

Translational social science to improve refugee integration

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Agenda

1. Introduction
2. (Why) is there more solidarity?
3. Labor market access
4. Matching refugees to places
5. The integration window

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Immigration Policy Lab

Designing solutions for an integrated world

- We **evaluate and design** policies surrounding the integration of immigrants, refugees, and asylum seekers worldwide
- We **specialize in partnerships** with governments and immigrant service providers to implement evidence-based policies and conduct rigorous evaluations
- An interdisciplinary team of researchers, data scientists and program managers at **ETH Zurich** and **Stanford University**



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CHRONIK

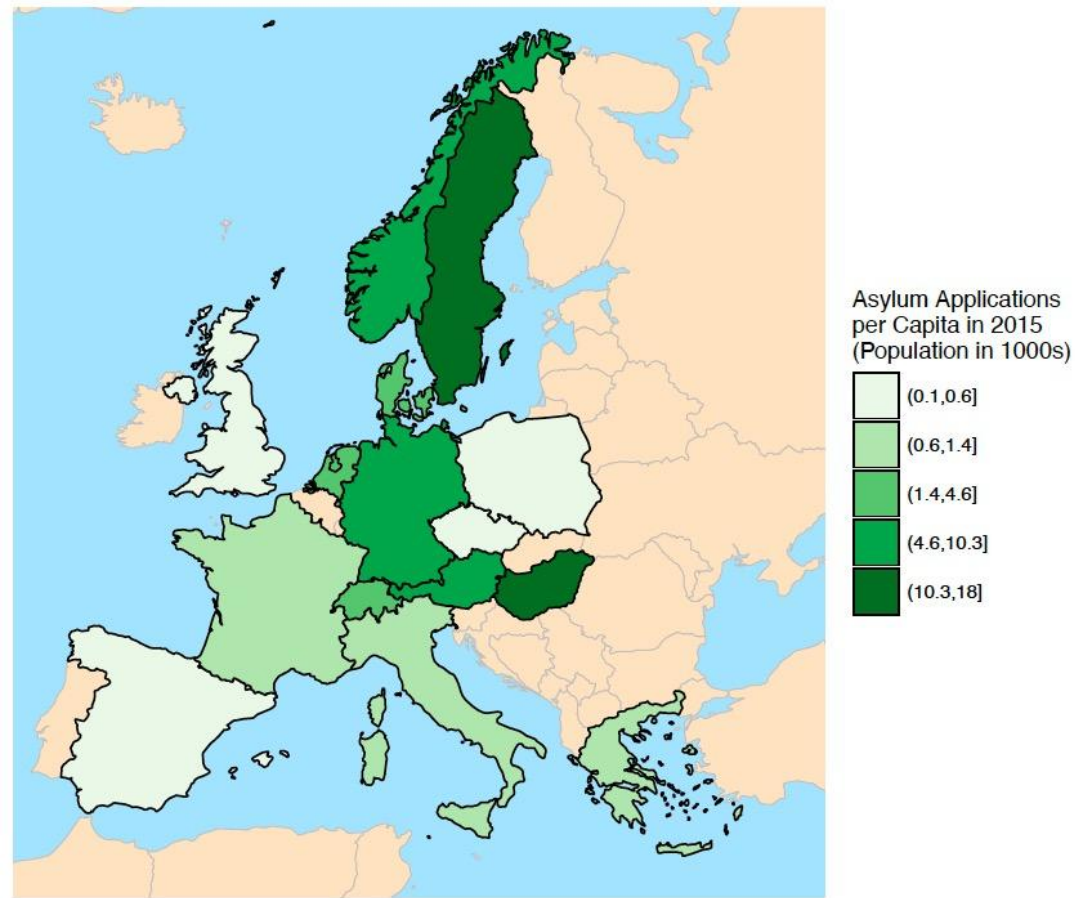
ÖSTERREICH

06.03.2022

Wie eine riesige Welle der Hilfsbereitschaft durch das Land zieht

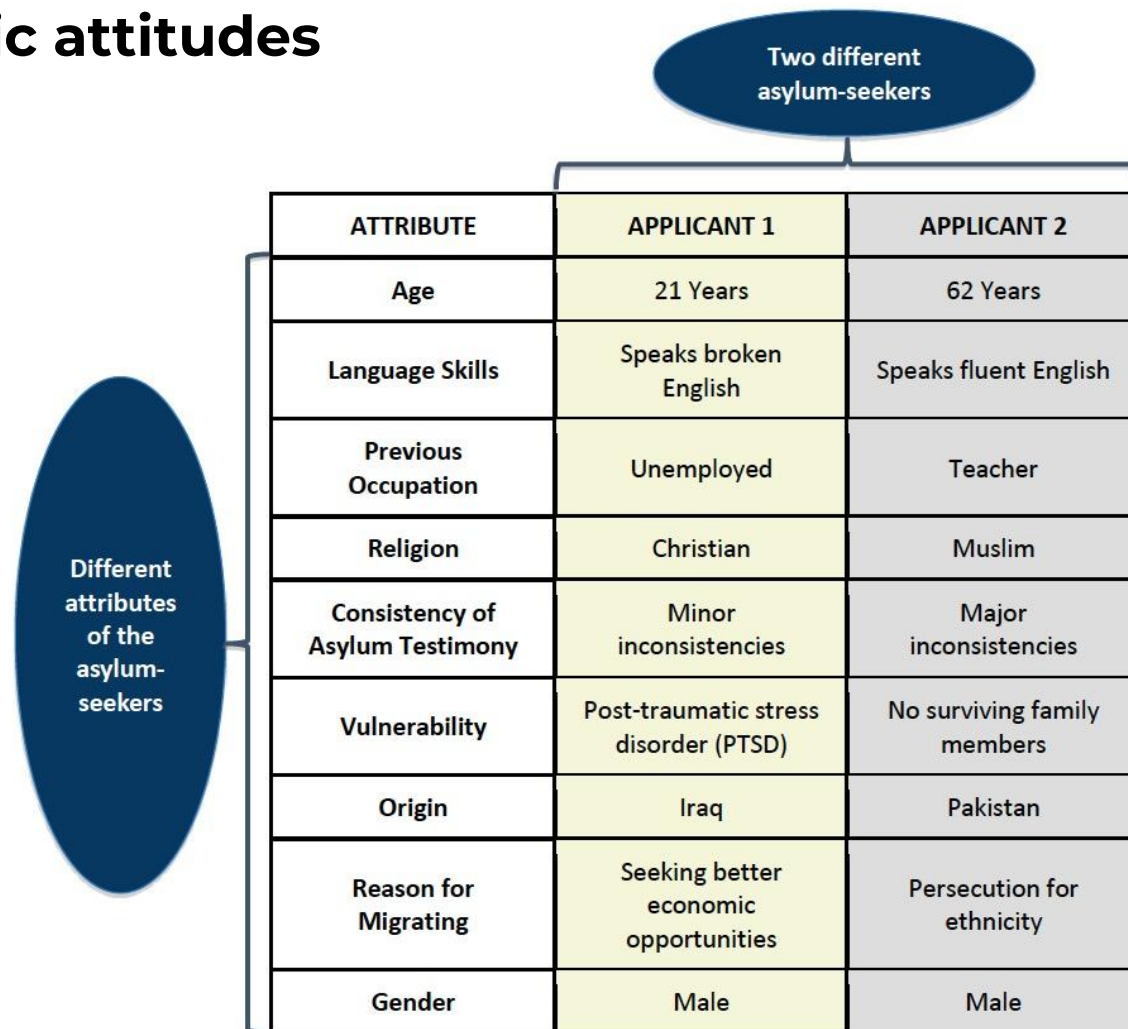
Die Solidarität mit den Menschen in der Ukraine ist ungemein groß. Unzählige private Initiativen wurden ins Leben gerufen.

