

*17th European Conference on Developmental
Psychology, 8-12 September, 2015,
Braga, Portugal*

Expectations of mutual support and care in the light of migration

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Background

- Migration and ageing are key issues in many Western societies today:
 - First generation immigrants are currently approaching retirement age in many European countries
 - Most studies in acculturation research have focused on family relations between first generation parents and their second generation children in adolescence
 - Only few studies have focused on intergenerational relations in ageing migrant families

Migration and Ageing

- Older migrants (first generation) and their adult children (second generation) might be confronted with very special tasks compared to families without migration background
 - Higher need of intergenerational support from adult children due to parents' smaller social network in the host country or due to fewer sociocultural resources such as language competences
 - Acculturation gap between parents and their adult children regarding different identity constructions, value orientations, norms and expectations with regard to intergenerational solidarity and support
- => Do intergenerational differences in expectations and beliefs lead to intergenerational strain and to diminished well-being?

Aims of the Present Study

- 1) Examine similarities and differences in parental and filial expectations about adult children's support for ageing parents in Portuguese immigrant compared to Luxembourgish families
- 2) Explore predictors of adult children's
 - a) Filial anxiety
 - b) Readiness to support parentsin Portuguese immigrant compared to Luxembourgish families

Luxembourg as Acculturation Context

- 563.500 inhabitants
- 45% foreigners
- 92.100 inhabitants with Portuguese nationality (immigration since the late 1960s in line with high need for work force in the industrial sector)
 - *Portuguese of the first immigration wave are currently close to retirement age (Beirão, 2010)*



Sample

FNR-Project IRMA („*Intergenerational Relations in the Light of Migration and Ageing*“).

Triads: 2 Parents (Mother, Father) and 1 Adult Child

Age		LUX Families			PT Families	
	<i>N</i>	<i>M</i>	<i>SD</i>	<i>N</i>	<i>M</i>	<i>SD</i>
Mother	64	55.30	7.40	63	53.68	7.00
Father	53	57.74	7.07	61	56.98	7.70
Child	65	26.23	7.74	66	27.29	7.46

- PT Parents' Time Living in Luxembourg
PT Mothers: $M = 30.78$ years ($SD = 8.23$),
PT Fathers: $M = 31.48$ years ($SD = 8.91$).
- PT Adult Children: 62.1% born in Luxembourg, 38% arrived at an average age of $M = 4.84$ years ($SD = 4.14$).

Methods

Standardized questionnaire in German, French, Portuguese

- **Family Cohesion** (e.g., Manzi, Vignoles, Regalia, & Scabini, 2006): 4 items (e.g., “In our family, there’s a strong feeling of togetherness”)
- **Family Obligations** (e.g., (Lay et al., 1998; Merz, Özeke-Kocabas, Oort, & Schuengel, 2009;), 6 items (e.g., “It is important for me to follow our family rules”)
- **Family Independence**, 4 items (e.g., “I follow my goals even if my family does not agree”)
- **Filial Anxiety** (e.g., Cicirelli, 1988), 6 items (e.g., “I’m afraid that my parent will need more help than I can give”)
- **Future Support for Parents (Readiness and Expectations)**, 2 items (“I would accomodate my parents at my home if they asked me to”; “If my parents were ill, I would feel responsible for their care” resp. “My child would...”)
- **Parental Preferences** for Future Care

All Items (except for filial anxiety) had to be rated on a 6-point likert-scale (1 = do not agree at all to 6 = fully agree)

All reliabilities were satisfactory, ranging between $\alpha = .64$ and $.83$

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Parental Preferences for Future Care

Where would you like to live if you were in need of care in the future...

Parental Preferences for Future Care

Mothers

<i>n</i> (%)	LUX	PT
At home with care service	35 (68.6)	34 (68.0)
Nursing home	12 (23.5)	4 (8.0)
With children	4 (7.8)	12 (24.0)

$$\chi^2(2) = 8.01, p = .02$$

Fathers

<i>n</i> (%)	LUX	PT
At home with care service	39 (82.3)	28 (59.6)
Nursing home	4 (8.3)	7 (14.9)
With children	5 (10.4)	12 (25.5)

