

The Syrian Refugee Panel Study 2017-2021

Preliminary Findings on the Impact of Local Institutions on Opinion Formation

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Research Agenda

Are all immigrants (or only some) willing and able to integrate into a liberal democratic polity?

Political Integration: Adoption of a **core** political attitudes that are consistent with a Liberal Republican idea of citizenship.

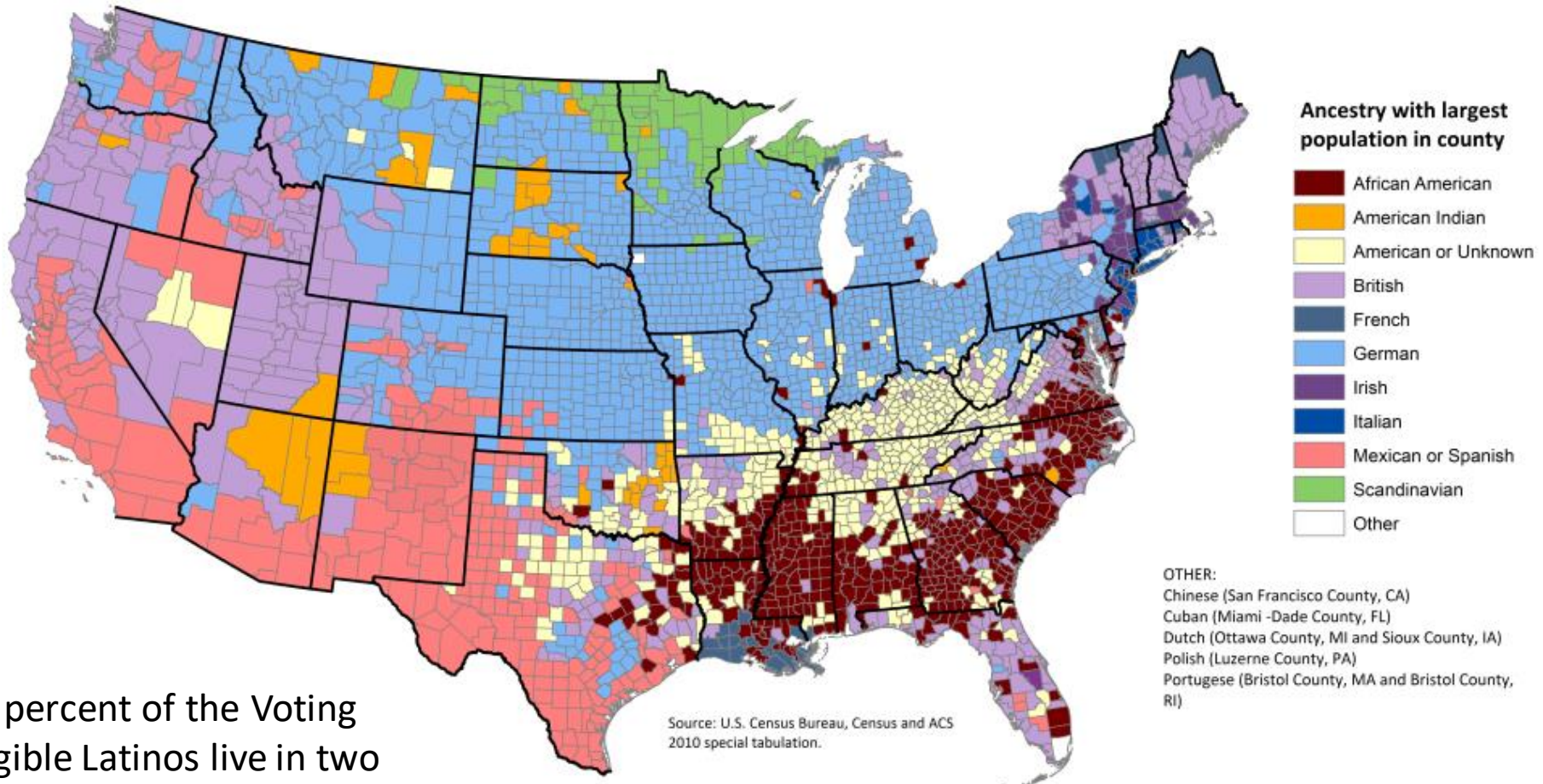
Originally: My work builds on the methods, language & findings of the public opinion/political socialization scholarship.

