

Gendering Migration Flows: Canada and the United States

By

Monica Boyd

University of Toronto, Canada

monica.boyd@utoronto.ca

**Penultimate (and longer) paper available
at symposium website, via**

www.unmigration.org

Presentation:

- a) Brief Canada-USA review**
- b) Overview of gender perspective**
- c) Review data showing gendered outcomes**
- d) Review several initiatives**

Similarities:

- two major destination countries for migrants
- contain almost 44 million migrants

Total % of Migrants Worldwide

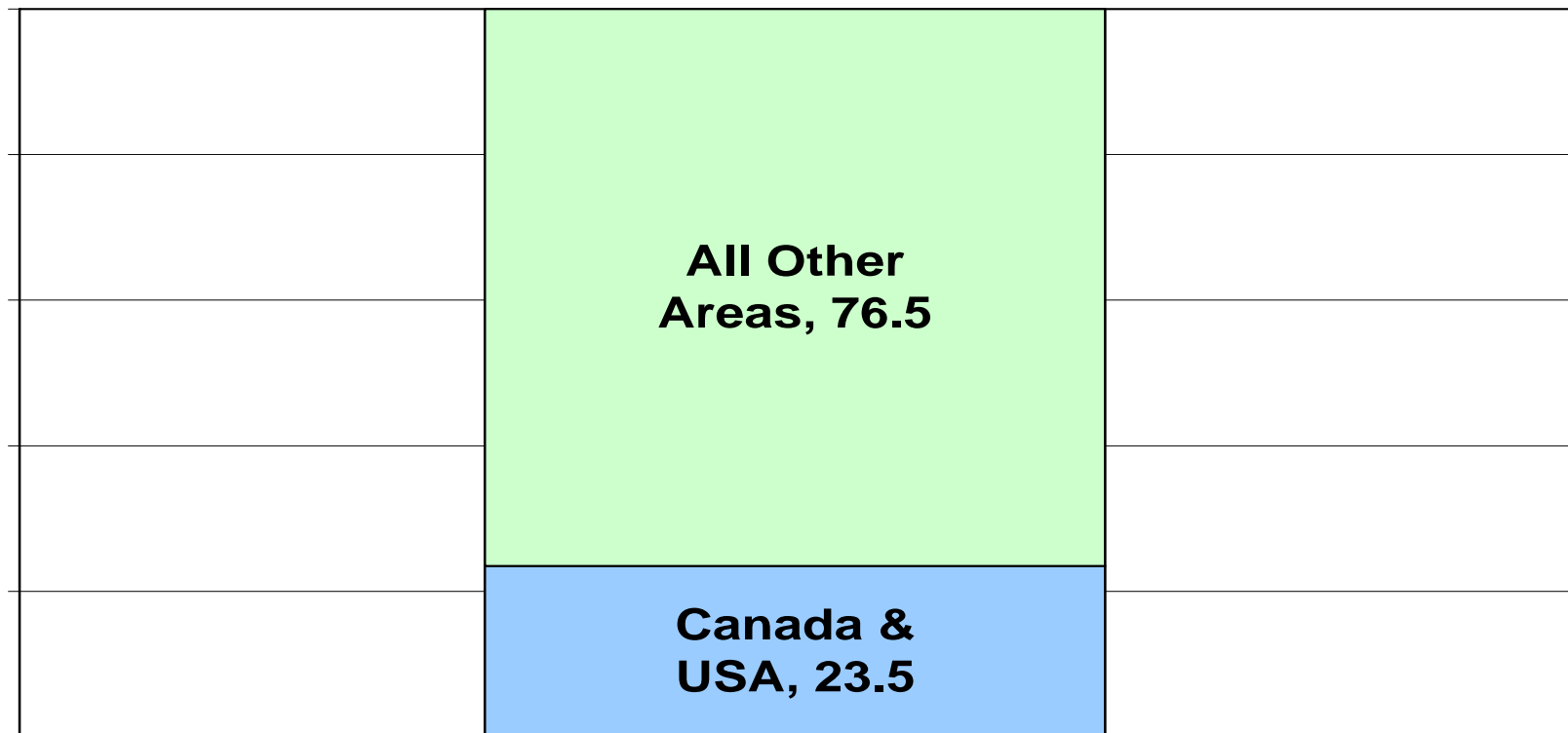
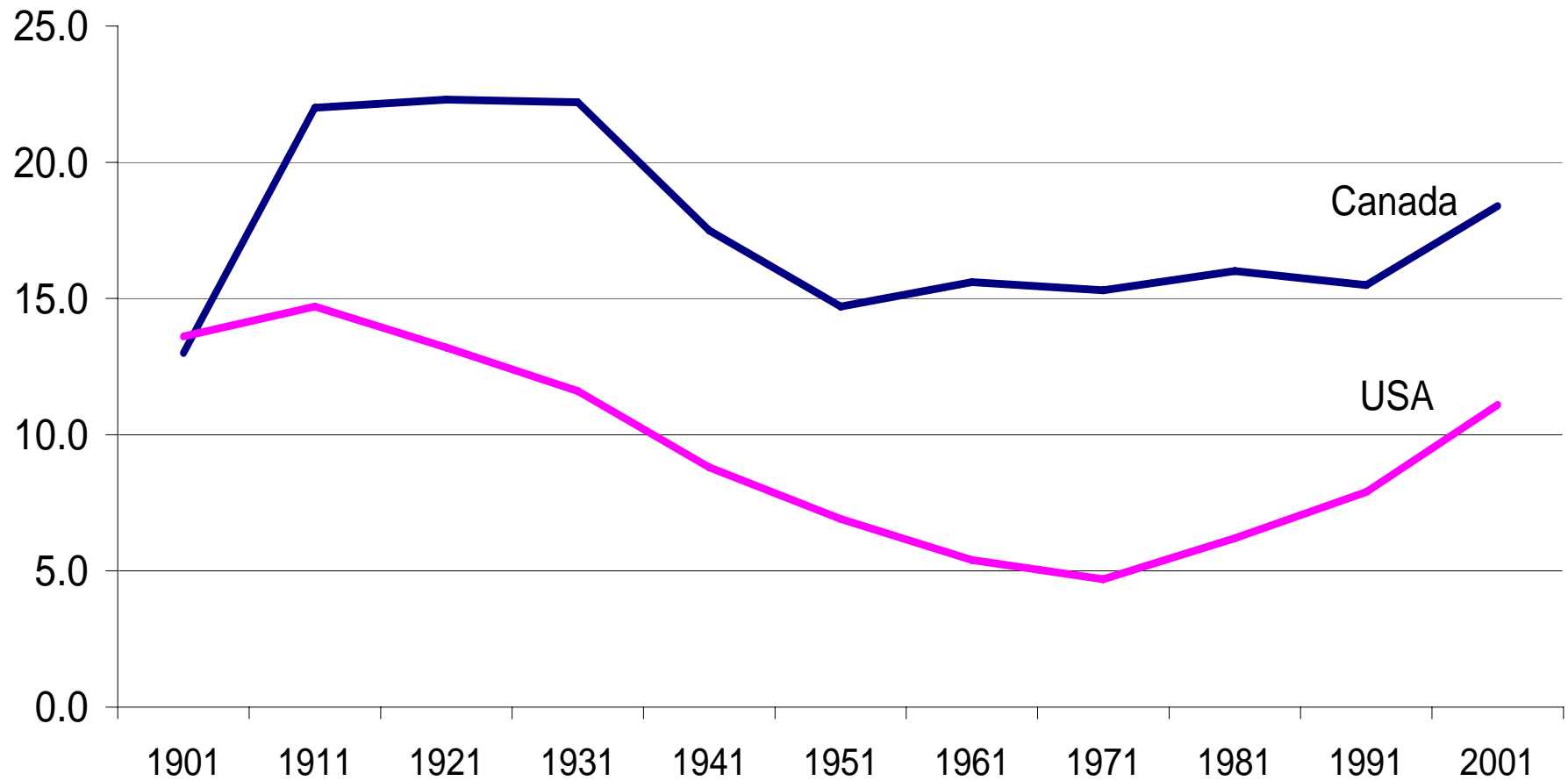


