

Who cares? How political reception contexts shape immigrants' location decisions

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Outline



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1. Theoretical Framework
 2. Research questions and Hypotheses
 3. Methodology
 4. Findings
 5. Conclusion
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1. Theoretical Framework

Important diversity of research fields on residential location choice

Focus on pull factors

Top-down perspective mostly economic and financial determinants

1. Theoretical Framework

Lack of studies on political factors acting as pull factors

- Existing research: deterrent effects of natives' attitudes toward immigration on immigrants' location choice (Braco et al., 2018; Slotwinski and Stutzer, 2019)

Broader “political context of reception” (Portes and Rumbaut, 1996) → “societal discrimination, government policy, ethnic community strength and immigrants' human capital attributes”

1. Theoretical Framework

How political reception contexts shape immigrants' location decisions ?

→ *Hypothesis 1*: An inclusive political reception context increases the attractiveness of a municipality for noncitizens.

1. Theoretical Framework

For whom does the reception context matter most? i.e. which groups of noncitizens are the most responsive to the reception context?

Finer grained perspective using Maslow's pyramid of needs

- 5 human needs
- Need to fulfill basic needs before passing to the next one



1. Theoretical Framework



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Fulfilled for all participants



Physiological needs

air, water, food, shelter, sleep, clothing, reproduction

Source: simplypsychology.org





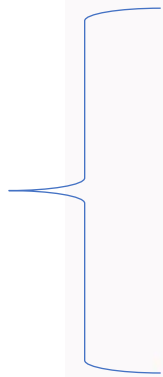
1. Theoretical Framework



Focus on Financial security



Physiological needs



Safety needs

personal security, employment, resources, health, property

Physiological needs

air, water, food, shelter, sleep, clothing, reproduction





1. Theoretical Framework



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Focus on support of a social network



Love and belonging

friendship, intimacy, family, sense of connection

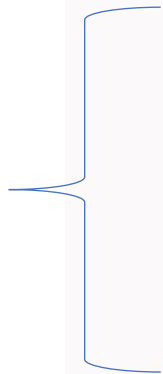
Safety needs

personal security, employment, resources, health, property

Physiological needs

air, water, food, shelter, sleep, clothing, reproduction

Physiological needs



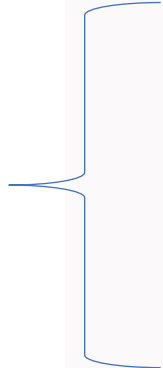


1. Theoretical Framework

Focus on highest educational achievement



Psychological needs



Esteem

respect, self-esteem, status, recognition, strength, freedom

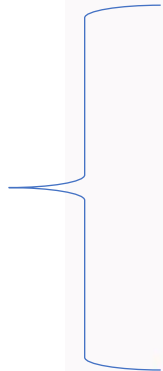
Love and belonging

friendship, intimacy, family, sense of connection

Safety needs

personal security, employment, resources, health, property

Physiological needs



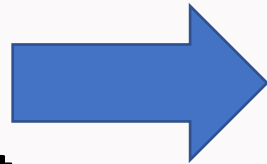
Physiological needs

air, water, food, shelter, sleep, clothing, reproduction



1. Theoretical Framework

Receptiveness
towards political
reception context



2. Research questions and Hypotheses

For whom does the reception context matter most? i.e. which groups of noncitizens are the most responsive to the reception context?

→ *Hypothesis 2:* Noncitizens who satisfied their basic physical needs, as well as their social needs, can afford to care for satisfying their higher needs for self-actualization, and thus be most receptive for political reception context.

