

Catching Up or Falling (Further) Behind? Migrant Disparities in Occupational Prestige Trajectories in Germany

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Introduction

Motivation i

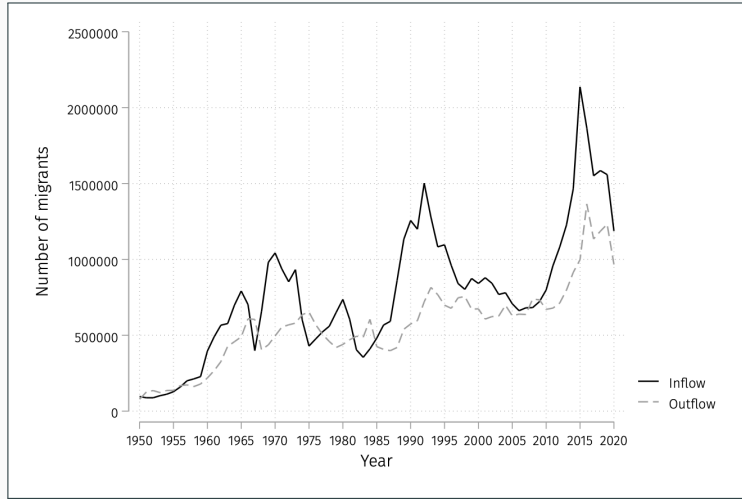


Figure 1: Migration to Germany: 1950 to 2020

Optimistic but Disadvantaged

- Large share of migrants and their descendants in Germany (Destatis, [2020](#); Ellermann, [2021](#))
- Germany not recognized as a migration society and patch-work integration policies (Adam, [2015](#); Green, [2013](#); Oltmer, [2016](#))
- Disadvantaged in many spheres of society (Boeckh, [2018](#); Brenke, [2018](#); Kalter and Granato, [2018](#); Kogan, [2007](#); Seebaß and Siegert, [2011](#))
- However: Immigrant Achievement Paradox (Salikutluk, [2016](#); Tjaden and Hunkler, [2017](#); Van De Werfhorst and Van Tubergen, [2007](#))

Motivation iii and aim of current study

Issue: What has (not) been done?

- Occupational prestige and development hereof as blind spot in research on migrant disparities
- Occupational prestige is a distinct concept of social stratification
- Previous research: mostly focused on first generation or no comparison to natives

Aim: What has to be done?

- Analyze differences in occupational prestige trajectories between migrants (1st and 2nd gen.) and natives
- Thorough theoretical explanation taking into account structural characteristics as well
- Multi-level growth curve models (SOEP v37, 1984-2020)

