

Migration abstracts

Strand organisers:

Jonathan Swan, Office for National Statistics

Dr. Ibrahim Sirkeci, Regent's College London

Migration Statistics Improvement Programme (MSIP): Exciting plans for Phase 2.

Ian McGregor, Office for National Statistics

Phase 2 of the Migration Statistics Improvement Programme (MSIP) being undertaken at the Office for National Statistics (ONS). The programme will enhance the quality of national, regional and local migration statistics, and will particularly address the concerns of local authorities with characteristics that make their populations difficult to estimate.

There are three key work streams to Phase 2 covering internal distribution of migration, reconciliation of local estimates with administrative sources, and international migration. These work streams will build on the success of Phase 1 of the programme.

Improved regional and local distribution of long and short term migrants will be delivered by using sources of administrative data that have either not previously been available to ONS, or not been of sufficient quality. This work will involve using the distribution of migrants in administrative sources to apportion the IPS estimate of long and short term migrants out to local areas.

Reconciling population estimates with administrative sources will provide a plausibility test for the estimates, along with a contingency adjustment strategy. The ONS will work with Departments to quality assure sources in order to include them in the upper and lower plausibility bounds.

Improved International migration estimates will predominantly be delivered through e-borders. Work is underway, in conjunction with UK Borders Agency and the Home Office, to develop and deliver potential statistical benefits both in the medium and longer term.

Email: ian.mcgregor@ons.gsi.gov.uk

Use of Administrative Sources in Phase two of the Migration Statistics Improvement Programme

Simon Whitworth, Nic White, Amanda Sharfman, Office for National Statistics

In recent years the pre-eminence of migration as the main driver of population change has heightened the level of uncertainty in population estimation at both the national and local levels. The limitations of the UK migration statistics are recognised and in a recent ONS exercise on statistical priorities this was the area which users saw as the highest priority for seeking improvements. Better information on migrants is needed urgently to help improve population estimates, projections and indicators as well as to support central and local government resource allocation, service planning and delivery. In May 2006, the ONS set up an Inter-departmental Task Force on Migration Statistics to consider improvements that could be made to estimates of migration and migrant populations in the UK. One of the key recommendations related to making better use of data from a number of administrative sources. More recently, in May 2008, the Treasury Select Committee report 'Counting the Population' recommended that the UK Statistics Authority should continue the work by ONS to identify alternative administrative data

sources for use in migration and population statistics. As a result work is being taken forward within the Improving Migration and Population Statistics programme to investigate the potential of making better use of administrative data for statistical purposes. This presentation will provide an overview of the administrative sources that ONS are currently working with which could potentially contribute to Phase two of the Migration Statistics Improvement Programme.

Email: simon.whitworth@ons.gsi.gov.uk

Development of short-term migration estimates at local authority level.

Simon Whitworth, Kostas Loukas, Office for National Statistics

Short-term migration can be broadly defined as moves made for more than one month but less than a year. Estimates of short-term migration are important to users of migration and population statistics in order to give a more complete picture of migration into and out of England & Wales. They also allow more direct comparisons to be made between ONS migration statistics and counts of migrants taken from administrative sources which are known to include both long and short-term migrants. England & Wales estimates of short-term migration have been published by the ONS as experimental statistics since 2007. These are based on International Passenger Survey (IPS) data. The development of Local Authority (LA) level estimates has followed on from the publication of national level estimates. While data from the IPS can be used directly to produce estimates for England & Wales, direct estimates are not sufficiently robust at LA level. This paper sets out an alternative methodology that has been used to distribute the published England and Wales estimates of short-term migration to LA level.

Email: simon.whitworth@ons.gsi.gov.uk

The effect of internal migration of families with primary school-aged children on change in residential concentration of low income families in England: an analysis of flows between different spatial scales.

