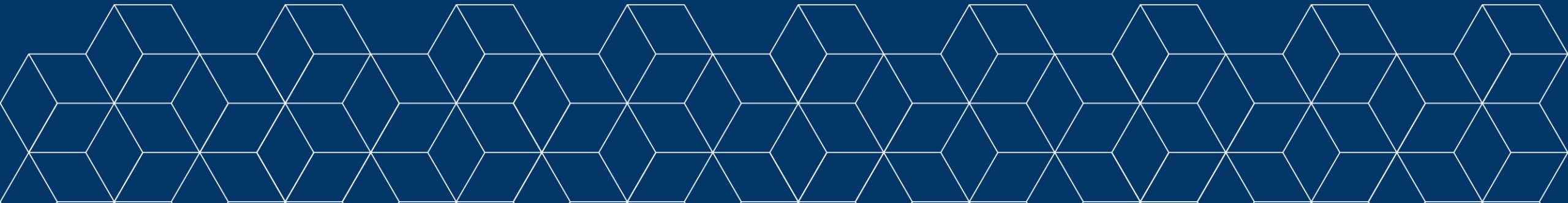


**BETWEEN SOCIAL CLASSES AND MIGRANT BACKGROUND.
SCHOOL INTEGRATION AND ATTAINMENT
OF IMMIGRANTS' OFFSPRING
IN UPPER SECONDARY EDUCATION IN ITALY (2015-2019)**

Gabriella D'Ambrosio, Sapienza University of Rome

Pasquale di Padova, INAPP



CONTENTS

1. AIM OF THE RESEARCH

2. THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK

3. DATA AND METHODS

4. RESULTS

5. CONCLUSION



AIM OF THE RESEARCH

The aim of this research is to update the indications that emerged in the first studies on the way in which the positive effects of the acculturation process of foreigners in the host society are conditioned by class belonging.



THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK

- Children of immigrants experience more bumpy educational careers than those of natives;
- While Italian students enroll more in academic-oriented schools (called *licei*), foreign students show a stronger preference for vocational and technical branches;
- The choice of upper secondary school branch is highly consequential for students, particularly for participation in higher education. In this respect, young immigrants enroll in university soon after obtaining a diploma less than young natives.



THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK

However, looking at immigrants' educational levels, these disparities are going to be reduced on the basis of the migratory status of the children: indeed, compared to the first generations, the second ones obtain better results, and the disadvantage is almost completely cancelled with the children of mixed couples.

Furthermore, these inter-generational differences shrink once social class is held equal across the groups.



DATA AND METHODS

- ***Labour Force Survey 2015-2019***
- **Children aged 15-24 who live with at least one parent**
- **Generational status:**
 1. Natives: native-born children of native-born parents
 2. First generations: foreign-born children of foreign-born parents
 3. Second generations: native-born children of foreign-born parents
 4. Mixed parentage: only one foreign-born parent
- **Social classes: *European Socio-economic Classification***
 1. Higher salariat
 2. Lower salariat
 3. Higher grade white collars
 4. Petit bourgeoisie or independents
 5. Higher grade blue collars
 6. Lower grade white collar workers
 7. Skilled, Semi- and non-skilled workers
 8. Parents unemployed



RESULTS

Weighted statistics for 15-24 children who live with their parents (LFS 2015-2019 pooled data; column percentages in parenthesis)

