


Cross-cutting cleavages and native-refugee contact: quasi-experimental evidence from Germany

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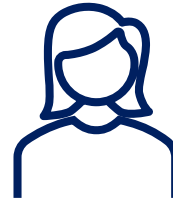
15 November 2022

Introduction

- Numbers of refugees increasing in Europe and Germany
- Social integration highly debated, important component: social ties with natives
- Several positive *outcomes* of refugee-native contact
- *Determinants* of refugee-native contact?  *Crosscutting cleavages* like *life course similarity*

Do life course similarities between refugees and the local native population enhance refugee-native contact?

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Nour
Single
26 years



Samer
Married
67 years

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Source: <https://www.illustration-standards.de/standards/>



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Source: <https://www.Top.de/frankfurt/frankfurt-ist-so-lebenswert-wie-nie-9362821.html>



Source: <https://www.stern.de/genuss/trinken/stammtisch/taenft-tricks--an-denen-sie-eine-gute-bar-erkennen-6813372.html>

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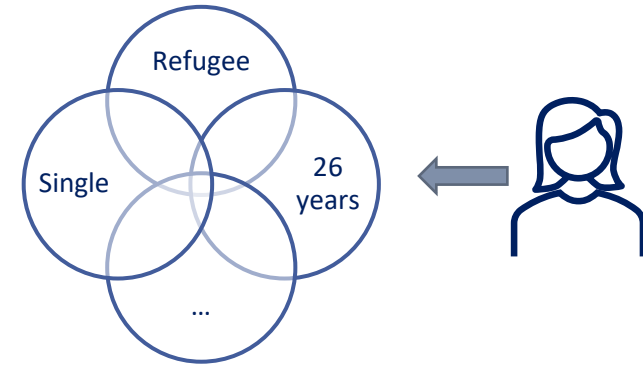
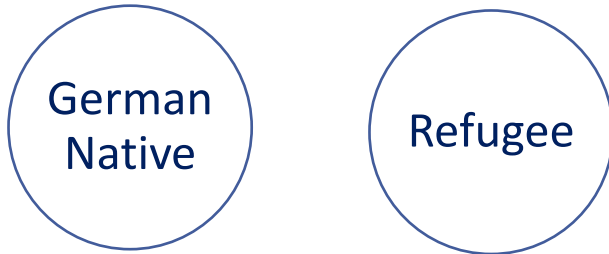
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Background

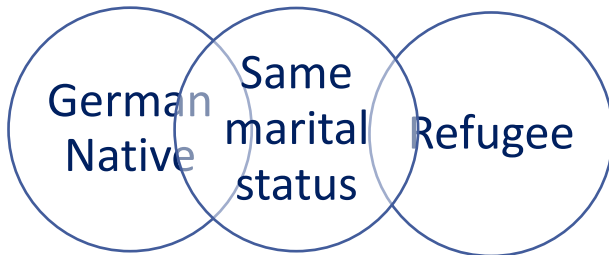
- Individuals part of multiple social circles (Simmel 1908, Roccas & Brewer 2002)
- Crosscutting social circles (Blau & Schwartz 1997)



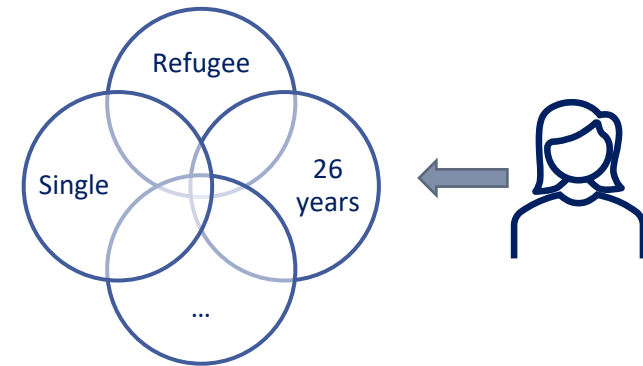
- Perceived similarity enhances prosocial behavior & contact intentions of natives towards immigrants and ethnic outgroups (López-Rodríguez et al. 2017; Osbeck et al. 1997)