3. Methodology

Migration Mobility Survey 2020 (representative of the last 15-years immigrants)

MMS linked with Conjoint analysis

1596 respondents (immigrants living in Switzerland)

“Estimate causal effects of multiple treatments components and assess several causal hypotheses simultaneously” (Hainmueller et al., 2014)

→ Prevent social desirability

3. Methodology

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Attributes	Values
Reaching main commodities (shopping, centre, schools, doctors)	<i>Connection every half hour until 24:00</i>
	<i>Connection every hour until 20:00</i>
Access to nature (forest, lake, river,...)	<i>Walking distance</i>
	<i>Not in walking distance</i>
Living costs (rent, taxes, health insurance,...)	<i>15% more expensive than your current municipality</i>
	<i>15% less expensive than your current municipality</i>
Share of SVP/UDC (anti-immigrant party)	<i>Lower than in surrounding municipalities</i>
	<i>Higher than in surrounding municipalities</i>
Swiss citizenship requires	<i>8 years of residence in the municipality</i>
	<i>2 years of residence in the municipality</i>
People of the same country as you	<i>No proper network</i>
	<i>Strong social network</i>
Non-citizen voting rights in the municipality for legal permanent residents (C Permit)	<i>Possible after one year of residence in the canton</i>
	<i>No noncitizen voting right</i>
Local infrastructure for cultural and leisure activities (for example: swimming pool, theatre, sport center, museum,...)	<i>Rich offer</i>
	<i>Limited offer</i>

3. Methodology

Imagine you have an attractive long-term job offer. You plan to accept the job and settle nearby, and can choose to live in one of two municipalities, which are at equal distance from your new employment. On the following pages, you'll have to choose between two municipalities. In which municipality would you prefer to live?

	Municipality A	Municipality B
Reaching main commodities (shopping centres, schools, doctors, ...)	Connection every hour until 20:00	Connection every hour until 20:00
Access to nature (forest, lake, river, ...)	Not in walking distance	Walking distance
Living costs (rent, taxes, health insurance, ...)	15% more expensive than your current municipality	15% more expensive than your current municipality
Share of SVP/UDC (anti-immigrant party)	Lower than in surrounding municipalities	Higher than in surrounding municipalities
Swiss citizenship requires	8 years of residence in the municipality	8 years of residence in the municipality
People from the same country as you	Strong social network	Strong social network
Non-citizen voting rights in the municipality for legal permanent residents (C Permit)	No noncitizen voting right	No noncitizen voting right
Local infrastructure for cultural and leisure activities (for example: swimming pool, theatre, sport center, museum,...)	Rich offer	Rich offer

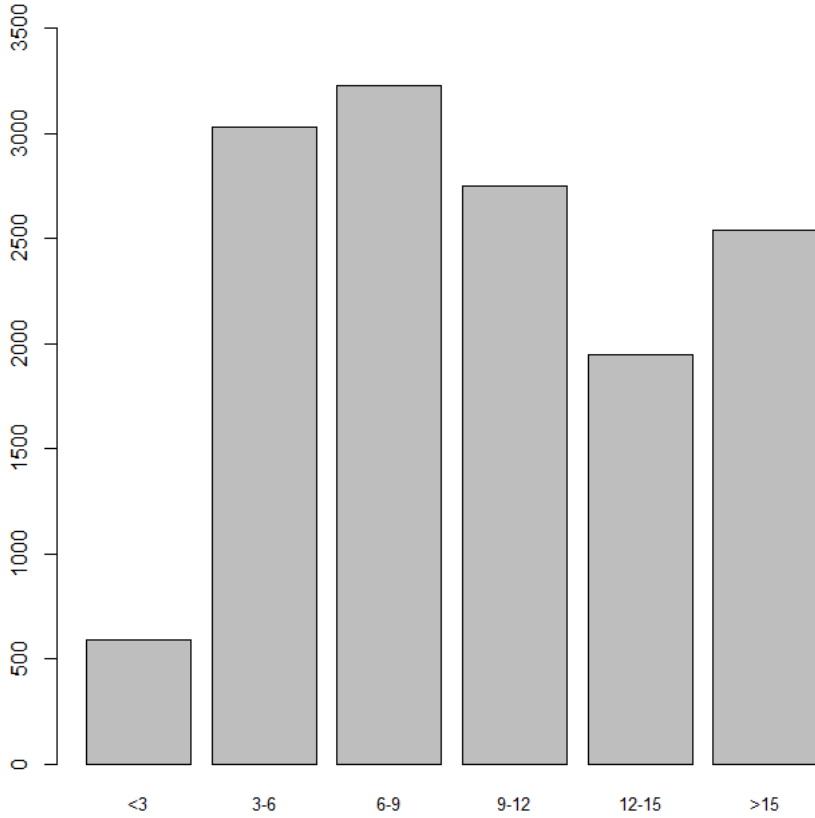
- I pick municipality A
- I pick municipality B



