Modes of Inter-Ethnic Coexistence addresses a critically important issue on inter-ethnic coexistence that has become increasingly common in ethnically diverse cities both within and outside Europe. As part of a larger collaborative research project “GEITNONIES” (Generating Interethnic Tolerance and Neighbourhood Integration in European Urban Spaces) involving six European cities (Lisbon, Bilbao, Thessalonica, Rotterdam, Vienna, and Warsaw), this book focuses on the study conducted in the Lisbon Metropolitan Area. The book achieves a nice balance between reviewing relevant theoretical perspectives on neighborhoods and social capital and presenting empirical analysis of firsthand field data collected from the project. It provides important insights into the understanding of how neighbourhood contextual factors and individual compositional characteristics affect daily social practices and social interactions of immigrants and native-born residents in three strategically selected neighbourhoods in Lisbon.

The book is divided into six chapters. Chapter 1 provides an overview of the immigrant population in the Metropolitan Area of Lisbon and discusses the rationale for selecting the three study areas/neighbourhoods: Costa da Caparica, Monte Abraao and Mouraria. Survey methodology, sampling, unit of analysis, and sample profile are discussed in this chapter. Survey results are presented in Chapters 2, 3, 4, and 6. Specially, Chapter 2 focuses on the cognitive elements of interethnic coexistence and explores perceptions of
neighbouring and the neighbourhood that includes the physical and social environment around one’s housing unit. Chapter 3 examines the structural elements of coexistence by analyzing contacts with and knowledge of people in the neighbourhood and contacts in the workplace. Chapter 4 aims to measure and characterize the dimension and ethnic composition of social networks and the evolution of interethnic relations. Detailed descriptive statistics are reported in tables in Chapters 2, 3, and 4, and a contrast is made between immigrants and natives, and among the three study areas. Chapter 5 employs factor analysis of fourteen indicators representing various levels of embedment in the neighbourhood and identifies five independent factors. Cluster analysis then allows for the development of a typology of modes of coexistence and embedment in the three neighbourhoods. Chapter 6 summarizes the main findings and discusses policy recommendations.

In addition to the rich survey-based empirical findings analysed in the book, theories concerning the relationship among social capital, neighbourhood, and social network are well discussed and linked to the overall discussion. The book provides an abundance of tables, maps, and charts generated from the survey. These illustrations are in general helpful for the reader to understand the data and the scope of the study. However, the amount of illustrations in Chapter 1 seems a bit high. Some of the tables and maps could have been combined and presented on the same page for ease of comparison. At the end of the book, it would have been useful if the original questionnaire that was administered in all six European cities included in the project had been included. The short summaries provided at the end of each main section and each chapter for the reader to understand the content of the book. That said, the book is a timely addition to the growing scholarship on the relationship between neighbourhoods’ contextual effects and their composition effects and provides insight into the definition of neighbourhood in the context of immigration and settlement. It also yields important knowledge on the ways in which multi-ethnic groups coexist in modern cities. The book will be of interest to researchers and graduate students in areas such as immigration and settlement studies, as well as social capital, social network, and neighbourhood studies. Moreover, it will appeal to urban planners and policy makers, who are interested in understanding the role of neighbourhood physical (and social) attributes in shaping social practice and social network.
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