



# The Social Integration of Syrian Refugees in Bonn

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Thomas Wiskirchen, Bonn, 2018.

# Questions from Observation

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Why have some refugees made many new local friends in Bonn,  
while others seem to be isolated?

Do local friends benefit their structural integration?

# Thesis



Refugees who have been living in Bonn for more than two years, have acquired German language skills of at least B1 (GER), and live in private housing have built social networks that are bigger, more diverse in ethnicity and more rich in social resources.

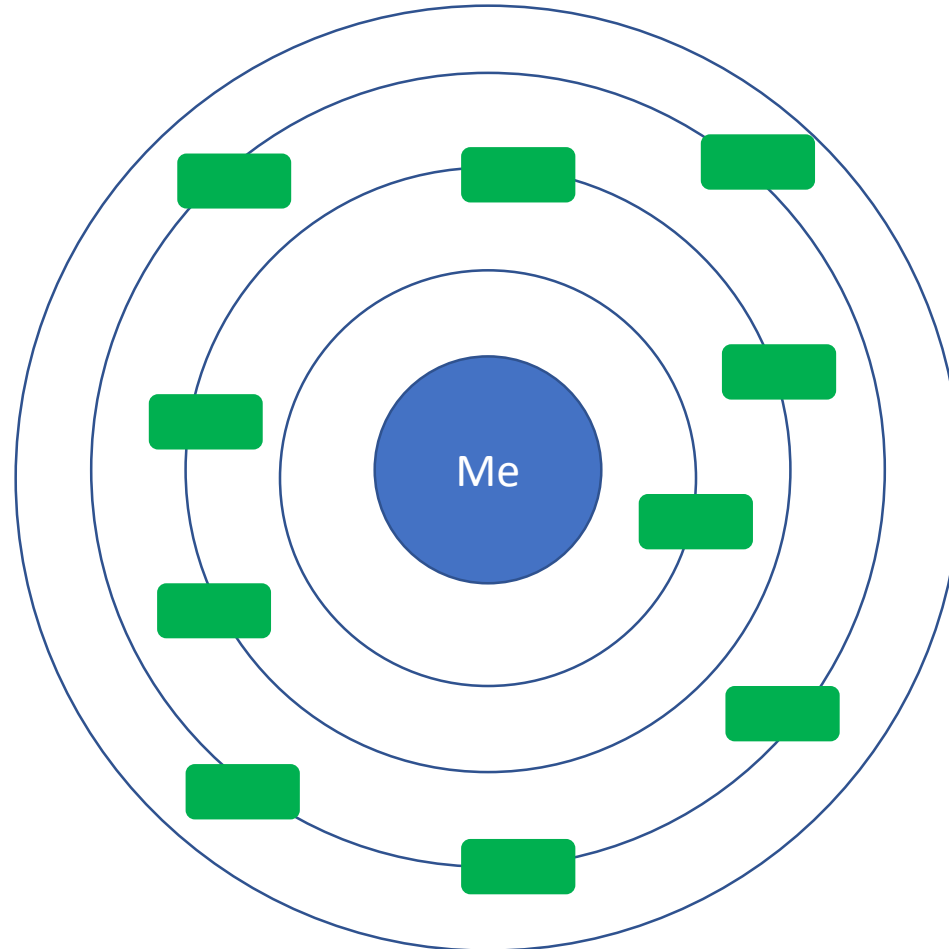
# Study Questions



1. Who are the social contacts of Syrian Refugees living in Bonn?
2. In how far do their social networks produce social resources?
3. Which factors contributed to the development of their social networks?

