

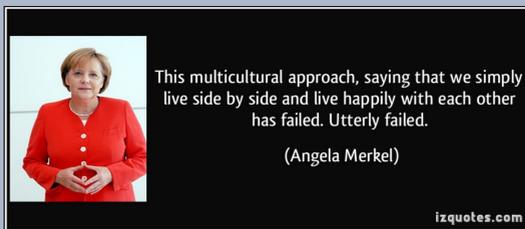
SEPARATE CULTURES, SEPARATE LIVES: INTERETHNIC INTERACTIONS IN MULTICULTURAL CONTEXTS

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1. Introduction

According to many European scholars and policy-makers, multicultural policies “encourage separate cultures to live separate lives” (David Cameron) and “lead to parallel societies” (Angela Merkel).

This critique has inspired my research question: **does multiculturalism indeed foster ethnic segregation?**



2. Hypotheses

H-1: Multiculturalism is likely to increase ethnic segregation. Countries with stronger multicultural policies are expected to exhibit higher levels of friendly contacts of majority population with ethnic minority groups.

H-2: Multiculturalism is likely to eliminate ethnic segregation. Countries with stronger multicultural policies are expected to exhibit lower levels of friendly contacts of majority population with ethnic minority groups.

H-3: Multiculturalism has no effect on ethnic segregation.

3. Research design

This study involves a hierarchical data structure: individuals are nested within countries. I fit a set of Bayesian multilevel models where the hypothesized relations between ethnic segregation and minority status (level 1) operate across different levels of multicultural policy development (level 2).

Country-level independent variable:
multicultural policy development



Individual-level independent variable:
minority status (“do you belong to a minority ethnic group in country”)



Dependent variable-1: **segregation de facto**
Dependent variable-2: **segregation by intent**

4. Descriptive statistics

I use data from two datasets, the Multiculturalism Policy Index (MPI, 2011) and survey data from the European Social Survey (ESS, 2014).

Figure 1. **Multiculturalism Policies for Immigrant Minorities. Summary scores for 2011.**

COUNTRY	TOTAL SCORE
1. Austria	1.5
2. Belgium	5.5
3. Denmark	0
4. Finland	6
5. France	2
6. Germany	2
7. Ireland	3.5
8. Netherlands	2
9. Norway	3.5
10. Sweden	7
11. Switzerland	2

Figure 2. Histogram of the **segregation de facto** index

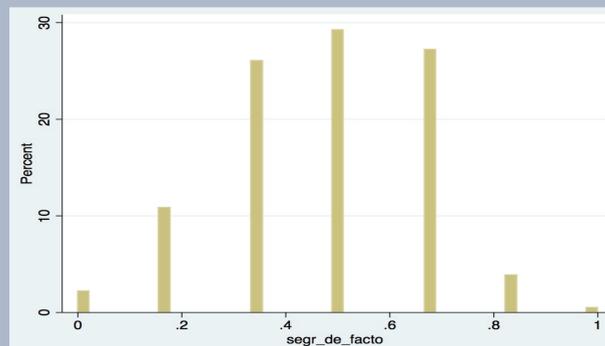


Figure 3. Histogram of the **segregation by intent** index

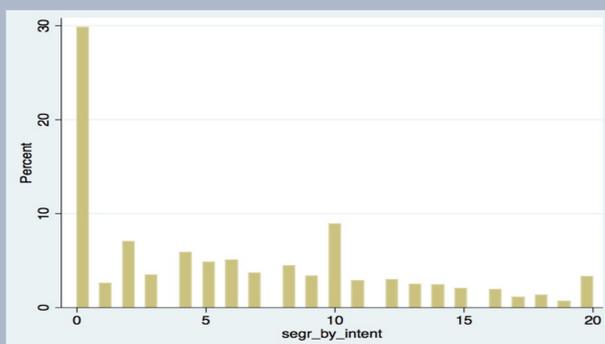


Figure 4. **Minority status**: 1 = yes, 0 = no

minstatus	Freq.	Percent	Cum.
0	37,085	93.52	93.52
1	2,568	6.48	100.00
Total	39,653	100.00	

5. Results

Figure 5. **Parameters of the stepwise multilevel analysis.**

5.1. ‘Segregation de facto’

Explanatory variables	Model 1. Random intercept	Model 2. Random coefficient	Model 3. Cross-level interactions
Minority status	-.007	-.002	-.017
Multicultural policy development	-.004	-.004	-.002
Minority status x multicultural policy development			.005
The DIC (Deviance Information Criterion)	-10937.53	-10933.34	-10933.83

We use the DIC to select a model with the best fit. There is little difference in explanatory power between random coefficient and cross-level models. The DIC is the smallest for random intercept model, so this model is preferable. **Multiculturalism has no effect on de facto segregation.**

5.2. ‘Segregation by intent’

Explanatory variables	Model 1. Random intercept	Model 2. Random coefficient	Model 3. Cross-level interactions
Minority status	.26	.26	-.05
Multicultural policy development	-.18	-.14	-.07
Minority status x multicultural policy development			.096
The DIC (Deviance Information Criterion)	67406.8	67405.22	67406.96

Although the difference in the DIC among the three models is small, the random coefficient model has the smallest DIC score, i.e. is the best fit, so this model is preferable. **Multiculturalism has no effect on segregation by intent.**