

# European migration in the context of free movement of persons

## German migration flows to Switzerland prior to the First World War and after 2002

Ilka Steiner, Institute of Demographic and Life Course Studies (IDEMO), University of Geneva  
[Ilka.Steiner@unige.ch](mailto:Ilka.Steiner@unige.ch)

DEMIG Conference 2014

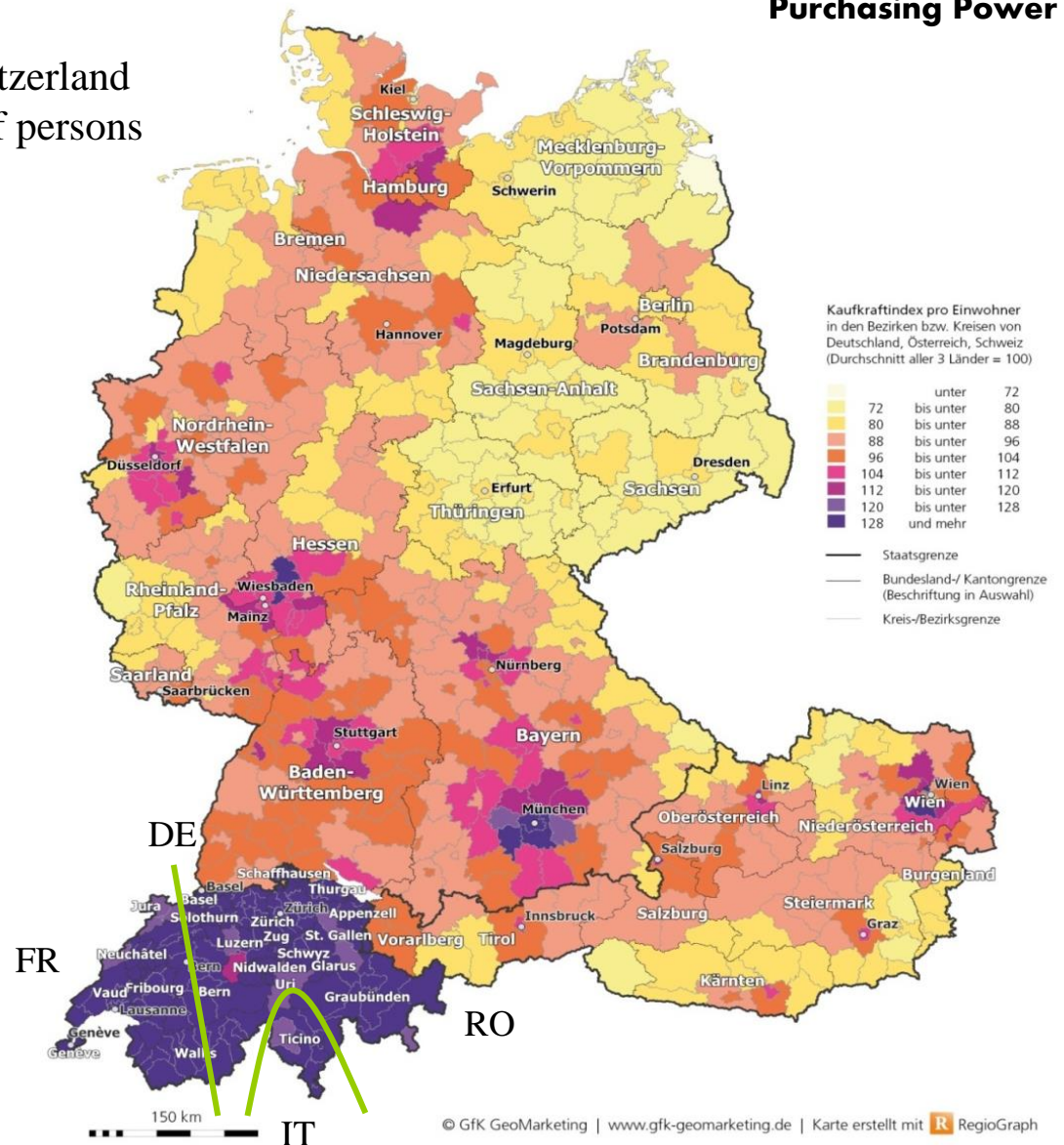
The role of states and policies in migration processes: Historical approaches to the role of states  
23-25 September

