

Formation of Ethnically Mixed Partnerships: Estonia in Single-Country and Comparative Perspective

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Ethnically mixed partnership: a measure and a factor of integration

- Homogamy theory:
partners with similar characteristics are preferred (Kalmijn 1998)
 - => endogamous partnerships are most common
 - => partnering between immigrants and natives occurs after successful structural and cultural integration
 - => at the individual level living with a majority partner may also reinforce immigrant integration
- Factors that facilitate exogamy:
 - **generation of migrants**
 - **cultural proximity** to host population
 - **mixed ethnic background** and proficiency in **host country language**
 - **opportunity structure**
 - **socio-economic status**

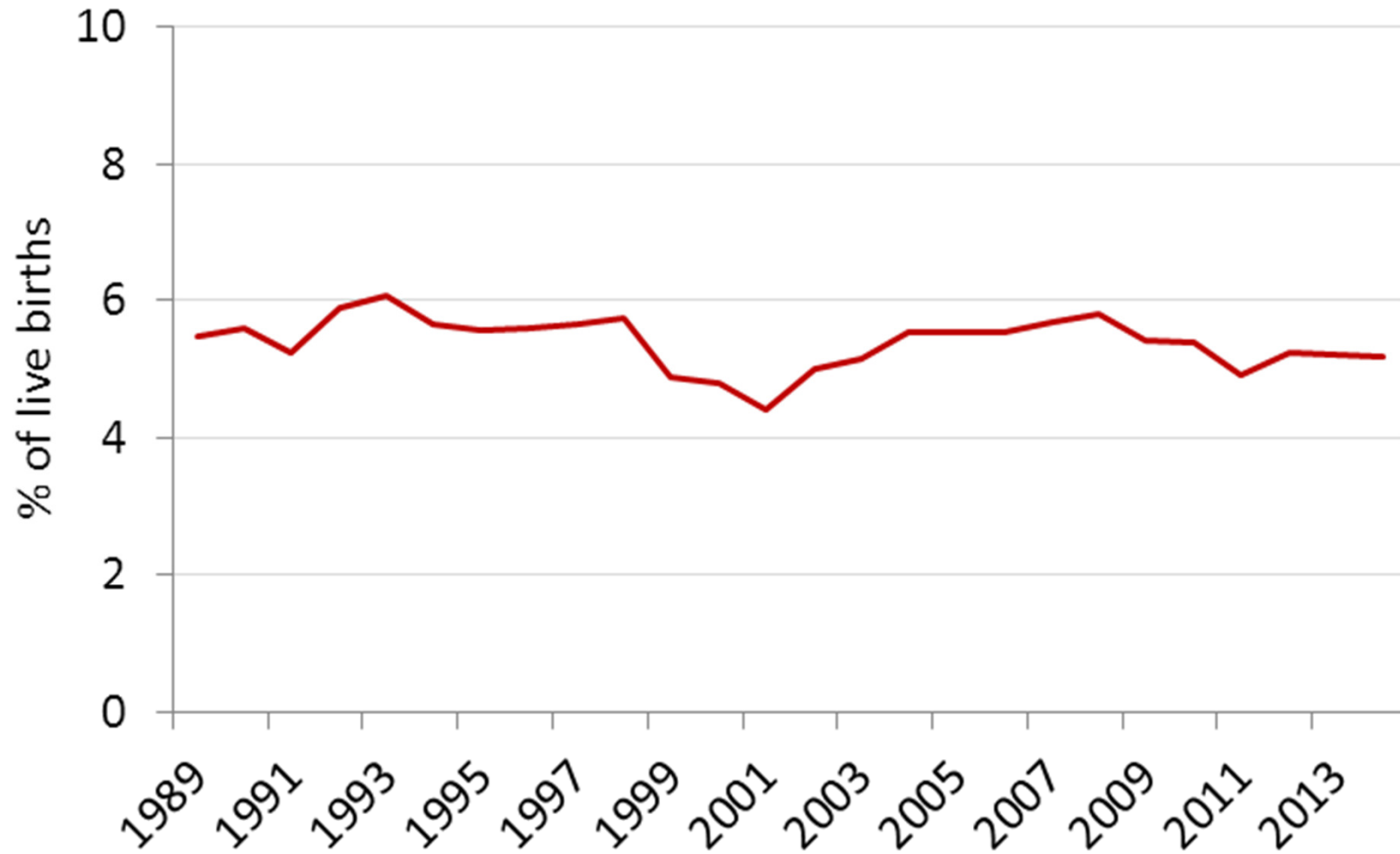
**Proportion of majority-minority partnerships,
women in Estonia, 2011 census**

