List of conferences 2015

Summary:


- Stephanie Barros-Coimbra, Isabelle Albert, & Dieter Ferring: Intercultural relations in a multicultural context: The case of Luxembourg (Poster)
- Elke Murdock & Dieter Ferring: Identity and acculturation: On being mono- and bicultural in a multicultural context (Presentation)

14th European Congress of Psychology in Milan, Italy, July 7-10, 2015.

- Isabelle Albert & Dieter Ferring: Ageing and Migration in Europe (Symposium)
- Stephanie Barros Coimbra, Isabelle Albert, Elke Murdock, & Dieter Ferring: Multiculturalism of Portuguese older migrants and their adult children in Luxembourg (Presentation within Symposium)
- Dieter Ferring & Thomas Boll: “This is not my town”: Feelings of closeness and security of older migrants and national residents (Presentation within Symposium)
- Elke Murdock: Bilingualism = Biculturalism? Reflections on the relationship between language and culture (Presentation)

Central America Regional Conference of the International Association for Cross-Cultural Psychology, Chiapas, Mexico, July 28-31, 2015.

- Elke Murdock & Dieter Ferring: And the winner is … comparative studies of the attitude towards multiculturalism in Luxembourg (Presentation)

Summer School on Qualitative Research Methods in Health Care in Antwerpen, Belgium, August 24-28, 2015.

- Isabelle Albert & Stephanie Barros Coimbra (Participation)


- Stephanie Barros-Coimbra, Isabelle Albert, & Dieter Ferring: Multikulturalismus in Luxemburg: Ein Vergleich von Luxemburgern und portugiesischen Migranten der ersten und zweiten Generation (Poster)
17th European Conference on Developmental Psychology in Braga, Portugal, September 8-12, 2015.

- Isabelle Albert: Generations and willingness for intergenerational support (Symposium)
- Isabelle Albert, Dieter Ferring, Stephanie Barros Coimbra, & Elke Murdock: Expectations of mutual support and care in the light of migration (Presentation within Symposium)
- Stephanie Barros-Coimbra, Isabelle Albert, & Dieter Ferring: Multiculturalism and its effects on Portuguese Migrants living in Luxembourg (Presentation)
- Elke Murdock & Dieter Ferring: Identification with Europe – a matter of exposure? (Presentation)

68th Annual Scientific Meeting of the Gerontological Society of America in Orlando, Florida, USA, November 18-22, 2015.

- Isabelle Albert & Dieter Ferring: Culture, Migration and Aging: European Perspectives (Symposium)
- Isabelle Albert, Stephanie Barros Coimbra, & Dieter Ferring: Past Experiences and Future Orientations of Portuguese Immigrants in Luxembourg (Presentation within Symposium)
- Stephanie Barros-Coimbra, Isabelle Albert, & Dieter Ferring: A Cross-Cultural comparison of Subjective Well-being: The case of Luxembourgish natives and their Portuguese migrant counterparts (Presentation)
Abstracts:


Intercultural relations in a multicultural context: The case of Luxembourg
Stephanie Barros-Coimbra, Isabelle Albert, & Dieter Ferring

The world’s demography has evolved requiring policy makers and practitioners all over the world to face in the next years important issues specifically related to the steadily increasing migration. Luxembourg for example, which is the country that is focused on in the present study, might be seen as an interesting acculturation context due to its small size but nevertheless high rate of immigrants, representing almost half of the total population (45.3%). These numbers illustrate the multicultural dimension of Luxembourg, a country with three official languages (i.e., Luxembourgish, French and German). Nevertheless, despite these probably attractive multicultural features that might facilitate the integration process, the experience of moving from one culture to another may be a difficult challenge resulting in potential acculturative stress for migrants. In this acculturation context, the receiving society’s perspectives towards multiculturalism might to a certain extent affect migrants’ attitudes and general well-being.

