

# Internal migration in the countries of Asia: What do we know?

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## Asian Population Forum 2016

Gucun Park Hotel

9-12 October 2016

# Foreword....

Compared with other demographic processes, little attention to the way *internal migration* varies between countries.

Comparative indicators absent from statistical tables.

DEMOGRAPHIC DATA AND ESTIMATES FOR THE COUNTRIES AND REGIONS OF THE WORLD											
	Population mid-2008 (millions)	Births per 1,000 Population	Deaths per 1,000 Population	Rate of Natural Increase (%)	Net Migration Rate per 1,000 Population	Projected Population (millions)		Projected Population Change 2008–2050 (%)	Infant Mortality Rate <sup>a</sup>	A Woman's Lifetime Risk of Dying From Maternal Causes, 1 in:	Total Fertility Rate <sup>b</sup>
						mid-2025	mid-2050				
<b>WORLD</b>	6,705	21	8	1.2	—	8,000	9,352	39	49	92	2.6
MORE DEVELOPED	1,227	12	10	0.2	3	1,269	1,294	5	6	6,000	1.6
LESS DEVELOPED	5,479	23	8	1.5	-1	6,731	8,058	47	54	75	2.8
LESS DEVELOPED (Excl. China)	4,154	26	9	1.8	-1	5,255	6,621	59	59	55	3.2
LEAST DEVELOPED	797	36	13	2.4	-0	1,139	1,664	109	85	22	4.7
<b>AFRICA</b>	967	37	14	2.4	-1	1,358	1,932	100	82	26	4.9
SUB-SAHARAN AFRICA	809	40	15	2.5	-0	1,161	1,698	110	88	22	5.4
NORTHERN AFRICA	197	26	7	1.9	-1	251	307	56	45	145	3.0
Algeria	34.7	22	4	1.8	-1	43.3	50.1	44	27	220	2.3

Lack of comparable data

Lack of agreed statistical measures

Methodological problems due to differences in geography

# Internal Migration Research in Asia – the State of the Art

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- *Migration and Diaspora in Modern Asia* (Amrith 2011) – migration as the essential force shaping modern Asia; history from the 1850s
- Asian mobility transition; links between migration and development Skeldon (1992, 2013); Castles (2009)
- *International Handbook of Migration & Pop Distribution* (White 2016) – regional summaries as well as theory, data methods and policy
- *Encyclopedia of Global Human Migration* (Ness 2013) – 530 articles – just 5 on internal migration
- *Asia Pacific Migration Journal* – just 24 papers on internal migration in 35 issues over ten years 2006-2016
- Papers in the ADRI Database – of 1100 labelled as ‘Migration’, less than 200 concerned with Internal Migration; most focused on international migration settlement issues

# Internal Migration Research in Asia - Main Topics

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## **Migration Impacts (*Large majority of studies – very fragmented*)**

- On origin communities - eg children left behind; remittances
- At destinations – eg integration, access to services, labour market
- Rural urban linkages – (Zhu et al 2013)

## **Forms of Migration (*Mainly as journal special issues*)**

- Marriage migration
- Forced migration – eg 3 Gorges Project
- Migrant selection – eg healthy migrants/salmon hypothesis

## **Spatial patterns (*Few studies and generally ‘one-off’*)**

- Rural-urban migration, esp. to primate cities – role in urbanisation
- Interprovincial flows
- Temporary and circular migration

- Research as partial, unsystematic and fragmented
- Poor cousin to international migration, despite greater scale (280/78m)
- Less comparative research in Asia than in Latin America, Europe
- Limited spatial coverage - Main countries : China, India, Indonesia, Korea, Malaysia, Thailand, Viet Nam
- Thailand – Chamrathirong (2007) 3 decades but declining interest – focus now on international migration
- Little quantitative analysis or modeling
- Few multi-country studies

# Cross-National Comparisons

## Why view migration in a comparative framework?

- Comparisons aid understanding
- Promote analytical rigor
- Enhance migration theory
- Assist policy development

## Impediments

- Differences in forms of migration data and how they are collected
- Difficulties getting access to data – no single repository
- Methodological issues in making comparisons
- Lack of standard statistical indicators

# IMAGE Project:

## Internal Migration Around the Globe

- International collaborative project
- Funded Australian Res. Council
- Collaborators from 40 countries

### Five dimensions

1. Migration intensity
2. Age profile
3. Spatial impact
4. Distance moved
5. Regional connectivity

**‘System-wide’ measures**  
**New summary metrics**

See <http://www.gpem.uq.edu.au/image>

### IMAGE Inventory

- Data collection practice in 193 UN member states

### IMAGE Repository

- Holds internal migration data sets for 135 countries

### IMAGE Studio

- Computes migration metrics
- Flexible geographies allows spatial comparability - MAUP

