


Acculturation Strategies in relation to Economic and Psychological Adaptation of Immigrants in Greece

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Acknowledgments

- Research assistants for data collection:

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- The **Hellenic Immigration Policy Institute** provided financial support and facilitated contact with immigrant associations in Greece.

Presentation Outline

- Definitions
- Immigration in Greece
- Acculturation framework
- Research questions
- Method
- Results
- Conclusions
- Limitations and future directions

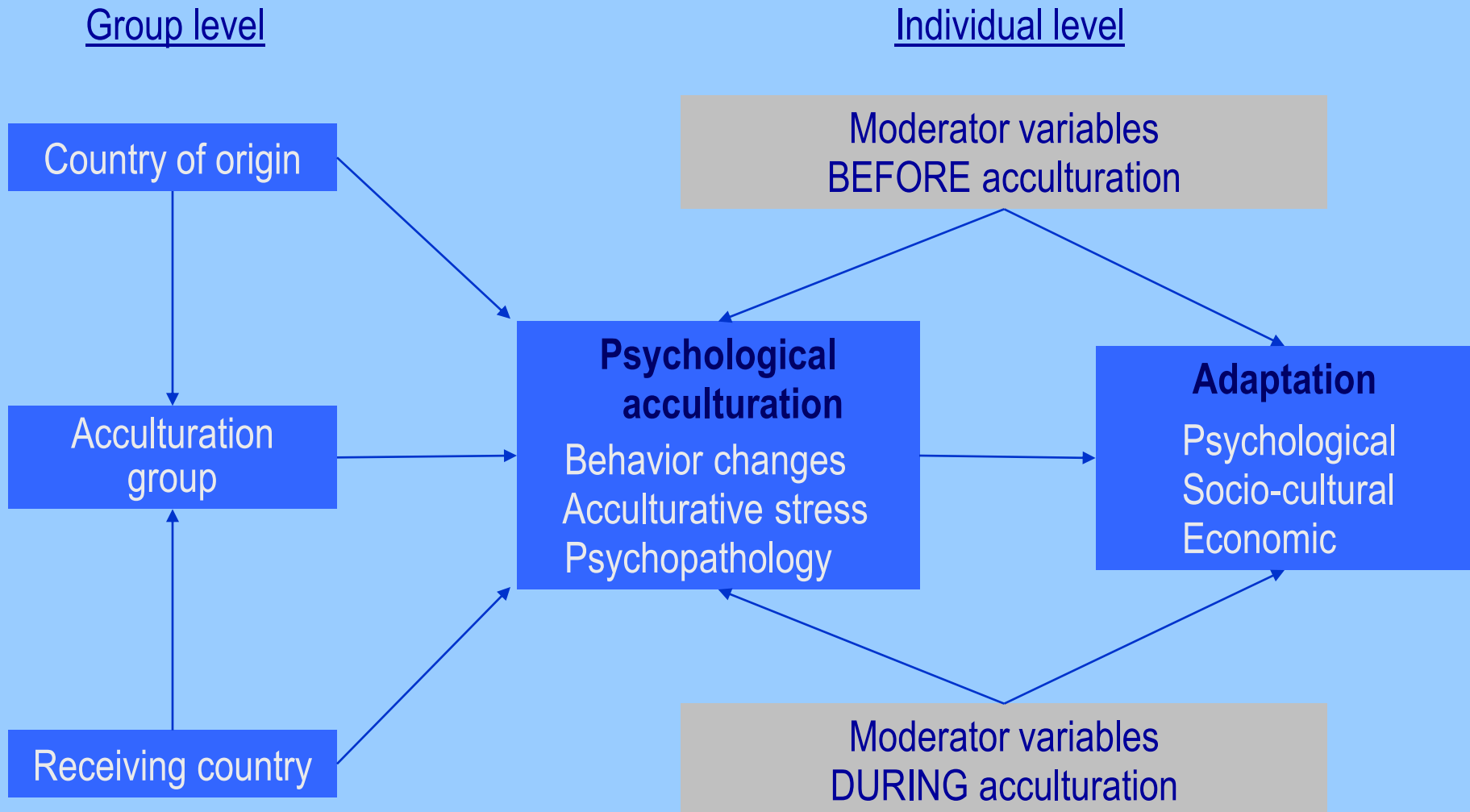
Definitions

- **Acculturation:** the phenomena related to intercultural contact. It is viewed as a bidimensional (rather than a unidimensional) process, as well as an intergroup (rather than an interpersonal) one.
- **Adaptation:** the sociocultural and psychological (attitude and behavior) changes that result from acculturation.
- The study of acculturative processes is necessary in order to better understand the findings from research on immigration, which are often contradictory (Baubock et al., 1996).

Immigration: Greek Data

- Immigration in Greece: transition from the emigration to the immigration experience.
- The number of immigrants quintupled within 10 years, between 1991-2001.
- Officially, the number of immigrants reaches 7% of the total population (GNSD, 2001)...
- ...while the proportion of undocumented immigrants is estimated to be of similar size (Fakiolas, 2003).
- About 100.000 immigrant children and adolescents are enrolled in Greek schools (Γκότοβος & Μάρκου, 2004).

