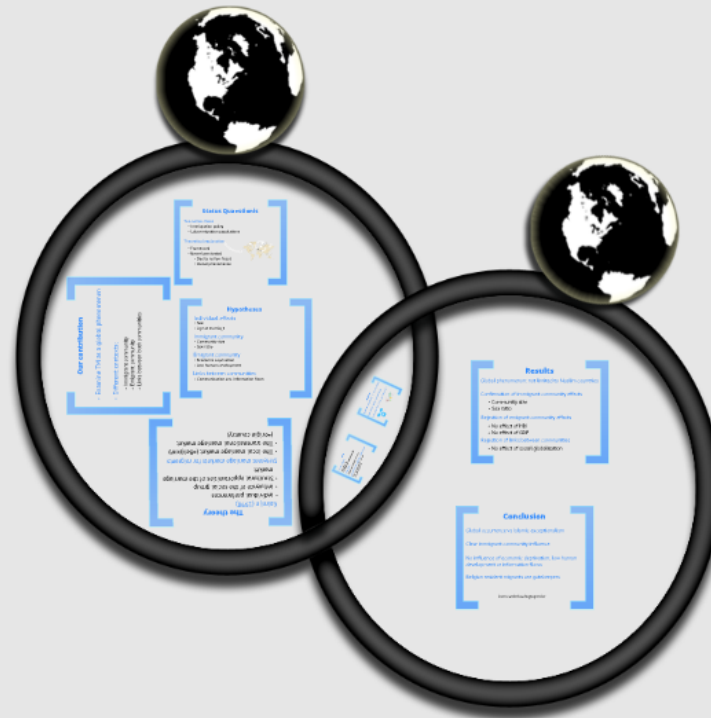


Transnational marriages in Belgium

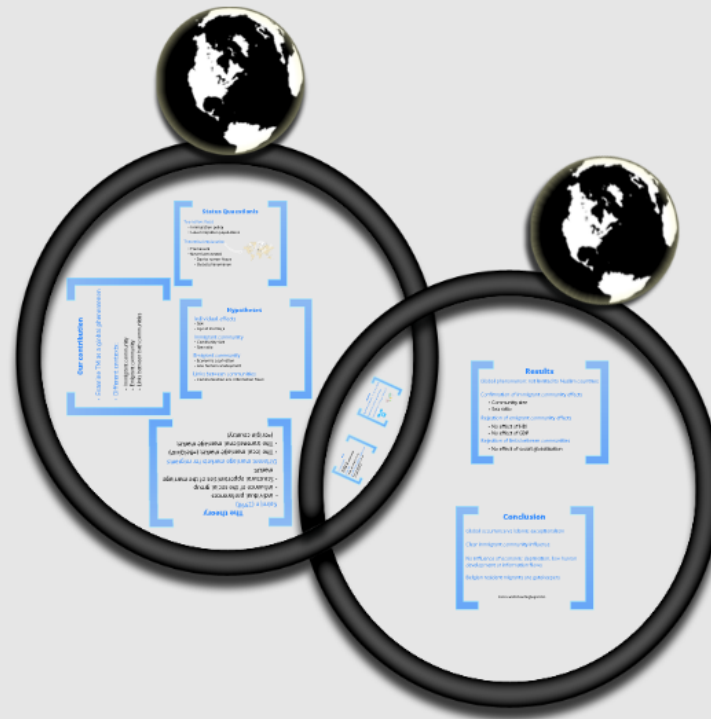
Analysis of origin and destination effects using longitudinal population data



