The demographic diversity of immigrant populations in Australia

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Background

- Australia has experienced considerable amount of demographic change over the past 30 years
  - 14.9 million people in 1981 to 22.3 million people in 2011
  - overseas-born = 27% of the total population in 2011, up from 23% in 2001
  - places Australia in the list of top 20 countries in the world with high percentages of international migrants, and in the list of top five more developed countries
Australia’s labour markets are being affected by

- Changing age structure of the population
  - Sustained low fertility
  - Increased longevity
- Different sources of migration over time
- Increased women’s participation
- Continued transitions towards service economy
- Its unique geography
Total Fertility Rate: 1933-2013

Source: Australian Bureau of Statistics (2014)
Life expectancy at age 0, Australia: 1881-2012

Source: Australian Bureau of Statistics (2014)
Demographic sources of population change: Australia, 1982-2014

Areas in Australia with population density over 117 persons per square kilometer

Data: Australian Bureau of Statistics, 2011 Census
Image: Richard Chirgwin
Australian Research Council Project, 2015-2018

• The demographic consequences of migration to, from and within Australia

• Aims of this project
  – Create a complete, consistent and detailed account of population change in Australia for assessing the specific contributions of migration and for studying the dynamic population movements that produced them
  – Develop innovative methods and techniques for overcoming data limitations concerning population change
Objectives: data collection and statistical estimation

• Obtain the best publically available data on population stocks, fertility, mortality, internal migration and international migration by age, sex, geography and birthplace for the period 1981 to 2011

• To develop and apply demographic and statistical techniques for reconciling differences and inadequacies in the available data and to estimate the missing data

• To build a consistent and complete demographic accounting model by age and sex for 18 birthplace-specific populations and 49 subnational areas from 1981 to 2011
Objectives: substantive

- To identify the long-term demographic consequences of international and internal migration for the birthplace-specific populations and subnational areas
- To analyse the dynamic pathways of international and internal migration for the birthplace-specific populations across and subnational areas in Australia from 1981 to 2011
Significance

• Migration is often the most important component of population change in Australia and underpins many of the challenges facing Australian society, including the economy, society, provision of services, resource demand and the environment
Australia’s population born overseas: 1984-2014

Source: Australian Bureau of Statistics (2015b)
# Birthplace of parents by birthplace of population, Australian residents, 2011

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Parents</th>
<th>Born in Australia</th>
<th>Born Overseas</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Both born in Australia</td>
<td>10,590,712</td>
<td>166,376</td>
<td>10,757,088</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>One overseas born</td>
<td>2,236,639</td>
<td>159,849</td>
<td>2,396,488</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Both overseas born</td>
<td>1,807,187</td>
<td>5,069,398</td>
<td>6,876,585</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Not Stated</td>
<td>387,254</td>
<td>1,090,303</td>
<td>1,477,557</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>15,021,792</td>
<td>6,485,927</td>
<td>21,507,719</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Source: Australian Bureau of Statistics, Census 2011*
Age and sex compositions of the Australian-born and foreign-born populations, 2006 (grey) and 2011 (outline)
Overseas born population by region of birth, 2011

Source: Department of Immigration and Border Protection (2014) “The place of migrants in contemporary Australia”
Australian residents by country of birth: 1996-2014

Source: Australian Bureau of Statistics (2014)
Immigration to Australia by world region: 1959-2009

Migrant populations by age and sex, 1996 and 2014

Australian population by age, sex and birthplace: 1996 (shaded) and 2014 (outline)

Source: Australian Bureau of Statistics (2015a)
Australian population by age, sex and birthplace: 2006 (grey) and 2011 (outline)
Sex ratios of Australian populations by birthplace group, 2011

- Americas
- Southern and Central Asia
- South-East Asia
- North-East Asia
- Sub-Saharan Africa
- North Africa and the Middle East
- Southern and Eastern Europe
- North-West Europe
- New Zealand and Other Oceania
- Australia
Percentage of population by birthplace: 1901-2011

Sources: Khoo (2003) and Australian Censuses
Demographic sources of population change: New South Wales, 1982-2014

Demographic sources of population change: Queensland, 1982-2014

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>State</th>
<th>Region (SA4)</th>
<th>Migrant Population</th>
<th>Migrant Percent</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>New South Wales</td>
<td>Greater Sydney</td>
<td>1,501,189</td>
<td>36</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Illawarra</td>
<td>55,948</td>
<td>21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Other regions</td>
<td>215,353</td>
<td>6-14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Victoria</td>
<td>Greater Melbourne</td>
<td>1,257,495</td>
<td>33</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Geelong</td>
<td>37,927</td>
<td>16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Other regions</td>
<td>104,954</td>
<td>7-13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Queensland</td>
<td>Greater Brisbane</td>
<td>508,390</td>
<td>26</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Gold Coast</td>
<td>140,861</td>
<td>30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Sunshine Coast</td>
<td>60,706</td>
<td>21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Cairns</td>
<td>40,755</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Other regions</td>
<td>133,066</td>
<td>8-13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>South Australia</td>
<td>Greater Adelaide</td>
<td>310,171</td>
<td>27</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Other regions</td>
<td>41,243</td>
<td>10-13</td>
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<tr>
<td>Western Australia</td>
<td>Greater Perth</td>
<td>594,414</td>
<td>37</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Other regions</td>
<td>86,523</td>
<td>18-19</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tasmania</td>
<td>Greater Hobart</td>
<td>27,897</td>
<td>14</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Other regions</td>
<td>29,384</td>
<td>9-12</td>
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<tr>
<td>Northern Territory</td>
<td>Greater Darwin</td>
<td>26,073</td>
<td>24</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Outback</td>
<td>8,536</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ACT</td>
<td>ACT</td>
<td>85,976</td>
<td>25</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Distribution of migrant populations across states or territories in Australia by birthplace, 2011
Female life expectancies by state and top five birthplaces, 2006-2011

Male life expectancies by state and top five birthplaces, 2006-2011

Total Fertility Rates by birthplace of mother, 2006-2011

Sources: ABS Birth, Australia 2006-2011
Multiregional retention expectancies (%) at age 20 by sex and selected country of birth for New South Wales, 2006-11
Multiregional retention expectancies (%) at age 20 by sex and selected country of birth for Queensland, 2006-2011
Multiregional retention expectancies (%) at age 20 by sex and selected country of birth for Tasmania, 2006-2011
Summary – Australian demography

• Total fertility rates have been around 1.8-1.9 for 40 years.
• Male and female life expectancy continues to increase.
• International migration has been a major driver of population growth since the 1950s – however, the sources and compositions are constantly changing.
• Recent migrants have different settlement patterns and compositions than earlier migrants.
Conclusion

- There is a large amount of diversity of migration to Australia and amongst its migrant populations.

- Studying these patterns over time will help us understand the nature of migration and its contributions to population change in Australia.

- We will also develop statistical methods to overcome current data limitations.
Acknowledgements

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