

Transition and Insertion for Albanian and Moroccan Immigrants in Some Settlement Areas¹

Percorsi di Inserimento e Transizioni di Immigrati Albanesi e Marocchini in Alcune Aree di Insediamento

Anna Paterno, Giuseppe Gabrielli

Dipartimento per lo Studio delle Società Mediterranee – Università di Bari
e-mail: a.paterno@scienze politiche.uniba.it; giuseppe.gabrielli@tiscalinet.it

Riassunto: In questo contributo, che costituisce il primo passo di un più vasto progetto di ricerca, si tenta di ricostruire i differenti percorsi e le diverse fasi che caratterizzano il processo di inserimento di alcuni gruppi di immigrati nella popolazione delle rispettive aree di insediamento. Si intende, inoltre, sperimentare le effettive possibilità di applicazione di alcune tecniche tipiche dell'Event History Analysis all'osservazione delle sequenze e delle distanze temporali riscontrate nel raggiungimento di talune fra le più importanti "tappe" di tale processo.

Keywords: Migration; Integration; Event History Analysis.

1. Introduction

The theme of integration of Non EC immigrants in the host country is generally approached analysing data referring to a single instant, but integration often consists of long and difficult dynamics along the "migratory life cycle" of each immigrant. In this paper, which constitutes the first step in a much wider research project, we use data coming from a recent survey² to study the different sequences and "states" that characterise the process of insertion of immigrant groups in their settlement areas. With this object in mind, we try to adopt the technique of Event History Analysis (E.H.A.), which has rarely been applied to the analysis of migration (Jorge, Massey, Parrado, 1999) and particularly to the analysis of the sequences and waiting time of integration.

2. Data and Methodology

The data compiled in this paper is taken from interviews carried out on Albanian and Moroccan immigrants in Bari and Rome and selected using the sampling method by centres of aggregation. The sample has been divided into the following groups: a) Albanians interviewed in Bari; b) Albanians interviewed in Rome; c) Moroccans interviewed in Bari; d) Moroccans interviewed in Rome. The homogeneity of each group has been determined in terms of characteristics such as age and sex of

¹ Research cofinanced by MIUR, 2002: "Convergenze e divergenze dei comportamenti demografici ed economici nell'area euro-mediterranea" (co-ordinated by prof. L. Di Comite).

² Survey cofinanced by MIUR, 2000: "Siamo pochi o siamo troppi? Alcuni aspetti delle relazioni tra evoluzione demografica e sviluppo economico e sociale" (co-ordinated by prof. M. Natale) and by MIUR, 2001: "L'integrazione degli immigrati a Roma" (directed by dr. C. Conti).

interviewee. Only male interviewees between the ages of 16 and 30 on arrival in Italy have been considered in the sample. Younger and older males have been excluded on the grounds of lack of homogeneity in the life history³. Women have also been excluded on the grounds of number – there are only 228 cases in the dataset, and lack of homogeneity in the steps towards integration⁴. Our selected dataset includes 534 cases. The month and year for each separate migration life cycle event has been selected from the following information contained in the dataset⁵: a) start of first paid job (L); b) start of first regular work (R); c) start of first rented accommodation or own house (A); d) start of first cohabitation (U)⁶. Given our time reference variable, which corresponds to length of stay in Italy, the time interval under consideration has been calculated from first arrival up to the next 119 months. All possible sequences for these observed events have been taken account of according to when they occur, even when they occur at the same time. Our analysis focuses exclusively on the process of insertion from the point of view of positive transition events – namely improvements in living conditions. Analysis of “negative” transition events such as loss of occupation, or worsening living conditions have not been included due to lack of information.

3. Initial findings and further points for analysis

Some general indicators emerge from analysis of survival functions (Kaplan-Meier estimator) and calculation of the median wait time from arrival in Italy for each migration life cycle event. The first “step” for Albanians, which is taken almost at the same time as arrival in Italy, regardless of place, is to find rented or own house. For Moroccans it is more immediate to find paid work, which is obtained after about 5 months from arrival in Italy. For Albanians first regular job is usually obtained after 32 and 43 months respectively in Bari and Rome. For Moroccans the process takes up to 84 and 62 months in Bari and Rome. Cohabitation involves only 25.7% of interviewees. In Table 1 the distribution frequency for each sequence with more than 10 cases has been devised according to order in which considered events are experienced. The results confirm the above picture and highlight a percentage of Albanians who experience event “L” before event “A”. Between 6 and 9% of interviewees manage to obtain regular work after first job and before finding rented or own house.

