

# Cross border migration and family trajectories: the role of education and migration policy in the life course perspective

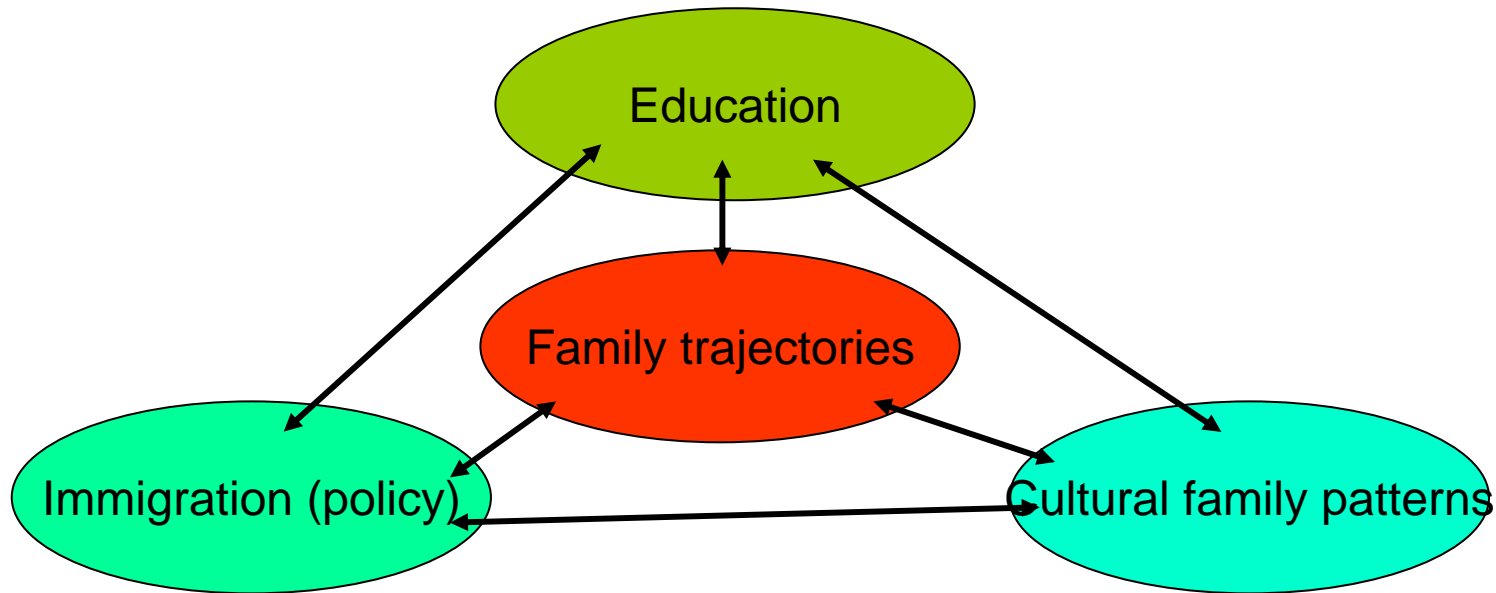
Studies: „Familyplanung and Migration – the life course perspective“

ESA-Meeting Research Network „Sociology of Family and Intimate Lives“, 2010  
Sept, 17th, Wiesbaden

Prof. Dr. Cornelia Helfferich, Angelika Hessling, Heike Klindworth, Jan Kruse  
Sozialwissenschaftliches Frauen-Forschungsinstitut Freiburg (SoFFI F.) / Bundeszentrale f.  
gesundheitliche Aufklärung / Institut für Soziologie der Universität Freiburg

# Focus

Focus: family trajectories in different group of migrants – considering the heterogeneity between and within migrant groups. The paper proposes a framework to explain similarities and differences between these (sub-)group-specific trajectories.



These aspects influence premigration status and postmigration chances.

