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**DATA-SURVEY**

# Migrant Acceptance Index: A Global Examination of the Relationship Between Interpersonal Contact and Attitudes toward Migrants

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## Abstract

*Using independently sampled Gallup World Poll survey data from 140 countries, we explored the relationship between interpersonal contact and attitudes toward migrants from a perspective not typically found in the social psychological literature. We hypothesized that respondents who report personally knowing a migrant living in their home country would be more accepting of migrants generally (using a three-item Migrant Acceptance Index (MAI) score) than respondents who do not know a migrant. Results supported our hypothesis in 134 of the 140 countries suggesting that the strong relationship between interpersonal contact and attitudes toward migrants is near-universal. We also quantified migrant acceptance at the country level, finding a wide spectrum of attitudes toward migrants. Low acceptance countries were located primarily in Eastern and Southeastern Europe and high acceptance countries were located in Northern Europe and sub-Saharan Africa. We discuss these results in the context of interpersonal contact theory (Allport, 1954) and the larger context of global migration.*

***Keywords:*** *migrant acceptance; attitudes; interpersonal contact; Gallup World Poll.*

## Introduction

Few issues have captured the world's attention recently more than immigration. From both a social and political perspective, migrants[1] – the economic benefits they bring, the potential threats they may pose, how governments should handle them, how they are perceived by citizens, and whether those citizens accept them – are of critical importance to the countries they affect. Migrants and immigration policy figured prominently in recent elections in the United Kingdom, the Netherlands, the United

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[1] Consistent with its use in the migrant population literature and by the UN and World Bank, we use the term "international migrant" in this paper to refer to "a person who is living in a country other than his or her country of birth" (UN DESA, 2016, p. 4). Occasionally, and specifically when referring to questions asked in the World Poll, we use the term "immigrant" and "international migrant" interchangeably. This usage differs slightly from more conventional uses of these terms where "migrants" may refer to persons who migrate either within or across country borders in search of work and have no fixed address and "immigrants" which refers to persons who intend to establish permanent residence in a country other than their country of birth. For a detailed treatment of terminology, see: https://www.iom.int/key-migration-terms.

States, France, and Germany and could have a major impact on coming elections in other countries.

One influential social psychological theory sheds some light on how migrants are perceived by those who choose to – or choose not to – interact with them. Allport's (1954) interpersonal contact theory states that direct interpersonal contact with members of minority and other social groups is one of the most effective ways to reduce stereotyping, prejudice, and intergroup conflict. By inference, direct interpersonal contact with migrants ought to reduce stereotyping and prejudice against them and ease their transition and integration into the social fabric of their adopted countries. In this research, we explored the relationship between interpersonal contact and attitudes toward migrants from a perspective not typically found in the social psychological literature. Specifically, we analyzed independently sampled survey data from 140 countries provided by the Gallup World Poll.

The interpersonal contact effect has been documented empirically in a wide variety of settings, including both field and experimental studies, in a variety of situations, and with a range of social groups (Pettigrew & Tropp, 2006; 2008, 2011). Pettigrew and Tropp (2006) conducted an expansive meta-analysis of the existing interpersonal contact literature that included 515 different published studies using rigorous selection criteria and careful classification of the parameters of each study. By doing so, Pettigrew and Tropp (2006) were able to explore a wide range of questions about the validity of interpersonal contact theory across settings as well as methodological concerns present in previous meta-analyses of the effect.

Contact hypothesis studies have varied in terms of the characteristics of the interpersonal setting; whether the study was a laboratory experiment, a quasi-experiment (Campbell & Stanley, 1963), a survey, or field research; whether contact was face-to-face or removed; direct or indirect; whether group membership was based on racial or ethnic characteristics or on other characteristics; whether or not participants were familiar with the other group; and whether or not participants had choice to interact with the other group, among others.

Pettigrew and Tropp (2006) concluded that the effect is robust across settings – including experimental settings as well as those that used self-reports of personal interaction – situations, and social groups, with the strongest effects emerging for face-to-face interactions. It emerges for both direct and indirect contact and, not surprisingly, higher levels of contact lead to larger reductions in reported prejudice. Although 72% of the studies in their meta-analysis were conducted in the United States, Pettigrew and Tropp (2006: 765) were able to determine – across six broad global regions

– that the contact effect is consistent and of similar effect size across these regions.

**Allport's Optimal Circumstances**

Included in the Pettigrew and Tropp (2006) meta-analysis was an examination of Allport's (1954) original four criteria for the interpersonal contact effect to emerge. Allport (1954) originally theorized that contact between different groups *under optimal circumstances* could serve as an effective prejudice reducer. However, these "optimal circumstances" – equal status between the groups in the situation; common goals; intergroup cooperation; and the support of authorities, law, or custom – complicated the simplicity and applicability of the core contact hypothesis by placing limits on the effect that may or may not be relevant. They also triggered a robust empirical effort to test the theory.

Based on the results of their meta-analysis, Pettigrew and Tropp (2006) conclude that although experiments that incorporated situations meeting Allport's optimal conditions yielded larger effects than other studies, those conditions are not essential for intergroup contact to positively affect attitudes. Even studies where "optimal conditions" were absent showed significant relationships between interpersonal contact and attitudes. Pettigrew and Tropp (2006) suggest that rather than being necessary for interpersonal contact to reduce prejudice, Allport's optimal conditions simply enhance the positive effects of intergroup contact. More recently, Kende, Phalet, Van Den Noortgate, Kara, and Fischer (2017) reanalyzed a number of studies from the Pettigrew and Tropp (2006) meta-analysis, augmenting them with culture-level measures of egalitarian and hierarchy values. Results of their analysis demonstrated that while egalitarian cultures yielded stronger contact–prejudice associations and hierarchical cultures corresponded with weaker contact–prejudice associations, neither orientation was essential for intergroup contact to positively affect attitudes. Understanding the role of optimal conditions on the contact hypothesis is critical for the present study as well as any research where optimal conditions can either not be measured or cannot be controlled.

**Contact Research with Migrant Minorities in Europe**

The majority of research on interpersonal contact theory in the United States has focused on racial attitudes toward black Americans (e.g., Brown, Brown, Jackson, Sellers, and Manuel, 2003), but has also included sexual orientation, religious affiliation, and disability status (Herek, 1987; Herek & Glunt, 1993; Herek & Capitanio, 1996; Smith, Axelton, & Saucier, 2009).

More germane to the current discussion, however, the effect has also been demonstrated extensively in research on attitudes toward migrants in Europe.

In their review of the contact literature, Brown and Hewstone (2005) observe that the beneficial effects of intergroup contact have been demonstrated using a wide range of outcome measures beyond traditional measures of attitude. These include perceived outgroup variability (Islam & Hewstone, 1993; Paolini, Hewstone, Cairns, & Voci, 2004), mutual accommodation (Harwood, Hewstone, Paolini, & Voci, 2005), positive and negative emotions (Tam et al., 2007), and trust in the outgroup and intergroup forgiveness (Hewstone et al., 2004; Tam et al., 2008). Much of the European contact research conducted since the Pettigrew and Tropp (2006) meta-analysis has utilized these diverse measures.

For example, in an intriguing twist on the contact hypothesis, Maliepaard and Phalet (2012) found that among members of Dutch Muslim communities (Turkish and Moroccan), more frequent contact with majority group members (non-Muslim Dutch) reduced the expression of their Muslim identity while more frequent contact with minority group members (Dutch Muslims) was associated with higher levels of religious practice and greater assertion of minority group members' Muslim identities.

Hindriks, Verkuyten, and Coenders (2014) found that among Muslim migrants in the Netherlands, more frequent contact with a different *minority* group was associated with less social distance and bias toward that group, but was stronger for the more similar (Muslim) minority group than for the less similar one (non-Muslim). No reduction in bias or social distance was observed for greater contact with the majority group.

In a study of Bosnian Muslims, Cehajic, Brown, and Castano (2008) found that positive and frequent intergroup contact with Bosnian Serbs led to greater forgiveness for the Bosnian Serbs' "misdeeds" during the 1992-1995 war in Bosnia and Herzegovina. This enhanced forgiveness, in turn, was associated with reduced social distance between the groups. Additional analyses revealed that intergroup contact affected forgiveness through empathy for and trust in the outgroup and the perception of outgroup variability.

Several longitudinal studies in Europe have clarified the direction of the causal processes underlying the contact effect: Does contact reduce prejudice or does prejudice reduce contact? Binder et al. (2009) conducted a longitudinal field survey in Germany, Belgium, and England with school students from both ethnic minorities and ethnic majorities. Path analytic results revealed that while contact reduced prejudice, prejudice also reduced contact.

Swart, Hewstone, Christ, and Voci (2011) conducted a 3-wave longitudinal study among minority high school students in South Africa to explore the effects of cross-group friendships on positive outgroup (white South African high school students) attitudes. Swart et al. (2011) found that over time, cross-group friendships predicted outgroup attitudes and that outgroup attitudes predicted cross-group friendships. This bidirectional model described the relationship between contact, mediators, and attitudes significantly better than other models they tested. However, consistent with interpersonal contact theory, full longitudinal mediation was only found in the direction from contact to prejudice. Specifically, cross-group friendships (higher levels of contact) were positively associated with positive outgroup attitudes.

Finally, using data collected from eight European countries, Schmid, Hewstone, Küpper, Zick, and Wagner (2012) examined the relationship between intergroup contact with immigrants and attitudes toward primary (immigrants) and secondary (homosexuals and Jews) outgroups. Results showed that intergroup contact was not only directly related with primary outgroup attitudes but also indirectly associated with secondary outgroup attitudes.

While these studies and those that Pettigrew and Tropp (2006) analyzed outside of the United States represent an important and substantial validation of the contact hypothesis in places other than North America, our goal in this research was to dig deeper: Is interpersonal contact related to more positive attitudes toward migrants even in places where traditional social psychological research is rare, such as Rwanda, Paraguay, or Mongolia? We sought to explore the impact of interpersonal contact at a country level in the self-reports of respondents from 140 different countries. This research was made possible by the depth and breadth of the data collected by the Gallup World Poll, which collects nationally representative and projectable survey data each year from over 140 countries.

## Method

### *Measures Used*

Launched in 2005, the World Poll is Gallup's global survey instrument to measure the opinions and attitudes of residents annually in more than 140 countries and areas. Country-level samples typically contain 1,000 respondents, although in some larger countries sample sizes are larger. Topics covered are wide-ranging and include health and well-being, personal economics, social trends and topics, and life satisfaction, among

many others. World Poll surveys are probability-based random samples, representative of the civilian, non-institutionalized population, aged 15 and older in each country. Coverage includes both urban and rural areas, although unsafe zones may be excluded to minimize risk for the field staff. In countries where telephone penetration is at least 80% or is the customary survey methodology, trained staff conduct interviews via computer-assisted telephone interviewing (CATI). In Central and Eastern Europe, much of Latin America, former Soviet states, nearly all of Asia, the Middle East and Africa, surveys are conducted face-to-face by trained interviewers. With the exception of a couple of countries, face-to-face interviewing is conducted using computer-assisted personal interviewing (CAPI). Since its launch, the World Poll has collected the opinions of more than 1.7 million individuals and results have been used to inform initiatives in the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), forced labor, hunger and food security, human trafficking, and financial inclusion, among others.

Three questions asked in the World Poll in 2016 and 2017 were used to create interim and final versions of the Migrant Acceptance Index. The questions are presented in Table 1.

**Table 1**. Migrant Acceptance Items

| Question | Response options* |
|---|---|
| I would like to ask you some questions about foreign immigrants - people who have come to live and work in this country from another country. Please tell me whether you, personally, think each of the following is a good thing or a bad thing? How about:<br>Immigrants living in [country name]?<br>An immigrant becoming your neighbor?<br>An immigrant marrying one of your close relatives? | 1 A good thing<br>2 A bad thing<br>3 (It depends)<br>4 (Don't know)<br>5 (Refused) |
| Do you, personally, know any immigrants living in [country name]? | 1 Yes<br>2 No |

**Note: Responses in parentheses were volunteered by the respondent.*



These items were always asked in the same order as in the table and located in the same place in the questionnaire flow. To specifically test the effects of interpersonal contact on attitudes toward migrants, respondents were then asked whether they personally know an immigrant living in their

home country.[2] Gallup asked 147,695 adults aged 15 and older these questions in 140 of the 142 countries surveyed in 2016[3] and 2017.[4] Country sample sizes are presented in Table 2.

### Creating the Migrant Acceptance Index

There are a number of ways the three items above could be combined to create a composite Migrant Acceptance metric. We explored a number of the potential qualitative methods before arriving at our final quantitative approach. These are included in Table 3 and included computing country-level percentages of respondents who positively endorsed all three items (both with and without including the volunteered responses "It depends" and "Don't know"), percentages of respondents who negatively endorsed all three items, and a "net score" subtracting the percentage of those who negatively endorsed all three items from those who positively endorsed all three items. While informative, none of these methods yielded a sufficiently satisfactory and comprehensive description of the full set of responses in the data.