# Measuring Social Integration

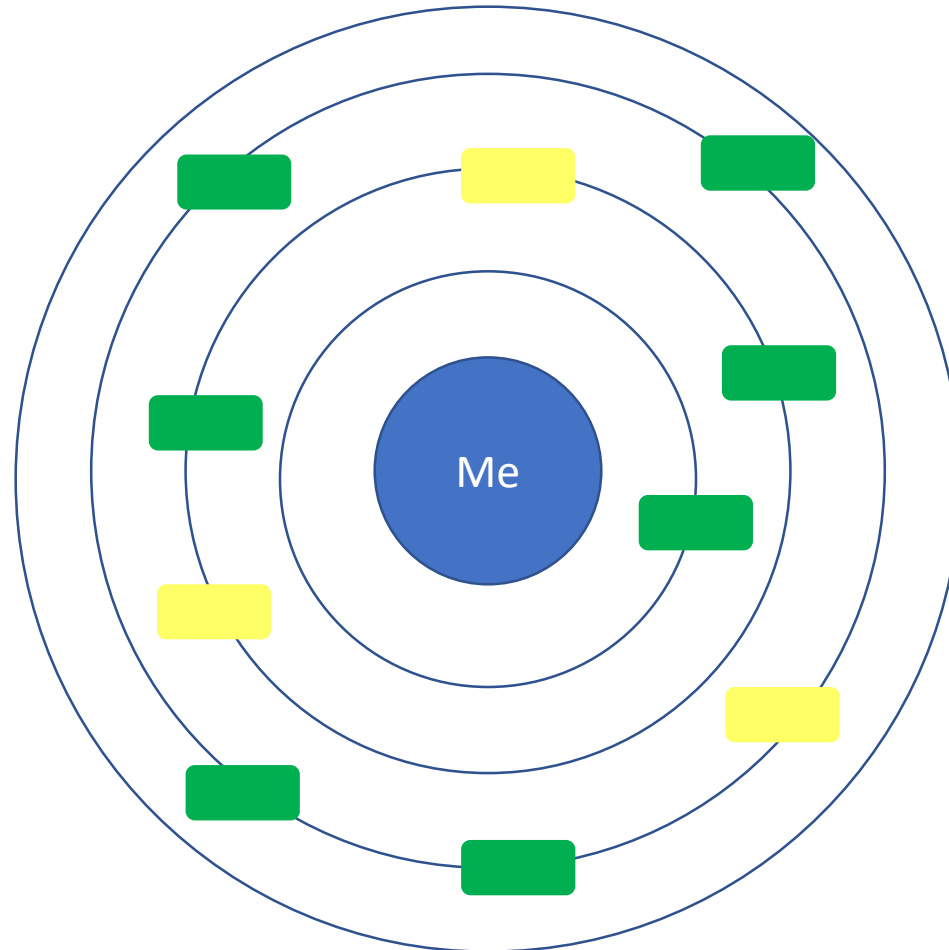
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Indicators for Social Integration  
Number of Contacts

