



MONASH  
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# The context of racial and cultural exclusivism:

A study of Melbourne neighbourhoods

A/Prof Rebecca Wickes, Monash Migration and Inclusion Centre

Prof Michele Grossman, Alfred Deakin Institute, Deakin University

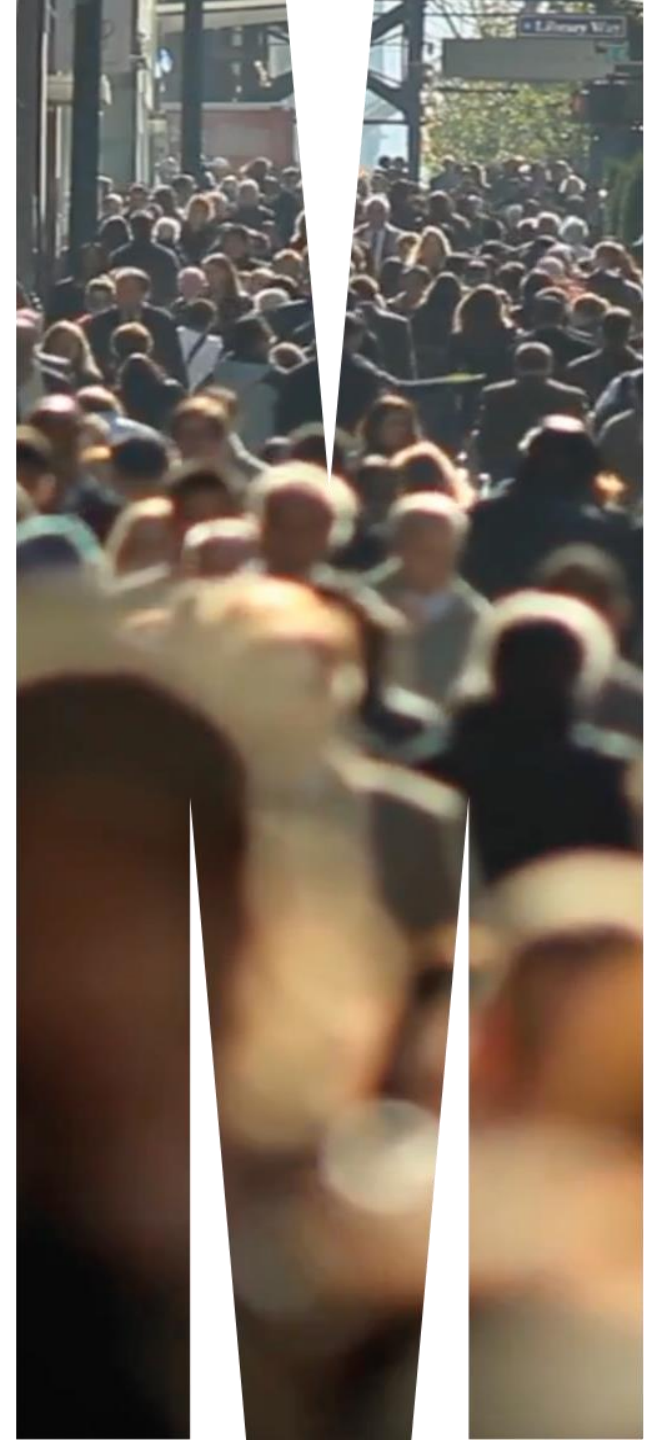
Dr Helen Forbes Mewett, Monash Migration and Inclusion Centre

A/Prof Dharma Arunachalum, Monash Migration and Inclusion Centre

Dr Jonathan Smith, Australian Catholic University

Prof Zlatko Skrbis, Australian Catholic University

Dr Hass Dellal, Australia Multicultural Foundation



# Australia: An immigrant nation



# Social exclusivism defined

*A set of harmful attitudes and actions that fundamentally draw on the assumption of inequality between groups and the superiority of the group that a person or collective identifies with. The group boundaries are usually defined rigidly, whether along racial, ethnic or religious lines, by drawing a falsely dichotomising 'black-and-white' image of different social groups. Hence, exclusivism refers to the process of ideologically (and sometimes also spatially) privileging one's own in-group in relation to the broader diverse society at large, while denying recognition, legitimacy and complexity to 'others' belonging to the out-group(s).*

