

The determinants of international migration

A theoretical and empirical assessment of policy, origin and destination effects

www.migrationdeterminants.eu

European Research Council (ERC)

Starting Grant

2010-2014

EC's Seventh Framework Programme

Support for Frontier Research



DEMIG research team

- Hein de Haas
- Mathias Czaika
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“the ability to control migration has shrunk as the desire to do so has increased. Borders are largely beyond control and little can be done to really cut down on immigration”
(Bhagwati 2003: 99)

“There is no major migration control crisis” (Brochmann & Hammar, 1999)

Contested effectiveness of policies reveals a limited theoretical and empirical understanding of

- the determinants of international migration (in general)
- the role of states and policies (specifically)

Migration determinants literature

- Bias towards income and demographic factors
- Receiving-country bias
- Weak theorization of migration determinants
- Limited operationalization of policy variables
- Failure to specify the relative magnitude of policy effects
- Largely ignore knock-on ('substitution') effects of restrictions
- **Aim:** Generating new theoretical and empirical insights into the way *states* and *policies* shape migration processes in their interaction with other migration determinants.

DEMIG research questions

1. What has been the nature and structure and evolution of global migration in the 1950-2010 period?
2. How can shifts in global migration patterns be explained from processes of development and social transformation in origin and destination countries?
3. What has been the nature and evolution of immigration and emigration policies in the 1950-2010 period?
4. What are the effects of migration policies and border regimes on the (i) volume, (ii) timing, (iii) duration, (iv) direction and (v) composition of international migration?

- I. Elaboration of a **theoretical framework** on migration as intrinsic part of development and social transformation
- II. Conceptualizing the effectiveness and effects of **migration policies**.
- III. Creation of **longitudinal databases** compiling bilateral migration flow, visa and migration policy data
- IV. Empirical studies on the role of states and policies in migration processes
 - **Quantitative tests** applying a double comparative, longitudinal design (multiple origin groups to and from multiple destinations)
 - **Qualitative case studies** and comparisons to assess the role of states in migration processes

- **DEMIG C2C:** bilateral flows by country of residence (COR), citizenship (COC), birth (COB); 34 countries, 1946-2011, ≈50,000 dyads.
- **DEMIG TOTAL:** Total immigration, emigration and net migration, citizens and foreigners, 163 countries, from 1820.
- **DEMIG POLICY:** 6,500 migration policy changes, 45 countries, 1946-2013, coded by (i) policy area; (ii) policy tool; (iii) migrant category; (iv) geographical origin; also covers *emigration policies*
- **DEMIG VISA:** Global panel (196*196 countries) of bilateral entry visa and exit permit requirements, 1973-2014.



Working Papers

Paper 87, March 2014

Compiling and coding migration policies

Insights from the DEMIG POLICY
database

Hein de Haas, Katharina Natter and Simona Vezzoli

DEMIG project paper 16



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Working Papers

Paper 88, March 2014

Uncovering international migration flow data

Insights from the DEMIG databases

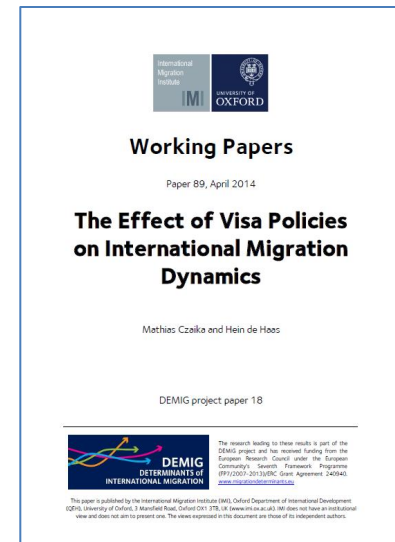
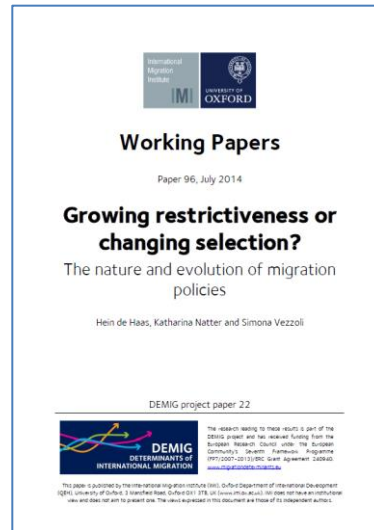
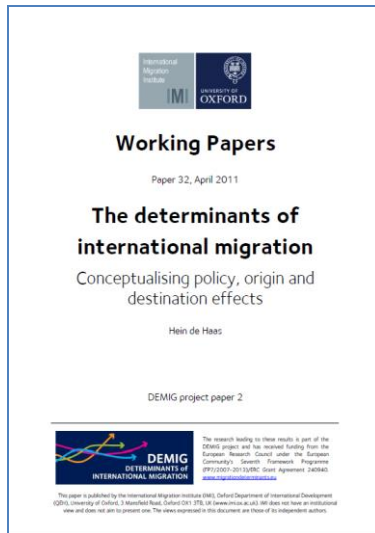
Simona Vezzoli, María Villares-Varela and Hein de Haas

DEMIG project paper 17



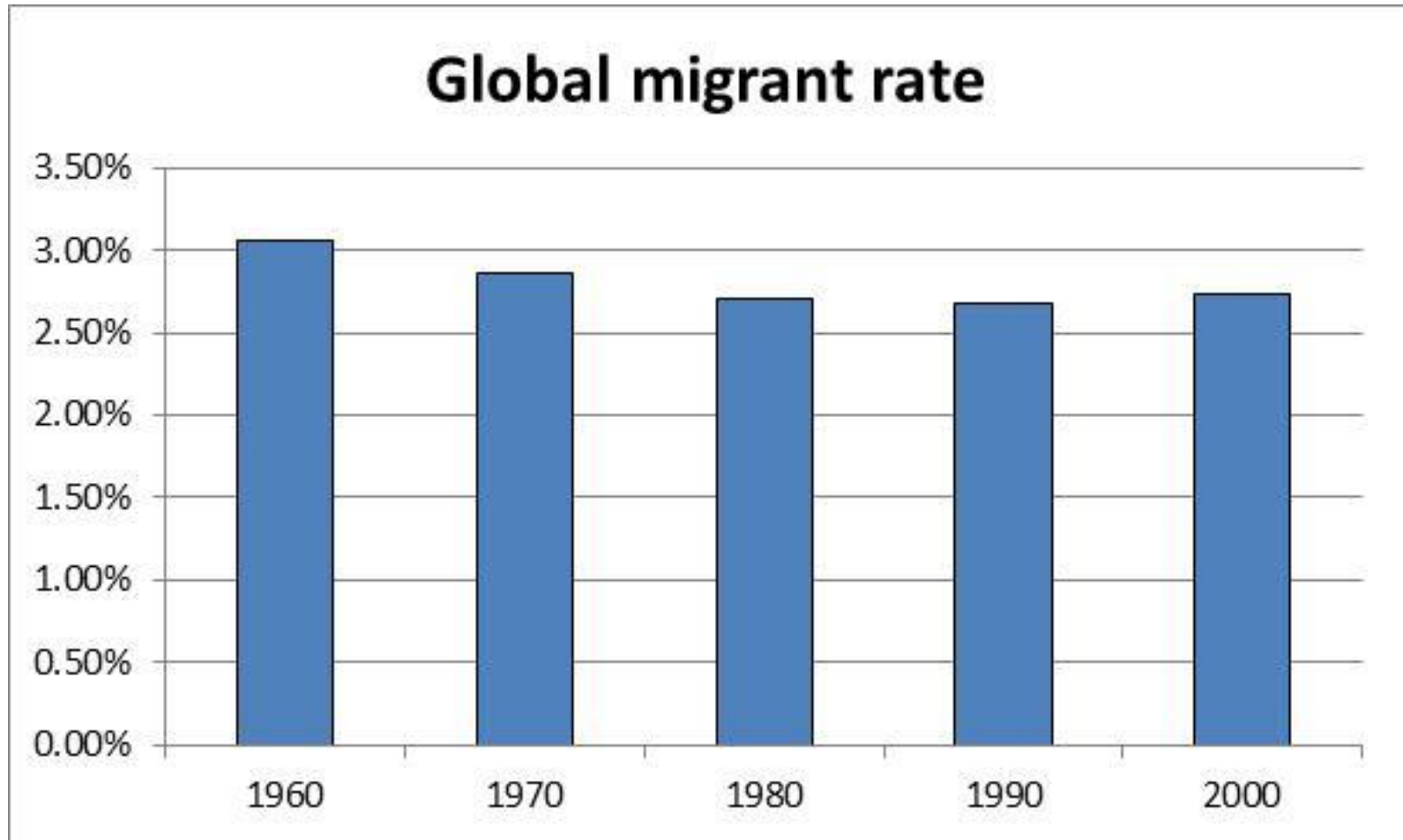
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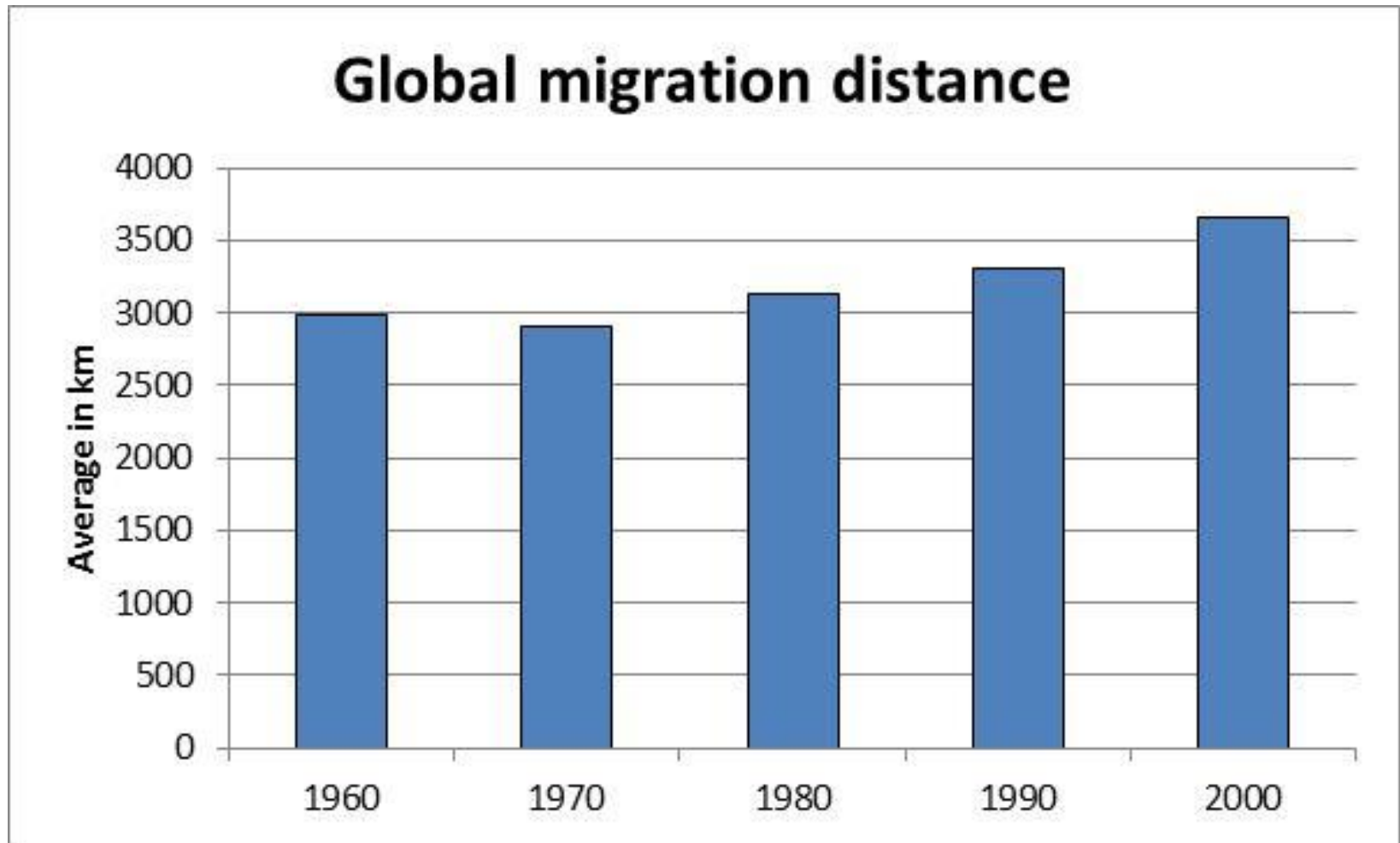
The nature and evolution of global migration

