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**A comparative analysis of parent-adult child relations
in migrant and non-migrant families in Germany -
Response to culture or socio-economic differences?**

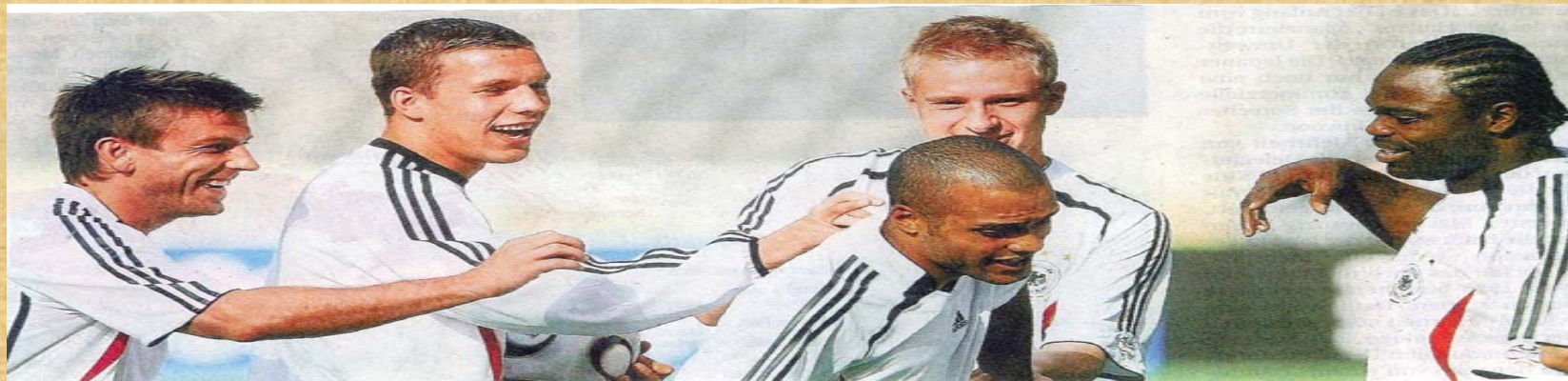
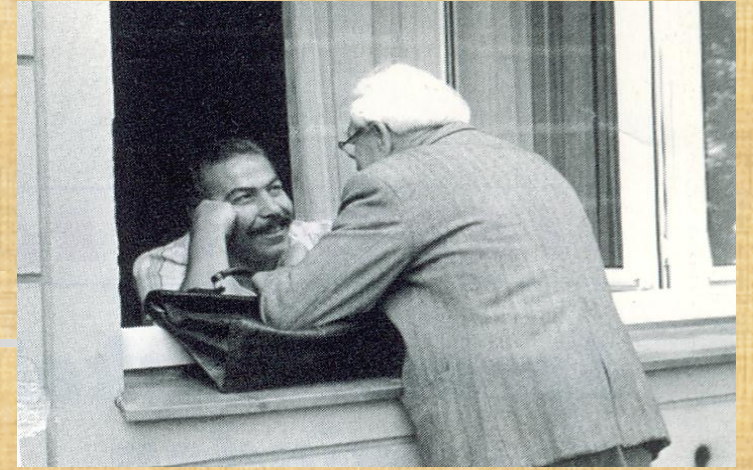
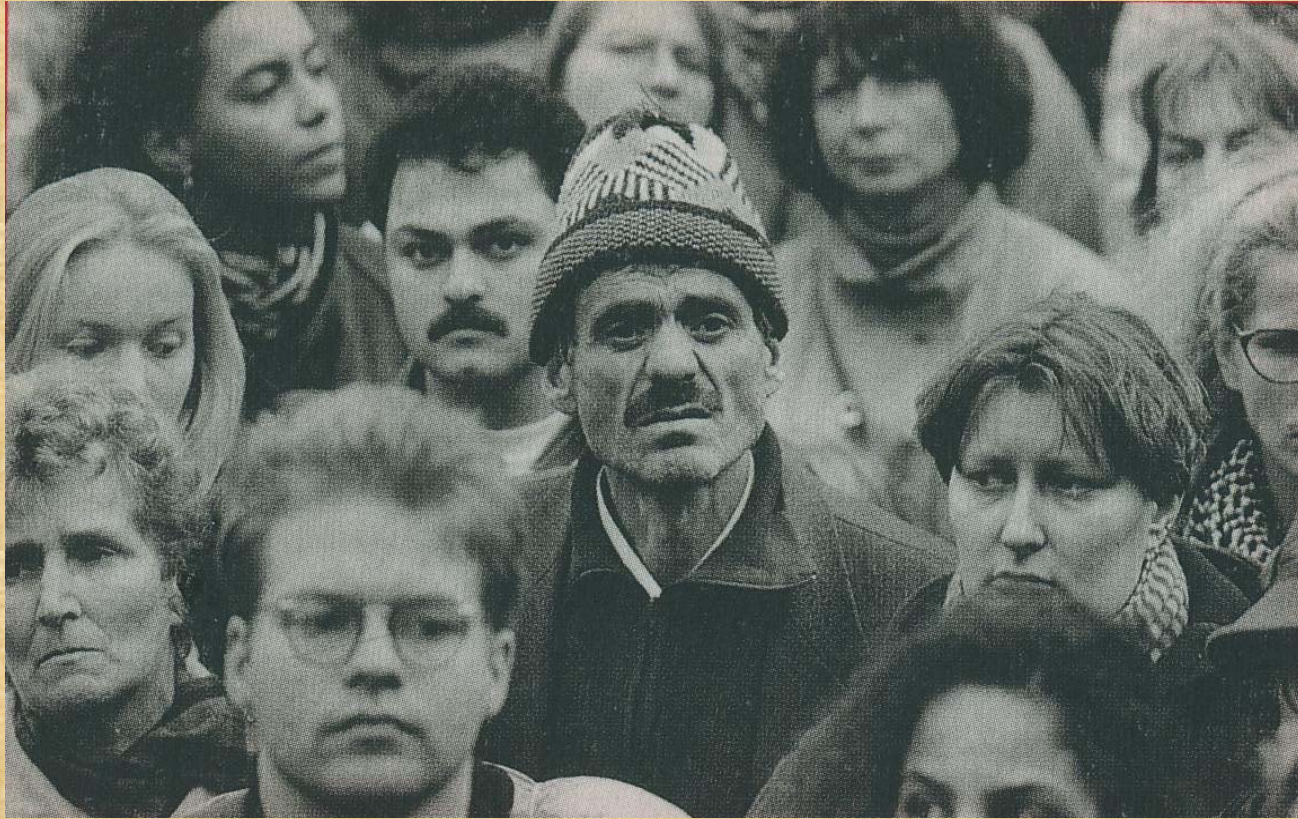
European comparative research on aging – challenges and opportunities

