

Intercultural relations in a multicultural context:



The case of Luxembourg

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Theoretical Background

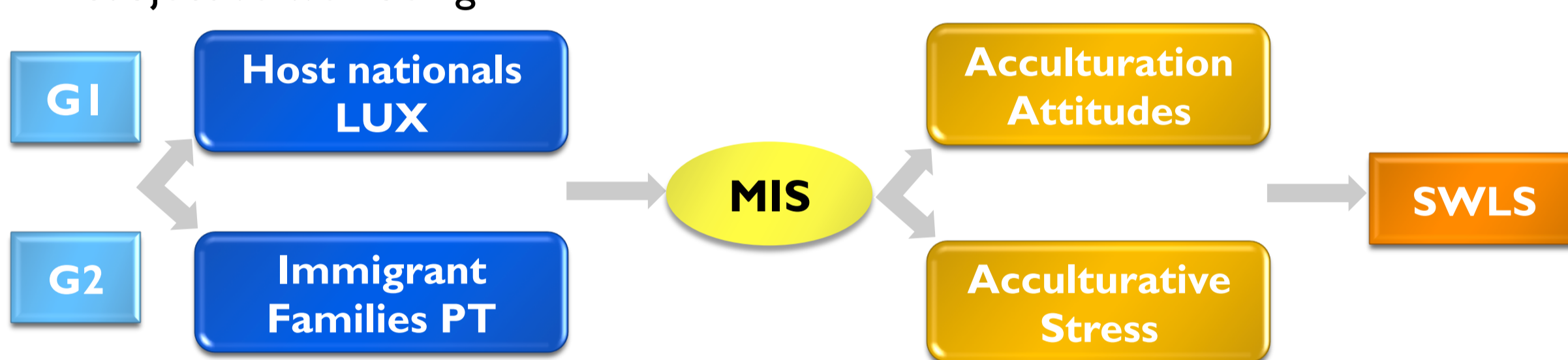
The world's demography has evolved requiring policy makers and practitioners all over the world to face in the next years important issues specifically related to the steadily increasing migration and ageing of societies (Bengtson & Martin, 2001). Luxembourg, for example, which is the focus of the present study, might be seen as an interesting acculturation context due to its small size but nevertheless high rate of immigrants, representing almost half of the total population (45.95%; Statec, 2015). These numbers illustrate the multicultural dimension of Luxembourg - a country with three official languages (i.e., Luxembourgish, French and German) - within the European Union. Nevertheless, despite these multicultural features of Luxembourg that might facilitate the integration process, a multicultural society requires always social changes in order for all individuals to be accepted in their cultural diversity (Berry, 2011). The experience of moving from one culture to another may thus be a difficult challenge, resulting in potential acculturative stress for migrants, also in a multicultural context such as Luxembourg. In particular, the receiving society's perspectives towards multiculturalism might to a certain extent affect migrants' general well-being.

The current study is part of the project IRMA ("Intergenerational Relations in the light of Migration and Ageing") and consists in a comparison between Luxembourgish and Portuguese immigrant families of ageing parents (i.e., older generation) and their adult children (i.e., younger generation) living in the Grand-Duchy of Luxembourg. Our focus is on Portuguese nationals because they constitute by far the largest immigrant group in Luxembourg amounting to 16.35% of the total population.

Objectives

We focus on different key issues

- multicultural perspectives of people living in Luxembourg, comparing both generations as well as both national groups
- natives' acculturation attitudes as well as migrants' acculturative stress
- potential effects of the just mentioned variables on the participants' subjective well-being



Methods

Sampling

Our sample is composed of $N = 185$ Portuguese migrants and $N = 180$ Luxembourgish natives.

Table 1. Sampling of the study.