8% majority-minority partnerships among female population

6% majority-minority partnerships among **majority women**

12% majority-minority partnerships among **minority women**

Proportion of mixed parentage, live births, majority women, Estonia, 1989-2014



Source: ESA 2016

Research aims

Single country perspective: Estonia

- Investigate the variation in partnership outcomes
 - **minority-minority** vs **minority-majority** partnerships – associated with **contextual** and **individual factors**.

Rahnu, L., Puur, A., Sakkeus, L., Klesment, M. (2015). **Dynamics of mixed partnerships in Estonia**. *FamiliesAndSocieties Working Paper*, 1-48.

Comparative perspective: Estonia and six European countries

- Compare the **levels of mixed marriages across minority groups** within and between the countries.

Hannemann, T., Kulu, H., Rahnu, L., Puur, A., Obucina, O., Gonzalez-Ferrer, A., Haragus, M., Neels, K., Van den Berg, L., Potarca, G., Bernardi, L., Pailhe, A. (2016). **A comparative study on mixed marriages among natives, immigrants and their descendants in Europe**. *FamiliesAndSocieties Working Paper*, 1-29.

Data and research methods

Single country perspective: Estonia

- **Estonian GGS 2004/2005 and Estonian Family and Fertility Survey (FFS) 1994/1997**
- Event history analysis applying
 - single decrement models for endogamous and exogamous partnerships
 - proportional hazards regression
 - hierarchical modelling strategy

Comparative perspective: Estonia and six European countries

- **Individual-level longitudinal survey or census data** from UK, France, Belgium, Switzerland, Estonia, Romania, Spain
- Event history analysis applying
 - models with simultaneous risks: endogamous / exogamous first marriages
 - Poisson regression

MAIN RESULTS

The effect of migrant generation on
the **propensity to form ethnically mixed partnership** with majority men,
minority women, Estonia, birth cohorts 1924–1983

Hazard ratios

	Model 1	Model 2	Model 3	Model 4	Model 5	Model 6
		M1 +	M2 +	M3 +	M4 +	M5 +
	initial	mixed	early	oppor-	socio-	migra-
generation	model	parentage	exposure to	tunity	economic	tion
			majority	structure	status	
			language			
3 rd +	1.71 ^{***}	1.43 ^{***}	1.03	0.98	1.05	1.03
2 nd	1.08	1.05	0.86	0.8	0.76 [*]	0.74 [*]
1 st	1	1	1	1	1	1

*** p<0.01, ** p<0.05, * p<0.1

Time at risk starts at 15th birthday;

censoring at entry into endogamous partnership, interview date or age 45.

Source: Rahnu et al, 2015.

The effect of migrant generation on
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Hazard ratios

	Model 1	Model 2	Model 3	Model 4	Model 5	Model 6
		M1 +	M2 +	M3 +	M4 +	M5 +
Migrant generation	initial model	mixed parentage	early exposure to majority language	opportunity structure	socio-economic status	migration
3 rd +	1.38	1.21	0.78	0.75	0.78	0.8
2 nd	0.69	0.69	0.62 **	0.62 **	0.62 **	0.62 **
1 st	1	1	1	1	1	1

*** p<0.01, ** p<0.05, * p<0.1

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censoring at entry into endogamous partnership, interview date or age 45.

Source: Rahnu et al, 2015.

