

**Tracing consequences of latent racism
measured by right-wing party electoral support**

'Migration, Mixing and Ethnic Integration' / RGS-IBG 2009

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Point of departure and research question

- Western European countries have become 'multicultural societies'
- A specific kind of political response: right-wing parties with a nationalistic, and more or less explicit, xenophobic frame of reference
- Substantial variation in the relative success of such parties, both across, and within, countries
- Scholars have, quite successfully, explored possible explanations for these variations

Point of departure and research question

- In this study: we explore possible consequences of (rather than explanations for) local variations in support for right-wing parties
- Main question: Is local (within country) variations in right-wing party support a manifestation of differences in latent racism?

local contexts may differ in the overall acceptance of 'anti-immigrant parties' – they may in some places be a more conceivable option

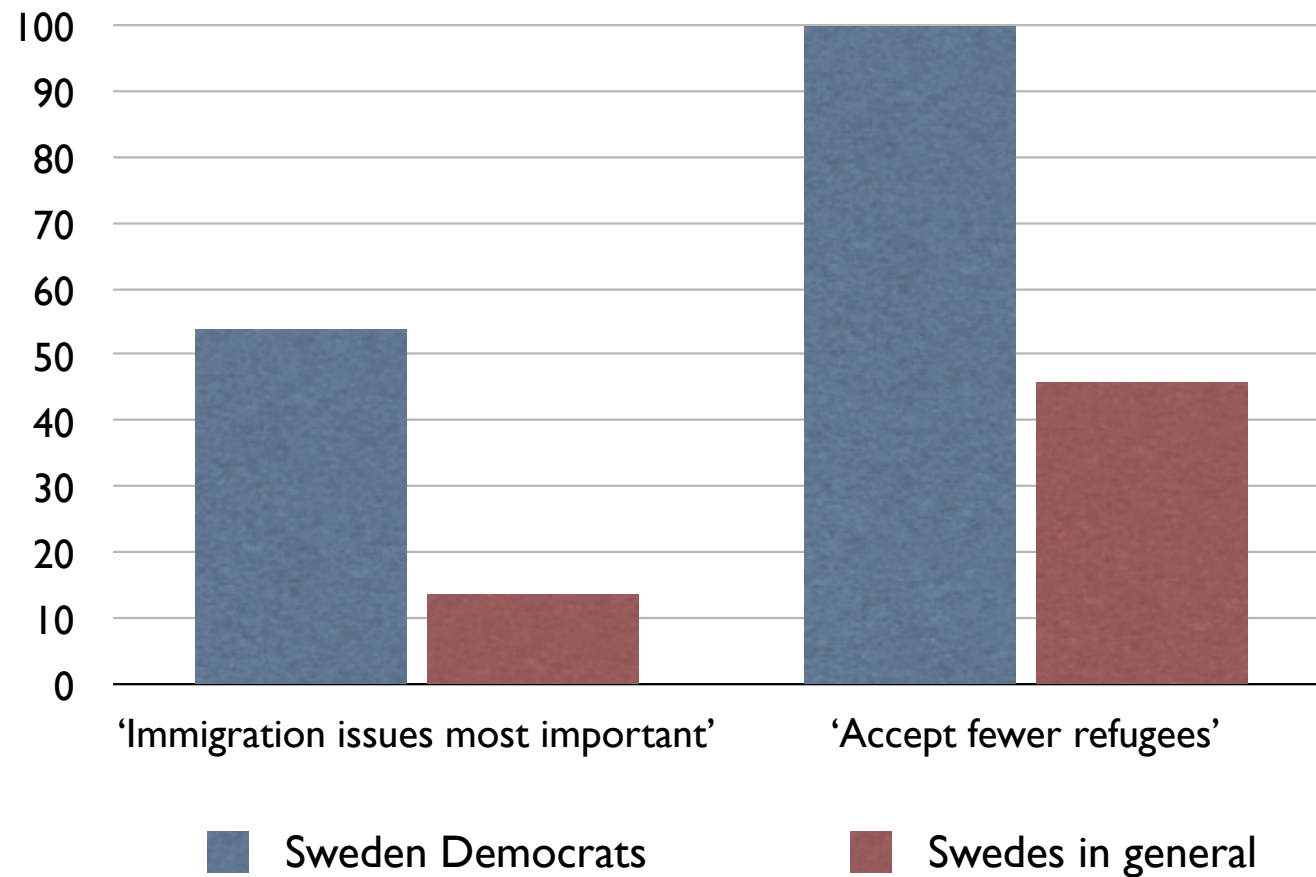
where acceptance is higher: even people not 'crossing the line' may to a higher extent share the basic viewpoint of 'anti-immigrant parties'

