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Does living in a country with high social protection expenses impacts return aspiration for second generation migrant?

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Background and motivation

What is intention to return ?

Intention to return to the country of origin can take many forms depending on the question asked in the survey. It can serve as a predictive indicator of an actual return (Flahaux 2015) but it is also indicative of the "*personal relationship to both the country of residence and expected destination*" (Caron 2020:821).

Why study it ?

Analyses of the determinants of return aspiration among descendants of immigrants have focused on measures of economic integration and transnational practices (Bonifazi and Paparusso 2019; Carling and Pettersen 2014; Chitose 2021). These analyses have generally shown a mixed effect of economic integration. The article by Carling and Pettersen (2014) shows, however, that a weak integration combined with strong transnational practices increased the likelihood of reporting a desire to return to the country of origin. Other studies show the more specific role of discrimination among the descendants of immigrants (Caron 2020).

However, although Fokkema (2011) has shown the relevance of exploring contextual factors, such as living in a country with multicultural policies and possible interactions with individual factors such as economic integration and transnational practices ; this primary work is only conducted on first generation migrant. There is a lack of literature that puts several different contexts into perspective, in order to strengthen the already existing results (Chitose 2021). For example, the so-called "contextual" variables that characterize countries of residence deserve to be explored (Bonifazi and Paparusso 2019).

Why adding social expenditure effect ?

In addition, the literature on the determinants of migration has shown that many contextual factors can explain migration movements. Among others, "welfare magnets" are now recognized as highly explanatory factors. The work of Borjas (1999) first showed that there were residential clusters of immigrants in the most generous welfare states in the United States. Similar analyses have been conducted in Europe, showing that redistribution policies attract low-skilled immigrants, but repel high-skilled immigrants because of the importance of taxes (Razin and Wahba 2015). The strong effect of redistributive policies on the settlement choices of immigrants allows one to hypothesize what effect these same policies might have on their descendants. Thus, it is interesting to ask how welfare might affect the return intentions of the descendants of immigrants.

Why Chile ?

The children of this emigration may be sensitive to these issues of redistribution. On the one hand, part of the **Chilean emigration was built around exile during the dictatorship from 1973 to 1989**. These populations were politically very committed and attached to socialist values, which they often passed on to their children (Jedlicki 2007). On the other hand, **Chile is a highly unequal country and is known for having implemented an ultra-liberal policy during Augusto Pinochet's regime** (Compagnon and Gaudichaud 2008).

Data and method

The data used is composed of two different components. The first is a corpus of individual data that provides access to the intentions of return to the country of origin of descendants of Chilean emigrants, with individual control variables. This data is provided by the **Second Registry of Chileans Abroad dated 2016**, produced by the Chilean National Institute of Statistics (INE, Chile).

Only the second generation is used in the analysis, the sample is composed of **6,909 individuals**. Since the register is not sampled, it is not representative of the entire Chilean population from outside. Nevertheless, the sample allows for 47 different countries of residence.

The other corpus of data used is that characterizing social protection spending in the 47 countries in the first corpus. **These are drawn from the data of the International Labour Organization (ILO), which provides data on the percentage of GDP (Gross Domestic Product) spent by the public on so-called "social protection" policies.**

The analysis method consists of conducting a **multivariate analysis using a multilevel logit model**. This type of model makes it possible to consider differences between contexts by adding a country random effect to the equation.

Results

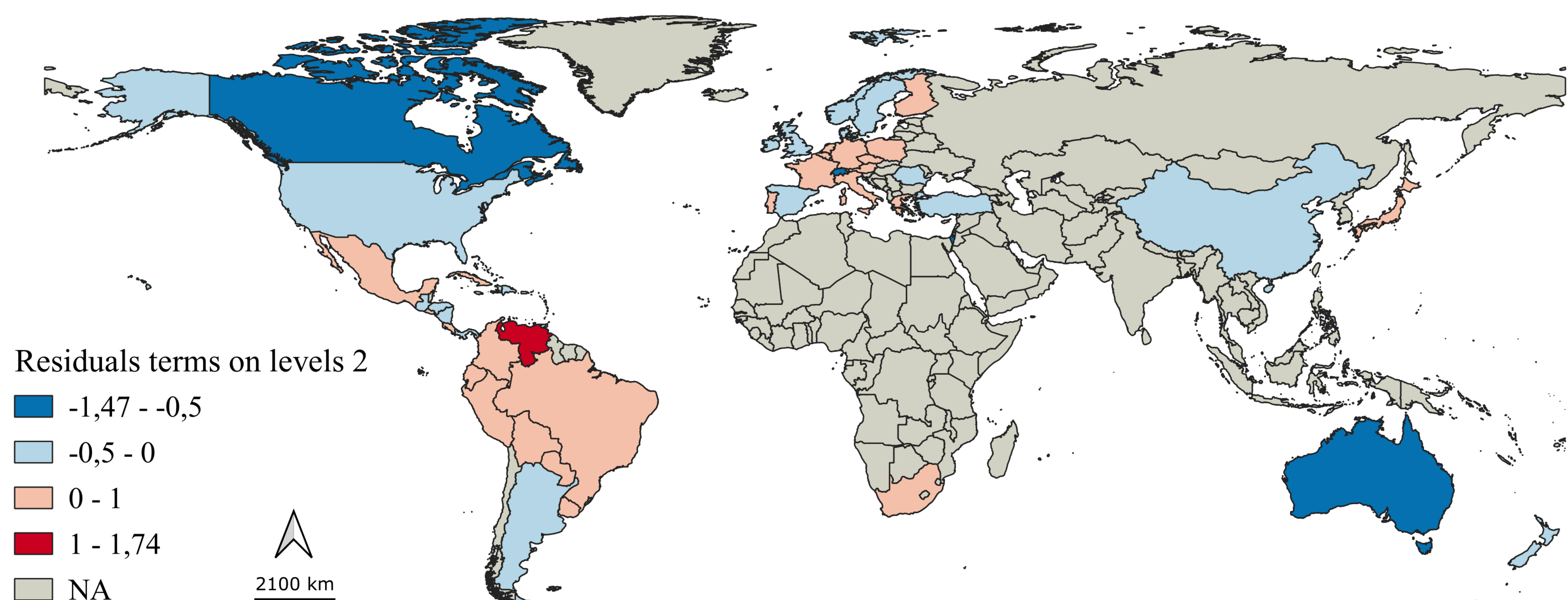
Table 1: Model results for the social expenditure effect

Contextual variable	Odds ratio	CI	p value
Social protection expenditures (scaled)	0.95	0.92 – 0.98	0.002
With interaction			
Social protection expenditures (scaled) * Primary education	0.92	0.85 – 1.00	0.064
Social protection expenditures (scaled) * Secondary education	0.97	0.95 – 0.99	0.009

Model 1: Includes all individual variables : gender, age, marital status, education level and occupation, nationality ; transnational practice variables: frequency of travel to Chile, having family in Chile with whom one has regular contact, getting information about Chile, sending money to family in Chile, chilean indigenous population membership.

Model 2 : Includes all individual variables and interaction between social expenditure and education levels.

Map 1 : Residuals terms for the first model



Conclusion

A non-negligible part of the context in the variance of the intention to return (11 %) and a significant effect of social expenditure.

Individual variables have the same effects as observed in the literature, even when considering country variability.

The migratory history of parents would also be a relevant factor: legal status, context at the time of departure from the country (Jedlicki, 2016) as the distributions observed on the map correspond to emigration waves.

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