

Cross-Border Marriage in Asia

Trends, Diversity and Issues

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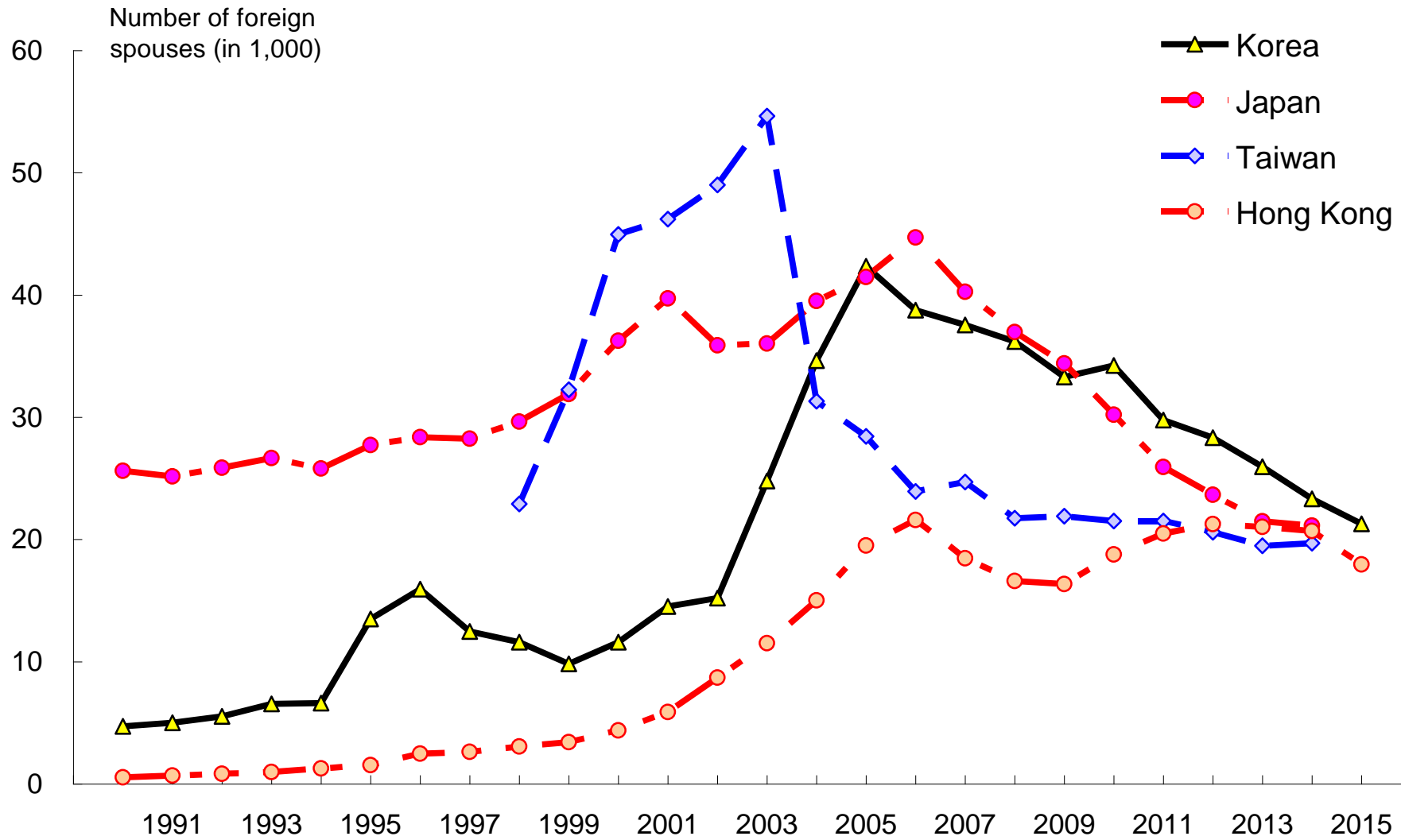
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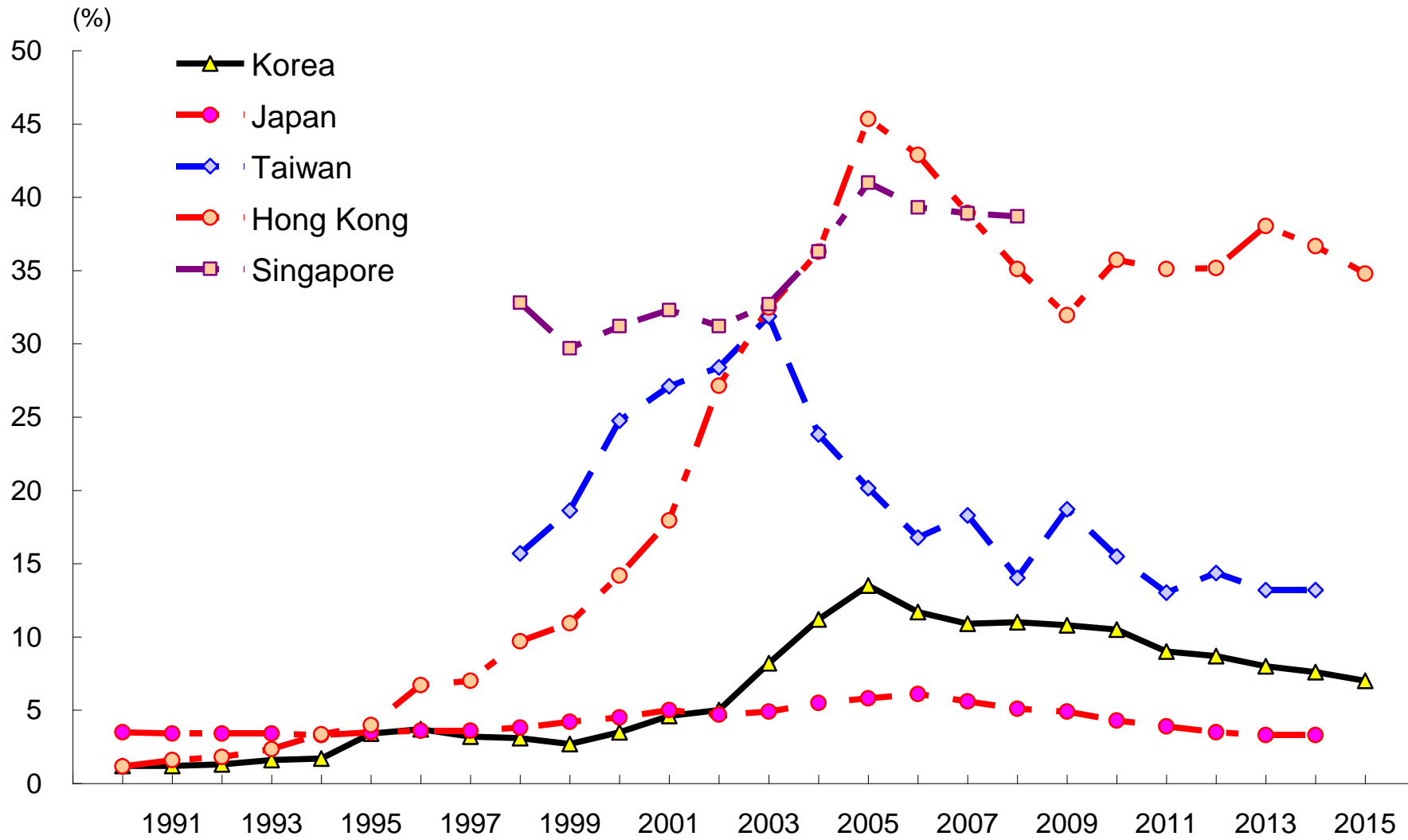
- ◆ Trends in cross-border marriage (CBM) in East Asia
- ◆ Distinctive patterns and a conceptual scheme of CBM
- ◆ Key features of CBM patterns
- ◆ Major issues in the previous research
- ◆ Lessons for future research
- ◆ Issues related to data sources

