Population, Space and Place

WILEY

RESEARCH ARTICLE OPEN ACCESS

Why Do They Move? Different Patterns and Motivations of Intra-Urban Residential Mobility Among Two Major Ethnic Groups in Rome

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Received: 27 February 2026 | **Revised:** 3 June 2026 | **Accepted:** 17 June 2026

Funding: Cariplo Foundation, Grant/Award Number: 2021-1690

Keywords: Italy | migrants | motivations | residential mobility | settlement patterns | Southern Europe

ABSTRACT

The study analyses the settlement patterns and residential mobility motivations of the two largest extra-EU migrant communities in Rome—Bangladeshis and Filipinos—combining unique individual-level population register data with an original survey data. Adopting an intra-urban and comparative perspective, it explores how sociodemographic characteristics, community background, and neighbourhood context shape (re)location patterns and underlying motivations. Results show distinct spatial trajectories: Bangladeshis display strong clustering in low-income peripheral areas, driven by ethnic attraction, affordability constraints, and the consolidation of enclave economies in small-scale trade. Filipinos, by contrast, exhibit greater spatial dispersion, associated with employment opportunities in domestic and care work within affluent households. While Bangladeshi residential concentration reflects both social support networks and structural barriers in the housing market, Filipino settlement patterns highlight employment-related mobility and long-term integration in a niche labour sector. The findings underline the interplay between individual preferences, own-group preferences, and structural constraints typical of Southern European housing and welfare regimes. By linking residential mobility to labour market segmentation and welfare transformations, the study contributes to a broader understanding of migrant settlement processes and spatial inequality in Southern European cities.

1 | Introduction

The residential mobility of migrant groups within an urban area sheds light on the processes of spatial segregation and stratification shaping contemporary cities.

Recent studies in Southern Europe have examined migrants' residential mobility and settlement patterns, highlighting differences in the forms and degrees of residential segregation across metropolitan areas and among migrant nationalities, as well as widespread socioeconomic and spatial marginalisation (Arbaci 2019; Benassi et al. 2020; Martori and Madariaga 2023). While recent research has advanced our understanding of immigrant settlement in Southern European cities (Bayona-I-Carrasco et al. 2018; Mazza et al. 2018; Panori et al. 2019; Crisci et al. 2025b), due to limited data availability, few studies have analysed intra-urban residential movements in relation to segregation dynamics (López-Gay et al. 2020; Rimoldi et al. 2024). Even less is known about the motivations underlying immigrants' residential choices, despite their centrality for disentangling whether moves reflect upward mobility and spatial assimilation or, conversely, structural constraints and stratification (Iglesias-Pascual 2019; Cocola-Gant and Lopez-Gay 2020; Crisci et al. 2025a).

This paper contributes to filling these gaps by analysing the patterns and motivations of intra-urban residential mobility of ethnic groups in Southern European urban areas, focusing on the two largest extra-EU immigrant communities in Rome: Bangladeshis and Filipinos. The cases of these two non-European communities were considered of particular interest due to their comparatively greater disadvantage, relative to immigrant communities of European origin, in terms of citizenship rights and opportunities for social and cultural integration.

Rome serves as a relevant case study of a multi-ethnic Southern European metropolis where newly arrived immigrant groups have merged with earlier communities to form mixed settlements characterised by relatively low, yet variable, levels of residential segregation (Benassi et al. 2022a; Crisci and Santurro 2023) and where residential mobility among migrants is far from homogeneous (Crisci et al. 2025b). The two communities under study, Bangladeshis and Filipinos, represent contrasting profiles in terms of socio-demographics, settlement patterns, and employment profiles: Bangladeshis, with a large majority of males and more recent migration histories (1990s), are mainly involved in small trade and tend to concentrate in disadvantaged eastern neighbourhoods; Filipinos, by contrast, form a predominantly female and longer-established community (since the 1970s), largely embedded in domestic and elder-care work and more present in affluent northern neighbourhoods (Benassi et al. 2022a; Rimoldi et al. 2024; Crisci et al. 2025a).

Our study draws on unique anonymised individual data from Rome's population register on population stocks and flows by neighbourhood in the 2000s, combined with an original ad hoc 2022 sample survey on motivations of residential mobility in Rome, providing detailed data on individual, household, housing, and neighbourhood characteristics, together with respondents' stated reasons for moving. This survey represents an exceptional source for investigating the motivations behind neighbourhood selection among ethnic communities in Southern Europe. The methodological approach combines descriptive analyses (segregation and residential mobility indices) and multivariable analyses, including Inverse Probability Weight (IPW) logistic regression and generalised logistic regression models.

Specifically, the study's aim is fourfold: (1) to compare the spatial patterns of intra-urban residential mobility of Bangladeshis and Filipinos in the 2000s; (2) to identify the characteristics associated with residing in neighbourhoods with a high concentration of co-ethnics among Bangladeshi and Filipino migrants; (3) to assess the extent to which the two communities differ in their likelihood of residing in such neighbourhoods; and, (4) to analyse the motivations that drive (re)location into high-concentration co-ethnic neighbourhoods within each community.

The remainder of this paper unfolds in six parts. Section 2 reviews the relevant literature, followed by a description of the territorial context and the national groups under study (Section 3). Section 4 presents the data and methodology, while Section 5 examines the findings. Finally, Section 6 discusses the broader implications of the results and concludes.

2 | Literature Review

Residential mobility and the intra-urban spatial distribution of ethnic groups are shaped by a combination of structural forces and individual decision-making. Structural factors include housing market dynamics, urban planning policies, and labour market conditions, which constrain households' options (Clark 2012). At the same time, individual and household characteristics—such as life-cycle stage, socio-economic status and preferences for neighbourhood composition—guide relocation decisions (Bolt and van Kempen 2010).

Several theoretical models have been developed to explain these processes.

At the micro-level, the spatial assimilation model posits that newly arrived immigrants tend to settle in ethnic enclaves but, as their socio-economic status and acculturation improve, their residential patterns become increasingly similar to those of the native population (South and Crowder 1998; Bolt and van Kempen 2003). The segmented assimilation model refines this view, suggesting that trajectories of integration differ across ethnic groups depending on human and financial capital and proficiency in the local language (South et al. 2005). Conversely, the ethnic enclave model questions whether spatial assimilation is inevitable: living in co-ethnic neighbourhoods can foster a sense of belonging, social protection from the fear of discrimination, and access to community-based resources that may discourage relocation (Alba and Nee 1997). At the macro-level, the place stratification model underscores the structural barriers constraining minority groups in their selection of residential neighbourhoods, drawing attention to discrimination practices within the housing market (Alba and Logan 1993). Together, these perspectives suggest that residential mobility and ethnic spatial distribution emerge from the interplay of individual agency and structural constraints, generating diverse patterns of segregation and integration across urban contexts that can vary significantly between different ethnic groups.

In the European context, research on urban segregation and residential relocation has been most extensive in North-Western countries. Large individual and longitudinal datasets have greatly enriched knowledge implementing life-course approaches (Mulder and Hooimeijer 1999; Coulter and van Ham 2013), revealing that neighbourhoods with a high minority population are typically the most deprived (Bolt and van Kempen 2003) and that immigrants often remain in such neighbourhoods because co-ethnic enclaves provide social integration, housing and employment opportunities (Bråmå 2006; Andersen 2017). Other studies show that housing market constraints also shape the decision to move to neighbourhoods with a high concentration of ethnic minorities and that such patterns differ significantly across minority groups (Boschman and van Ham 2015).

Southern Europe, by contrast, has only recently become a focus of systematic investigation, in step with intensified migration flows and improved data availability. In recent years, research in Northern Mediterranean countries has emphasised the heterogeneity of migrant groups and the role of area-specific characteristics—such as limited public housing policies, high homeownership rates, urban history and planning tradition, a

relatively high diffusion of informal economy, a poorly structured and familistic welfare system—in shaping settlement patterns (King 2000; Allen et al. 2004).

Because of limited data availability, only a few studies have explicitly linked residential segregation to intra-urban mobility dynamics in Southern Europe (Iglesias-Pascual 2019; Rimoldi et al. 2024; Crisci et al. 2025a). Research in Southern European countries has analysed the residential mobility of ethnic communities, focusing on spatial patterns and levels of concentration within urban areas.

