

REPRESENTATIONS AND MIGRATION PATH
OF LATIN AMERICAN WOMEN IN BELGIUM.



Ana Valenzuela-Zapata and Thamara Cruz

THE OBJECTIVE OF OUR RESEARCH WAS
TO EXPLORE AND RECOGNIZE
REPRESENTATION, STAKEHOLDERS AND
SPECIALIST SERVICES PROVIDERS FACED
TO LATINA AND THEIR FAMILIES IN THE
IMMERSION PROCESS.

Why did Latin women
come to live in Belgium?

How do we do to integrate
us in Belgium?

- We visit the 3 regions: where most of the Latin diasporas lives.
- Flemish
- Walloon
- Brussels capital

The Flemish Community pursues a post-multiculturalist strategy, which recognises cultural differences but puts a lot of stress on obligatory integration courses (for non-EU citizens) and Dutch language acquisition.

Recently, the Walloon Region and Brussels adoptate of obligatory integration courses and can hence be seen to shift towards the Flemish model.

Why Latin Migrants Women moves:

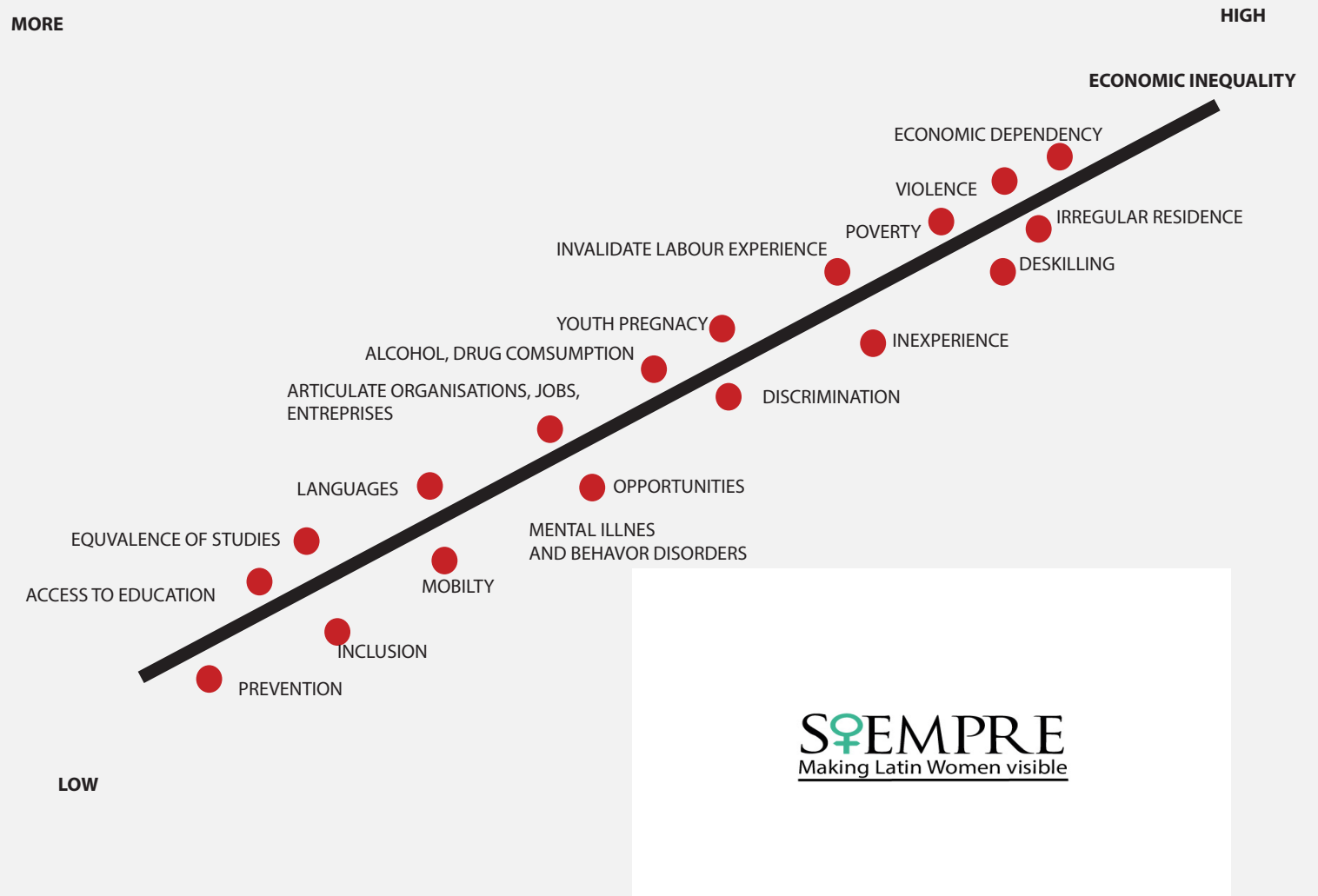
- Family Aggregation
- Economic situation (Political and security)
- Studies (PhD, Master, Language, artistic residence)

Although Latina women represent 3% of the Belgian population, UNIA

Migrant women have to struggle to reach equality, how do they perceive to achieves between social status in rapport to wealth/ success during immersion process. Before exploring the path wherefrom Latin migrant come and go through, it is necessary to understand how inequality come within and become wider and harder not only on range such as social problems but also in their wellbeing health.