Main conclusions: single country perspective

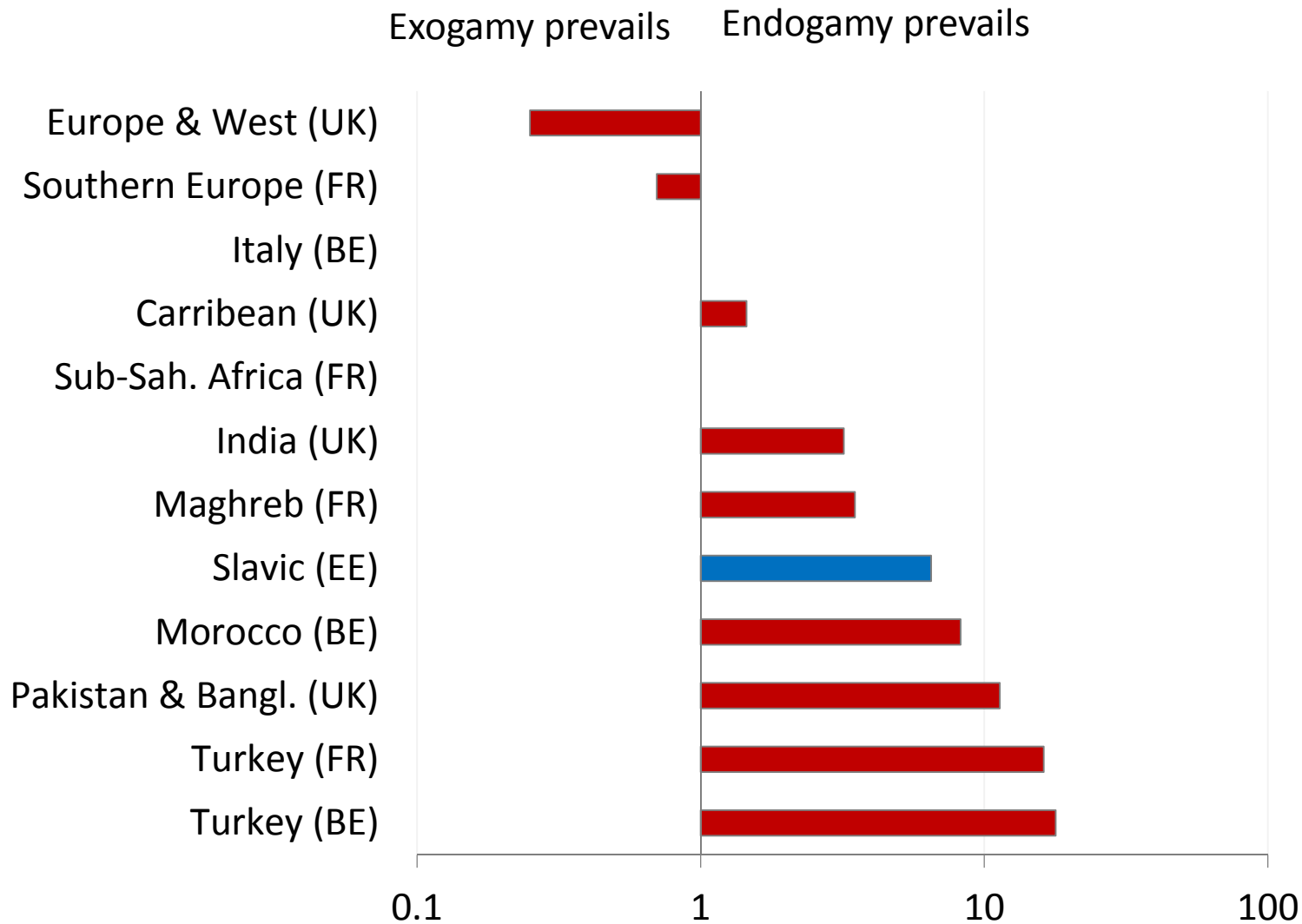
Among **minority population** in Estonia an increased partnering with the majority is:

- characteristic of the 3^{rd+} generation (in the initial models);
- less prevalent among the 2nd generation compared to the 1st generation (in the final models);
- early exposure to majority language explains most of the difference between 3^{rd+} and 1st/2nd generation.

- ⇒ Supports the socialisation argument: **early exposure to majority language** (parental home and school) increases the probability to form mixed partnership
- ⇒ Suggests that the rise in the incidence of mixed partnerships between minority and majority population **occurs slowly** and stretches across several future generations

Unadjusted rates for endogamous and exogamous first marriages, migrants and their descendants in Europe, female birth cohorts 1950-1989

