Bernhard Nauck

Designs for Empirical Research
with Migrant Families

Institut für Interkulturelle und
International Vergleichende
Erziehungswissenschaft
der Universität Hamburg

Research with migrant families is confronted with more complexity than standard research with „normal" (= non-migrant) families.

It has to account for
- Sending context / receiving context on national, local and ecological level
- Variations in ethnic-cultural identity
- Variations in legal status
- Variations in majority-minority relationships
- Variations in migrant-cohorts and successions
- Variations in social change in the sending and receiving context
- Variations in social selection of migrants
- Variations in migration effects on gender and generation in families and their mutual influences

1.
The Standard Design:

One-Shot Survey with Migrants

- Still the most popular design in (low budget, self-organized, qualitative, problem driven) migration research – and beyond
- Studies all follow the same logic:
  - I am interested in educational successful turkish girls, thus I interview/investigate a (convenient, snow-ball) sample of them!
  - I am interested in unaccompanied Syrian refugee adolescents, thus I interview/investigate a sample of them!
  - I am interested in the situation of Turkish widows in German old age homes, thus I interview/investigate a sample of them!
- During my 9 years as elected member for social research in the German Research Foundation (DFG), I was involved in the review of dozens of proposals with such designs
- In most cases, they were **rejected**. **Why?**

Problem: Sampling over the dependent variable
(besides the problem with possible biases because of convenience and snow-ball sampling methods)

Unable to answer the implied research questions:
- If I am interested in the specifics of educational successful Turkish girls, I must (at minimum!) compare them to unsuccessful Turkish girls and/or boys and/or other migrant nationalities and/or unsuccessful native girls.
- If I am interested in the specifics of Turkish widows in German old age homes, I must (at minimum!) compare them to native widows in those homes and/or Turkish widowers and/or widows living at home.

The designs of these kinds of studies are not sufficiently complex enough to answer their specific research questions.

2.
Increasing Complexity in the Standard Design:

One-Shot Survey with Structural Variations Of Migrants

Design Extension I (the second most popular design)
- Comparing migrants according to structural differences
  - Migrant nationalities/ethnic groups
  - Social contexts, living environments
  - Historical migration periods
- **Standard-Design: Comparison of natives and immigrants within one immigrant society**
  - Predominantly driven by an assimilation perspective
  - How different (unassimilated) are (still) various migrant groups from the receiving society?
  - Conclusions often drawn from hypothesized differences between country of origin and receiving society

Example: DFG-Project funded 1984 – 1986

- Cross-sectional survey with Turkish mothers and fathers with children between 6 and 16 years
- Variation of the ecology in 3 cities (Cologne, Bonn, Troisdorf) with 3 types of ecologies
  - Quarter with Migrants in „diaspora", i.e. low proportion of foreigners
  - Quarter with high proportion of migrants but low ethnic infrastructure
  - Quarter with high proportion of migrants and high ethnic infrastructure
- 3 x 3 x 2 design (city x quarter x gender)
- Register sample, personal interviews with standardized questionnaires in Turkish

3.
Increasing Complexity even further:

One-Shot Survey with Inclusion of Natives in Both Societies and Re-Migrants

Design Extension II

- Comparing migrants with re-immigrants and non-migrants in the country of origin
- **Overcoming the standard-design of comparing natives and immigrants within the immigrant society**
  - How different (dissimilated) are migrants from members of the society of origin?
  - Construction of a base-line for assimilation processes in the receiving society
  - Question: What is the adequate reference group?
  - Question: How operate migration-specific selection processes?

Example: DFG-Project funded 1986 – 1990

- Cross-sectional survey with German mothers and fathers with children between 6 and 16 years from the same ecology of the Turkish migrants (German families „next door")
- Cross-sectional survey with non-migrant and re-immigrant mothers and fathers in 3 cities with 3 quarters in Turkey (Istanbul, Eskisehir, Balikesir)
- 2 x 3 x 3 x 2 x 2 design (country x city x quarter x migrants x gender)
- Register sample in Germany, quota sample in Turkey, personal interviews with standardized questionnaires
- Main theoretical issue: Disentangeling „migration"-effects from „culture of origin" and „acculturation"

