

THE INTERNATIONAL MIGRATION OF WOMEN

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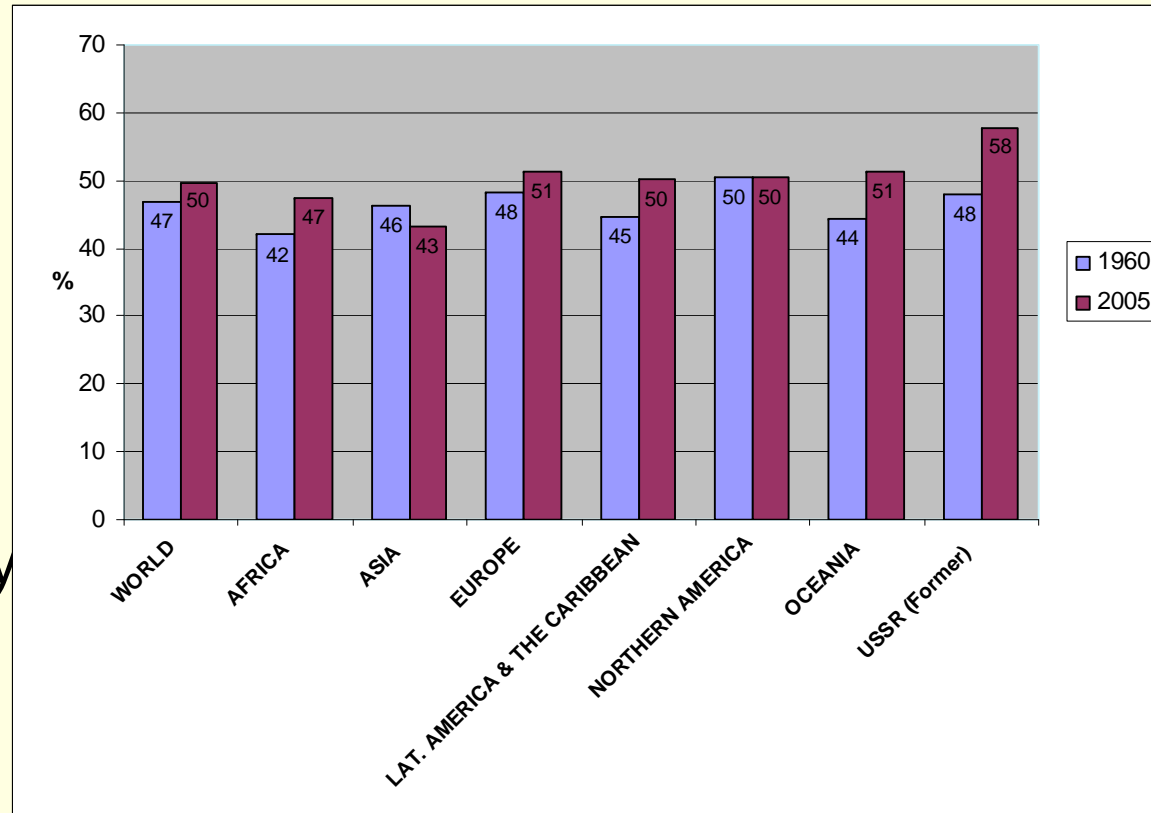
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Some stylized facts...



- Number of international migrants doubled between 1960 and 2005

- Women currently represent about 50% of international migrants



Source: UN 2006



Men and women migrants may have different...



- Factors motivating migration
- Propensities to remit and amount remitted
- Preferences about how remittances spent
- Patterns of labor force participation and performance
- Impacts on family businesses/farms left behind



Gender and hypotheses from migration models



- High costs and risks discourage migration

- Probability of employment is affected by:
 - migrant networks
 - immigration laws
 - recruitment strategies



The determinants of migration from rural Mexico



- Econometric analysis of the determinants of migration from rural Mexico to the U.S. using retrospective data from 1980-2002

- Research question:
 - How do international migration determinants from rural Mexico differ between men and women?