Stephen Jivraj, University of Manchester

This paper explores the spatial sensitivity of the effect of internal migration of families with primary school aged children on change in concentration of low income families using the English School Census and Office for National Statistics (ONS) area classifications. Migration flows between Government Office Regions, Local Authority Districts, Statistical Wards, Lower Level Super Output Areas and Output Areas are analysed. The results show that change in the proportion of low income families varies between spatial scales because certain types of families are more likely to move between different spatial scales. For example, low income families are less likely to move between districts and more likely to move within districts than other families. Regression analysis shows that the area level characteristics positively associated with an increase in the proportion of low income families include public renting, ethnic minority residents, population density, terraced housing, household overcrowding, public transport commuting and students. These variables were all significant at two or more spatial scales. Previous research has shown that areas with high levels of public rented housing, ethnic minorities and population density tend to be associated with a desire to leave or avoid an area (Feijten and van Ham, 2009, van Ham and Feijten, 2008). The finding of this paper suggest that ability to leave such areas are dependent on income status which restricts low income families moving out of these areas as freely as other families.

Email: stephen.jivraj@postgrad.manchester.ac.uk

Modelling short-distance residential moves using the Northern Ireland Longitudinal Survey (NILS).

Ian Shuttleworth, Queen's University Belfast; Myles Gould, University of Leeds; Paul Barr, Queen's University Belfast

This presentation uses a newly-developed data source – the Northern Ireland Longitudinal Study (NILS) which comprises Health Card registration data linked to data from the 2001 Census – to describe and analyse residential migratory moves in Northern Ireland between 2001 and 2007 (for 28% of this population). The analysis considers the individual and neighbourhood factors that shape whether individuals change residential address or not, and also the distances they moved. Examples of questions to which answers are sought include whether there are differences in mobility by religion, by marital status, limiting long-term illness status; and whether individuals in areas where they are in ‘the minority’ (e.g. Catholics in Protestant areas) are more mobile than those in places where they are ‘the majority’. Multilevel modelling is used to explore the determinants of both the probability of moving and the distance moved; the relative importance of between-individual and between-place variability, and also the interactions between place and individual characteristics. The main findings are that patterns of movement strongly structured by religious denomination and by socio-economic background, and that ‘place’ (in terms of Super Output Area of residence) is an important context. Other results also indicate that public authority housing residents are less mobile than others; that there are differentials in mobility by age, education and limiting long-term illness; and that migration does not have a major impact on redistributing population with regard to community background.

Email: i.shuttleworth@qub.ac.uk

An analysis of patient register data in the Longitudinal Study: what does it tell us about the quality of the data?

Steve Smallwood, Kevin Lynch, Office for National Statistics

This presentation uses data for members of the ONS Longitudinal Study (LS) from both Census 2001 enumeration and patient registrations “frozen” on census day 2001 from the National Health Service Central Register (NHSCR) to examine potential sources of difference in area of usual residence.

Patient register information is a key administrative source used in the construction of internal migration between local authorities, which in turn is used in making population estimates. It is also used in the construction of small area population figures.

Overall 95.7 % of ONS LS members enumerated at census resided in the same area as recorded on the NHSCR data. Where areas differed, or the ONS LS member was not on the NHSCR on census day, subsequent NHSCR records were examined. Records flagged on the NHSCR as ONS LS members in England and Wales on census day but with no census record were also investigated

Email: steve.smallwood@ons.gsi.gov.uk

Sex ratios in administrative data sources: Can they help to explain the sex ratio patterns in population estimates since 2001?

Sofie De Broe, Johanna Shaw, Steve Smallwood, Office for National Statistics

This paper aims to further understand the sex ratio pattern resulting from the England and Wales population estimates based on the 2001 Census and its subsequent trend. In order to do so, it compares sex ratio patterns in Total International Migration data and other administrative sources such as the Patient Register Data, Lifetime Labour Market Database, Higher Education Statistics Agency and previously unpublished Migrant Workers Scan data.

Even after using statistical techniques to adjust for under enumeration a sharp drop in the sex ratio was observed around age 18 in the England and Wales Census of 2001 and the Census based mid-2001 population estimates. A second feature is that the drop observed in 2001 is ageing forward over the intercensal period and thirdly, it continues to remain lower than expected under a natural population.

Several scenarios are considered when aiming to explain the three features of the sex ratio pattern and comparison are made between administrative data sources and Census data. Additionally, we visualise the extent to which sex ratio patterns in the flows of migration to and from England and Wales as reflected in the data sources are likely to have impacted on the population estimates' sex ratio pattern. Although the data sources used are for specific administrative purposes, they have been useful to improve understanding of the sex ratio of the population and how specific migration flows potentially affect the population sex ratio.

