Migration

Strand organisers: Aude Bernard (The University of Queensland) and Francisco Rowe (University of Liverpool)

Immigration, health, neighbourhoods, housing and family session organisers: Mary Abed Al Ahad and Andrew Ibbetson (University of St Andrews)

13:30 - 15:00 Monday 9 September: Migration 1: Patterns and trends

Projecting migrant family life-courses in Britain
Andrew Ibbetson, Hill Kulu, Julia Mikolai - University of St Andrews

There is large literature to investigate family dynamics among immigrants and their descendants in the UK. Previous research reports large heterogeneity in partnership and fertility patterns among immigrants to the UK, which persist among the descendants of migrants. Individuals from other European countries cohabit prior to marriage and their fertility levels in unions are often similar to those of ancestral natives. In contrast, South Asians in the UK exhibit marriage-centred family behaviour with low separation levels and elevated third-birth rates. Individuals of Caribbean origin display higher levels of non-marital family transitions.

We project family life-courses of the descendants of immigrants in the UK by developing a microsimulation model. This model uses data from the 2011 census and transition rates from our previous research. We estimate that the proportion of minority population aged under 50 will increase. We observe large increases in numbers across all minority groups. We observe an increase in married and separated persons and a decrease in cohabiting individuals. In addition, we estimate that the proportion of childless and two child persons will increase. The number of persons with one child and three or more children are projected to decrease.

Our results suggest that the UK population will become increasingly diverse over the coming decades. This increase in diversity will contribute to population changes in the family structure of the UK. Microsimulation is a useful tool for demographers in projecting life histories and future population structures.

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Investigating the Impact of Political Dynamics on Migrant Perinatal Health in Sweden
Michaela Sedovic - UCL, Eleonora Mussino - SUDA, Stockholm University, Siddartha Aradhya - SUDA, Stockholm University, Sol Juarez - Stockholm University

Sweden is currently experiencing increased immigration coupled with the rise of far-right parties, a phenomenon that is influencing immigration policy and its enforcement. These changes have the potential to affect various facets of immigrant life, from social stigmatisation and psychological stress to potential resource limitations. This study examines the effects on migrant perinatal health, including factors such as preterm birth and low birthweight.

Previous research identified the influence of public policies, particularly those with anti-immigrant sentiments, on overall and self-perceived health. These studies have highlighted how a hostile societal environment can impact health-seeking behaviour. Within this context, migrant women, and especially refugees, emerge as a particularly vulnerable demographic, susceptible to stigmatisation and associated stresses.

Using Swedish registry data, we aim to ascertain the relationship between political dynamics (ascendance of far-right), and the perinatal health of migrants, with a specific focus on refugees. This line of enquire is pertinent, as compromised perinatal health has been linked to adverse outcomes in later life, setting a disadvantaged trajectory for the second generation born to refugees.

We employ descriptive statistics, generalised linear models, and causal inference methods (interrupted time

series analysis) to examine factors influencing perinatal health outcomes, including the differences between native-born and foreign-born mothers. By meticulously examining this topic, the study endeavours to contribute valuable insights to broader research on the intricate interplay between political climate, immigration policy, and migrant health. It ultimately aims to inform policy and practice for the betterment of wellbeing and potentially prevent adverse intergenerational effects.

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In Pursuit of Prosperity: Do Urban Migrants Enjoy Quality of Life at par with Non-Migrants?
Ayushi Basoya & Rama Pal - Indian Institute of Technology Bombay

The primary rationale of rural-to-urban migration is to improve the quality of life as urban areas offer better employment opportunities and standard of living. Yet, these expectations remain unfulfilled since migrants are likely to be absorbed in low-paying informal jobs, with limited access to quality housing and other basic amenities. This study examines the difference between the quality of life (QoL) of the migrant and non-migrant households in India using the Multiple Indicator Survey for the year 2020-21. We construct a multi-dimensional index of QoL, based on the housing and neighbourhood characteristics. We examine the factors affecting the QoL of a household by employing the Ordinary Least Squares method. Using Shapley decomposition, we estimate the relative contribution of each determinant towards QoL. Furthermore, we apply the Oaxaca-Blinder decomposition to investigate the disparities in QoL between migrant and non-migrant households. We find that migrant households experience lower QoL as compared to the non-migrant household. The decomposition results suggest that most of the difference in mean QoL is due to unexplained factors, indicating the presence of bias against the migrant households. Additionally, this gap widens when migrant households are engaged only in the informal sector, with a large part of the difference attributable to unexplained components. Similarly due to higher costs of living, the difference in QoL of non-migrant and migrant households is the highest when they are living in metro cities. Thus, migrant households experience a lower QoL after migration, with even lower QoL in case of unfavourable employment and residential conditions.