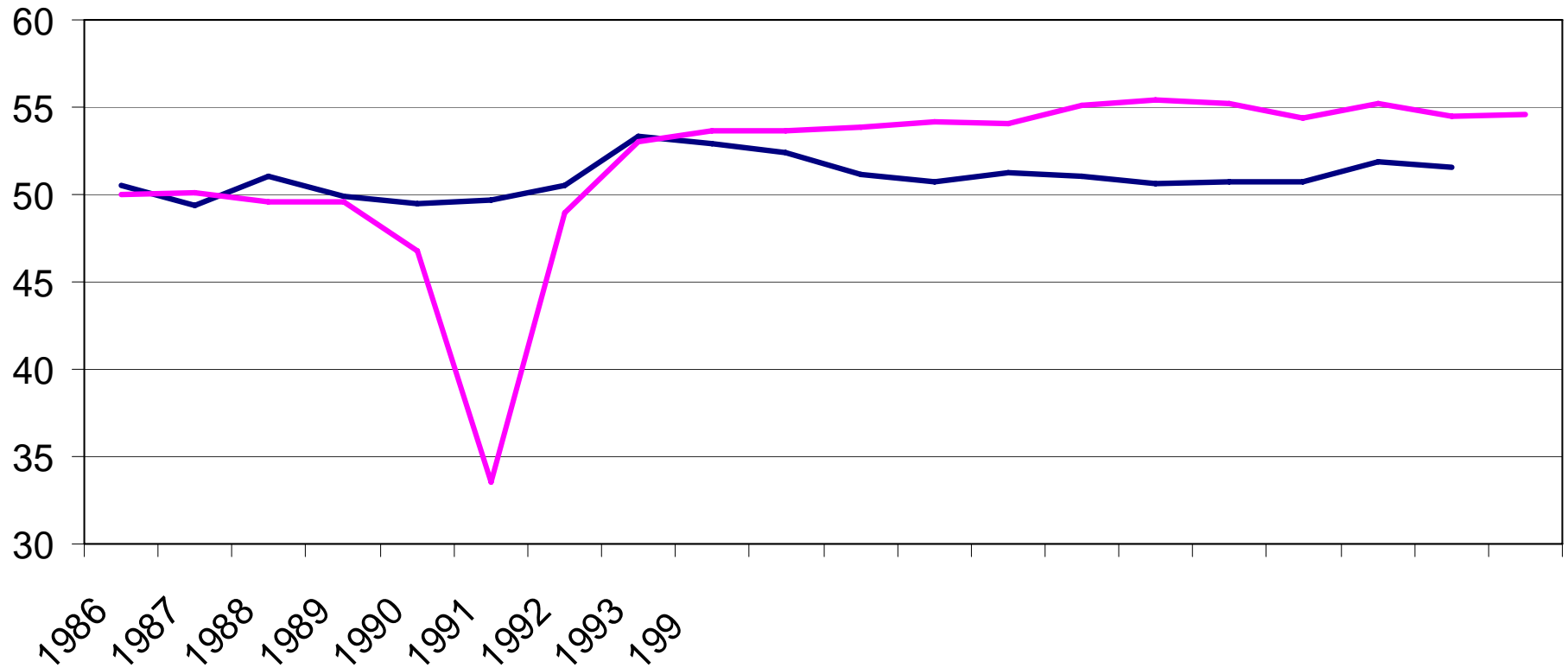
Figure 1: Percent of the Total Population that is Foreign Born, Canada and USA, 1900-2001