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Background: Life Course Similarity

- Life course positions are important factors *in most societies*
 ➡ create (dis-)similarities & impact interactions (Hipp & Perrin 2009)
- Change in marital status impacts personal networks (Albeck & Kaydar 2002, Kalmijn 2003)
- Differences in marital status ➡ lifestyle differences (Hipp & Perrin 2009)
 - increased mutual understanding, attending joint activities (Kalmijn and Vermunt 2007)
- Marital status not independent of age, interrelated life course factors (Kalmijn & Vermunt 2007) ➡ similarity score based on combination of both

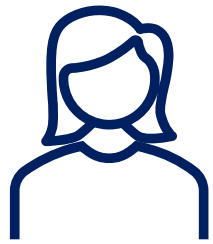
Background

Expectation

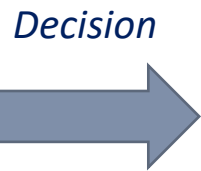
Refugees living in a county with *a higher share of natives similar in marital status and age* tend to have *more contact with natives* than refugees in a county with a lower share of similar natives.

Identification Strategy

 Potential issue: self-selection

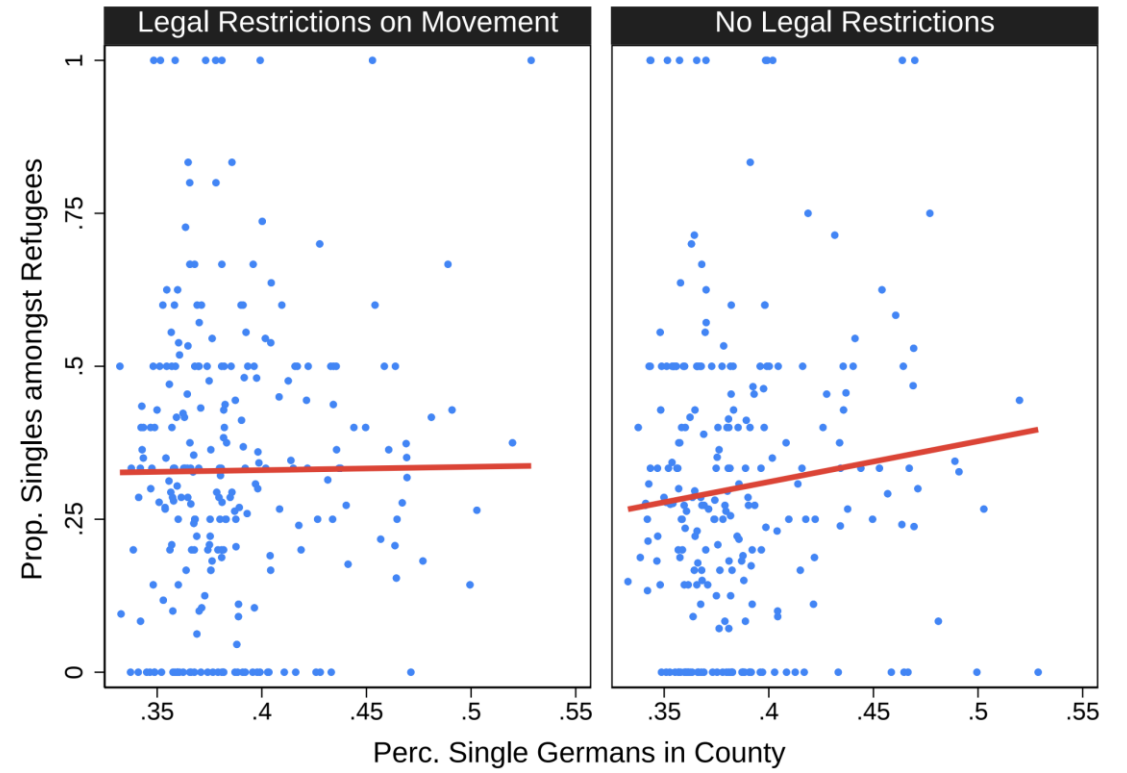
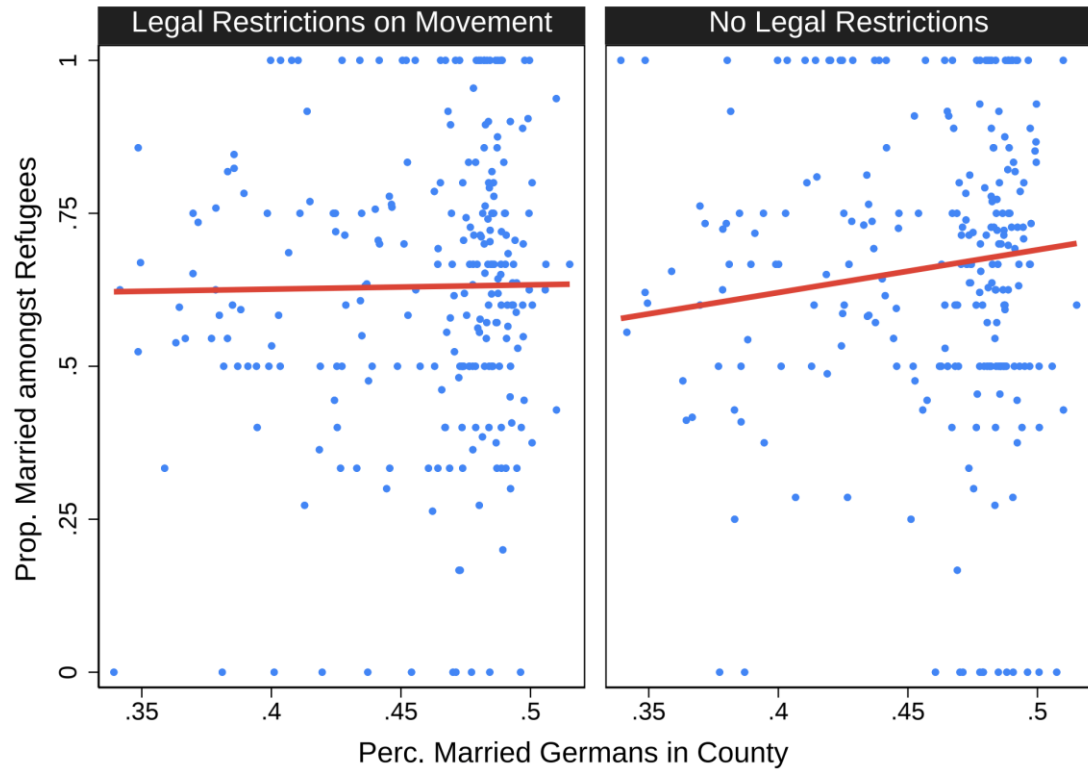


Nour



 Solution

- Exogenous assignment of refugees to German federal states (*Königsteiner Schlüssel*)
- Federal states can decide to assign refugees to certain counties/municipalities
- Domicile obligation (*Wohnsitzauflage*)



Data

IAB-BAMF-SOEP Survey of Refugees (SOEP v37)

- Restrictions to sample: legally covered by domicile obligation
 - (1) applied for asylum after 2016 Integration Law was passed
 - (2) interviewed within 3 years (36 months) after asylum decision taken
- Longitudinal data but cross-sectional data structure based on first interviews only

Administrative Data *Regionaldatenbank*

- County level information on marital status, decennial age categories for people *without* migration background

