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Migrant fertility in Germany: patterns and impacts

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Abstract

This paper gives an overview of the migrant fertility patterns in Germany and presents possible impacts of migration on fertility along the hypotheses discussed in the literature. The empirical part of the paper starts with comparing fertility patterns of German and foreign women in the territory of the former Federal Republic of Germany from 1970 to 2006 based on official statistics. Afterwards, the results of migrant fertility analyses drawn from Statutory Pension Insurance data (GRV) and from the Sample Survey of Selected Migrant Groups in Germany (RAM) are presented. Finally, some of the influence factors on the migrant fertility are empirically tested.

1 Introduction

In Germany, the share of foreigners in the total population has grown almost continuously from 1961 onwards. At the end of 2008, around 6.73 million (8.2%) persons with foreign nationality (3.3 million women) have been registered (German Federal Statistical Office 2009). As to the issues of integration, the much greater number of persons of migrant origin ("Personen mit Migrationshintergrund"3) is of increasing importance. They comprise 15.4 million persons (7.6 million women) or 18.7% of the total population (German Federal Statistical Office 2008). One third of the German population under age 5 already is of migrant origin. Hence for a country with fertility below replacement level and ongoing demographic ageing – like Germany – an increasing relevance of the migrant population can be expected (Coleman 2006, Sobotka 2008). But in spite of the high number of female migrant population in Germany and significant fertility differences between German and foreign women, there exist only a few analyses on the reproductive behaviour of female migrants. The reason for that might be the lack of adequate and available databases. But nevertheless, migrant fertility analyses have become indispensable and certain deficiencies cannot discourage further research.

2 Theoretical considerations

Determinants of the reproductive behaviour of female migrants

Current migrant fertility research analyses the influence which a change of location and culture exert on the timing of births, birth intervals and the number of birth. Thereby the researchers focussed either on the reproductive behaviour of migrant women in industrialized countries (Kahn 1988, 1994, Stephen and Bean 1992, Schoorl 1995, Kulu 2006, Genereux 2007, Lindstrom and Giorguli-Saucedo 2007, Sobotka 2008)[4], or in developing countries (Goldstein and Goldstein 1981, Farber and Lee 1984, Hervitz 1985, Young 1991, Lee 1992, Lee and Pol 1993, Brockeroff and Yang 1994, Lindstrom 2003).

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[3] The term "persons of migrant origin" includes all persons who have migrated into the territory that constitutes today the Federal Republic of Germany since 1949 and all foreigners born in Germany as well as all German nationals born in Germany who have at least one parent who immigrated into Germany or who was born as a foreigner in Germany (BMI 2005).

[4] The migrant fertility in Germany was analysed by Kane 1986, Nauck 1987, 1988, 1993, 2007, Schwarz 1996, Dinkel and Lebok 1997, Mayer and Riphahn 2000, Mammey and Schwarz 2002, Milewski 2007, 2008. For a detailed overview see Schmid and Kohls 2009.

Views differ with regard to the impact of migration on the reproductive behaviour of migrant women. Previous studies on migrant fertility used various quantitative research measures to find out to what extent the reproductive behaviour of female migrants is influenced by both the migration process as such and the change of the socio-economic setting. Out of these studies five hypotheses on the determinants on migrant fertility could be drawn:

1. The socialization experiences in the country of origin - socialization hypothesis
2. Individual characteristics of the female migrant - selection hypothesis
3. The circumstances of the migration process - disruption hypothesis
4. The motivation for migration - interrelation hypothesis
5. The experiences in the country of destination with increasing length of stay - adaptation hypothesis

In the following these five hypotheses on the reproductive behaviour of female migrants will be presented:

The *socialization hypothesis* states that a change of the socio-economic setting does not affect fertility, because values and norms acquired in the childhood in the country of origin keep determining the reproductive behaviour. So the fertility of first generation migrants is still similar to the childbearing behaviour in the country of origin (Goldberg 1959, Freedman and Slesinger 1961, Duncan 1965, Rosenwaike 1973, Stephen and Bean 1992).