Theoretical Framework

Explaining Migrant Disparities

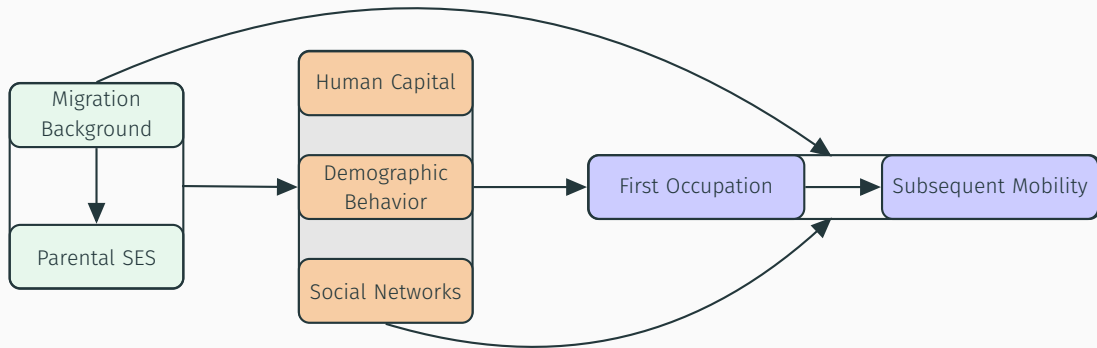


Figure 2: Theoretical Mechanisms

Analytical Strategy, Data and Methods, Variables

Data and Methods

- SOEP v37 (1984-2020): Individuals between 14 and 64 years, max. 15 years of labor market experience, list-wise deletion
- Multilevel Growth Curve Analysis with random intercepts and slopes:
- $$y_{it} = \beta_0 + \beta_1 Exp_{it} + \beta_2 Exp_{it}^2 + \beta_3 MigBack + \beta_4 MigBack \times Exp_{it} + \beta_5 MigBack \times Exp_{it}^2 + \gamma_{0i} + \gamma_{1i} Exp_{it} + \gamma_{2i} Exp_{it}^2 + \epsilon_{it}$$

Analytical Strategy

- SOEP BIOJOB: Information on first job after finishing education
- Incomplete information for individuals who joined the SOEP after joining labor market
- Additional observation for these individuals

Variables

Dependent Variable Occupational Prestige: SIOPS (Treiman, [2013](#))

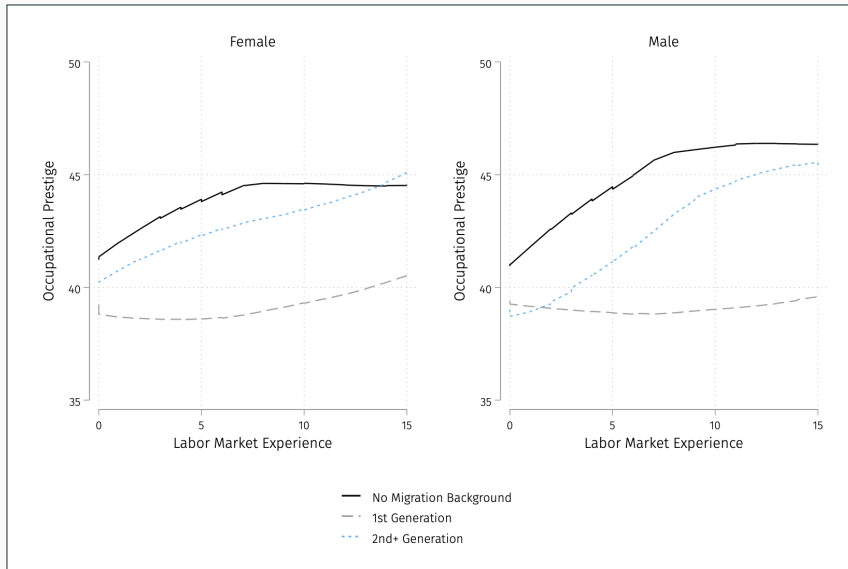
Independent Variable Migration Background: 1. Natives, 2. 1st Gen. Migrants 3. 2nd+ Gen. Migrants

Explanatory Variables Labor Market Experience in years (Full+Part Time), Education (Low: ISCED 0-2; Medium: 3-4; High: 5-6), Parental SES (SIOPS Father; mean centered), Marital Status, Divorce, No. of Children, Occupational Closure of First Occupation (Index by Haupt et al. ([2018](#)); x100 and mean centered), Nace-Sector of First Job

