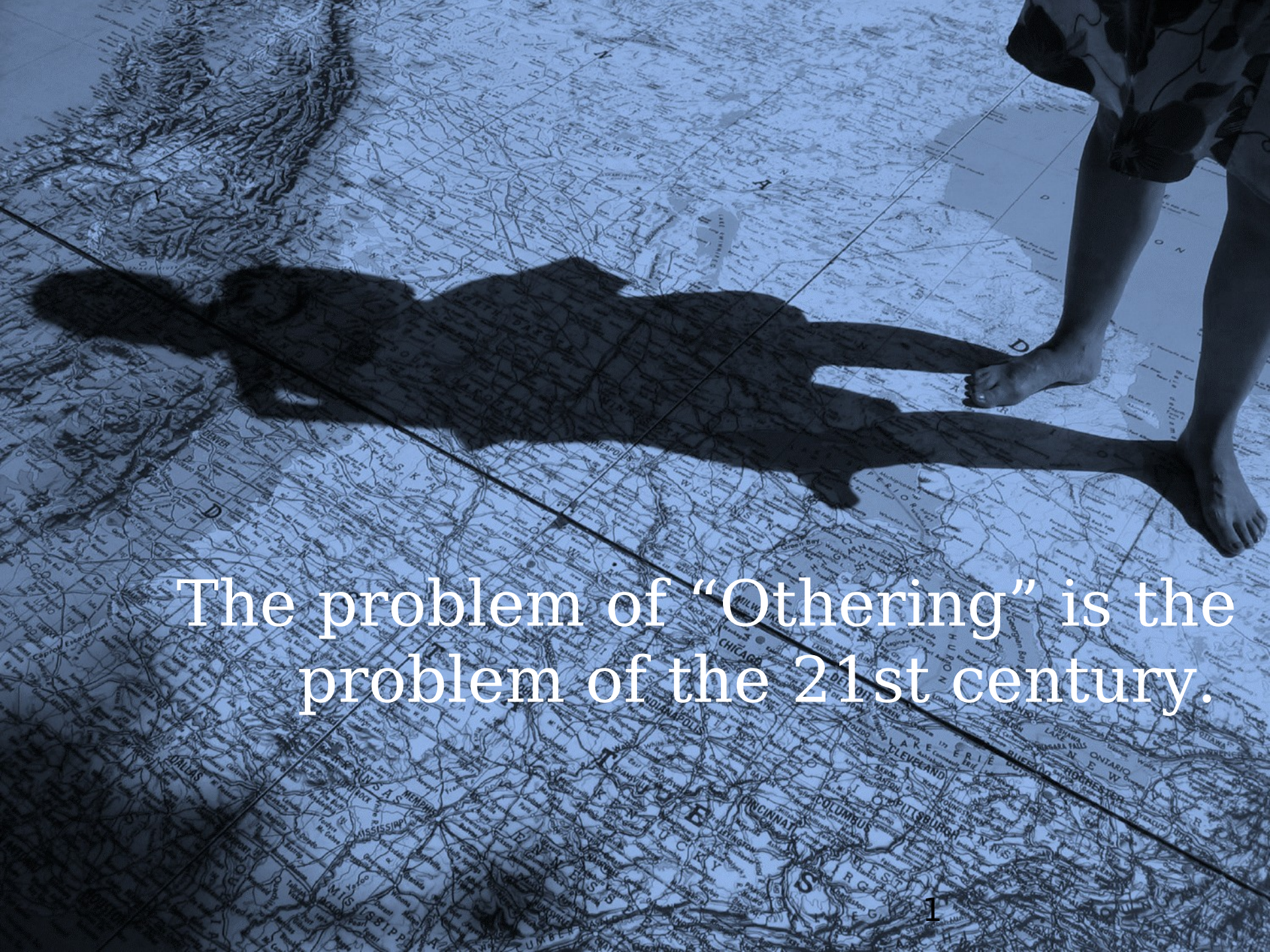
The problem of “Othering” is the problem of the 21st century.

“Othering,” defined...

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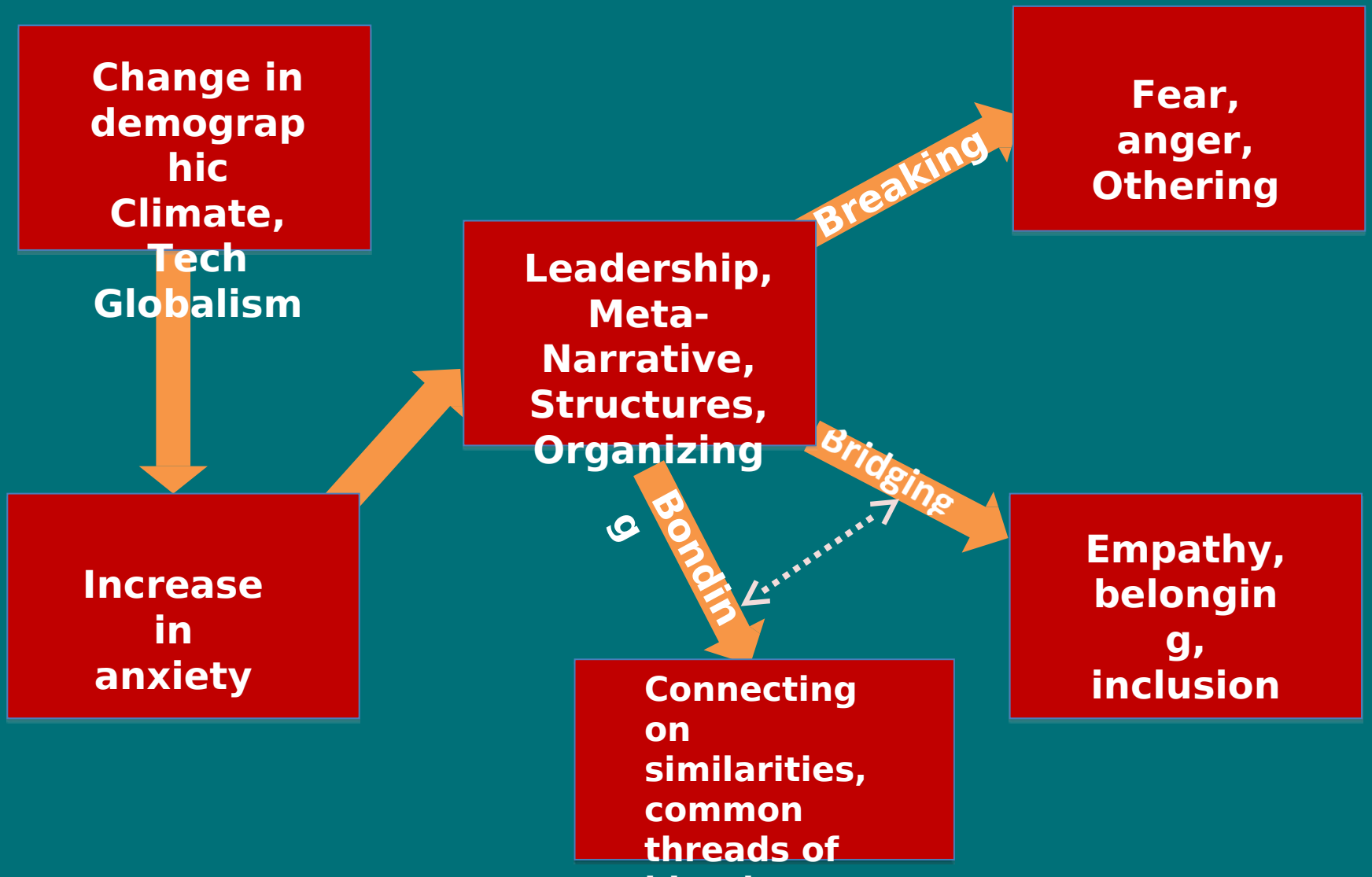
We define othering as a set of processes, structures, and dynamics that denies full humanity and belonging across any of the full range of human differences. Othering and marginality can occur on a group basis or at the individual level.