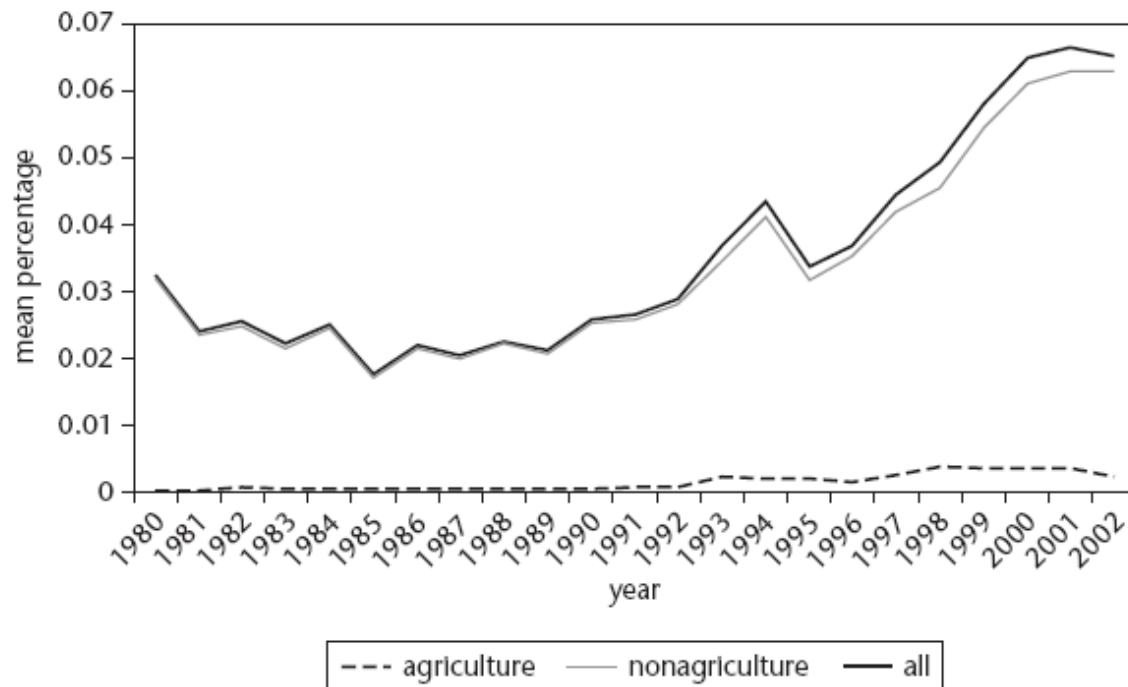


The determinants of migration from rural Mexico



- Mexican women work primarily in non-agricultural sector in the US

International Migration by sector of employment, female sample, 1980-2002



Source: 2003 ENHRUM data.

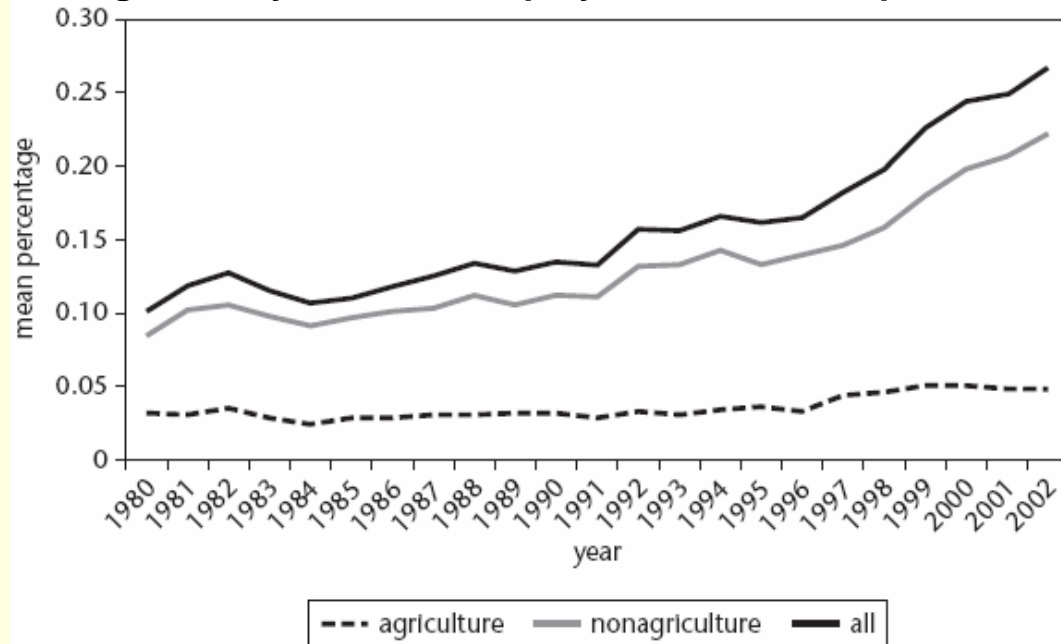


The determinants of migration from rural Mexico



- Mexican men are also employed in non-agricultural sector but a higher share of men, compared to women, work in the agricultural sector

International Migration by sector of employment, male sample, 1980-2002



Source: 2003 ENHRUM data.