Trends in Cross-border Marriages, 1990-2015



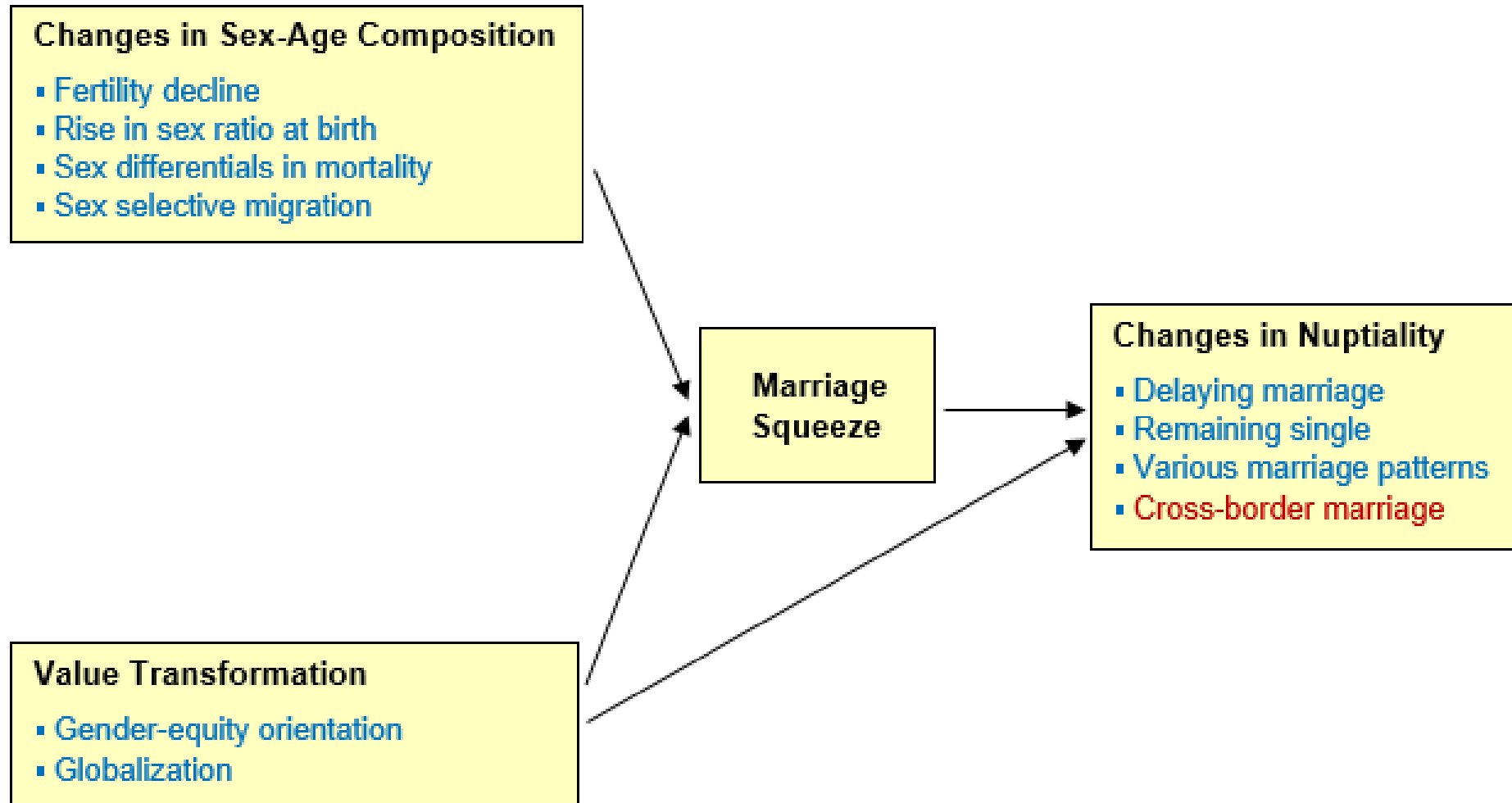
- ◆ Trends in CBM have been diverse, with some distinctive patterns, over the past quarter century.
- ◆ Rapid and steady increases in Korea, Japan, Taiwan, Hong Kong and Singapore in the late 1990s and the early 2000s and reached peaks from 2003-2006.
- ◆ Sharp declines in Korea, Japan and Taiwan (except Hong Kong) after the mid 2000s.
- ◆ In the mid 2010s, around 20,000 CBMs were registered annually in Korea, Japan, Taiwan and Hong Kong.
- ◆ The proportion of CBM to all marriages has been substantially higher in Hong Kong and Singapore.
- ◆ The proportion of CBM has shown a downward trend in Korea, Japan and Taiwan since the mid 2000s.

Cross-border Marriages as a Percentage of All Marriages, 1990-2015



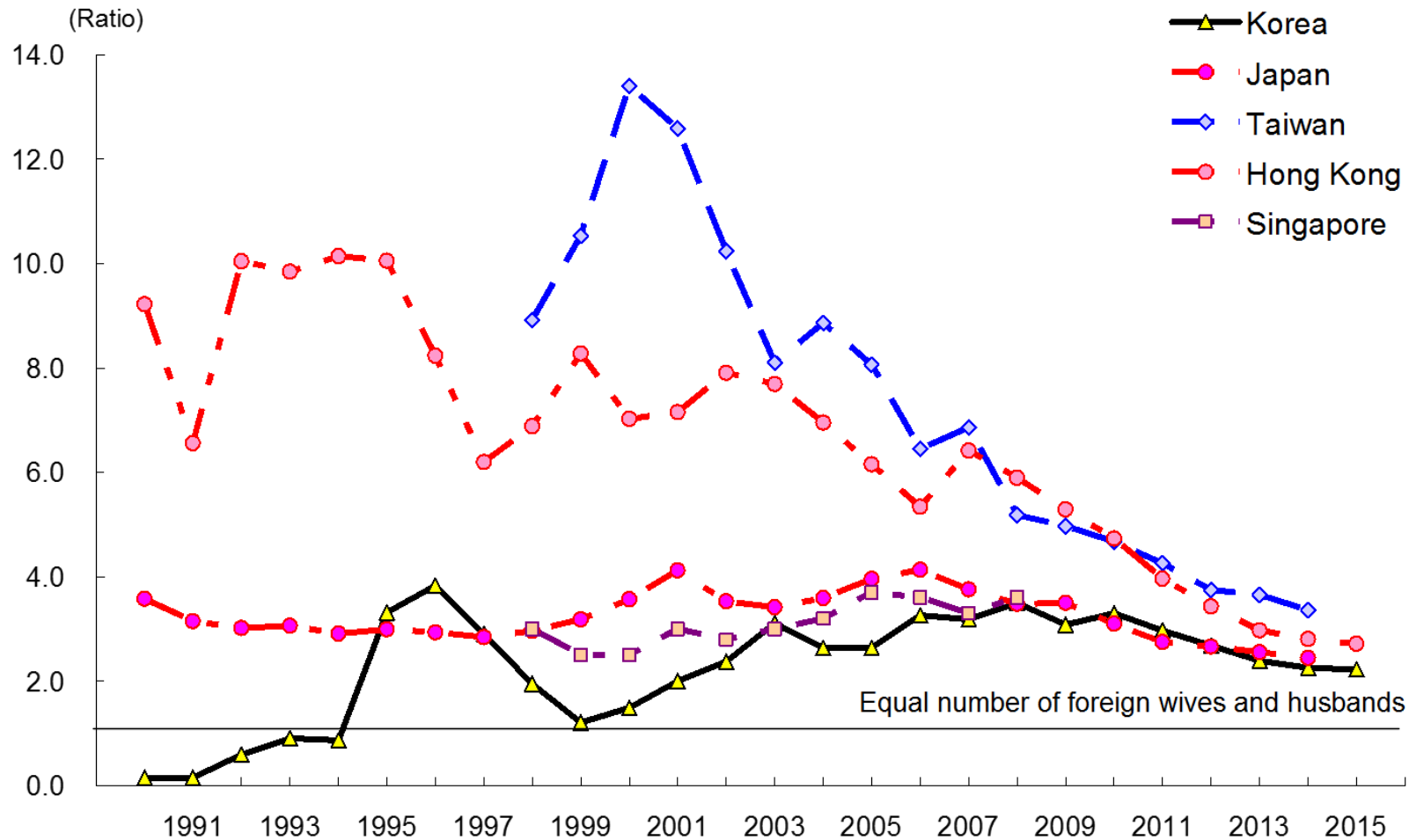
- ◆ How different is the East Asian pattern from transnational marriage in other parts of the world?
- ◆ What are the differences in the factors driving transnational marriage and in its consequences?
- ◆ One key difference from other parts of the world is that East Asian marriage migration is not involved with large diasporas (e.g., Indians in UK and Turks in Germany and Austria) with a strong incentive to seek spouses from the home country.

- ◆ **CBM in East Asian countries was triggered by gender imbalance in local marriage market. High sex ratio at birth and urban-ward migration of young women have intensified the marriage squeeze particularly in rural areas.**