### IMAGE Outputs

- Thematic papers
- Methodological papers
- Regional papers

# Who Collects What?

## Internal Migration Data in Asia

Forms of Data Collection		Countries
Census		34
Population Register		16
Survey		38
<b>Interval Over Which Measured</b>		<b>Countries</b>
One year		1
Five Years		13
Other Fixed Interval		8
Lifetime		26
Last move (no time frame)		18
Duration of residence		24
<b>Total UN Member States</b>		<b>46</b>

### Surveys:

- Most common surveys are the DHS and LSMS
- DHS stopped collecting migration data in sixth round

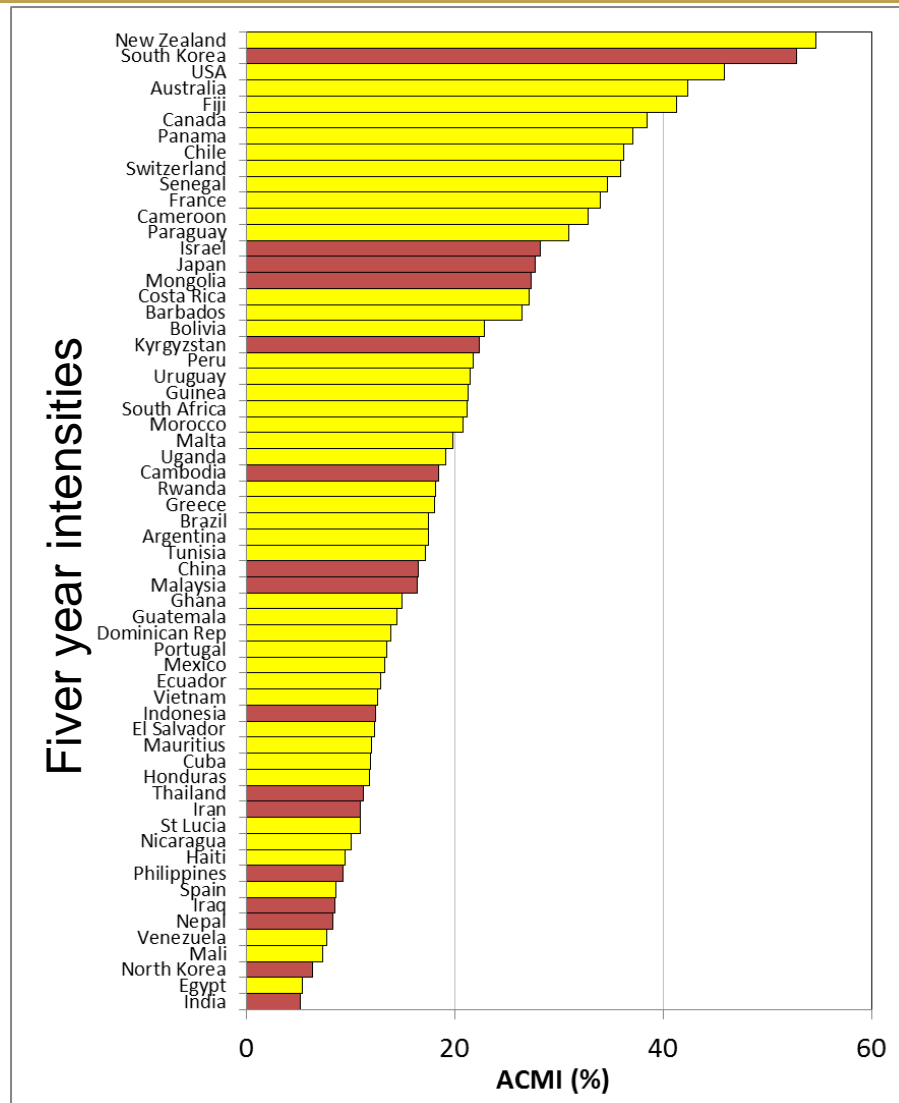
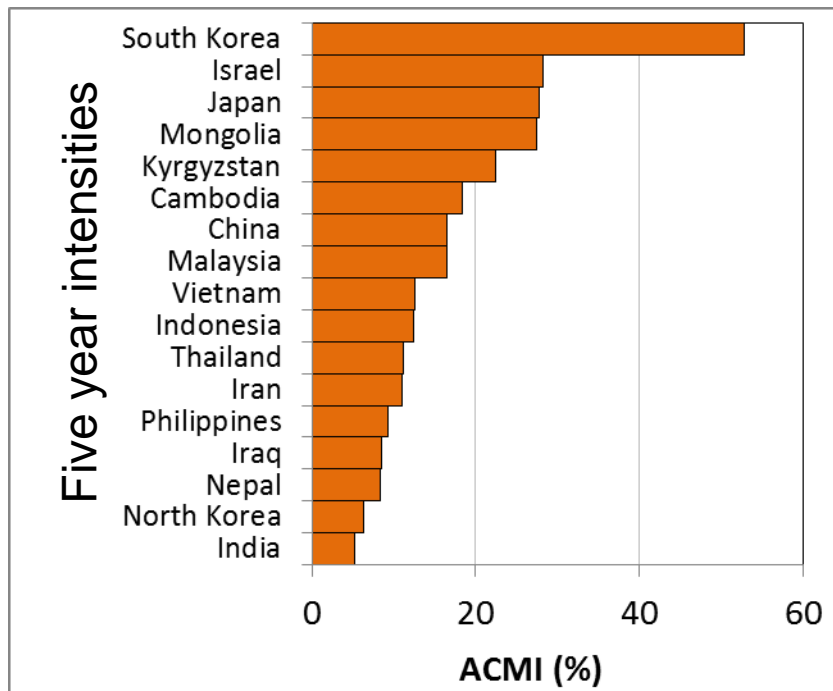