The *selection hypothesis* predicts that migrants are a selective group of people whose reproductive behaviour is from the beginning more similar to the fertility prevalent in the country of destination than in the country of origin (Myers and Morris 1966, Goldstein and Goldstein 1981, Michielin 2004, Kulu 2005). According to this hypothesis fertility is influenced by group-specific or individual (education, occupation, family orientation) characteristics (Macisco et al. 1970, Hoem 1975, Kreyenfeld 2002).

The *disruption hypothesis* suggests that migration always means a break in the life history of a person and causes a delay of childbearing. So migration lowers fertility before and after arrival in the receiving country. But this fertility decline is only initial and temporary and does not alter the completed fertility of a woman (Goldstein 1973, Carlson 1985, White et al. 1995, Brockeroff 1995, Abbasi-Shavazi and McDonald 2002).

The *interrelation hypothesis* argues that migration cannot be the sole reason for higher fertility levels after migration. It is more likely that different events coincide with each other. Rising fertility levels right after migration can rather be explained, e.g. by the coincidence of migration and family building (Mulder and Wagner 1993, Singley and Landale 1998, Andersson 2004, Kulu 2005, Lindstrom and Giorguli-Saucedo 2007).

The *adaptation hypothesis* assumes that the current socio-economic conditions and cultural norms in the destination country have a greater influence on migrants' childbearing behaviour than the familial socialization acquired in the country of origin. The adaptation hypothesis has been tested and supported by fertility research on migrants in developing countries (Faber and Lee 1984, Brockeroff and Yang 1994) and in industrialized states (Courgeau 1989, Kulu 2005, Milewski 2008).

3 Empirical Results

The current research discovered deficits in the field of migrant fertility in Germany. They are mainly due to the lack of adequate data.[5] Previous studies exclusively based on official statistics have shown errors, especially regarding migrant populations (Kohls 2008). Therefore further databases from administration and registers as well as from social science surveys should be used for migrant fertility analyses in Germany.

[5] For a detailed overview and a discussion of the existing migrant fertility analyses in Germany, see Schmid and Kohls 2009.

The empirical results presented in this paper have been drawn from analyses of administration and register data, particularly from official statistics and the Statutory Pension Insurance ("Gesetzliche Rentenversicherung", GRV). Another data source in use is the Sample Survey of Selected Migrant Groups in Germany (RAM).[6] Relying on these datasets we raised the following research questions: To what extent differ the fertility of German and that one of migrant respectively foreign[7] women? How widely stray the fertility differences between migrant groups in Germany? Which one of the migrant fertility hypotheses exerts the greatest impact?

Official statistics

Here fertility measures of German and foreign women between 1970 and 2006 are presented based on official statistics. Table 3 shows how the number of births of German women fell sharply between 1970 and 1975, and got stabilised until 1985. The higher number of births around 1990 echoes the strong juvenile cohorts thirty years ago now entering into parenthood. Since then a constant decrease to about 438,000 births in 2006 took place. With regard to foreign women, the data show a different trend. The number of births doubled from 1970 to 1975 and fell down until 1985. After 1985, the number of births rose up to 124,000 in 2000 and decreased again to about 109,000 births in 2006 (Tab. 1).
In 1975, the Period Total Fertility Rate (TFR) of German women was at 1,335 children per 1,000 women, that one of foreign women showed 2,653 children per 1,000 women. In 2006, the TFR came to lie at 1,285 children per 1,000 German women and at 1,663 children per 1,000 foreign women (Tab. 1).