- Political values and predispositions (Zaller, 1992)
- Core attitudes and belief systems (Converse (1964)
- Crystallized or stable attitudes (Sears and Valentino, 1997)
- Parental transmission and Agents of socialization (Jennings and co-authors Niemi, 1978; Stoker and Bass,2009) vis a vis the local political context.

Background/Previous Work

Working Hypothesis: *All immigrants are willing.*

Ability: Combination of Geographical Concentration & Local Institutions



50 percent of the Voting Eligible Latinos live in two states: California (29%) and Texas (21%).

Research questions of the Syrian Refugee Panel Study.

- 1. Are there differences in the (political) integration **process** across local/national contexts holding SES constant? Specifically, differences in:**
 - opinions regarding liberal and democratic institutions
 - satisfaction and positive attachment to host country.

Syrian Refugee crisis allowed us the rare opportunity look at the political integration a single country of origin migrants/refugees with similar SES characteristics distributed **randomly in different counties/cities**.

- 2. Can experiences at the local level (with political, legal, social and religious institutions & micro environment they create) explain variation in opinions and behavior that signal integration?**

Overview

- Data collection and Research Design

 - Multicity/Country; Panel; Natives in the Host City
 - Modules

- Preliminary Findings (Wave I)

 - Who are they?

- Preliminary Findings (Wave II)

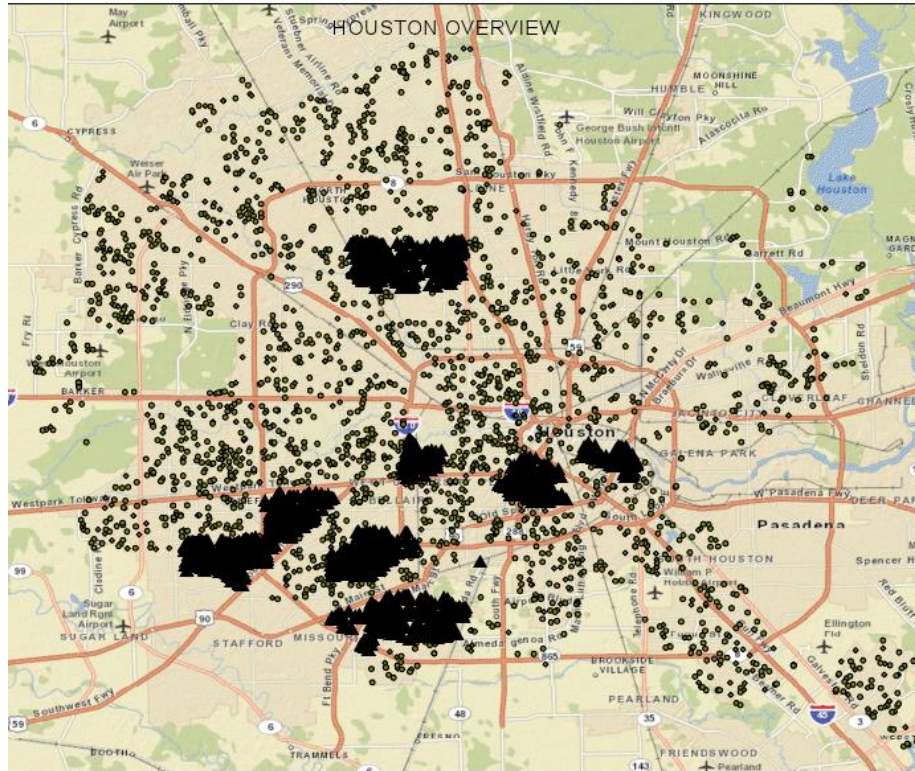
 - How are they?