Index of problems that Latina migrants have to confront:

- **Regular residence**
- **Economic dependency**
- **Deskilling**
- **Invalidate labour experience**
- **Equivalencies of studies**
- **Never work**
- **Discrimination**
- **Mental illness: depression**
- **Mobility**



Lower Income, more economic dependency, Lower Social cohesion.

Inequality income on a mental or disorder illness

THERE IS A RELATIONSHIP WITH THE MENTAL HEALTH OF WOMEN AND THE SOCIAL INEQUALITY WHICH THEY LIVE.

FACTORS AS LOW SOCIAL CONTACT DON'T BE PART OF SOCIETY INCREASE THE VULNERABILITY TO EMOTIONAL DISORDERS AS DISTRESS AND ANXIETY, THIS IS MORE COMMON LIVING IN AFFLUENT SOCIETIES.

Most of the factors that in Latin Migrant women are looking at the individual differences in self-esteem as stressors, weaknesses and anxiety associated with confidence, being able to accept criticism, the ability to make friends and create community.

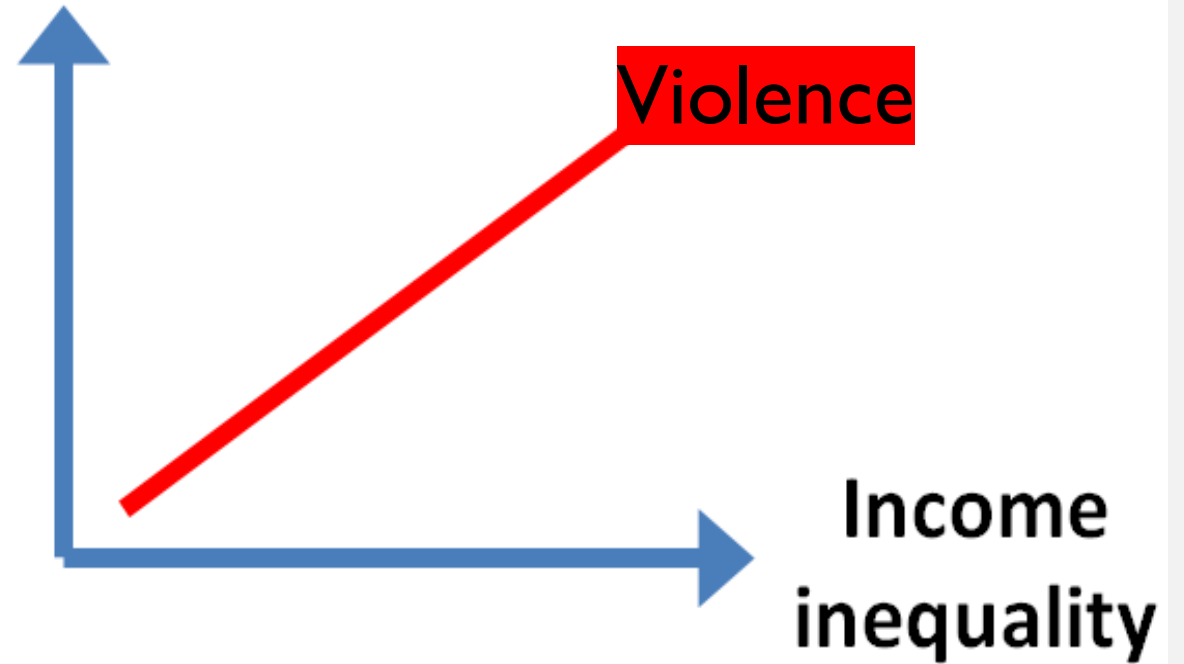
FAQ

- unemployment:
- Deskilling
- Psychological violence at home
- Economic violence
- SAP
- Language
- Inexperience
- Isolation

Prevention

- Programs to prevent to newcomers
- Personal Assistance
- Programs articulated with training organisations, enterprises, companies.
- Impulse to the entrepreneurship associate with financial opportunities.
- Job opportunities: financial trainings, credits to invest on microemployments.

