



## Facts Beyond Figures

### Conclusions: Future of Migrant and Ethnic Minority Research in Europe

EUPHA Section Conference  
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## Migrant and ethnic minority health: Challenging field of research

1. Health
2. Migration and ethnicity
3. Management, organization
4. Policies

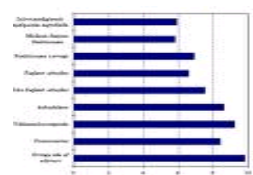
## Early stage of research - descriptive

- Qualitative research
  - Development of categories and concepts
  - Classification
  - Systematizing
- Quantitative research
  - Describing patterns
  - Generating hypothesis



Examples:

- Botanics
- Social and ethnic disparities in health:  
"Rather rich and healthy than poor and sick"



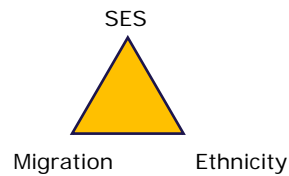
## Analytic research

Qualitative

- Understanding

Quantitative

- Finding associations and causal networks



Need for theory and models!!



## Ethnicity

"Ethnicity is the social group a person belongs to, and either identifies with or is identified with by others, as a result of a mix of cultural and other factors including language, diet, religion, ancestry, and physical features traditionally associated with race"

*Source: Bhopal R. Glossary of terms relating to ethnicity and race: for reflection and debate. J Epidemiol Community Health 2004 June;58(6):441-5.*



## Definition of migration

"The movement of a person or a group of persons from one geographical unit to another for temporary or permanent settlement"

*Source: UN. Report of the General Secretary. Migration and Development, 18 May, 2006*

"A social process of change, where an individual moves from one cultural context to another for temporary or permanent settlement"

*Source: Syed HR, Vangen S. Health and migration: a review. Oslo: NAKMI, 2003*



## Whom are we talking about?

- 1) **Family migrants**  
(family reunification with close relatives)
- 2) **Humanitarian migrants**  
(refugees and other persons in need of international protection)
- 3) **Labour/student migrants**
- 4) **Irregular migrants**

(Source: *UN. Report of the General Secretary. Migration and Development, 2006*)



## The Life Course Perspective

### **In a multidisciplinary and situational perspective!**

- Migration process
- Generational
- Age
- Institutional setting



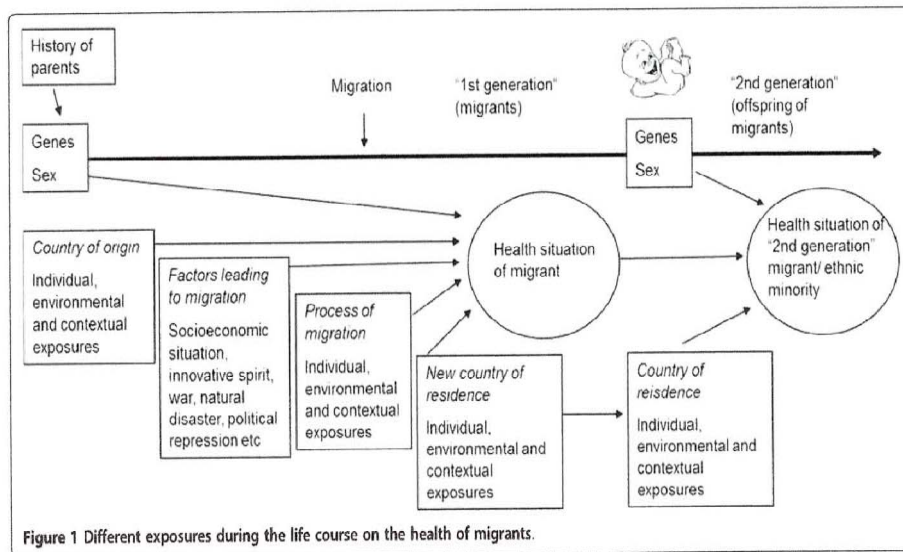


Figure 1 Different exposures during the life course on the health of migrants.



Upstream or down stream focus?



