

Analyzing parents' migration projects through their children's positions

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Plan of presentation

- Context of the study
 - Two paradigms in migration studies
 - French migration context in the after war period
- Transnational family lives of migrants and its consequences
 - Reproduction at a distance
 - Extent and factors leading to this situation
 - Place in the migrants' trajectories

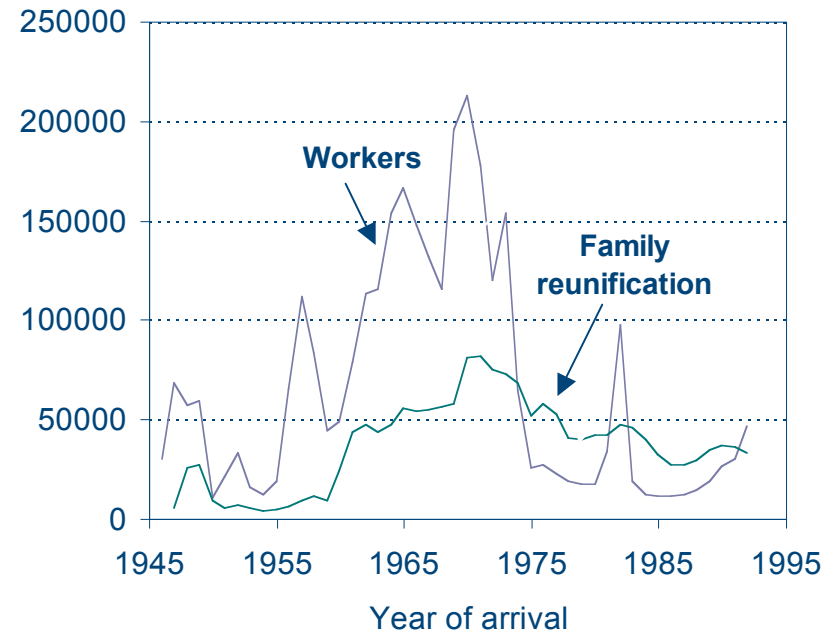
Two paradigms in migration studies:

- Figure of the migrant
 - Unidirectional move, permanent settlement in destination country
 - Circular migration, transnational lifestyles and activities
- Impact on family life
 - Family reunification in a stepwise fashion
 - Transnational family lives, family reunification is a possibility

Migration context in France in the period 1945-1990

- Long history of immigration
- Recruitment of foreign workers in the after war period
- 1974 – halt on work migration
- Family migration has always been present

Annual number of entries according to reason of admission: 1945 - 1992

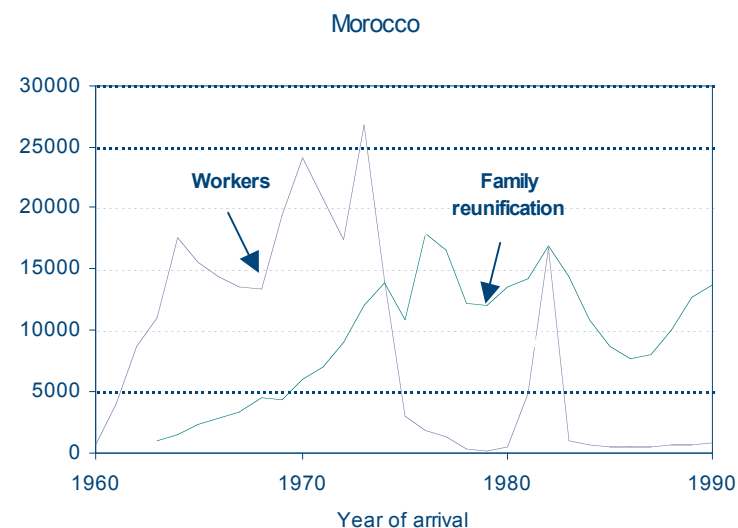
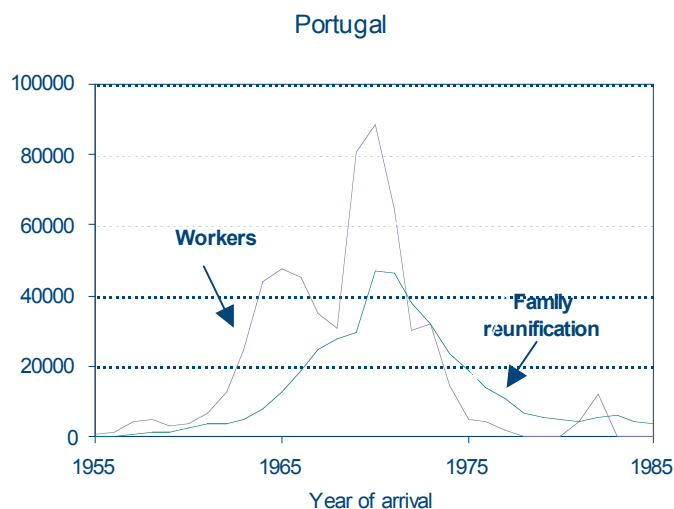