The current study is part of the project IRMA (“Intergenerational Relations in the light of Migration and Ageing) and consists in a comparison between Luxemburgish and Portuguese immigrant families of ageing parents (i.e., older generation) and their adult children (i.e., younger generation) living in the Grand-Duchy of Luxembourg. Our focus is on Portuguese migrants because they constitute by far the largest immigrant group in Luxembourg amounting to 36% of the total immigrant population. We focus on different key issues regarding multicultural perspectives of the Luxemburgish society comparing both generations as well as both national groups. In particular, we will have a closer look at natives’ acculturation attitudes as well as migrants’ acculturative stress and the potential effects on their subjective well-being.

Our preliminary sample was composed of \( N = 138 \) Portuguese migrants (\( n = 49 \) adult children; \( n = 46 \) mothers; \( n = 43 \) fathers) and \( N = 158 \) Luxemburgish natives (\( n = 58 \) adult children; \( n = 56 \) mothers; \( n = 45 \) fathers). Portuguese adult children had an average age of \( M = 29.57, SD = 11.03 \) years, Luxemburgish ones were about \( M = 26.69, SD = 8.06 \) years old. Portuguese and Luxemburgish fathers had a similar average age (PT: \( M = 58.88, SD = 6.93; \) LUX: \( M = 58.4, SD = 6.89 \)), so did the mothers (PT: \( M = 55.87, SD = 6.59; \) LUX: \( M = 55.76, SD = 7.87 \)). Analyses indicate, higher scores of Portuguese migrants regarding their multicultural ideology (i.e., being more in favour of a multicultural society) compared to their Luxemburgish counterparts in general. Regarding the acculturative stress sensed by migrants, the older generation reported higher values than the younger
generation. Interestingly, analyses showed a tendency of younger migrants feeling a higher subjective well-being compared to the older migrant generation, whereas the Luxembourgish adult children reported in general a lower well-being than their parents.

Results will be discussed referring to an integrative model, which takes into account aspects of generational status, migration and ageing in order to clarify resemblances and differences within as well as between cultures and family generations.

Identity and acculturation: On being mono- and bicultural in a multicultural context
Elke Murdock & Dieter Ferring

Even within a globalizing world, Luxembourg takes an exceptional position with a foreign population of 44%. Furthermore, Luxembourg is a trilingual country and the official languages French, German and Luxembourgish are widely spoken, as well as English and the languages representing the countries of origin of the residents. Luxembourg’s steel industry attracted several waves of guest workers from neighboring countries as well as Italy and Portugal. Many descendants now live in the second or even third generation in Luxembourg. As host to many European Institutions and as a global financial services center, Luxembourg attracts an international workforce. The result is a multicultural composition of society and residents who have experienced different forms and degrees of culture contact. One further consequence of this multicultural context is that many children grow up in mixed-national households or are born in a country which is different to their passport country or to that of their parents. In a series of quantitative studies we investigated how children raised in this multilingual, multicultural context and growing up in bi-national families or in a country different to their passport country organize and experience their nationalities. Studies were conducted at two different secondary schools, namely the European School of Luxembourg (N = 204, average age M = 15.16, SD = 0.84) which attracts a large number of children whose parents work for the European Institutions and a large comprehensive Luxembourg State school (N = 225, average age M = 15.93, SD = 1.15) whose students come from a wide range of backgrounds. At both schools the student populations represent a wide range of countries and about half are raised in mixed national households. First an open self-definition measure was applied to assess whether the students self-identify in a mono- or bicultural manner. Secondly, an adapted version of the bicultural identity integration measure was administered to evaluate whether biculturalism is experienced as a source of conflict and to what extend the nationalities are integrated in the daily lives. The results indicate that culture contact alone is not a sufficient condition to self-identify in a bicultural way. Students growing up in mixed national households, however, are more likely to self-identify as bicultural and experience this biculturalism as harmonious, a source of pride and serving the sense of uniqueness. Further factors influencing the self-definition process as mono- or bicultural will be discussed and implications for identity processes within increasingly diverse societies elaborated within an acculturation framework.
Ageing and Migration in Europe

