

PARTNER CHOICE AND MARRIAGE AMONG MIGRANTS

*The Integration Process of Migrants in the Port-City of Antwerp
from a Life Course Perspective (1846-1920)*

Nina Van den Driessche – Paul Puschmann† – Bart Van de Putte* – Koen Matthijs †*

** HeDeRa - Department of Sociology – Ghent University*

† - CeSo -Department of Sociology – Leuven University



Presentation Prepared for the European Social Science History Conference in Glasgow– April, 11-14

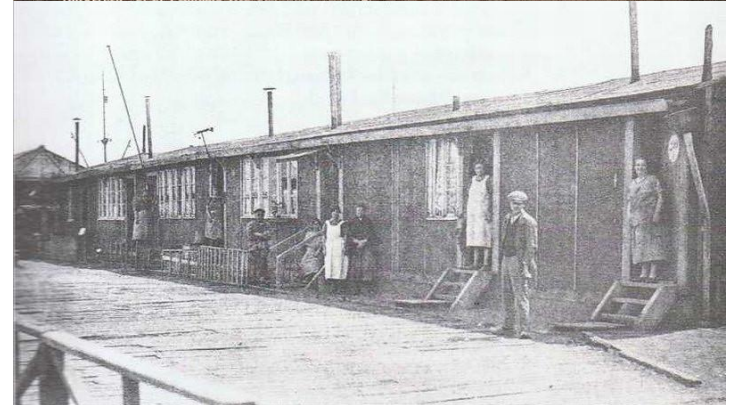
Introduction

How did the integration process of urban in-migrants in the 19th and early twenty century take place?

- Qualitative approach. Integration of urban in-migrants was a highly problematic process: Migrants disproportionately involved in poverty, criminality, alcohol abuse, illegitimacy
 - Cross-sectional approach. Integration of certain groups of urban in-migrants evolved smoothly, especially long-distance migrants and stayers encountered few problems
- Life Course Approach: New databases and new techniques allow to study integration processes from a longitudinal perspective.

Historical context

- Antwerp transformed from a medium sized textile center in a world port.
- Antwerp attracted more and more migrants and became the largest city of Belgium.
- The largest part of the migrants left within a year.
- Demographic growth causes tensions at the housing market
-



Database

COR*-database

- Representative letter sample (Cor*-)
- Antwerp district (1846-1920)
- Population registers & vital registration
- 33.583 life courses (+/- 6000 competed)

Our sample

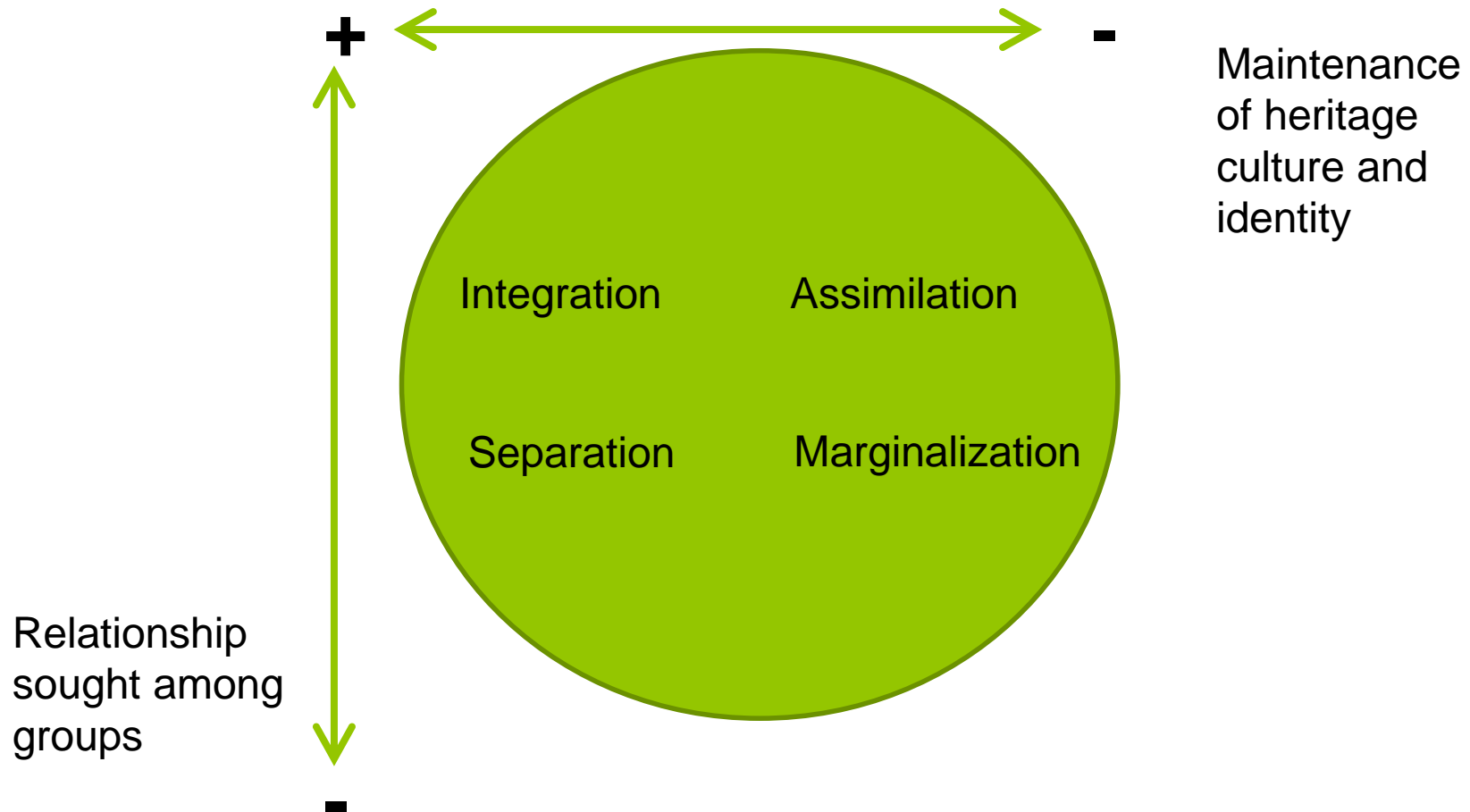
- 1847 single migrants
 - ♂ 904 ♀ 939
- International (N:391) & national migrants (N:1452)
- Long-distance (N: 1418) & short-distance migrants (N:425)
- <16: 671 16-30:922 >30:222
- First-time marriages: 302
 - Endogamous: 14
 - Exogamous (migrant): 95
 - Exogamous (local): 74
- Underregistration of marriages!
 - 'false long-term survivors'

