

Migration and Development: A Contested Theme

Ronald Skeldon
University of Sussex

How many migrants are there in the world?

- 214 million international migrants in 2010, according to the United Nations Population Division (UNDESA) – about 3 per cent of the world's population and that proportion has not changed much over recent decades.
- However, an very much larger number of people migrate within the boundaries of their own country as internal migrants – about 740 million according to the United Nations Development programme (UNDP)
 - Internal migration tends to be ignored in discussions of migration and development even though the relationship is clear through urbanization

Migration: The Context

Basic variables in the demographic and urban transitions, 1950-2025, world and major regions

	1950-55			1975-80			2000-05			2025-30		
	TFR	e ⁰	Urban	TFR	e ⁰	Urban	TFR	e ⁰	Urban	TFR	e ⁰	Urban
World	5.02	46.4	29.0	3.92	60.2	37.2	2.65	66.0	46.7	2.21	71.9	57.5
Africa	6.75	38.5	14.7	6.61	48.7	25.4	4.98	51.6	36.2	3.30	59.8	47.9
Asia	5.87	41.0	16.8	4.19	59.1	23.3	2.47	67.5	40.4	2.01	74.1	59.3
Europe	2.66	65.6	50.5	1.97	71.3	65.6	1.41	73.8	71.7	1.61	78.2	76.6
Latin and Caribbean	5.88	51.4	42.0	4.48	63.0	61.2	2.52	72.0	75.4	1.97	77.1	83.1
North America	3.46	68.8	63.9	1.78	73.4	73.8	1.99	78.5	79.1	1.83	80.9	85.7

Source: United Nations Populations Projections, The 2008 Revision, New York, United Nations Department of Social and Economic Affairs.

Migration and the Development of Destinations – Complexity and Contradictions

- The United States: A Nation by Design (Zolberg);
Australia; Canada;
- New agricultural or resource frontiers: the Amazon;
Outer islands of Indonesia; the Arctic
- However, what of the development of the original
inhabitants of these areas? Development for some can
mean a lack of development for others.
- Europe??

Migration and the development of countries of origin: domestic policies

- Policies for internal migration
 - Redistribution
 - Urbanization
- Policies for development
 - Industrial policies
 - Agricultural policies
 - Transport policies

Migration and Development: Policy Questions at the International level

- What impact do our immigration policies have on countries of origin? (what impact do our emigration policies, if they exist, have on countries of destination?)
- Can we make our immigration policies “development friendly”?

Alternative Visions of Migration and Development

- Migration as a result of a lack of development
 - Migration as the result of a “push”
 - Development will therefore stop or slow migration
- Migration as a result of development
 - Migration and development are positively related
- Migration as a cause of development
 - Migration as a tool in development policy

Migration and Development

- Academic approaches
- Policy approaches:
 - Evidence-based policyor
 - Policy-based evidence?or
 - Evidence-free policy?