The nature and evolution of global migration



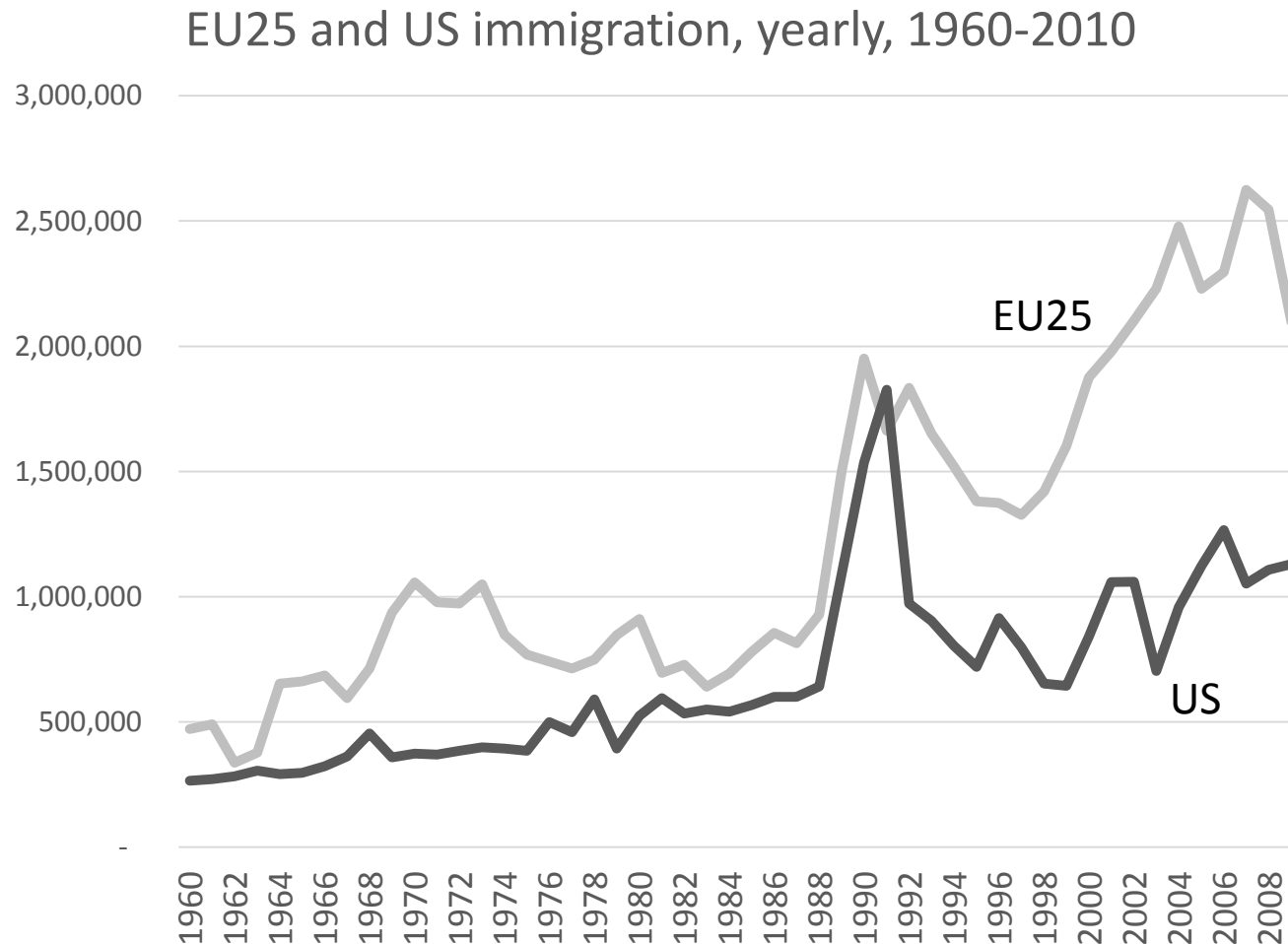
Source: Czaika, M., & de Haas, H. (2014). The Globalisation of Migration: Has the world become more migratory? *International Migration Review*, 48(2), 283-323.

