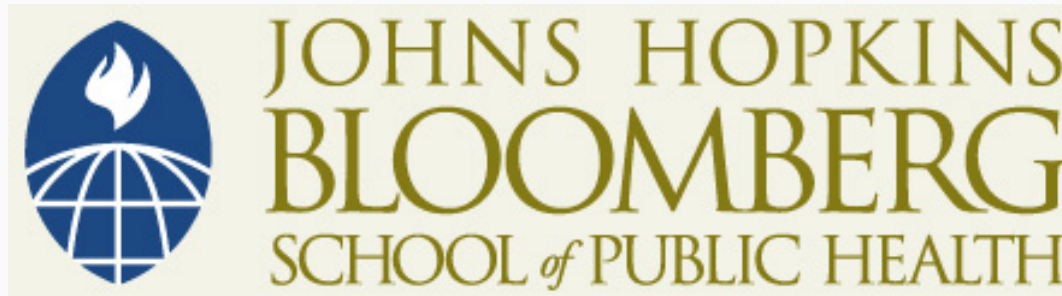


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Migration

Nan Astone, PhD
Johns Hopkins University

Objectives of the Lecture

- At the end of this lecture and the accompanying readings, students will be able to:
 - Identify common measures of migration
 - Distinguish among the different types of migration
 - Distinguish among the different explanations for migration
 - Define simple and complex humanitarian emergencies
 - Describe how immigration to the U.S. has changed in character over the past century



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Section A

Introduction

“Big Three” Substantive Topics of Demography

- Fertility
- Mortality
- Population distribution
 - Migration of people from one “place” to another “place”
 - Urban demography

Measurement

- Migration rates????????????????
 - In-migration: numerator is easy, denominator is hard
 - ▶ Population at risk is always the entire, global population
 - Out-migration: numerator is hard, denominator is easy
 - ▶ Countries don't keep good track of people who leave
 - ▶ Difficult to distinguish permanent from temporary departures

Measurement

- Number (percent) not born in “place”
- Number (percent) not living in “place” a certain length of time before
- Migration histories from random samples of the population
- “Net” migration

Three Broad Categories of Migration

- “Internal” migration
- “International” migration
- Flight from danger

“Internal” Migration

- Traditionally, migration within a country
- Better definition might be “migration that does not involve crossing a regulated border”
 - NAFTA
 - European Union
 - Colonial and quasi-colonial relationships

“International” Migration

- Traditionally defined as movement from one country to another
- Better definition might be “movement across a regulated border”
 - Some countries do restrict movement within national border

Flight from Danger

- Individual asylum (random, not interesting to demographers)
- Humanitarian emergencies
 - Sudden large-scale movements of population that occur within a very short time frame



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Section B

Why Do People Migrate?

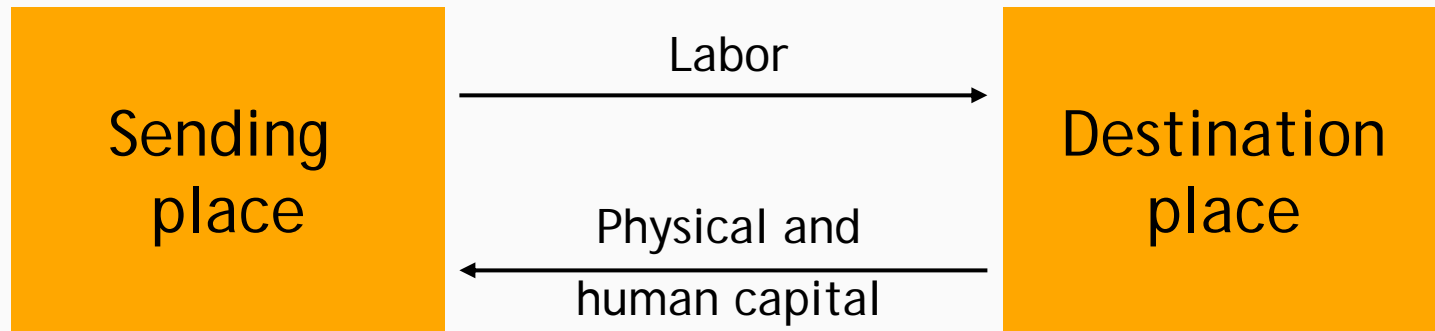
Why Do People Migrate?