if so: people in general may tend to be more xenophobic – in the end, this may be reflected in a more discriminatory environment

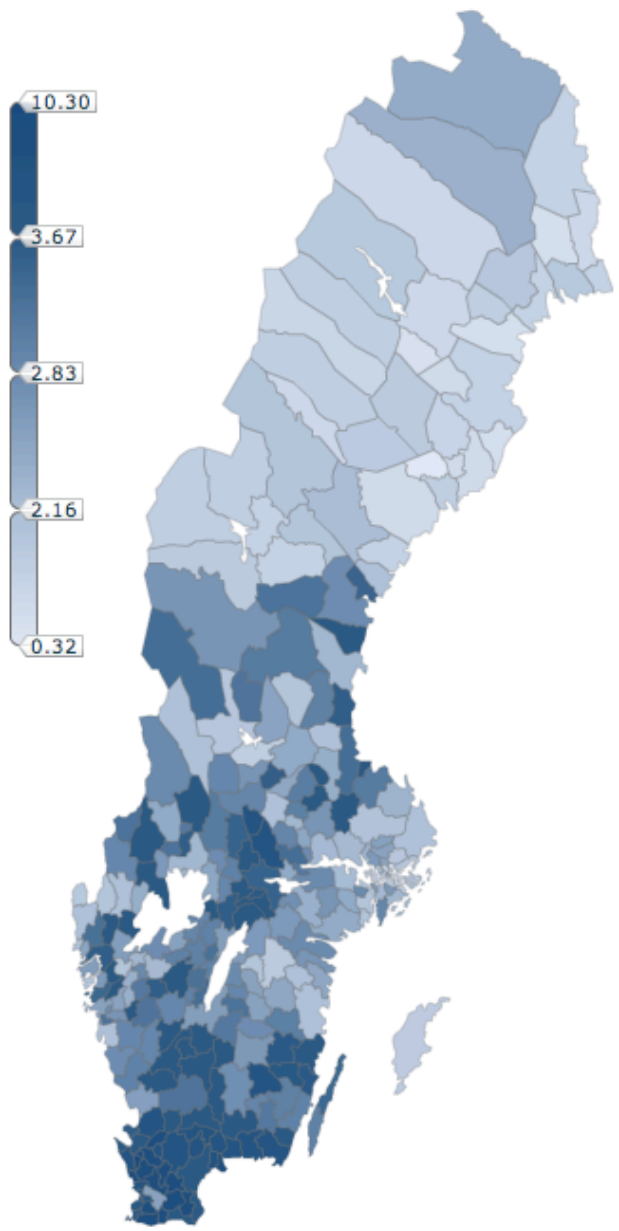
Sweden Democrats (SD)

- Slowly but steadily growing, since the early 1990's, to become a quite established Swedish version of corresponding Western European parties
- Sharply divergent opinions on immigration and integration related issues, in comparison with all parties represented in the parliament

