

National origin and family trajectories before and after migration in Quebec

Houlio St-Preux¹, Solène Lardoux¹, Vissého Adjiwanou^{1,2}

Extended abstract

Background: Immigrant family trajectories have been the subject of several studies examining the relationship between the timing of migration and the occurrence of certain life-course events such as births, union formation or dissolution. Most of these studies focus on Europe and analyze individuals' post-migration family paths (Kulu and González-Ferrer 2014), while others explore family trajectories before and after migration (Castro Torres, 2022; Kraus 2019). This previous research has shown the great diversity and complexity of family formation trajectories in the context of international migration. In Quebec, most existing studies analyze a single area of family formation among first-generation immigrants. The latter generally explore transitions at first birth or at different parities, the total fertility of first-generation immigrants, and sometimes compare them, with certain fertility indicators of non-immigrants or natives (Maria Constanza Street, 2015; María Constanza Street and Laplante 2014; Adsera and Ferrer 2014 and 2016). They are unanimous in recognizing that the transition to first birth for first-generation immigrants varies according to the region of birth (Adsera and Ferrer 2016; Street, 2015).

Research objectives and questions: This study aims to better understand the relationship between national origin and family trajectories before and after migration to Quebec. The hypotheses of disruption and interrelation of events are retained as a theoretical frame of reference (Kraus 2019). Specifically, we seek to answer the following research questions: What types of family life trajectories can be distinguished among immigrants before and after migration to Quebec? To what extent are the different types of trajectories linked to immigrants' national origin?

Data and methods: We use data from the 2020 survey on individual trajectories of participation in Quebec society (TRAJIPAQ) (Lardoux et al., 2021; St-Preux et al., 2024).

¹ *Département de démographie, Université de Montréal*

² *Département de sociologie, Université du Québec à Montréal (UQAM)*

This survey provides information on the employment, educational, union and reproductive trajectories of immigrants living in the Canadian province of Quebec. Questions are retrospective, and events are dated to the nearest year. The analysis covers 801 individuals, including 424 women and 377 men, observed over a 9-year period (4 years before and 4 years after settling in Quebec). Age at immigration ranges from 18 to 45 for women and 18 to 56 for men. Sequence analysis using the Optimal Matching method is used to measure dissimilarities between individual family trajectories. Next, we apply unordered multinomial logistic regression models to understand how emerging typologies are influenced by immigrants' regions of origin.

Results: The sequence index plot displays each individual's parental and conjugal transitions over the nine years of observation. As in Krauss's (2019) study, we identified five types of family trajectories. Three of these types are common to both studies: childless singles, trajectories characterized by the interrelation of migration, union, and childbirth, and stable unions accompanied by delayed parenthood. However, our results differ from those of Krauss (2019) by revealing two distinct types of advanced family trajectories, depending on whether family formation occurred before or after migration. The chart also highlights the two family trajectories involving the most transitions: advanced family formation after migration, and the interrelation of union and childbirth. Childless singles make up the largest share of the sample (33%), while the "advanced family before migration" type is the least represented, at 12%.

In line with our two hypotheses, we observe the following: a) A higher proportion of immigrants from the Maghreb and the Middle East belong to the trajectory characterized by the interrelation of union and childbirth (28%). B) Immigrants from the least industrialized regions are significantly more represented in trajectories with a higher number of transitions, particularly the "advanced family formation after migration" trajectory (Figure 2). Furthermore, Figure 3 presents the adjusted and unadjusted effects of region of birth on family trajectories. The reference category for family trajectories is "childless and single or Cluster 2," and the reference group for region of birth includes Europe, the United States, and Oceania. The results show that immigrants from the Maghreb and the Middle East are more likely to experience union formation and the birth of their first child (Cluster 4) rather than remain childless and single during their initial

years in Quebec, compared to those from Europe, the United States, and Oceania (the reference group for the main independent variable). We also find that immigrants from the Maghreb and the Middle East are 42% less likely to have formed an advanced family before migration than to remain childless and single, compared to the reference group. Similarly, the results indicate that immigrants from the least industrialized regions particularly Central and South America, the Caribbean, and sub-Saharan Africa are more likely to form an advanced family after migration (Cluster 3) than to remain childless and single, relative to immigrants from Europe, the United States, and Oceania.