The nature and evolution of global migration



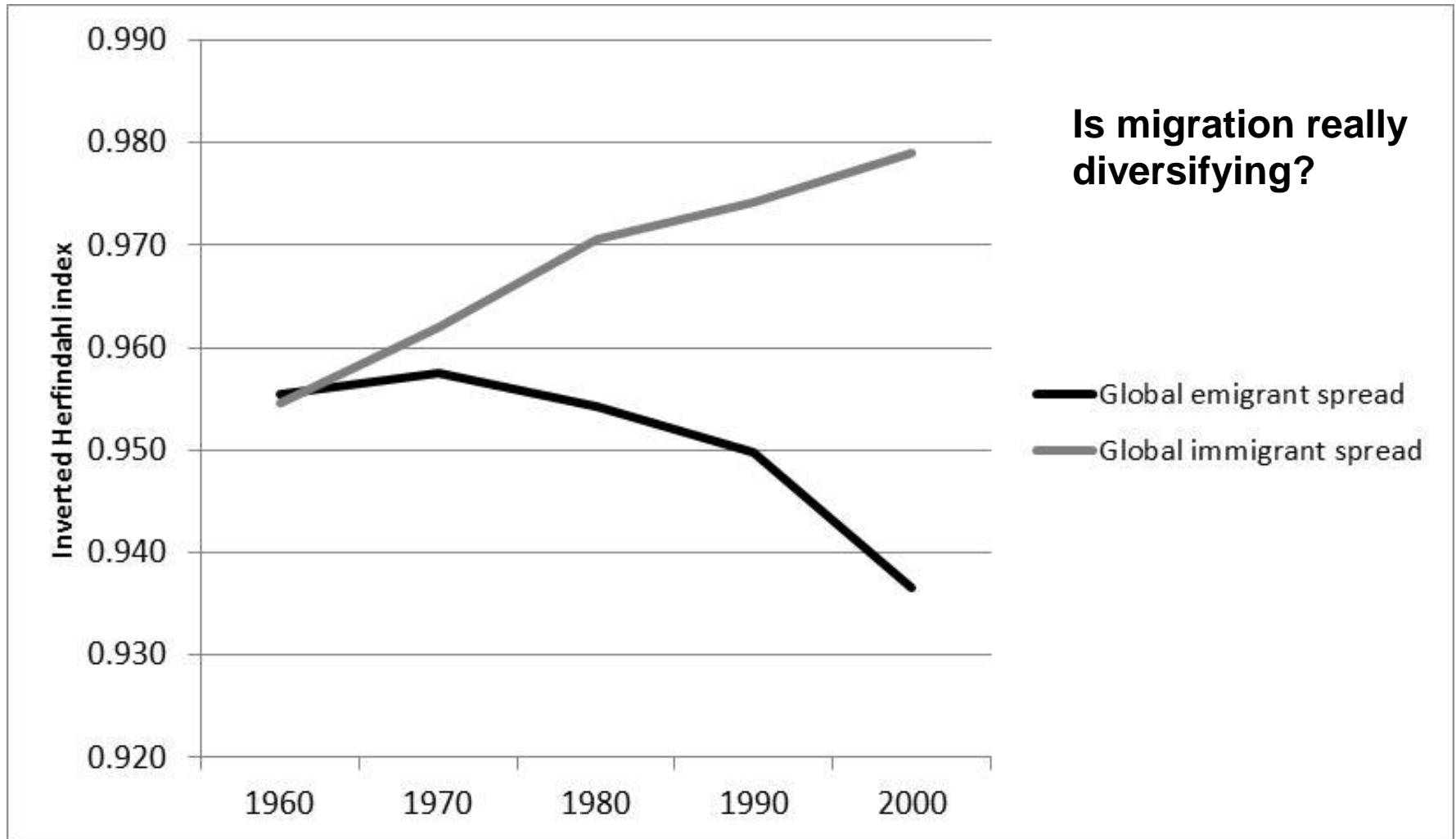
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The nature and evolution of global migration



Source: Hein de Haas, Simona Vezzoli and María Villares-Varela (2014 forthcoming) *Trend and patterns of international migration 1950-2010*. DEMIG working paper. Based on DEMIG C2C data.

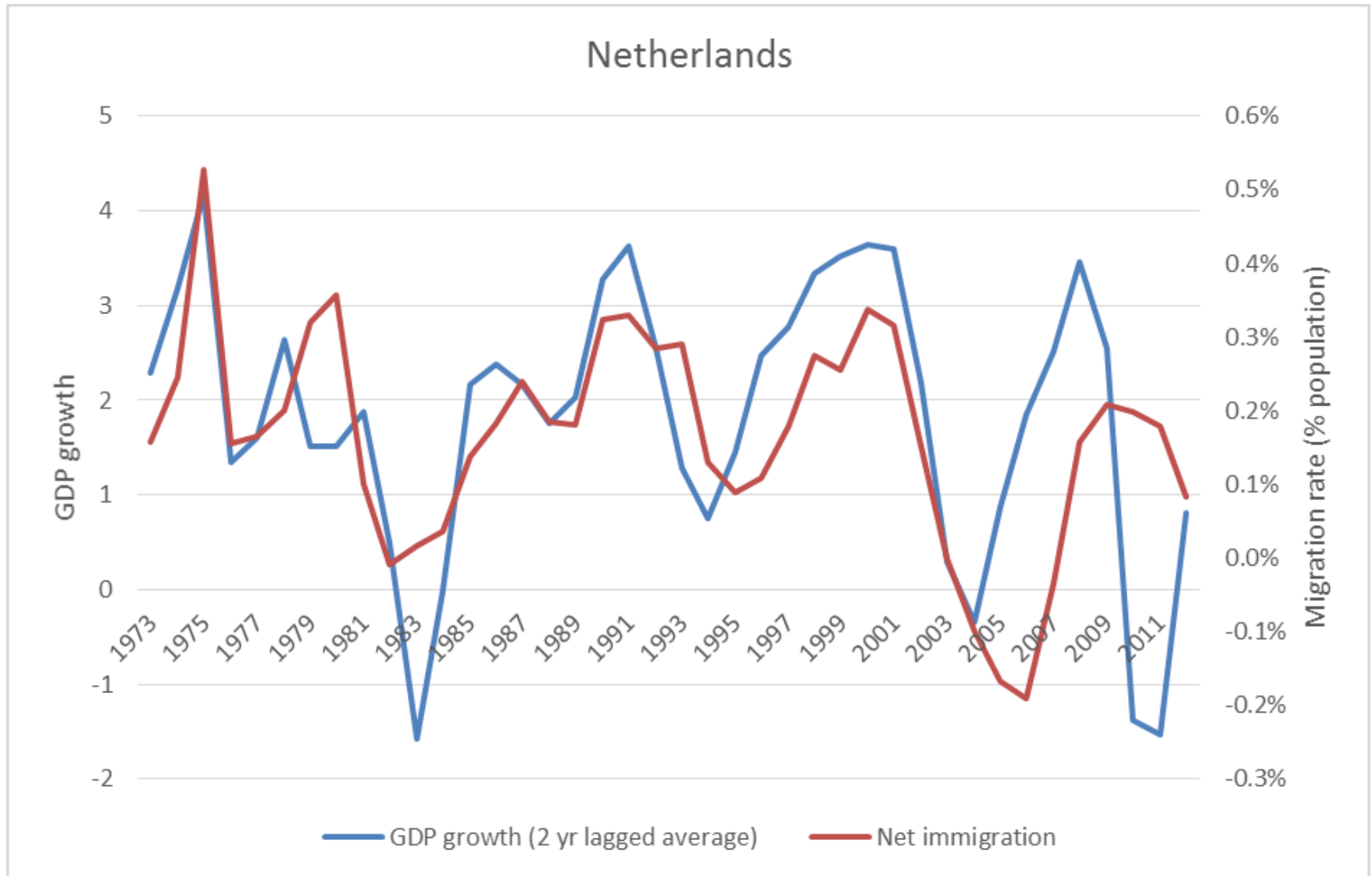
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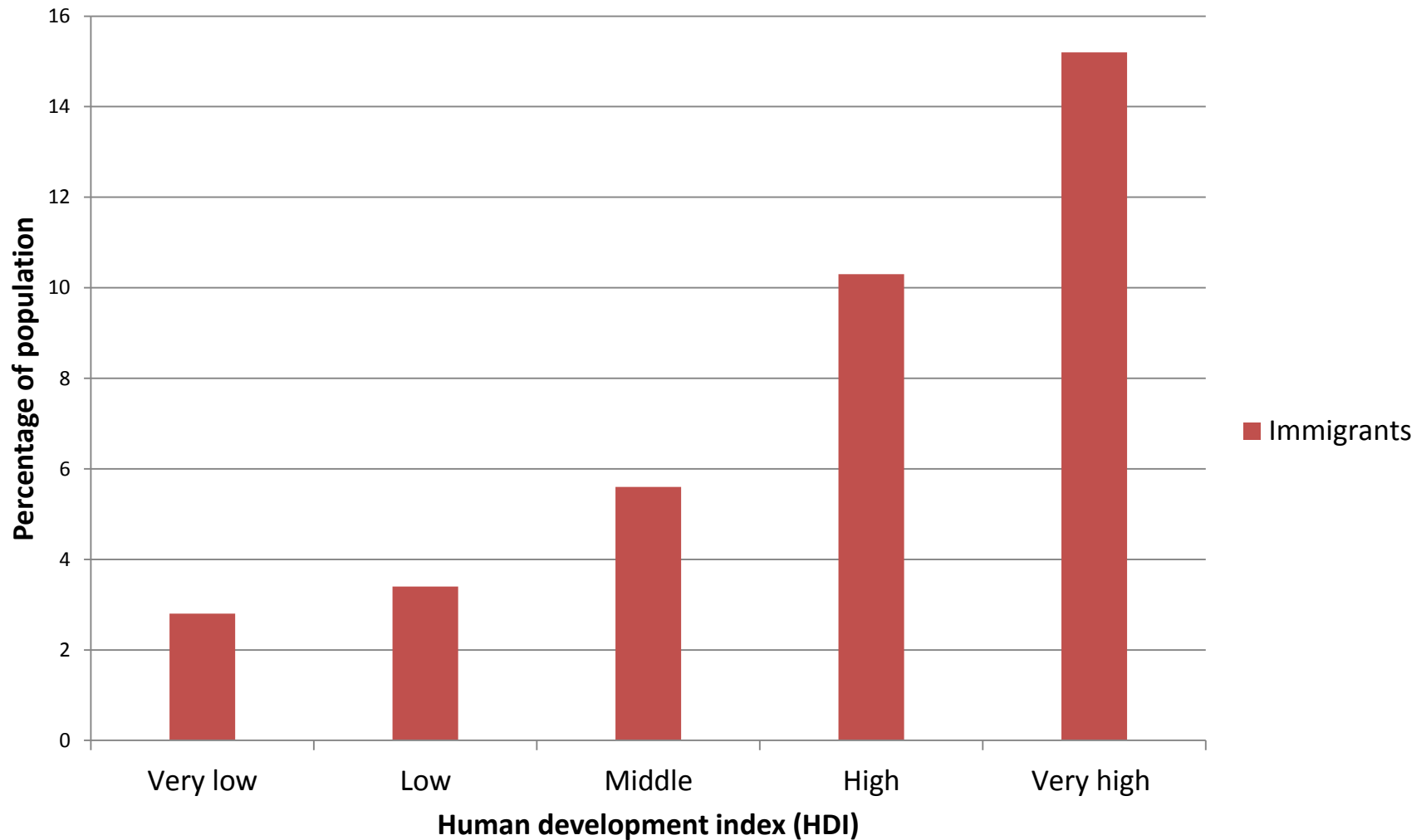
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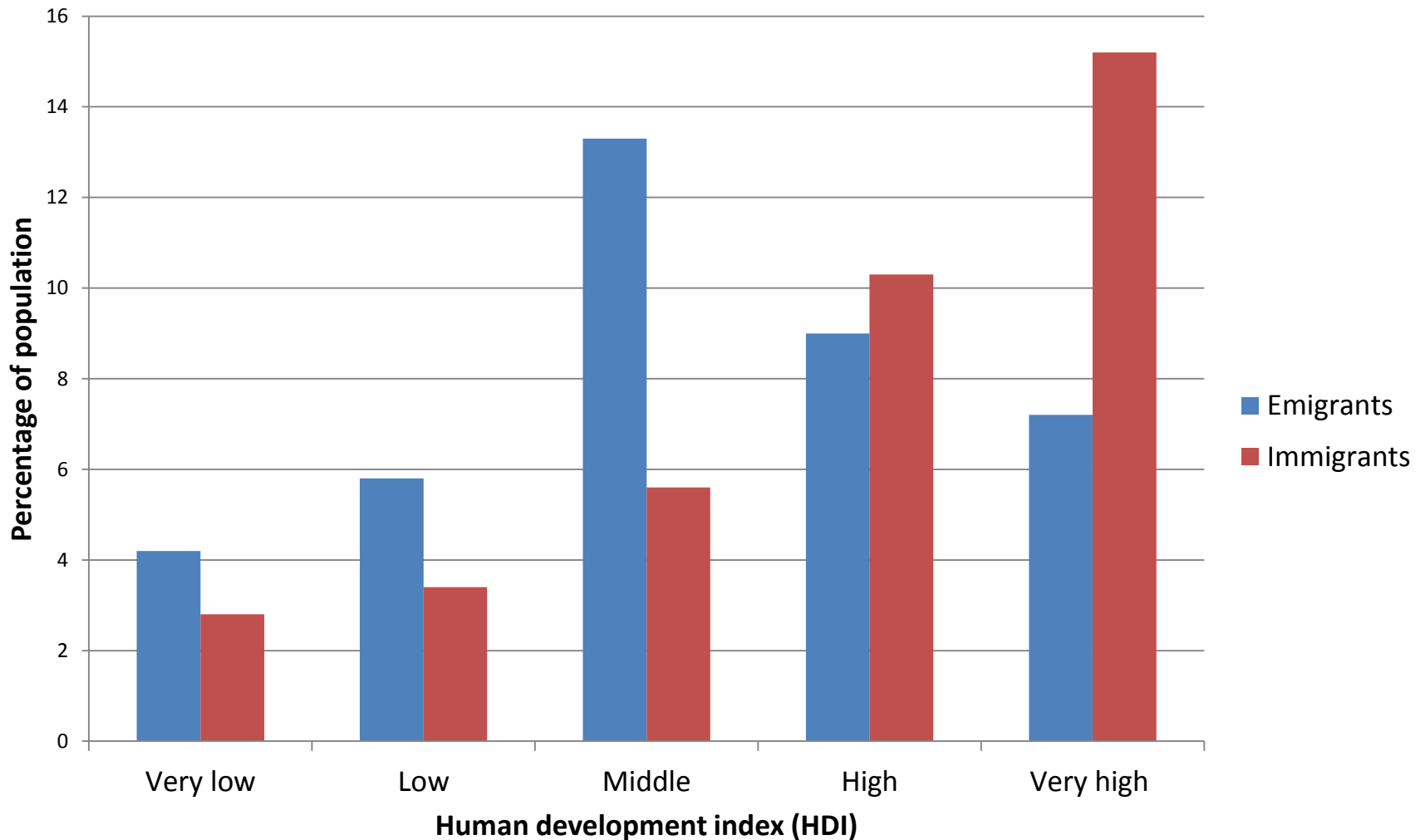


