

Diversity, community and participation: the
dynamics of personal networks of immigrants
Sevilla, September 21st, 2007

Isidro Maya Jariego & José Luis Molina



European Collaborative Research Project (ECRP) *Dynamics of Actors and
Networks across Levels: Individuals, Groups, Organizations and Social Settings*

<http://stat.gamma.rug.nl/ECRP-DANL/>.



The role of personal networks in the model of the coevolution of social networks and behaviour



- Dynamics of personal networks: processes and patterns of change in the composition and structure of personal networks.
- The use of personal network data as information in the SIENA model:
 - The SIENA software is designed to analyse the simultaneous dynamics of networks and behaviour.
 - This type of study requires disentangling the relative impact of social influence and social selection processes.

Personal networks and migration...

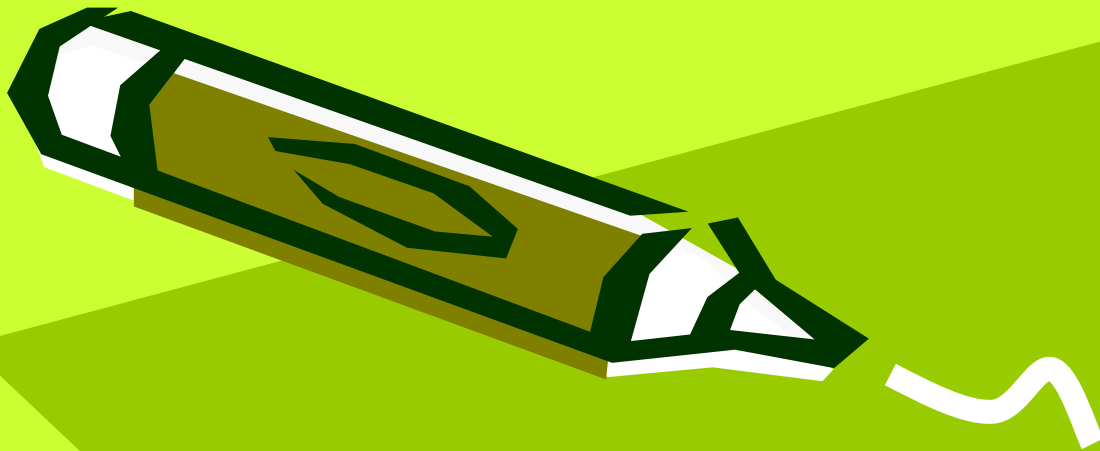
- International migration leads to changes in social *integration*, in the *structure* of the social network, and in the support *functions* that result from them.
 - Individuals move into a community where they have a weaker structural integration and greater relational mobility.
 - This change is concomitant with a lower availability of help and a higher concentration of the support functions.



Personal networks and migration...



- The process of psychological adaptation is reflected in the changes occurring in the personal network (in size, structure, and functional dynamics) through time:
 - Support networks grow gradually through the association with compatriots, family regrouping, and contacts with host society members.
 - Acculturation alters the composition of the personal network by increasing its heterogeneity, while it also affects the level of structural cohesion, since well-defined groups of players appear more frequently.
 - All of these changes lead to a reorganisation in the distribution of support functions, which recovers a greater balance between the providers involved.