[2] Although our analyses were specifically designed to test the applicability and validity of the interpersonal contact hypothesis (Allport, 1954) in multiple countries, sociologists, demographers, and others have explored different ways of assessing the likelihood that members of one social or ethnic group will interact with members of different groups and how evenly different social or ethnic groups are spread throughout a population. While these formulations were not the focus of our efforts, we have included several of these statistics to provide context for our analysis. None of them were significantly correlated with the Migrant Acceptance Index at the country level. The Entropy Index (*h*) was the only measure that correlated with the percentage of respondents who know an immigrant ($r = 0.58$, $p < .001$). Additional statistics are presented in Table 2. For additional information, see White (1983; 1986).

*Index of Dissimilarity (*D*).* The Index of Dissimilarity (Duncan & Duncan, 1955; Sakoda, 1981) is the most common measure of group isolation or segregation. The value of *D* represents the proportion of migrants (or native-born) that would need to move to a different country within the group in order to create a uniform distribution of population within the countries in the group. If $D = .60$, then 60% of migrants would need to move to another country in the group in order achieve a uniform distribution of population by migrant status. The value of *D* is a maximum when each country contains only one group; it is minimized (0) when the proportion of each group in each country is the same as the proportion in the group of countries as a whole.

*Interaction or Exposure Index (*B*).* The Exposure Index (Massey & Denton, 1988; McCauley, Plummer, Moskalenko, & Mordkoff, 2001) is a measure of the probability that a member of one group will meet or interact with a member of another group. For example, if $B = 0.25$, the probability of a migrant "interacting" with a native-born person is about 25%. Similarly, in this case *B* can also be interpreted to mean that 25 out of every 100 people a migrant meets will be native born. The value of *B* will be highest when the two groups have equal numbers and are spread evenly among the countries in each group.

*Entropy Index (*h*).* The Entropy Index (Theil, 1967) is a measure of diversity within a specified population. The minimum value for *h* is 0 and the maximum value is *ln*(k), or $\ln 2 = 0.69$. Countries with lower *h* values are less diverse. A country with $h = 0.69$ would have equal proportions of migrants and native-born (50 % each). A country with $h = 0$ contains only members of a single group.

Table 2. Additional Measures of Isolation & Exposure

| Country Group | Migrant Acceptance Index Score | Native Population | Migrant Population | Total Population | % Native Born | % Migrants | Index of Dissimilarity (*D*) | Exposure Index (*B*) | Entropy Index (*h*) |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | (UNDESA, 2015) | | | | | | | |
| Most Accepting Countries (N = 23) | 7.73 | 855,702,830 | 84,751,998 | 940,454,828 | 91.0 | 9.0 | 0.45 | 0.12 | 0.30 |
| Countries < 1 SD Above the MAI Mean (N = 53)* | 6.32 (6.34)** | 1,488,743,664 | 78,396,736 | 1,567,140,400 | 95.0 | 5.0 | 0.59 | 0.03 | 0.20 |
| Countries < 1 SD Below the MAI Mean (N = 32)* | 4.66 (4.68)** | 3,579,305,026 | 30,190,327 | 3,609,495,353 | 99.2 | 0.8 | 0.62 | 0.08 | 0.05 |
| Least Accepting Countries (N = 29) | 2.61 | 856,811,948 | 40,105,248 | 896,917,196 | 95.5 | 4.5 | 0.42 | 0.09 | 0.18 |
| Global (N = 137) | 5.37 | 6,780,563,468 | 233,444,309 | 7,014,007,777 | 96.7 | 3.3 | | | |

Notes: *UN population data for Kosovo, Northern Cyrus, & South Sudan are not available. **Means presented with/(without) missing countries.

[3] Migrant Acceptance items were not included in Algeria or Bahrain.

[4] Data for the United States and Canada were collected in 2017.

Having explored alternative score creation methods, the response options for the three Migrant Acceptance questions struck us as sharing some similar properties to the scoring system used in the professional football (soccer) leagues around the world. In football scoring, a team earns three points for a win, one point for a draw, and no points for a loss. The team with the highest point total at the end of the season wins the championship. We applied this logic to the item scoring for the Migrant Acceptance Index, coding "a good thing" as three points, "it depends" and "don't know" as one point, and "a bad thing" as zero points. Each respondent's Migrant Acceptance Index is the sum of the points across the three questions with a maximum score of nine (all three are good things) and a minimum score of zero (all three are bad things).[5] The distribution of country-level MAI scores ranges from 1.47 to 8.26 ($M$ = 5.37, $SD$ = 1.79, 95% CI = 5.07-5.67).

At both a respondent and a country level, the Migrant Acceptance Index has a reasonably high alpha reliability (Cronbach's alpha = 0.84 and 0.97, for respondent and country levels, respectively). The distribution is slightly negatively skewed (-0.31) which is to be expected given the higher weight given in the scoring method to "good thing" responses. Because the resulting country-level Migrant Acceptance Index scores are approximately normally distributed and unburdened by either ceiling or floor effects, we produced indexed scores in addition to the raw scores. These, along with the raw Migrant Acceptance Index scores, are presented by country in Table 4.

## Results

### *Migrant Acceptance at the Country Level*

Migrant Acceptance Index scores ranged from a high of 8.26 in Iceland to a low of 1.47 in Macedonia resulting in a significant main effect for Country, $F(138,140162) = 213.5$, $p < .0001$, partial $\eta^2 = .17$[6].

*Countries least accepting of migrants.* Twenty-nine countries' MAI scores fall more than one standard deviation below the country-level mean score. With the exception of Israel, the 10 least-accepting countries are all located in the East and Southeast European portion of the former Soviet bloc, specifically the Balkans (Croatia, Macedonia, Montenegro, and Serbia), the Baltic states (Estonia and Latvia), the former Czechoslovakia

[5] We also explored the possibility of scoring "good thing" responses as 2 rather than three, but opted for the 0, 1, 3 scoring approach because we felt that "Don't know" or "It depends" responses were ambivalent and did not represent a midpoint value, and because of the greater separation among high and low country-level scores. Both approaches achieved comparably high alpha reliabilities at both a respondent and a country level (Cronbach's alphas = 0.84 and 0.97, respectively).

[6] Observed power = 1.0 for all effects.

Table 3. Migrant Acceptance Item Classification Frequencies by Country (Sorted by Net)

| Country[1] | Region | Migrant Acceptance Item Classification Frequencies | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | All 3 are "good things" (%) | All 3 "It depends" or "Don't know" (%) | All 3 are "bad things" (%) | All other item combinations (%) | Net (%) | Unweighted N |
| Iceland | Western Europe | 85.7 | 1.1 | 2.3 | 11.0 | +83.4 | 529 |
| New Zealand | Australia & New Zealand | 82.6 | 0.3 | 2.4 | 14.6 | +80.2 | 1,004 |
| Canada | Northern America | 83.8 | 1.3 | 3.9 | 11.2 | +79.9 | 2,008 |
| Rwanda | East Africa | 79.3 | 0.8 | 2.0 | 17.9 | +77.3 | 1,000 |
| Sierra Leone | West Africa | 77.0 | 2.2 | 1.2 | 19.6 | +75.8 | 1,000 |
| Australia | Australia & New Zealand | 79.2 | 2.0 | 4.0 | 14.8 | +75.2 | 1,004 |
| Mali | West Africa | 76.4 | 2.8 | 2.3 | 18.4 | +74.1 | 1,000 |
| Sweden | Western Europe | 76.3 | 2.9 | 2.9 | 17.7 | +73.4 | 1,000 |
| Ireland | Western Europe | 72.8 | 4.0 | 3.7 | 19.5 | +69.1 | 1,000 |
| Nigeria | West Africa | 71.6 | 2.4 | 2.6 | 23.4 | +69.0 | 1,000 |
| Norway | Western Europe | 73.4 | 0.3 | 5.1 | 21.1 | +68.3 | 1,000 |
| Ivory Coast | West Africa | 71.9 | 1.2 | 4.5 | 22.2 | +67.4 | 1,000 |
| United States | Northern America | 79.5 | 2.0 | 5.8 | 12.8 | +66.7 | 2,013 |
| Burkina Faso | West Africa | 66.2 | 1.9 | 1.2 | 30.7 | +65.0 | 1,000 |
| Luxembourg | Western Europe | 70.0 | 4.8 | 5.0 | 20.1 | +65.0 | 1,000 |
| Benin | West Africa | 67.7 | 2.3 | 3.1 | 26.9 | +64.6 | 1,000 |
| Spain | Southern Europe | 66.6 | 6.3 | 2.5 | 24.6 | +64.1 | 1,000 |
| Netherlands | Western Europe | 69.1 | 0.9 | 7.0 | 23.0 | +62.1 | 1,000 |
| Bangladesh | South Asia | 62.5 | 4.3 | 2.4 | 30.7 | +60.1 | 1,000 |
| Switzerland | Western Europe | 66.5 | 6.3 | 7.0 | 20.0 | +59.5 | 1,000 |
| Chad | Central Africa | 67.4 | 1.7 | 8.4 | 22.5 | +59.0 | 1,000 |
| Albania | Southeast Europe | 61.8 | 1.0 | 4.4 | 32.8 | +57.4 | 999 |
| Denmark | Western Europe | 65.0 | 1.0 | 9.7 | 24.2 | +55.3 | 1,000 |
| Congo (Kinshasa DRC) | Central Africa | 58.7 | 4.5 | 5.7 | 31.1 | +53.0 | 1,000 |
| Togo | West Africa | 61.5 | 3.7 | 9.3 | 25.5 | +52.2 | 1,000 |
| Taiwan | East Asia | 54.0 | 8.4 | 2.6 | 34.8 | +51.4 | 1,000 |
| Uruguay | Latin America | 55.5 | 12.4 | 4.4 | 27.6 | +51.1 | 1,000 |
| Ghana | West Africa | 60.3 | 2.5 | 9.3 | 27.7 | +51.0 | 1,000 |
| Germany | Western Europe | 55.4 | 3.2 | 5.1 | 36.2 | +50.3 | 1,000 |
| Guinea | West Africa | 52.4 | 8.0 | 2.8 | 36.8 | +49.6 | 1,000 |
| Senegal | West Africa | 53.5 | 2.3 | 4.1 | 40.1 | +49.4 | 1,000 |
| Congo (Brazzaville RC) | Central Africa | 55.4 | 2.5 | 7.1 | 34.9 | +48.3 | 1,000 |
| Paraguay | Latin America | 54.0 | 19.2 | 5.7 | 21.1 | +48.3 | 1,000 |
| Venezuela | Latin America | 51.7 | 12.3 | 3.4 | 32.4 | +48.3 | 1,000 |
| Portugal | Southern Europe | 50.6 | 6.9 | 3.3 | 39.3 | +47.3 | 1,008 |
| Philippines | Southeast Asia | 54.8 | 2.0 | 7.9 | 35.3 | +46.9 | 1,000 |
| Zimbabwe | South Africa | 55.5 | 1.3 | 8.8 | 34.3 | +46.7 | 1,000 |
| Finland | Western Europe | 53.1 | 4.4 | 8.5 | 33.9 | +44.6 | 1,000 |
| Argentina | Latin America | 48.2 | 10.3 | 3.6 | 37.9 | +44.6 | 1,000 |
| United Kingdom | Western Europe | 53.3 | 3.7 | 8.8 | 34.1 | +44.5 | 1,000 |
| Italy | Southern Europe | 54.8 | 3.1 | 11.5 | 30.5 | +43.3 | 1,000 |
| Brazil | Latin America | 53.6 | 5.8 | 10.7 | 29.9 | +42.9 | 1,001 |
| Kenya | East Africa | 55.7 | 1.1 | 13.0 | 30.2 | +42.7 | 1,000 |
| Peru | Latin America | 51.6 | 7.3 | 8.9 | 32.2 | +42.7 | 1,000 |
| Lesotho | South Africa | 53.1 | 0.5 | 10.5 | 35.9 | +42.6 | 1,000 |
| Central African Republic | Central Africa | 52.5 | 6.8 | 10.0 | 30.7 | +42.5 | 1,000 |
| Niger | West Africa | 49.1 | 1.6 | 6.7 | 42.5 | +42.4 | 1,000 |
| France | Western Europe | 54.3 | 8.3 | 12.1 | 25.3 | +42.2 | 1,000 |
| Japan | East Asia | 48.2 | 8.5 | 6.2 | 37.2 | +42.0 | 1,003 |
| South Korea | East Asia | 49.9 | 5.3 | 8.1 | 36.5 | +41.8 | 1,000 |
| Morocco | North Africa | 50.4 | 8.9 | 10.3 | 30.4 | +40.1 | 1,008 |
| Tunisia | North Africa | 46.7 | 8.7 | 6.7 | 37.8 | +40.0 | 1,001 |
| Cameroon | Central Africa | 49.6 | 3.7 | 10.6 | 35.9 | +39.0 | 1,000 |
| Colombia | Latin America | 50.1 | 9.0 | 11.7 | 29.3 | +38.4 | 1,000 |
| Vietnam | Southeast Asia | 40.3 | 22.1 | 3.1 | 34.4 | +37.2 | 1,039 |
| Belgium | Western Europe | 51.9 | 2.3 | 15.2 | 30.5 | +36.7 | 1,000 |
| Ecuador | Latin America | 43.4 | 8.6 | 6.7 | 41.2 | +36.7 | 1,000 |
| Liberia | West Africa | 54.0 | 4.7 | 18.4 | 22.8 | +35.6 | 1,000 |
| Austria | Western Europe | 43.6 | 13.2 | 8.3 | 34.8 | +35.3 | 1,000 |
| Gabon | West Africa | 46.4 | 2.2 | 12.4 | 38.9 | +34.0 | 1,000 |
| Nicaragua | Latin America | 39.5 | 10.3 | 6.1 | 44.0 | +33.4 | 1,000 |
| Nepal | South Asia | 43.6 | 2.3 | 11.7 | 42.3 | +31.9 | 1,000 |
| Dominican Republic | Caribbean | 43.8 | 6.0 | 11.9 | 38.2 | +31.9 | 1,000 |
| Hong Kong | East Asia | 46.1 | 4.0 | 14.4 | 35.5 | +31.7 | 1,005 |
| El Salvador | Latin America | 40.2 | 7.7 | 8.5 | 43.6 | +31.7 | 1,000 |
| Malawi | South Africa | 46.3 | 0.0 | 15.2 | 38.4 | +31.1 | 1,000 |
| Saudi Arabia | GCC | 33.8 | 7.0 | 3.1 | 56.2 | +30.7 | 554 |
| Armenia | Caucuses CIS | 37.4 | 15.1 | 7.9 | 39.6 | +29.5 | 1,000 |
| Mauritius | South Africa | 36.8 | 11.1 | 9.1 | 43.0 | +27.7 | 1,000 |
| South Sudan | East Africa | 36.7 | 8.8 | 10.0 | 44.6 | +26.7 | 1,000 |
| Haiti | Caribbean | 35.8 | 9.7 | 11.4 | 43.1 | +24.4 | 504 |

