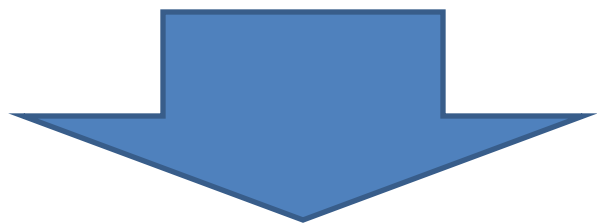


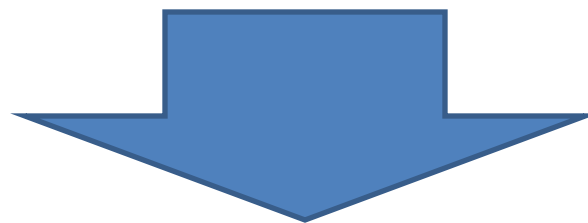
Surveying Migrants in Moscow Suburbs: Progress Report

Evgeni Varshaver, LSSI

Studying migration (within the group led by prof. Alexandrov)



Field ethnography in Moscow, Leningrad and Tver regions, (Russia), Tajikistan, Uzbekistan and Kyrgyzstan.



Mixed method (survey + interviews + observation) research of **adult** migrants in the Moscow suburb circle (Alexandrov, Ivanyushina, Varshaver).

This project is an integral part of the migration project in Moscow region (Sociology of Education and Science Lab)

- **Moscow region:**

50 schools, 3500 students + over 150 interviews with teachers, students and parents

- **Major foci of our research:**

Educational pathways and choices

Selection and sorting

Migrant children and multiethnic schools

Spatial organization of educational systems



The next step was to study parents of that children

2 problems of studying migrants

- The problem of sampling
 - The population is never known
 - Migrants by definition are a mobile group
 - Random sample of an area with a big concentration of migrants a-la Tessler and Coleman is too expensive
- The problem of approach
 - Migrants often avoid research interventions
 - Migrants often work hard and have no time
 - ... and running a bit ahead ...

IF SURVEYING DURING A PARENT CONFERENCE,
WOMEN ARE MUCH OVERREPRESENTED

Surveying migrants through the school system

- School distribution is a territorial sample itself
 - Temporary migrants as well as elites will be underrepresented,
- BUT
- it is a GROUP characterized by (1) plans for the future, (2) housing choice (related to wealth)
- School as the last legitimate social institute
 - Simplifying approach to a migrant
 - Support of a teacher decides

THE 'SURVEYING PARENTS OF MIGRANTS THROUGH SCHOOLS' PROJECT ATTEMPTS TO

- *cover grown-up migrants of the Moscow suburb circle*
- *compare different groups of migrants (intra- and international, of ethnic majority and minority, as well as of different ethnic groups and world regions) between them and with the local population*
- *in relation to their behavioral and attitudinal characteristics*

Pilot survey in Moscow suburb circle

SURVEY (paper-and-pencil design)

- 4 schools (settlements Razvilka, Voskresenskoe, and towns of Korolev and Shcherbinka)
- 18 classes (2 preparatory group, 8 first classes, 8 second classes)
- 318 migrant parents surveyed

ALONG WITH THAT

- 17 Moscow suburb schools observed
- 34 interviews with migrant parents taken

The questionnaire:

16 pages, 72 questions

CONCEPTUAL VARIABLES:

- Family migration route
- Languages within the family
- Personal religiosity
- Social capital
- Transnationalism
 - migrational,
 - economical (remittances)
 - communicative
- School choice

**THE QUESTIONNAIRE WAS
DESIGNED WITHOUT
EXPLICIT SIGN THAT
GROUPS OF MIGRANTS
ARE OF INTEREST**

Design of methodological experiment

- 3 classes of 2 schools were surveyed during a parent conference
- 5 classes of 4 schools were surveyed at home under a condition that “ANY PARENT FILLS THE QUESTIONNAIRE IN”
- 5 classes of 4 schools were surveyed at home under a condition that “ONLY FATHER SHOULD FILL THE QUESTIONNAIRE IN”.
- 5 classes of 4 schools were surveyed at home under a condition that “BOTH PARENTS SHOULD FILL THE QUESTIONNAIRE IN”. In this case the number of questionnaires given to a teacher doubled.

Questionnaires filled in at home overall response rate = 59%

Questionnaires filled in during a parent conference response rate = 79%

WHO – MALES OR FEMALES – AND WHERE RESPOND BETTER?

	The questionnaire distributed through teachers to be filled in at home				The questionnaire distributed by researchers during a parent conference
	Overall at home	Fathers only	Any parent	Both parents	Both parents
Male	98 (37.3%)	46 (56.8%)	8 (10.4%)	44 (41.9%)	7 (14.3%)
Female	165 (62.7%)	35 (43.2%)	69 (89.6%)	61 (58.1%)	42 (85.7%)
Overall	263	81	77	105	49

WHERE ARE THE QUESTIONNAIRES FILLED IN BETTER?

