

Integration and Welcome-ability Indexes: Measures of Community Capacity to Integrate Immigrants

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Outline

- ❖ Definition and Theoretical Framework for Analysis of Integration
- ❖ Welcome-Ability Index: An Illustration Using Community-Level Data
- ❖ Integration Index: An Illustration Using Individual-Level Data
- ❖ Concluding Remarks: Toward Multi-Level Analysis of Integration

1. Framework of Analysis
2. Data & Methods
3. Results

Integration

Multi-level Concept

- ❖ *Integration* defined
 - ❖ Integration
 - ❖ **Social Cohesion**
 - ❖ Welcome-ability

Multi-Dimensional Concept

- ❖ Economic
- ❖ Social
- ❖ Political

Immigrant integration: “a process through which newcomers become capable of participating in the economic, social and civic/political life of the receiving country” Joppke and Seidle (2012: 9).

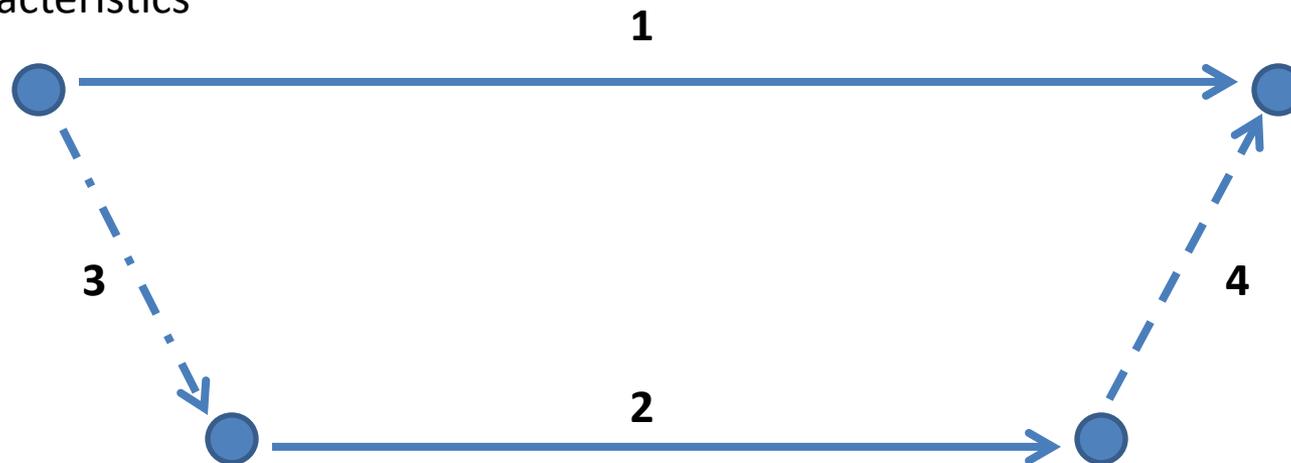
Theoretical Macro-Micro Framework of Analysis of Immigrant Integration

