

# International Migration: Theory, Measurements, and Description

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# What is Migration?

- ▶ The UN Migration Agency (IOM) defines a migrant as any person who is moving or has moved across an international border or within a State away from his/her habitual place of residence, regardless of
  - ▶ (1) the person's legal status;
  - ▶ (2) whether the movement is voluntary or involuntary;
  - ▶ (3) what the causes for the movement are; or
  - ▶ (4) what the length of the stay is.

# Theories of International Migrations

- ▶ Neo-classical Economics
  - ▶ Macro: differential supply and demand for labor and wages
  - ▶ Micro: individual actors using cost-benefit calculation
- ▶ New Economics of Migration
  - ▶ Decisions mad by larger units to maximize benefits and minimize risks
- ▶ Segmented Labor Market Theory
  - ▶ Migration is not caused by push factors but instead by pull factors in receiving countries
- ▶ Historical Structural Theory
  - ▶ Expansion of global capitalism perpetuates inequalities because political power is unequally distributed
- ▶ World Systems Theory
  - ▶ Penetration of capitalist economic relations into non/pre-capitalist nations

# Push and pull factors of migration

Figure 1. Push and pull factors of migration

## *Push factors*

### Economic

Poverty/low wages  
High taxes  
High unemployment  
Overpopulation

### Non-economic

Discrimination  
Poor health care  
War or oppression  
Corruption  
Crime  
Compulsory military service  
Natural disaster  
Famine



## *Pull factors*

### Economic

Demand for labor  
High wages  
Generous welfare benefits  
Good healthcare and education systems  
Strong economic growth  
Technology  
Low cost of living

### Non-economic

Family and friends/networks  
Rights and freedoms  
Property rights  
Law and order  
Amenities

Source: Bansak, C., N. Simpson, and M. Zavodny. *The Economics of Immigration*. Oxford: Routledge, 2015 [1].

# Income Differentials

- ▶ Economic inequality - Gini Index
- ▶ <https://ourworldindata.org/income-inequality>

# Migrant Networks

- ▶ Webs of social ties connecting individuals in origin country with migrants in destination country
- ▶ Play a major role in migration flows
- ▶ Lowers costs and risks of movement (increases net returns)



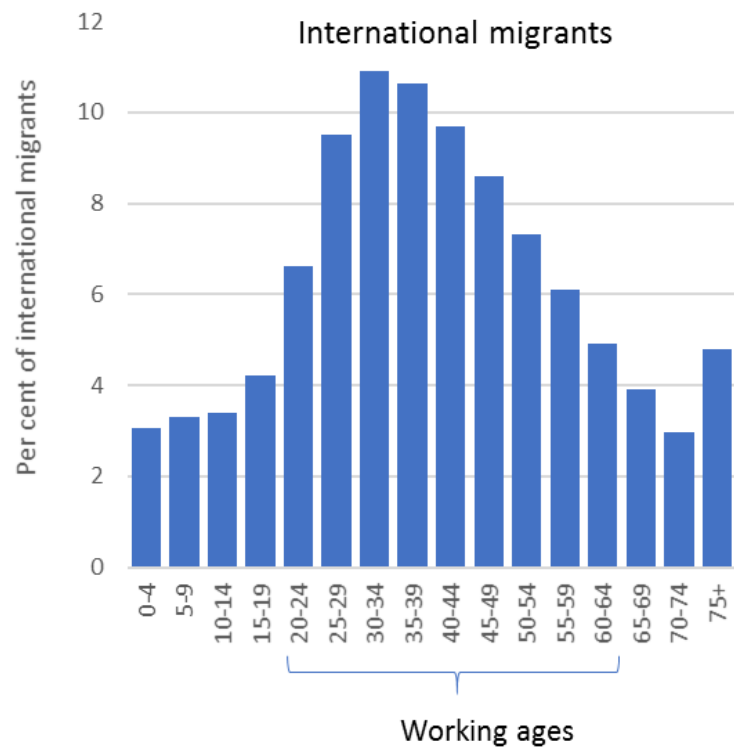
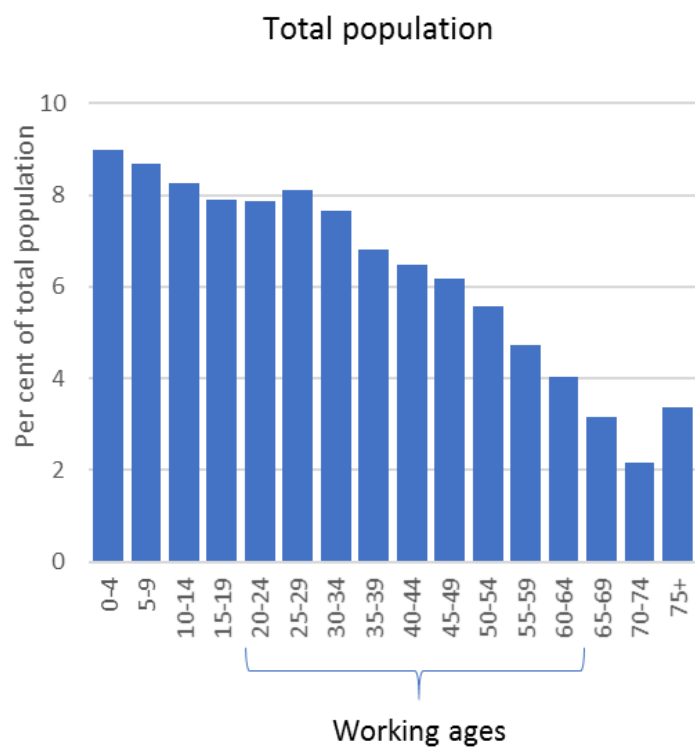
# Demographic Factors

- ▶ Gender
- ▶ Education level
- ▶ Marital status
- ▶ Age
- ▶ Language skills

# Age Distribution of Migrants Compared to Total Population Worldwide

Figure 11

Age distribution of the total population and of international migrants worldwide, 2017



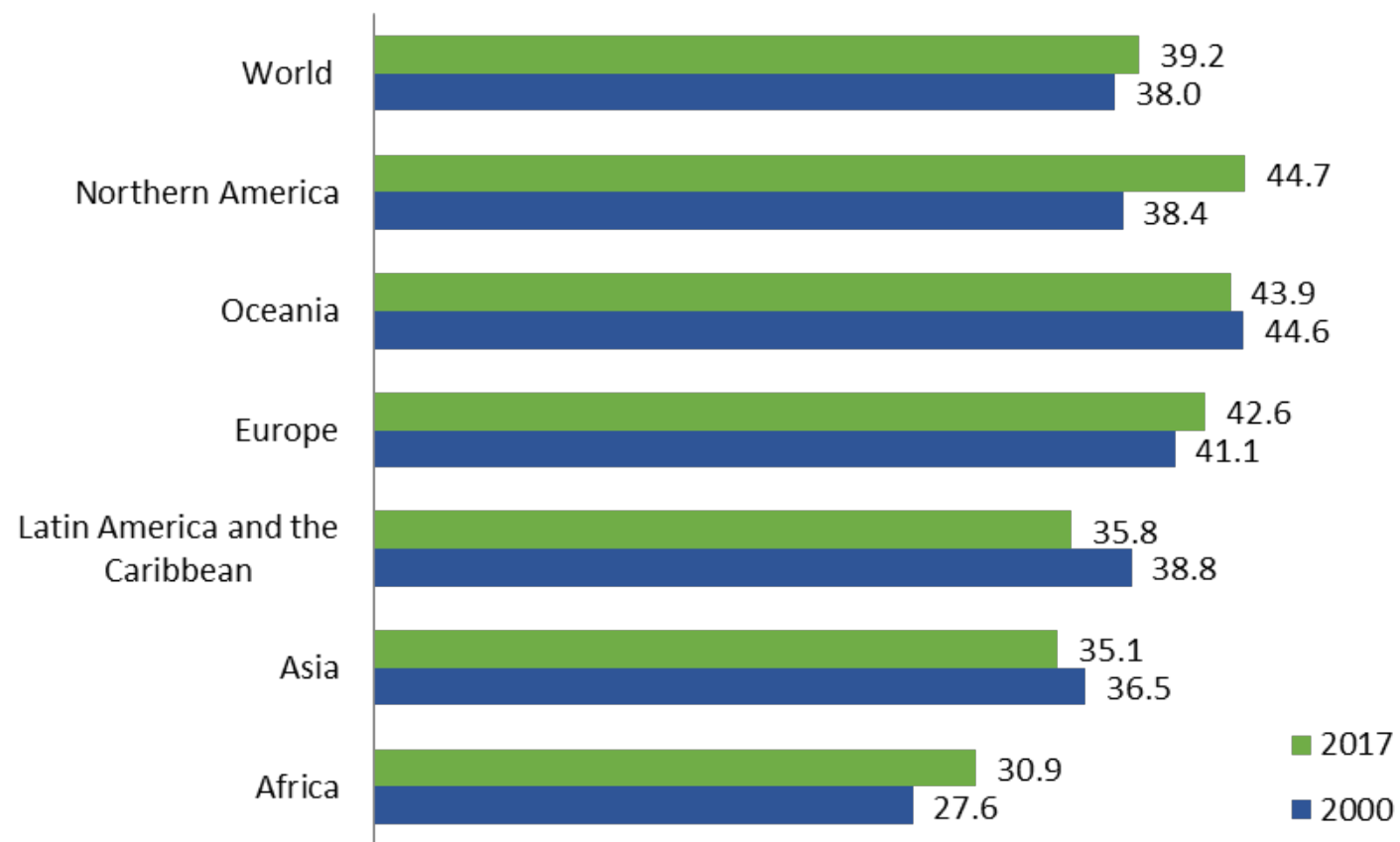
Source: United Nations (2017a).



