International Migration: A Global Overview

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Why is International Migration so important?

- Because we have been doing it since Lucy
  “Mother of man – 3.2 million years ago”, BBC Science & Nature
- Because international migration responds to the changes in political power and economic power
  The 13th Century (1417-1433) the Chinese admiral Zheng He visited East Africa
  In the 21st century the Chinese are back in Africa as the continent’s largest trade partner
- Because individual immigrants can make a dramatic contribution in their destination country to international migration
  Gandhi migrated from South Africa to India to lead the movement for Indian independence in 1947; the Partition into separate states, India and Pakistan, resulted in ~14.5 million refugee migrants between the new countries
- Because people are embedded in families of different national origins
  Rees family: my wife, an immigrant from the USA, my daughter, an immigrant to Germany, my daughter-in-law, an immigrant from Thailand
Nikola Sander has shown us how knowledge of international migration can be advanced through innovation in the measurement of flows from stocks and through innovative and interactive circular plots highlighting the key exchanges.

To understand those flows we need to look at the reasons for them.

- Internal or international conflict creates flows of refugees and asylum seekers.
- Poor economic opportunities in origin countries and rich economic opportunities in destination countries create labour migration.
- Accompanying or following international labour migrants are their families and together they contribute to population growth at the destination.
- The labour market is partitioned in terms of skill levels.
- People also migrate across borders to gain those skills as international students.
- The flows between origins and destinations are influenced by the channels available, by the costs of migration, by the barriers put in place by national governments and the supports provided by international organizations.
Boat People

‘The Royal Navy has saved my life’: a rescued migrant thanks the Marines

The Independent
Monday 6 June 2015, p.13

“In its busiest day in the Mediterranean, HMS ‘Bulwark’ picks up more than 1,000 refugees”, Larissa Brown sees it happen
What did the sketch map miss?

- Nikola Sander has kindly prepared the following circular plot which shows the flows into the labour market system absorbing foci.
- The plot shows all country to country flows above 170,000 in size, for 2005-10, 39 out of 196×196=38,416 flows or 0.1% (1 in 1000).
- The map misses the very important trans-Oceanic flows into the United States, from India, China and the Philippines. These are the elite flows of post-grads, post-docs, engineers, IT whizz kinds, scientists, finance managers who are re-shaping the world system.
- Thanks, Nikola.
- **Labour migration strata**
  - The elite
  - The squeezed middle
  - The poor

- **The role of the demographic transition in international migration**
  - Surplus labour in developing countries
  - Labour shortages in developed countries

- **Views about immigration**
  - The employers’ view
  - The native workers’ view
  - The politicians’ views
Recent Government views about immigration to the UK

- The Prime Minister, David Cameron 2010: “the Coalition Government will reduce net immigration per annum to the tens of thousands (≈ Less than 100,000 persons)”

- Annual net immigration figures for the period of the Coalition government
  - 2010 256,000
  - 2011 205,000 (look at the success of our policies)
  - 2012 177,000 (look at the further success of our policies)
  - 2013 209,000 (we are going to ignore these figures)
  - 2014 318,000 (we are definitely not going to mention these in the election campaign)

- The Conservative Government Policy after the General Election on May 2015
  - “We will reduce net immigration per annum to the tens of thousands (≡ Less than 100,000 persons)”
Student international migration

- Flows of students to acquire University qualifications has been increasing radically over the past couple of decades.

- The important flows come from emerging economies (e.g. China, India, Thailand, Mexico, Brazil) to developed economies who teach in English (Anglo-phone and Other countries) and to France and Belgium from Francophone countries.

- The flows from poorer countries depend on developed country scholarships or support from the destination institutions.

- The market is extremely competitive. For example, the BBC online reported on 3 June 2015 on “How US students get a university degree for free in Germany”. Germany wants to get these students to stay, fill a growing skills gaps and settle down and have children.

- In the UK attitudes are not as favourable, despite the English language advantage and some commentators accuse University academics who support immigration of inappropriate vested interests. This view has been deprecated by UK academics.
International migration and the demographic transitions

- Coleman’s Third Demographic transition/Willekens’ Migration Transition
  - Developed countries in the Second Demographic Transition are experiencing population ageing, labour force age populations are falling or will soon
  - Developing countries still proceeding through the First Demographic Transition have large young adult populations without jobs to sustain them
  - International immigration helps both destination and origin economies

- Replacement migration
  - The UN Population Division has studied what it would take for immigrants to replace the missing babies. Demographers (e.g. Kupiszewski) have shown that the flows for replacement are so large as to be politically and socially unacceptable.
  - When Bongaarts and Bulateo in 1999 measured the impact of component assumptions on future population growth in the Global South and Global North, they relegated international migration to a miniscule role.
  - However, Rees, Wohland and Norman in 2013 found that immigration assumptions were extremely important the growth of the UK population.

- What happens when immigrants settle in a destination country?
  - We look at this process in the next three slides
Projected ethnic group population change, 2001-2051, United Kingdom

- Other Ethnic
- White & Black African, Other Mixed
- White Other
- White & Asian
- Chinese
- Black African
- White & Black Caribbean, Other Asian
- Pakistani
- Other Black
- Indian, Bangladeshi
- Black Caribbean
- White Irish
- White British
Increasing diversity and pluralism in UK Local Authority Districts

Simpson (2015) has extrapolated 2001-2011 change in ethnic group shares for LADs in England, showing the increase in diversity through different indicators.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Reciprocal Diversity index</th>
<th>Number of plural local authority districts</th>
<th>At least two groups have more than 5% of the population</th>
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<tbody>
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<td>Average local authority</td>
<td>Maximum</td>
<td>No group has half the population, but White British is the largest group</td>
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Note: 348 local authority districts of England and Wales.

Projected spread of ethnic diversity across England

Index of Diversity = 1 - ∑r_e^2 where r_e = proportion of the population in ethnic group e

What we see here is a new **Fourth Demographic Transition**. The diffusion of immigrant origin communities to locations outside their original ports of entry. For the US this has been brilliantly documented by Bill Frey in his 2015 book *The Diversity Explosion*. 
A personal view about international migration

- There is a conflict inherent in the process between Human Rights and Nation-State Rights. We should value the former much more than the latter.
- International migration contributes to destination countries (valuable labour) and to origin countries (remittances).
- International migration facilitates good international relations and trade.
- International student migration helps in the process of transferring knowledge and skills to origin countries and, for those who stay at the destination, enhances their capacities for scientific and social innovation.
- We should retreat from our current negative views of international migration and try to re-kindled the spirit of reconstruction and reconciliation which helped Europe recover after the Second World War.
“The dynamic diversity of our history should give us courage”
Yasmin Alibhai-Brown
The Independent
Monday 8 June 2015