# Definitions

## Family trajectories:

Family develops over time as order of phases and transitions:

First partnership, time until marriage,

Age at marriage / first birth and spacing of further births,  
number of children, end of familyplanning (no more children)

## Migration background:

All immigrants (Germans, foreigners = non-German citizenship),  
all foreigners born in Germany, including the ones naturalised by now,  
all Germans born in Germany if at least one of their parents immigrated  
or was born on German territory as foreigner

## Second generation

Persons with migration background, who are either born in Germany or  
migrated at an age of less than 12 years (mainly grown up in Germany)

# Design of the studies



Bundeszentrale  
für gesundheitliche  
Aufklärung



Wir stiften Zukunft



ALBERT-LUDWIGS-  
UNIVERSITÄT FREIBURG

Institut für Soziologie

- Prof. Dr. W. Essbach -



Sozialwissenschaftliches  
Frauenforschungsinstitut

- Prof. Dr. C. Helfferich -

## (1) „Familyplanning and Migration in the life course of women“

2007-2010, Fed. Center for Health Education, Dpt. Reproductive Health  
Migrant women from Turkey (n=842) and Ex-GUS-States (n=832),  
compared with Non-migrants (n=839), 20 to 44 years  
in Berlin, Nürnberg, Oberhausen and Stuttgart

Standardized questionnaire, age-stratified random sample from the  
register of inhabitants, native interviewers

Qualitative: n=45 qualitative-biographic interviews (contrasting sample)  
n=15 group discussions, n=10 expert interviews

Content: data / narration of reproductive life history, migration, education

# Design of the studies



Bundeszentrale  
für gesundheitliche  
Aufklärung



Wir stiften Zukunft



ALBERT-LUDWIGS-  
UNIVERSITÄT FREIBURG

**Institut für Soziologie**

- Prof. Dr. W. Essbach -



Sozialwissenschaftliches  
Frauenforschungsinstitut

- Prof. Dr. C. Helfferich -

## (2) „Familyplanning and Migration in the life course of men“

2009/10, Landesstiftung Baden-Württemberg / FCHE (special analysis)

Migrant men from Turkey, East European/Ex-GUS-States

18 to 50 years, in Freiburg

n=15 qualitative Interviews, n=6 group discussions

Sample constructed by contrasting procedures, including male marriage migrants from Turkey, asylum seekers, students, young men of the second generation, high qualified migrants and Roma refugees

Content: narration of reproductive life history, migration, education

# Contents

- (1) The turkish migration
- (2) Migration from Ex-Gus-States
- (3) Young male Roma refugees

For these groups:

- family trajectories
- migration and education
- cultural family patterns
- discussion

- (4) Conclusions

# The turkish group: family and migration

## Family trajectory „Early start, early end“

### 1. Generation

- Short time between getting to know the partner and marriage (44%: less than half a year; German women: 1,9%)
- young age at marriage/first child (20,6/22,8 y.) (German women: 26,3/27,8 y.)
- 30%: contraception only after the second child
- Women elder than 34 years: average 2,4 children
- Women younger than 35 years: 37% want no more children, (if they have 2 or more children: 63%)

### 2. Generation

- Still young age at marriage/first child (21,6 / 24 y.)
- Less children

# The turkish group: family and migration

## Migration and education

### 1. Generation

- Migration mostly in course of **family reunion**; 73% of the women younger than 35 years came as wives, married to a (Turkish) resident in Germany
- Migration in young age (peak: 19 to 24 Jahren), already married and with no child
- Mostly low education; 73% had no vocational training finished at the time of migration
- Only 31% had vocational training finished before birth of first child

### 2. Generation

- Education improves, but still deficits
- 60% had vocational training finished before birth of first child



# The Turkish group: family and migration

## Cultural family pattern

Family ties important and strengthened by marriage migration. 25% married a relative.

