

**11<sup>th</sup> International Metropolis  
Conference  
Lisbon, 2-6 October, 2006**

**Migrant Organizing Dynamics and  
Transnational Links: The Capeverdeans  
in Lisbon and Rotterdam**

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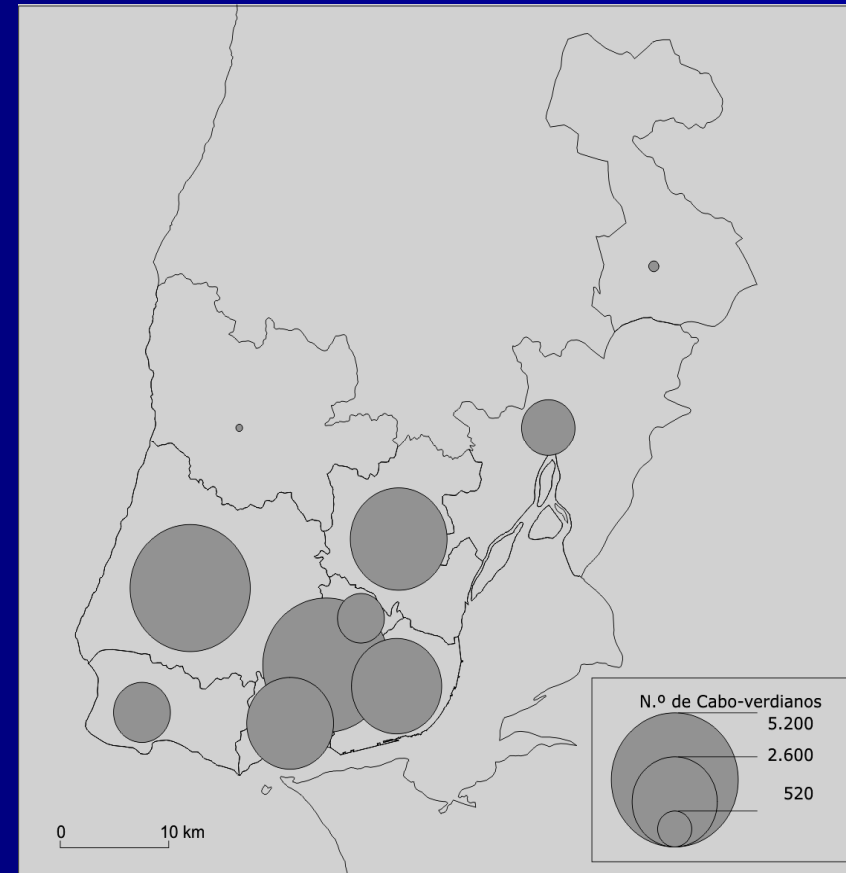
# Conceptual Framework

## Hypothesis:

- Link between social capital and political engagement
- The nature of ethnic civic communities is an important predictor of political participation (Fennema and Tillie, 2001)

