

The demographics of German migration

In the continuing aftermath of the sex attacks in German (and other European cities) on New Year's Eve, the writings of Valerie Hudson, a professor at Texas A & M University are receiving quite a lot of attention. Hudson studies the effects of sex ratios on the stability of nations and she has written an essay in Politico on the demographics of the hundreds of thousands of migrants who have entered Europe in the past few months. As [*The Australian*](#) reports:

“According to official statistics, two thirds of all migrants registering in Greece and Italy last year were male. A fifth of all those who reached the EU last year were under the age of 18; half had travelled alone. Of those, more than 90 per cent were boys. While debate in Europe has frequently focused on the faith and culture of the new arrivals, Dr Hudson argues that demographics should be driving the decisions of governments. ‘Nobody is talking about this,’ she said. ‘We should be thinking strategically about how to protect the normal sex ratios.’”

As Dr. Hudson argues, crimes such as rape and sexual harassment become more common in “highly masculinised societies”. Women are less able to move about freely without fear and demand for prostitution increases. There are also higher violent and property crime rates. This is not a Muslim, or Arab, phenomenon: China has suffered a rise in crime due to its sex imbalance in favour of men, India has as well.

“‘I don't care if they are Muslim or Greek Orthodox,’ [Hudson] added. ‘If you are altering sex ratios to the level of 123 men to every 100 women, you are going to have problems.’ Other demographers have argued that a large

young population can be a recipe for revolution. The “youth bulge theory” was frequently cited during the Arab Spring. A larger number of men than women has also been identified as a cause of instability. ‘High numbers of males per females tends to be correlated with more violent cultures or societies,’ said Barbara Miller, a professor of anthropology and international affairs at George Washington University.”

Indeed my first ever post on DID was on that very point (see [here](#)).

The problem of sex ratio imbalance due to refugees and migration is particularly noticeable in Sweden, which has taken more migrants as a proportion of its population than any other European country. Hudson has calculated that among the population in Sweden aged 16-17 years old there are now 123 boys for every 100 girls. But the migrants as a whole are predominantly male:

“Of migrants registering in Greece and Italy, 66.2 per cent were male, according to the International Organisation for Migration. This imbalance may be reduced if men succeed in bringing their wives and children to join them. However, the gender disparity among unaccompanied teenage and child migrants is far greater and unlikely to be corrected.”

One of those who commented on Hudson’s article was Ross Douthat in [The New York Times](#). He argued that the current migrant flows to Europe are “uncharted territory”. When migration occurs at a modest, steady rate assimilation is given time to “do its work”. He continues:

“But if you add a million (or millions) of people, most of them young men, in one short period, you get a very different kind of shift. In the German case the important number here isn’t the country’s total population,

currently 82 million. It's the twentysomething population, which was less than 10 million in 2013 (and of course already included many immigrants). In that cohort and every cohort afterward, the current influx could have a transformative effect."

Not only are migrants to Europe overwhelmingly male, but they are also much younger than the societies that they are entering. Although migrants are often [touted as the answer to Germany's demographic decline](#) (and attendant economic issues) the problems that introducing such a large, young and male group are many, and following the Cologne attacks, readily apparent. In Douthat's words:

"If you believe that an aging, secularized, heretofore-mostly-homogeneous society is likely to peacefully absorb a migration of that size and scale of cultural difference, then you have a bright future as a spokesman for the current German government. You're also a fool."

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Image Credit: The Star

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