Table 3 (cont'd.). Migrant Acceptance Item Classification Frequencies by Country

| Country[1] | Region | Migrant Acceptance Item Classification Frequencies | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | All 3 are "good things" (%) | All 3 "It depends" or "Don't know" (%) | All 3 are "bad things" (%) | All other item combinations (%) | Net (%) | Unweighted N |
| Costa Rica | Latin America | 35.9 | 8.5 | 11.7 | 43.8 | +24.2 | 1,000 |
| Chile | Latin America | 35.0 | 24.8 | 11.1 | 29.2 | +23.9 | 1,008 |
| China | East Asia | 30.1 | 33.8 | 6.7 | 29.3 | +23.4 | 4,373 |
| Bolivia | Latin America | 35.4 | 10.4 | 12.2 | 42.1 | +23.2 | 1,000 |
| Singapore | Southeast Asia | 28.1 | 29.4 | 5.3 | 37.1 | +22.8 | 1,000 |
| Ethiopia | East Africa | 32.9 | 25.5 | 10.3 | 31.3 | +22.6 | 1,000 |
| Cyprus | Southern Europe | 33.3 | 7.2 | 11.8 | 47.8 | +21.5 | 1,006 |
| United Arab Emirates | GCC | 26.1 | 0.8 | 4.8 | 68.4 | +21.3 | 1,025 |
| Honduras | Latin America | 34.9 | 12.4 | 14.3 | 38.4 | +20.6 | 1,000 |
| Uganda | East Africa | 41.8 | 0.9 | 21.4 | 35.8 | +20.4 | 1,000 |
| Libya | North Africa | 27.3 | 2.4 | 7.6 | 62.7 | +19.7 | 1,001 |
| Madagascar | South Africa | 43.5 | 3.3 | 24.6 | 28.6 | +18.9 | 1,000 |
| India | South Asia | 27.6 | 18.4 | 11.1 | 43.0 | +16.5 | 3,000 |
| Botswana | South Africa | 39.5 | 2.2 | 23.2 | 35.0 | +16.3 | 1,000 |
| Mauritania | West Africa | 21.0 | 22.7 | 5.4 | 50.9 | +15.6 | 1,000 |
| Mexico | Latin America | 32.6 | 16.4 | 18.6 | 32.3 | +14.0 | 1,000 |
| Uzbekistan | Asian CIS | 24.7 | 13.5 | 11.0 | 50.8 | +13.7 | 1,000 |
| Zambia | South Africa | 34.4 | 3.3 | 20.9 | 41.3 | +13.5 | 1,000 |
| Kuwait | GCC | 14.8 | 11.4 | 3.4 | 70.5 | +11.4 | 267 |
| Malta | Southern Europe | 33.1 | 2.0 | 23.1 | 41.7 | +10.0 | 1,011 |
| Azerbaijan | Caucuses CIS | 21.9 | 19.9 | 12.4 | 45.7 | +9.5 | 1,000 |
| Somalia | East Africa | 28.2 | 10.5 | 19.6 | 41.8 | +8.6 | 1,191 |
| Panama | Latin America | 22.3 | 18.9 | 14.8 | 43.9 | +7.5 | 1,000 |
| Tanzania | East Africa | 39.1 | 0.3 | 31.8 | 28.7 | +7.3 | 1,000 |
| Kyrgyzstan | Asian CIS | 30.0 | 11.3 | 22.9 | 35.8 | +7.1 | 1,000 |
| South Africa | South Africa | 31.9 | 1.4 | 24.9 | 41.7 | +7.0 | 1,000 |
| Guatemala | Latin America | 26.1 | 8.6 | 19.1 | 46.1 | +7.0 | 1,000 |
| Turkmenistan | Asian CIS | 12.7 | 3.8 | 5.8 | 77.6 | +6.9 | 1,000 |
| Northern Cyprus | Southeast Europe | 29.5 | 9.7 | 22.6 | 38.1 | +6.9 | 1,000 |
| Kazakhstan | Asian CIS | 20.8 | 25.8 | 17.6 | 35.8 | +3.2 | 1,000 |
| Tajikistan | Asian CIS | 18.4 | 12.7 | 17.5 | 51.4 | +0.9 | 1,000 |
| Slovenia | Eastern Europe | 34.5 | 2.7 | 35.1 | 27.6 | -0.6 | 1,000 |
| Moldova | Europe CIS | 13.7 | 26.9 | 15.6 | 43.8 | -1.9 | 1,000 |
| Kosovo | Southeast Europe | 17.2 | 5.7 | 19.3 | 57.6 | -2.1 | 1,000 |
| Lebanon | Rest of MENA | 22.7 | 9.6 | 25.5 | 42.2 | -2.8 | 1,000 |
| Yemen | Rest of MENA | 13.3 | 18.5 | 16.3 | 52.0 | -3.0 | 1,000 |
| Iran | Rest of MENA | 15.0 | 11.2 | 20.3 | 53.4 | -5.3 | 1,000 |
| Ukraine | Europe CIS | 8.6 | 36.6 | 14.9 | 40.0 | -6.3 | 1,000 |
| Belarus | Europe CIS | 14.6 | 37.9 | 21.9 | 25.7 | -7.3 | 1,039 |
| Palestinian Territories | Rest of MENA | 15.6 | 10.1 | 23.5 | 50.6 | -7.9 | 1,000 |
| Indonesia | Southeast Asia | 24.4 | 8.5 | 32.9 | 34.1 | -8.5 | 1,000 |
| Turkey | Southeast Europe | 9.1 | 12.1 | 19.0 | 59.8 | -9.9 | 1,001 |
| Greece | Southern Europe | 15.4 | 10.1 | 28.8 | 45.7 | -13.4 | 1,000 |
| Cambodia | Southeast Asia | 17.6 | 2.9 | 31.9 | 47.5 | -14.3 | 1,000 |
| Poland | Eastern Europe | 14.4 | 20.0 | 30.1 | 35.5 | -15.7 | 1,000 |
| Russia | Europe CIS | 5.3 | 40.1 | 21.7 | 32.9 | -16.4 | 2,000 |
| Iraq | Rest of MENA | 15.7 | 1.6 | 32.7 | 49.9 | -17.0 | 1,011 |
| Georgia | Caucuses CIS | 12.9 | 27.6 | 30.4 | 29.0 | -17.5 | 1,000 |
| Lithuania | Eastern Europe | 8.1 | 35.5 | 27.1 | 29.3 | -19.0 | 1,000 |
| Mongolia | East Asia | 8.8 | 8.7 | 29.4 | 53.0 | -20.6 | 1,000 |
| Romania | Eastern Europe | 13.3 | 17.3 | 35.3 | 34.0 | -22.0 | 1,001 |
| Egypt | North Africa | 16.2 | 3.8 | 38.5 | 41.4 | -22.3 | 1,000 |
| Jordan | Rest of MENA | 16.0 | 8.7 | 40.1 | 35.2 | -24.1 | 1,000 |
| Myanmar | Southeast Asia | 9.2 | 2.8 | 33.5 | 54.5 | -24.3 | 1,020 |
| Estonia | Eastern Europe | 6.1 | 23.4 | 30.4 | 40.0 | -24.3 | 1,000 |
| Bulgaria | Eastern Europe | 5.3 | 28.6 | 31.3 | 34.8 | -26.0 | 1,000 |
| Afghanistan | South Asia | 5.6 | 14.0 | 35.0 | 45.5 | -29.4 | 1,000 |
| Bosnia & Herzegovina | Southeast Europe | 9.4 | 25.9 | 39.1 | 25.5 | -29.7 | 1,000 |
| Thailand | Southeast Asia | 10.5 | 7.9 | 41.3 | 40.2 | -30.8 | 1,000 |
| Czech Republic | Eastern Europe | 6.7 | 25.3 | 38.1 | 29.9 | -31.4 | 1,000 |
| Latvia | Eastern Europe | 3.4 | 25.2 | 35.9 | 35.4 | -32.5 | 1,019 |
| Croatia | Southeast Europe | 10.1 | 23.7 | 45.5 | 20.7 | -35.4 | 1,000 |
| Israel | Rest of MENA | 4.0 | 15.3 | 40.6 | 40.1 | -36.6 | 1,000 |
| Pakistan | South Asia | 7.2 | 2.0 | 47.6 | 43.3 | -40.4 | 1,000 |
| Hungary | Eastern Europe | 1.7 | 25.6 | 42.2 | 30.5 | -40.5 | 1,000 |
| Slovakia | Eastern Europe | 3.5 | 30.0 | 44.5 | 22.0 | -41.0 | 1,000 |
| Serbia | Southeast Europe | 5.6 | 16.3 | 51.3 | 26.8 | -45.7 | 1,000 |
| Macedonia | Southeast Europe | 2.8 | 17.2 | 53.3 | 26.7 | -50.5 | 1,024 |
| Montenegro | Southeast Europe | 5.6 | 9.9 | 58.4 | 26.1 | -52.8 | 1,000 |
| Weighted Global Average | | 36.8 | 16.2 | 12.9 | 34.1 | +23.9 | 146,677 |

[1]Country & Global samples are weighted to accurately reflect their population parameters.
[2]Migrant Acceptance Index Score is based on a 0 to 9 scale.

(Czech Republic and Slovakia), and Hungary. Two of the remaining Balkan states (Bulgaria and Bosnia and Herzegovina), the remaining Baltic state (Lithuania), as well as Belarus, Georgia, Poland, Romania, Russia, and Ukraine all fall in the next tier of 19 least-accepting countries. Only the Balkan states of Albania (ranked 21), Kosovo (ranked 104), and Slovenia (ranked 99) did not make the list of least-accepting countries or areas for migrants (see Figure 1).

Rounding out the set of countries whose MAI scores fall more than one standard deviation below the country-level mean were a pair from South Asia (Afghanistan and Pakistan; see Figure 2), a pair from Southeast Asia (Myanmar and Thailand), three from the Middle East/North Africa (Egypt; see Figure 3, Iraq, and Jordan; see Figure 2), two nestled at the base of Eastern Europe (Greece and Turkey; see Figure 1), and Mongolia in East Asia (see Figure 2).

*Countries most accepting of migrants.* As Table 4 shows, 23 countries' MAI scores fall more than one standard deviation above the country-level mean score. The 10 most-accepting countries for migrants are situated in four regions: Oceania (Australia and New Zealand), Western Europe (Iceland, and Sweden; see Figure 1), sub-Saharan Africa (Burkina Faso, Mali, Nigeria, Rwanda, and Sierra Leone; see Figure 3), and Northern America (Canada and the United States).

While many of the 10 least-accepting countries share borders, with the exception of Mali and Sierra Leone, none of the 10 most-accepting countries share a border. This pattern changes, however, if we add the rest of the most accepting countries (those with Migrant Acceptance Index scores one standard deviation or more above the mean). The addition of Ivory Coast, Benin, Chad, and Senegal completes a set of countries with contiguous borders in coastal West Africa along the Bight of Benin and Gulf of Guinea. All nine of these African countries generate per capita annual GDP of less than $5,900 (Central Intelligence Agency, 2016). And seven of them fall into the bottom quintile of the World Bank's annual income classification for 2018 (World Bank Group, 2017). The remaining two countries fall into the next lowest income quintile. We believe that one of the reasons for these countries' particularly positive attitudes toward migrants is the prospect that those migrants bring much-needed financial resources with them.

The remaining eight most-accepting countries are in Western Europe (Ireland, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, Norway, Spain, and Switzerland), as well as Bangladesh and Albania. Albania is the lone outlier in Eastern/Southeastern Europe that has positive attitudes toward migrants.