Acculturation Framework (Berry, 1997)



Acculturation strategies (Berry, 1997, 2005)

Ethnocultural Groups <i>Larger Society</i>		Is it important to maintain heritage culture and identity?	
		YES	NO
Is it important to maintain contact with larger society and/or outgroups?	YES	Integration <i>Multiculturalism</i>	Assimilation <i>Melting Pot</i>
	NO	Separation <i>Segregation</i>	Marginalization <i>Exclusion</i>

Research Questions

- What strategies are adopted by immigrants in order to deal with the multiple challenges of acculturation?
- What is the level of socio-economic and psychological adaptation of immigrants in Greece?
- What is the relationship between acculturation strategies and immigrant adaptation?
 - Explore the effect of demographic variables (e.g., country of origin, length of stay in host country) on acculturation and adaptation.
 - Test for a structural equation model that specifies relations between acculturation with adaptation.

Demographic Characteristics of Participants

Country of origin	N	Age (Mn)	Women (%)	Years in GR (Mn)	Education (Mn/7-point)
Albania	277	35.2	39.4	9.4	3.6
Balkan countries	89	38.0	69.7	6.2	3.8
Former USSR and Eastern Europe	108	36.3	66.7	7.0	4.4
Arab/Muslim	50	36.5	14.0	10.4	3.8
African countries	46	24.5	2.2	1.7	2.6
Latin America	20	43.6	57.1	14.6	4.3
Asian countries	7	30.1	10.0	5.0	4.1
Western countries	4	33.5	50.0	14.0	5.8
TOTAL	601	35.0	43.1	7.9	3.8

Greece in the world atlas



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Measures I: Variables Before and During Immigration

	BEFORE immigration	DURING immigration (acculturation)
<i>Demographic</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">✓ Ethnicity✓ Gender✓ Education level✓ Age	<ul style="list-style-type: none">✓ Length of stay in Greece✓ Residence area
<i>Psychosocial</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">✓ Motivation for immigration✓ Voluntary/forced immigration	<ul style="list-style-type: none">✓ Ethnic contact✓ Use of ethnic language✓ Host-national contact✓ Use of host language <p>Acculturation strategies</p>

Measures II: Adaptation Variables

Socio-economic adaptation indices

- ✓ Occupational status
- ✓ Steady job at present
- ✓ Monthly savings
- ✓ Economic benefits
- ✓ Professional development
- ✓ Improve financial status
- ✓ Improve occupational status