- Neo-classical economic explanations
- Family economics explanations
- Segmented labor market theory (sociology)
- Networks/cumulative causation

Neo-Classical Economic Explanations

- Assume that decisions are made by individuals
- Major cause is differential economic conditions
 - Differential wage rates
 - Differential unemployment

When Equilibrium Is Reached, Migration Ceases



Case of Puerto Rico

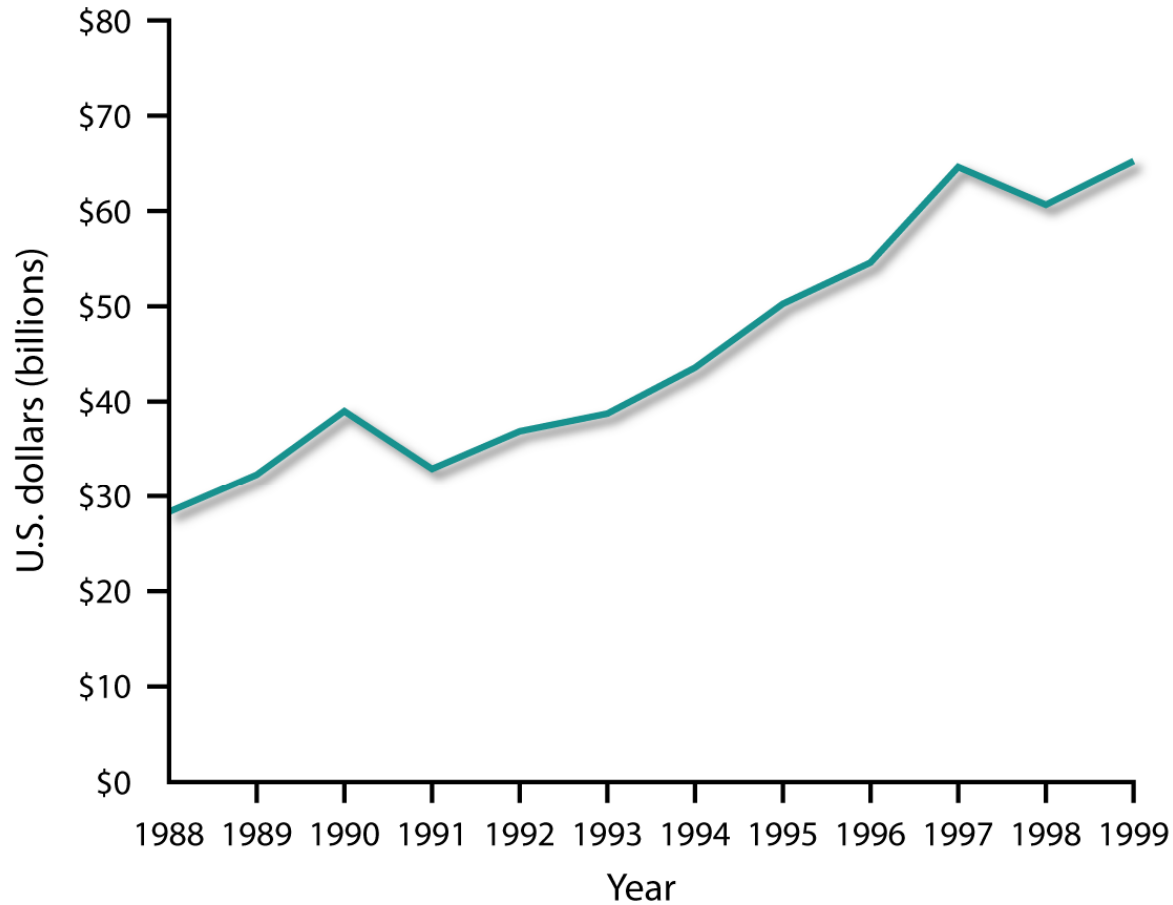
- No administrative or political barriers
- Differential economic conditions between Puerto Rico and four major receiving states accounted for net migration
- Natural experiment in 1970s when U.S. minimum wage laws began to apply to Puerto Rico
- Migration became more selective
 - PR to mainland—less educated
 - Mainland to PR—more educated

