



Labour market integration of refugees to Sweden: Does intermarriage matter?

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**UNU-WIDER Conference
“Responding to Crises”**

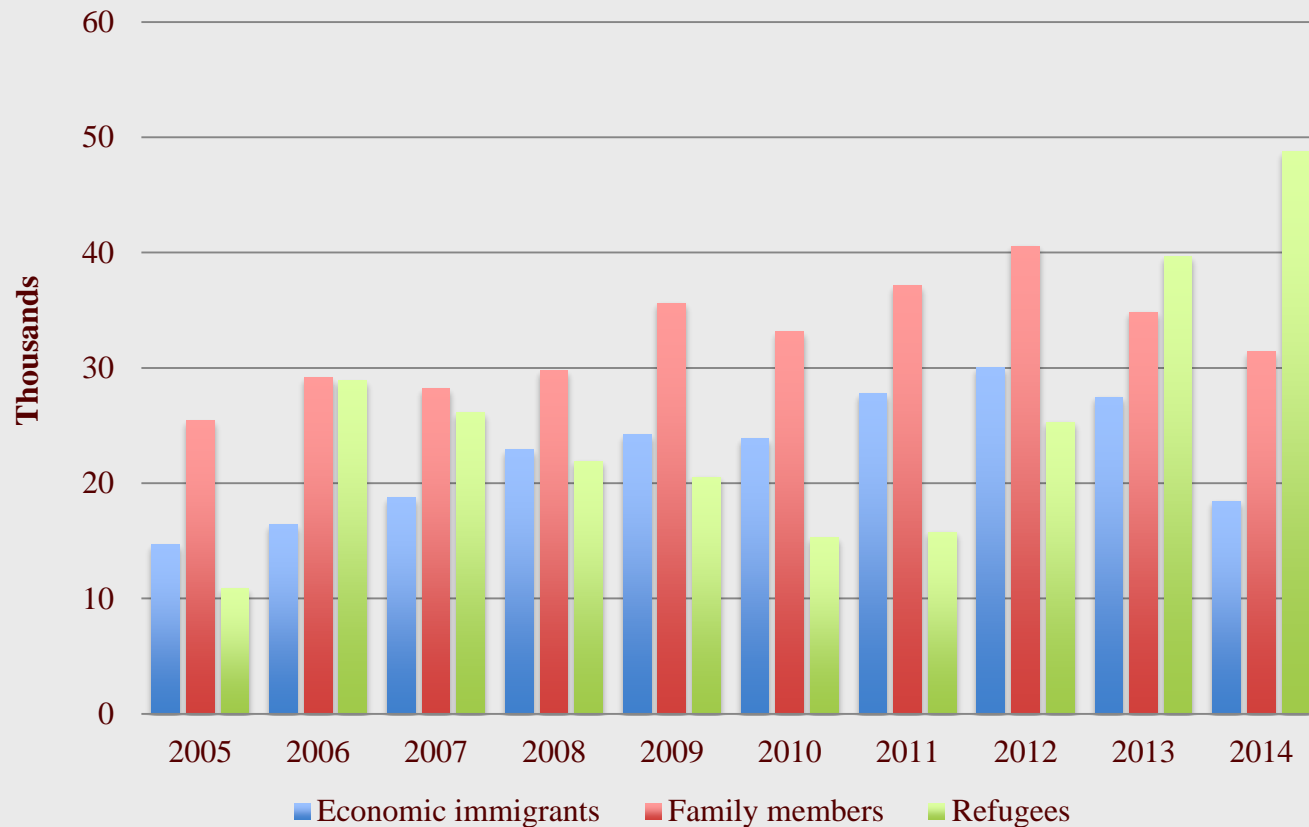
Helsinki, 23 September 2016

Malmö Institute for Studies of Migration, Diversity and Welfare (MIM)

- Overview of the labour market participation of refugees in Sweden
- Analysis of the link between intermarriage and labour market outcomes of immigrants – with focus on refugees – in Sweden



