Migration as a Crosscutting Theme
in Human Geography

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American Geographical Society

Who Are We?

The oldest geographical society in the nation, established in 1851. We promote the use of geography and geo-spatial science in business, government, research and education.

The only organization focused on bringing together educators, business people, those who influence public policy, and the general public for the express purpose of furthering the understanding of the role of geography in our lives.
Publications and Social Media

Focus on Geography

@americangeo
Geography 2050 is a multi-year, high-level strategic dialogue among thought leaders from academia, government, and the world of business.
International Migrant Stock 1990-2015, UN Population Division

![Bar chart showing the International Migrant Stock from 1990 to 2015 for the world, developed regions, and developing regions. The y-axis represents the number of migrant stock in millions, ranging from 0 to 300,000,000. The x-axis represents the years 1990, 1995, 2000, 2005, 2010, and 2015.]
International Migrant Stock as % of the Total Population

Source: UN, Population Division, Trends in International Migrant Stock: The 2015 Revision
Tonight’s Themes: The 4 D’s

- Diffusion – Cultural Patterns and Processes
- Diversity – Urbanization
- Deflection – Political Organization (and control) of Space
- Development – Economic Development
I. Diffusion: Cultural Patterns and Processes-
Interpreting Maps and Using Quantitative Data
Understanding Trends and Exploring Processes
Learning US Human Geography through “Social Explorer”
Diffusion of Popular Culture K-Pop

* BTS Fake Love

First Korean-Pop band to Top the Billboard 200. And they sing mostly in Korean. The band averages 250,000 re-tweets each time it posts.
Koreans in the US – Social Explorer

Around 2 million Koreans, foreign-born and native born in the US
Everyday Geographies: Cultural Diffusion in 3 Condiments
Ketchup comes from the Hokkien Chinese word, kê-tsiap, the name of a sauce derived from fermented fish. It is believed that traders brought fish sauce from Vietnam to southeastern China.

The British likely encountered ketchup in Southeast Asia, returned home, and tried to replicate the fermented dark sauce.

1812 James Meese added the Tomato Pulp
Salsa

Pre-Columbian – found in Central America and the Andes. A mixture of chili peppers and (sometimes) tomatoes. It is the #1 Condiment in the US.
Sriracha Sauce

Thai origins, made with chili peppers, vinegar, and garlic. A dipping sauce, also used in Vietnam. Yet the Sriracha in most US supermarkets was created by a Vietnamese refugee, David Tran in Los Angeles.
II. Diversity – Immigrants in Cities

* City of Immigrants
Gateway Cities with over 1 Million Foreign-born

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Cities Dropped:</th>
<th>In these 22 cities are over 45.5 million foreign-born residents which represents 18% of the Foreign-Born Stock in 2015 according to the United Nations.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Moscow?</td>
<td>Nearly, one-in-five immigrants are in these cities.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Singapore</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Cities Added:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Abu Dhabi</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kuwait City</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Madrid</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Johannesburg</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Metros of nearly 1 million foreign-born</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Buenos Aires, Mecca, Vancouver</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Immigrants in the Gulf Cities: Permanent Temporariness
84 million immigrants or 34% of the foreign-born stock in 2015

Number of Foreign Born
- at least 100,000
- at least 500,000
- at least 1 Million

Source: https://gum.columbian.gwu.edu
1.3 million immigrants
1 in 5 people are foreign-born
### Asian Indians in Metropolitan Washington

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Trait</th>
<th>Value</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Foreign-born</td>
<td>71%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Arrived before 2000</td>
<td>63%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Speak English less than very well</td>
<td>16%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Have Bachelor’s degree</td>
<td>33%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Have Graduate/ professional degree</td>
<td>46%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wage and salary earners</td>
<td>82%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Employed in science, management, business, arts</td>
<td>75%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Median Household Income</td>
<td>$128,510</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Value of home</td>
<td>$491,400</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: ACS. 2011-2013, File S0201 (Ancestry)

**Aneesh Chopra:** Served as the first Chief Technology officer of the United States. Ran for Lt. Governor of VA.
Ethiopians in Metropolitan Washington

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Trait</th>
<th>Value</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Foreign-born</td>
<td>76%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Entered before 2000</td>
<td>40%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Speak English less than very well</td>
<td>33%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Have Bachelor’s degree (&gt;25 years)</td>
<td>21%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Have graduate/ professional degree (&gt;25 years)</td>
<td>11%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wage and salary earners</td>
<td>81%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Self -employed</td>
<td>11%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Median Household Income</td>
<td>$54,090</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Value of owned-occupied home</td>
<td>$311,400</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: ACS, 2011-2013, File S0201 (Ancestry)
“In the short to medium run, however, immigration and ethnic diversity challenge social solidarity and inhibit social capital”

“In the medium to long run, on the other hand, successful immigrant societies create new forms of social solidarity and dampen the negative effects of diversity by constructing new, more encompassing identities.”

“The central challenge for modern, diversifying societies is to create a new, broader sense of we.”

III. Deflection--Controlling, Removing and Diverting Migrants
Za’atari Refugee Camp of Syrians in Jordon
Daily Plane of Removals from the U.S. landing in Guatemala City
The Undocumented

Estimated unauthorized immigrant population in the U.S. rises, falls, then stabilizes

Larger share of unauthorized immigrants are long-term residents

Deflection – Political Organization of Space

* Wake Me Up
Why Are People Moving

- Push and Pull Factors
- Opportunities in places of destination; and active recruitment
- Various limitations, Threats, Poverty in places or origin
- Forced migrants (conflict, insecurity, or environmental factors) and Economic Migrants
- Social Networks and Government Policies
Development: Processes that happen over time and unevenly through space

Chinese Diaspora begins in large numbers in the 19th century to SE Asia and western North America.
19th Century Remittance Houses in the Pearl River Delta of Southern China
International Migration and Overseas Chinese Conference
Wuyi University,
Jiangmen City, Guangdong Province, China
Field Work in Cochabamba, Bolivia
Mamanaca Dream House

Preparing for his children’s return from the U.S., Juan has built three homes, one for each of his children.

“I am very thankful to the United States for the opportunity it gave me to work.’
Migrant Investments
Arbieto Mayor

“It greatly troubles me that the community needs to go abroad, because we don’t have a progressive state. It is the fault of bad government. There is no established structure, or policy.”

There are no young people here. They all take the same road.”
“It’s very difficult to then come to a country that is so big, that is a monster. So this is the reason that we still continue in folkloric dancing. It is a cultural refuge. …When I dance and dance, I return.

Manu Chao - Clandestino

Bolivian Independence Day Celebration, August 2010, Manassas, VA
THANK YOU