Table 1: Births and TFR of German and foreign women*, official statistics, 1970-2006

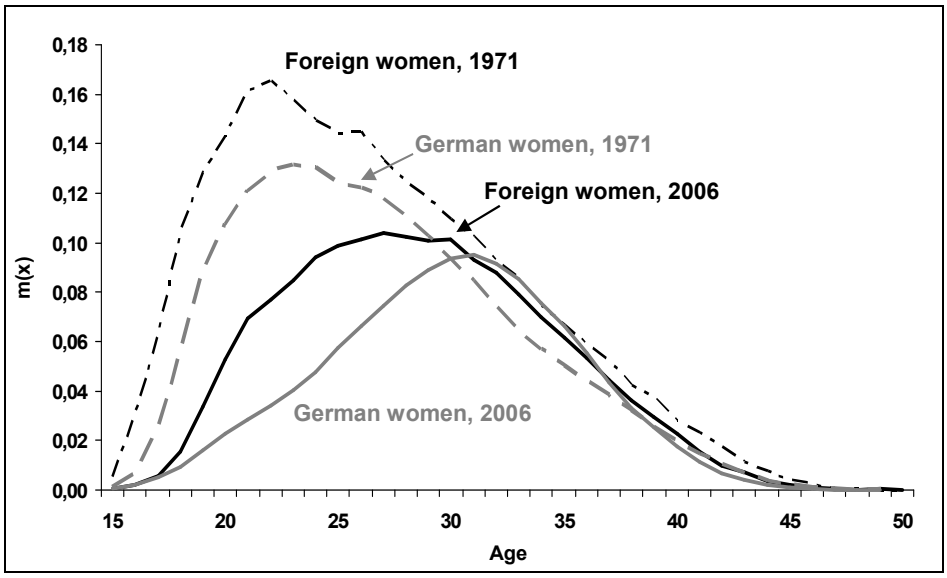
	1970	1975	1980	1985	1990	1995	2000	2005	2006
Births, B_t									
Germans	754,028	493,690	527,481	520,753	625,116	561,044	530,970	449,518	438,151
Foreigners	56,658	106,708	93,051	65,312	101,969	120,237	124,701	110,504	108,540
Total Fertility Rate, TFR_t per 1,000									
Germans	1,996	1,335	1,368	1,248	1,366	1,242	1,328	1,296	1,285
Foreigners	2,109	2,653	2,363	1,673	2,177	1,810	1,866	1,689	1,663

Note: *Births: mothers' nationality.
Source: Own calculations based on data of the German Federal Statistical Office. 1970-2000: former Federal Republic of Germany (Old Laender). 2001-2006: former Federal Republic of Germany (Old Laender) without East Berlin.

Looking at the age specific fertility rates m(x) of German and foreign women in 1971, one can see that German and foreign women show nearly the same fertility pattern, with low teenage fertility and, from the age of 18 onwards, a sharp rise in fertility with its highest rates in the age group between 20 and 25 (Fig. 1). Furthermore, a steady lowering of the fertility rates from the age of 25 onwards can be found. In 2006 apparent differences between the fertility patterns of both, foreign and German women come to the fore. Both groups show low teenage fertility, but from the age of 18 onwards, the age specific fertility rates of foreign women rise faster than the German ones. The highest age specific fertility rates can be seen for foreign women between the age of 25 and 29, for German women in the age group between 29 and 32. Above age 35 German and foreign women show nearly identical rates. Since 1971 the highest rates of fertility have shifted to considerably higher age groups (Fig. 1). While in 1971 the differences between German and foreign women could be explained by quantum differences, whereas the disparities in 2006 are mainly caused by differences in the timing of births.[8]

[6] "Repraesentativbefragung ausgewaehlter Migrantengruppen in Deutschland" (RAM), see Babka von Gostomski 2008.
[7] Due to limitations of the used databases only women with foreign nationality are considered in the following analyses.
[8] Based on the Central Register of Foreigners (AZR) a higher migrant fertility can be found because the female population stock between age 15 and 49 in the AZR is 5.9% higher than in the official statistics. Thus in 2006 foreign women show a TFR of 1,747 children per 1,000 women, that is 5.5% higher than in the calculation based on official statistics (Schmid and Kohls 2008). The variances regarding the official statistics are caused by the following reasons: First, in the official statistics only births, which have taken place in Germany are considered. Second only births of foreign women registered in the local registry office in Germany are taken into account. Third the failed deregistration of

Figure 1: Age-specific fertility rates m(x) of German and foreign women*, official statistics, 1971 and 2006



Note: *Births: mothers' nationality, 1971: former Federal Republic of Germany (Old Laender), 2005: former Federal Republic of Germany (Old Laender) without East Berlin.
Source: Own calculations based on data of the German Federal Statistical Office.

