

Values and Belonging as Predictors of Integration

Integration processes are not only crucial for individual refugees but also play a significant role in broader social developments.

This is true of the fiscal impacts, which depend heavily on the successful integration of largely young refugees into the educational system and labor market, but also of the potential social and political conflicts that result from perceived differences in values.

Based on current theories of integration, the team at the University of Göttingen uses standardized survey data (from the IAB-BAMF-SOEP Survey of Refugees; NEPS; etc.) to examine how emotional and psychosocial factors as well as values and attitudes of both refugees and local populations affect structural, cultural, social, and identificative integration.

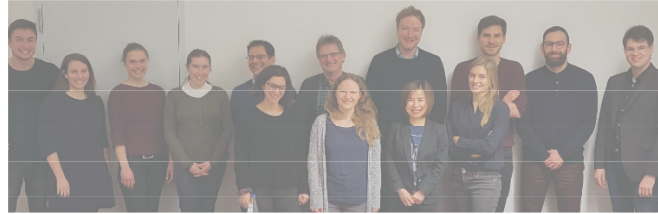


Photo (from left, back row): Lukas Fuchs, Lea Löbel, Coline Kuche, Silke Hans, Malek Babbouj, Jürgen Schupp, Christian von Scheve, Jannes Jacobsen, Kerem Böge, Eric Hahn, (in front): Caren Karnouk, Lena Walther, Thi Minh Tam Ta, Katja Schmidt.

Cooperation Between

- Freie Universität Berlin (Subproject 1)
- Campus Charité Mitte (Subproject 2)
- Socio-Economic Panel (SOEP) at DIW Berlin (Subproject 3)
- University of Göttingen (Subproject 4)

Project Duration

- 2018 to 2020

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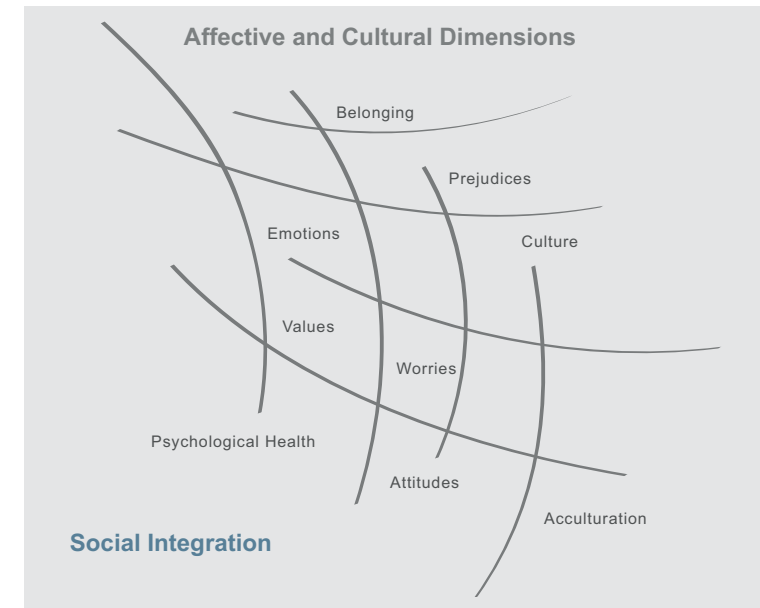


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AFFIN

Affective and Cultural Dimensions of Integration
Following Forced Migration and Immigration



The AFFIN research project aims at analyzing affective and cultural dimensions of integration that have received only marginal attention in the research to date using an interdisciplinary and multi-method approach. The focus is on attaining a better understanding of social changes resulting from immigration and on developing recommendations for political decision makers. The project consists of four subprojects.

Subproject 4

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Values of Refugees and Local Populations

The team at the Institute of Sociology at the Freie Universität Berlin studies values of refugees and local populations. The subproject investigates whether and how refugees' values differ from those of local populations, and where their values stand in relation to the populations of their respective countries of origin.

Using data from the IAB-BAMF-SOEP Survey of Refugees and the World Values Survey, the subproject focuses on attitudes and values about democracy and gender roles, and examines how refugees' attitudes and values change over time after their arrival in Germany. It also looks at how refugees' values compare with those of other immigrants who have lived in Germany for longer periods of time. Additional interview surveys are used to investigate whether and how values become a point of reference for feelings of belonging or alienation.

Feelings of Belonging and Psychological Stress in Refugees

The team in the Department of Psychiatry and Psychotherapy at Campus Charité Mitte examines affective and emotional dimensions of integration that have been widely neglected in prior research. Findings on how people deal with feelings of integration or alienation, and with their overall psychological state when starting anew in a different society are key in understanding processes and trajectories of integration. Refugees' experiences prior to fleeing their countries of origin as well as their experiences en route often result in traumata and psychological disorders. Maintaining sensitivity to the unique stressors associated with forced migration, the subproject uses secondary analyses of the IAB-BAMF-SOEP data and primary qualitative and quantitative studies, including surveys of a clinical sample, to investigate refugees' psychological and emotional experiences; interactions between psychological factors and social participation and their evolution over the first few years following migration; and predictors of psychological disorders in the refugee population.

Attitudes toward Refugees in Local Populations

Integration is defined not only by immigrants' perspectives but also by the often emotionally loaded attitudes of local populations. This subproject, carried out by SOEP at DIW Berlin, seeks to understand what attitudes the German population holds toward refugees, how these attitudes change over time, and how they relate to the presence of refugees in neighborhoods and municipalities. The database for this study are the ten monthly surveys conducted as part of the "Barometer of Public Opinion on Refugees" and data from the regular SOEP survey. From a cross-sectional perspective, the study will compare how towns and communities that have taken in a relatively high or low number of refugees differ from one another in their attitudes toward refugees. From a longitudinal perspective, a natural experiment will provide further insights: respondents in regions with high influx of refugees will serve as a treatment group and those in regions with a low influx of refugees as a control group.

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