	Portuguese Families			Luxembourgish Families		
	Mother	Father	Adult Child	Mother	Father	Adult Child
N	62	59	64	63	52	65
Age	$M = 53.79$ $SD = 7.01$	$M = 56.66$ $SD = 7.27$	$M = 26.89$ $SD = 6.89$	$M = 55.33$ $SD = 7.47$	$M = 57.73$ $SD = 7.16$	$M = 26.29$ $SD = 7.71$
Years living in LUX	$M = 30.88$ $SD = 8.28$	$M = 31.60$ $SD = 8.95$	/	/	/	/

41 Portuguese children were born in Luxembourg and 23 in Portugal, the latter having arrived in Luxembourg at an average age of $M = 4.48$ ($SD = 4.02$).

Instruments

Participants had to fill out a standardized questionnaire available in three different language versions (DE, FR and PT), which were translated and cross-checked by a group of multilingual psychologists.

Reliabilities of the scales and in the different subsamples were satisfactory, ranging between $.70 < \alpha < .92$ (except for the MIS for the migrant population that showed weak reliabilities, $.43 < \alpha < .54$).

- Multicultural Ideology Scale (MIS; see e.g., Berry & Kalin, 1995; 9 items, e.g. "A society that has a variety of cultural groups is more able to tackle new problems as they occur"; 7-point Likert scale from 1 = totally disagree to 7 = totally agree)
- Acculturative Stress (see Benet-Martinez & Haritatos, 2005; 7 items, e.g. "I feel the pressure that what "I" do is representative of my cultural group's abilities."; 6-point Likert scale from 1 = totally disagree to 6 = totally agree)
- Multicultural Attitude Scale – societal participation and interaction subscale (MAS; see e.g. Breugelmans & Van de Vijver, 2004; 8 items, e.g. "I would not like having a non-native boss at work"; 7-point Likert scale from 1 = totally disagree to 6 = totally agree)
- Satisfaction with Life Scale (SWLS; Diener & al., 1984, 5 items e.g. "The conditions of my life are excellent"; 7-point Likert scale from 1 = "do not agree at all" to 7 = "fully agree")