- Implications/Contributions

Data: Syrian Refugee Panel Survey

- **N=845 (Syrian Households)**; N=~250 per city/area (Natives)
- Syrian Sample: Random Process & Selection of HH
Eligibility: Living within Facilities within City where UNHCR/Red Cross housed resettled Syrian refugees.
- We selected randomly households within facilities.
Selection of Interviewee not always random...
- Field dates W1 (2017-2018)
- 100% of interviews conducted in-person Wave 1;
Only ~20% of interviews Wave 2 in person (Covid)

Data: Research Design/Implementation



Country	City/Area	Number of Households	% Households with 3 or more family members	% of households with at least 1 child aged <10 in the sample
UK (all cities)	London, Scotland, Midlands, Wales	190	37%	55%
Germany	Munich	73	33%	30%
Germany	Berlin	85	34%	42%
Germany	Dresden	125	36%	50%
Sweden	Stockholm	127	72%	87%
Sweden	Malmo	108	62%	70%
France	Paris	10	40%	35%
Greece	Lesbos	50	34%	25%
Ireland	Dublin, Mosney Tullamore	77	48%	60%
TOTAL N:		845	44%	50%

Measures/Questionnaires

Dependent Variables: Political Attitude Formation/Behavior

"How do you feel about this country? Do you hate it, dislike it, neither like nor dislike it, like it, or love it? "

"People's interest in ...sometimes varies ... How interested are you personally in [Host country/city] politics "

" To what extent you do, or do not, trust - A. [CITY/COUNTRY/Police/Legal System] government ?

" ... in past 12 months? - A. Contacted a politician/Participated in a demonstration "

Independent Variables:

SES; Experiences in the host country and city with Asylum process, aid, social interaction