Theoretical Framework

- Partner choice and marriage timing are indicators of the socio-cultural integration process.
- Mixed marriages are seen as an indicator and a further stimulus for integration.
- Delayed marriage among migrants and high prevalence of endogamy is interpreted as an indication that integration is hampered.
- Partner and marriage choices are believed to reflect acculturation strategies formulated by Berry (1997).

Theoretical framework

Acculturation attitudes of immigrant groups (Berry, 1997)



Conceptual Framework

Translating acculturation processes in a historical context

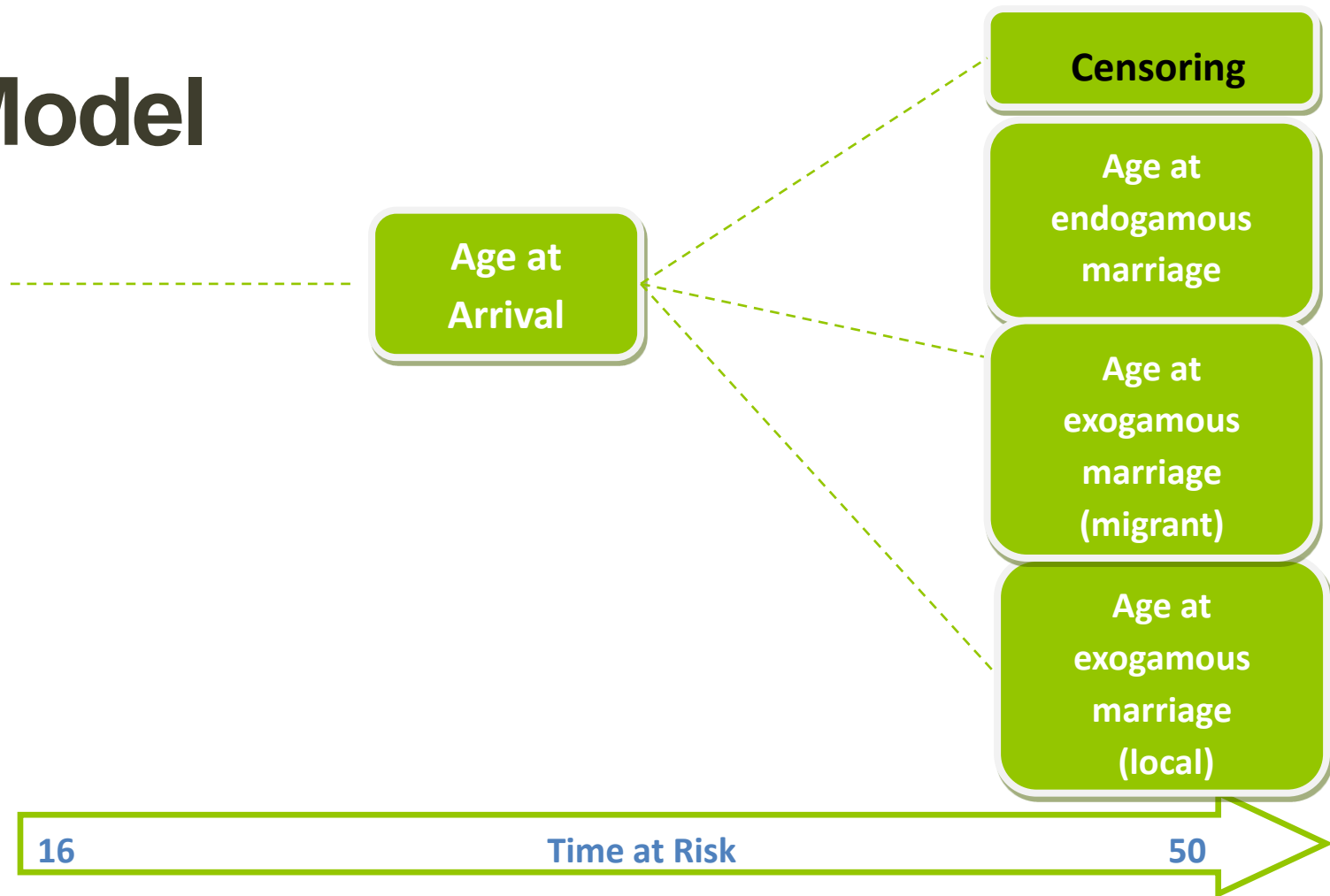
Assimilation: exogamous marriage (local)

