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- Elke Murdock & Dieter Ferring: Attitude towards multiculturalism – a “majority in minority” perspective
Intergenerational family relations in Luxembourg: Adult children and their ageing parents in migrant and non-migrant families

Isabelle Albert, Stephanie Barros-Coimbra & Dieter Ferring

Most studies in the context of acculturation research have focused on family relations between first generation parents and their second generation children in adolescence, but less is known about immigrant families at later stages in the family life cycle. As first generation immigrants are currently approaching retirement age in many Western European countries, the question of how parent-child relations in adulthood are regulated, gains - however - particular importance. Older migrants and their adult children might be confronted with very special tasks compared to families without migration background. In general, first generation parents might need higher intergenerational support from their adult children due to a smaller social network in the host country or due to fewer sociocultural resources such as language competences. There might also be an acculturation gap between parents and their adult children regarding different identity constructions, value orientations, norms and expectations with regard to intergenerational solidarity and support. These differences in expectations and beliefs might affect relationship quality between the family members from different generations as well as their well-being.

In the present study, a cross-cultural comparison of altogether $N = 120$ Portuguese and Luxembourgish triads of older parents and their adult children, both living in the Grand-Duchy of Luxembourg, is envisaged. The aims of the study are, firstly to examine similarities and differences in family values, internalized norms and mutual expectations of older parents and their adult children regarding different identity constructions, value orientations, norms and expectations with regard to intergenerational solidarity and support; secondly, to analyze in how far an acculturation gap respectively a generation gap might have an impact on the relationship quality between parents and their adult children; thirdly and related to this, to explore subjective well-being (SWB) of all involved family members.

Results will be discussed in the framework of an integrative model of intergenerational family relations in the light of migration and ageing. This model will be proposed as a heuristic to explain similarities and differences in adult child-parent relations in migrant and non-migrant families.
Acculturation strategies of young immigrants of Moroccan and Portuguese origin in Belgium: The perception of young Belgian natives

Stephanie Barros Coimbra, Isabelle Albert, Dieter Ferring & Assaad Azzi

The concept of acculturation refers to cultural and psychological changes resulting from the contact between members of multiple cultures. According to Berry (1997), individuals display different attitudes and behaviours in the process of acculturation. Earlier studies have shown that members of host societies and immigrants often prefer the integration strategy, which seems to have most positive outcomes for both host nationals and immigrant communities. The aim of the present study was to analyse the perceptions and preferences of Belgians regarding the acculturation strategies displayed by two immigrant communities in Belgium, namely Portuguese and Moroccan.

A sample of $N = 120$ Belgian students between the ages of 18 and 29 living in Brussels participated in the present study. Participants were randomly assigned to six different groups of $n = 20$ persons each: these were presented with six scenarios that differed by a combination of one of Berry’s acculturation strategies (separation, integration and assimilation) with one of two origins of the main character (Portuguese or Moroccan). Participants then filled out a standardized questionnaire measuring their degree of agreement and disagreement to different statements with regard to the displayed acculturation strategy.

Analyses showed that Belgian natives rather appreciated integration strategies by immigrants (i.e. conservation of the cultural identity and an appropriation of the host culture’s values at the same time) to assimilation (i.e. own-culture desistance while seeking daily interaction with the majority) or separation strategies (i.e. maintenance of the heritage culture while rejecting contact with the host culture). Furthermore, Belgian participants expressed slightly more positive feelings toward young Portuguese immigrants compared to young Moroccan immigrants, which might be due to a smaller cultural distance between the former two cultures. No interaction effects between displayed acculturation strategy and cultural origin of the scenario’s main character were found. Results are discussed within the framework of Berry’s acculturation strategy model as well as referring to theories of similarity and attraction.

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Intergenerational relations between older parents and their adult children: effects on subjective well-being

Stephanie Barros-Coimbra, Isabelle Albert, & Dieter Ferring

In the near future, many western nations will be confronted with specific challenges regarding ageing populations and their physical and psychological well-being. Ageing
parents might experience a greater need for intergenerational support and solidarity, especially in the context of migration. The acculturation process may, however, entail an increased intergenerational gap possibly leading to conflicts and ambivalences between parents and adult children. This might in turn diminish their well-being.

Here, a cross-cultural comparison is envisaged between Luxemburgish and Portuguese triads of adult children and their older parents living in Luxembourg (N = 120). Participants will report on their mutual relationship quality and subjective well-being by using a standardized questionnaire.