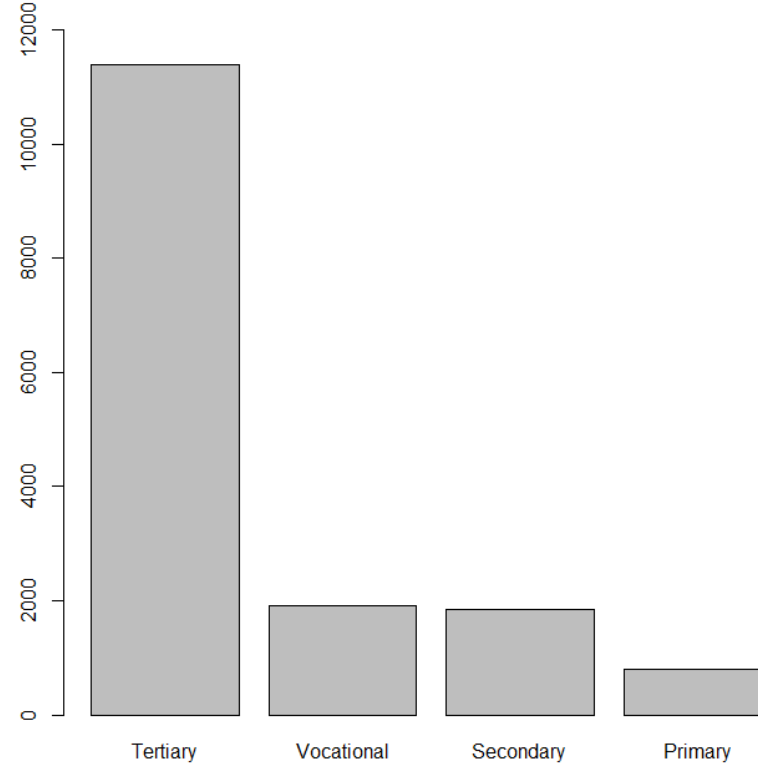
3. Methodology



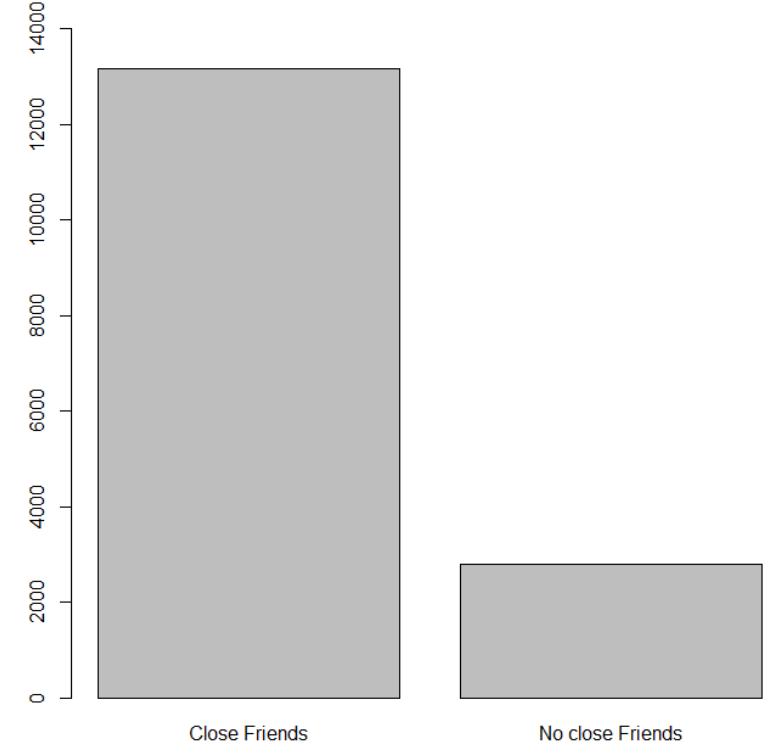
Monthly Household Income in thousand CHF - distribution