Integration: exogamous marriage (migrant)

Separation: endogamous marriage

Marginalisation: remain single

Model



Migrant Characteristics:

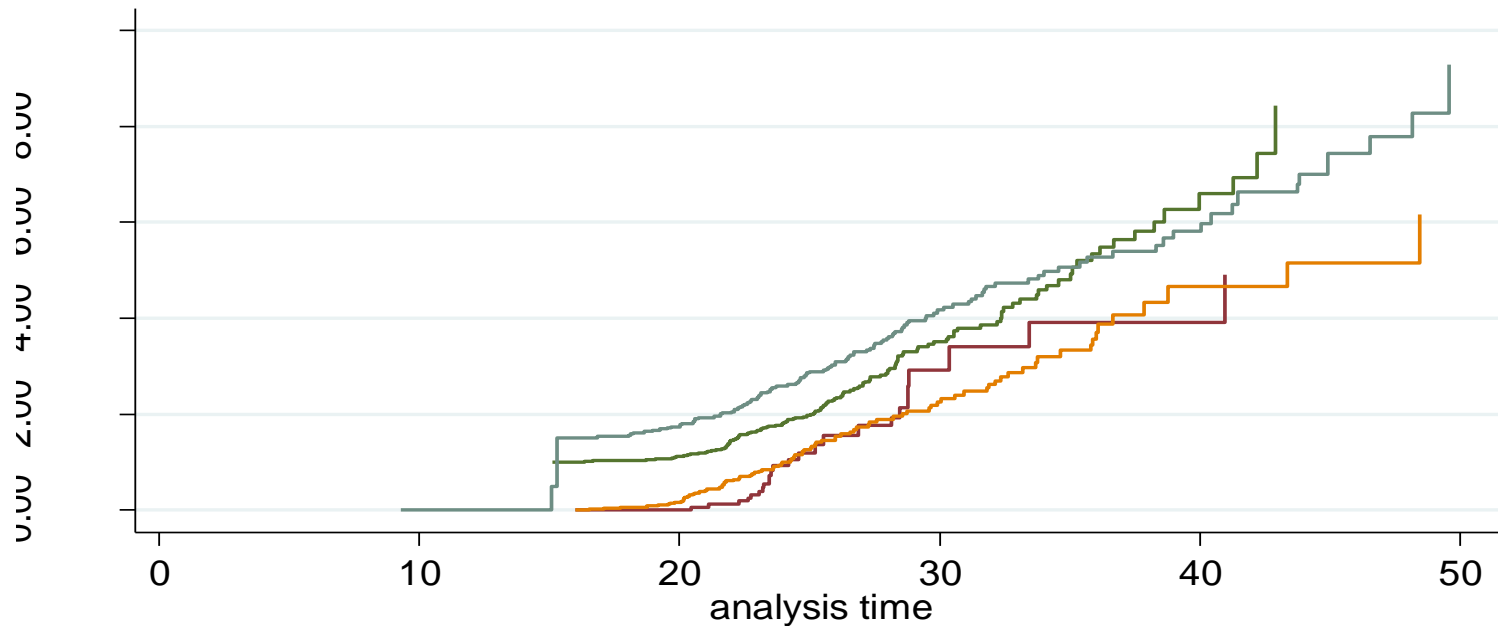
Age at arrival – social class – gender –
country of origin – distance – rural/urban
differences - literacy - birth cohort