Statutory Pension Insurance (GRV)

Another database, adequate for analysing migrant fertility is the dataset of the Active Insured Persons 2002-2006 from the German Statutory Pension Insurance (Schmid and Kohls 2008, 2009).[9] The representativeness of the GRV database has been tested by checking it against the official birth statistics for 2002-2006 (Schmid and Kohls 2008, 2009).
Between 2002 and 2006 foreign women (age 15-49) realized 401,001 births and showed with 1,692 children per 1,000 women a higher TFR than Germans with 1,335 children per 1,000 women in the same age group (Tab. 2). The comparison of fertility measures 2002-2004 of female migrant groups living in Germany shows major differences depending on their nationality (Tab. 3). With regard to the number of births it is obvious that Turkish women have the highest percentage of all births among foreign women with up to 33% (69,250: 2002-2004). The lowest share of all births among foreign women show American women with around 3% (5,966: 2002-2004).

Table 2: Births and TFR of German and foreign women*, GRV, 2002-2006

	2002-2006
Births, B_t	
Germans	2,599,870
Foreigners	401,001
Total Fertility Rate, TFR_t per 1,000	
Germans	1,335
Foreigners	1,692

Note: *Births: mothers' nationality.
Source: Own calculations based on data of the GRV (SUFAKVS04-06XVSBB).

emigrants cause an overestimation of the female migrant population in Germany and hence, an underestimation of fertility of foreign women (Kohls 2008, Schmid and Kohls 2008, 2009).
[9] Further datasets of the GRV are suited to analyse migrant fertility in Germany as a matter of principle, see Kreyenfeld and Mika 2006.

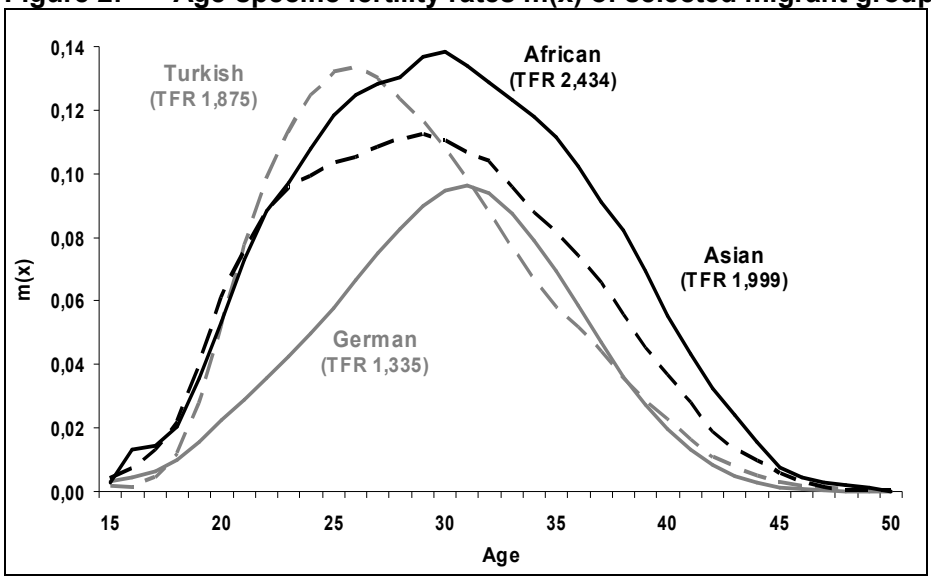
In the period 2002-2004, the highest total fertility rates have African women with 2,218 children per 1,000 women, followed by Asian (1,936) and Turkish women (1,832). A TFR between 1,600 and 1,700 children per 1,000 women show women coming from Former Yugoslavia (1,641), America (1,686) and from other states (1,694). A TFR similar to German women (1,313) have women coming from former guest worker countries[10] (1,299) and from other European states (1,372). The lowest TFR (1,071) have women from the neighbouring countries of Germany[11] (Tab. 3). In the following periods 2003-2005 and 2004-2006 the fertility differences between migrant groups remain steady but on a slightly higher level (Tab. 3).

