A typology of personal networks of immigrants in Spain

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Acculturation

- “The process of adapting to or adopting practices of a culture different from one’s own”.
- Acculturation is usually measured with instruments that are culture-dependent (e.g., ARSMA).
- The construction of a culturally independent measure of acculturation can be based on personal networks.

Personal networks and acculturation

- Personal networks reflect both macro- and micro-level variations in adaptation to a host country
  - Macro: E.g., migration policy of the host country, similarity of cultural norms to those of the country of origin,...
  - Micro: E.g., having employment, language mastery, chain migration or not,...

Hypothesis

- **Three stages of acculturation**

1: one dense cluster, largely consisting of alters from the country of origin

2: multiple clusters, some primarily from Spain, some for country of origin, high betweenness

3: the multiple clusters from stage 2 become interconnected and form 1 loosely connected, more heterogeneous cluster

Research goals

- To develop a typology of the personal networks of immigrants
- To investigate whether the types of networks differ in years of residence in Spain

Data

- Snowball sampling; 294 immigrants in Barcelona from four migrant groups (for the Spanish part of the project)
  - 78 Senegambians; 70 Moroccans; 81 Argentinans; 65 Dominicans
  - 286 valid cases (8 cases were excluded from the analysis because they had missing data or were outliers on network characteristics)
- Personal interviews were held; software Egonet was used to collect data about:
  - 1. Characteristics of the respondent
  - 2. List of 45 alters (personal network delineation)
  - 3. Characteristics of each of the alters (network composition)
  - 4. Whether each pair of alters was related or not (network structure)

Method

- For each personal network (excluding ego), we calculated structural and compositional characteristics
- "Meta-analysis" over the 286 valid networks:
  - *K*-means cluster analysis based on various network characteristics (see next slide), to identify homogeneous groups of networks ("*network profiles*")
  - ANOVA to see whether profiles differ in years of residence
  - Multinomial logistic regression to predict profile membership from years of residence controlled for background variables age, sex, country of origin, employment

K-means cluster analysis

- Based on the network variables (all standardized):
  - 1. Proportion of alters whose country of origin is Spain
  - 2. Proportion of fellow migrants
  - 3. Number of clusters ("*subgroups*") within the network
  - 4. Subgroup homogeneity regarding living in Spain
  - 5. Density
  - 6. Network betweenness centralization
  - 7. Average frequency of contact (7-point scale)
  - 8. Average closeness (5-point scale)
  - 9. Proportion of family in the network