Email: sofie.de.broe@ons.gsi.gov.uk

Labour migration to the East Midlands in the current recession.

David Owen, University of Warwick; Anne Green, University of Warwick; Paul Jones, Sheffield Hallam University; Rhys Davies, Cardiff University

Labour migration to the UK is an issue of high political importance, because it poses considerable challenges to society and government. East European migration following EU expansion has had a major impact on the UK labour market and on certain regions. This paper presents findings from a research project which revisits research undertaken in 2007 on migration to the East Midlands in order to determine whether the nature of migration has changed, and whether the deep recession of 2008-9 has had an impact on the volume and nature of migration. The national origins of migrants in different parts of the region are examined using a range of data sources, including ONS migration estimates and administrative data sources such as National Insurance number allocations and Workers Registration Scheme statistics and the labour market impacts of migration assessed using Labour Force Survey data. The paper also makes estimates of the likely future trend of migration to the region based on labour market projections to 2020 and reviews the availability of data on international migration at the regional and local scale.

Email: d.w.owen@warwick.ac.uk

A conflict model for human mobility: Towards a political ecology of migration.

Jeffrey H. Cohen, The Ohio State University; Ibrahim Sirkeci, Regent's College London; Bernardo Rios, The Ohio State University

In this paper, we develop a conflict model to explore and understand the process and outcomes of human mobility. Building upon work in political ecology, we define mobility as a complex process that is embedded within social networks that, among other things, increase insecurity and overall vulnerability to cross-border migration and shapes decision making for movers and non-movers. In the first part of this paper, we outline the insecurity and vulnerability (social, cultural, economic and ecological). In such a conflict conceptualisation, mobility typically appears as a move from insecurity to security or from vulnerability to resistance. We argue that insecurity and vulnerability are not qualities that can be escaped and that as movers, non-movers, their households and communities adapt to new situations, what is vulnerable and resistant; insecure and secure, can shift. Our approach offers a dynamic view of mobility which is responsive to the changes through space and time. We use examples of various flows to Europe and from Mexico to the US to illustrate our model.

Email: cohen.319@osu.edu

Ancestry or residence? Strategies for accessing Spanish citizenship, a 'netnography' approach.

Pablo Mateos, University College London; Jorge Durand, Universidad de Guadalajara

Access to a nationality from a European Union country has become a key migration strategy over the last decade. For migrants from outside the EU the advantages of acquiring the nationality of an EU country are obvious; access to very fluid international mobility, to labour markets and educational opportunities in over 30 countries and even to social security and welfare benefits. This paper investigates the strategies followed by actual and potential migrants interested in accessing Spanish citizenship to enter or settle with the EU. We do so through an innovative methodology; 'netnography', or the ethnographic analysis of personal experiences published on the Internet. We analysed over 41,000 messages sent by 2,860 individuals to an internet discussion group where migrants share questions, information and experiences about the cumbersome Spanish naturalisation process. We identify a series of strategies to access Spanish citizenship that aim to maximise the chances of success in the shortest time possible either through Spanish ancestry or through a period of legal residence in Spain. A person's ancestors form a sort of family endowment that we here term 'ethnic capital', comprised by surnames, phenotype and genealogy. The history of Spanish emigration as well as migration and citizenship policies produce an unequal pattern in the 'geography of naturalization' within the regions of origin, primarily from Latin America, Northern Africa and Eastern Europe. These factors are weaved together in the complex web of migrants' personal experiences that we here investigate, and that are constantly faced with the question: residence or ancestry?

Email: p.mateos@ucl.ac.uk

Is Bangalore the new New Delhi? Moving decisions of North Eastern Indians.