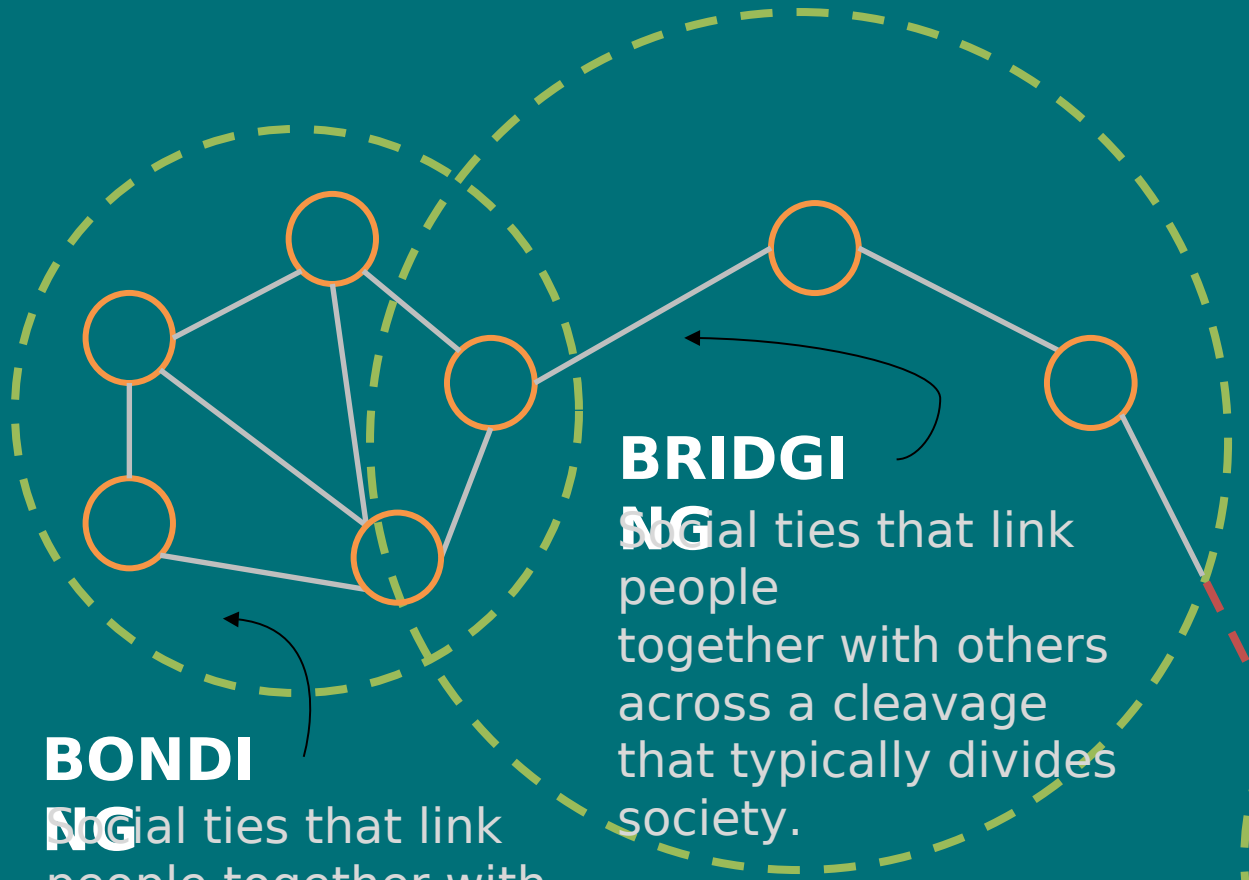
PERCEPTION.ORG

Othering is a generalized set of common processes that engender marginality and persistent inequality across any of the full range of human differences.

Rapid change produces collective anxiety:



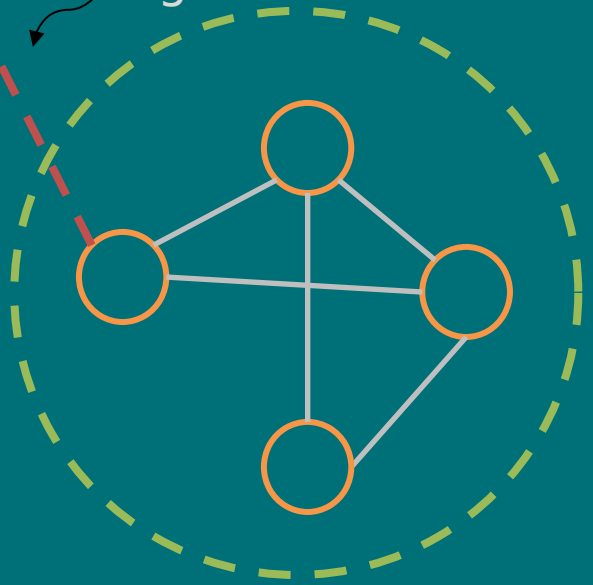
Putnam's types of social capital:



BONDING
Social ties that link people together with others who are primarily like them along some key dimension. These are

BRIDGING
Social ties that link people together with others across a cleavage that typically divides society.