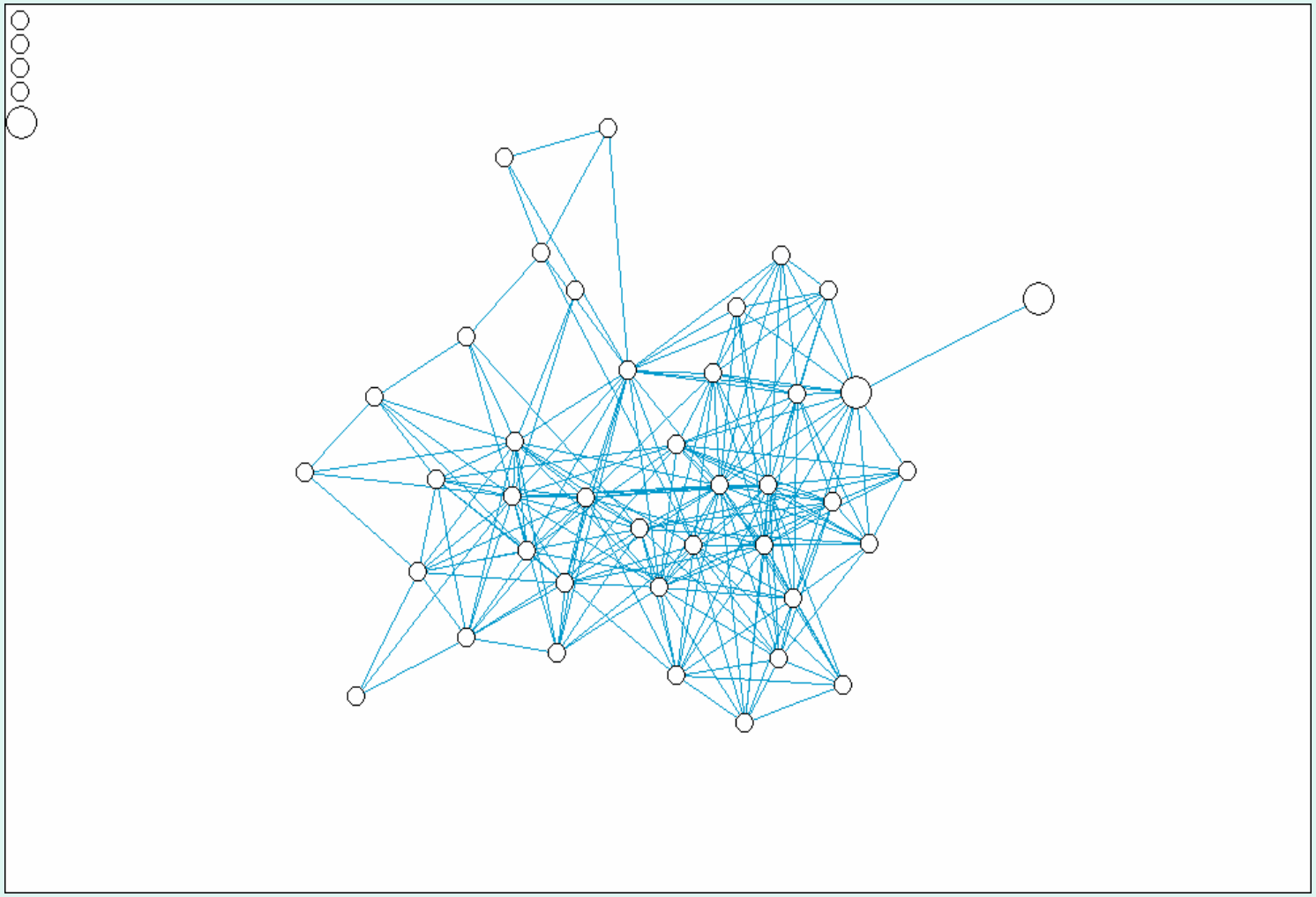
Results cluster analysis

- Five-cluster solution was best interpretable
- Characteristics that most contributed to the cluster partition are:
  - density
  - homogeneity of the subgroups regarding living in Spain
  - percentage of Spanish in the network
- Cluster sizes:
  - Profile 1, “the scarce network”: $N = 54$
  - Profile 2, “the dense family network”: $N = 28$
  - Profile 3, “the multiple subgroups network”: $N = 73$
  - Profile 4, “the two worlds connected network”: $N = 75$
  - Profile 5, “the embedded network”: $N = 50$

Description of profiles

	Scarce	Dense family	Multiple subgrps	2worlds connect.	Embed-ded
% Spanish	**8**	9	26	16	49
% migrants	**17**	20	48	35	29
N subgroups (*sg*)	2¼	1	3¼	1¼	1½
Homogeneity sg.	high	high	high	low	high
Density	.28	.76	.16	.36	.30
Betweenness	high	low	high	middle	high
Freq. contact	**1/3week**	3/month	2/month	2/month	1/week
Closeness	high	middle	low	high	middle
% family	32	54	22	40	28

Profile 1. Scarce network



Color: country of origin (white = foreign, black = Spain);

Size: country of living (large = Spain, small = other country)