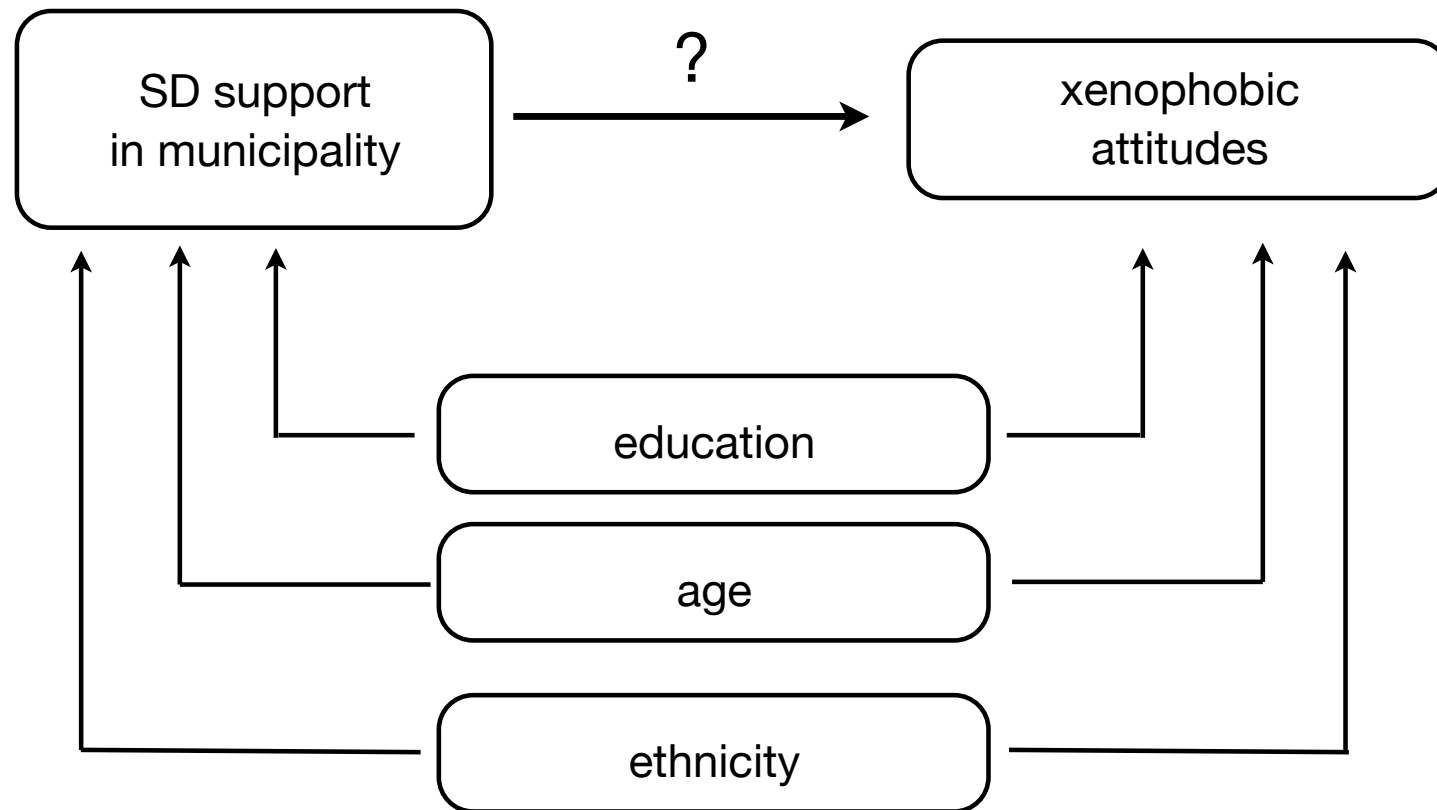
Distinct political opinions of Sweden Democrats' voters (percent)