**Table 4.** Migrant Acceptance Index (MAI) Raw and Indexed Scores by Country (Sorted by MAI)

| Rank | Country[1] | Region | Migrant Acceptance Index | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | | Raw Score[2] | Indexed Score (100 = average; SD = 15) | Unweighted N |
| 23 Most Accepting Countries: 1 Standard Deviation or More Above the Mean | | | | | |
| 1 | Iceland | Western Europe | 8.26 | 124.2 | 529 |
| 2 | New Zealand | Australia & New Zealand | 8.25 | 124.1 | 1,004 |
| 3 | Rwanda | East Africa | 8.16 | 123.4 | 1,000 |
| 4 | Canada | Northern America | 8.14 | 123.2 | 2,008 |
| 5 | Sierra Leone | West Africa | 8.05 | 122.5 | 1,000 |
| 6 | Mali | West Africa | 8.03 | 122.3 | 1,000 |
| 7 | Australia | Australia & New Zealand | 7.98 | 121.9 | 1,004 |
| 8 | Sweden | Western Europe | 7.92 | 121.4 | 1,000 |
| 9 | United States | Northern America | 7.86 | 120.8 | 2,013 |
| 10 | Nigeria | West Africa | 7.76 | 120.0 | 1,000 |
| 11 | Ireland | Western Europe | 7.74 | 119.9 | 1,000 |
| 11 | Burkina Faso | West Africa | 7.74 | 119.9 | 1,000 |
| 13 | Norway | Western Europe | 7.73 | 119.8 | 1,000 |
| 14 | Ivory Coast | West Africa | 7.71 | 119.6 | 1,000 |
| 15 | Benin | West Africa | 7.67 | 119.3 | 1,000 |
| 16 | Luxembourg | Western Europe | 7.54 | 118.2 | 1,000 |
| 17 | Netherlands | Western Europe | 7.46 | 117.5 | 1,000 |
| 18 | Bangladesh | South Asia | 7.45 | 117.4 | 1,000 |
| 19 | Spain | Southern Europe | 7.44 | 117.3 | 1,000 |
| 20 | Chad | Central Africa | 7.26 | 115.8 | 1,000 |
| 21 | Albania | Southeast Europe | 7.22 | 115.5 | 999 |
| 22 | Switzerland | Western Europe | 7.21 | 115.4 | 1,000 |
| 23 | Senegal | West Africa | 7.17 | 115.1 | 1,000 |
| 88 Countries Within +/-1 Standard Deviation of the Mean | | | | | |
| 24 | Germany | Western Europe | 7.09 | 114.4 | 1,000 |
| 24 | Denmark | Western Europe | 7.09 | 114.4 | 1,000 |
| 26 | Congo (Kinshasa DRC) | Central Africa | 7.05 | 114.1 | 1,000 |
| 27 | Guinea | West Africa | 7.01 | 113.7 | 1,000 |
| 28 | Togo | West Africa | 6.96 | 113.3 | 1,000 |
| 29 | Ghana | West Africa | 6.91 | 112.9 | 1,000 |
| 30 | Venezuela | Latin America | 6.82 | 112.2 | 1,000 |
| 31 | Congo (Brazzaville RC) | Central Africa | 6.81 | 112.1 | 1,000 |
| 32 | Taiwan | East Asia | 6.80 | 112.0 | 1,000 |
| 33 | Uruguay | Latin America | 6.77 | 111.7 | 1,000 |
| 33 | Philippines | Southeast Asia | 6.77 | 111.7 | 1,000 |
| 35 | Zimbabwe | South Africa | 6.70 | 111.1 | 1,000 |
| 36 | Lesotho | South Africa | 6.65 | 110.7 | 1,000 |
| 36 | Portugal | Southern Europe | 6.65 | 110.7 | 1,008 |
| 38 | Niger | West Africa | 6.64 | 110.6 | 1,000 |
| 39 | United Kingdom | Western Europe | 6.61 | 110.4 | 1,000 |
| 40 | Finland | Western Europe | 6.58 | 110.1 | 1,000 |
| 41 | Kenya | East Africa | 6.51 | 109.6 | 1,000 |
| 41 | Argentina | Latin America | 6.51 | 109.6 | 1,000 |
| 43 | Paraguay | Latin America | 6.50 | 109.5 | 1,000 |
| 44 | Italy | Southern Europe | 6.49 | 109.4 | 1,000 |
| 44 | South Korea | East Asia | 6.49 | 109.4 | 1,000 |
| 46 | Tunisia | North Africa | 6.47 | 109.2 | 1,001 |
| 47 | France | Western Europe | 6.46 | 109.1 | 1,000 |
| 48 | Japan | East Asia | 6.42 | 108.8 | 1,003 |
| 49 | Morocco | North Africa | 6.39 | 108.6 | 1,008 |
| 49 | Saudi Arabia | GCC | 6.39 | 108.6 | 554 |
| 51 | Brazil | Latin America | 6.38 | 108.5 | 1,001 |
| 52 | Central African Republic | Central Africa | 6.36 | 108.3 | 1,000 |
| 52 | Cameroon | Central Africa | 6.36 | 108.3 | 1,000 |
| 54 | Peru | Latin America | 6.33 | 108.0 | 1,000 |
| 55 | Nepal | South Asia | 6.28 | 107.6 | 1,000 |
| 56 | Belgium | Western Europe | 6.16 | 106.6 | 1,000 |
| 57 | Liberia | West Africa | 6.14 | 106.5 | 1,000 |
| 58 | Colombia | Latin America | 6.13 | 106.4 | 1,000 |
| 58 | Ecuador | Latin America | 6.13 | 106.4 | 1,000 |
| 60 | Gabon | West Africa | 6.12 | 106.3 | 1,000 |

**Table 4** (cont'd.). Migrant Acceptance Index (MAI) Raw and Indexed Scores by Country (Sorted by MAI)

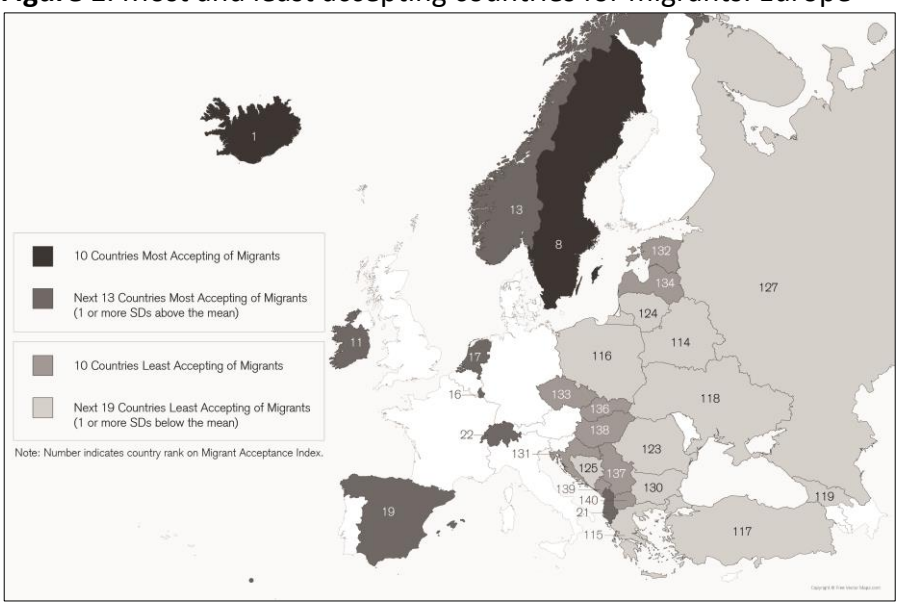
| Rank | Country[1] | Region | Migrant Acceptance Index | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | | Raw Score[2] | Indexed Score (100 = average; SD = 15) | Unweighted N |
| 61 | Malawi | South Africa | 6.10 | 106.1 | 1,000 |
| 62 | Vietnam | Southeast Asia | 6.08 | 106.0 | 1,039 |
| 63 | Austria | Western Europe | 6.06 | 105.8 | 1,000 |
| 64 | Dominican Republic | Caribbean | 6.03 | 105.5 | 1,000 |
| 65 | Nicaragua | Latin America | 6.00 | 105.3 | 1,000 |
| 66 | Hong Kong | East Asia | 5.89 | 104.4 | 1,005 |
| 67 | Libya | North Africa | 5.79 | 103.5 | 1,001 |
| 67 | United Arab Emirates | GCC | 5.79 | 103.5 | 1,025 |
| 69 | Armenia | Caucuses CIS | 5.78 | 103.4 | 1,000 |
| 70 | El Salvador | Latin America | 5.73 | 103.0 | 1,000 |
| 71 | South Sudan | East Africa | 5.63 | 102.2 | 1,000 |
| 72 | Mauritius | South Africa | 5.58 | 101.8 | 1,000 |
| 73 | Uganda | East Africa | 5.45 | 100.7 | 1,000 |
| 74 | Costa Rica | Latin America | 5.44 | 100.6 | 1,000 |
| 75 | Bolivia | Latin America | 5.42 | 100.4 | 1,000 |
| 76 | Cyprus | Southern Europe | 5.41 | 100.3 | 1,006 |
| | Country-Level Migrant Acceptance Index Mean Score = 5.37; SD = 1.79; 95% CI = 5.07-5.67 | | | | |
| 77 | Turkmenistan | Asian CIS | 5.36 | 99.9 | 1,000 |
| 78 | Haiti | Caribbean | 5.31 | 99.5 | 504 |
| 79 | Mauritania | West Africa | 5.29 | 99.3 | 1,000 |
| 80 | Madagascar | South Africa | 5.24 | 98.9 | 1,000 |
| 81 | Singapore | Southeast Asia | 5.21 | 98.7 | 1,000 |
| 82 | Ethiopia | East Africa | 5.19 | 98.5 | 1,000 |
| 83 | Chile | Latin America | 5.17 | 98.3 | 1,008 |
| 84 | Honduras | Latin America | 5.15 | 98.2 | 1,000 |
| 84 | Zambia | South Africa | 5.15 | 98.2 | 1,000 |
| 86 | China | East Asia | 5.11 | 97.8 | 4,373 |
| 87 | Botswana | South Africa | 5.10 | 97.7 | 1,000 |
| 88 | Somalia | East Africa | 4.99 | 96.8 | 1,191 |
| 89 | South Africa | South Africa | 4.98 | 96.7 | 1,000 |
| 90 | Malta | Southern Europe | 4.95 | 96.5 | 1,011 |
| 91 | Uzbekistan | Asian CIS | 4.90 | 96.1 | 1,000 |
| 91 | India | South Asia | 4.90 | 96.1 | 3,000 |
| 93 | Kuwait | GCC | 4.85 | 95.7 | 267 |
| 94 | Tanzania | East Africa | 4.82 | 95.4 | 1,000 |
| 95 | Mexico | Latin America | 4.75 | 94.8 | 1,000 |
| 96 | Northern Cyprus | Southeast Europe | 4.66 | 94.1 | 1,000 |
| 97 | Guatemala | Latin America | 4.59 | 93.5 | 1,000 |
| 97 | Kyrgyzstan | Asian CIS | 4.59 | 93.5 | 1,000 |
| 99 | Slovenia | Eastern Europe | 4.42 | 92.0 | 1,000 |
| 100 | Tajikistan | Asian CIS | 4.39 | 91.8 | 1,000 |
| 101 | Panama | Latin America | 4.36 | 91.5 | 1,000 |
| 102 | Azerbaijan | Caucuses CIS | 4.34 | 91.4 | 1,000 |
| 103 | Kazakhstan | Asian CIS | 4.28 | 90.9 | 1,000 |
| 104 | Kosovo | Southeast Europe | 4.17 | 90.0 | 1,000 |
| 105 | Iran | Rest of MENA | 3.95 | 88.1 | 1,000 |
| 106 | Indonesia | Southeast Asia | 3.93 | 87.9 | 1,000 |
| 106 | Yemen | Rest of MENA | 3.93 | 87.9 | 1,000 |
| 108 | Palestinian Territories | Rest of MENA | 3.90 | 87.7 | 1,000 |
| 109 | Lebanon | Rest of MENA | 3.89 | 87.6 | 1,000 |
| 110 | Moldova | Europe CIS | 3.80 | 86.9 | 1,000 |
| 111 | Cambodia | Southeast Asia | 3.65 | 85.6 | 1,000 |
| | 29 Least Accepting Countries: 1 Standard Deviation or More Below the Mean | | | | |
| 112 | Egypt | North Africa | 3.50 | 84.3 | 1,000 |
| 113 | Iraq | Rest of MENA | 3.42 | 83.7 | 1,011 |
| 114 | Belarus | Europe CIS | 3.38 | 83.3 | 1,039 |
| 115 | Greece | Southern Europe | 3.34 | 83.0 | 1,000 |
| 116 | Poland | Eastern Europe | 3.31 | 82.8 | 1,000 |
| 117 | Turkey | Southeast Europe | 3.27 | 82.4 | 1,001 |
| 118 | Ukraine | Europe CIS | 3.15 | 81.4 | 1,000 |
| 119 | Georgia | Caucuses CIS | 3.05 | 80.6 | 1,000 |
| 120 | Mongolia | East Asia | 2.99 | 80.1 | 1,000 |

