



Multiculturalism and its effects on Portuguese Migrants living in Luxembourg

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THEORETICAL BACKGROUND

Migration flows are without any doubt key topics shaping societies and lives of the contemporary world, and so is the concept of multiculturalism that has gained more importance with the growing cultural diversity in societies (Jackson et al., 2001). 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 (Bourhis et al., 1997). Inconsistencies and discrepancies in opinions between residents and immigrants regarding attitudes toward acculturation are sources of difficulties, usually for acculturating individuals (i.e. immigrants) and might therefore lead to acculturative stress amongst these migrant communities (Berry, 2011). This group may also experience lower subjective well-being (SWB) as a result of the perceived inconsistencies between residents and immigrants regarding their attitude to multiculturalism. Acculturative stress and lower SWB may affect the first generation of immigrants more than 2nd generation (Birman & Trickett, 2001). Therefore, in a multicultural society such as Luxembourg with foreign population of 45%, issues regarding the stress and well-being of the members of the society potentially concern a large part of the population (Statec, 2014).

The current study is part of the project IRMA ("Intergenerational Relations in the light of Migration and Ageing") and focuses on a comparison of Luxembourgish families and Portuguese immigrant families. Specifically, we compare ageing parents (i.e., older generation) and their adult children (i.e., younger generation) all living in the Grand-Duchy of Luxembourg. Foreigners of Portuguese nationality constitute by far the largest immigrant group in Luxembourg, amounting to 16.35% of the total population (Statec, 2013).

OBJECTIVES

Results pertaining to the Portuguese families living in Luxembourg will be presented. We compare both generations (elderly parents and their adult children), in order to assess a possible "generation gap" or "acculturation gap" regarding different psychological variables:

- Attitude towards multiculturalism
- acculturative stress experienced
- potential effects of these variables on the participants' subjective well-being

SAMPLE

- Participants in total: **N** = 191
- Triads: **N** = 54 full triads (both parents, father and mother, and one adult child)
- Over 60% of the PT adult children were born in Luxembourg, the remaining were born in Portugal and having arrived in Luxembourg at an average age of $M = 4.84$ ($SD = 4.14$).

Portuguese Triads living in Luxembourg			
	Mothers	Fathers	Adult Children
N	63	61	67
Age	$M = 53.68$ $SD = 7.00$	$M = 56.98$ $SD = 7.76$	$M = 27.29$ $SD = 7.46$
Years living in LUX	$M = 30.93$ $SD = 8.27$	$M = 31.48$ $SD = 8.91$	/

METHODS

All participants completed a standardized questionnaire available in three different languages (DE, FR and PT; forward & backward translations were cross-checked).

Reliabilities of the scales and in the different subsamples were satisfactory, ranging between $.70 < \alpha < .92$ with one exception. The MIS scale showed for PT 1st and 2nd generation somewhat weaker reliabilities $.43 < \alpha < .54$.

- Multicultural Ideology Scale (MIS; see e.g., Berry & Kalin, 1995; 10 items, e.g. "A society that has a variety of cultural groups is more able to tackle new problems as they occur"; 7-point Likert scale from 1 = totally disagree to 7 = totally agree)
- Satisfaction with Life Scale (SWLS; Diener & al., 1984, 5 items e.g. "The conditions of my life are excellent"; 7-point Likert scale from 1 = do not agree at all to 7 = fully agree)
- Acculturative Stress (see Benet-Martinez & Haritatos, 2005; 7 items, e.g. "I feel the pressure that what "I" do is representative of my cultural group's abilities."; 6-point Likert scale from 1 = totally disagree to 6 = totally agree)