BREAKING
Social ties among an exclusive group who explicitly push away from other groups who are seen as dangerous or a threat.



Nationalist Surge – The Rise of Anti-EU Sentiment

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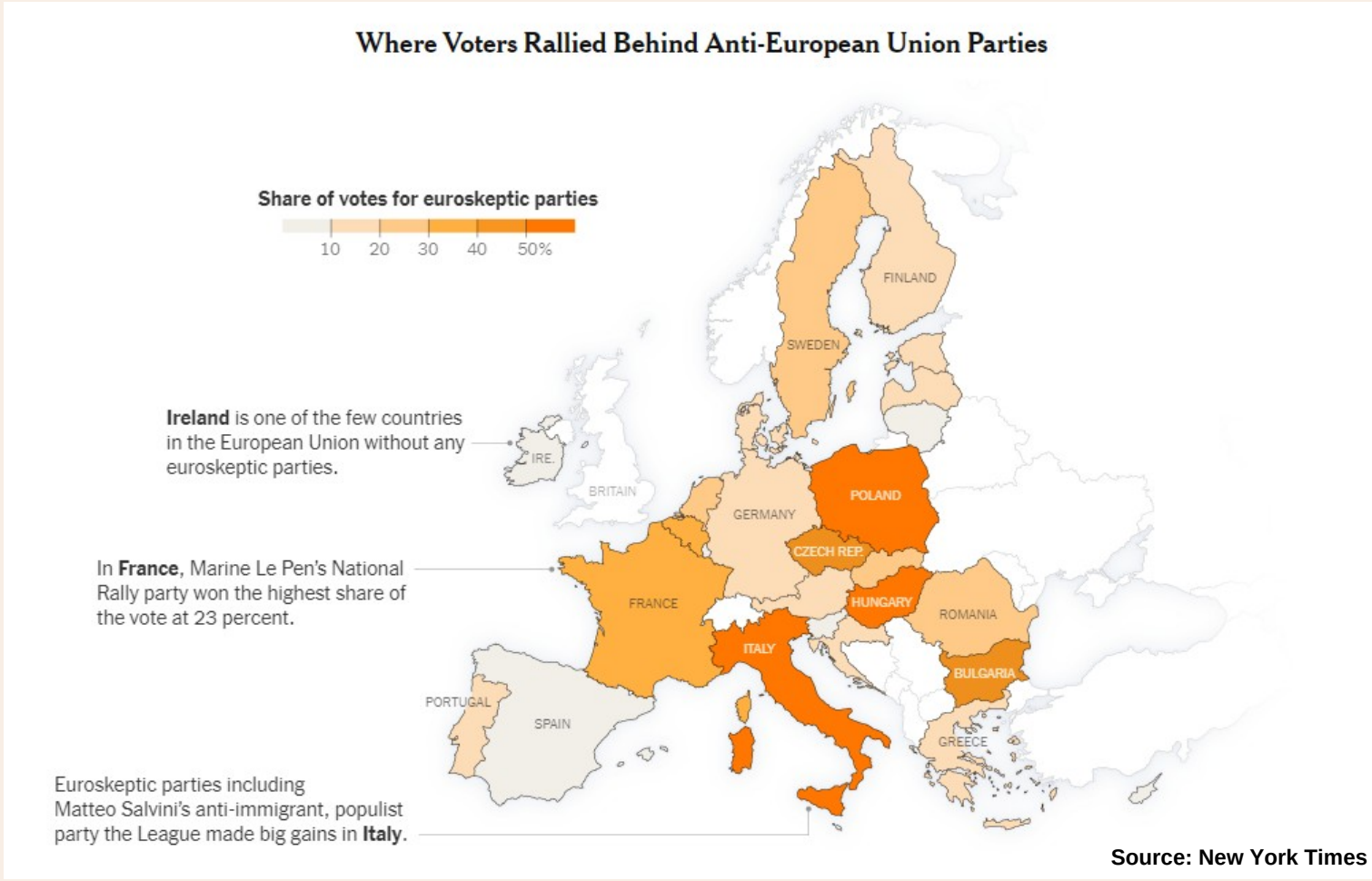

Rise in Votes for Nationalist Parties

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1. **Sweden** — Sweden Democrats **17.6%**
2. **Finland** — The Finns **17.7%**
3. **Denmark** — Danish People's Party **21%**
4. **Estonia** — Conservative People's Party **17.8%**
5. **Netherlands** — Freedom Party **13%**
6. **Germany** — Alternative for Germany **12.6%**
7. **France** — National Rally **13%**
8. **Switzerland** — Swiss People's Party **29%**
9. **Austria** — Freedom Party **26%**
10. **Czech Republic** — Freedom and Direct Democracy **11%**
11. **Slovakia** — Our Slovakia **8%**
12. **Hungary** — Fidesz **49%**, Jobbik **19%**
13. **Italy** — The League **17.4%**
14. **Bulgaria** — United Patriots **9%**
15. **Greece** — Golden Dawn **7%**
16. **Cyprus** — ELAM **3.7%**
17. **Spain** — Vox **10.3%**