Migration and development

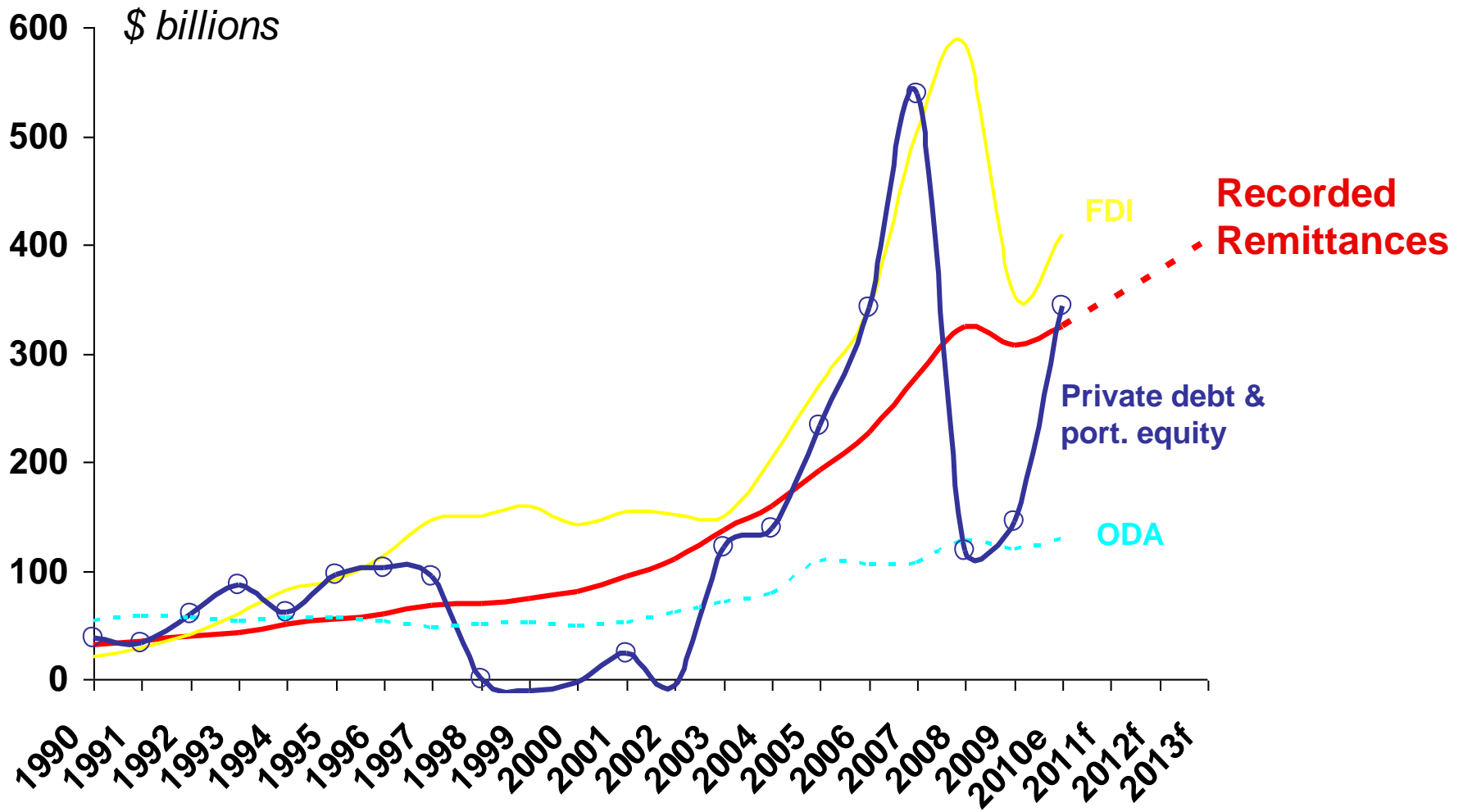
- Why have migration and development become important?
- Migration is not one of the MDGs, and rightly so, but it is an important issue.
- Migration is a concern for individual countries. However, if linked with development, it can be discussed

The main components of the debate

- Remittances
- Skilled migration and brain drain
- Diaspora

Remittances

- The total volume of recorded remittances in 2010 was estimated at \$440 billion of which \$325 billion went to the developing world (World Bank).
- This sum is almost three times the amount of official aid and almost as large as foreign direct investment (FDI).



Source: Migration and Development Brief 16 (Mohapatra et al. 2011)

Do remittances bring development?

- Yes, they can help to reduce poverty, and improve levels of education and health among the members of families that receive them.
- However, the nature of the migration process is also important:
 - The poorest tend not to migrate internationally.
 - Migration is not a randomly distributed phenomenon but is highly concentrated in terms of its origins and its destinations.
 - Remittances from international sources may not reach the poorest parts of a country nor the poorest people in that country.
 - Remittances from internal sources may be more important for poor people.

How are remittances spent?

- Daily living expenses
- Education
- House construction

- Difference between “investment” and “consumption” uses is deceptive.

- Reverse remittances or remittances foregone.