In Italy, studies reveal differences in the levels of residential segregation between Rome and Milan (Benassi et al. 2022a). Patterns and behaviours of residential mobility among foreign groups differ and are influenced by ethnic affiliation and socioeconomic status (Crisci et al. 2025b). In Rome, increased residential mobility has produced stronger spatial concentration and clustering among foreigners, thereby reducing their dissimilarity from Italians (Rimoldi et al. 2024). These settlement patterns reflect the combined influence of real-estate constraints and labour-market specialisation (Crisci and Santurro 2023). In Milan, ethnic residential segregation remains relatively low, though migrants are excluded from the most affluent areas (Consolazio et al. 2023). A comparative study between major Italian urban areas highlights a clear north–south divide, with Naples exhibiting the highest levels of residential segregation (Bitonti et al. 2023). In Spain, studies on Madrid and Barcelona show an expansion of both high concentration of immigrants and mixed neighbourhoods, with segregation varying by migrants' origin and income (Benassi and Iglesias-Pascual 2023; Martori and Madariaga 2023). In working-class neighbourhoods, a process of residential hierarchization has relegated migrants to the most disadvantaged positions (Iglesias et al. 2024), while barriers to housing market access in Seville have led to self-segregative behaviour (Iglesias-Pascual 2019). Furthermore, immigrants have played a significant role in the suburbanisation of Spanish cities, and their migration from city centres to the suburbs can be linked to a process of spatial assimilation. (Bayona-i-Carrasco et al. 2018). In Greece, studies on Athens reveal the socio-spatial diversity of immigrant groups and a distinctive form of vertical segregation (Kandylis et al. 2012; Maloutas and Karadimitriou 2022). Furthermore, the rise of immigrant segregation and centralisation in the 2000s was reinforced by the suburbanisation of the native population (Panori et al. 2019). In Portugal, studies have shown high levels of suburbanisation among non-European groups in Lisbon during the 1990s (Malheiros 2002) and increasing ethnicization of some central neighbourhoods in the 2000s, facilitated by low real-estate values (Malheiros et al. 2013). Recent studies also highlight the role of housing policies in shaping inequalities in access to the housing market across different immigrant groups, which are reflected in their geographical distribution (Carreiras 2024).

3 | Study Area and Community Profiles

3.1 | Rome: Socioeconomic and Migration Context

With nearly 2.8 million inhabitants, Rome is Italy's most populous municipality. From the 1970s to the early 2000s, the city underwent intense suburbanisation, mainly driven by rising housing costs in central neighbourhoods that pushed many young adults and families with children to relocate toward the hinterland (Crisci 2019). The 2008 global financial crisis marked a turning point. The city experienced economic stagnation and job losses, while falling real estate prices enabled more households to relocate closer to the city centre, signalling a process of partial re-urbanisation (Crisci 2022). However, repopulation trajectories in Rome's inner urban core differed markedly between natives and immigrants. During the 2015–2019 period, the attractiveness of many Roman neighbourhoods varied according to their socioeconomic profile: affluent neighbourhoods were repopulated almost exclusively by Italians, whereas many working-class neighbourhoods lost Italian residents and were repopulated mainly by foreigners (Crisci et al. 2024).

These recent residential dynamics have confirmed and reinforced the unequal distribution of wealth and social disadvantage within the city. Affluent neighbourhoods form a northwest–southeast corridor that includes the city centre, northern districts near the centre, areas along via Cassia in the northwest, and the EUR district and via Appia Antica in the south (Figure 1). In contrast, disadvantaged areas are concentrated in the western and eastern peripheral neighbourhoods of the municipality of Rome, located both inside and outside the Great Ring Road (*Grande Raccordo Anulare*, henceforth GRA), often characterised by deteriorated public housing. Housing affordability in central and tourist areas is further strained by the spread of short-term rentals (Crisci et al. 2022). As both the national capital and the seat of the Catholic Church, Rome has been a key destination for international migration since the 1970s. The foreign resident population increased from less than 1% in the 1980s to 3.9% (approximately 100,000 units) in 2000, expanding rapidly during the 2000s to over 300,000 by 2015. Since then, increasingly restrictive national immigration policies have slowed this growth, with foreign residents numbering 354,000 (13% of the population) by 2025. Romanians are by far the largest foreign group in Rome with approximately 72,000 residents, followed by Filipinos (38,000) and Bangladeshis (35,000). Considerably smaller communities include Chinese residents (18,000), Ukrainians (16,000), and Peruvians (14,000). Notably, since the 2008 financial crisis, Rome's major migrant communities have followed divergent trajectories: the Bangladeshi population has more than tripled, while the Romanian and Filipino communities have grown more moderately, by 36% and 26%, respectively. By contrast, the Chinese, Ukrainian, and Peruvian populations have remained relatively stable.

In Rome, migrant women are predominantly employed in domestic and care work, reflecting both the Italian family welfare model and the growing demand for care linked to population ageing and rising female labour market participation (Naldini and Saraceno 2022). Male migrants, by contrast, are mainly concentrated in construction, retail, and hospitality sectors. This occupational segmentation reflects broader national trends in migrant labour integration, often marked by informality and job insecurity.

Access to housing remains a major challenge for migrants. As in other Southern European urban contexts, Rome combines high homeownership rates, a weak public housing sector, and a widespread informal rental market (Gentili and Hoekstra 2021).

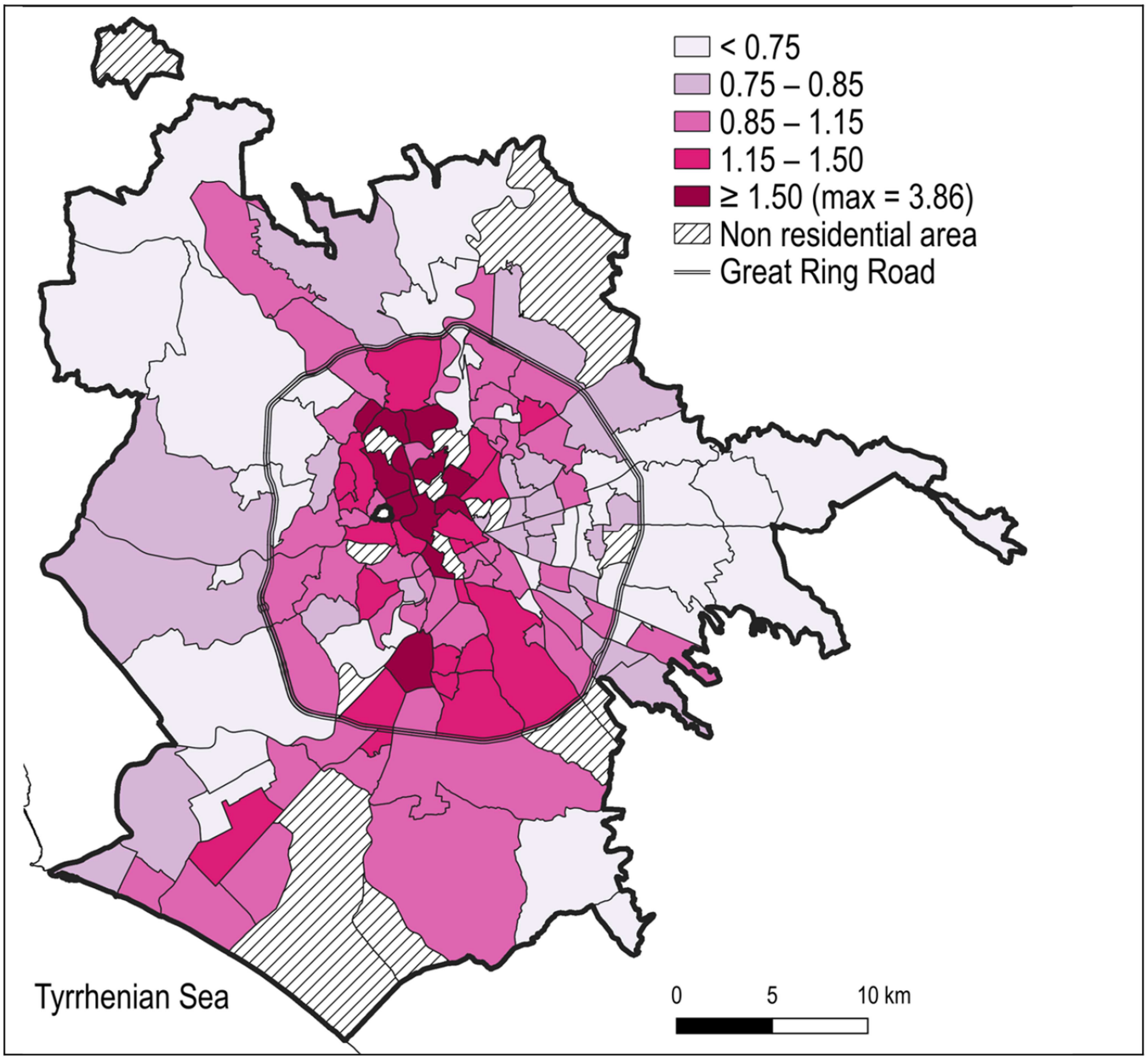

FIGURE 1 | Average taxable income in Rome's neighbourhoods, 2022. The classification of neighbourhoods by income was based on the standard deviation of the average individual income in Rome. Specifically, urban zones were grouped into five categories: low (0–0.75), medium-low (0.75–0.85), medium (0.85–1.15), medium-high (1.15–1.50), and high (1.50 and above). *Source:* Authors' elaboration on data from the Italian Revenue Agency.

Migrant settlement patterns are largely shaped by affordability constraints and exclusion from formal housing channels (Clough Marinaro and Thomassen 2014). Concentrations are most visible in deteriorated eastern districts where housing and rental costs are lower. Patterns also vary by country of origin: Asian migrants tend to cluster in specific neighbourhoods within the urban core, while Eastern Europeans are more likely to reside in suburban areas (Benassi et al. 2022a; Bitonti et al. 2023).

3.2 | Bangladeshi and Filipino Communities in Rome

In 2025, Bangladeshis and Filipinos were the largest non-EU migrant groups in Rome. Despite their comparable size, their migration histories, demographic profiles, and spatial settlement patterns differ markedly.

