control variables: gender; education; employment status; income; children under 16 in house hold, general satisfaction; Reference categories: family helps in terms of long-term care; no migration background; + / - p<0,05; Adj. R² (in model order)=0.24; 0.25; all F-tests p<0.001

Longitudinal Analysis (FEM) (not shown)

- With an increase in age satisfaction with family life increases
- A change in named potential caregiver from family to any other (or no one) decreases satisfaction with family
- Small generational differences in determinants of satisfaction

- Network characteristics and availability of social support of bonding capital contribute to satisfaction more than country of origin
 - Resources matter more than culture
 - But Soviet migrants are more satisfied with family life (not shown)
- Both generation and individual ageing contribute to satisfaction
- Satisfaction is strongly affected by the availability of relatives as care givers

Conclusion

Conclusion

- **Networks of migrants comprise more bonding capital** (in every respect)
 - Networks of Turkish migrants comprise most bonding capital (in every respect)
 - Although availability of bonding capital is complicated (family members abroad)
- **Differences in social support can be explained by network structure**
 - Bonding capital fosters availability of social support
- **Friends and professionals assume the role of supporters “only then” if family members are not available**
 - Most preferred care givers (mothers/ partners) are less available in older age
- **Both, network structure (less) and social support affect satisfaction with family life**
 - But family needs to be available for support to improve satisfaction
 - Not apply for friends. Expectation of social support by family members might be much higher than on other network partners (not shown)
- **Mechanisms of age and ageing, network characteristics, and availability of family support apply to all persons and backgrounds**
- **Network structures are different, and thus also their results are – but mechanisms seem to hold in every case**

Conclusion

Data limitations

- High panel mortality; number of migrant respondents decreases wave by wave; rephrased questions (differences in wave especially 2001); different categories (family members, or number of persons who can be appointed to help (affects 1st mentioned)

Outlook

- Broader use of indicators concerning network structure and social support
 - Include resources of network partners (education and occupation 2011)
 - Concerning support in terms of profession/occupation; telling truth; conflicts...
 - Conduct measures for 2nd mentioned (seems to vary much more)
- Conduct measures for non-kin network (satisfaction with friends)
- Impute missing values
- Including wave 2016 with next network inventory

Thank you for your attention!

Questions, comments and suggestions are welcome to
martina.brandt@tu-dortmund.de
jennifer.fietz@tu-dortmund.de
judith.kaschowitz@tu-dortmund.de

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