Survey of 18,000 adult citizens in 15 “Dublin” countries in 2016

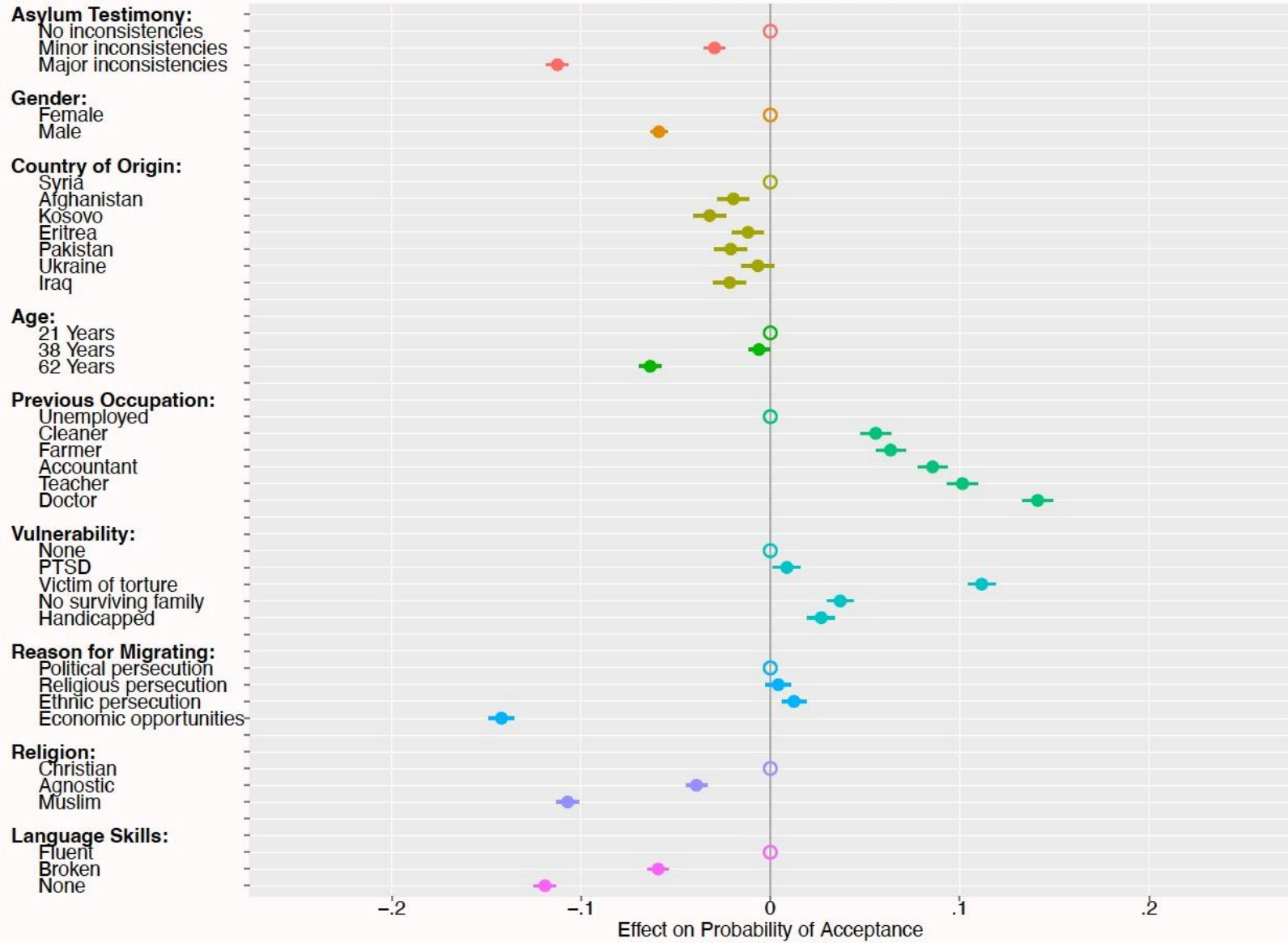


Conjoint designs to elicit public attitudes

- Paired profiles:
 - 10 profiles (5 pairs) per respondent
 - 9 attributes per profile
 - Fully randomized attribute levels (and order, per respondent)
- Forced choice:
 - “Which of the two applicants would you personally prefer to be allowed to stay in [respondent's country]?”



Forced Choice (Pooled)