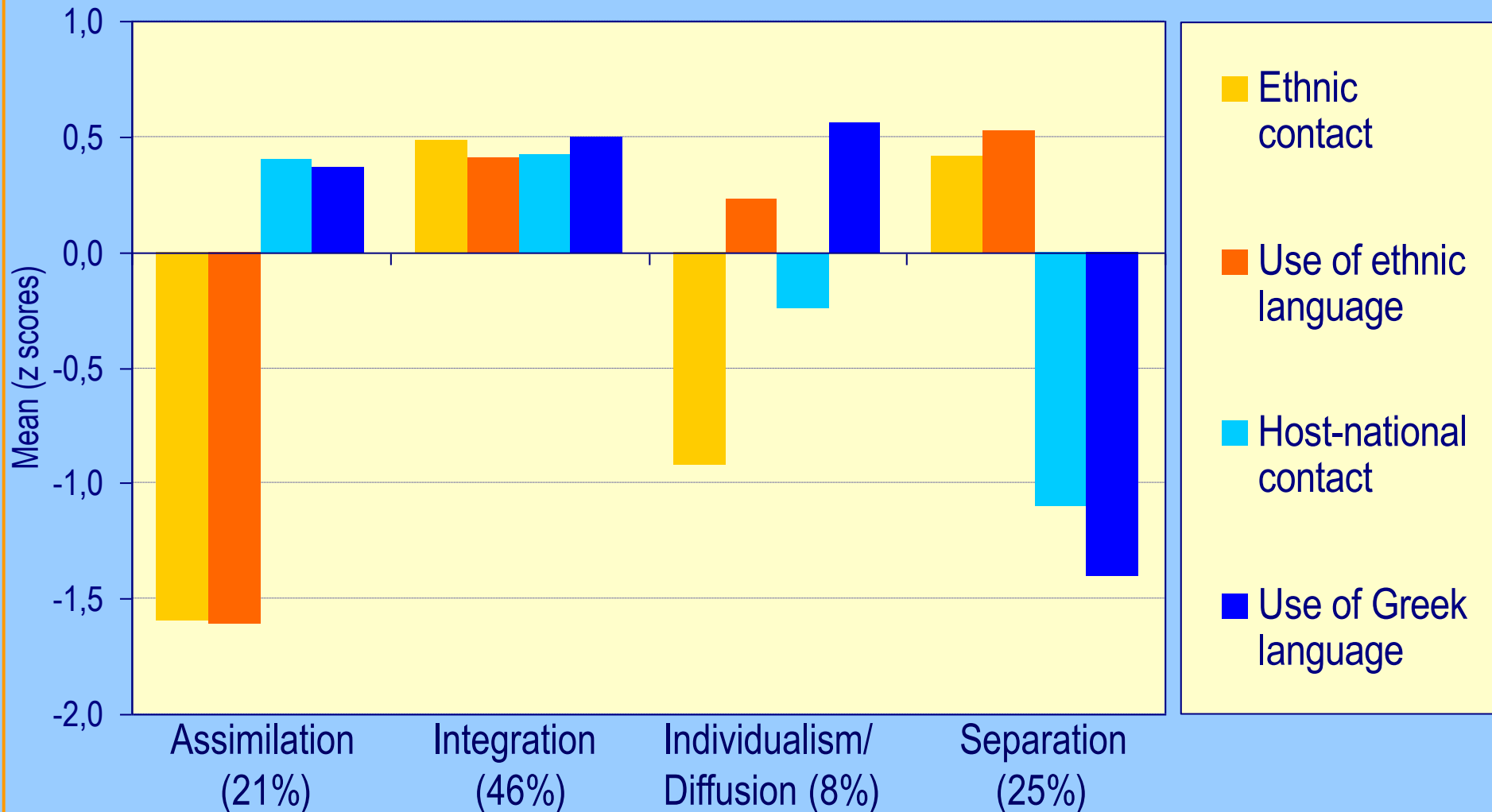
Psychological adaptation indices

- ✓ Gained skills
 - ✓ Lost skills (-)
 - ✓ Provide family support
 - ✓ Personal development
 - ✓ More opportunities
 - ✓ Isolated from family (-)
 - ✓ Lost social networks (-)
 - ✓ Racism (-)
 - ✓ Health problems (-)
 - ✓ Fulfilled expectations
-