Source: BBC

Measuring Xenophobia

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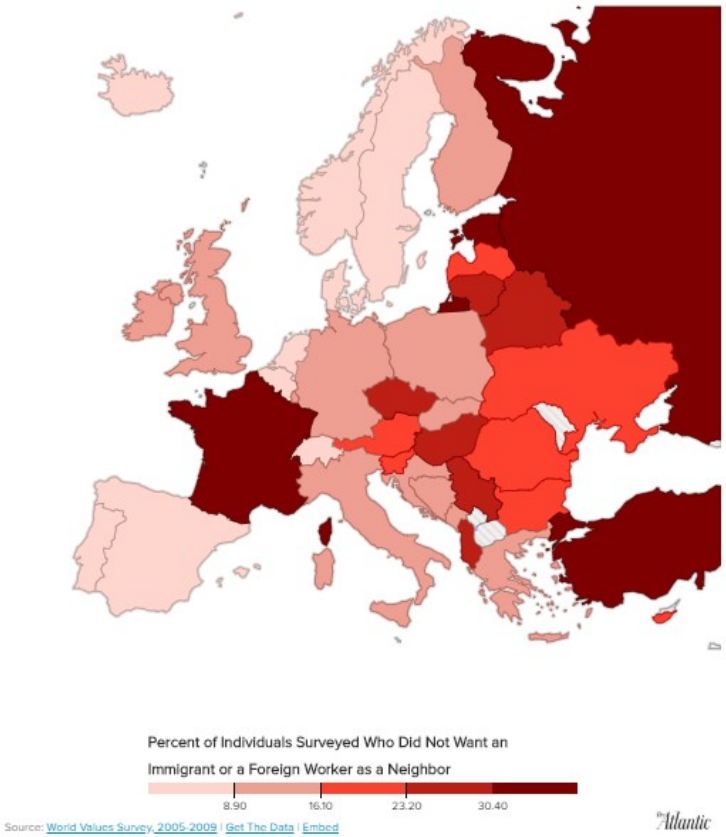
Percent of Respondents in Europe Who Wouldn't Want Immigrants or Foreign Workers as Neighbors, 2005-2009



Homogenous Nations Are the Most Anti-Immigrant

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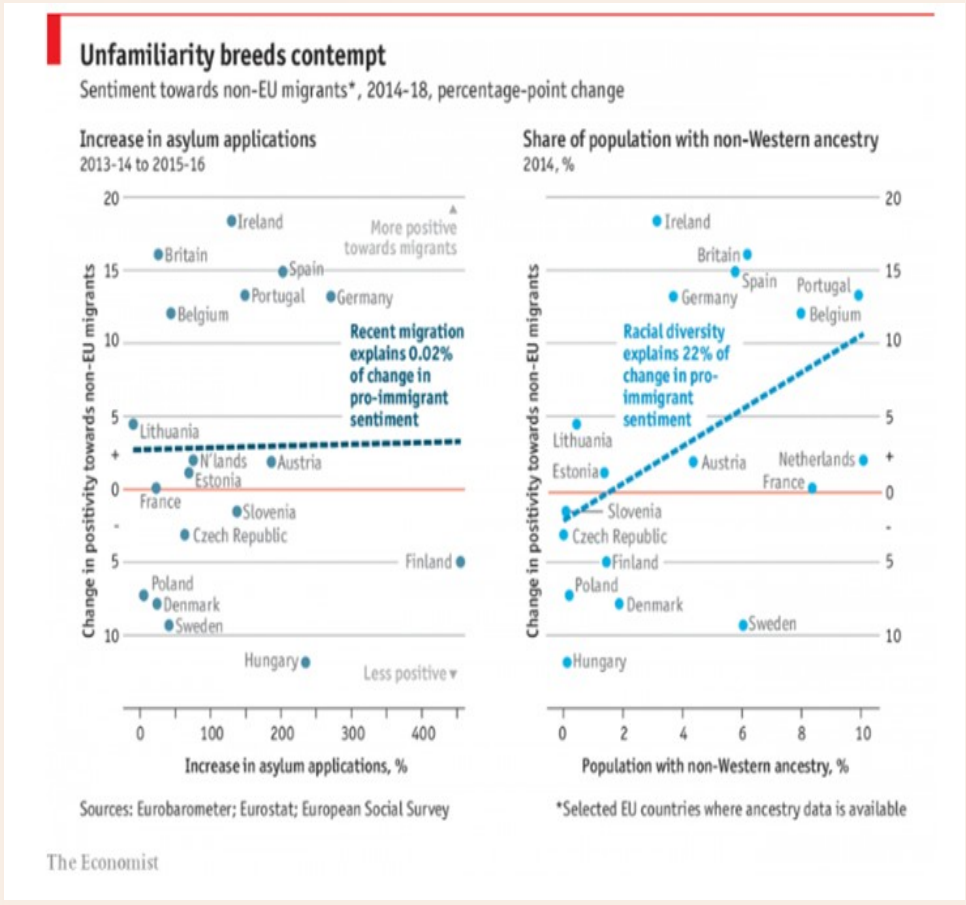