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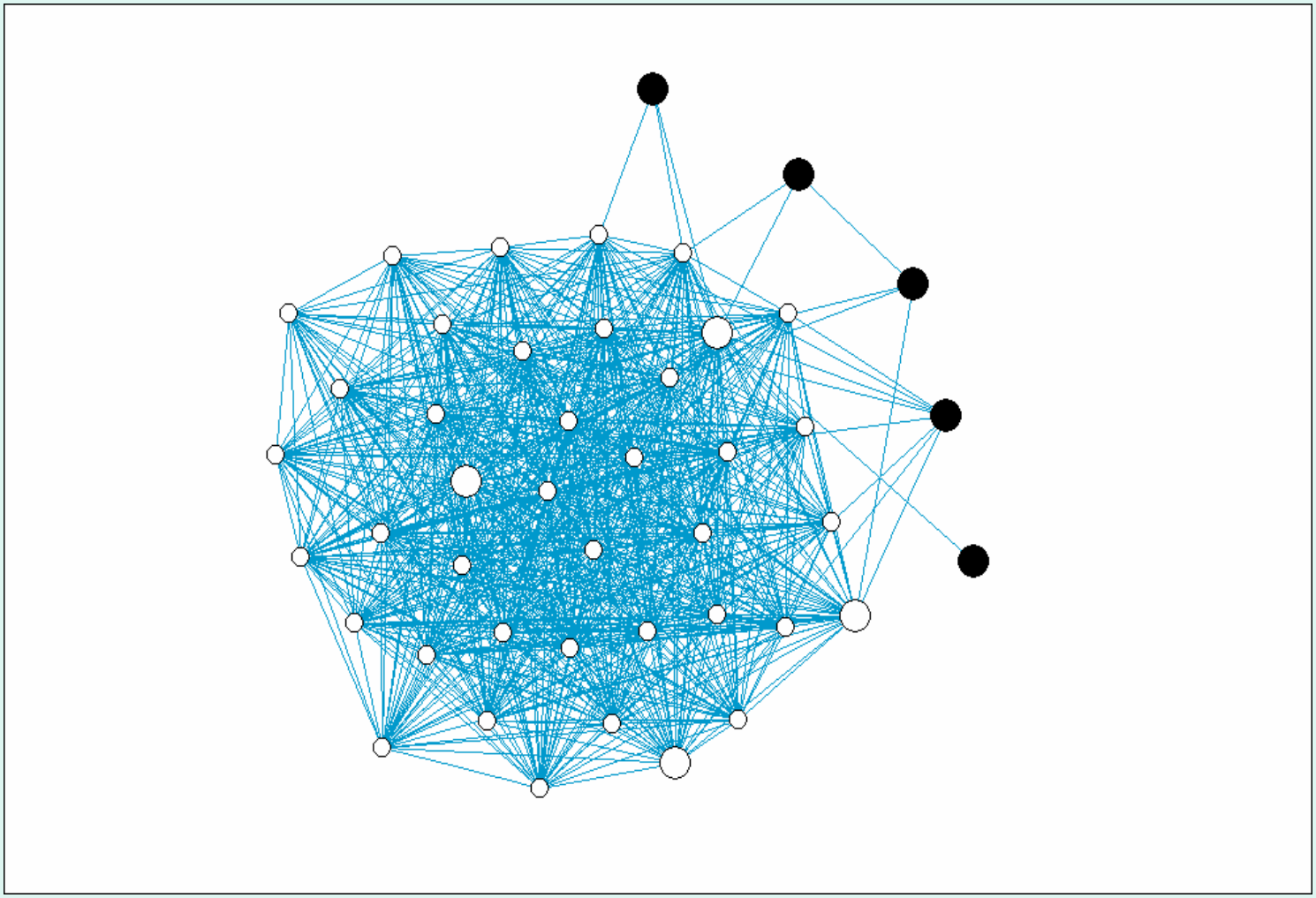
Profile 2. Dense family network