Keywords: Quality of life, Rural-Urban Migration, Shapley Decomposition, Oaxaca-Blinder Decomposition.

JEL codes: R23, J610, I310

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Moving away and moving on: multiple migration experiences and critical life choices
Ebru Sanliturk - Max Planck Institute for Demographic Research

Migration, be it internal or international, may be considered a disruptive event in the course of life. Migration events may affect a person's educational path, career and labour market choices, as well as marriage and fertility decisions. The potential effects of accumulated migration experiences through multiple migration events on critical life choices remain, however, underexplored. This research aims to contribute to the study of accumulated migration experiences by focusing on the relationship between multiple migration events and the marriage and fertility choices of women. It takes Turkey as the case study and uses the detailed migration history data in the Turkey Demographic and Health Survey (DHS). The Turkey DHS questionnaires include questions on migration history for the last three rounds. Therefore, the DHS rounds for 2008, 2013, and 2018 will be used in the analysis, spanning fifteen years. The empirical strategy will employ logistic regression, using age categories for age at (first) marriage and age at the birth of the first child as dependent variables. The number of migration events (internal and international) will be the main explanatory variable. A dummy variable for the presence of international move in the migration history, taking the value of 1 if true, will be used as a control variable together with the main socio-demographic indicators. The findings are expected to contribute to our understanding of how multiple migration experiences might shape critical life choices.

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16:45 - 18:15 Monday 9 September: Migration 2: Migration, digital traces and methodological innovations

Understanding the local spatial and temporal patterns of attitudes towards immigration using Twitter data
Matt Mason - University of Liverpool, Francisco Rowe - University of Liverpool

Recent years have seen a growing interest in the study of public attitudes towards immigration as hostility to migration has become increasingly politically salient. Empirical studies on public opinion have generally relied on survey-based methods, yet these have some key limitations. Data collection of this type suffers from infrequent release schedules, and is unable to provide robust estimates at low levels of spatial granularity. An emerging literature has employed the use of digital trace data in the study of public attitudes, which, whilst susceptible to biases, is able to aid in alleviating these limitations. In this article, we aim to build on this work by using Twitter data from 2013 to 2022 alongside natural language processing techniques to estimate attitudes towards immigration in the UK at the local authority district level. We find a large degree of variance in relative sentiment across local areas associated with the socio-economic and contextual factors that have been shown by previous studies to influence attitudes to migration. Namely, we find that areas with fewer younger people, lower relative levels of higher education, and less diversity are associated with higher levels of anti-immigration sentiment. Temporal analysis of our dataset shows a marked rise in attitude polarisation around migration, with an increase in both strongly positive and strongly negative sentiments over the course of our study period. Our study provides a framework for local spatial and temporal analysis of immigration attitudes using Twitter data, and highlights the potential of digital trace data to monitor public opinion.

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The impact of COVID-19 on mobility patterns in Latin America
Carmen Cabrera-Arnau - University of Liverpool, Francisco Rowe - University of Liverpool, Miguel González Leonardo - El Colegio de México, Andrea Nasuto - University of Liverpool, Ruth Neville
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The COVID-19 pandemic triggered major changes in the patterns of human population movement across the world. Nonpharmaceuthical interventions to contain the spread of COVID-19 contributed to sharp declines in population movements. However, changes in mobility were not experienced by everyone in the same way. For example, it has been found that, due to the nature of their jobs, higher-income individuals engaged more in remote working than lower-income individuals during the pandemic. As a consequence, some urban locations saw a decline in the number of high-income commuters. At the same time, there was an increase in flows between the urban cores and other suburban destinations within the urban regions, particularly dominated by higher-income groups. These mixed patterns generally hold for several locations, but the evidence comes mostly from Global North countries.