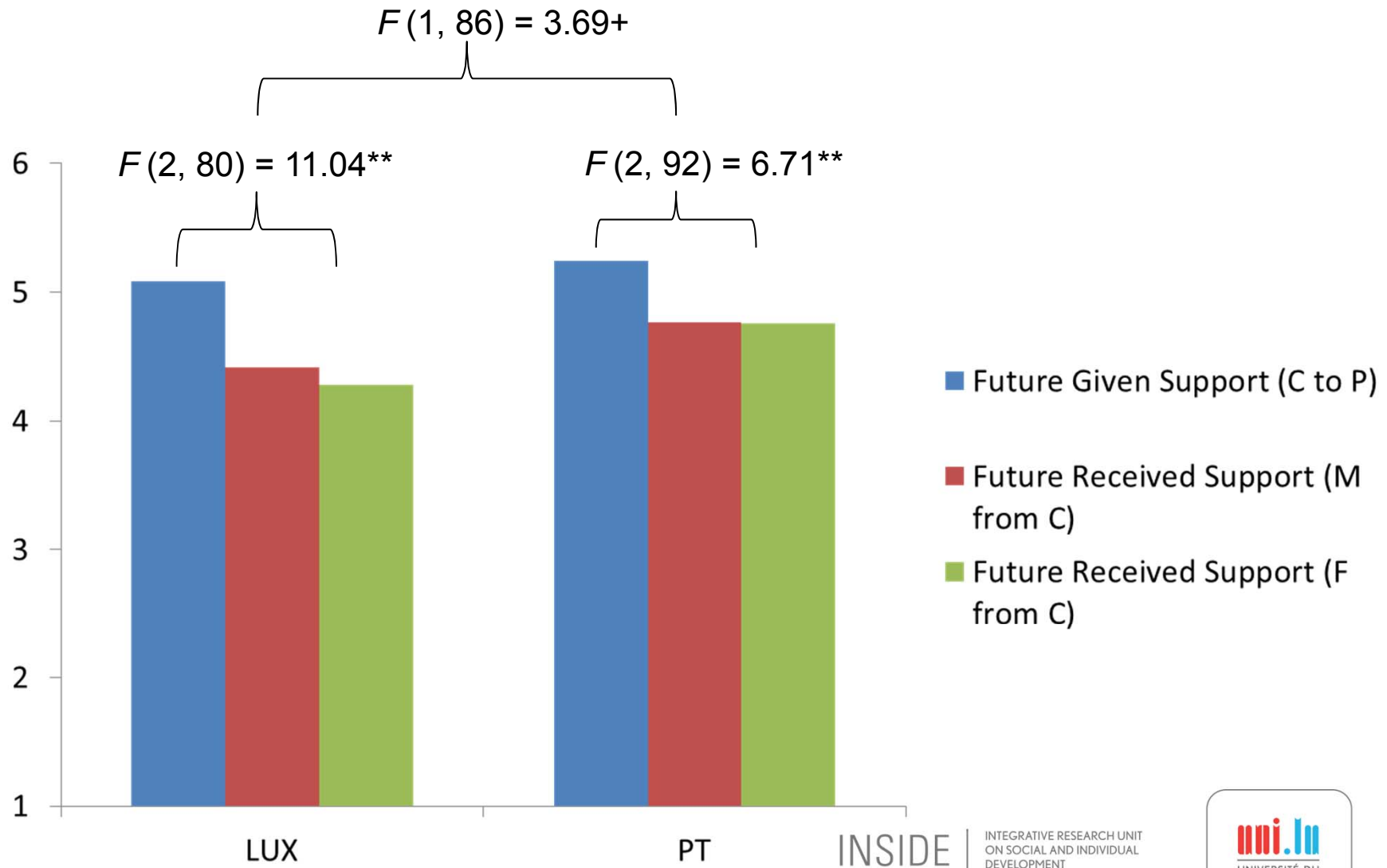
$$\chi^2(2) = 5.50, p = .06$$

Adult Children's Readiness and Parents' Expectations of Future Support

...accomodate parents at home...

...feeling responsible for parent's care...

Adult Children's Readiness and Parents' Expectations of Future Support (GLM)

