



Mobility and settlement transition in Asia: A tentative guiding framework for ADRI's work on internal migration and urbanization



上海大学



**Yu ZHU and Martin Bell
Asian Demographic Research Institute
Shanghai University
CHINA**



Outline of the presentation

- Asia as a setting for international comparative research on migration and urbanization
- Two overarching themes for comparative research
- ADRI's past and ongoing works on the themes
- A selected list of topics for possible international collaboration in the Asian context

Asia: An ideal setting for the study of internal migration and urbanization



- Home of more than three-fifths of the human population
- Fast socioeconomic development in recent decades; profound socioeconomic transformation in the society
- Uneven development and demographic, socioeconomic diversity

Migration and urbanization in Asia: changes and diversity



- Fast process and rising significance of migration and urbanization in Asia
- Diversity of migration and urbanization in Asia
 - Diversity in levels of mobility (Figure 1)
 - Diversity in levels of urbanization (Figure 2)
- An ideal case for international comparative studies, both spatially and temporally





Figure 1 Diversity in mobility transition in Asia: Five-year ACMIs by country, ranked (Source: Bell et al., 2015)

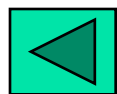
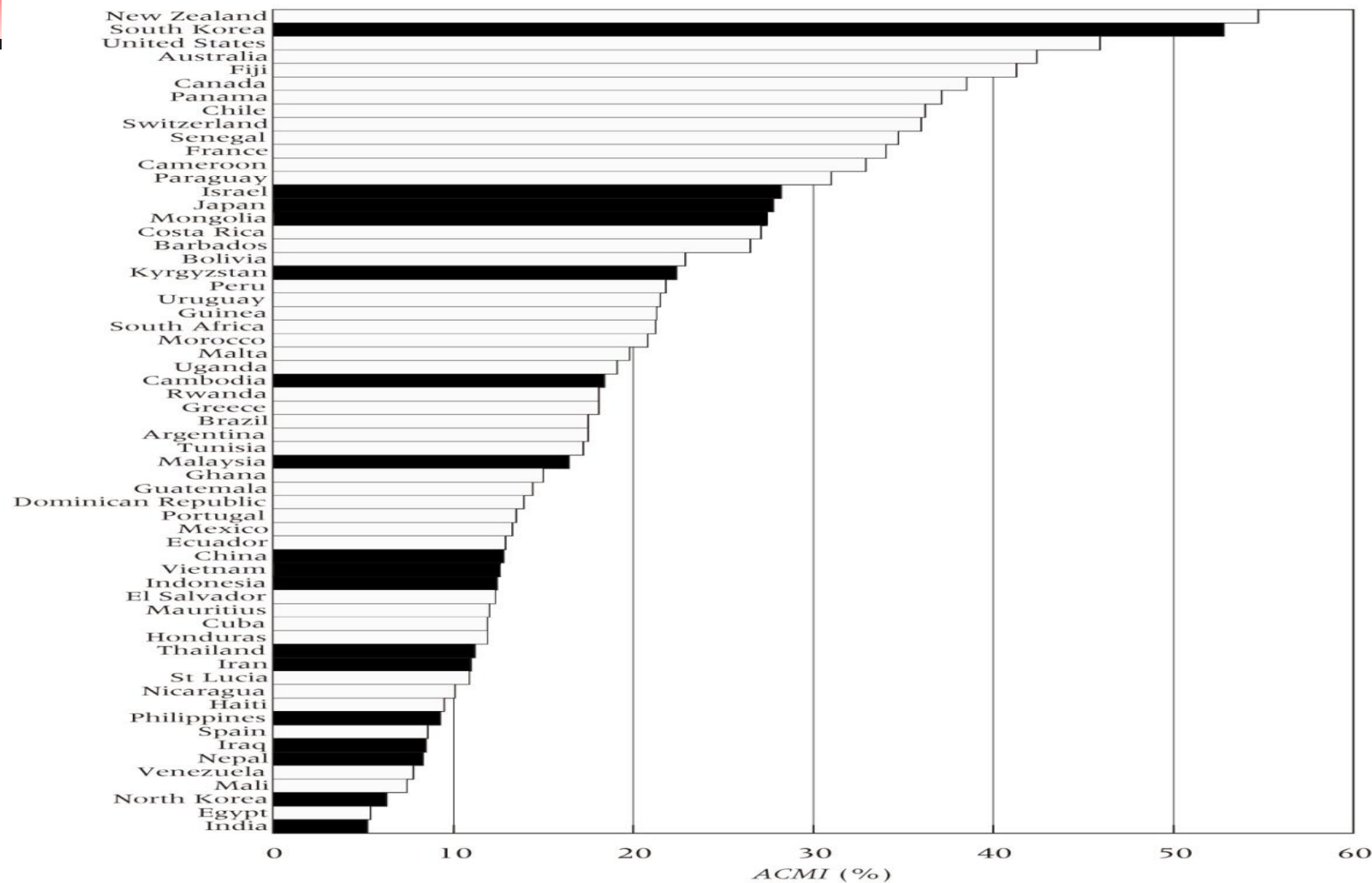


