Migration & Mobility

ANU symposium on New Ideas and Challenges for Demographic Research in Australia

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Significance of migration

- As a demographic event: 1; 1; 1.8; 3.5; 12+
- As a political and regulatory issue
- As a component of population change
- As the most challenging dimension for projections

Key features

- Migration flows can be volatile but also regularities
- Difficult to measure – no agreed standards
- Theoretically challenging – understanding the drivers
# Population Mobility in Space & Time

## Spatial Boundaries

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Migration</th>
<th>Temporary mobility</th>
<th>Commuting</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Residential mobility</td>
<td>Intra-urban Rural-urban Urban-rural</td>
<td>Inter-regional Inter-urban</td>
<td>Local community Region Nation World</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Years</td>
<td></td>
<td>e.g. long distance commuting; indigenous circulation</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Days-Months</td>
<td></td>
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<td>Hours</td>
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Source: After Bell and Ward 2000
1. International migration

- Issues:
  - Australia well served by data on international migration (Passenger cards; Administrative records; Census)
  - Information on migrant origin varies (birthplace/citizenship/origin)
  - Limited sub-state data

- Research priorities:
  - Links between temporary and permanent migration
  - Changing drivers of migration over time
  - Role of policies, visas, networks in compositional changes
  - Consequences/impacts of migrant settlement Australian diaspora
2. Internal migration

- **Issues:**
  - Globally, internal migration dwarfs international migration
  - Major drivers poorly understood
  - Long term trajectory? Counterurbanisation vs concentration?

- **Research priorities:**
  - Changing intensity and spatial patterns
  - Characteristics and composition of internal migration
  - Consequences of migration – health, human capital, segregation
  - New data (need for longitudinal data; making use of emerging data)
3. Temporary mobility

- Issues:
  - Research has focused on permanent migration and estimation of a so-called resident population
  - Populations are much more dynamic
  - Static/slowly changing settlement system versus undulating population surface

- Research priorities:
  - Understanding the intensity, timing and distribution of temporary movements in Australia
  - Service/temporary population estimations
  - Accessing new datasets for the analysis of temporary mobility
Towards an integrative study of mobility…

- Recognise mobility as a continuum of behaviours…
- Data sets that capture the spectrum of mobility behaviours
- Relationship between different types of mobility