Ecological transitions: multiple
affiliations and personal network dynamics.
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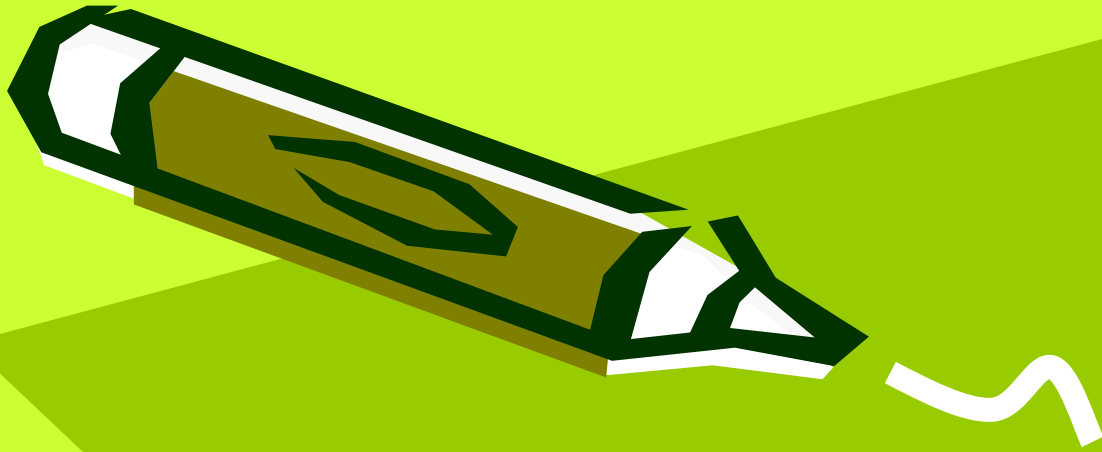