Table 3: Fertility measures of migrant groups*, GRV, 2002-2006

Neighbour countries of Germany	Turkey	Former Yugosla-via	Former guest worker states	Other Europ. states	Africa	America	Asia	Other States	Compari-son: Germany
2002 - 2004									
Births, B_t									
9,975	69,250	24,452	23,060	35,065	10,905	5,966	26,654	8,068	1,544,847
Total Fertility Rate, TFR_t per 1,000									
1,071	1,832	1,641	1,299	1,372	2,218	1,686	1,936	1,694	1,313
2003 - 2005									
Births, B_t									
9,991	70,752	25,938	22,571	38,619	12,827	6,181	29,879	9,603	1,549,889
Total Fertility Rate, TFR_t per 1,000									
1,127	1,844	1,740	1,316	1,374	2,381	1,664	1,973	1,959	1,327
2004 - 2006									
Births, B_t									
10,455	78,336	30,086	22,786	45,779	16,618	7,181	36,950	11,185	1,568,217
Total Fertility Rate, TFR_t per 1,000									
1,206	1,937	1,913	1,369	1,429	2,643	1,815	2,044	2,090	1,364

Note: *Births: mothers' nationality.
Source: Own calculations based on official statistics and GRV (SUFAKVS04-06XVSBB).

Figure 2: Age-specific fertility rates m(x) of selected migrant groups*, GRV, 2002-2006



Note: *Births: mothers' nationality.
Source: Own calculations based on data of the GRV (SUFAKVS04XVSBB).

[10] Greece, Italy, Portugal, Spain.
[11] Belgium, Denmark, France, Luxembourg, Netherlands, Austria, Liechtenstein, Switzerland.

A look at the age specific fertility rates m(x) of female migrant groups makes obvious the major differences in the fertility patterns (Fig. 2). Turkish women have, at younger ages, the highest age-specific fertility rates. African women above age 27 show higher rates. German women have from the age of 32 onwards, higher age-specific fertility rates than the Turkish women. African and Asian women have higher fertility rates than the German women in all age groups.
The fertility patterns of women coming from Former Yugoslavia, from neighbouring countries of Germany and from America show differences as well. Women from Former Yugoslavia show similar fertility patterns such as the Turkish women, but on a lower level. Women from the neighbouring countries of Germany have particularly in younger age groups a very low fertility, even lower than the German one. But in higher ages (above 35) women from the neighbouring countries as well as Americans show higher rates than German women (not shown here).

Sample Survey of Selected Migrant Groups in Germany (RAM)

Administration and register data like data from the German Federal Statistical Office or the GRV are typically full samples with high case numbers which come along with high empirical significance. But the parameters of these databases are strongly limited and therefore detailed migrant fertility analyses are not possible. For that reason data from social science surveys need to be taken into account. These surveys (e.g. RAM) are usually characterised by small case numbers but they include a variety of parameters, which can be used for migrant fertility analyses. Based on the Sample Survey of Selected Migrant Groups in Germany (RAM) some indicators out of the migrant fertility hypotheses can be empirically analysed for different migrant groups (Tab. 4).[12]

Table 4: Indicators of the reproductive behaviour of female migrants to be empirically analysed based on RAM

Indicators to be empirically analysed
- Birth cohort
- Nationality of the migrant women
- Nationality of her partner
- Partnership status
- Marital status
- Realised fertility (country of origin/ destination)
- Religious confession
- Religiosity
- Level of education (years of school attendance)
- Occupation
- Language skills of the country of origin
- German language skills
- Emotional ties to the country of origin
- Emotional ties to Germany
- Length of stay (years)

Source: Own table.