Vechta 2006



Structure

- I. Introduction – demographic situation
- II. Data base: The German Aging Survey 2002
- III. Theoretical background
- IV. Research approach
- V. Empirical results
- VI. Conclusion





I. Demographic situation

Ageing in Germany: Elderly Germans and foreigners (aged 60plus)

| | 1992 | 1994 | 1996 | 1998 | 2000 | 2002 | 2004 |
|---------------------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|
| Germans | | | | | | | |
| N | 16,2 million | 16,5 million | 17,1 million | 17,8 million | 18,8 million | 19,4 million | 19,8 million |
| % (share: all Germans) | 21,8 | 22,1 | 22,9 | 23,9 | 25,1 | 25,8 | 26,3 |
| Foreigners | | | | | | | |
| N | 321.000 | 393.000 | 465.000 | 526.000 | 623.000 | 715.000 | 797.000 |
| % (share: all foreigners) | 4,8 | 5,5 | 6,2 | 7,2 | 8,6 | 9,7 | 10,9 |

Source: Federal Statistical Office of Germany, Wiesbaden – Population adjustment.



II. Data base

The German Aging Survey 2002:

- Standardized interviews with Germans (n=3084) and foreigners (n=586)
 - ★ aged between 40 and 85 years
 - ★ living in private households in Germany

- Characteristics of the Foreigner Sample:
 - ★ German language skills required for interview
 - ★ inconsistency with regard to foreign nationality
 - ★ no stratification (age, gender, region), no selection (nationality)

=> Serious limitations!