Wolfson College, University of Oxford

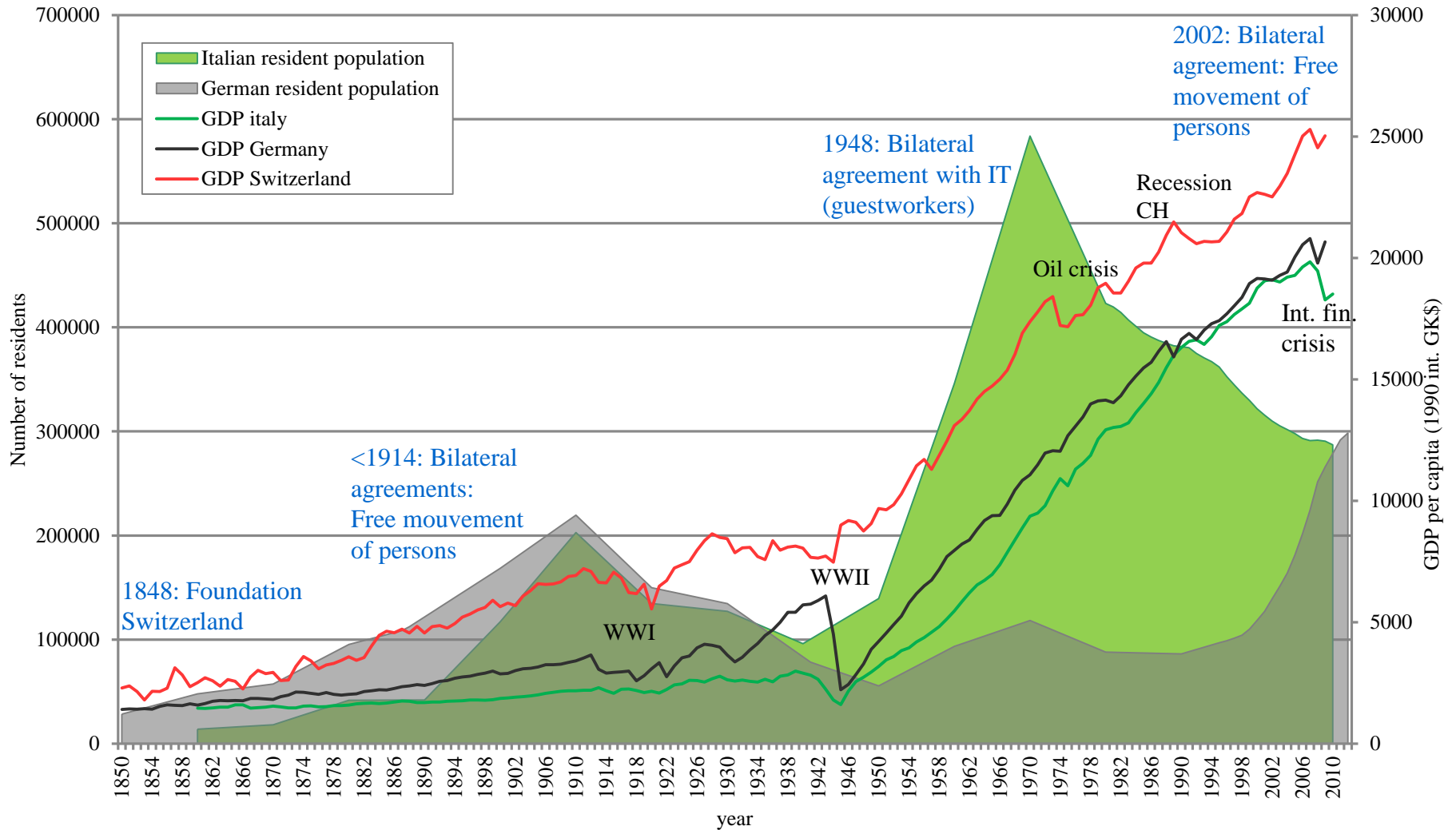
## Context

Migration flows from Germany to Switzerland

- in the context of free movements of persons
  - 1848-1914
  - 2002-2010
- at regional scale
  - Swiss cantons
  - German states



# Context



Source: 1850-1990 Census data (linear extrapolation for inter-decennial data), 1995-2009 PETRA, since 2010 STATPOP, GDP=New Maddison Project Database, Bolt and Zanden (2013)

## Context

In the context of free movement of persons, can international migration be conceptualized as an extrapolation of internal migration and when for whom the national or the regional scale matters?