	Natives		First generation		Second generation		Mixed parentage	
<i>Gender</i>								
Male	115.491	(51,8)	10.135	(55,4)	5.190	(51,6)	8.383	(53,2)
Female	107.281	(48,2)	8.156	(44,6)	4.860	(48,4)	7.364	(46,8)
<i>Age</i>								
15-19	110.825	(49,8)	8.899	(48,7)	6.873	(68,4)	8.634	(54,8)
20-24	111.947	(50,3)	9.392	(51,4)	3.177	(31,6)	7.113	(45,2)
<i>Area</i>								
North	90.880	(40,8)	11.335	(62,0)	5.905	(58,8)	6.494	(41,2)
Centre	39.077	(17,5)	4.397	(24,0)	2.449	(24,4)	2.839	(18)
South	92.815	(41,7)	2.559	(14,0)	1.697	(16,9)	6.413	(40,7)
<i>Social class of parents</i>								
Higher salariat	37.388	(18,8)	226	(1,3)	355	(4,0)	2.434	(16,7)
Lower salariat	38.805	(19,6)	419	(2,5)	530	(6,0)	2.563	(17,6)
Higher grade white collars	16.594	(8,4)	107	(0,6)	267	(3,0)	980	(6,7)
Petit bourgeoisie or independents	33.130	(16,7)	1.940	(11,4)	1.348	(15,2)	2.831	(19,4)
Higher grade blue collars	9.386	(4,7)	1.018	(6,0)	494	(5,6)	769	(5,3)
Lower grade white collar workers	17.599	(8,9)	2.508	(14,8)	1.230	(13,9)	1.428	(9,8)
Skilled, Semi- and non-skilled workers	35.772	(18,0)	9.433	(55,5)	3.875	(43,7)	2.937	(20,1)
Parents unemployed	9.854	(5,0)	1.352	(8,0)	760	(8,6)	642	(4,4)
<i>Parents' education</i>								
Lower secondary or less	94.474	(42,4)	10.917	(59,7)	5.278	(52,5)	5.493	(34,9)
Upper secondary	87.714	(39,4)	5.268	(28,8)	3.382	(33,7)	6.779	(43,0)
Tertiary	40.584	(18,2)	2.106	(11,5)	1.391	(13,8)	3.475	(22,1)
<i>Sample</i>	222.772	(83,5)	18.291	(6,9)	10.050	(3,8)	15.747	(5,9)



RESULTS

Early leavers from education and training aged 18-24 (social class of origin and generational status being equal; LFS 2015-2019 pooled data)

School dropout	<u>Generational status</u>				<i>Row totals</i>
	Natives	First generation	Second generation	Mixed parentage	
<i>Social class of parents</i>					
Higher salariat	2,0	3,8	8,1	3,7	2,2
Lower salariat	3,4	8,6	8,7	4,4	3,6
Higher grade white collars	4,6	13,7	8,8	6,8	4,8
Petit bourgeoisie or independents	10,8	33,3	17,5	12,2	12,3
Higher grade blue collars	10,8	27,6	17,5	14,9	12,9
Lower grade white collar workers	12,3	24,5	13,7	15,9	14,1
Skilled, Semi- and non-skilled workers	18,8	26,0	15,7	18,6	20,0
Parents unemployed	31,0	26,3	14,5	22,3	29,2
<i>Column totals</i>	9,8	26,1	14,5	11,3	



RESULTS

Type of school chosen by pupils enrolled in upper secondary education by social origin and generational status (social class of origin and generational status being equal; LFS 2015-2019 pooled data)

Educational choices in upper secondary education		<u>Generational status</u>				<i>School track by social origin</i>
<i>Social class of parents</i>	<i>School track</i>	Natives	First generation	Second generation	Mixed parentage	
Higher salariat	General	74,9	71,6	64,1	73,1	74,5
	Technical	18,9	18,9	30,9	22,7	19,3
	Vocational	6,2	9,5	5,0	4,2	6,2
Lower salariat	General	63,5	52,4	51,6	55,6	62,6
	Technical	27,0	33,8	40,6	31,1	27,6
	Vocational	9,5	13,9	7,8	13,3	9,8
Higher grade white collars	General	53,7	46,5	53,3	52,6	53,5
	Technical	34,6	35,0	30,2	35,6	34,6
	Vocational	11,7	18,5	16,4	11,8	11,9
Petit bourgeoisie or independents	General	44,5	30,7	49,4	45,7	44,2
	Technical	38,3	42,3	33,0	35,5	38,0
	Vocational	17,3	27,0	17,6	18,8	17,8
Higher grade blue collars	General	40,9	31,5	35,2	40,5	39,9
	Technical	38,3	44,4	45,5	34,8	38,8
	Vocational	20,8	24,1	19,4	24,7	21,3
Lower grade white collar workers	General	42,8	32,0	39,3	38,4	41,2
	Technical	36,1	39,6	39,4	41,9	37,1
	Vocational	21,1	28,4	21,3	19,8	21,7
Skilled, Semi- and non-skilled workers	General	32,9	27,6	33,2	33,5	32,1
	Technical	39,8	40,2	41,3	41,8	40,2
	Vocational	27,3	32,1	25,4	24,7	27,7
Parents unemployed	General	36,8	26,4	30,1	39,1	35,3
	Technical	36,3	45,3	40,9	39,2	37,8
	Vocational	26,8	28,3	29,0	21,7	26,9
<i>School track by generational status</i>	General	52,9	30,4	39,0	49,6	
	Technical	31,6	40,3	39,3	34,2	
	Vocational	15,4	29,3	21,7	16,2	