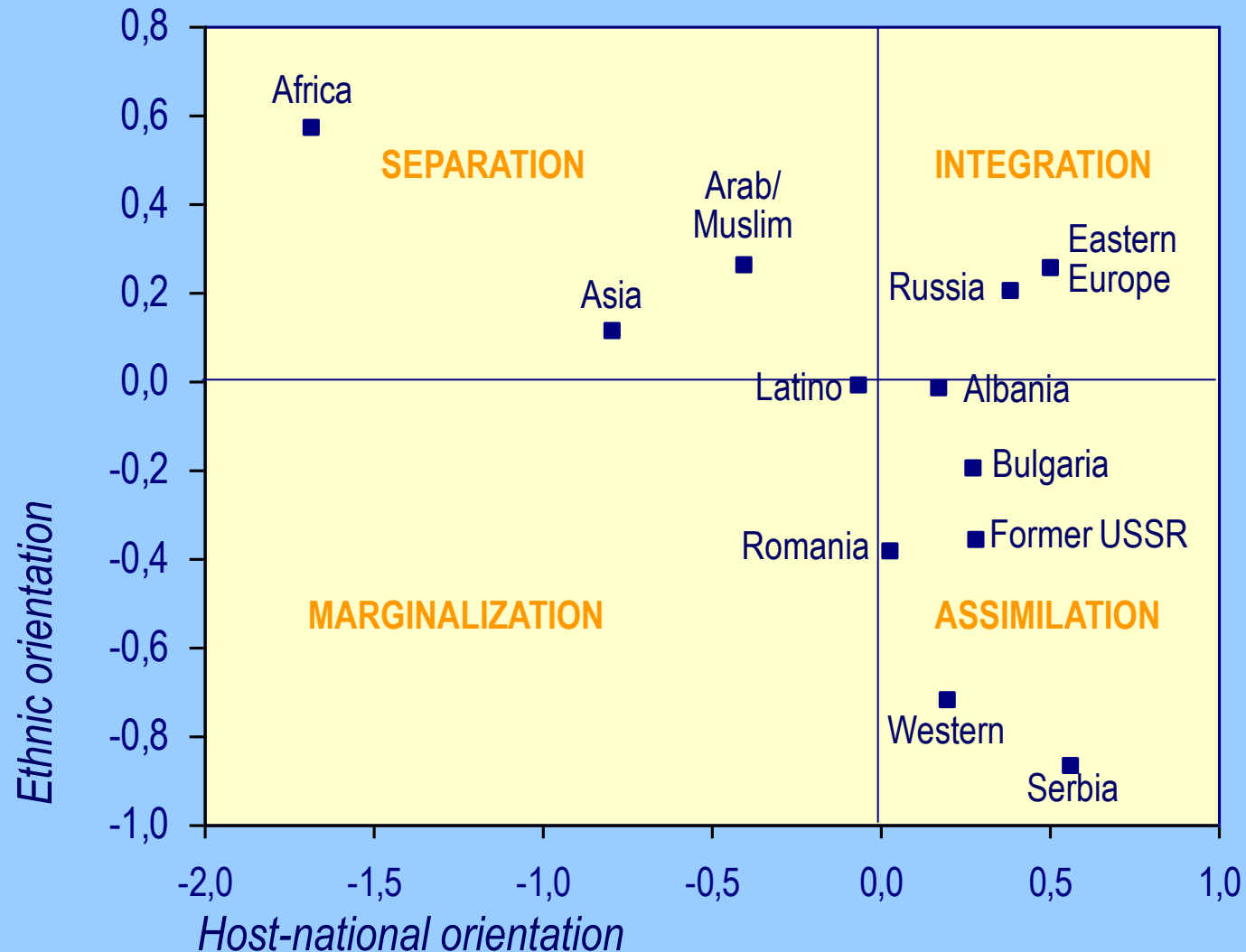
Results

- *Question 1.* Acculturation strategies of immigrants

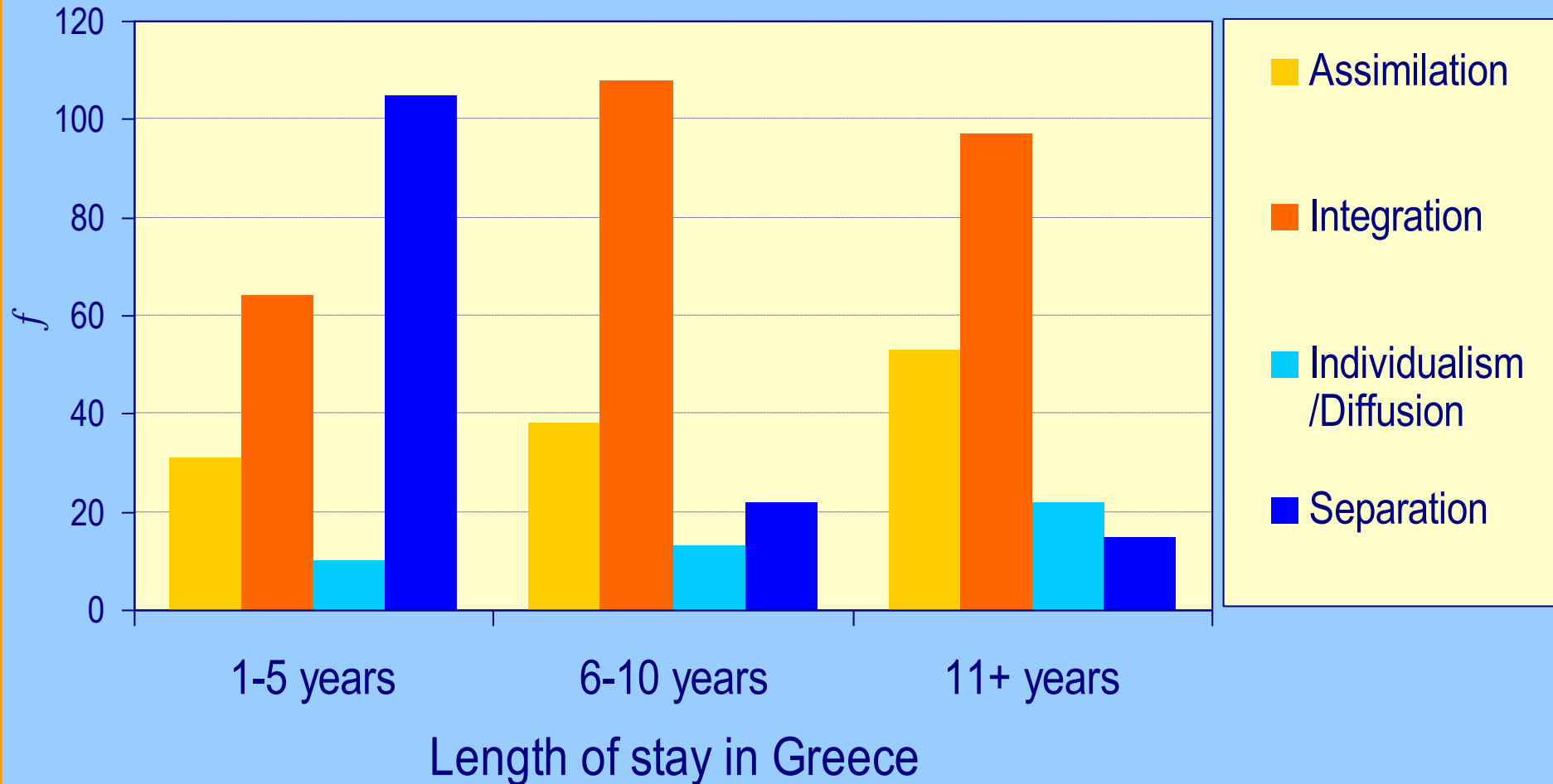
Clusters of Immigrants in Relation to Acculturation