Isabelle Albert & Dieter Ferring

Ageing and migration have become key topics in Europe today, as a large number of first generation immigrants of the 1970s are currently approaching retirement age in many European countries. Although the idea of return migration might often be well present in the lives of ageing migrants, an actual permanent return to the country of origin seems to be enacted more seldom by today’s immigrants after retirement. This might be due to several reasons such as social aspects (e.g., family and friends), economic issues or health. It is therefore of prime importance to learn more about the particular needs and resources of older migrants and their families. Ageing migrants face undoubtedly a special situation: The acculturation situation may result in an increased need for social support due to fewer sociocultural resources in the host country; however, they may also have a smaller social network due to difficulties in adapting to the host country. Within migrant families, an acculturation gap between first and second generation might further lead to different expectations regarding intergenerational solidarity and support, and this can have negative effects on well-being of the different family members. Issues of assistance and care for aged migrants will thus be crucial both for the receiving society which has to address issues of diversity, integration and social cohesion, as well as for families which provide still the lion’s share of support for the aged. Policy makers and practitioners are conscious of the increasing importance of these issues, but more research is needed in order to improve the provisions of age-specific services and assistance for ageing migrants and their families. The present symposium aims to put issues of migration and ageing on the agenda and to raise the awareness of these hot topics in today’s society. It brings together leading researchers in the field of ageing and migration from four different European countries which are characterized by a large share of immigrants in their population, namely UK, Luxembourg, the Netherlands and Switzerland. Contributions will focus on different, country specific immigrant (and national) groups, examining aspects of ethnic identity and multiculturalism, intergenerational relations, social networks, support and care as well as different aspects of well-being in the context of acculturation. Both quantitative and qualitative methodologies will be applied. The presented studies will be discussed with respect to similarities and differences between immigrant groups and different acculturation contexts, and implications for policies regarding ageing and migration in Europe will be considered. Further, lacks in current knowledge will be addressed and suggestions for future research activities will be presented.
Multiculturalism of Portuguese older migrants and their adult children in Luxembourg
Stephanie Barros Coimbra, Isabelle Albert, Elke Murdock, & Dieter Ferring
Addressing the issue of an acculturation gap between generations of migrants, we focus on ethnic identity, multicultural ideologies, acculturative stress and well-being of Portuguese older parents compared to their adult children in Luxembourg.

“This is not my town”: Feelings of closeness and security of older migrants and national residents
Dieter Ferring & Thomas Boll
The study demonstrates differences in ratings of closeness to one’s living area and of feeling secure out of the perspective of older Portuguese migrants and national residents. Results are discussed regarding processes underlying acculturation.

Bilingualism = Biculturalism? Reflections on the relationship between language and culture
Elke Murdock & Dieter Ferring
Luxembourg has three officially recognized national languages (French, German, and Luxembourgish); at least two of these are used in everyday interactions by Luxembourgers and the non-resident population. A series of empirical studies using quantitative as well as qualitative methodology tested the relationship between bilingualism and biculturalism. The first study ($N = 99$ students) addressed tri-lingual Luxembourg nationals. The results of this quantitative study showed that the vast majority of the Luxembourg participants consider themselves to be multi- or bilingual, though they report to feel monocultural. The qualitative findings obtained in this study indicate that language was considered to be a necessary, but not sufficient condition for multiculturalism. In line with other research on biculturalism, the results showed that biculturalism requires cultural immersion to take place. Furthermore, for those who feel bicultural, language is considered a prime for cultural frame switching. This implies that the language prompts the cultural frame switching and the switching between languages does not require conscious efforts. This difference of perception of language as a cultural prime as opposed to language as a means of communication was also confirmed in a study among adolescents ($N = 204$) and a study among adults ($N = 504$). Implications are discussed for increasingly diverse, multi-lingual societies.
And the winner is … comparative studies of the attitude towards multiculturalism in Luxembourg

Elke Murdock & Dieter Ferring

Even within a globalizing world Luxembourg takes an exceptional position with a foreign population of 44%, rising to 68% in the capital and in terms of its demographic composition, Luxembourg can be considered as truly multicultural. In a series of four quantitative studies we assessed the attitude towards multiculturalism using the Multicultural Ideology Scale (MIS). The scale was administered to adolescents at two different secondary schools in Luxembourg with different student populations: a comprehensive State school (N = 225, average age M = 15.9, SD = 1.2) which has students coming from a wide range of backgrounds, and the European School of Luxembourg (N = 204, average age M = 15.2, SD = 0.8) which has many students whose parents work for one of the European Institutions. In a third study an online survey was predominantly, but not exclusively, completed by a student population (N = 640, average age M = 24.6, SD = 0.9) and finally, a survey was conducted among a large Luxembourg employer with a cross-section of a mainly native-born workforce (N = 507, average age M = 42, SD = 10). Findings show across all samples that the idea of multiculturalism is generally endorsed, but to a different degree. Factors influencing the level of endorsement will be presented and implications discussed for increasingly diverse societies.

