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Cross-national comparisons of Indigenous mobility in Australia and New Zealand

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Unlike its sister fields of fertility and mortality, and despite clearly defined uses, cross-national analysis of internal migration has received comparatively little scholarly attention. Reasons for this include a lack of internationally accepted practices for data collection and methods of statistical analysis. When attention turns to international comparisons of Indigenous population migration, these problems are sharply accentuated and compounded by an entirely new layer of difficulties including differences in not only the way such populations are defined but also in varying cultural perceptions of mobility. Notwithstanding these difficulties, in this paper we take steps to address this issue by applying the cross-national methodological framework advanced by Bell *et al.* (2002) to Indigenous internal migration data drawn from the 2001 Censuses of Australia and New Zealand. Primarily we focus on system wide measures, but also provide age-sex disaggregations where appropriate. Results reveal that Indigenous mobility in Australia and New Zealand display not only clear similarities in their spatial structure, underlining the parallels in their historical evolution and culture, but also marked differences as well