# Trends in Median Age of Migrants

Figure 10

**Median age among international migrants worldwide and by region of destination, 2000 and 2017**

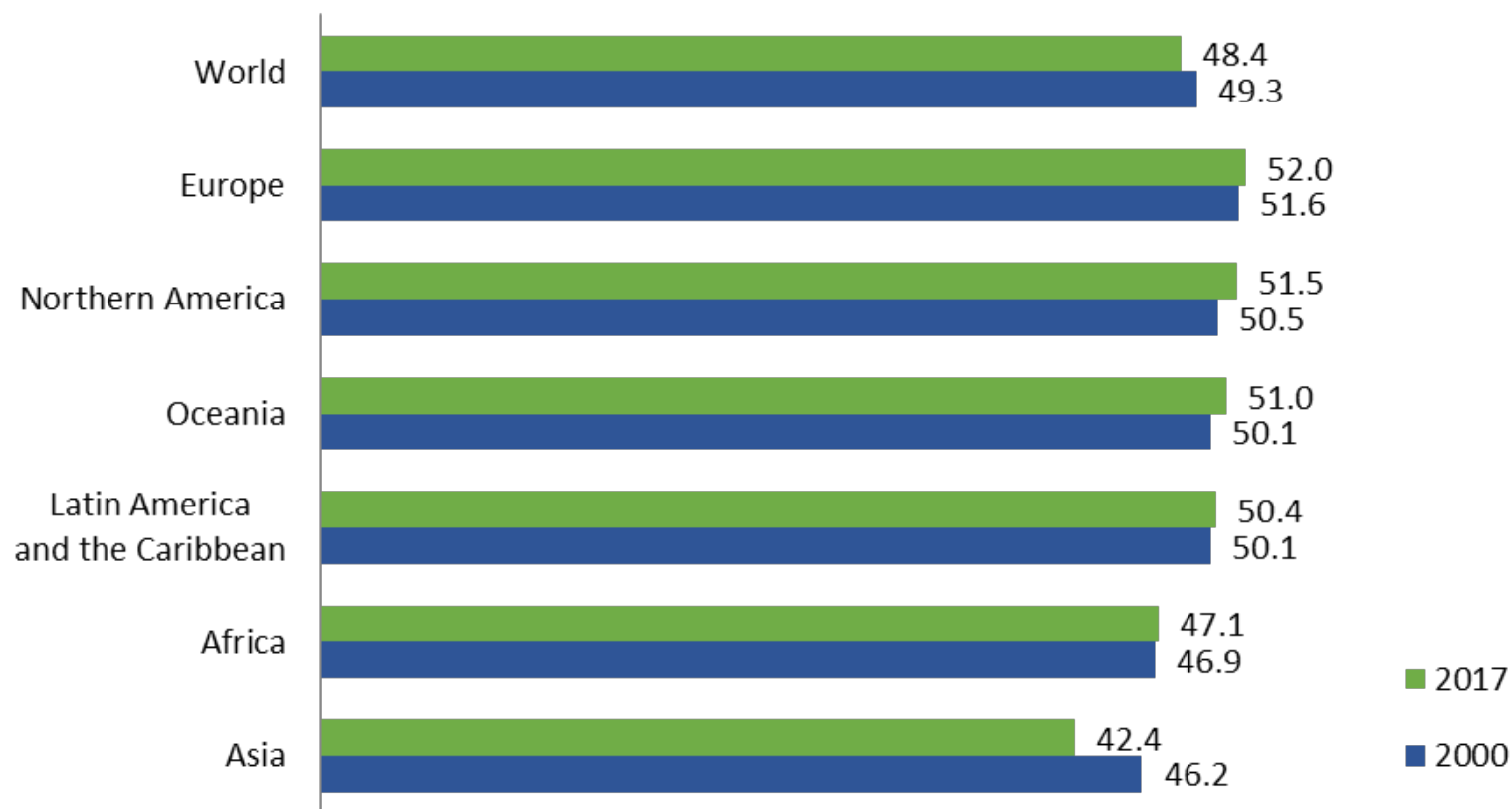


Source: United Nations (2017a)

# Trend in Proportion of Women Migrants

Figure 9

Percentage of female migrants worldwide and by region of destination, 2000 and 2017



Source: United Nations (2017a)

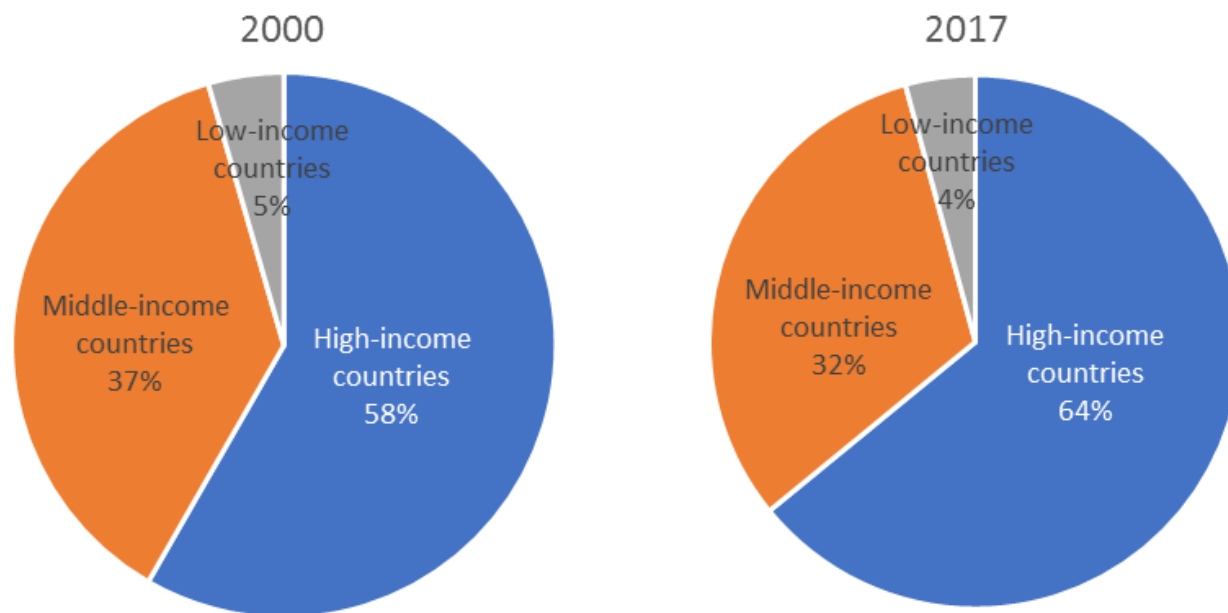
# Migration flows visualization

The slide features a white background with abstract, overlapping blue geometric shapes on the right side, including triangles and polygons in various shades of blue. The main title is centered on the left side.