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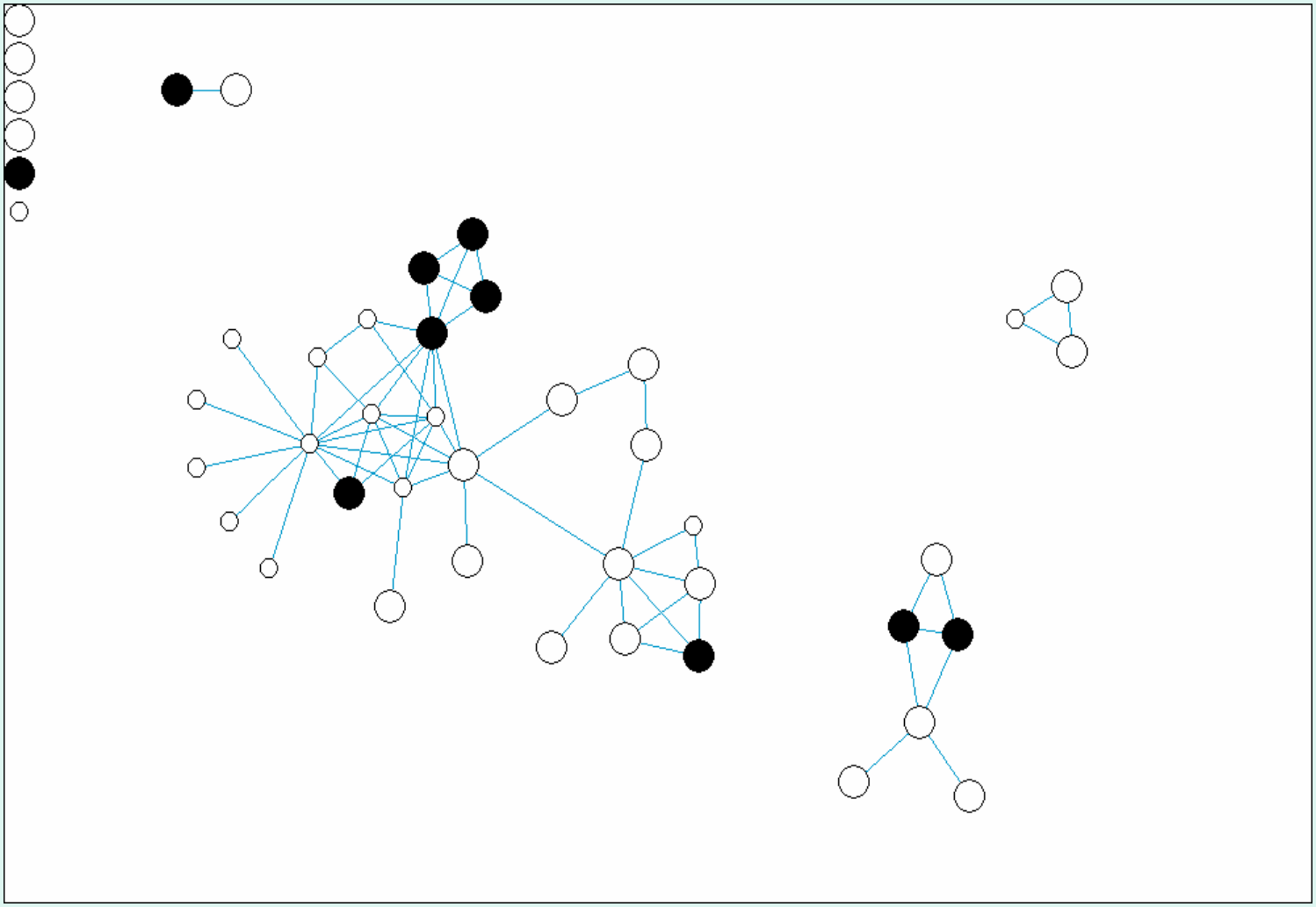
Profile 3: Multiple subgroups network