- Here: comparison migrant (n=752) vs. non-migrant (n=2904)
 - ★ Definition of migrant: *Born/grown up in a foreign country*



III. Theoretical background

Hypotheses on intergenerational relationships in migration:

1. *Family cohesion:*

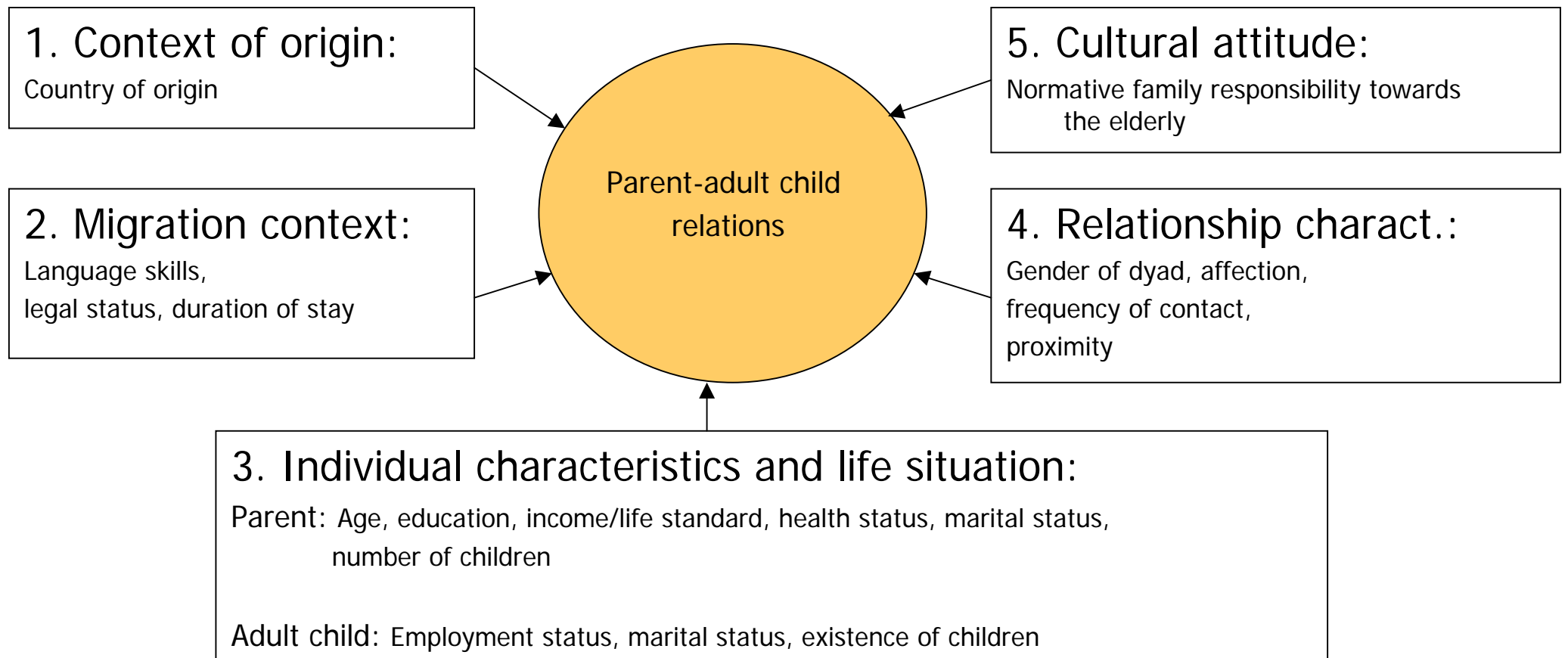
- Family-collectivistic cultural background
- Strategy of retreat in stressful migration/integration process (family as counterworld: „family solidarisation“)
- Ethnic revival/ethnic retreat in old age

2. *Family alienation/conflict:*

- Intergenerationally differing acculturation levels (cultural conflict)
- Individualisation in modernisation process
- Consequences of transnational family fragmentation
- Stress in migration/integration process („family de-solidarisation“)