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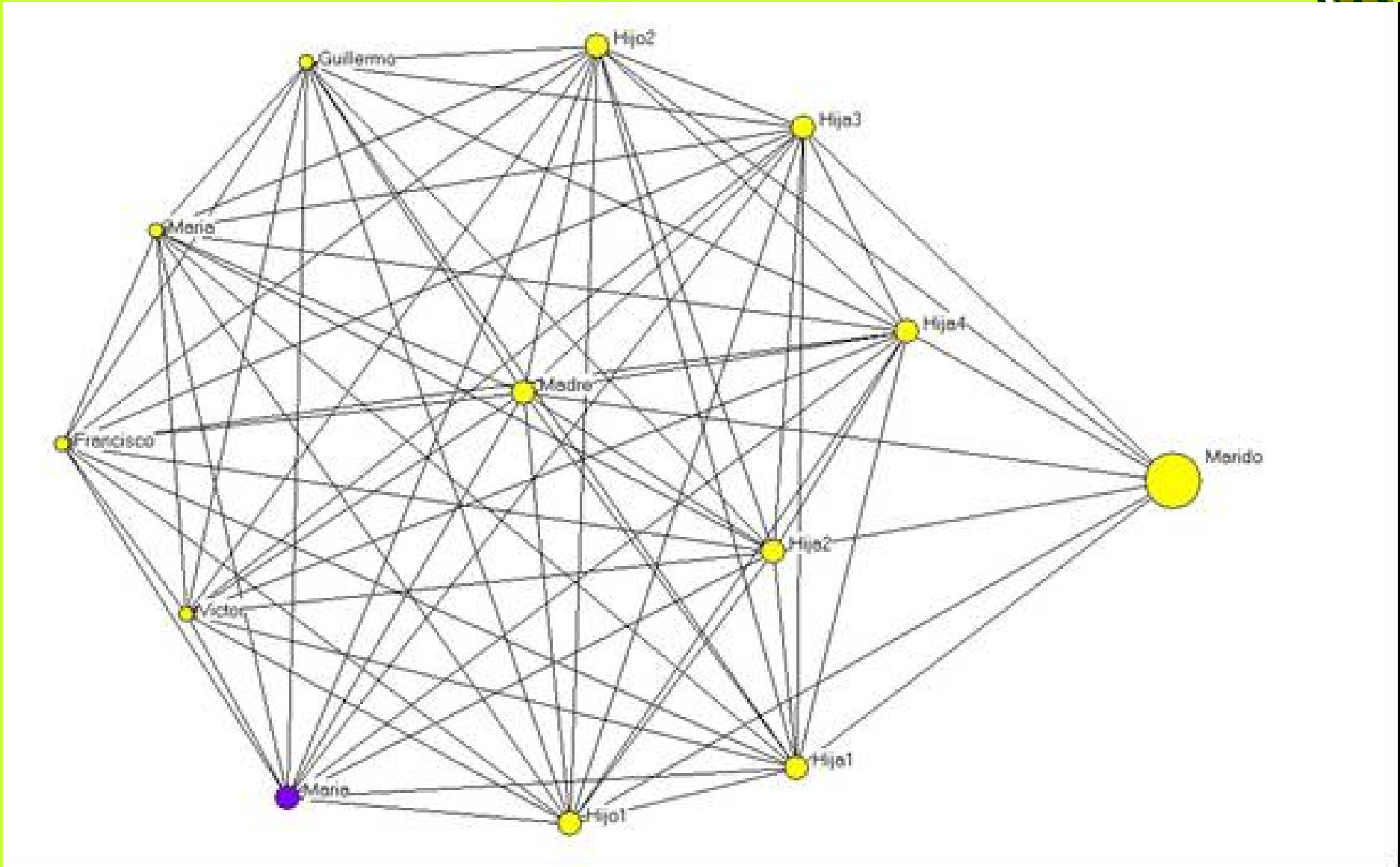
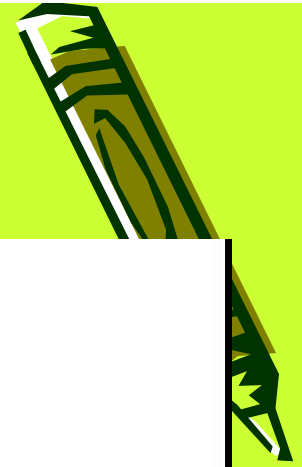




