THE DEMOGRAPHIC DIVERSITY OF MIGRANT POPULATIONS IN AUSTRALIA

James Raymer and Yanlin Shi
School of Demography
Australian National University

Tom Wilson
Northern Institute
Charles Darwin University

13 December 2015 (Rough Draft)

ABSTRACT

Australia has one of the largest percentages of migrant populations in the developed world with a highly regulated system of immigration control. However, not all migrants are the same, and the situation of migrant populations within Australia vary greatly according to where they come from and where they settle. This paper provides a detailed account of the demographic diversity of migrant populations in Australia between 2006 and 2011. We find huge differences in the population growth, settlement and ageing patterns. The results provide a means for better understanding both the short and long-term consequences of migration coming from a multitude of places around the world.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Paper prepared for the 2016 European Population Conference, Mainz, Germany. Research funded by the Australian Research Council as part of the Discovery Project on 'The Demographic Consequences of Migration to, from and within Australia' (DP150104405).

THE DEMOGRAPHIC DIVERSITY OF MIGRANT POPULATIONS IN AUSTRALIA

1. INTRODUCTION

This paper is about understanding the diversity of migrant populations in a country that has received a large amount of migration over many years and continues to do so. Our focus is on Australia, a country that has experienced considerable amount of demographic change over the past 30 years. According to the Australian Bureau of Statistics, the population increased by 50% from 14.9 million people in 1981 to 22.3 million people in 2011. The overseas-born represented 27% of the total population in 2011, up from 23% ten years earlier. This places Australia in the list of top twenty countries in the world with high percentages of international migrants, and in the list of top five more developed countries. With increased life expectancy and below replacement level fertility occurring over the past 30 years, international migration has clearly played an important role in determining Australia's population size and composition.

2. BACKGROUND

Migration acts to add or subtract people of specific origins, ages and sexes to populations. What distinguishes migration from the other demographic mechanisms of change (fertility and mortality) is that it involves two populations simultaneously, i.e., an in-migrant to one place is on out-migrant from another. Furthermore, migration alters the social structure of both populations by adding or subtracting people with specific characteristics, such as high or low level of education, majority or minority ethnicity, or employment- or family-based motivations. In the destinations, migrants bring with them their families and may later have children which also add to the population. Moreover, they may bring or develop health conditions that require specialised care.

Migration has always been an important factor of Australian society and immigration policy has long sought to control the types and characteristics of people coming to Australia. However, a major gap in our knowledge of migration concerns the long-term demographic consequences of these policies and the subsequent population redistribution. In this paper, demographic consequences include those that are direct, such as changing the population size and composition of specific populations, and indirect, such as those involving subsequent generations (Edmonston 2010; Scott and Stanfors 2010) and other demographic processes (see, e.g., Kohls 2010; Kulu 2005, 2006; Milewski and Kulu 2014). Migrants from poorer areas of the world tend to bring with them their higher levels of fertility, and because migration involves a selection process, they also tend to bring with them their youth and ambition. Not all migrants remain to retire in the host country but many do, and this has implications for the health sector in an ageing society.

In Australia, there have been many studies that have examined international and internal migration flows (Bell and Hugo 2000; Stillwell et al. 2001; Markus et al. 2009; Hugo 2010). Some have examined the determinants of internal and international migration (Flood et al. 1991; Hugo 2004) and the description of social change caused by international migration (Markus et al. 2009), including the linkages between immigration and internal movements (Burnley 1996). There have also been compilations describing various aspects of Australia's changing demography (Hugo 1986; Khoo and McDonald 2003). What these studies have not attempted is to identify and analyse the long-term demographic consequences of both international migration. This information is important to planners and policy makers who are interested in understanding the mechanisms behind population change. For example, some areas may grow or decline primarily by natural increase (births – deaths), others by internal migration or international migration. Moreover, the demographic change may only affect certain population subgroups according to age, sex or birthplace.