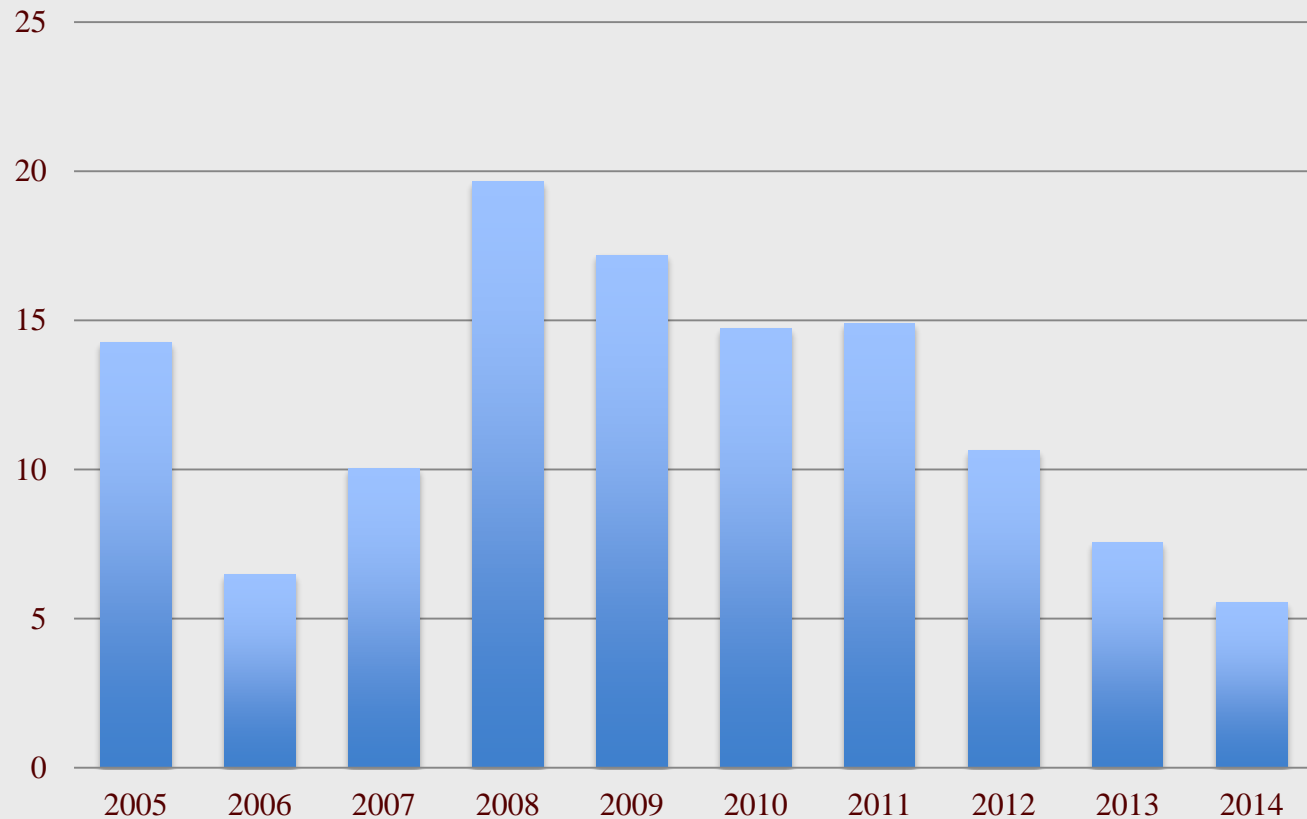
First time residence permits in Sweden



Source: Author's analysis based on data from the Migration Agency.



Resettled refugees (%)



Source: Author's analysis based on data from the Migration Agency.



- Asylum seekers (convention refugees)
 - 1985-1994 settlement/dispersion policies
 - Since 1994 they are allowed to live with friends/relatives while their application is considered (%50)
 - After that, they can choose the location for their integration courses
- Resettled refugees
 - Placed by the Migration Board in municipalities where they also attend integration courses
 - Smaller towns, less economic opportunities



- Civic integration/Introduction courses:
 - Since 1985 (Migration Board-Municipalities)
 - Optional but allowance subject to participation
 - Language, societal and labour market
 - For refugees and their reunited families
 - 24 months
 - Policy shift 2010:
 - Responsibility to the Swedish Public Employment Agency at the state level (back to pre-1985)
 - More resources
 - Focus on employment
 - Results still uncertain



- **Immigrants lower employment rates and job income than Swedes** (Bevelander 2009; Nordin and Rooth 2009)
 - Lower human capital
 - Swedish immigration policies
 - Discrimination
- **Refugees lower employment rates and job income than other immigrants** (Bevelander and Pendakur 2009; DeVoretz and Pivnenko 2004; Hammerstedt and Mikkonen 2007)
 - Same reasons
 - PLUS health issues, higher difficulties in foreign credential recognition, etc.



