Partner Selection and Marriage Timing among Migrants in Sart. A Competing Risks Analysis
Paul Puschmann, Ana Safranoff, Nina Van den Driessche

Aim of the Study
Our aim is to shed light on the integration process of migrants in a rural setting (Sart, Belgium) by analyzing their partner selection and marriage behaviour. Marriage in itself can be defined as a successful integration process of virtually every individual that lived in Sart throughout the 19th century. Our sample includes migrants who arrived unmarried. We consider them at risk between the ages of 15 and 50. Only first marriages were considered.

Hypotheses
The hazard of marrying a local (ML) or of marrying a migrant (MM) is influenced by:
1. Age at arrival: ML (-) MM (+)
2. Social class: ML (+) MM (-)
3. Gender: women ML (-) MM (+)
m en ML (+) MM (-)
4. Language: French ML (-) MM (no \( \neq \) French)
Other ML (-) MM (no \( \neq \) French)
5. Sex ratio: more singles ML (+) MM (-)

Data & Methods
In order to test our hypotheses, we used the Sart database, which is based on population registers (1812-1900). These registers are a transcription of the last population census by household, updated continuously with all important demographic events (births, marriages, deaths and migration). The database allows to study the life histories of virtually every individual that lived in Sart throughout the 19th century. Our sample includes migrants who arrived unmarried. We consider them at risk between the ages of 15 and 50. Only first marriages were considered.

To test the hypotheses following methods were used:
- Univariate analysis: cross tabulations, Nelson-Aalen cum. hazard and Cox prop. hazards
- Multivariate analysis: Cox regression, competing risks regression using the cumulative incidence function
- Diagnostics: proportionality assumption
- Household residuals; goodness-of-fit (Cox Snell residuals)

Results
- The Cox regression analyses show that age at arrival, social class, gender, language and sex ratio do not explain the likelihood to marry, either a local nor a migrant.
- The results from the Cox regressions and the competing risk model are very similar, which points to the fact that there is no competition between the two events.
- There are no significant differences in the effects of the different covariates on marrying a local vs. marrying a migrant.

Conclusion & Discussion
- The large proportion of migrants remaining single (86%) suggests large barriers for migrants to integrate in the rural society by means of marriage. This is in line with earlier research on pre-20th century urban in-migrants (Lynch, 1991).
- Lack of significant results are probably due to small sample size. However, our hypotheses were based upon the current state of knowledge of studies on contemporary societies and pre-20th century urban settings. The chosen covariates might be not as important in a rural context.
- The lack of competition between the two events is consistent with the idea that there are separate marriage markets for migrants that marry locals and migrants that marry other migrants, (Ocio, 2000).
- Further research on a bigger sample could include, besides a bigger set of covariates—for example on household composition—a comparison between urban and rural in-migration.