A. Macro/*Community*

Conditions/
Characteristics

B. Macro/*Community*

Outcomes – *Welcome-ability*



C. Micro/*Immigrant*

Conditions/
Characteristics

D. Micro/*Immigrant*

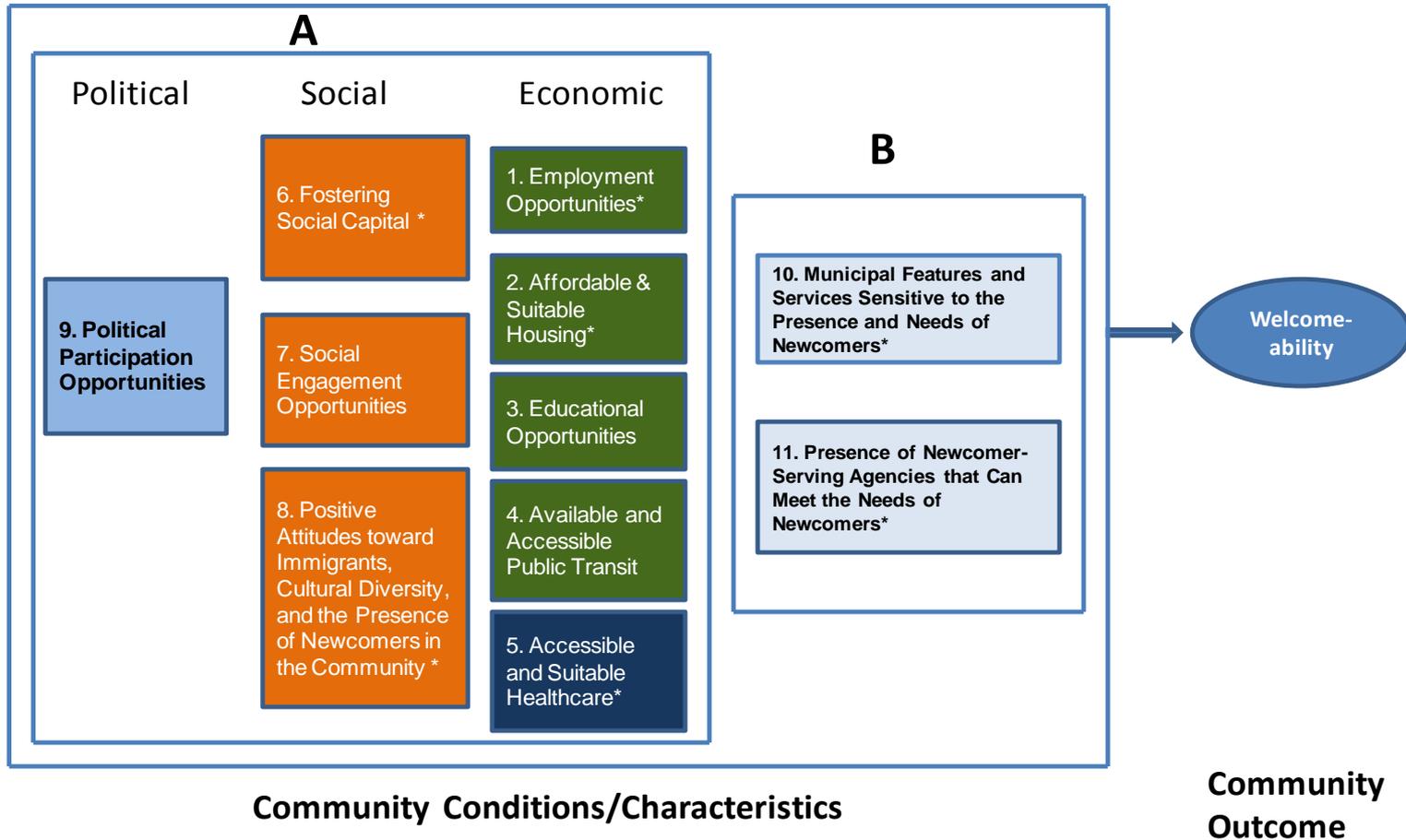
Outcomes – *Integration*



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Framework for Analysis at the Macro-level



Welcome-Ability Index:

Data and Method

- ❖ Unit of analysis: 45 Local Immigration Partnerships (LIPs)
 - 30 LIPs in Ontario cities and municipalities
 - 15 LIPs in Toronto
- ❖ Data: 2006 Census and 2008 Canadian Community Health Survey (CCHS)
- ❖ Exploratory factor analysis and Confirmatory factor analysis (or Structural Equations Model)

