Lesson 6. Immigrants Social Integration Processes (III). Personal Networks and Ethnic Identifications.

Reference:
Lubbers, M.J.; Molina, J.L.; McCarty, C. (2007): "Personal Networks and Ethnic Identifications. The Case of Migrants in Spain". *International Sociology*, vol.22 (6): 721-741.

Identification
"…is a dynamic, contextual and negotiable concept" (p.727).
Complexity of Identities and Self-Autoidentification
Local- Transnational, etc.
Different root of identities: cultural, territorial, social…

Is affected by:
Personal Networks **(**Ego – Alters and links)
Individual Characteristics

Topic: Relationships between:
- Personal networks
- Ethnic self-identifications of migrants in Spain

Methodology
Data
2004-06
294 immigrants in Barcelona and Girona
Snowball sampling:
Senegabians (N=78)
Moroccans (N=70)
Argentineans (N=81)
Dominicans (N=65)
Computer-assisted personal interviews
Software EgoNet
Cross-sectional approach

Modules
1) **Questions about the respondents:** Name, gender, age, ethnic self-Identification…
2) **Name generator:** "Please, give the name of 45 persons you know and who know you by sight or by name, with whom you haven had some contact in the past two years, either face-to-face, by phone, mail or email, and whom you could still contact if you had to".
3) **Questions about each of those alters** (eg. gender and age)
4) **Question about the existence of relations between alters** (as perceived by the respondent)

Visualization of the network and more questions (EgoNet)

Hypothesis and Schema of analysis **(Quantitative)**

Predictor (causes)	**Control variables**	**Predicted (results)**
Meso-level predictors	Micro-level predictors	**Ethnic Identification**

Predictors - causes	**More information**	**Control variables**	**More information**
Meso-level predictors		**Individual Characteristics (as control variables)**	
- Percentage of Spanish	% alters Spanish	- Years of residence	Categorized into 12 categories
- Percentage of migrants	% of migrants in the respondent's networks, living in Spain	- Country of origin	4 countries, and 3 dummy variables -1/0- (base category: Senegambia)
- Density	% of perceived pairs of alters who were very likely to have contact with each other when the respondent was not present	- Gender	0 female, 1 male
- Betweenness centralization (module 4)	Of the perceived alter-alter network (range: 0-100). If high, some individuals play a central role	- Education	Highest level attained, 7 categories, but two dummy variables: secundary education and tertiary education (base: primary)
- Number of cohesive subgroups within the network	Number of subgroups with at least two alters	- Employment	1=employed 0=unemployed
- Homogeneity of cohesive subgroups with respect to country of living		- Experiences of racism	1= some or a lot, 0=no experiences
- Homogeneity of cohesive subgroups with respect to country of living for each subgroup	0= complete heterogeneity (50% live in Spain, 50% in another) 1= complete homogeneity (either all in Spain, or none in Spain) Weighted	- Transnational remittances	How often they sent money - Sometimes - A lot - No remittances (base category)
- Percentage of family	For each alter: Relation with the respondents (eg. spouse or partner, direct family, in-laws)		
- Average closeness	For each alter: How close they feel with this person. 5 categories: average measure.		
- Average frequency of contact	How often they had contact with this person (7 categories)		
- Network type (previously CLUSTER ANALYSIS)	5 types at the end (see below)		

Measures (variables)

See the chart above.

Specifications about some variables

Ethnic Self-Identification

- Which word or phrase best describes your ethnic identity? (open question)
- Which other word or phrase best describes your ethnic identity? (open question)

Content analysis:

(1) **Ethnic- exclusive** (own ethnic group, eg. both Dominican, Dominican)
(2) **Ethnic-plural or transnational**: concrete/ general; larger group that transgresses national boundaries (eg. Wolof, African; Latin-American)
(3) **Generic** (non-ethnic category; eg. woman, person).

Network Type

Constructed after applying a Cluster analysis, considering Network properties:

Percentage of Spanish	Network properties
Percentage of migrants N subgroups Homogeneity subgroups Density Betweenness Average frequency of contact Average closeness	
Percentage of family	

Network profiles

From… to Migrated - most - least recently	Name assigned to the Network	Profile
	The scarce network	Alters living in country of origin High closeness, but low average of contact
	The dense family network	Dense group of alters, but family members in country of origin
	The multiple subgroups network	More Spanish fellow migrants Multiple smaller cohesive subgroups
	The two worlds connected	51% alters in Spain 49% in c. of origin, and interconnectedness
	The embedded network	Frequency of contacts between alters very high

RESULTS AND CONCLUSIONS

Identification and Network profile (see charts in p. 731 and 731).

Bivariate relations among network characteristics and ethnic identification (analysis of variance) (Table1)
- Relation significant: Wilk's lambda
- F (significative **): 5 characteristics differed significantly in relation to the three types of ethnic identification:

Spanish alters, N of cohesive subgroups, density, betweenness, % of family

	Ethnic – exclusive	**Ethnic-plural or transnational**	**Generic**
	Less Spanish alters Lower numbers of cohesive subgroups Dense network Lower betweenness	Higher betweenness Lower family	
The scarce network		**X** (alters in the origin)	
The dense family network	**X** (family living in the country of origin)	X	
The multiple subgroups network		**X**	X (diversity of networks)
The two worlds connected	X	X	X (diversity of networks)
The embedded network		**X** (alters Spanish and fellow migrants)	X (diversity of networks)

Ethnicity is less salient among respondents who have more relations with alters who live in Spain. Chi Square significant.

Meso-level (personal networks) contributions to a better understanding of ethnic identification

Multinomial logistic regression (Spss) (see p.734)

Predictor (causes)	Predicted (results)
Standard Individual – level predictors of ethnic identification Network structure and composition (meso)	**Type of Ethnic Identification** **Base category= plural-ethnic and transnational**

Variables standarized except binary ones for comparing the sizes of regression coefficients. Effects controlled. Good fit. % of correct classifications.

Step by step

Model 1 (estimated only with individual-level predictors) (62% correct classifications)
- Higher years of residente, the less likely it is that respondents have either ethnically exclusive or generic identifications
- If went to college or graduate degree lower odds to identify ethnic-exclusively or generically
- Racism= generically
- Sending remittances= more odds to ethnically exclusive
- Gender and employment did not contribute

Model 2 (added network characteristics, controlling for individual) (67%)
- Spanish contacts and contacts with other migrants=higher odds to generically
- higher number of subgroups, high frequency of contact and high closeness=lower odds to ethnic-exclusive

Model 3 (five network profiles instead of the separate network characteristics) (64%)
- Controlling for individual characteristics, the network profile had a significant effect overall
- Two worlds connected network higher odds to = ethnic excl., and generically
- Multiple subgroups = generically

NETWORK STRUCTURE AND NETWORK COMPOSITION ARE RELATED TO SELF- IDENTIFICATIONS

EXERCISE:
Revise the Conclusion (p.736-738), discuss it with your mates and give your opinion about the connections between network structure and composition and self-identifications. You can give some examples of your own experience as "Erasmus student (and migrant)".