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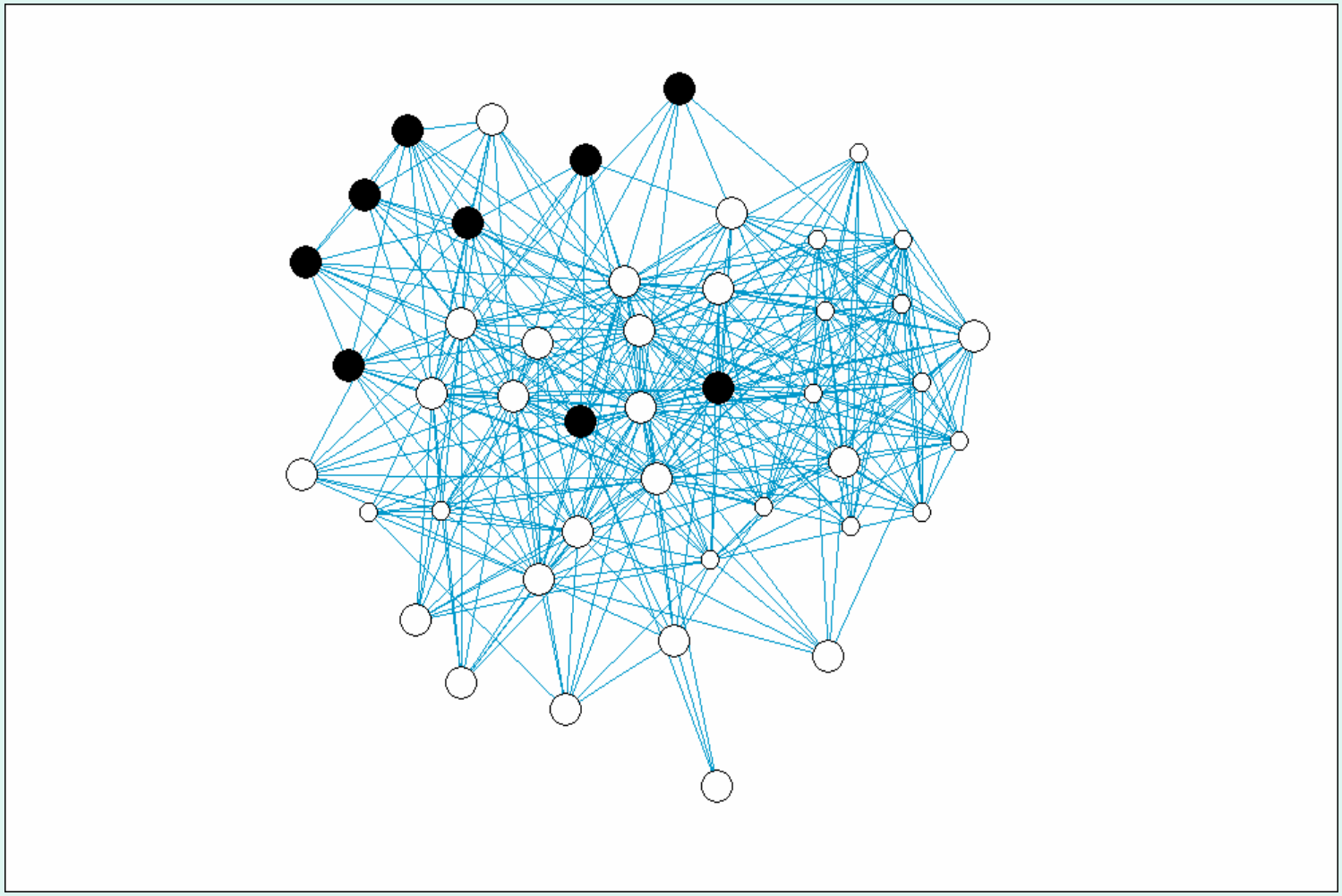
Profile 4: Two worlds connected