Step-wise migration

- Lag in worker and family reunification flows
- Depends on several factors:
 - marital status at arrival
 - choice of partner for single migrants
 - reunification behaviour



Long periods of separation between migrants and their families



Consequences of transnational lifestyles on family life

- Poses many questions: caring at a distance, impact on members left behind, particularly children
- Mainly focused on the experiences of women and mothers
- Focus of this paper: reproduction at a distance

Reproduction at a distance

- Definition: situation in which a person having migrated and settled abroad, has children in his/her country of origin
- Research questions:
 - What is the extent of this phenomenon?
 - What is the place of this phenomenon in the migrants trajectories?

Data and methods

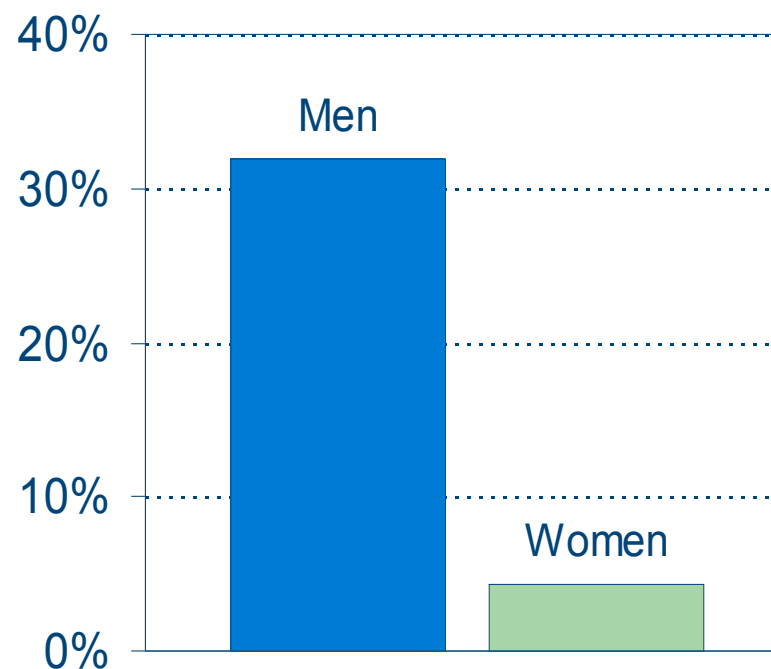
- Quantitative survey representative of the immigrant population in France in 1992
- 9000 persons interviewed on their migrant / family / employment / residential trajectories
- 7 geographical origins:
 - Algeria
 - Morocco
 - Turkey
 - Spain
 - Portugal
 - Sub Saharan Africa
 - South East Asia