Aparna Krishnamoorthy, Anshu Subash, Ankur Verma, Suchandra Chatterjee, Welingkar Institute of Management Development and Research

Bangalore the silicon valley of India has witnessed phenomenal growth over the last decade. To participate in this IT boom people from various parts of India migrated to Bangalore leading to an

unprecedented expansion of the city. Among these new entrants into Bangalore one remarkable feature was increased numbers of people from the North eastern states of India which is very unlike their usual preferred migration destination –New Delhi. The objective of this study is to gauge the reasons behind the change in the migration pattern of north eastern Indians who in increasing numbers are moving to the city of Bangalore. We also seek to determine the legitimacy of a popular belief in India that north eastern Indians hold sway in the fast developing retail and hospitality industry in India. Our preliminary primary data has revealed that about 68 % of the respondents interviewed so far have never considered moving to cities other than Bangalore. All the respondents reported 25% - 400% increases in their monthly expenses post their move to Bangalore and yet are not put off by the increased cost of living. About 44% of the respondents faced some form of discrimination such as being called “Chinkis” (those who look like Chinese) a colloquial form of addressing people with Mongoloid features. We hope that at the end of this study we are able to determine the factors that act as influencers in the case of moving decisions of north eastern Indians to the city of Bangalore.

Email: aparna.krishnamoorthy@welingkar.org

Self-rated health, mental health, and health utilisation of rural-urban migrant factory workers in Shenzhen, China.

Jin Mou, Chinese University of Hong Kong; Jinquang Chen, Shenzhen Centre for Disease Control & Prevention; Sian M. Griffiths, Chinese University of Hong Kong

Background: Along with fast industrialization and urbanization, rural-urban migration has been a prominent social and economic phenomenon in contemporary China. However, the academic work on health status and service utilisation of rural-urban migrants is scarce.

Methods: A questionnaire survey was sent to 4280 adult migrant workers from 44 factories in Shenzhen in May 2009 using multiple-stage random sampling with a response rate of 95.5%. Health status was identified using EuroQol 5D (EQ-5D) Visual Analogue Scale (VAS), a 5 scale health measurement and sickness report in the previous two weeks. Mental health was measured by Centre for Epidemiological Studies-Depression scale. Outpatient and inpatient healthcare utilisation was surveyed. Analyses were conducted using univariate and multiple logistic regressions.

Results : Males are more likely to evaluate their health as very good or good (67.6%) than females (61.0%). EQ-5D VAS score differed between those who had and did not have clinically relevant depressive symptoms (77.61 vs. 87.62). The two-week illness rate was 21.5%, which correlated to poor self-rated health and lower VAS score. Among those ever reported sickness, one third had visited a doctor. Of all, 3.1% had used inpatient medical services in the previous year. Models showed that better health status was associated with being male, being younger, with higher education, with family accompaniment, having longer sleeping hours per day, having not reported sickness in the previous two weeks and showing no clinically relevant depressive symptoms.

Conclusions : Health status of rural-urban migrant factory workers depends on socio-demographic factors and migration experience. Correlation between SRH and mental health, and low healthcare utilisation should be fully explored to adjust healthcare provision at the local level.

Email: moujin@gmail.com

Forced migration to emerging countries. Case: Chilean society receiving Afro-Colombian asylum seekers.

Mónica Amador, Jawaharlal Nehru University, India

This paper is based on a diagnosis of the situation of women asylum seekers from Colombia in Chile, carried out during 2008 together with the Univ. of Chile and UNHCR. The study analyses the increasing flow of Afrocolombians passing through northern Chile on their way to their final destination. This recent flow -aprox. 4 years ago- (UNHCR,2008) creates a number of new challenges and has specific characteristics that should be included in the region-specific analysis on refugee determination systems, debates on mixed flows of migration, feminization of migration and displacement to countries with high economic growth rates. The paper deals specifically with the plight of Afrocolombian women asylum seekers in the city of Iquique who, escaping from armed conflict and gender violence in Buenaventura-Colombia, are entering Chile looking for employment and security. After having arrived in Chile they do, however, often become victims of trafficking, forced labour and prostitution. The Chilean society has been through major changes since the end of the dictatorship and is now one of the most stable democracies in the region. But even if Chile itself produced thousands of refugees in the 1970s and 80s, the country still does not have laws, procedures and a well-developed refugee reception system. Chile thus has a number of challenges when facing new flows of migrants and refugees. New legal and institutional frameworks must be designed so that migrants, both from the region and from other parts of the world, can be integrated in a proper way.

Email: monik.amador@gmail.com