While some empirical studies have analysed the effect of COVID-19 on patterns of intraurban mobility in urban areas from the Global South, the magnitude of this evidence is comparatively small. We argue that the extent and durability of changes to population movements within urban areas in Global South countries is still to be fully understood. Here, we use multiple data sources, including Facebook data, to analyse the effect of the level of urbanisation and of socioeconomic deprivation on the recovery of urban mobility after COVID-19 in more than 300 Latin American cities.

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Overrepresentation and missed opportunities in migration research
Jose Ignacio Carrasco Armijo - University of Oxford, Aliakbar Akbaritabar - Max Planck Institute for Demographic Research, Marie Godin - University of Oxford; University of Leicester, Carlos Vargas-Silva - University of Oxford,

Research shows that knowledge production depends on countries' resources and reproduces global inequalities. Countries with higher global wealth have the resources to not only define the direction of the research but also tend to position themselves at the forefront of the study, even among those with

comparatively smaller populations. We explore in which ways this is the case for migration research, as it may have consequences in terms of overrepresentation and understudied of migration corridors. In particular, we provide the first description of the evolution and current situation of the global scientific production of migration research across all scientific journals in relation to the countries that are being studied and contrast it with the actual distribution of the global migrant population. We leverage the Scopus bibliometric database of metadata on 33 million publications from 1996 to 2022 and develop the first corpus of migration-related research within migration studies and beyond to account for the interdisciplinary production of knowledge in this field. We expect our results to provide clarity on the inequalities in the global production of migration knowledge expressed in over and underrepresented countries, leading to a discussion of alternatives to reduce such inequalities in the future migration research agenda.

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15:15 - 16:45 Tuesday 10 September: Migration 3: Migration, gender and ethnicity

Understanding the Gendered Structure of International Migration, 1960-2020
Micol Matilde Morellini & Per Block - Leverhulme Centre of Demographic Science and Nuffield College, University of Oxford; Department of Sociology, University of Zurich

A growing body of literature recognises a 'feminisation' of international migration, with women increasingly initiating and undertaking independent migration. However, it remains unclear how this phenomenon manifests itself at the aggregate level, across countries and over time. In this paper, we examine gender differences in migration patterns using new estimates of all country-to-country migration flows for over 195 countries from 1960 to 2020. To assess whether women's and men's international migration patterns have diverged over time, we introduce an innovative globalisation index that simultaneously measures migration intensity, spread and distance. Our preliminary results suggest an overall increase in the globalisation of migration since the 1990s, but with sharp gender differences. Women's and men's international migration behaviour became more similar between 1960 and 1989, and then more dissimilar between 1990 and 2020, with women experiencing lower levels of globalisation. Moreover, we find that these changes can be explained by gender differences in the choice of destination countries, suggesting that women are more constrained in their choices than men. In addition to providing new estimates of international migration flows and serving as a methodological contribution, this research aims to enrich our understanding of the evolving dynamics of gender and migration in a comparative manner and over time.

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Early labour market trajectories of intermediate and second generation women in Belgium: a multistate life course approach
Julie Maes, Jonas Wood & Karel Neels - University of Antwerp

This study focuses on the early labour market trajectories of Turkish and Maghreb origin women who graduated in Belgium (Flanders) between 2005 and 2016. Previous studies on the early labour market outcomes of migrant descendants have primarily focused on their first job following graduation and the stability of that position. Although recent research has increasingly adopted a longitudinal approach, it remains unclear how the descendants of migrants move between employment positions upon graduation and whether this entails differences in their early career development. Using longitudinal micro-data for Belgium (Flanders), this study adopts a multistate life course perspective to examine differences by migration background in women's transitions between employment, unemployment and inactivity upon graduation. This approach allows us to assess the (differential) frequency of transitions between labour market positions, as well as the (differential) time spent in each of these positions and individual-level frailty terms are included in the analyses to detect unobserved heterogeneity. Moreover, benefitting from the unique and detailed data from the Belgian Social Security Registers, we explore whether and to what extent differences between origin groups and migrant generations (generation 1.5 and the second generation) in women's

transitions between these three labour market states can be explained by prior labour market positions, individual characteristics (e.g. educational level and field, language skills) and household characteristics (e.g. number and age of children, presence and labour market situation of the partner).