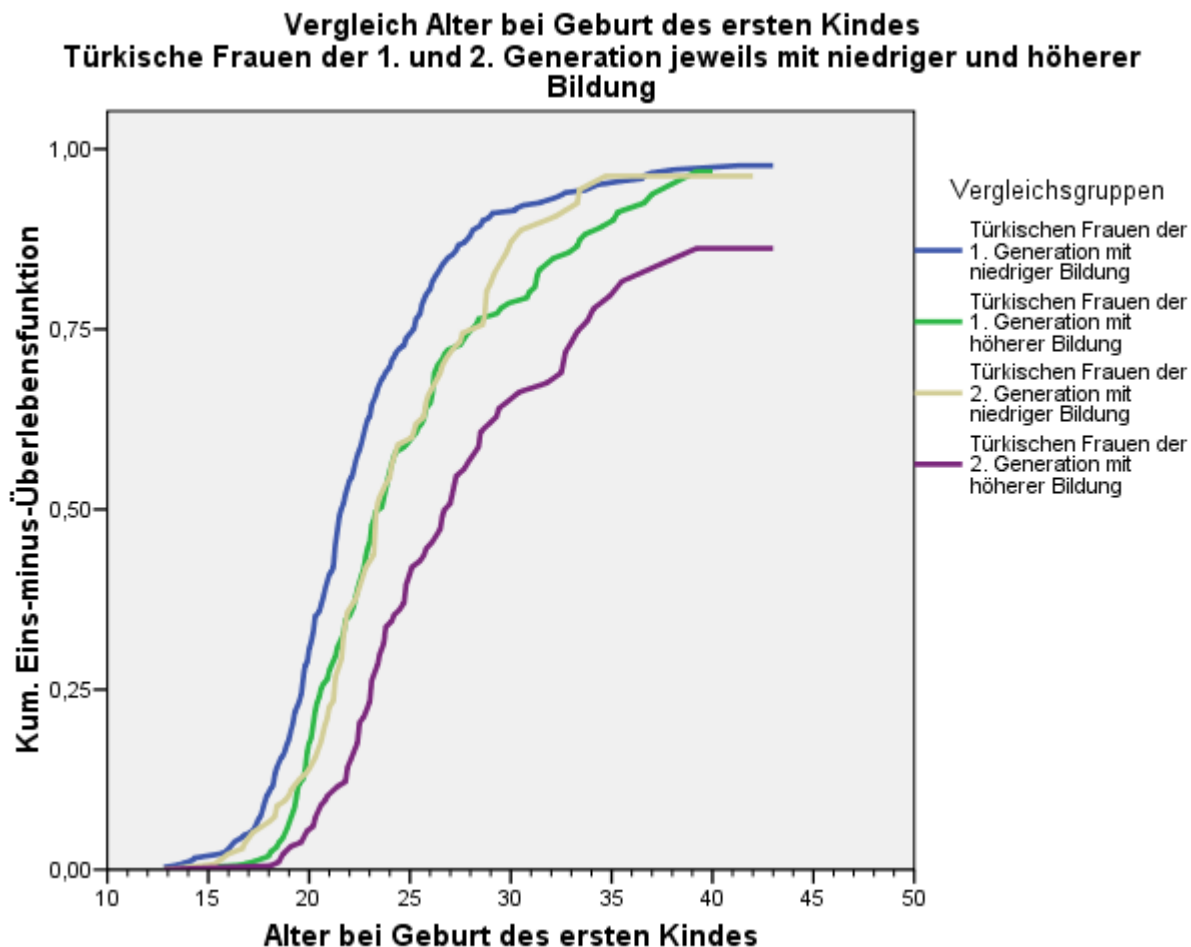
Obligations of reciprocal help and support, especially obligations of the children to support their parents.

Children are important, education of children is important.

