

Aims and objectives

National Austrian policy defines successful migration as “integration, through performance” with a focus on early language acquisition and integration into the labour market. The perspective of migrants on successful migration has not been surveyed yet.

Subjective perspectives of “success” is known to increase migrants’ sense of coherence thus have positive effects on their wellbeing. The aim of the study is to gain an insights into how successful migration is perceived from the migrants’ point of view in the context of Austria.

Methods and sample

Two focus group discussions with three migrant women were conducted. All of them hold a university degree, are working and have a family in Austria. Countries of origin are Japan, Poland and Turkey. The discussions were facilitated in German by an experienced researcher.

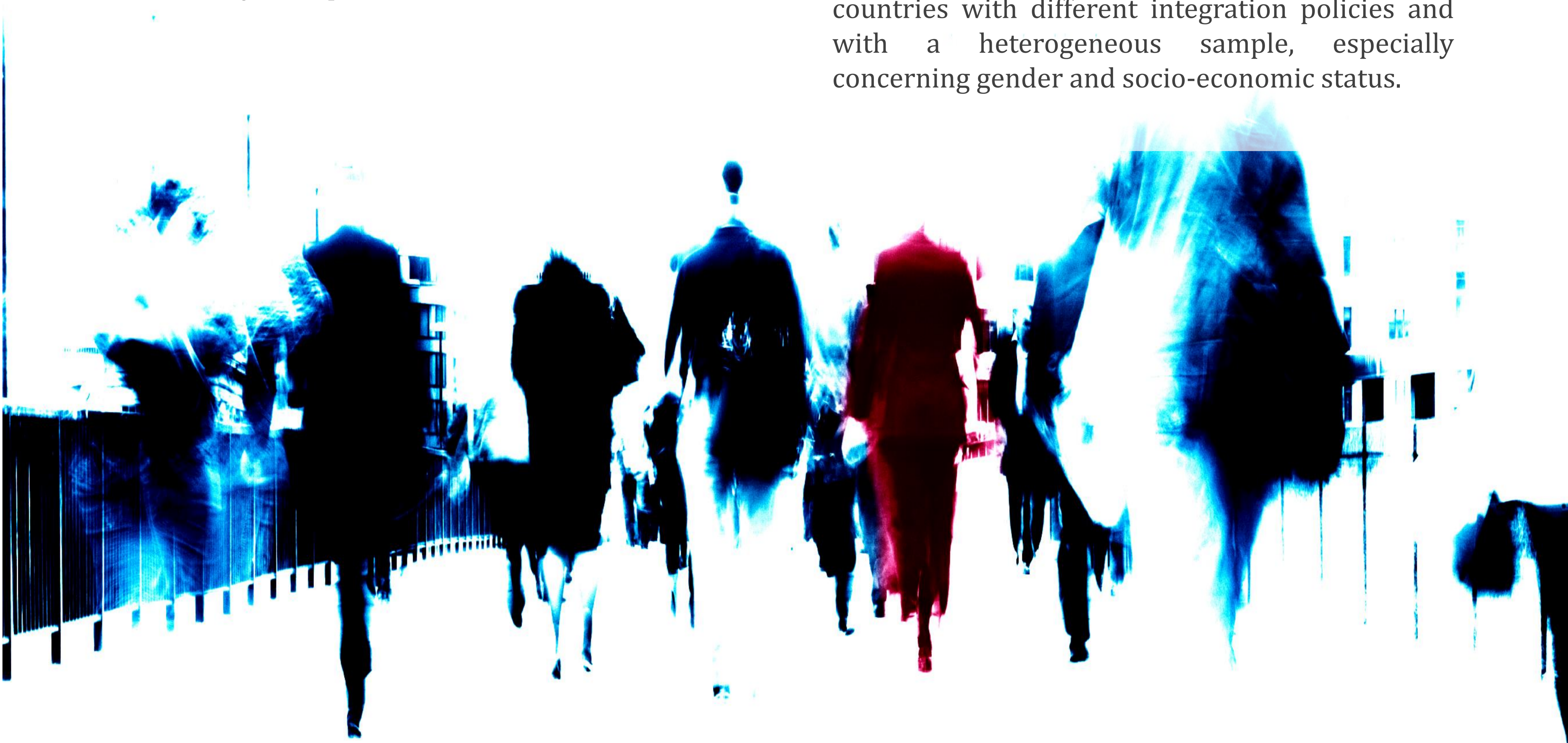
Results

Participants describe elements of successful migration as follows: language acquisition, integration into the labour market, having friends and participating in the local community, and acceptance by the local host community.

Although all participants are considered “successful” according to these criteria, they struggle to self-rate their migration as a “success”. They acknowledge that their perception is influenced by the current integration discourse in Austria as well as by external criteria and judgements.

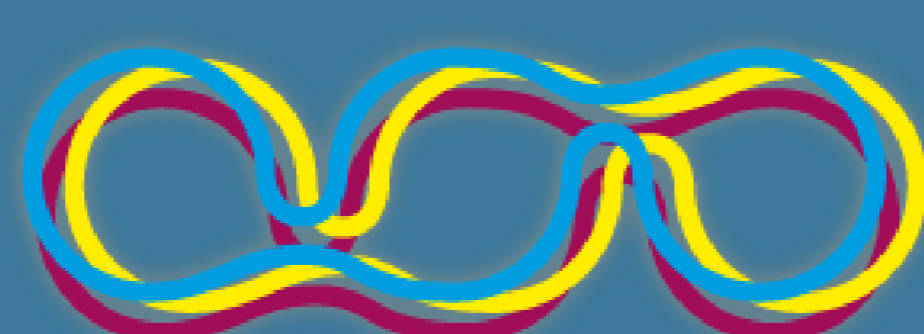
Discussion

Officially formulated definitions of successful migration on policy level are very close to subjective definitions from migrants’ perspective. Nevertheless, national policy and socio-economic factors influence migrants’ perception. Future research could explore the topic comparing countries with different integration policies and with a heterogeneous sample, especially concerning gender and socio-economic status.



Migrants’ perspectives on “successful migration” in the context of Austrian integration policies

Sonja Novak-Zezula, Yuki Seidler, Ursula Trummer
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