RESULTS

Share of children who have completed at least upper secondary education in the age class 20-24 (social class of origin and generational status being equal; LFS 2015-2019 pooled data)

Completion of upper secondary education	<i>Generational status</i>				<i>Row totals</i>
	<i>Social class of parents</i>	Natives	First generation	Second generation	
Higher salariat	95,2	83,0	83,1	92,8	94,7
Lower salariat	91,9	79,5	84,8	89,8	91,5
Higher grade white collars	89,6	69,8	72,8	87,9	89,0
Petit bourgeoisie or independents	80,7	44,7	64,0	74,8	78,0
Higher grade blue collars	77,8	42,8	67,0	70,1	73,7
Lower grade white collar workers	76,5	49,1	71,4	69,5	72,8
Skilled, Semi- and non-skilled workers	68,7	46,1	65,7	65,8	64,1
Parents unemployed	58,3	43,9	64,9	65,9	57,1
<i>Column totals</i>	82,4	47,3	69,1	78,2	



RESULTS

Share of children who have completed upper secondary education and have already graduated or are currently enrolled in tertiary level courses (social class of origin and generational status being equal; LFS 2015-2019 pooled data)

Educational choices in tertiary education	<i>Generational status</i>				<i>Row totals</i>
	<i>Social class of parents</i>	Natives	First generation	Second generation	
Higher salariat	77,8	79,9	73,4	74,9	77,6
Lower salariat	68,1	59,7	67,0	66,1	67,9
Higher grade white collars	60,4	63,0	71,5	58,0	60,4
Petit bourgeoisie or independents	47,2	46,2	55,3	51,0	47,5
Higher grade blue collars	44,9	42,0	41,8	48,4	44,8
Lower grade white collar workers	46,5	43,7	50,3	41,7	46,1
Skilled, Semi- and non-skilled workers	35,0	40,1	53,7	40,4	36,7
Parents unemployed	33,8	38,3	42,5	36,1	34,7
<i>Column totals</i>	55,6	43,0	54,8	55,1	



CONCLUSION

- Taking into account the social classes, the differences between natives and foreigners are significantly reduced, but the migration status continues to exert its effect even net of the social class of the family of origin (composition hypothesis do not suffice)
- The second generation obtain better results than the first one, and in various aspects (university, drop-out) they also obtain better results than those of natives (acculturation hypothesis confirmed, yet not only mechanism at work)
- Foreigners, especially second-generation ones, despite coming from disadvantaged conditions and from technical-professional school backgrounds, exhibit a greater propensity to enrol to university (positive selection, transmission of ambitions, social redemption, anticipation of discrimination)
- Indication of specific policy: in the broader framework of the fight against inequalities, better guidance policies, which foster the continuation of the studies of foreign children by leveraging their highest expectations, can favour their integration and better positioning in the employment structure





THANKS FOR THE ATTENTION!

gabriella.dambrosio@uniroma1.it
p.dipadova@inapp.org