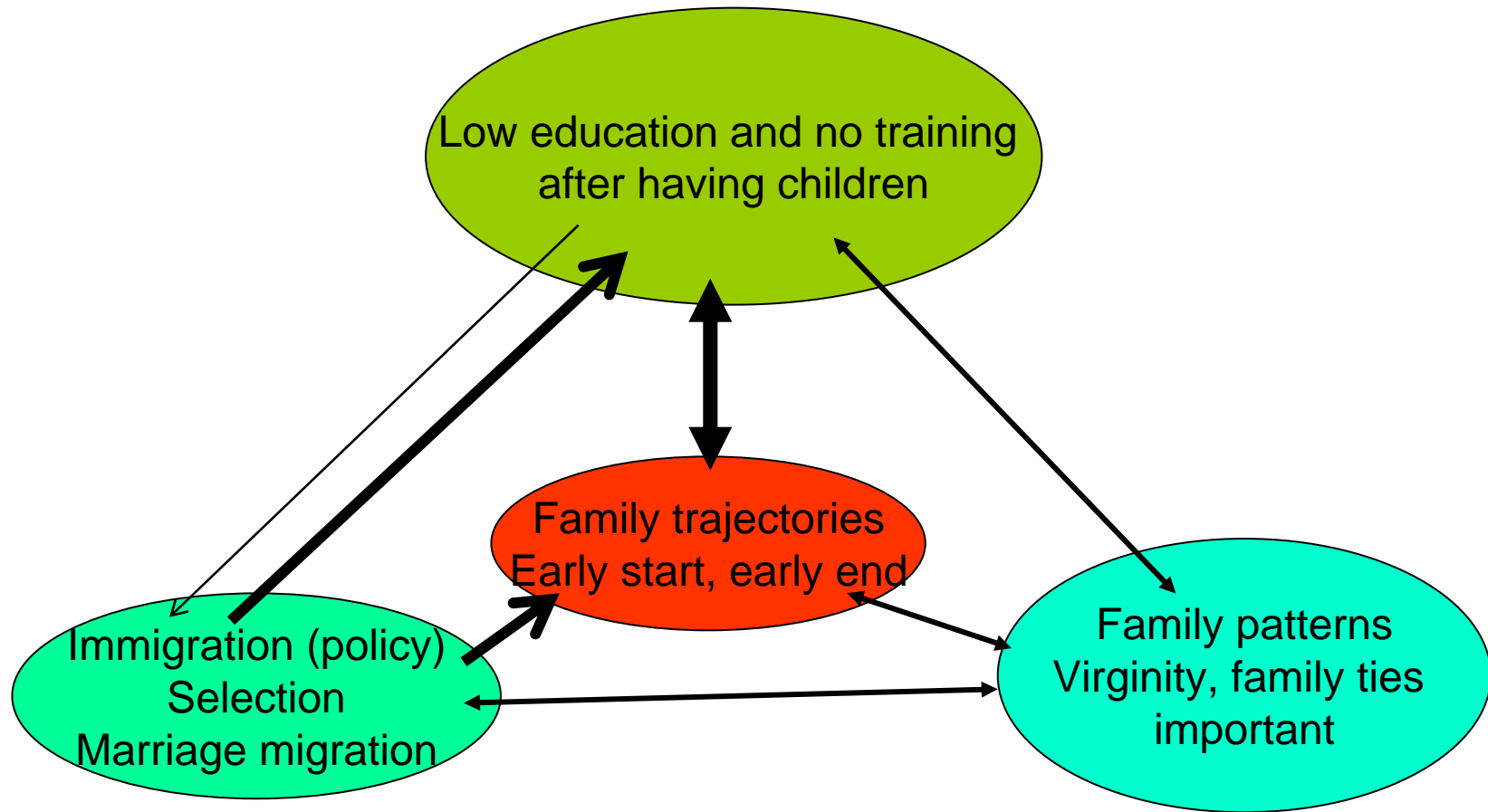
The norm of premarital virginity is widely accepted even in the 2. generation.

# The Turkish group: Education and generation

Education leads to postponing first birth for Turkish migrant women



# The Turkish group: family and migration



# The East European group: family and migration

## Family trajectory „Early start, postponed end“

### 1. Generation

- young age at marriage/first child (22,2/23,6 y.) (German women: 26,3/27,8 y.)
- 40%: Less than one year between marriage and first child
- 40% started contraception only after the first child
- **Spacing between births**, end of family planning delayed; spacing (further births) even more after migration
- Women elder than 34 years: average 1,8 children

### 2. Generation

- Still young age at marriage/first child (23,2 / 24,4 y.)
- More contraception and at younger age
- 95% started contraception for to postpone first birth

# The East European group: family and migration

## Migration and education

### **1. Generation**

44% migrated as repatriates, mostly with relatives (husband, children, parents), age at migration varies.