Skilled Migration

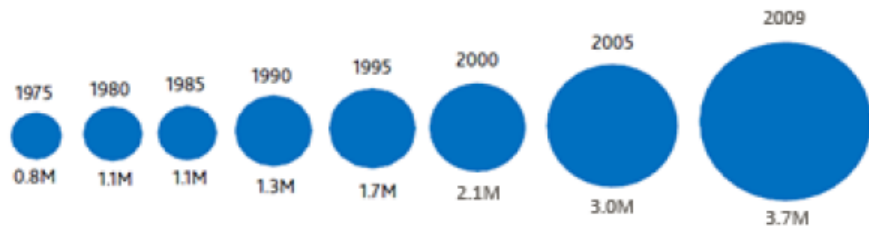
In the academic literature, two approaches to the migration of the skilled emerged:

- The majority view that the exodus of large numbers of the skilled was detrimental to the development of economies of origin
- A revisionist view that the exodus of the highly skilled could be beneficial to countries of origin
- So:
A need to move away from simple associations of the migration of people and indicators of development

Global migration of the skilled: key points

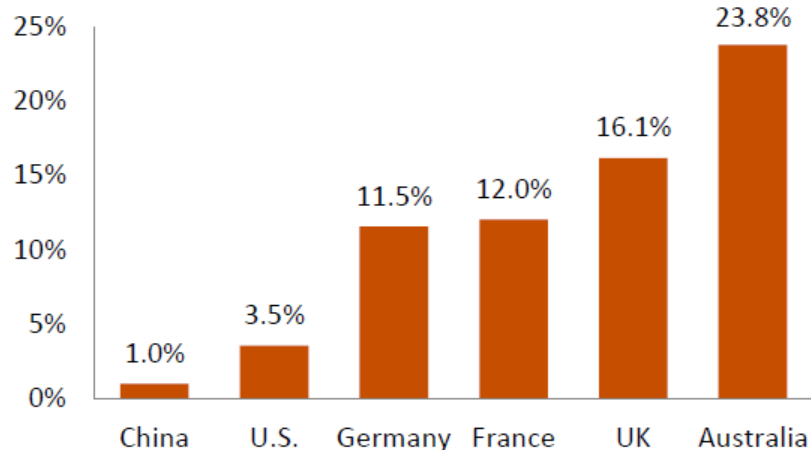
- Skilled migrants circulate among the countries of the developed world or come from a relatively small number of middle-income developing countries
- Only developed and middle-income developing countries had the institutions to generate significant numbers of the skilled.
- The loss of small numbers of skilled could have a prejudicial impact on small economies. Size and location in the global system matter.

A. International Students Worldwide, Selected Years



Source: OECD Education at a Glance, 2011

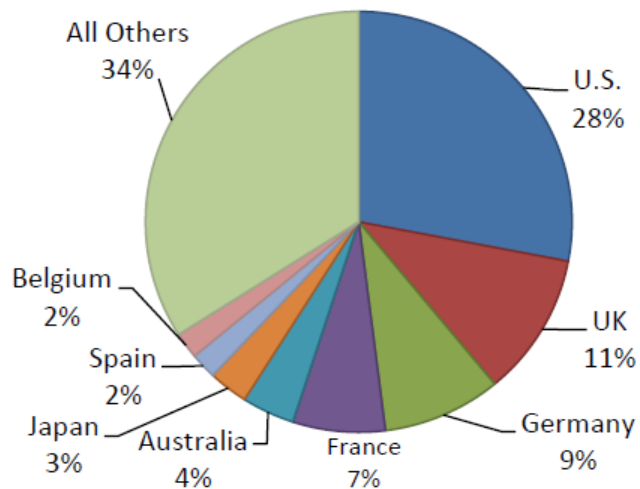
C. International Enrollment as a Percentage of Total Higher Education Enrollment for Top Countries 2009/10



Source: Atlas of Student Mobility

B. Top 8 Host Countries of Globally Mobile Students, 2001 & 2010

2001
Worldwide: 2 million students



D. Top Host Destinations Worldwide, 2009 and 2010

Destination	2009 Total Int'l Students	2010 Total Int'l Students
U.S.	690,923	723,277
UK	415,585	455,600
France	266,448	283,621
China	238,184	265,090
Australia	253,717	258,827
Germany	244,776	252,032
Canada	161,679	174,760
Japan	132,720	141,774

Source: Atlas of Student Mobility

E. Global International Educational Exchange Balance, 2009

2,000,000

Source: International Institute of Education, Open Doors Data, International Students: International Students Worldwide, New York.