Bangladeshi migration to Rome expanded rapidly since the early 2000s, increasing more than tenfold over the past two decades. As a result, Rome now hosts the largest Bangladeshi community in the European Union, accounting for approximately one quarter of all Bangladeshi citizens living in Italy (Ministero del Lavoro e delle Politiche Sociali 2023). The extensive informal economy in Rome and Southern Italy, combined with the large presence of undocumented working-age men, contributes to this group's social vulnerability and exposure to exploitation by both natives and co-nationals (Priori 2017), as well as to precarious housing conditions marked by overcrowding (Piazzoni 2021). In 2024, Bangladeshis

ranked first among migrant groups in Italy for the number of residence permits issued—28,000 in total, two-thirds of which were granted for asylum and protection reasons—and sixth for acquisitions of Italian citizenship, accounting for 5% of the approximately 200,000 total acquisitions (Istat 2025).

The population is predominantly male (72%) and young, with only 2% aged over 55 and fewer than 2% residing in Rome for more than 20 years, reflecting a relatively recent migration history. Early flows consisted mainly of men employed in service-oriented jobs such as street vending and catering (Knights 1997), later joined by women through family reunification. In 2001, the highest presence of Bangladeshis was recorded in the historic centre and surrounding central neighbourhoods (Figure 2), likely reflecting initial settlement patterns and, in some cases, registrations that did not correspond to their actual residence.[1] With an employment rate of 61.4% in 2020 (compared to non-EU residents) and an average individual annual income of around €11,000, Bangladeshis remain concentrated in low-income occupations and areas with strong co-ethnic presence. Over time, their presence has become more widely dispersed across eastern and southern districts, although settlement remains highly clustered, especially in the eastern periphery, characterised by lower socioeconomic status (Casacchia et al. 2021), and particularly in the neighbourhood of Torpignattara—often referred to as *'Bangla-town'*—where affordability constraints and community networks have fostered an

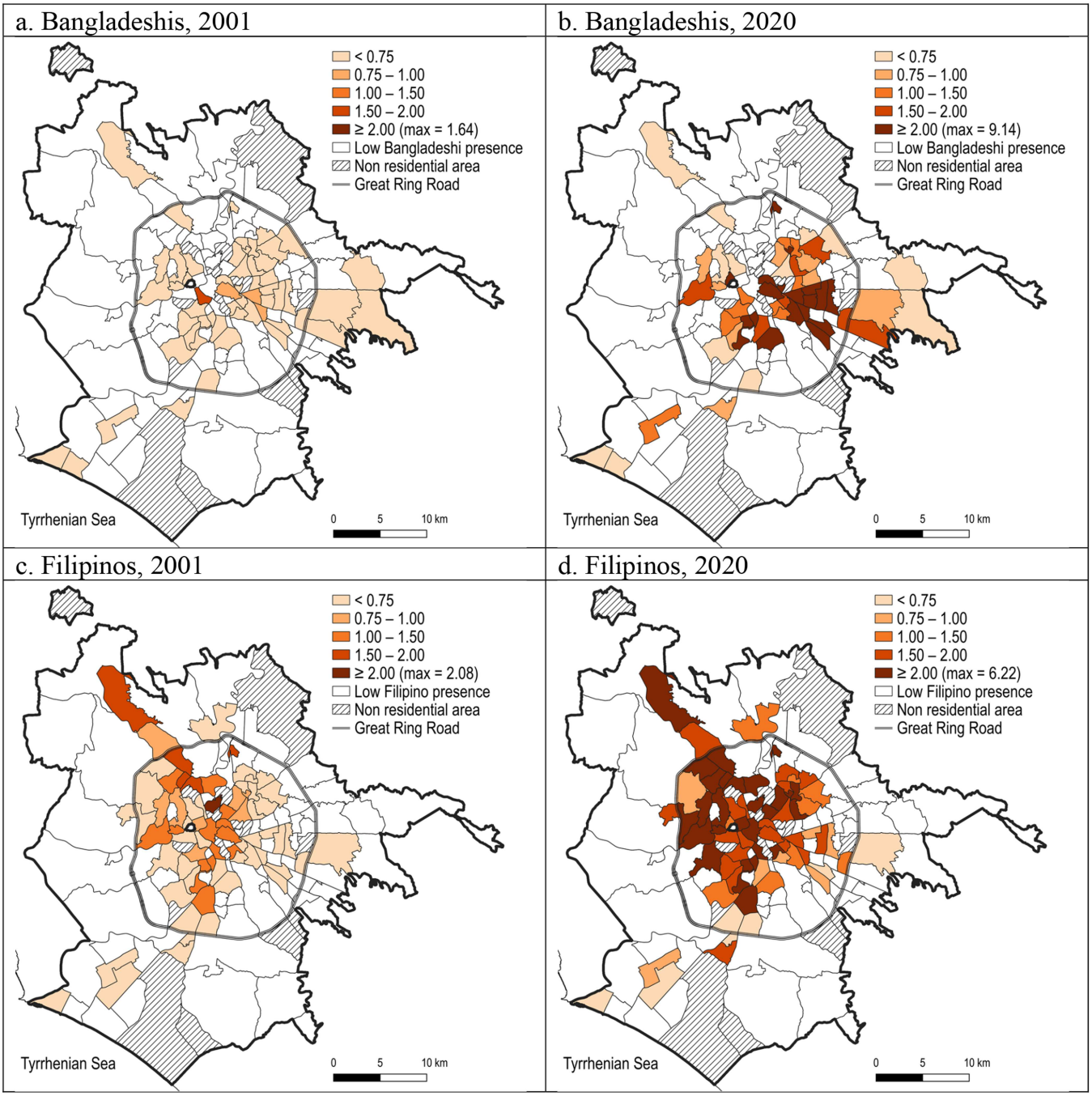

FIGURE 2 | Share of Bangladeshi and Filipino migrants in Rome's neighbourhoods. Percentages, 2001 and 2020. *Source:* Authors' elaboration on data from the Istat 2001 census data and *Anagrafe* of Rome.

ethnic enclave economy based on small-scale retail activities (Piazzoni 2021; Rimoldi et al. 2024).

By contrast, the Filipino community represents an older and predominantly female migration flow. Its greater degree of stabilisation compared with the Bangladeshi community is clearly reflected in the share of long-term residence permits, which stood at 71.6% and 41.7%, respectively, at the end of 2024 (Ministero del Lavoro e delle Politiche Sociali 2025).[2]

Originating in the 1970s under a bilateral sponsorship and recruitment scheme between Italy and the Philippines (Lindio-McGovern 2003), early migration was composed mainly of single women employed in domestic service. Family reunification during the 1980s led to community consolidation. Filipinos now exhibit one of the highest employment rates among non-EU migrants (80.4% in 2020), with occupational niches concentrated in domestic and care work within affluent Italian households (Ambrosini 2001). The Catholic Church—particularly its Filipino branch—has played a key role in labour placement and social support, while shared religious identity has facilitated smoother cultural integration (Tacoli 1999). Overcrowded housing conditions are perceived as temporary yet necessary arrangements that facilitate savings, access to ethnic networks, and psychosocial support during the initial stages of migration (Pelliccia et al. 2026). Despite modest individual average incomes (€13,900 annually), the group displays strong social stability and long-term settlement: over 20% have lived in Rome for more than two decades, and 25% are aged over 55, reflecting a mature, long-established community embedded in a high-demand employment sector. Spatially, Filipino settlements mirror their employment geography. Figure 2 shows how the community has expanded and dispersed over the 2001–2020 period. In 2001, concentrations were found in the historic centre and affluent northern neighbourhoods such as Parioli and along via Cassia, sometimes residing with employers' families. In recent years, the community has become more evenly distributed across central and northern districts, while also gradually extending into lower-middle-class neighbourhoods, reflecting gradual upward housing mobility and proximity to workplaces (Crisci et al. 2025a).

4 | Data and Methods

4.1 | Description of Data and Survey

To describe the research area and the trends observed during the 2000s, we used both stock and flow data providing neighbourhood-level statistics disaggregated by ethnic group.[3] Stock data were drawn from two main sources: the 2001 population census and the Rome population registers (*Anagrafe*) as of 1 January 2020. Flow data were derived from anonymised individual population register records of residential moves between Rome's neighbourhoods, covering two periods: 2002–2004 and 2017–2019. Notably, access to microdata from population registers is extremely rare in Italy and other Southern European countries. In this study, data were used under a specific privacy agreement between the Institute for Research on Population and Social Policies of the National Research Council of Italy (CNR-IRPPS) and the Statistical Office of the Municipality of Rome. Additional neighbourhood-level data—individual average taxable income for the year 2022—were obtained from the Italian Revenue Agency.

The core part of this work is based on the BanFil survey on motivations of residential mobility in the city of Rome organised by the CNR-IRPPS and conducted by the ISMU (Initiatives and Studies on Multi-ethnicity) Foundation between March and July 2022, targeting Bangladeshi and Filipino migrants. This survey represents a unique and original data collection effort in Southern Europe, specifically targeting residential mobility, neighbourhood selection, and the underlying motivations among migrant populations. Its distinctiveness lies not only in its dual focus on two major ethnic communities in Rome—Bangladeshi and Filipino migrants—but also in the richness and scope of the data collected. By integrating individual, household, and spatial dimensions, the survey provides rare and valuable empirical evidence. In doing so, it addresses a significant gap in migration and urban studies, offering a contextually grounded perspective on how individual and ecological factors interact in shaping the types of neighbourhoods' ethnic groups relocate to when they move in a Southern European metropolis.