# What is Available? Migration Matrices in the IMAGE Repository

Region	OD Matrix	One Year	Five Years	Life-time			OD Matrix	One Year	Five Years	Life-time
<b>Central Asia</b>						<b>South Asia</b>				
	Kazakhstan						Afghanistan			
	Kyrgyzstan	■	■	■			Bangladesh			
	Tajikistan						Bhutan	■		■
	Turkmenistan						India	■	■	■
	Uzbekistan						Iran	■	■	
							Maldives			
<b>East Asia</b>							Nepal	■	■	■
	China	■		■			Pakistan			
	Japan	■	■	■			Sri Lanka			
	DPR of Korea					<b>Western Asia</b>				
	Republic of Korea	■	■				Armenia	■		■
	Mongolia	■	■	■			Azerbaijan			
							Bahrain			
<b>Southeast Asia</b>							Cyprus			
	Brunei Darussalam						Georgia			
	Cambodia	■	■	■			Iraq	■		■
	Indonesia	■	■	■			Israel			
	Lao PDR						Jordan			
	Malaysia	■	■	■			Kuwait			
	Myanmar						Oman			
	Philippines	■	■				Qatar			
	Singapore						Saudi Arabia	■		■
	Thailand	■	■	■			Syria			
	Timor-Leste			■			Turkey	■	■	■
	Vietnam	■	■				UAE			
							Yemen			

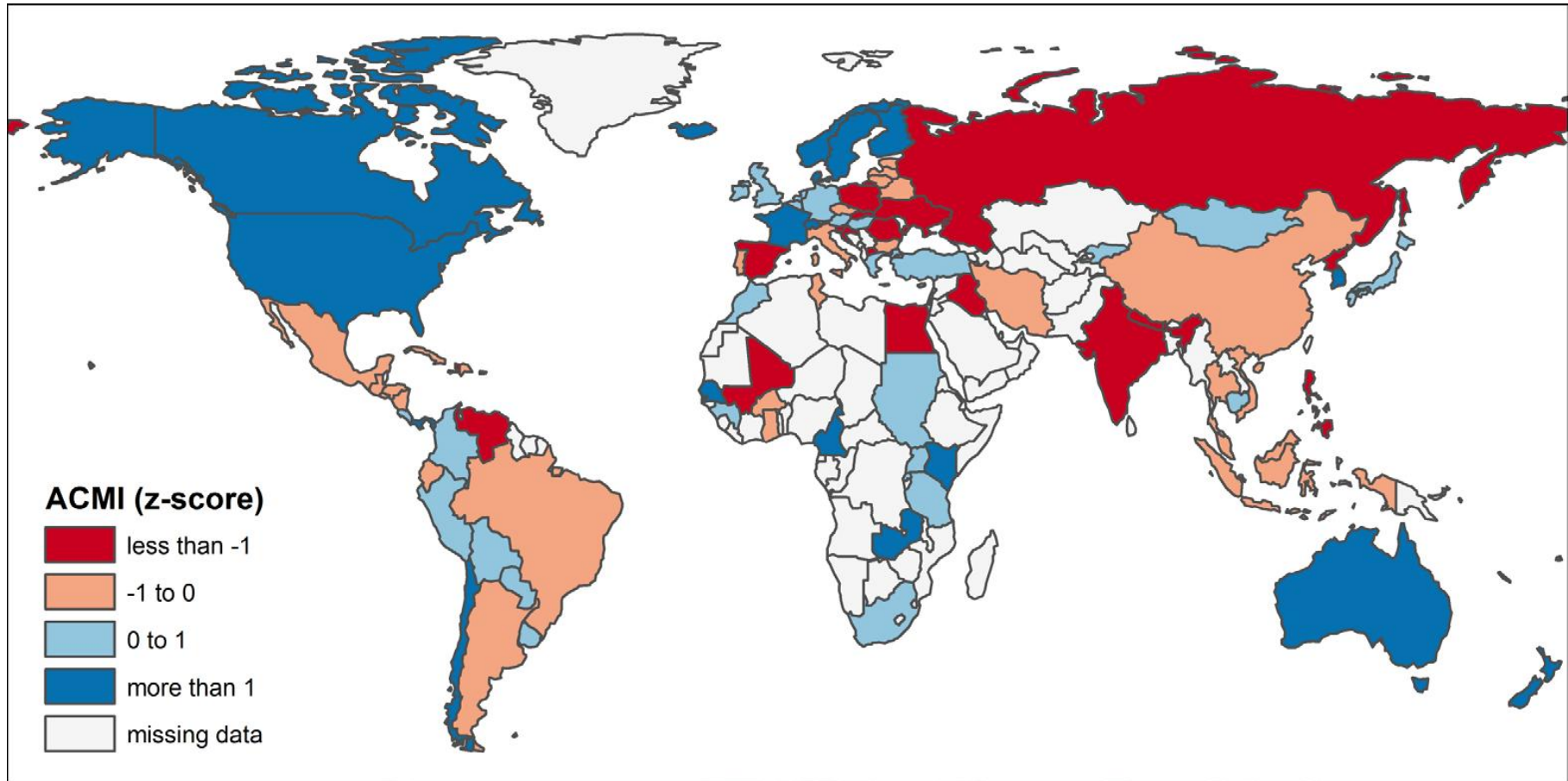
# What Do We Know?