The determinants of international migration



Source: Hein de Haas (2011) *Migration transitions - a theoretical and empirical inquiry into the developmental drivers of international migration*. DEMIG Working Paper #1.

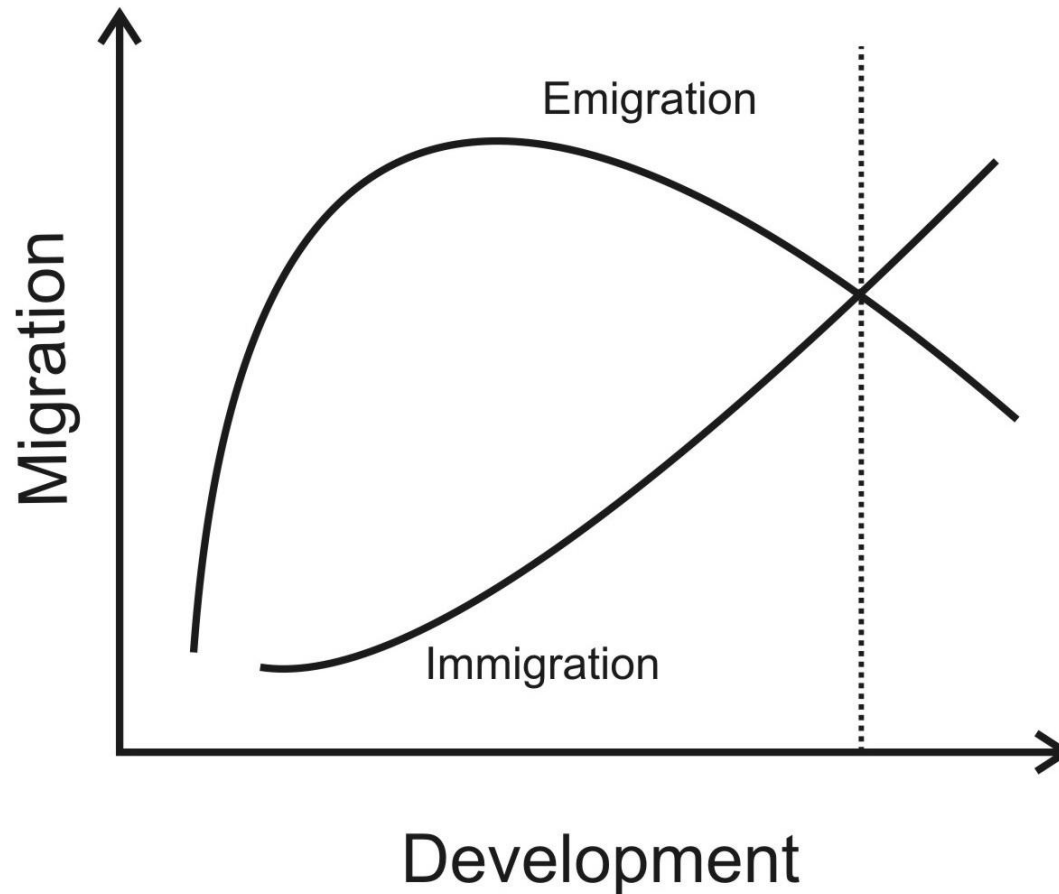
The determinants of international migration



Source: Hein de Haas (2011) *Migration transitions - a theoretical and empirical inquiry into the developmental drivers of international migration*. DEMIG Working Paper #1.

The determinants of international migration

'Migration transition theory'



Source: Hein de Haas (2011) The determinants of international migration: conceptualizing policy, origin and destination effects. DEMIG Working Paper #2

The determinants of international migration

Inequality and social security in origin societies

- Lucia Kureková (2011) The effects of structural factors in origin countries on migration: the case of Central and Eastern Europe. DEMIG Working Paper #8.
- Lucia Kureková (2011) The role of welfare systems in affecting out-migration: the case of Central and Eastern Europe. DEMIG Working Paper #9
- Mathias Czaika and María Villares Varela (2012) *Labour market activity, occupational change and length of stay in the Gulf*. DEMIG Working Paper #12.
- Edo Mahendra (2014) *Trade Liberalisation and Migration Hump: NAFTA as a Quasi-Natural Experiment*. DEMIG Working Paper #23.
- Edo Mahendra (2014) *Is there a reverse welfare magnet? The effect of social policy in developing countries on international migration*. DEMIG Working Paper #

