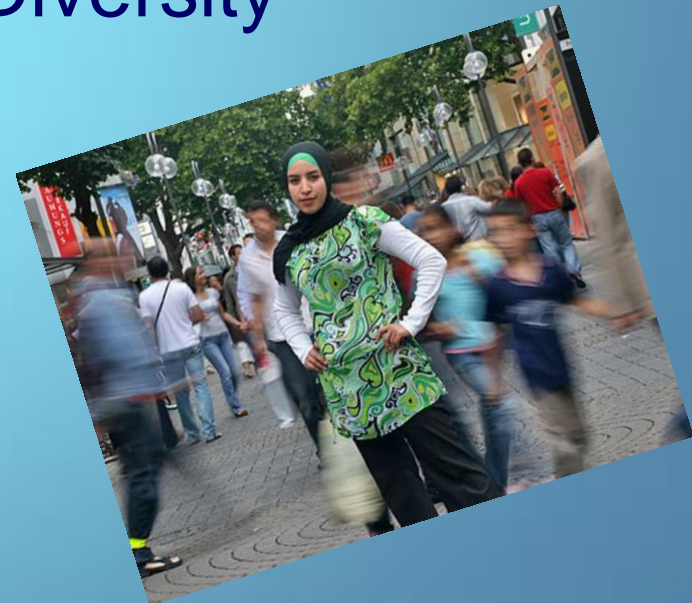# Factors of Tolerance towards Immigrants in Europe:
Self-esteem & Language Diversity

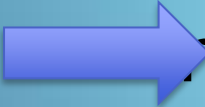Elena Gaber

Associated Researcher

in LCSR NRU HSE

I. Topicality

UN Declaration of Human Rights

All human beings are born free and equal in dignity and rights. They are endowed with reason and conscience and should act towards one another in a spirit of brotherhood.

I. Topicality

- Tolerance – the acceptance of others who differ from oneself in any way

- Immigration
    - Increase in diversity
    - Threat to tolerance

I. Topicality
Immigration to Europe*
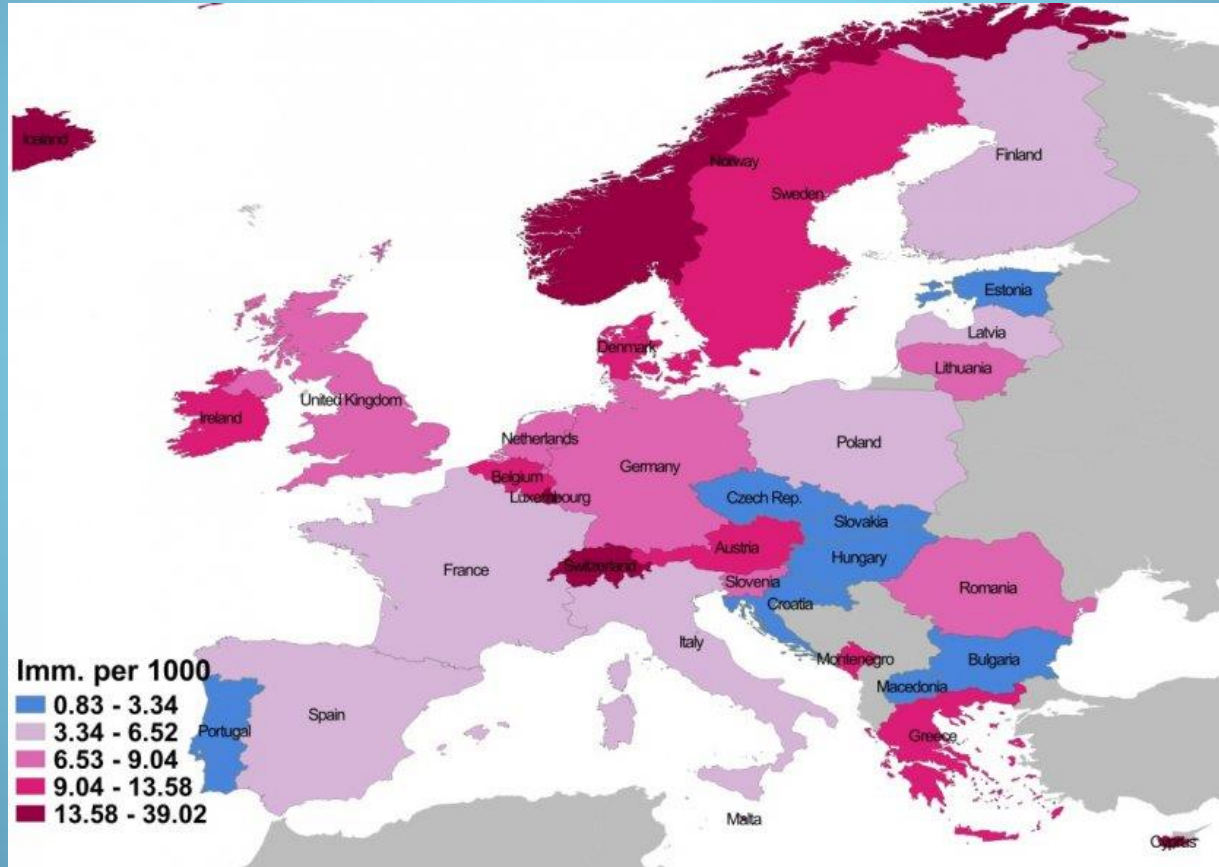
*All data in the map is from Eurostat, correct for 2012