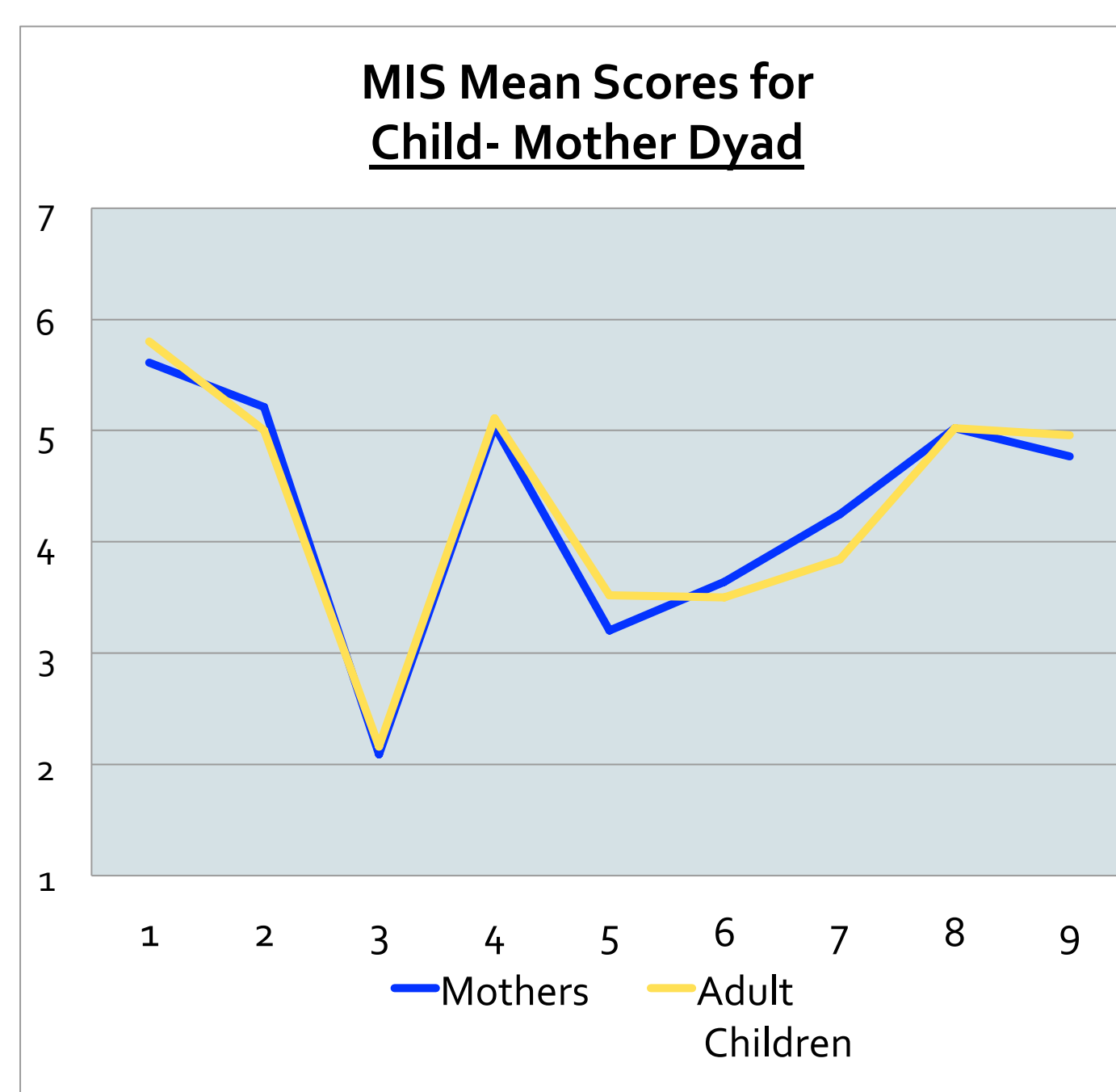
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