

SAMI VALUE PATTERNS IN NORWAY

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OBJECTIVES

To study and contrast personal values in ethnic minority (Sami) and ethnic majority (Ethnic Norwegian) populations in Norway.

METHODS

From 24 municipalities, a total of 12,623 subjects between the ages of 36 and 79 were included in the analysis of personal values. The survey instrument consisted of a 19-item questionnaire and the analysis was based on responses from 10,268 Ethnic Norwegian and 2,355 Sami participants. Associations between personal value variables were assessed using principal component analysis.

RESULTS

From the 19 values, Sami respondents held the following five personal values in the highest regard: being in touch with nature; harnessing nature through fishing, hunting and berry-picking; preserving ancestral and family traditions; preserving traditional Sami industries and preserving and developing the Sami language. On the other hand, Sami respondents' least important values included modern Sami art and the Sami Parliament (Sametinget). Four dimensions associated with values were identified: "Traditional Sami Values", "Modern Sami Values", "Contact with Nature" and "Feeling of Marginalisation". Traditional and Modern values were both characterised by significantly higher scores among females, the lowest age bracket and those who considered themselves Sami. Within the Traditional Sami Values dimension, higher scores were also recorded in partici-

Ethnicity

Ethnic classification was based on the question "What do you consider yourself to be?". The available responses were: "Sami", "Kven", "Ethnic Norwegian" or "Other". Participants were allowed to provide more than one answer. Three categories were then created based on the responses: (i) Sami, (ii) mixed background (Sami/Ethnic Norwegian) and (iii) Ethnic Norwegian.

The Sami population

The Sami are the natives of Scandinavia and they live in the northern regions of Fennoscandia in what today comprises the northern areas of Norway, Sweden, Finland and Russia's Kola Peninsula. The Norwegian government has ratified the Sami as the indigenous people in Norway. The Sami include several subgroups stratified by different geographical areas and dialects. The size of the Sami population has been reckoned to approximately 70,000-100,000, but estimates vary accordance with criteria used like genetic heritage, mother tongue and the personal sense of ethnicity.