## Aggregate Crude Migration Intensities



**The ACMI is a measure or estimate of ALL changes of address over a five year period and so is directly comparable between countries**

# How Do Asian Countries Compare? Standardised Migration Intensities



Bell, M, Charles-Edwards, E, Ueffing, P., Stillwell, J., Kupiszewski, M. and Kupiszewska, D. [2015]: Internal migration and development: comparing migration intensities around the world, *Population and Development Review*, 41(1): 33-58

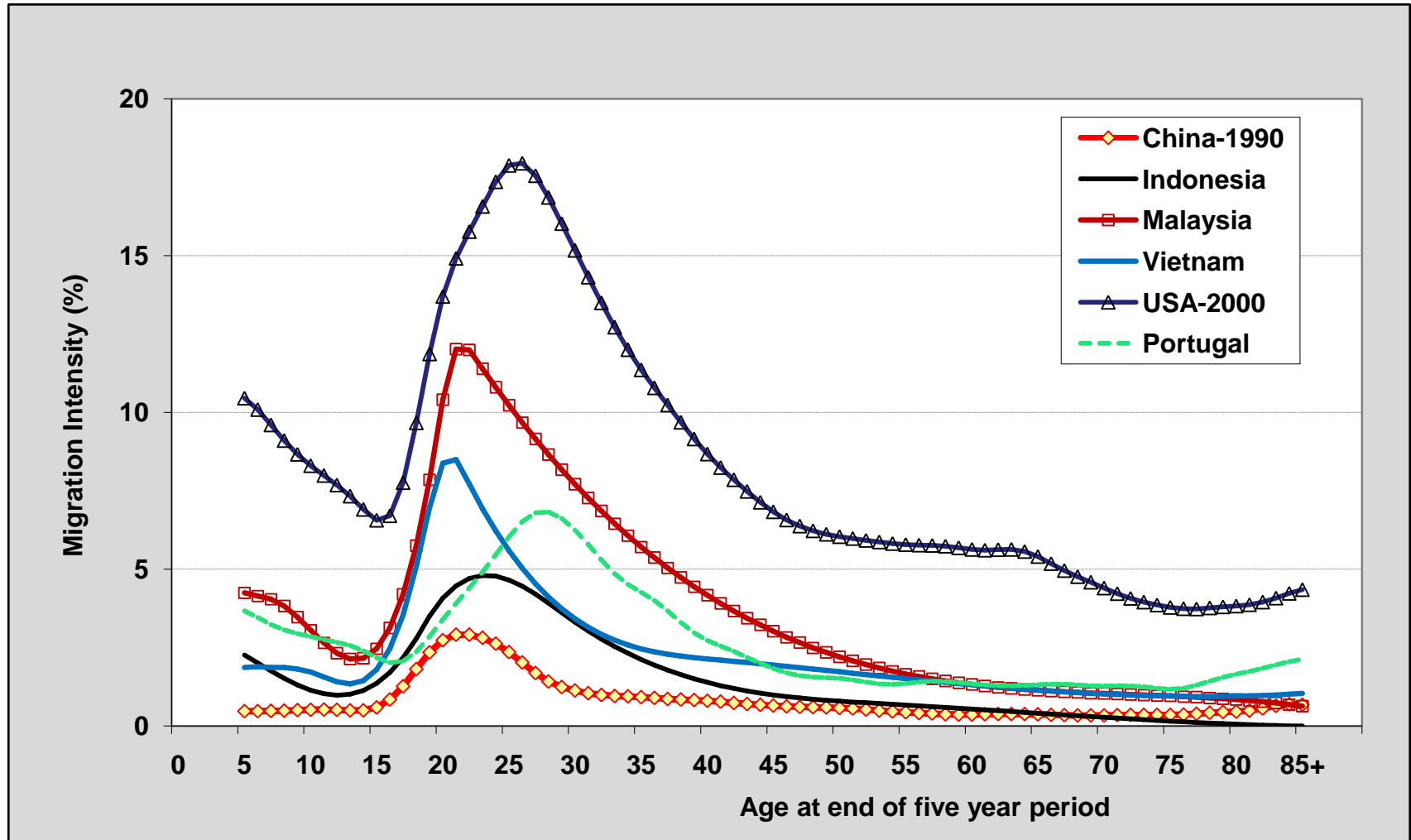
# Explaining Migration: Migration Intensity and National Development