Intergenerationale Wertetransmission im Akkulturationskontext: Ein Vergleich von in Luxemburg lebenden Eltern-Kind-Triaden im Erwachsenenalter

Isabelle Albert, Stephanie Barros Coimbra, Elke Murdock & Dieter Ferring


Die vorliegende Studie befasst sich mit der Werteählichkeit von Eltern und erwachsenen Kindern in portugiesischen Immigrantenfamilien in Luxemburg im Vergleich zu luxemburgischen Familien. Im Rahmen der vom FNR geförderten IRMA-Studie wurden mittels eines standardisierten Fragebogens Daten zu Werthaltungen, wahrgenommener intergenerationeller Werteählichkeit sowie subjektiver Wichtigkeit der Wertetransmission an
$N=40$ in Luxemburg lebenden portugiesischen sowie $N=41$ luxemburgischen Vater-Mutter-Kind-Triaden erhoben.

Erste Ergebnisse weisen auf eine Angleichung der Werteprofile der portugiesischen Teilnehmer in der zweiten Generation an die Werthaltungen der luxemburgischen Teilnehmer hin. Dennoch bleiben Unterschiede in der Wichtigkeit spezifischer Werthaltungen über beide Generationen erhalten. So schätzen die portugiesischen Kinder und Eltern Sicherheit und Tradition höher ein als die luxemburgischen Teilnehmer.

Die Ergebnisse werden vor dem Hintergrund theoretischer Ansätze der intergenerationalen Wertettransmission sowie unter Berücksichtigung intrafamiliärer Prozesse der Beziehungsregulation diskutiert.

**Multikulturalismus in Luxemburg: Ein Vergleich von Luxemburgern und portugiesischen Migranten der ersten und zweiten Generation**

*Stephanie Barros-Coimbra, Isabelle Albert, & Dieter Ferring*


Generations and willingness for intergenerational support

Isabelle Albert

The importance of solidarity between family members of different generations has increased in the last years due to unprecedented socio-demographic changes. Family members of different generations share more common life time than ever before; at the same time, family generations have become smaller. Ageing parents might need support and care at some point in their lives; however, ageing parents also often continue to provide essential support for their adult children. Apparently, expectations of and willingness for mutual support might differ depending on aspects such as social norms, felt obligations or relationship quality, with potential effects on well-being.

The present symposium brings together researchers from four different countries (Germany, Luxembourg, Portugal and Switzerland) focusing on several aspects of intergenerational solidarity, taking into account different stages in the family life cycle as well as cross-cultural aspects.

First, Boris Mayer and colleagues explore adolescents’ willingness for intergenerational support and its relation to maternal expectations and life satisfaction in a cross-cultural study in 14 diverse cultural contexts.

Susana Coimbra and colleagues move on to emerging adulthood, having a closer look at what it means for intergenerational given and received support if emerging adults are already parents themselves.

Afterwards, Sabrina Sommer and Heike M. Buhl focus on social norms, family obligations and perceived parental expectations in relation to support by adults to their (healthy and independent) parents.

Bina Knöpfli and Pasqualina Perrig-Chiello concentrate then on caregiving motives, filial maturity and well-being in a sample of family caregivers of old parents (who need help).

Finally, Isabelle Albert and colleagues take again a cross-cultural look by comparing Luxembourgish and Portuguese migrant families with adult children regarding family cohesion and mutual support, considering also filial anxiety and parental preferences regarding potential future care.

Different theoretical approaches will be integrated and discussed, also considering generational status and situational aspects.