Welcome-Ability Index: Variables

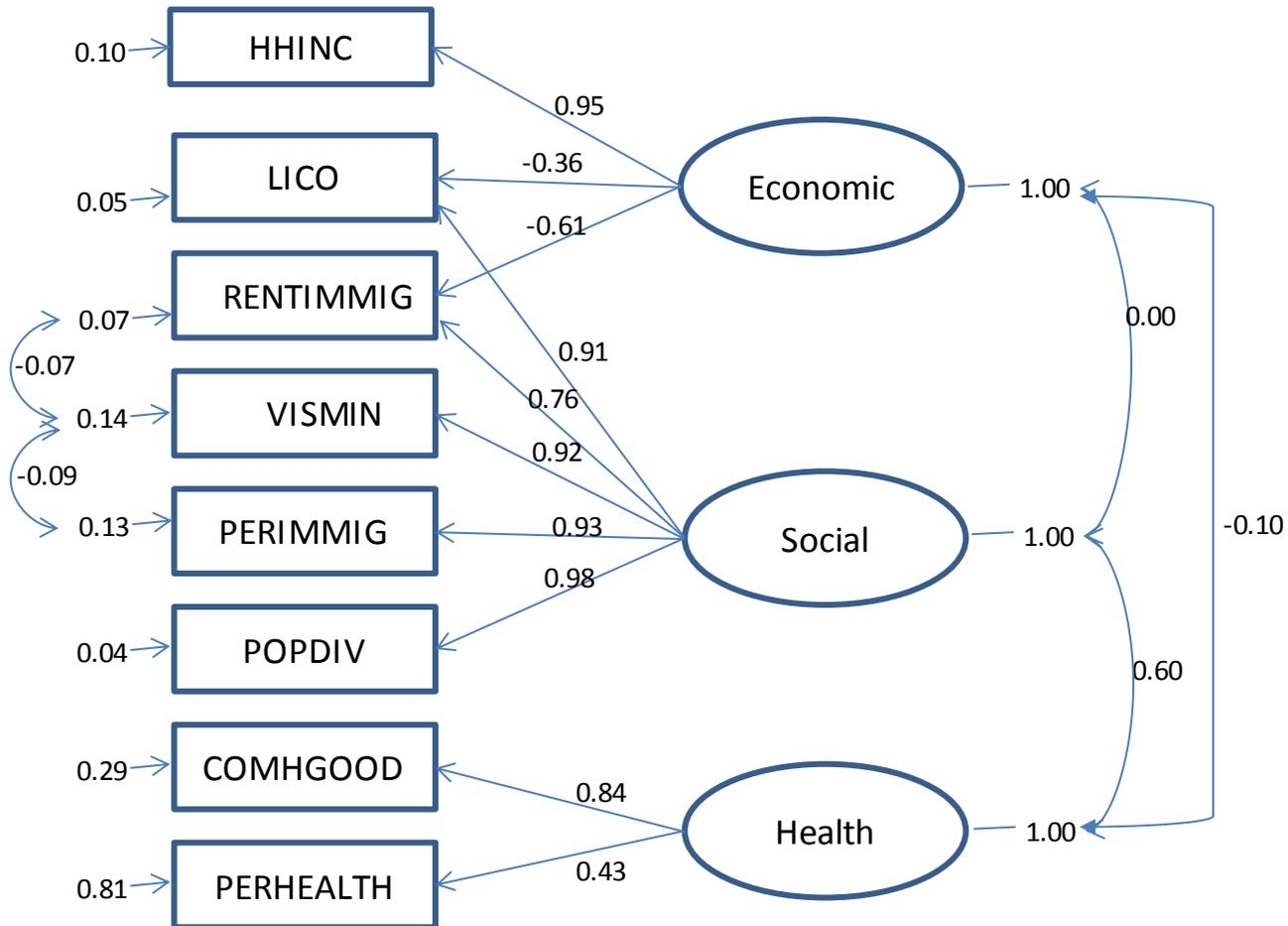
Included in SEM

- ❖ Economic
 - Household Income ('000s)
 - Low Income Ratio among immigrants
 - % of immigrants renting homes
- ❖ Social
 - % of visible minorities among immigrants
 - % immigrants in the community
 - Population Diversity in the community
- ❖ Health
 - % of immigrants rating health care in the community as good or excellent
 - Immigrants' perceived health on a scale of 100

