

Overview of the book's findings

Tony Champion

Paper presented at BSPS/PGRG meeting 'Is internal migration slowing down?', London School of Economics and Political Science, 11 January 2018

- Central question: Is the

Findings from IMAGE

- The Internal Migration Around the GlobE project has collected datasets for 179 of the 193 UN member states, with time series for 66 (mainly census based)
- Cross sectional analysis of countries at ca year 2000 confirms strong relationship between overall address changing rates and development stage (e.g. HDI, GNP)
- But trends in migration intensity over time (2000-2010) are very mixed for inter regional migration: rather even split between 'fall', 'rise' and 'stable' (= change of <5%), across both Developed and Developing World countries
- Picture clearer for 19 Developed World countries with data on all moves rate for 2000 and 2010 rounds: fall 10, stable 8, and rise only one. BUT Great Recession impact on pre 2010 rates cf 2000 predating dotcom bust?

- Country case studies provide more detail on different types of migration including annual series, as well as more info on the long-term national context and drivers
- The seven countries cover much of the variety across the Developed World in terms of size, density, % urban, GDP/cap, model of capitalism, GINI, HDI, migration rate
- As regards inter-region migration, the long-term picture is of rates rising in 1960s, declining in 1970s, relatively stable in 1980s, and falling or bottoming-out in 1990s
- For 2000-2010 the overall pattern is of convergence, with big falls in highest-rate USA & Australia and some rebound in lowest-rate Italy, but stable for medium-high Sweden & UK, falling for medium-low Germany & Japan
- As regards local residential mobility, the dominant trend is now of falling rates, but Sweden stable and Italy rising

Country-by-country synopsis

(ca-2011 one-year migration rate ranking out of 45 countries)

USA (6th) and Australia (7th): falls in internal migration rates across all spatial scales, seeming to evolve from footloose 'settler societies' towards the norm of other countries

Sweden (8th): traditionally a high-migration country by Old World standards and currently with no sign of falling rates at any spatial scale

UK (13th): a medium/high-migration country in European context and staying this way, except for a decline in local moving

Germany (15th): quite low rates that have remained fairly stable in recent years except higher around reunification in 1990

Japan (22nd): continuing its long-term decline in rates despite being low rate since the 1970s

Italy (29th): rates became very low after the 1960s but seem to have bottomed out in 1980s and are now tending to rise





Towards theory?

At a higher conceptual level:

- How much of a role is there now for 'grand narratives' (e.g. Zelinsky's mobility transition hypothesis, Fielding's 3-level temporal model, the New Mobilities Paradigm)?
- How strong are 'period effects' that may have global reach irrespective of individual country's development stage (e.g. Great Recession, new ICT)?
- Can such 'general' explanations be trumped by national distinctiveness (e.g. in size, settlement pattern, culture, governance) or are the latter just variations on a theme?

These are some of the questions that Chapter 14 of the book addresses before setting out a research agenda, but for today they provide a context for the 3 country case studies, 2 papers and final discussion session.