Figure 2 Diversity in the level of urbanization in Asia



Proportion of urban population in Asia, mid-year 2015 (%)

China, Hong Kong SAR	100.0	Azerbaijan	54.6
China, Macao SAR	100.0	Indonesia	53.7
Singapore	100.0	Georgia	53.6
Qatar	99.2	Kazakhstan	53.2
Kuwait	98.3	Thailand	50.4
Japan	93.5	Turkmenistan	50.0
Israel	92.1	ASIA	48.2
Bahrain	88.8	South-Eastern Asia	47.6
Lebanon	87.8	Maldives	45.5
United Arab Emirates	85.5	Philippines	44.4
Jordan	83.7	Central Asia	40.5
Saudi Arabia	83.1	Pakistan	38.8
Republic of Korea	82.5	Bhutan	38.6
Oman	77.6	Lao People's Democratic Republic	38.6
Brunei Darussalam	77.2	Uzbekistan	36.4
Other non-specified areas	76.9	Kyrgyzstan	35.7
State of Palestine	75.3	South-Central Asia	35.0
Malaysia	74.7	Southern Asia	34.8
Turkey	73.4	Yemen	34.6
Iran (Islamic Republic of)	73.4	Bangladesh	34.3
Mongolia	72.0	Myanmar	34.1
Western Asia	69.9	Viet Nam	33.6
Iraq	69.5	Timor-Leste	32.8
Cyprus	66.9	India	32.7
Armenia	62.7	Tajikistan	26.8
Dem. People's Republic of Korea	60.9	Afghanistan	26.7
Eastern Asia	60.0	Cambodia	20.7
Syrian Arab Republic	57.7	Nepal	18.6
China	55.6	Sri Lanka	18.4
United Arab Emirates			

Source: UN World Urbanization Prospects 2014 revision



Two overarching themes for comparative migration and urbanization research in



Asia

- Mobility transition: the changing levels, forms, patterns and spatial impacts of population mobility within nations
- Settlement transition: the changing levels and forms of population concentration in settlements with urban characteristics

Overarching themes for comparative migration research in Asia: Mobility transition (1)



- Zelinsky's (1971) mobility transition
 - 'There are definite, patterned regularities in the growth of personal mobility through space-time'
 - Stages of the mobility transition and changing levels of various forms of mobility (Figure 3)