The study of demographic change provides researchers and policymakers with information about the fundamental sources of population change and subsequent impacts on the age and sex composition of the population. It also provides us with information on how the population is redistributing itself across the country, allowing one to assess where the areas of growth or decline are (or will be) and whether this growth or decline is affecting particular population groups. Finally, as pointed out by Finney and Simpson (2008), we have a lot to learn about the population dynamics of different migrant groups. In Australia, there have been very few studies on the geographical dimensions of migrant groups during the past two decades, aside from highly specific studies of individual groups. This is surprising considering the large scale of migration and the impacts it has on social change. Our project will provide further insights on how immigration and emigration act to shape population change across Australia.

3. DATA

We classify the birthplaces of the Australian population into the following ten broad categories (ordered by their percentage of the total population in 2006): Australia (70.9%), North-West Europe (6.8%), Southern and Eastern Europe (3.6%), South-East Asia, (2.8%), New Zealand and other Oceania regions (2.5%), North-East Asia (2.0%), Southern and Central Asia (1.4%), North Africa and the Middle East (1.3%), Sub-Saharan Africa (1.0%) and Americas (0.9%).

(To be continued…)

4. SETTLEMENT AND GROWTH

In this section, we discuss the general trend of the Australian population from in 2006 and 2011. The broad compositions by sex, age and birthplaces individually at the national and state level are briefly described.

As presented in Table 1, the total population of Australia was 19.9 million in 2006, and it increased by 8.3% to 21.5 million in 2011. New South Wales and Victoria are the two most populated states and comprise more than 50% of the total population (33.0% and 24.8%, respectively, in 2006). The 2006 shares of the total population for the other states or territories are 19.7% for Queensland, 9.9% for Western Australia, 7.6% for South Australia, 2.4% for Tasmania, 1.6% for the Australian Capital Territory and 1.0% for Northern Territories. Between 2006 and 2011, most of the shares remain the same, although New South Wales drops to 32.2% and Queensland and South Australia increase to 20.2% and 10.4%, respectively. In terms of the state-level growth rates between 2006 and 2011, all states grew but Western Australia grew the fastest at 14.3%, followed by Queensland at 11.0% and ACT at 10.2%.

Table 1. Australian population by state or territory, 2006 and 2011

States	2006		2011		% increase
	Population size	% distribution	Population size	% distribution	
NSW	6,549,178	32.98	6,917,656	32.16	5.63
VIC	4,932,421	24.84	5,354,041	24.89	8.55
QLD	3,904,533	19.66	4,332,738	20.15	10.97
WA	1,959,087	9.87	2,239,168	10.41	14.30
SA	1,514,342	7.63	1,596,567	7.42	5.43
TAS	476,486	2.40	495,351	2.30	3.96
ACT	324,032	1.63	357,222	1.66	10.24
NT	192,906	0.97	211,950	0.99	9.87
Other	2,331	0.01	3,041	0.01	–
Total	19,855,316	100.00	21,507,734	100.00	8.32

Compared with the percentages in 2006, there were some noticeable changes (Table 2). First, the relative shares of Australian, North-West European, Southern European and Eastern European populations all declined. The size of the Southern and Central Asian born population almost doubled from 268 thousand to 501 thousand between 2006 and 2011. There was also a large growth in the South-East Asian and North-East Asian born populations from 553 thousand to 702 thousand and from 389 thousand to 535 thousand, respectively.

Table 2. Australian population by region of birth, 2006 and 2011

Birthplaces	2006		2011		% increase
	Population size	% distribution	Population size	% distribution	
AU	14,073,150	70.88	15,021,791	69.84	6.74
NZ and Other OZ	496,210	2.50	609,165	2.83	22.76
NW Europe	1,356,174	6.83	1,441,873	6.70	6.32
SE Europe	721,741	3.64	689,181	3.20	-4.51
NA-ME	250,558	1.26	305,869	1.42	22.08
SE Asia	552,594	2.78	701,868	3.26	27.01
NE Asia	388,633	1.96	535,487	2.49	37.79
SC Asia	267,522	1.35	500,744	2.33	87.18
America	179,991	0.91	223,745	1.04	24.31
SS Arfica	191,828	0.97	272,520	1.27	42.06
Not Stated	1,366,307	6.88	1,195,728	5.56	–
Supp. codes	10,608	0.05	9,763	0.05	–
Total	19,855,316	100.00	21,507,734	100.00	8.32

In Figure 1, the relative shares of each birthplace population is presented for the eight states in Australia. The American and North-West European born populations exhibited population distributions similar to the Australian born population. The South-East European born population had relatively larger shares in Victoria. The North African, Middle East, and Asian born populations all had higher percentages living in New South Wales and Victoria than the Australian born population.