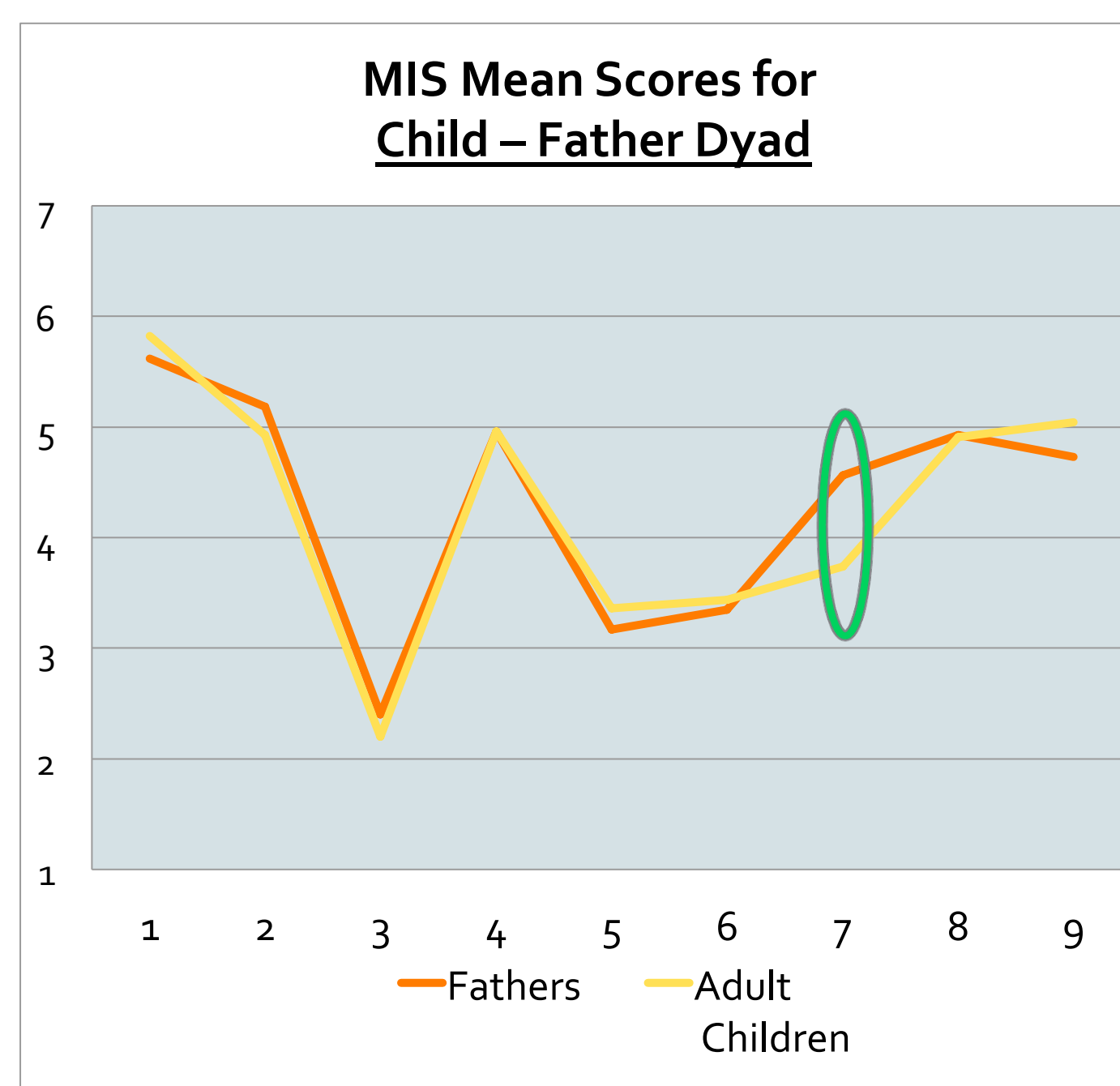
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RESULTS