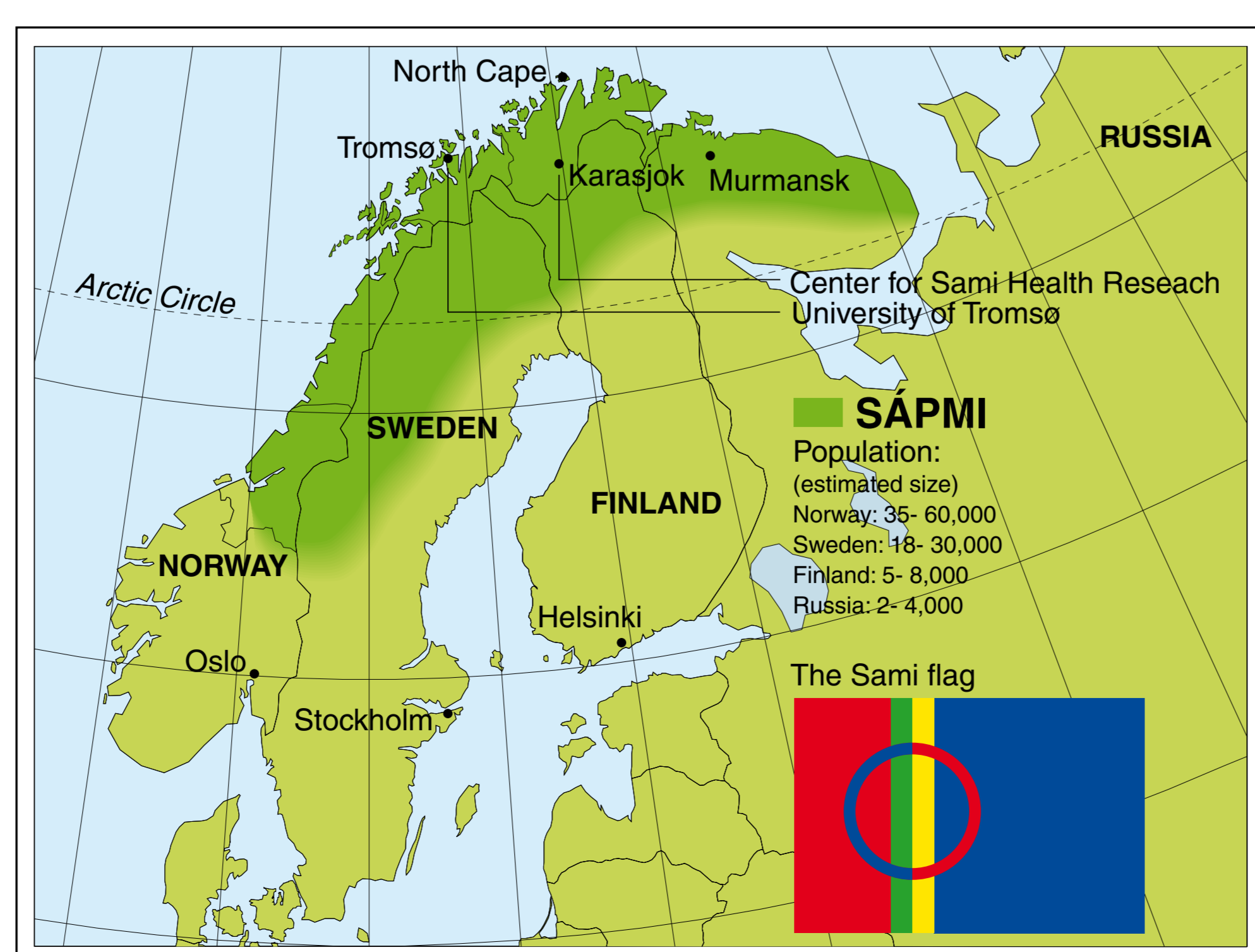
STUDY DESIGN

A population-based, cross-sectional study entitled the SAMINOR study was carried out in 2003-04 in areas of populations with mixed ethnicity.

Participants who were married or cohabiting, living within the Administrative Area of the Sami Language, satisfied with 'way of life' and members of the Laestadian Church. The Modern Sami Values dimension was also characterised by higher scores among participants with high household incomes. The Contact with Nature dimension was characterised by significantly higher proportions of Sami, married or cohabitants, and participants content with their way of life; age, living area and household income was found to be insignificant variables within this dimension. Feeling of Marginalisation was characterised by: significantly greater proportions of males; of working age; living outside the Administrative Area of the Sami Language; considering oneself to be Sami; low household income; and dissatisfaction with way of life.

The SAMINOR-study

In 2003-2004 the Centre for Sami Health Research at the University of Tromsø—in collaboration with the Norwegian Institute of Public Health—carried out a population-based survey (SAMINOR) in areas with mixed ethnic Sami and Ethnic Norwegian populations. The study has been described in detail elsewhere. Data was collected using a questionnaire on values, ethnicity and social conditions.



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TABLE 1 Distribution of characteristics in the sample (n=12,623)

	Mixed background (Sami/Ethnic)			Effect of ethnicity (p-value ²)
	Sami (n = 1531) %	Norwegian (n = 824) %	Norwegian (n = 10268) %	
Gender				
Male	48.1	48.7	47.4	
Female	51.9	51.3	52.6	0.72
Age				
36-49	38.4	39.7	34.6	
50-64	40.2	41.0	43.3	
65-79	21.4	19.3	22.1	0.002
Marital status				
Married/Cohabiting	71.3	69.0	78.2	
Single	28.7	31.0	21.8	<0.001
The Administrative Area				
Within	79.8	54.9	15.9	
Outside	20.2	45.1	84.1	<0.001
Household income (Nkr)				
Low	15.3	13.6	9.6	
Medium low	56.1	55.7	56.0	
Medium high	25.9	28.1	30.7	
High	2.7	2.5	3.7	<0.001
Religiousness:				
Laestadianism				
Yes	12.6	9.4	4.7	
No	87.4	90.6	95.3	<0.001
Content with your way of life				
Very content	32.4	29.2	32.4	
Quite content	55.4	59.5	59.0	
Discontent	10.3	9.8	7.6	
Very discontent	2.0	1.5	1.0	<0.001