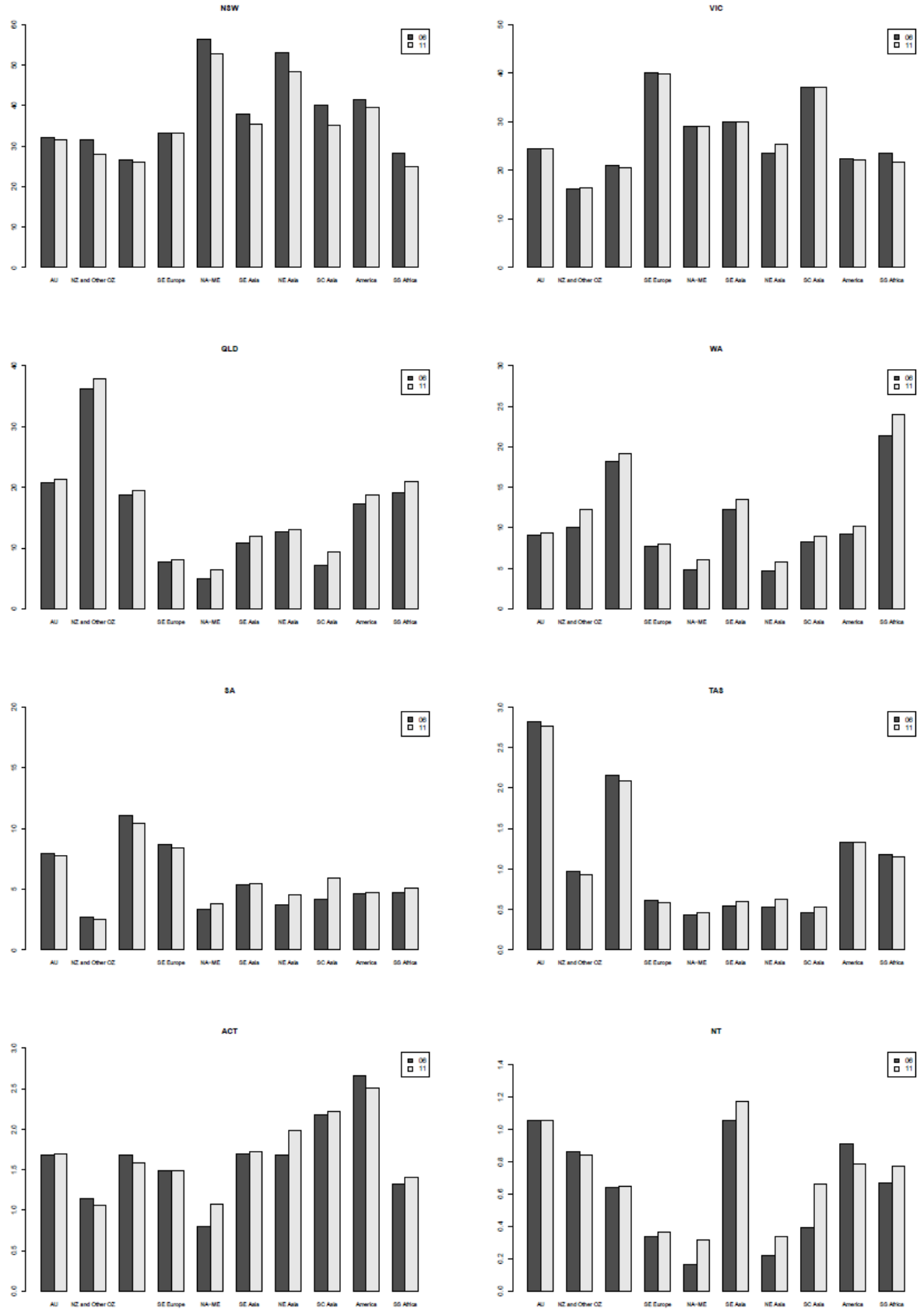

Figure 1. Australian population distributions by state and birthplace, 2006 and 2011