The BanFil survey targeted Bangladeshi and Filipino migrants who were born in their countries of origin, were aged 20 years or older, and had lived in the municipality of Rome for at least 2 years. A total of 500 migrants were interviewed (250 face-to-face interviews in each community), using the centre sampling technique—a method involving the selection of a sample of individuals from aggregation centres and gathering places (such as: ethnic shops, service centres, places of worship, recreational venues, workplaces and association headquarters), estimating the inclusion probabilities of sample units on the basis of centre attendance profiles of interviewed units (Baio et al. 2011). This approach assumes that the researcher possesses information on several gathering sites that immigrants visit on a regular basis. The relative significance of each site, compared to a reference site, is then assessed in order to derive appropriate weights for individuals who share the same attendance pattern across the identified sites. Within the BanFil survey, respondents were selected according to quotas based on sex, age, length of residence in Rome and the macro-area in which they lived. Different quotas were used for the two communities based on the structure of their resident populations in Rome.

The structured questionnaire (in both Italian and English) gathered rich information on individual and household characteristics—such as sex, age, employment status, household type and perceived economic situation—as well as detailed data on housing trajectories. It also explored the motivations behind neighbourhood and housing choices, characteristics and levels of satisfaction with current and previous dwellings, and future housing intentions. Moreover, what makes this survey particularly valuable is its insights on 'self-reported main motivations for (re)location', typically absent from administrative sources and other surveys.[4]

The final sample consists of all individuals with no missing information at key variables used in the analyses, $n = 442$ (221 Bangladeshi and 221 Filipinos).

Descriptive statistics of the sample and outcomes are provided in Table 1A in the Appendix.

Before proceeding, some considerations regarding the data should be noted. Although the sample size is relatively modest, this reflects the challenges of collecting detailed survey data on hard-to-reach migrant populations. The survey was designed to approximate representativeness of the Bangladeshi and Filipino populations in Rome through the combined use of centre sampling, stratification, quota controls, and calibrated sampling weights, which are standard approaches for studying hard-to-reach migrant populations. In addition, the survey provides uniquely rich information on self-reported motivations for residential mobility, which is not available in administrative sources.

A key limitation of this study concerns its cross-sectional survey design. Both the main explanatory variable (the self-reported reason for relocation) and the outcome variables refer to the same relocation event. While some covariates, such as sex, age at relocation and neighbourhood income, are measured with reference to the time of relocation, others are observed at the time of the interview; moreover, information on pre-migration characteristics is unavailable. Consequently, the analysis should be interpreted as capturing associations between relocation motivations and residential outcomes, rather than causal effects or changes in residential trajectories over time.

4.2 | Methods

4.2.1 | *Descriptive Analyses*

To answer the first research question—regarding the comparison of the spatial patterns of intra-urban residential mobility of Bangladeshis and Filipinos in Rome in the 2000s—we used two complementary measures:

1. Location Quotients (LQ): LQs are used to measure situations of spatial inequality among the two ethnic communities. LQs are a widely known geographic index that allows identifying the local areas where a specific group is over- or under-represented compared to its average presence in the entire region (Benassi et al. 2022b). Although LQs do not directly measure the (multi-)ethnic composition of a neighbourhood, they provide a comprehensive view of the entire fabric of ethnic locations, including outliers that indicate spatial trends, thus portraying the concentration-evenness dimension of a group (Brown and Chung 2006). Over time, various approaches have been proposed to operationalise this indicator. We compute LQs based on the definition proposed by Apparicio et al. (2014). Specifically, the LQ can vary between 0 and infinity. We defined neighbourhoods with a high concentration of co-ethnics as those with LQ $\geq$ 2.00, indicating that the relative concentration of a given community is at least twice its share in the overall urban population. This threshold allows us to identify neighbourhoods where ethnic concentration is substantively above the urban average, capturing contexts in which co-ethnic presence is likely to be socially salient and relevant for residential decision-making. The analysis therefore focuses on qualitatively distinct settlement environments rather than on marginal variations in concentration levels.
2. Demographic Effectiveness of Migration (DEM): To analyse the changing spatial patterns of intra-urban residential mobility and their variations over time, we calculated the DEM, which is a summary statistic that describes the directionality of residential movements. It captures the net effect of residential moves within the city, calculated as the ratio of net migration to total migration for each subarea. Values close to 0 indicate balanced inflows and outflows, while values near +100 indicate that all relocations are gains, with no corresponding outflow observed, and near −100 indicate that only outflows from that district are observed (Shryock and Siegal 1976). To identify neighbourhoods where migration flows were not merely balanced but showed a clear net gain or loss of residents, we adopted an empirical threshold of ±15 for the DEM. This threshold was derived from the observed distribution of DEM values. The value of +15 approximately corresponds to the 75th percentile of positive DEM values, while −15 corresponds to the 25th percentile of negative DEM values, consistently with the approach used by Rogerson and Bagchi-Sen (2023) to define 'high effectiveness'. Both indicators were mapped to highlight local demographic asymmetries produced by the settlement patterns and intra-urban flows of Filipinos and Bangladeshis.[5] Moreover, since both indicators are sensitive to temporal shifts, we analysed them with reference to a 20-year period, focusing on 2001 and 2020 for LQ, and 2002–2004 and 2017–2019 for DEM.

4.2.2 | *Multivariable Analyses and Variables Description*

To address the second research question—identifying the characteristics associated with residence in high co-ethnic concentration areas—two separate logistic regression models were estimated, one for each community. The dependent variable, hereafter referred to as 'high co-ethnic concentration', is a binary indicator equal to 1 if the respondent resides in a neighbourhood with a high concentration of co-ethnics (defined as LQ $\geq$ 2.00), and 0 otherwise.

The independent variables included in the analysis capture individual, household, and neighbourhood-level characteristics, including its socioeconomic characteristics, particularly relevant in the Southern European setting considered in this study:

- Demographics: age (continuous variable), sex (women—*reference*, men), household type (couple with children—*reference*, single-person, couple without children, household without a family nucleus);
- Socioeconomic: employment status (permanently or temporarily employed with a regular contract—*reference*, employed with an irregular contract, self-employed, unemployed/inactive), perceived economic situation (excellent—*reference*, adequate, poor/insufficient);
- Residential history and context: number of residential moves within Rome (0—*reference*, 1, 2 +), duration of stay in Rome (less than 10 years—*reference*, 10+ years), type of housing arrangement (stable—*reference*, insecure),[6] income level of the neighbourhood (low/medium-low—*reference*, medium, medium-high/high).[7] Correlation analyses indicate a moderate association between neighbourhood

income and co-ethnic concentration, which remains below commonly accepted thresholds for multicollinearity concerns. At the same time, the two variables capture distinct dimensions of neighbourhood context. The former reflects the socioeconomic profile of the area, whereas the latter captures its ethnic composition, as measured through the location quotient.

To address the third aim—namely, the extent to which Bangladeshi and Filipino migrants differ in their likelihood of residing in neighbourhoods with a high concentration of co-ethnics—we estimated a logistic regression model using IPW. In this context, the IPW approach is adopted to adjust for compositional differences between the two communities in terms of observed sociodemographic characteristics, rather than to address selection bias in a strict causal sense. Propensity scores were estimated using a set of pre-treatment covariates (age, sex, education, household type, employment status and perceived economic situation), and were used to construct individual-level weights that balance the two groups on these observed characteristics, thereby approximating a comparison between otherwise similar Bangladeshi and Filipino migrants.

In the IPW-weighted logistic regression, the dependent variable is again 'high co-ethnic concentration', while the main independent variable is community of origin (Bangladeshi vs. Filipino). The model also includes the same set of controls used in the first analysis. Although not strictly required, including in the IPW-weighted logistic regression covariates that were also used to estimate the propensity scores follows a 'doubly robust' strategy, improving efficiency and ensuring consistent estimation if either the treatment or the outcome model is misspecified. Sensitivity analyses (available upon request) indicate that the results are robust to the inclusion or exclusion of these covariates in the outcome model.

Finally, to address the fourth aim—identifying motivations associated with (re)location into high-concentration co-ethnic neighbourhoods within each community—we estimated separate logistic regression models for Bangladeshi and Filipino migrants. In both models, the dependent variable is 'high co-ethnic concentration'. The main explanatory variable is the 'self-reported reason for relocation', derived from the survey question: *'What was the main reason for moving to your current neighbourhood?'* Respondents could select one of seven options: (1) 'housing costs are affordable', (2) 'do not know other neighbourhoods in Rome', (3) 'there is a good quality of life (good services, safety, environment, etc.)', (4) 'it was recommended by relatives or friends', (5) 'to be closer to relatives or friends', (6) 'for reasons related to study or work', and (7) 'other'. For analytical purposes, we grouped these responses into five categories: work (*reference category*, corresponding to response 6), economic (1), quality of life (3), ethnic attraction (4 and 5), other (2 and 7). As previously discussed, both the explanatory variable and the outcome refer to the same relocation event, therefore, the observed associations are descriptive and associative, and should not be interpreted as causal effects.