Indicator	Correlation		
	n	r	p
Gross Domestic Product (GDP) per capita	56	0.61	**
Mobile phone subscribers (2000)	60	0.54	**
Human development index (2000)	58	0.48	**
Net international migration rate (2000-2005)	55	0.48	**
Level of Urbanisation	60	0.39	**

**Correlation between ACMI and Selected Development Indicators  
(Pearson r)**

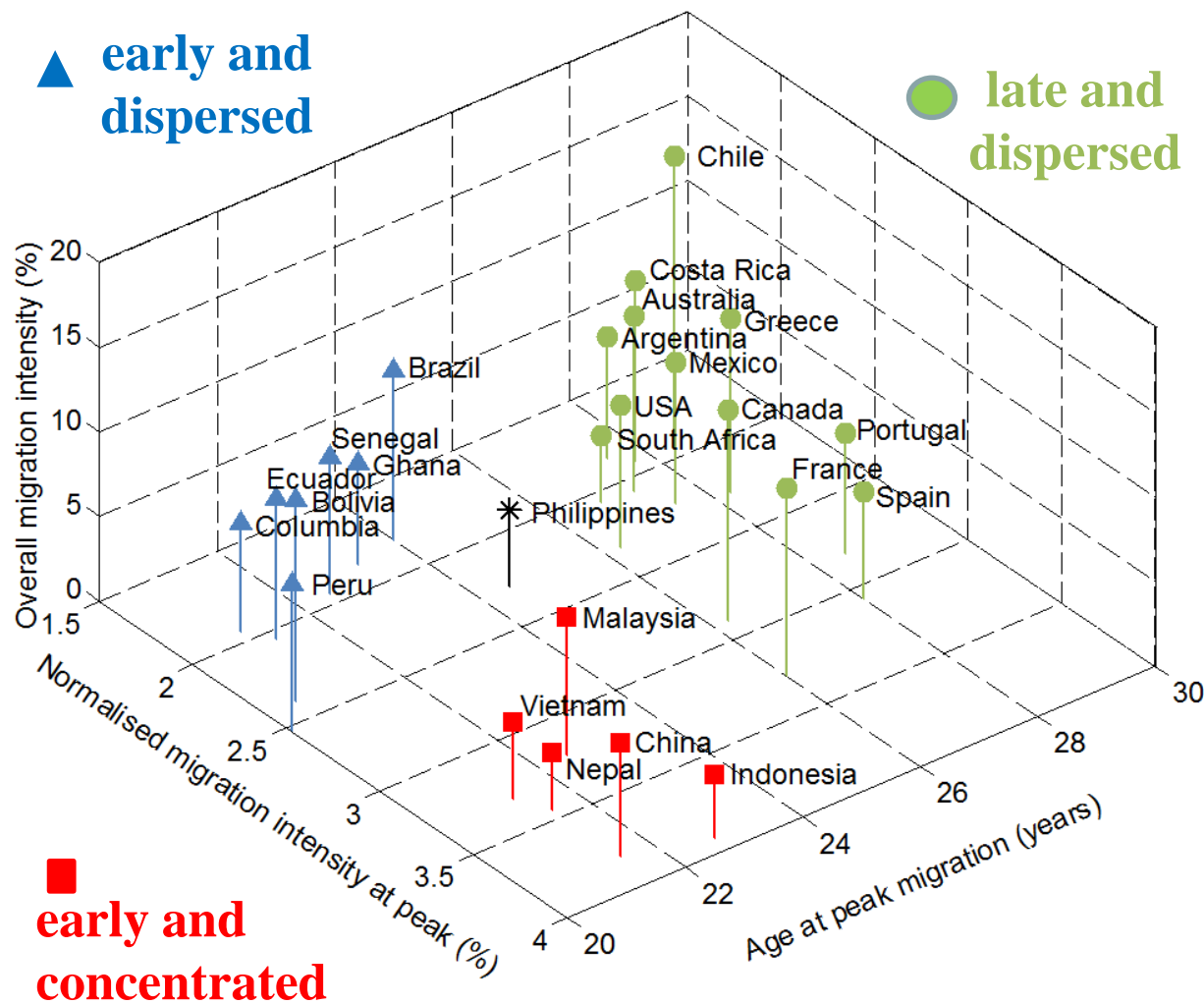
# What Do We Know?