Koen Van der Bracht, Sociology Department, Ghent University

Transnational marriages in Belgium

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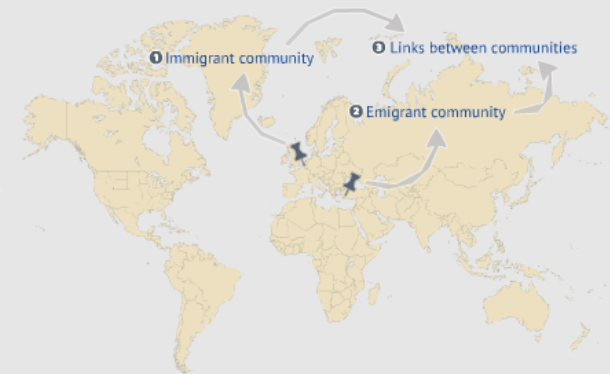
Status Quaestionis

Too narrow focus

- Immigration policy
- Labor migration populations

Theoretical explanation

- Framework
- Never been tested
 - Due to narrow focus
 - Global phenomenon



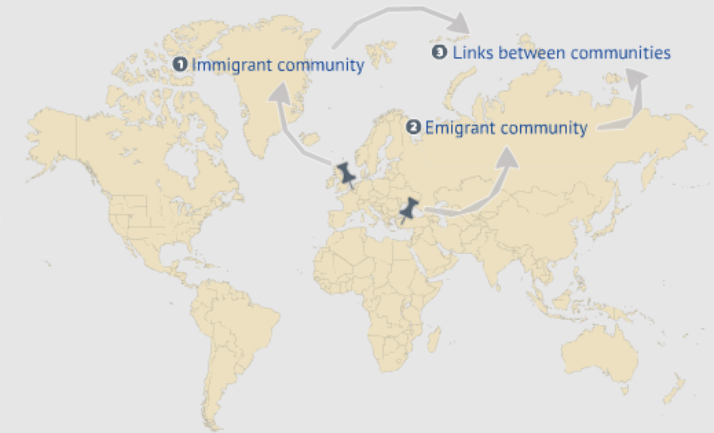


Too narrow focus

- Immigration policy
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Our contribution

- Examine TM as a global phenomenon
- Different contexts:
 - Immigrant community
 - Emigrant community
 - Links between both communities

The theory

Kalmijn (1998)

- Individual preferences
- Influence of the social group
- Structural opportunities of the marriage market

Different marriage markets for migrants

- The local marriage market (=Belgium)
- The transnational marriage market (=origin country)

Hypotheses

Individual effects

- Sex
- Age at marriage

Immigrant community

- Community size
- Sex ratio

Emigrant community

- Economic deprivation
- Low human development

Links between communities

- Communication and information flows

Data

National register

- + population data
- only official demographic information

Longitudinal

Repeated cross-sectional: 2001-2008

Intra-ethnic marriages/legal cohabitations

Third countries: non-EEA countries

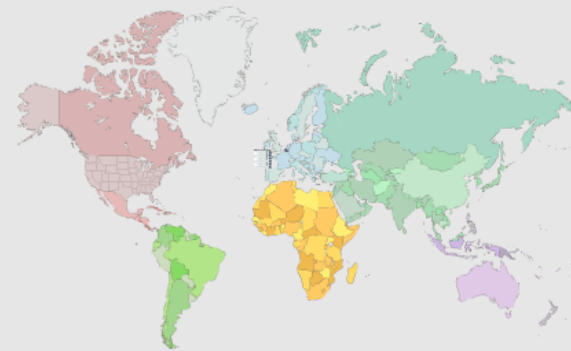
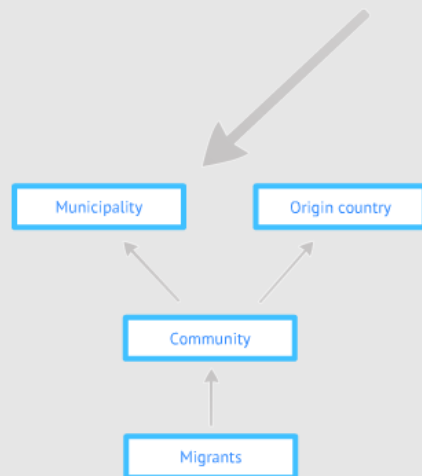
67,741 partnerchoices

