

Family Life Trajectories and Migration.

A Sequence Analysis Approach of Senegalese Migrants in Europe

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This study examines the timing, quantum and sequencing of family trajectories (marriage and childbearing) of male and female Senegalese migrants across borders, i.e. in the immediate time before and after migration to Europe. Using longitudinal retrospective data collected in the framework of the MAFE-project this article goes beyond the event-oriented approach by providing a more integral picture of family trajectories in the context of long-distance international migration. The analysis comprises three steps: 1) sequences are defined; 2) cluster analysis is performed to identify an empirically grounded typology of marriage, childbearing and migration behavior; 3) multinomial logistic regressions are used to analyze how socio-economic and demographic characteristics affect the probability of belonging to a specific cluster. The results indicate that for both female and, to a lesser extent, male Senegalese migrants union formation and childbearing are strongly linked with the migration process. For women, a strong interrelation of migration, union formation and childbearing could be observed. For men, in contrast, migration has a disruptive effect on both dimensions.