Family Economics Explanations

- Assume decisions about individuals' migration are often taken by families
- Motivations
 - Family wants to diversify risk
 - Family wants capital to improve agricultural enterprise (mechanize)
- Relative socioeconomic status rather than absolute is important

Remittances

Remittances* to Less Developed Countries, 1988-1999



*Money sent by workers living abroad

Adapted by CTLT from Martin, Philip, and Widgren, Jonas. (2002). International migration: Facing the challenge. *Population Bulletin*, 57, 1.

Source: International Monetary Fund, *Balance of Payments Statistics Yearbooks*.

Remittances

- Evidence is clear
 - Migrants' remittances increase family income and have been shown to:
 - ▶ Increase physical capital
 - Multiplier effects
 - ▶ Increase human capital
 - Reduction of transfer fees and other reforms are an agreed-upon policy goal among development specialists
 - Improves credit of countries, lowers their borrowing costs, and has other macro-economic benefits

Segmented Labor Markets

- Advanced capitalist economies have two distinct labor markets
 - Primary (good jobs)
 - ▶ Returns to education and tenure
 - Secondary (bad jobs)
 - ▶ Few if any returns to education or tenure
 - ▶ No one wants these jobs
 - ▶ Migrants are recruited, explicitly or implicitly

Segmented Labor Markets

- Tests of segmented labor markets receive some support with a major modification
- Third labor market
 - Ethnic enclaves
 - ▶ Secondary labor market jobs with higher returns to education and tenure
 - ▶ Employers are same ethnicity as migrants, often migrants themselves
 - ▶ Women do not benefit as much as men from working in ethnic enclaves

Cumulative Causation

- Basic premise
 - Migration streams begin for reasons identified by family economists
 - Temporary labor migration
 - ▶ Individuals make multiple trips
 - Migrants exhibit desirable lifestyle
 - ▶ Changes in gender roles
 - Migration is common and normative
 - ▶ Rite of passage for young men

Cumulative Causation

- Migrants have increasing ties in destination place
 - Networks make individual decision less costly (particularly—but not exclusively—psychic costs)
- Remittances change income distribution
 - Increase the number of people who feel relatively deprived

Cumulative Causation

- Factors that once initiated become less and less important
- Self-perpetuating in the face of changes in economic benefits to individuals
- Some evidence that it only applies to rural sending areas
- Once begun, hard to stop



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Section C

Flight from Danger

Simple Humanitarian Emergency

- For example, floods, hurricanes, earthquakes, landslides
 - Happen in all developed countries
- Health problems
 - Injury, frail and vulnerable populations (sending population only)
- Prevention
 - Joint study between epi and engineering a few years ago

Complex Humanitarian Emergencies

- What would be a simple humanitarian emergency in a developed country are complex in countries with little infrastructure
 - Floods in Bangladesh

Complex Humanitarian Emergencies

- What would be a simple humanitarian emergency if the population does not cross a border, when the population does cross a border
 - Many parts of Africa

Complex Humanitarian Emergencies

- Famine in countries where the government is not accountable to the people (Sen)
 - North Korea
- Ethnically, politically, or nationally organized violence
 - Rwanda, the Balkans
 - Any war