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Context

Key questions in refugee and immigrant integration

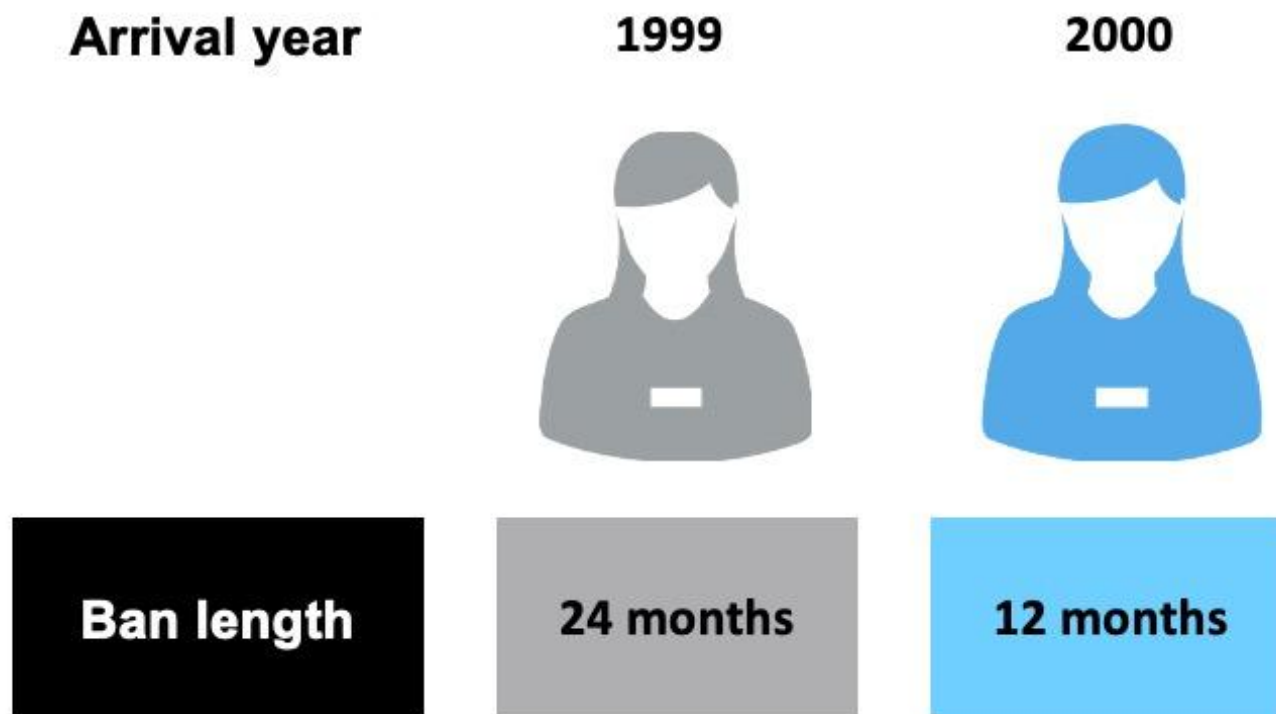


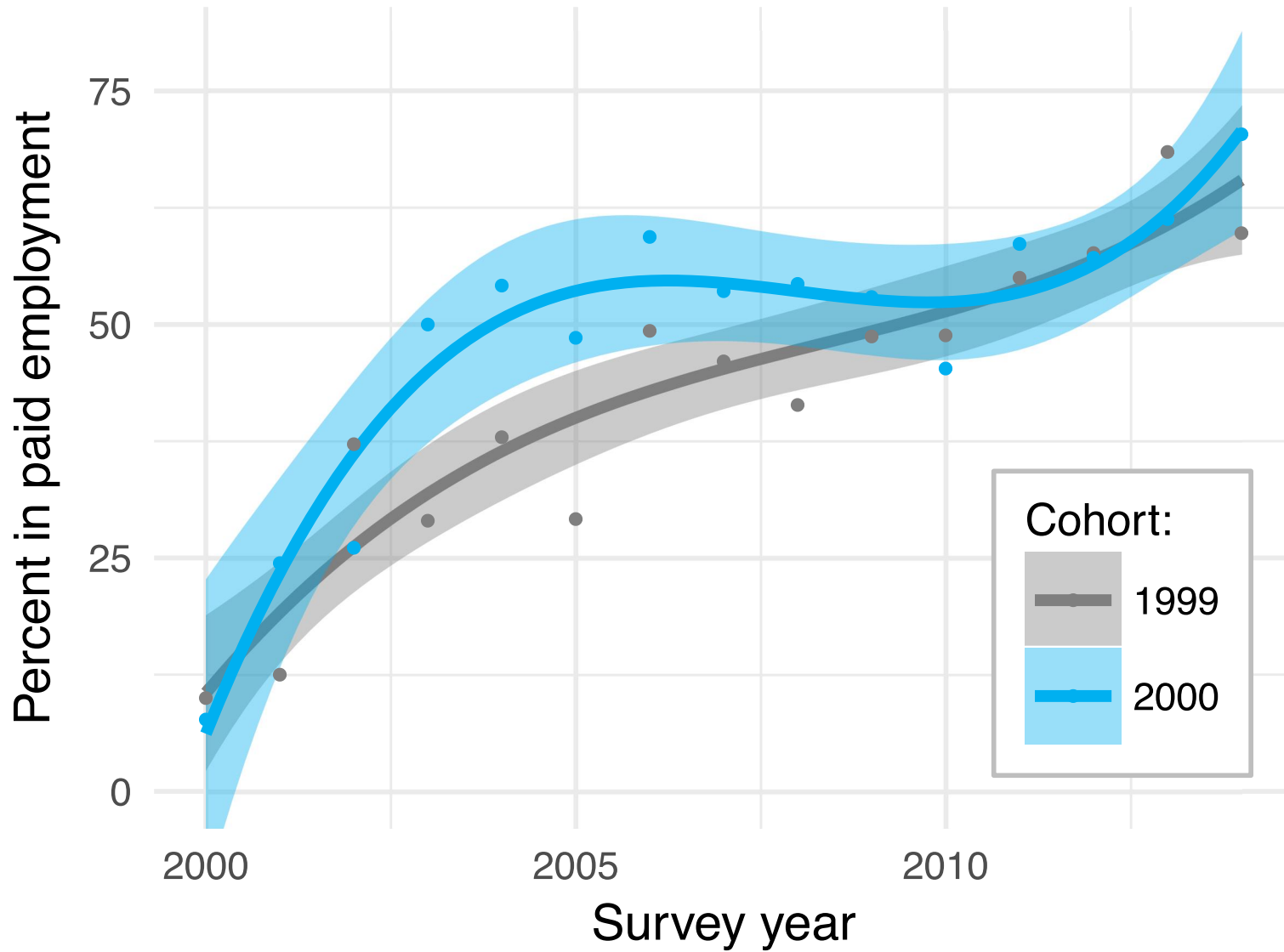
What kind of policies are the most effective and cost-efficient in **facilitating successful integration** into host countries' economies and societies?



Data-driven tools have the potential to (i) **deepen our understanding** about drivers of migrant integration outcomes and (ii) **serve as input for personalized policies**

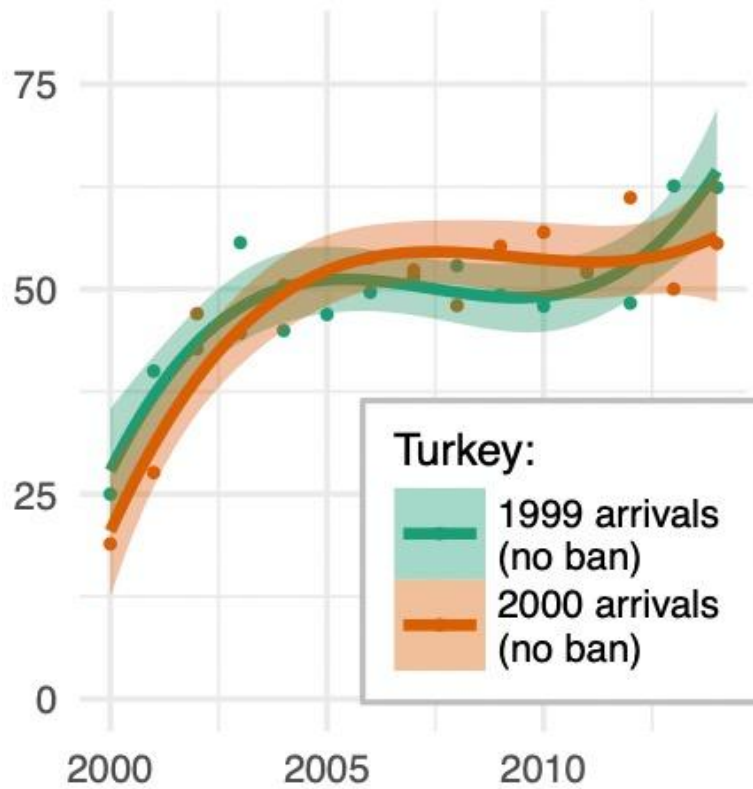
Reduction in German Employment Ban



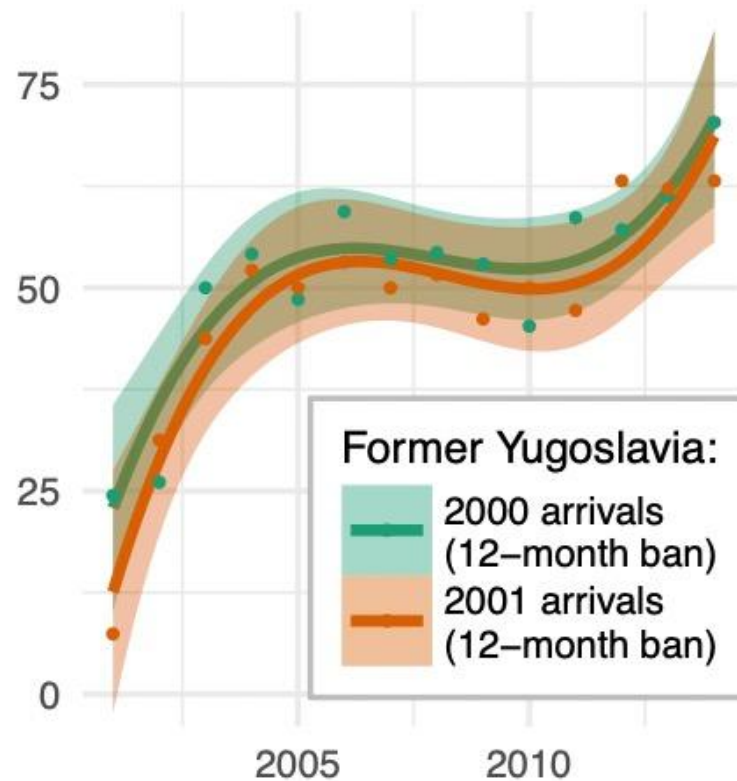


Is this really the effect of the ban?