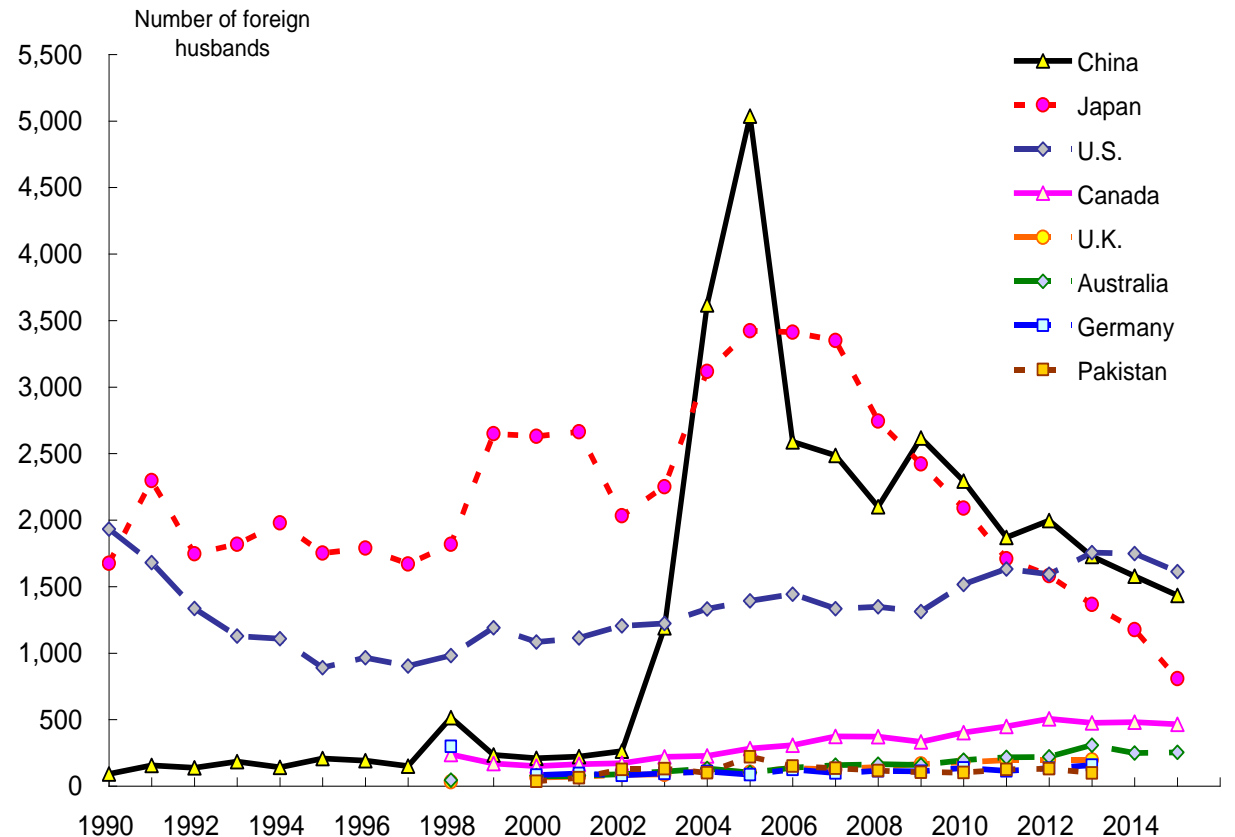
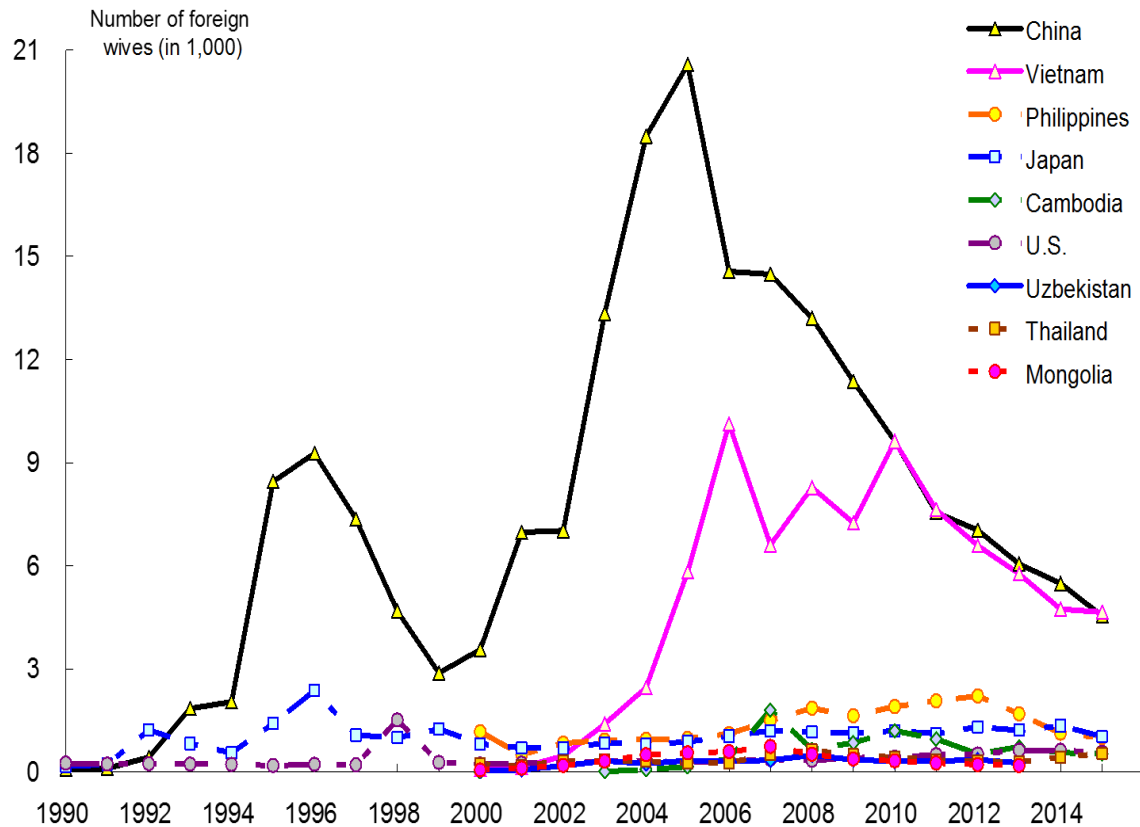
- ◆ Males and females marrying foreigners are different in their own and spouse characteristics.
- ◆ Less educated men and highly educated women are difficult to get married in domestic marriage markets.
- ◆ Males disadvantaged in their socioeconomic and demographic characteristics are less likely to find spouses in domestic marriage markets, and thus search for foreign spouses.
- ◆ Females marrying foreign spouses can be attributed to value transformation and more opportunities due to globalization, increased mobility and communication, etc.
- ◆ Males from wealthier countries marrying foreign brides from poorer countries.

- ◆ Gender disparity in CBM: Taiwan & Hong Kong show the highest ratio of foreign wives to foreign husbands.

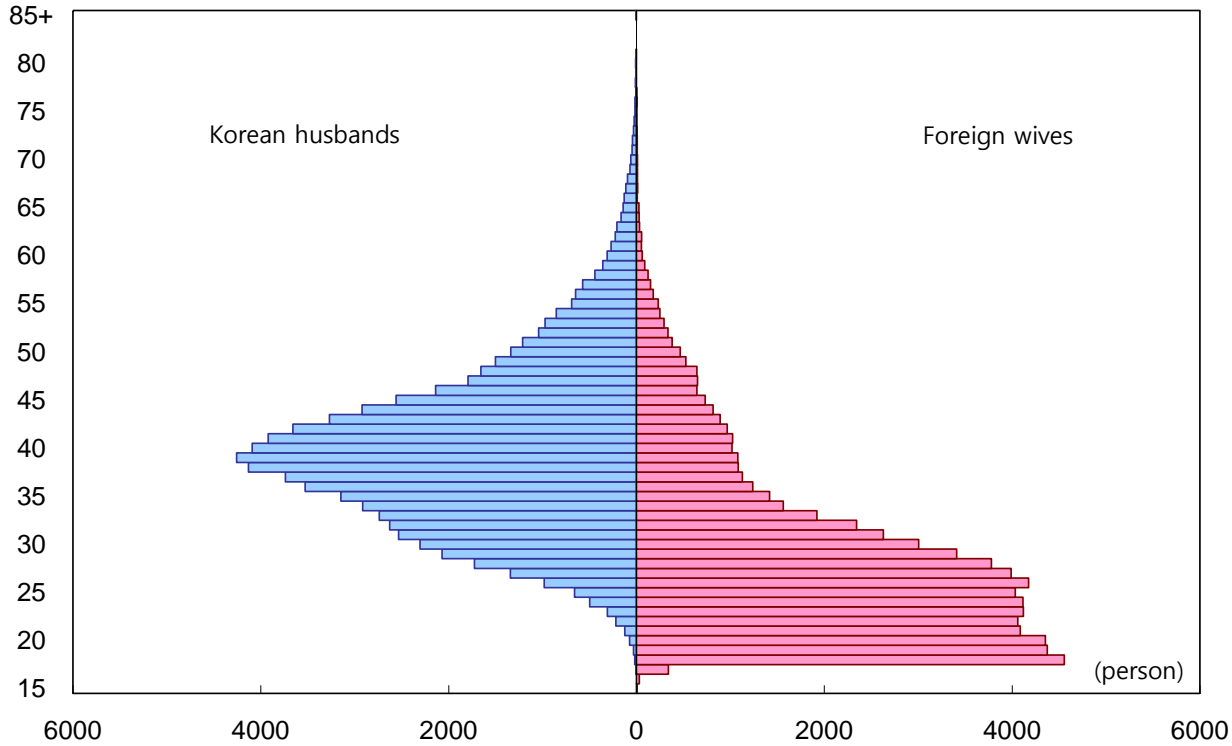


Key Features: Countries of Origin of Foreign Spouses

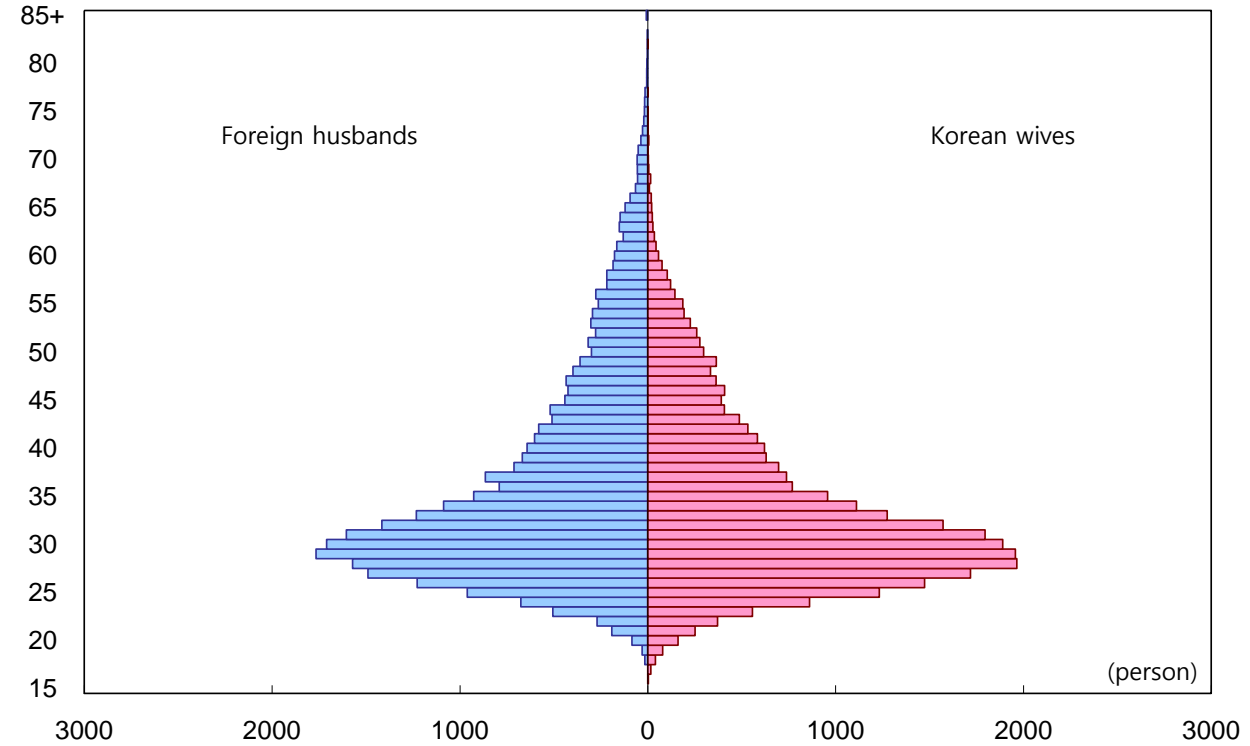
- ◆ Foreign brides: China & Vietnam are the major sending countries, but China, Philippines & Korea are important for Japan.
- ◆ Foreign husbands: China, US & Japan have been dominant for Korea, followed by Canada, UK, Australia & Germany.