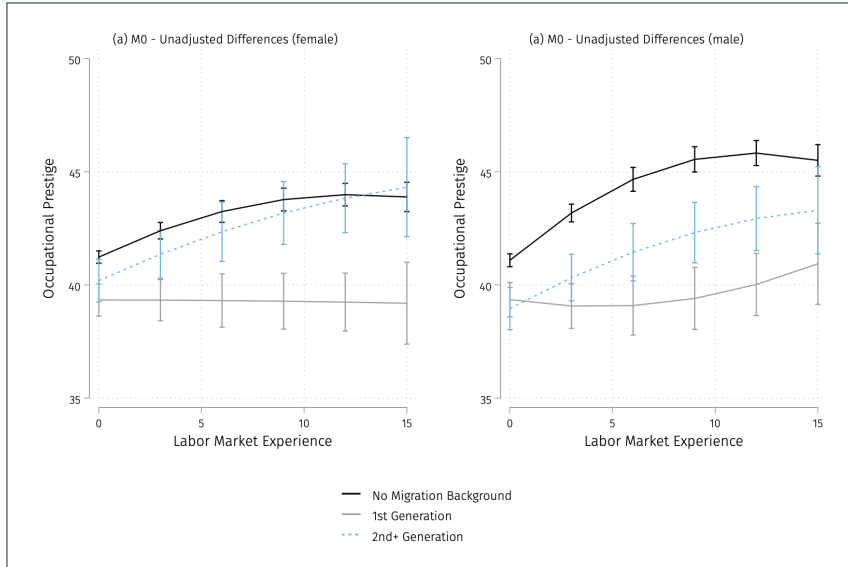
Controls Birth Cohort, East-/West-Germany, Part Time Employment, Unemployment Experience