I. Topicality
Immigration Dynamics

Norway

Immigrant population by country background. 1970-2008

- Asia, Africa and Latin America
- New EU-countries in Eastern-Europe
- Eastern Europe else
- Other western countries
- Nordic countries

UK Net Migration

- Outlflows
- Inflows

www.economicshelp.org | Source: ONS LTIM
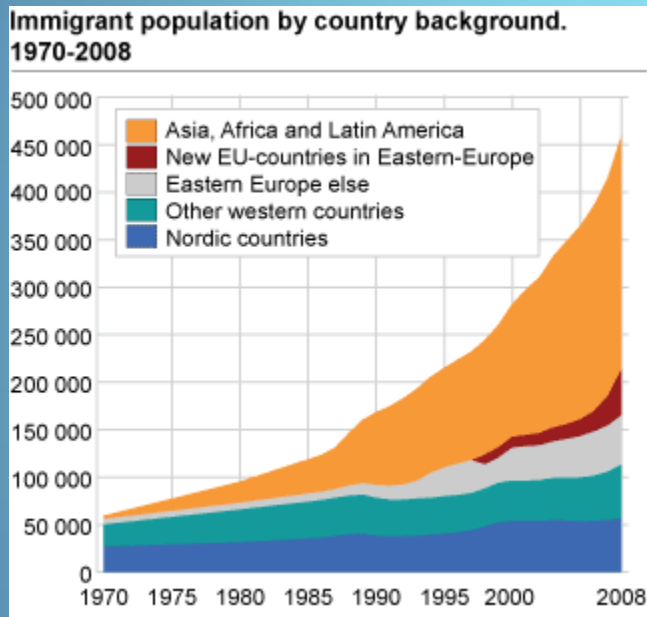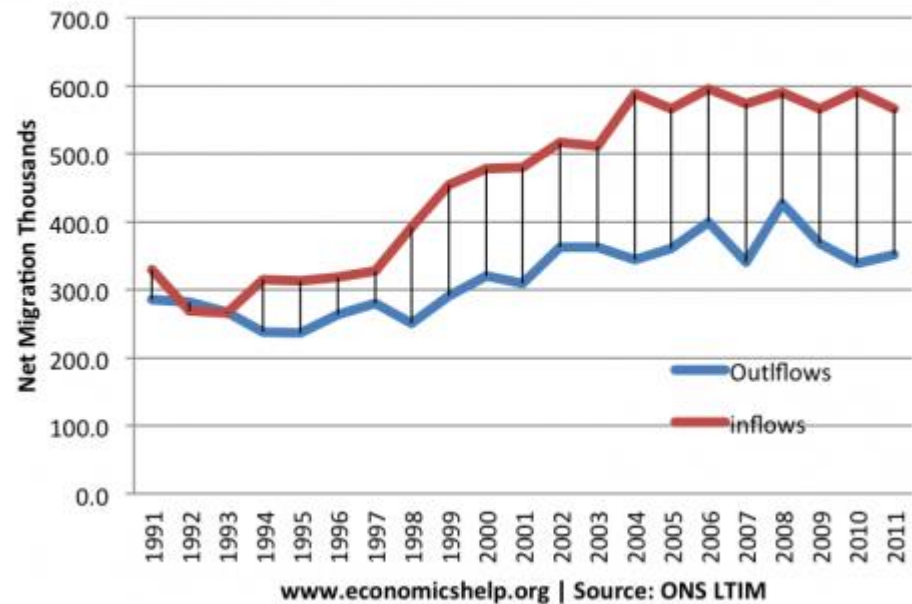
Research questions