Transnational family lives of workers and their families

- Families continued existing through communication, transfers, holiday visits...
- One aspect of these lives: children being born in country of origin after the migration of the parent
 - concerns 1 out of 5 adult migrants
 - among the migrants concerned, the average number of children born at a distance is 2,8

Gender specific phenomenon

- Concerns 32,0 % men
Vs. 4,2% women
- The implications of this phenomenon are also gender specific
- This paper focuses on the situation of men



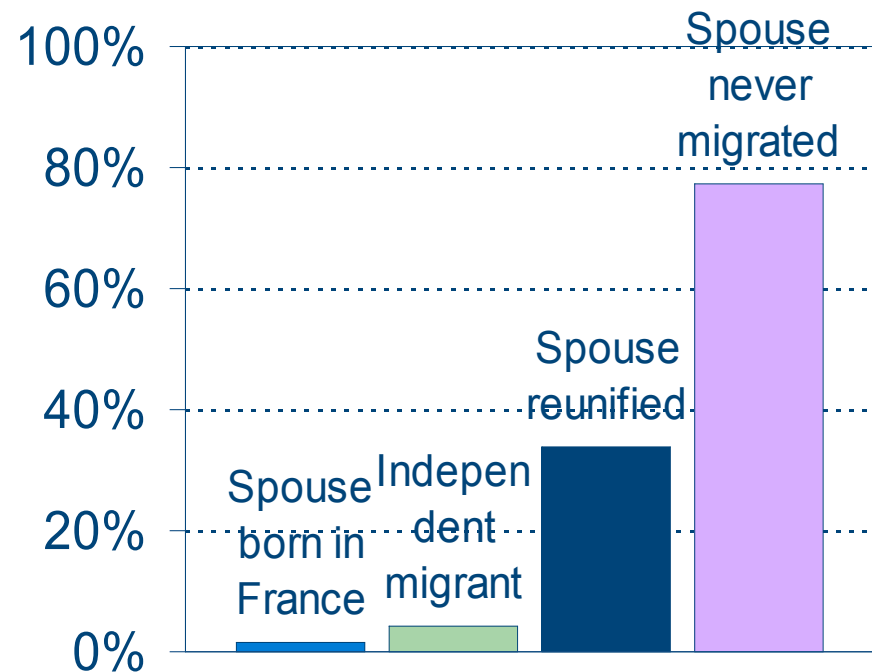
Proportion of migrants with at least one child born at a distance

A country specific phenomenon?

<i>Country of origin</i>	<i>Proportion of migrants with at least one child born at a distance</i>	<i>Average number of children born at a distance</i>
Algeria	47,7%	3,8
Morocco	46,0%	2,9
Turkey	28,6%	1,6
Sub Saharan Africa	19,8%	2,7
Portugal	15,6%	1,5
Spain	9,0%	1,2
South East Asia	1,4%	1,0
Total	32,0%	3,0

