

Endogamy and Male fertility: Partner choice and fertility among second-generation men of Turkish or Moroccan origin in Belgium

Lisa Van Landschoot

Vrije Universiteit Brussel, Interface Demography

Lisa.Van.Landschoot@vub.ac.be

Christine Schnor

Vrije Universiteit Brussel, Interface Demography

University of Leuven, Centre for Sociological Research

Helga A.G. de Valk

Vrije Universiteit Brussel, Interface Demography

Netherlands Interdisciplinary Demographic Institute/Koninklijke Nederlandse Akademie van Wetenschappen/ University of Groningen

Jan Van Bavel

Vrije Universiteit Brussel, Interface Demography

University of Leuven, Centre for Sociological Research

Many second-generation Turks and Moroccans in Belgium still find their partner in their parents' country of origin. Although legal constraints are often put forward as a possible explanation of this marriage migration, some studies emphasise that partner choice is the outcome of specific preferences with especially more traditional second-generation men marrying a migrant. Using Belgian Census and register data (2001-2006), we analyse whether partner choice and fertility outcome of second-generation men of Turkish or Moroccan origin are related and driven by (unobserved) preferences. We find that men married to a marriage migrant have more often four or more children, but that once we account for the endogeneity of partner choice, this association turns negative. This suggests that the longing for a traditional family makes some men more likely to marry a marriage migrant and to have more children. Net of selection, migrant marriages have fewer children, potentially because of the migrants' aspirations for a better life in the host country.