The determinants of migration from rural Mexico



- Women are less likely than men to migrate abroad, except for the case of highly educated women
- Networks tend to be gender- and sector-specific
 - The probability of migration is 2.5 times higher for young adult men with male migrant networks than those without
 - Presence of male migrants abroad does not affect women's migration; however, female networks increase the odds of female migration 3.8 times



The determinants of migration from rural Mexico



- Most policy and macroeconomic variables are insignificant in explaining migration
- However, increased border expenditures in the U.S. significantly deter migration by women but does not have a significant impact on male migration
 - A 1 percentage point increase in border control expenditures decreases female migration by 0.11 percent



The impact of migration in rural Mexico



- Econometric analysis of the impact of international migration in rural Mexico using the same data as in previous chapter

- Research question:
 - How does the gender of the migrants affect the impact of international migration on the economic activities in the households left behind?



The impact of migration in rural Mexico



- Strikingly different impacts of male and female migration on production activities
 - Male migration has a negative impact on non-staple crop production and wage income
 - Female migration does not have an impact on either non-staple crop production or wage income
- Households with women migrants spend significantly less on education and more on health



The impact of migration on household expenditures in Ghana



- Econometric analysis of the impact of migration on household expenditures in Ghana using the Ghana Living Standards Survey 1998/99

- Research questions:
 - Does the sex of the household head (HH) in remittance receiving families matter for HH expenditure allocations?
 - Does the sex of the remitter matter for HH expenditure allocations?



The impact of migration on household expenditures in Ghana



- *International* remittances have a negative impact on expenditure shares on food and a positive one on consumer and durable goods, housing and health in female-headed households (FHH), but not in male-headed households (MHH)
- *Internal* remittances have a positive impact on expenditure share on health and education in FHH, but not in MHH



The impact of migration on household expenditures in Ghana



- At a first glance, the sex of the remitter doesn't matter for expenditure patterns; however, when we control for the remitter's ability to monitor expenditures differences emerge:
 - Expenditure shares on education are lower when the wife of the household head is away compared to when the husband of the household head is away
 - These changes in expenditure shares are likely to be attributed to shifts in power on the household level that occur when a substantial part of the household budget relies on a family member working abroad



Immigrant Women's Participation and Performance in the US Labor Market



- Labor market studies have focused on men, even though:
 - About 50% of US immigrants are women
 - Women migrants' levels of education and labor force participation have been increasing; and
 - Women migrants are more educated than non-migrant women



Immigrant Women's Participation and Performance in the US Labor Market



- Econometric analysis of female migrants in the US based on data from the 2000 US census

- Research questions:
 - What are the main determinants of migrant women's participation and performance in the US labor market?



Immigrant Women's labor force participation



- Participation rates:
 - Latin America & Caribbean and Middle East: 30%
 - Asia: 40%
 - Europe and Africa: over 45%
- Being married and having children lowers participation rates, while experience, education and use of English in daily life raise participation