**Table 4** (cont'd.). Migrant Acceptance Index (MAI) Raw and Indexed Scores by Country (Sorted by MAI)

| Rank | Country[1] | Region | Migrant Acceptance Index | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | | Raw Score[2] | Indexed Score (100 = average; SD = 15) | Unweighted N |
| 120 | Jordan | Rest of MENA | 2.99 | 80.1 | 1,000 |
| 122 | Myanmar | Southeast Asia | 2.96 | 79.8 | 1,020 |
| 123 | Romania | Eastern Europe | 2.93 | 79.6 | 1,001 |
| 124 | Lithuania | Eastern Europe | 2.72 | 77.8 | 1,000 |
| 125 | Bosnia & Herzegovina | Southeast Europe | 2.71 | 77.7 | 1,000 |
| 126 | Thailand | Southeast Asia | 2.69 | 77.6 | 1,000 |
| 127 | Russia | Europe CIS | 2.60 | 76.8 | 2,000 |
| 128 | Afghanistan | South Asia | 2.51 | 76.0 | 1,000 |
| 129 | Pakistan | South Asia | 2.47 | 75.7 | 1,000 |
| 130 | Bulgaria | Eastern Europe | 2.42 | 75.3 | 1,000 |
| 131 | Croatia | Southeast Europe | 2.39 | 75.0 | 1,000 |
| 132 | Estonia | Eastern Europe | 2.37 | 74.9 | 1,000 |
| 133 | Czech Republic | Eastern Europe | 2.26 | 74.0 | 1,000 |
| 134 | Latvia | Eastern Europe | 2.04 | 72.1 | 1,019 |
| 135 | Israel | Rest of MENA | 1.87 | 70.7 | 1,000 |
| 136 | Slovakia | Eastern Europe | 1.83 | 70.4 | 1,000 |
| 137 | Serbia | Southeast Europe | 1.80 | 70.1 | 1,000 |
| 138 | Hungary | Eastern Europe | 1.69 | 69.2 | 1,000 |
| 139 | Montenegro | Southeast Europe | 1.63 | 68.7 | 1,000 |
| 140 | Macedonia | Southeast Europe | 1.47 | 67.3 | 1,024 |
| | | | | | |
| - | Weighted Global Average | | 5.34 | - | 146,677 |

[1]Country & Global samples are weighted to accurately reflect their population parameters.
[2]Migrant Acceptance Index Score is based on a 0 to 9 scale.

**Figure 1**. Most and least accepting countries for migrants: Europe




Finally and somewhat surprisingly, the countries whose recent elections were marked by considerable anti-immigrant rhetoric – the United States, the United Kingdom, the Netherlands, France, and Germany – are all among

**Figure 2**. Most and least accepting countries for migrants: Middle East and Asia

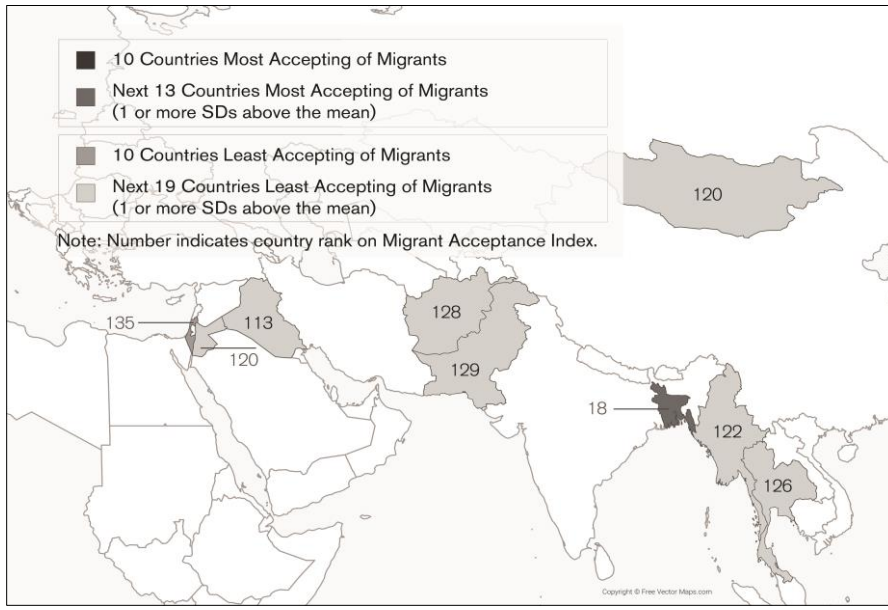
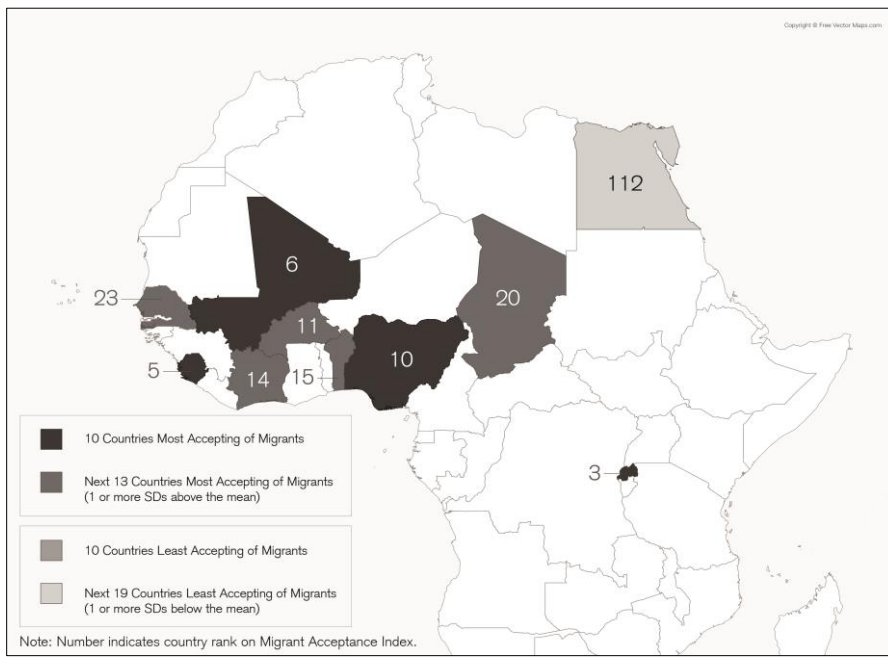



**Figure 3**. Most and least accepting countries for migrants: Sub-Saharan & North Africa



the most accepting of migrants. All five had Migrant Acceptance Scores in the top third of the distribution (> 6.45) with an average MAI of 7.10.

It is intriguing to speculate about the close clustering of the countries that are least-accepting of migrants. During 2016, a significant flow of Syrian refugees heading toward Western European countries transited many of these countries on the way to their destinations. If, as has been speculated (Edwards, 2016; Horn, 2015; Malik, 2015), residents of many of these countries are predisposed to be less accepting to migrants under the best of circumstances, then large numbers of refugees from the Middle East migrating through their homelands could inflame their pre-existing anti-migrant attitudes. Whatever the ultimate reason that such intense anti-migrant attitudes are concentrated in such a closely circumscribed geographic region, the fact that such a concentration exists given the sheer number of countries included in this research is remarkable.

**Knowing Immigrants at the Country Level**

Table 5 presents the percentage of survey respondents who indicated that they personally know an immigrant living in their country by country along with the 2015 United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UN DESA, 2016) estimates of each country's actual immigrant population as a percentage of the total population. A total of 139 countries are presented, as this item was not asked in Croatia. Thirty countries had percentages of respondents who know an immigrant that were one or more standard deviation units above the country-level mean (M = 45.6%; SD = 24.8%; 95% CI = 41.5% - 49.7%) while 30 countries had percentages that were one or more standard deviation units below the country-level mean. Myanmar recorded the lowest percentage of respondents who know an immigrant (4.1%) and Sweden recorded the highest percentage (89.8%). Country-level percentages of respondents who know an immigrant track reasonably well with the UN DESA statistics ($r(134) = 0.48$, $p < .001$).

**Differences between Respondents Who Know and Don't Know Immigrants**

Of the 139 countries with valid data, 131 of them (94%) show statistically significant evidence of the interpersonal contact effect with respondents in those countries who indicated that they know an immigrant providing significantly higher Migrant Acceptance Index scores (M = 6.78, 95% CI = 6.75-6.81) than respondents who said that they do not know an immigrant (M = 4.80, 95% CI = 4.78-4.82), $F(1,140162) = 4156.1$, $p < .0001$, $d = .62$,

**Table 5**. Percentage of Population Reporting They Know Immigrants by Country

| Country[1] | % Who Know an Immigrant | Actual Immigrant Population (%)[2] |
|---|---|---|
| 30 Countries Most Familiar With Immigrants: 1 Standard Deviation or More Above the Mean | | |
| Sweden | 89.8 | 14.3 |
| Kuwait | 88.4 | 70.0 |
| Australia | 88.2 | 27.7 |
| Spain | 88.1 | 14.0 |
| Saudi Arabia | 86.2 | 31.4 |
| United Arab Emirates | 86.2 | 83.7 |
| Canada | 84.4 | 21.9 |
| Italy | 83.6 | 8.3 |
| Norway | 83.5 | 13.8 |
| New Zealand | 83.3 | 25.1 |
| Costa Rica | 83.3 | 8.7 |
| Switzerland | 82.4 | 28.9 |
| Portugal | 81.5 | 7.5 |
| Denmark | 81.4 | 11.1 |
| Greece | 81.4 | 9.0 |
| Ireland | 81.3 | 15.9 |
| Venezuela | 81.1 | 3.9 |
| Gabon | 80.6 | 23.6 |
| Luxembourg | 79.1 | 43.3 |
| Iceland | 77.7 | 10.7 |
| United States | 77.2 | 14.3 |
| Ivory Coast | 77.1 | 12.0 |
| Argentina | 75.8 | 4.6 |
| United Kingdom | 75.6 | 13.2 |
| South Africa | 75.5 | 0.3 |
| Austria | 75.3 | 15.2 |
| Libya | 75.1 | 12.2 |
| Dominican Republic | 74.2 | 3.9 |
| Congo (Brazzaville RC) | 74.0 | 9.7 |
| Senegal | 72.4 | 1.5 |
| 79 Countries Within +/-1 Standard Deviation of the Mean | | |
| Cyprus | 69.4 | 18.2 |
| France | 68.9 | 11.1 |
| Germany | 68.5 | 14.9 |
| Netherlands | 67.8 | 11.1 |
| Finland | 67.0 | 5.4 |
| Belgium | 66.7 | 12.9 |
| Lebanon | 65.7 | - |
| Rwanda | 64.8 | 3.8 |
| Paraguay | 63.2 | 2.8 |
| Panama | 61.0 | 4.7 |
| Benin | 60.6 | 2.3 |
| Northern Cyprus | 60.2 | - |
| Mauritania | 57.9 | 2.3 |

| Country | % Who Know an Immigrant | Actual Immigrant Population (%) |
|---|---|---|
| Tunisia | 40.5 | 0.3 |
| Russia | 40.2 | 7.7 |
| South Korea | 39.7 | 2.9 |
| Belarus | 38.8 | 11.6 |
| Brazil | 38.5 | 0.9 |
| Philippines | 37.8 | 4.6 |
| El Salvador | 37.7 | 0.6 |
| Malawi | 37.4 | 1.3 |
| Peru | 36.8 | 0.3 |
| Slovenia | 36.5 | 11.3 |
| Japan | 34.1 | 1.9 |
| Moldova | 33.9 | 11.2 |
| Togo | 57.5 | 3.0 |
| Mali | 57.4 | 7.2 |
| Botswana | 57.4 | 1.3 |
| Ghana | 57.2 | 1.4 |
| Hong Kong | 57.0 | 38.9 |
| Ecuador | 56.8 | 2.2 |
| Burkina Faso | 56.5 | 4.1 |
| Uganda | 56.0 | 1.4 |
| Singapore | 55.9 | 42.9 |
| Zambia | 55.5 | 0.7 |
| Jordan | 53.5 | 40.2 |
| South Sudan | 53.4 | 2.7 |
| Chile | 53.4 | 5.6 |
| Taiwan | 53.3 | - |
| Lesotho | 53.3 | 0.1 |
| Guinea | 52.5 | 3.2 |
| Congo (Kinshasa DRC) | 51.9 | 0.7 |
| Chad | 49.9 | 3.4 |
| Uruguay | 47.6 | 0.7 |
| Niger | 47.6 | 2.3 |
| Bolivia | 47.5 | 1.4 |
| Liberia | 47.2 | 5.3 |
| Malta | 46.3 | 8.0 |
| Country-Level Mean = 45.6%; SD = 24.8%; 95% CI = 41.5% - 49.7% | | |
| Mauritius | 45.1 | 3.6 |
| Central African Republic | 43.6 | 2.9 |
| Cameroon | 43.1 | 1.3 |
| Mongolia | 42.6 | 0.6 |
| Kazakhstan | 42.6 | 21.1 |
| Sierra Leone | 42.4 | 1.6 |
| Turkey | 42.1 | 5.8 |
| Zimbabwe | 41.6 | 2.6 |
| Kenya | 40.7 | 3.4 |
| Iran | 40.7 | 2.2 |