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Residential mobility of immigrants and their descendants in England and Wales
Parth Pandya, Hill Kulu, Chia Liu & Julia Mikolai - University of St Andrews

Immigrants and their descendants in the UK are disproportionately affected by housing insecurity and precarity due to the housing market nature being unregulated, expensive, and residualised. Naturally, therefore, evidence shows that housing tenure varies considerably by ethnic group. Studies that have analysed ethnic differences, have not distinguished between migrant generations, especially the so called 1.5 generation, making it hard to assess the complexity of ethnic disadvantage in housing, which, is crucial in other life area performance such as employment and family formation. Additionally, owing to a dearth of longitudinal data, evidence on housing variation and inequalities is unknown. Using the ONS Longitudinal Study from 1971-2011, this study uses binary and multinomial logistic regression analysis to map ethnic and migrant generational residential and housing tenure mobility trajectories. Our initial analyses show that variation across groups reflects historical migration flows and patterns which inform later migrant cohort decisions as well as existing access inequalities within and between these groups in other life areas such as employment. 1.5 generation moving probabilities are affected by initial socio-economic mobility when arriving in England and Wales. In comparison, first generation moving probability differences reflect the speed of socio-economic improvement, host society acculturation and ability to attain housing stability. Second generation individuals are linked to their immigrant counterparts as groups that have seen strong intergenerational socio-economic improvement or groups overrepresented in the social and private rented sector (e.g., Black Caribbeans) have higher probabilities of moving.

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11:00 - 12:30 Wednesday 11 September: Migration 4: Immigration, health, neighbourhoods, housing and family

Residential Mobility and Housing Tenure Changes Among Immigrants and Their Descendants: A Cross-National Analysis of Five European Countries
Isaure Delaporte, Hill Kulu, Julia Mikolai, Chia Liu - University of St Andrews, et al

Little is known about the different experiences of residential mobility between generations, origin groups, and country contexts. This paper addresses these gaps by investigating residential mobility and tenure changes among immigrants, their descendants, and natives in five countries (UK, France, Germany, Switzerland, and Sweden) with different housing markets and migrant populations. Using longitudinal data and applying Poisson regression models on aggregated occurrence-exposure data from 2010-2019, we first compare the risk of a residential move across migrant generations, origins groups, and host countries. Second, we estimate competing risks models to study the propensity to move to different housing tenure types. The results show distinct patterns of residential moves among migrant generations and origin groups. The level of residential mobility varies across origin groups and country contexts. In the UK and Switzerland, migrant groups have higher residential mobility rates compared to natives, whereas in France, Germany, and Sweden, most immigrant groups have a risk of moving similar to natives. Second, in all countries, immigrants, especially from non-European countries, are less likely to be homeowners and more likely to be social or private renters. Some of the differences in mobility and homeownership rates decline between generations, however we still find lower levels of homeownership and higher levels of social renting among some descendant groups. This study sheds light on persistent differences in residential mobility and housing patterns among immigrants, their descendants, and natives in Europe and contributes to provide a better understanding of the role of the country context in perpetuating housing inequalities.

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Heterogeneities in family formation across generations and origin of descendants of immigrants in Sweden: Which comes first, homeownership, marriage, or childbirth?