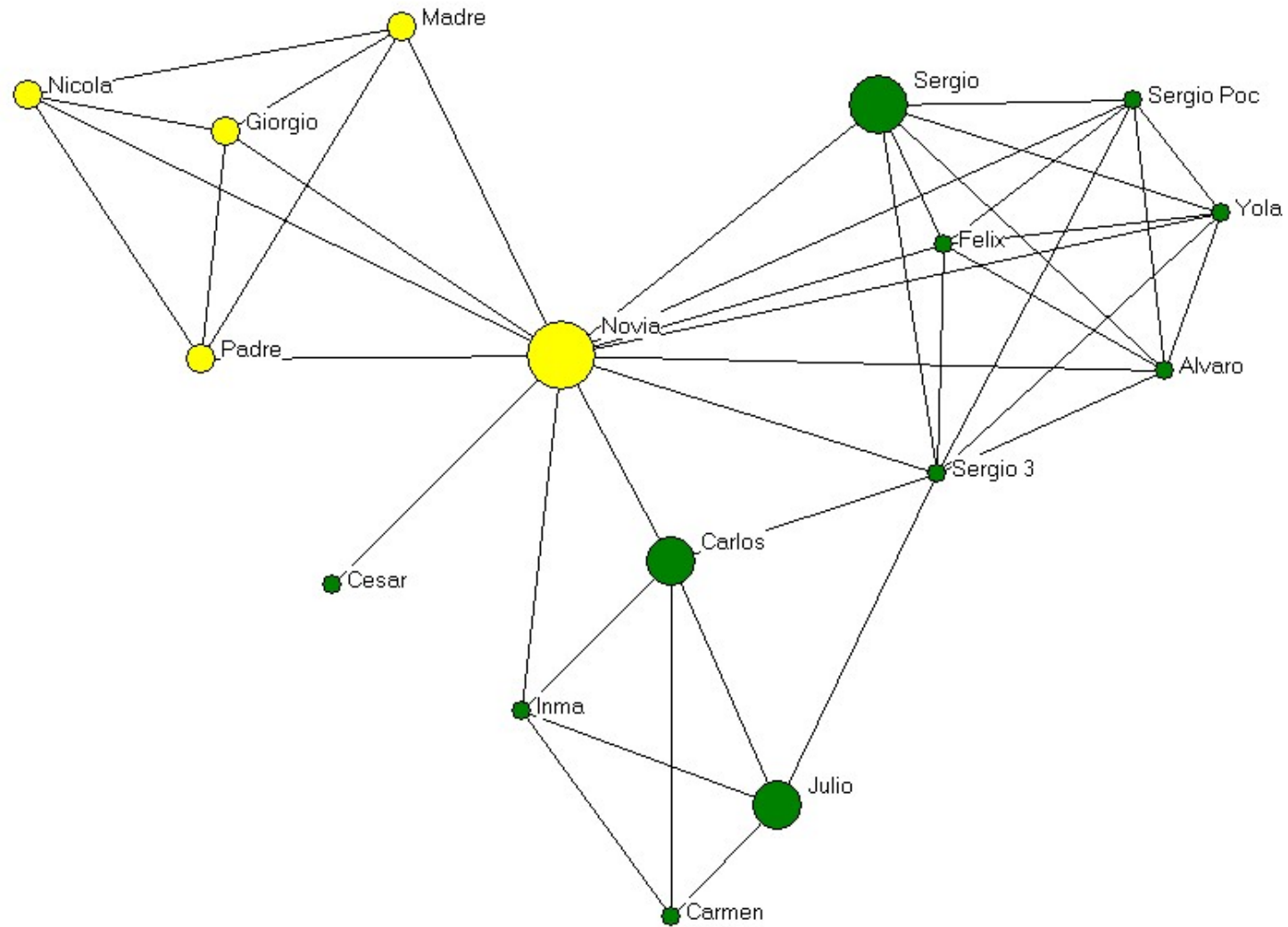
MIGRANTS AND NETWORKS



Rosa, ecuadorian woman, 33 years old



Max, italian male, 36 years old



Dimensions in personal networks



- Composition
- Structure
- Multiplexity
- Size

Social networks and immigrant populations

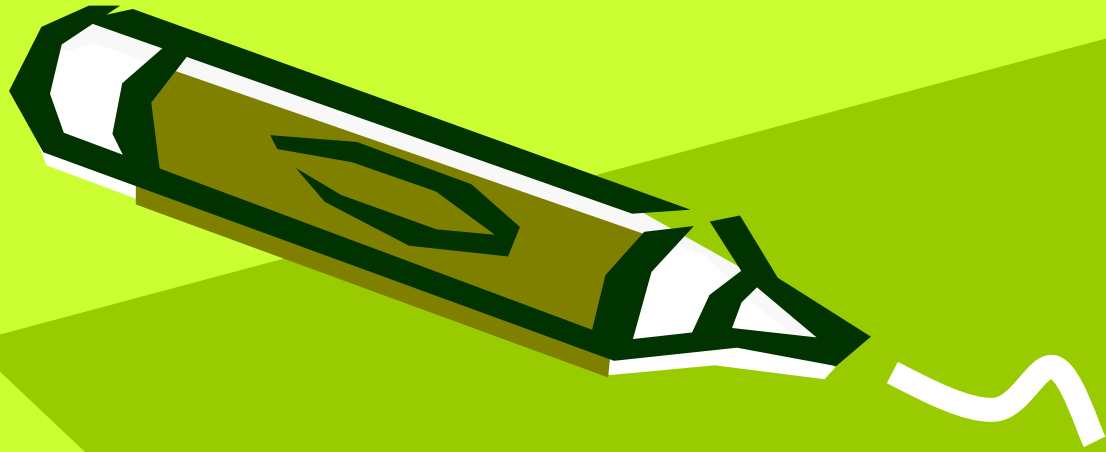


- Chain migration and international displacement
- Social support networks, psychological adaptation and social integration