Choice of partner and reproduction at a distance

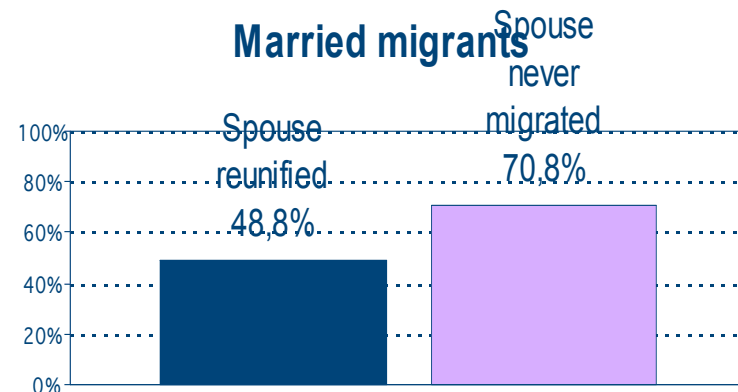
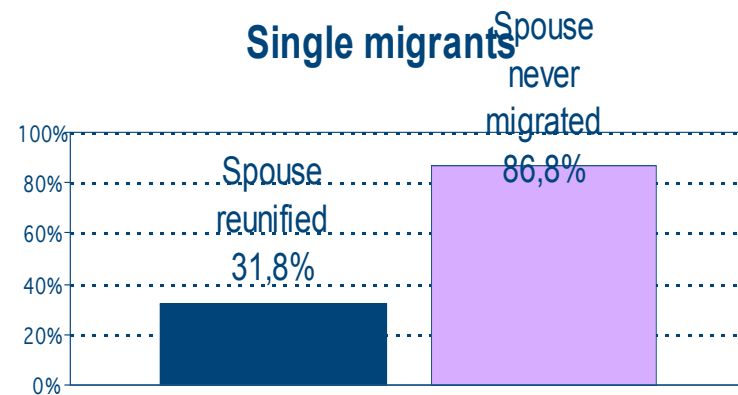
- Concerns migrants who've found themselves residing abroad while their spouses stayed in country of origin
- Highest proportion among migrants who never brought their spouse to France: 77,5 %
- This paper focuses on the last two categories



Proportion of migrants with at least one child born at a distance according to characteristics of spouse

Marital status at migration and reproduction at a distance

- Family situations of migrants at the time of migration are different
 - Single
 - Married w/ or w/out children
- Doesn't have much of an impact



Which factors encourage this phenomenon: analysis “all other things being equal”

- Sample: adult male migrants who went through a period of separation with their spouse
- Summary results:
 - Not significant:
 - Country of origin
 - Marital / family status at time of migration
 - Significant:
 - Duration of separation with spouse
 - Period of arrival in France

What is the place of this phenomenon in the migrants' trajectories?

- Consequence of a set of circumstances / obstacles to rapid family reunification and relocation of the whole family in destination country
- OR
- Part of a general strategy in maintaining a link with country of origin with the prospect of returning there in the future
 - Hypothesis: if 2nd option, then this behaviour should reveal a preference for return to home country

Project of returning to country of origin

- Difficult to capture the actual returns → researchers analyse the intentions and how they vary among different groups migrants
- Previous research:
 - More strong among men, persons with investment / properties and family abroad, in good health
 - Less strong among women, persons with investment / properties and family in France, those having acquired French citizenship

Project of returning to country of origin

- Survey question on the intention of return:
“Do you have the project of permanently returning to live in your country of birth?”
- 28,5% of all adult migrants have the project of returning
- In the population under study the proportion is 34,9%

How does the intention vary according to the fact of having children at a distance?

- We distinguish migrants with 0, 1 and 2 or more in order to separate situations:
 - the birth was a one-time event, an “accident”
 - repeated event, result of an established family configuration
- Preliminary results seem to confirm our hypothesis