Literature/Acknowledgements

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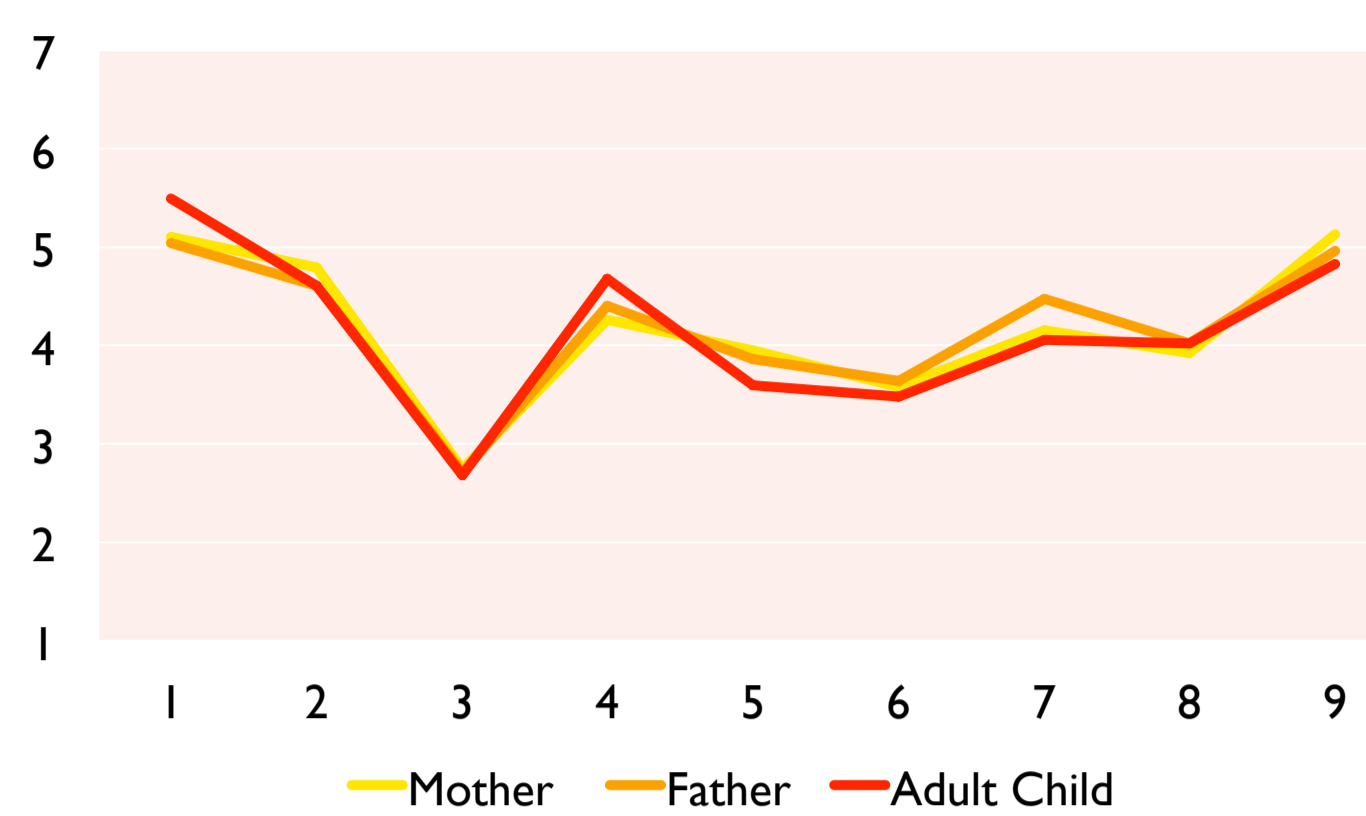