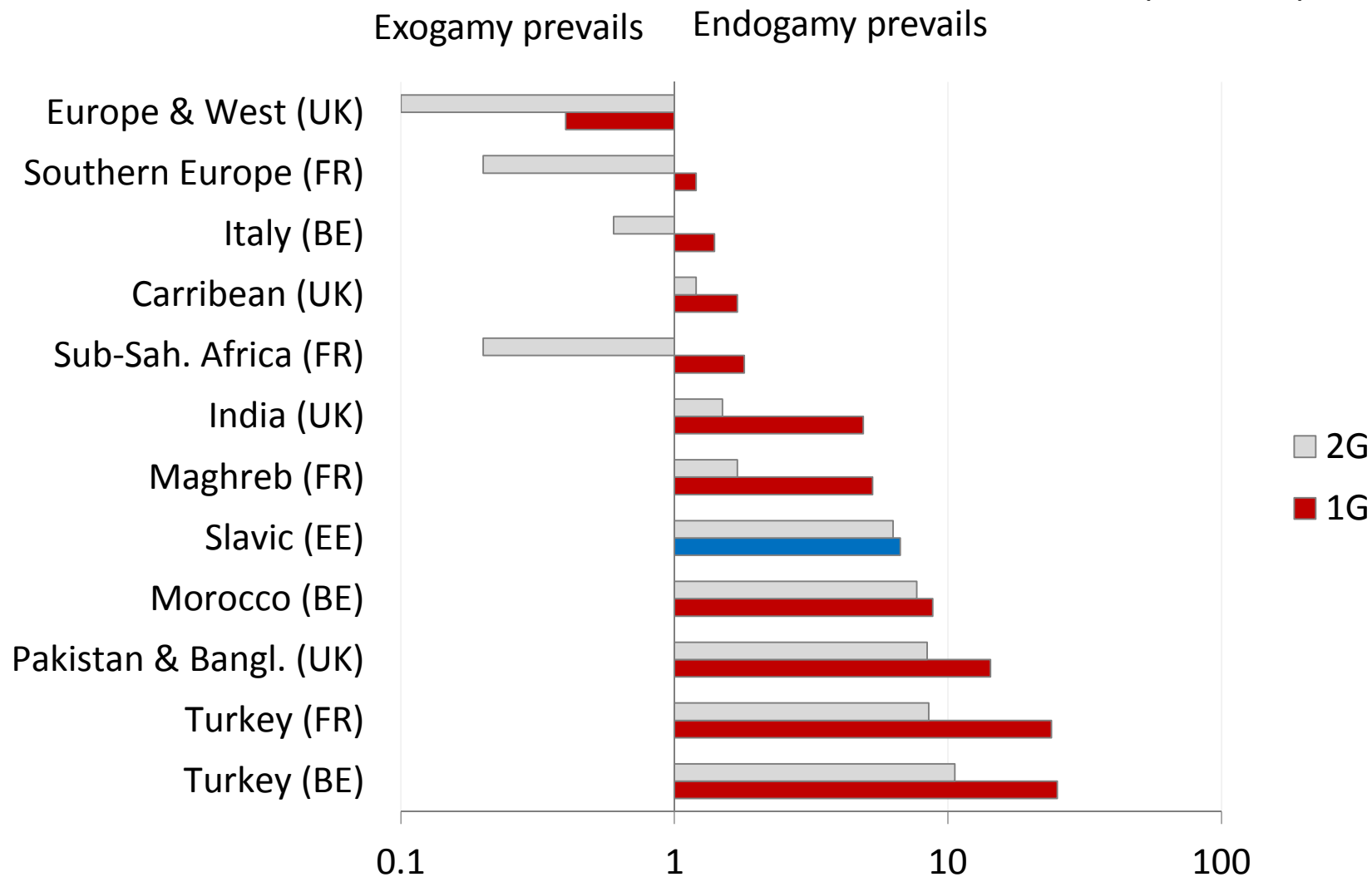
Ratio of Rates (ln) = Endogamous / Exogamous
per 1000 person-months



Source: Hannemann et al, 2016.