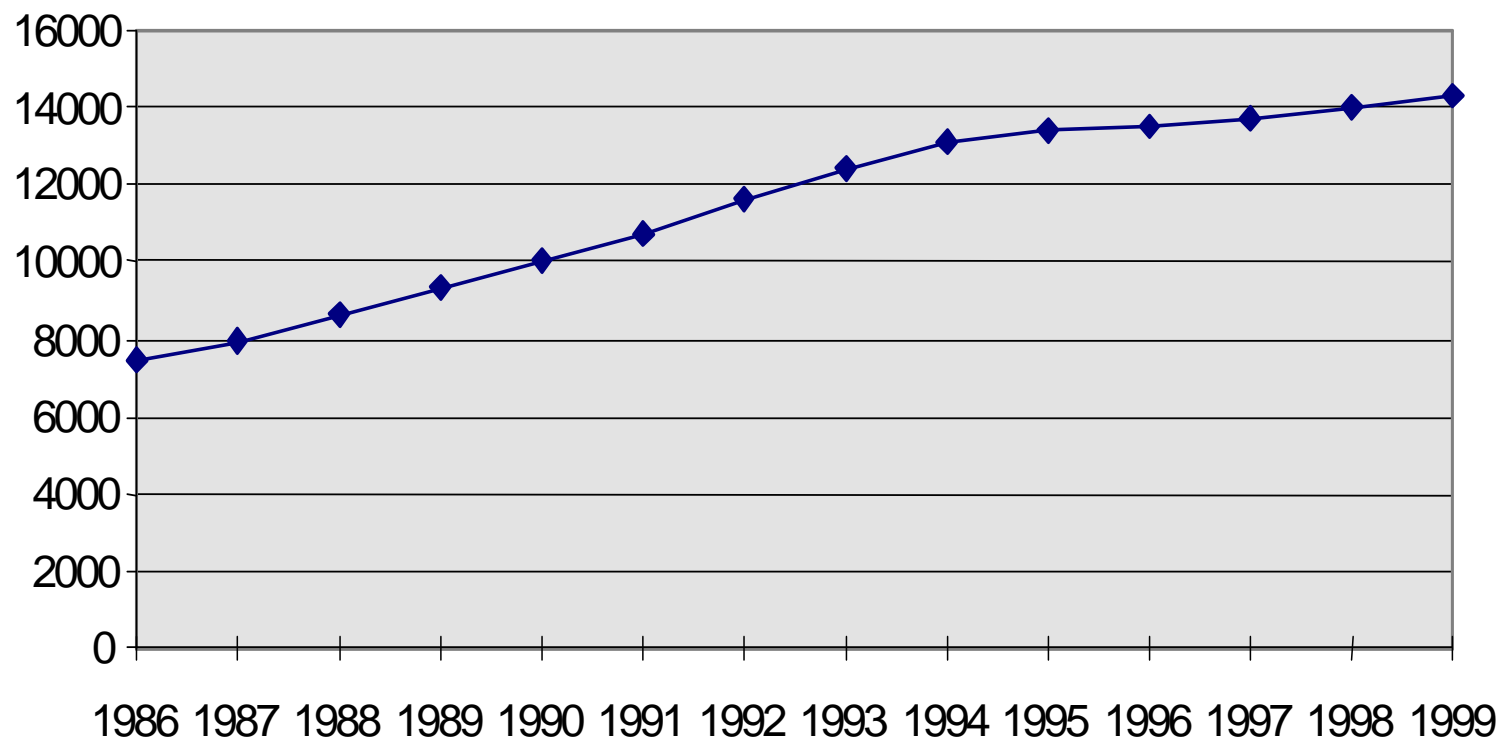
# Capeverdean Settlement Patterns in the Region of Lisbon

- Oldest group of labour migrants in Portugal (1960's)
- Total population 22.000 in the Metro Lisbon (20% of the total foreign population)
- High concentration in the first metropolitan ring (North Bank - Amadora, Oeiras, Loures and Sintra)



