

International Migration and Demographic Change

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Panel description:

Migration is the most volatile component of population change and has thus become more important than fertility and mortality in shaping regional population growth, age structure and composition of most European countries. This multidisciplinary panel aims at bringing together researchers and experts from a range of disciplines such as demography, population geography, economics and sociology to present and discuss research related to international migration and demographic change. Here, demographic change is understood to encompass changing patterns of population growth, population ageing and socio-economic population characteristics (such as ethnicity and education) at the local and regional level, both within Austria and internationally.

Call for Papers

We encourage the submission of papers that present novel use of new or established demographic tools and methods, such as life course models and forecasting. Papers may include, but are not limited to:

- assessing the determinants of migration and its impacts on regional population growth and age structure,
- ethnic change in low-fertility countries,
- modelling patterns of national security and identity, and
- assessing the demographic drivers for small area populations.

Proposals for papers should contain the panel title, a provisional paper title and a brief summary of the paper of about one page, explaining the research question, methods and results.

Please send paper proposals to Julia Dahlvik (julia.dahlvik@univie.ac.at) by 15 April 2012.

The programme committee will select the best two papers together with the panel organiser.

We will inform accepted speakers by 15 May 2012.

Full draft versions of the papers should be sent to the organizers by 1 September 2012. They will be published online so that the conference participants can read the paper in advance of the presentation.

Those not residing in Vienna may apply for co-funding of their travel costs.

Paper to be presented

Nikola Sander Vienna Institute of Demography of the Austrian Academy of Sciences: The impact of migration on regional population change in Germany, 1995-2009

Germany is currently undergoing a demographic revolution that is fundamentally transforming the country's population age structure. The pace of population ageing is set to rapidly accelerate when the oldest members of the baby boomer generation pass the traditional retirement age of 65 in 2020. As the number and proportion of elderly Germans increases, the processes underlying continuity and change in the spatial structure of internal migration become a fundamental issue. This is because internal migration is the most volatile component of population change and has thus become more important than fertility and mortality in shaping regional population growth and age structure. Migration among the elderly and out-migration of younger adults has far-reaching implications for economic development and for planning strategies to ensure adequate health, housing and welfare in the right place at the right time. However, little research has been conducted in Germany to identify past and potential shifts in spatial patterns. Existing work on internal migration is largely descriptive, mostly focusing on net-migration, or exclusively on migration streams between eastern and western states.

This paper aims to provide a comprehensive profile of internal migration between Germany's regions. Central goals are to identify enduring empirical regularities and changes in the spatial structure of internal migration, to estimate the spatial interaction between regions and to determine the impact of internal migration on regional populations. Moving beyond state-level analyses, migration flows by age and sex between 96 'Raumordnungsregionen' are analysed along the four dimensions intensity, connectivity, impact and distance (see Bell et al., 2002) to obtain a comprehensive picture of the spatial structure of international migration flows over the period 1995 – 2009. In addition, intensities and distance-decay of age- and sex-specific flows between 295 'Kreisen' are analysed to shed light on migration patterns within 'Raumordnungsregionen', and to take into account *commuting* patterns and labour *mobility*. The results are visualized using a novel mapping technique. The analysis reveals systematic spatio-temporal variation in the intensity and connectivity of migration, and in the impact of migration on regional population growth and age structure. It is demonstrated that analyses of migration at the level of the sixteen federal states fall short of providing a sound understanding of the spatial structure of internal migration, including patterns and intensities of east-west migration.