TOP 25 PLACES OF ORIGIN OF INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS, 2009/10 - 2010/11					
Rank	Place of Origin	2009/10	2010/11	2010/11 % of Total	% Change
	WORLD TOTAL	690,923	723,277	100.0	4.7
1	China	127,822	157,558	21.8	23.3
2	India	104,897	103,895	14.4	-1.0
3	South Korea	72,153	73,351	10.1	1.7
4	Canada	28,145	27,546	3.8	-2.1
5	Taiwan	26,685	24,818	3.4	-7.0
6	Saudi Arabia	15,810	22,704	3.1	43.6
7	Japan	24,842	21,290	2.9	-14.3
8	Vietnam	13,112	14,888	2.1	13.5
9	Mexico	13,256	13,713	1.9	2.0
10	Turkey	12,397	12,184	1.7	-1.7
11	Nepal	11,233	10,301	1.4	-8.3
12	Germany	9,548	9,458	1.3	-0.9
13	United Kingdom	8,861	8,947	1.2	1.0
14	Brazil	8,786	8,777	1.2	-0.1
15	Thailand	8,531	8,236	1.1	-3.5
16	Hong Kong	8,034	8,136	1.1	1.3
17	France	7,716	8,098	1.1	5.0
18	Nigeria	6,568	7,148	1.0	8.8
19	Indonesia	6,943	6,942	1.0	0.0
20	Malaysia	6,190	6,735	0.9	8.8
21	Colombia	6,920	6,456	0.9	-6.7
22	Iran	4,731	5,626	0.8	18.9
23	Venezuela	4,958	5,191	0.8	10.8

Source: International Institute of Education, Open Doors Data,
International Students to the United States: Leading Places of Origin.

Factors often not considered in the “brain drain” discourse

- Distribution of the skilled in countries of origin.
- Exodus from the sector but not the country.
- Place of training and who funds the training.
- Appropriate training: training for local as well as global markets.
- The immigration of appropriate skills
- The significance of outsourcing

Diasporas

- The communities of migrants outside their country of origin.
- The importance of return migration from the diaspora.
- The Overseas Chinese, the Viet Kieu.
- However, not all members of the diaspora might work for the benefit of their country of origin what Kapur has called the “Janus Face” of the diaspora

Future issues : Ageing and migration

- Can migration substitute for lost cohorts due to fertility decline? No, but it can slow ageing.
- Links between internal and international migration.
 - Internal migrants become international migrants.
 - However, international migration can give rise to internal migrations.
 - International migration as a substitute for internal migration.