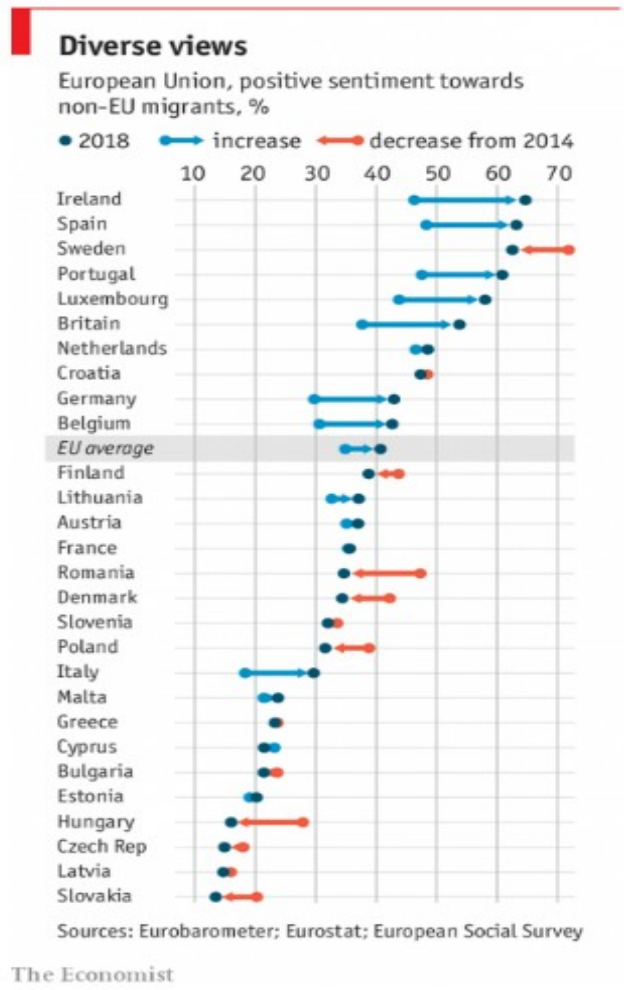

Climate Change is Major Driver of Global Migration

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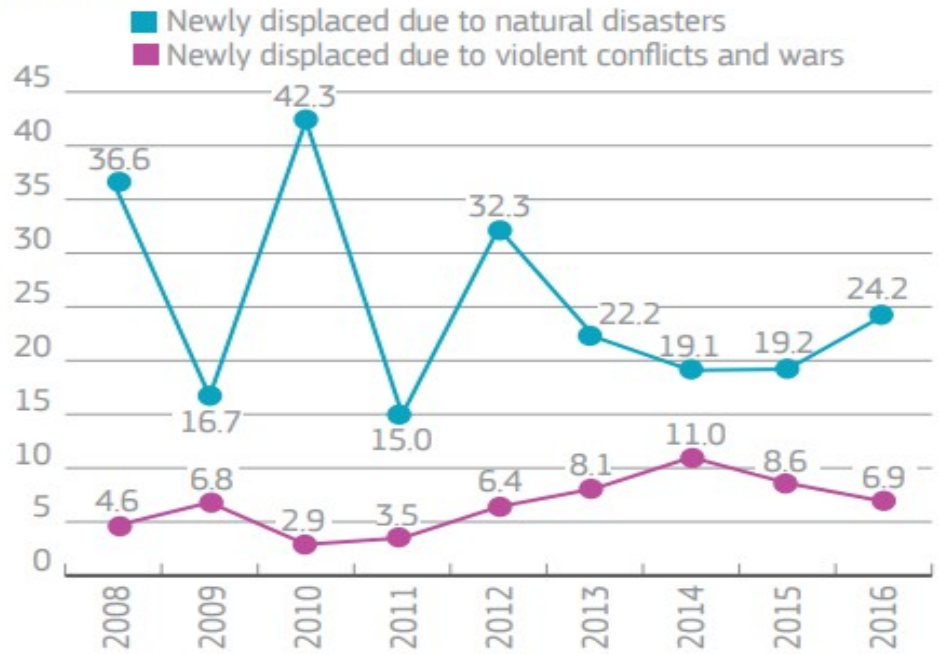
Many more people internally displaced by 'natural' disasters than by violent conflicts and civil wars