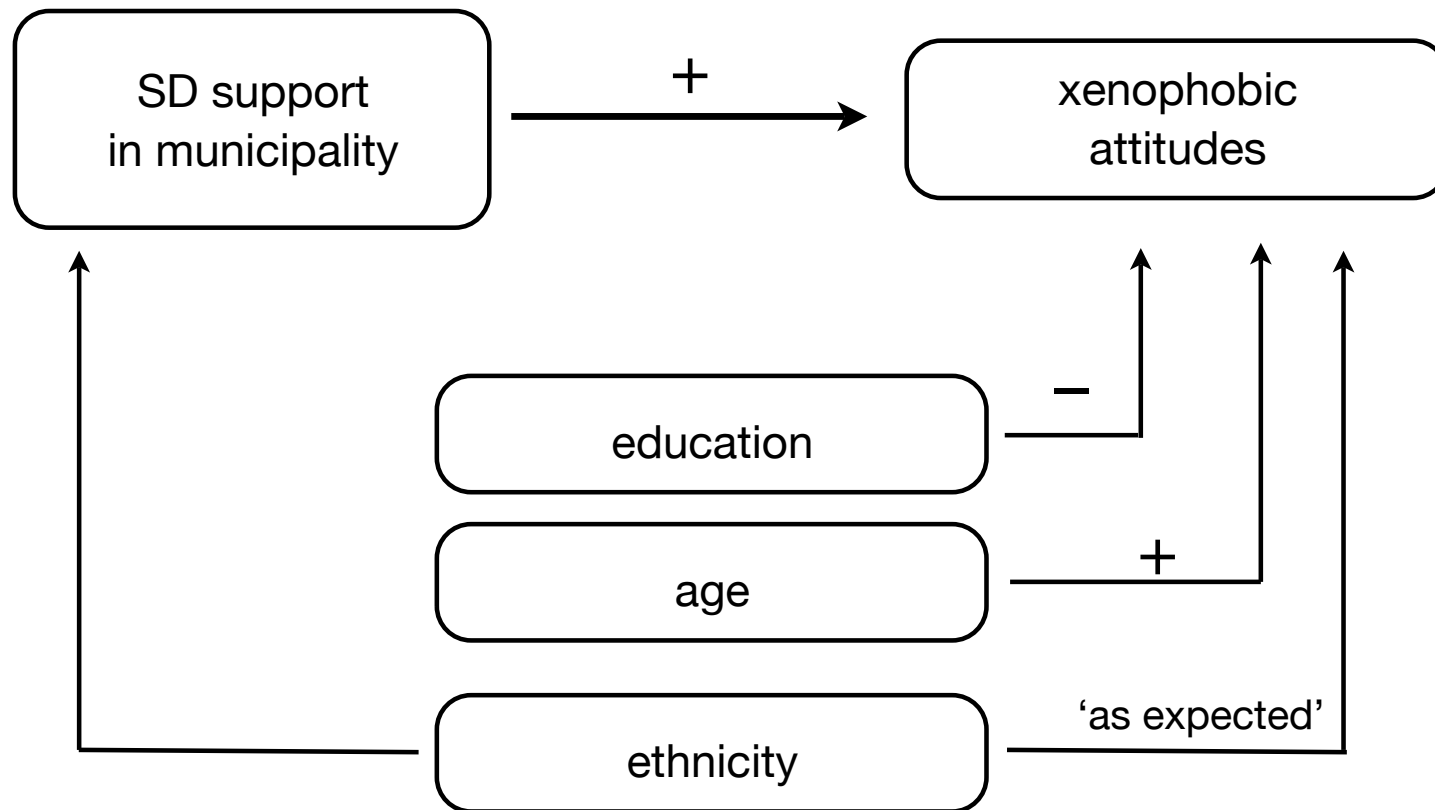
Geographical variation
in SD electoral support
(national election 2006)