Research with immigrants

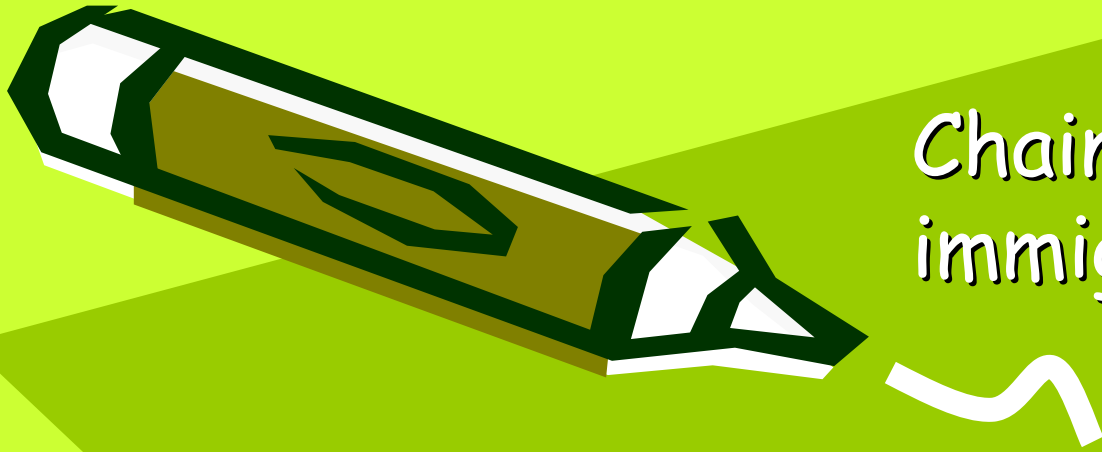


- Assessing the impact of displacement on the amount of available support.
- Verifying the primarily family-oriented composition of the networks of individuals who come from traditional cultures.
- Detailing the changes that the immigrant's personal environment experiences over time in the new receiving context.