Internally displaced people, 2008-2016

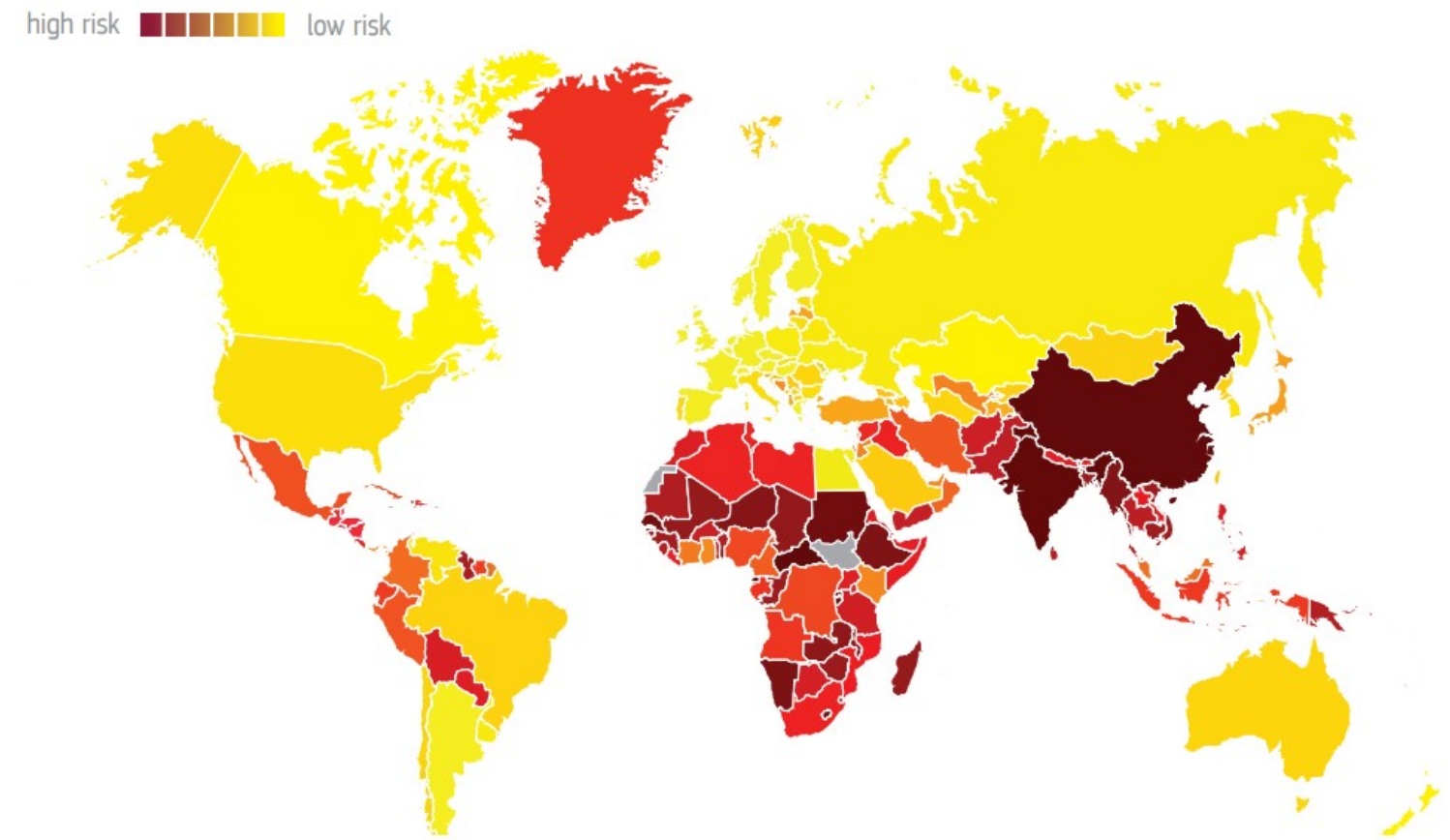
In millions



Source: Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre

Source: European Commission

Climate Change Vulnerability



Source: European Commission

Europeans Deeply Concerned with Immigration

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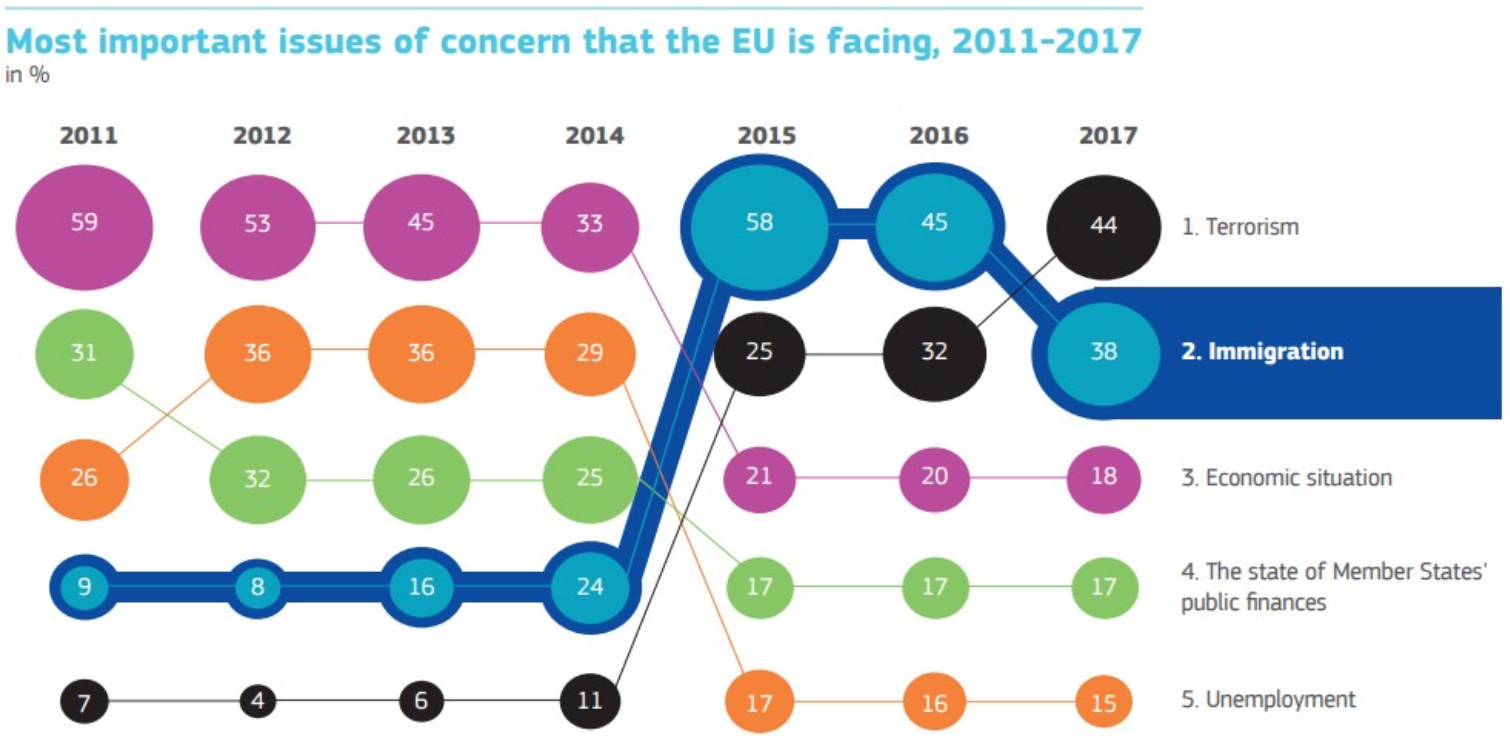


Source: European Commission

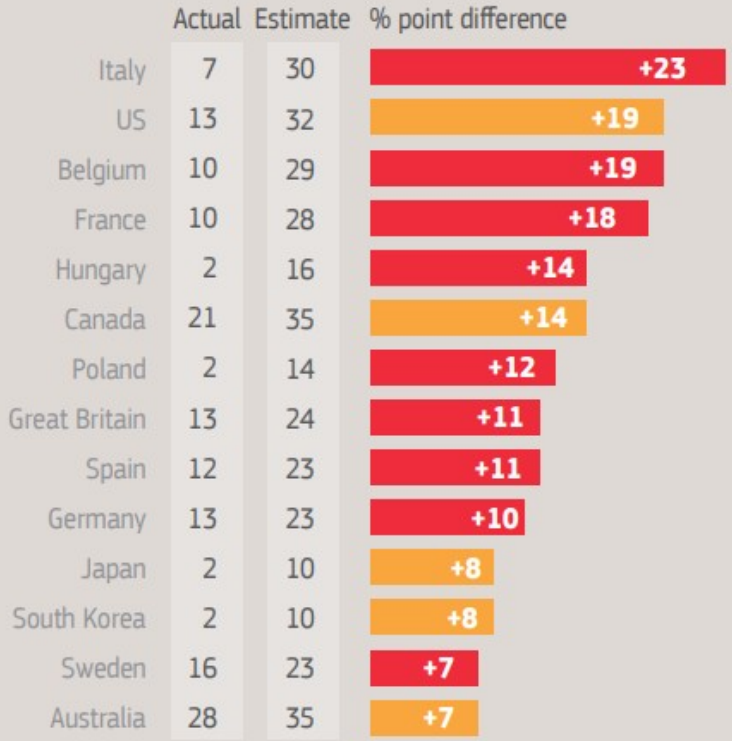
Attitudes on Immigration and Perceptions of the Economy

ATTITUDES TOWARDS MIGRATION ARE RELATED TO PEOPLE'S PERCEPTIONS OF THEIR COUNTRY'S ECONOMIC CONDITIONS

- In nearly all regions around the world, people who assess the economic situation of their country as 'excellent' or 'good' are more likely to have a positive outlook on migration than those who consider it is 'fair' or 'poor'.
- Those who consider that conditions are worsening are nearly twice as likely to favour decreased immigration than those who consider conditions are improving (48.0% vs. 25.3%).[18]