- The territorial state matters because of its power and its associated national social institutions (*Ellis 2012*)
- International migration
  - brings in a political economical perspective (*Zolberg 1989, zited by King and Skeldon 2010*)
  - is a distinctive social process because international migrants are moving into a different political entity with its own distinct legal system (*King and Skeldon 2010*)

### Macro-contextual level

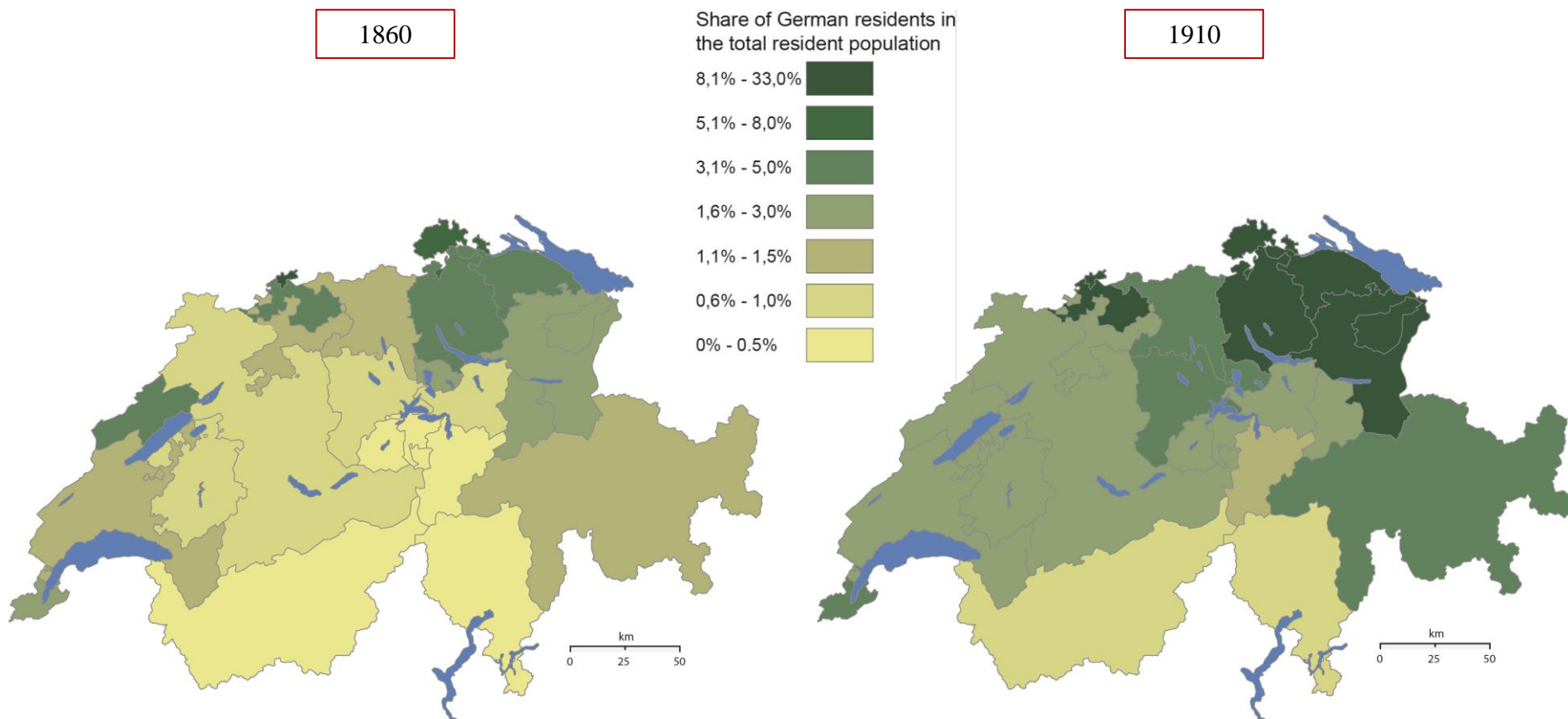
- Dissolution or creation of borders (*Skeldon 2006*)
  - Frontier-free 'Schengenland' (*Kind and Skeldon 2010*)
- Geographical proximity, language and culture (*Belot and Ederveen 2012*)