# Trends in Migration by Country Income

Figure 1

**Percentage of international migrants by income group, 2000 and 2017**



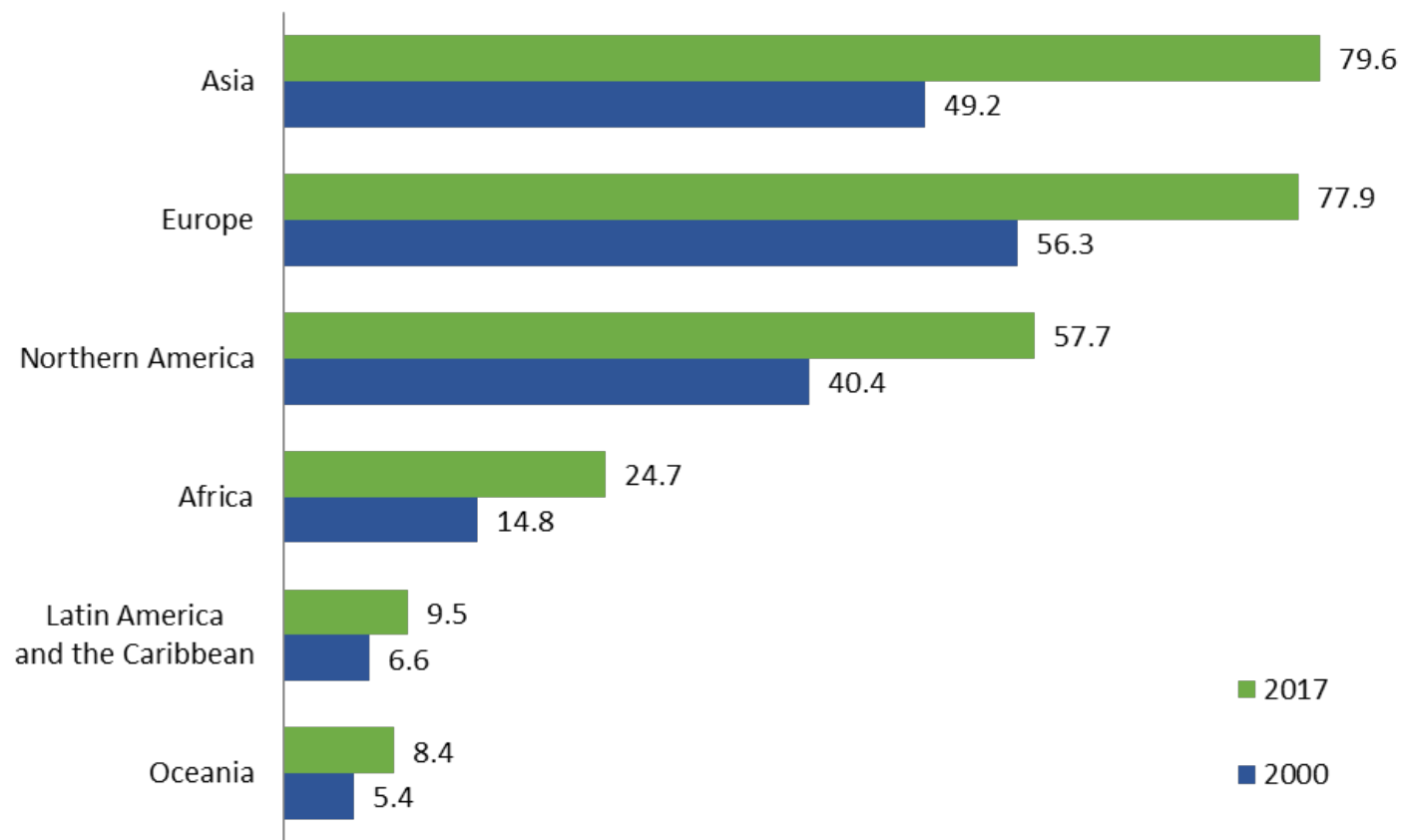
Source: United Nations (2017a)

Note: For both charts, the classification of countries and areas by income level is based on 2016 gross national income (GNI) per capita, in U.S. dollars, calculated by the World Bank.

# Trends in Migration by Region

Figure 2

**Number of international migrants (millions) by region of destination, 2000 and 2017**

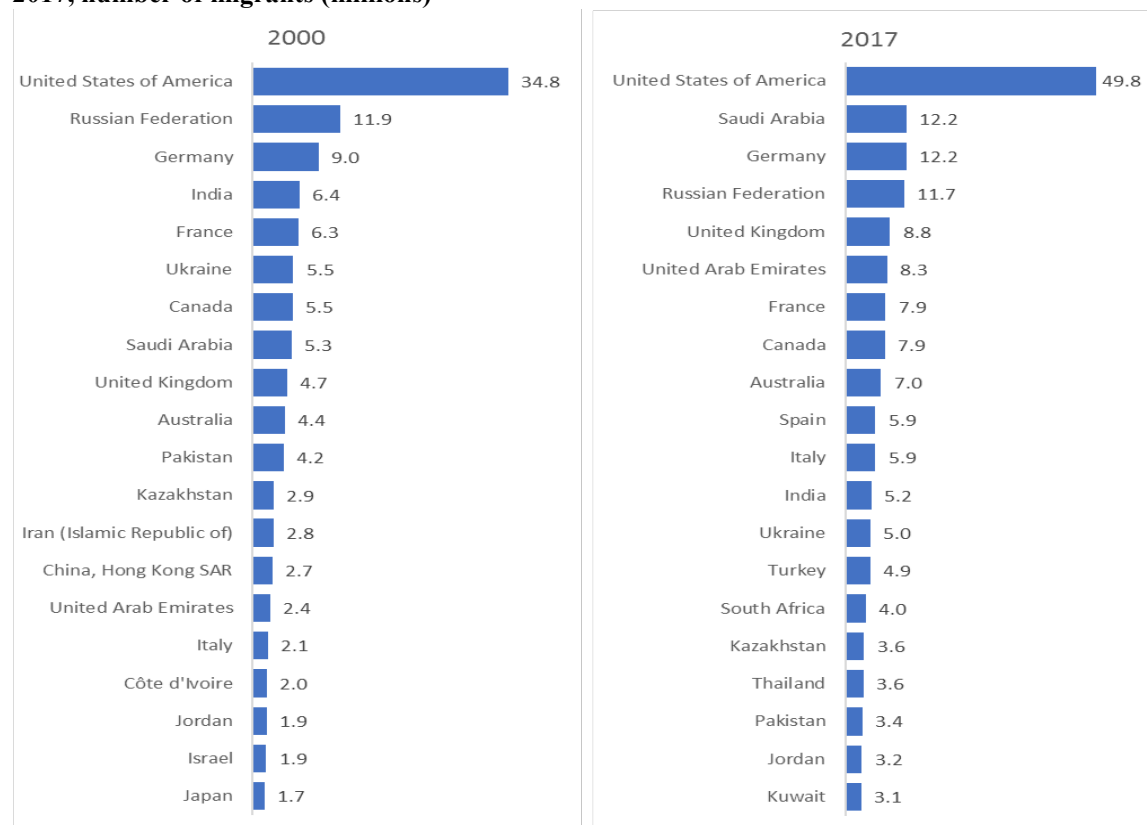


Source: United Nations (2017a)

# Trends in Size of Migrant Population

Figure 3

**Twenty countries or areas hosting the largest numbers of international migrants, 2000 and 2017, number of migrants (millions)**



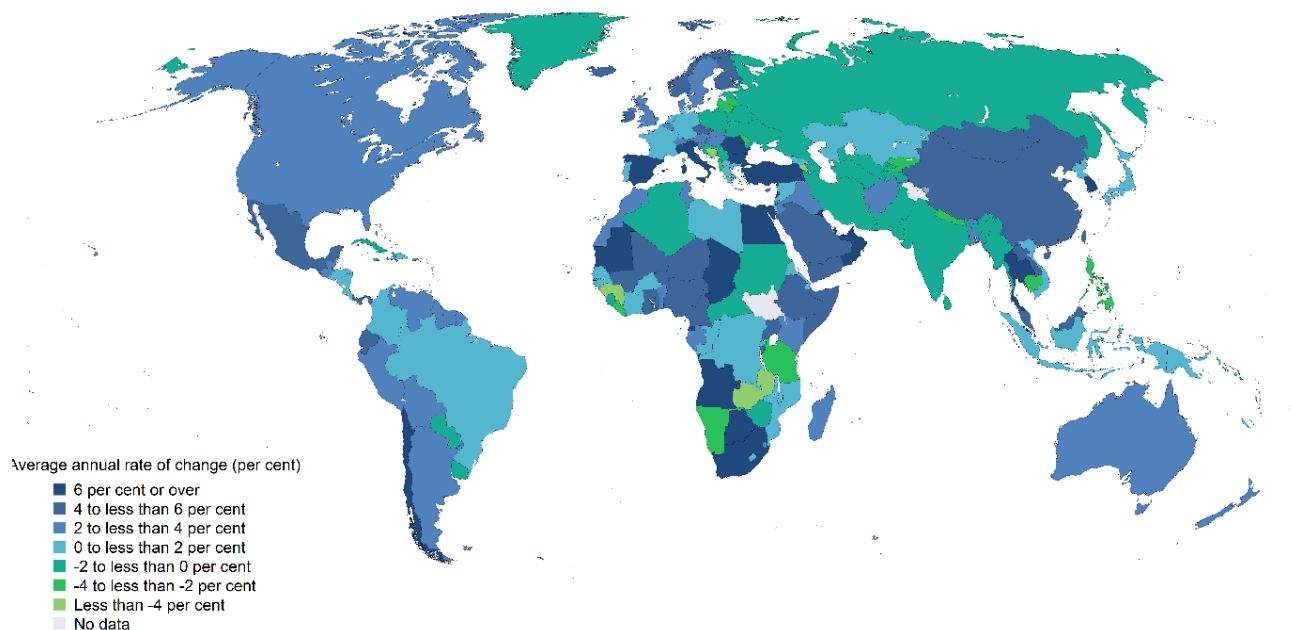
Source: United Nations (2017a)

Notes: "China, Hong Kong SAR" refers to China, Hong Kong Special Administrative Region

# Annual Rate of Change in International Migrant Numbers

Map 1

**Average annual rate of change in the number of international migrants by country or area of destination, 2000 to 2017**



Source: United Nations (2017a).