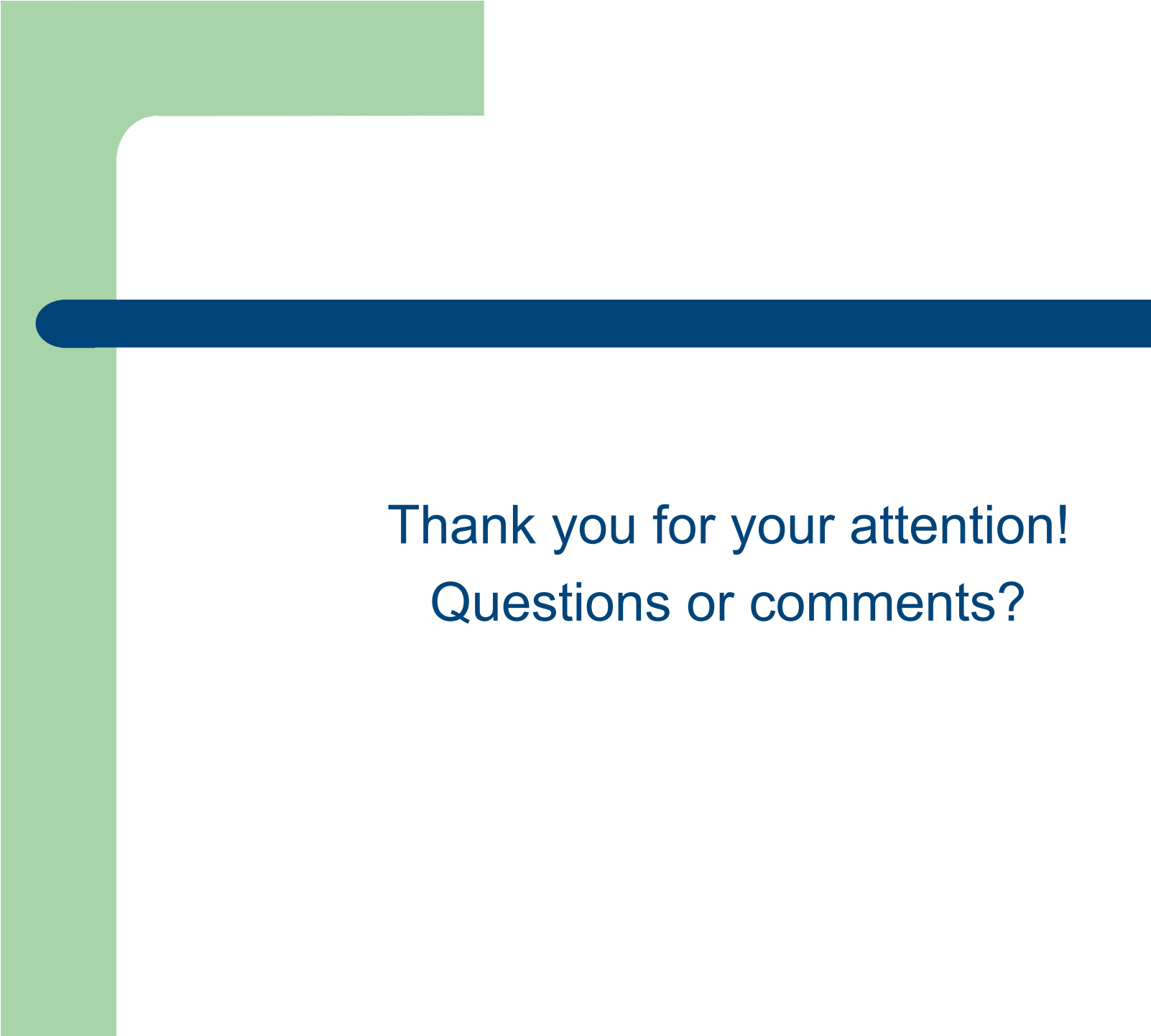
<i>Children born at a distance</i>	<i>Proportion of migrants declaring having the project of returning</i>
None	27,1%
One	31,7%
Two or more	47,6%

Project of returning: analysis “all other things being equal”

- 1st model:
 - control for situation of spouse and duration of residence
 - Having had 2 or more children at a distance increases the intention of returning: 45% *
- 2nd model:
 - supplementary control for nationality / investment and property / location of closest family members
 - Most important factors: nationality and investment and property
 - Having had 2 or more children at a distance increases the intention by 18,7% n.s.

Conclusion and future research directions

- Events and the choices in the family lives of migrants have to be studied in relation to other domains (for example economic investments in country of origin)
- These different aspects seem to reveal a more general strategy of the preparation of return among certain groups of migrants:
 - Ex. Barou (2001): strategy among Sub-Saharan migrants
- Further research is needed to see how the different decisions made by migrants develop:
 - In which domains do the migrants choose to invest? How do the family events influence these decisions: Is the investment in the house made when there is a larger family? Or vice versa



Thank you for your attention!
Questions or comments?