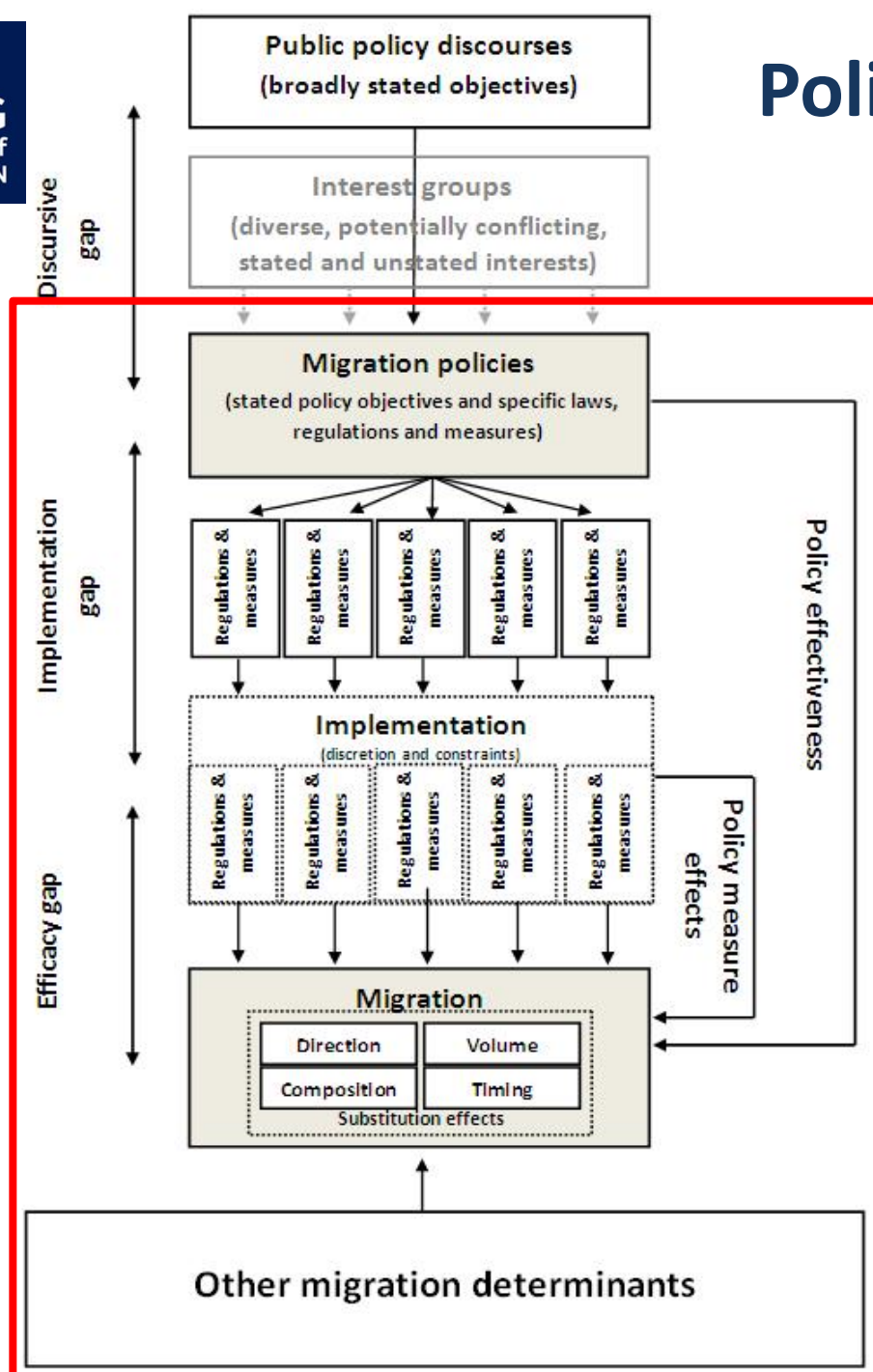
Relative deprivation and aspirations

- Mathias Czaika and Hein de Haas (2011) The role of internal and international relative deprivation in global migration. DEMIG Working Paper #5
- Mathias Czaika (2011) Migration and social fractionalization: double relative deprivation as a behavioural link. DEMIG Working Paper #6.
- Mathias Czaika (2011) Internal and international migration as a response to double deprivation: some evidence from India. DEMIG Working Paper #7.
- Mathias Czaika and Marc Vothknecht (2012) *Migration as cause and consequence of aspirations*. DEMIG Working Paper #13

The nature and evolution of migration policies

Policy gaps

DEMIG 'sphere'



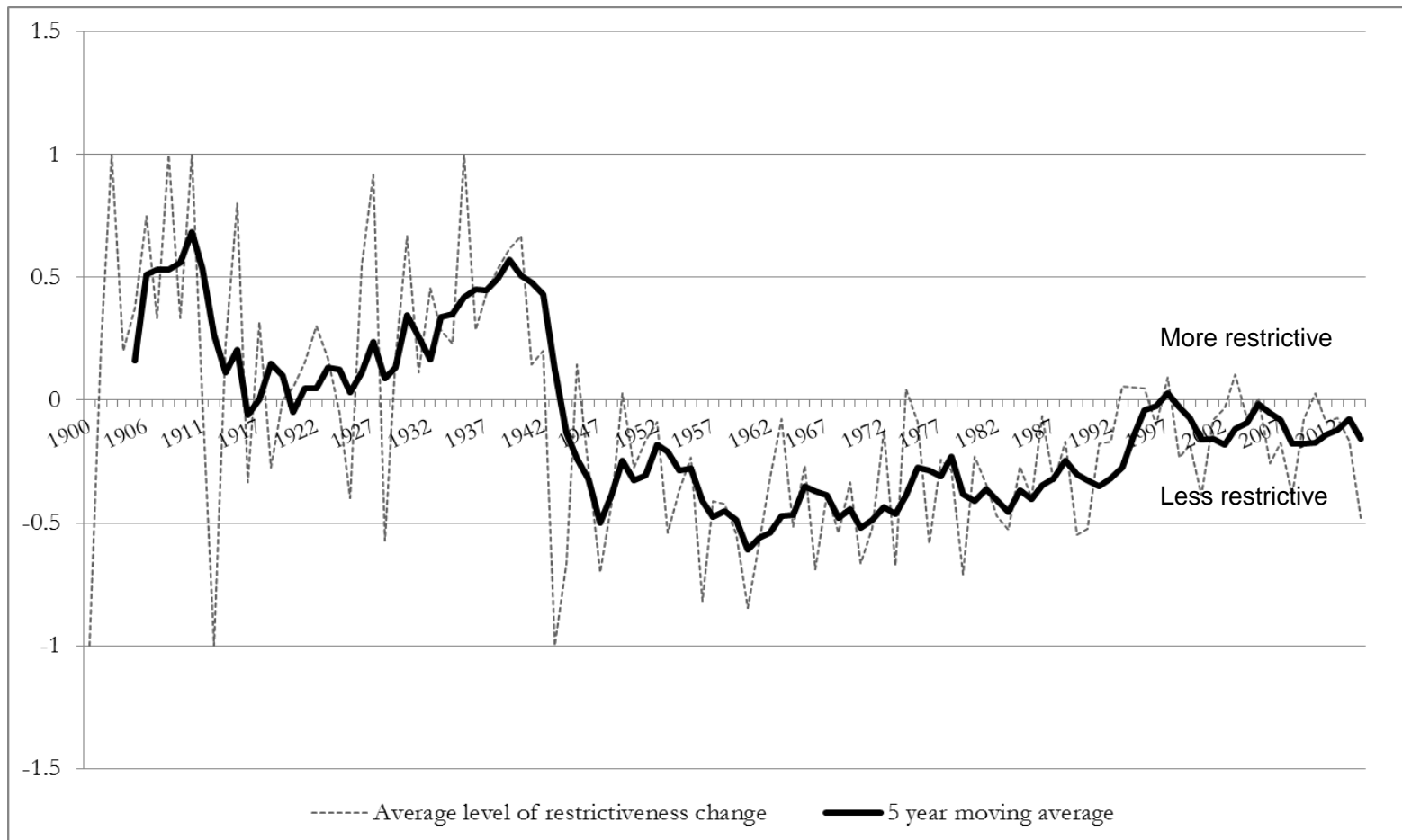
Distinguishing migration policy effectiveness and effects

Sources:

Mathias Czaika and Hein de Haas (2011) *The effectiveness of immigration policies: a conceptual review of empirical evidence*. DEMIG Working Paper #3 (published in DR 2013)

Hein de Haas and Simona Vezzoli (2011) *Leaving matters: the nature, evolution and effects of emigration policies*. DEMIG Working Paper #4