◆ Men marrying foreign brides are disproportionately older.

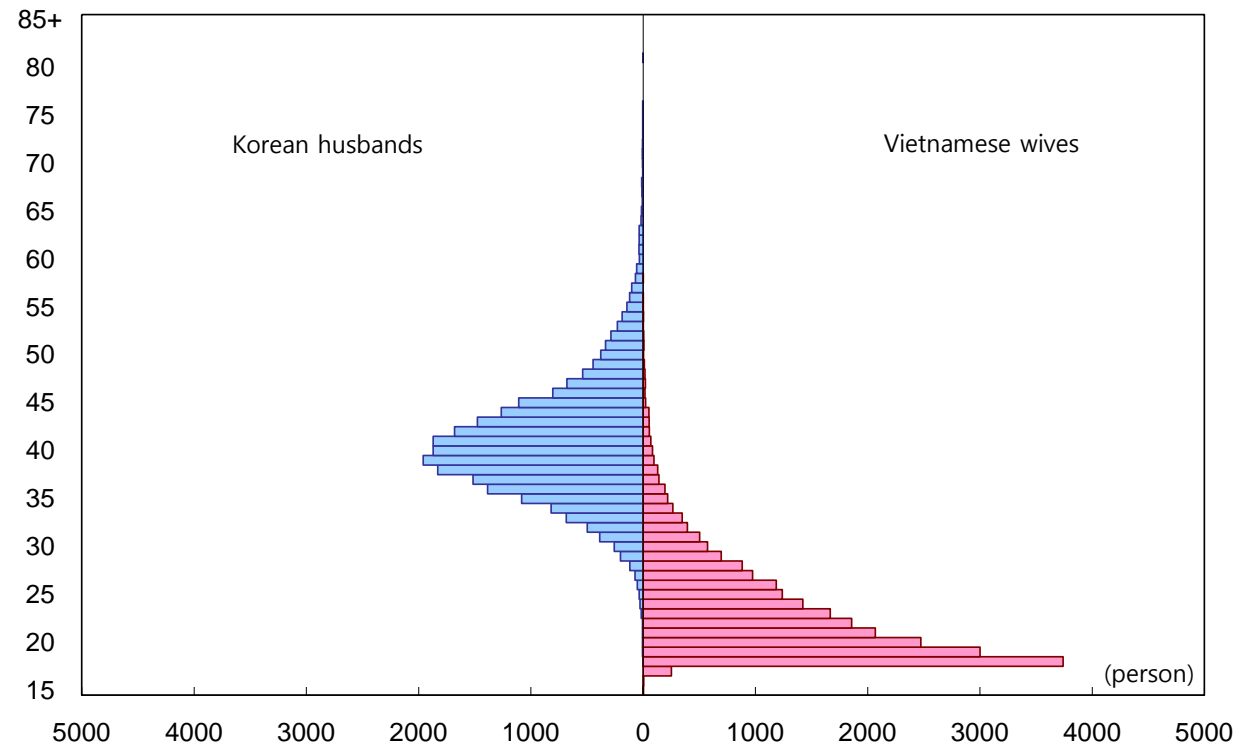


Korean husbands + Foreign wives



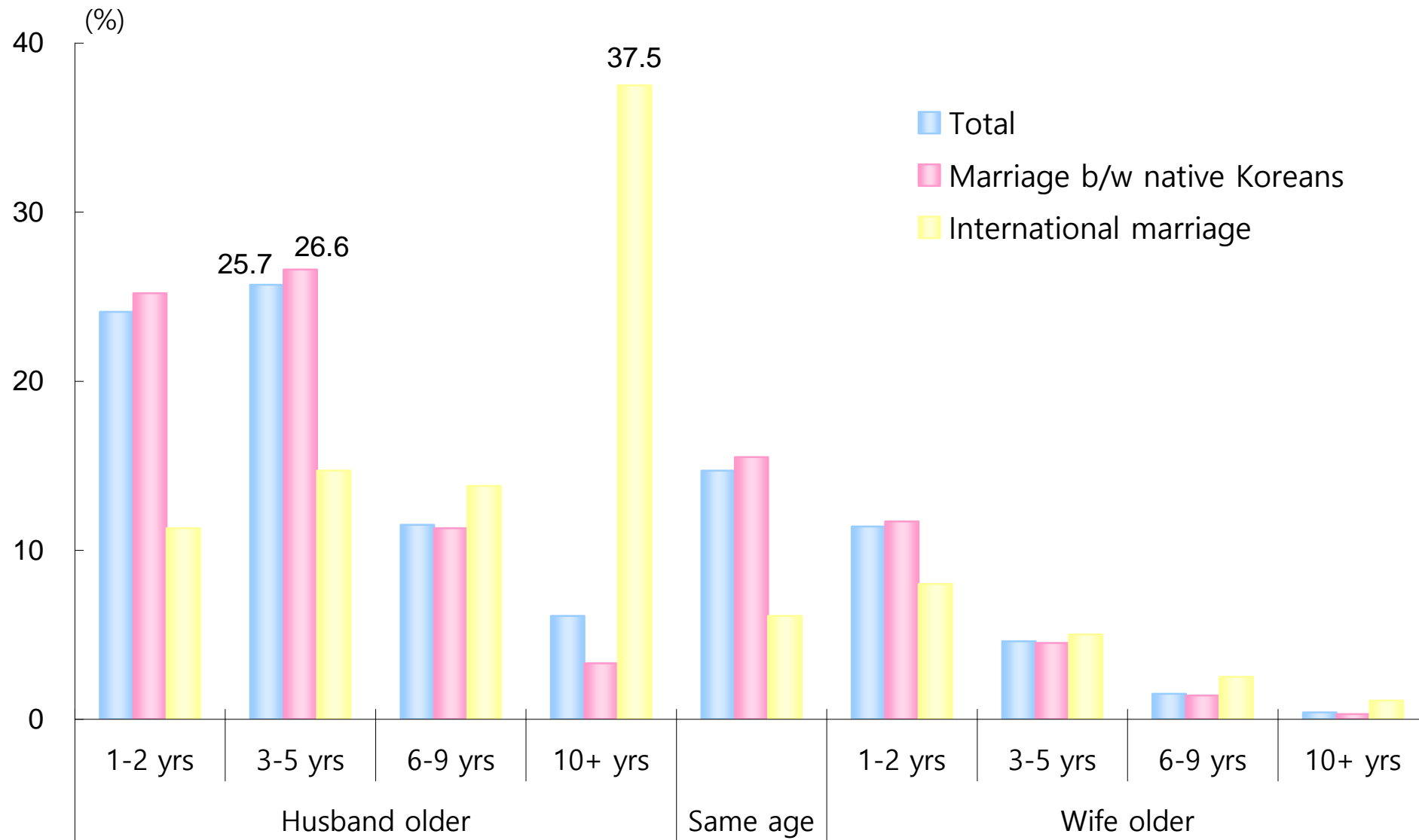
Foreign husbands + Korean wives

Age Distribution of Korean Husbands and Vietnamese Wives, 2011-2014