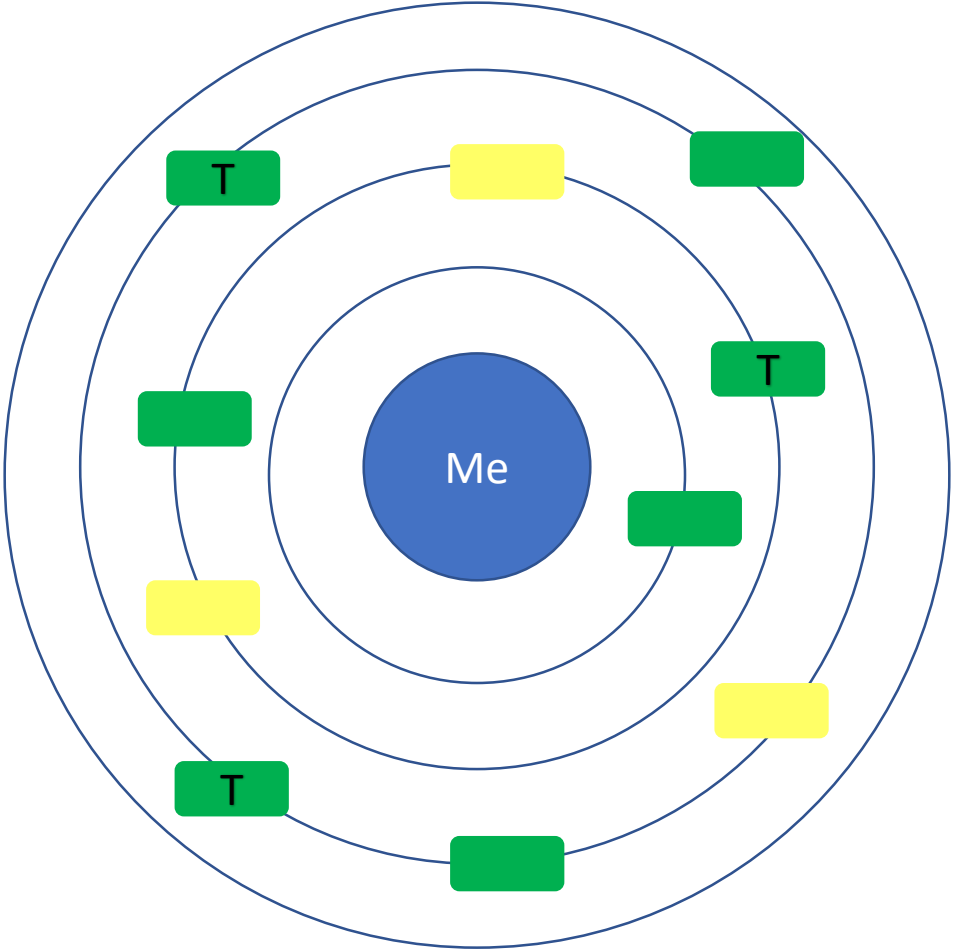
# Measuring Social Integration

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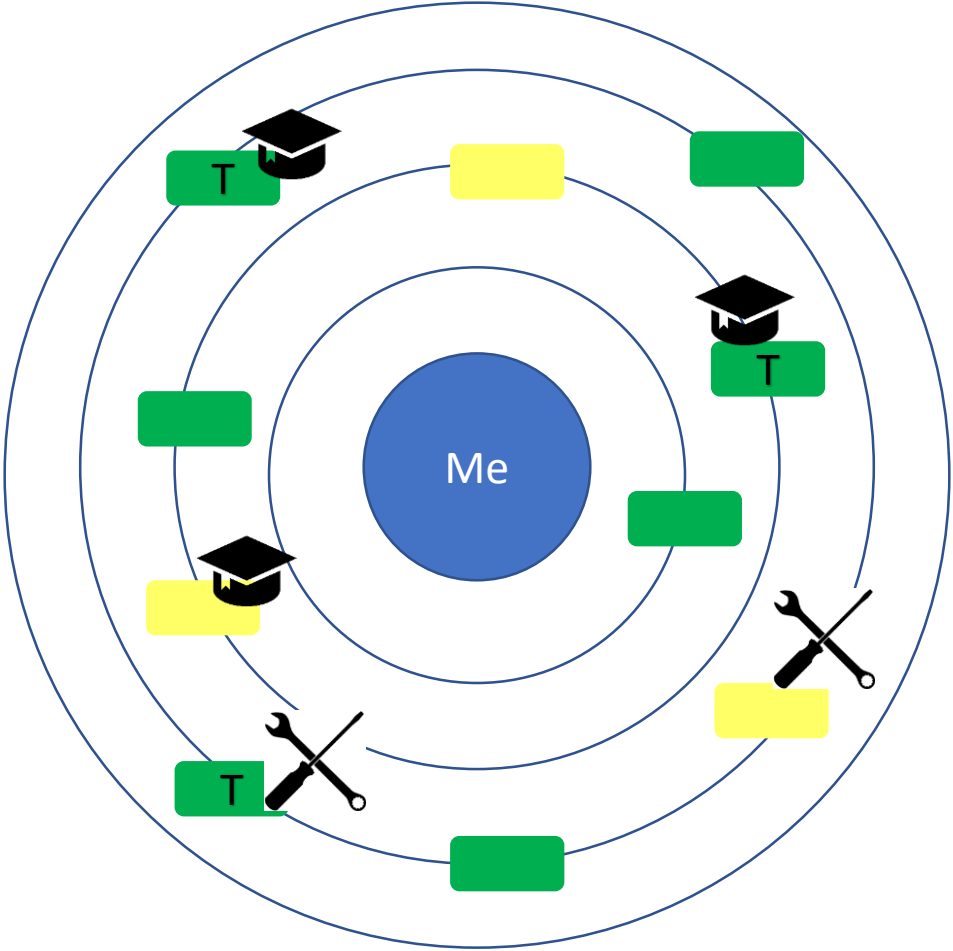
Indicators for Social Integration  
Number of Contacts  
Origin