Methods

Dependent: transnational vs. local intra-ethnic

Seperate analyses for men and women

Cross-classified Multilevel analyses (MCMC)



Municipality

Origin country

Community

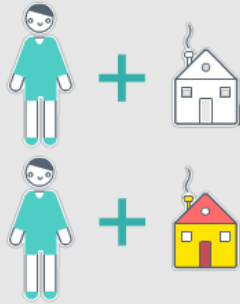
Migrants



Different marriage markets

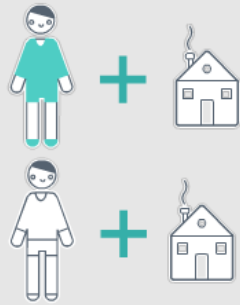
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Turk in Brussels
vs.
Turk in Antwerp



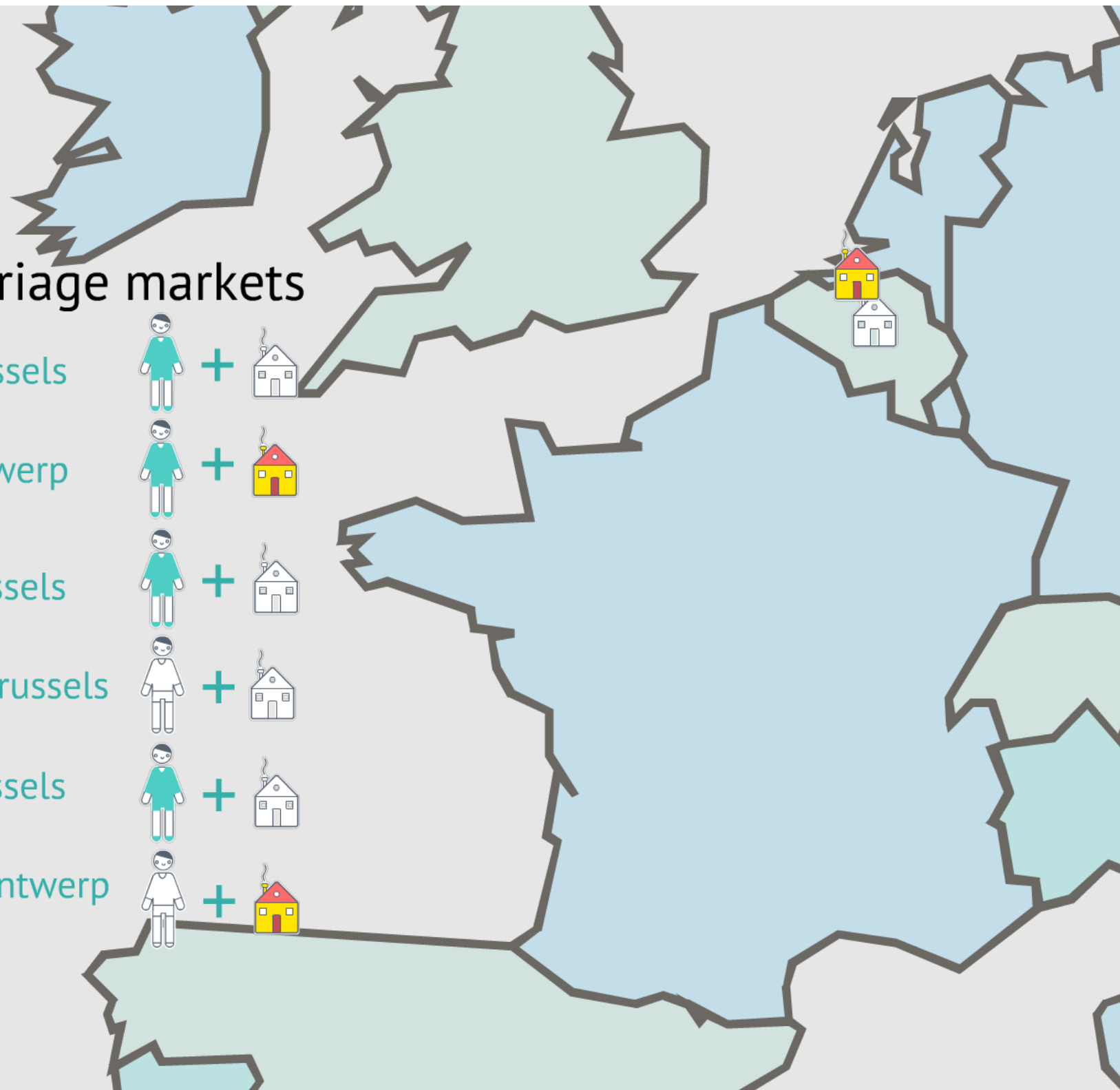
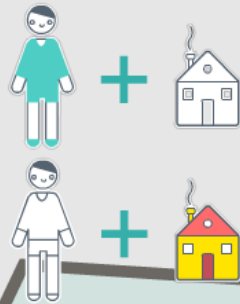
2