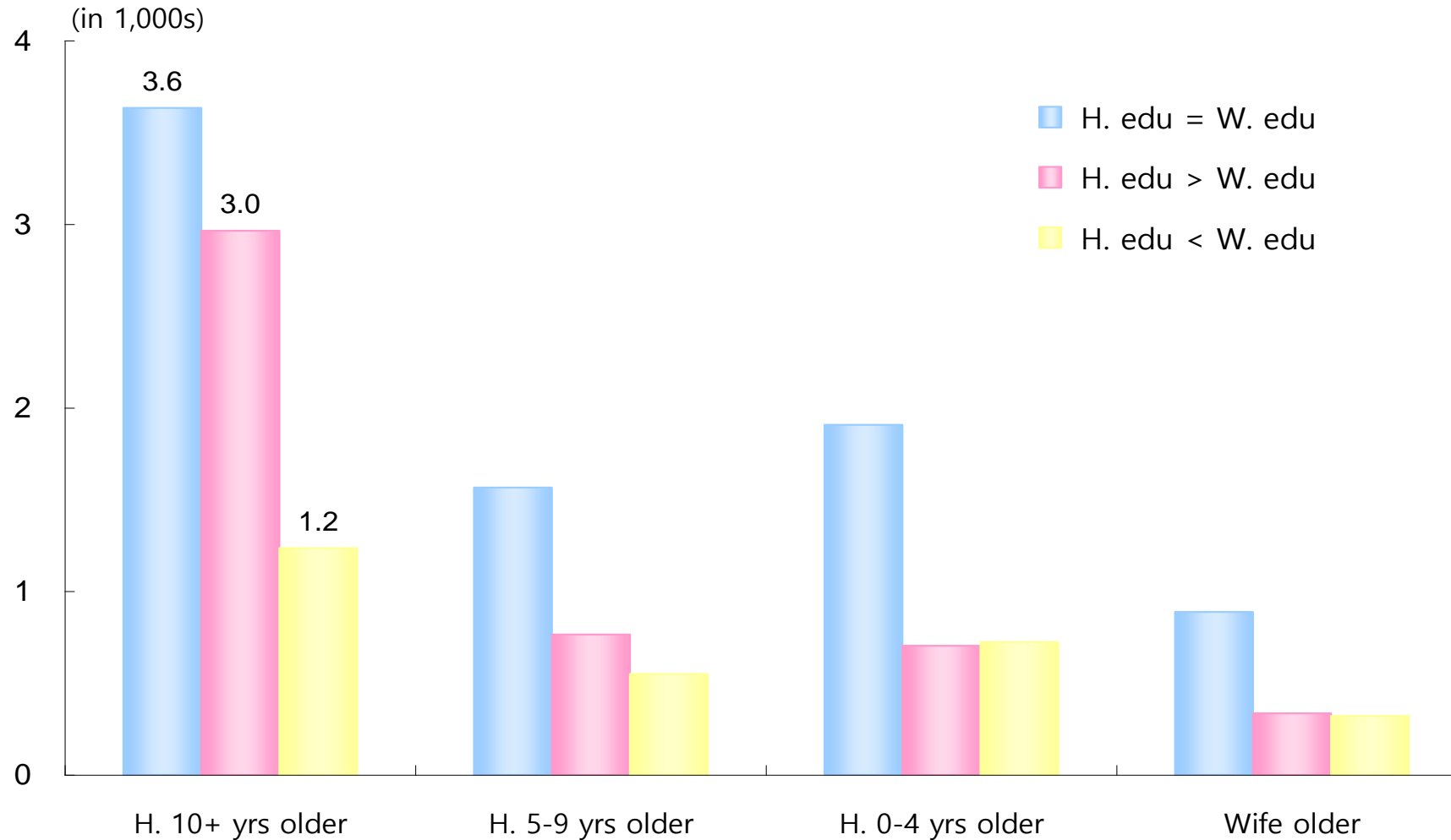


Korean husbands + Vietnamese wives

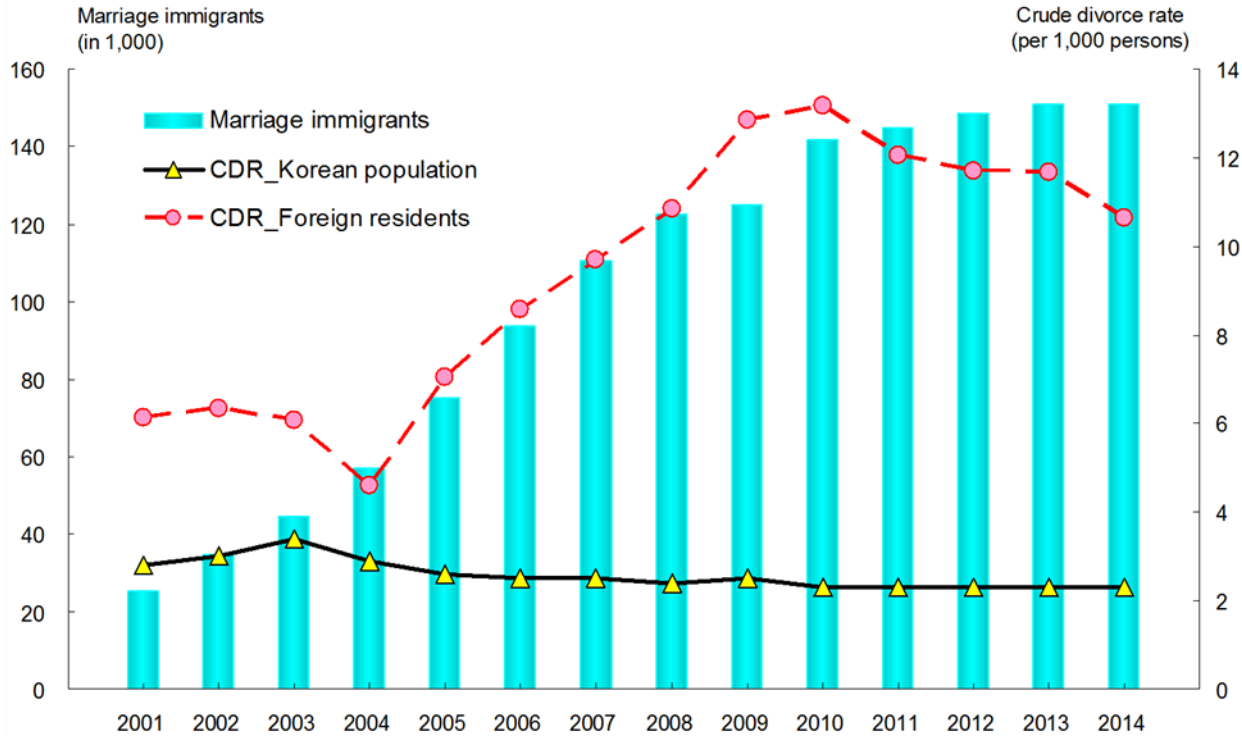
Proportion of Marriages by Spousal Differences in Age and Type of Marriage, Korea, 2014



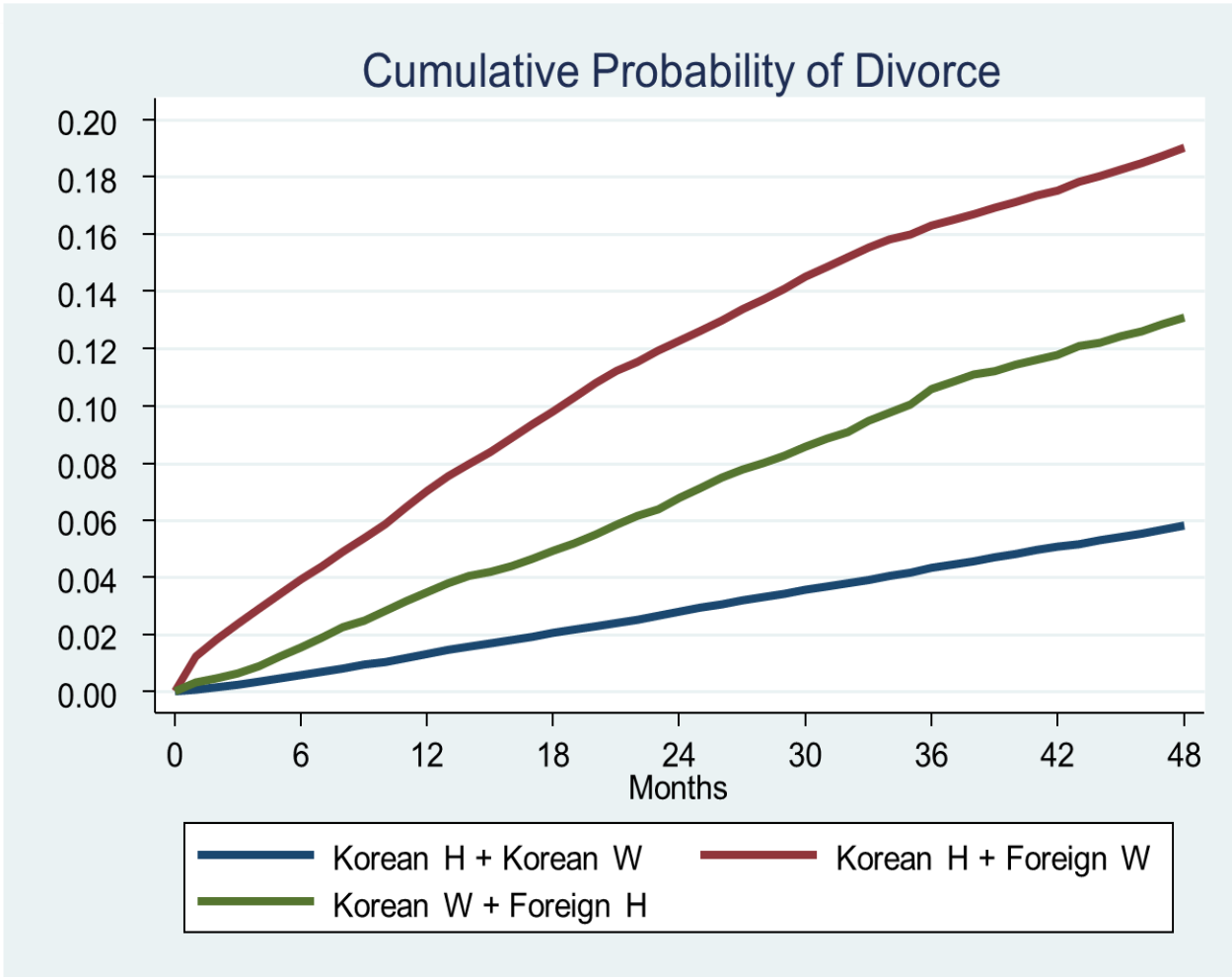
◆ Spousal Dissimilarity in Educational Attainment