### More complex migratory trajectories

- New more temporary and circular forms of migration (*Faist 2008*) -> Eurostars (*Braun and Arsene 2009*)
- New lifestyles, consumption, leisure, self-fulfilment, search for a healthier environment and better quality of life (*Santacreu et al. 2009*)

# Where they live and where they come from

## *Distribution in the cantons*



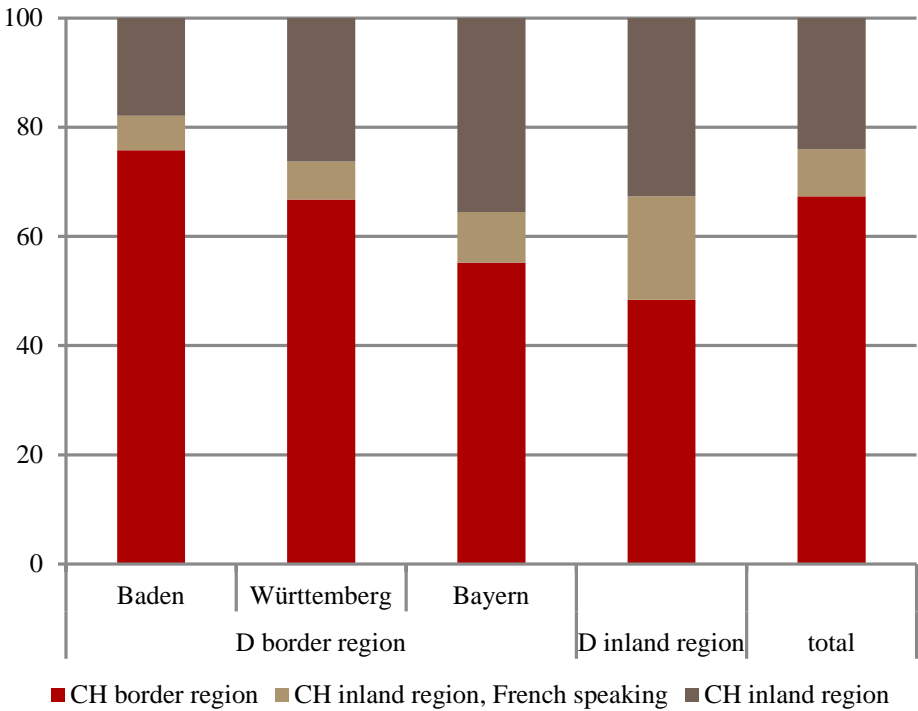
Source: 1860/1910 = Urner (1976)

