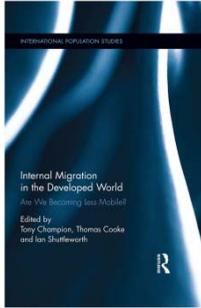


# Overview of the book's findings

**Tony Champion**

Paper presented at BSPS/PGRG meeting 'Is internal migration slowing down?', London School of Economics and Political Science, 11 January 2018



## What the book has done

- Central question: Is the US experience of long-term decline in migration rates at all spatial scales unique? Alternatively, have other countries undergoing similar societal changes followed the US trend? (Chapter 1)
- Approach: To identify the trends for each country and attempt to explain them by conceiving of a 'tug of war' between factors working to increase migration intensity and those working to diminish it (Chapters 2 and 3)
- Two principal sources: (1) Internal Migration Around the GlobeE (IMAGE) project, see Chapter 4; (2) Seven Developed World country studies, see Chapters 5-11. Results synthesised and discussed in Chapters 12-14.

# Findings from IMAGE

- The Internal Migration Around the GlobE project has collected datasets for 179 of the 193 UN member states, with time series for 66 (mainly census-based)
- Cross-sectional analysis of countries at ca year 2000 confirms strong relationship between overall address-changing rates and development stage (e.g. HDI, GNP)
- But trends in migration intensity over time (2000-2010) are very mixed for inter-regional migration: rather even split between 'fall', 'rise' and 'stable' (= change of <5%), across both Developed and Developing World countries
- Picture clearer for 19 Developed World countries with data on all-moves rate for 2000 and 2010 rounds: fall 10, stable 8, and rise only one. BUT Great Recession impact on pre-2010 rates cf 2000 predating dotcom bust?

# Findings from case studies

- Country case studies provide more detail on different types of migration including annual series, as well as more info on the long-term national context and drivers
- The seven countries cover much of the variety across the Developed World in terms of size, density, % urban, GDP/cap, model of capitalism, GINI, HDI, migration rate
- As regards inter-region migration, the long-term picture is of rates rising in 1960s, declining in 1970s, relatively stable in 1980s, and falling or bottoming-out in 1990s
- For 2000-2010 the overall pattern is of convergence, with big falls in highest-rate USA & Australia and some rebound in lowest-rate Italy, but stable for medium-high Sweden & UK, falling for medium-low Germany & Japan
- As regards local residential mobility, the dominant trend is now of falling rates, but Sweden stable and Italy rising

# Country-by-country synopsis

Geography 90  
at Newcastle University



(ca-2011 one-year migration rate ranking out of 45 countries )

USA (6<sup>th</sup>) and Australia (7<sup>th</sup>): falls in internal migration rates across all spatial scales, seeming to evolve from footloose 'settler societies' towards the norm of other countries

Sweden (8<sup>th</sup>): traditionally a high-migration country by Old World standards and currently with no sign of falling rates at any spatial scale

UK (13<sup>th</sup>): a medium/high-migration country in European context and staying this way, except for a decline in local moving

Germany (15<sup>th</sup>): quite low rates that have remained fairly stable in recent years except higher around reunification in 1990

Japan (22<sup>nd</sup>): continuing its long-term decline in rates despite being low rate since the 1970s

Italy (29<sup>th</sup>): rates became very low after the 1960s but seem to have bottomed out in 1980s and are now tending to rise

# Towards explanation 1

- If measuring trends in internal migration intensity seemed difficult, unpacking the separate role of the many drivers of change has proved much more so!
- One concrete finding: decomposing into population composition change vs sub-group behavioural change gives primacy to the latter in causing overall rate change
- Another one: older people (45+) are now moving home less often than in the past – likely factors: greater healthy longevity, more owner occupiers, family needs
- Also, later departure from parental home and less finality in this – likely factors: longer in full-time education, more precarity in early careers, less stable relationships
- Also, increasing substitution of migration by circulation – likely factors: easier transport & ICT (e.g. for work), more dual-earner households, rising costs of moving home

# Towards explanation 2

Less clear are the drivers of change in longer-distance migration, normally associated with economic factors, especially the labour market:

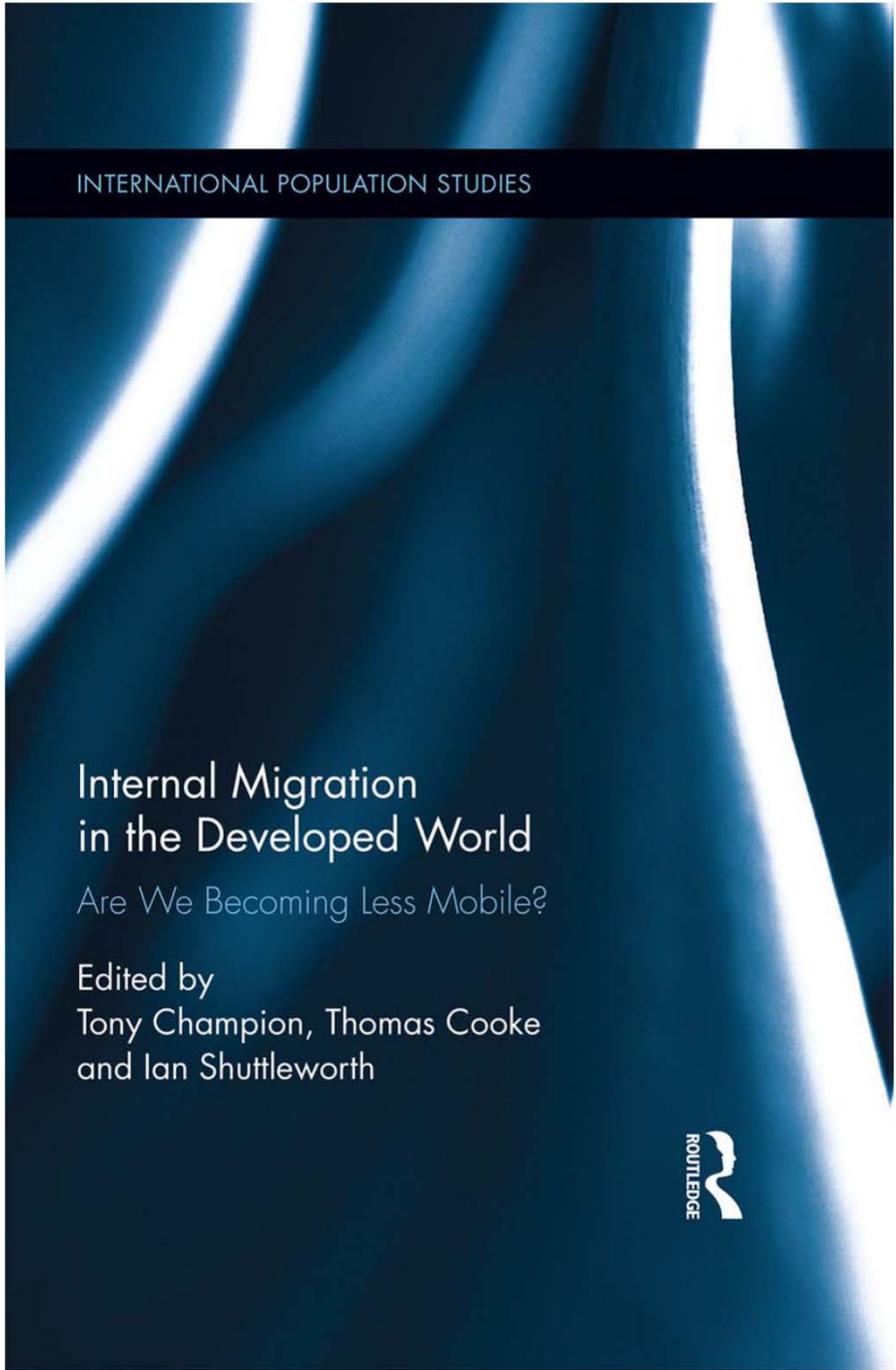
- Less regional variation in (broad) industrial structure, but greater geographical concentration of high-status work?
- More service-class and degree-level jobs, traditionally linked to high spatial mobility but not so much now?
- More self-employment and part-time employment, traditionally linked to lower mobility ... and still are?
- Rising constraints imposed by occupational licensing in federal systems (e.g. differences between US states)?
- More jobs being filled by international migrant labour, so less incentive for natives to move to tight labour markets?
- Changes in welfare state: does less generous support lead to more migration or discourage such risk-taking?
- Role of better ICT: does it lead to more or less migration? Does it reduce 'failed migration'?

# Towards theory?

At a higher conceptual level:

- How much of a role is there now for 'grand narratives' (e.g. Zelinsky's mobility transition hypothesis, Fielding's 3-level temporal model, the New Mobilities Paradigm)?
- How strong are 'period effects' that may have global reach irrespective of individual country's development stage (e.g. Great Recession, new ICT)?
- Can such 'general' explanations be trumped by national distinctiveness (e.g. in size, settlement pattern, culture, governance) or are the latter just variations on a theme?

These are some of the questions that Chapter 14 of the book addresses before setting out a research agenda, but for today they provide a context for the 3 country case studies, 2 papers and final discussion session.



INTERNATIONAL POPULATION STUDIES

Internal Migration  
in the Developed World

*Are We Becoming Less Mobile?*

Edited by  
Tony Champion, Thomas Cooke  
and Ian Shuttleworth



Geography 90  
at Newcastle University YEARS



# Overview of the book's findings

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