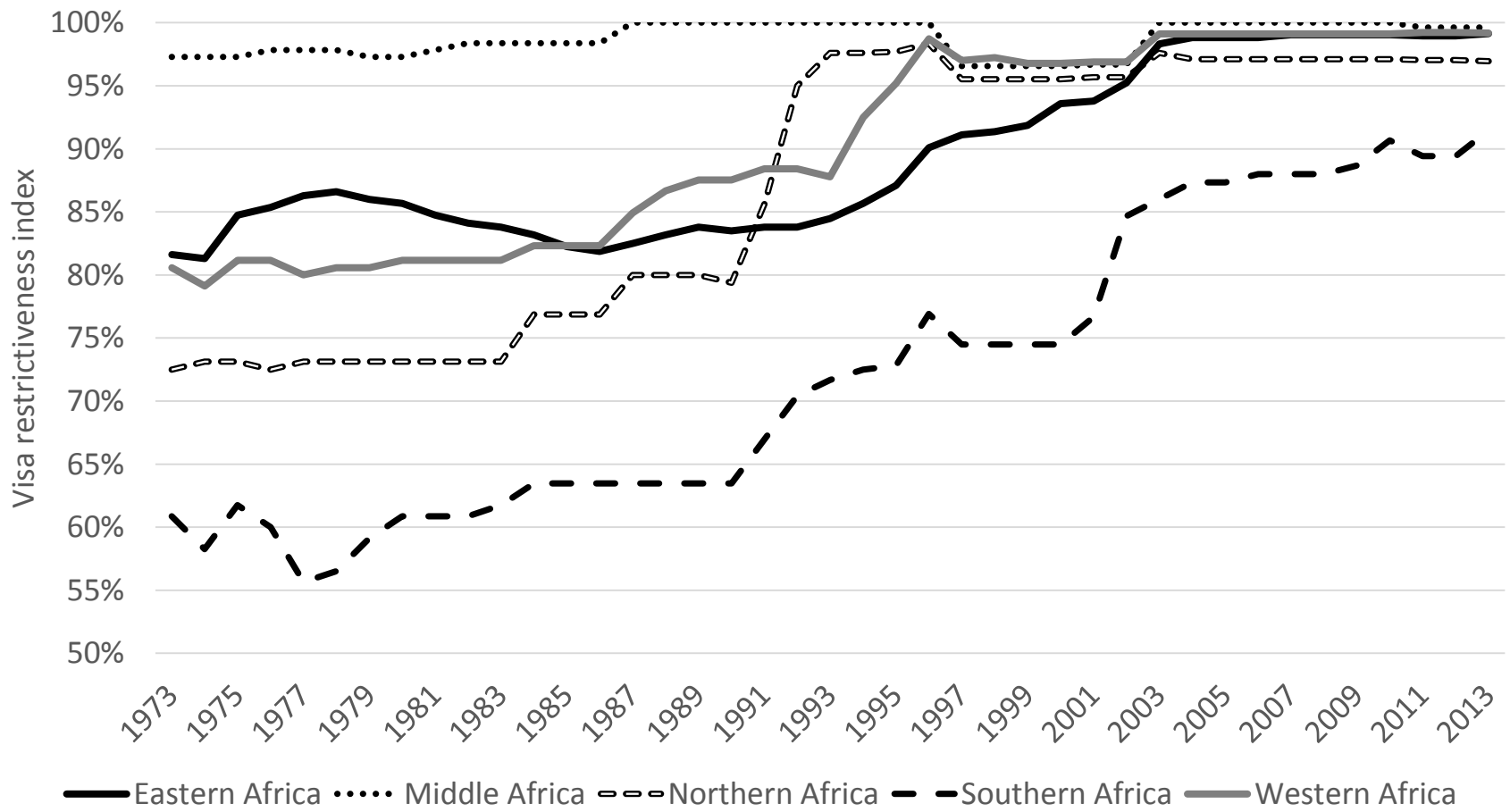
Average yearly change in migration policy restrictiveness



Source: Hein de Haas, Katharina Natter and Simona Vezzoli (2014) *Growing restrictiveness or changing selection? The nature and evolution of migration policies*. DEMIG Working Paper #22

The nature and evolution of migration policies

Visa restrictiveness of OECD countries for African nationals



Source: **DEMIG VISA** database. See Marie-Laurence Flahaux and Hein de Haas (2014 forthcoming) *Migration from, to and within Africa: The role of development and states*. DEMIG Working Paper

The nature and evolution of migration policies

‘Substitution effects’

Unintended consequences of immigration restrictions

1. **Categorical substitution** (category jumping)
2. **Inter-temporal substitution** (‘now or never’ migration)
3. **Reverse flow substitution** (interrupting circulation)
4. **Spatial substitution** (spatial diversion)

Source: Hein de Haas (2011) *The determinants of international migration: conceptualizing policy, origin and destination effects*. DEMIG Working Paper #2

‘Substitution effects’

Unintended consequences of immigration restrictions

1. Categorical substitution (category jumping)

The role of states and policies in migration processes



Working Papers

Paper 84, February 2014

Deflection into irregularity?

The (un)intended effects of restrictive
asylum and visa policies

Mathias Czaika and Mogens Hobolth

DEMIG project paper 15



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The role of states and policies in migration processes



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Paper 84, February 2014

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Working Papers

Paper 95, July 2014

Fifty years of Maghreb emigration

How states shaped Algerian, Moroccan
and Tunisian emigration

Katharina Natter

DEMIG project paper 21



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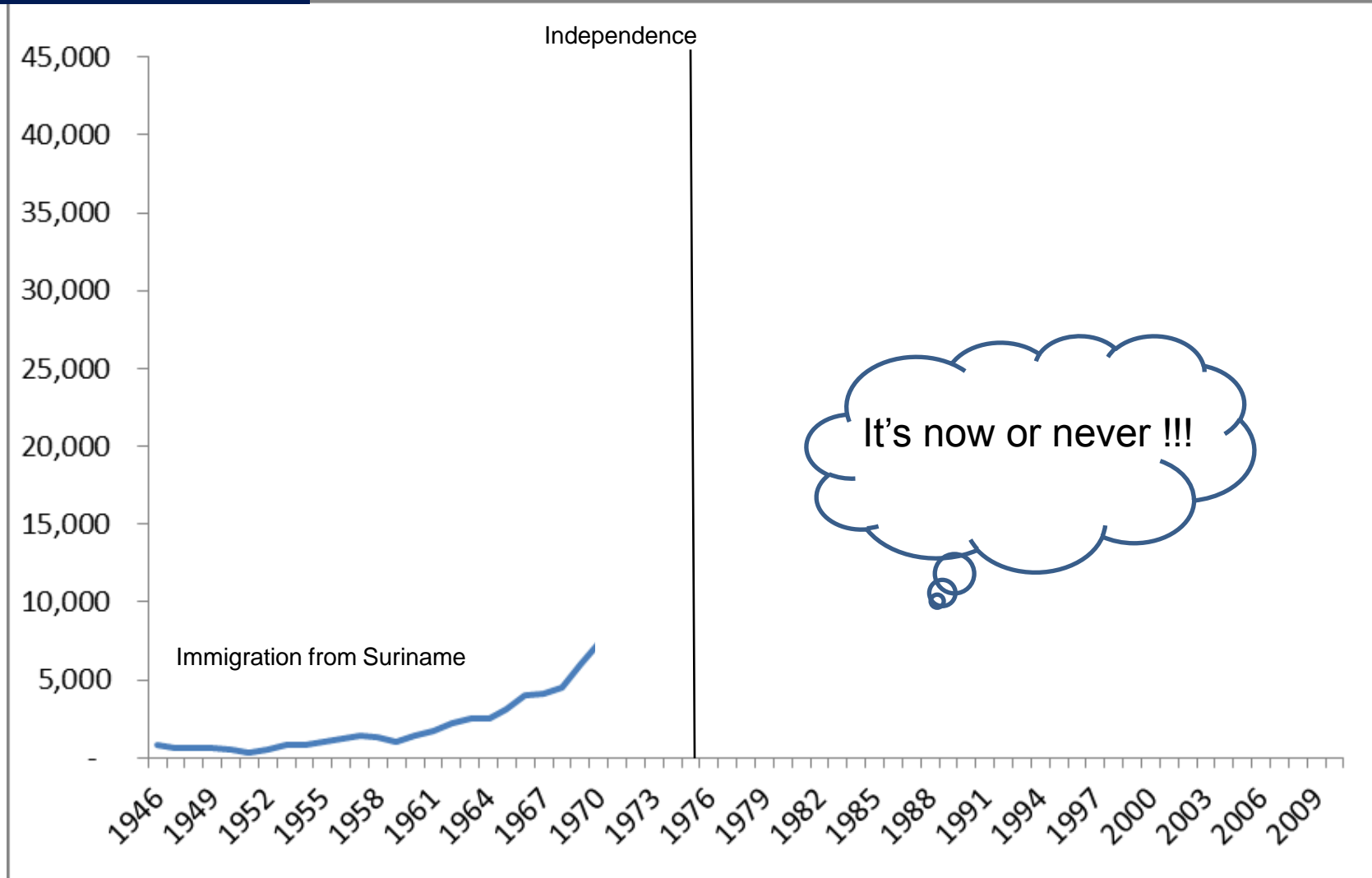
1. Categorical substitution (category jumping)