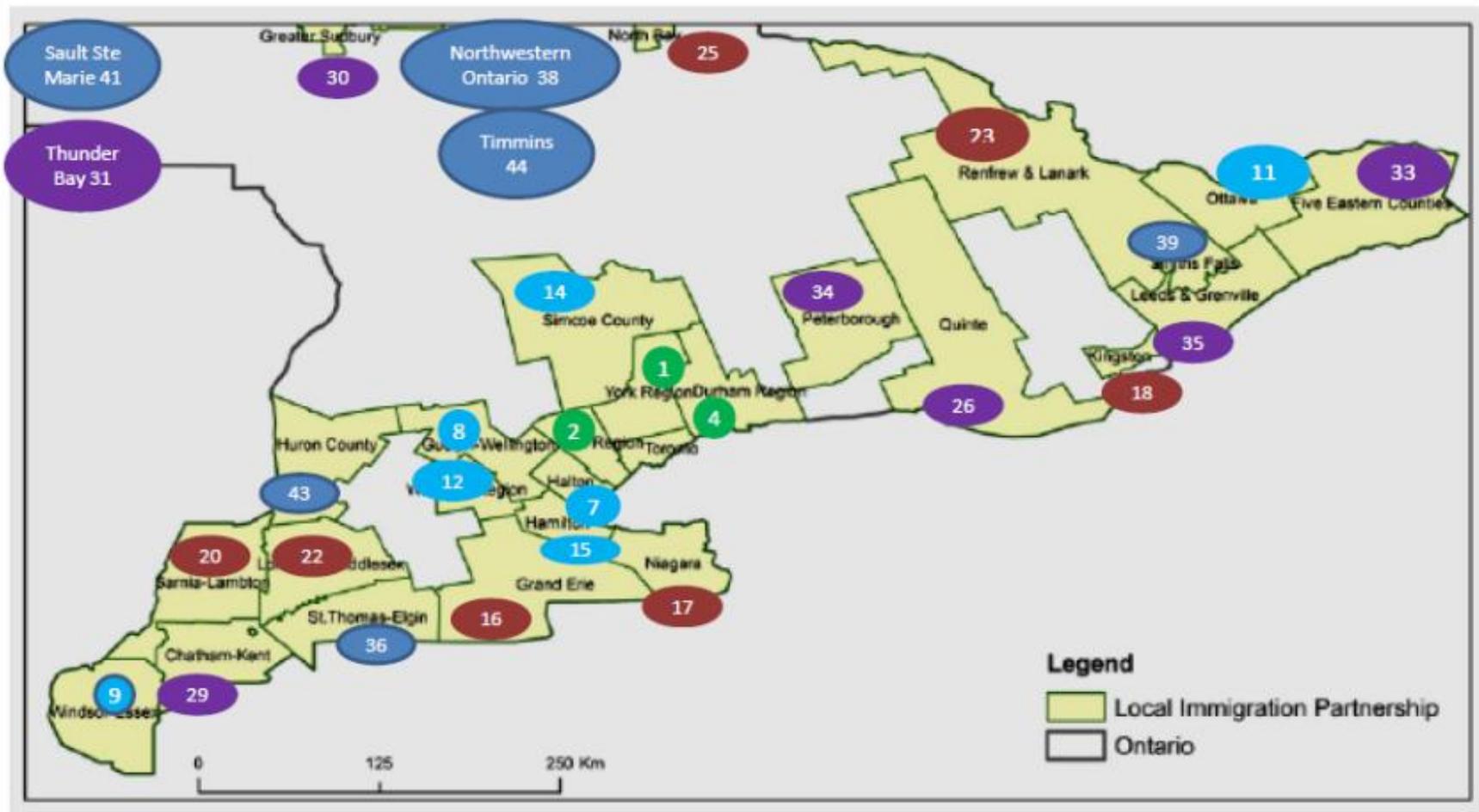
Not Included in SEM

- ❖ Economic
 - % of employed immigrants
 - % of unemployed immigrants
 - Median monthly rent immigrants pay ('00s)
 - Ratio of dwelling value to median HH income
- ❖ Social
 - Sense of Belonging of immigrants on a scale of 100
 - Municipal services available in the community
 - Number of immigrants per N211 service
- ❖ Health
 - % of immigrants who perceive barriers in improving health
 - % of immigrants who have a regular doctor