Independent variables include:

- age at relocation (continuous variable);
- sex (women—*reference*, men);
- average taxable individual income of the neighbourhood (low—*reference*, medium, high).

This disaggregated approach enables us to explore community-specific relocation dynamics and better capture motivations along distinct migratory trajectories.

All models were weighted using the survey weights provided in the dataset to account for the complex sampling design and ensure population-level representativeness.

We computed odds ratios from each model, and subsequently to enhance the readability and interpretability of results:

- For the first and third set of analyses, we computed average marginal effects (AME), which express the average changes in the probability scale (percentage points) of observing the outcome in the category of interest compared to the reference category, or for one-unit increase in continuous covariates.
- For the second set of analysis, we computed adjusted predicted probabilities of the outcome with confidence intervals centred on the predictions and with lengths equal to $2 \times 1.39 \times$ standard errors. This was necessary to obtain an average level of 5% for Type I errors in pairwise comparisons of a group of means (Goldstein and Healy 1995). Full models are provided in the Appendix (Tables 2A and 3A).

5 | Results

5.1 | Descriptive Results: Settlement Patterns and Intra-Urban Residential Mobility

Figure 3 illustrates Rome's neighbourhoods with over- or under-representation of Bangladeshi and Filipino migrants in 2001 and 2020.

Over the past two decades, the number of neighbourhoods with moderate concentrations of Bangladeshis (LQ between 1 and 2) has increased significantly. This shift has been accompanied by a decline in areas characterised by both under-representation ($LQ < 1$) and high over-representation of co-ethnics ($LQ > 2$). Meanwhile, the presence of Bangladeshis in the outer periphery, particularly beyond the GRA, has remained negligible. This suggests that their labour market integration model requires proximity to the city centre for both economic and social reasons. Accordingly, Bangladeshis register higher LQs in the historic centre (e.g., the multi-ethnic Esquilino neighbourhood), as well as in several working-class neighbourhoods in the eastern quadrant (Quadraro, Torpignattara and Don Bosco), where their settlement is often driven by family reunification and the formation of composite family units (Casacchia et al. 2021).

The spatial distribution of the Filipino population, similarly, reveals a pattern of dispersion toward neighbourhoods with moderate ethnic concentration. Between 2001 and 2020, the number of areas with intermediate LQ values (between 1 and 1.5) increased, while underrepresented neighbourhoods

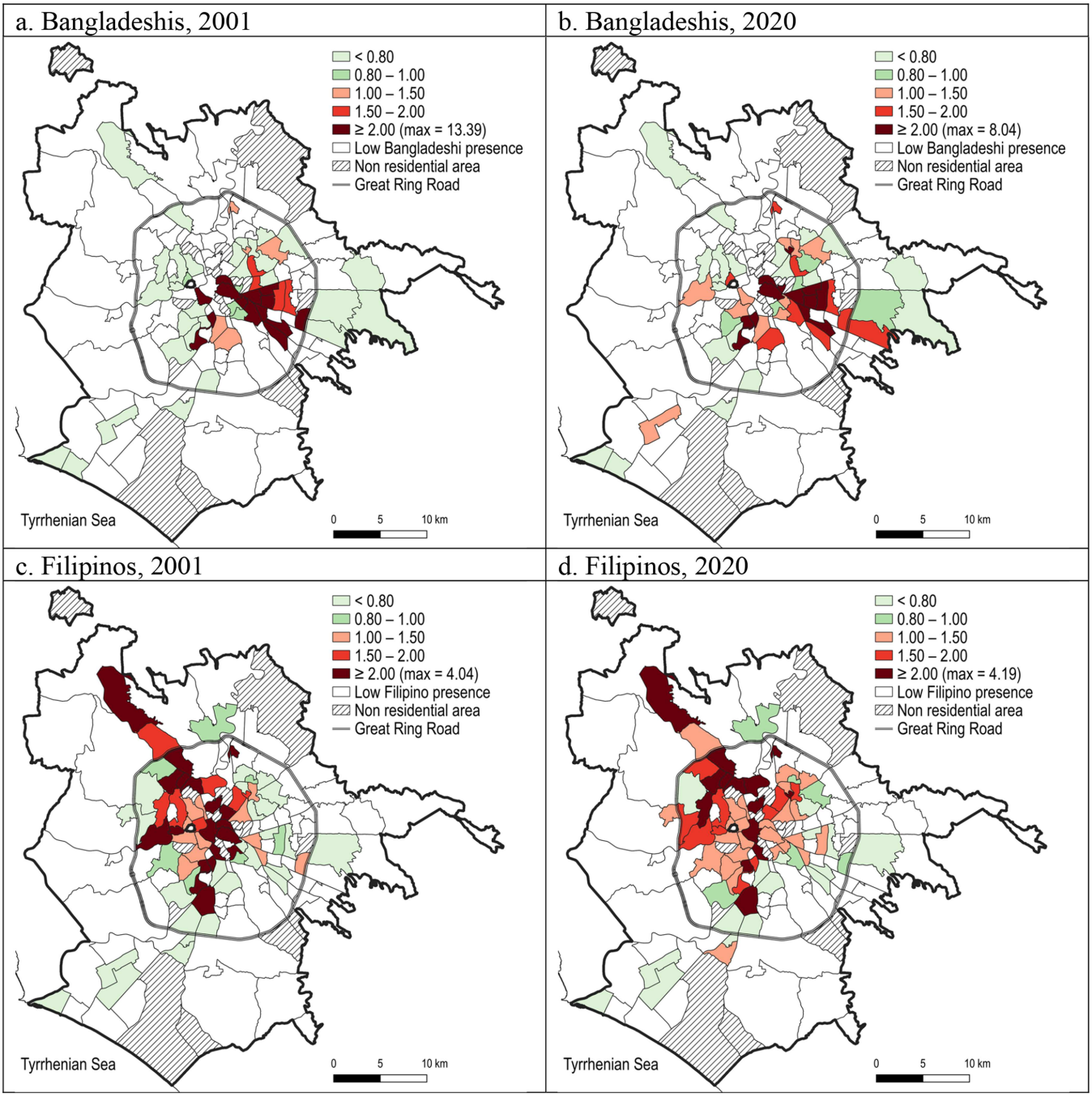

FIGURE 3 | Concentration of Bangladeshi and Filipino migrants in Rome's neighbourhoods. Location Quotients, 2001 and 2020. *Source:* Authors' elaboration on data from the Istat 2001 census data and *Anagrafe* of Rome.

declined. In parallel, neighbourhoods with high concentrations in the city centre show a slight decrease, reflecting a reduced overrepresentation of Filipinos in parts of the historic centre and historic districts (Esquilino, XX Settembre, Salario, Appio). Nevertheless, high concentrations persist in wealthy residential neighbourhoods (Centro Storico, Aventino), in central-northern districts such as Parioli and Farnesina, where many Filipino women are employed in care and domestic work and cohabit with Italian households, and in north-western neighbourhoods beyond the GRA. Elevated concentrations are also observed in affluent southern districts (e.g., EUR), as well as in lower-middle-income semi-central neighbourhoods (Marconi and Primavalle). In contrast, Filipinos remain significantly underrepresented in the eastern quadrant of the city, where the poorest neighbourhoods are located.

The maps in Figure 4 highlight the neighbourhoods that have gained (positive DEM values) or lost (negative DEM values) Filipino and Bangladeshi residents due to intra-urban residential mobility during the periods 2002–2004 and 2017–2019.

As for the Bangladeshi community, during the 2002–2004 period, the DEM was positive in neighbourhoods predominantly located in the eastern and southwestern periphery of the city, even outside the GRA, often where the concentration of co-ethnics was relatively low. Importantly, a large part of highly