◆ High risk of marital dissolution and short duration of marriage

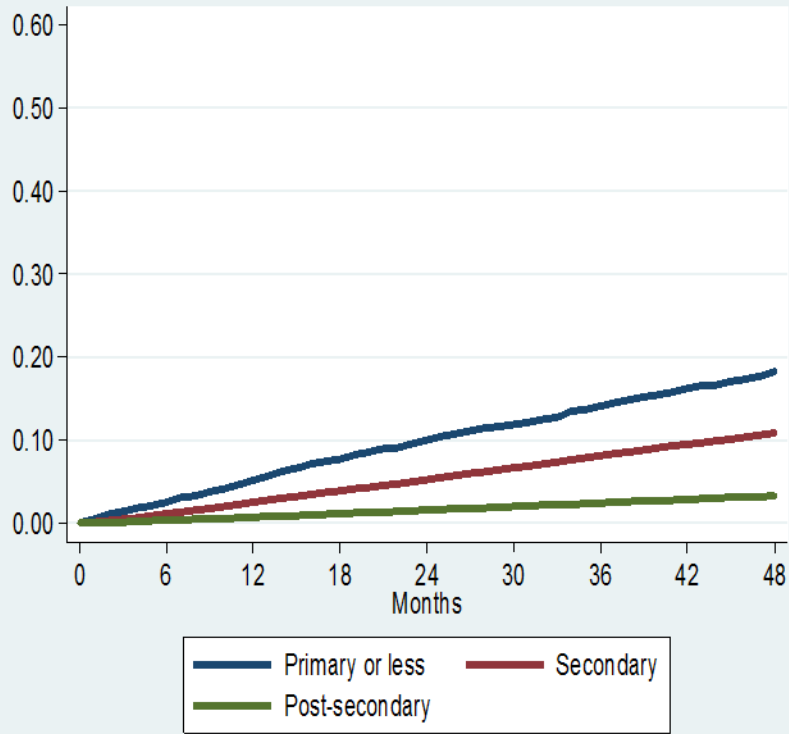


CDR for Korean population & foreign residents

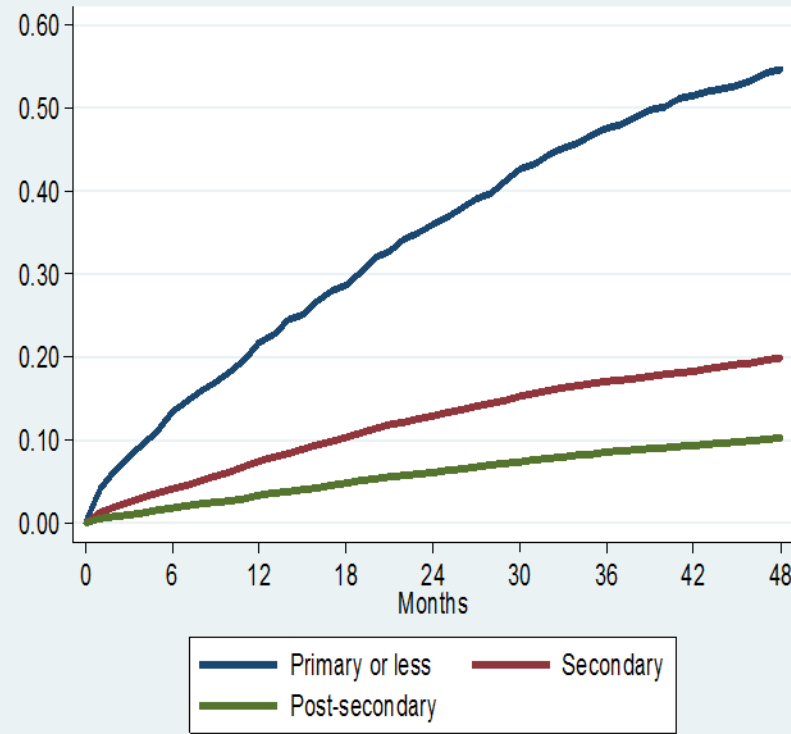


Cumulative Probability of Divorce by Wife's Education, Korea, 2010-2014

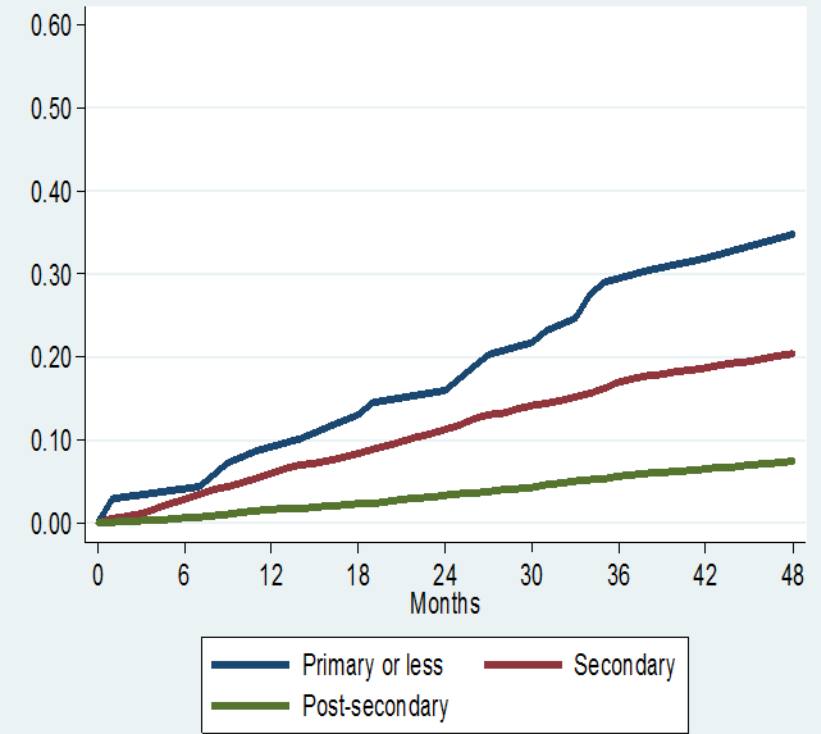
Korean husband and Korean wife



Korean husband and Foreign wife

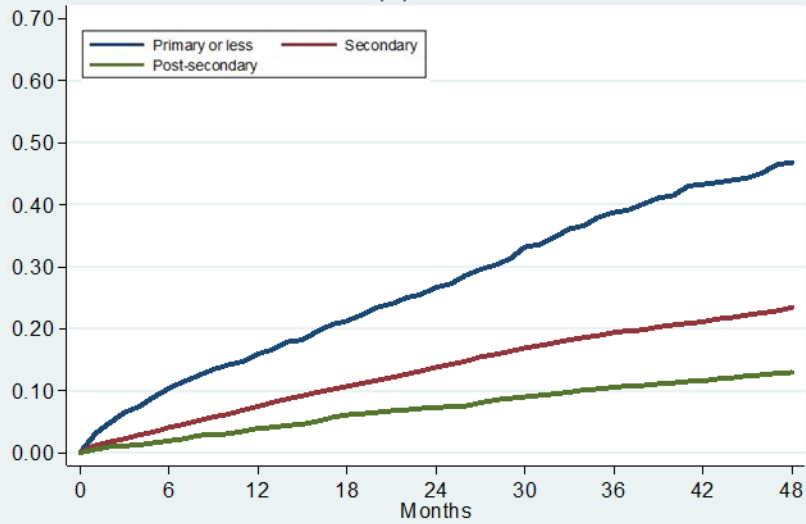


Korean wife and Foreign husband

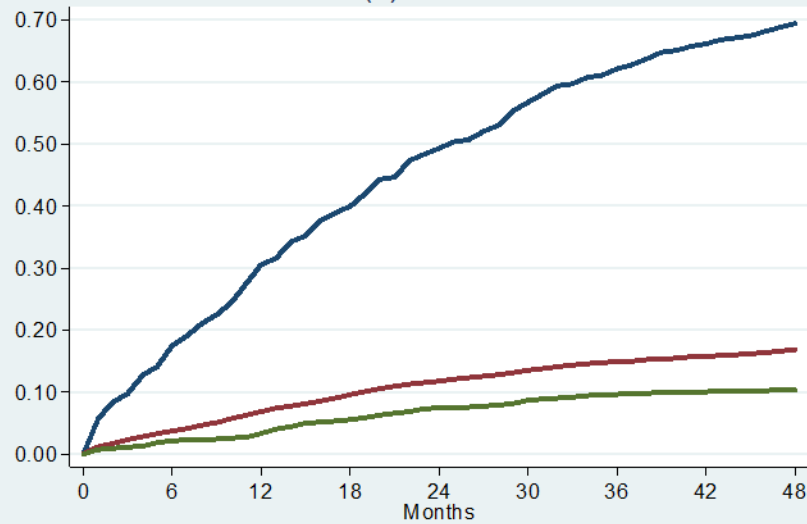


Cumulative Probability of Divorce by Wife's Country of Origin and Education, Korea, 2010-2014