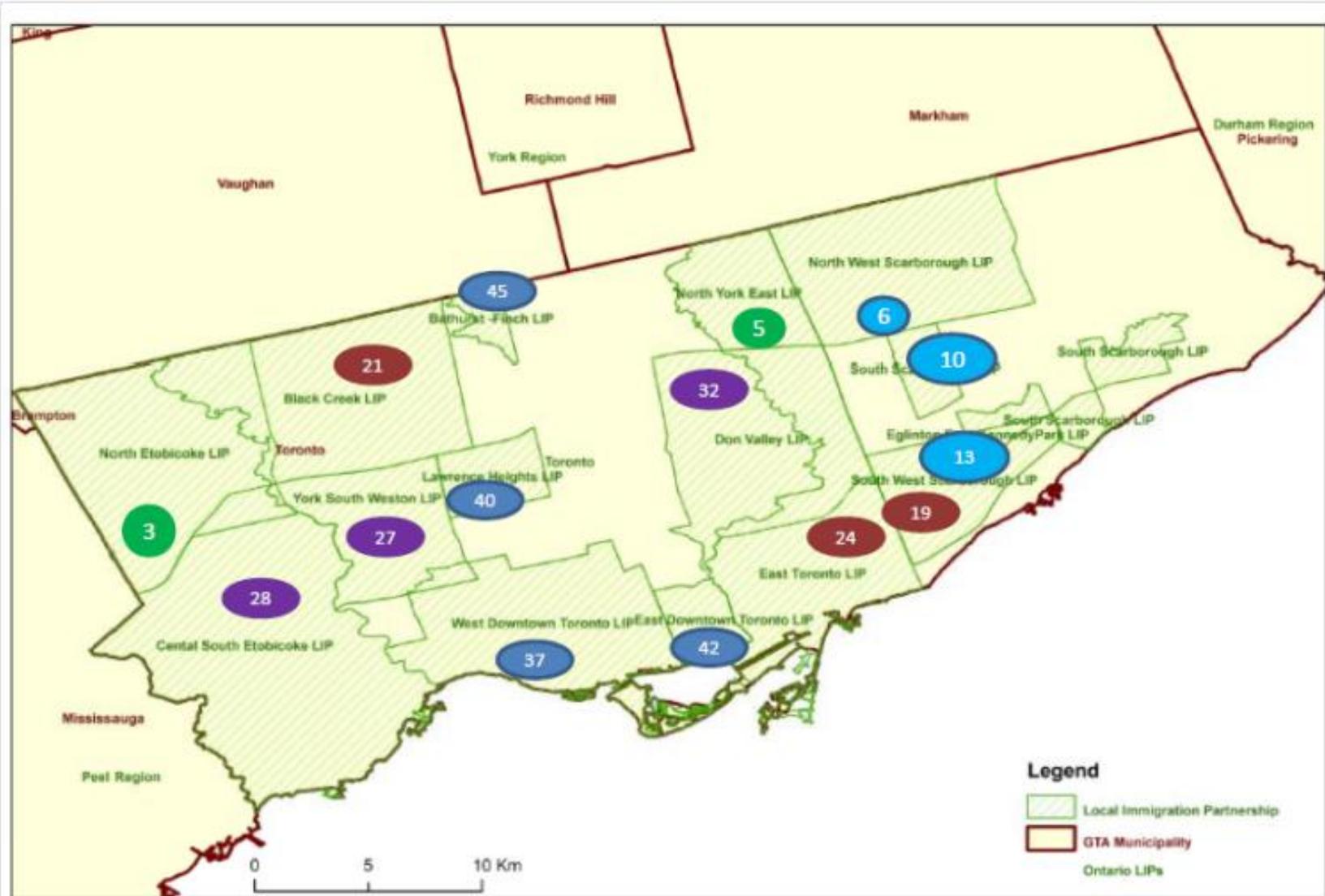
Path diagram from the Structural Equations Model (Standardized solution)