[1]Country samples are weighted to accurately reflect their population parameters. [2]United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UN DESA).
*(2016). International Migration Report 2015*. New York: United Nations.
(http://www.un.org/en/development/desa/population/migration/publications/migrationreport/docs/MigrationReport2015.pdf)

**Table 5** (cont'd.). Percentage of Population Reporting They Know Immigrants by Country

| Country[1] | % Who Know an Immigrant | Actual Immigrant Population (%)[2] |
|---|---|---|
| Somalia | 33.0 | 0.2 |
| Hungary | 31.7 | 4.7 |
| Guatemala | 31.4 | 0.5 |
| Albania | 31.1 | 3.1 |
| Nigeria | 30.4 | 0.7 |
| Estonia | 30.3 | 16.4 |
| Nicaragua | 30.0 | 0.7 |
| Iraq | 29.7 | 0.3 |
| Colombia | 29.4 | 0.3 |
| Tajikistan | 28.6 | 3.4 |
| Slovakia | 28.1 | 3.3 |
| Honduras | 28.0 | 0.4 |
| Israel | 27.6 | 26.5 |
| Cambodia | 27.1 | 0.5 |
| Armenia | 26.4 | 10.6 |
| Haiti | 24.9 | 11.4 |
| Ukraine | 24.9 | 0.4 |
| Czech Republic | 24.0 | 4.0 |
| Mexico | 23.0 | 0.9 |
| Lithuania | 22.1 | 4.9 |
| Poland | 21.9 | 1.6 |
| 30 Countries Least Familiar With Immigrants: 1 Standard Deviation or More Below the Mean | | |
| Turkmenistan | 20.7 | 4.3 |
| Thailand | 20.5 | 5.6 |
| Palestinian Territories | 19.9 | 5.9 |
| Tanzania | 19.1 | 0.6 |
| Kyrgyzstan | 18.6 | 4.6 |
| Nepal | 18.3 | 3.5 |
| Bulgaria | 18.0 | 1.2 |
| Vietnam | 17.9 | 0.1 |
| Morocco | 17.7 | 0.2 |
| Pakistan | 16.6 | 2.2 |
| Georgia | 16.4 | 4.4 |
| Madagascar | 16.1 | 0.1 |
| Azerbaijan | 15.9 | 3.4 |
| India | 15.0 | 0.4 |
| Latvia | 14.9 | 13.8 |
| Egypt | 13.2 | 0.4 |
| Indonesia | 12.4 | 0.1 |
| Montenegro | 12.3 | 8.2 |
| Romania | 11.9 | 0.9 |
| Yemen | 11.1 | 1.3 |
| Kosovo | 10.3 | - |
| Bangladesh | 8.4 | 0.9 |
| Uzbekistan | 7.9 | 4.4 |
| Ethiopia | 6.9 | 0.8 |
| Afghanistan | 6.9 | 0.3 |
| China | 5.9 | 0.1 |
| Macedonia | 5.7 | 6.6 |
| Serbia | 4.9 | 5.6 |
| Bosnia & Herzegovina | 4.7 | 0.6 |
| Myanmar | 4.1 | 0.2 |
| Croatia | -3 | 17.6 |
| World[4] | 29.1 | 3.3 |

[1]Country samples are weighted to accurately reflect their population parameters. [2]United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UN DESA). *(2016). International Migration Report 2015.* New York: United Nations. (http://www.un.org/en/development/desa/population/migration/publications/migrationreport/docs/MigrationReport2015.pdf)
[3]Question was not asked in Croatia. [4]World sample is weighted to be projectable to the global population

partial $\eta^2$ = .03[7]. Differences in three more countries (Saudi Arabia, Sierra Leone, and Uganda) fell just short of statistical significance ($p$ < .10). Just five countries – Afghanistan, Benin, Congo Brazzaville, Malawi, and the UAE – did not show evidence of the contact effect. Migrant Acceptance Index scores for respondents who indicated that they know an immigrant and those who indicated they do not are presented by country in Table 6.

The magnitude of the contact effect differed from country to country. Serbia ($\Delta$ = +3.37 scale points) produced the largest statistically or marginally significant Migrant Acceptance Index difference and Sierra Leone ($\Delta$ = +0.16 scale points) yielded the smallest difference. This range of

[7] Observed power = 1.0 for all effects.

index score differences produced a significant Country x Migrant Contact interaction, $F(138, 140162) = 8.9$, $p < .0001$, partial $\eta^2 = .01$.

Table 6. Migrant Acceptance Index (MAI) Differences Between Respondents Who Know Immigrants and Respondents Who Do Not Know Immigrants by Country (Sorted by MAI)

| Country[2] | Region | % who know immigrants | Migrant Acceptance Index Score[1] | | | | | 95% CI for Δ (1-tailed) | | Observed Power |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | | Know immigrants | Don't know immigrants | Country Overall | Know - Don't know Δ | Δ Sig. (1-tailed) | Lower Bound | Upper Bound | |
| 23 Most Accepting Countries: 1 Standard Deviation or More Above the Mean | | | | | | | | | | |
| Iceland | Western Europe | 77.7 | 8.42 | 7.70 | 8.26 | +0.72 | ** | 0.00 | 0.44 | 0.53 |
| New Zealand | Australia & New Zealand | 83.3 | 8.43 | 7.33 | 8.25 | +1.10 | *** | 0.00 | 0.38 | 0.99 |
| Rwanda | East Africa | 64.8 | 8.32 | 7.88 | 8.16 | +0.44 | *** | 0.00 | 0.23 | 0.63 |
| Canada | Northern America | 84.4 | 8.45 | 6.52 | 8.14 | +1.93 | *** | 0.00 | 0.33 | 1.00 |
| Sierra Leone | West Africa | 42.4 | 8.17 | 8.01 | 8.05 | +0.16 | † | 0.00 | 0.20 | 0.15 |
| Mali | West Africa | 57.4 | 8.35 | 7.60 | 8.03 | +0.75 | *** | 0.00 | 0.22 | 0.98 |
| Australia | Australia & New Zealand | 88.2 | 8.05 | 7.50 | 7.98 | +0.55 | * | 0.00 | 0.42 | 0.39 |
| Sweden | Western Europe | 89.8 | 8.11 | 6.25 | 7.92 | +1.86 | *** | 0.00 | 0.52 | 1.00 |
| United States | Northern America | 77.2 | 8.21 | 6.73 | 7.86 | +1.48 | *** | 0.00 | 0.22 | 1.00 |
| Nigeria | West Africa | 30.4 | 7.99 | 7.66 | 7.76 | +0.33 | * | 0.00 | 0.25 | 0.34 |
| Ireland | Western Europe | 81.3 | 8.01 | 6.58 | 7.74 | +1.43 | *** | 0.00 | 0.39 | 1.00 |
| Burkina Faso | West Africa | 56.5 | 8.03 | 7.35 | 7.74 | +0.68 | *** | 0.00 | 0.22 | 0.95 |
| Norway | Western Europe | 83.5 | 7.91 | 6.84 | 7.73 | +1.07 | *** | 0.00 | 0.40 | 0.99 |
| Ivory Coast | West Africa | 77.1 | 7.89 | 7.18 | 7.71 | +0.71 | *** | 0.00 | 0.34 | 0.88 |
| Benin | West Africa | 60.6 | 7.67 | 7.71 | 7.67 | -0.04 | *ns* | 0.00 | 0.25 | 0.05 |
| Luxembourg | Western Europe | 79.1 | 7.90 | 6.19 | 7.54 | +1.71 | *** | 0.00 | 0.41 | 1.00 |
| Netherlands | Western Europe | 67.8 | 7.89 | 6.56 | 7.46 | +1.33 | *** | 0.00 | 0.33 | 1.00 |
| Bangladesh | South Asia | 8.4 | 8.67 | 7.40 | 7.45 | +1.27 | *** | 0.00 | 0.25 | 0.95 |
| Spain | Southern Europe | 88.1 | 7.71 | 5.48 | 7.44 | +2.23 | *** | 0.00 | 0.47 | 1.00 |
| Chad | Central Africa | 49.9 | 7.72 | 6.84 | 7.26 | +0.88 | *** | 0.00 | 0.30 | 1.00 |
| Albania | Southeast Europe | 31.1 | 7.61 | 7.04 | 7.22 | +0.57 | *** | 0.00 | 0.28 | 0.76 |
| Switzerland | Western Europe | 82.4 | 7.67 | 5.03 | 7.21 | +2.64 | *** | 0.00 | 0.48 | 1.00 |
| Senegal | West Africa | 72.4 | 7.56 | 6.15 | 7.17 | +1.41 | *** | 0.00 | 0.31 | 1.00 |
| 88 Countries Within +/-1 Standard Deviation of the Mean | | | | | | | | | | |
| Germany | Western Europe | 68.5 | 7.45 | 6.29 | 7.09 | +1.16 | *** | 0.00 | 0.32 | 1.00 |
| Denmark | Western Europe | 81.4 | 7.48 | 5.38 | 7.09 | +2.10 | *** | 0.00 | 0.46 | 1.00 |

[1]Migrant Acceptance Index score ranges from 0 to 9.

[2]Country samples are weighted to accurately reflect their population parameters.

***p* < .001; **p* < .01; *p < .05; †p < .10; *ns* = nonsignificant. All tests one-tailed with Bonferroni adjustment for family-wise error rate.

Table 6 (Cont'd.). Migrant Acceptance Index (MAI) Differences Between Respondents Who Know Immigrants and Respondents Who Do Not Know Immigrants by Country (Sorted by MAI)

| Country[2] | Region | % who know immigrants | Migrant Acceptance Index Score[1] | | | | | 95% CI for Δ (1-tailed) | | Observed Power |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | | Know immigrants | Don't know immigrants | Country Overall | Know - Don't know Δ | Δ Sig. (1-tailed) | Lower Bound | Upper Bound | |
| Congo (Kinshasa DRC) | Central Africa | 51.9 | 7.26 | 6.88 | 7.05 | +0.38 | * | 0.00 | 0.29 | 0.43 |
| Guinea | West Africa | 52.5 | 7.54 | 6.42 | 7.01 | +1.12 | *** | 0.00 | 0.27 | 1.00 |
| Togo | West Africa | 57.5 | 7.47 | 6.36 | 6.96 | +1.11 | *** | 0.00 | 0.33 | 1.00 |
| Ghana | West Africa | 57.2 | 7.17 | 6.61 | 6.91 | +0.56 | ** | 0.00 | 0.32 | 0.88 |
| Venezuela | Latin America | 81.1 | 7.21 | 5.16 | 6.82 | +2.05 | *** | 0.00 | 0.38 | 1.00 |
| Congo (Brazzaville RC) | Central Africa | 74.0 | 6.76 | 7.02 | 6.81 | -0.26 | *ns* | 0.00 | 0.34 | 0.17 |
| Taiwan | East Asia | 53.3 | 7.00 | 6.62 | 6.80 | +0.38 | * | 0.00 | 0.29 | 0.83 |
| Uruguay | Latin America | 47.6 | 7.40 | 6.21 | 6.77 | +1.19 | *** | 0.00 | 0.30 | 1.00 |
| Philippines | Southeast Asia | 37.8 | 7.58 | 6.27 | 6.77 | +1.31 | *** | 0.00 | 0.29 | 1.00 |
| Zimbabwe | South Africa | 41.6 | 7.39 | 6.23 | 6.70 | +1.16 | *** | 0.00 | 0.30 | 1.00 |
| Lesotho | South Africa | 53.3 | 6.84 | 6.44 | 6.65 | +0.40 | * | 0.00 | 0.32 | 0.65 |
| Portugal | Southern Europe | 81.5 | 6.86 | 5.74 | 6.65 | +1.12 | *** | 0.00 | 0.39 | 1.00 |
| Niger | West Africa | 47.6 | 6.97 | 6.34 | 6.64 | +0.63 | *** | 0.00 | 0.30 | 0.81 |
| United Kingdom | Western Europe | 75.6 | 7.09 | 5.16 | 6.61 | +1.93 | *** | 0.00 | 0.39 | 1.00 |
| Finland | Western Europe | 67.0 | 7.18 | 5.38 | 6.58 | +1.80 | *** | 0.00 | 0.34 | 1.00 |
| Kenya | East Africa | 40.7 | 6.99 | 6.18 | 6.51 | +0.81 | *** | 0.00 | 0.34 | 0.99 |
| Argentina | Latin America | 75.8 | 6.66 | 6.01 | 6.51 | +0.65 | ** | 0.00 | 0.36 | 0.82 |
| Paraguay | Latin America | 63.2 | 7.05 | 5.56 | 6.50 | +1.49 | *** | 0.00 | 0.33 | 0.99 |
| Italy | Southern Europe | 83.6 | 6.82 | 4.76 | 6.49 | +2.06 | *** | 0.00 | 0.51 | 1.00 |
| South Korea | East Asia | 39.7 | 7.07 | 6.14 | 6.49 | +0.93 | *** | 0.00 | 0.31 | 1.00 |
| Tunisia | North Africa | 40.5 | 7.36 | 5.88 | 6.47 | +1.48 | *** | 0.00 | 0.28 | 1.00 |
| France | Western Europe | 68.9 | 6.97 | 5.32 | 6.46 | +1.65 | *** | 0.00 | 0.39 | 1.00 |
| Japan | East Asia | 34.1 | 7.08 | 6.08 | 6.42 | +1.00 | *** | 0.00 | 0.31 | 1.00 |
| Morocco | North Africa | 17.7 | 7.04 | 6.25 | 6.39 | +0.79 | *** | 0.00 | 0.40 | 0.91 |
| Saudi Arabia | GCC | 86.2 | 6.46 | 6.11 | 6.39 | +0.35 | † | 0.00 | 0.45 | 0.12 |
| Brazil | Latin America | 38.5 | 7.08 | 5.94 | 6.38 | +1.14 | *** | 0.00 | 0.34 | 1.00 |
| Central African Republic | Central Africa | 43.6 | 7.57 | 5.44 | 6.36 | +2.13 | *** | 0.00 | 0.31 | 1.00 |
| Cameroon | Central Africa | 43.1 | 6.77 | 6.08 | 6.36 | +0.69 | *** | 0.00 | 0.33 | 0.96 |

[1]Migrant Acceptance Index score ranges from 0 to 9.