[12] RAM was conducted in 2006 and 2007 on behalf of the Federal Office for Migration and Refugees (BAMF). It comprises 4,576 respondents including 2,233 women. The allocation of the sample by nationalities presents the following shares (Babka von Gostomski 2008): 33.0% Turkish women (total number: 738), 21.2% Former Yugoslavian women (473), 18.7% Polish women (418), 13.8% Greece women (309) and 13.2% Italian women (295).

- Descriptive analysis

The comparison of the Completed Fertility Rate (CFR)[13] at age 40 by country of origin shows that women coming from Turkey have with 3,472 children per 1,000 women the highest fertility (Tab. 5). As a counterpart, women coming from Poland have the lowest CFR with 1,532 children per 1,000 women. Women coming from Former Yugoslavia, Italy and Greece show a CFR of around 2,100 children per 1,000 women. In sum, the fertility of migrant women varies widely depending on the country of origin.

Table 5: Completed Fertility Rate (CFR) of migrant women* by country of origin, RAM, 2006-2007, per 1,000 women

Country of origin	CFR, per 1,000 women	Total numbers
Turkey	3,472	286
Former Yugoslavia	2,094	222
Italy	2,268	144
Greece	2,068	158
Poland	1,532	148
All migrant women	2,655	958

Note: *Only women over 40 years are considered.
Source: Own calculations based on RAM 2006/2007, weighted, n=958.

The socio-economic circumstances of a cohort a migrant woman belongs to and her corresponding socialization experiences have an impact on fertility. Women of the cohort 1927 to 1940 have the highest CFR with 3,285 children per 1,000 women. The lowest CFR show women born between 1961 and 1965 with 2,280 children per 1,000 women. Furthermore migrant women of the cohort 1927 to 1940 have born more of their children in the country of origin than younger cohorts (Tab. 6). The distribution of the number of children shows that childlessness is very unusual for Turkish women (4%) but more usual for Polish (13%) and women from Former Yugoslavia (10%) (without Tab.).

Table 6: CFR of migrant women* by cohorts and country of origin, RAM, 2006-2007, per 1,000 women

Country of origin	Cohort			
	1927-1940	1941-1950	1951-1960	1961-1965
Turkey	4,216	3,704	3,172	2,923
Former Yugoslavia	2,636	2,131	1,970	1,771
Italy	2,504	2,380	2,455	1,793
Greece	2,206	1,930	2,120	2,079
Poland	(1,775)	1,453	1,610	1,379
All migrant women	3,285	2,834	2,437	2,280
	Children born at country of origin			
Turkey	3,232	2,267	1,076	490
Former Yugoslavia	2,036	1,237	855	857
Italy	1,377	510	453	465
Greece	1,114	749	738	1,050
Poland	(1,584)	1,230	1,050	866
All migrant women	2,396	1,583	886	642

Note: *Only women over 40 years are considered.
Source: Own calculations based on RAM 2006/2007, weighted, n= 958. Number in brackets means less than 10 persons (unweighted).

[13] Compared to the analyses based on official statistics and GRV the completed fertility of a woman at the end of her reproductive age can be calculated by using RAM. Due to differences in computation and interpretation the period TFR and the cohort CFR cannot be compared easily (Preston et al. 2001).

In Tab. 7 it can be observed, that the educational level (years of school attendance) has a strong impact on the completed fertility of a migrant woman. Thus, women with less than 9 years school attendance show a relatively high fertility of 2,761 children per 1,000 women, while women with longer school attendance (more than 12 years) have on average 1,653 children per 1,000 women. Italian women show the highest impact of school attendance on fertility (Tab. 7).