- **Resettled refugees lower employment rates than asylum seekers** (Bevelander and Pendakur 2009; Bevelander and Pendakur 2014; Bevelander 2016)
 - Integration/settlement policies
 - Internal migration increases the household income for refugees (Rashid 2009; Rooth and Åslund 2006)
 - **Social capital**
- Other factors that increase the odds of employment for both groups:
 - Human capital
 - Socio-demographics: age, gender, children
 - City of residence: Stockholm
 - Country of birth: Vietnam, Bosnia-Herzegovina



- **Intermarriage and social capital:**
 - **Intermarriage premium hypothesis**
 - Meng and Gregory (2005): Australia
 - Meng and Meurs (2006): France
 - Gevrek (2009): Netherlands
 - **Selection hypothesis**
 - Kantarevic (2004): United States
 - Nekby (2010): Sweden
 - Dribe and Nystedt (2014): Sweden



- To analyze the link btw intermarriage and immigrants' economic performance in Sweden:
 - Employment rates
 - Job income
- Three groups:
 - Immigrants married to natives
= *intermarried immigrants*
 - Immigrants married to other immigrants
= *intramarried immigrants*
 - Natives married to natives
= *intramarried Swedes*



- Research questions:
 - (1) Differences in employment and job income between intermarried immigrants vs. intramarried immigrants in Sweden?
 - (2) Explained by intermarriage or selection?
 - (3) Differences by type of migration?



- **Data:**
 - Swedish **individual register data** (1997 and 2007)
 - Entire population of Sweden
 - Initial sample: 1,935,205 individuals
 - Married or cohabiting in 2007
 - **Final sample: 395,101 individuals**
 - Married or cohabiting in 2007 but single in 1997
 - 25 to 60 year-old
 - 11% immigrants
 - Couples:
 - 80% intramarried Swedes
 - 13.5% intermarried immigrants
 - 6.5 % intramarried immigrants



- **Dependent variables:**
 - Employed
 - Job income
 - Change in employment (1997 to 2007)
 - Income growth (1997 to 2007)
- **Independent variables:**
 - Human capital and socio-demographic: age, gender, education, occupation
 - Migration-related: origin country and IHDI (ref., spouse, parents), years in Sweden, type of migration
 - Environmental: city of residence, local employment rates



- Methodology:
 - Differences in employment and income btw intermarried vs. intramarried immigrants?
 - Binomial logistic regression on *Employed*
 - Linear regression on *Job income*
 - Different models for men and women



- **Methodology:**

- **Intermarriage premium or selection?**

- Chi-Square test and Independent samples t-test on employment and income btw to-be-intermarried vs. not to-be-intermarried single immigrants in 1997

- *Selection hypothesis*

- Chi-Square test and Independent samples t-test on employment change and income growth (1997-2007) btw intermarried vs. intramarried immigrants

- *Intermarriage premium hypothesis*



- The probability of being employed and their job income are lower for immigrants than for natives
 - Exception: immigrants from higher IHDI countries
- **The same is true for immigrants married to immigrants versus natives**
- These findings are confirmed for men and women
 - Exception: intramarried women
- **Labour migrants are likely to perform better than other types of migrants**
- Other findings: male immigrants and naturalized ones are likely to perform better than females and non-naturalized migrants



- Intermarriage premium or selection?**

Chi-Square test for single to-be-intermarried versus to-be-intramarried immigrants' employment (1997)

| | Future partner is foreign-born | Future partner is Swedish-born |
|--------------|--------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| Not employed | 15333 (58.4%) | 5993 (32.5%) |
| Employed | 10909 (41.6%) | 12473 (67.5%) |

Note: $\chi^2 = 2931.40$ ($p = 0.00$), $df = 1$. Numbers in parentheses indicate column percentages.

Chi-Square test for single to-be-intermarried versus to-be-intramarried REFUGEE migrants' employment (1997)

| | Future partner is foreign-born | Future partner is Swedish-born |
|--------------|--------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| Not employed | 618 (53.6%) | 7647 (70.4%) |
| Employed | 534 (53.6%) | 3218 (29.6%) |

Note: $\chi^2 = 135.08$ ($p = 0.00$), $df = 1$. Numbers in parentheses indicate column percentages.