Further points for analysis emerge from Figure 1, which shows the distribution of interviewees living under different “states” against distance from arrival in Italy. The greater number of interviewees in “LA” and “LRA” shows that Albanians appear to achieve greater integration than Moroccans, regardless of place. Many Moroccans seem to take place no transition or remain “stuck” in their first job.

Table 2 shows the average time of stay for each “state”. With some differences showing up between nationalities and/or area of settlement, the average wait time is longer

³ A comparative analysis with immigrants over 30 would have been interesting but for lack of space.

⁴ Especially given the need to divide the 228 interviewees in the 4 groups cited above.

⁵ Events such as obtaining first leave of stay and birth of first child have unfortunately not been considered; the first for lack of question in questionnaire on date of entry – the second for lack of sufficient data.

⁶ This refers to the beginning of cohabitation whether defined as marriage contracted in Italy or simply in relationship in Italy, or where interviewees have been joined by spouses from their country of origin.

considering the state of worker (L), the state of worker with own accommodation (LA), and, especially for interviewees in Bari, the state of worker with regular job and own accommodation (LRA).

Figure 1: *Distribution of interviewees living under different “states” against distance from arrival in Italy (in months).*

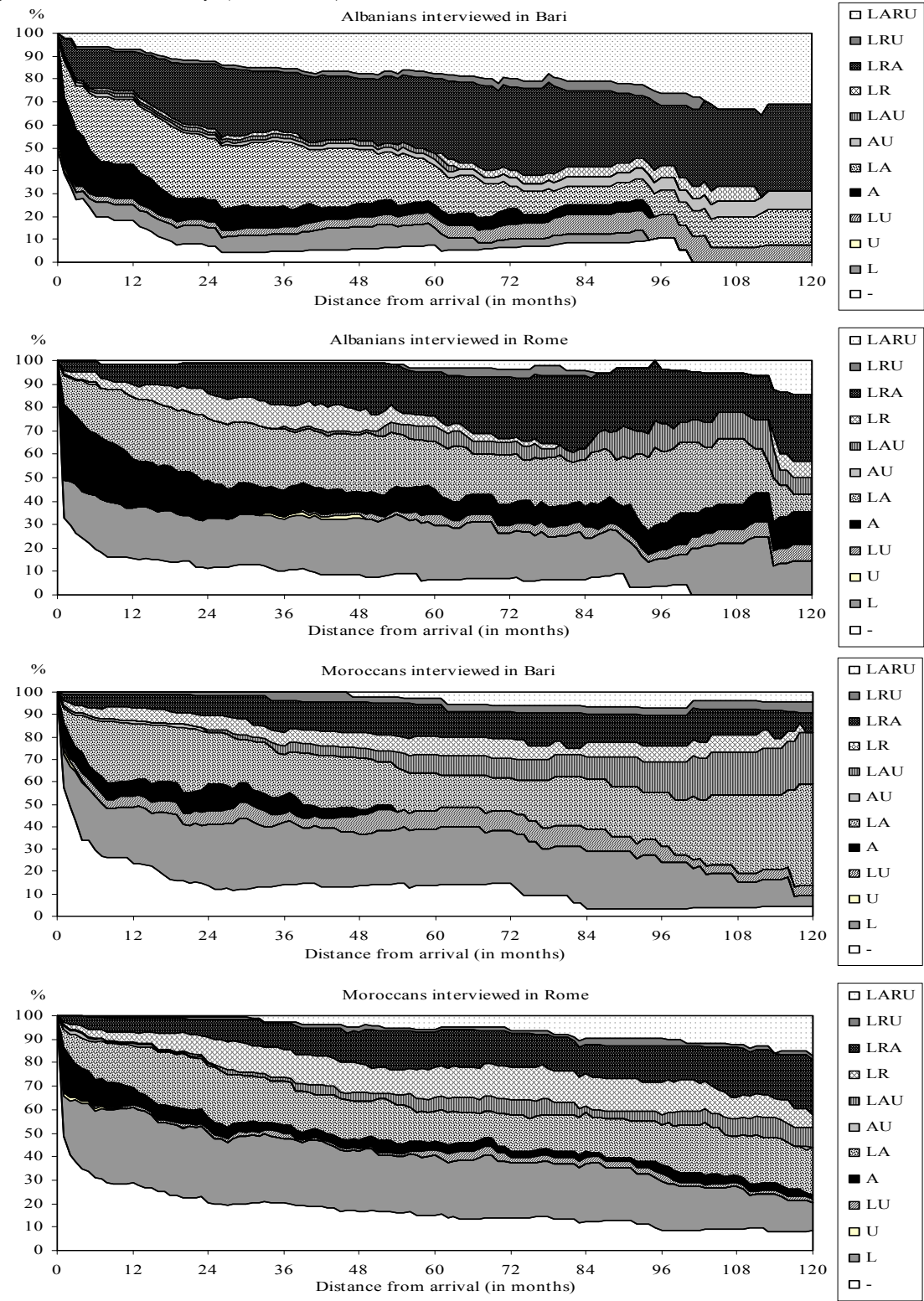


Table 1: *Sequence of life history events in first 10 years from arrival in Italy (%)*.

Process	Albanians		Moroccans	
	Bari	Rome	Bari	Rome
No event	3.30	5.16	10.89	8.56
L	6.59	6.45	5.94	11.23
A	12.09	11.61	10.89	6.42
A before L	12.09	14.19	2.97	8.56
L before A	20.88	25.81	49.50	24.60
LA ⁽¹⁾	14.29	10.32	10.89	5.88
L before A before U	0.00	1.94	0.00	3.74
L before R	2.20	2.58	0.00	2.67
L before R before A	6.59	7.10	5.94	9.09
LR-A ⁽¹⁾	4.40	4.52	5.94	7.49