Table 7: CFR of migrant women* by years of school attendance, RAM, 2006-2007, per 1,000 women

Country of origin	School attendance, in years		
	Less than 9	9 - 12	More than 12
Turkey	3,356	2,707	(.)
Former Yugoslavia	2,252	1,543	1,693
Italy	2,540	1,765	1,671
Greece	2,047	2,237	(1,538)
Poland	1,849	1,431	1,516
All migrant women	2,761	1,915	1,653

Note: *Only women over 40 years are considered.
Source: Own calculations based on RAM 2006/2007, weighted, n=900. Number in brackets stands for less than 10 persons (unweighted). Point in brackets means less than 5 persons (unweighted).

Our analysis considering occupation confirms the results in the official statistics that higher educated women have a lower fertility and higher childlessness than women at a lower occupational level (German Federal Statistical Office 2007). Closely connected with the educational level is the income. Here it became apparent that women with higher education have on average a higher income. Thus the higher the income the lower is the completed fertility of a woman (not shown here).
The analysis shows that women with one of the Islamic confessions have the highest CFR at age 40 with 3,431 children per 1,000 women, while other confessions show on average about 2,000 children per 1,000 women (not shown here). But the confession is an ascribed parameter that does not represent the religiosity of a person. Therefore the self-evaluation of the religiosity was asked in RAM. Women, who evaluated themselves as religious or very religious show a fertility of 2,776 children per 1,000 women, while less religious women have on average 2,169 children per 1,000 women (not shown here).

Tab. 8: CFR of migrant women* by own nationality and nationality of the partner, RAM, 2006-2007, per 1,000 women

Country of origin	Own nationality and nationality of the partner	
	Non-German – German (Ratio)	Non-German – Non-German (Ratio)
Turkey	3,066 (06,1%)	3,487 (93,9%)
Former Yugoslavia	1,415 (18,9%)	2,257 (81,1%)
Italy	1,791 (17,2%)	2,497 (82,8%)
Greece	1,916 (13,3%)	2,119 (86,7%)
Poland	1,541 (64,2%)	1,466 (35,8%)
All migrant women	1,821 (20,5%)	2,824 (79,5%)

Note: *Only women over 40 years are considered.
Source: Own calculations based on RAM 2006/2007, weighted, n= 748.

Another migrant fertility indicator refers to the nationality of a migrant woman's partner. In RAM only 20,5% of the women above age 40 living in a partnership have a German partner, but 79,5% a partner of foreign origin (Tab. 8). While non-German couples show a CFR of 2,824 per 1,000 women, bi-national couples have a significant lower fertility of 1,821 children per 1,000 women. This can be explained by the faster adaptation processes by having a German partner.

Only Polish women show a higher fertility when having a German partner (Tab. 8). The reason for it might be that they are more family oriented and their motives of migration were marriage or family building.
The level of "identifical" integration can be measured in the RAM with the question of the emotional ties to the country of origin and to the destination country. In Tab. 9 can be seen, that the emotional ties to the county of origin have no measurable effect on migrant fertility. But the emotional ties to the destination country show a connection: The higher the emotional ties to Germany the lower the CFR of migrant women at age 40. Probably women strongly related to Germany are more integrated and therefore adapted the norms and values of the destination country faster than less integrated women. One can conclude that more integrated migrant women have a comparatively lower fertility level because they adapted the norms and values relating to childbearing in Germany. The same effect can be seen when language skills are taken into account: the better German language skills are, the lower will be the fertility. The level of language skills of the country of origin shows no measurable influence on fertility.