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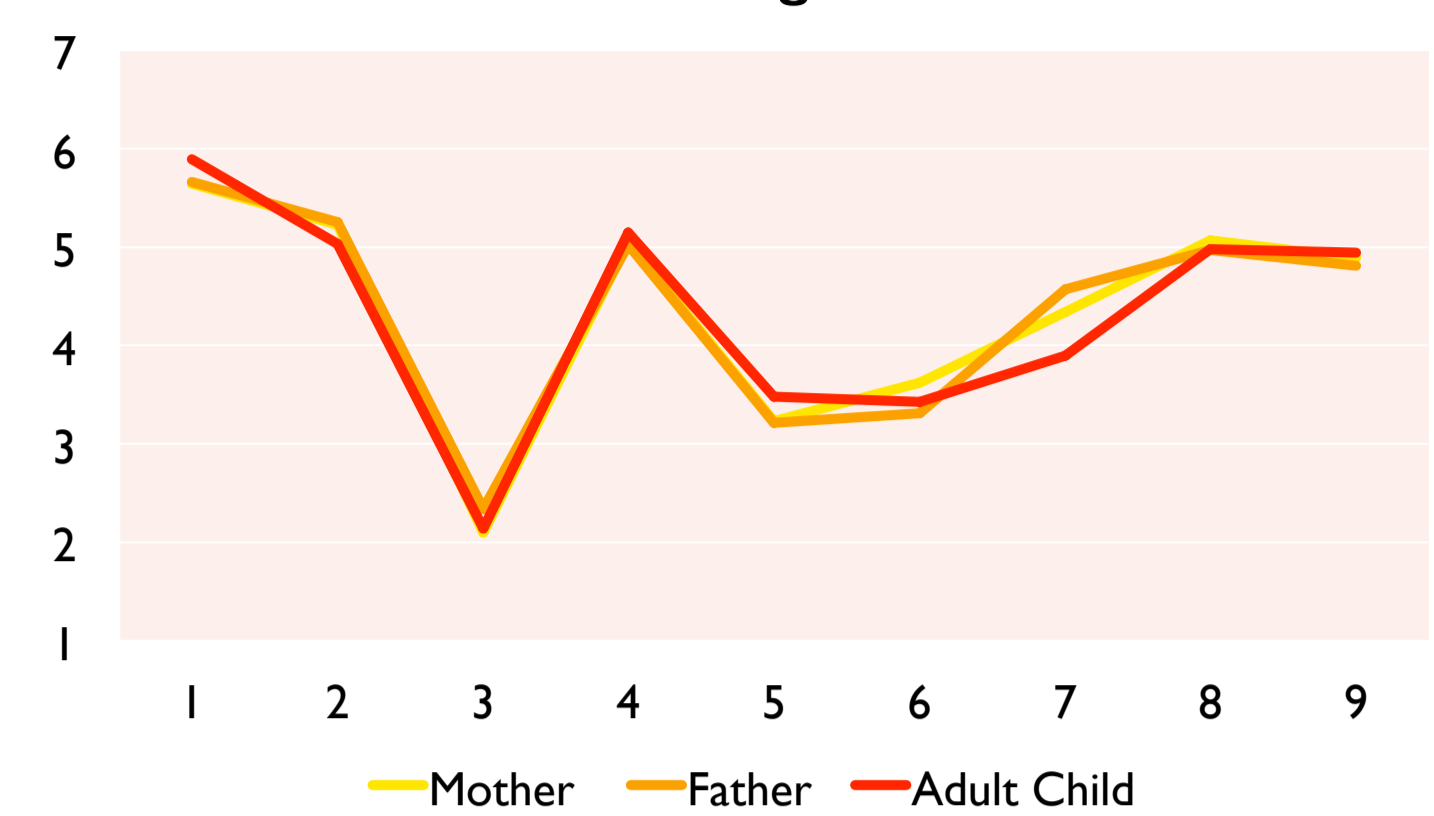
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Results