Position of Immigrant Groups on the Ethnic and Host-National Orientation Indices



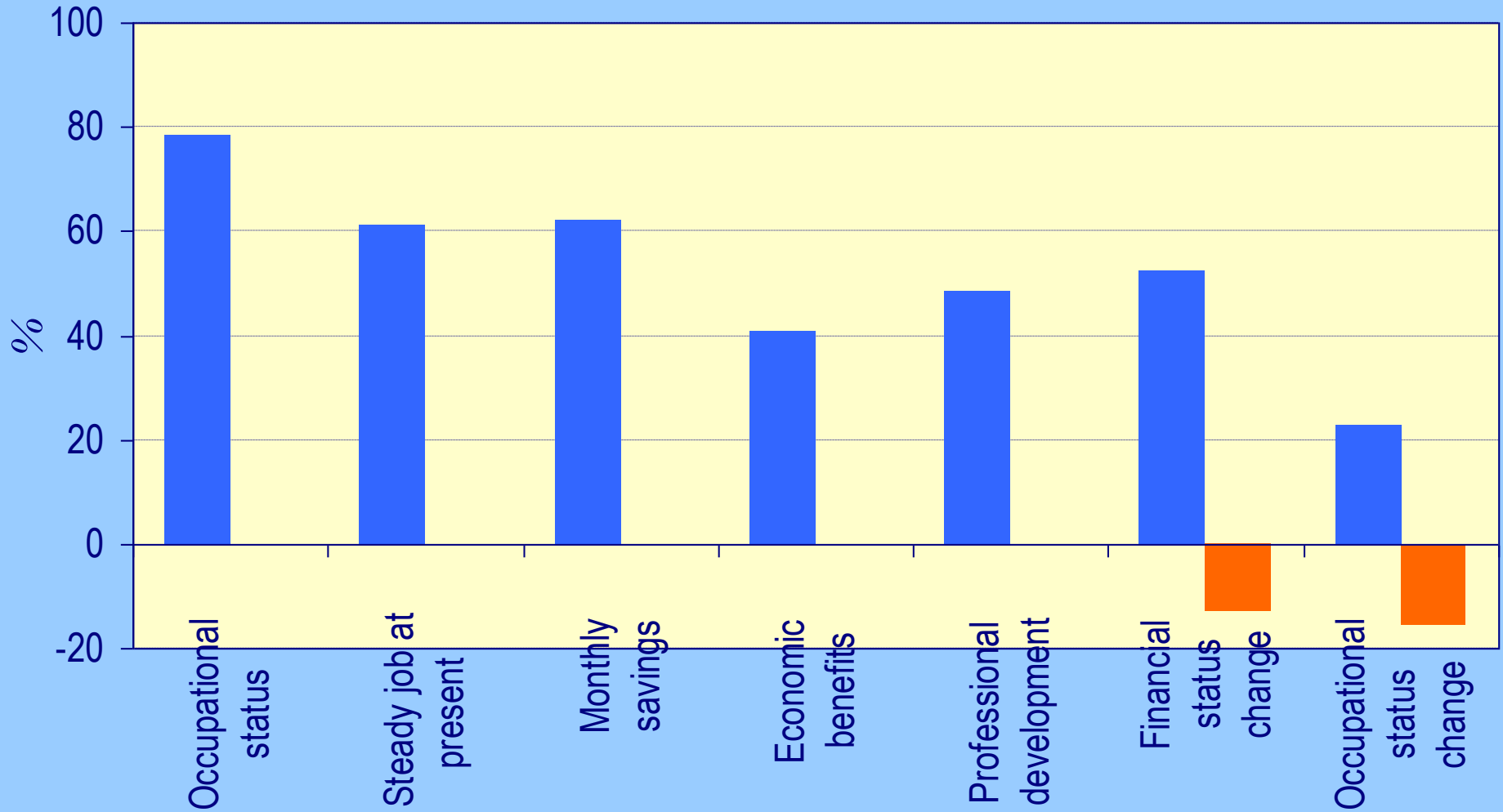
Acculturation Strategies as a function of Length of Stay in Greece