Table 9: CFR of migrant women* by emotional ties to the country of origin and to the destination country, RAM, 2006-2007, per 1,000 women

Country of origin	Emotional ties to country of origin				Emotional ties to Germany			
	very strong	strong	neutral	little, not at all	very strong	strong	neutral	little, not at all
Turkey	3,498	3,806	2,994	3,577	2,747	3,076	3,124	3,718
Former Yugoslavia	1,975	2,062	2,186	2,173	2,057	2,048	1,633	(1,709)
Italy	2,226	2,154	2,273	2,679	1,677	2,059	2,424	(1,768)
Greece	2,160	2,062	2,047	1,792	1,590	1,684	1,791	(1,154)
Poland	1,489	1,478	1,640	1,548	1,320	1,435	1,178	(2,143)
All migrant women	2,711	2,763	2,492	2,575	2,150	2,371	2,417	3,000

Note: *Only women over 40 years are considered.
Source: Own calculations based on RAM 2006/2007, weighted, Emotional ties to country of origin n=958, Emotional ties to Germany n= 961. Number in brackets means less than 10 persons (unweighted).

- Multivariate analysis

Beside the descriptive studies, regression models can analyse the intensity and validity of influence factors of the migrant fertility, when relevant structure variables (birth cohort, duration of stay) are controlled. Therefore a regression model including all mentioned parameters was calculated (not shown here).
The regression model examined that the factors "children born in the country of origin" and prevalence of Islamic confession has a considerable effect on the migrants' fertility. The "nationality" taken as such has for women from Turkey and the Former Yugoslavia no significant effect, only for Italian a measurable effect can be seen. In contrast, the decreasing effect of the bi-national partnership as well as the increasing effect of the low educational level on migrant fertility remains constant in the model. But both parameters lost their significance as a result of lower case numbers and higher number of variables in the model. The "self-evaluated religiosity" has no measurable effect in the model, because this effect is represented completely by the existence of the Islamic confession. The identificational parameters (emotional ties to the country of origin and destination) and the language skills have in the model no longer any effects on the migrant fertility. The R^2=0,319 evidences a relatively high explanatory content of the model. Using a stepwise multiple regression model the results remain unchanged (not shown here).

4 Conclusion

Demographic research shows increasing interest in the fertility of migrant women. Therefore this paper presented the different views concerning the impact of migration on fertility based on five migrant fertility hypotheses. Regarding the empirical analyses based on GRV data, it can be concluded, that the fertility of female migrant groups in Germany is very heterogeneous. On the one hand, there is the high fertility of migrant women coming from Africa, Turkey and Asia, on the other hand a lower fertility of women coming from the neighbouring countries of Germany and from former guest worker countries.
Empirical analyses based on RAM found out that the completed fertility of female migrant groups differs: migrant women coming from Turkey show the highest CFR while women from Poland show the lowest fertility level. Women coming from former Yugoslavia, Italy and Greece show similar fertility patterns. Childlessness of Turkish women is very seldom a phenomenon, whereas women coming from Poland and Former Yugoslavia count cases of childlessness above the average. Additionally, it has been found out that bi-national couples have a lower fertility than couples of the same foreign nationality because they have more contact with Germans which promotes the adaptation to the low fertility norms and values of the destination country.
The results confirm the expected paths which reproductive behaviour will go, widely in tune with the adaptation hypothesis. The higher fertility of Polish women who entered Germany for marriage's reasons is a phenomenon which is backed by a greater family orientation of these female migrants concerned. This might confirm the selection hypothesis and the higher motivation for parenthood bound up with family formation migration. A similar confirmation has got the link between higher education and lower fertility of migrant women. Furthermore, the fertility of migrant women declines with increasing level of (identifical) integration in the destination country. Emotional ties with the country of origin and the degree of native language skills show no signs of influencing the fertility of female migrants; this may mean a grading down of the socialisation hypothesis instead of a prevalence of the process of adaptation to the country of destination (adaptation hypothesis). The length of stay in the destination country influences the post-migratory life span of the female migrants insofar as cultural and educational traits of the country of origin will lose its power and be gradually replaced by standards of the destination country.

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