5. AGE AND SEX COMPOSITIONS

The male to female sex ratios for each birthplace population are presented in Table 3 for 2006 and 2011. Here, we find little change between the two time points. For the Australian born population, there were slightly less males than females (ratio = 0.97/0.98), whereas for South East and North East Asian born populations, there were considerably less males, i.e., between three and four males for every five females. The opposite was found for the Southern and Central Asian born populations where there were about six males for every five females.

Table 3. Australian population by birthplace and sex, 2006 and 2011

Birthplaces	2006			2011		
	Males	Females	M/F ratio	Males	Females	M/F ratio
AU	6,931,863	7,141,287	0.97	7,416,132	7,605,659	0.98
NZ and Other OZ	246,182	250,028	0.98	304,178	304,987	1.00
NW Europe	679,570	676,604	1.00	725,870	716,003	1.01
SE Europe	360,196	361,545	1.00	337,854	351,327	0.96
NA-ME	131,185	119,373	1.10	160,627	145,242	1.11
SE Asia	239,369	313,225	0.76	301,302	400,566	0.75
NE Asia	173,921	214,712	0.81	236,430	299,057	0.79
SC Asia	145,561	121,961	1.19	276,830	223,914	1.24
America	87,023	92,968	0.94	107,454	116,291	0.92
SS Arfica	94,881	96,947	0.98	134,815	137,705	0.98
Not Stated	704,157	662,150	–	627,661	568,067	–
Supp	5,356	5,252	–	4,868	4,895	–
Total	9,799,264	10,056,052	0.97	10,634,021	10,873,713	0.98

In Figure 2, we present the 2006 and 2011 age and sex compositions for nine birthplace-specific populations in the largest state of New South Wales. The other states exhibited similar patterns, except for the three smallest areas: Tasmania, Australian Capital Territory and Northern Territories. Here, it is evident that there is a wide array of different age and sex compositions with older migrant populations from Europe ageing rapidly.