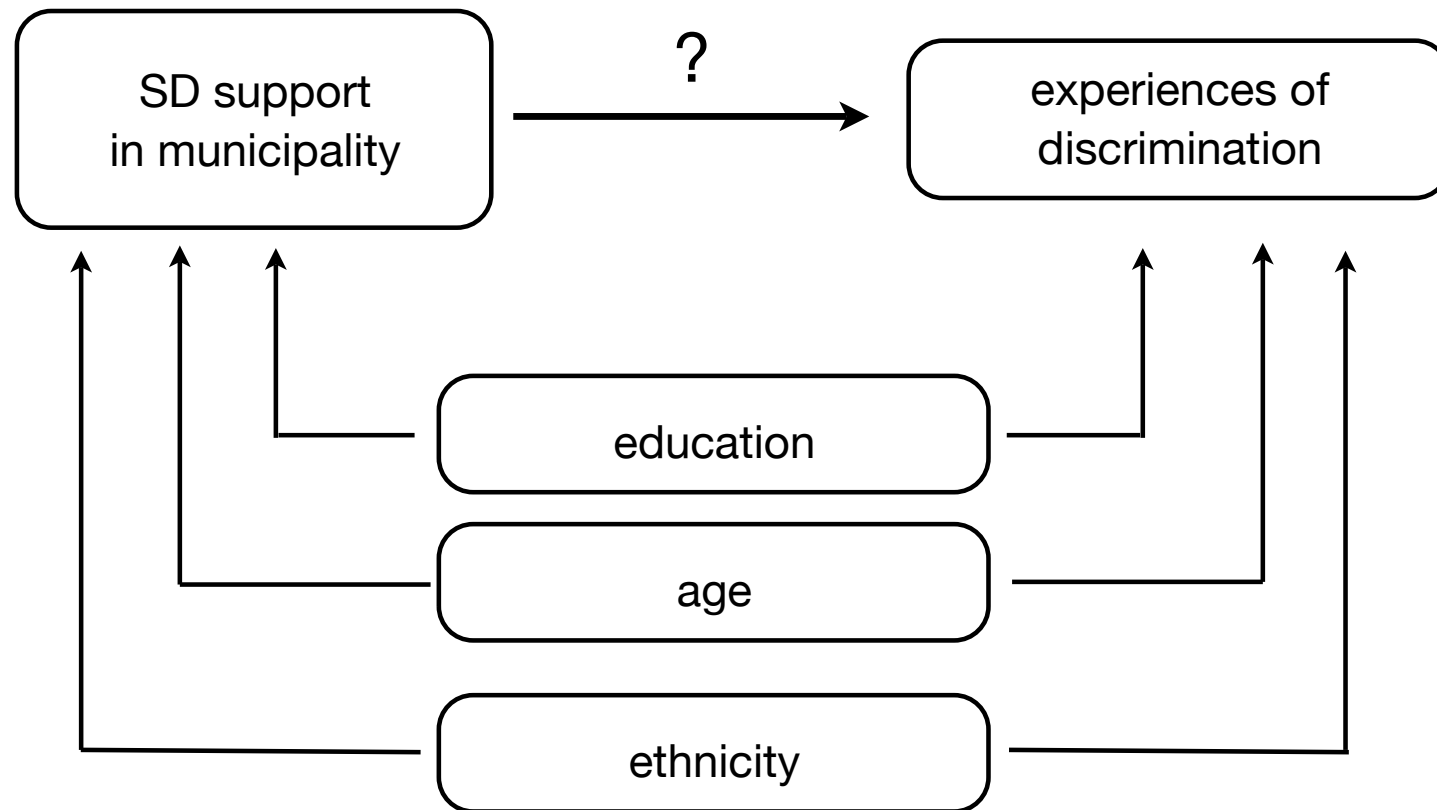
Studying contextual effects of SD electoral support – xenophobia