- Intermarriage premium or **selection?**

Independent samples t-test for single to-be-intermarried versus to-be-intramarried immigrants' income (1997)

| Variable | Mean | SD | t | df | p |
|--------------------------------|---------|---------|--------|-------|------|
| Annual gross income (SEK) | | | -20.75 | 23378 | 0.00 |
| Future-partner is Swedish-born | 188,715 | 990.838 | | | |
| Future-partner is Foreign-born | 163,126 | 879.773 | | | |

Independent samples t-test for single to-be-intermarried versus to-be-intramarried REFUGEE migrants' income (1997)

| Variable | Mean | SD | t | df | p |
|--------------------------------|---------|--------|--------|------|------|
| Annual gross income (SEK) | | | -2.500 | 3748 | 0.01 |
| Future-partner is Swedish-born | 138,086 | 753.43 | | | |
| Future-partner is Foreign-born | 146,856 | 729.32 | | | |



- Intermarriage premium or selection?**

Chi-Square test for intermarried versus intramarried immigrants' mobility in employment status (1997-2007)

| | Intermarried immigrants | | Intramarried immigrants | |
|------------------------------|-------------------------|--------|-------------------------|--------|
| | N | % | N | % |
| Upward mobility | 4382 | 23.7% | 9008 | 34.3% |
| No change: employed | 11305 | 61.2% | 8959 | 34.1% |
| No change: out of employment | 1611 | 8.7% | 6325 | 24.1% |
| Downward mobility | 1168 | 6.3% | 1950 | 7.4% |
| Total | 18466 | 100.0% | 26242 | 100.0% |

Note: $\chi^2 = 3623.19$ ($p = 0.00$), $df = 3$

Chi-Square test for intermarried versus intramarried REFUGEE migrants' mobility in employment status (1997-2007)

| | Intermarried immigrants | | Intramarried immigrants | |
|------------------------------|-------------------------|--------|-------------------------|--------|
| | N | % | N | % |
| Upward mobility | 498 | 43.2% | 4815 | 44.3% |
| No change: employed | 473 | 41.1% | 2644 | 24.3% |
| No change: out of employment | 120 | 10.4% | 2832 | 26.1% |
| Downward mobility | 61 | 5.3% | 574 | 5.3% |
| Total | 1152 | 100.0% | 10865 | 100.0% |

Note: $\chi^2 = 216.42$ ($p = 0.00$), $df = 3$.



- Intermarriage premium or selection?**

Independent samples t-test for intermarried versus intramarried immigrants' income growth (1997-2007)

| Variable | Mean | SD | t | df | p |
|-------------------------------|---------|---------|-------|----------|------|
| Income growth 1997-2007 (SEK) | | | -3.72 | 19990.08 | 0.00 |
| Intramarried immigrants | 132,656 | 1526.30 | | | |
| Intermarried immigrants | 142,160 | 2092.06 | | | |

Independent samples t-test for intermarried versus intramarried REFUGEE migrants' income growth (1997-2007)

| Variable | Mean | SD | t | df | p |
|-------------------------------|---------|---------|-------|------|------|
| Income growth 1997-2007 (SEK) | | | -0.21 | 3077 | 0.83 |
| Intramarried immigrants | 144,916 | 1410.66 | | | |
| Intermarried immigrants | 146,437 | 1419.93 | | | |



- Intermarried immigrants more likely to be employed and earn more than the intramarried
- Even when they were single
 - Selection hypothesis supported
 - BUT REJECTED FOR REFUGEES
- Their employment status and income improved significantly after marriage relative to intramarried immigrants
 - Intermarriage premium hypothesis supported
 - ONLY EMPLOYMENT FOR REFUGEES



- Immigrants from less wealthier countries than Sweden not doing as well as natives
- Refugees the most disadvantaged group
 - Resettled refugees' labour market outcomes lower than asylum refugees' outcomes
 - > *Settlement policies?*
- Self-selection and social capital among potential reasons behind these differences
- Our empirical study on intermarriage supports these hypotheses



The background of the slide is a photograph of a long, modern bridge with a white steel truss structure, spanning a body of water. The bridge's reflection is visible in the calm water. On the left side of the image, there is a large, semi-circular red graphic element. The text is overlaid on this image.

Thank you!

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