Maps created with Philcarto, based on SFSO ThemKart 2010

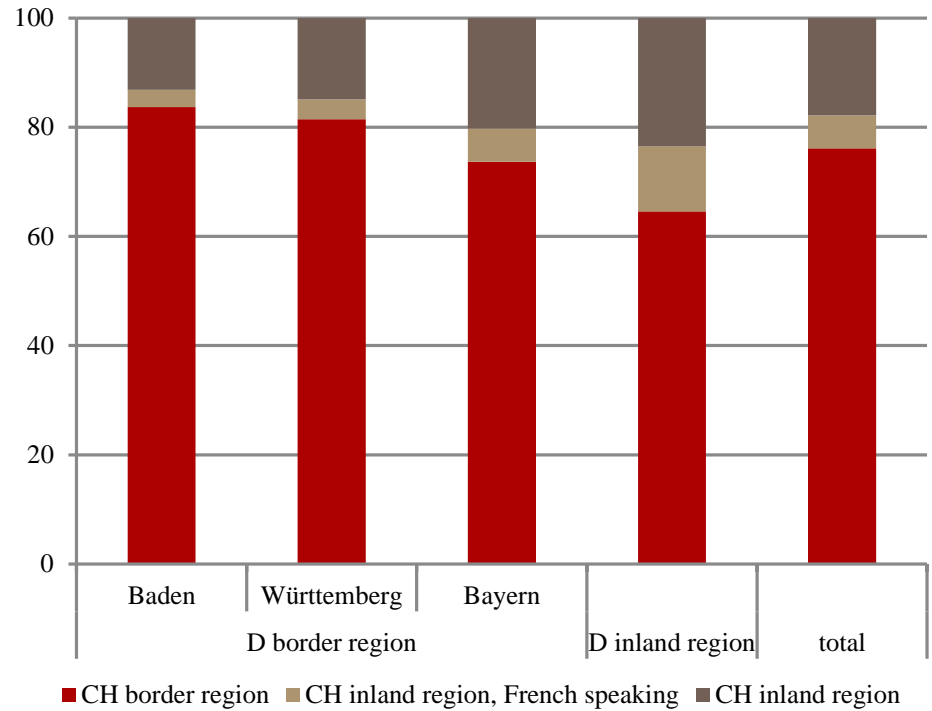
# Where they live and where they come from

## *Population osmosis 1860/1910*

Figure: Distribution of German residents in the Swiss cantons, by state of origin