Note: The designations employed and the presentation of material on this map do not imply the expression of any opinion whatsoever on the part of the Secretariat of the United Nations concerning the legal status of any country, territory, city or area or of its authorities, or concerning the delimitation of its frontiers or boundaries. Dotted line represents approximately the Line of Control in Jammu and Kashmir agreed upon by India and Pakistan. The final status of Jammu and Kashmir has not yet been agreed upon by the parties. Final boundary between the Republic of Sudan the Republic of South Sudan has not yet been determined. A dispute exists between the Governments of Argentina and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland concerning sovereignty over the Falkland Islands (Malvinas).

# Where are the Migrants From?

Table 1:

Share of regions in world population and international migrants by origin (in thousands), 2017

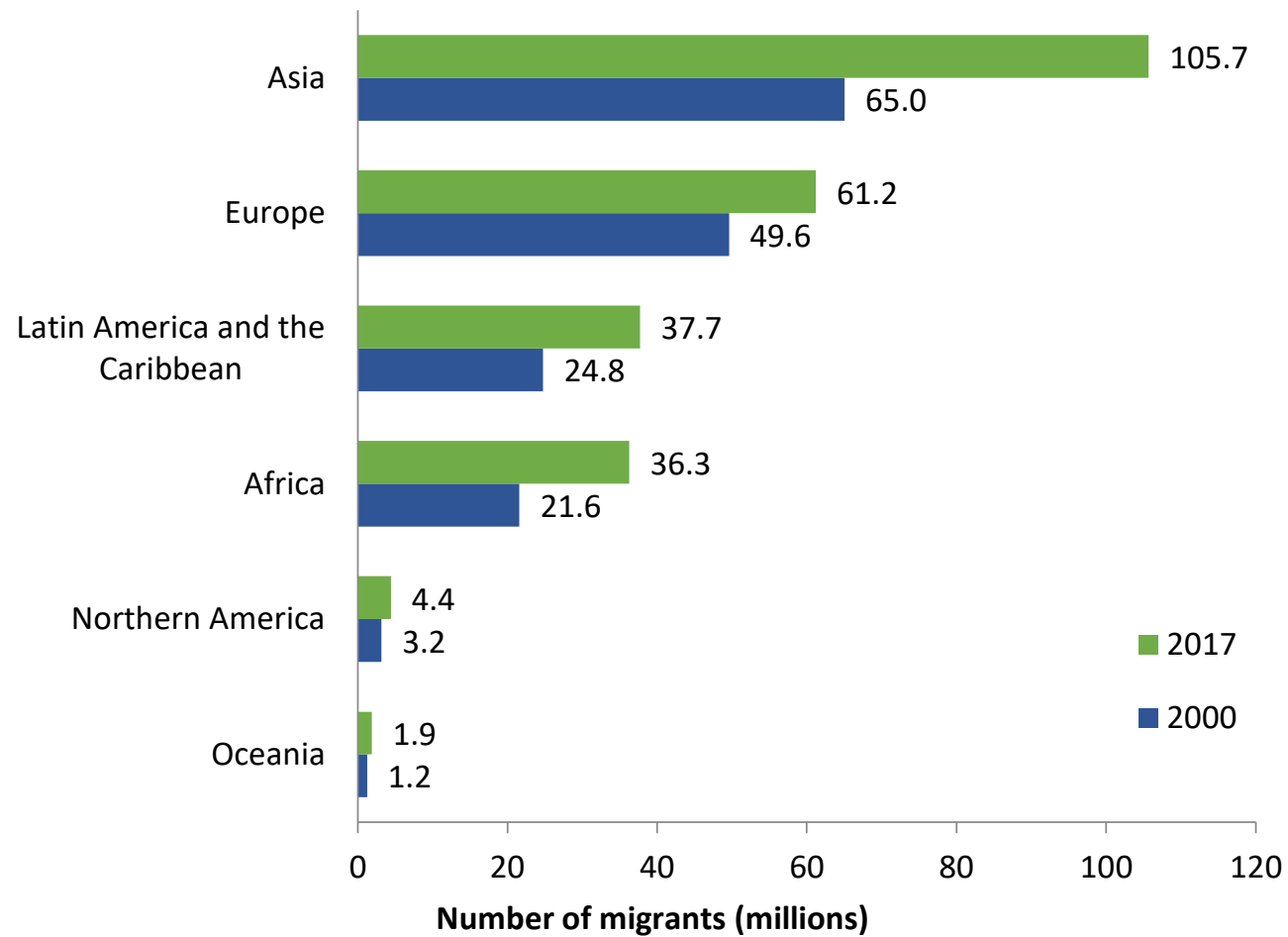
	Total population	Percentage of global population	International migrants by origin	Percentage of international migrants
World	7,550,262	100.0	257,715	100.0
Africa	1,256,268	16.6	36,266	14.1
Asia	4,504,428	59.7	105,684	41.0
Europe	742,074	9.8	61,191	23.7
Latin America and the Caribbean	645,593	8.6	37,720	14.6
Northern America	361,208	4.8	4,413	1.7
Oceania	40,691	0.5	1,880	0.7
Unknown	n/a	n/a	10,560	4.1

Source: United Nations (2017a).



# Migrants by Region of Origin

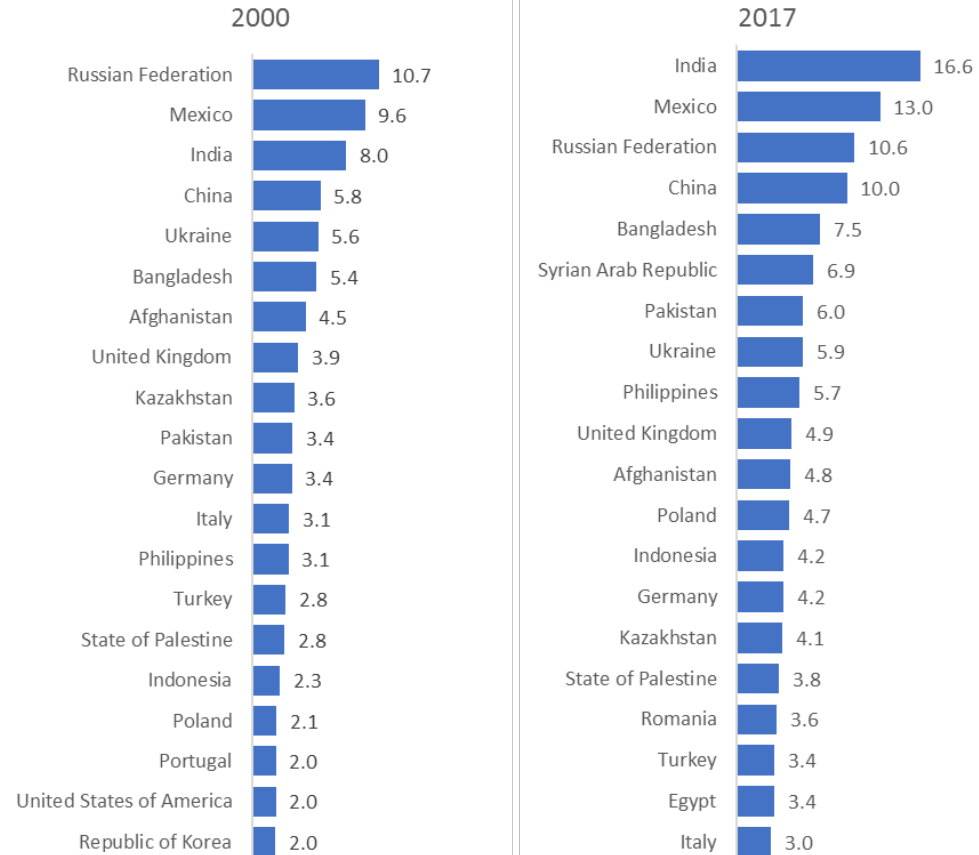
Figure 4  
Number of international migrants by region of origin, 2000 and 2017



Source: United Nations (2017a).