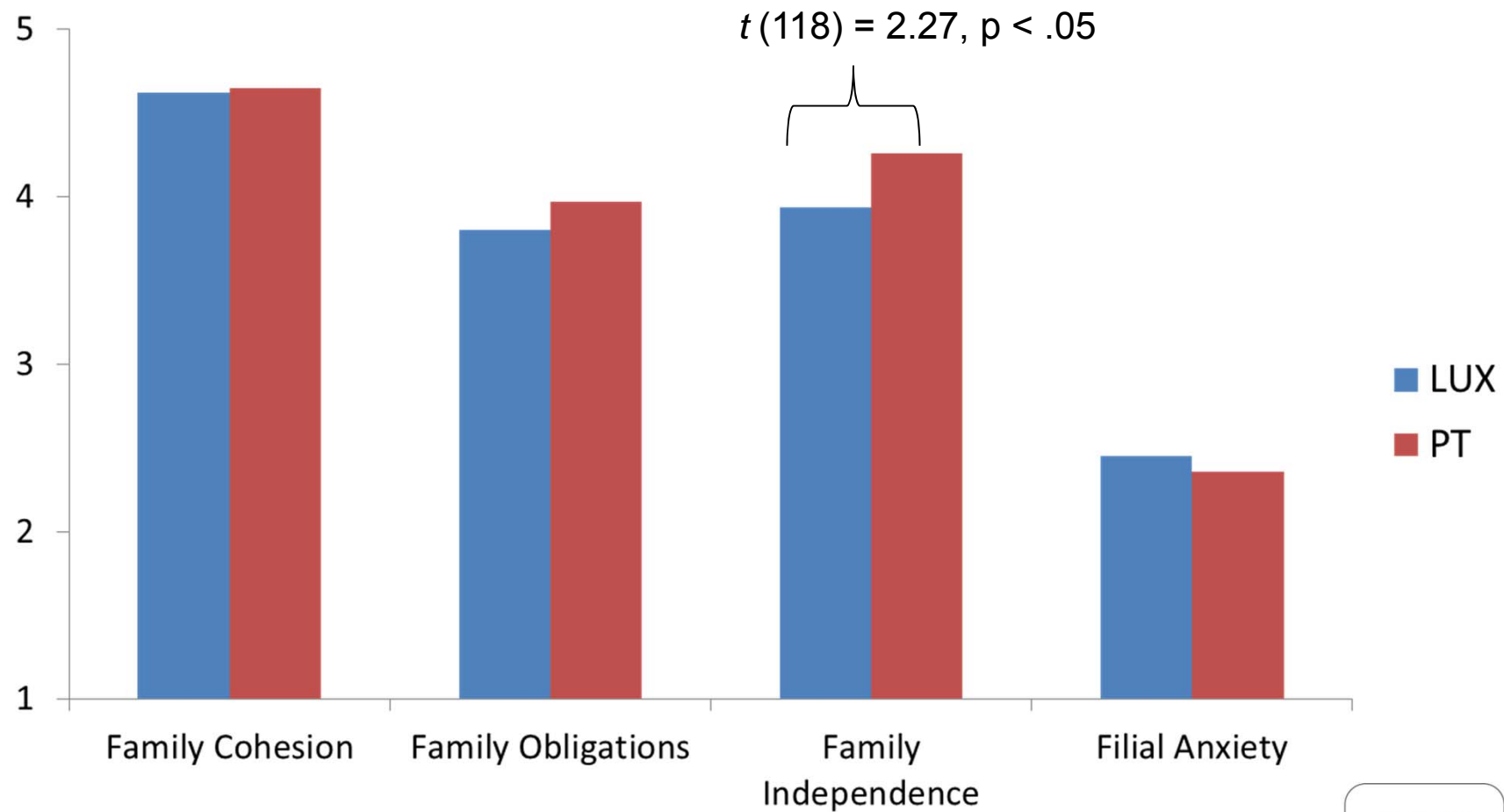


A Closer Look at...

...the Adult Children's View



Mean Differences between LUX and PT Adult Children on Key Variables (*t*-tests)



Predicting Adult Children's Filial Anxiety

Predicting Filial Anxiety

Intercorrelations Filial Anxiety with	Family Cohesion	Family Obligations	Family Independence
LUX	-.35**	-.07	-.04
PT	-.35**	-.21	.53**