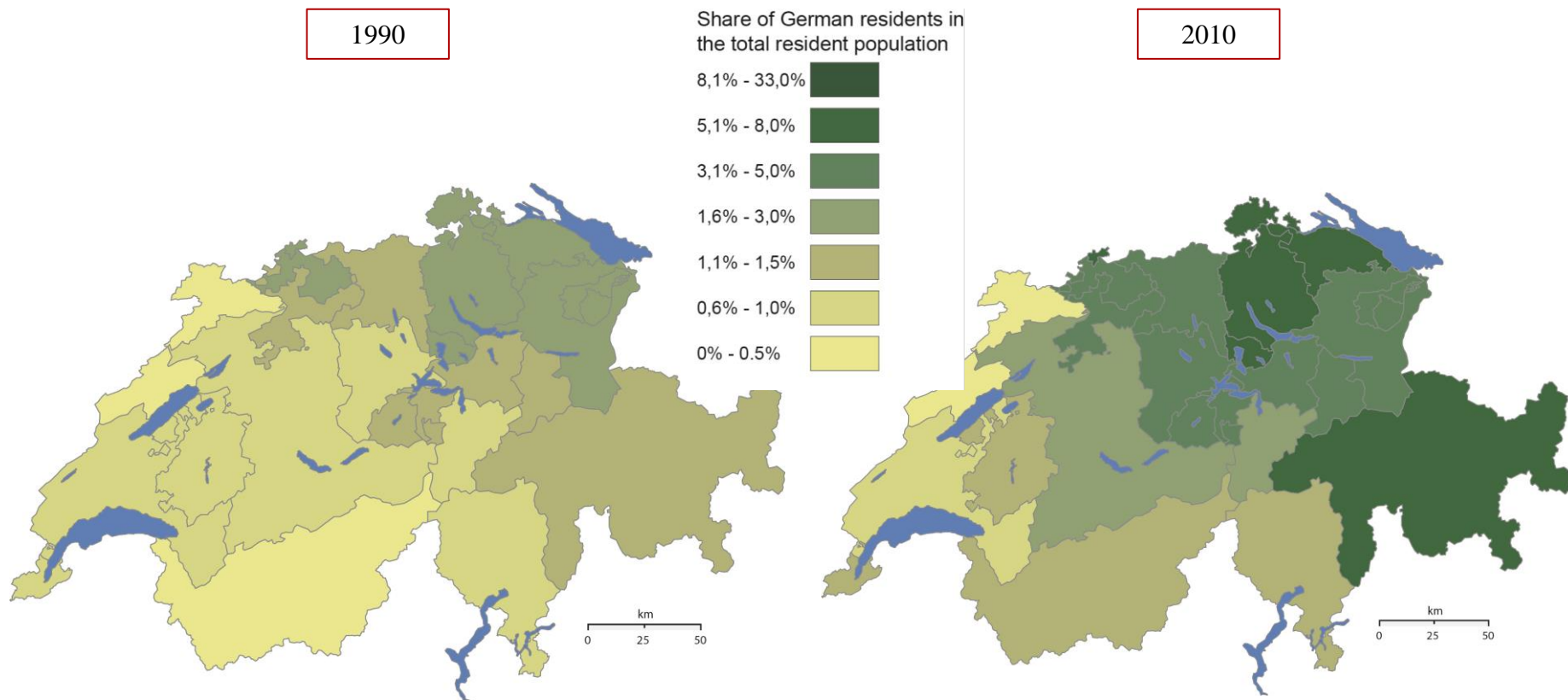
1860



1910

# Where they live and where they come from

## *Distribution in the cantons*



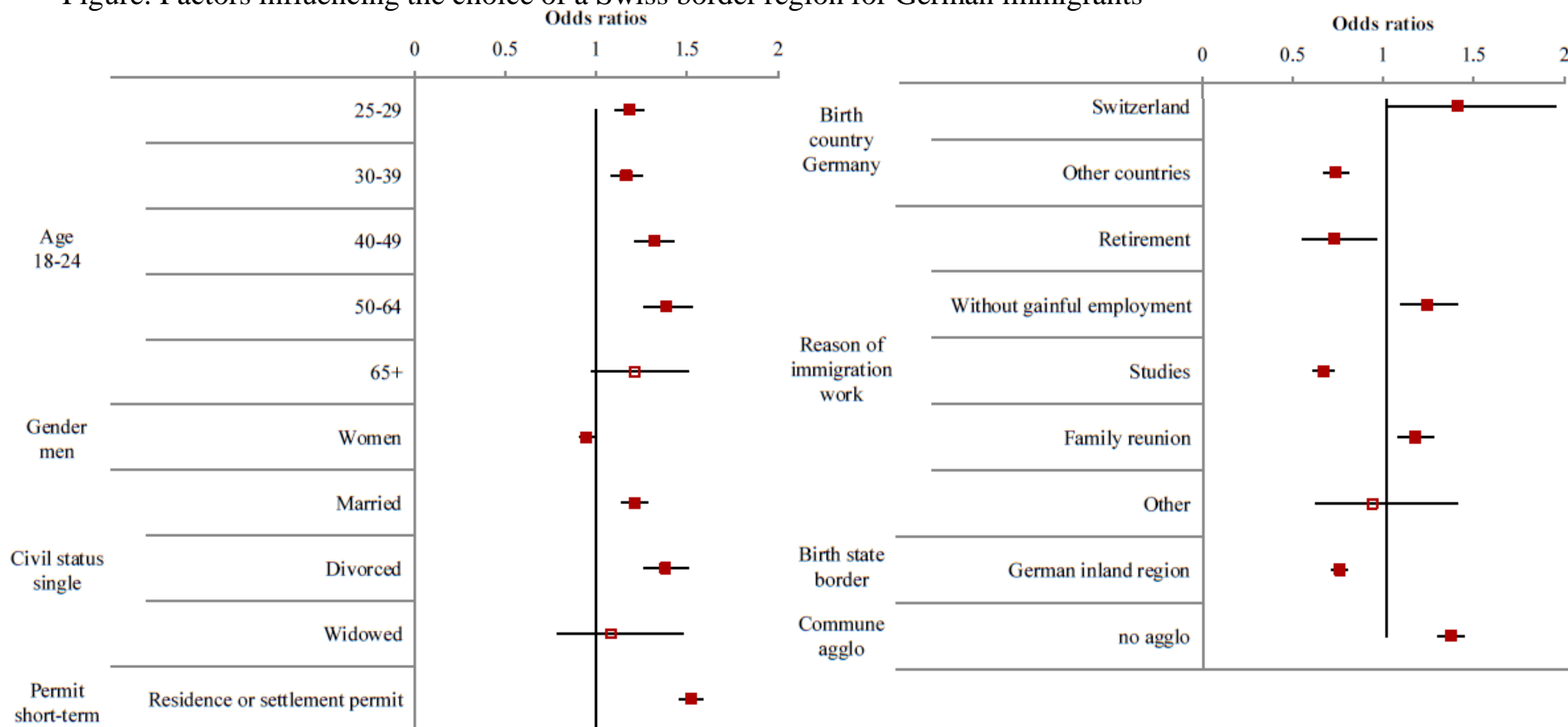
Source: 1860/1910 = Urner (1976) / 1990 and 2010 = SFSO online – PETRA and STATPOP