# Measuring Social Integration



Indicators for Social Integration  
Number of Contacts  
Origin  
Distance

# Measuring Social Integration



Indicators for Social Integration

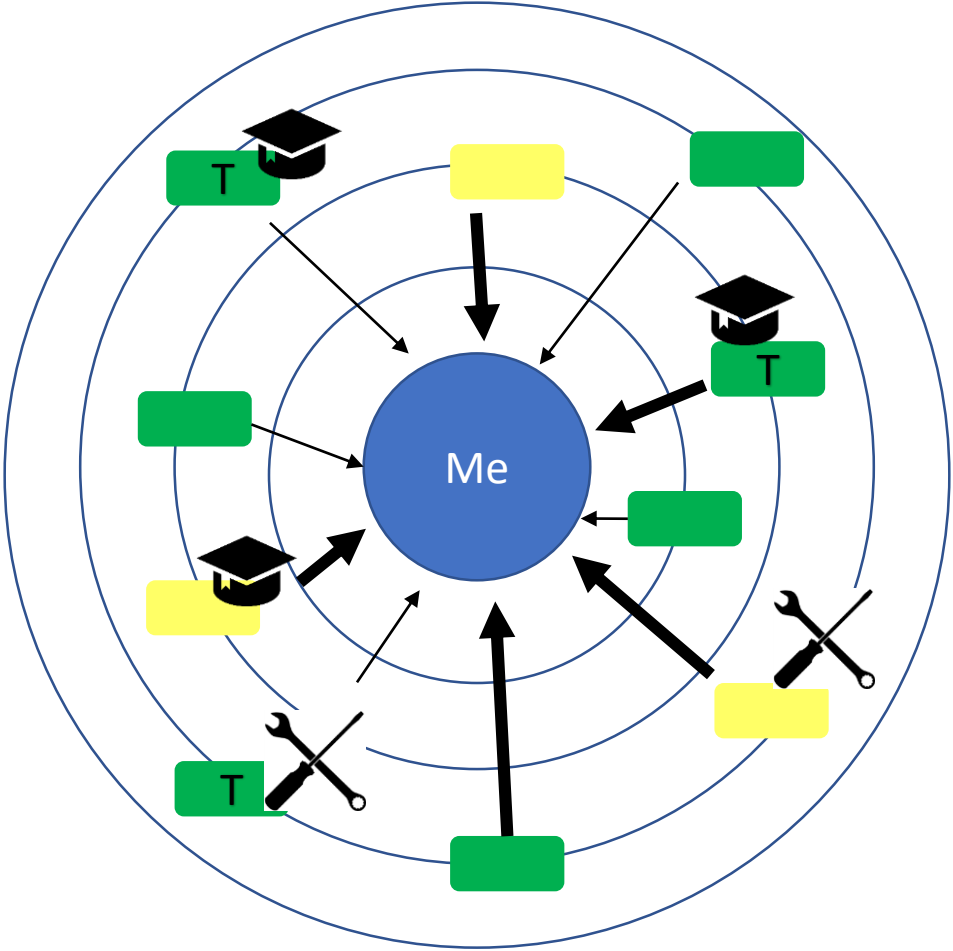
- Number of Contacts
- Origin
- Distance

Indicators for Social Ressources:

- Education / Employment



# Measuring Social Integration



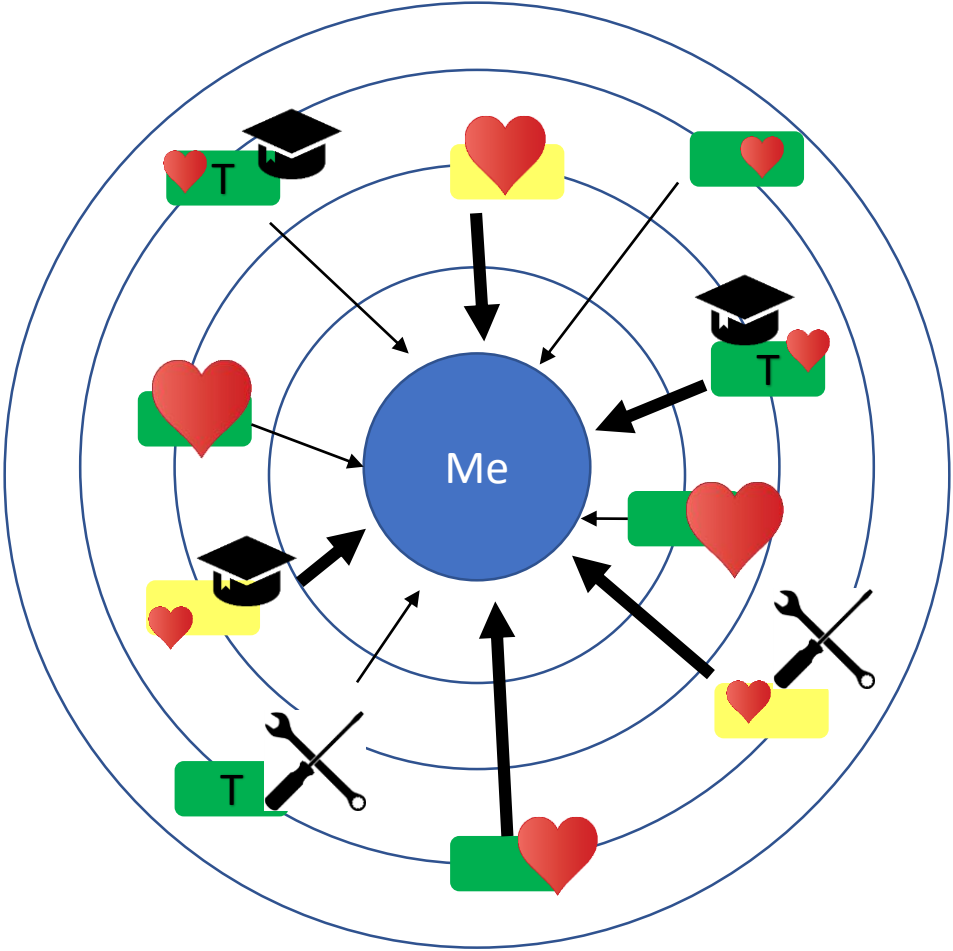
Indicators for Social Integration

- Number of Contacts
- Origin
- Distance

Indicators for Social Ressources:

- Education / Employment
- Contact Frequency

# Measuring Social Integration



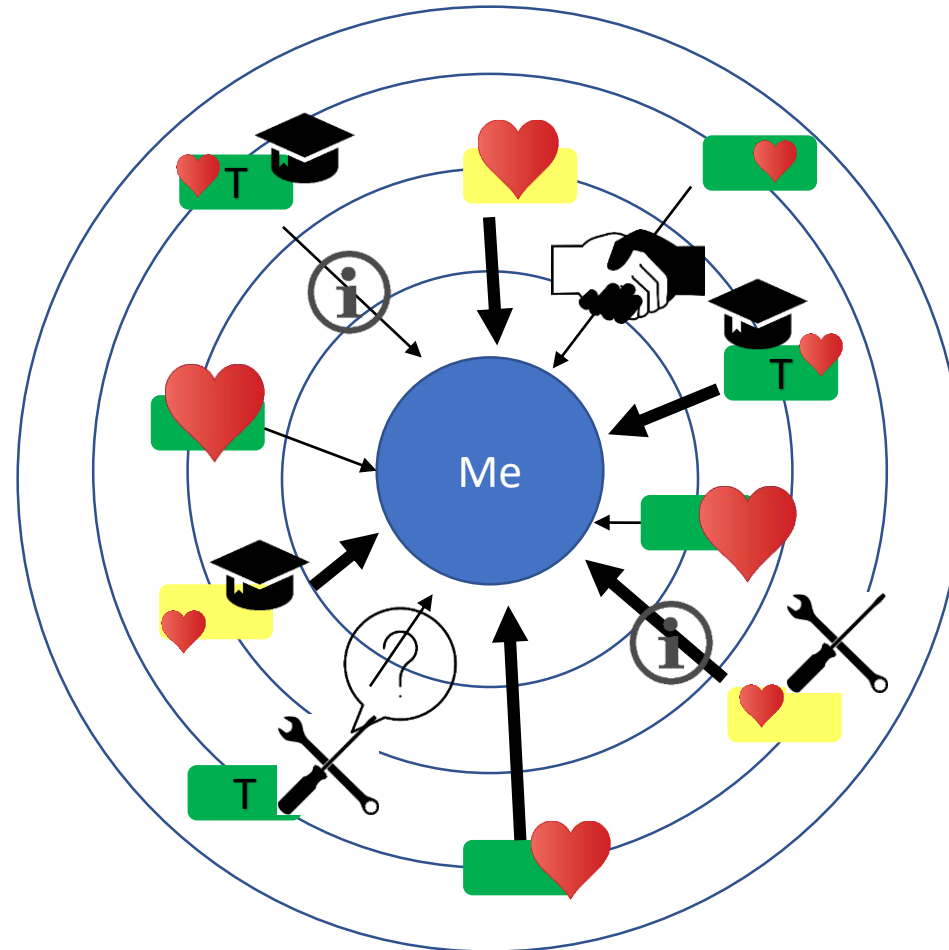
Indicators for Social Integration

- Number of Contacts
- Origin
- Distance

Indicators for Social Ressources:

- Education / Employment
- Contact Frequency
- Emotional Distance

# Measuring Social Integration



## Indicators for Social Integration

Number of Contacts

Origin

Distance

## Indicators for Social Resources:

Education / Employment

Contact Frequency

Emotional Distance

Shared activities

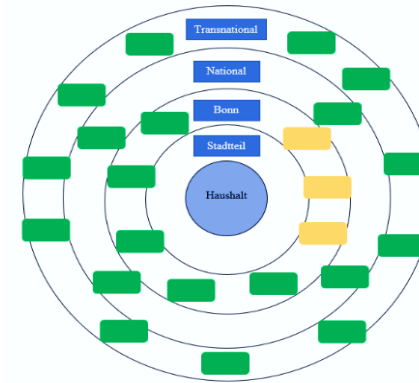
# Methods

Social Integration and Social Resources:  
Ego-centered Network Analysis

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Development Factors:

Questionnaire survey with open response  
categories



# Results

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## DIVERSITY

Size of Networks	10 – 28 Contacts
New Contacts	3 – 19 Contacts
Origin of Contacts	0 – 15 Germans
Transnational Contacts	3 – 11 Contacts

# Trends of Social Integration

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## DIVERSITY

- German contacts often deliver practical help and information, often highly educated and employed
- Syrian contacts more often deliver emotional support and cultural activities, often highly educated, but unemployed
- Transnational contact is strong – mostly due to family bonds
- Contacts to other groups are rare

# Answer to Thesis



YES

- Time, Language Skills and Housing supported social integration
- Social Distance and Cultural Differences feel important
- Platforms for intercultural contacts were very helpful



Language courses and private housing have to be provided much faster!



