

Should
immigrants
have access to
social
benefits?

Daniel Degen,
Theresa
Kuhn, Wouter
van der Brug

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Should immigrants have access to social benefits?

Comparing attitudes of natives and immigrants in the European
Social Survey

Daniel Degen, Theresa Kuhn, Wouter van der Brug

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- What do immigrants think about the welfare state **access of (other) immigrants**?
 - Do their opinions differ *from natives'* opinions?
 - Do their opinions differ *between generations*?
 - Do their opinions differ according to the individual *length of residence*?
 - What drives their opinion?

State of Research

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- Research on immigrants' political and welfare state attitudes found
 - Rather pro welfare compared to natives
 - Less restrictive with respect to welfare state access
 - Preference for redistribution endures into second generation
 - Become more similar to natives, once they acquired the citizenship

(Dancygier and Saunders, 2006; Just and Anderson, 2015; Kolbe and Crepaz, 2015; Luttmer and Singhal, 2011; Reeskens and Oorschot, 2015)

Theoretical Background

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- Two underlying mechanisms that could close the gap:
 - Integration
 - Self-interest

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- Integration:
 - Over generations
 - Exposure to institutions (e.g. schools)
 - Exposure to peers
 - Over length of residence
 - Exposure to institutions (less than 2nd gen.)
 - Exposure to peers (less than 2nd gen.)

(Diehl et al. 2009; Maxwell, 2010; Reeskens and Oorschot, 2015; Röder, 2014)

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- Self-interest:
 - Like natives, we expect immigrants to look at their own situation
 - They are influenced by their individual status:
 - Socio-economic status improves over generations and with length of residence
 - They are more likely to be in more vulnerable positions (e.g. unemployed) and to receive social benefits

(Andreß and Heien, 2001; Barrett and McCarthy, 2008; Funk, 2000; Jæger, 2006)

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- Self-interest or integration:
 - Both lead to the same predictions: Immigrants become more restrictive
 - Mechanisms cannot clearly be disentangled with our data

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- Hypotheses about granting immigrants access to social benefits:
 - H_1 : First generation immigrants are less restrictive than natives.
 - H_{2a} : Second generation immigrants are less restrictive than natives, but more restrictive than first generation immigrants.
 - H_{2b} : The length of residence has a positive effect on welfare state restrictiveness for the first generation.

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- Looking at first generation immigrants
- Again, self-interest and integration go hand in hand
- Hypotheses:
 - H_{3a} : Immigrants who have been living in the host country for more than a year are more likely to favor “living at least for a year” as the entrance criterion.
 - H_{3b} : Immigrants who have worked and paid taxes in the host country for at least a year are more likely to favor “working and tax paying for at least a year” as the entrance criterion.
 - H_{3c} : Immigrants who have acquired the citizenship of the host country are more likely to favor “citizenship” as the entrance criterion.

Dataset and Operationalization

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- Dataset: ESS 2008
- 25,466 observations
 - 21,719 Natives
 - 1,838 Second Generation Immigrants
 - 1,909 First Generation Immigrants
- 20 Countries
 - Belgium, Croatia, the Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Ireland, Latvia, the Netherlands, Norway, the Russian Federation, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, the Ukraine, and the United Kingdom

Dataset and Operationalization

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- Dependent variable: When should immigrants obtain the right to receive social benefits?

Group	Immediately	Residence 1yr	Paid taxes 1yr	Citizenship	Never	Total
Native	1,576 (7%)	1,986 (9%)	8,710 (40%)	7,993 (37%)	1,454 (7%)	21,719
Second Gen.	175 (10%)	183 (10%)	799 (43%)	597 (32%)	84 (5%)	1,838
First Gen.	328 (17%)	249 (13%)	904 (47%)	387 (20%)	41 (2%)	1,909
Total	2,079 (8%)	2,418 (9%)	10,413 (41%)	8,977 (35%)	1,579 (6%)	25,466

- Controls: age, sex, income (standardized), education (ISCED), welfare dependency, marital status, pro redistribution, anti-immigrant attitudes
- Statistical model: Multinomial logit models with random intercepts (country)

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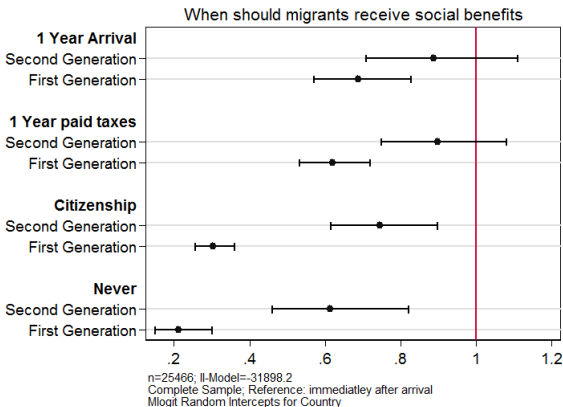
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■ Comparison of immigrants and natives



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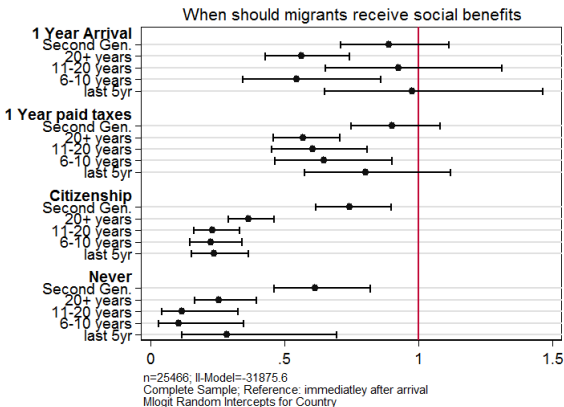
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Length of residence



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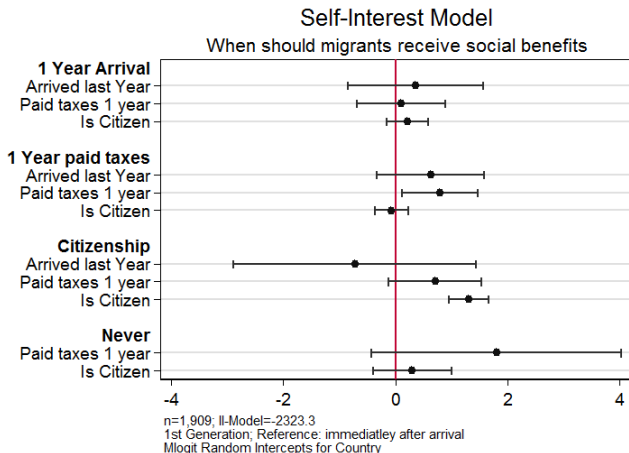
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- Self-interest model (first generation immigrants)



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Hypothesis	Result
H_1 : first generation	✓
H_{2a} : second generation	✓
H_{2b} : over time	✗
H_{3a} : staying one year	✗
H_{3b} : working/tax paying	✓/✗
H_{3c} : citizenship	✓

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- Unfortunately we lack measures to test
 - Effects of socialization of country of birth
 - Whether their attitudes are driven by group-loyalty or other factors
- Furthermore: sample size, not focused on immigrants

Next Steps

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- Collection of new dataset "MIFARE"
 - Attitudes of and towards immigrants (welfare state, politics etc.)
 - Questions based on existing datasets (ISSP, ESS) + expansion
 - Country comparison: Germany, the Netherlands, Denmark
 - Different immigrant groups with 200-350 observations per group (German dataset: over 2700 total observations)
 - Focused on immigrants who migrated themselves (socialized in country of origin)

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Thank you

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References I

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References II

Should
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