B: Placebo test I



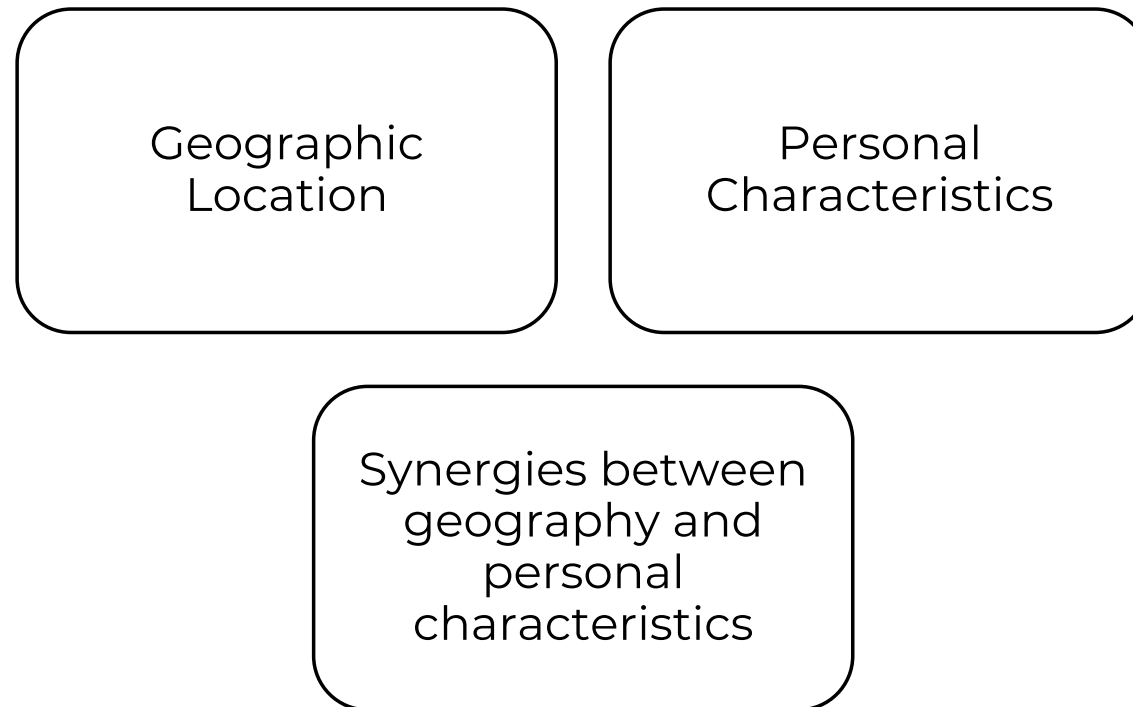
C: Placebo test II



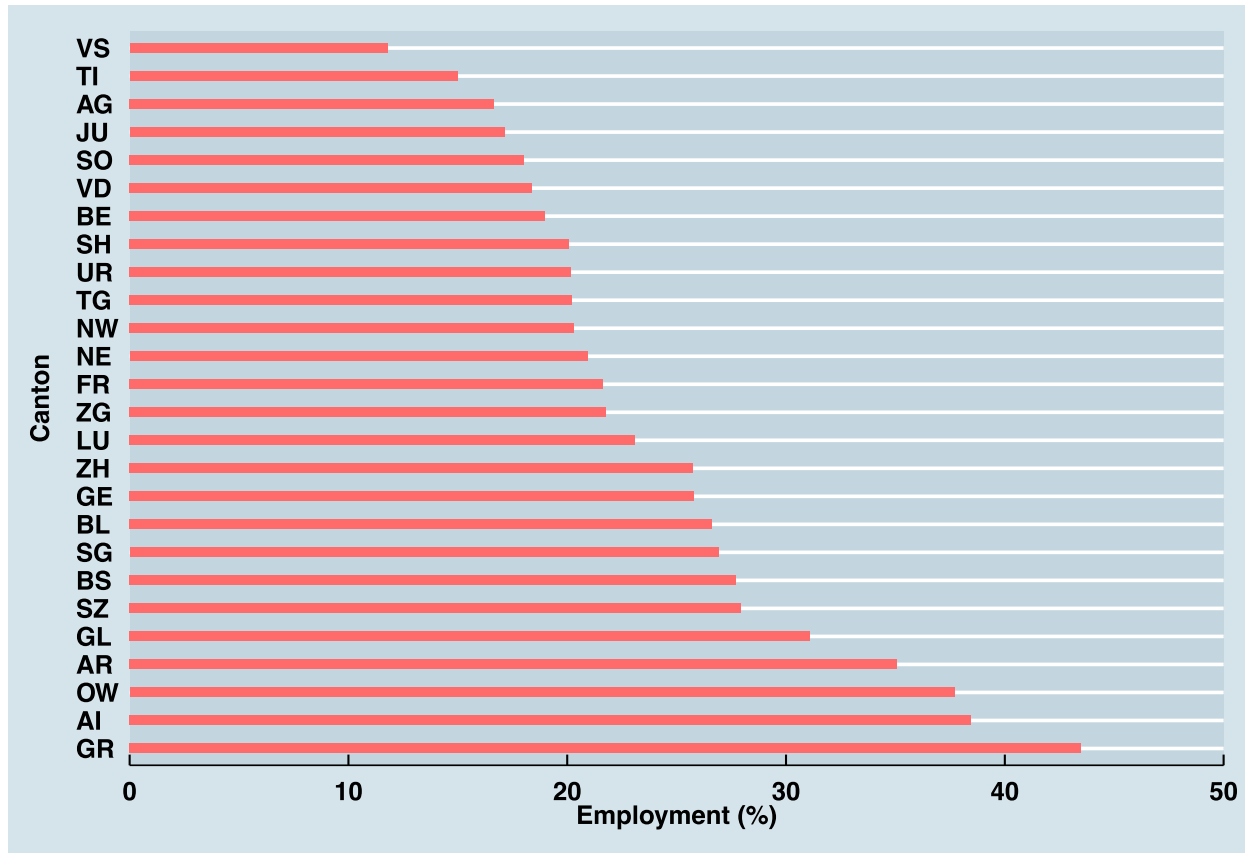
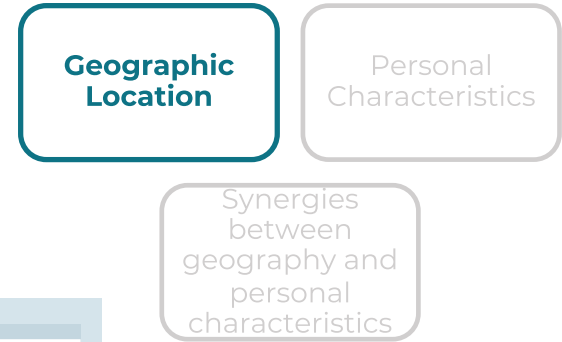
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Factors that Shape Economic Self-Sufficiency