# Largest Areas of Origin of International Migrants

Figure 7  
Twenty largest countries or areas of origin of international migrants, 2000 and 2017,  
number of migrants (millions)

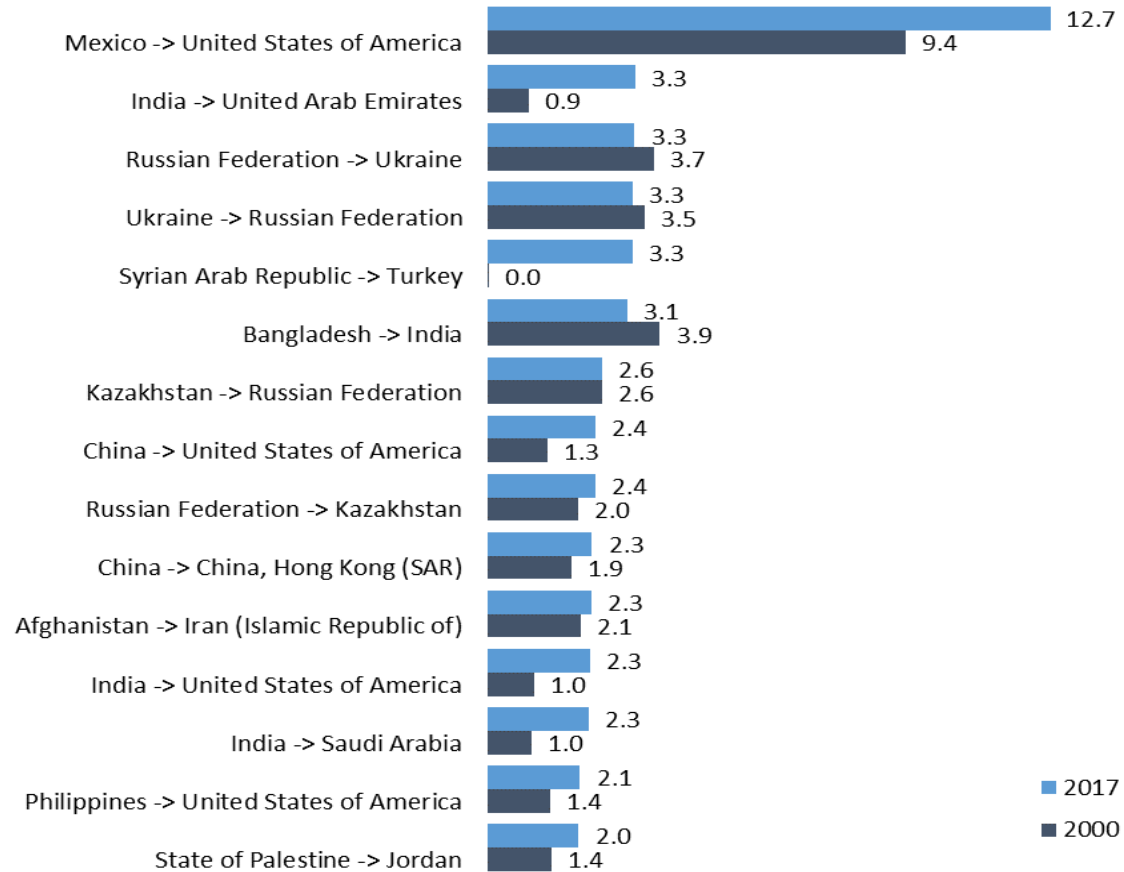


Source: United Nations (2017a)

# Bilateral Corridors

Figure 8

**Fifteen largest populations of international migrants from a single country or area of origin living in a single country or area of destination, 2000 and 2017 (in millions)**



Source: United Nations (2017a)

Note: "China, Hong Kong SAR" stands for China, Hong Kong Special Administrative Region

# Measurement of Migration

# Why is it harder to measure than birth & death?

- ▶ Birth & death = clearly defined biological events
- ▶ Migration = socially defined event
  - ▶ Definition (+ measurement) change over time with context
  - ▶ More easily manipulated for political ends

# Types of Data

## Stock

- ▶ Total no living in a country other than that of birth
- ▶ Widely available
- ▶ Easy to measure
- ▶ Many sources
  - ▶ Censuses
  - ▶ Surveys
  - ▶ Population registers
- ▶ *Place of birth preferred, if not available citizenship used*

***\*Stock ≠ flow***

## Flow

- ▶ *Rate* of migration from one country to another over a period of time
- Net migration = arrivals - departures***
- ▶ Less widely available (incomplete)
  - ▶ More difficult to measure (missing)
  - ▶ No 1 country really has with high coverage

Table 1

**Availability of data on international migrants, overall and with classification by age and origin, 1995 to 2017**

Regions and number of countries or areas	Countries or areas with at least one data source						Number of migrants included in data from the 2000 census round or later	
	Number			Percentage				
	Total	By age	By origin	Total	By age	By origin	(thousands)	Percentage
World (232)	214	179	187	92	77	81	240,176	93
Africa (58)	48	33	40	83	57	69	19,479	79
Asia (50)	44	37	34	88	74	68	67,259	85
Europe (48)	47	43	44	98	90	92	77,895	100
Latin America and the Caribbean (48)	47	44	45	98	92	94	9,468	100
Northern America (5)	5	5	5	100	100	100	57,664	100
Oceania (23)	23	17	19	100	74	83	8,411	100

# Sources of Data in the US

The background features a complex, abstract design of overlapping, semi-transparent blue polygons in various shades, ranging from light sky blue to deep navy blue. The shapes are primarily triangular and quadrilateral, creating a dynamic, layered effect that is most prominent on the right side of the slide.



# Decennial Census (now American Community Survey)

- ▶ Data
  - ▶ Country of birth
  - ▶ Citizen/non-citizen
  - ▶ Was decennial (now annual)
- ▶ Strengths
  - ▶ Large sample size
  - ▶ Many variables
- ▶ Weaknesses
  - ▶ Unmeasured heterogeneity
  - ▶ No data on 2nd generation

# Current Population Survey (Demographic Supplement)

- ▶ Data
  - ▶ Country of birth & parents' country of birth
  - ▶ Citizen/non-citizen
  - ▶ Annual
- ▶ Strengths
  - ▶ Data on 2nd generation
- ▶ Data
  - ▶ Smaller sample size
  - ▶ Less variables
  - ▶ Unmeasured heterogeneity

# Office of Immigration Statistics

## ▶ Data

- ▶ DOJ -> DHS in 2002
- ▶ Admin data of encounters with immigration bureaucracy
- ▶ Legal immigrants: basic data
- ▶ Undocumented: only national origin when arrested/deported

## ▶ Strengths

- ▶ Actual "flow" data

## ▶ Weaknesses

- ▶ No data on outflows
- ▶ Limited data collected
- ▶ Low coverage of undocumented
- ▶ As a result of OIS moving to DHS, quality & accessibility of data worse

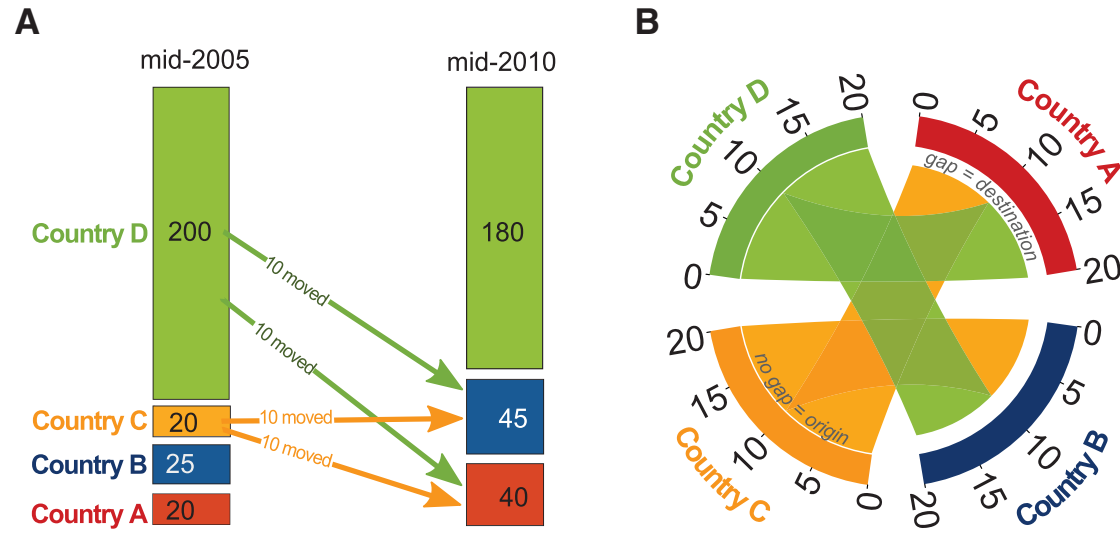
# Other Data Sources (Specific Immigrant Groups/Regions)