	At home	At a parent conference	Overall
Entirely filled in	197 (73.5%)	38 (76.0%)	235 (73.9%)
Partially filled in	71 (26.5%)	12 (24.0%)	83 (26.1%)
	268	50	318

IT'S BETTER TO QUESTION PARENTS AT HOME – FATHERS ARE MORE LIKELY TO ANSWER AND THE QUESTIONNAIRES ARE FILLED IN WELL

BUT THE RETURN OF QUESTIONNAIRES THAT WERE TO BE FILLED AT HOME VARIES FROM 20% TO 100%. WHY?

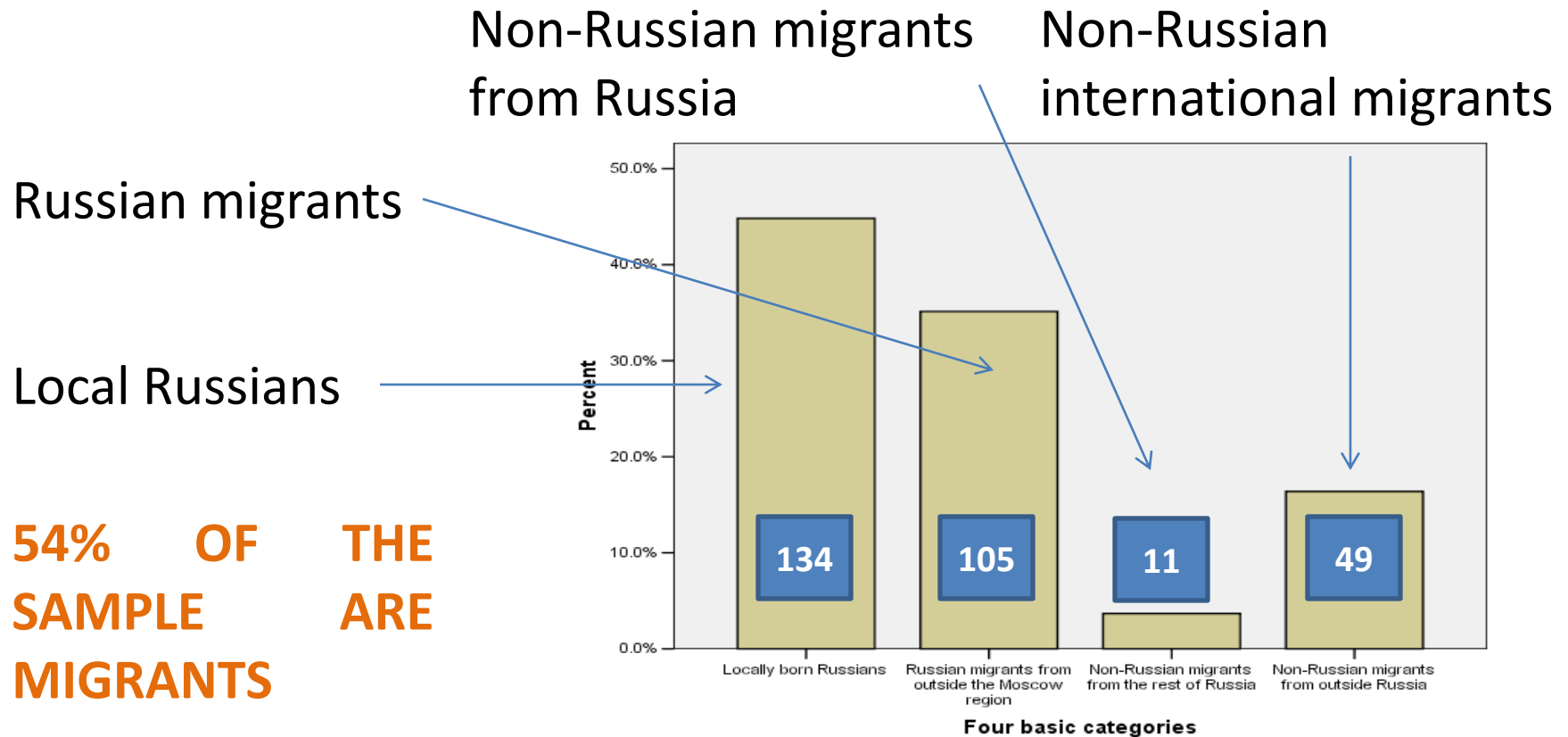
TEACHERS WHO DISTRIBUTED QUESTIONNAIRES WERE QUESTIONED

- (1) If a teacher collaborated and influenced parents, the return could be 100%, if a teacher was not interested, the return was small.
- (2) The return was bigger if a teacher put a sticky note onto a questionnaire with a small guidance.