1) What kind of association if any exists between self-esteem and tolerance toward immigrants?

2) What kind of association if any exists between language diversity and tolerance toward immigrants?

3) If there is an interaction effect of language diversity and self esteem on tolerance toward immigrants?

II. Hypotheses
Hypothesis #1, Individual level

- There is a positive association between tolerance and **self-esteem**: a higher level of self-esteem leads to a higher level of tolerance
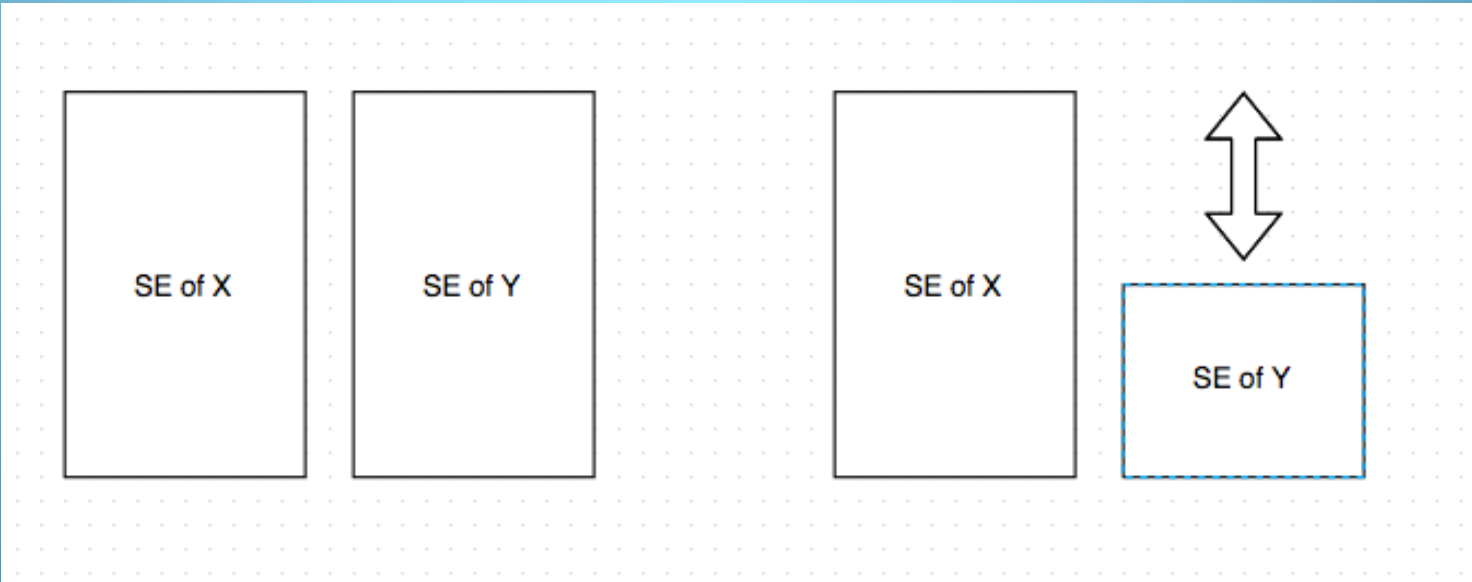
Explanation