IV. Research approach: Determinants of intergenerational relations



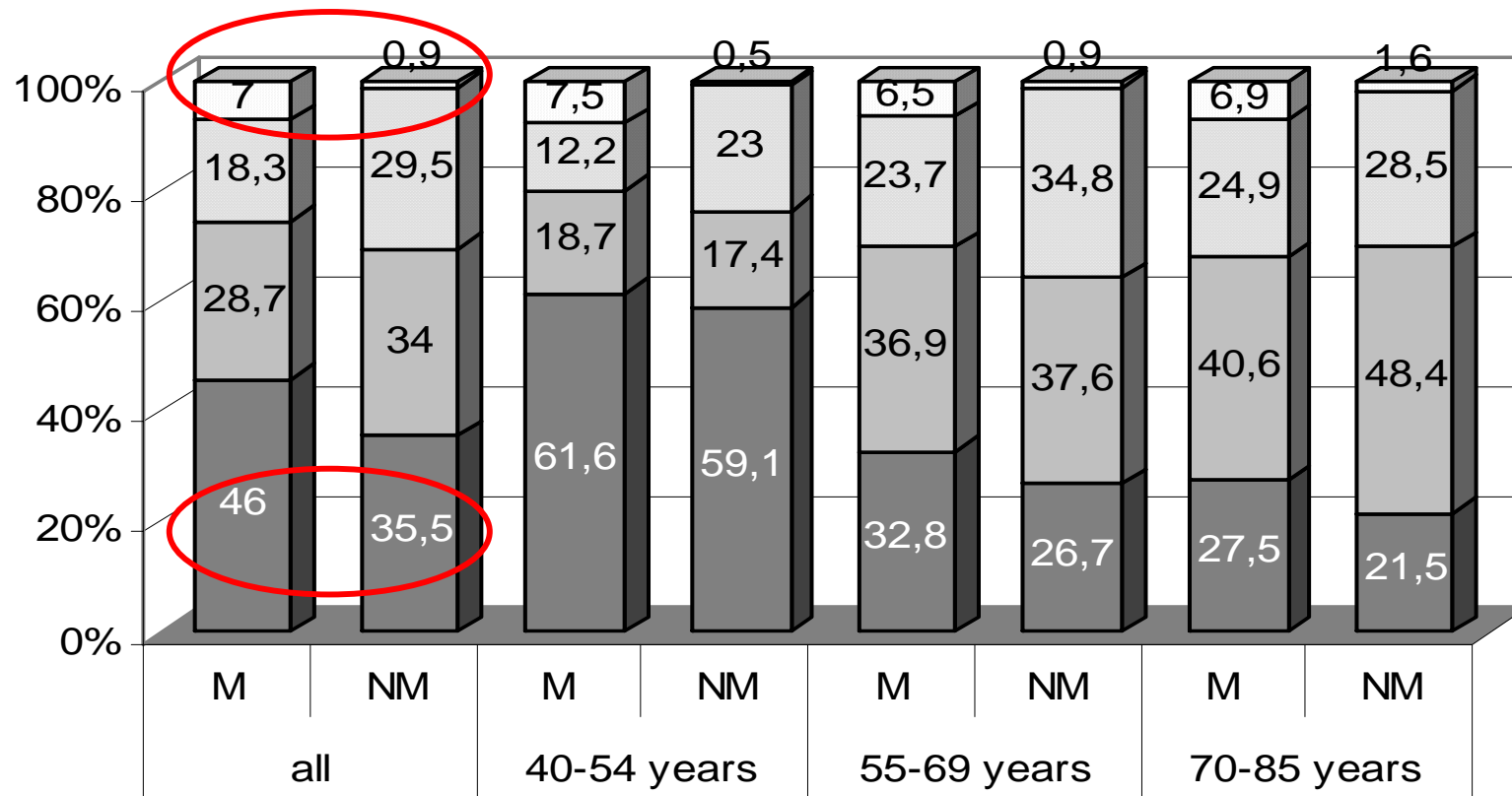


First research question:

Differences – similarities?