[2]Country samples are weighted to accurately reflect their population parameters.

****p* <.001; ***p* <.01; **p* <.05; †*p* <.10; *ns* = nonsignificant. All tests one-tailed with Bonferroni adjustment for family-wise error rate.

Table 6 (Cont'd.). Migrant Acceptance Index (MAI) Differences Between Respondents Who Know Immigrants and Respondents Who Do Not Know Immigrants by Country (Sorted by MAI)

| Country[2] | Region | % who know immigrants | Migrant Acceptance Index Score[1] | | | | | 95% CI for Δ (1-tailed) | | Observed Power |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | | Know immigrants | Don't know immigrants | Country Overall | Know - Don't know Δ | Δ Sig. (1-tailed) | Lower Bound | Upper Bound | |
| Peru | Latin America | 36.8 | 7.30 | 5.78 | 6.33 | +1.52 | *** | 0.00 | 0.32 | 1.00 |
| Nepal | South Asia | 18.3 | 6.72 | 6.18 | 6.28 | +0.54 | * | 0.00 | 0.42 | 0.43 |
| Belgium | Western Europe | 66.7 | 6.84 | 4.78 | 6.16 | +2.06 | *** | 0.00 | 0.39 | 1.00 |
| Liberia | West Africa | 47.2 | 6.96 | 5.45 | 6.14 | +1.51 | *** | 0.00 | 0.37 | 1.00 |
| Colombia | Latin America | 29.4 | 7.54 | 5.55 | 6.13 | +1.99 | *** | 0.00 | 0.33 | 1.00 |
| Ecuador | Latin America | 56.8 | 6.52 | 5.60 | 6.13 | +0.92 | *** | 0.00 | 0.32 | 0.98 |
| Gabon | West Africa | 80.6 | 6.62 | 4.23 | 6.12 | +2.39 | *** | 0.00 | 0.47 | 1.00 |
| Malawi | South Africa | 37.4 | 6.24 | 6.02 | 6.10 | +0.22 | ns | 0.00 | 0.35 | 0.31 |
| Vietnam | Southeast Asia | 17.9 | 7.14 | 5.96 | 6.08 | +1.18 | *** | 0.00 | 0.34 | 1.00 |
| Austria | Western Europe | 75.3 | 6.49 | 4.77 | 6.06 | +1.72 | *** | 0.00 | 0.40 | 1.00 |
| Dominican Republic | Caribbean | 74.2 | 6.16 | 5.69 | 6.03 | +0.47 | * | 0.00 | 0.39 | 0.66 |
| Nicaragua | Latin America | 30.0 | 6.98 | 5.59 | 6.00 | +1.39 | *** | 0.00 | 0.32 | 1.00 |
| Hong Kong | East Asia | 57.0 | 6.52 | 5.04 | 5.89 | +1.48 | *** | 0.00 | 0.36 | 1.00 |
| Libya | North Africa | 75.1 | 6.21 | 4.54 | 5.79 | +1.67 | *** | 0.00 | 0.33 | 1.00 |
| United Arab Emirates | GCC | 86.2 | 5.86 | 5.42 | 5.79 | +0.44 | *ns* | 0.00 | 0.59 | 0.28 |
| Armenia | Caucuses CIS | 26.4 | 6.89 | 5.45 | 5.78 | +1.44 | *** | 0.00 | 0.35 | 1.00 |
| El Salvador | Latin America | 37.7 | 6.06 | 5.55 | 5.73 | +0.51 | ** | 0.00 | 0.34 | 0.69 |
| South Sudan | East Africa | 53.4 | 6.28 | 5.00 | 5.63 | +1.28 | *** | 0.00 | 0.33 | 1.00 |
| Mauritius | South Africa | 45.1 | 5.79 | 5.45 | 5.58 | +0.34 | * | 0.00 | 0.33 | 0.42 |
| Uganda | East Africa | 56.0 | 5.60 | 5.25 | 5.45 | +0.35 | † | 0.00 | 0.38 | 0.17 |
| Costa Rica | Latin America | 83.3 | 5.64 | 4.49 | 5.44 | +1.15 | *** | 0.00 | 0.46 | 0.98 |
| Bolivia | Latin America | 47.5 | 6.32 | 4.62 | 5.42 | +1.70 | *** | 0.00 | 0.33 | 1.00 |
| Cyprus | Southern Europe | 69.4 | 5.89 | 4.35 | 5.41 | +1.54 | *** | 0.00 | 0.37 | 1.00 |
| Country-Level Migrant Acceptance Index Mean Score = 5.37; SD = 1.79; 95% CI = 5.07-5.67 | | | | | | | | | | |
| Turkmenistan | Asian CIS | 20.7 | 6.66 | 5.02 | 5.36 | +1.64 | *** | 0.00 | 0.22 | 1.00 |
| Haiti | Caribbean | 24.9 | 6.26 | 5.06 | 5.31 | +1.20 | *** | 0.00 | 0.52 | 0.98 |
| Mauritania | West Africa | 57.9 | 6.04 | 4.36 | 5.29 | +1.68 | *** | 0.00 | 0.28 | 1.00 |
| Madagascar | South Africa | 16.1 | 5.88 | 5.11 | 5.24 | +0.77 | ** | 0.00 | 0.51 | 0.84 |

[1]Migrant Acceptance Index score ranges from 0 to 9.

[2]Country samples are weighted to accurately reflect their population parameters.

****p* <.001; ***p* <.01; **p* <.05; †*p* <.10; *ns* = nonsignificant. All tests one-tailed with Bonferroni adjustment for family-wise error rate.

Table 6 (Cont'd.). Migrant Acceptance Index (MAI) Differences Between Respondents Who Know Immigrants and Respondents Who Do Not Know Immigrants by Country (Sorted by MAI)

| Country[2] | Region | % who know immigrants | Migrant Acceptance Index Score[1] | | | | | 95% CI for Δ (1-tailed) | | Observed Power |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | | Know immigrants | Don't know immigrants | Country Overall | Know - Don't know Δ | Δ Sig. (1-tailed) | Lower Bound | Upper Bound | |
| Singapore | Southeast Asia | 55.9 | 5.62 | 4.76 | 5.21 | +0.86 | *** | 0.00 | 0.30 | 0.99 |
| Ethiopia | East Africa | 6.9 | 7.66 | 5.00 | 5.19 | +2.66 | *** | 0.00 | 0.50 | 1.00 |
| Chile | Latin America | 53.4 | 5.67 | 4.60 | 5.17 | +1.07 | *** | 0.00 | 0.34 | 1.00 |
| Honduras | Latin America | 28.0 | 6.27 | 4.73 | 5.15 | +1.54 | *** | 0.00 | 0.38 | 1.00 |
| Zambia | South Africa | 55.5 | 5.72 | 4.52 | 5.15 | +1.20 | *** | 0.00 | 0.37 | 1.00 |
| China | East Asia | 5.9 | 7.03 | 5.00 | 5.11 | +2.03 | *** | 0.00 | 0.29 | 1.00 |
| Botswana | South Africa | 57.4 | 5.97 | 3.97 | 5.10 | +2.00 | *** | 0.00 | 0.38 | 1.00 |
| Somalia | East Africa | 33.0 | 6.09 | 4.61 | 4.99 | +1.48 | *** | 0.00 | 0.34 | 1.00 |
| South Africa | South Africa | 75.5 | 5.52 | 3.30 | 4.98 | +2.22 | *** | 0.00 | 0.42 | 1.00 |
| Malta | Southern Europe | 46.3 | 5.67 | 4.34 | 4.95 | +1.33 | *** | 0.00 | 0.37 | 1.00 |
| Uzbekistan | Asian CIS | 7.9 | 5.86 | 4.81 | 4.90 | +1.05 | ** | 0.00 | 0.64 | 0.90 |
| India | South Asia | 15.0 | 7.24 | 4.56 | 4.90 | +2.68 | *** | 0.00 | 0.24 | 1.00 |
| Kuwait | GCC | 88.4 | 5.02 | 3.59 | 4.85 | +1.43 | *** | 0.00 | 0.70 | 0.86 |
| Tanzania | East Africa | 19.1 | 5.72 | 4.62 | 4.82 | +1.10 | *** | 0.00 | 0.51 | 1.00 |
| Mexico | Latin America | 23.0 | 6.17 | 4.36 | 4.75 | +1.81 | *** | 0.00 | 0.42 | 1.00 |
| Northern Cyprus | Southeast Europe | 60.2 | 5.06 | 4.03 | 4.66 | +1.03 | *** | 0.00 | 0.38 | 1.00 |
| Guatemala | Latin America | 31.4 | 5.75 | 4.06 | 4.59 | +1.69 | *** | 0.00 | 0.37 | 1.00 |
| Kyrgyzstan | Asian CIS | 18.6 | 5.12 | 4.50 | 4.59 | +0.62 | * | 0.00 | 0.49 | 0.57 |
| Slovenia | Eastern Europe | 36.5 | 6.13 | 3.44 | 4.42 | +2.69 | *** | 0.00 | 0.39 | 1.00 |
| Tajikistan | Asian CIS | 28.6 | 4.96 | 4.25 | 4.39 | +0.71 | *** | 0.00 | 0.35 | 0.93 |
| Panama | Latin America | 61.0 | 5.14 | 3.14 | 4.36 | +2.00 | *** | 0.00 | 0.31 | 1.00 |
| Azerbaijan | Caucuses CIS | 15.9 | 5.48 | 4.15 | 4.34 | +1.33 | *** | 0.00 | 0.45 | 1.00 |
| Kazakhstan | Asian CIS | 42.6 | 5.23 | 3.61 | 4.28 | +1.62 | *** | 0.00 | 0.33 | 1.00 |
| Kosovo | Southeast Europe | 10.3 | 5.59 | 4.03 | 4.17 | +1.56 | *** | 0.00 | 0.50 | 1.00 |
| Iran | Rest of MENA | 40.7 | 4.16 | 3.81 | 3.95 | +0.35 | * | 0.00 | 0.33 | 0.50 |
| Indonesia | Southeast Asia | 12.4 | 5.60 | 3.71 | 3.93 | +1.89 | *** | 0.00 | 0.59 | 1.00 |
| Yemen | Rest of MENA | 11.1 | 5.29 | 3.80 | 3.93 | +1.49 | *** | 0.00 | 0.50 | 0.99 |
| Palestinian Territories | Rest of MENA | 19.9 | 5.73 | 3.45 | 3.90 | +2.28 | *** | 0.00 | 0.39 | 1.00 |

[1]Migrant Acceptance Index score ranges from 0 to 9.

[2]Country samples are weighted to accurately reflect their population parameters.

***$p < .001$; **$p < .01$; *$p < .05$; †$p < .10$; *ns* = nonsignificant. All tests one-tailed with Bonferroni adjustment for family-wise error rate.