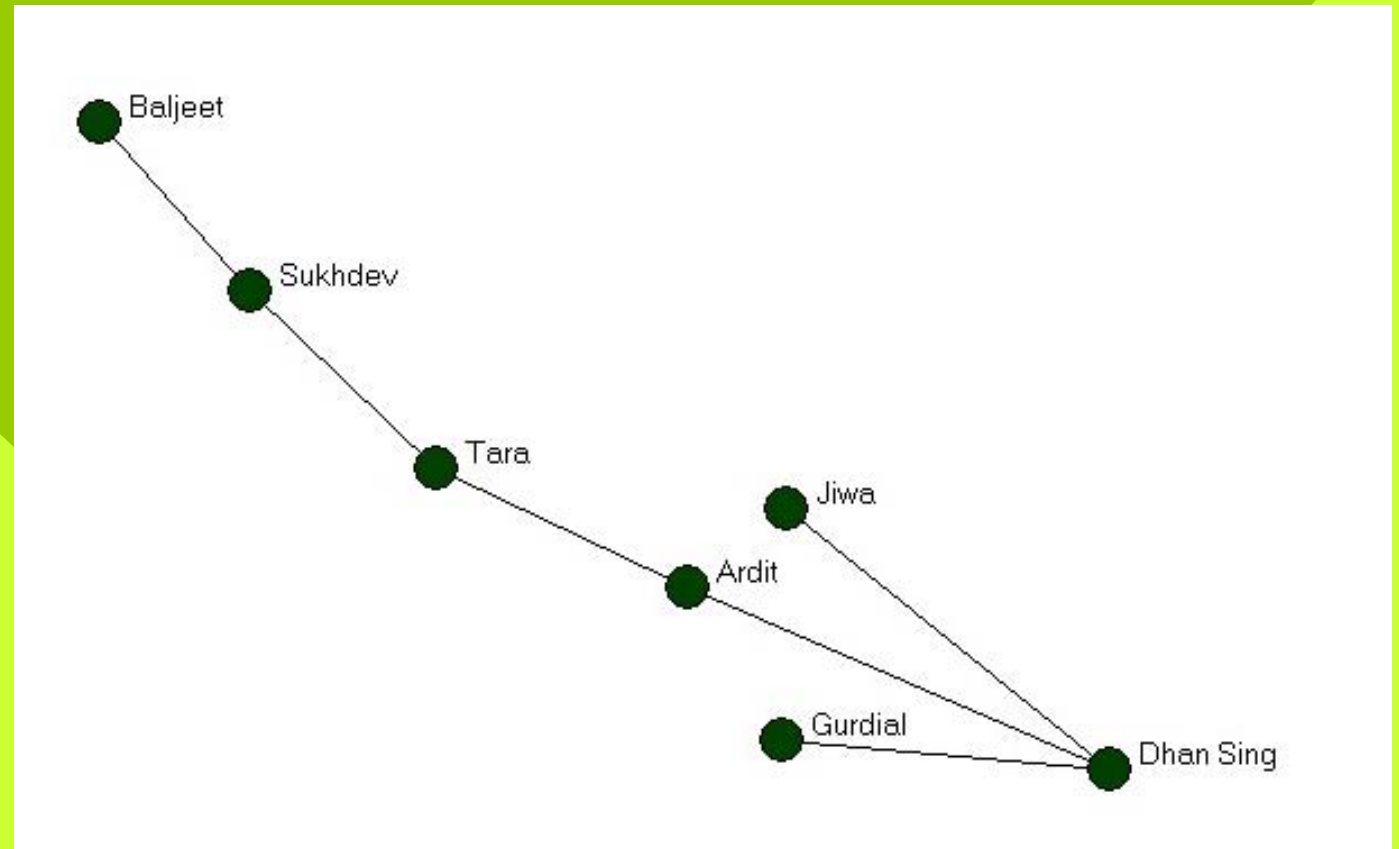


1. Chain migration





Chain of Indian immigrants in Argentina



Consequences of chain migration

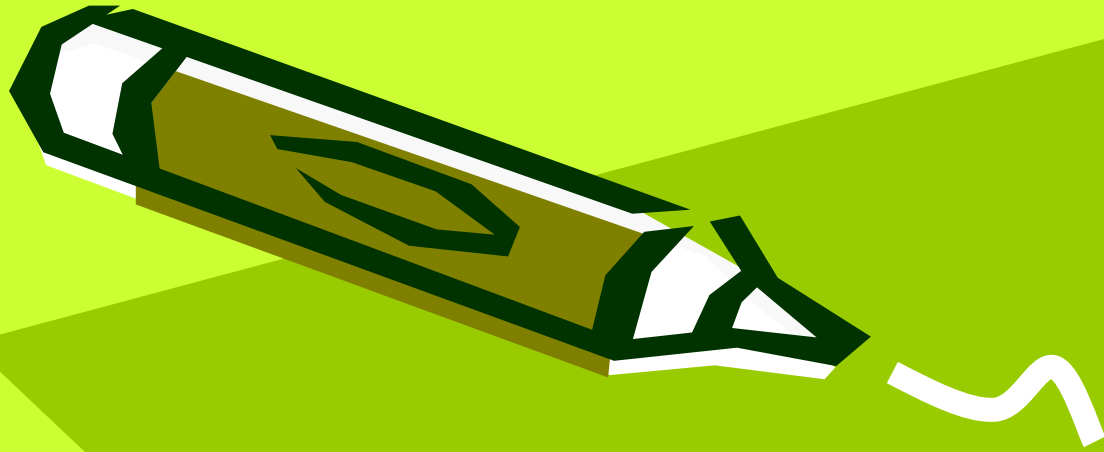
- Migration become an "endogenous" process.
- Diffusion of migration in the social structure of the sending country.
- Affects the processes of psychological adaptation and social integration.



Impact of chain migration

- Immigrants belong to very dynamic relational communities.
- The size and organisation of the expatriate community determine the structure of opportunities for establishing new contacts.
- The level of family regrouping can condition the distribution of support functions.