Mary Abed Al Ahad - University of St Andrews, Gunnar Andersson - Stockholm University, Hill Kulu - University of St Andrews

With more than one-quarter of Swedish residents having an immigration background, it becomes important to understand the family formation patterns of immigrants and their descendants. In this study, we examine the risk of entry to first-time homeownership, marriage, and childbirth by immigrant origin and generations in Sweden focusing on only immigrants arriving in Sweden before the age of 18 (1.5 generation (G)) and on descendants of immigrants with two (2G) or one (2.5G) non-Swedish-born parent(s). We use individual-level register data from Sweden over a period of 20 years (1997-2016). To assess the risk of entry to first-time homeownership, marriage, or childbirth, we use Cox-Proportional Hazards modelling whereby everyone is at risk of the three events starting the age of 18. An interaction term is included between the type of event experienced first and immigrant generations and origin. Results showed the importance of owning a house for everyone before moving to marriage or childbirth. After homeownership, native-Swedes, all 2.5G, and certain 1.5G and 2G groups (e.g., Nordic, Western and Southern Europe, and Latin America) showed higher risks of childbirth then marriage, whereas 1.5G and 2G groups from conservative family cultures (e.g., Turkish, Ex-Yugoslavia, Iran, Middle East/North Africa, and South Asia) showed a high marriage risk. Results also supported a gradual assimilation across the generations with 2.5G showing the most similar risks to native-Swedes. However, variation in patterns still existed among 1.5G and 2G groups supporting segmentation, which could be attributed to the socio-cultural and economic heterogeneities across the countries of origin.

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From the 'Hood to the Mainstream: Analyzing Childhood Neighborhood over Four Immigrant Generations in France and Sweden

Rosa Weber - Stockholm University and French Institue for Demographic Studies, Elena Pupaza - Stockholm University, Ben Wilson - Stockholm University, Mathieu Ichou - French Institute for Demographic Studies

Prior evidence indicates a strong persistence of neighborhood deprivation among certain racialized minority groups (Hermansen et al., 2022; McAvay, 2018; McAvay & Safi, 2018). However, findings differ across national contexts (Tran, 2020) and the specific dimensions of the neighborhood context studied (Andersson et al., 2014). This study contributes new knowledge about the childhood neighborhood context by carrying out a comparative study of four generations, in two different national contexts, using four different measures of childhood neighborhood. We set our research in two countries, France and Sweden, with largely distinct migration histories. Such contextual differences are an advantage of our research design, since we seek to examine to what extent our findings align across these two contexts, despite their obvious differences in policies, histories, and population composition. In doing so, we not only seek to derive new evidence for both contexts, but also to examine the generalisability of conclusions with respect to theories of spatial assimilation. Our findings indicate clear patterns of spatial assimilation across generations in both settings. However, they also point to some important distinctions across these two settings. While differences in the neighborhood contexts accessible to non-European immigrants and their descendants are considerable in Sweden among G1.5 and G2 (and larger than in France), they reduce notably by G2.5 and G3 (and to a greater extent than in France). In France, non-European immigrants and their descendants start out in neighborhoods that are less distinct from those of G4+, but we also observe smaller reductions in differences across generations.

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Diverse Life Course Trajectories: A comparison of the life course trajectories of migrants and their descendants in the UK

Sarah Christison, Júlia Mikolai & Hill Kulu - University of St Andrews

This study examines the interaction between the three life domains of partnerships, family building, and employment among migrants and their descendants in the UK. The UK has a long history of migration resulting in a diverse mix of migrants and their descendants from a range cultural backgrounds. While previous studies have sought to examine the life course trajectories of migrant groups, these tend to focus

on a single life domain. In this study, we bring together the three interconnected domains of union formation, fertility, and employment comparing differences in trajectories between natives, migrants, and their descendants. Using data from the UK Household Longitudinal Study, we use multilevel, multistate and multi-process event history models to explore life course trajectories of UK natives, immigrants, and their descendants. Modelling men and women separately, we explore gender differences in how these trajectories are interrelated among immigrants and their descendants from different countries. Preliminary results suggest that for both 1.5G and 2G migrant groups, Indian and Pakistani/Bangladeshi women were at lower risk of partnership events compared to natives and European/Western migrants. This appears to be driven by the lower instances of repeated partnership events for these groups. Similarly, results suggest that 1.5G Pakistani /Bangladeshi migrants' increased likelihood of a birth was driven by a greater number of higher order births. Finally, we find that while all male migrant groups were equally likely to experience employment events, 1.5G Pakistani/Bangladeshi women were the least likely to experience employment events compared to natives and all other migrant groups.

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