Method

- Linear probability model, with county-level random intercepts
- DV: Contact frequency (binary)
 - At least weekly vs. less often
- IV: „Marital status by age“-similarity
 - Similarity: in same marital status & age category
 - Example
 - single, 25-year old refugee ~ single, 29-year old native
 - single, 25-year old refugee ≠ married, 29-year old native

Control variables: marital status, age category, year of interview FEs, gender, education, children in HH, number of months since immigration, participation in language course, legal status, country of origin

Results

- Native-refugee contact enhanced when sharing life course similarities in terms of marital status and age
- Around 4 percentage points
- ~ 12 months longer residence in Germany

Table 1: Contact with Natives and Contextual Similarity

	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)
Similarity score (std.)	0.045** (0.013)	0.038** (0.013)	0.041** (0.014)	0.034* (0.014)
<i>Marital status:</i>				
Single	(ref.)			
Married (incl. spouse abroad)	-0.010 (0.030)	-0.007 (0.037)	-0.021 (0.031)	-0.015 (0.038)
Divorced	-0.027 (0.080)	-0.010 (0.081)	-0.040 (0.082)	-0.023 (0.082)
Widowed	0.147 (0.100)	0.214* (0.100)	0.122 (0.102)	0.185+ (0.102)
<i>Age categories:</i>				
20-29	(ref.)			
30-39	0.002 (0.022)	-0.009 (0.023)	0.003 (0.023)	-0.010 (0.023)
40-49	-0.125** (0.036)	-0.133** (0.035)	-0.117** (0.037)	-0.128** (0.036)
50-59	-0.112** (0.043)	-0.119** (0.043)	-0.097* (0.044)	-0.106* (0.044)
60-69	-0.226** (0.067)	-0.253** (0.068)	-0.220** (0.069)	-0.239** (0.069)
70-79	-0.393** (0.145)	-0.366* (0.143)	-0.372* (0.148)	-0.353* (0.147)
Male		0.104** (0.018)		0.103** (0.018)
Secondary education dummy		0.068** (0.019)		0.069** (0.020)
Months in Germany		0.003** (0.001)		0.003** (0.001)
Currently participating in language course		0.111** (0.019)		0.113** (0.020)
Lives in shared accommodation		-0.054** (0.020)		-0.039+ (0.021)
Model	RE	RE	FE	FE
N	3311	3311	3311	3311

Exploratory analysis: Sexual competition

- Men's behavior is strongly driven by outgroup presence (Vugt et al. 2007)
 - Especially relevant in context of sexual competition (Dancygier et al. 2022)
-

Expectation: Being a *young single male refugee* mitigates the positive effect of living in a county with higher similarity scores on contact with natives.

Results

- Split sample in *young single male refugees (aged 20-29) vs. others*
- Similarity has no effect on contact with natives for *young single male refugees*
- Effect for others increases to 5.3 percentage points

Table 2: Exploratory Analyses: With and Without Single Men

	Only Single Men 20-29 (1)	Dropping Single Men 20-29 (2)
Similarity score (std.)	0.008 (0.042)	0.053** (0.015)
<i>Marital Status:</i>		
Single		(ref.)
Married (incl. spouse abroad)		-0.009 (0.033)
Divorced		0.020 (0.077)
Widowed		0.247* (0.097)
<i>Age categories:</i>		
20-29		(ref.)
30-39		-0.024 (0.024)
40-49		-0.158** (0.039)
50-59		-0.147** (0.046)
60-69		-0.272** (0.067)
70-79		-0.402** (0.140)
Covariates	✓	✓
N	807	2876

Summary and Discussion

- Cross-cutting cleavages shape native-refugee contact in Germany
- Contact enhanced when sharing life course similarities
- Sexual competition potential additional factor shaping contact
- Implications for allocation policies:
 - Taking into account “fit” of refugees with location allocated to
 - Voluntary decision of refugees where to move to
 - Shorter duration of domicile obligation
- Limitation: Coding of similarity score variable treats *unequally dissimilar* individuals as *equally dissimilar*

**Thank you for your
attention!**

Contact

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