- All human beings want to feel good about themselves, and as a consequence they are motivated to increase their level of self-esteem

- Therefore, those with lower SE may increase their SE by lowering their tolerance

II. Hypotheses

SE of X	SE of Y		
		SE of X	SE of Y

Literature

- Tajfel and Turner (1979)

The primary motivations for adopting discriminatory behavior are to enhance *positive distinctiveness* and *self-esteem*

- Brewer (2003)

Individuals who hold strong, dogmatic identities and have low self-esteem are more likely to discriminate against outgroups

BUT:

a) There is lack of empirical testing of the theory, using statistical methods

b) In this research we are testing the relation between Global Self-Esteem instead of Role-Specific Self-Esteem

Hypothesis # 2, Society level

- Higher level of language diversity in a given society leads to lower tolerance toward immigrants

Explanation

- There are certain limits to which one group can absorb the people from other groups, while remaining tolerant to their differences

- *David Goodhart The British Dream: Successes and Failures of Post-war Immigration:*

High immigration can undermine national solidarity and be a threat to social democratic ideals of the welfare state.

III. Empirical strategy

Database

- European Social Survey 2012

- 28 countries

- 47396 observations*

* Respondents who weren't born in a given country are excluded from the sample

Self-Esteem

- In general I feel very positive about myself

- At times I feel as if I am a failure *

- I feel I am free to decide for myself how to live my life

- There are lots of things I feel I am good at

5-points scale,

a higher score represents higher SE

*Reverse scale

III. Empirical strategy
Self-Esteem

Self-Esteem (SE)

- Fit measures
- Checking for Measurement Invariance

	Model without restrictions	Model with restrictions (equal loadings)	Desirable values
Comparative Fir Index	0,998	0,850	>0.9
RMSE	0,017	0,092	Should be around 0,05, the lower the better
SRMR	0,008	0,06	< 0,08

Tolerance toward immigrants

- To what extent do you think [country] should allow people of the same race or ethnic group as most [country]'s people to come and live here?

- -"- of the different race?

4 points scale, the higher score stays for extent of agreement

- Is [country] made a worse or a better place to live by people coming to live here from other countries?

- Would you say that [country]'s cultural life is generally undermined or enriched by people coming to live here from other countries?

11 points scale, the higher score stays for more positive perception of new comers

III. Empirical strategy
Tolerance toward immigrants

Tolerance toward immigrants (TTI)

- Fit measures
- Checking for Measurement Invariance

	Model without restrictions	Model with restrictions (equal loadings)	Desirable values
Comparative Fir Index	0,974	0,898	>0.9
RMSE	0,376	0,156	Should be around 0,05, the lower the better
SRMR	0,089	0,113	< 0,08