Highest completed education - distribution



Fiends/Relative support in Switzerland - distribution





4. Findings

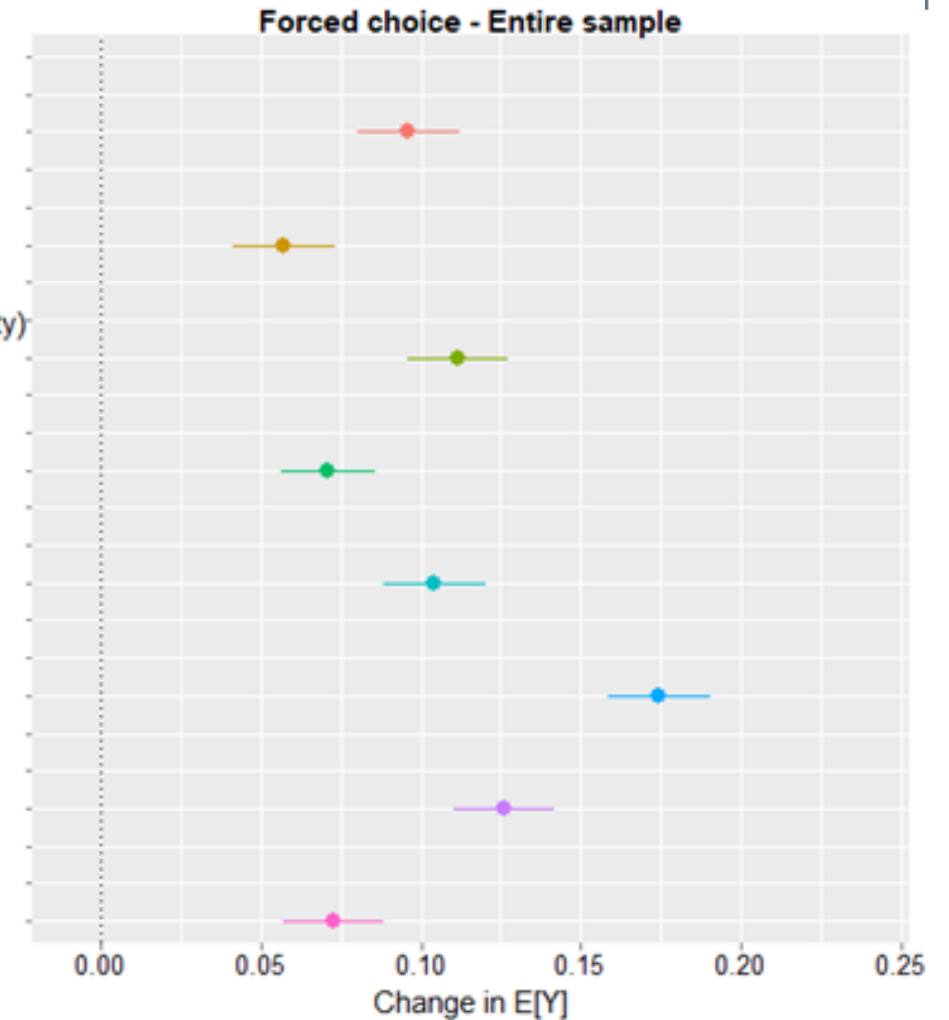
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4. Findings

Average Marginal Component Effects

- attitude:
(Baseline = Higher than in surrounding municipalities)
Lower than in surrounding municipalities
- coethnic:
(Baseline = No proper network)
Strong social network
- cost:
(Baseline = 15% more expensive than your current municipality)
15% less expensive than your current municipality
- infra:
(Baseline = Limited offer)
Rich offer
- naturalization:
(Baseline = 8 years of residence in the municipality)
2 years of residence in the municipality
- nature:
(Baseline = Not in walking distance)
Walking distance
- transport:
(Baseline = NULL:NULL)
NULL:NULL
- voting:
(Baseline = No noncitizen voting right)
Possible after one year of residence in the canton



4. Findings

-Hypothesis 1: An inclusive political reception context increases the attractiveness of a municipality for noncitizens.