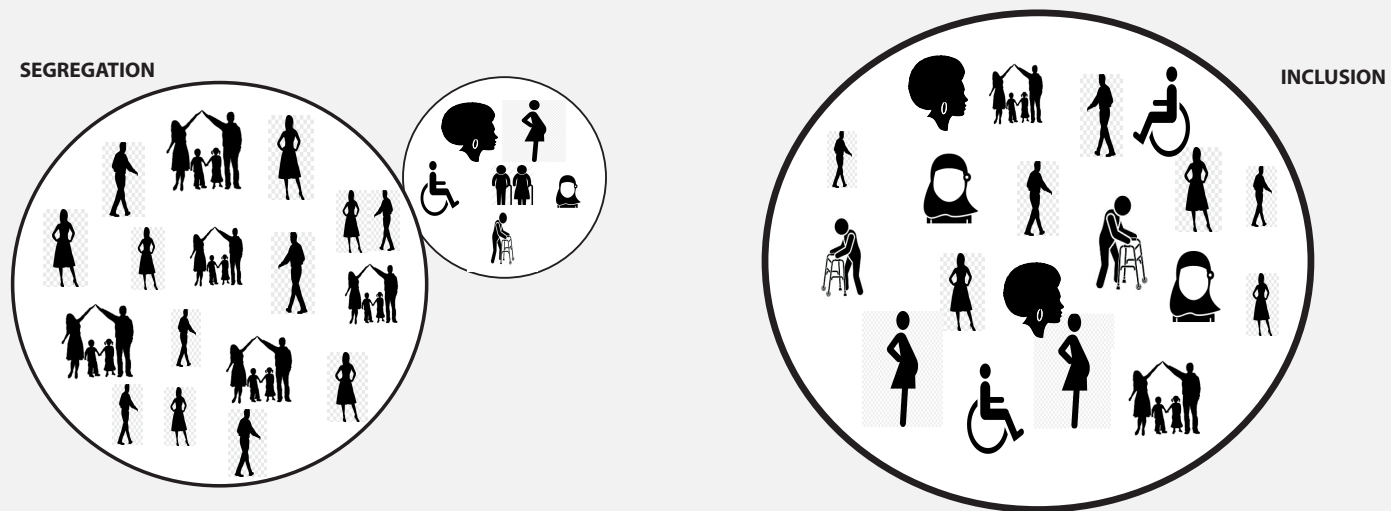
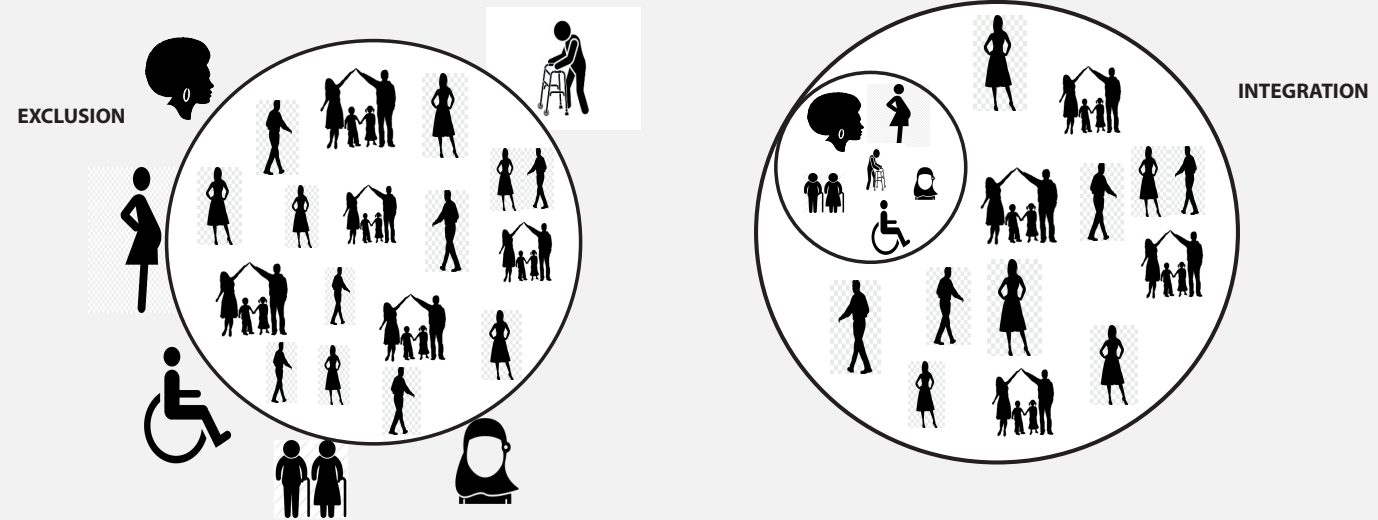
Problems



Inequality brings out features of our evolved psychology to do with dominance and subordination, superiority and inferiority.

Richard Wilkinson

Other factors as neighborhood, unemployment, poverty, domestic violence isolation, unqualified health services develop social problems as excessive consumption of drugs, alcohol, obesity, inactivity and the risk of longer periods and psychological treatments.



We have identified different ways to prevent problems based in workshops, groups of help and peer-to-peer experiences. We identify informal groups sharing in social media in range from: cooking recipes, opinions on migration procedures, asking for legal assistance, recommendations in cases of domestic violence.

Community:

From latin comoine[m] =Communis (en latin arcaico commonis)

com + munis : 'corresponsable', 'cooperant', someone to do a homework'. Munis, mune form the latin 'service', achiever of his duty'.

Intersectionality tries to catch the relationships between socio-cultural categories and identities.