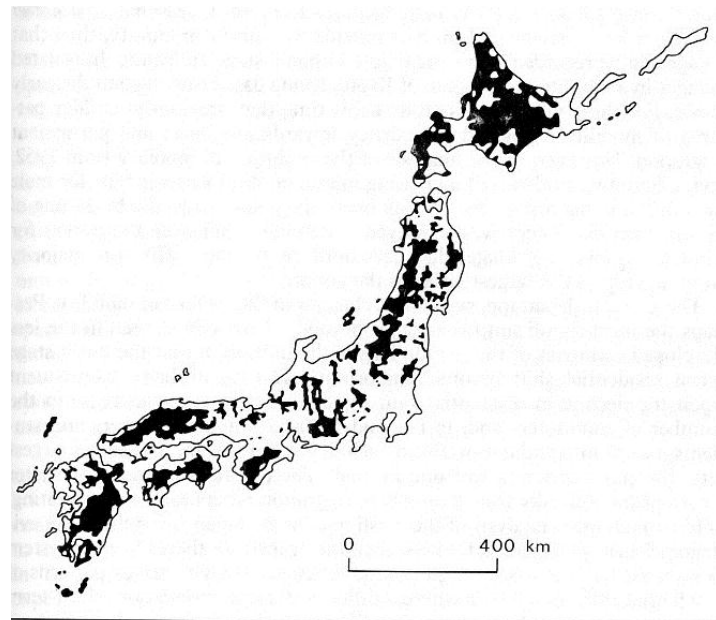
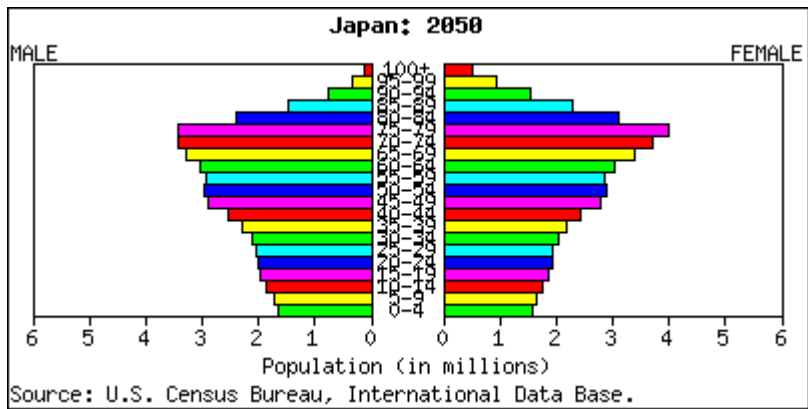
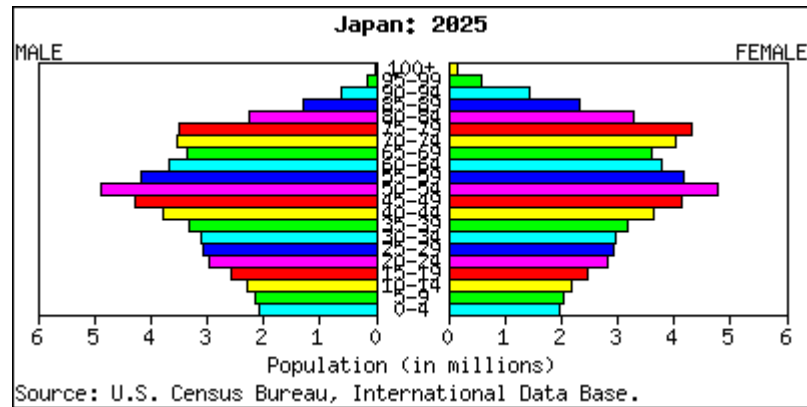
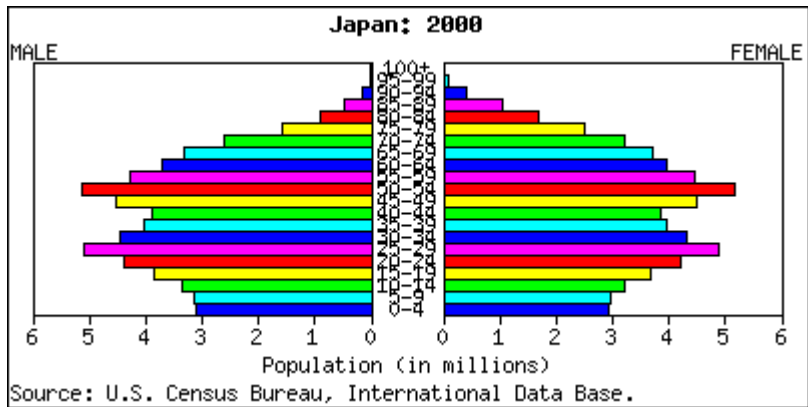