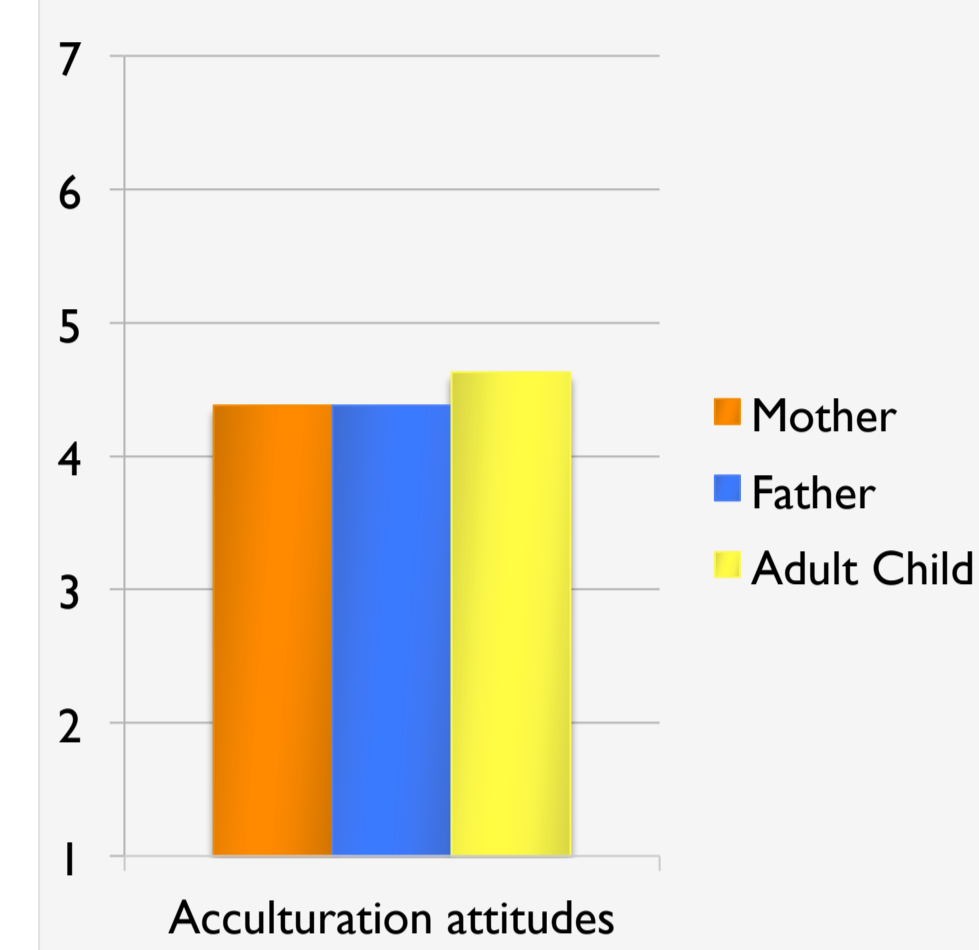
MIS values for native LUX Families



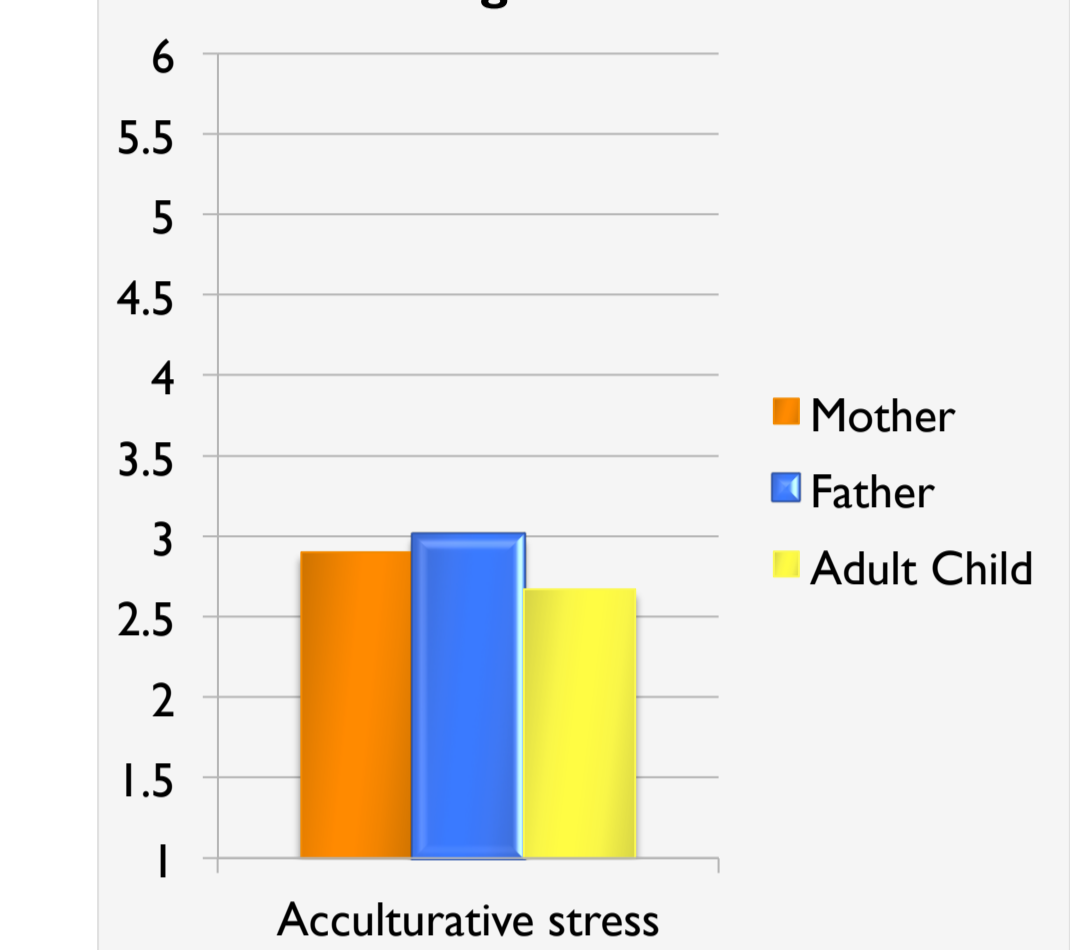