Structural Equation Modeling

Structural Equation Modeling
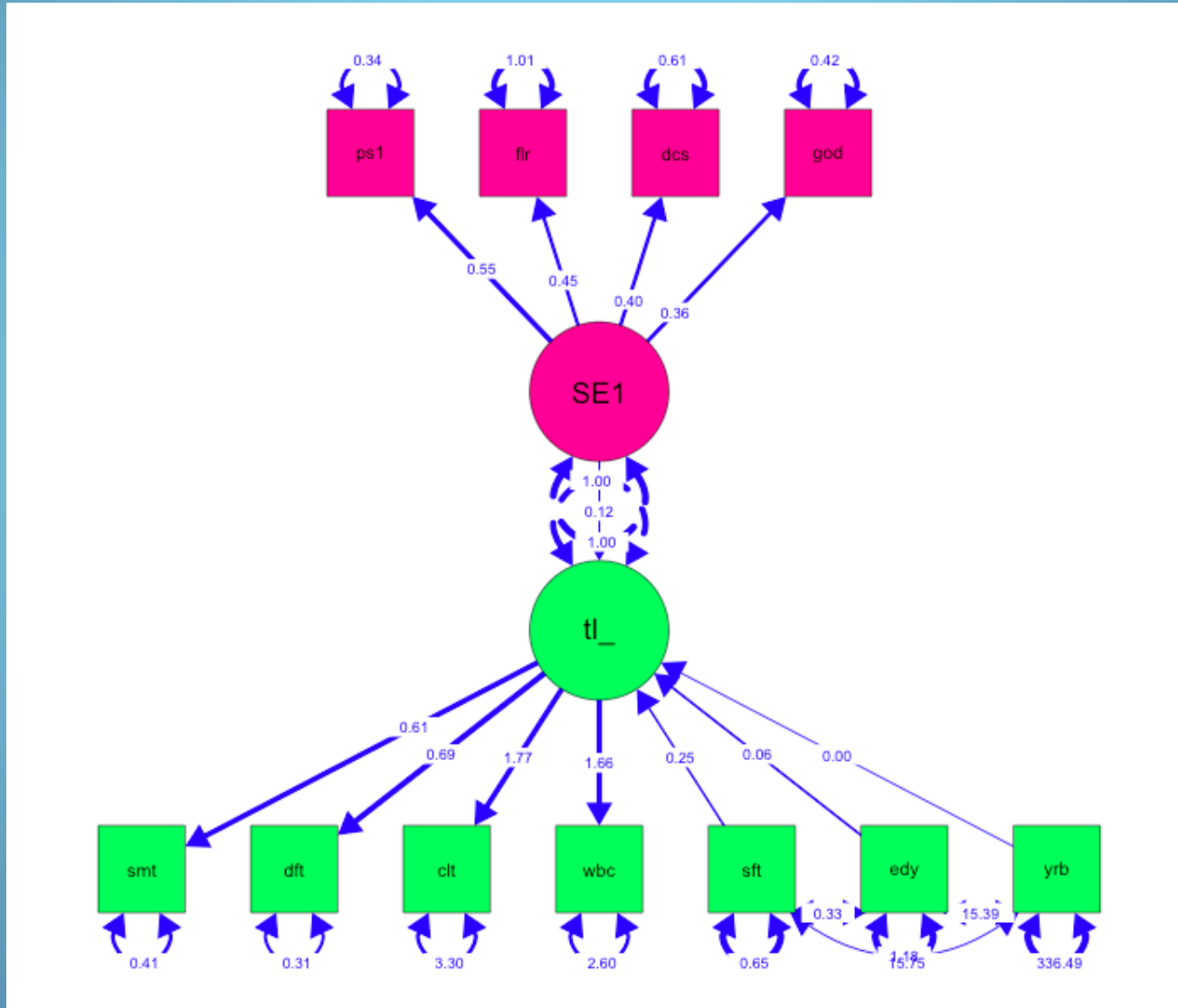
- Fit measures
- Checking for Measurement Invariance

	Model without restrictions	Model with restrictions (equal loadings)	Desirable values
Comparative Fir Index	0,935	0,859	>0.9
RMSE	0,06	0,08	Should be around 0,05, the lower the better
SRMR	0,04	0,07	< 0,08

Multilevel Modeling

- **Tolerance toward immigrants = Self-esteem* + Level of language diversity + Individualistic type regime + Age + Education + Feeling of safety**

Country level variable

Control variables

* Integrated indicator

Language Diversity Index

- Greenberg's Index

- Probability that two randomly chosen people speak different language

✓ NB Belgium was excluded from the sample

Results

	Dependent variable:			
	Culture Enriched		Better country	
	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)
Self-Esteem	0.052***	0.121***	0.103***	0.136***
	(0.017)	(0.030)	(0.016)	(0.028)
Language Diversity	−1.694*	−1.669*	−1.476*	−1.464*
	(0.874)	(0.872)	(0.768)	(0.767)
Individualistic Regime	1.142***	1.141***	0.873***	0.873***
	(0.372)	(0.371)	(0.326)	(0.326)
Safety2	0.425***	0.426***	0.444***	0.445***
	(0.065)	(0.065)	(0.060)	(0.060)
Safety3	0.714***	0.714***	0.712***	0.713***
	(0.061)	(0.061)	(0.057)	(0.057)
Safety4	0.980***	0.981***	0.965***	0.965***
	(0.065)	(0.065)	(0.061)	(0.061)
Year born	0.002***	0.002***	0.003***	0.003***
	(0.001)	(0.001)	(0.001)	(0.001)
Education	0.113***	0.113***	0.083***	0.083***
	(0.004)	(0.004)	(0.003)	(0.003)
SE:LDI		−0.251***		−0.121
		(0.089)		(0.083)
Constant	−0.267	−0.232	−1.769	−1.749
	(1.462)	(1.462)	(1.355)	(1.355)
Observations	32,976	32,976	32,763	32,763
Log Likelihood	−74,895.700	−74,893.270	−71,913.680	−71,914.190
Akaike Inf. Crit.	149,813.400	149,810.500	143,849.400	143,852.400
Bayesian Inf. Crit.	149,905.800	149,911.400	143,941.700	143,953.100

