Newly arrived migrants residental mobility: What are the patterns of exit from low-income neighbourhoods and rental sector?

There is a growing interest in nuanced longitudinal studies that focus on the interdependencies between housing and neighbourhood mobility better to understand immigrant residential integration pathways in host societies. Newly arrived immigrants tend to be over-represented in low-income neighbourhoods and the rental sector upon arrival to the new homeland, while the host populations tend to be over-represented in high-income neighbourhoods and among homeowners. Hence, the subsequent residential integration of migrants hinges both on moving to higher-income neighbourhoods and into home-ownership. In this paper, we seek to understand whether moving to more affluent neighbourhoods and becoming a homeowner are related and, if not, what comes first, neighbourhood change or tenure change. We will undertake a comparative longitudinal study in three Nordic capital cities of Helsinki, Oslo and Stockholm to understand the residential mobility patterns of the newly arrived immigrants grouped into three groups based on the World Bank categorization 2010 and based on the EU membership. These three groups are (1) belonging to low, low-middle or upper-middle income category (excluding EU countries); (2) latest EU member states since 2004 (East-Europe) and (3) high-income countries. The study period is 2011-2017, because of data availability and comparability in three countries. The data is statistically analysed using multinomial logistic regression to compare first housing and/or neighbourhood mobility by origin group to see the transition from renting to owning housing and neighbourhood mobility movement from poorest neighbourhood to better (third to richest) quintile. The results reveal that different immigrant groups have different strategies in terms of housing type and neighbourhood mobility, and different countries.