Conclusion: Immigrants from less developed regions, particularly those from the Maghreb and the Middle East, are more likely to have a family after migration than those from developed regions. Moreover, frequent changes and transitions in family life courses have been more widely observed among immigrants from sub-Saharan Africa, the Maghreb and the Middle East, as well as Central and South America and the Caribbean. National origin is an important factor in the family life course. The results confirm the hypotheses of disruption and interrelated events and present important implications for orientation and support programs aimed at facilitating the social, economic, and cultural integration of immigrants into the host society.

Figure 1: Index plot of five family trajectories of immigrants before and after migration to Quebec

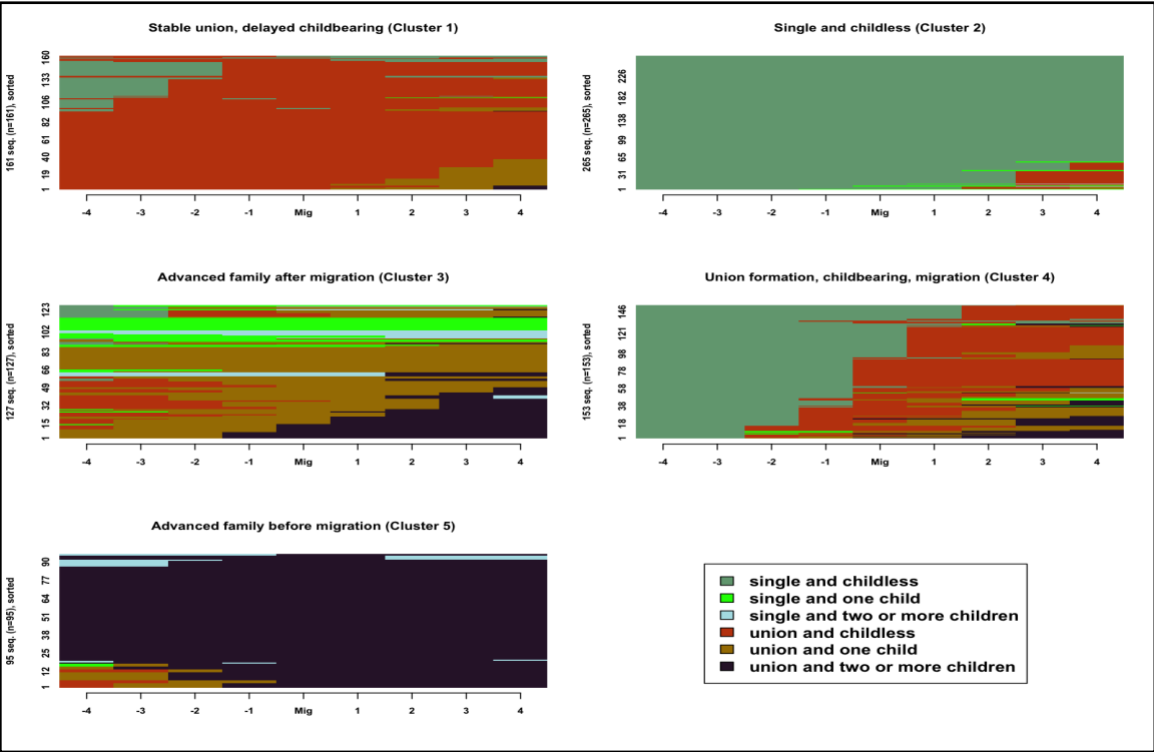


Figure 2: Typologies of family trajectories according to national origin

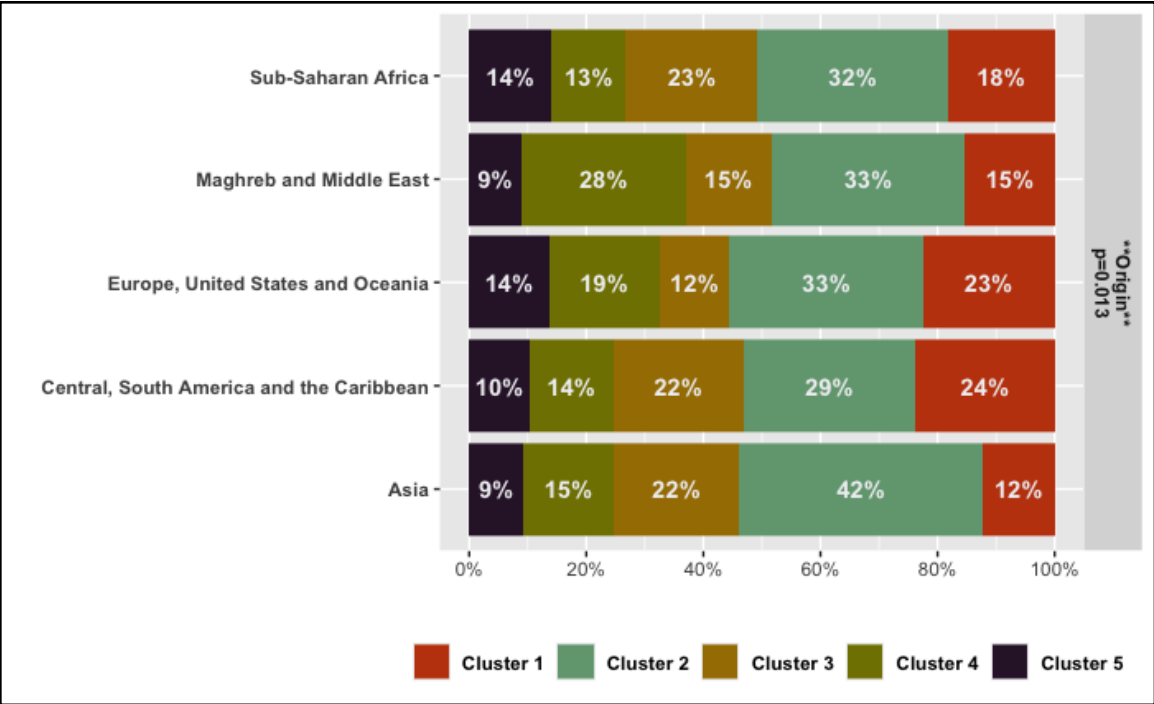
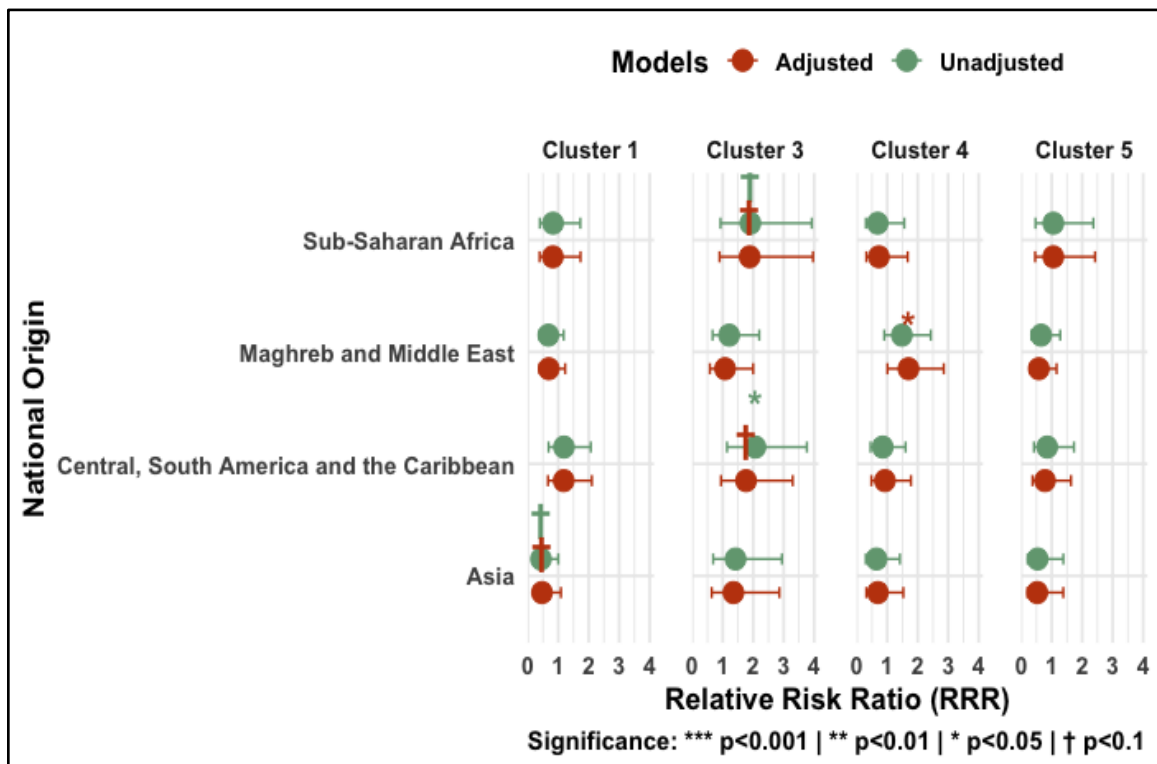