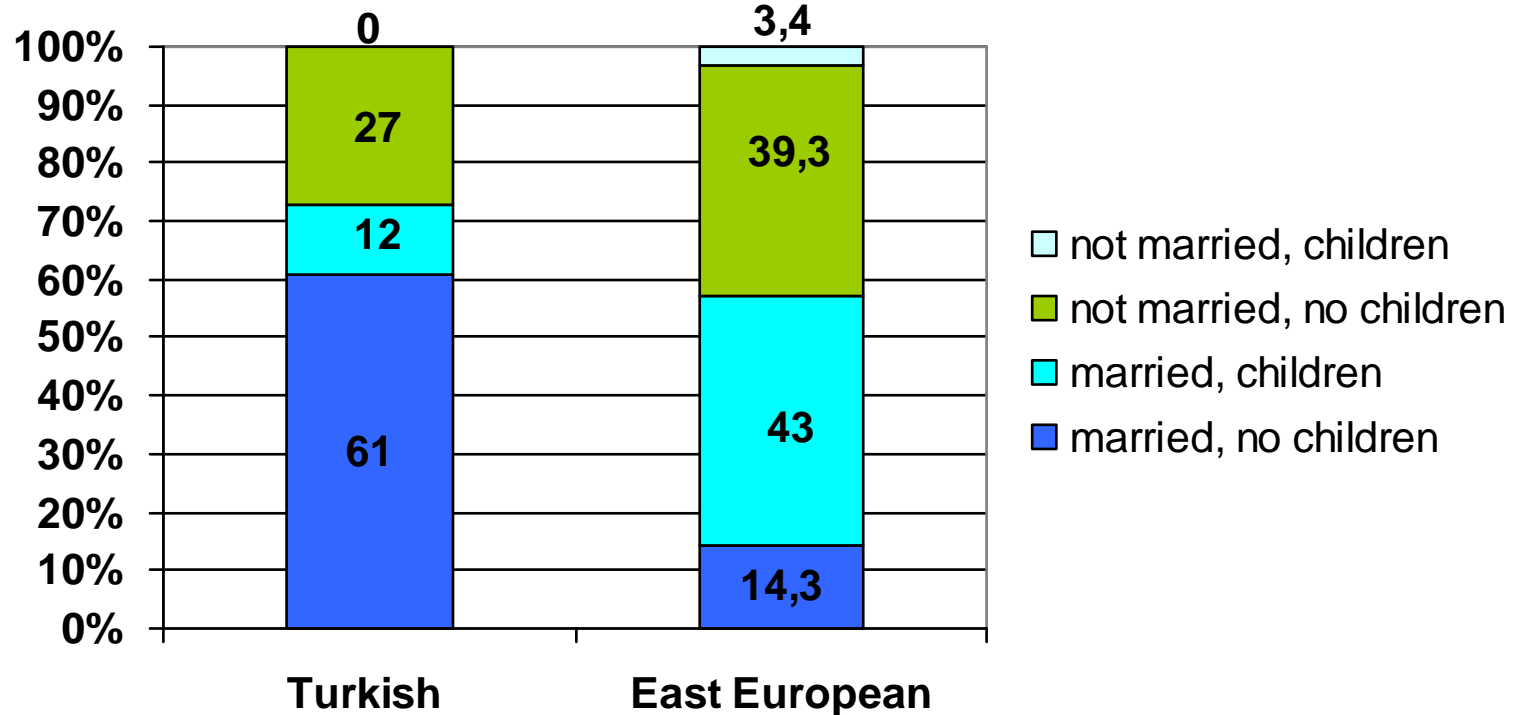
63% had finished a vocational training at the time of migration, mostly with higher qualification, which was not accepted in Germany.