1 Subgroups might not total 12,623 due to missing values
2 Chi-square test

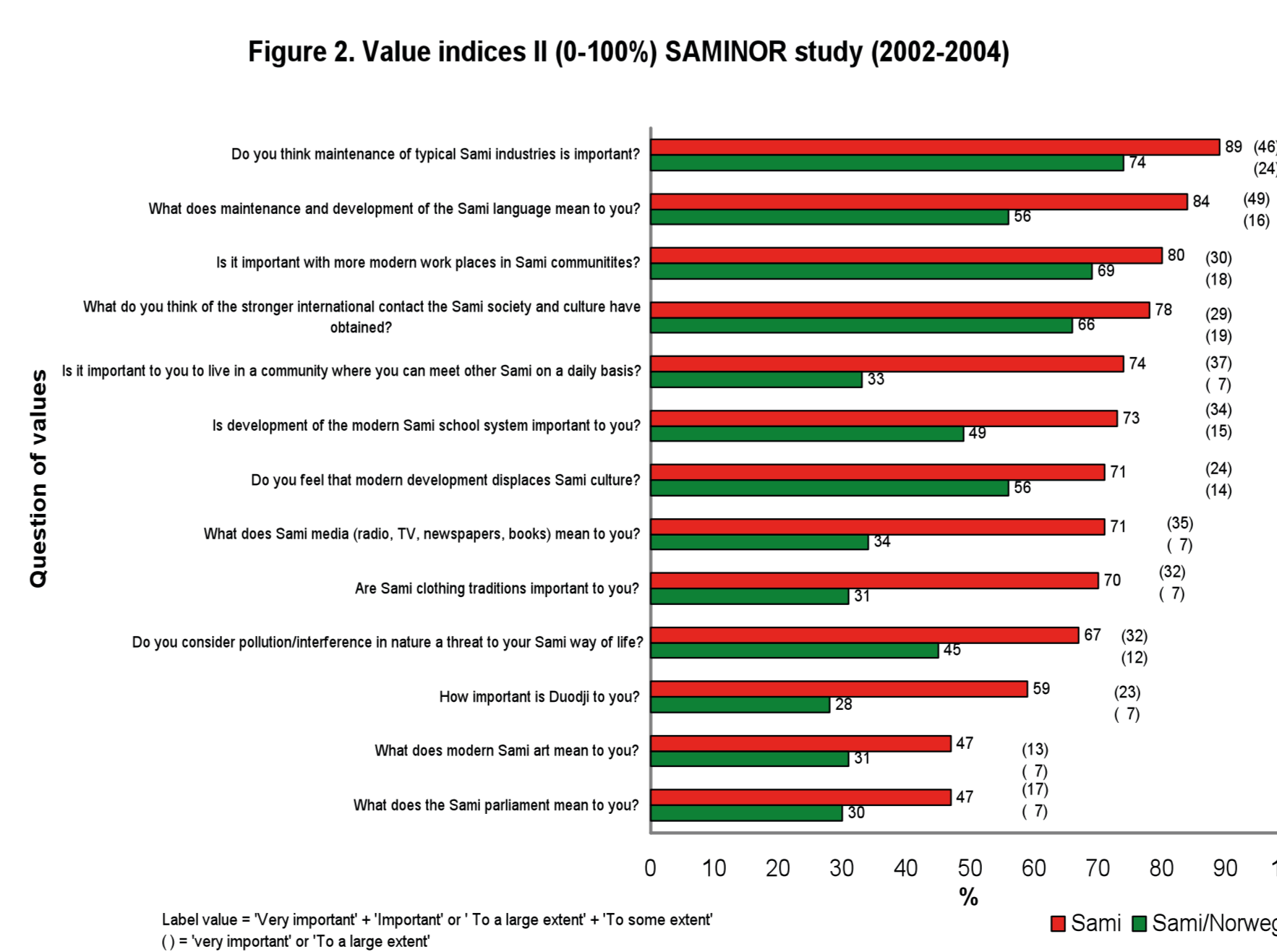
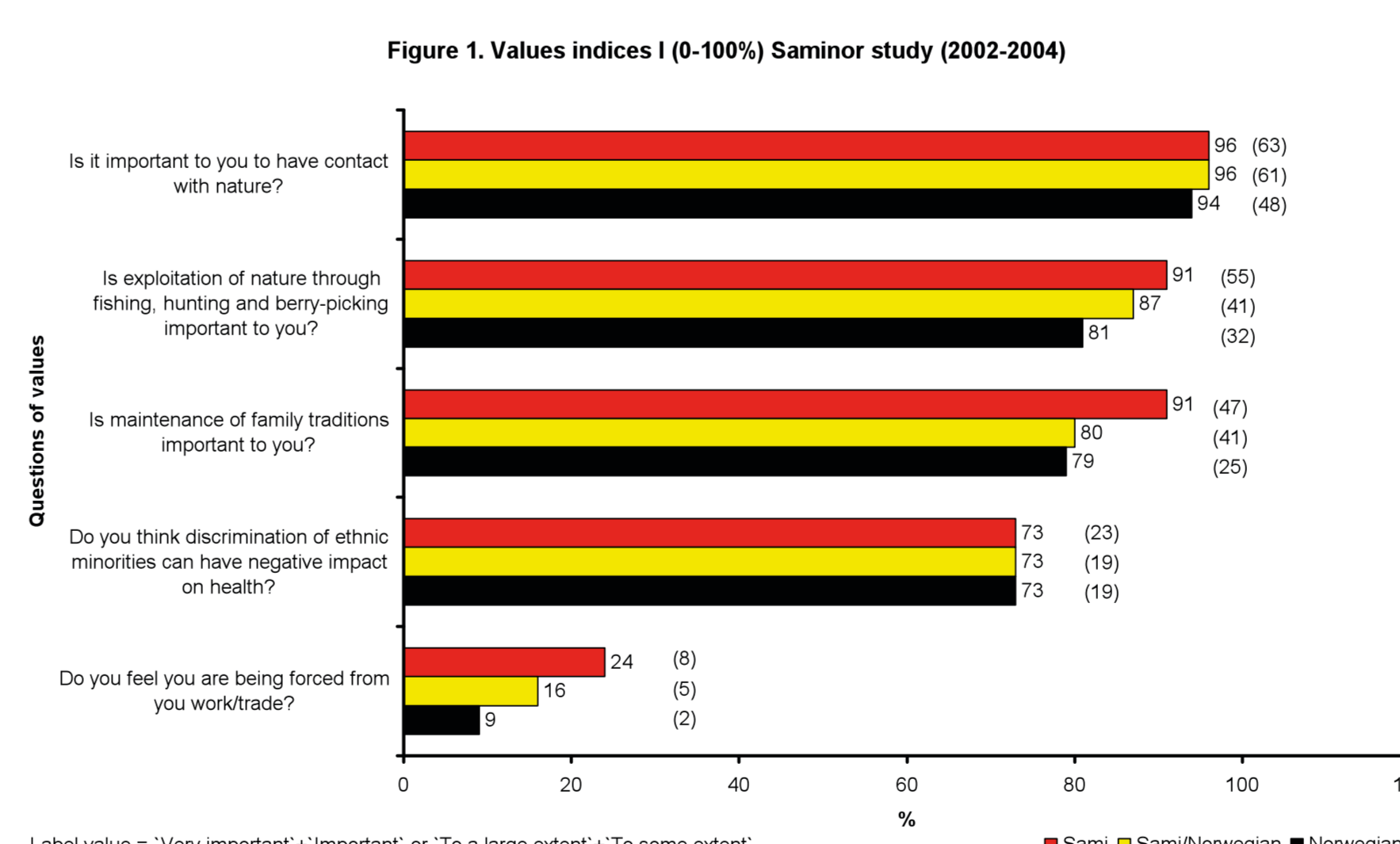