- ▶ Mexican Migration Project/Latin American Migration Project (documented & undocumented immigrants)
- ▶ New Immigrant Survey (new legal immigrants)
- ▶ Children of Immigrants Longitudinal Study (immigrants who arrived as children/children born to immigrant parents)
- ▶ Immigrant Second Generation in Metropolitan New York Study
- ▶ Immigration and Intergenerational Mobility in Metropolitan Los Angeles Study

# Estimation Methods

- ▶ Bilateral flow (Abel & Sander, international)
  - ▶ Changes in stock in a specific interval -> estimate flow to meet these changes
- ▶ Net migration (Massey, US)
  - ▶ Foreign born stock in census year  $t$  -> project in census year  $t + 10$ 
    - ▶ Using life table methods (just projecting deaths)

# Estimating Bilateral Flow from Stock Data



**Fig. 1. Linking migrant flow to stock data and visualizing flows via circular plots.** (A) The simplified example illustrates our method for estimating 5-year migration flows from changes in stock data between mid-2005 and mid-2010 (details are available in the supplementary materials). The number of people born in Country D and living in Country D (green field) decreased from 200 in 2005 to 180 in 2010. The number of people born in D and living in Country A (red field) increased from 20 to 40, and the number of people living in Country B (blue field) also increased from 25 to 45, but the number living in Country C (yellow field) decreased from 20 to 0. To match these differences in migrant stock data, our model provides an estimate of 20 people moving out of Country C, of whom 10 moved to A and 10 to B, and another 20 people moving out of Country D, with 10 moving to A and 10 to B. (B) The circular plot visualizes the migrant flows estimated in the hypothetical example. The origins and destinations of migrants (Countries A to D) are each assigned a color and represented by the circle's segments. The direction of the flow is encoded by both the origin country's color and a gap between the flow and the destination country's segment. The volume of movement is indicated by the width of the flow. Because the flow width is nonlinearly adapted to the curvature, it corresponds to the flow size only at the beginning and end points. Tick marks on the circle segments show the number of migrants (inflows and outflows).

# Estimation Methods of Undocumented in US

- ▶ Total Undocumented
  - ▶ Change in foreign born stock using CPS
  - ▶ Estimate how much change attributable to:
    - ▶ Permanent legal immigration (OIS)
    - ▶ Temporary legal migration (OIS)
    - ▶ Mortality (vital statistics)
    - ▶ *Out-migration\** (Assumptions/estimation)
  - ▶ Remainder = undocumented
- ▶ Undocumented Mexican net-inflow
  - ▶ Population of Mexicans on both sides of border (Census/ACS)
  - ▶ Probability of undocumented migration (Mexican Migration Project)

# Estimation of Unauthorized Immigrant Population in Europe



Other potential sources of bias in measuring migration/conducting research with migration data?

## Interplay between:

- Goals of policymakers who collect & utilize migration data
- Immigrant perceptions of how policy makers utilize migration data
- Quality of migration data?

What do we ultimately want migration data *for*?

What are the implications of migration research?

Understanding implications of policy  
on migrant wellbeing?

The background features a complex, abstract design of overlapping, semi-transparent blue triangles and polygons. The colors range from light sky blue to deep, dark navy blue. The shapes are layered, creating a sense of depth and movement. The overall aesthetic is modern and professional.

# Impact of Policy on Migration Flows Case Study: US and Mexico Border

- ▶ Influence of enhanced border enforcement on immigration control
  - ▶ Todaro and Maruszko (1987) logic of cost-benefit analysis for migration
  - ▶ Fashioning of an undocumented migrant crisis
  - ▶ Turns push/pull migration theory on its head by increasing undocumented population
  - ▶ Increasingly expensive and dangerous journey for migrants

# Probability and Cost of Crossing with a Coyote

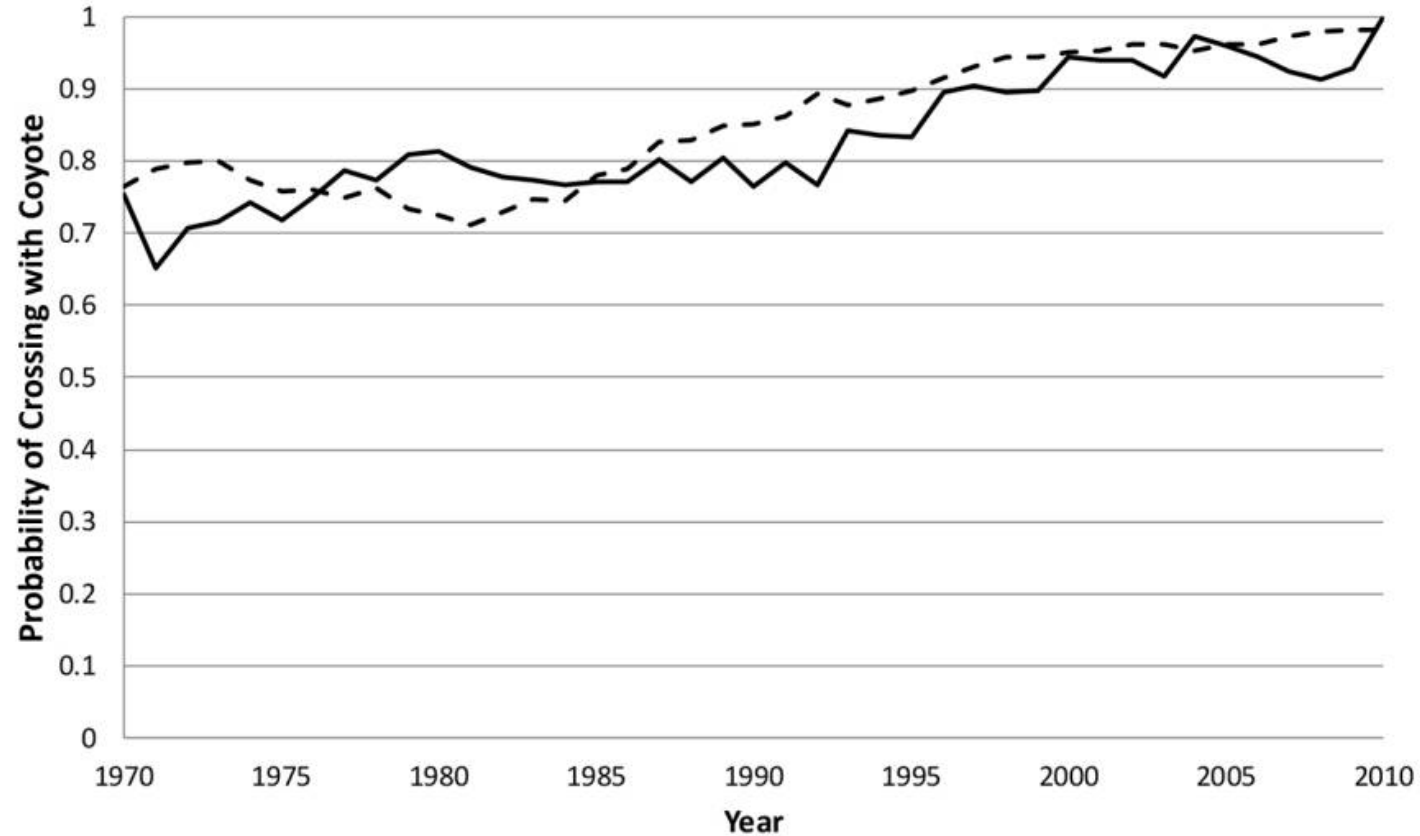


FIG. 3.—Observed probability (*solid line*) of crossing at with a coyote and probability predicted (*dashed line*) by Border Patrol budget.