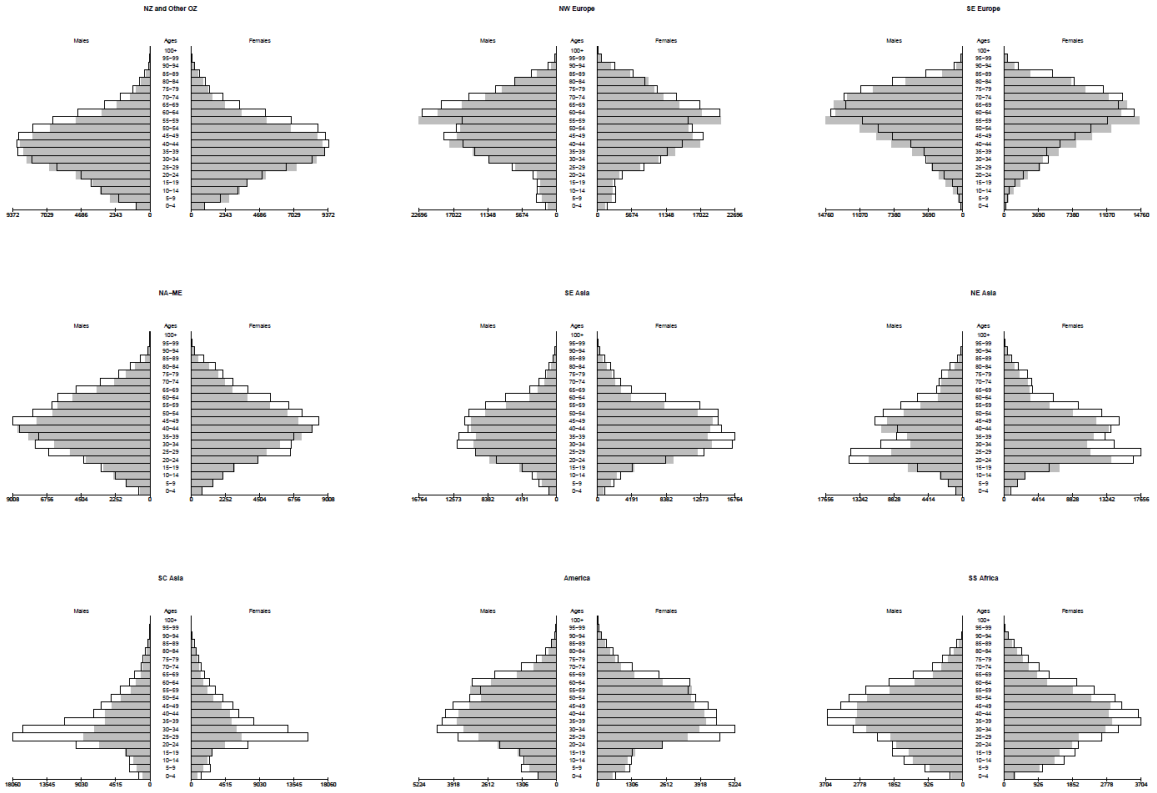

Figure 2. New South Wales population by birthplace and age, 2006 (grey) and 2011 (outline)

To be continued…

6. CONCLUSION

To be written…

REFERENCES

Bell M and Hugo G (2000) Internal migration in Australia 1991-96: Overview and the overseas-born. Department of Immigration and Multicultural Affairs, Canberra.

Burnley IH (1996) Associations between overseas, intra-urban and internal migration dynamics in Sydney, 1976-91. *Journal of the Australian Population Association* 13.1: 47-65.

Edmonston B (2010) The contribution of immigration to population growth. In *Demographic aspects of migration*, Salzmann T, Edmonston B and Raymer J, eds., pp. 29-72. Wiesbaden: VS Verlag.

Finney N and Simpson L (2008) Internal migration and ethnic groups: Evidence for Britain from the 2001Census. *Population, Space and Place* 14:63-83.

Flood J, Maher C, Newton P and Roy J (1991) The determinants of internal migration in Australia. CSIRO, Melbourne.

Hugo G (1986) *Australia's changing population: Trends and issues*. Melbourne: Oxford University Press.

Hugo G (2004) A new paradigm of international migration: Implications for migration policy and planning in Australia. Parliamentary Library Research Paper No. 10 2003-04, Canberra.

Hugo G (2010) Demographic Change and Liveability Panel Report. Appendix to A Sustainable Population for Australia issues paper. Canberra: Department of Sustainability, Environment, Water, Population and Communities.

Khoo S-E and McDonald P, Eds. (2003) *The transformation of Australia's population: 1970-2030*. Sydney: UNSW Press.

Kohls M (2010) Selection, social status or data artefact: What determines the mortality of migrants in Germany? In *Demographic aspects of migration*, Salzmann T, Edmonston B and Raymer J, eds., pp. 153-177. Wiesbaden: VS Verlag.

Kulu H (2005) Migration and fertility: Competing hypotheses re-examined. *European Journal of Population* 21: 51-87.

Kulu H (2006) Fertility of internal migrants: Comparison between Austria and Poland. *Population, Space and Place* 12:147-170.

Markus A, Jupp J and McDonald P (2009) *Australia's immigration revolution*. Sydney: Allen & Unwin.

Milewski N and Kulu H (2014) Mixed marriages in Germany: A high risk of divorce for immigrant-native couples. *European Journal of Population* (published online).

Rogers A, Little J and Raymer J (2010) *The indirect estimation of migration: Methods for dealing with irregular, inadequate, and missing data*. Dordrecht: Springer.

Scott K and Stanfors M (2010) Second generation mothers: Do the children of immigrants adjust their fertility to host country norms? In *Demographic aspects of migration*, Salzmann T, Edmonston B and Raymer J, eds., pp. 123-152. Wiesbaden: VS Verlag.

Stillwell J, Bell M, Blake M, Duke-Williams O and Rees P (2001) Net migration and migration effectiveness: a comparison between Australia and the United Kingdom 1976-96; Part 2: Age-related migration patterns. *Journal of Population Research* 18.1: 19-39.