*(Grossman et al 2014)*

# Three elements of social exclusivism

- Sentiments
- Attitudes
- Actions



# Social exclusivism as a spatial process





# Melbourne: An ideal gateway city



# The Australian Community Capacity Study

- Multi-million dollar project funded exclusively by the Australian Research Council (ARC) and the Victorian Premier and Cabinet
- Studying the life course of urban neighborhoods – one of four studies globally
- Includes:
  - 4 waves of survey data in Brisbane
  - 2 waves of survey data in Melbourne
  - 7 in-depth case studies of Brisbane neighborhoods
  - Ethnic community sample of residents from Indian, Vietnamese and Arabic speaking backgrounds in both cities

# ACCS Melbourne – Wave 2

- Approximately 2,500 randomly selected residents living across 150 suburbs in the Greater Melbourne region
- On-line/Mail Out survey in English and top five languages in Melbourne (Simplified Chinese; Traditional Chinese; Greek; Italian; Arabic; Vietnamese)
- Overall response rate of 23%
- Final sample was skewed towards women, older people (aged 45-64), Australian born and university educated residents
- For all descriptive statistics, we use weights to bring the achieved respondent profile into line with Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) demographic indicators for the general population of the Melbourne Greater Capital City Statistical Area (GCCSA)



# Socially exclusive sentiments

- Warmth: indicate how warmly one feels towards eight different groups individually and towards non-whites as a scale
- Anger: indicates feelings of anger towards the same groups towards groups individually and towards non-whites as a scale
- Groups of interest:
  - Whites/Anglo Saxon
  - Pacific Islanders
  - Indigenous
  - Asian
  - Indian
  - Middle Eastern
  - African
  - Muslims

# Socially exclusive attitudes

- Highly reliable/valid scale
  - Immigrants should learn to conform to the rules and norms of Australian society as soon as possible after they arrive.
  - The values and beliefs of immigrants regarding moral and religious issues are not compatible with the beliefs and values of most Australians.
  - Immigrants get special treatment and privileges over ordinary Australians
  - Immigrants displacing Australian workers
  - Immigrants do not share similar family values
- Response categories: 1 (strongly disagree) to 5 (strongly agree)

# Socially exclusive intended actions

- Highly reliable and valid scale
  - If I had children, I would be reluctant to send my children to a school where the majority of students are new migrants.
  - I would be reluctant to move into a neighbourhood where many new migrants are living.
  - In the next election, I will vote for parties that want to reduce further immigration
- Responses ranged from 1 (strongly disagree) to 5 (strongly agree)



