

Diasporas and Branch Migration to Australia

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Outline

- Migration, measurement and demography
- Definitions of branch migration, chain migration and diasporas
- How are these types of migration related?

Measurement (see Table 2).

- Calculating rates and ratios.
- Data availability, limitations and comparability
- Time: permanent and return migrants, contract workers and refugees
- Space: changing international boundaries
- The need for contextual/qualitative information

The 1993 Sydney sample (n = 2615 Year 11 students).

Viet Nam-born (n = 186, many with relatives in North America and Asia).

China-born (n = 144, many with relatives in Hong Kong and North America).

UK-born (n = 49, some with relatives in the UK and USA).

Philippines-born (n = 31, many with relatives in North America and in Europe).

Outstanding questions

National loyalties and globalization. Free access to other countries. Falling family size versus expanding professional networks? A 200 x 200 matrix? Measures of spatial focussing. Towards a statistical definition of diaspora?

DEFINITIONS

Branch migration is a new term defined as, “*international moves of immediate family members (parents, children, grandparents, siblings, uncles, aunts, cousins, nephews and nieces) with a common country of origin to two or more countries of destination across international boundaries as drawn at a specified point in time.*” (Parr et al., 2000:216)

Chain migration is “*the process by which migrants encouraged and helped relatives, friends and fellow villagers to come and join them*” (Castles and Miller 1993:102). Measurement is often lacking, with Price (1963) as an exception.

Although based on the Greek words *speiro* and *dia*, to sow over or colonize (Cohen1997:ix), the word was often associated with the exile of the Jews. Cohen (1997:26) lists nine common features of a diaspora, the first being “*Dispersal from an original homeland, often traumatically, to two or more foreign regions*”. His second feature broadens the definition: “*alternatively, the expansion from a homeland in search of work, in pursuit of trade, or to further colonial ambitions.*”

Another broad definition is given by Vertovec (1997: 227).

“ ‘*Diaspora*’ is the term often used to describe practically any population that is considered ‘*detrterritorialized*’ or ‘*transnational*’ – that is, which has originated in a land other than that in which it currently resides, and where social, economic and political networks cross the borders of nation-states, or, indeed, span the globe.”

Table 1. Characteristics of Branch Migration, Chain Migration and Diasporas.

	<u>Branch</u>	<u>Chain</u>	<u>Diaspora</u>
Origin of the term	Recent	19 th century	Ancient Greece
Type	Micro	Micro/macro	Macro
Target population	Family	Family, friends	Nation, Communities
Time frame	Several generations	Decades	A long time?
Destination countries	Two or more	One	Two or more
Main reference group	Destination or origin	Destination	Destinations
Measured by	Surveys, census	Registration	Census
Qualitative data?	Yes	Yes	Yes
Cognate terms	Multinational families	Transnational families	Genocide, forced migration, exile

Table 2. Numerators and denominators

Branch Migration :**(a) *Ideal***

Number in country of origin with relatives in two or more destination countries

Number in country of origin

(b) *Proxy (multinational families).*

Number of respondents in country A with relatives in two or more other countries

Number of respondents in country A

(See Parr et al.2000)

Table 2 (continued)

Diaspora

(c) **Crude Rate of Emigration** (see Young 1994:83).

$$\frac{\text{Number residing outside country of birth}}{\text{Number of persons living in or outside the country of birth}}$$

(d) **Gross Rate of Emigration** (see Weeks 1999:236)

$$\frac{\text{Total emigrants}}{\text{Total mid-year population of country of origin}}$$

(e) **Primacy**

Ratio of the number of emigrants from the country of origin in the major destination country to the number of emigrants in the second most important destination country.

Selected References

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