MIS values for immigrant PT Families



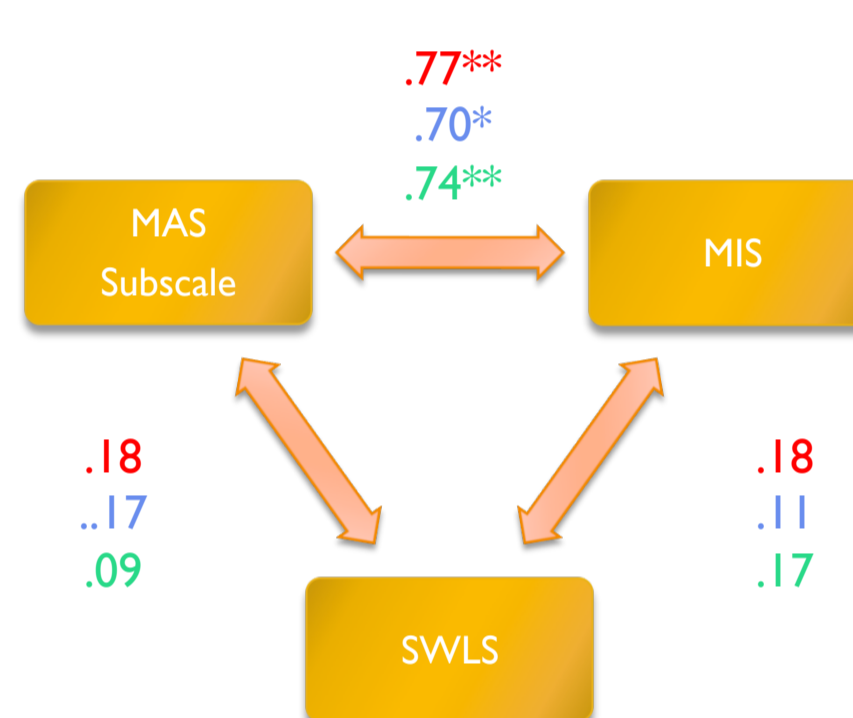
Acculturation Attitudes in LUX native families