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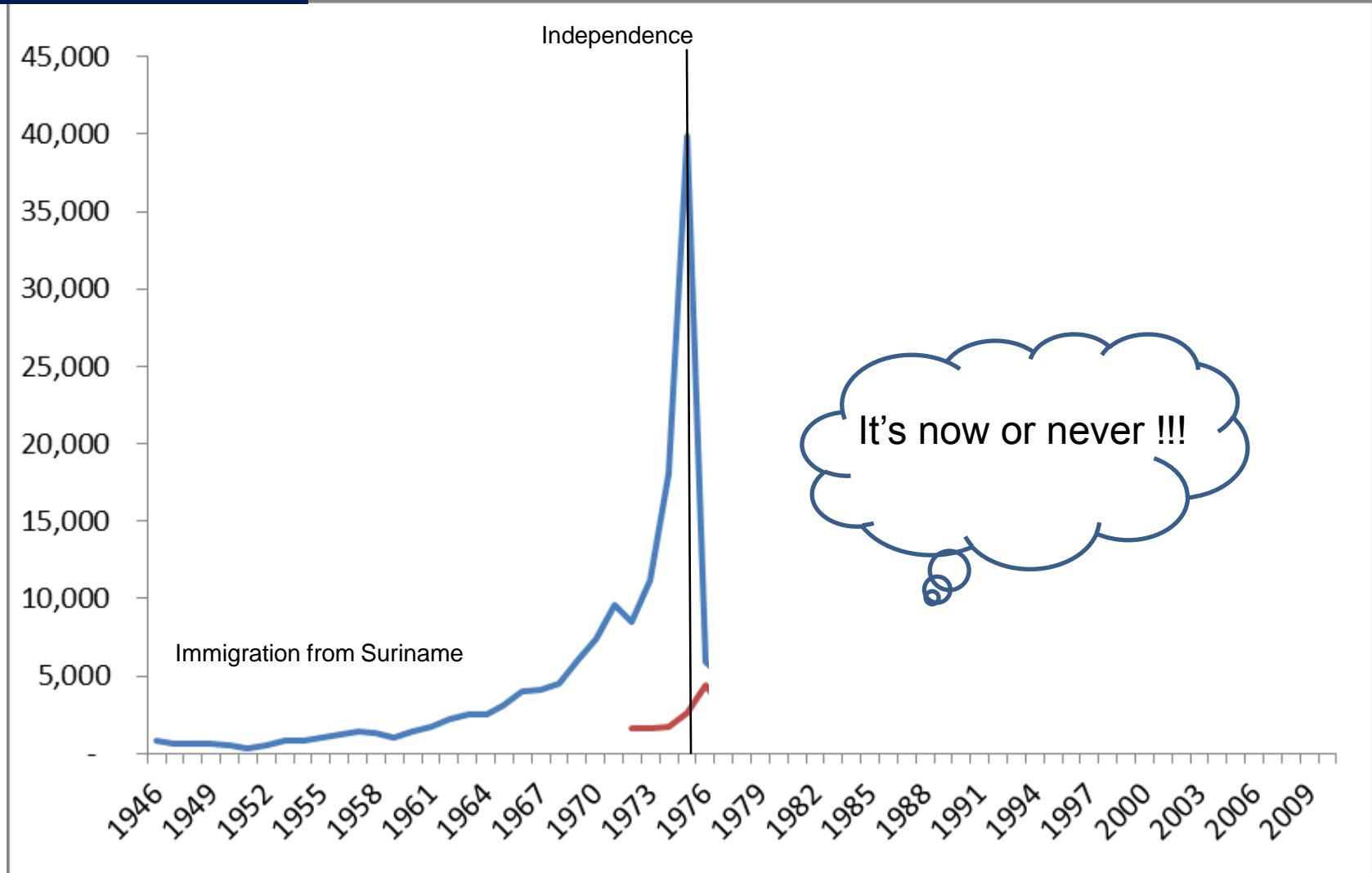
1. **Categorical substitution** (category jumping)
2. **Inter-temporal substitution** (‘now or never’ migration)

How the Dutch government stimulated unwanted migration from Suriname



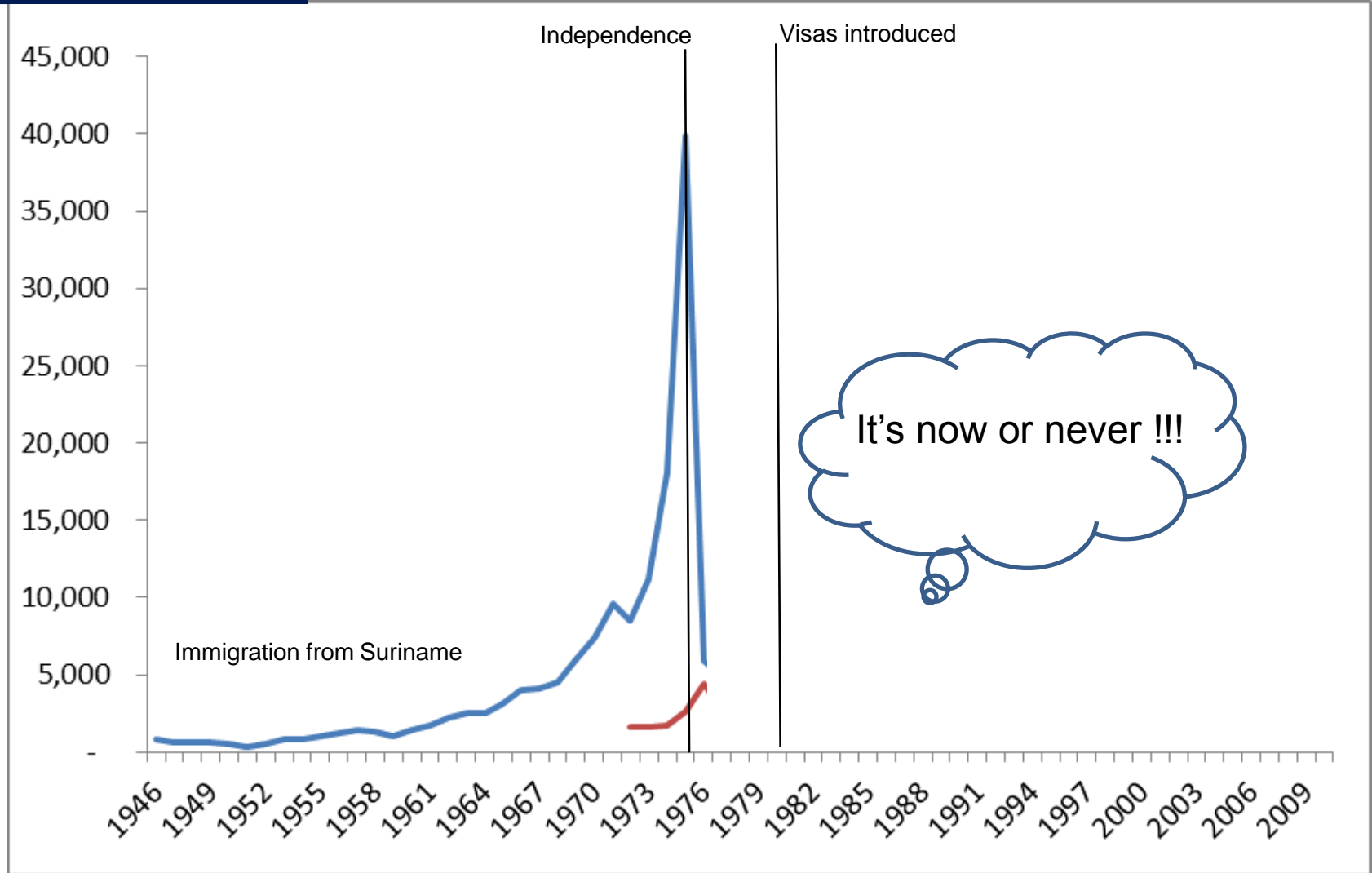
Source: Simona Vezzoli (2014) *The evolution of Surinamese emigration across and beyond independence: the role of origin and destination states*. DEMIG Working Paper.

How the Dutch government stimulated unwanted migration from Suriname



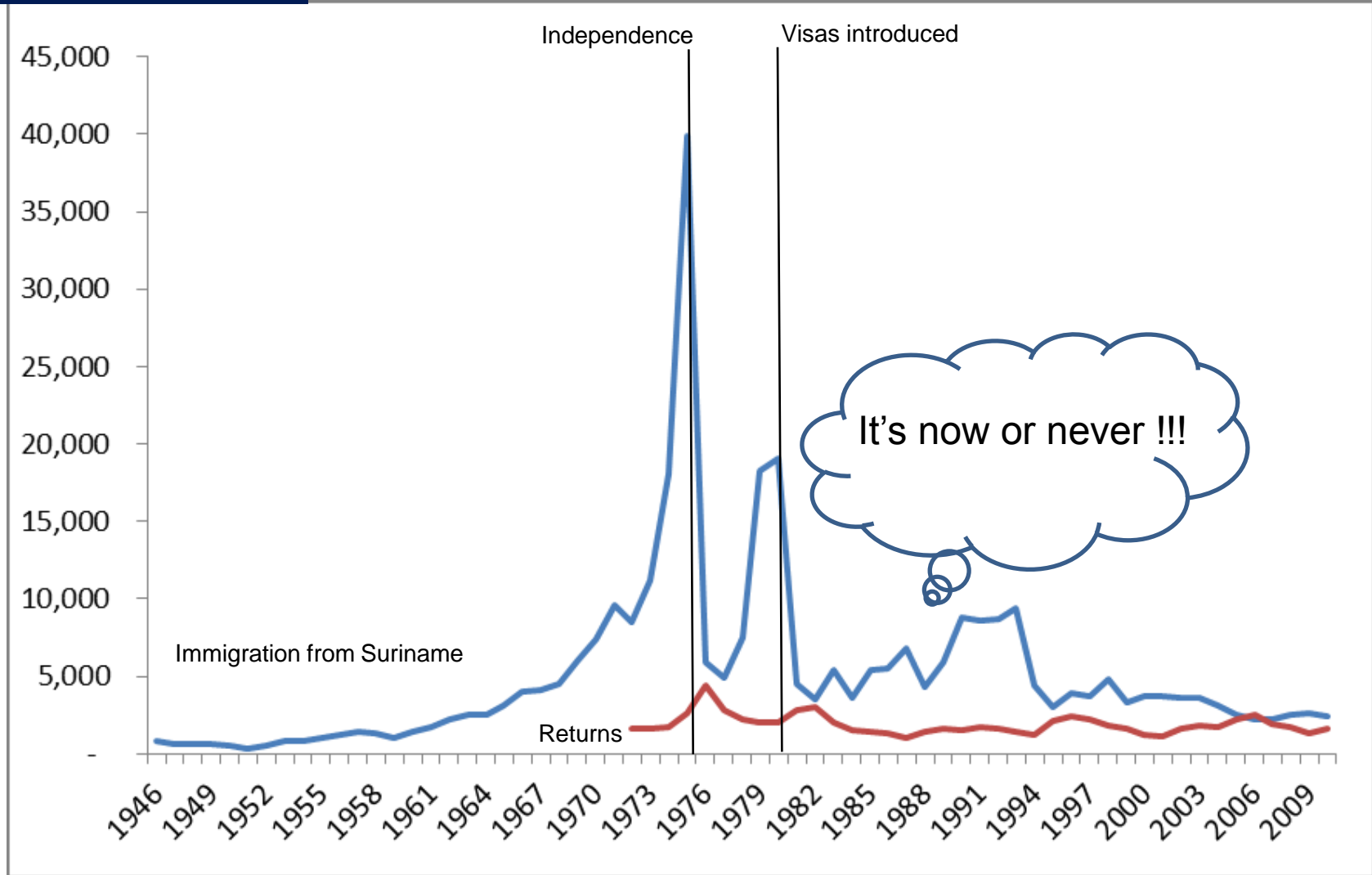
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The role of states and policies in migration processes