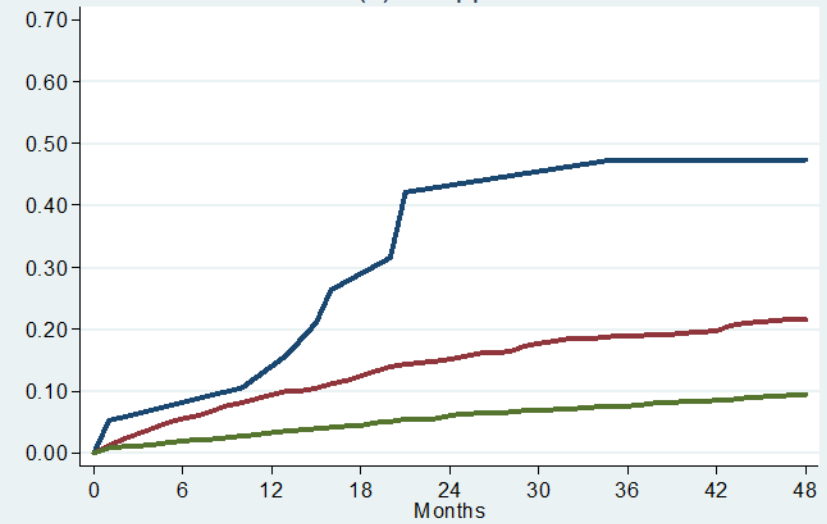
(a) China



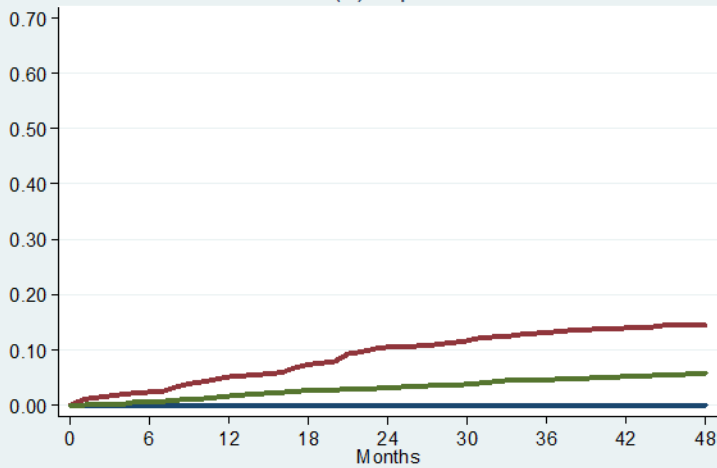
(b) Vietnam



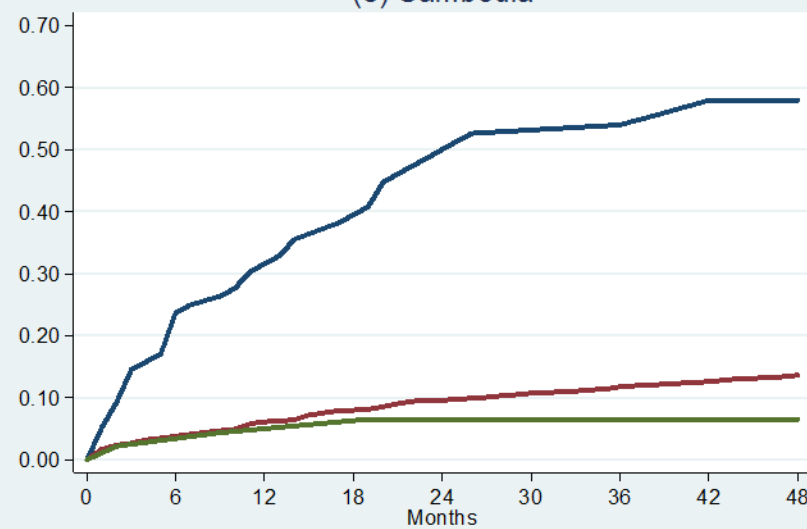
(c) Philippines



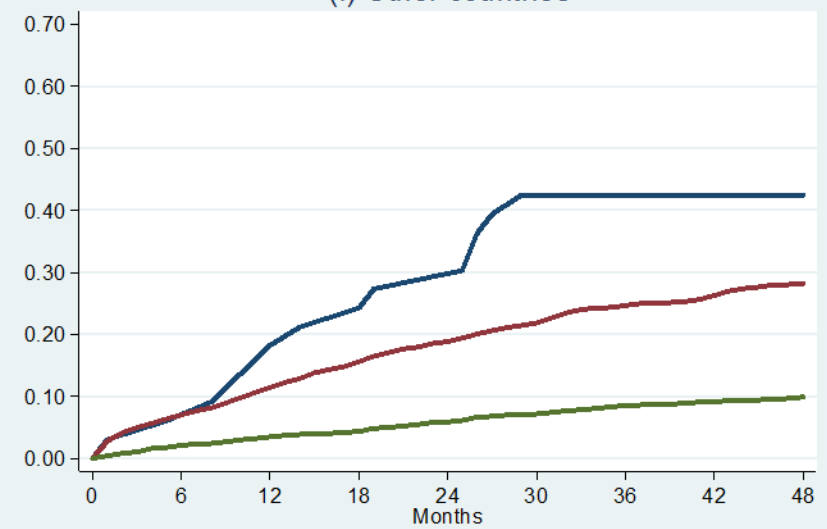
(d) Japan



(e) Cambodia

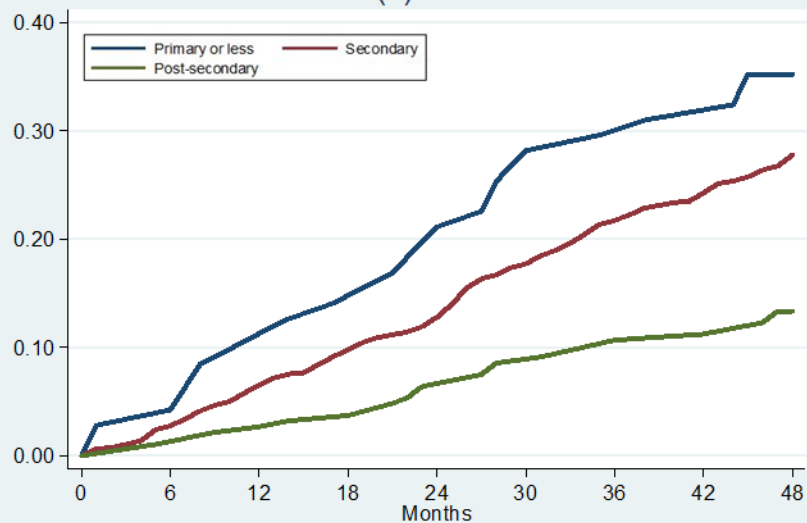


(f) Other countries

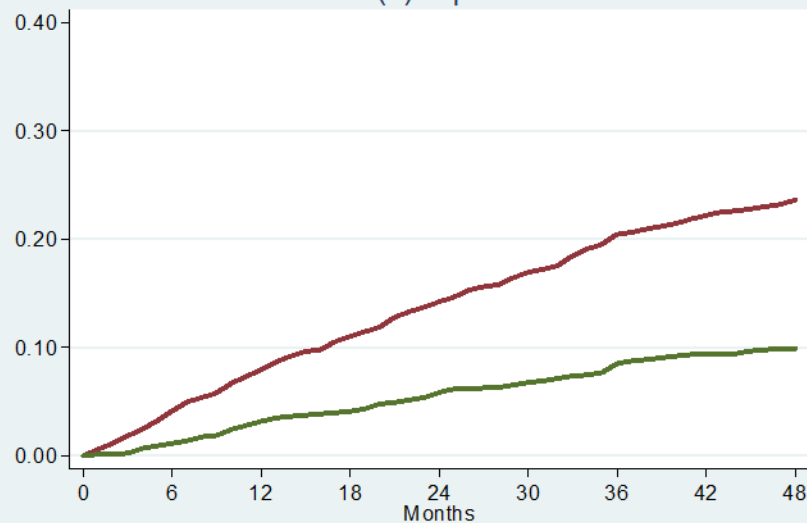


Cumulative Probability of Divorce by Husband's Country of Origin and Education, Korea, 2010-2014

