Abstract:

Intermarriage with natives is a key indicator of immigrant integration. This article studies intermarriage between immigrants and natives for 138 immigrant groups in Sweden, using longitudinal individual level data from the population registers. It shows great variation in marriage patterns across immigrant populations from different parts of the world, ranging from over 70 percent endogamy in some immigrants groups to as low as below five percent in other groups. Although part of this variation is due to differences in human capital characteristics and the structure of the marriage market, this article shows the important role played by cultural factors (values, religion and language). Immigrants from countries categorized as distant to native standards with regards to values, religion or language were less likely to intermarry with natives, and instead more prone to endogamy, than were immigrants from culturally more proximate countries.