

# Impact of Ethnic Diversity on Migration Processes in the North Caucasus

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# A problem

- \* Out-migration of Russians after the collapse of the Soviet Union
- \* There are big differences between some areas, for example, in the North Caucasus.
- \* What matters for migratory processes in the region?

# My Argument

- \* Ethnicity does matter for migration
- \* Ceteris paribus, the higher ethnic diversity the lesser migration.
- \* Ethnic diversity determines both level of social capital in the area and the level of communal violence which affect out-migration

# Empirical studies of effects of ethnic diversity

- \* Many scholars argued that ethnic diversity impedes economic growth (Easterly and Levine, 1997, Collier, 1998, Alesina et al., 2003)
- \* Ethnic diversity may affect violence positively. However, only average level of fractionalization is significant for violence (Brown, Boswell, 1997, Collier, 1998, Montalvo and Reynal-Querol, 2005)
- \* Empirical studies of effects of diversity on social capital have a contradictory results:
  - Diversity leads to decreasing of social capital in the area (Putnam, 2007; Stolle et. al, 2008)
  - Diversity has no significance for social capital (Gesthuizen et al., 2009; Hooghe et al., 2009; Sturgis et al., 2011)
- \* There are only theoretical studies of impact of ethnic diversity on migration processes (Docquier, Rapoport, 2003)
- \* Generally speaking, we have no a consistent theory of impact of diversity on different social processes

# A model

- \* Interactions between ethnic groups as a repeated game with cooperative and conflict strategies
- \* Migration as “exit” strategy
- \* high level of diversity creates incentives to cooperate because of high level of uncertainty and risks
- \* Out-group trust and tolerance as an necessary features of cooperation
- \* Trust is higher, violence is lower, ‘exit’ is chosen less frequently

# Hypotheses

- \* H1: migration correlates with ethnic diversity with the inverted V-form
- \* H2: violence affects migration positively
- \* H3: social capital affects migration negatively
- \* H4: diversity affects violence negatively
- \* H5: diversity affects social capital positively

# Sample

- \* Two Krays: Stavropol and Krasnodar – and seven Republics: Adygea, Chechnya, Dagestan, Ingushetia, Kabardino-Balkaria, Karachay-Cherkessia, North Ossetia.
- \* 199 rayons
- \* Three time periods (1979-1989, 1989-2002, 2002-2010)

# Variables

- \* Dependent variable: decline of Russian population
- \* Blocks of independent variables:
  - Diversity (ELF, Index of polarization)
  - Violence (crime rate, CTO, fatalities in armed conflicts)
  - Social capital (?)
  - economic performance (GDP, Gini coefficient)
  - geographical features (elevation, percentage of forest land, precipitation rate)
  - “embeddedness” of Russians: orthodox Churches, Russian clubs and communities, number of Russian regional politics.



# Important problems

- \* Absence of survey data on the social capital and trust
- \* Impact of endogenous demographical factors: how to distinguish population changes due to the migration from all others?
- \* Credibility of existing socio-economic statistics: can we believe Rosstat?

# Prospects of Development

- \* Other Russian national republics
- \* Whole Post-Soviet Space
- \* World wide study of relation between ethnic diversity and migration

Thank you for attention