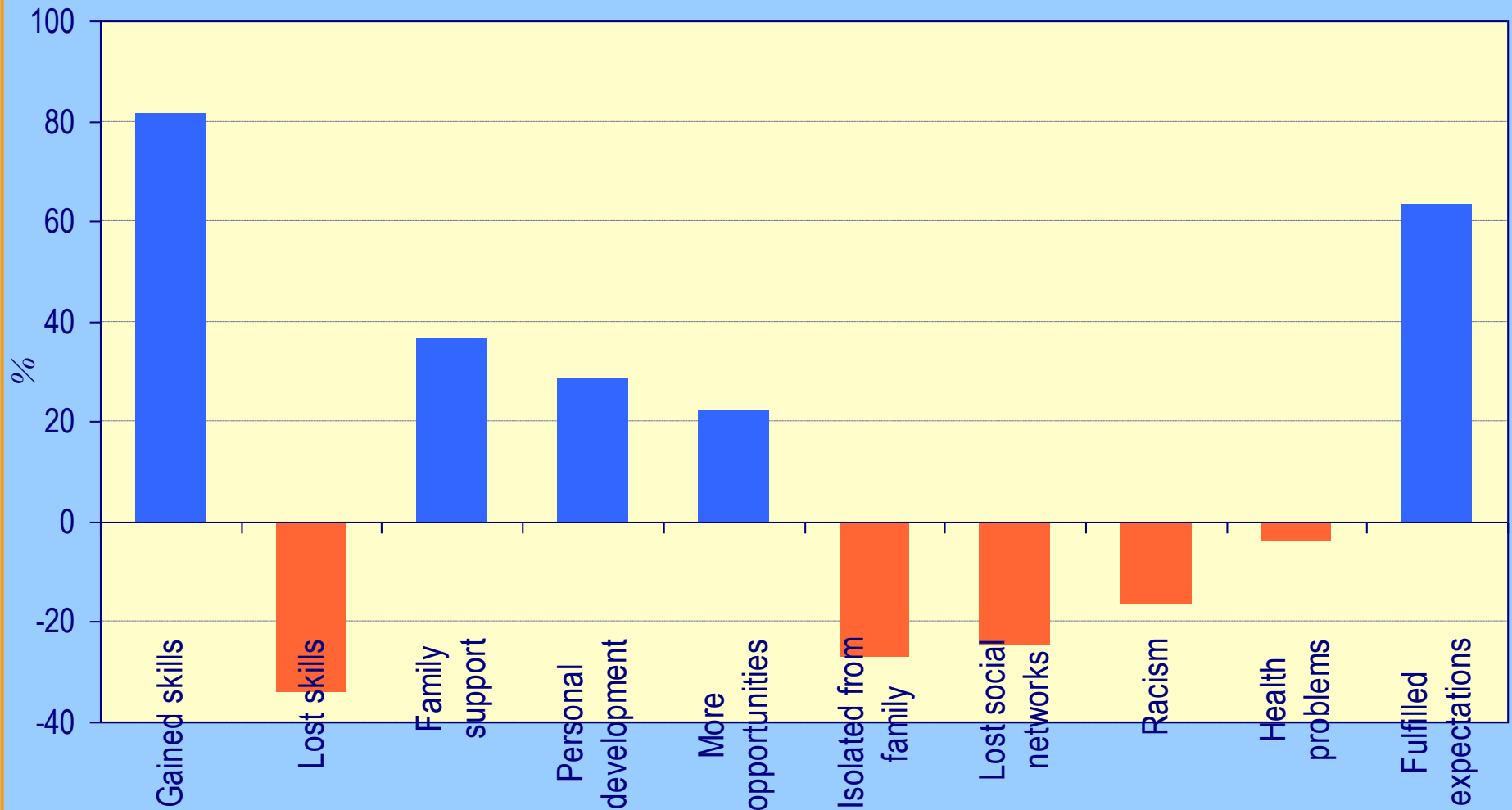
Results

- *Question 2.* Levels of socio-economic and psychological adaptation

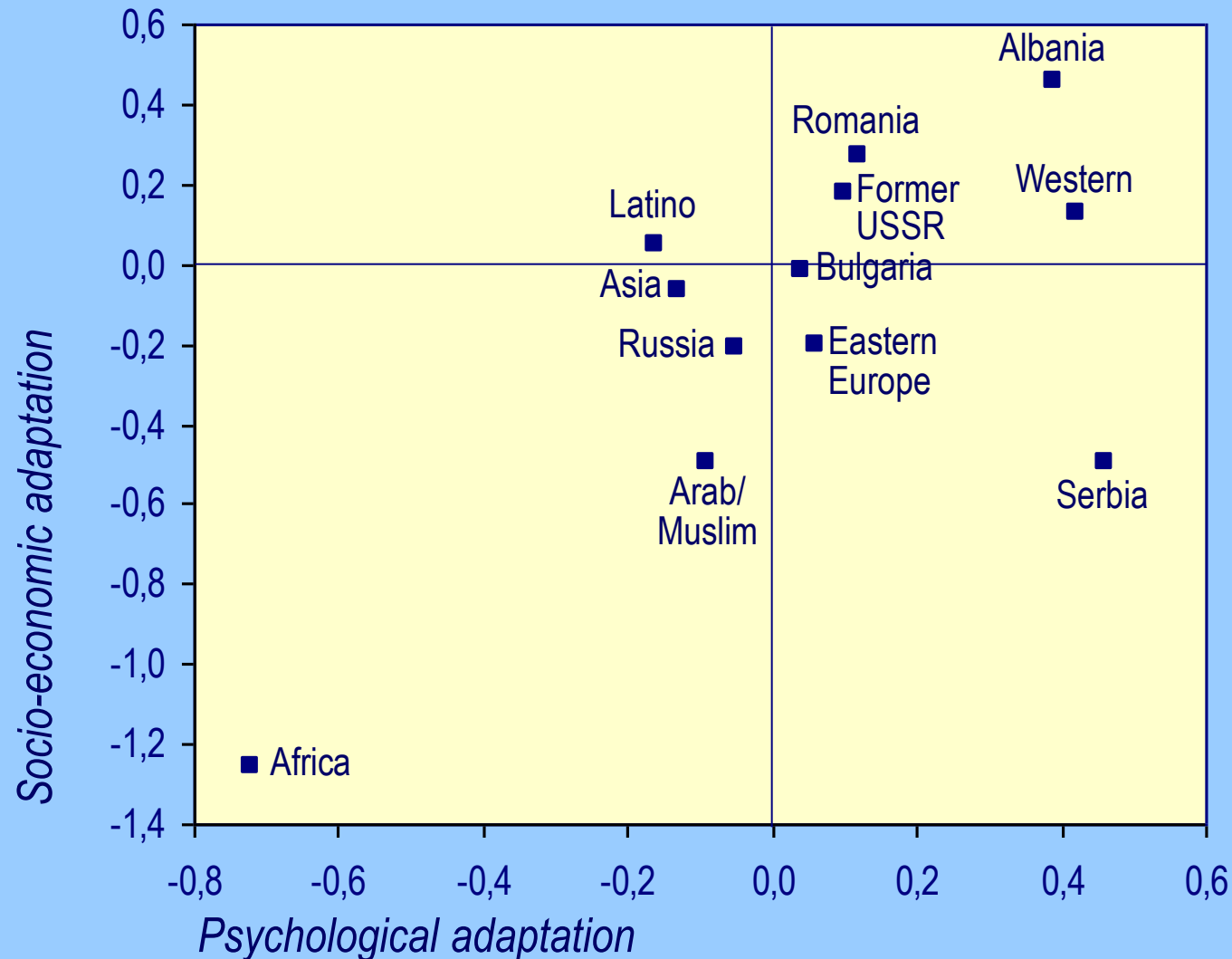
Socio-economic Adaptation Indices



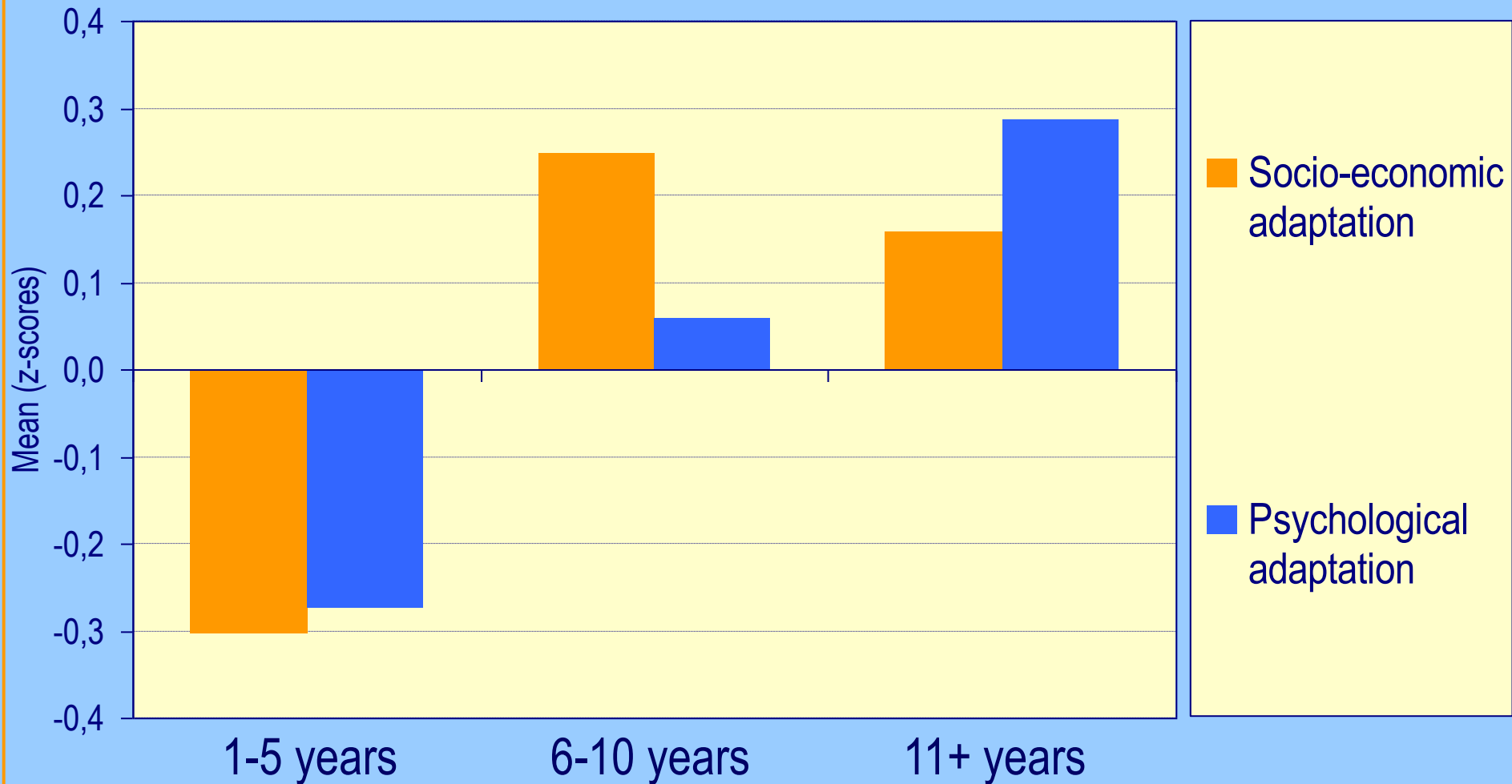
