

Peacemakers Project
3° Bootcamp

Being a minority within a minority: The experience of migrant women

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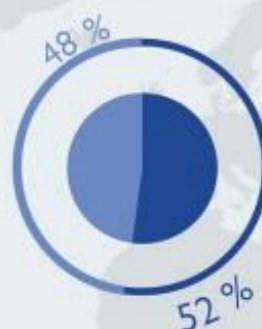
TOTAL INTERNATIONAL MIGRANT STOCK BY REGION AND SEX, 2017

258m



Northern America

57.7m



Europe

77.8m



Asia

79.6m



Latin America
and the Caribbean

9.5m



Africa

24.6m



Oceania

8.4m



● MALE ● FEMALE

● 10 m

Source: UN DESA, 2017.

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“Feminization of migration” (International Labour Organization) – in some countries, migrant women are 70-80 percent of migrants

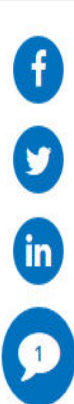
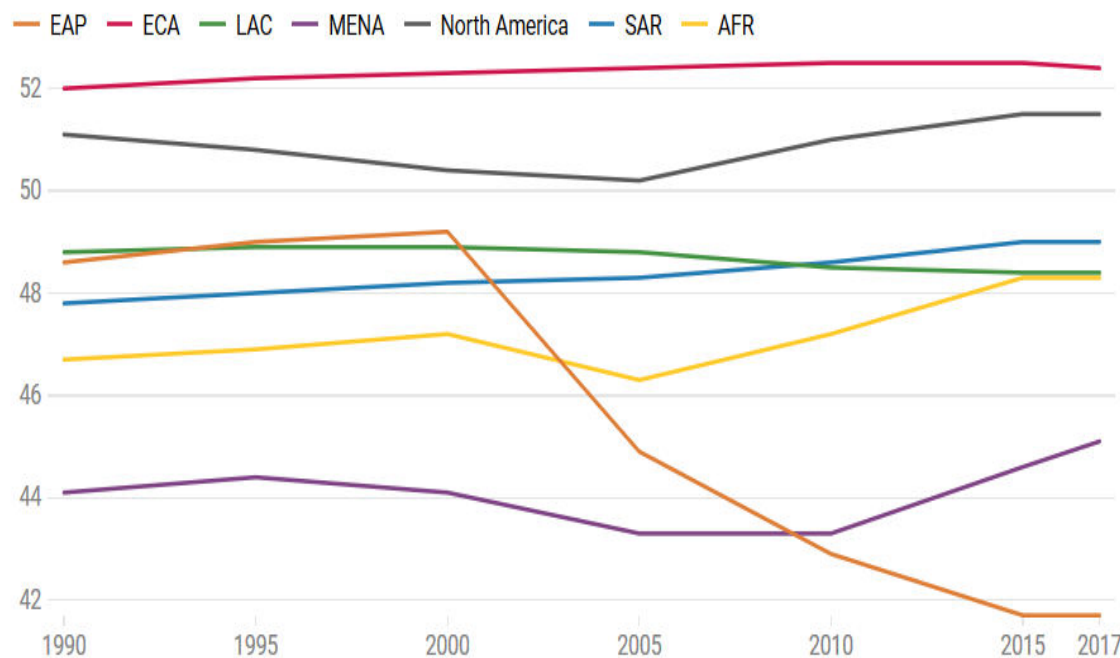


Figure 2: Gender composition of international migration varies significantly by region

Female migrants (% international migrant stock)




Own elaboration based on United Nations Population Division, Trends in International Migrant Stock.

Source: Gender Statistics database

Income plays a part in gender differences, especially since 2000: A country's

Why do women migrate...

- Marriage and family re-unification
 - Poverty + (e.g., Sri-Lanka)
 - Education + (Mexico, Morocco)
 - Helping the family (e.g., Philippines)
 - Escape social stigma, gain freedom from familiar control, gender-based violence
 - Discriminatory social institutions (SIGI index) in original country + (for moderate levels of SIGI)
- 

Are migrant women “a minority within a minority”?

Intersection of race and gender

“Double discrimination”:

- > Racial prejudice \cap gender discrimination, sexism, sexual abuse.