V. Descriptive results:

Geographical proximity (adult child living closest)

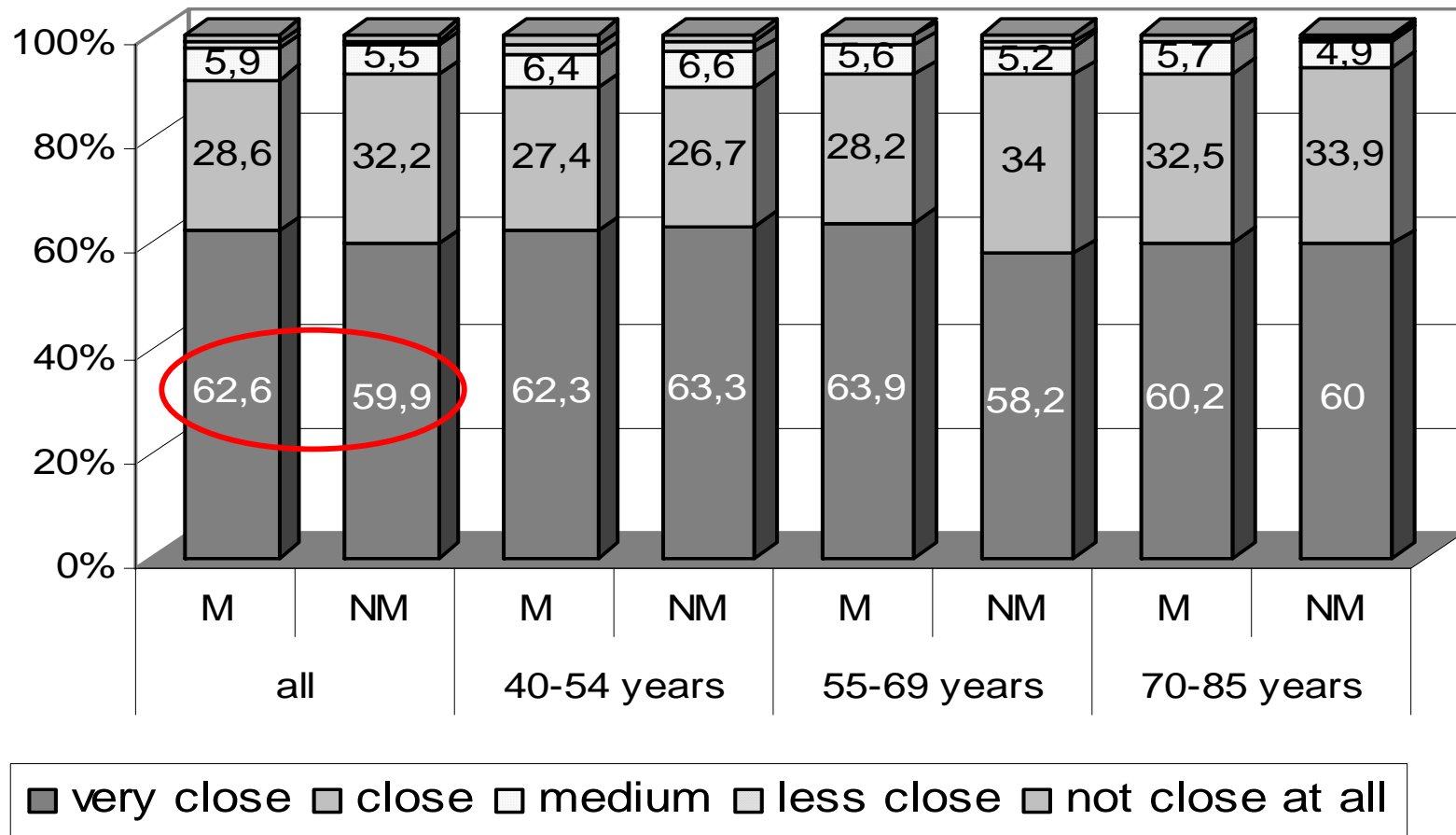


■ same house/household □ neighborhood/same city □ other city/further away □ abroad

Source: German Aging Survey 2002; Migrants: n = 531; Non-Migrants: n = 2102.