Source: Boyd and Vickers (2000); MPI (Washington): www.migrationinformation.org

Another similarity: Women have been and are part of the migration flows

Figure 4: Percentage Female in Annual Admissions of Permanent Residents, Canada and the United States, 1986-2005 (All ages)



A gender perspective asks:

How do norms, social relationships and hierarchies associated with being female or male affect

- 1) the migration experience of women and men**
- 2) advantages and disadvantages experienced by migrant women**

What steps must be taken to assure equal opportunities and outcomes

Gendering Migration: Categories of migration

**Women and men migrate as
permanent migrants,
temporary migrants and
illegal (undocumented) migrants**

Permanent migrants

Family criterion of admissibility

Humanitarian based principles

Economic Contributions

PERMANENT MIGRATION

% Female in 2001-2004 flows of permanent residents

USA

Dependents, Family reunification 60%

Parents of American Citizens 65%

Spouses of American Citizens 61%

CANADA

Family Class 61%

Economic 47%

Humanitarian 47%

% Female in 2001-2004 flows of permanent residents who are principal applicants

CANADA

Family Class	60%
Economic	29%
Humanitarian	37%

Temporary workers

females are between 25-33% of temporary worker flows

Sex specific labor demand –

Women as nurses, domestics

Men – agricultural workers

Irregular:

General:

Specific: Trafficking:

80% estimated to be women and children

Data show that “migration” is gender neutral in wording but not in outcomes

Solutions:

Gender based analysis of policies

Specific policies for Refugee Claimants Canada and U.S.A.