-Confirmed

attitude:
(Baseline = Higher than in surrounding municipalities)
Lower than in surrounding municipalities

coethnic:
(Baseline = No proper network)
Strong social network

cost:
(Baseline = 15% more expensive than your current municipality)
15% less expensive than your current municipality

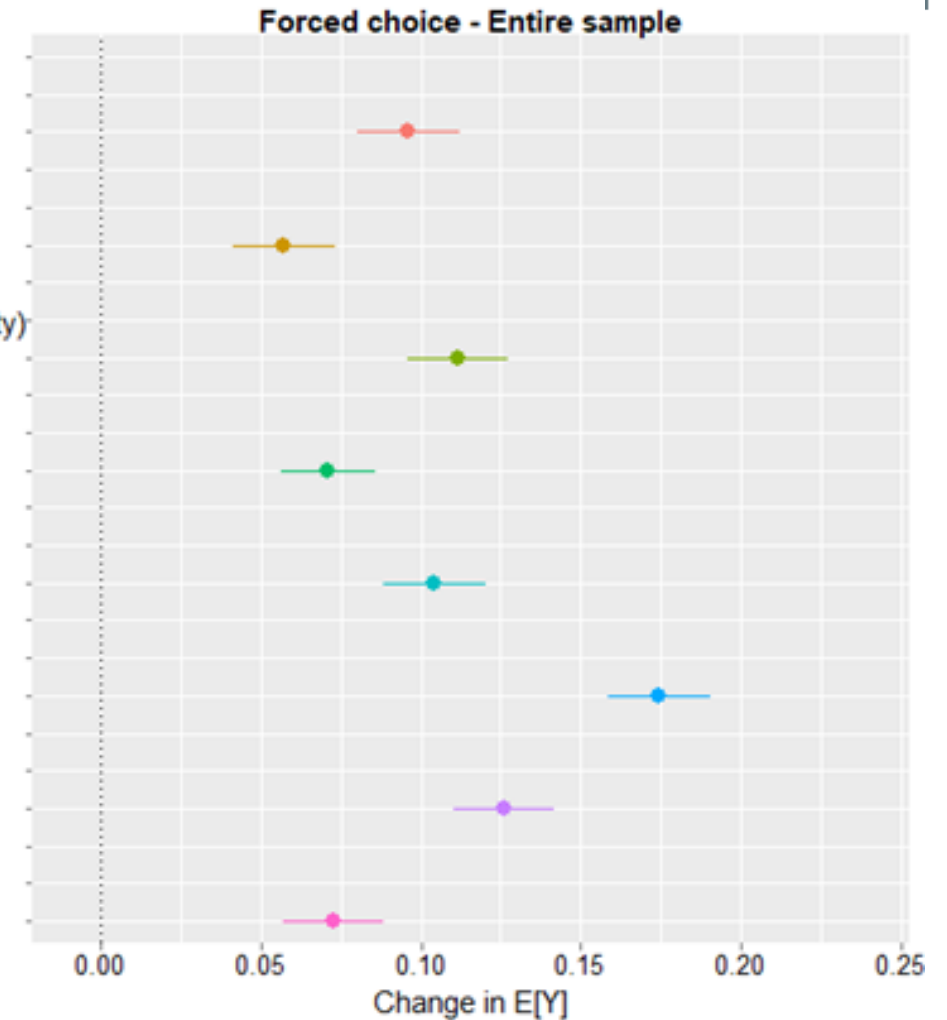
infra:
(Baseline = Limited offer)
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naturalization:
(Baseline = 8 years of residence in the municipality)
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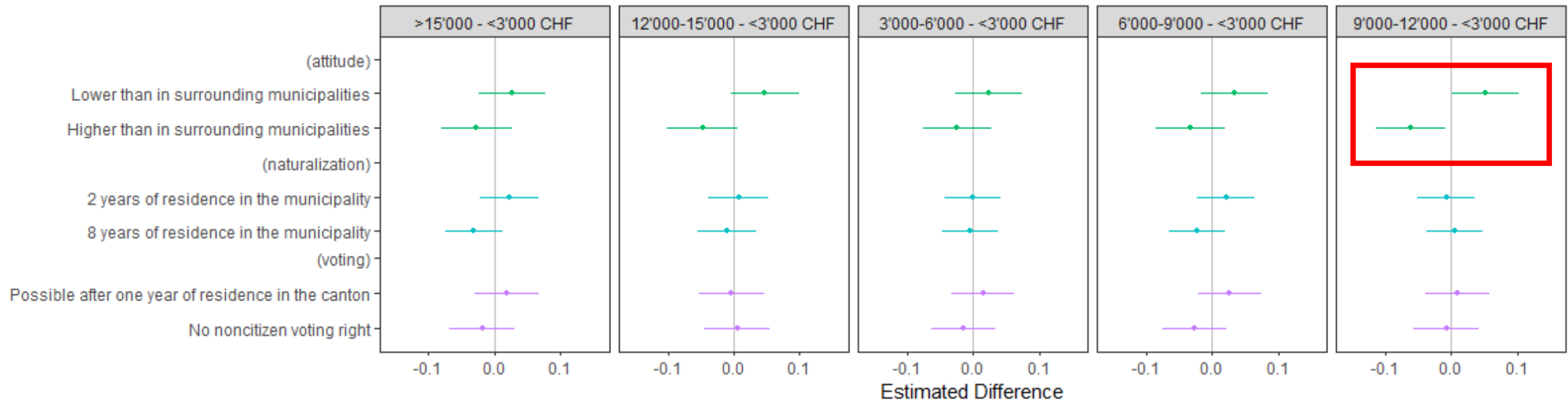
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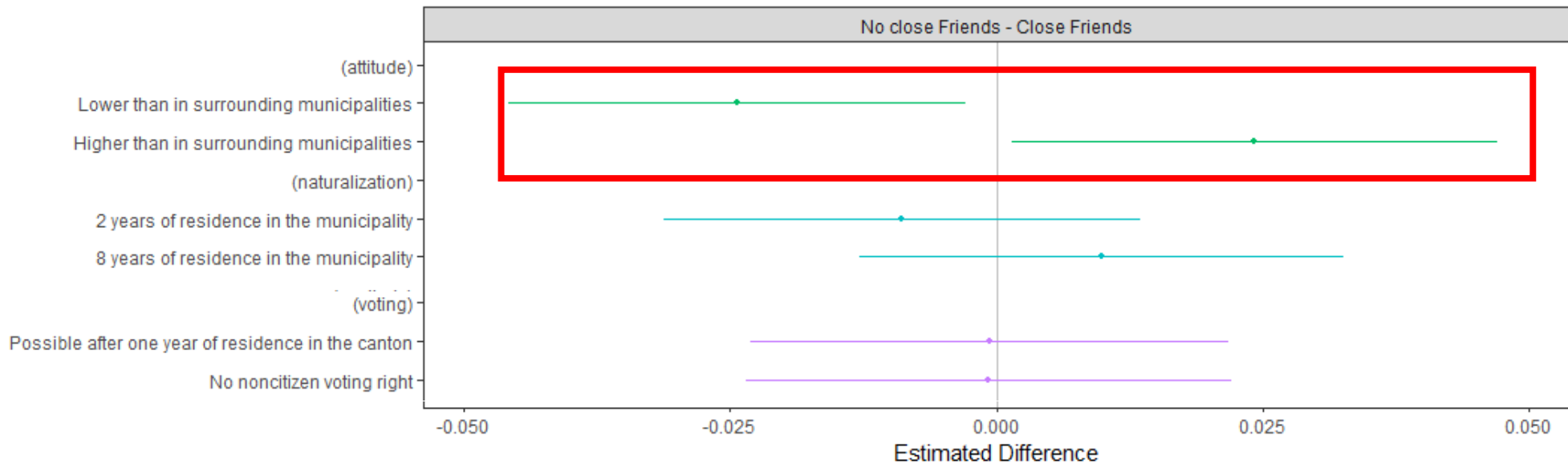
4. Findings