A RECIPEE IS TO MOTIVATE TEACHERS TO COLLABORATE

Basic categories of respondents

Ethnicity = a native language reported



Education

Q59: What education have you completed?

	Just high school or less	More than high school less than higher education	Higher education completed
Local Russians	12% (16)	40% (52)	47% (62)
Russian migrants	9% (9)	47% (48)	45% (46)
Non-Russian international migrants	35% (17)	27% (13)	39% (19)

Non-Russian migrants are much more probable to have only high school finished as compared with other categories, but a difference between them and other categories in terms of completed higher education is smaller.

Plans for the future

Q7: Where do you think you'll be living 5 years from now?

	In Moscow Region	In the rest of Russia	In other country
Local Russians	97%	1%	2%
Russian migrants	92%	3%	5%
Non-Russian international migrants	85%	2%	11%

The difference between natives and different groups of migrants is small (though statistically significant). It can mean that all three groups are planning to stay in Moscow region.

NOTE: We are speaking ONLY about those migrants that have sent children to school that serves as a good report about plans itself.

Translocal practices

	<i>Share of the group that speaks with people living NOT IN MOSCOW REGION by telephone or Internet THREE TIMES A WEEK AND MORE (Q13)</i>	<i>Share of the group that travelled OUTSIDE RUSSIA during the last year (Q9)</i>
Local Russians	24%	40%
Russian migrants	47%	45%
Non-Russian international migrants	57%	73%

Though not planning to leave, international migrants tend to live “across the border” – they call relatives and travel abroad much more often as compared with local Russians and even Russian migrants.

Do migrants help their parents more?

	<i>Q16: Does your family help your or your spouse's parents financially?</i>			<i>Q18: Did you help them during the last month?</i>	
	Yes	No		Yes	No
Local Russians	46%	53%		69%	31%
Russian migrants	59%	41%		66%	34%
Non-Russian international migrants	87%	12%		63%	37%

Though different groups of migrants answer the general behavioral question differently, when asked in particular, the difference is insignificant. Ethnic migrants tend to value, but not practice such help, local Russians value it less, but practice more.

Social capital index

How many people...

- Q57.1 Could lend you a small amount of money (up to thousand rubles)?
- Q57.2 Could help you at home?
- Q57.3 Could lend you tools or other things?
- Q57.4 Could keep eye on your children for a while?
- Q57.5 Could help choose a school or university?
- Q57.6 Could help to get to a good doctor or find a good hospital?
- Q57.7 Could help in searching for a job?
- Q57.8 Could lend you a big amount of money (more than ten thousand rubles)?

Nobody	1	2-5	More than 5	It's difficult
= 0	person	persons	persons	to say
	= 1	= 2	= 3	EXCLUDED

$$SC_OVERALL = (Q57.1 + Q57.2 + Q57.3 + Q57.4 + Q57.5 + Q57.6 + Q57.7 + Q57.8)/8$$

Social capital

	Social capital index (mean)
Local Russians	1.94
Russian migrants	1.76
Non-Russian international migrants	1.61

Independent sample T-test has shown that none of the mean differences is significant

This question doesn't work well in the paper-and-pencil survey , but if all groups will be of about the same social capital in the big survey, a possible explanation could be that migration as a network process needs a certain social capital that multiplies by two as a migrant can rely both on diaspora and people that stayed at home.

Religiosity - belief

Q47: Do you think, you are a believer?

	Yes	Probably yes	Probably no	No
Local Russians	44%	40%	12%	4%
Russian migrants	59%	35%	3%	4%
Non-Russian international migrants	77%	22%	0	0

Among ethnic international migrants there are more people that are of doubtless belief and no people that are not believers. Differences between locals and both groups of migrants are significant according to the Mann-Whitney test. The difference between two groups of migrants is insignificant. **Interestingly, migrants consider themselves to be believers more often than local population.**

Religiosity - prayer

Q48: How often do you pray?

	Regularly (more than once a week)	Irregularly (from time to time, almost never or never)
Local Russians	20%	64%
Russian migrants	33%	47%
Non-Russian international migrants	46%	31%

Non-Russian international migrants tend to pray more and more regularly as compared with Russians – both locals and migrants. It should be checked further, but it seems that **overall religiosity of an ethnic migrant is higher than of local and migrant Russians.**

Is that Islam?

No, as according to the T-test, difference between those who profess Orthodox Christianity and Islam is insignificant.

Probably it is Christian
South Caucasus.

Still, it needs further
scrutiny

To be done further

- A big survey that will complete the Moscow suburban circle to be undertaken
- Parents to be surveyed at home using the paper-and-pencil method with the questionnaires to be passed to them over with motivated teachers
- Questions related to values to be included so that the survey results can be compared to WVS in respective countries