Method: Competing Risks Regression

- Individual is exposed to more than one event
 - Only one event can occur first
 - Cause-specific Cox models inadequate when competing events
 - competing events are censored
 - no direct interpretation in terms of survival probability
 - Competing events: endogamous, exogamous migrant & local
- Fine & Gray adaptation of the Cox proportional hazard function → **cause non-specific models**
 - Cumulative incidence function // hazard & survivor function

Descriptive Results

Nelson-Aalen cumulative hazard estimates



Competing Events

- exogamous marriage (migrant)
- marriage (no information)
- endogamous marriage
- exogamous marriage (native)

Competing Risks Regression

- Interpretation // survivor function
- Test of proportionality assumption
 - Time-varying covariate (tvc) option (interaction: $x \times \text{analysis time}$)
 - Better fit – solves problem of non-proportionality
 - Tvc dropped if proportional \rightarrow more parsimonious model
- Small sample = problems with overfitting?
 - NO \rightarrow rule of thumb for model inclusion ($N/5$)

Competing Risks Regression

- Separation strategy
- Age of arrival, country of origin & birth cohort dropped → lack of variation
- Tvc : none
- 63% higher incidence for ♂
- 62% higher incidence for literate
- 75% higher incidence for short-distance migrants

1. Endogamous Marriage			
<u>covariates</u>	SHR	S.E.	Sig.
social class (ref: lower class)			
middle class + elite	0,510	0,305	
gender (ref: male)			
female	0,370	0,213	*
literacy (ref: illiterate)			
literate	1,624	1,262	*
distance (ref: short dist.)			
long distance migration	0,238	0,109	**
rural-urban diff. (ref: rural)			
urban	0,987	0,987	
<u>Log pseudolikelihood</u>	-116.82		
<u>Wald Chi² - test</u>			***

Competing Risks Regression

- Integration strategy
- Tvc : age at arrival, literacy, country of origin
- Arrived younger than 16 years old – 40% more incidence than 16-30 & 10 times more incidence than >30 years old.
- 25% lower incidence for migrants at risk after the fall of the ramparts

2. Exogamous Marriage (migrant)			
<u>covariates</u>	SHR	S.E.	Sig.
age of arrival (ref: <16 yo)			
16-30 years old	0,025	0,045	*
> 30 years old	0,001	0,003	**
social class (ref: lower class)			
middle class + elite	0,867	0,213	
gender (ref: male)			
female	0,857	0,190	
literacy (ref: illiterate)			
literate	1,055	1,100	
country of origin (ref: int.)			
national	0,045	0,988	
distance (ref: short dist.)			
long distance migration	0,932	0,243	
rural-urban diff. (ref: rural)			
urban	0,893	0,206	
birth cohort (ref: 1801-1845)			
1846-1922	0,745	1,502	***
<u>Log pseudolikelihood</u>			
	-551,12		
<u>Wald Chi² - test</u>			

Competing Risks Regression

- Assimilation strategy
- Tvc : age at arrival
- Arrived younger than 16 years old –10 times more incidence than >16 years old.
- 8 times more incidence for literate

3. Exogamous Marriage (local)			
<u>covariates</u>	SHR	S.E.	Sig.
age of arrival (ref: <16 yo)			
16-30 years old	0,009	0,170	**
> 30 years old	0,001	0,000	***
social class (ref: lower class)			
middle class + elite	1,330	0,415	
gender (ref: male)			
female	0,801	0,227	
literacy (ref: illiterate)			
literate	8,470	0,466	***
country of origin (ref: int.)			
national	1,279	0,500	
distance (ref: short dist.)			
long distance migration	0,819	0,239	
rural-urban diff. (ref: rural)			
urban	0,996	0,008	
birth cohort (ref: 1801-1845)			
1846-1922	2,084	1,066	
<u>Log pseudolikelihood</u>	-332.51		
<u>Wald Chi² - test</u>			***

Conclusion

Separation

- Male, literate & short-distance migrants

Integration

- Migrants that arrived at a younger age
- Migrants that were born after 1845

Assimilation

- Migrants that arrived young & literate migrants

Conclusion

Strengths

- Timing + marriage outcomes
- Competing risks approach
- Marriage in itself as evidence of social integration

Weaknesses

- Problem of false long-term survivors
- Marriage squeeze

QUESTIONS?

Contact: Nina.VandenDriessche@UGent.be
Paul.Puschmann@soc.kuleuven.be