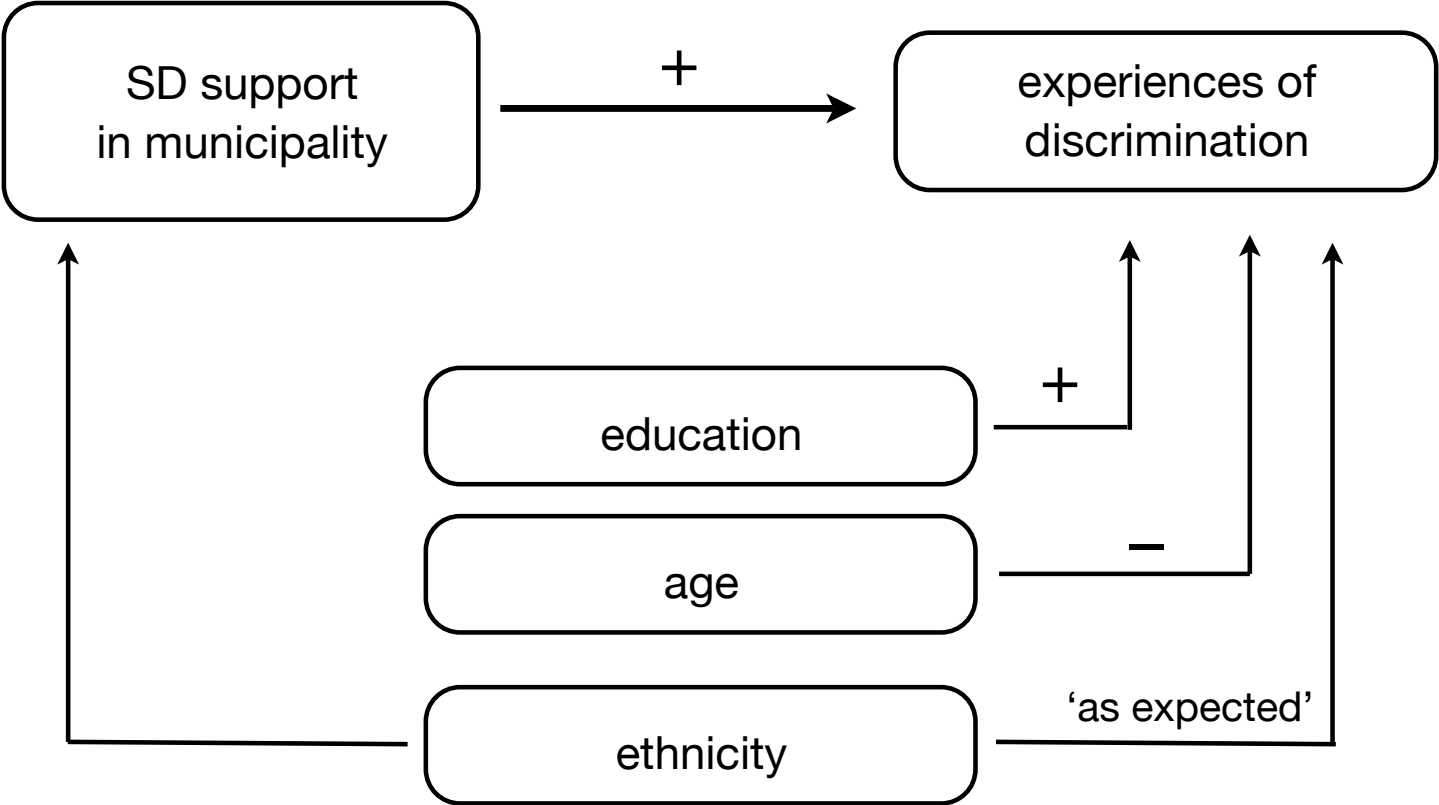
Empirical evidence for a contextual effect (!)