# Cost of Crossing the US-Mexico Border

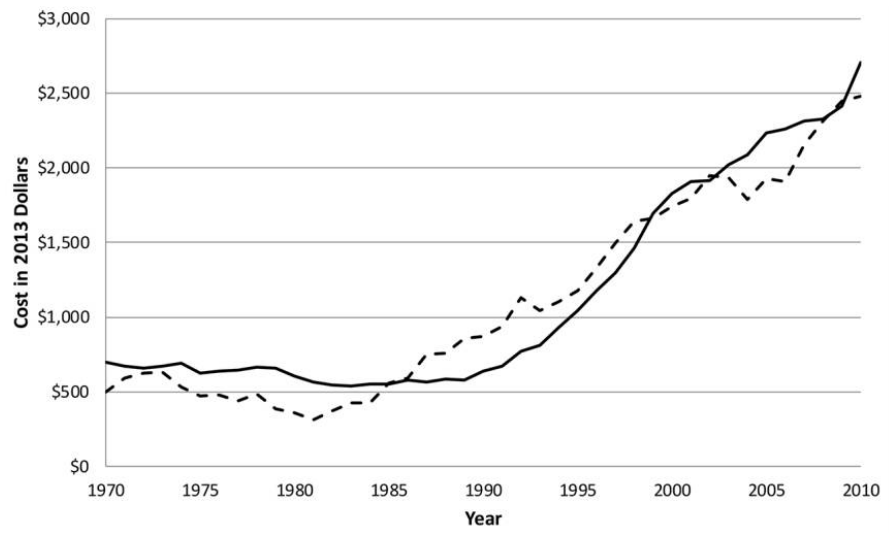


FIG. 4.—Observed trends (*solid line*) in coyote cost and cost predicted (*dashed line*) from Border Patrol budget and place of crossing.

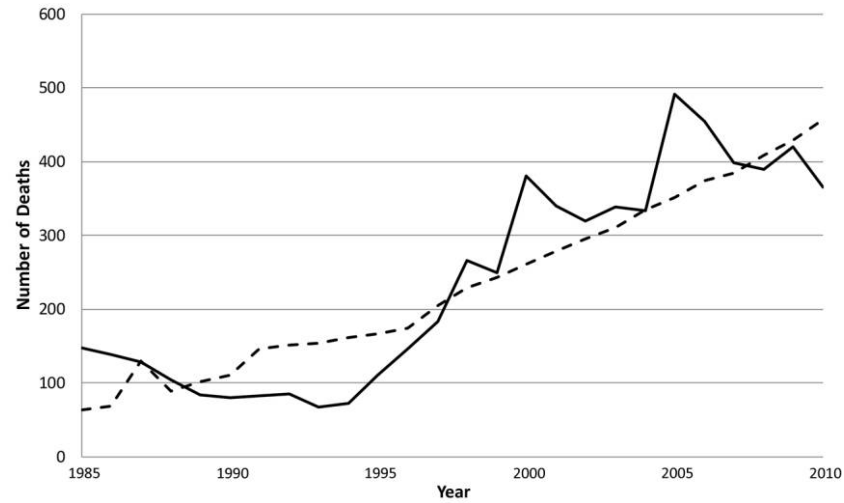


FIG. 6.—Observed deaths (*solid line*) at the border and deaths predicted (*dashed line*) by trend in the Border Patrol budget.

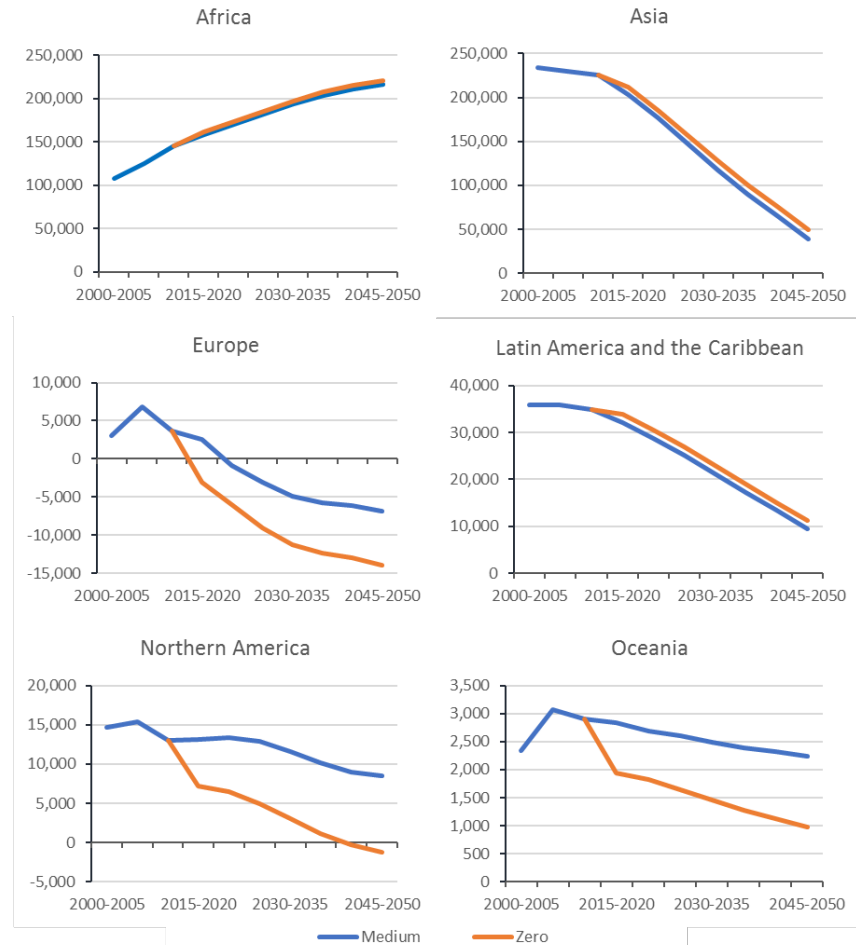
Population dynamics/composition?



# Projected Population Change

Figure 12

**Estimated and projected change in total population over five-year time periods by region, from 2000 to 2050, with and without international migration starting in 2015 (in thousands)**



Source: United Nations (2017b).

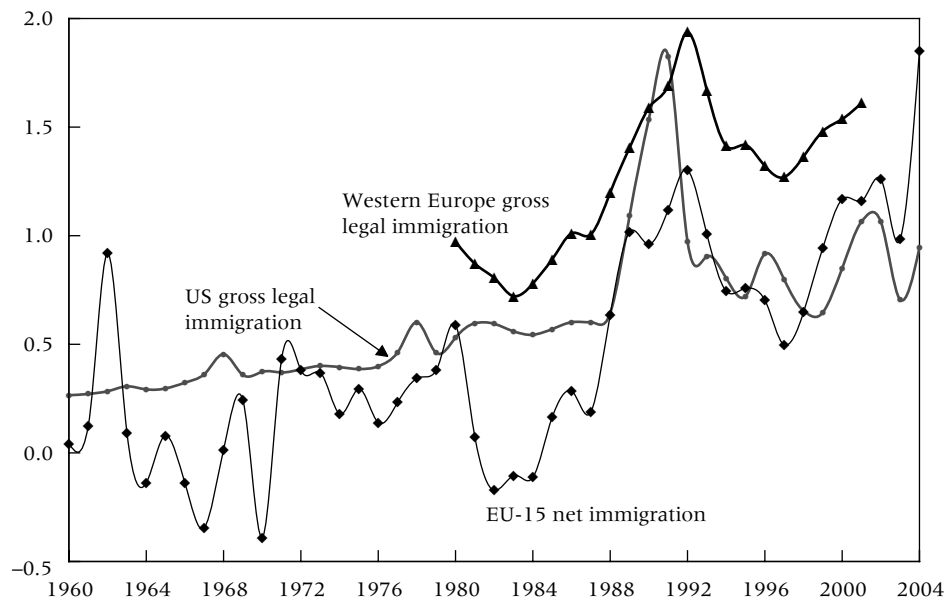
Note: "Medium" refers to the "medium variant" scenario which assumes a continuation of recent levels of net migration. "Zero" refers to the "zero-net-migration" scenario which assumes that the number of immigrants equals the number of emigrants for all time periods starting in 2015-2020.