Working Papers

Paper 89, April 2014

The Effect of Visa Policies on International Migration Dynamics

Mathias Czaika and Hein de Haas

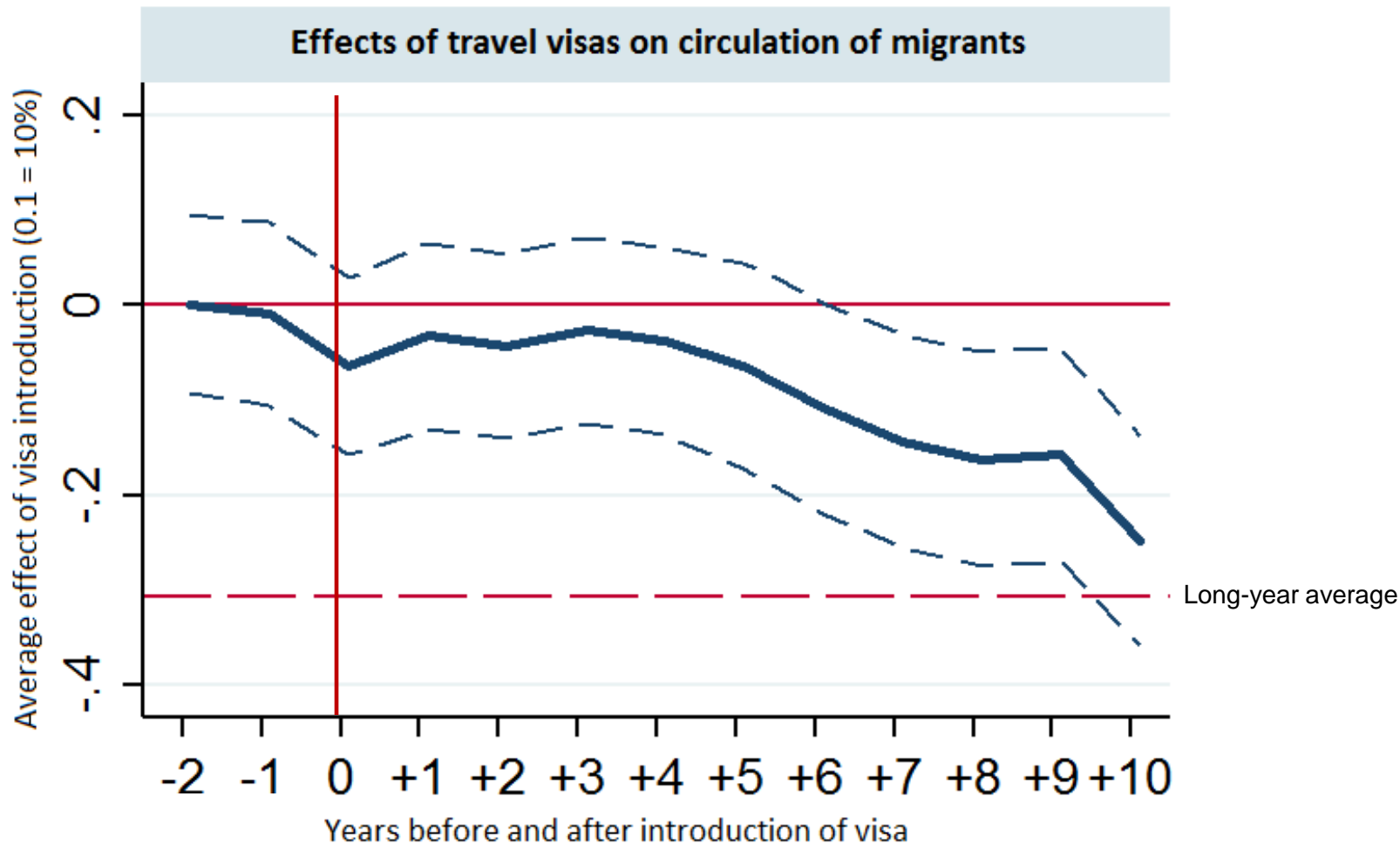
DEMIG project paper 18



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The role of states and policies in migration processes



Source: Mathias Czaika and Hein de Haas
(2014) *The Effect of Visa Policies on
International Migration Dynamics*. DEMIG
Working Paper #18

The role of states and policies in migration processes



Working Papers

Paper 89, April 2014

The Effect of Visa Policies on International Migration Dynamics

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Paper 89, April 2014

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Working Papers

Paper 93, July 2014

The influence of migration policies in Europe on return migration to Senegal

Marie-Laurence Flahaux

DEMIG project paper 19



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4. **Spatial substitution** (spatial diversion, ‘waterbed’ effects)

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Source: Hein de Haas (2011) *The determinants of international migration: conceptualizing policy, origin and destination effects*. DEMIG Working Paper #2

The role of states and policies in migration processes

The need to move beyond immigration policies



Working Papers

October 2014

**Is there a reverse welfare
magnet?**

*The effect of social policy in
developing countries on
international migration.*

Edo Mahendra

DEMIG project paper



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The role of states and policies in migration processes



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October 2014

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Working Papers

October 2014

Unpacking the 'colonial dummy'
*The role of decolonisation and
origin country state formation in
migration processes*

Simona Vezzoli

DEMIG project paper



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The effects of policies and border regimes on migration

DEMIG papers testing substitution effects

- Mathias Czaika and Hein de Haas (2014) *The Effect of Visa Policies on International Migration Dynamics*. DEMIG Working Paper #18
- Mathias Czaika and Mogens Hobolth (2014) Deflection into irregularity? The (un)intended effects of restrictive asylum and visa policies. DEMIG #15
- Marie-Laurence Flahaux (2014) *The influence of migration policies in Europe on return migration to Senegal*. DEMIG Working Paper #19
- Mathias Czaika and Hein de Haas (2014 forthcoming) *Immigration Restrictions and Spatial Deflection of International Migration*. DEMIG Working Paper #.

Colonial ties and the role of origin states

- Hein de Haas and Simona Vezzoli (2011) *Leaving matters: the nature, evolution and effects of emigration policies*. DEMIG Working Paper #4
- Hans van Amersfoort (2011) How the Dutch Government stimulated the unwanted immigration from Suriname. DEMIG Working Paper #10.
- Katharina Natter (2014) *Fifty years of Maghreb emigration: How states shaped Algerian, Moroccan and Tunisian emigration*. DEMIG Working Paper #21
- Simona Vezzoli (2014) *The effects of independence, state formation and migration policies on Guyanese migration*. DEMIG Working Paper #20
- Simona Vezzoli (2014) *Unpacking the 'colonial dummy': The role of decolonisation and origin country state formation in migration processes*. DEMIG working paper
- Edo Mahendra (2014) *Is there a reverse welfare magnet? The effect of social policy in developing countries on international migration*. DEMIG Working Paper #

- We cannot say that migration policies have generally failed
- Immigration policies are about selection rather than numbers despite political rhetoric suggesting the contrary
- Immigration restrictions have real, but limited effects on migration, which is rooted in structural development trends
- The effectiveness of immigration restrictions is significantly undermined by (1) categorical, (2) inter-temporal, (3) spatial, and (4) reverse flow substitution effects
- Destination and origin states mainly influence migration through *non-migration policies*.

Future research avenues

- More sophisticated measurement policy effectiveness and substitution effects using new data
- Extending databases in historical depth and global coverage
- The implementation of migration policies
- The effects of non-migration policies

IMI support team: Zoe Falk, Claire Fletcher, Sally Kingsborough, Ingrid Locatelli, Briony Truscott

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