### **2. Generation**

Education: No difference to non-migrant Germans

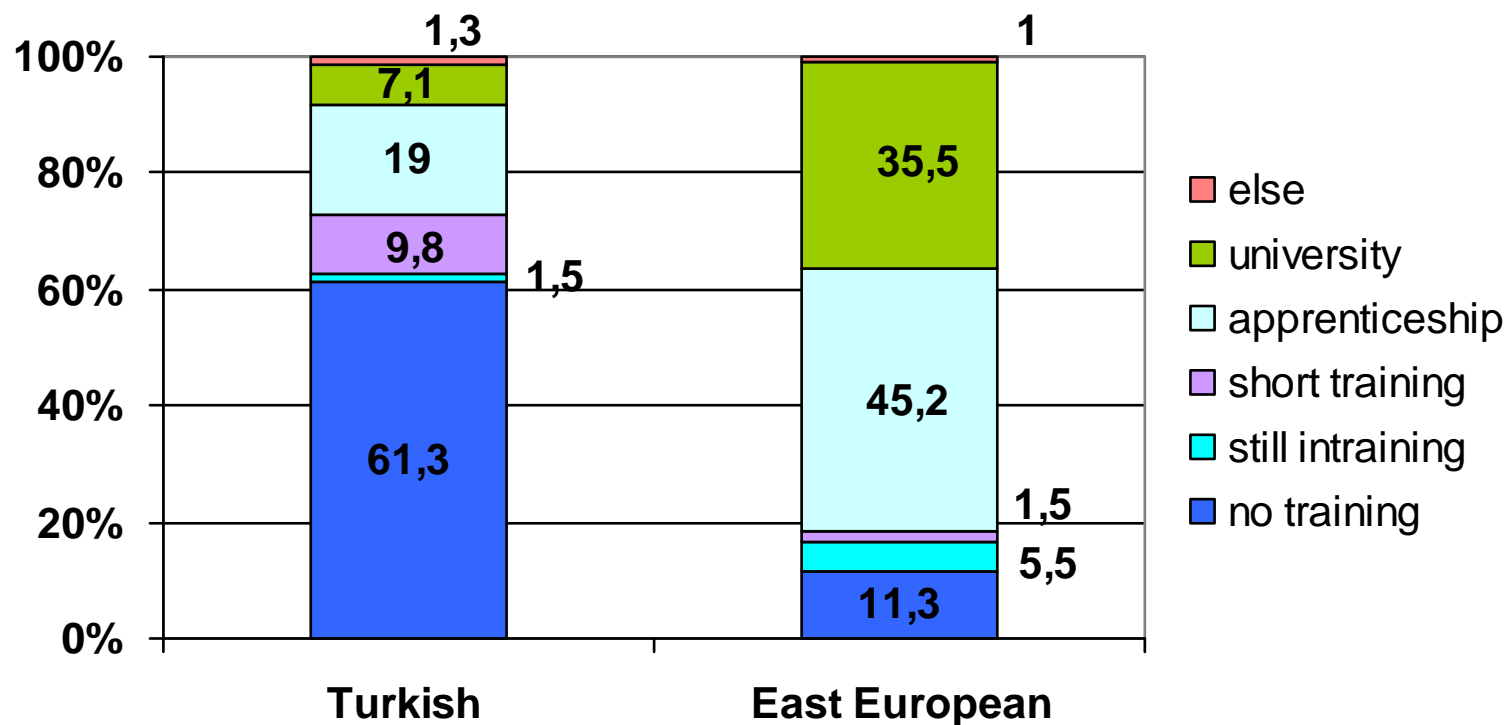
# Comparision of migrant groups

Family status of 1. generation at time of migration (in %)



# Comparision of migrant groups

Level of vocational training 1. generation (in %)



# The East European group: family and migration

## Family pattern

Family as privat sphere important; family relations: most important daughter-mother; frequent divorces resp. separation and remarriage, while children stay with the mother.