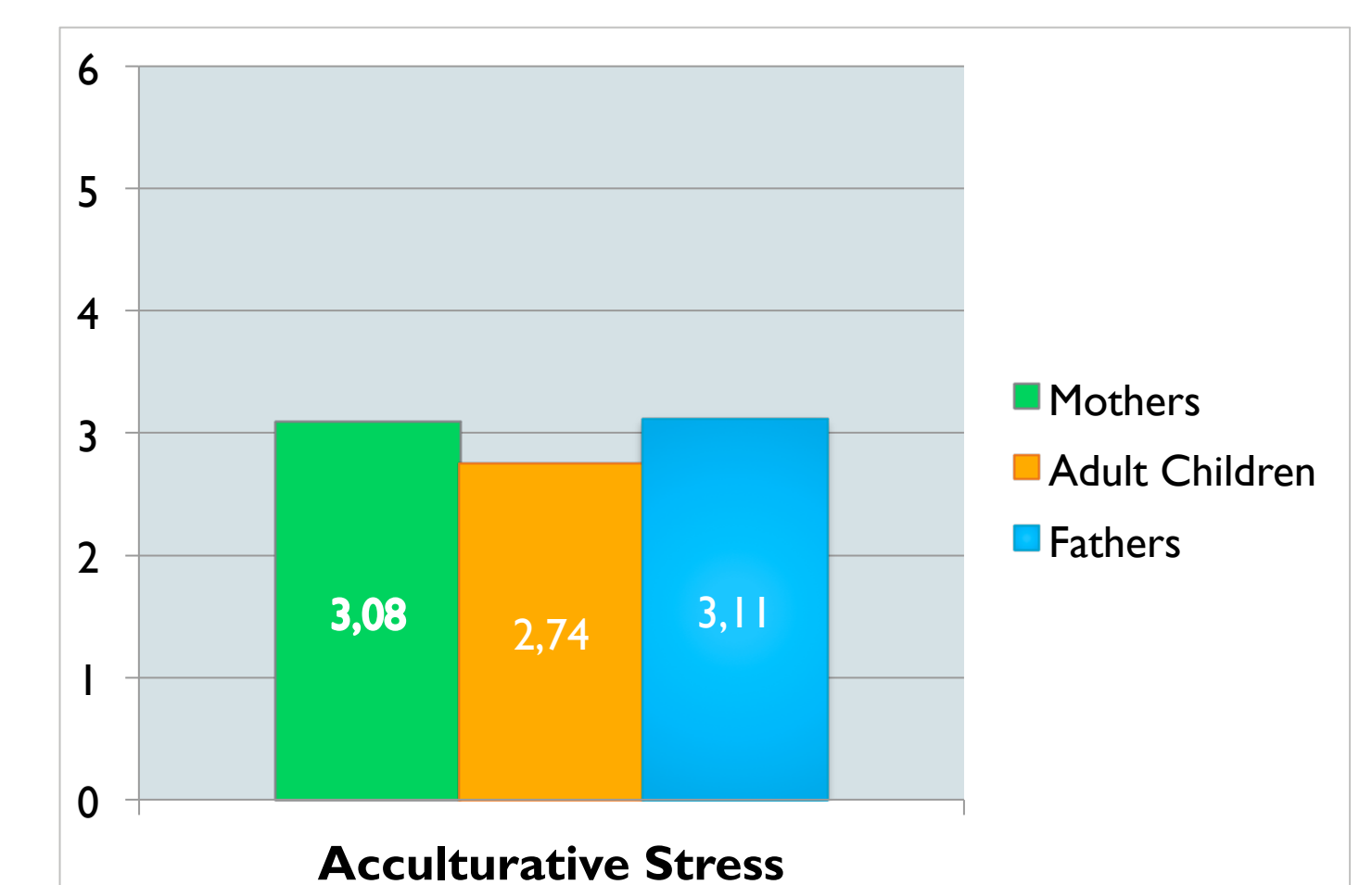
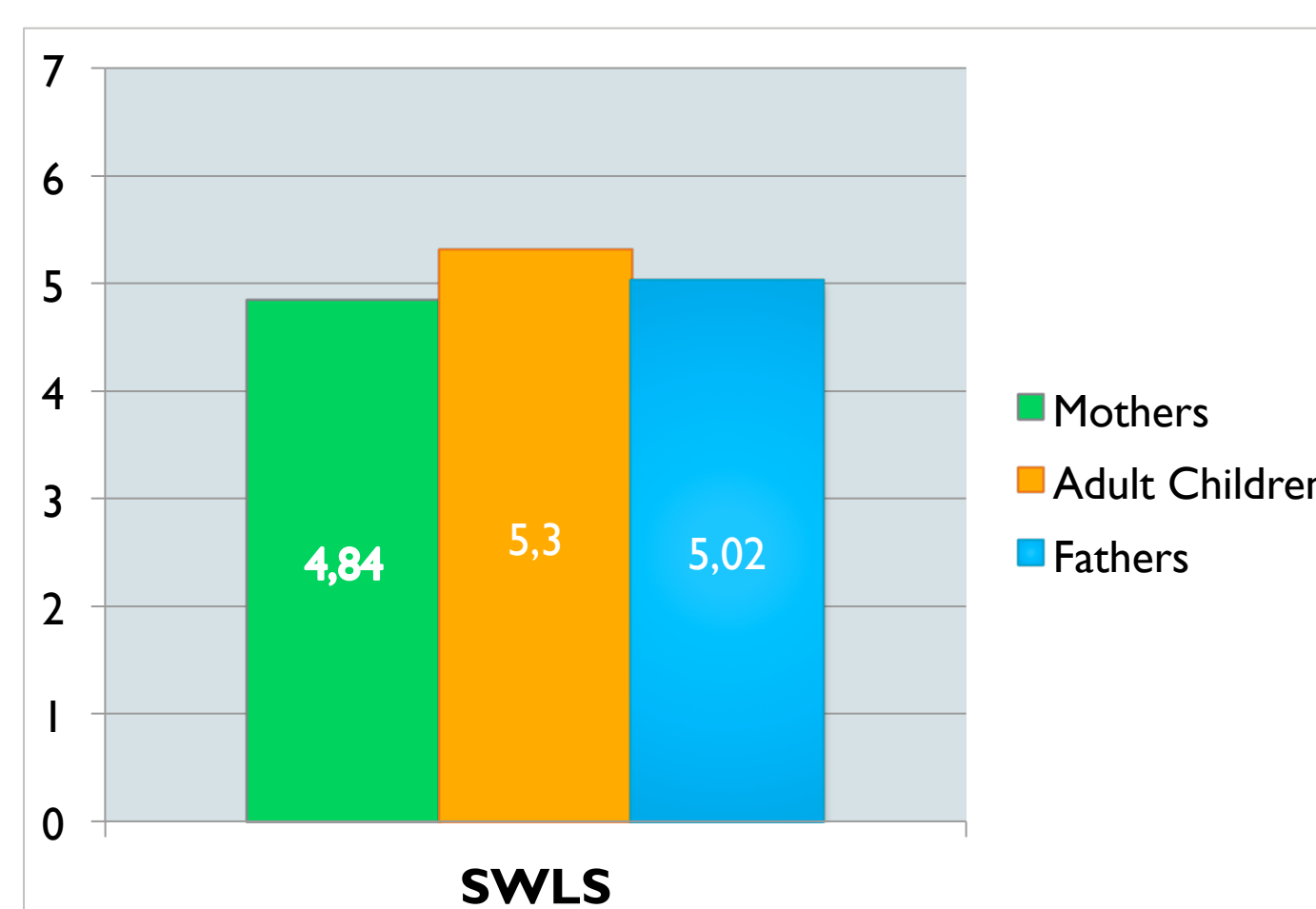