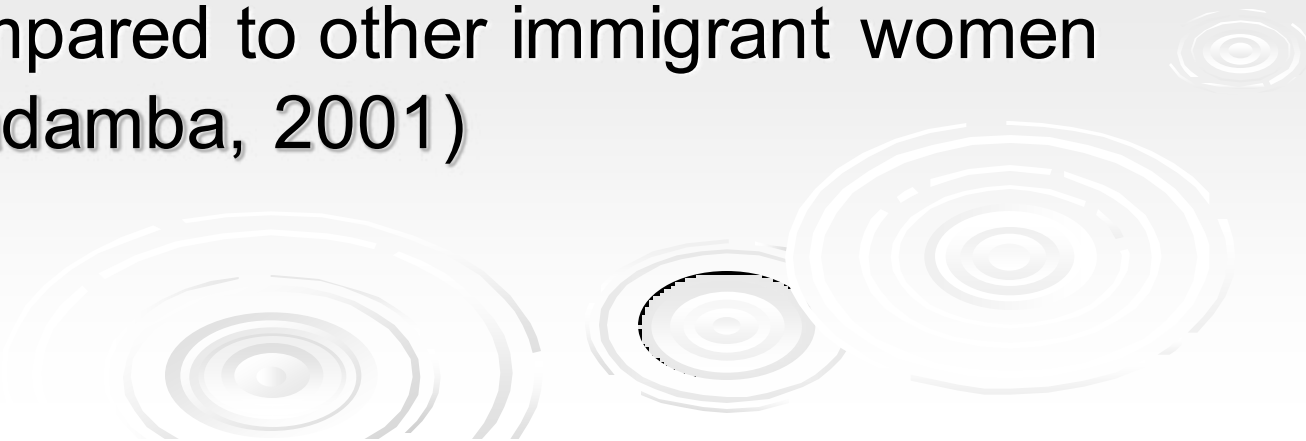


Labor market discrimination:

- Working women are mainly employed
 - As domestic helpers and caretakers
 - In services sectors (nurses; aides in long-term care)
- Lowest employment rates for women who migrated for family purposes
- High-skilled migrant women are often underemployed



- Higher unemployment of migrant vs. native women, or vs. migrant men.
- Gaps in wages
- Precarious work
- Country of origin makes a difference, regardless education level
 - *Culture bound characteristics*: e.g., staying at home, shyness, low aggressiveness for Asian women compared to other immigrant women (Jong & Madamba, 2001)



- *Visibility* of minority immigrant status: higher unemployment for visible minority women
- For instance, disadvantages in employment rates are even higher for visible minority immigrant women, compared to invisible minority immigrant women or visible minority immigrant men (Sethi & Williams, 2015) – with White men being at the top of the pyramid

Double (or triple) disadvantage (Li, 2001)



Perceived discrimination and psychological distress

Women report to experience less discrimination in everyday life as well as at work.

However, they also show more psychological distress symptoms (anxiety; depression; e.g., Liebkind & Jasinskaya-Lahti, 2000)

Acculturative Stress – due to stressors associated with being an immigrant or ethnic minority and going through the acculturation process (Berry, 2006).

Role changes; loss of family connections and support; loss of community; different conceptions of health-related issues

Moreover

Immigrant women are more often target of gender-based violence, sexual exploitation, early marriage, losing children (e.g., even worse in case of women refugees; *Supporting the future of Syria and the region*, European Council conference 2017)

They have no or more difficult access to healthcare, including reproductive healthcare

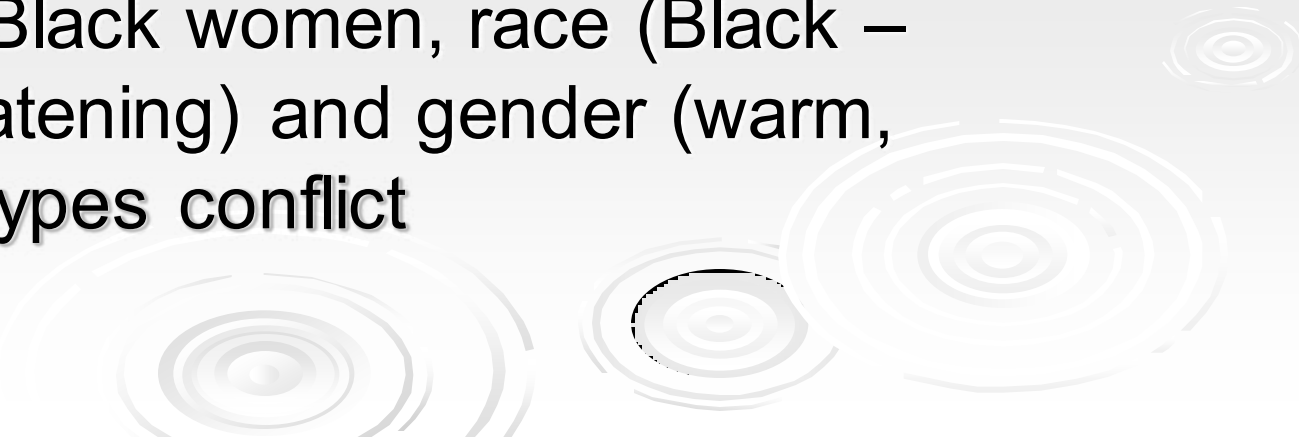
Lower access to education and lower linguistic skills