Refugee Employment by Location

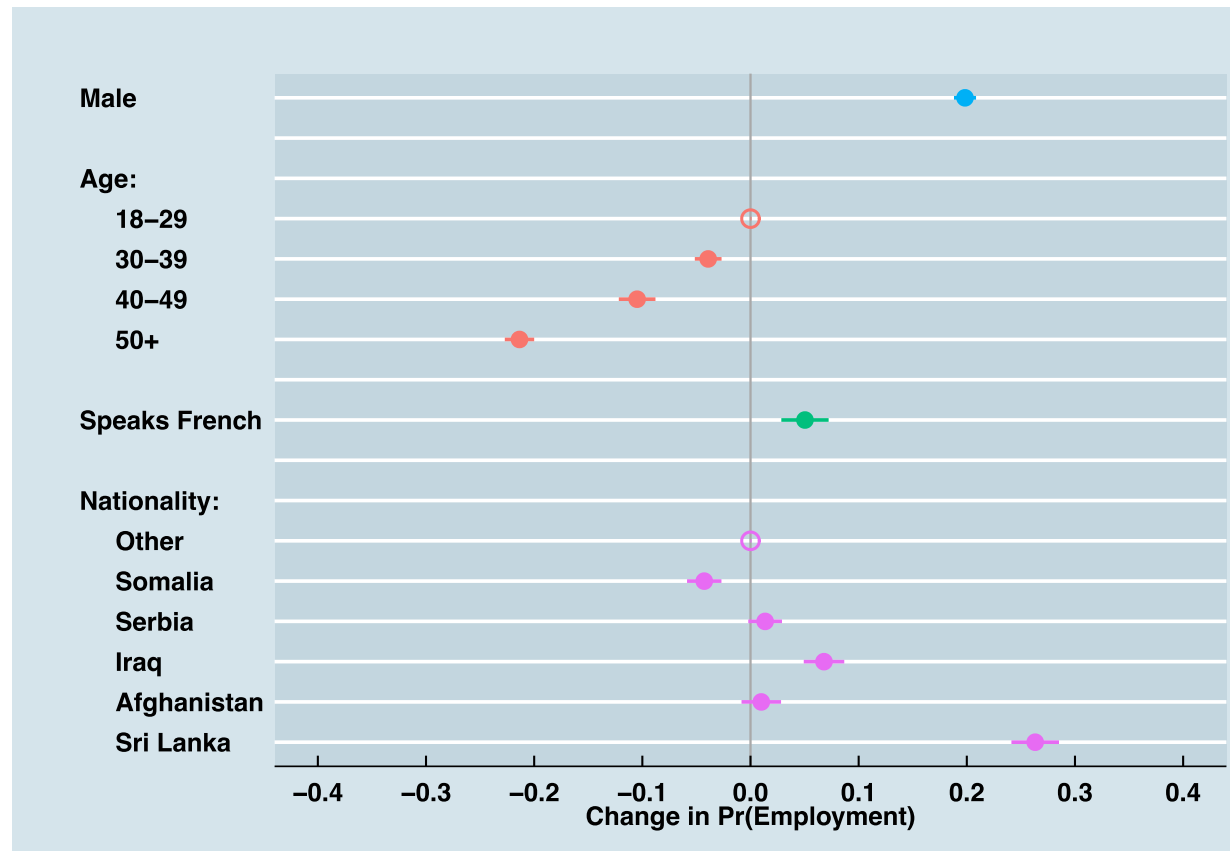


Geographic Location

Personal Characteristics

Synergies between geography and personal characteristics

Individual Predictors of Refugee Employment

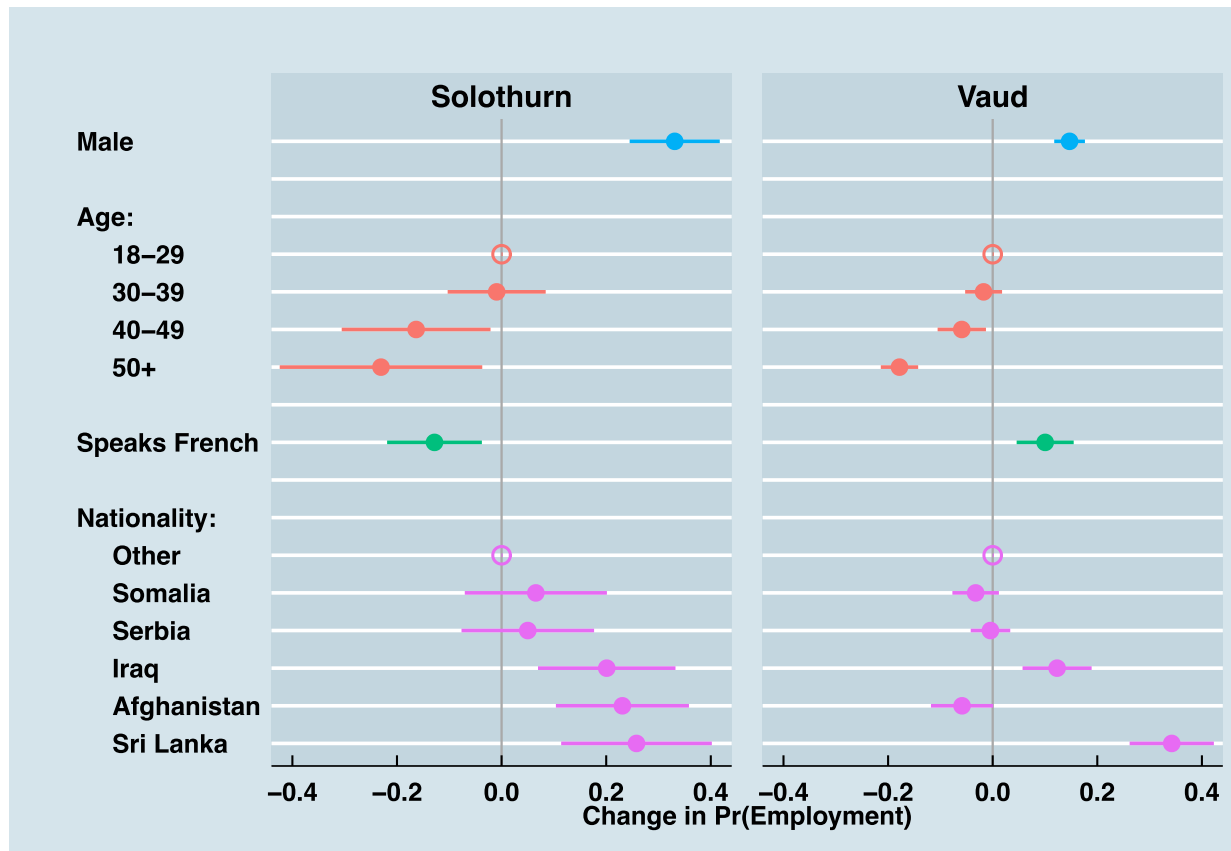


Geographic Location

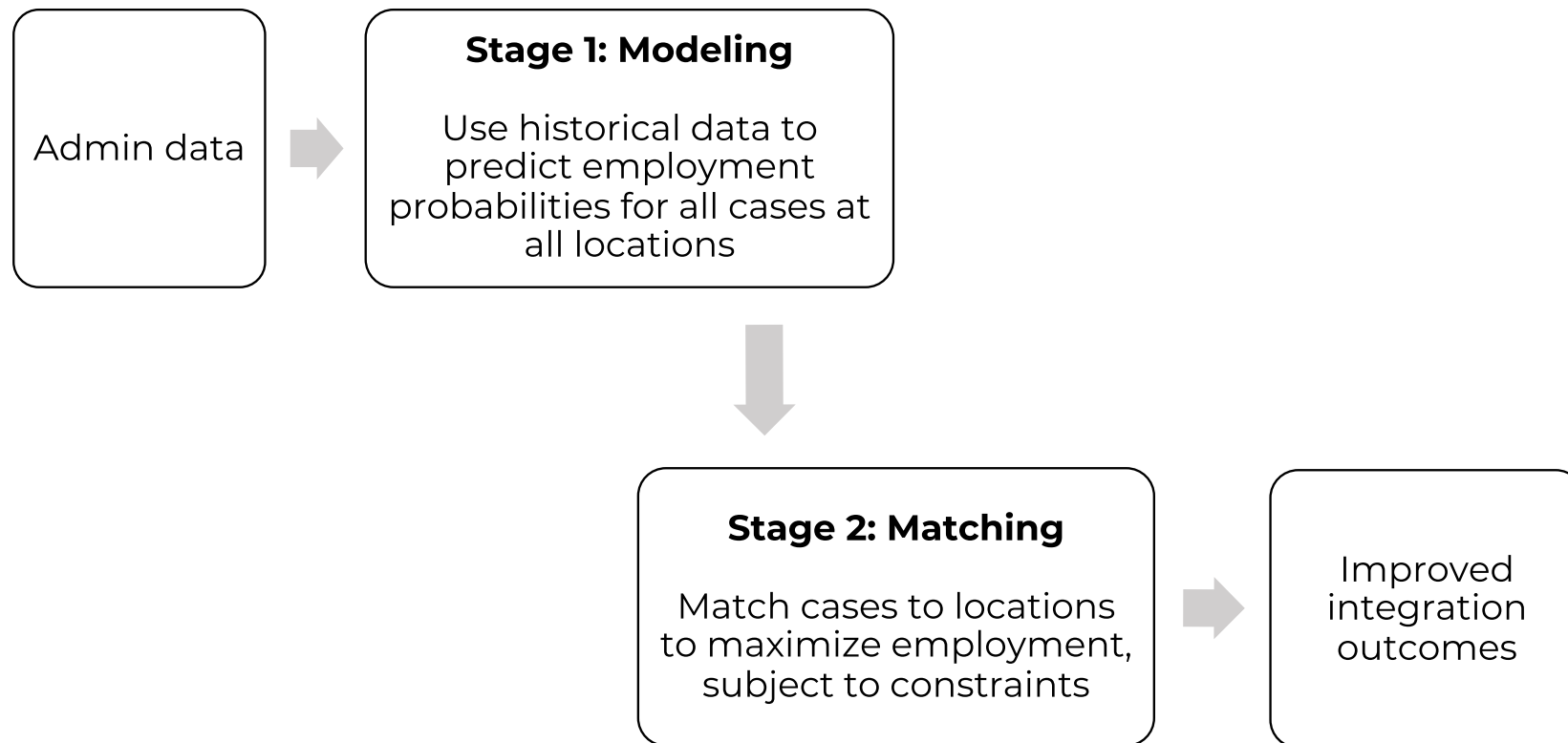
Personal Characteristics

Synergies between Individual Predictors and Locations

Synergies between geography and personal characteristics

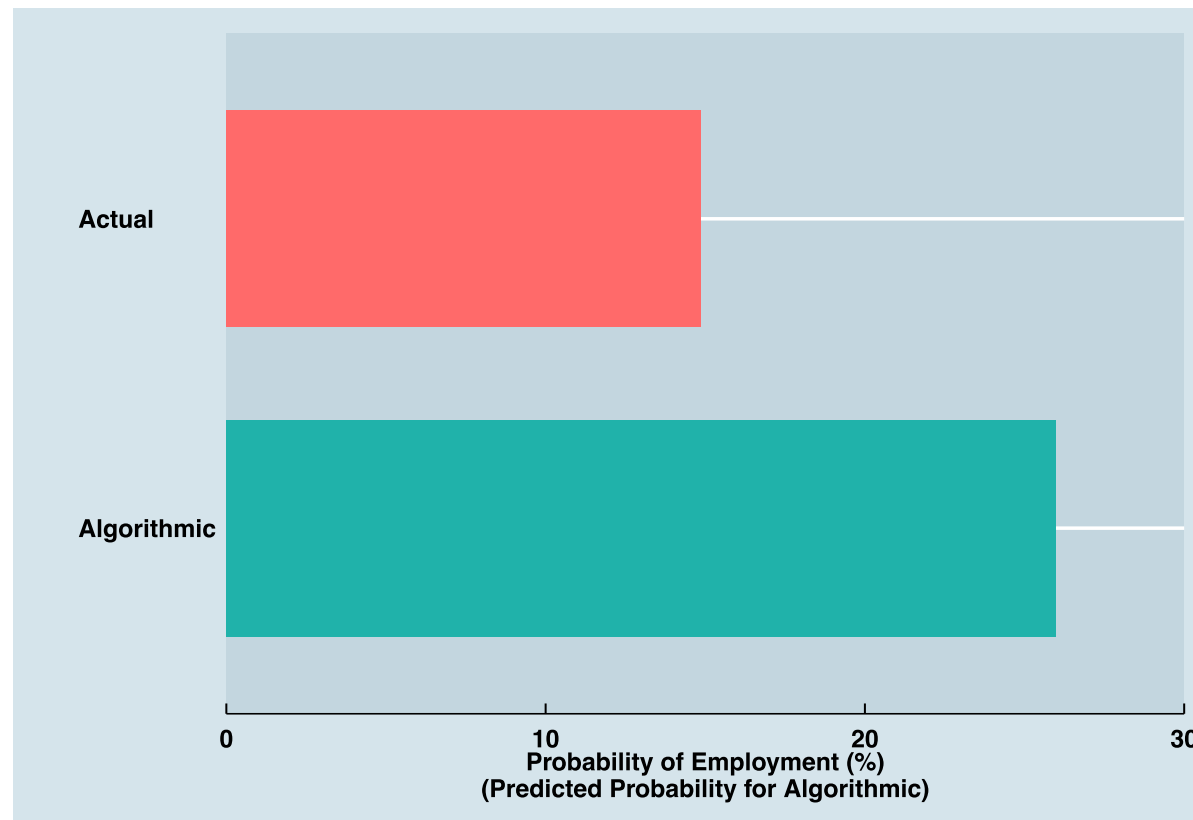


How the GeoMatch Algorithm Works