***Ethnonationalism?***

# David Coleman's Proposed Third Demographic Transition

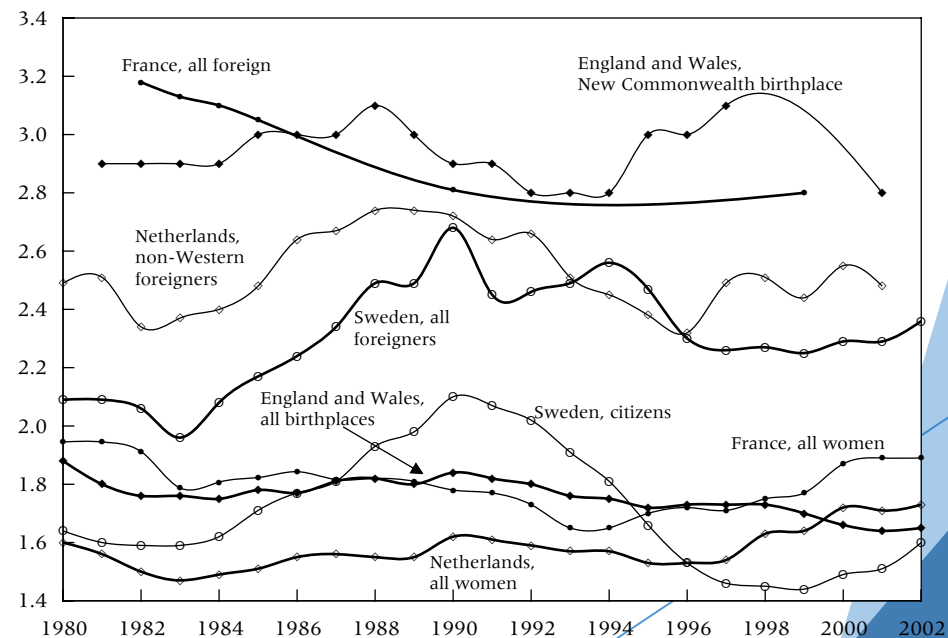
- ▶ Population with sub-replacement fertility that maintains constant or growing population size through immigration will acquire a population predominantly of immigrant origin.

**FIGURE 1 Annual legal immigration, EU-15 (net), 12 Western European countries (gross), and United States (gross) 1960–2004 (millions)**



NOTE: The peak in US inflow around 1991 arose from the amnesty given to persons already illegally resident in the United States under the 1986 Immigration Reform and Control Act. Amnesties also contribute to the EU-15 2004 peak.  
 SOURCES: Eurostat (2006); OECD (2006); Office for Immigration Statistics (2006).

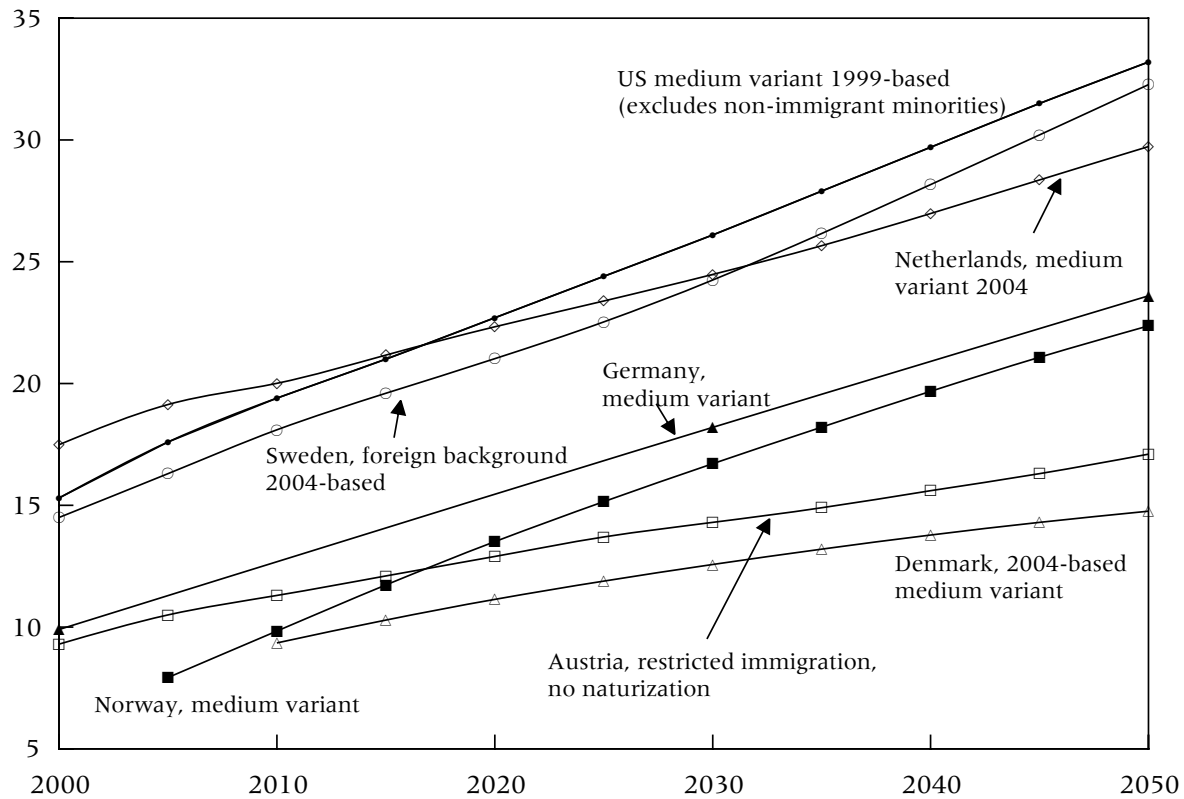
**FIGURE 2 Total fertility rate of native and foreign populations: Selected European countries 1980–2002**



SOURCES: OECD, national statistical offices.

# Projected Immigration Population Growth

**FIGURE 4** Projected growth of the population of immigrant or foreign origin as percent of total population 2000–2050, selected countries



NOTE: A different variant Austrian projection is shown in Table 1.  
SOURCES: Eurostat (2006); Office for Immigration Statistics (2006).

What do you make of Coleman's focus on "immigrant origin" over multiple generations? What does this assume about assimilation?

Does he ultimately seem to care about culture or race? What are the ideological and policy implications of this?

What are Coleman's own aims? Can his work give academic "legitimacy" to white supremacists?

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## Native Britons To Be Minority By 2066

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By the year 2066, native Britons will be a minority in their own homeland. That is the generally accepted academic consensus in the United Kingdom, based on a report by Oxford Professor of Demography [David Coleman](#) that investigated the impacts of mass migration on the British Isles.



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**Christchurch Massacre: Yes, It's Terrorism,  
Yes, It's Tragic—and Yes, Elites Could Halt  
It, By Halting Immigration. But They Won't.**



Peter  
Brimelow

**Earlier: Why No Stories About Whites Fearing "Backlash" After NZ Shooting? Because Of Cultural Marxist Narrative Control—And That's Part Of The Problem**

I usually react strongly against the idea that any of the repeated Muslim mass murders in the West is a "tragedy," as General George Casey notoriously described the Fort Hood shooting—they're ATROCITIES,

***A favored white supremacist website of Stephen Miller***

And of course this is nothing compared to Europe or North America. Tarrant titled his manifesto "The Great Replacement," a concept developed by the French writer Renaud Camus and widely discussed in Europe. This has had the benefit of flushing out what might be called Replacement Denialists: *New Zealand attack: How nonsensical white genocide conspiracy theory cited by alleged gunman is spreading poison around the world*, by Lizzie Dearden, *Independent*, March 17, 2019. But, because of mass immigration, the Great Replacement is simply reality: *RIP this Britain: With academic objectivity, Oxford Professor and population expert DAVID COLEMAN says white Britons could be in the minority by the 2060s - or sooner*, by David Coleman, *Daily Mail*, May 27, 2016. It's an unfortunate fact (for the Left) that "genocide" as defined by the United Nations doesn't just mean extermination, but also displacement.



## Watching David Coleman

The co-founder of Migration Watch wishes to persuade us he is the victim of a smear campaign. But what about his views on eugenics?

Oxford university students have challenged demography [Professor David Coleman](#). Coleman is co-founder of the anti-immigration pressure group [Migration Watch](#), and a long-term member and sometime office-holder in the Eugenics Society and its successor the [Galton Institute](#) (thus renamed because the word eugenics, unsurprisingly, shocks).

Coleman's figures on the many millions of immigrants who might come to the UK are catchy, clever PR stuff. They are, of course, [gleefully picked up](#) by the British National Party and by the tabloids. [The BNP's website, to "end on a cheery note", refers to "our friends at the immigration-reform think tank Migration Watch" and describes Coleman as "a very distinguished demographer whom we trust".](#) Migration Watch also penetrates into more respectable parts of the media. Both Coleman and his co-founder Sir Andrew Green make frequent appearances in the media, including the BBC. Green was even one of three "expert witnesses" to a parliamentary investigation into the removal of asylum seekers.

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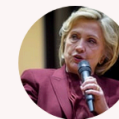
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**BNP = a far-right UK political party**