3.
Increasing Complexity on the Family Level:

Comparing gender- and generation-dyads

Design Extension III

- Standard Design: Survey of interrelated dyads or triads in migrant families
- Comparing the perspective of mothers and fathers and/or parents and children in migrant families
- **Family members experience the migration and incorporation process as a convoy**
  - Gender and generation dynamics of simultaneous/lagged migration
  - Unequal accumulation of resources
  - Strengthend co-orientation of family members in the migrant-/minority situation

Example: Projects funded 1990 – 2000 by DFG, BMFSFJ, VW-Foundation

- Dyadic analysis of father-son- and mother-daughter relations with 14-16 years olds
  - Turkish families in Germany and Turkey
  - Italian, Greek, Vietnamese families in Germany
  - German repatriates in Germany
  - Jewish repatriates in Israel
- Asymmetrical design including 3 countries, 6 ethnic groups, gender and generation
- Instruments partly adapted from the DJI-Family Survey (health indicators; ego-centered network) to enable comparisons with the German population
- Comparison of „same origin - different receiving context" (a „natural experiment"???)

4.
Increasing Complexity
on the Developmental Level:

Analyzing individual change of migrants over time

Design Extension IV

- **Individual change over time**
  - before – during – after migration
  - during the acculturation process
- **Standard Design**: Panel Studies, following the same individual (or dyads/triads) continuously over time
  - Migration-Panel (ideally starting before the migration has happened)
  - Acculturation-Panel (ideally starting immediately after the arrival in the receiving society)

5.
Increasing Complexity
on the Kinship Level:

Analyzing sustainable effects of migration across generations
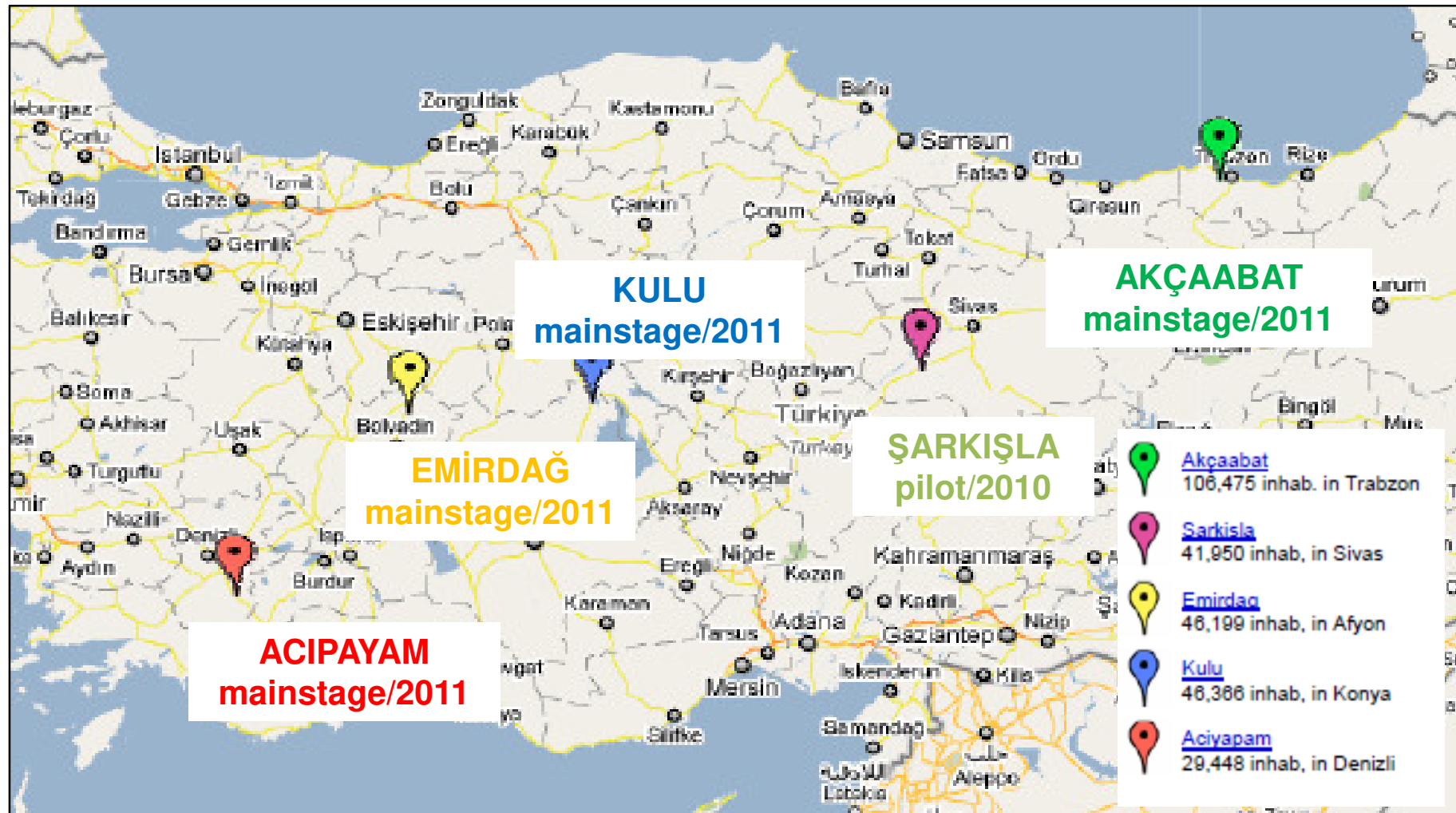
Design-Extension V