Similarities and differences in mutual expectations of family members as well as the effects of an intergenerational gap in ideas about intergenerational solidarity on relationship quality and on subjective well-being (SWB) will be examined.

Results will be discussed regarding the relevance of intergenerational family relations for subjective well-being in the light of migration and ageing.

7th Congress of the European Society on Family Relations (ESFR) in Madrid, Spain, September 3-6, 2014.

Intergenerational family relations and migration from a life span perspective
Isabelle Albert, Dieter Ferring, & Stephanie Barros Coimbra

Due to important socio-demographic changes of the last decades, intergenerational family relations are a highly important topic in the public discourse and in research. These changes refer to phenomena at different stages in the family life cycle – such as, for instance, the younger generations’ postponed transitions to adulthood including longer training times and longer financial dependencies from parents, as well as growing life expectancies and the related issues of elder care. In light of increasing migration and mobility in Europe, these issues become highly important also with regard to acculturation. However, research so far has only seldom taken a larger perspective on these issues by combining views on different stages in the life span and in the context of migration.

The present symposium aims therefore to shed light on intergenerational family relations and migration at different stages in the family life cycle.

Starting with the relations between adolescents and their parents, the first contribution by Colette Sabatier and Virginie Avezou-Boutry (France) concentrates on the dual process of enculturation (ethnic and French) of Moroccan second-generation adolescents living in France. Three different identity patterns of adolescents are described both with regard to transmission and maintenance of the culture of origin in migrant families, as well as host national enculturation. Adolescents’ identity patterns do not only differ with respect to diverse criteria of acculturation and mother’s identity, but also with respect to the family climate and levels of mother-child conflicts.
The second paper by Susana Coimbra and colleagues (Portugal) focusses on the next stage in intergenerational relations, namely between emerging adults and their parents. Several factors that may enhance functional solidarity in families are explored, showing that the most important predictor of intergenerational solidarity is relationship satisfaction. Furthermore, results provide additional support for the assumption that solidarity patterns may – under certain conditions - be transmitted from one generation to the next within families.

Third, Isabelle Albert and colleagues (Luxembourg) move one step further in the family life cycle, by concentrating on two key issues in the relations between adult children and their ageing parents: the balancing of autonomy and relatedness as well as the regulation of support exchange and reciprocity, in Portuguese migrant and native families in Luxembourg. Continuing the lines of reasoning of the two preceding contributions, this study focuses on similarities and differences in identity constructions of adult children and their parents as well as on aspects of intergenerational support exchange as perceived by both groups.

To conclude, Jaan Valsiner and colleagues (Denmark) draw a more general view on the regulation of relations in family networks, considering different generations as well as the geographical distribution of wider family networks. The contribution focuses peripheral communication patterns (PCP) and their roles in constituting developmental contexts over the life course and as a source of family members' well-being.

Regulation of intergenerational family relations between adult children and their ageing parents in the context of migration

Isabelle Albert, Stephanie Barros-Coimbra & Dieter Ferring

In the next years, many western societies will be confronted with specific issues regarding ageing migrants, as an unprecedented number of first generation immigrants are approaching retirement age. Until now, only few studies have concentrated on the regulation of intergenerational family relations of older migrants and their adult children. Migrant families at this stage of the life span might be confronted with very special tasks: Whereas the acculturation situation may result in an increased need for intergenerational support due to a smaller social network or fewer sociocultural resources in the host country, an acculturation gap between first and second generation might lead to different expectations regarding intergenerational solidarity, to intergenerational conflicts and ambivalences, and to diminished well-being of family members.

The present study will concentrate on two key issues regarding the regulation of adult family relations, first the balancing of autonomy and relatedness - a major developmental task in adolescence and emerging adulthood that remains important over the whole life span -, and second the regulation of support exchange and reciprocity that might gain special importance between adult children and their ageing parents.

A cross-cultural comparison of altogether $N = 120$ Portuguese and Luxembourgish triads of older parents and their adult children, both living in the Grand-Duchy of Luxembourg, is
envisaged. Firstly, we will examine similarities and differences in family values and internalized norms of older parents and their adult children. Secondly, we will examine how intergenerational relations are regulated with respect to mutual expectations in migrant compared to nonmigrant families. Finally, we will explore how these aspects are related to relationship quality and subjective well-being (SWB) of the family members.