Table 6 (Cont'd.). Migrant Acceptance Index (MAI) Differences Between Respondents Who Know Immigrants and Respondents Who Do Not Know Immigrants by Country (Sorted by MAI)

| Country[2] | Region | % who know immigrants | Migrant Acceptance Index Score[1] | | | | | 95% CI for Δ (1-tailed) | | Observed Power |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | | Know immigrants | Don't know immigrants | Country Overall | Know - Don't know Δ | Δ Sig. (1-tailed) | Lower Bound | Upper Bound | |
| Lebanon | Rest of MENA | 65.7 | 4.08 | 3.52 | 3.89 | +0.56 | ** | 0.00 | 0.37 | 0.72 |
| Moldova | Europe CIS | 33.9 | 4.83 | 3.29 | 3.80 | +1.54 | *** | 0.00 | 0.32 | 1.00 |
| Cambodia | Southeast Asia | 27.1 | 4.40 | 3.36 | 3.65 | +1.04 | *** | 0.00 | 0.40 | 1.00 |
| 29 Least Accepting Countries: 1 Standard Deviation or More Below the Mean | | | | | | | | | | |
| Egypt | North Africa | 13.2 | 4.81 | 3.30 | 3.50 | +1.51 | *** | 0.00 | 0.53 | 1.00 |
| Iraq | Rest of MENA | 29.7 | 3.98 | 3.19 | 3.42 | +0.79 | *** | 0.00 | 0.38 | 0.99 |
| Belarus | Europe CIS | 38.8 | 4.18 | 2.88 | 3.38 | +1.30 | *** | 0.00 | 0.32 | 1.00 |
| Greece | Southern Europe | 81.4 | 3.65 | 2.06 | 3.34 | +1.59 | *** | 0.00 | 0.36 | 1.00 |
| Poland | Eastern Europe | 21.9 | 4.83 | 2.90 | 3.31 | +1.93 | *** | 0.00 | 0.39 | 1.00 |
| Turkey | Southeast Europe | 42.1 | 3.78 | 2.89 | 3.27 | +0.89 | *** | 0.00 | 0.29 | 0.99 |
| Ukraine | Europe CIS | 24.9 | 4.02 | 2.93 | 3.15 | +1.09 | *** | 0.00 | 0.34 | 0.98 |
| Georgia | Caucuses CIS | 16.4 | 3.87 | 2.89 | 3.05 | +0.98 | *** | 0.00 | 0.47 | 1.00 |
| Mongolia | East Asia | 42.6 | 3.67 | 2.54 | 2.99 | +1.13 | *** | 0.00 | 0.31 | 1.00 |
| Jordan | Rest of MENA | 53.5 | 3.48 | 2.44 | 2.99 | +1.04 | *** | 0.00 | 0.34 | 1.00 |
| Myanmar | Southeast Asia | 4.1 | 4.13 | 2.91 | 2.96 | +1.22 | ** | 0.00 | 0.78 | 0.62 |
| Romania | Eastern Europe | 11.9 | 4.73 | 2.69 | 2.93 | +2.04 | *** | 0.00 | 0.53 | 1.00 |
| Lithuania | Eastern Europe | 22.1 | 4.42 | 2.25 | 2.72 | +2.17 | *** | 0.00 | 0.38 | 1.00 |
| Bosnia & Herzegovina | Southeast Europe | 4.7 | 5.58 | 2.54 | 2.71 | +3.04 | *** | 0.00 | 0.81 | 1.00 |
| Thailand | Southeast Asia | 20.5 | 4.08 | 2.34 | 2.69 | +1.74 | *** | 0.00 | 0.42 | 1.00 |
| Russia | Europe CIS | 40.2 | 3.12 | 2.27 | 2.60 | +0.85 | *** | 0.00 | 0.18 | 1.00 |
| Afghanistan | South Asia | 6.9 | 2.31 | 2.52 | 2.51 | -0.21 | *ns* | 0.00 | 0.42 | 0.07 |
| Pakistan | South Asia | 16.6 | 3.06 | 2.34 | 2.47 | +0.72 | ** | 0.00 | 0.41 | 0.73 |
| Bulgaria | Eastern Europe | 18.0 | 4.20 | 2.01 | 2.42 | +2.19 | *** | 0.00 | 0.35 | 1.00 |
| Croatia | Southeast Europe | - | - | - | 2.39[3] | - | - | - | - | - |
| Estonia | Eastern Europe | 30.3 | 3.58 | 1.85 | 2.37 | +1.73 | *** | 0.00 | 0.30 | 1.00 |
| Czech Republic | Eastern Europe | 24.0 | 3.61 | 1.84 | 2.26 | +1.77 | *** | 0.00 | 0.33 | 1.00 |
| Latvia | Eastern Europe | 14.9 | 3.03 | 1.85 | 2.04 | +1.18 | *** | 0.00 | 0.37 | 1.00 |
| Israel | Rest of MENA | 27.6 | 3.02 | 1.42 | 1.87 | +1.60 | *** | 0.00 | 0.29 | 1.00 |

[1]Migrant Acceptance Index score ranges from 0 to 9.

[2]Country samples are weighted to accurately reflect their population parameters.

****p* <.001; ***p* <.01; **p* <.05; †*p* <.10; *ns* = nonsignificant. All tests one-tailed with Bonferroni adjustment for family-wise error rate.

Table 6 (Cont'd.). Migrant Acceptance Index (MAI) Differences Between Respondents Who Know Immigrants and Respondents Who Do Not Know Immigrants by Country (Sorted by MAI)

| Country[2] | Region | % who know immigrants | Migrant Acceptance Index Score[1] | | | | | 95% CI for Δ (1-tailed) | | Observed Power |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | | Know immigrants | Don't know immigrants | Country Overall | Know - Don't know Δ | Δ Sig. (1-tailed) | Lower Bound | Upper Bound | |
| Slovakia | Eastern Europe | 28.1 | 2.85 | 1.43 | 1.83 | +1.42 | *** | 0.00 | 0.27 | 1.00 |
| Serbia | Southeast Europe | 4.9 | 5.00 | 1.63 | 1.80 | +3.37 | *** | 0.00 | 0.84 | 1.00 |
| Hungary | Eastern Europe | 31.7 | 2.80 | 1.17 | 1.69 | +1.63 | *** | 0.00 | 0.22 | 1.00 |
| Montenegro | Southeast Europe | 12.3 | 3.17 | 1.41 | 1.63 | +1.76 | *** | 0.00 | 0.49 | 1.00 |
| Macedonia | Southeast Europe | 5.7 | 2.74 | 1.36 | 1.47 | +1.38 | *** | 0.00 | 0.62 | 0.89 |
| World[4] | | 29.1 | 6.78 | 4.80 | 5.34 | +1.98 | *** | 0.00 | 0.03 | 1.00 |

[1]Migrant Acceptance Index score ranges from 0 to 9.

[2]Country samples are weighted to accurately reflect their population parameters.

[2]"Do you know an immigrant living in this country?" was not included for Croatia.

[4]World sample is weighted to be projectable to the global population.

****p* <.001; ***p* <.01; **p* <.05; †*p* <.10; *ns* = nonsignificant. All tests one-tailed with Bonferroni adjustment for family-wise error rate.

Perhaps not surprisingly, the proportion of a country's population who say they know immigrants is strongly associated with that country's Migrant Acceptance Index score ($r(138) = 0.61$, $p < .001$) but not with the size of the difference between respondents who know and don't know immigrants ($r(138) = -0.10$, *ns*). These relationships are depicted graphically in Figures 4 and 5.

*Two Outliers*

Figure 4 highlights two extreme outliers that produce results that run counter to the contact hypothesis, Bangladesh and Greece. Both are interesting because they suggest some conditions that might limit the effects of interpersonal contact on attitudes toward migrants based on prevailing local conditions. Earlier we suggested that the high Migrant Acceptance Index scores from a number of sub-Saharan African countries could reflect the perception that migrants (few as they may be) bring much needed financial resources with them, an important positive benefit. The average percentage of respondents who report knowing an immigrant in the nine "most accepting" countries in sub-Saharan Africa is 56.8% while the average proportion of immigrants in those nine countries' actual populations is 4.1%. Immigrants likewise make up a miniscule slice of the Bangladeshi population (0.9%) and few Bangladeshis report knowing an immigrant (8.4% > 1 SD *below* the mean) yet their Migrant Acceptance Index Score (7.45) is more than one standard deviation unit *above* them mean. The situation for Bangladeshis is likely the same as the one proposed to operate in the countries in sub-Saharan Africa: Prevailing local economic conditions make migrants with financial resources more desirable and more acceptable despite the low levels of interpersonal contact with migrants reported by Bangladeshis.

Greece produces the exact opposite pattern: A preponderance of Greeks report knowing an immigrant (81.4% > 1 SD *above* the mean) yet their Migrant Acceptance Index Score (3.34) is more than one standard deviation *below* them mean. While not part of the former Soviet bloc, Greece borders both Macedonia and Bulgaria and is one of the countries transited by the wave of refugees fleeing conflict in the Middle East. For Greece, it is likely that prevailing local social conditions make migrants less desirable and less acceptable despite the high levels of interpersonal contact with migrants reported by Greeks. In spite of the paradoxical relationship between contact and attitudes toward migrants in these two countries, it is worth reiterating that Greeks and Bangladeshis who reported knowing an immigrant held significantly more positive attitudes toward migrants than their compatriots who said they did not know an immigrant.

**Discussion**

Allport's (1954) contact hypothesis has a long history in the social sciences as a possible mechanism for reducing stereotyping and prejudice, particularly in research conducted in the United States. Meta-analysis has demonstrated that the effect is robust across research settings, social groups, types of interaction, and to some extent, geography. Our goal in this paper was to expand the depth of existing research at a country-level outside the United States. The current findings, while correlational, strongly demonstrate the relationship between self-reported interpersonal contact with migrants and personal attitudes toward them in 134 out of 139 countries independently polled by the Gallup World Poll. Residents of those countries were significantly more accepting of migrants if they had had prior contact with an immigrant compared to those who had not. This effect emerged on six continents, across myriad language groups, and within samples comprised of men and women, young and old, rich and poor, and educated and uneducated alike. Although these data do not allow us to determine the causal direction of the observed effects, it is likely that the effect works in both directions, as others have demonstrated (Binder et al., 2009; Swart et al., 2011), but with the stronger effect moving from contact to attitudes.

**Figure 4**. Country-Level Migrant Acceptance Index by % Who Know Immigrants

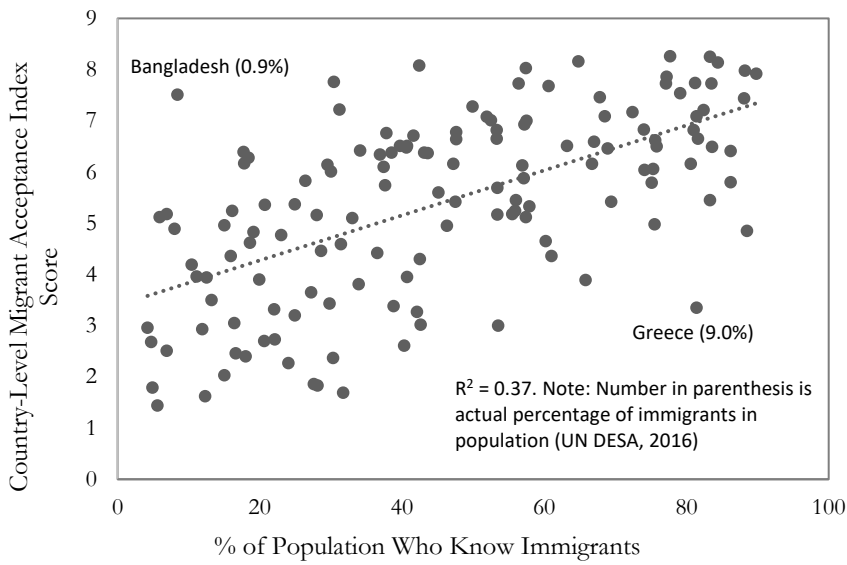
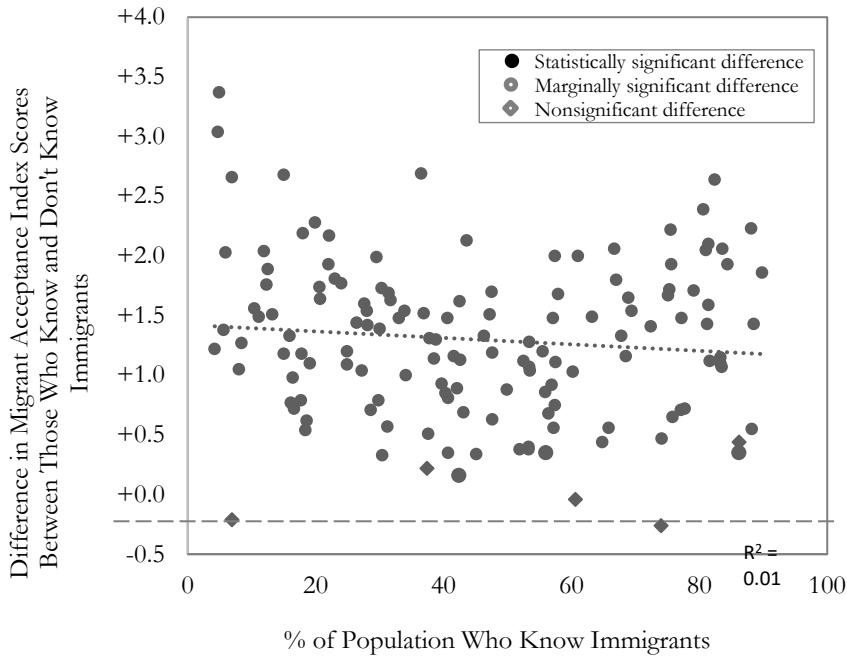


**Figure 5**. Country-Level Migrant Acceptance Index by Size of Know Immigrants-Don't Know Immigrants Difference




We can make no claim as to whether Allport's "optimal circumstances" existed in the country-level samples we obtained. But the fact that a robust relationship between interpersonal contact with migrants and attitudes toward them emerged in so many different countries strongly suggests, as Pettigrew and Tropp (2006) noted, that optimal circumstances are not necessary preconditions for the contact effect to emerge.

With immigration taking such a high profile position around the world, understanding which countries are predisposed to accept of or reject migrants can help shed light on where immigration issues are likely to arise. More important, however, is the possibility that simple interpersonal contact with migrants can help moderate potential prejudice and discrimination across national boundaries, cultures, and languages.

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