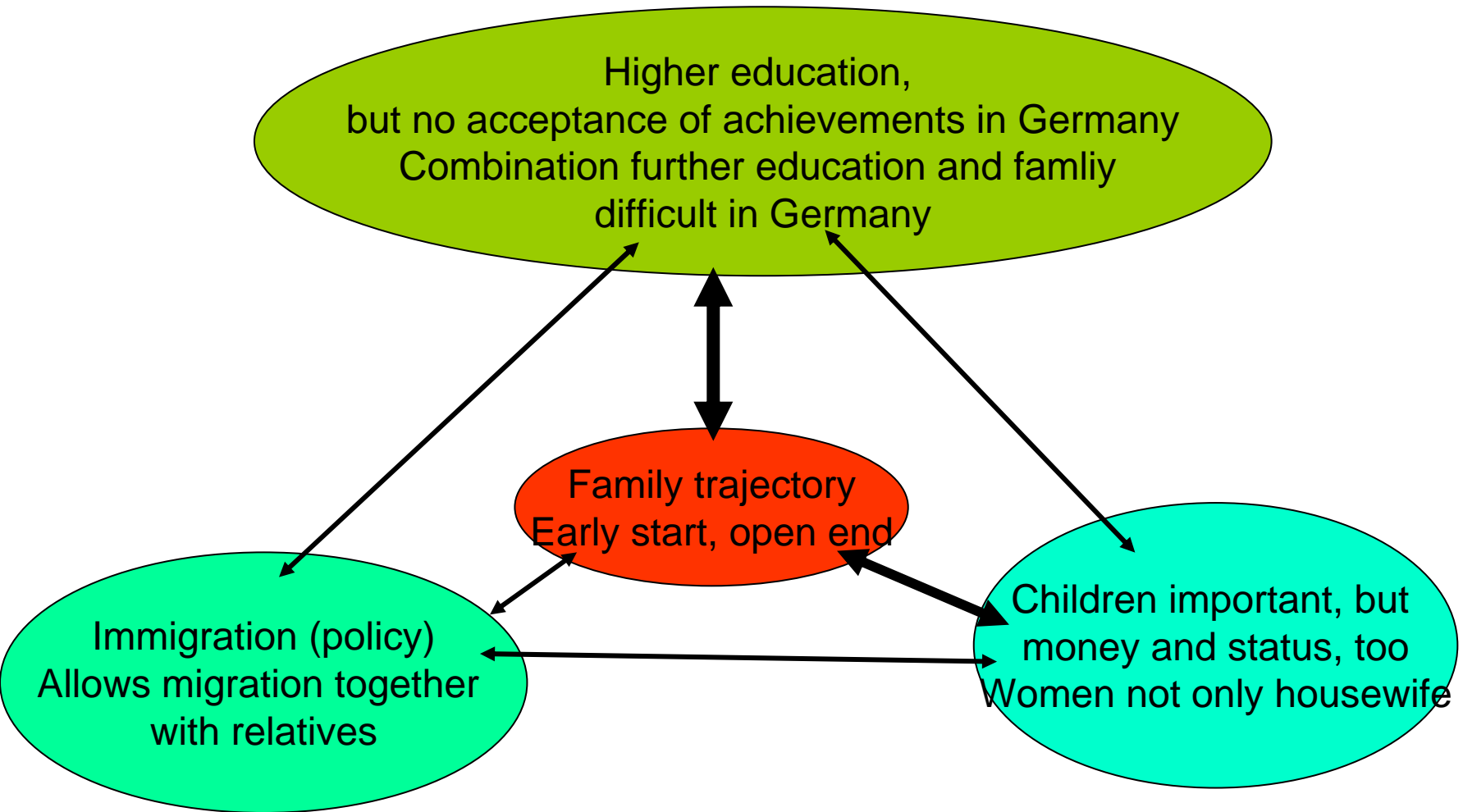
Responsibility of mother → „reproductive autonomy“ of women

In the countries of origin women were involved in the labourmarket → double burden of household chores and paid work (defamilialistic policy in countries of origin). Child care was provided and combining work and family was supported, if not even necessary to earn the living.

Premarital sex is no taboo.



# The East European group: family and migration



# Young male Roma refugees: family and migration

## Family trajectory „**Early start, big family**“

Young age at marriage (from 15 years on, max. 19 years)

Family size: 5 to 8 children

## Migration and education

Status as refugee means restrictions (working permission, mobility), fear of being sent back, an uncertain future

Low education because of language problems

Possibilities to earn the living by work are restricted, by law and because of unwillingness of employers

# Young male Roma refugees: family and migration

## Cultural family pattern

Extended family as a clan; family ties very important;  
patriarchal structures: father as authority

