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### — Impact of Family Trajectories on Re-Migration

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**Do family changes, such as childbirth or divorce, trigger re-migration? Which factors explain current emigration intentions and behavior of families? The present subproject of the project “Mapping the Demographics of the New Forms of Mobility and Measuring Their Socioeconomic Impact” proposes an in-depth demographic analysis of the impact that family formation and dissolution exert on re-migration intentions and behavior. It does so by using the data of the Migration-Mobility Survey and an extended version of the linked register data.**

Migration and family formation are strongly interrelated. While research has often focused on the impact of migration on fertility behavior of immigrants once in the country of destination, the impact of family changes, such as childbirth or divorce, on re-migration has received less attention.

In fact, family dynamics are – together with labor market drivers and migration policies – one of the main factors leading to re-migration. The link between migration and family has received until now little attention by researchers in Switzerland, also because of an absence of longitudinal data. Thus, the existing literature on the Swiss context was so far constraint to analyses using the Census 2000 data or the Swiss Household Panel. By contrast, in the Nordic countries, where longitudinal register data are available, in-depth analyses were carried out regarding migrants' family life trajectories.

Moreover, when analyzing the individual determinants of re-migration, two distinct approaches, the stated-preferences approach and the revealed-preference approach can be applied. Whereas the former privileges the understanding of

the intentions or aspirations to migrate or to settle, the latter focuses on the actual emigration and its basic premise is that people's preferences are revealed by their behavior.

The present subproject is based on two research axes, which make use of two distinct, yet original data sources and apply both approaches in re-migration research.

#### **Family Trajectories and Migratory Intentions and Plans**

Family formation and dissolution can impact or modify future re-migration or settlement intentions and plans. Thus, this first axis seeks to answer the question of how childbirth and other family related life-course events impact on the migration decision-making process of recently arrived immigrants in Switzerland.

Using the new Migration-Mobility Survey, we distinguish between intending and/or planning an emigration compared to settlement of individuals who are in differing family situations: having no children, having children born before immigration, having children born before and after immigration, having children after immigration.

The principal aim of the stated-preference approach is not to measure future migration behavior. It rather shows the return motivation of migrants and therefore sums up the respondent's attitude towards the migration experience. Focusing on migrant families, we thus gain a better understanding of the importance of this life domain and of the challenges arising from family changes in the destination country in the re-migration decision.

### Immigrants' Family Trajectories

Using an extended version of the register-based longitudinal data and sequence analysis, we search to retrace and better understand migrants' family paths. Thus, applying the revealed-preference approach, the central research question asks which factors explain current emigration patterns of families?

This project also realizes a comparative case study between the Swiss context and Sweden for contextual as well as methodological reasons. Family oriented social policies in Sweden contribute to facilitate family formation and might be the key in explaining differences in immigrants' family life paths. Moreover, Swedish research has a long-lasting experience regarding research on the interrelation of family and migration trajectories as well as in the analysis of longitudinal register data.

By linking two demographic processes – family formation and migration –, this project provides new insights into the family-migration nexus and contributes to the better understanding of contemporary migration patterns.

### Publications

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- Steiner, Ilka and Aljoscha Landös. *Migrant's Current Life Situation and Migratory Trajectories. Some First Descriptive Results of the Migration-Mobility Survey*. Available online at <http://nccr-onthemove.ch/research/migration-mobility-survey/migration-mobility-survey-en/>

### Selected References

- Adserà, Alícia and Ana Ferrer. "Immigrants and Demography: Marriage, Divorce, and Fertility." In *Handbook of the Economics of International Migration*, Volume 1, edited by Barry R. Chiswick and Paul W. Miller, 315–374. Elsevier: Amsterdam, 2015.
- Kleinepier, Tom, Helga AG de Valk, and Ruben van Gaalen. "Life Paths of Migrants: A Sequence Analysis of Polish Migrants' Family Life Trajectories." *European Journal of Population* 31, no. 2 (2015): 155–79.
- Kulu, Hill, Tina Hannemann, Ariane Pailhé, Karel Neels, Leen Rahn, Allan Puur, Sandra Krapf, Amparo González-Ferrer, Teresa Castro-Martin, Elisabeth Kraus, Laura Bernardi, Andrés Guarín, Gunnar Andersson, and Lotta Persson. "A Comparative Study on Fertility among the Descendants of Immigrants in Europe." *Families and Societies Working Paper Series 40* (2015).
- Wanner, Philippe, Mathias Lerch and Rosita Fibbi. *Familles et migrations: Le rôle de la famille sur les flux migratoires*. Neuchâtel: Office fédéral de la statistique OFS, 2005.