Difference in marginal means – Income (Financial needs)



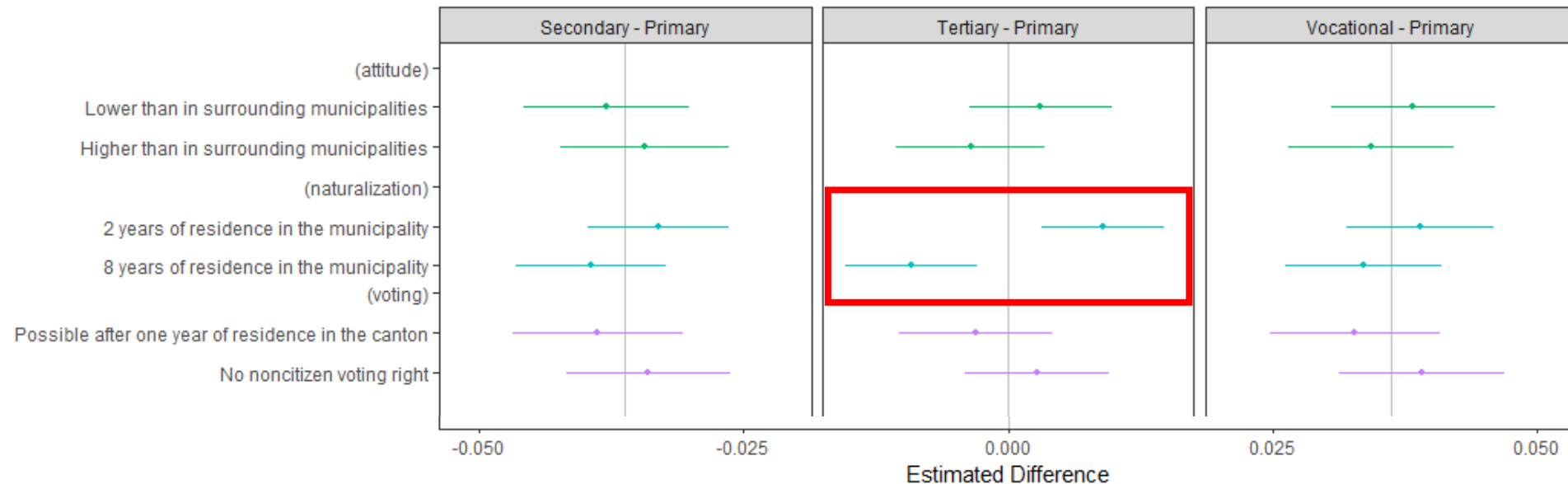
4. Findings

Difference in marginal means – Social Network (Belongingness needs)



4. Findings

Difference in marginal means – Highest educational achievement (Self-esteem needs)



Hypothesis 2: Noncitizens who satisfied their basic physical needs, as well as their social needs, can afford to care for satisfying their higher needs for self-actualization, and thus be most receptive for political reception context.

Only partially confirmed

→ Need further analyses

5. Conclusion

Political reception context matters to explain immigrants' mobility even when other factors are accounted for.

Differences among subgroups may exist. However, also possible that political reception contexts matter for all noncitizens

→ Additional analyses (other categorizations or subjective perceptions rather than materialistic ones)

Financial and Belongingness needs influence receptivity towards natives' attitudes

Self-Esteem needs influence receptivity towards citizenship policies

→ it can be that material/symbolic resources influence differently immigrants' location choice depending on the fulfillment of needs



Thank you for your attention!