Acculturative Stress in PT immigrant families

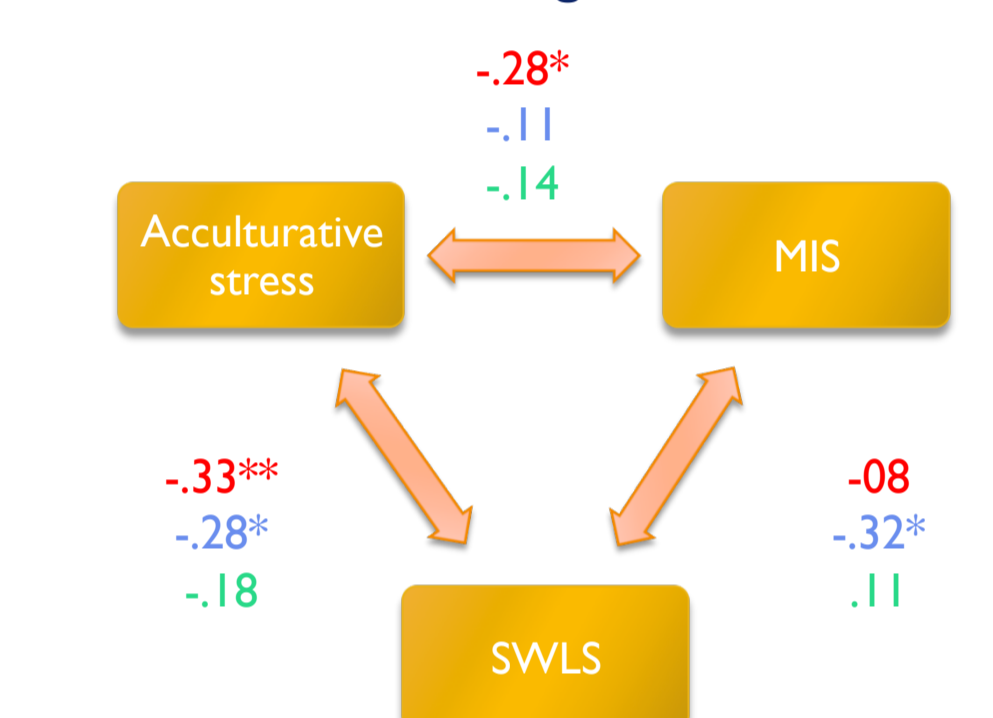


Correlations for native LUX families



Mothers
Fathers
Children

Correlations for immigrant PT families



Results & Discussion

- The MIS scale showed a unifactorial structure of the construct with satisfactory reliabilities for LUX native families (i.e. majority group) (Breugelmans & Van de Vijver, 2004). However, reliabilities were not satisfactory for migrant families (for adult PT children as well as for both PT parents); factor analyses suggested a multidimensional structure here. This may be due to the acculturation context of the migrant families, due to a possible misunderstanding of the items or due to translation issues. Further analyses will be carried out for clarification.
- Preliminary analyses indicate an effect of national group with slightly higher scores of Portuguese migrants regarding their multicultural ideology (i.e., being more in favour of a multicultural society) compared to their Luxembourgish counterparts in general.
- No significant generational differences were found between parents and adult children regarding the MIS full scale, neither for the PT migrants [$F(2,96) = .20$; $p = .82$] nor for the LUX natives [$F(2,88) = .83$; $p = .44$].
- However, the younger generation showed higher ratings for several individual items of the Multicultural Ideology scale compared to the older generation in general, indicating a higher openness of the younger generation to specific aspects of Multiculturalism of both national groups.
- No differences between LUX and PT families were found regarding SWLS [$F(1,90) = .13$; $p = .72$]. Parents and adult children did not differ with regard to SWLS [$F(2,180) = 1.19$; $p = .31$]. Nevertheless, interestingly, analyses showed a tendency of younger migrants feeling a higher SWLS compared to the older migrant generation, whereas the Luxembourgish adult children reported in general a lower Well-being than their parents.
- Regarding Acculturation Attitudes of Luxembourgish native families, no significant differences were highlighted by our analyses between adult Luxembourgish children and their elderly parents [$F(2,84) = 2.52$; $p = .09$]. However, Adult LUX children showed a tendency of higher Acculturation Attitudes values, a potential proof of a higher acceptance of migration in the daily life compared to the older generation.
- Interestingly, Acculturative Stress among Portuguese migrant families revealed a significant difference regarding parents' and children's ratings [$F(2,194) = 3.30$; $p = .04$]. Portuguese parents reported slightly higher acculturative stress scores than did their children, with PT fathers being those with the highest values.
- As could be expected, MIS showed high correlations with MAS, the highest being revealed for LUX mothers, followed by children and fathers.
- Interestingly, quite high correlations between Acculturative stress and SWLS were found for migrant parents, but this was not the case for PT children.

Conclusions

Given the previous results, adult children from migrant families seem to be potentially better integrated in the "new" society than their parents and might thus feel less stress due to the acculturation context.

Further analyses regarding the perceived acculturation context of parents and adult children from migrant families will be carried out in order to better understand the generational differences found here.



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