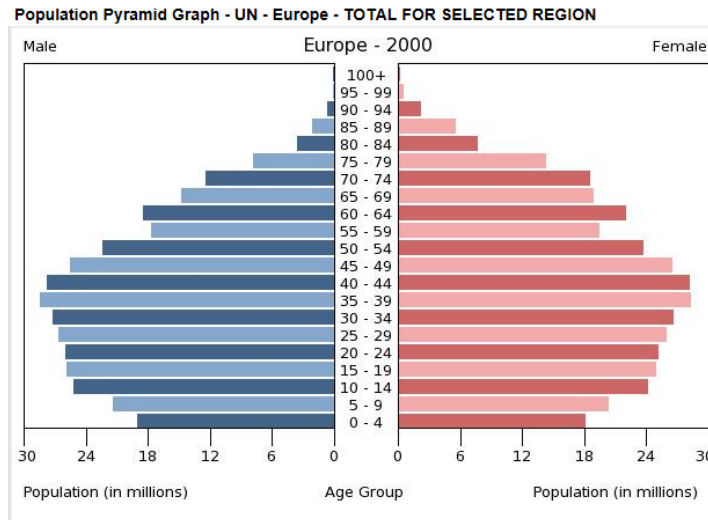
Figure 5.2 Japan: distribution of severely depopulated rural municipalities (*kaso*), 1985

Japan: population and mobility, 1970-2008

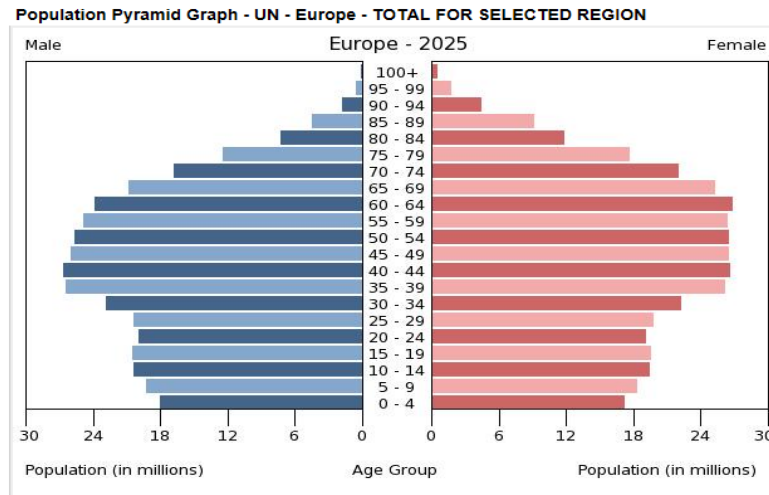
	Total Population (in 000s)	Population 20-34 years (in 000s)	Percentage of age group 20-34 years	Internal migrants	
				Intra-prefectural	Inter-prefectural
1970	103,720	28,121	27.1	4,037,503	4,235,008
1980	117,060	27,654	23.6	3,710,931	3,356,377
1990	123,611	24,659	19.9	3,350,450	3,168,335
1995	125,570	26,809	21.3	3,582,529	3,049,567
2000	126,926	26,988	21.3	3,333,206	2,813,464
2005	127,768	25,386	19.9	2,999,912	2,848,402
2008	127,692	23,731	18.6	2,601,648	2,508,533
2025	119,270				
2050	95,152				

Source: *Japan, Statistical Yearbooks*, various years, Tokyo, Statistics Bureau, Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications.

Population Pyramids for Europe 2000 and 2025



Source Information: [TOTAL FOR SELECTED REGION](#)



Source Information: [TOTAL FOR SELECTED REGION](#)