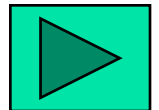
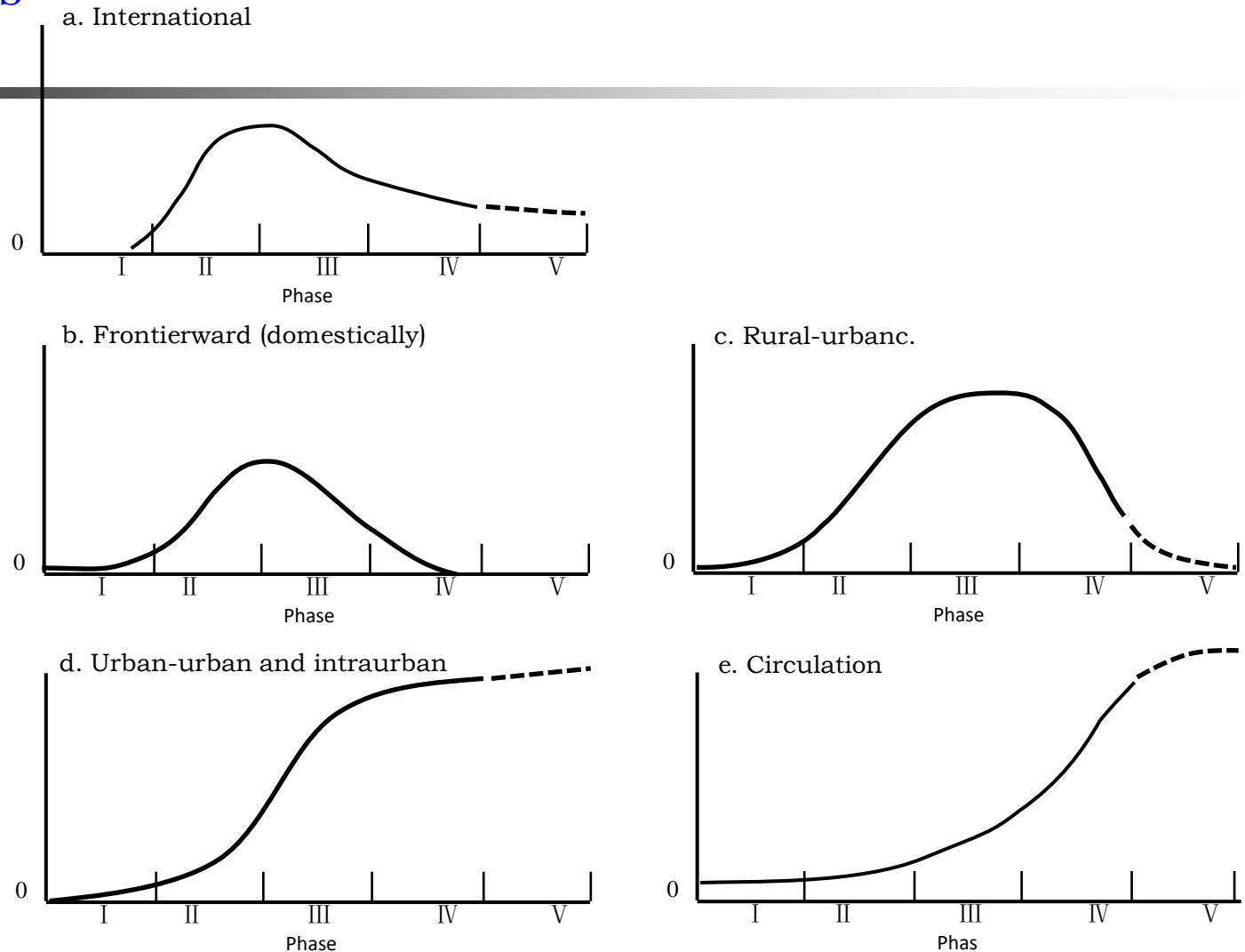




Figure 3 Changing levels of various forms of mobility in the process of mobility transition process



Source : Zelinsky, 1971

e



Overarching theme for comparative migration research in Asia: Mobility



Transition (2)