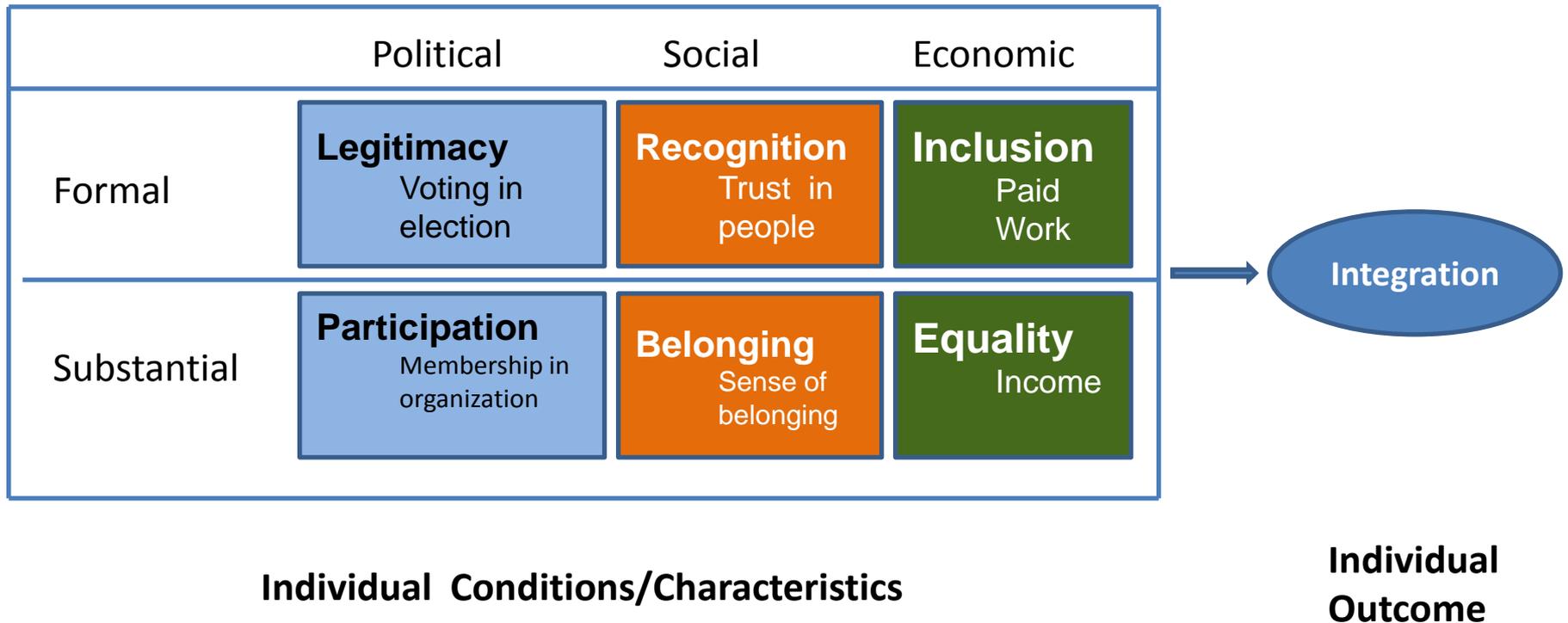
South Ontario: Local Immigration Partnerships and Welcome-ability Ranks



Toronto: Local Immigration Partnerships and Welcome-ability Ranks



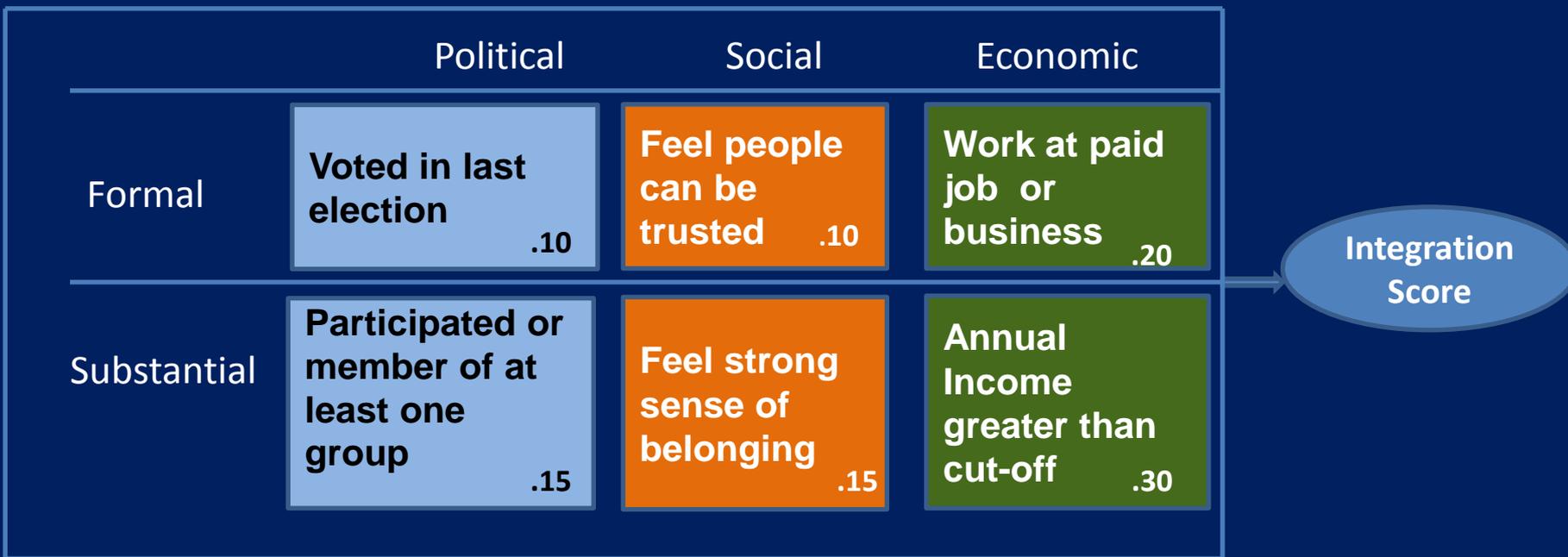
Framework for Analysis at the Micro-level