# Key correlates of interest

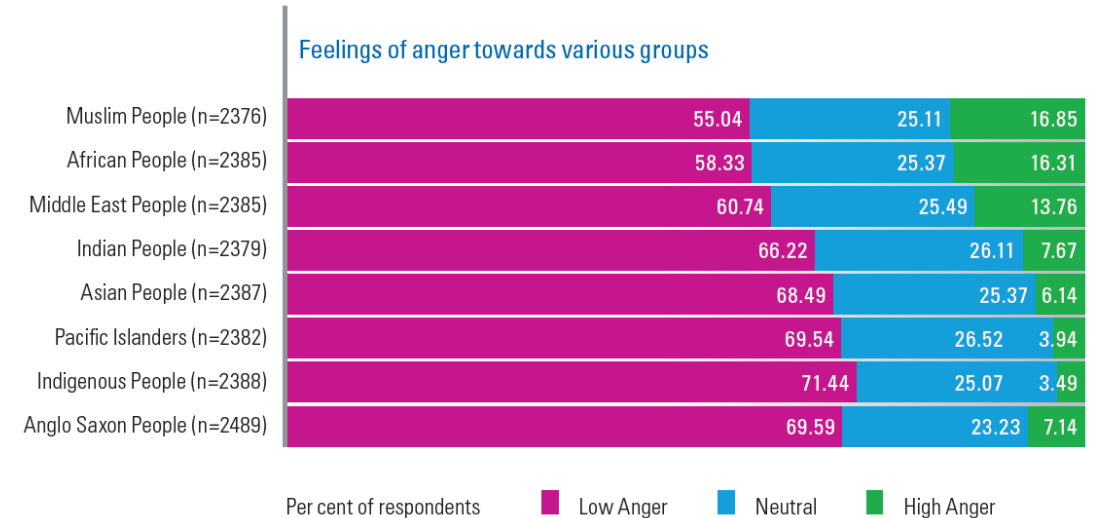
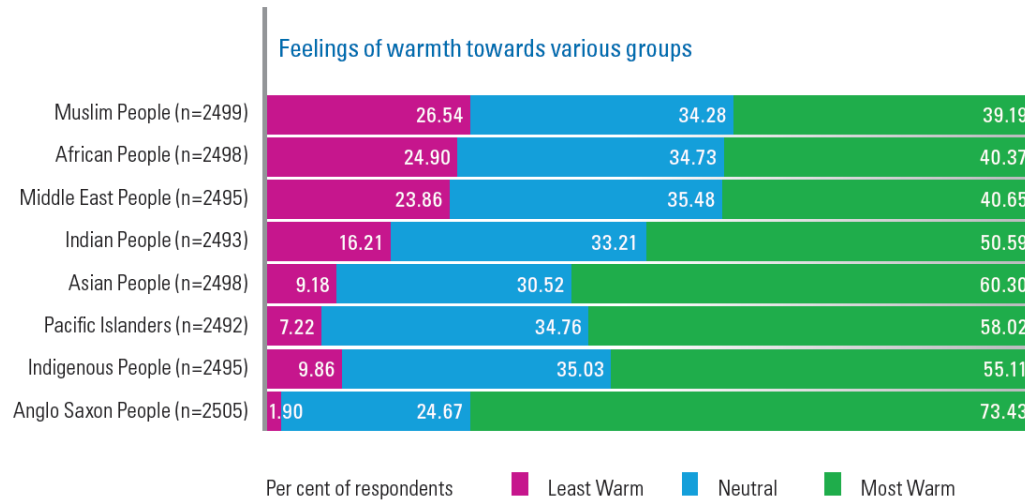
- Realistic threat:
  - Actual/vicarious experience of victimisation based on ethnic/religious/racial difference
- Symbolic threat:
  - Neighbourhood migration concentration in 10 years
  - Relations with migrants in 10 years
- Contact
  - Diversity of ties
  - Quality of contact
  - Migrants as friends
  - Expectations of rejection
- Neighbourhood context:
  - Neighbourhood demographics
  - Crime
  - Perceptions of community life

# Controls: The usual suspects

- Age
- Gender
- POB
- Language spoken
- Education
- Employment
- Religion
- Political preference