## The Age Profile of Migration



# How Do Asian Countries Compare?

## Regional Age Migration Clusters

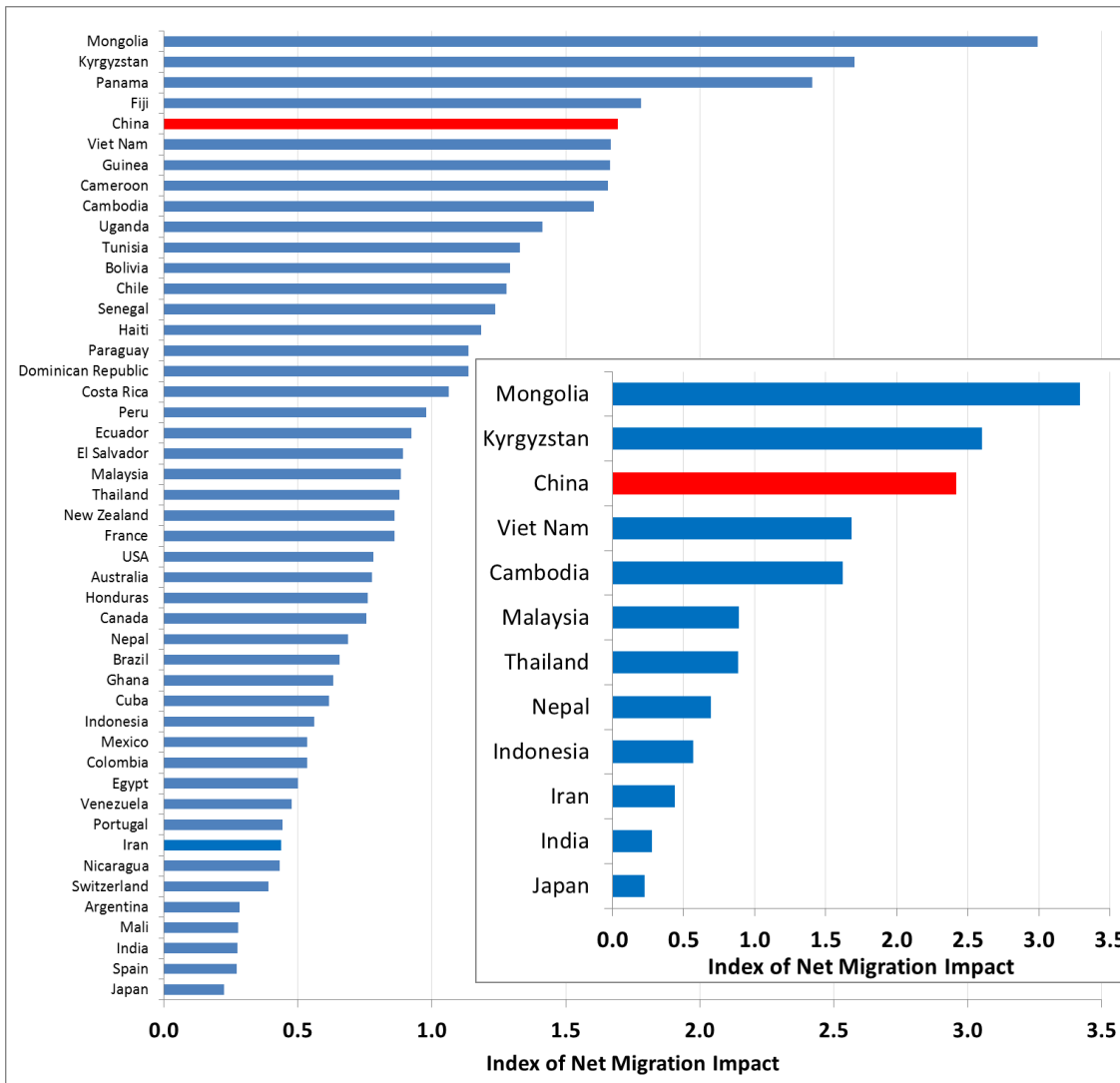


Age at migration and spread of the peak is shaped by the timing of life course transitions:

- Leaving home
- Finish education
- Enter labour force
- Marry/partner
- First child

# What Do We Know?

## The Spatial Impact of Migration

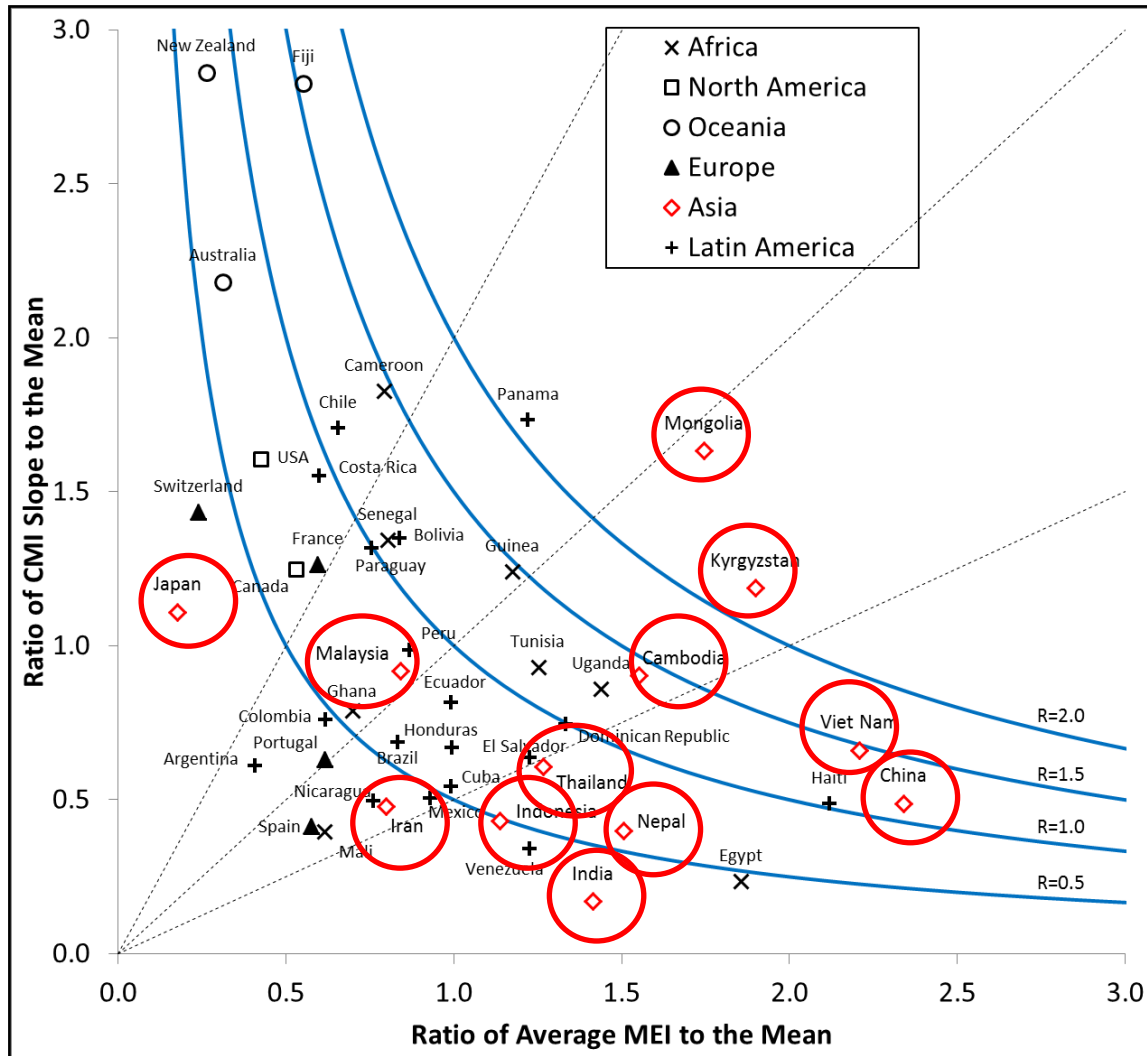


**Beyond simplistic measures of rural-urban migration**

**The Index of Net Migration Impact** measures the extent of population redistribution across ALL zones and is directly comparable between countries