- Comparison of migrants and non-migrants across generations
- Counterfactual analysis: *What would have happened to migrants and their descendants, if they would have stayed?*
- The **only** possibility to identify **migration** effects!
- Standard-Design: Parallelized samples in the context of origin

LineUp Study: Reference Population

- **LineUp**. 2000 Families - Migration Histories of Turks in Europe (2009 – 2014)

- 5 regions in Turkey, in which massive migration took place in the hiring phase

Province („Ilce")	Denizli (Acipayam)	Trabzon (Akcaabat)	Afyon (Emirdag)	Konya (Kulu)	Sivas (Sarkisla)
Men (20-45y.) 1965		69.600	74.200	162.400	97.700
Emigration to Europe 1961-73	19.500	20.300	10.900	22.900	15.600

Regions in Turkey

Sample definition

- Parallel samples of **"anchor persons"** in migrant- and non-migrant-families at their starting point in Turkey, in order to follow their descendants across 3 generations

- Migrant families have a male ancestor, who:
  - is (or would be) at an age between 65 and 90

  - grew up in the region

  - migrated between 1960-1974 to Europe

  - lived in Europe for at least 5 years

- Non-migrant families have a male ancestor with the same characteristics, but who has stayed in Turkey in his entire life-time

- Sample was recruited by *random walk*, with a quota of 4 migrants for each non-migrant

Instruments

Screening logbook and family tree-module

- Collection of names and addresses from "door-step" informants (log book)