Results

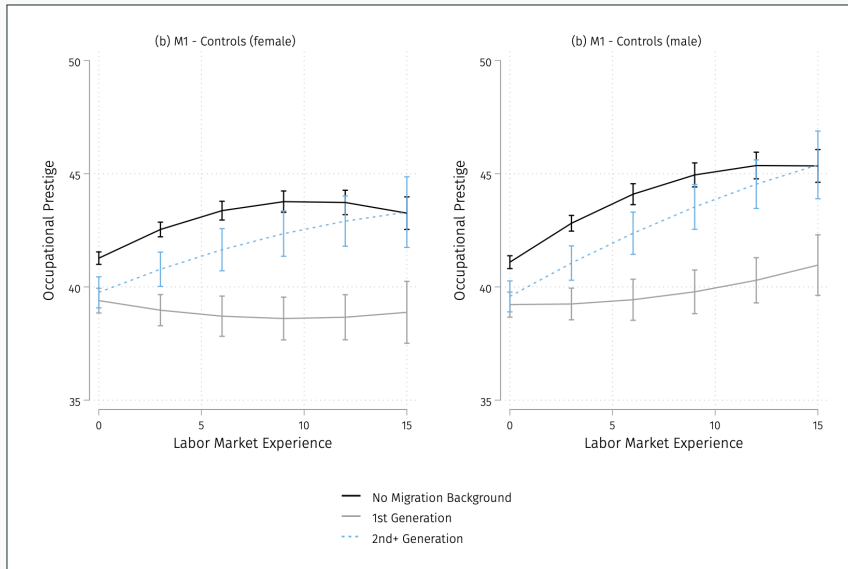
Descriptive Results



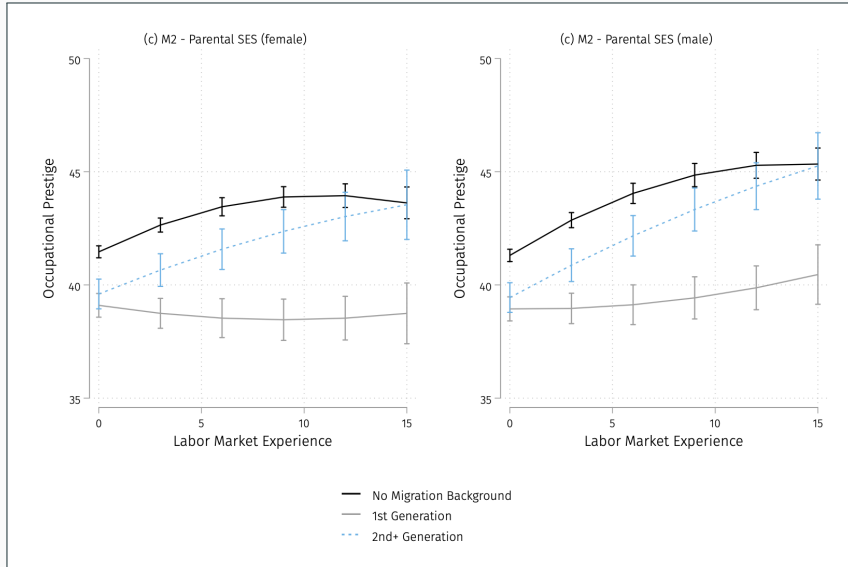
Multivariable Results



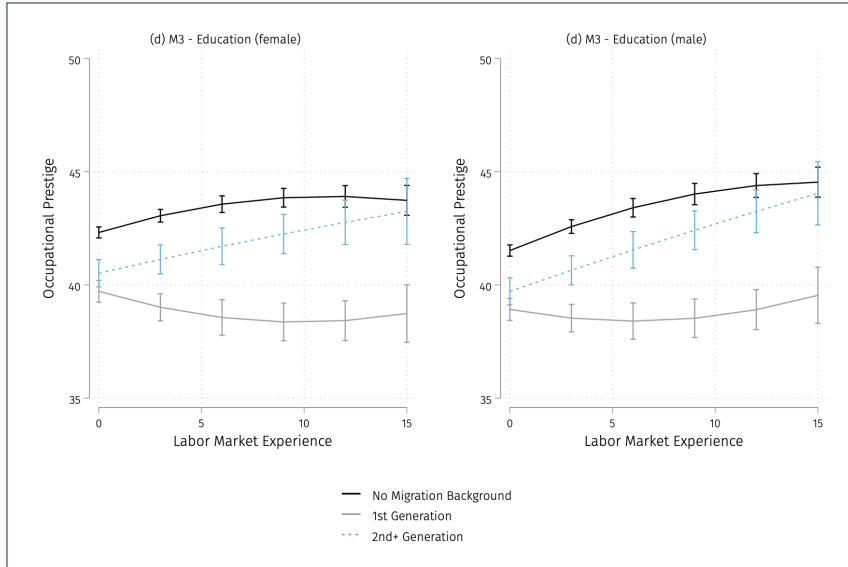
Multivariable Results



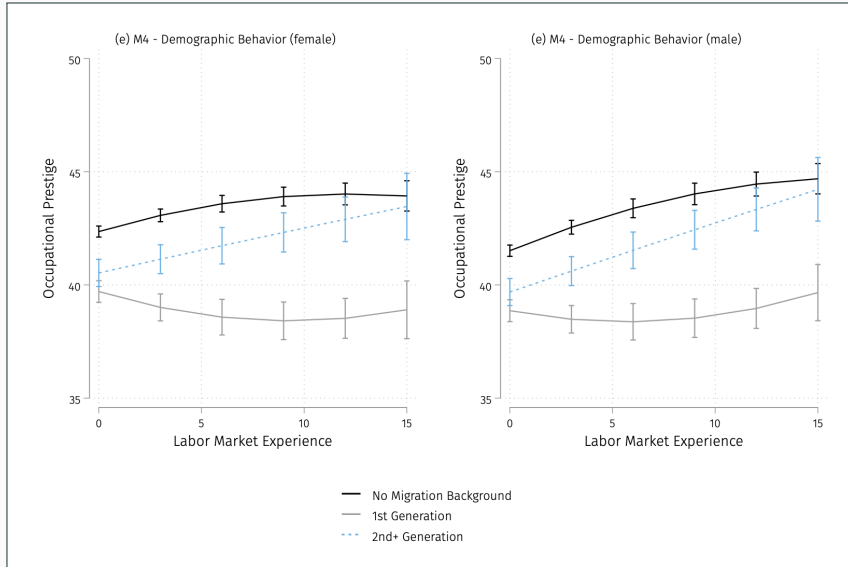
Multivariable Results



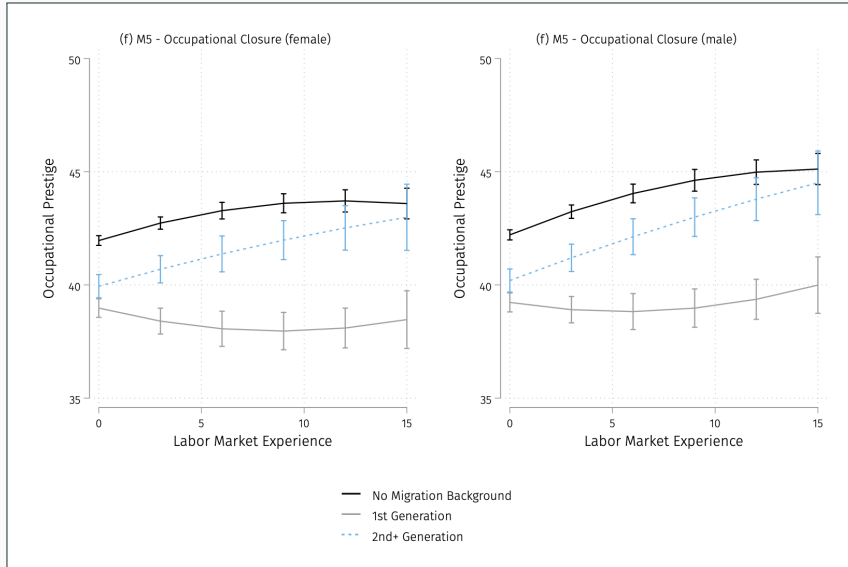
Multivariable Results



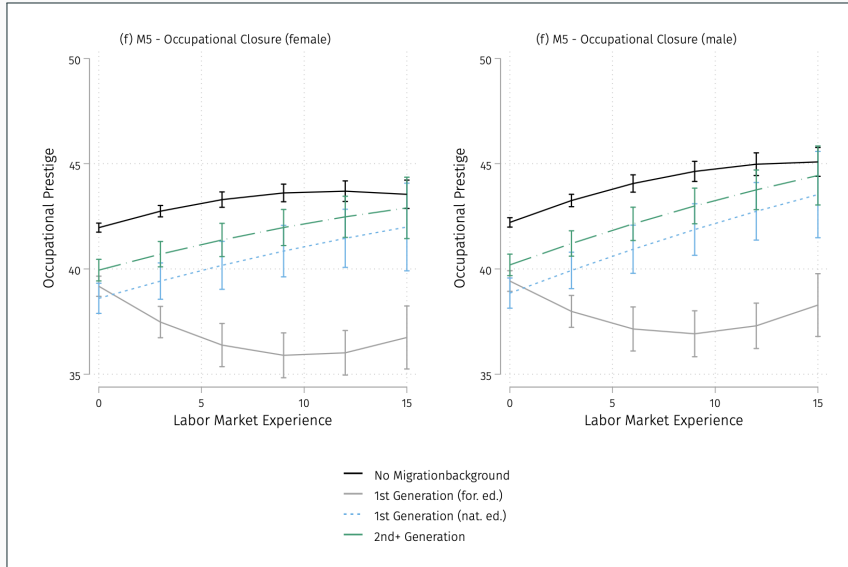
Multivariable Results



Multivariable Results



Multivariable Results



Conclusion

Conclusion

- Male and Female 2nd gen. migrants are able to catch up to natives after about 15 years
 - adjusting for explanatory variables does not change the trajectories profoundly
- First gen. migrants experience u-shaped trajectory across the career
 - Females hardly able to regain their initial occupational status; Males enabled to regain/surpass their initial occupational status
- First gen. migrants with German educational credentials show almost similar trajectories than second gen. migrants
 - ⇒ German educational credentials are highly important for migrants' intragenerational career mobility

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