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Global Migration: Demographic Aspects and Its Relevance for Development

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1. ACTUAL AND PROJECTED TOP-20 ECONOMIES RANKED BASED ON GROSS DOMESTIC PRODUCT

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B. MIGRATION, MOBILITY AND TEMPORARY AND PERMANENT MIGRANTS

Due to the nature of international migration data, migration is often conceptualized as a

from which family members circulate back to origins on a longer or shorter-term basis, essentially establishing a bilocality of household location. Overall for Australia, where excellent data on exits exist, about one-fifth of all permanent migrants in the post-Second World War period subsequently left the country (Hugo, 2008). However, traditional countries of immigration such as Australia, Canada and the United States of America, where immigration is considered to be an integral part of nation-building, have turned to temporary or non-immigrant programmes in order to compete for skills and labour in an increasingly globalizing world. These non-immigrant

migration seems desirable, with a recent example being the European Union's Global Approach to Migration and Mobility (GAMM)[3].

C. CHANGES IN THE GLOBAL SYSTEM

The global migration system has changed over recent decades with regard to the origins and destinations, as well as the volume and types of migrants. Countries that were once origins of migration became destinations of migrants and vice versa. The shift from Europe as a major area

Nations, 2013a).[4] The same source gives the stock of emigrants for the United Kingdom at 7.9 per cent of the population. Hence, many countries might be affected by immigration and emigration at the same time. This does not mean that the types of migrants from these countries are the same. Around the year 2000, the United Kingdom was estimated to have more skilled migrants outside its borders than any other country, some 1.44 million, ahead of Mexico and the Philippines with 0.92 and 1.13 million skilled migrants respectively (Docquier and Marfouk, 2006). However, second-home owners and retirees would also be included in the total stock of United Kingdom residents overseas. Less-skilled labour migrants make up a significant part of the migration from the Philippines and irregular migration is an important component of the migration from Mexico to the United States. These two types of migration are of little importance for the United Kingdom. Germany and the Republic of Korea, two other countries that have gone through the turnaround, were also among the top 10 source countries of skilled workers around the year 2000. It might be concluded that, while a transition in migration, as is the case of the demographic transition (see below), does appear to exist, it is not a simple shift from emigration to immigration but shifts, too, in composition and perhaps from migration to mobility.

Secondly, the frameworks used to analyse global migration often generate spurious results.

a point in time. All of these categories are highly heterogeneous but particularly the developing

however, might be through demographics and macro-level models of change through transition theory. Any such attempt to incorporate migration in this way needs to consider both internal and international population movements. Too often these are seen as entirely separate systems or at best that international migration evolves out of internal population movement. For example, rural migrants move to a city and either push the urban-born to move internationally or move on themselves to an international destination. However, while such movements can occur, the reality is more complex with international migration generating internal migrations or intboth i

occurs varies between countries, and for a small number of countries currently with high fertility (i.e., five children or more on average per woman) the projected declines are likely to occur at much slower pace than the average experience of all other countries in the past.

Driven initially by the decline in mortality, various pathways through the mortality and fertility transition have been observed in terms of the speed of the transition as well as the differing relative importance of factors impacting upon the two variables. Over time, and as the process itself has evolved in sometimes unexpected directions, the model of the transition has been modified to fit observations and more exact measurement techniques. The idea of a second demographic transition was introduced to explain persistent low fertility in the face of increasing mortality in the most developed parts of the world (Van de Kaa, 1987). A more recent variation has been the apparent increase in fertility in Europe with increasing levels of development (Myrskyla, Kohler and Billari, 2009). However, this increase may be more apparent than real and can be accounted for by the completion of a trend or transition towards the postponement of childbearing (Bongaarts and Sobotka, 2012).

These global shifts in mortality and fertility have had a profound impact on age structures, with the initial decline in mortality contributing to a rapid expansion of young age groups and the later decline in fertility bringing about an ageing of the population. One of the relatively few generalizations that can be made about migration is that the majority of those who move are young adults, a generalization that can be traced back to Ravenstein (1885), the father of modern migration studies, in the late nineteenth century. Hence, and as will be discussed in more detail below, the number of migrants in any population will to some extent be a function of the number of young adults in that population. This relationship is not necessarily simple, mono-causal and deterministic but the number of young adults provides an important context in which the movement takes place.