Note: *p<0.1; **p<0.05; ***p<0.01

	Dependent variable:			
	Same Ethnic		Different Ethnic	
	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)
Self-Esteem	0.017***	0.070***	0.001	0.047***
	(0.006)	(0.011)	(0.006)	(0.011)
Language Diversity	0.159	0.178	−0.324	−0.308
	(0.306)	(0.304)	(0.342)	(0.339)
Individualistic Regime	0.127	0.126	0.360**	0.359**
	(0.130)	(0.129)	(0.145)	(0.144)
Safety2	0.147***	0.148***	0.155***	0.155***
	(0.023)	(0.023)	(0.023)	(0.023)
Safety3	0.207***	0.207***	0.246***	0.246***
	(0.022)	(0.022)	(0.022)	(0.022)
Safety4	0.314***	0.315***	0.337***	0.338***
	(0.023)	(0.023)	(0.023)	(0.023)
Year Born	0.002***	0.002***	0.004***	0.004***
	(0.0003)	(0.0003)	(0.0003)	(0.0003)
Education	0.034***	0.034***	0.035***	0.035***
	(0.001)	(0.001)	(0.001)	(0.001)
SE:LDI		−0.193***		−0.167***
		(0.032)		(0.032)
Constant	−1.705***	−1.675***	−6.323***	−6.302***
	(0.524)	(0.524)	(0.523)	(0.522)
Observations	33,288	33,288	33,201	33,201
Log Likelihood	−41,768.760	−41,753.100	−41,317.840	−41,306.590
Akaike Inf. Crit.	83,559.530	83,530.210	82,657.680	82,637.180
Bayesian Inf. Crit.	83,652.070	83,631.160	82,750.190	82,738.110

Note: *p<0.1; **p<0.05; ***p<0.01

Results

- There is a significant *positive* association between both *different indicators of TTI and integrated indicator of SE and integrated indicator of it*

- There is a significant *negative* association between *different indicators of TTI* and *LDI*

- *Interaction effect of SE and LDI* has a significant *negative* association with *different indicators of TTI* : in more multilingual societies a negative effect of SE on TTI is stronger

Results

- All control variables demonstrated significant association with TTI:

- More educated people tend to be more tolerant

- Younger people tend to be more tolerant

- People who feel safe tend to be more tolerant

Policy implications

- Design social policy so as it aspires not just to improve physical conditions of citizens' lives, but also will lead to more healthier psychological environment

(Ex.: Increase and popularization of

a number of free

psychological consultations centers,

hotlines)
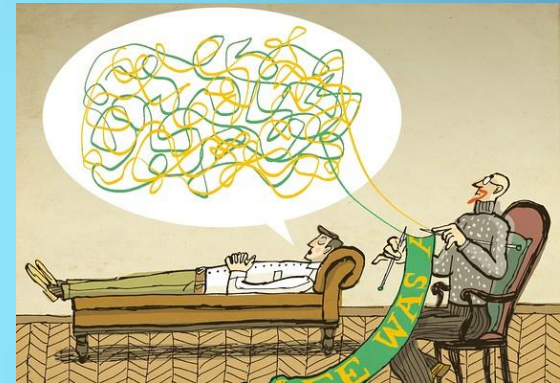
- Creating conditions, under which each new comer would be able and obliged to learn local language

(Ex.: Israel example)

What next?

- Improving models
- Especially Tolerance to Immigrants Measurement

Thank you for your attention!

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