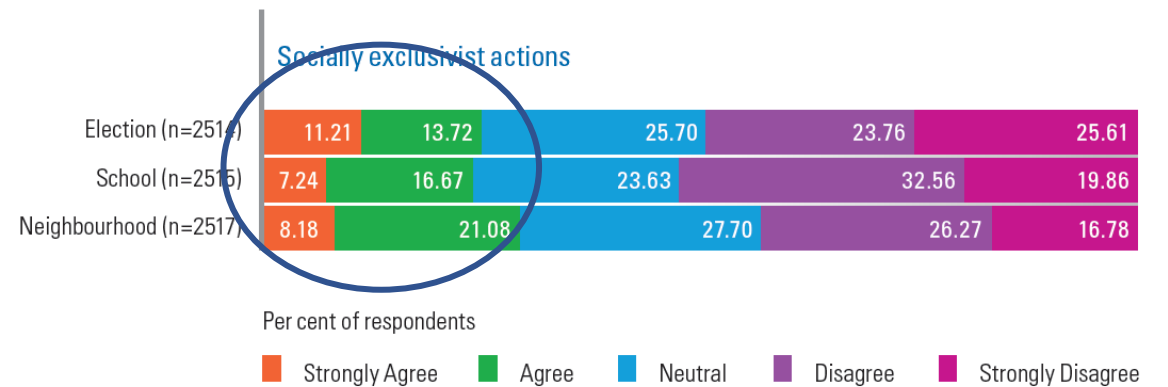
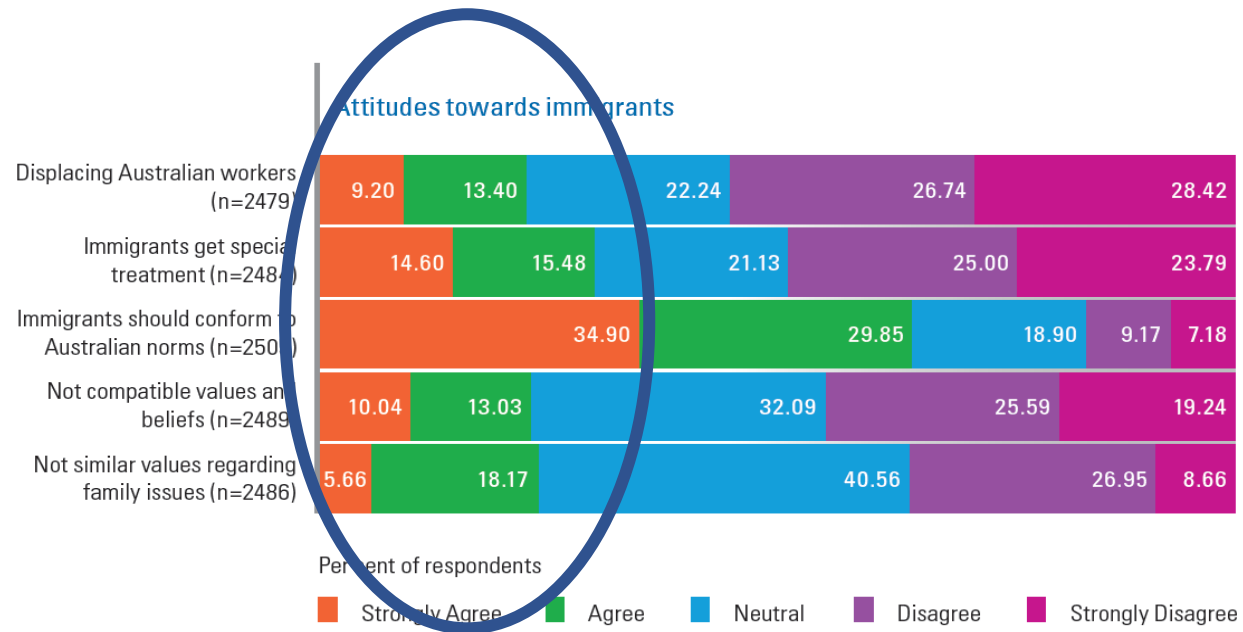
# Sentiments: Warmth and anger

- Variation in socially exclusive sentiments does not vary across geographical communities
- But significant differences in sentiments by racial/ethnic groups:





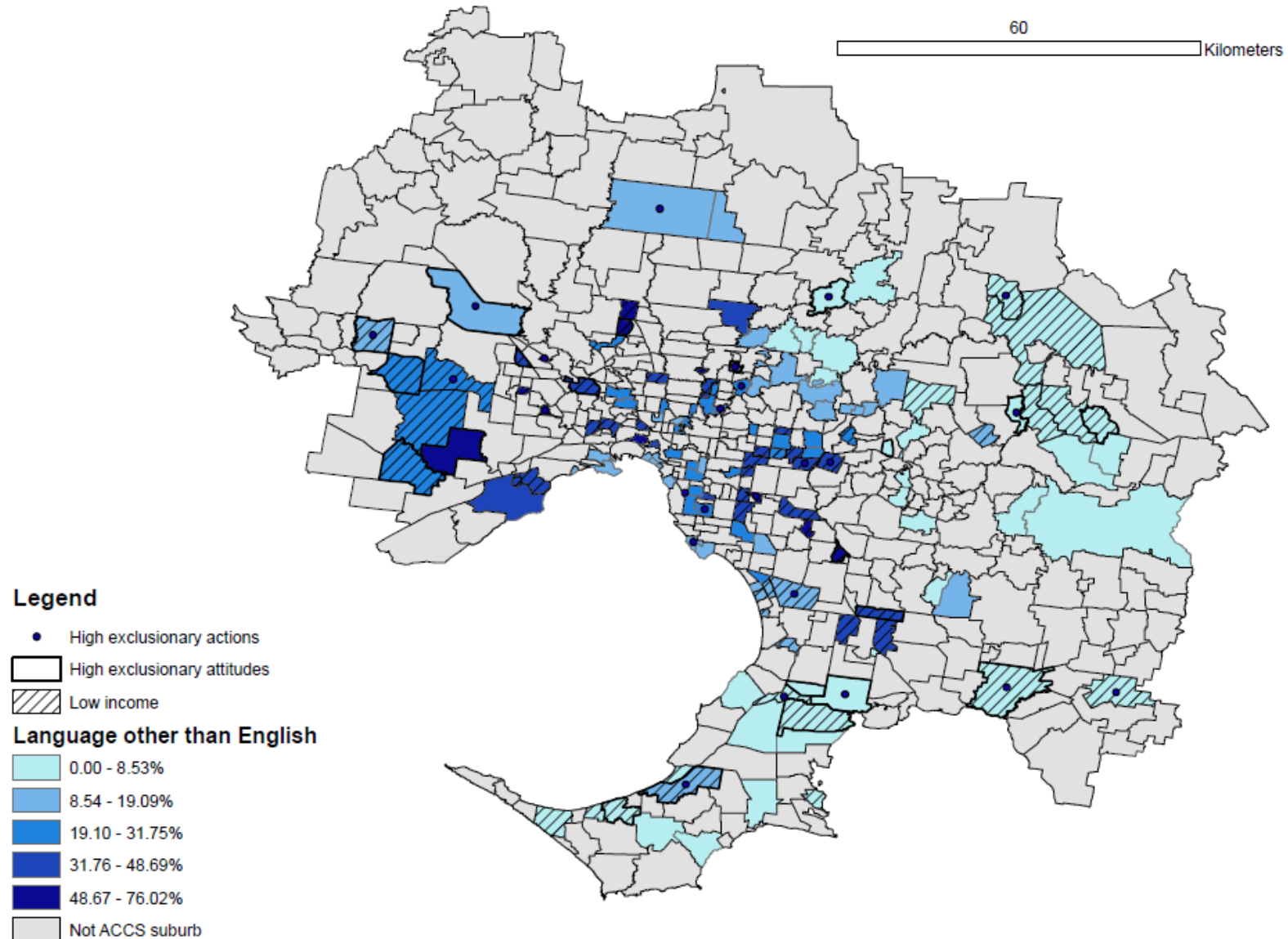
# Attitudes and intended actions



# Individual and neighbourhood correlates of attitudes and actions

Negative Attitudes	Intended Exclusivist Actions
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Older people</li><li>• <b>Less educated</b></li><li>• <b>Liberal voters</b></li><li>• Those who have experienced/witnessed race/ethnicity based harassment</li><li>• Those who see greater concentrations of migrants in the future</li><li>• <b>Those who see increasing inter-ethnic conflict</b></li><li>• Those who have low diversity contact</li><li>• Those with few migrant friends</li><li>• <b>Those who expect rejection from migrants*</b></li><li>• Those who see more neighbourhood problems</li><li>• Those with low neighbourhood attachment</li><li>• Those who live in more stable neighbourhoods</li><li>• <b>Living in ethnically homogenous neighbourhoods</b></li><li>• <b>Living in poor neighbourhoods</b></li><li>• <b>Higher levels of home ownership</b></li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• English speakers</li><li>• Less educated</li><li>• <b>Liberal voters</b></li><li>• <b>Those who see increasing inter-ethnic conflict</b></li><li>• Those who have low diversity contact</li><li>• Those with few migrant friends</li><li>• <b>Those who expect rejection from migrants*</b></li><li>• Those with low neighbourhood attachment</li></ul>

# The spatial distribution of attitudes and intended exclusivist actions





# Some final thoughts

- Sentiments may require more individually targeted interventions to encourage change
- Increasing contact not enough
  - Must ensure diversity of contact
  - Interventions must address fear of rejection
- Melbourne as an ideal migration settlement destination not assured
  - Politicisation of immigration strongly evident
  - A trend in the data - inter-ethnic relations perceived as getting worse over time
- Place based solutions required along with strong state and federal messaging
- Immigration may be currently suspended, but diversity will increase in the coming decades – how do we decouple the politics of immigration from policies of inclusion?