TABLE 2 Summary of exploratory factor analysis for 19 value items (n = 2,355) 1

Item	Rotated Factor Loadings ²			Feeling of marginalization
	Traditional Sami values	Modern Sami values	Contact with nature	
Are Sami clothing traditions important to you?	0.82			
Is it important to you to live in a community where you can meet other Sami on a daily basis?	0.79			
How important is Duodji to you?	0.77			
What does maintenance and development of the Sami language mean to you?	0.74			
What does Sami media (radio, TV, newspapers, books) mean to you?	0.70	0.45		
Do you think maintenance of typical Sami industries is important?	0.55	0.44		
Is maintenance of family traditions important to you?	0.53		0.44	
Do you consider pollution/interference in nature a threat to your Sami way of life?	0.47			
What do you think of the stronger international contact the Sami society and culture have obtained?			0.79	
What does modern Sami art mean to you?			0.70	
What does the Sami parliament mean to you?			0.69	
Is development of the modern Sami school system important to you?	0.52	0.66		
Is it important to have additional modern work places in Sami communities?		0.57		
Do you think discrimination of ethnic minorities can have negative impact on health?		0.52		
Is it important to you to be in contact with nature?				0.88
Is exploitation of nature through fishing, hunting and berry-picking important to you?				0.86
Do you feel you are being forced from you work/trade?				0.74
Have you experienced bullying/discrimination due to your ethnic background?				0.63
Do you feel that modern development displaces Sami culture?				0.42
Eigenvalues	7.47	1.73	1.22	1.19
% of varians	39.3	9.1	6.4	6.3
α	1.34	1.52	0.96	1.27

1 n = Sami + Sami/Ethnic Norwegian
2 Rotation Method: Varimax with Kaiser Normalization

Table 3 Regression models of variables associated with factor-based value patterns in Sami adult

Models	Unadjusted β	Adjusted ¹ B (SE B)	β	R ²
Regression 1: Traditional Sami values				
Intercept		23.89 (1.13)		
Gender	0.13***	1.11 (0.23)	0.10***	0.24
Age	-0.13***	-0.09 (0.01)	-0.16***	
Marital status	-0.07**	-0.61 (0.28)	-0.05*	
The Administrative area	0.18***	0.99 (0.27)	0.08***	
Ethnicity	-0.43***	-4.80 (0.25)	-0.41***	
Household income	0.05*	-0.07 (0.21)	-0.01	
Religiousness	0.10***	1.82 (0.39)	0.10***	
Content with way of life	0.04	-0.44 (0.17)	-0.05*	
Regression 2: Modern Sami values				
Intercept		14.52 (0.85)		
Gender	0.06**	0.41 (0.17)	0.05*	0.13
Age	-0.26***	-0.07 (0.01)	-0.20***	
Marital status	-0.06**	0.13 (0.21)	-0.02	
The Administrative area	0.04	-0.07 (0.20)	-0.01	
Ethnicity	-0.21***	-1.86 (0.19)	-0.23***	
Household income	0.20***	0.81 (0.16)	0.13***	
Religiousness	-0.02	-0.21 (0.30)	-0.02	
Content with way of life	-0.02	-0.14 (0.13)	-0.02	
Regression 3: Contact with nature				
Intercept		5.37 (0.25)		
Gender	-0.02	-0.10 (0.05)	-0.04	0.03
Age	0.03	0.01 (0.003)	0.04	
Marital status	-0.09***	-0.23 (0.06)	-0.09***	
The Administrative area	0.04*	0.05 (0.06)	0.02	
Ethnicity	-0.08***	-0.14 (0.06)	-0.06*	
Household income	0.03	-0.04 (0.05)	-0.02	
Religiousness	-0.04*	-0.15 (0.09)	0.04	
Content with way of life	-0.12***	-0.21 (0.04)	-0.12***	
Regression 4: Feeling of marginalization				
Intercept		6.64 (0.45)		
Gender	-0.08***	-0.34 (0.09)	-0.09***	0.10
Age	-0.10***	-0.03 (0.01)	-0.13***	
Marital status	0.02	-0.09 (0.11)	-0.02	
The Administrative area	-0.04	-0.34 (0.11)	-0.08***	
Ethnicity	-0.18***	-0.83 (0.10)	-0.20***	
Household income	-0.03	-0.20 (0.08)	-0.07**	
Religiousness	0.02	0.33 (0.15)	0.05*	
Content with way of life	0.21***	0.52 (0.07)	0.18***	

* p < .05, ** p < .01, *** p < .001.
1 Variables are mutually adjusted for each other.
Note 1: BSE B; Unstandardised coefficients and β: standardised coefficients.
Note 2: Gender: male = 1, female = 2; marital status: 0 = married or cohabiting 1 = single; The Administrative Area: outside = 0, within = 1; Ethnicity: Sami = 1, Sami/Norwegian = 2; Religiousness (member of the Laestadian community): no = 0, yes = 1; Content with way of life: Very satisfied = 0, quite satisfied = 1, a little dissatisfied = 2, very dissatisfied = 3.