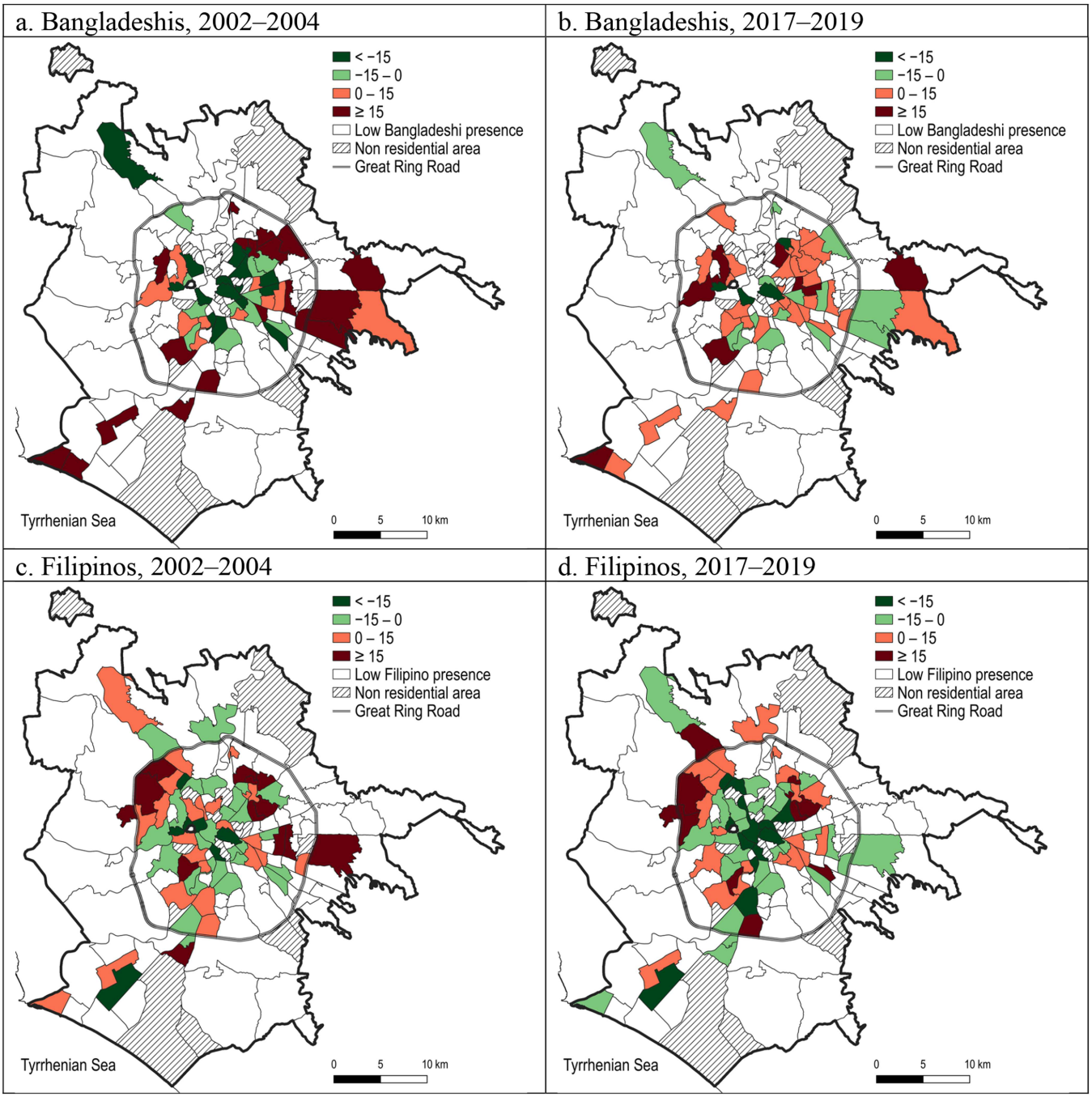

FIGURE 4 | Residential moves of Bangladeshi and Filipino migrants between Rome's neighbourhoods. Demographic Effectiveness of Migration, 2002–2004 and 2017–2019. *Source:* Authors' elaboration on data from the *Anagrafe* of Rome.

attractive neighbourhoods (DEM ≥ 15) had low-to-medium average income. In contrast, most neighbourhoods with a strongly negative DEM (< − 15) were concentrated in the urban core, often characterised by upper-middle income levels, and a significant overrepresentation of Bangladeshi residents (mainly in the Esquilino area). Between 2017 and 2019, neighbourhoods with very positive and very negative DEM values decreased in areas within the urban core and south-eastern periphery (such as Casal Bertone and Ostia Nord), characterised by modest economic conditions and a relatively low presence of both Bangladeshi nationals and other foreign residents—suggesting early signs of spatial assimilation within the Bangladeshi community.

In the case of the Filipino community, during the 2002–2004 period, peripheral neighbourhoods across all quadrants of the city saw the largest gains. These areas were marked by a relatively high presence of foreign residents rather than co-nationals, and by medium- to low-income levels (e.g., Santa Maria della Pietà, Torre Angela, and Casalotti). Conversely, the greatest outflows of Filipino residents were primarily from affluent central neighbourhoods (Trastevere, Centro Storico). During the 2017–2019 period, attractive neighbourhoods became increasingly concentrated in the north-western (e.g., Giustiniana, Santa Maria della Pietà) and north-eastern quadrants (e.g., Tufello). In contrast, neighbourhoods that once were attractive—mainly in the eastern periphery or close to the

GRA—experienced a decline, in some cases shifting to negative values (e.g., Alessandrino, Torre Angela). Overall, neighbourhoods that are attractive to Filipino residents continue to be characterised by a diversified presence of foreign nationals, a medium-to-low concentration of co-nationals, and relatively favourable socioeconomic conditions.

5.2 | Multivariable Results

5.2.1 | Characteristics of Bangladeshi and Filipino Residents in Co-Ethnic Areas

Table 1 reports the AME of the characteristics of residents in co-ethnic areas, separately by community. Among Bangladeshis, couples without children are nearly 31 percentage points (pp) less likely to reside in such areas compared to families with children. By contrast, self-employed individuals (+20.2 pp) and those unemployed or inactive (+17.9 pp) are more likely to live in co-ethnic areas than those employed on regular temporary or permanent contracts. Perceptions of economic situation also play a role: Bangladeshis who rate their economic situation as adequate are 24.5 pp more likely to live in co-ethnic areas compared to those who consider it excellent. Residential mobility and neighbourhood socioeconomic context also matter: those who have moved within Rome more than twice are 22.9 pp less likely to live in co-ethnic areas than one-time movers, and residence in a medium-income neighbourhood is associated with a 51.6 pp lower likelihood of living in co-ethnic areas compared to low/medium-low-income areas, reflecting the strong link between socioeconomic position and access to housing in contexts where housing opportunities are unevenly distributed.

Among Filipinos, most characteristics are not associated with significant differences in the likelihood of residing in co-ethnic areas. The two exceptions are employment status and neighbourhood income. With respect to employment, irregularly employed individuals are 14.2 pp less likely to live in co-ethnic

TABLE 1 | Average marginal effects of co-ethnic residential concentration by community, separately.

	Bangladeshi AME	*p* value	Filipino AME	*p* value
Age	−0.003	0.473	−0.003	0.198
Sex (ref. W)				
M	0.060	0.447	0.073	0.211
Household type (ref. Couple with children)				
Single-person	0.166	0.119	0.031	0.789
Couple without children	−0.308	0.007	0.060	0.550
Household without a family nucleus	−0.103	0.229	−0.068	0.343
Employment status (ref. Reg. Temp/Perm)				
Irregularly employed	0.028	0.781	−0.142	0.098
Self-employed	0.202	0.004	0.001	0.998
Unemployed/Inactive	0.179	0.021	0.056	0.638
Perceived economic situation (ref. Excellent)				
Adequate	0.245	0.006	0.041	0.633
Poor/Insufficient	−0.080	0.187	0.006	0.962
N. of residential moves in Rome (ref. 0)				
1	−0.086	0.179	−0.138	0.173
2+	−0.229	0.001	−0.126	0.194
Duration of stay in Rome (ref. < 10)				
10+	0.055	0.390	0.023	0.782
Average income of the neighbourhood (ref. Low/Medium-Low)				
Medium	−0.516	0.000	0.009	0.882
Medium-High/High	0.093	0.277	0.244	0.006
Type of housing arrangement (ref. Stable)				
Insecure	0.075	0.340	0.138	0.197
Total of observations (unweighted)	*221*		*221*	
Wald χ^2	*55.33*		*26.14*	
p-value	*< 0.001*		*0.036*	
Pseudo R2	*0.35*		*0.12*	

Note: Models are weighted using the survey sample weights.
Source: Authors' elaboration on BanFil survey data.

areas compared to those employed on regular temporary or permanent contracts. Regarding neighbourhood income, residence in a medium-high/high-income area is associated with a 24.4 pp higher likelihood of living in co-ethnic areas compared to low/medium-low-income areas, pointing to a different relationship between co-ethnic concentration and neighbourhood socioeconomic context.

5.2.2 | Settlement in Co-Ethnic Areas: Bangladeshi Versus Filipino

Table 2 presents the results of the IPW logistic regression model estimating the likelihood of residing in a neighbourhood with a high concentration of co-ethnics. It should be noted that the IPW adjustment accounts only for observed compositional differences, and results should not be interpreted as causal effects of community origin.

Findings indicate that Bangladeshi migrants are 23.4 pp more likely than Filipinos to live in co-ethnic dense areas. This difference remains evident after reweighting the sample to balance the two groups on observed sociodemographic characteristics. None of the individual-level covariates used for weighting—age, sex, household type, employment status, or perceived economic situation—reach statistical significance, as expected given the IPW procedure. In contrast, indicators of residential history and local context show significant associations: migrants who had moved once or more within Rome are less likely to live in co-ethnic dense zones (−20.6 pp for two moves; −22.9 pp for three or more moves). Similarly, the income profile of the neighbourhood matters. Compared to residing in low/medium-low-income areas, residing in medium-income areas is associated with a lower likelihood of living in a co-ethnic neighbourhood (−23.6 pp), highlighting the role of neighbourhood socioeconomic structure in shaping residential opportunities.

TABLE 2 | Average marginal effect from IPW-weighted logistic regression predicting residence in a neighbourhood with a high concentration of co-ethnics.

