Ethnic minorities integration processes: Reproductive choices and education of immigrant and second generation women in the UK.

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Post-war migration has greatly contributed to the ethnic plurality of the UK today. Ethnic fertility differentials and an overall convergence in the TFR of the various ethnic groups since the 1970s is documented (Dubuc and Haskey, 2010; Coleman and Dubuc, 2010).

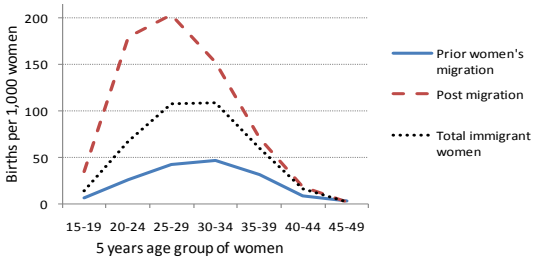
Here we present novel fertility estimates of all main ethnic groups in the UK, distinguishing between immigrant (foreign-born) and UK-born women over the past 20 years and by educational attainment.

Data and methods (LFS-OCM):

Period fertility measures by ethnic groups in the UK over time (1987-2006) and distinguishing between UK-born and immigrant (foreign-born) were produced using the Labour Force Survey (LFS 2002-2006) data together with the reverse survival Own-Children Method (OCM). The UK-born women of fertility age within ethnic minority groups in the UK are overwhelmingly of the second generation (Dubuc, forthcoming). For information on the method, assessment and refinements see Dubuc (2009). Educational attainment by ethnic groups and generation in the UK were analysed, distinguishing between 3 levels of educational attainment and fertility estimates of the UK-born/second generation are produced by ethnic groups. *Fertility prior and after migration* indicated that the LFS-OCM approach minimizes the increasingly documented risk of overestimation of fertility measured by period TFRs (Dubuc, 2010; Dubuc, 2012).

Migration-specific tempo effects on Period TFRs

The risk of over-estimation of immigrants' total fertility using Period TFR calculations when based on birth registrations is increasingly recognised (e.g Toulemon, 2004; Sobotka and Lutz, 2009, Parrado, 2011). The distortion in the Period TFR is likely to be particularly large when women's migration is linked to marriage and family formation since they are likely to have a child shortly after migration.



Fertility patterns prior and after migration in the UK

Source: Dubuc (2012). LFS data, 3rd quarter 2001-2006, using the year of arrival of immigrant women to distinguish pre- and post-migration when reverse surviving women and children.

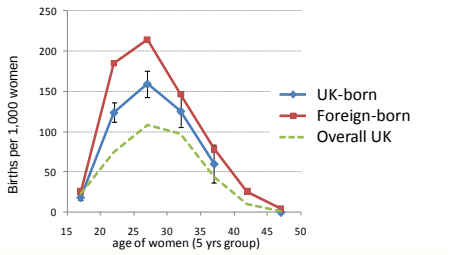
Figure 1 shows especially low fertility prior to migration and high fertility after resettlement, in line with findings in France (Toulemon 2004) and among the Hispanic immigrants in the USA (Parrado, 2011).

These finding support the suitability of methodology to more accurately compare fertility of immigrants with those of the second generation, because it minimises the problem of overestimation of fertility of recent immigrants by Period TFRs. The reverse survival method used (LFS-OCM) takes account of *pre*- and *post*-migration fertility history minimising the over-estimation of classical Period TFR of immigrants due to migration-specific tempo effects.

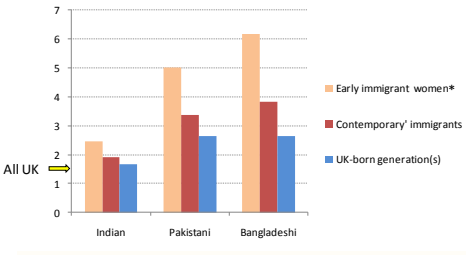
Results

Our results show differences between the TFR of UK-born generation of women and foreign-born women of the same ethnicity. The decrease in fertility across successive cohorts of immigrants contributes to the ethnic fertility convergence in the UK (partly reflecting on the global fertility transition process). In comparison to immigrant groups, fertility inter-ethnic differences are strongly reduced in the UK-born generations of minority groups, whose proportion is increasing (Dubuc, forthcoming). UK-born generations of women are leading the convergence in fertility between ethnic groups and towards the overall UK/White British profile.

When immigrants came from high fertility countries, fertility of the children generation (UK-born) is lower than that of their (proxi) parents, and lower than that of contemporary immigrants (Dubuc, 2012). Within all ethnic groups, fertility of the UK-born generation is closer to the UK average and White British when compared to immigrant women resulting in a reduced inter-ethnic fertility differential (Dubuc, forthcoming). Results provide evidence for an intergenerational adaptation process of fertility behaviour to the UK context



ASFRs of UK-born and foreign-born Pakistani women
(1987-2006)



Intergenerational changes in the TFR
•Immigrants in the 1970s in the UK (LFS data), *proxi* parents of UK-born women

There is an overall ongoing fertility convergence across ethnic groups - and over generations - in the UK. Looking closer at two of the most established ethnic groups in the UK - the women of Indian and Black Caribbean origin/background - nuances this general finding and raise new questions.

1) The TFR of UK-born Indian women has declined below the UK average in recent years, due to a strong decrease of fertility of young second generation Indian women in recent years, *well below that of the ASFRs recorded by White British women.*
2) *The TFRs close to two for the fertility of Black Caribbean women seems to have stabilised slightly above that of the UK average. What clearly distinguishes this group is its atypical fertility age pattern, where ASFRs are relatively high for young women (15-24) and women in*

their late thirties and forties, with a relative deficit of births to women in their late twenties and early thirties when fertility usually peaks. Interestingly, immigrant and second generation Black Caribbean women exhibit a very similar age pattern.

Educational attainment and fertility

Consistent with other research, high educational attainment is associated with lower and delayed childbearing. The much lower fertility at young age for the UK-born generation of Pakistani and Bangladeshi women in comparison with immigrant women is consistent with their higher enrolment in full time education and educational attainment.

The very low fertility of young UK-born Indian women, consistent with findings on high educational achievement, may reflect and contribute to their quest of social mobility in line with the upward path of the segmented assimilation theory (Portes and Zou, 1993).

Overall education strongly influences fertility level and age pattern but its impact appears to vary across ethnic groups.

Additionally, results suggest the impact of the selectivity effect of migration on lowering fertility of contemporary immigrants of Chinese and White non British origins.

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