People usually overestimate the share of migrants living in their country

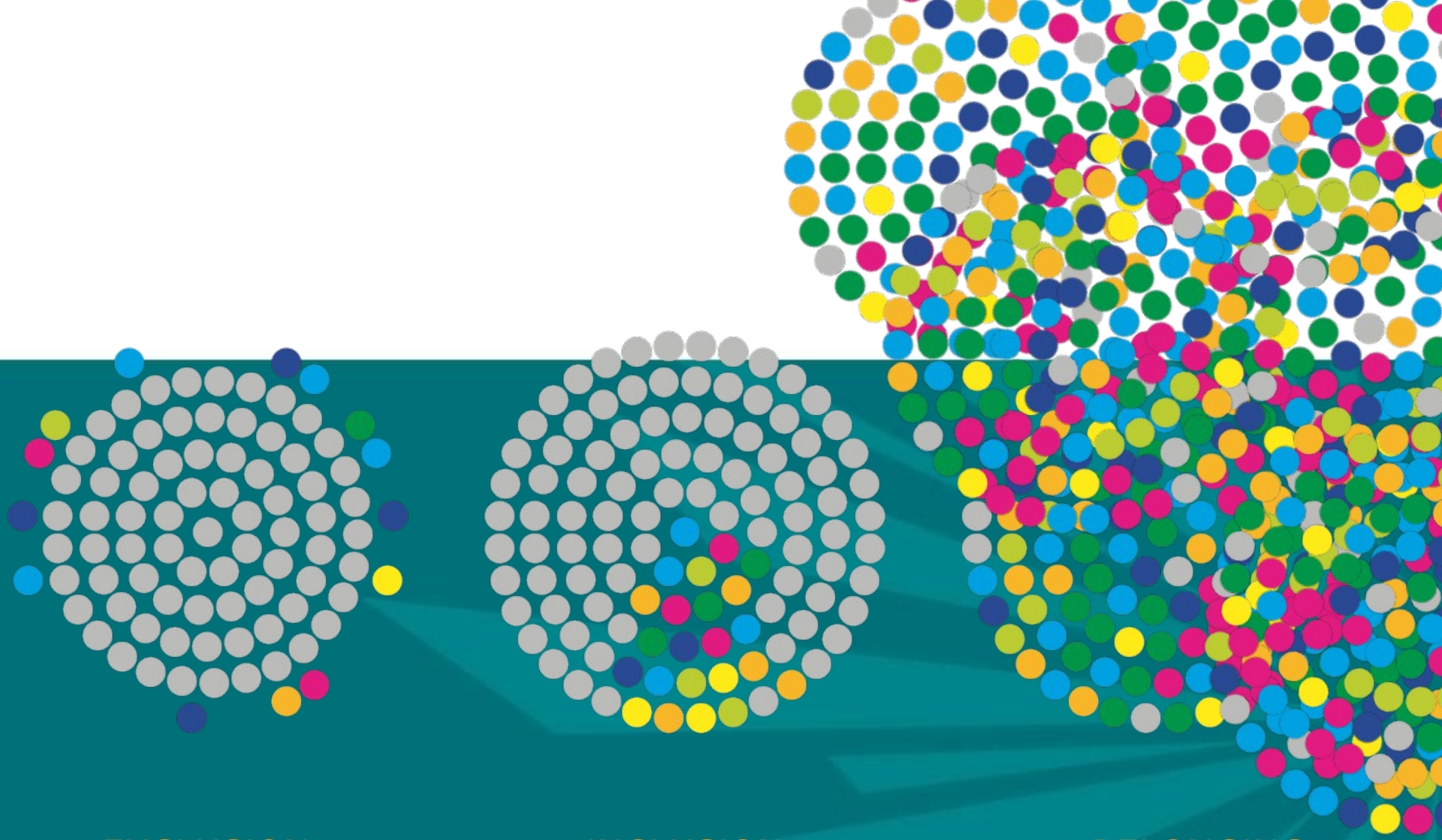
Responses to the question: What percentage of the country's population do you think are immigrants?



Source: Ipsos Mori, 2016 'Perils of Perception', https://www.ipsos.com/ipsos-mori/en-uk/perceptions-are-not-reality-what-world-gets-wrong

Source: European Commission

Sacred Symbols



Bridge — Listen, engage, organize, love.

o is in the circle of human conce

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Othering & belonging within structures

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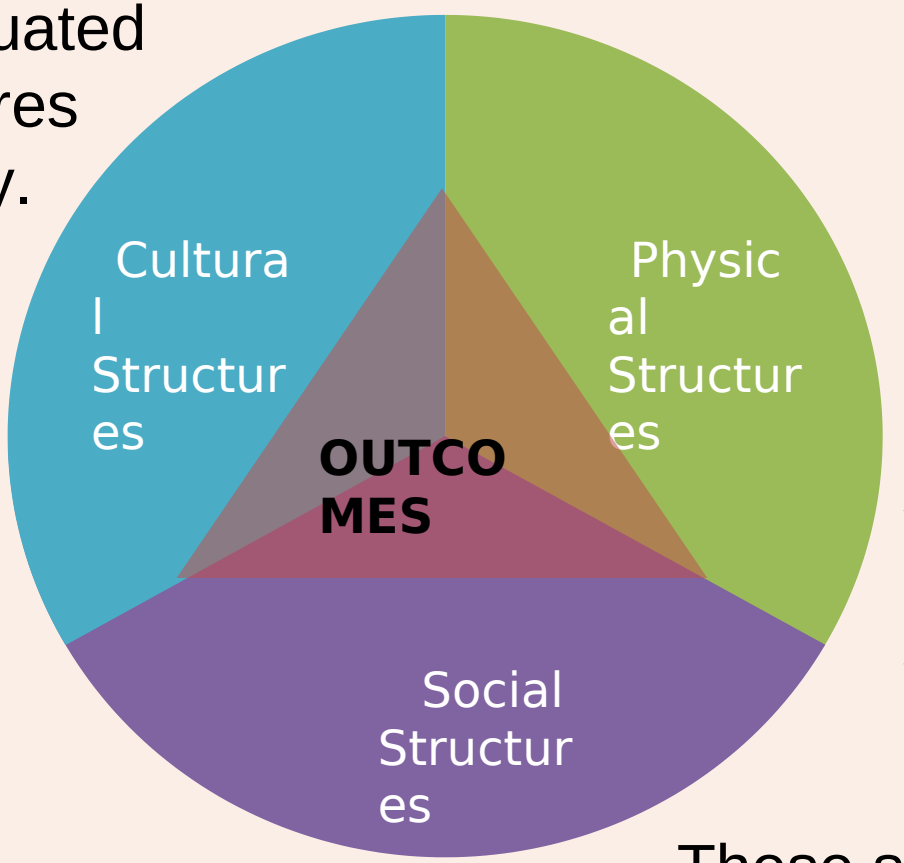
We are all situated within structures but not evenly.



Structures are not neutral.

Power gives us greater positive access to structures and more ability to shape structures.

These structures interact in ways that produce a differential in outcomes.