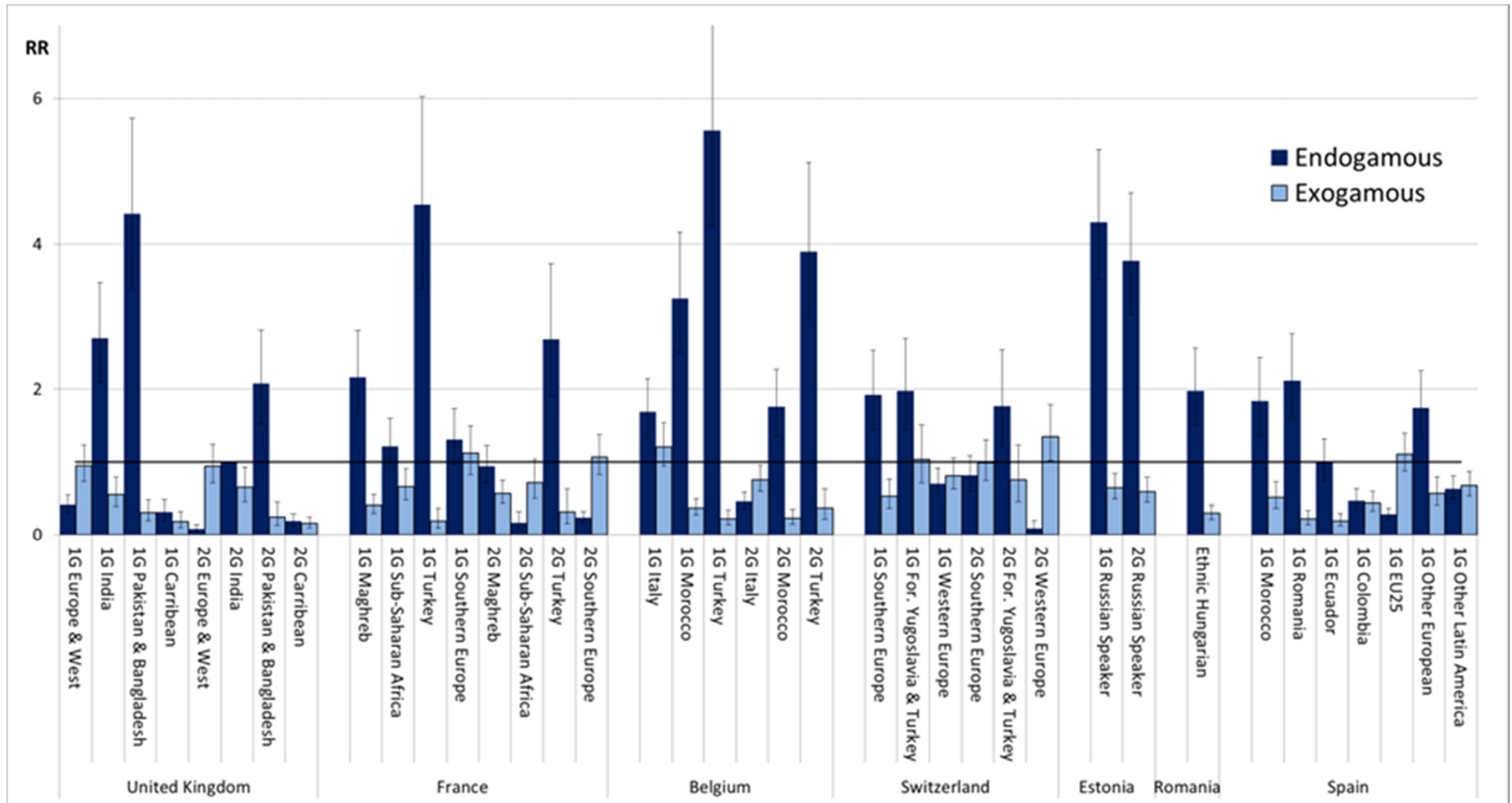
Unadjusted rates for endogamous and exogamous first marriages, migrants and their descendants in Europe, female birth cohorts 1950-1989

Ratio of Rates (ln) = Endogamous / Exogamous
per 1000 person-months



Source: Hannemann et al, 2016.

Simultaneous models of endogamous and exogamous marriages, migrants and their descendants in Europe, female birth cohorts 1950-1989



Source: Hannemann et al , 2016.

Main conclusions: comparative perspective

The prevalence of marriages with co-ethnic partners:

- is **higher** relative to the prevalence of exogamous marriages among **most of the migrant groups**;
- is **highest** relative to the prevalence of exogamous marriages among more numerous migrant groups from **Turkey, Pakistan & Bangladesh** and **Slavic-origin** population in Estonia;
- is **low** relative to the prevalence of exogamous marriages among population with **European origin** in UK, France and Belgium;

The preference of endogamous partners:

- **declines in case of the descendants of migrants** compared to the 1st generation migrants among **most of the migrant groups**;
- but for most of the groups, **marriages with co-ethnic partners** still **prevail in the 2nd generation**.

⇒ **Underscores the importance of cultural distance and migrant group size as factors of integration through mixed partnerships**

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