Integration Index: Data

- ❖ Data: Canadian General Social Survey on Social Networks 2008
 - Total respondents: 20,401
 - Respondents in Ontario aged 30-64: 4,978

Integration Index: Variables and Weights



Average Integration Scores: Immigrants

Independent Variables	N	Economic		Socio-Cultural		Political		Integration Index
		Work at Paid Job	Personal Income	Can Trust People	Strong Sense of Belonging	Voted in Election	Participant in Org.	
Gender								
Male	713	0.89	0.89	0.49	0.67	0.68	0.65	0.76
Female	704	0.63	0.69	0.44	0.66	0.73	0.56	0.64
Ethnicity								
Visible Minority	788	0.75	0.76	0.44	0.68	0.67	0.56	0.68
Non-Visible Minority	589	0.77	0.82	0.51	0.66	0.74	0.67	0.72
Urban/Rural								
Larger Urban Centres	1364	0.76	0.80	0.46	0.66	0.71	0.60	0.70
Rural and Small Towns	53	0.75	0.66	0.62	0.74	0.70	0.74	0.70
Total	1417	0.76	0.79	0.47	0.67	0.70	0.60	0.70

Average Integration Scores: Non- Immigrants

Independent Variables	N	Economic		Socio-Cultural		Political		Integration Index
		Work at Paid Job	Personal Income	Can Trust People	Strong Sense of Belonging	Voted in Election	Participate in Org.	
Gender								
Male	1729	0.83	0.93	0.54	0.70	0.87	0.74	0.80
Female	1785	0.65	0.75	0.55	0.73	0.87	0.72	0.71
Ethnicity								
Visible Minority	63	0.72	0.89	0.42	0.65	0.78	0.73	0.73
Non-Visible Minority	3367	0.74	0.83	0.54	0.72	0.87	0.73	0.76
Urban/Rural								
Larger Urban Centres	2907	0.74	0.84	0.54	0.72	0.88	0.73	0.76
Rural and Small Towns	607	0.72	0.81	0.54	0.71	0.81	0.72	0.74
Total	3514	0.74	0.84	0.54	0.72	0.87	0.73	0.76