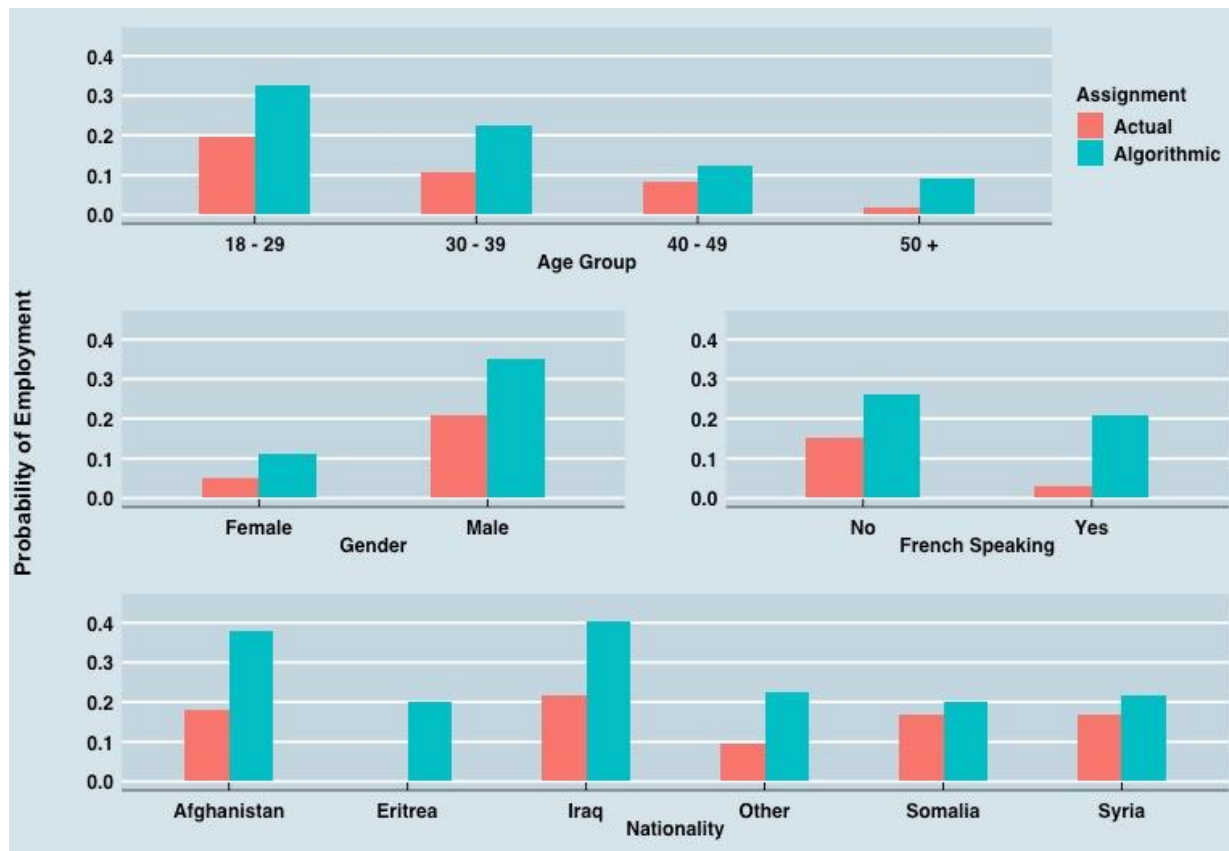
Swiss Back Test Results

The back test demonstrates that the GeoMatch algorithm could boost employment rates by 30-70% depending on constraints



Swiss Back Test Results

The GeoMatch algorithm back test demonstrated potential gains in employment across groups



The GeoMatch Algorithm

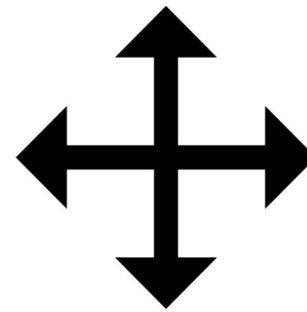
Using insights from data to enhance the allocation process



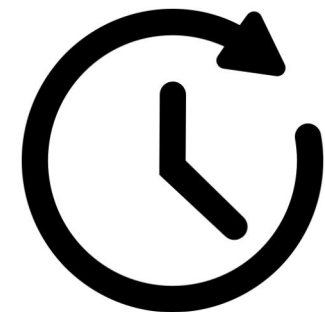
Potential for robust gains in back tests across diverse contexts