	AME	*p* value
Community (ref. Filipino)		
Bangladeshi	0.234	0.000
Age	−0.002	0.699
Sex (ref. W)		
M	−0.036	0.517
Household type (ref. Couple with children)		
Single-person	0.111	0.410
Couple without children	−0.135	0.077
Household without a family nucleus	−0.065	0.286
Employment status (ref. Reg. Temp/Perm)		
Irregularly employed	−0.076	0.263
Self-employed	−0.040	0.626
Unemployed/Inactive	0.041	0.644
Perceived economic situation (ref. Excellent)		
Adequate	0.106	0.161
Poor/Insufficient	0.037	0.653
N. of residential moves in Rome (ref. 1)		
2	−0.206	0.005
3+	−0.229	0.000
Duration of stay in Rome (ref. < 10)		
10+	0.001	0.990
Average income of the neighbourhood (ref. Low/Medium-Low)		
Medium	−0.236	0.000
Medium-High/High	0.155	0.159
Type of housing arrangement (ref. Stable)		
Insecure	0.048	0.454
Total of observations (unweighted)	*442*	
Wald χ^2	*67.87*	
p-value	*< 0.001*	
Pseudo R2	*0.25*	

Note: The model is weighted using the survey sample weights.
Source: Authors' elaboration on BanFil survey data.

5.2.3 | *Motivations of Intra-Urban Residential Mobility*

Figure 5 presents the adjusted predicted probabilities from logistic regression models estimated separately for Bangladeshi and Filipino migrants, showing how self-reported motivations for (re)location relate to the likelihood of residing in a co-ethnic dense neighbourhood. As already explained in Section 4.2-2, since motivations and neighbourhood choice refer to the same relocation event, these patterns should be interpreted descriptively rather than causally.

Among Bangladeshi migrants, the reason most strongly associated with relocation to a co-ethnic area is ethnic attraction (65.4%), followed by life quality (54.3%), working (41.1%), and economic reasons (37.4%) (Figure 5a).

By contrast, among Filipino migrants, working is the main motivation to relocate to a co-ethnic area (33.7%), followed by life quality (31.4%), while ethnic attraction and economic reasons are less common (20.4% and 13.3%, respectively). This suggests that co-ethnic clustering among Filipinos may be shaped more by employment and economic priorities than by ethnic preference (Figure 5b). Taken together, these results point to diverging patterns of relocations across the two communities. Among Bangladeshi migrants, the prominence of ethnic attraction highlights the central role of co-ethnic networks in shaping residential choices, consistent with forms of network-based access to housing and support, particularly relevant in contexts where formal housing channels are limited. Among Filipinos, by contrast, residential choices appear more closely tied to employment-linked arrangements, reflecting their established position within Italy's welfare system (Crisci et al. 2025a).

6 | Discussion and Conclusions

By combining detailed survey data with population register records, this study analyses residential patterns and (re)location motivations among two major migrant communities in Rome, Bangladeshi and Filipinos, highlighting how sociodemographic characteristics, community origin, and neighbourhood context shape settlement choices.

Descriptive results show that both communities exhibited spatial dispersion in the 2000s, moving toward neighbourhoods with moderate ethnic concentrations. Bangladeshis mainly relocated to low-to-middle-income neighbourhoods across the city, remaining strongly clustered in eastern working-class areas. Filipinos, in contrast, are more evenly distributed, moving from central, affluent neighbourhoods with high co-ethnic presence toward low-income areas, while largely remaining along the city's well-off north–south corridor. Such spatial dispersion aligns with the literature linking reduced co-ethnic concentration to life-course transitions and labour market integration (Zorlu and Mulder 2008; Kulu and González-Ferrer 2014). For Filipinos in Rome, it also reflects a shift away from live-in domestic work arrangements with Italian families in wealthy households toward greater residential and economic autonomy in low-income neighbourhoods, often associated with family reunification (Crisci et al. 2025a).

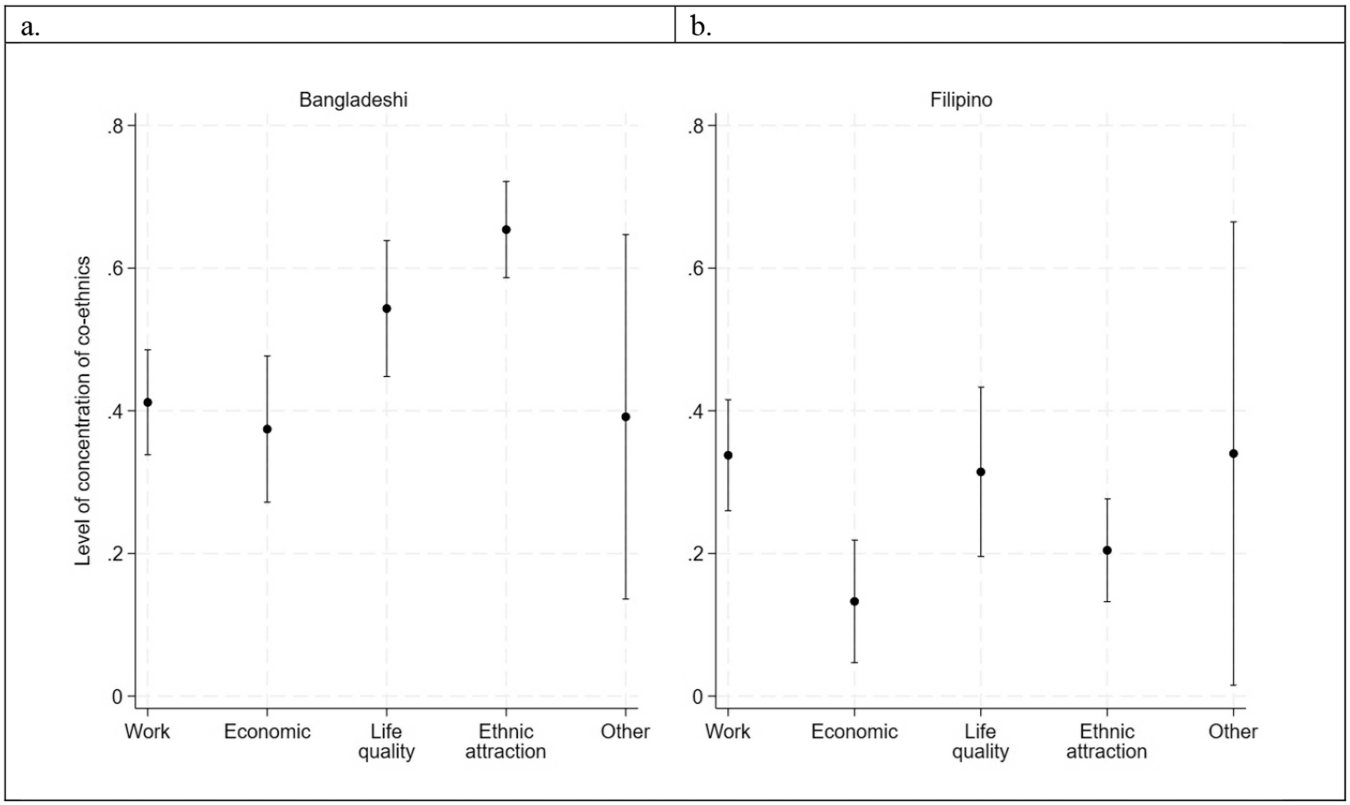

FIGURE 5 | Adjusted predicted probabilities of relocating to a high co-ethnic area by motivation for Bangladeshi and Filipino migrants. *Note:* Models are weighted using the survey sample weights and control for age at relocation, sex and neighbourhood income. Full models are provided in the Appendix (Tables 2A and 3A). 83.5% CI. *Source:* Authors' elaboration on BanFil data.

Survey results reveal contrasting patterns of residence in highly co-ethnic neighbourhoods across the two groups. For Bangladeshi migrants, family composition, employment status, perceived economic situation, and residential mobility significantly shape co-ethnic residence. Couples with children, the self-employed, and those with weaker labour market attachment are more likely to live in co-ethnic areas, consistent with the *ethnic enclave hypothesis* and previous evidence linking economic marginality to co-ethnic concentration in Southern Europe (Arapoglou and Maloutas 2011; Arbaci 2019). Conversely, the likelihood of residing in such neighbourhoods decreases with multiple residential moves and longer residence in Rome, in line with *spatial assimilation* processes (Bolt and van Kempen 2010; Silvestre and Reher 2014), although repeated relocations may also reflect housing instability or constrained choices rather than voluntary integration into more diverse areas (Gambaro et al. 2017).

For Filipino migrants, most sociodemographic characteristics show limited explanatory power, pointing to the relevance of more specific mechanisms such as live-in employment arrangements, occupational niches, and employer-based networks in shaping settlement patterns. The few significant associations—lower clustering among irregularly employed migrants and higher clustering in high-income neighbourhoods—suggest that co-ethnic concentration is less related to socioeconomic marginality and more closely tied to employment opportunities, particularly in domestic and elder-care work within middle- and upper-class households (Mingione 2009; Crisci et al. 2025a). Notably, 'high co-ethnic concentration' in these areas reflects small, localised clusters rather than large ethnic enclaves, often linked to live-in employment arrangements.

These differences highlight the role of the institutional and housing context of Southern European cities (King 2000; Allen et al. 2004). In settings where access to housing is largely mediated by informal networks and labour market insertion, co-ethnic concentration may reflect distinct underlying mechanisms: a response to structural constraints in the case of Bangladeshi migrants, and a by-product of employment-based residential arrangements in the case of Filipinos. In the Italian context, characterised by demographic ageing and a familistic welfare system under pressure from increasing demand for care (Ferrera 1996), Filipinos have consolidated a central role in domestic and elder-care work, reinforcing patterns of employment-linked residential positioning rooted in their long-standing occupational specialisation (Lindio-McGovern 2003).