Psychological Adaptation Indices



Position of Immigrant Groups on the Socio-economic and Psychological Adaptation Indices



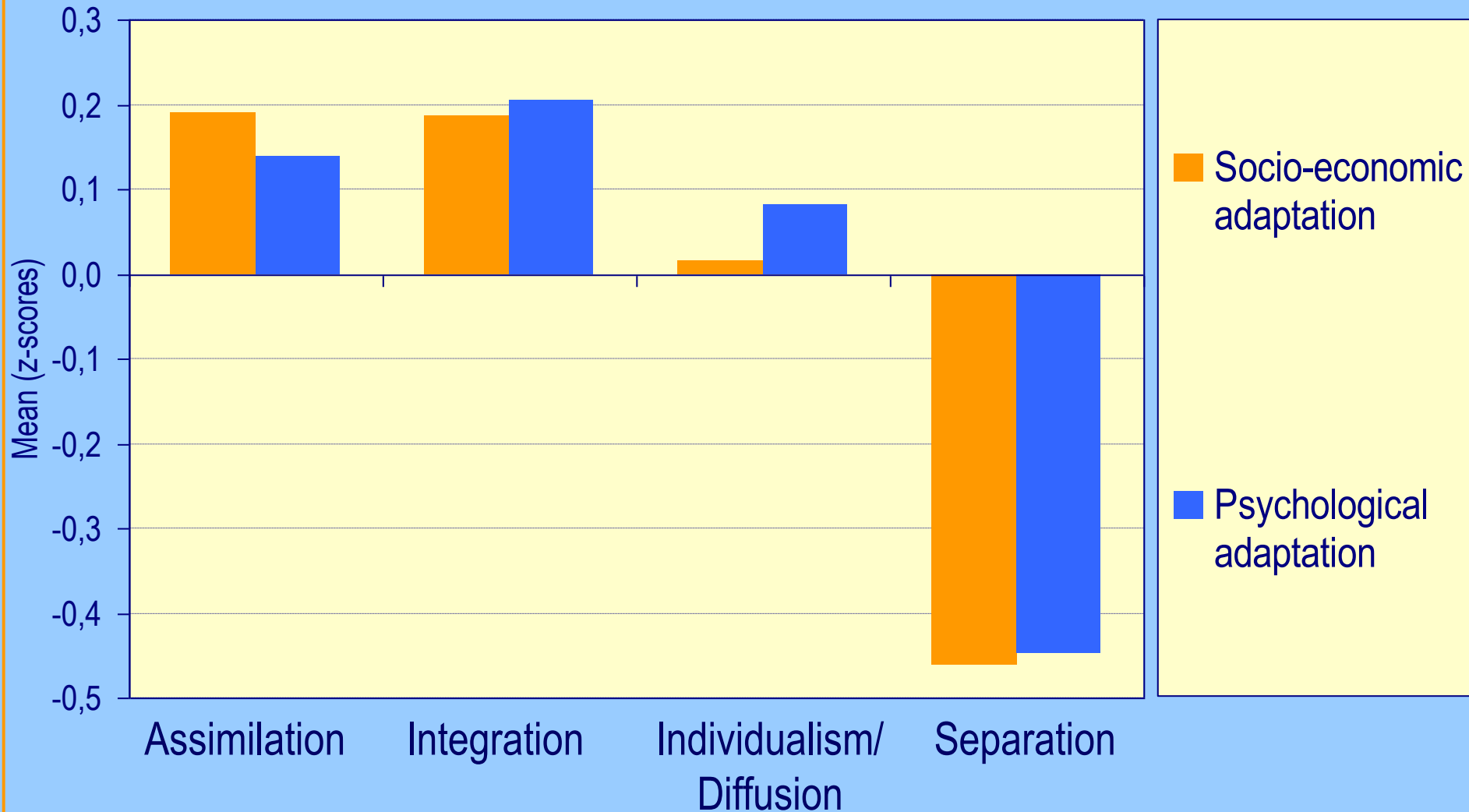
Socio-economic and Psychological Adaptation as a function of Length of Stay in Greece