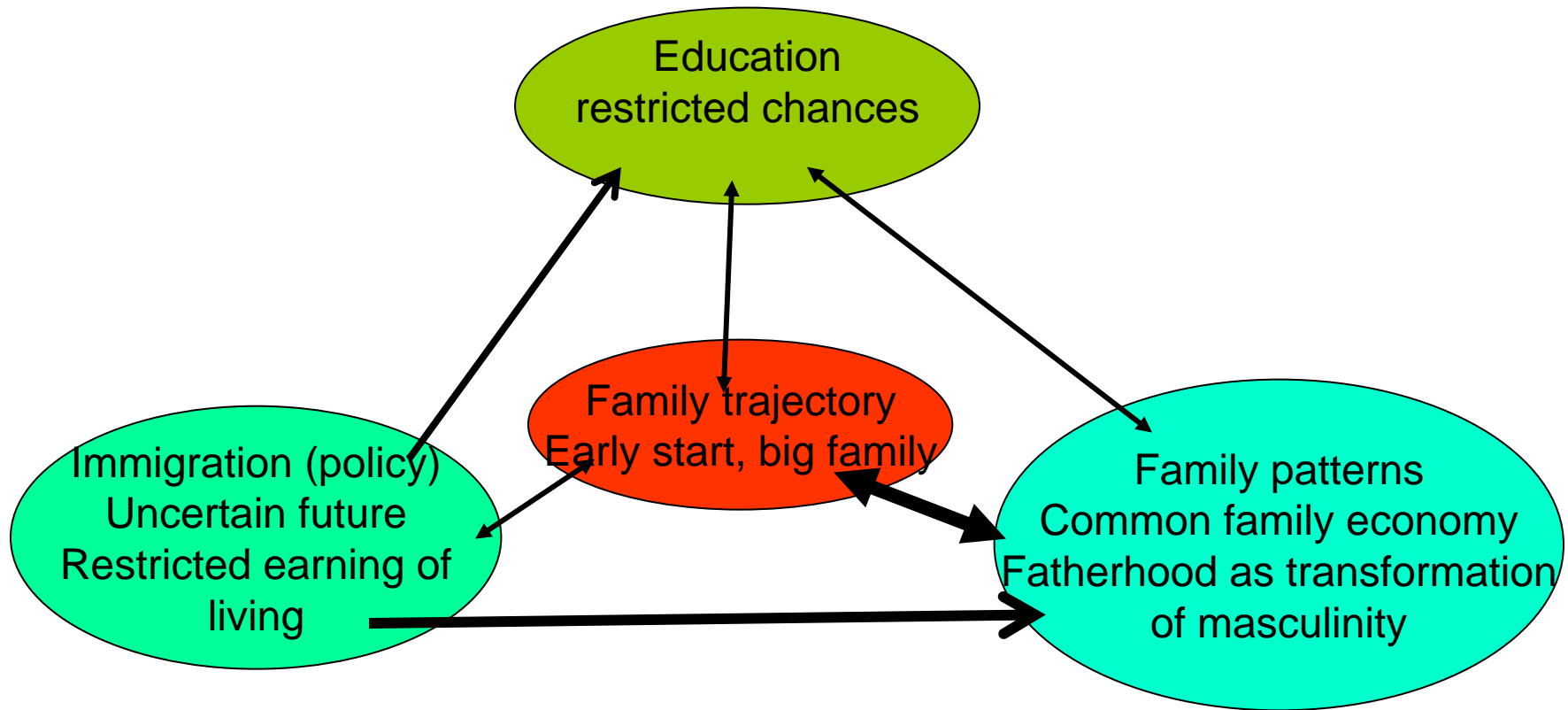
Parents chose wife/husband

Married sons stay in the household of their parents after  
marriage; no idea of independent household. The wife helps  
her mother-in-law in the household;

Sons, who earn money, are obliged to support their parents and  
contribute to the common economy for all family members,  
mostly based on social welfare;

Fatherhood is a traditional transformation of masculinity, the  
end of young male „freedom“ and start of adult masculinity

# Young male Roma refugees: family and migration



These aspects influence premigration status and postmigration chances.

## Conclusion

There is not a single hypothesis to explain family trajectories of migrants, neither „adaption“, nor „socialisation“, nor „selection“.

All these explanations are relevant, but they are moderated

- for women by access to education in premigration and postmigration, for men by access to earn one's living,
- by immigration policy and chances of integration,
- by cultural family patterns.

The relevance and impact of each factor and the interplay of factors vary for different migrant groups.



**Bundeszentrale  
für gesundheitliche  
Aufklärung**



**Sozialwissenschaftliches  
FrauenForschungsinstitut**



**ALBERT-LUDWIGS-  
UNIVERSITÄT FREIBURG**

**Institut für Soziologie**

**Thank you für your attention!**

**Further information [www.soffi-f.de](http://www.soffi-f.de)**