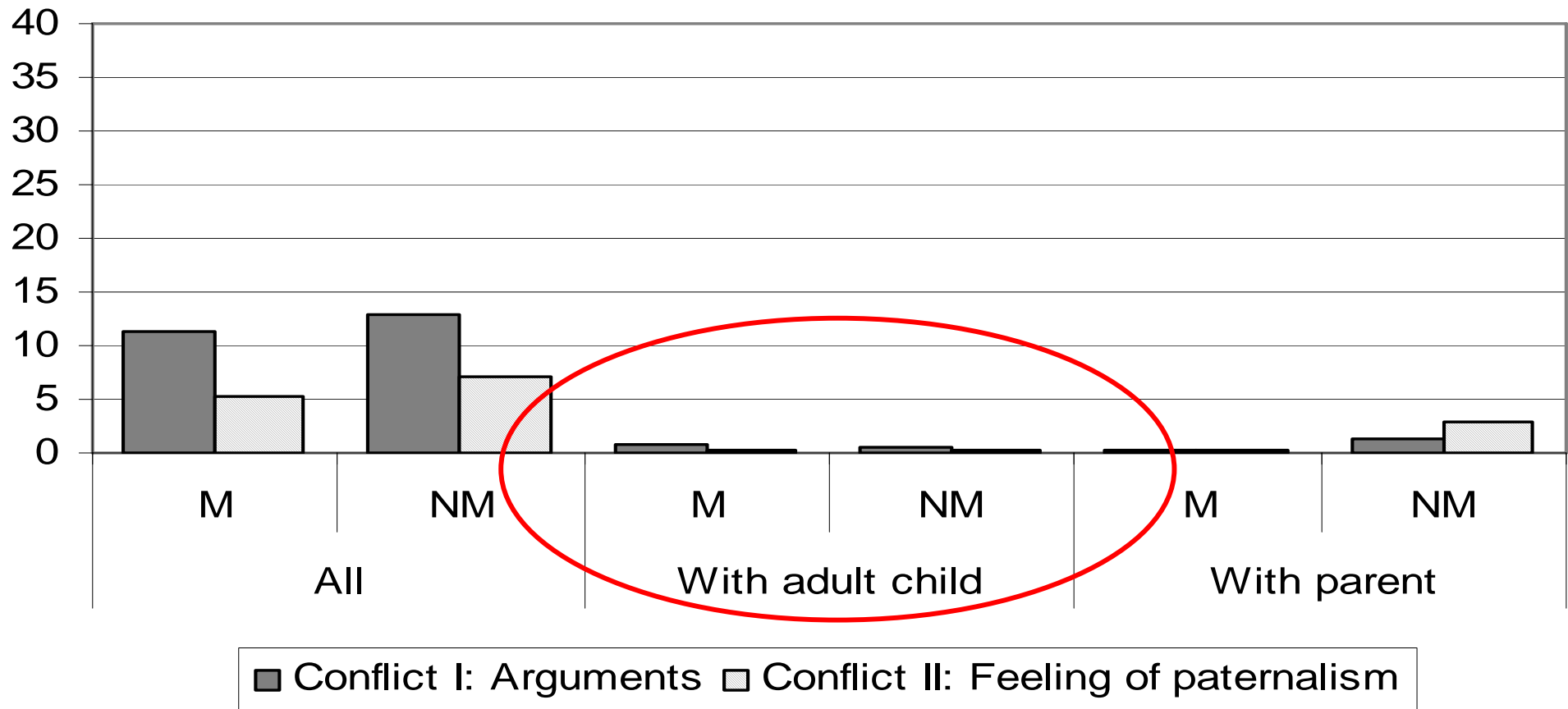
V. Descriptive results:

Emotional closeness (non-coresident, emotionally closest adult child)