-Local negative stereotypes

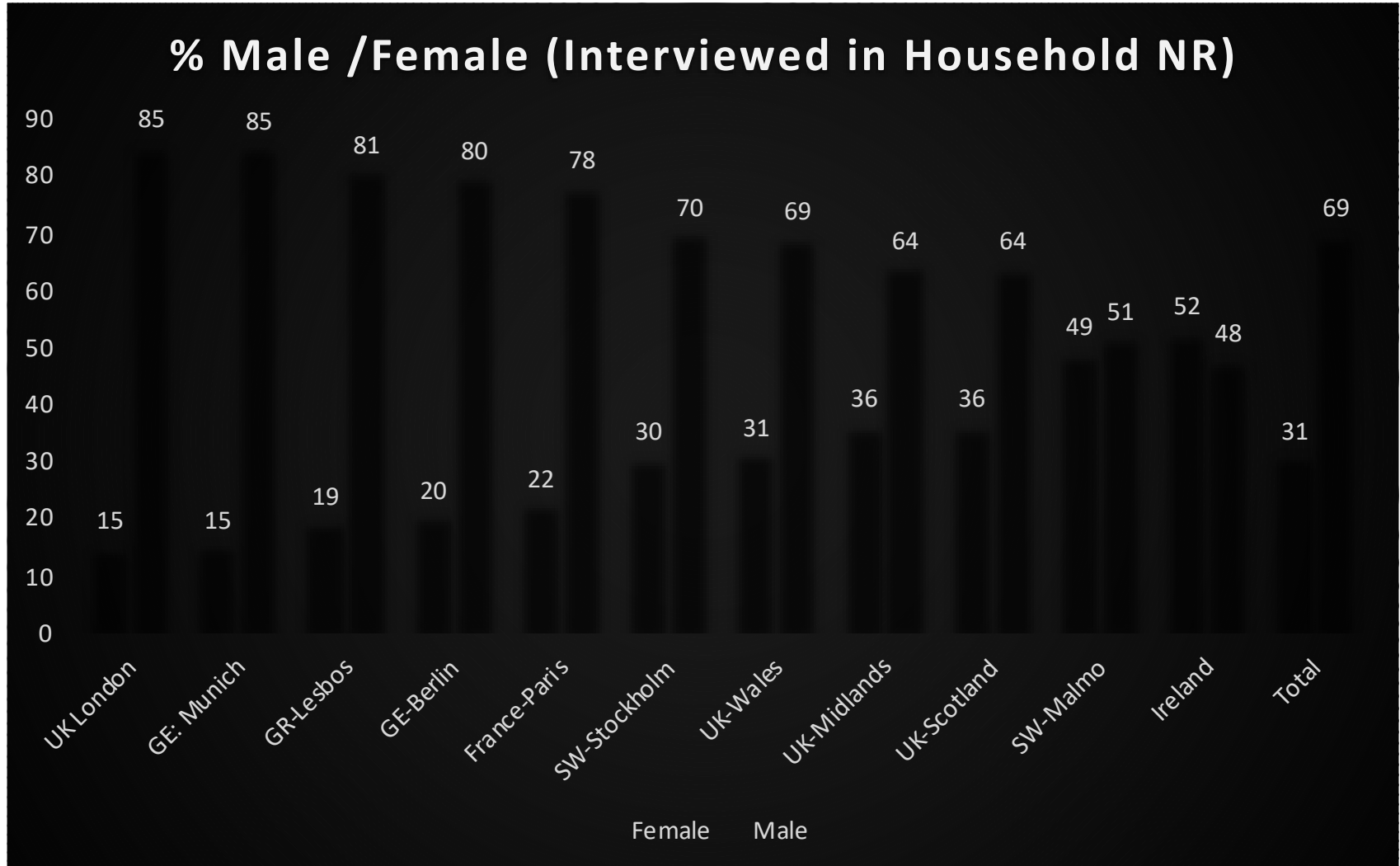
"How comfortable on a scale of 1 to 7 would you be living in a neighborhood where your neighbors were mostly _____ [main racial and ethnic groups in country]."

Local Institutions Index (in progress)