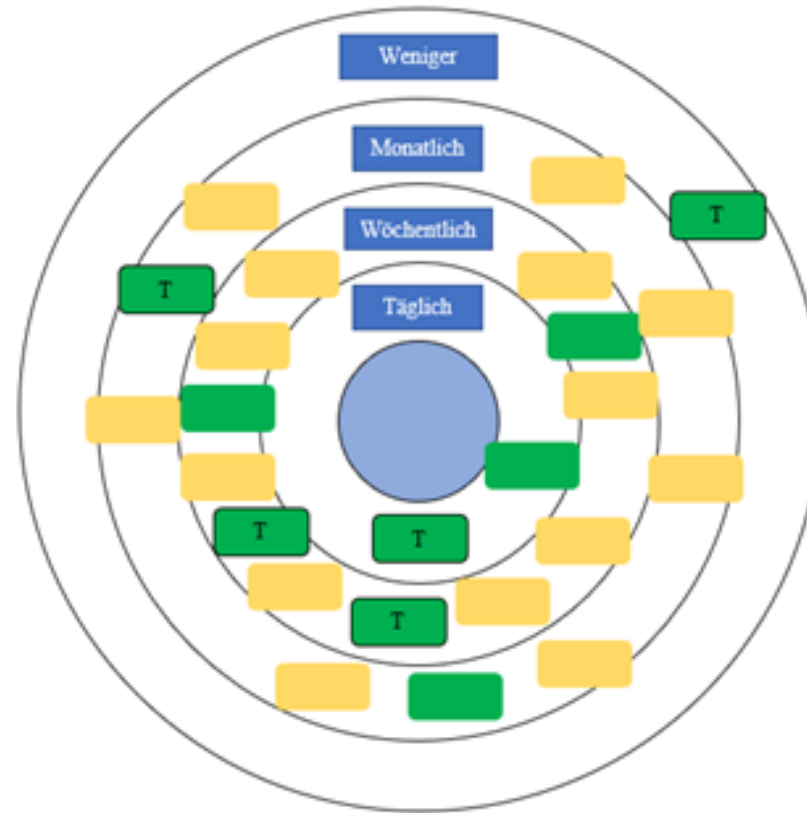
# Thanks for your Attention!

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Feel free to ask questions 😊







# Example: Yussuf (m,24)

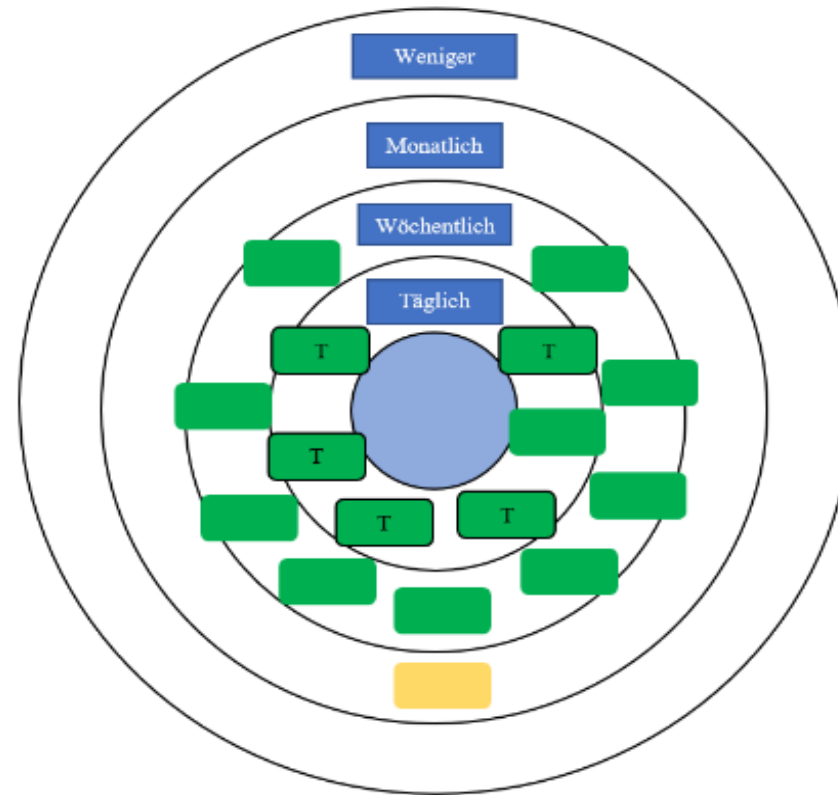


Contacts of German Origin	Yellow
Contacts of Syrian Origin	Green
Transnational Syrian Contacts	Green with T
Contacts from other Origins	Orange

Contact Frequency

# Example: Fatma (f,32)

Contacts of German Origin	
Contacts of Syrian Origin	
Transnational Syrian Contacts	
Contacts from other Origins	



**Contact Frequency**