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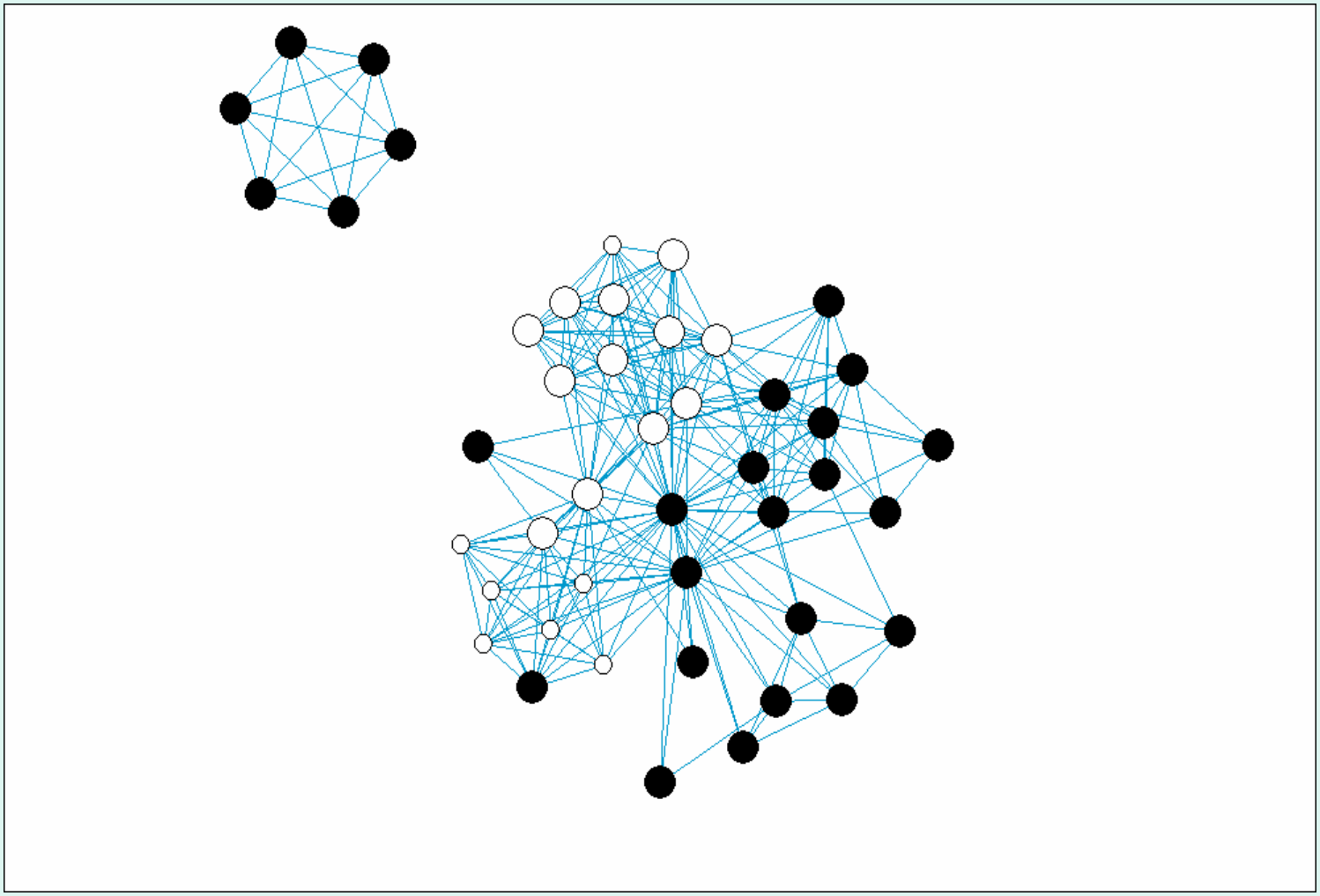
Profile 5: Embedded network



