

Migration: International and Intranational Dimensions

Jim Pooler
University of Saskatchewan*

Jiaosheng He
Statistics Canada**

Migration is an important issue for several reasons. First, it affects the size and composition of the population of the areas of origin and destination, thus comprising a fundamental element of the demographic, social, cultural, and economic structure of the nation and its regions. Second, migration embodies skill flows and thus has significant repercussions for economic performance. Finally, migration has been a main factor to be considered for carrying out a series of social programs, such as the federal-local transfer payments in developed countries. This special volume of *Geography Research Forum* is devoted to an examination of issues relating to immigration, international labor migration, and internal migration within the context of the strengthening global economy. The volume consists of seven papers. The contributors are leading or experienced researchers in the area of migration.

The paper by A.M. Findlay and A. Stockdale uses the detailed field interviews on personal biography in the Scottish countryside to illustrate vividly and forcefully how the migration decision is shaped by collective behavior, socio-cultural traditions, existing class structure, and previous environmental experience. While not denying the value of the neo-positivist approach to migration research, the paper unveils the usually unacknowledged multiple layers of conditions in migration decisions. The paper represents the authors' continuing theoretical and methodological contribution to migration analysis using biographical interviews.

Jiaosheng He and Jim Pooler use spatial interaction models to estimate China's province-to-province migration flows. The paper employs two additional variables to such conventional interaction-modeling framework. The two variables include a measure of past migration and annual average total investment. The empirical verification of the models employs two interprovincial migration data sets of China. These involve the 1982–87 and 1985–90 migration flow data, consisting of two 28 × 28 data matrices. The results of the calibration show that the models with the additional

* Department of Geography, University of Saskatchewan, Saskatoon, S7N 5A5, Canada.
E.mail: jpooler@sasktel.net

** Demography Division, Statistics Canada, Main Building, Tunney's Pasture, Ottawa, ON
K1A 0T6 Canada. E.mail: joe.he@statcan.ca

variable(s) are capable of distributing migration flows with a much-improved degree of accuracy, in comparison with the conventional model. The implication arising from the study is that for developing countries the proposed modeling strategy is valid in estimating the inter-regional migration flows with minimum information available.

The paper by K. Bruce Newbold represents yet another effort to explore the settlement patterns of immigrants in U.S. metropolitan areas. Using Public Use Microdata from the U.S. 1990 census, the paper investigates the settlement location of recent (1965–74 and 1975–84) immigrant cohorts under the framework of extended segmented assimilation. Newbold shows that the framework better describes the emerging settlement pattern than spatial assimilation theory. The paper argues that space must be better represented within the framework when explaining observed differences in assimilation.

The paper by James Tyner examines the issues of labor recruitment firms in the Philippines in the context of globalization. Based on his field interviews in the nation, he explores why the private recruitment firms play a dominant role in channeling labor migrants from the Philippines to other countries, and how the firms collect and use information to serve their purposes. Essentially, the paper unpacks the various institutions and organizations behind the Philippines State labor migration industry, and the major factors that sustain the private recruitment firms.

Kwadwo Konadu-Agyemang uses census information and data from two surveys conducted in Canada and the U.S. to answer the following questions: What do we know about African immigrants in the U.S. and Canada? What are the factors behind the increasing wave in African immigration to these countries? His findings show that African immigration to Canada and the U.S. has increased significantly since the early 1980s. The increasing immigrants can be attributed to a number of factors. These mainly include changes in the immigration laws and better opportunities of both countries (pull factors), and the deteriorating socio-economic and political conditions in Africa (push factors).

Using the U.S. Immigration and Naturalization Service data, the paper by Siaw Akwawua examines recent flows of Sub-Saharan African immigrants to the U.S. for the period 1991–2000. Specifically, the paper analyses the size, composition and characteristics of the immigration flow, and explains the underlying causes of the flow. The results from this analysis show that all Sub-Saharan African countries have experienced emigration. This immigration to the U.S. is perpetuated by the worsening socio-economic conditions in the countries of the region and the promising life in the U.S. It also argues that the rival of immigrants' remittances over the importance of primary goods exports in some countries of the Sub-Saharan region should be considered in the context of the loss of educated labor in the process of the immigration to the U.S.

The population loss of small towns and rural places in North America was closely linked to the migration to urban centers. Associated with this loss was the decline of services and functions that threatened the sustainability of these rural and small

town places. Greg Halseth and Lana Sullivan use a survey of mill workers in the town of Mackenzie, British Columbia, to mirror this process of population loss. The paper identifies the push-pull factors behind the population movement in which workers commute from a regional urban service center of residence to a nearby town or rural place for jobs while leaving their families in the urban center. The paper also provides policy options on how to stem the outmigration from the rural places and resource towns.

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