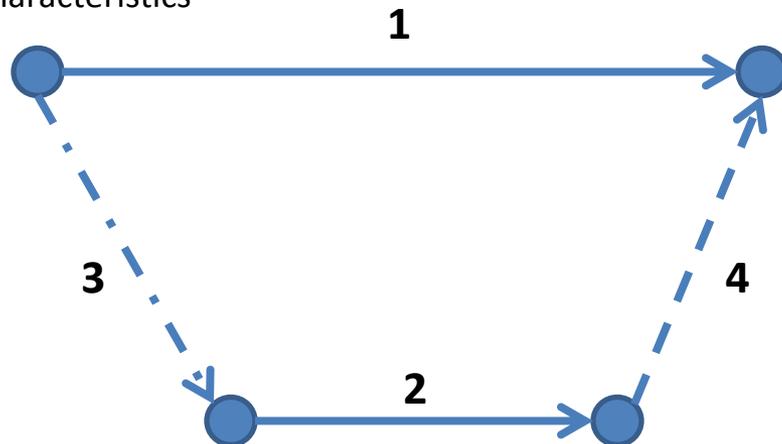
Concluding Remarks

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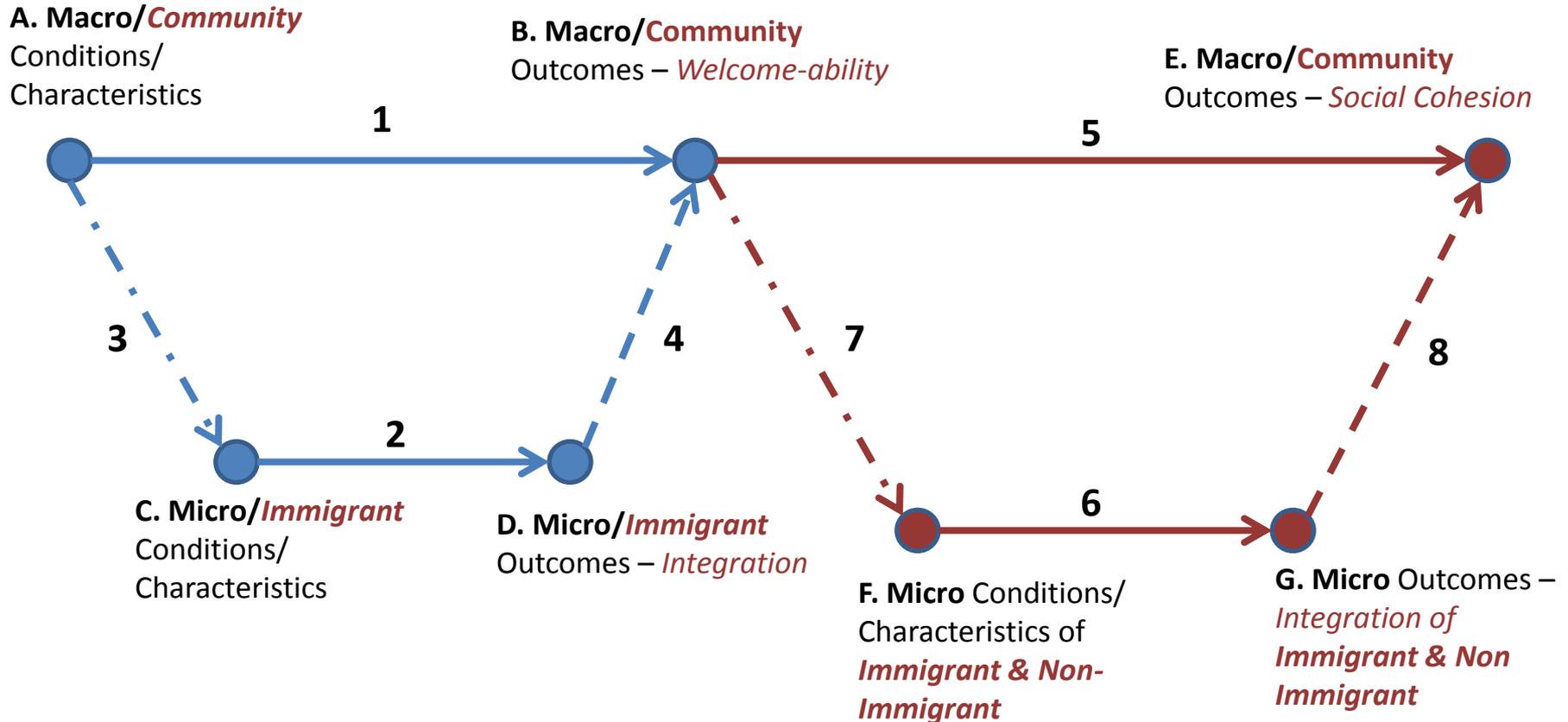
- ❖ Indexes (or scores) could be used for subsequent analysis
- ❖ For multi-level, multi-dimensional analysis, data on:
 - ❖ Opportunities and facilities in communities
 - ❖ Individuals (immigrants and non-immigrants)
 - ❖ Initiatives for immigrants



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Theoretical Macro-Micro Framework of Analysis of Social Cohesion



Thank you!

- Contact information: ravanera@uwo.ca
- Ravanera, Zenaida, Victoria Esses, and Fernando Rajulton (2013) “Integration and “Welcome-ability” Indexes: Measures of Community Capacity to Integrate Immigrants,” *Population Change and Lifecourse Strategic Knowledge Cluster Discussion Paper Series*: Vol. 1: Iss. 1, Article 6.
Available at: <http://ir.lib.uwo.ca/pclc/>