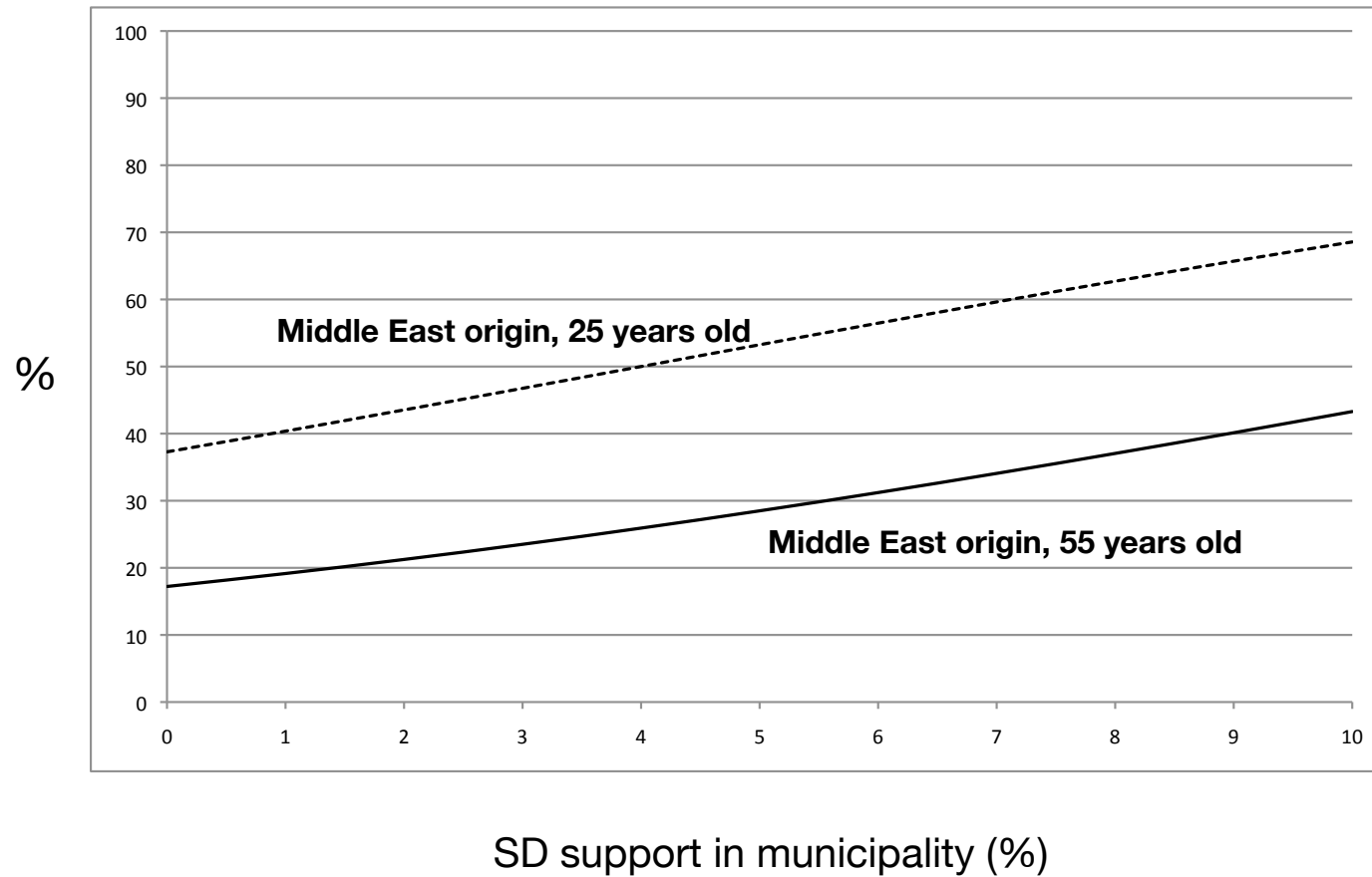
Studying contextual effects of SD electoral support – discrimination



Empirical evidence for a contextual effect (!)



Estimated probabilities for discrimination



Conclusion

- the study suggests that local support for right-wing parties may be a proxy for latent racism
- where SD support is high, people in general seem to be more xenophobic
- the more xenophobic environments also seem to be more discriminatory