When the two communities are compared directly, the community of origin remains a strong predictor of residence in co-ethnic dense areas. After accounting for observed sociodemographic differences via IPW, Bangladeshis are more likely than Filipinos to reside in such neighbourhoods. This contrast suggests that co-ethnic concentration may function both as a support mechanism and as a response to structural constraints for Bangladeshis, whereas for Filipinos, it appears less developed and more closely tied to labour market opportunities.

The analysis of (re)location motivations reinforces this distinction. As noted above, these associations are descriptive rather than causal. For Bangladeshis, ethnic attraction, particularly proximity to relatives and friends is the main driver of neighbourhood choice, followed by quality-of-life considerations, especially good services and a sense of security, while economic and work-related motivations play a more limited role. This pattern is consistent with the ethnic enclave model (Logan et al. 2002), where high residential concentration reflects deliberate strategies to maximise the opportunities of co-ethnic networks, and is further linked to the strong occupational positioning of Bangladeshis in small trade and commercial activities (Piazzoni 2021), characteristic of the so-called ethnic enclave economy (Light 1994).

For Filipinos, by contrast, ethnic attraction is relatively marginal, while work-related motivations dominate, followed by quality-of- life. This confirms the central role of employment, especially in domestic and care work—mainly within affluent Italian households—in shaping residential mobility, supporting the idea of an *employment-driven residential mobility* (Crisci et al. 2025a), in which spatial and labour market dimensions are closely intertwined.

Overall, these findings underscore that residential mobility is shaped by both micro-level individual and family attitudes and preferences, and macro-structural and institutional factors specific to the spatial context (Coulter 2023). Urban settings present distinct characteristics and limitations that immigrant groups must navigate, using their own skills and resources. In Rome, features typical of Southern European housing and welfare systems play a key role in shaping settlement and mobility patterns. The residual nature of the rental market—exacerbated by the spread of short-term tourist rentals—and the scarcity of public housing restrict affordable housing options (Crisci et al. 2025b), particularly affecting Bangladeshis, who often live in overcrowded shared housing arrangements (Priori 2017). Meanwhile, the crisis of the Italian familistic welfare model, linked to the Second Demographic Transition, has created opportunities for Filipinos to specialise in domestic and care work, supporting labour market integration while also raising the risk of occupational entrapment in low-skilled jobs (Avola and Piccitto 2020).

Overall, the study shows that similar levels of co-ethnic concentration may reflect different underlying mechanisms across migrant groups within Southern European urban contexts, ranging from responses to structural constraints and reliance on co-ethnic networks to employment-based residential arrangements linked to specific labour market niches. These findings highlight the importance of differentiating between communities with distinct migration histories and labour market profiles: Bangladeshis, whose migration history is more recent, exemplify enclave consolidation, continuing to rely on family and co-ethnic networks for housing access and support. Filipinos, by contrast, have a longer-established presence and display more dispersed settlement patterns, shaped by employment niches within the host society. The decline of high residential concentration in the city centre observed between 2001 and 2020 may also reflect the transition towards more stable housing conditions following earlier phases of temporariness and residential instability, such as fictitious residence registrations by third sector associations in the case of Bangladeshis or live-in employment arrangements with affluent Italian families in the case of Filipinos. While the analysis focuses on two specific migrant groups in Rome, the

results point to broader mechanisms through which housing systems, welfare regimes and labour market structures shape intra-urban mobility and settlement patterns in Southern European cities (Malheiros 2002; Arapoglou and Maloutas 2011; Silvestre and Reher 2014; Arbaci 2019).

However, some limitations should be acknowledged. As discussed in Section 4.1, the cross-sectional nature of the survey and the alignment between motivations and residential outcomes restrict the possibility of causal interpretation and of tracking changes over time. In addition, the focus on two specific migrant communities in Rome calls for caution in generalising the results. While the findings highlight broader mechanisms linking housing systems, labour market structures, and residential mobility, further research is needed to assess the extent to which these patterns apply to other migrant groups and urban contexts.

Despite these caveats, the study yields relevant insights for both research and policy. Rather than simply reflecting group-specific preferences, patterns of co-ethnic concentration emerge from the interplay between migrant resources and structurally constrained housing opportunities. This suggests that integration policies should move beyond one-size-fits-all approaches and address the specific constraints and opportunities shaping different groups' residential pathways. However, policies aimed solely at residential desegregation and social mix have long been debated in terms of their effectiveness (Bolt et al. 2010). Broader inclusion policies, particularly those related to citizenship, may prove more effective by strengthening migrants' ties with the host country and expanding access to educational and employment opportunities (Musterd et al. 2017).

More broadly, the findings highlight how individual mobility trajectories intersect with ongoing socioeconomic transformations in Southern European cities. In contexts such as Rome, where the housing market is segmented and increasingly constrained by rising costs, limited access to affordable rental housing, re-urbanisation pressures, and the expansion of short-term rentals (Celata and Romano 2022; Crisci 2022), access to housing emerges as a key factor shaping immigrant settlement patterns. Recent evidence shows that the repopulation of Rome's more affluent neighbourhoods is driven exclusively by Italians, whereas many less affluent neighbourhoods are being abandoned by Italians and repopulated by foreigners (Crisci et al. 2024). These dynamics contribute to the reproduction of differentiated residential outcomes across groups and underscore the need for a stronger integration of housing and labour market policies to address urban inequality.

The combined use of population register and survey data in this study highlights the value of integrated information systems for understanding patterns of mobility, segregation, and urban vulnerability. These systems can provide a robust evidence base for policy design and intervention at the municipal and metropolitan scales.

Acknowledgements

This work was supported by the Cariplo Foundation (project 'METROmosaic. Patterns, drivers, and outcomes of residential (im)mobility in the urban regions of Milan and Rome: sociodemographic transformations and challenges for local cohesion', ID: 2021-1690). Open access publishing facilitated by Consiglio Nazionale delle Ricerche, as part of the Wiley - CRUI-CARE agreement.

Conflicts of Interest

The authors declare no conflicts of interest.

Data Availability Statement

The data that support the findings of this study are not openly available due to a confidentiality agreement signed with the Municipality of Rome.

Endnotes

[1] At the beginning of the 2000s, immigrants in Rome could register in the Anagrafe (the Italian population register) using, as 'dummy' place of residence, the address of associations located in the city centre providing them with shelter and assistance (Crisci 2010). This practice particularly concerned Bangladeshis and enabled immigrants who were homeless, lacking a fixed address or living in accommodation without a formal rental contract, to obtain identity documents and access to social and healthcare services. In recent years, these practices have no longer been tolerated by the Municipality of Rome, and official virtual addresses have been introduced for homeless individuals. This may partly explain the apparent concentration of Bangladeshis in the city centre observed in earlier data.

[2] In Italy, a long-term residence permit is an open-ended residence title granted after 5 years of uninterrupted legal residence.

[3] In both the stock and flow data, information on country of birth was unavailable. Consequently, citizenship was employed as a proxy for migrant background. Although this variable allows for a basic distinction between ethnic groups, it has well-documented limitations—most notably, it does not capture individuals who acquired Italian citizenship prior to or during the study period. However, this operational choice is consistent with methodologies adopted in numerous studies conducted in Southern European contexts (Bayona-i-Carrasco et al. 2018; Maloutas and Karadimitriou 2022; Consolazio et al. 2023; Rimoldi et al. 2024; Crisci et al. 2025a; Crisci et al. 2025b).

[4] The interviewees moved into their current neighbourhoods at different times, in a range spanning from 1987 to 2022: specifically, 76.6% moved into their current residence after 2010, and only 3.2% did so before 2000. It should be noted that more than a quarter of the interviewees have never moved within the Rome area, meaning they still live in the first residence they settled in when they arrived in Rome. 41% of the Bangladeshi interviewees have never moved, compared to 18% of the Filipinos. This difference is consistent with the more recent arrival of many Bangladeshi immigrants in Rome and the settlement patterns of the two groups. Moreover, the survey data have the limitation of not capturing key pre-relocation characteristics—such as education, employment, or the household composition at the time of the move—that likely shape decision-making processes.

[5] To facilitate the interpretation of maps, neighbourhoods with very few Bangladeshi or Filipino residents were excluded from the descriptive analysis. Specifically, these were defined as urban zones falling within the bottom 10% of the distribution when ranked by the number of residents from each group. Based on this criterion, 99 neighbourhoods were excluded for the Bangladeshi community and 85 for the Filipino community, out of a total of 155 districts.

[6] We considered as stable housing arrangements in which respondents lived in: 'an apartment' or 'a detached house/single-family home'. While, we classified as insecure, the arrangements in which respondents lived in: 'a rented room', 'a rented bed in a shared room', 'a religious facility', 'staying with friends or relatives' or 'an accommodation provided by the employer'.

[7] As mentioned at the beginning of this Section, the data on average individual income in Rome refer to the year 2022—the same year the survey was conducted—under the assumption that the socio-economic structure of the city had not changed significantly over time. In the models, we reaggregated the first two and last two categories from the classification shown in Figure 1, while keeping the central mode separate.

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Supporting Information

Additional supporting information can be found online in the Supporting Information section.
Supporting File: psp70320-sup-0001-Appendix_Tables_PSP_rev.docx.