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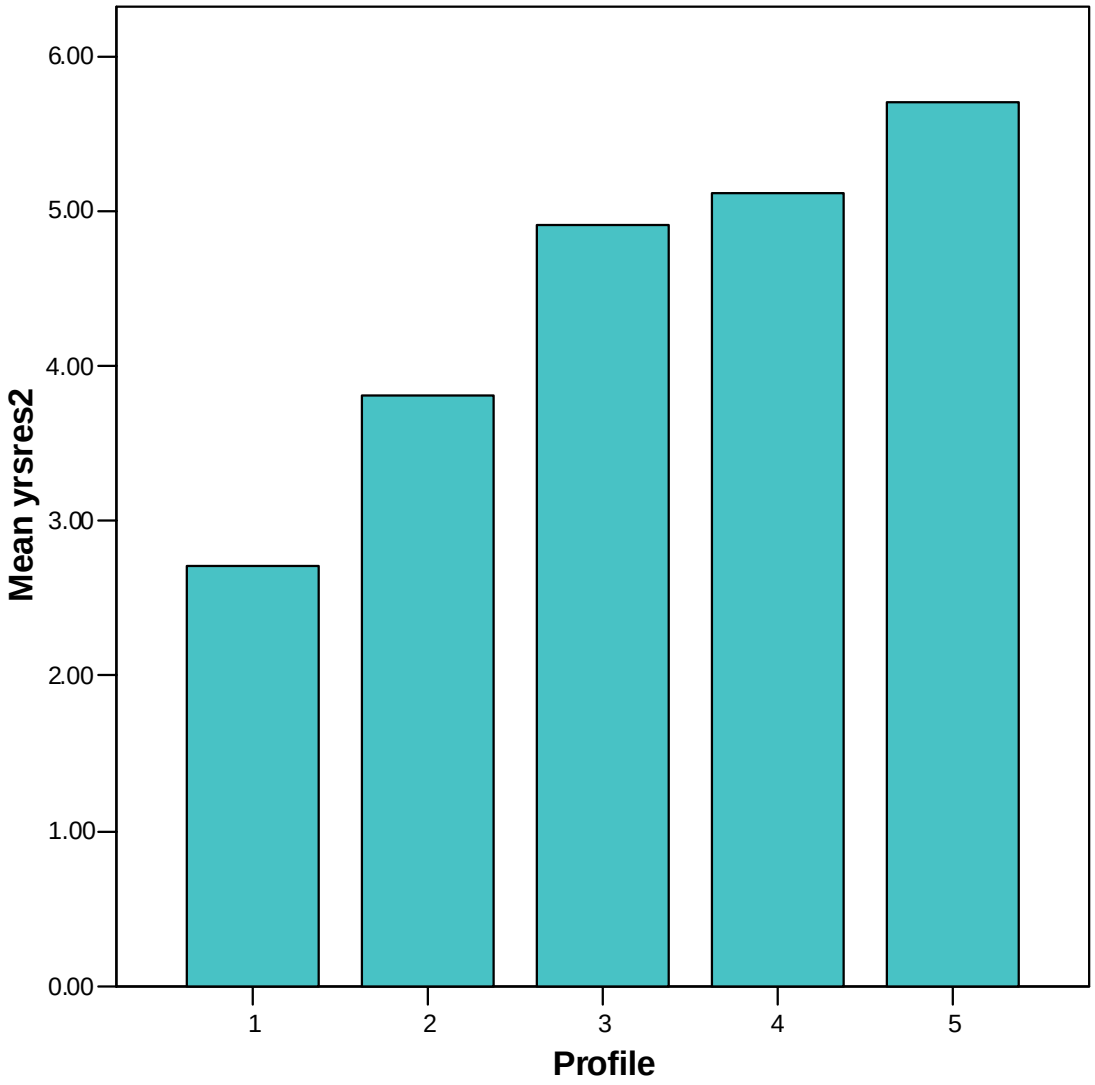
Is the partition related to years of residence?



Overall:

F (4, 2.67) = 6.634,

$p < .001$

Per profile:

There are two homogeneous subsets that differ significantly in years of residence: Profiles 1 and 2, versus profiles 3, 4, and 5.

Is the partition also related to years of residence when controlled for background characteristics?

Multinominal logistic regression

- **Age** and **employment status** did not have significant effects
- **Sex** and **country of origin**, however, influenced profile membership significantly: e.g., Senegambians had a higher probability to have a “dense family network” than others.
- However, even controlled for these background characteristics, years of residence still predicts cluster membership.

Conclusion

- The network profiles give valuable information about adaptation to a host country
- The scarce network and the dense family network seem “transitional networks”, whereas the other three seem more settled.

Need for a longitudinal model

- To investigate how networks in each of the profiles evolve.
- To investigate whether there are different trajectories of network change, depending on (e.g.) **culture** and **entry situation**
- We now perform a second wave as part of the ECRP Project "*Dynamics of actors and networks across levels: individuals, groups, organizations and social settings*"

Thank you

- The paper can be obtained via: MirandaJessica.Lubbers@UAB.es