United States population Pyramids 2000 and 2025

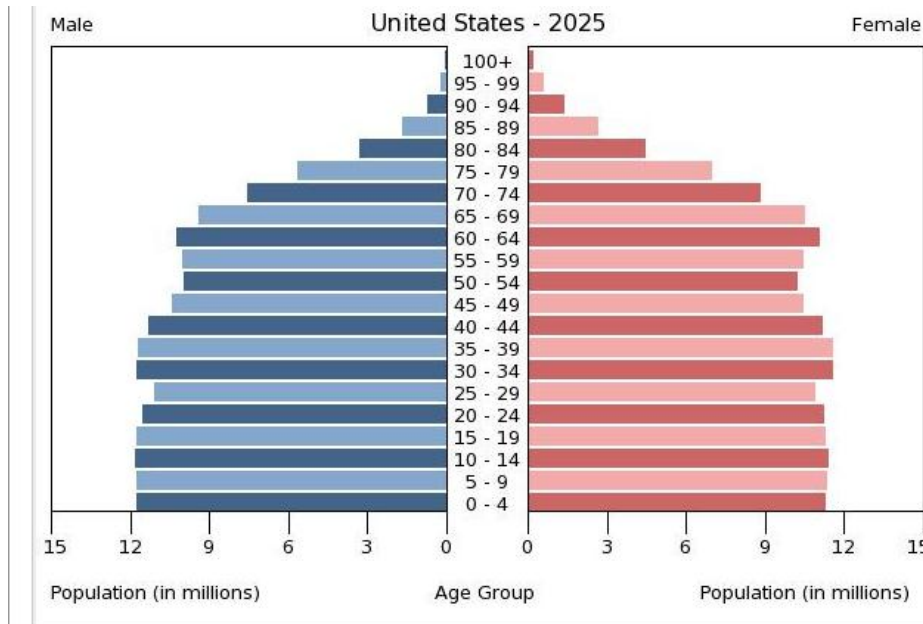
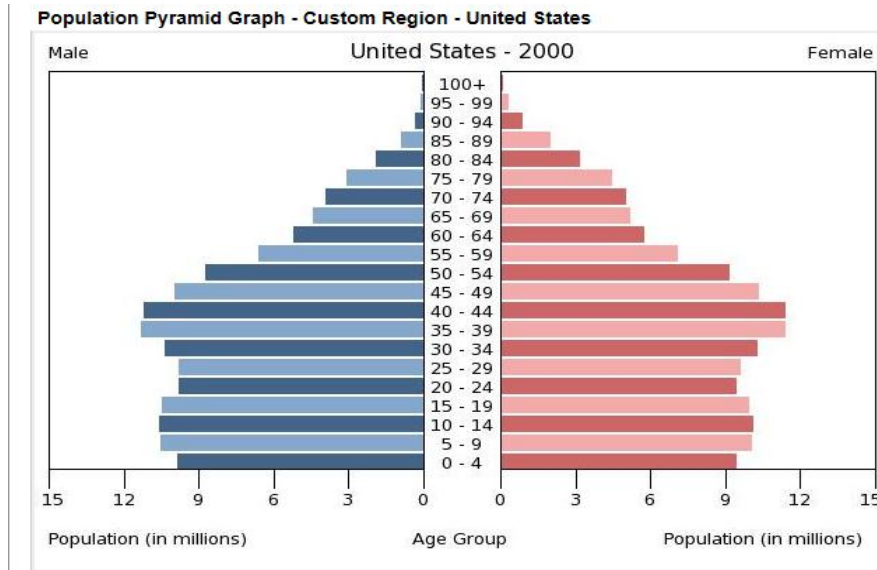
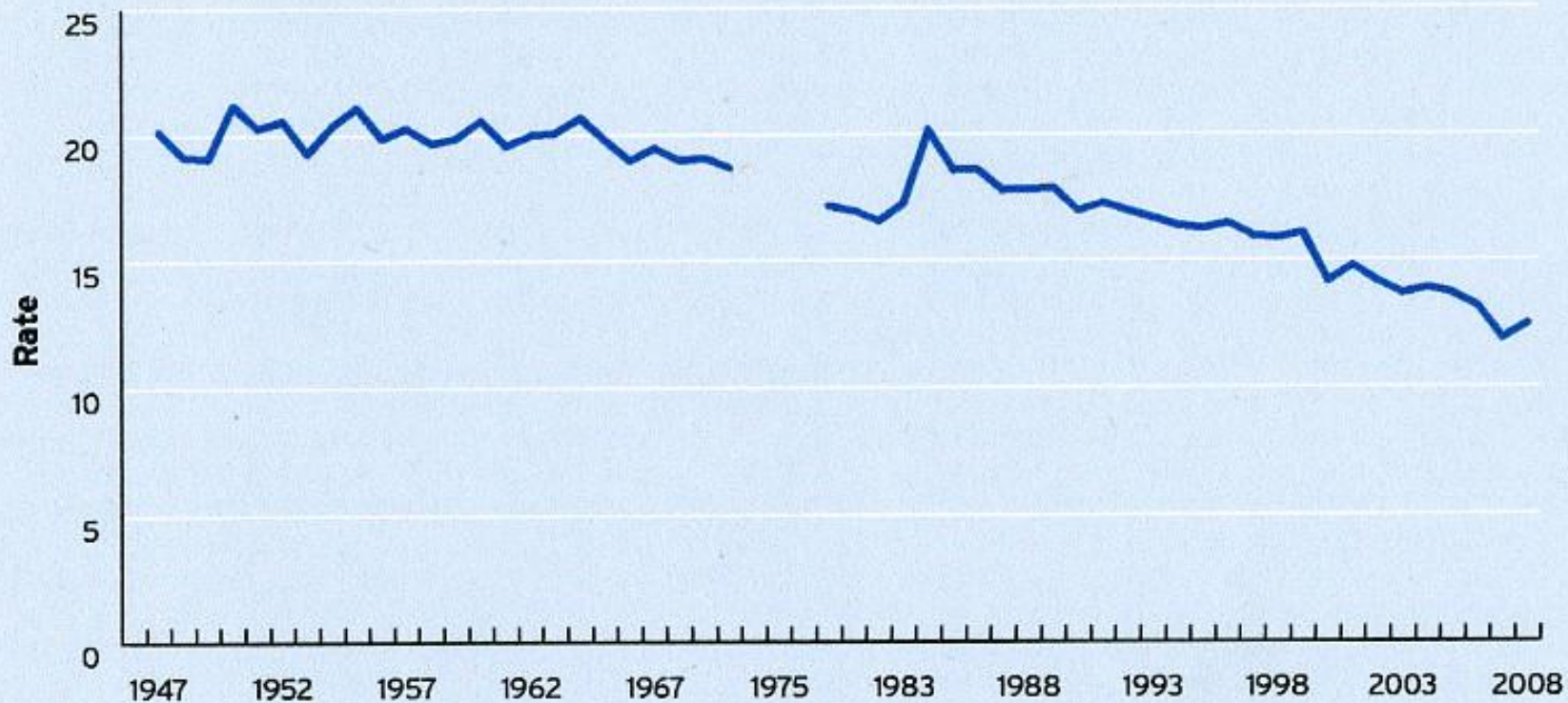


Figure 1. Annual Domestic Migration Rate, United States, 1947-1948 to 2008-2009



Note: annual data not collected from 1971-1975 and 1976-1980. Source: Brookings analysis of Current Population Survey data

The Global Forum on Migration and Development

- A forum where issues of migration (and development?) can be discussed must be a “good thing”.
- Development is not a major concern of the GFMD.
- Should the GFMD be the GFDM?
- Would a United Nations agency on migration be a “good thing”? No.

Conclusion

- Development means increased population migration and mobility
- Development will not stop migration
- The skilled pioneer these movements
- Migration reflects the open and vibrant economies: static populations reflect a lack of development.

Readings

- *Human Development Report 2009. Overcoming Barriers: Human Mobility and Development*, United Nations Development Programme, New York, 2009.
- Ronald Skeldon, *Migration and Development: A Global Perspective*, London, Longman, 1997.
- Ronald Skeldon, International migration as a tool in development policy: a passing phase? *Population and Development Review*, vol. 14(1), 2008: 1-18.
- Stephen Castles and Mark Miller, *The Age of Migration: International Population Movements in the Modern World*, London, Palgrave Macmillan, 2009, 4th edition.