- **Mainly based on the experience of developed countries**
- Inadequate empirical verification in developing countries
 - The case of circular migration
- Skeldon's (1990) version of mobility transition: More sensitive to the situation in developing countries, but limited geographical coverage and not up-to-date
- Technical difficulties in verification of mobility transition: Lack of comparability of migration data

Overarching themes for comparative migration research in Asia: Mobility transition (4)



Great need to test the validity of and advance mobility transition theory in the setting of developing countries on a new methodological basis

- Asia: An ideal setting for such verification
- Progress made by IMAGE project: overcoming barriers to international comparison of internal migration
 - Advancing knowledge in mobility transition: the changing roles of internal migration in changing the degree of population concentration in the process of development (Rees and Bell et al., 2016)
- Timely for Asia when migration and urbanization are near the turning point:
 - Leveling off rural-urban migration and the future trends of urban-urban, intra-urban and circular migration
 - Policy implications in relation to public service provision



Overarching themes for comparative migration research in Asia: Settlement transition (1)

- Rapid urbanization in many parts of Asia
- The era of blurring rural-urban distinction and the emergence of new forms of urbanization (Champion and Hugo: 2004)
- McGee and Ginsburg' 'settlement transition' in stead of 'urban transition: "the urbanization of the countryside without massive rural-urban migration" in Asia (Ginsburg 1991; McGee, 1991)
- Qadeer's 'Ruralopolises' caused 'urbanization by implosion' in India, Bangladesh and Pakistan: rural regions with urban spatial characteristics (Qadeer, 2000; 2004)
- Zhu's '*in situ* urbanization in China': (Zhu, 1998; 1999; 2000, 2002, 2004; Zhu et al., 2012)

Overarching themes for comparative migration research in Asia: Settlement transition (2)



- Increasing recognition of these new forms of urbanization without adequate understanding of their functioning mechanism and future evolution
- ‘Policies and development initiatives,’ ‘largely remain tied to traditional concepts’ that ‘assume separate rural-agricultural and urban-industrial objectives’ (UNHABITAT, 2008: 217)
- Significance of international comparative research on settlement transition (rather than the conventional urban transition)
 - Conceptual and theoretical advancement of urbanization research
 - Policy implications: Alternatives to large city centered urbanization



ADRI team's recent and on-going China-based research on the two theme

- Mobility transition: The evolution of mobility patterns of China's floating population
 - Changing trends of mobility forms and intensity
 - The evolution of circularity and multi-locational livelihoods
 - The implications of these changes for policy making
- Settlement transition: *In situ* urbanization in China
 - Its changing trend and process
 - Its driving forces
 - Its theoretical, planning and policy implications
 - Including its implications for the urbanization drive of migrant sending areas and the role of return migrants in it

Selected topics for comparative migration and urbanization research in the Asian context



Mobility transition:

- Changing migration intensity and volume and their variation in Asian countries
 - Changing forms of internal migration and their variation in Asian countries
 - Integration of rural-urban migrants in the cities and the rise of urban-urban and intra-urban migration
 - Changing status and temporal and spatial patterns of circular migration, migrants' multi-locational livelihood and their left-behind family members, and their variation in Asian countries
- Settlement transition
 - Changing urbanization level and its variation in Asian countries
 - Changing forms of settlements and settlement transition and their variation in Asian countries
 - International comparison of spatial patterns of population distribution and its changes among Asian Mega-cities

The application of IMAGE studio: ADRI as a hub for comparative migration research in Asia



- Using of data from IMAGE repository in and applying IMAGE Studio to comparative migration research in Asia
- Applying new metrics to compare Asian countries across multiple dimensions of mobility: intensity, age profile, spatial impact, distance moved
- Establishing ADRI as a repository for Asian internal migration data and as a node for the IMAGE Studio
- ADRI as a hub for comparative migration research in Asia:
 - International workshops on the two themes as part of the activities of Asian MetaCenter



谢谢
Thanks!



上海大学