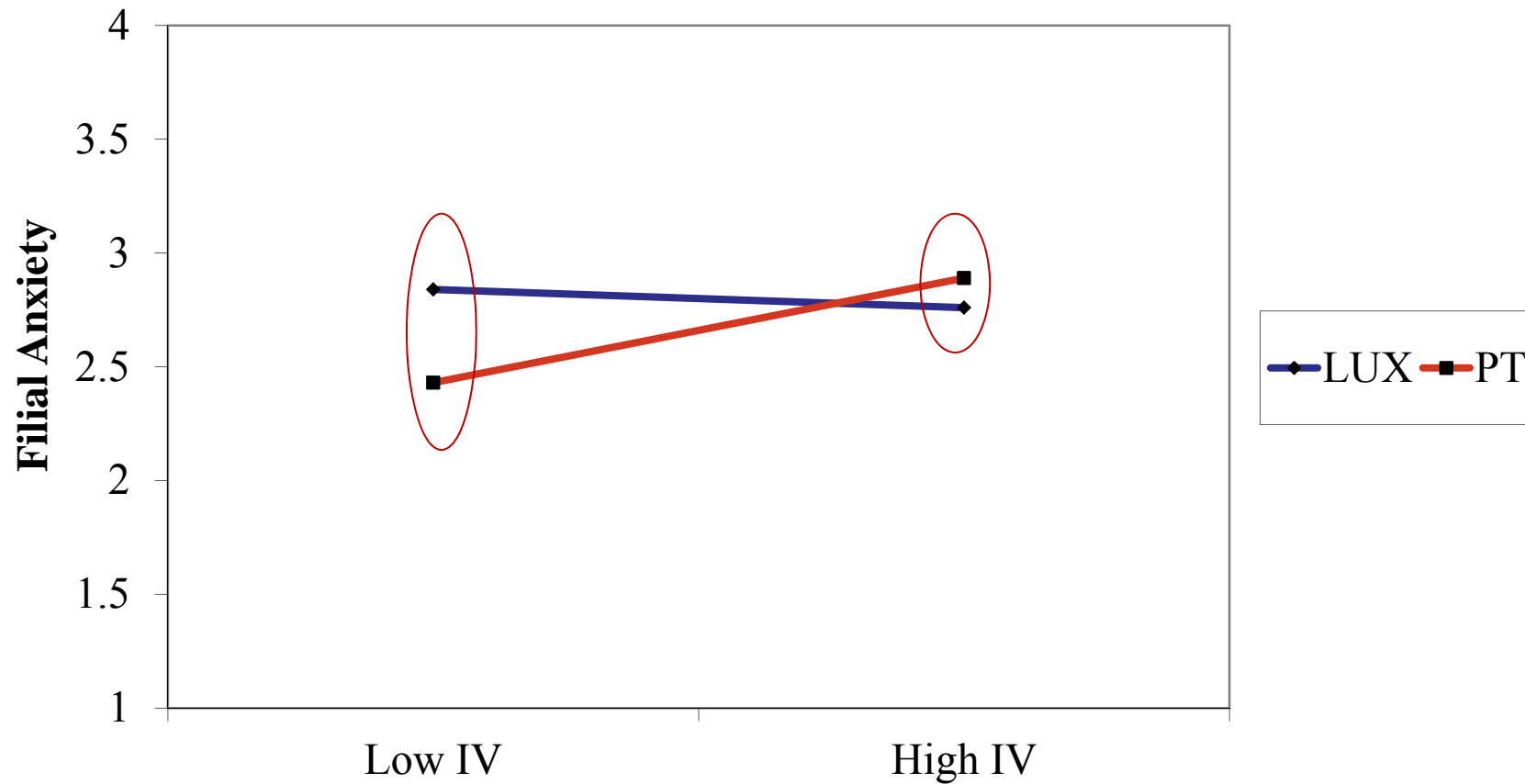
Regression to predict Filial Anxiety	R^2 Change	B	SE B
Step 2	.11**		
Family Cohesion		-.16**	.05
Family Obligations		.03	.05
Family Independence		.05	.05
Step 3	.09**		
F. Cohesion x Culture		.18+	.10
F. Obligations x Culture		.03	.10
F. Independence x Culture		.32**	.10

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Step 1: Age of participant, Living without parents, Culture (0 = LUX, 1 = PT), $R^2 = .04$, n.s.

Culture as a Moderator for the Effect of Family Independence on Filial Anxiety



Predicting Adult Children's Readiness for Future Parental Support

Predicting Future Support for Parents

Intercorrelations Future Support with	Family Cohesion	Family Obligations	Family Independence	Filial Anxiety
LUX	.59**	.25*	-.12	-.35**
PT	.62**	.35**	-.16	-.22
Regression to predict Future Support		<i>R</i> ² Change	<i>B</i>	<i>SE B</i>
<i>Step 2</i>		.38**		
Family Cohesion			.48**	.08
Family Obligations			.07	.08
Family Independence			.06	.07
Filial Anxiety			-.10	.07
<i>Step 3</i>		.01**		
F. Cohesion x Culture			-.04	.16
F. Obligations x Culture			-.04	.16
F. Independence x Culture			.00	.16
Filial Anxiety x Culture			.10	.17

Step 1: Age of participant, Living without parents, Culture (0 = LUX, 1 = PT), $R^2 = .03$, n.s.

Summary & Discussion

- Similarities and differences between LUX and PT families
- Care preferences:
 - Majority of LUX and PT parents prefer care at home in case of need
 - More LUX parents prefer nursing home, more PT parents prefer living with children

⇒ Higher parental expectations toward adult children in PT families

Summary & Discussion (cont.)

- Filial Anxiety: reduced by Family Cohesion both for LUX and PT adult children; enhanced by Family Independence only for PT adult children

⇒ Conflicting parental and filial expectations in PT families might raise filial anxiety

Summary & Discussion (cont.)

- (Perception of) Availability of Support for Parents:
 - higher in PT compared to LUX families
 - readiness of adult children to support their parents higher than parental anticipation of support
 - family cohesion and family obligations positively related to readiness to support parents (f. cohesion as most important predictor)
 - filial anxiety negatively related to readiness to support

⇒ Support provision might be enhanced by a positive family climate

Thank you for your attention!

For further questions:
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This research is supported by a grant from the Fonds National de la Recherche, Luxembourg, to the first author C12/SC/4009630/IRMA/Albert).