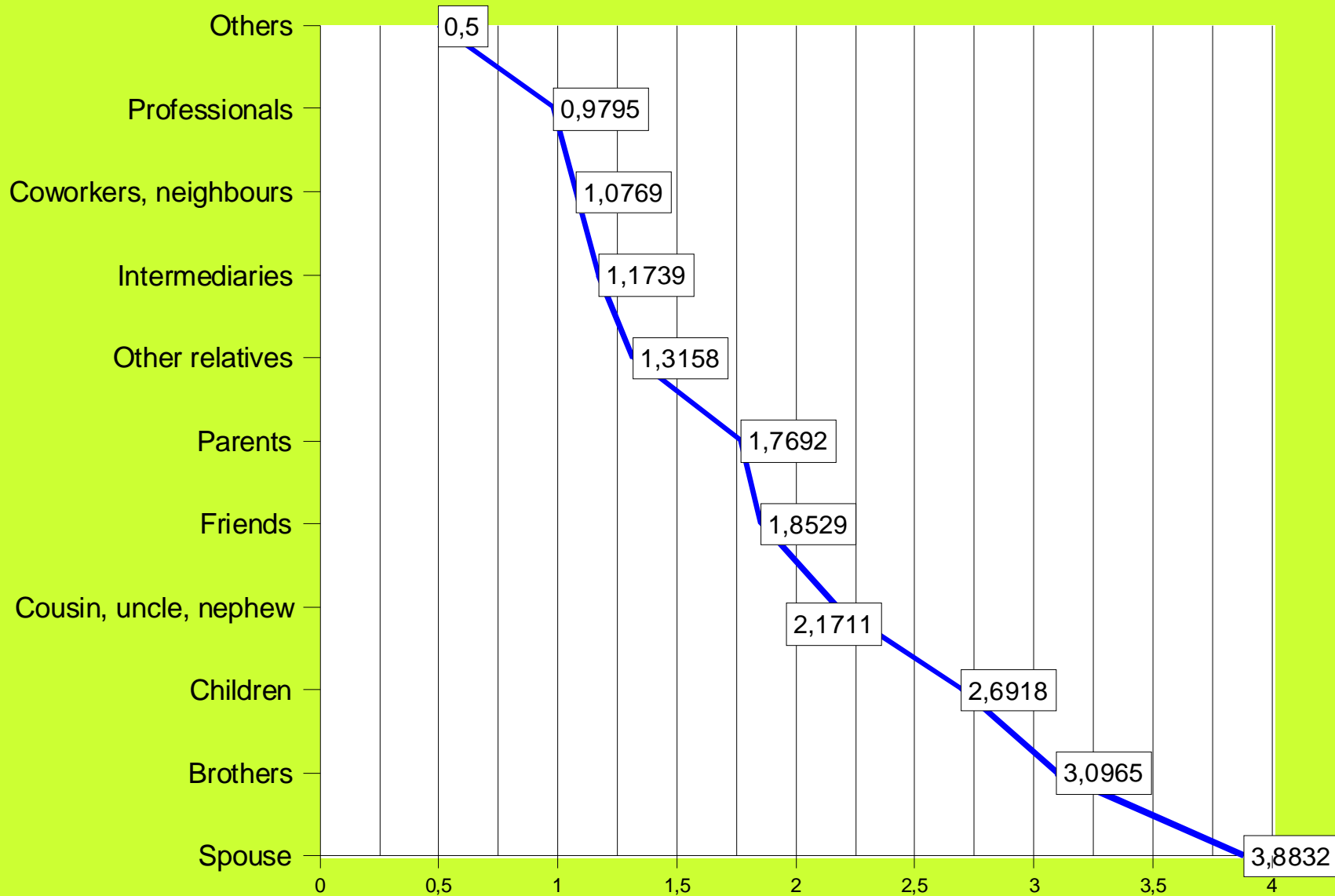




2. The strenght of ties



Multiplexity of support providers



Three levels of multiplexity



Table 2 The 11 most frequent multiplicity configurations

	A	B	C	D	E	F	Frequency	Percentage	Accumulated percentage
Company provider						X	659	29.60	29.60
Synergetic tie 1	X	X	X	X	X	X	220	9.88	39.48
Physical help provider					X		140	6.29	45.77
Material help provider		X					132	5.93	51.70
Positive feedback provider				X			126	5.66	57.36
Companion 1				X		X	100	4.49	61.85
Synergetic tie 2	X	X	X	X		X	63	2.83	64.68
Companion 2	X			X		X	61	2.74	67.42
Advice provider			X				54	2.43	69.85
Confidante support provider	X						51	2.29	72.14
Companion 3	X					X	41	1.84	73.98

Types of help: A: emotional help or the expression of personal feeling; B: material or tangible help; C: advice or information; D: positive feedback or social reinforcement; E: physical or instrumental help; and F: company or social participation.