MIS Items (T-Test for paired samples)	Dyad Child - Mother	
	t (df)	p
1. Cultural diversity (+)	-1.06 (55)	.30
2. Keep cultural heritage	.97 (55)	.34
3. Forget ≠ cultural background (-)	-.39 (55)	.70
4. Tackle problems through diversity (+)	-.41 (55)	.68
5. Unity weakened by diversity (-)	-1.41 (55)	.16
6. Keep own traditions for yourself (-)	.56 (55)	.58
7. Learn more from cultural groups (+)	1.63 (55)	.11
8. Keep heritage culture (+)	.00 (55)	1.00
9. Immigrants adapt behaviour to natives (-)	-.70 (55)	.49



MIS Items (T-Test for paired samples)	Dyad Child - Father	
	t (df)	p
1. Cultural diversity (+)	-1.12 (54)	.27
2. Keep cultural heritage	1.23 (54)	.22
3. Forget ≠ cultural background (-)	-.82 (54)	.42
4. Tackle problems through diversity (+)	.00 (54)	1.00
5. Unity weakened by diversity (-)	-.68 (52)	.50
6. Keep own traditions for yourself (-)	-.32 (53)	.75
7. Learn more from cultural groups (+)	3.01*	.00
8. Keep heritage culture (+)	.08 (54)	.94
9. Immigrants adapt behaviour to natives (-)	-1.19 (54)	.27

Mean scores for SWLS and Acculturative stress for Portuguese immigrant families



SWLS (T-Test for paired samples)	SWLS		Acculturative Stress	
	t (df)	p	t (df)	p
Mother - Child Dyad	-2.15 (41)*	.04	2.08 (39)*	.04
Father - Child Dyad	-1.61	.17	2.35 (36)*	.02

CONCLUSIONS

- Regarding MIS Items, a similar pattern to exists for Portuguese immigrant parents and their adult children. Only one positive item showed a significant difference between children and their fathers. The findings suggest that parents and their adult children share similar attitudes towards cultural diversity. Neither a generation gap nor an acculturation gap was found in this context.
- Multiculturalism and culture are no static and immutable concepts. They depend of the social and individual contexts, nevertheless attitudes about multicultural ideologies and how to behave in a society (Arends-Toth & Van de Vijver, 2003) are transmitted, possibly in the form of values, from one generation to the next. Despite the different migrant contexts of both generations, one having migrated to Luxembourg over 30 years ago and the other having grown up or being born in the « new country » (Albert & Ferring, 2012; Vedder et al. 2009), they appear to have a similar experiences with cultural diversity and acculturation.
- Adult children of Portuguese origin show significantly higher scores regarding subjective well-being than their mothers, whereas no difference was shown with their fathers.
- Adult children expressed lower acculturative stress in their daily lives than did both of their Portuguese immigrant parents, father as well as mother. However, the mean differences were small.