Figure 3: Relative Risk Ratios of Family Trajectories in Quebec

Reference typology: Single and childless (Cluster 2)

Reference national origin: Europe, United States, and Oceania



References

- Adsera, Alicia, et Ana Ferrer. 2014. « Factors influencing the fertility choices of child immigrants in Canada ». *Population Studies* 68 (1): 65-79. <https://www.jstor.org/stable/43287906>.
- Adserà, Alicia, et Ana Ferrer. 2016. « The Fertility of Married Immigrant Women to Canada ». *The International Migration Review* 50 (2): 475-505. <https://www.jstor.org/stable/43948930>.
- Castro Torres, Andrés F. 2022. « Family Formation Trajectories and Migration in the United States by the End of the 20th Century ». *Current Sociology*, mai, 00113921221097155. <https://doi.org/10.1177/00113921221097155>.
- Cruz, Cruz, et Nallely Abigail. 2019. « La fécondité des natives et des immigrantes au Canada en 1911 : à l'intersection de deux transformations démographiques », octobre. <https://papyrus.bib.umontreal.ca/xmlui/handle/1866/22476>.
- Kraus, Elisabeth Katharina. 2019. « Family Formation Trajectories across Borders: A Sequence Analysis Approach to Senegalese Migrants in Europe ». *Advances in Life Course Research* 42 (décembre):100290. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.alcr.2019.100290>.
- Kulu, Hill, et Amparo González-Ferrer. 2014. « Family Dynamics Among Immigrants and Their Descendants in Europe: Current Research and Opportunities ». *European Journal of Population / Revue Européenne de Démographie* 30 (4): 411-35. <https://www.jstor.org/stable/24571424>.

Lardoux, Solène, Vissého Adjiwanou, Maman Joyce Dogba, Deirdre Mentel, K. Thomas LeGrand, et Nathalie Mondain. 2021. « Trajectoires individuelles et dynamiques de participation des femmes et hommes à la société québécoise (TrajIPaQ) ». Montréal: Ministère de l'Immigration, de la Diversité et de l'Inclusion.

St-Preux, Houlio, Lardoux, Solène, et Adjiwanou, Vissého. 2024 « Origine nationale de naissance et intégration économique des immigrants au Québec, 2005-2020 ». (Article présenté à l'AIDELF, Portugal)

Street, Maria Constanza. 2015. « La relation entre la migration et la fécondité chez des immigrantes de première génération au Québec ». Phd, Québec: Université du Québec, Institut national de la recherche scientifique. <https://espace.inrs.ca/id/eprint/3307/>.

Street, María Constanza, et Benoît Laplante. 2014. « Pas plus élevée, mais après la migration ! Fécondité, immigration et calendrier de constitution de la famille ». *Cahiers québécois de démographie* 43 (1): 35-68. <https://doi.org/10.7202/1025490ar>.