L before A before R	1.10	2.58	0.00	3.74
A before L before R	17.58	15.48	4.95	4.81
A-LR ⁽¹⁾	8.79	5.16	2.97	1.60
A before L before R before U	1.10	0.65	0.99	3.21
Other cases	16.48	6.45	7.92	13.37
Total	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00
N. of cases	91	155	101	187

(1) Same time events have not been divided by hyphen: two events are considered “same time” when there is less than a month interval between them.

Table 2: *Average time of stay for each “state”, in months⁽²⁾*.

Process	Albanians		Moroccans	
	Bari	Rome	Bari	Rome
No event	9.48	16.05	11.18	21.12
L	6.00	27.22	24.50	28.95
U	0.07	0.06	0.19	0.11
LU	6.43	7.46	3.05	2.19
A	8.21	3.80	15.55	5.42
LA	22.35	27.38	27.12	20.38
AU	3.82	0.27	0.04	0.24
LAU	1.02	9.68	5.79	4.74
LR	2.68	7.65	5.63	12.86
LRA	35.16	13.50	22.59	15.40
LRU	2.59	3.34	0.95	1.63
LARU	22.22	3.58	3.71	6.97
Total	120.00	120.00	120.00	120.00
N. of cases	91	155	101	187

(2) For greater clarity here, all possible combinations between life history events have been considered without making any distinction for the occurrence of each life event.

The results appear to confirm three hypotheses considered before yet: a) the three “states” mentioned above (L, LA, LRA) are the most important situations along migration life cycle of interviewers; b) cohabitation generally occurs later and more rarely than other events; c) there are many differences in migration life cycle among the interviewers according to the nationality and the place of settlement.

This study offers some initial findings on the sequences and “states” involved in the process of integration and some encouragement for the adoption – using suitable adaptations together with ad hoc questionnaires – of E.H.A. methodology in the study of migration. Further work needs to be done to verify and improve these initial findings – considering for example negative life history events – and evaluate the main determinants influencing them.

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