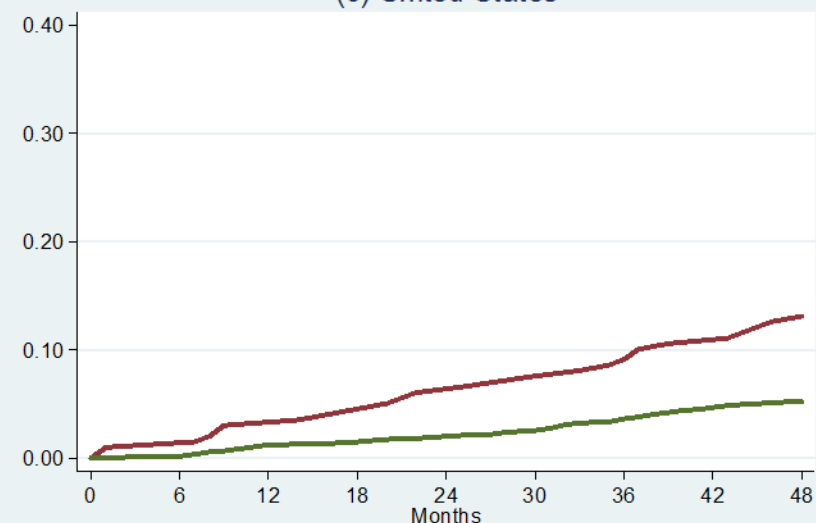
(a) China



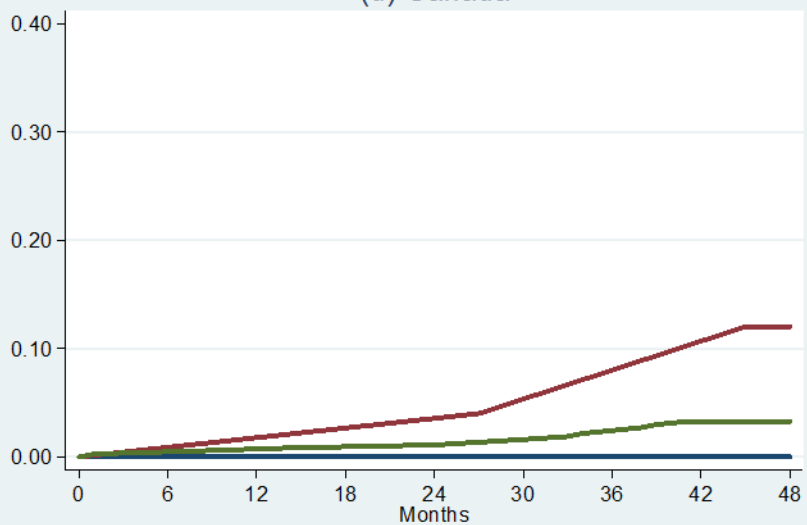
(b) Japan



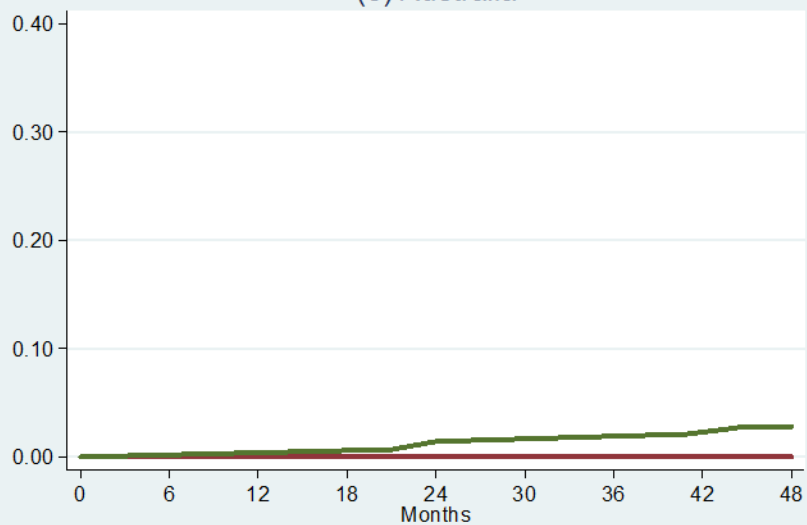
(c) United States



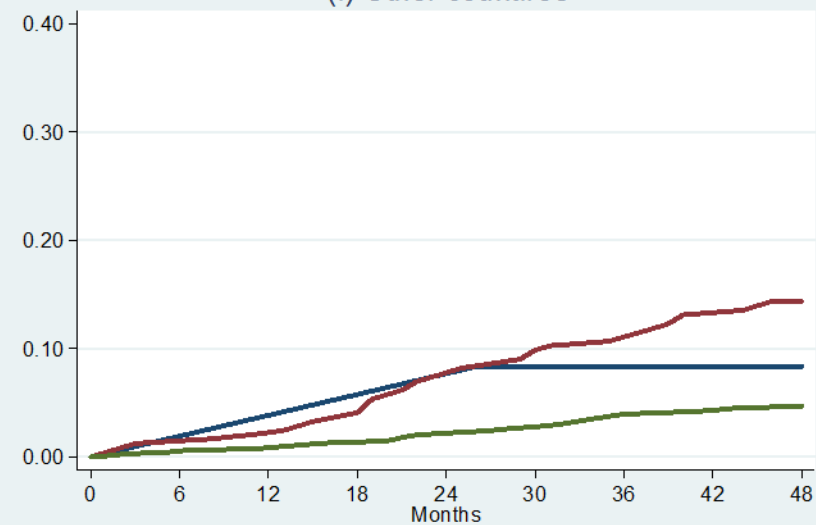
(d) Canada

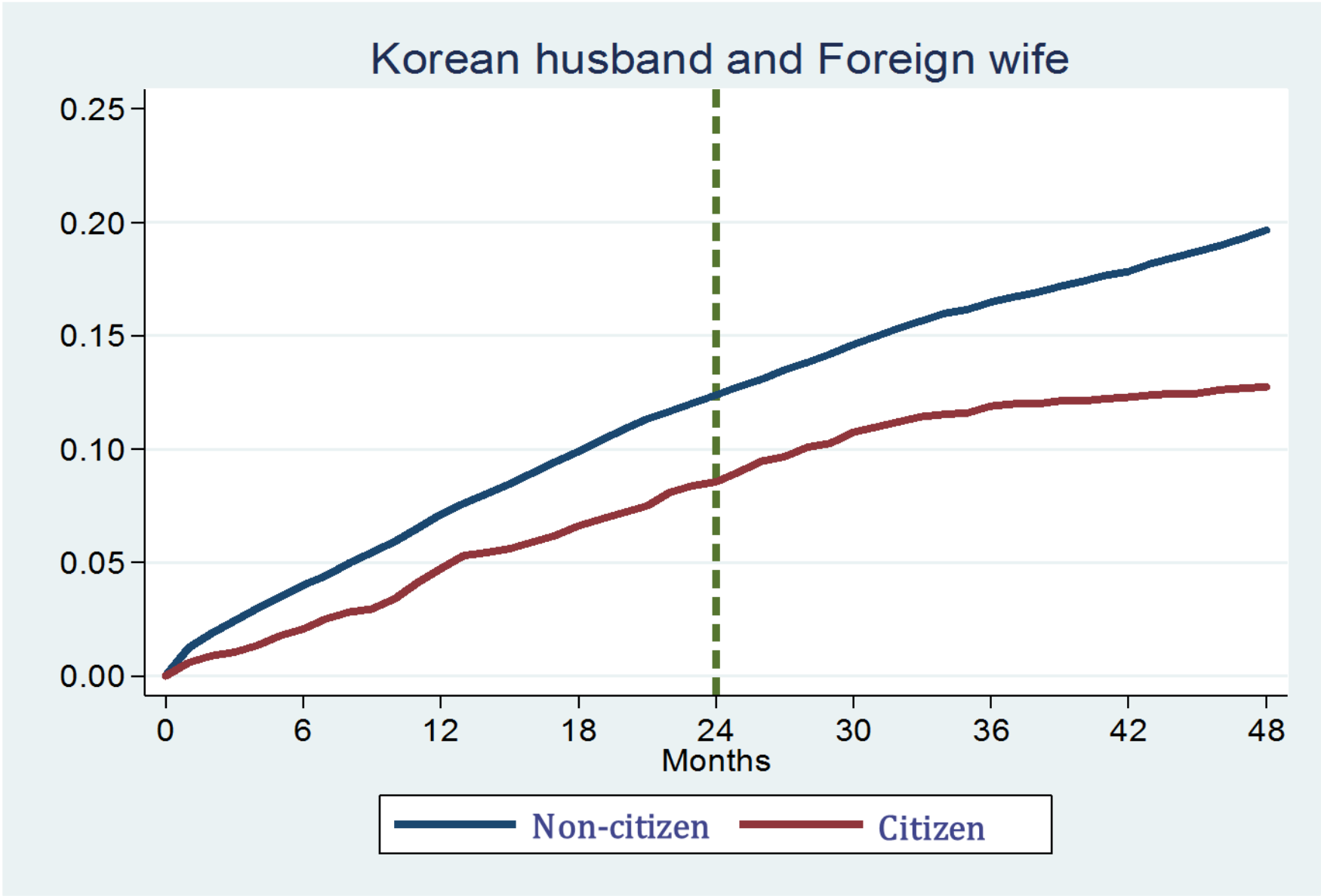


(e) Australia

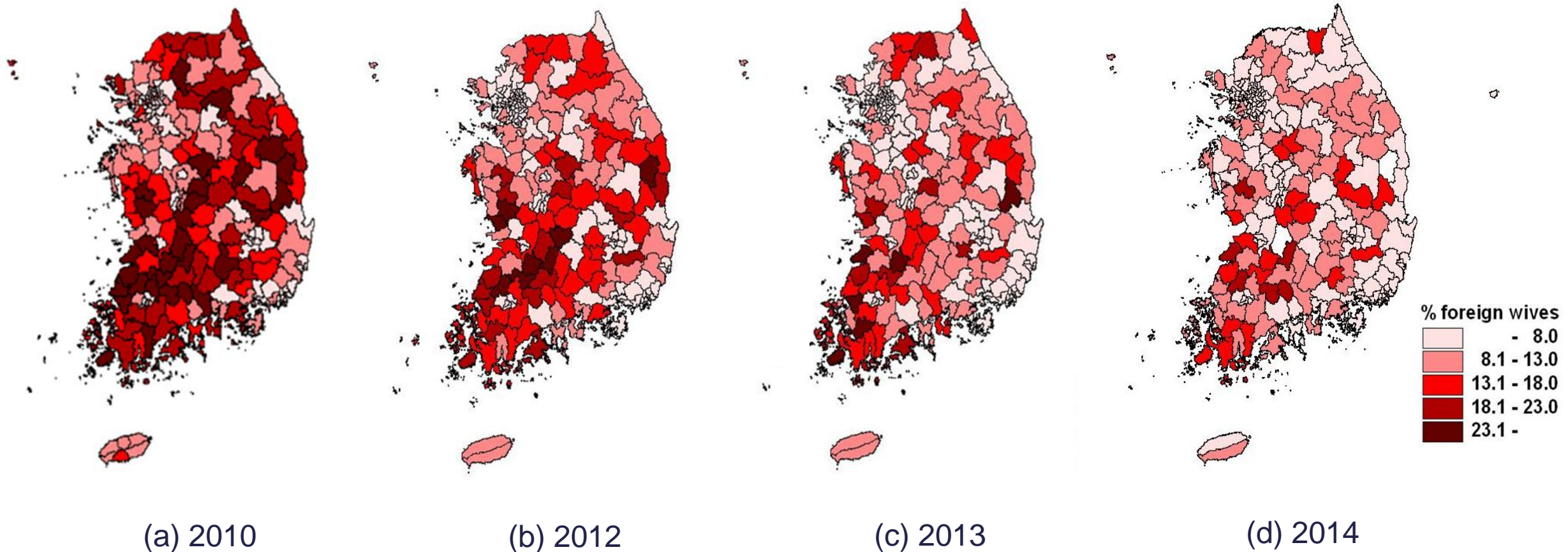


(f) Other countries





- ◆ Residence pattern: Foreign wives are over-represented in rural areas in their proportion to the total number of wives. But most of the foreign wives are living in urban areas, particularly in large cities.



- ◆ Spousal dissimilarity in age and education: In case of Vietnamese brides to Taiwan and Korea, marrying up seems to be clear, given their young age and low educational level. They have the overriding motive of acquiring higher income and helping the family back home economically.
- ◆ But Filipinas tend to be better educated than their husbands in East Asian countries. Uzbekistan and Mongolian brides are also better educated than their husbands.
- ◆ Spousal dissimilarity in age and education tends to be relatively smaller for CBMs between foreign husbands and Korean wives.

- ◆ Human trafficking and gender issues
- ◆ Trends, diversity, and socio-demographic features of CBM couples
- ◆ Motivation and dynamics of marriage process
- ◆ Adaptation and acculturation issues
 - 1) Demographic analysis of fertility and divorce among CBM couples
 - 2) Satisfaction and quality of life, health, and marital stability
 - 3) Schooling and delinquent behaviors of the second generation
 - 4) Discrimination, stigmatization, and attitudes toward marriage immigrants
 - 5) Economic activities and contribution in the labor market
- ◆ Social integration, welfare and policy-oriented issues
- ◆ Minority communities and ethnic composition/neighborhood effects
- ◆ Geographic distribution and spatial characteristics
- ◆ Social consequences in the sending communities/countries
- ◆ Role of government: Citizenship and legal issues.

- ◆ Melting pot or salad bowl? Assimilation, integration or multiculturalism?
- ◆ Role of CBM in modifying ethnic homogeneity.
- ◆ Socioeconomic, demographic and political consequences of marriage migration in the countries of origin and destination.
- ◆ Role of marriage brokers and agencies.
- ◆ Global phenomena call for global thinking; International comparison and collaboration have become compulsory.
- ◆ The need for more intensive data on marriage migration at national, local and individual levels.
- ◆ The need for multi-disciplinary research: Anthropology or demography alone won't tell the whole story of marriage migration without other social sciences. We will have to borrow insights, concepts and frameworks from other disciplines.

- ◆ **Underutilized data sources:**
Marriage and divorce registration, population census, visa interview, birth, immigration, naturalization statistics, local data.
- ◆ **More intensive data sources (social surveys, in-depth interviews, focus-group discussions, etc.) should be developed, and accessibility to reliable data sources should be increased.**
- ◆ **Attention to underreporting & misreporting in deficient data sources.**