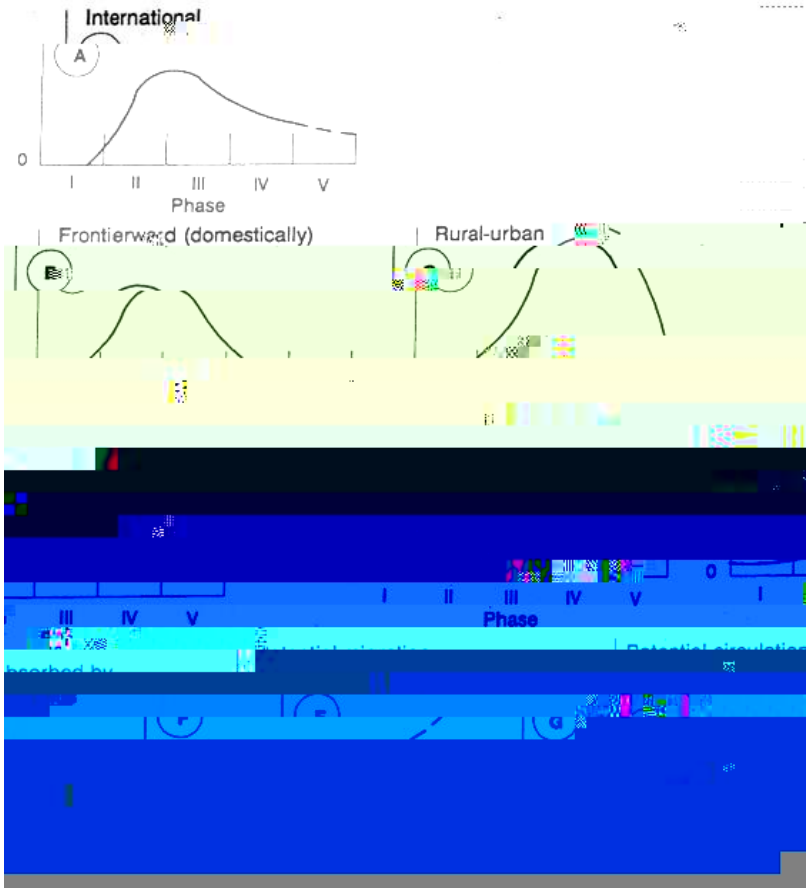
These points introduce the idea of
demographic transition, an idea first developed by the American geographer Wilbur Zelinsky in

the growth of personal mobility through space-time during recent history, and these regularities

association of migration with the phases of the demographic transition as shown in figure I where

Central to his idea was that the demographic transition itself was associated with increasing concentration of population in towns and cities. As that proportion grew, then the relative importance of rural to urban would decline while that of urban-urban and intra-urban migration would increase. Zelinsky also saw a declining international migration at advanced stages of the demographic transition. Perhaps most perceptively, Zelinsky envisaged a declining migration as technical advancements in transportation allowing people to circulate among places instead of having to move more definitively to them: what he termed potential migration absorbed by circulation. At even higher levels of development he envisaged circulation itself reducing because of technological development in communications systems that allowed people to communicate easily over great distances without moving.

Figure I. Schematic representation of the changing levels of mobility over time



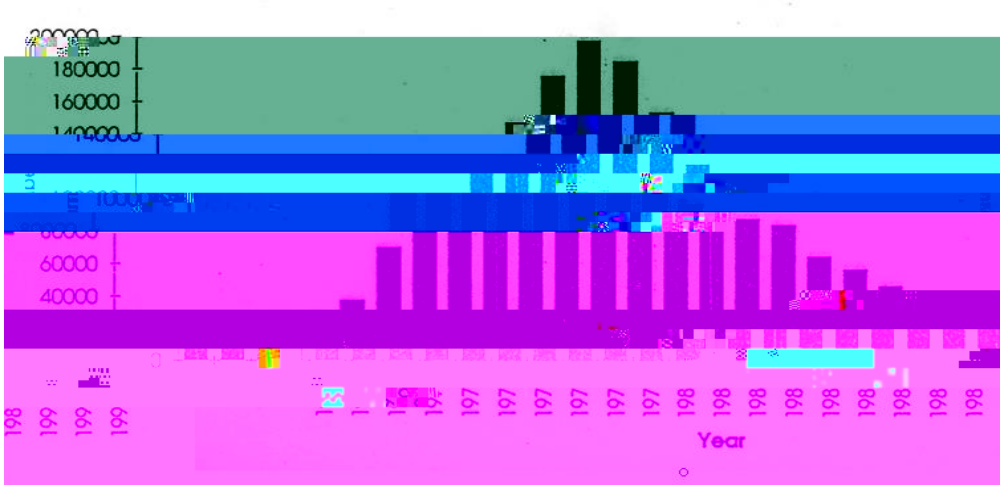
Source: Wilbur Zelinsky, The hypothesis of the mobility transition, Geographical Review, vol. 61, No. 2, p. 233.

Figure II. Population pyramids for Japan 2000, 2025 and 2050

Source: United Nations, Department of Economic and Social Affairs, Population Division (2013b).