## Migrants and ethnic minorities: a problem or a benefit to society?

- Aging societies – low reproduction
- Minorities doing better – illustrate problems among majorities and mechanisms behind health and disease
  - Smoking, mortality, survival, risk factors
- How to obtain better health services
  - Communication (intercultural mediation)
  - Spiritual services
  - Professional competencies (inclusive)
  - Community/user participation

- **Migration – a natural experiment!**

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## *Labour migrants, forced migrants and asylum seekers 1949-1996*

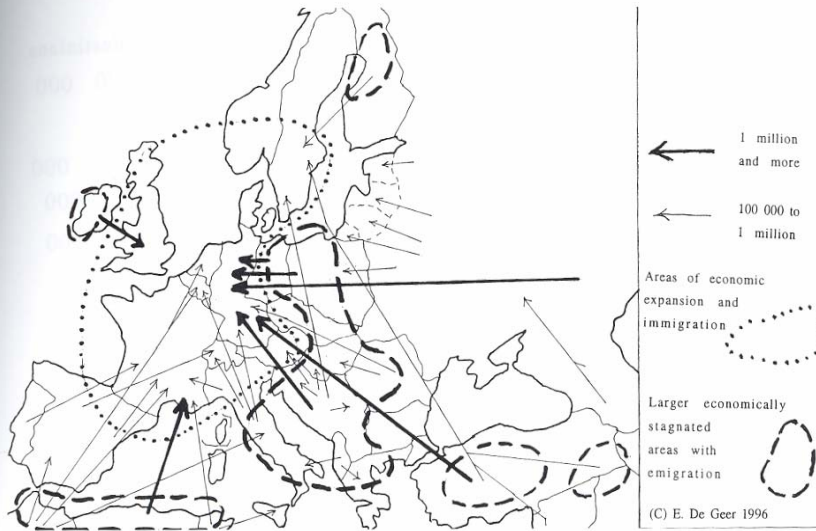
Figure 4. Labour migrants, forced migrants and asylum seekers 1949-1996.



Source: De Geer 2001



Figure 8. Europe 1949-1996. Economic migrants and asylum-seekers.



Source: De Geer 2001

## Development of large national cohorts of migrants



## Experimental research - interventions

### Perspectives

- Groups
- Populations
- Programmes
- Organisations

### Designs

- Natural experiments
- Controlled studies
  - Non-randomized
  - Randomized



## Multidisciplinarity required

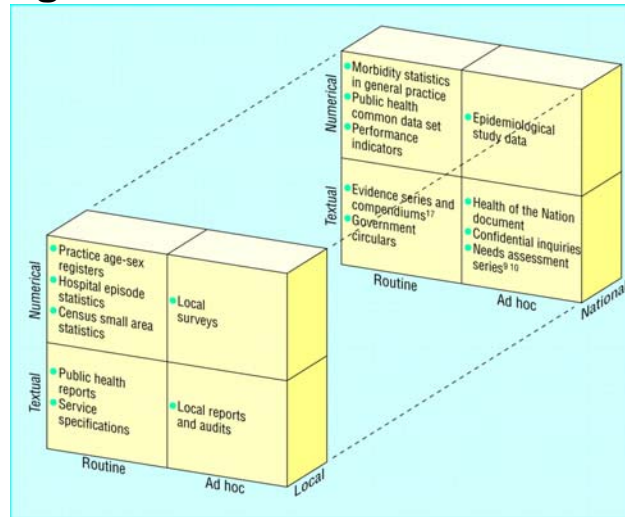
- Medicine
- Epidemiology
- Social sciences
- Humanities

Not only additional – but truly integrated!





## Triangulation of information sources



Stevens, A. et al. *BMJ* 1998;316:1448-1452

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### International research requested

- Identifying optimal reference groups
  - Chinese in France
  - Ghanesians in Ghana
- Transborder health care
  - Returning migrants (Salamon effect)
  - Medical tourism
- EU policy support
  - Comparative data development (MEHO)
  - Health need assessments
  - Quality of Care (EUGATE)
  - Adapting research into practice (ADAPT)





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### Major themes across disciplines, policies and services

- Inclusive or separate services (i.e. institutions and programs for the ageing migrants)
- Ensuring participation of migrants and minorities (studies, programs, policy making)
- Global research in a globalized world
- Barriers for integration
  - Health promoting integration
  - Integration promoting health

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## What do we need to achieve?

- Development of theories, concepts and common measures
- Disentangling determinants and understanding causal processes
- Developing effective and acceptable interventions (prevention and care)
  - User perspectives, Quality, Organisation, Cost-effectiveness
- Creating evidence for policy decisions (priorities):
  - Locally
  - Regionally
  - National
  - International
- Ensuring a stable research base



Facts beyond  
Figures?



**Thank you!**



Migrant and Ethnic Minority Health Conference, June 2012  
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