# Evolution of the stock of Capeverdean Population in Rotterdam, 1986-1999

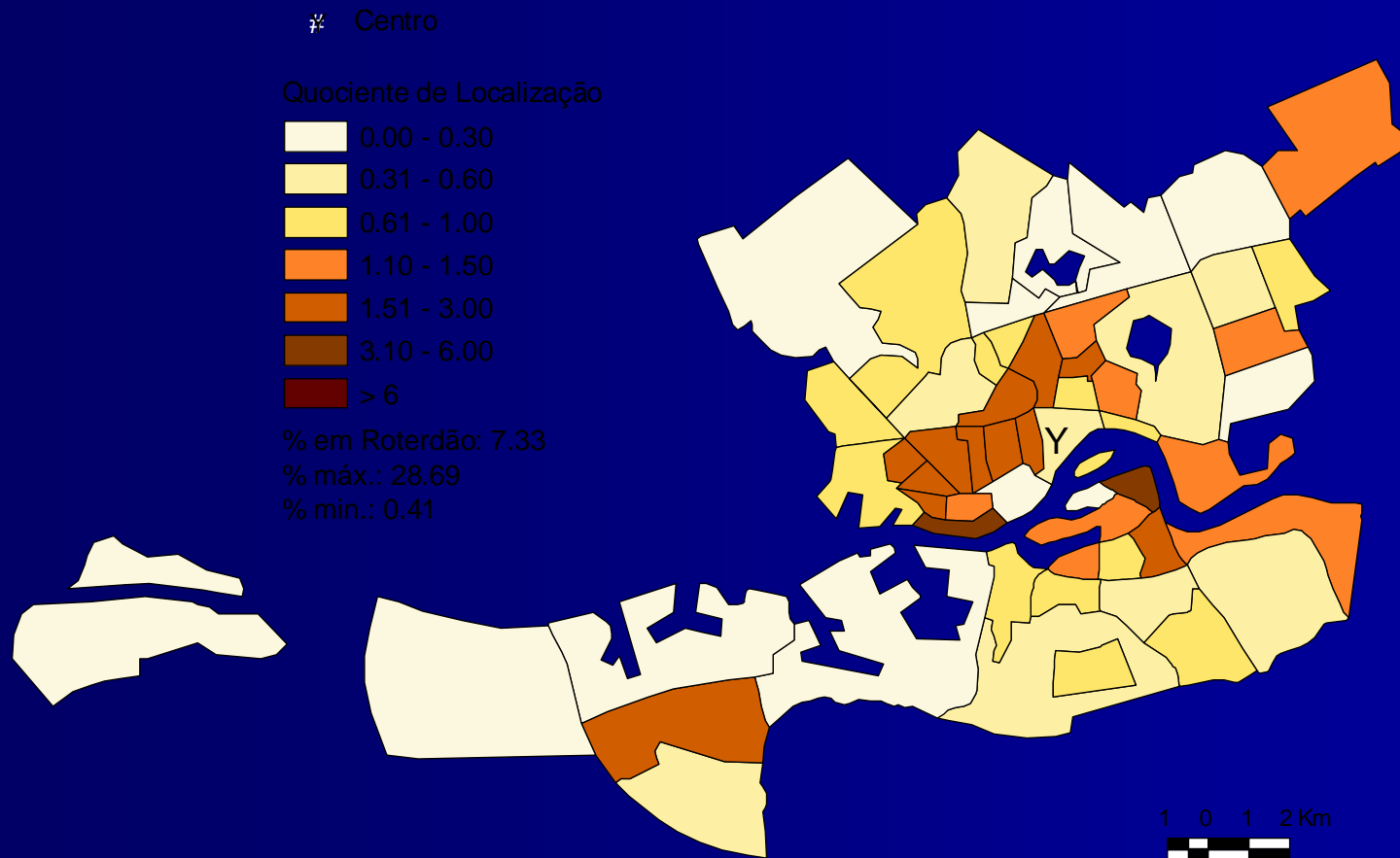
Individuals



## Settlement Patterns and Socio-demographic position of Capeverdeans in Rotterdam

- Around 15 000 people with Cape Verdean background (reduced level of new entries – stabilization/soft increase trends)
  - Settlement 1950's onwards
  - Workers in shipyards, sailors
  - Low ranks of the labour market
  - Lower levels of education and job qualifications among first and second generations

# Capeverdean Residential Patterns in Rotterdam



# Organizing dynamics in the Region of Lisbon and in Rotterdam

## Lisbon Region

- 22 organizations interviewed
- Organizational density 2.06 per 1000 Capeverdean residents
- Boom of associations in the 1980s and 1990s

## Rotterdam

- 75 organizations interviewed
- Organizational density 4.99 per 1000 Capeverdean Residents
- Boom of associations in the 1990s – recomposition process

# Types of Organizations

## Lisbon

- Diversified
- 50% social welfare
- 14% Immigrant interest
- 14% Culture

## Rotterdam

- Highly diversified
- 27% sports organizations
- 17% homeland-oriented
- 13% culture