Figure III. Population pyramids for the Replation pyras.icnonKoPopaation2000, pa25(p)-1an(y)d(p9n2)-4(0)-US1414

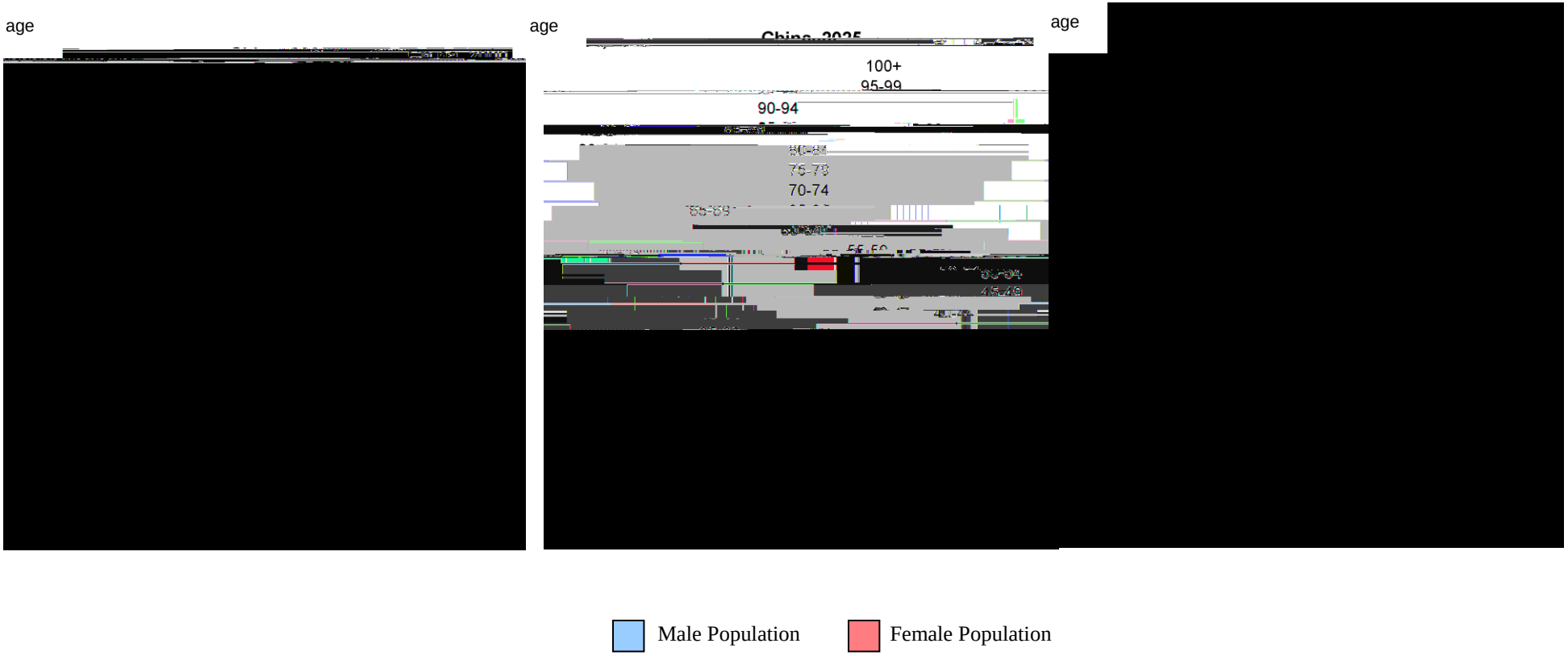
Figure V. Republic of Korea: annual outflow of migrant workers, 1970-1992



Source: Drawn from data published by the International Labour Organization, Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific, Bangkok, and cited in R. Skeldon, Migration and Development: A Global Interpretation, London, Longman, 1997, table 2, page 102.

Japan had no equivalent phase of labour migration. However, it experienced a period of net emigration, mainly to South America and particularly Brazil, which dated from the early years of the twentieth century, peaking in the late 1920s and early 1930s and continuing in the late 1950s after the Second World War. Few people migrated after the 1970s. Japan was already a low-

Figure VI. Population pyramids for China, 2000, 2025 and 2050



Source: United Nations, Department of Economic and Social Affairs, Population Division (2013b).

H. MIGRATION AND DEVELOPMENT: TOWARDS A GLOBAL FUTURE

If the future structure of the global economy follows the models of Pricewaterhouse Coopers or the OECD to the middle of the twenty-first century, patterns, volumes and compositions of migration are likely to be very different from those at present (Pricewaterhouse Coopers, 2011; OECD, 2012b). Economic and social differences among countries are likely to decrease as economies across the world begin to converge, with the greater share of growth over the next 50 years occurring not in the present developed world but in East and South Asia. Demographic shifts will be an integral part of this transformation as these developed areas see slowing labour force growth, ageing and even declining populations that will lead to pressures to import w

Among other factors influencing future

of framing current migration flows. The global economy is dynamic with major changes in the location of global production and consumption that blurs any simple binary division into a richer

Future shifts in migration will be affected by the observed convergence in economies with the evolution of a much more poly-centred economy and global migration system. Distinct regional systems are likely to emerge that account for the majority of migrants but held together by a global system of migrants for whom a global market for their skills exists. As societies become more highly urbanized and populations age, a trend may emerge towards a decline in migration, in terms of longer-term movements, but towards a rise in shorter-term mobility. People will become less migratory but more mobile, paradoxical though that might seem. Mobility will be highly complex in terms of types of movers as well as countries of origin and destination and the impact of environmental change on migration will be felt primarily at the local and regional levels.

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