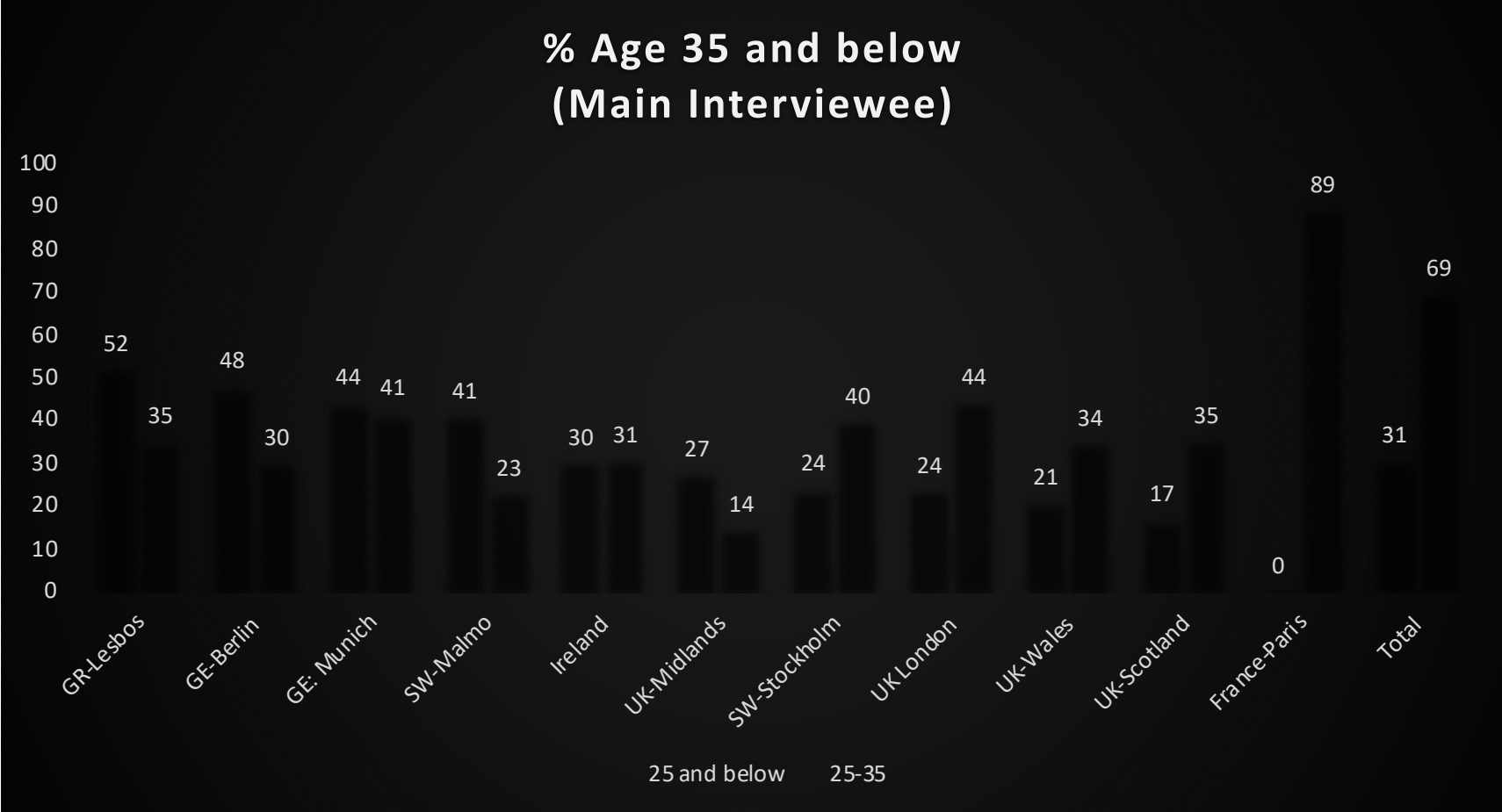
Findings 1: Who Are They?

Findings 1:

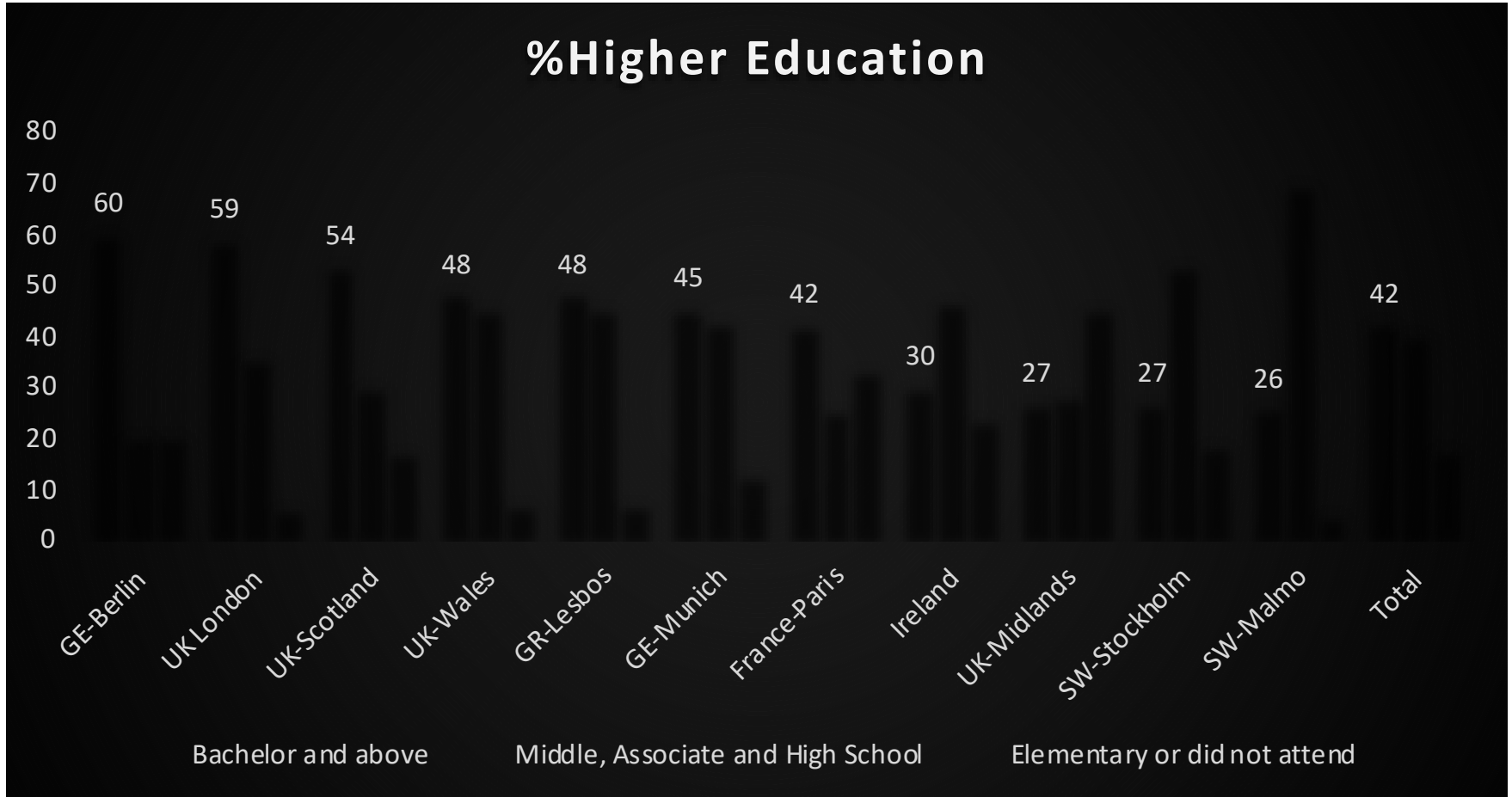
Who Are They? Interviewed are mostly men... (Why?)