# Intra-organizational networks

## Lisbon

- Inexistence of overlapping board membership
- Inexistence of formal umbrella associations
- Higher levels of contacts than of collaborations

## Rotterdam

- 39% of organizations have interlocking directorates
- Umbrella associations
- Higher level of contacts than of collaborations

# Inter-organizational networks

## Lisbon

Most contacted organizations:

- NGOs
- Political parties
- High Commissioner for Immigration
- Average number of contacts 8

## Rotterdam

Most contacted organizations:

- Social institutions
- Neighbourhood organizations
- Average number of contacts 11

# Transnational Networks

## Lisbon

- 64% of the organizations have linkages with homeland organizations and diaspora organizations
- Close links with homeland local organizations, political leaders, political parties

## Rotterdam

- Overwhelming majority(75%) has linkages with the homeland
- Close links with homeland local organizations, political leaders

# Political Participation

## Lisbon

- 75% of the organizations are not involved in protest activities

### **Major Issues**

- Citizenship rights
- Immigration and Integration policies

## Rotterdam

- 94% of the organizations are not involved in protest activities

### **Major issues**

- Housing
- Heritage cultural rights
- Racial harassment

# Political Participation

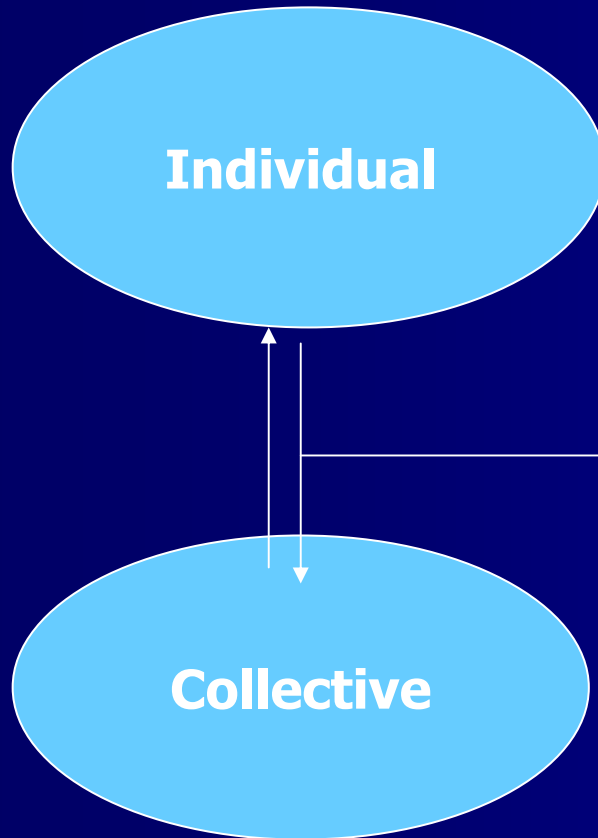
## Lisbon Region

- Low level of political involvement in receiving country

## Rotterdam

- Higher level of political involvement in receiving and homeland politics

# Transnational Practices



## **New Dynamics**

- **Wider scope of Intervention**
- **Institutionalization**
- **New Social Actors**
- **Identity Politics**

# Concluding remarks

## Types

- Lisbon social services and culture organizations
- Rotterdam – sports, culture and home solidarity organizations /umbrella

# Concluding remarks

- Low density of inter-organizational networks
- Higher density of intra-organizational networks
- Nodal associations (highest density of intra and inter-organizational networks)
- Transnational links 1: Home-orientation does not seem to weaken with second and third generations
- Transnational links 2: Home-orientation and origin country development support seem to be more present in the Rotterdam organizations. However, few organizations are actively involved in this kind of activities.
- Transnational links 3: Relevance of transnational activities involving members of several places of the "CapeVerdean Migratory Archipelago", both political and socio-cultural



## Concluding remarks

- Overall tendency to non-confrontational forms of claims-making
- Nodal associations (higher level of political participation)