Maps created with Philcarto, based on SFSO ThemKart 2010

## Where they move and where they come from

### *Osmosis-settlement and economically motivated migration, 2010*

Figure: Factors influencing the choice of a Swiss border region for German immigrants



- Border-Border: osmosis-settlement
- Inland migration: economically motivated, Eurostar-mobility



## Conclusions

Immigration policy is decisive in the demographic evolution of the neighbouring European foreign population in Switzerland.

The territorial state still matters but should rather be viewed as contingent in its definition of migration processes

Opportunity structures (*Haas 2011*) for German migrants to Switzerland

- are determined by the linguistic, cultural as well as geographic proximity to the home country/regions
- are fostered within the framework of the free movement of persons
- have been established over a century ago
- have rendered the aspirations to move for whatever reason achievable:
  - Osmosis-settlement along the Swiss-German border: to settle down in a culturally close environment
  - Eurostar Mobility: work or study-related aspirations, short-term migration

What will happen next, because the initiative “Against mass immigration” (09.02.2014) was accepted?

## References

- Belot, Michèle and Sjef Ederveen (2012). "Cultural barriers in migration between OECD countries." *Journal of Population Economics*, 25(3): 1077-1105.
- Bolt, Jutta and Jan Luiten van Zanden (2013). *The Maddison Project. The First Update of the Maddison Project Re-Estimating Growth Before 1820*. Maddison-Project Working Paper WP-4.
- Braun, Michael and Camelia Arsene (2009). "The demographics of movers and stayers in the European Union", in Recchi, Ettore and Adrian Favell (eds.) *Pioneers of European Integration. Citizenship and Mobility in the EU*. Cheltenham: Edward Elgar.
- Ellis, Mark (2012). "Reinventing US Internal Migration Studies in the Age of International Migration." *Population, Space and Place*, 18: 196-208.
- Faist, Thomas (2008). "Migrants as transnational development agents: an inquiry into the newest round of the migration–development nexus." *Population, Space and Place*, 14(1): 21-42.
- Favell, Adrian (2008). *Eurostars and Eurocities. Free Movement and Mobility in an Integrating Europe*. Malden: Blackwell.
- Haas, Hein de (2011). "The determinants of international migration. Conceptualizing policy, origin and destination effects." *DEMIG project paper*, 2.
- King, Russell (2002). "Towards a new map of European migration." *International Journal of Population Geography*, 8(2): 89-106.
- King, Russell and Ronald Skeldon (2010). "'Mind the Gap!' Integrating Approaches to Internal and International Migration." *Journal of Ethnic and Migration Studies*, 36(10): 1619-1646.
- Santacreu, Oscar, Emiliana Baldoni and Maria Carmen Albert (2009). "Deciding to move: migration projects in an integrating Europe", in Recchi, Ettore and Adrian Favell (eds.) *Pioneers of European Integration. Citizenship and Mobility in the EU*. Cheltenham: Edward Elgar.
- Skeldon, Ronald (2006). "Interlinkages between internal and international migration and development in the Asian region." *Population, Space and Place*, 12(1): 15-30.
- Uerner, Klaus (1976). *Die Deutschen in der Schweiz. Von den Anfängen der Kolonialbildung bis zum Ausbruch des Ersten Weltkrieges*. Frauenfeld und Stuttgart: Verlag Huber.

# Thank you

Ilka Steiner

Institute of Demographic and Life Course Studies, University of Geneva

[Ilka.Steiner@unige.ch](mailto:Ilka.Steiner@unige.ch)