Findings 1: Who Are They? Young

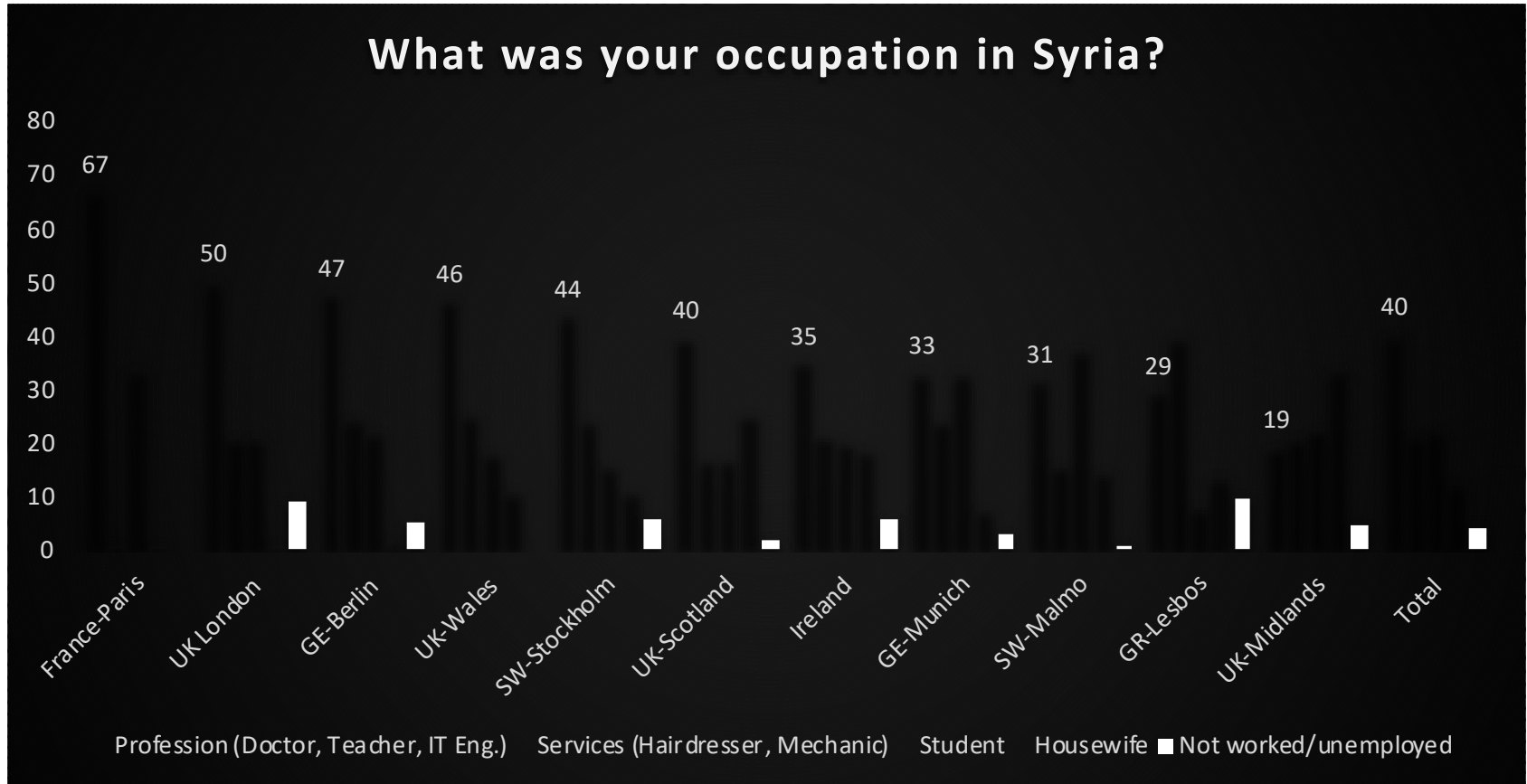


Findings 1: Who Are They? Highly Educated



Findings 1:

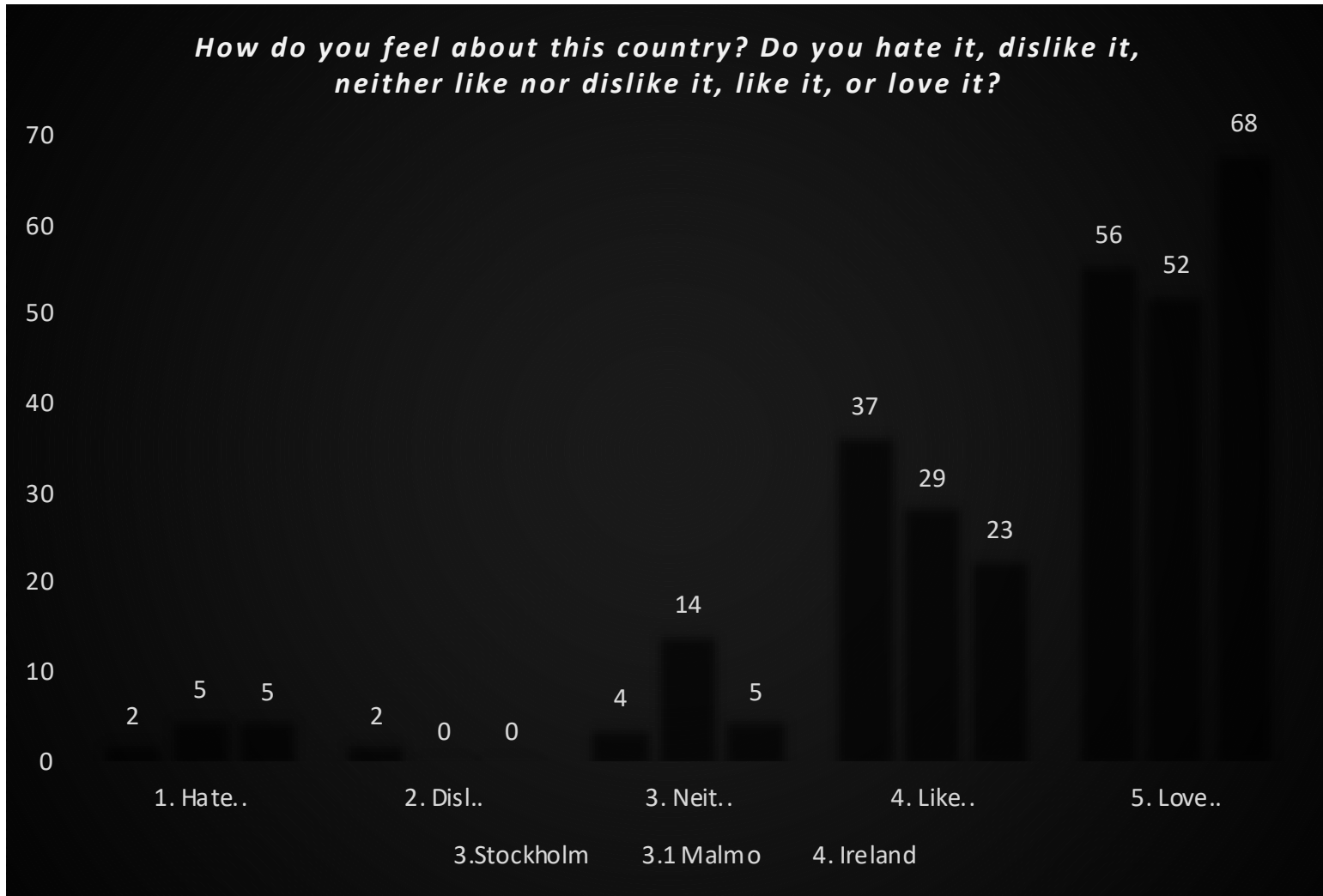
Who Are They? Young, male, highly educated and professional



Findings W2 (Preliminary): How Are They Doing?

Preliminary Findings W2:

They are doing better in Ireland than Sweden...



Preliminary Findings W2:

They are doing better in Ireland than Sweden...

All things considered, how satisfied are you with...?

	Ireland		Sweden	
	Mean	Std. Dev.	Mean	Std. Dev.
Your life as a whole these days	8.68	1.66	6.76	2.98
Living in [CITY]	8.76	1.73	7.13	3.08
Your present level of education	7.38	2.75	6.02	3.20
Your present job	9.00	1.80	7.45	3.17
Your accommodation	8.86	1.91	4.87	3.70
Your access to health care	6.59	3.35	7.21	3.02
Your personal health	7.73	2.23	7.68	3.02
Your social life	8.59	2.02	7.96	2.73

Implications/Research Significance

The question is not whether “all or only some” immigrants are willing and able to integrate into a liberal democratic polity?

Under what conditions are immigrants able to integrate?

Experiences in the host-country or city plays a role in shaping the types of citizens immigrants become.

Ireland vs Sweden, this is not surprising.

Sweden looks better on paper but the local communities/country authorities seem more welcoming. Huge difference in how this colors the perception of refugees.

“Immigration is one of the most stressful events a person can undergo, it removes individuals from many of their relationships and predictable contexts. Immigrants are stripped of many of their sustaining social relationships as well as of the roles which provide them with culturally and politically scripted notions of how they fit into the world.”

Suarez-Orozco & Robben, (2000)

Looking forward to your comments
& questions