- Family tree module for demographic informations about the anchor person and **all** his descendants, applied to a "well-informed" lineage member
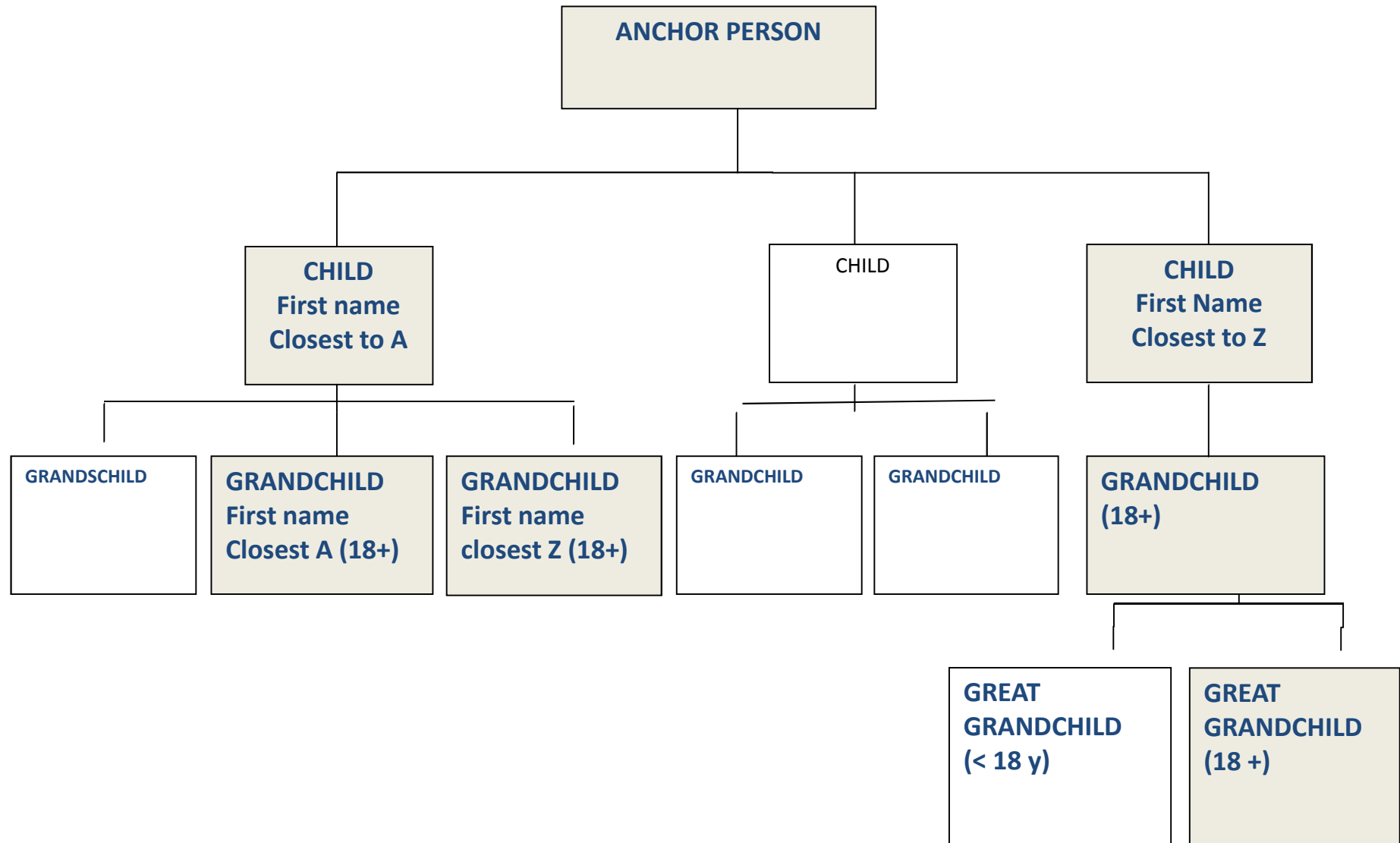
Proxy Questionnaire

- Information about socio-economic and migration-status of all lineage members above age 18, applied to a "well-informed" lineage member

Personal Questionnaire

- Applied to the anchor person and randomly selected adult descendants with personal interviews and follow ups by telephone **all over Europe**

Design for personal Interviews

Realized Interviews

Generation	Personal Interviews	Proxy Information only	Family tree only	Total
G1	1.053	727	212	1.992
G2	2.718	5.723	1.946	10.387
G3	2.200	8.407	15.947	26.554
Total	5.971	14.857	18.105	38.933

Design Inovations

- Sampling in the society of origin („true" migration effects)
- Contrafactual comparison of migrant- and non-migrant-families
- „Linked lives" of up to 4 generations
- sustainable effects of migration
- Migration to, within and from Europe
- Transnational following of all family members
- *GESIS Data Archive, Cologne. ZA5957 Data file Version 1.0.0, doi:10.4232/1.12541*

Ayse Guveli, Harry Ganzeboom, Lucinda Platt, Bernhard Nauck,
Helen Baykara-Krumme, Şebnem Eroğlu, Sait Bayrakdar,
Efe K. Sözeri and Niels Spierings

INTERGENERATIONAL CONSEQUENCES OF MIGRATION

Socio-economic, Family and Cultural Patterns of
Stability and Change in Turkey and Europe

Ayse Guveli et al.
Intergenerational Consequences of Migration.
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Basingstoke: Palgrave Macmillan 2016

CONTENTS

LineUp

University of Essex

vrije Universiteit amsterdam

TECHNISCHE UNIVERSITÄT CHEMNITZ

NORFACE

Requests, suggestions, criticism to

bernhard.nauck@soziologie.tu-chemnitz.de
bernhard.nauck@uni-hamburg.de