Expectations of mutual support and care in the light of migration

Isabelle Albert, Dieter Ferring, Stephanie Barros Coimbra, & Elke Murdock

As first generation immigrants are currently approaching retirement age in many European countries, intergenerational solidarity within the context of acculturation gains high
The aim of the present study was to investigate similarities and differences in the expectations about intergenerational support in a sample of \( n = 48 \) Luxembourgish (68.8% female) and \( n = 36 \) Portuguese (60.5% female) adult children and at least one of their parents. Luxembourgish adult children were on average \( M = 25.90 \) (SD = 5.74) years old, Portuguese \( M = 27.28 \) (SD = 6.49). A total of 58.3% of Portuguese adult children were born in Luxembourg; the remainder was born in Portugal but had grown up in Luxembourg. For all participants, both parents were still alive and were living in the Grand-Duchy.

Whereas Luxembourgish and Portuguese adult children did not differ regarding family cohesion and expected support from parents toward children, Portuguese participants reported higher expectations of support from adult children toward their ageing parents. More Portuguese than Luxembourgish parents indicated they would like to live with their children in case of need, whereas more Luxembourgish parents preferred to live in a residential home. Nonetheless, no differences between adult children of both national groups were found regarding filial anxiety about future care of parents.

Results are discussed in the framework of an integrative model on intergenerational family relations in the light of migration and ageing. This model takes several aspects into account that might have an impact on different needs, tasks and resources of the individual and the family depending on different family cultures, the larger cultural context in which family relations are embedded as well as significant events over the life-span (such as migration history).

**Multiculturalism and its effects on Portuguese Migrants living in Luxembourg**

*Stephanie Barros-Coimbra, Isabelle Albert, & Dieter Ferring*

Migration is without any doubt a key topic of the contemporary world, and so is the concept of multiculturalism that has gained more importance with the growing cultural diversity in societies. Dynamics of social cohesion are indeed partially influenced by the extent to which natives and immigrants agree to and support cultural pluralism in their society. Discrepancies in opinions between residents and immigrants regarding attitudes toward acculturation might have lead to acculturative stress amongst the migrant communities, more specifically amongst the first generation of migrants compared to their adult children (2nd generation). A lower subjective well-being of this group might also be entailed as a result of the perceived inconsistencies between residents and immigrants regarding multiculturalism.

In the present study, we analyse \( N = 60 \) Portuguese triads of adult children and their older parents living in Luxembourg with respect to different key issues regarding multicultural ideologies and acculturative stress of both generations (1st generation, i.e. the immigrant parents, and 2nd generation, i.e. their adult offspring). We further focus on possible
Results are discussed within the framework of a heuristic and integrative model of intergenerational family relations in the light of migration and ageing.

Identification with Europe – a matter of exposure?
Elke Murdock & Dieter Ferring

Research on European identity has consistently found low identification with the supranational category European for participants with low experience levels of Europe. In some instances, higher experience levels of Europe, for example through language competence, exchange programs or work experience have also produced higher levels of identification with Europe. However, overall identification levels with Europe rest still low. To assess the impact of exposure to Europe on identification with Europe, two empirical studies were carried out among adolescents who are growing up with high experience levels of Europe. Participants are students at the European School of Luxembourg, which is divided into language sections representing the member states of the European Union. The students learn a second language from Primary school onwards and more languages are added later on. They attend weekly “European hour” classes and many parents work for one of the European institutions located in Luxembourg. Luxembourg itself is a trilingual country, sharing borders with three countries and a foreign population of 44%. In the first study, 106 students, average age $M = 13.64$, $SD = 1.72$ participated and the salience of the supranational category European was assessed in the spontaneous self-concept using a modified version of the Twenty Statement Test. None of the European school students mentioned “European” in their spontaneous self-concept. In the second study ($N = 204$, average age $M = 15.16$, $SD = 0.84$) students were asked to self-categorize in terms of nationality. Bicultural self-definitions were common, but only one student described herself as “European”. These findings amongst the high exposure group to Europe are discussed against a background of identity theories including theories on national identity and wider collective identities. I will argue that European identity is likely to remain elusive and alternative research approaches are suggested within a globalizing world.
Culture, Migration and Aging: European Perspectives
Isabelle Albert & Dieter Ferring

In the next years, a large number of first generation immigrants of the 1970s will approach retirement age in many European countries. As a permanent return to the country of origin seems to be enacted more seldom by today’s immigrants after retirement than in the past, aging and migration have become key issues in many receiving societies.