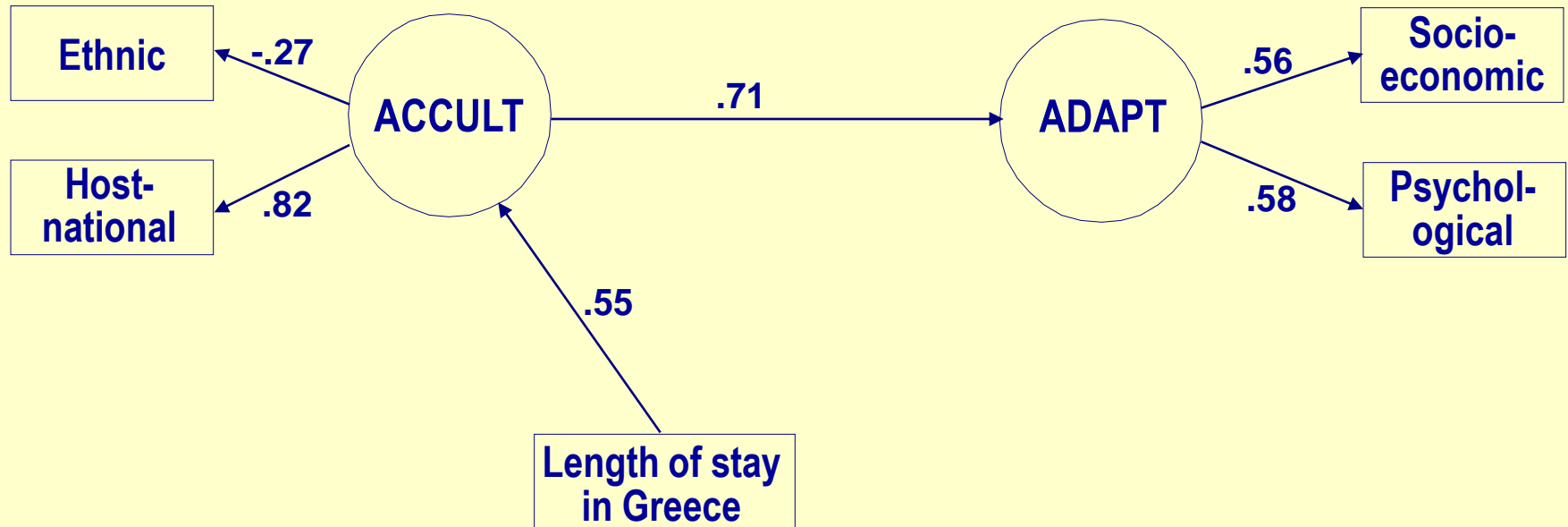
Results

- *Question 3.* Relationship between acculturation processes and immigrant adaptation

Socio-economic and Psychological Adaptation as a function of Acculturation Strategies



Structural Equation Model specifying Relations between Acculturation, Adaptation, and Length of Stay in the Host Country



$\chi^2(4, N=601)=7.07, p=.132; CFI=0,99; RMSEA=0,036$


Summary and Conclusions

- The clusters that emerged from the study of acculturation strategies replicated the bidimensional model proposed by Berry (1997) with the exception of Individualism/Diffusion(?).
- A direct effect of acculturation on adaptation was established.
- Acculturation and adaptation appeared to vary across ethnic groups of immigrants in terms of their cultural similarity with/ distance from the host country.
- Length of stay in Greece was positively related to Integration and negatively to Separation; it also had an indirect effect on adaptation through the acculturation processes.

Limitations and Future Directions

- Limitations regarding the composition of the sample did not allow for study of acculturation strategies in relation to adaptation *within* each ethnic group, separately.
- Inclusion of additional variables (e.g., identification to one's ethnic group) might affect the size and conceptual meaning of acculturation clusters.
- Caution is necessary when trying to generalize across various ethnic groups, cultural contexts, and time sections (Sam & Berry, 2006).

Thank you for your attention!



*And you, my lost distant country
You'll be a wound and a caress
When the sun rises in another land*

North Star, written by Nikos Gatsos

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