Women Fearing Gender Related Persecution

On the basis of kinship

Arising from failure of state to protect

Severe discrimination

Violence

Failure to conform to, or transgressing

**Gender discriminatory laws,
practices, or beliefs**

Temporary Workers

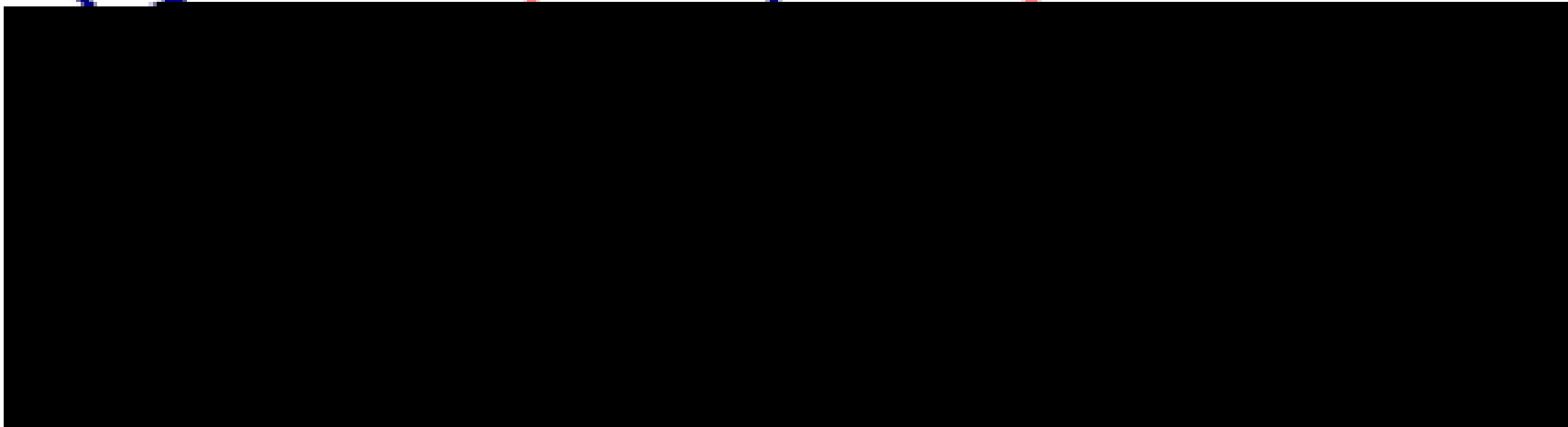
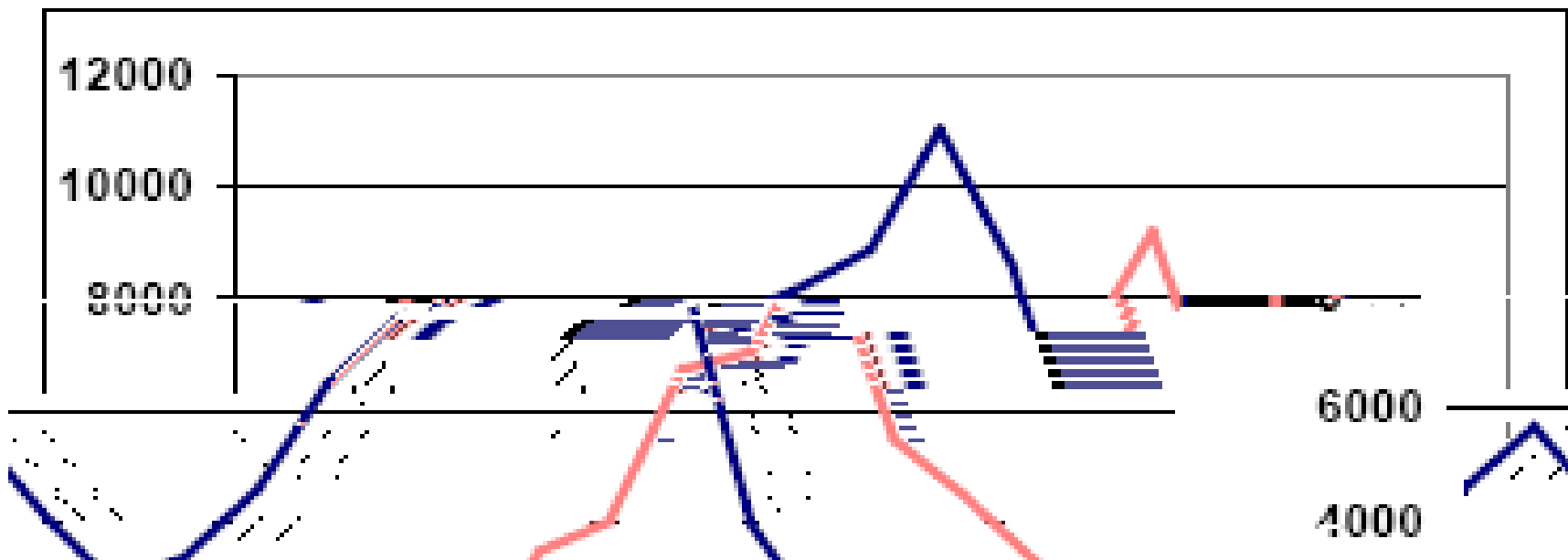
Women as less skilled workers

USA: au pair program (small)

**Canada: 1992 Live-in Caregiver
Program**

2 out of three years

Philippines dominant source



Illegal Migration – Trafficking

Women and children; women in sex work

Border Flows – USA major destination

Varied estimates

Both USA, Canada signatories to the UN Protocol

Fund programs abroad

Have internal policies

Cross border communication

Conclusion

Canada-US comparison shows that migration flows are gendered

Also demonstrate the application of :

Gender based analysis

Special programs

Cross border agreements/communication

NGO groups