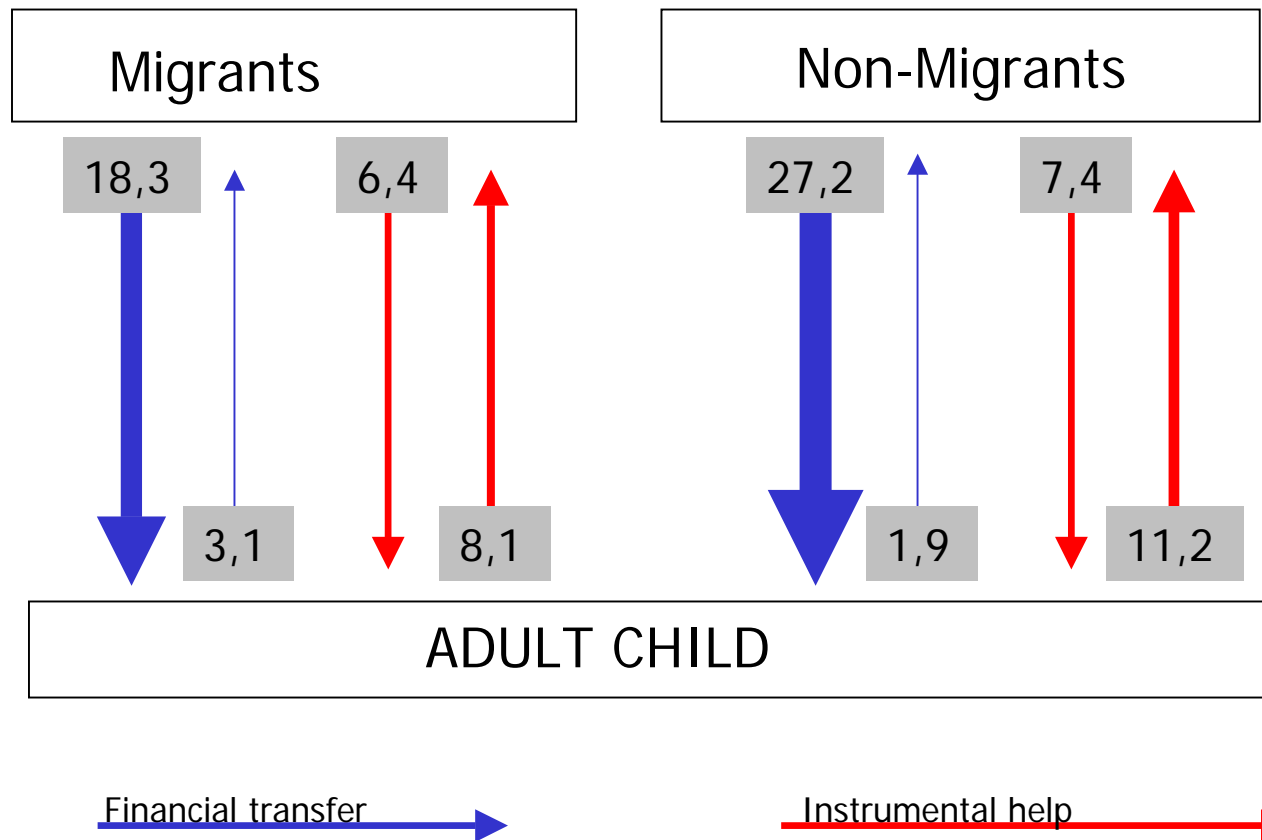
V. Descriptive results:

Conflict with other persons (non-coresident family, %)

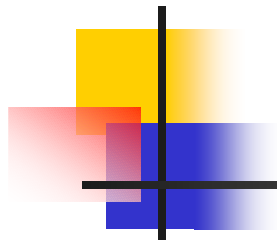


V. Descriptive results:

Receipt and donation of support (exchange between 40 to 85-year olds and their non-co-resident adult children in the year prior to interview; %)



Source: German Aging Survey 2002; Migrants: n = 752; Non-Migrants: n = 2904; controlled for existence.



Second research question:

Explaining differences -

context of origin, cultural attitude, or need and resources?