The present symposium has the aim to address the impact of earlier migration experiences and further life choices on the process of aging and in particular on well-being of older immigrants, and to identify particular needs and resources of older migrants and their families.

It brings together researchers from four different European countries which are characterized by a large share of immigrants in their population, namely Germany, UK, the Netherlands, and Luxembourg.

Contributions focus on several country specific immigrant (and national) groups, and different life domains are addressed (the situation of older workers; the roles of ethnic identity, acculturative stress, social networks and family relations for different aspects of well-being; future plans and preferences of immigrants regarding future care arrangements). Both quantitative and qualitative methodologies are applied. The presented studies will be integrated with respect to similarities and differences between immigrant groups and acculturation contexts, and it will be discussed how Europe-specific findings might be transferable to the US context. Implications for policies regarding aging and migration will be considered. Further, lacks in current knowledge will be addressed and suggestions for future research activities will be presented.

Past Experiences and Future Orientations of Portuguese Immigrants in Luxembourg
Isabelle Albert, Stephanie Barros Coimbra, & Dieter Ferring

In the next years Luxembourg will be confronted with an unprecedented number of older persons with migrant background.

The present study has the aim to 1) explore the migration experiences and future plans of Portuguese immigrants to Luxembourg who are close to retirement age, and 2) to compare them to their Luxembourgish counterparts regarding future orientations and control beliefs.

The sample included $n = 93$ Portuguese first generation immigrants (52.1% female; average age: $M = 57.05, SD = 6.84$) and $n = 103$ Luxembourgish nationals (56.3% female, average age: $M = 56.87, SD = 7.39$).

Preliminary results show that the majority of Portuguese immigrants plan to stay in Luxembourg after retirement. Regarding control beliefs, Portuguese compared to
Luxembourgish participants scored higher on lowering aspirations. Also, different correlational patterns between control beliefs and future orientations were found. Results will be discussed taking into consideration cross-cultural differences and different migration experiences.

A Cross-Cultural comparison of Subjective Well-being: The case of Luxembourgish natives and their Portuguese migrant counterparts

Stephanie Barros-Coimbra, Isabelle Albert, & Dieter Ferring

Migration and ageing are major topics of our modern societies, which will have to face essential requirements due to a constant and incessant growing older population. The acculturation process might in top of that entail different needs for the different cultural groups living in a same society.

The preliminary sample of our current study is constituted of \( N = 103 \) Luxembourgish natives \((n_{\text{Men}} = 46; n_{\text{Women}} = 57)\) and \( N = 93 \) Portuguese migrants \((n_{\text{Men}} = 45; n_{\text{Women}} = 48)\). Luxembourgish nationals and Portuguese migrants had a similar average age, men (LUX: \( M = 58.3, SD = 6.83 \); PT: \( M = 58.7, SD = 6.84 \)) as well as women (LUX: \( M = 55.7, SD = 7.67 \); PT: \( M = 58.7, SD = 6.84 \)). 67.4% of the Luxembourgish men were professionally active whilst 32.6% indicated being already retired. Only 59.6% of the Luxembourgish women declared to have a professional occupation. As for the migrant men, they live in Luxembourg for an average of \( M = 33.1 \) years \((SD = 9.35)\) and over 40% of them are already retired, while women remain in Luxembourg since an average of \( M = 32.64 \) years \((SD = 8.38)\). Over 60% of them indicated to still have a working activity.

First analyses indicate in general higher rates of subjective well-being for the Luxembourgish natives compared to the Portuguese migrants but interestingly self-esteem appears to be more elevated for migrants compared to their Luxembourgish counterparts.

Results will be discussed within the framework of an integrative and heuristic model with regards to the subjective well-being in the light of migration and ageing comparing two culturally diverse groups.