Three types of relationships

- Specialized ties
- Companions
- Sinergetic ties



TYPES OF PERSONAL NETWORKS



Table 3. Toward a general typology of immigrants' personal networks

Type of personal network	Size	Profile
Minimal network	0-3 Providers	Women. Moroccans. Divorcees and widows. High depression scores.
Small network with a majority of compatriot friends	4-6 Providers. Primarily fellow immigrants	Most prevalent type among recent immigrants.
Medium-size network of relatives and compatriots	7-10 Providers	Second most prevalent type.
Medium-size network with a majority of non-relatives and Spaniards	7-10 Providers	Men. Single. Young. Latin-American
Wide network resulting from family regrouping	10-15 Providers	Stable in socio-economic terms. Intention of remaining in Spain.
Wide regrouping network integrated in the local community	12-15 Providers	Men. Single. Young.

Some general characteristics...

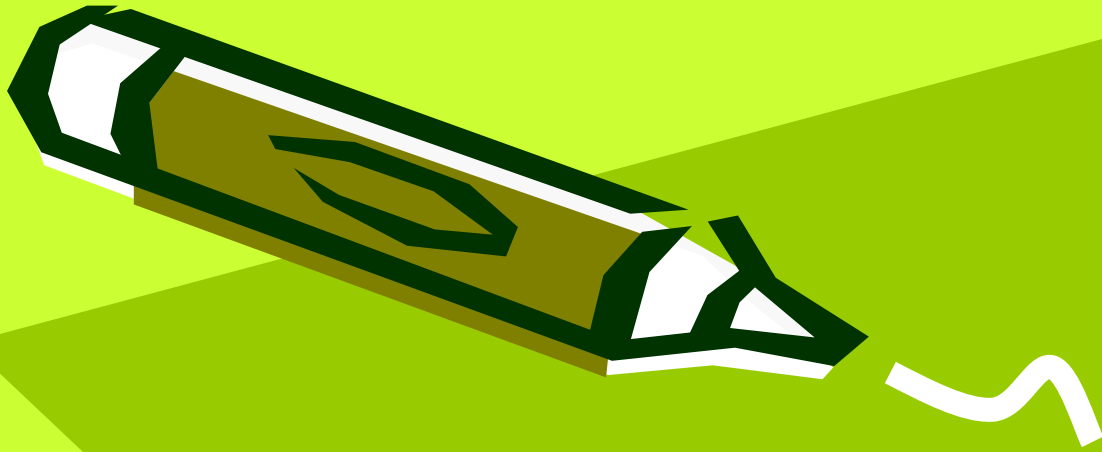


- International migration leads to changes in *social integration*, in the *structure* of the social network, and in the *support functions* that result from them
 - Less structural embeddedness
 - More relational mobility
 - Less availability of social support
 - Concentration of social support functions
 - Re-building the size, structural and functional dynamics of personal networks
 - Acculturation: more heterogeneity and less cohesion, reorganization of support functions...

Multiplexity and the structure of personal networks



- The distribution of support *functions*, both on an individual and on a group level, is one of the key processes in the determination of the structure and evolution of personal networks:
 - Hypothesis of the evolution of personal relationships. The history of personal relationships is expressed in the changes in multiplexity through time.
 - Hypothesis of competition between all the active multiple relationships (or the limits to multiple affiliations).
 - Hypothesis of a collective market of social support (or the distribution of multiplexity on a collective level).



THANKS!
Isidro Maya Jariego
isidromj@us.es