**Spatial Impact Depends on *Intensity* and *Effectiveness***

# What Drives Redistribution? Intensity or Effectiveness?



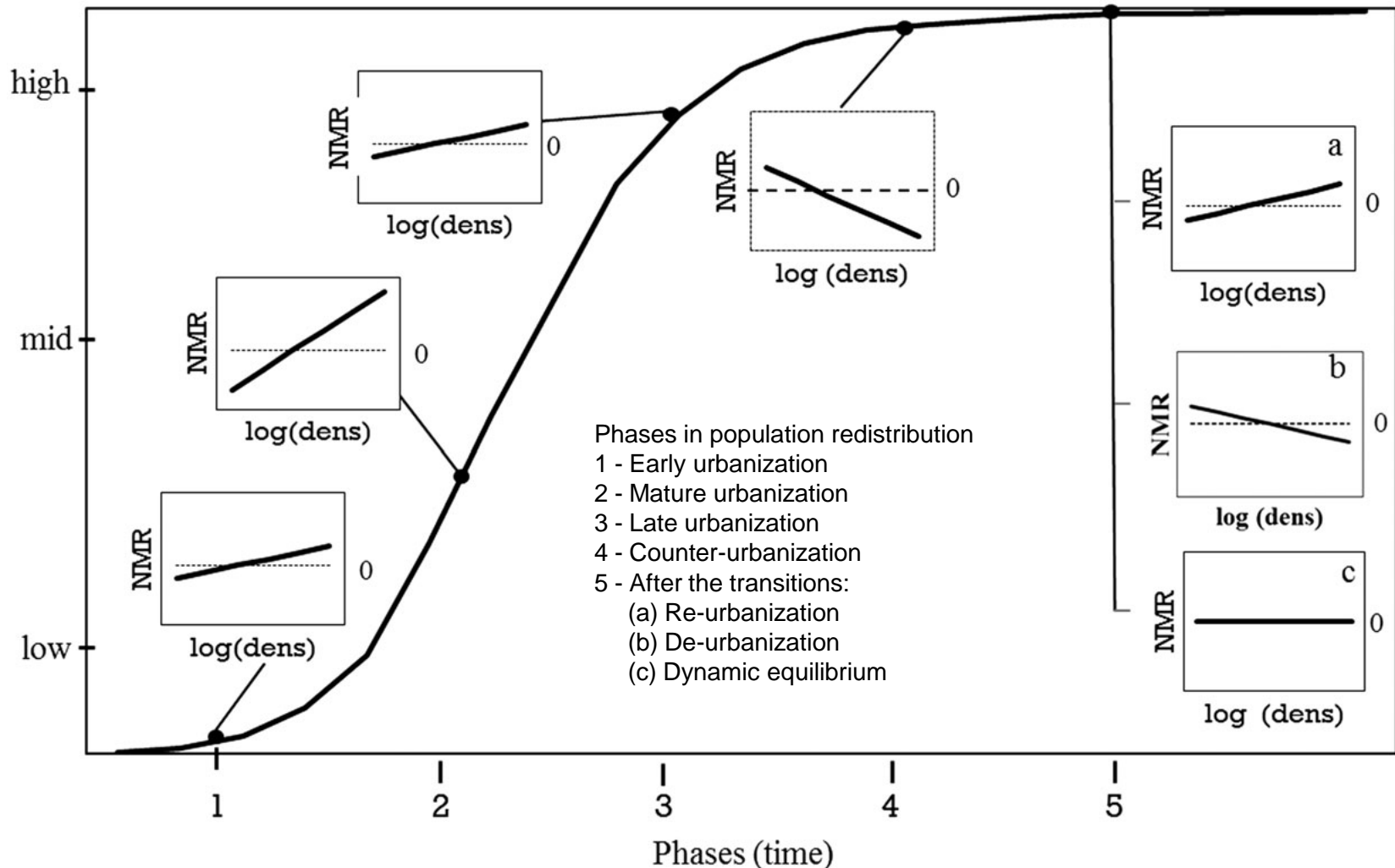
## Index of Net Migration Impact

- compares countries on extent of redistribution
- Index of  $r=1.0$  is average for all countries
- Shows relative contributions of intensity and redistribution

Rees, P., Bell, M, Kupiszewski, M. and Kupiszewska, D. Ueffing, P., Bernard, A., Charles-Edwards, E, and Stillwell, J., [2016]: The Impact of Internal Migration on Population Redistribution: An International Comparison, *Population, Space and Place*, DOI: 10.1002/psp.2036



# Linking Population Redistribution and Development – An Empirical Model



# Conclusions

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- State of the Art in Asia
  - Main focus on international migration
  - Internal migration – Fragmented; Partial; Unsystematic
  - Little quantitative analysis or modelling
- Comparisons of Internal Migration:
  - Important for understanding individual situation
  - Data collection practice varies widely & data access difficult
  - Comparisons hindered by spatial and temporal issues, but
  - New tools, techniques and approaches now available
- Substantive results:
  - Wide variations in migration intensity; and in spatial impact
  - Generally early age profile – contrasts with other parts of the world
  - Clear links to development process