Turk in Brussels
vs.
Moroccan in Brussels



3

Turk in Brussels
vs.
Moroccan in Antwerp



Results

Global phenomenon: not limited to Muslim countries

Confirmation of immigrant community effects

- Community size
- Sex ratio

Rejection of emigrant community effects

- No effect of HDI
- No effect of GDP

Rejection of links between communities

- No effect of social globalisation

	Men		Women	
1.	Ghana	88.0%	Ghana	86.3%
2.	Somalia	79.0%	Bangladesh	72.7%
3.	Sri Lanka	76.3%	Pakistan	66.7%
4.	Mauritania	73.9%	Somalia	58.8%
5.	Afghanistan	72.9%	Turkey	53.8%
6.	Bangladesh	72.5%	Afghanistan	52.7%
7.	Liberia	71.4%	Israel	51.3%
8.	Pakistan	69.7%	Dominican Republic	50.0%
9.	India	67.8%	Syria	49.7%
10.	Ethiopia	67.0%	Lebanon	49.5%

Results

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Conclusion

Global occurrence vs Islamic exceptionalism

Clear immigrant community influence

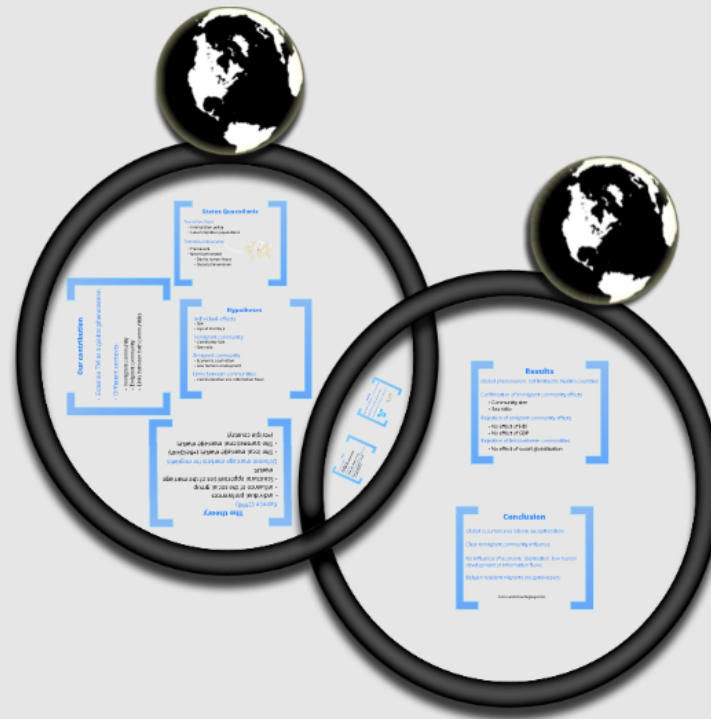
No influence of economic deprivation, low human development or information flows

Belgian resident migrants are gatekeepers

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