V. Results of multivariate logistic regression analysis

Financial transfer to adult non-coresident child (1=yes, 0=no)

| | <i>Bivariate</i> | <i>Multivariate²</i> | <i>N</i> |
|--|------------------|---------------------------------|----------|
| Country of origin (Ref.: non-migrants) | | | (3271) |
| Turkey | ***.278 | .721 | 115 |
| Former SU | ** .542 | .776 | 110 |
| Former YU | 1.078 | 1.260 | 80 |
| Italy | *.240 | .405 | 33 |
| Cultural attitude (Ref.: little/no family orientation) | | | (3167) |
| High family orientation | ***.605 | *.802 | 733 |
| Income (Ref.: 1st quintile) | | | (684) |
| 2nd quintile | ***2.394 | ***2.158 | 738 |
| 3rd quintile | ***1.991 | ***1.599 | 687 |
| 4th quintile | ***4.453 | ***3.108 | 719 |
| 5th quintile | ***5.109 | ***2.991 | 719 |

Source: German Aging Survey 2002, dyadic data; *** p<.01, ** p<.05, *p<.10.

²Controlled for other factors not mentioned here (cf. model)

V. Results of multivariate logistic regression analysis

Coreidence with adult child (1=yes, 0=no)

| | <i>Bivariate</i> | <i>Multivariate</i> ² | <i>N</i> |
|--|------------------|----------------------------------|----------|
| Country of origin (Ref.: non-migrants) | | | (3271) |
| Turkey | ***2.210 | **1.845 | 115 |
| Former SU | ***1.740 | 1.043 | 110 |
| Former YU | 1.230 | .801 | 80 |
| Italy | ***2.343 | *1.961 | 33 |
| Cultural attitude (Ref.: little/no family orientation) | | | (3167) |
| High family orientation | 1.080 | *1.191 | 733 |
| Income (Ref.: 1st quintile) | | | (684) |
| 2nd quintile | .829 | .946 | 738 |
| 3rd quintile | ***.728 | ** .761 | 687 |
| 4th quintile | ***.654 | ***.513 | 719 |
| 5th quintile | ***.644 | ***.436 | 719 |

Source: German Aging Survey 2002, dyadic data; *** p<.01, ** p<.05, *p<.10.

²Controlled for other factors not mentioned here (cf. model)

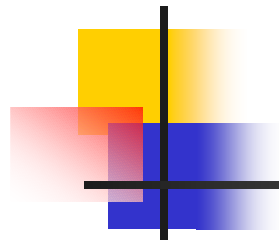


VI. Conclusion

1. Migrant families: Cohesion rather than alienation/conflict;
 - large similarities between migrants and non-migrants;
 - main differences in proximity and financial support behaviour

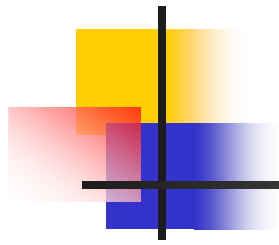
2. Differences: Response to socio-economic and certain cultural differences

3. Demands and challenges for research on aging:
 - Acknowledgement of population heterogeneity;
 - Further specification of needs/resources for socio-political interventions;
 - Differentiation between cultural influences and structural conditions for a better understanding of migrant families (in later life).



Thank you for your attention







Distribution of main sociodemographic variables in the German Aging Survey (%)

| | <i>Migrants</i> | <i>Non-Migrants</i> | <i>Foreigners</i> | <i>Germans</i> |
|-------------------------------|-----------------|---------------------|-------------------|----------------|
| | (n=752) | (n=2904) | (n=586) | (n=3084) |
| Agegroup | | | | |
| 40-54 years | 56,1 | 42,3 | 59,2 | 42,3 |
| 55-69 years | 31,8 | 35,9 | 32,1 | 35,7 |
| 70-85 years | 12,1 | 21,8 | 8,7 | 22,0 |
| Sex | | | | |
| female | 48,9 | 52,8 | 48,0 | 52,9 |
| male | 51,1 | 47,2 | 52,0 | 47,1 |
| Country of origin/nationality | | | | |
| Germany | 11,7 | 100,0 | 14,3 (+5,1) | 100,0 |
| Turkey | 13,8 | | 16,2 | |
| Former SU | 16,9 | | 6,1 | |
| Former YU | 11,8 | | 11,4 | |
| Italy | 6,9 | | 8,0 | |
| Others | 38,9 | | 38,9 | |