Scalable, cost-efficient, and actionable for a large population

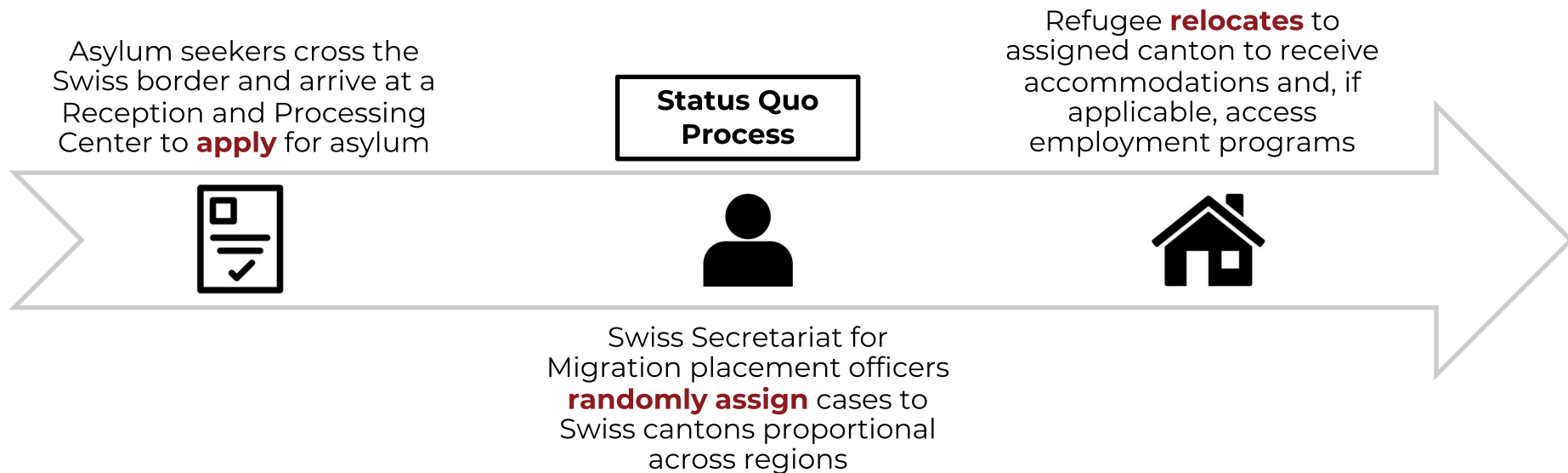


Flexible in incorporating preferences and outcome metrics

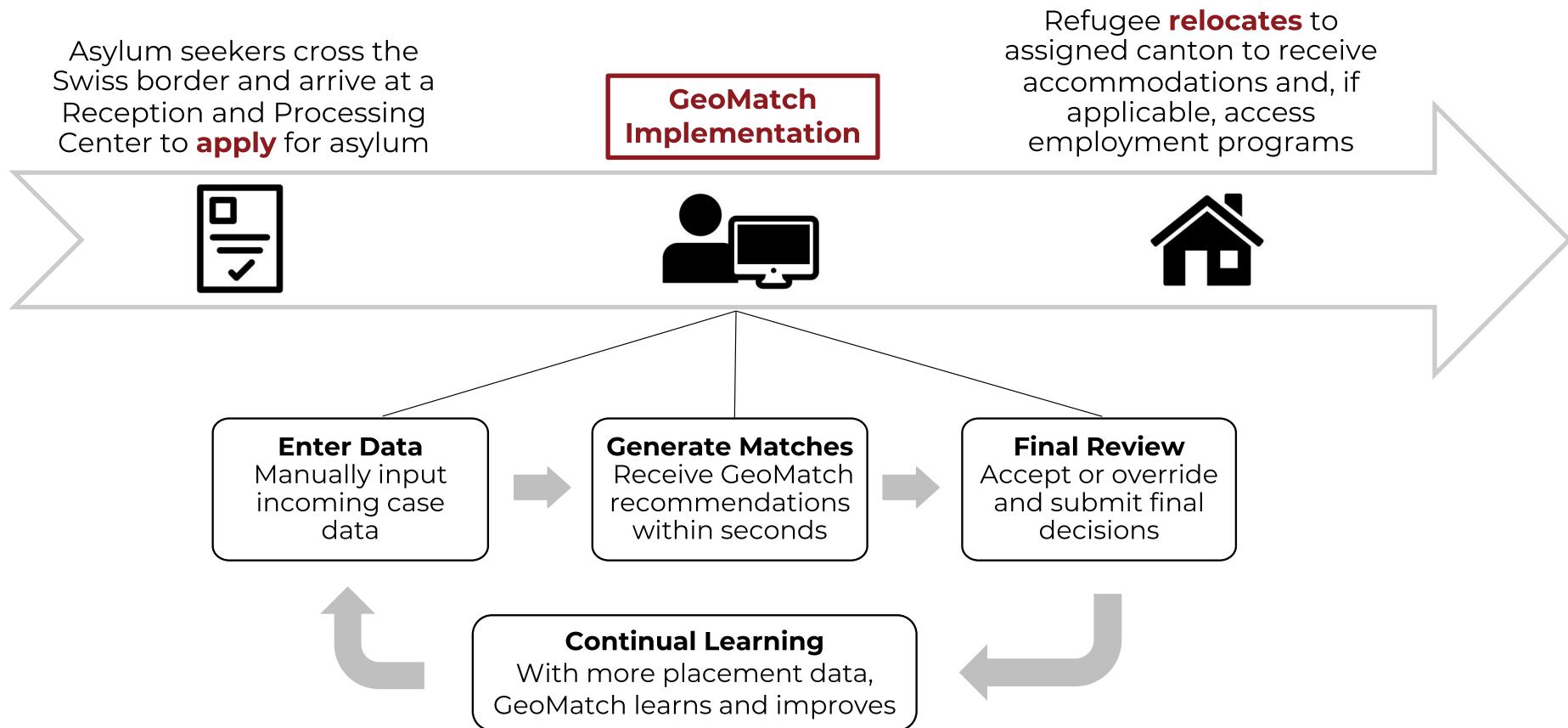


Dynamic over time by adapting to new synergies in the data

Phase 2 Case Study: Switzerland



Phase 2 Case Study: Switzerland



Phase 2 Case Study: Switzerland

The IPL team and the Swiss Secretariat for Migration co-designed a user-friendly interface to implement the GeoMatch tool

The screenshot shows the 'Immigration Policy Lab' interface. The top navigation bar includes 'Dashboard', 'Process New Batch', 'Single Match', 'Single Match History', 'Upload Historical Data', and 'Job Status / History'. The main content area displays a 'Suggested Location: Schaffhausen (SH)' with a location pin icon and an 'Accept' dropdown menu. Below this is a green button that says 'Please confirm then submit here.' The 'Case information' section contains a 'ZEMIS Nr.*' field and a 'Case Size*' field with the value '5'. The 'Asylum Seekers*' section features three rows of input fields for 'Age*', 'Gender*', and 'Nationality*'. The first row has values 55, Female, and Syria. The second row has 58, Male, and Syria, with a red 'Remove' button to its right. The third row has 24, Female, and Syria, with blue 'Add' and red 'Remove' buttons to its right. A blue 'Submit' button is located at the bottom left of the form.

Immigration Policy Lab Welcome, officer (Switzerland)

Dashboard
Process New Batch
Single Match
Single Match History
Upload Historical Data
Job Status / History

Suggested Location:
Schaffhausen (SH)

Accept

Please confirm then submit here.

Case information

ZEMIS Nr.*

Case Size* 5

Asylum Seekers*

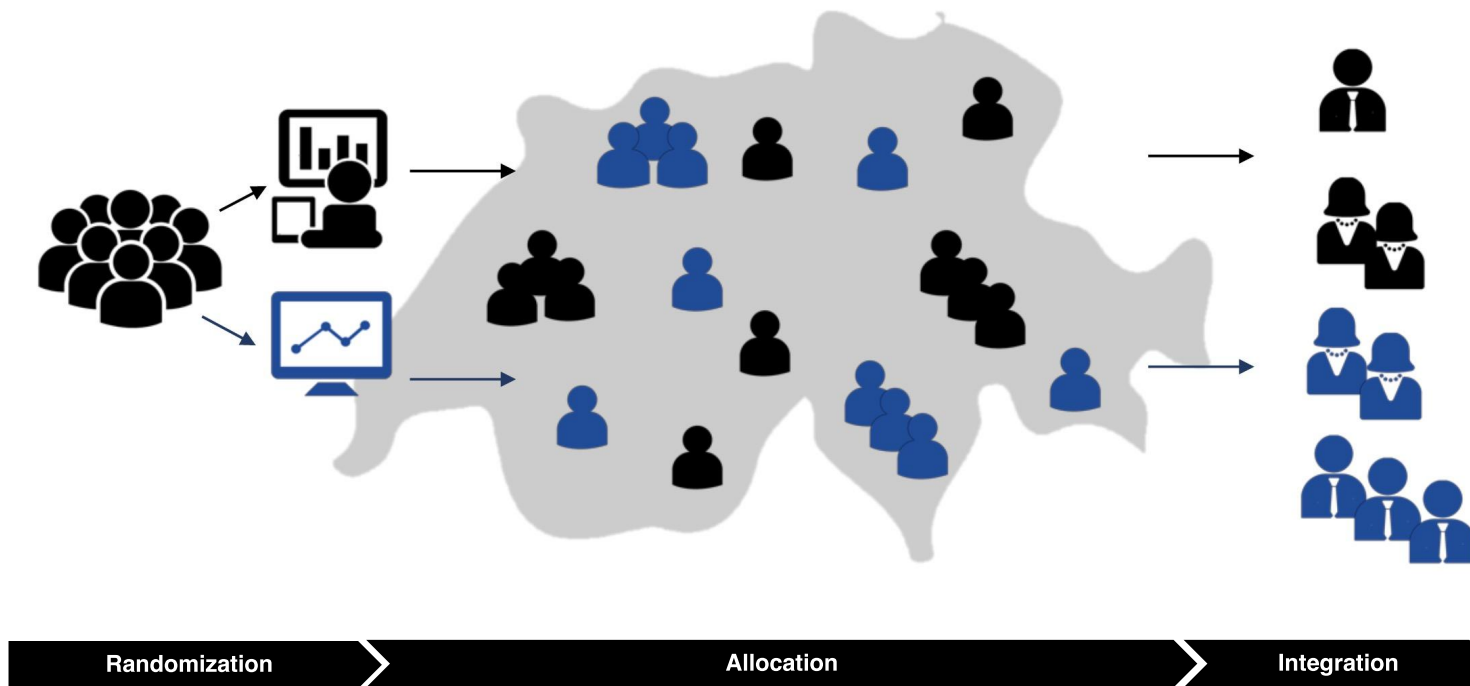
Age* 55	Gender* Female	Nationality* Syria	
Age* 58	Gender* Male	Nationality* Syria	Remove
Age* 24	Gender* Female	Nationality* Syria	Add Remove

Submit

Phase 2 Case Study: Switzerland

Double-blind Randomized Control Trial 2020+:

Algorithmically supported placement versus random allocation (status quo)



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The Integration Window

- The first few months after arrival have a **disproportionally large impact** on future integration trajectories
- Leveraging this **integration window through smart policies** benefits refugees and host communities



Thank you for your attention!

Questions or feedback?

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GeoMatch: Challenges and Lessons Learned

Important insights from our multi-context GeoMatch implementation experience

Emphasize
Co-Design

- Collaborate with partners to design human-centered and customized tools, facilitate seamless implementation, and establish **final decision-making power of users**

Ethical & Responsible AI

- Ensure potential gains in outcomes across groups through careful tests, pilot programs, and **rigorous evaluations** in multiple country contexts before scaling up our work

Regulatory Context

- Comply with context-specific data regulations and protocols to access, store, and **protect sensitive data** such as through GDPR Privacy Impact Assessments

GeoMatch FAQ

Can the GeoMatch algorithm incorporate pre-specified municipal allocation quotas?

- Yes, the matching tool's user-friendly interface allows for placement officers to input location-specific restrictions such as monthly allocation quotas for each municipality.

Can the GeoMatch algorithm incorporate complex constraints (e.g. medical conditions, job offer, family ties, education, municipal quotas)?

- Yes, if the data are available, these constraints can be automatically incorporated into the algorithm.

Is the GeoMatch algorithm meant to replace current placement officers?

- No, GeoMatch is a human-centered artificial intelligence (AI) tool, where the algorithm outputs recommendations to experts such as placement officers in order to help them make data-driven decisions. **Placement officers always have the final review in the decision-making process.**