Maslow's Hierarchy of Needs

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ANALYSIS

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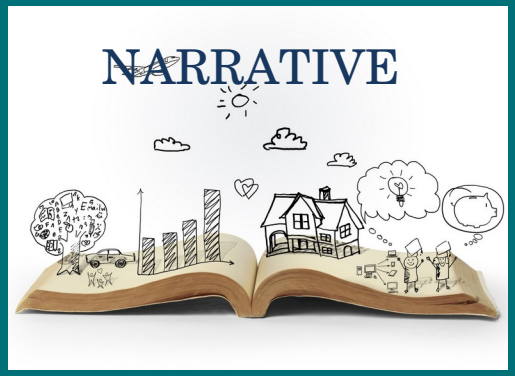
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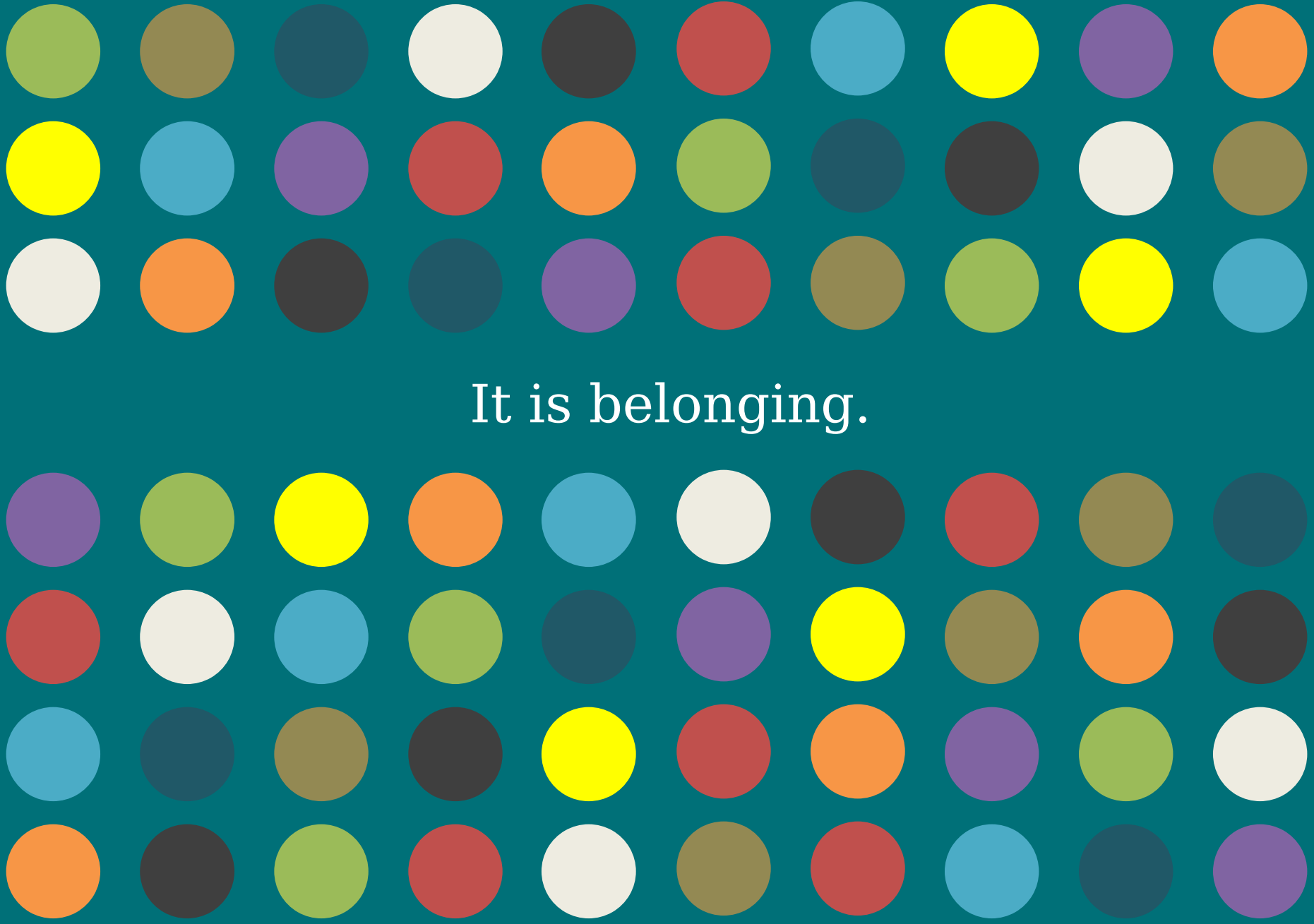
ORGANIZING

The opposite of Othering is not “saming.”


It is belonging.

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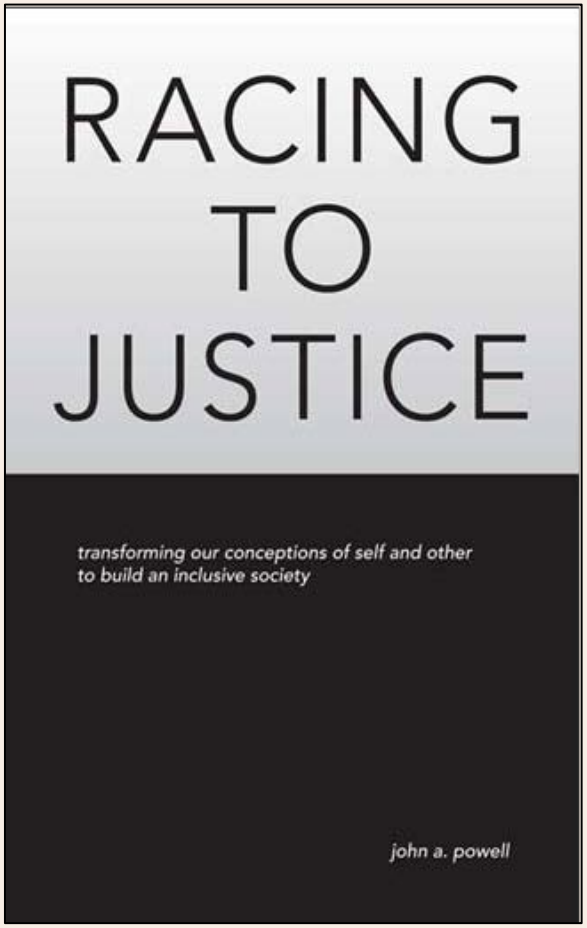

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