In a pilot study with $n = 31$ Luxembourgish and $n = 20$ Portuguese immigrant mother-daughter-dyads in adolescence and young adulthood, we found an acculturation gap between Portuguese mothers and daughters regarding felt obligations toward family members that had a particularly high salience for Portuguese mothers (see Albert, Ferring, & Michels, 2013). Further, differences between Luxembourgish and Portuguese families were found in patterns of social support: Luxembourgish mothers provided more support to daughters than they received from them, and daughters received more support than they provided; also, reports of mothers and daughters with regard to perceived amount of provided support converged largely, indicating a high veridicality. Instead, Portuguese mothers and daughters rated the amount of their provided support to each other as equally high, but daughters felt to receive less support from their mothers than mothers reported to provide, pointing to a biased perception of mutual support.

Results will be discussed in the framework of an integrative model of intergenerational family relations in the light of migration and ageing that might serve as a heuristic to explain similarities and differences between and within cultural groups in adult child-parent relations.

Intergenerational relations between adult children and their older parents: A comparison between host nationals and Portuguese immigrants in Luxembourg

*Stephanie Barros-Coimbra, Isabelle Albert, & Dieter Ferring*

Migration and ageing have become key topics of the contemporary world. In the next years, many western countries will be confronted with specific challenges of an ageing society. Among these, the situation of older migrants is of particular interest in many European countries. Only few studies have, however, focused the relationship quality between adult children and their ageing parents in host national compared to immigrant families. Within this context, expectations of different generations towards one another may be of specific importance. As ageing parents approach a critical period of their life span, they may in general more likely experience a need for intergenerational support and solidarity and develop specific expectations about support exchange. These expectations may be challenged when families migrate from a culture of interdependence to a culture of independence, since cultural contact might lead to core changes in value orientations. As these changes are often more pronounced in the second generation than in the first, a generation gap between ageing parents and their adult children might result out of this process. A major question in this context refers to mutual expectations and obligations between family members of different generations as far as emotional and financial support
are concerned. Adult children from immigrant families might, for instance, be subject to the experience of ambivalent or conflictual feelings regarding the desire to become independent from their parents; at the same time, they may feel the urge to conform to parental expectations or to support their parents in accordance to the values of their parents’ culture of origin. However, older parents may also undergo changes in their perception of intergenerational support and lower their expectations in the process of acculturation.

In the present study, a cross-cultural comparison between Luxemburgish and Portuguese triads of adult children and their older parents living in Luxembourg (N = 120) will be realized. We will focus on different key issues regarding intergenerational family relations between first and second generations of host nationals and immigrants. One of the main issues will be to examine interdependent and independent self-construals comparing both cultural groups and both generations, presuming that there might be an intergenerational or an acculturation gap. Another research question concerns the potential consequences of divergent expectations about support and solidarity between family members of different generations, such as ambivalent or conflictual feelings. Finally, we will analyse in how far changes in the ideas about intergenerational relations might have affected and be affected by the life-long goal pursuit of older parents of both cultural groups.

Results will be discussed within the framework of an integrative model of intergenerational family relations in the light of migration and ageing, which will be presented as a heuristic to explain similarities and differences in adult child-parent relationships by comparing two culturally different groups.


Attitude towards multiculturalism – a “majority in minority” perspective

Elke Murdock & Dieter Ferring

Even within a globalizing world, Luxembourg takes an exceptional position with a foreign population of 44 %. Within the capital of Luxembourg, home to a fifth of the country’s population, the percentage of the foreign population rises to 68%. The capital Luxembourg has adopted diversity in its branding in the form of the slogan “multiplicity”. The Luxembourg government has signed, but not yet ratified, the European Convention on Nationality on 26.05.2008. The Law on Luxembourg Nationality, which entered into force on 01.01.2009, was amended allowing for double nationality, if certain conditions are met. Thus there are indications that at society –level, Luxembourg is fairly open to multiculturalism. The present study investigates how this increasingly diverse society is perceived at individual level, in particular by the native population, which finds itself in the minority within its own capital. We conducted an empirical study within a large Luxembourg employer with a predominant native born workforce. We examined the endorsement of multiculturalism, defined as the openness
towards a plural composed society, using established Multiculturalism scales. We tested certain factors such as demographic variables, culture contact experience, values as measured by the Schwartz Values Structures and the understanding of nationality and their relationship with multiculturalism. The results show a widespread endorsement of the idea of multiculturalism, in the sense of broadening and enriching of horizons. The acceptance of behavioural aspects of living together (i.e. participation) is yet to be aligned. Those in favour of multiculturalism focus mainly on intangible aspects whereas more critical voices concentrate on the tangible aspects of living together. All forms of culture contact, an inclusive understanding of nationality and high self- transcendence values had a positive relationship with openness towards multiculturalism. Policy implications are discussed.