-> higher “invisibility” within the host society.

e.g., “*Intersectional invisibility*” of Black women
(Cooley et al., 2018)

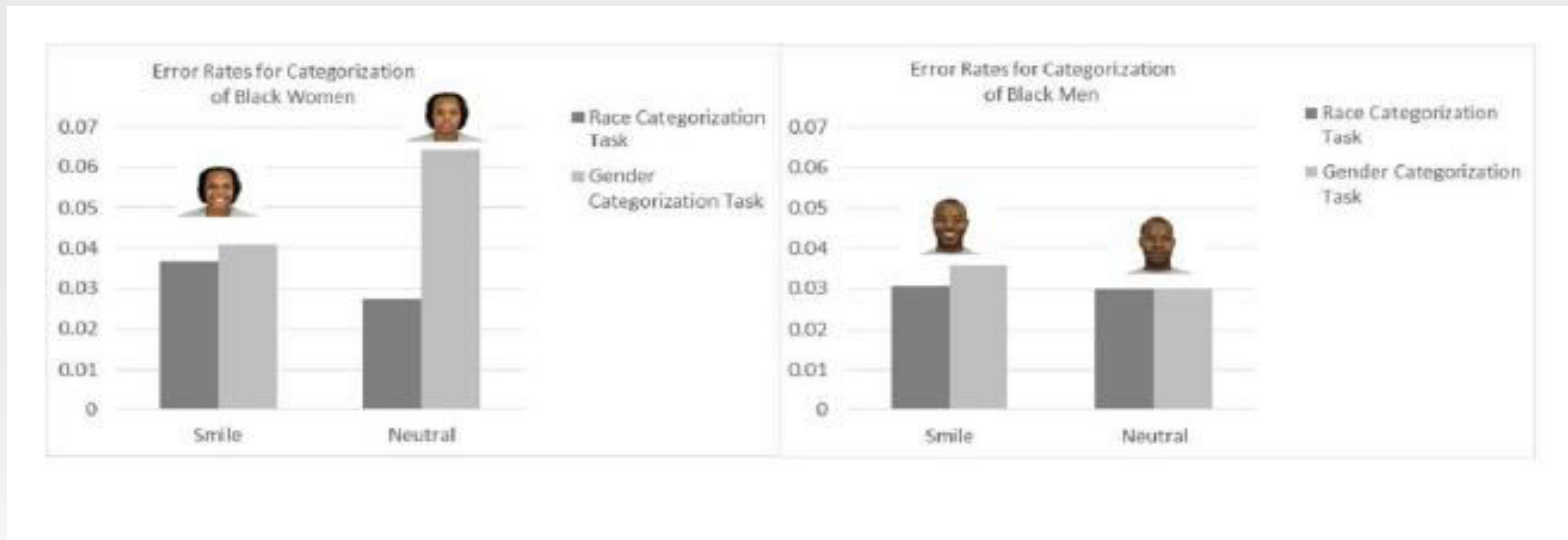
Black women are neither the default when people imagine women, nor the default when people imagine Black people

- Like Black men, Black women are seen as high in agency and strength
- However, for Black women, race (Black – masculine, threatening) and gender (warm, passive) stereotypes conflict



People experience great difficulty in categorizing Black women than White women according to gender, and great difficulty in categorizing Black women than Black men according to race

Augmentation effect: feminine behaviors increase the perceived femininity of Black women to a greater extent than White women (Cooley et al., 2018)



-> Risk of *hypervisibility* of Black women

For instance, higher blame of Black victims of sexual abuse

Migration can foster women's disadvantage, but can also provide *opportunities*

- Higher freedom from familiar control
- Possibility of working outside the house
- Immigrant women have precarious and low level jobs, but they may find it *easier* to get a job than immigrant men – especially in countries with high necessity of care-taking work
- Even not working women might meet people from the host country thanks to children (e.g., at school)
- Changes in women's role within the family