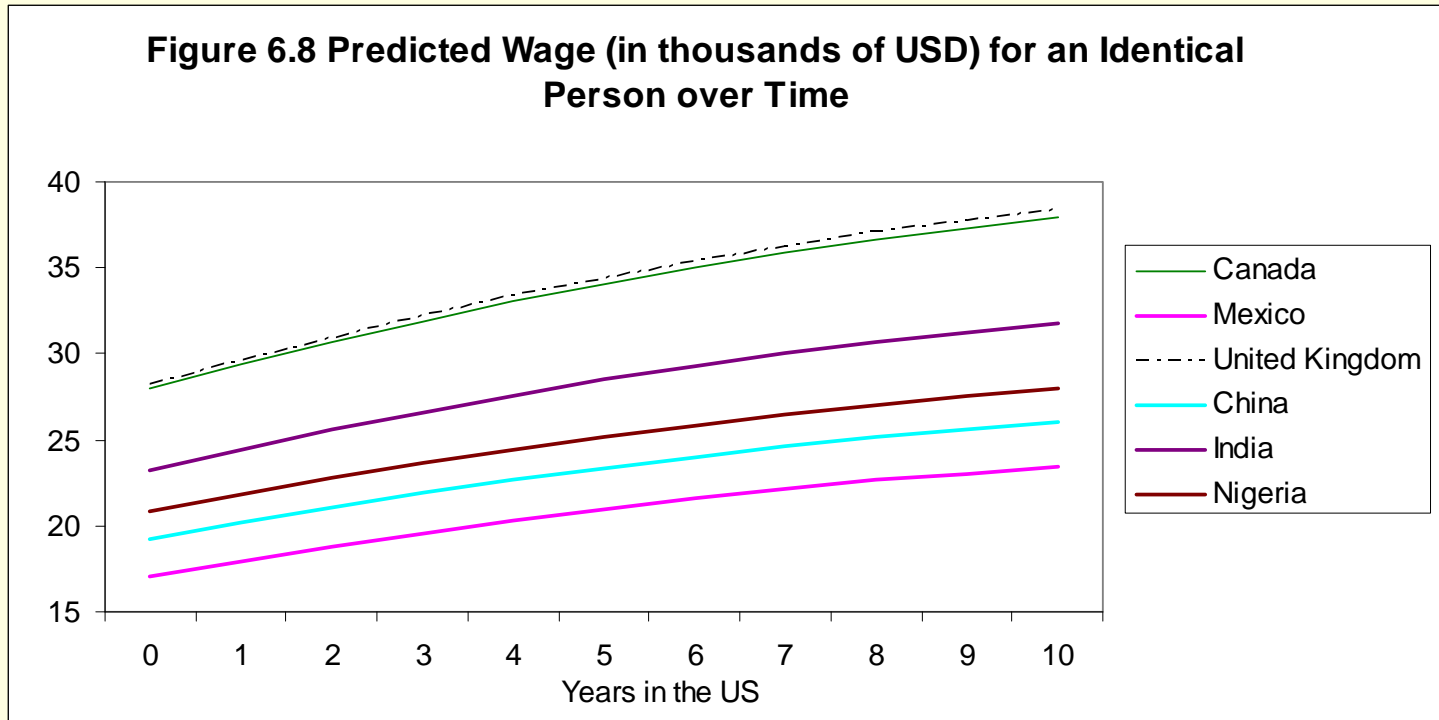
Immigrant Women's labor force participation



- Large cross-country differences in participation rates;
- After 8 years: Nigeria: 80%, UK: 70%, Mexico: 60%;
- Differences among nationalities stable over length of stay



Immigrant Women's labor market performance



- **Wage differences are due to language and quality of education:**
 - **Migrants from English-speaking countries command higher wages**
 - **Among these, migrants from Canada and the UK do better than those from India and Nigeria**



Immigrant Women's labor market performance



- Most cross-country differences in wages disappear after controlling for differences in language and quality of education
- An extra year of education raises participation rates by 2.3% and annual incomes by \$3,000 to \$4,000



Immigrant Women's Participation and Performance in the US Labor Market



- Relatively low levels of participation of educated migrant women implies that:
 - Their skills are underutilized if low participation is due to labor market constraints, lack of information or discrimination
 - Effort should go into providing host countries with more information on source country education (content, quality etc.) and on reducing discrimination and labor market constraints (e.g., the AMA)



Looking Ahead: Future Directions for Research and Policy



Economic Impact

- Women's expenditure allocation leads to better child development outcomes. Children are likely to benefit from women's migration if migration empowers them and gives them greater control over expenditures at home

Research:

- Does migration empower women, under what conditions, how?
- How does women's ability to control expenditures upon migration compare to men's ability to do so?



Looking Ahead: Future Directions for Research and Policy



Economic Impact

- Important effects are not captured in HH surveys: potential wage and employment increases at home (as found for Mexico)

Research:

- How are male and female wages affected by gender of migrants?



Looking Ahead: Future Directions for Research and Policy



Economic Impact

- Problems of control over remittances and how they are spent
 - Remittances may not raise allocation to girls' education
 - Imperfect control over adult spending and employment decisions at home because of limited or biased information
 - Example: agree to spend remittances on education and/or house, but spent on other items and/or people



Looking Ahead: Future Directions for Research and Policy



Implications:

- Female control over HH expenditures can be increased with:
 - System for depositing money directly into bank account, to be spent on items selected by the remitter; or
 - Direct payment to service providers (school, health center)



Looking Ahead: Future Directions for Research and Policy



Non-economic Impact

- South-North migration reduces fertility
 - For the Philippines: Large impact on fertility if participate in host country labor market;
 - No impact for women who do not enter the labor market
- What about the impact on fertility in source countries?
 - Declines for countries whose migration is to the West (Morocco, Turkey);
 - Increases for countries whose migration is to the Gulf (Egypt)

Research:

- Do results hold more generally?
 - For other source and host countries;
 - For South-South migration.



Looking Ahead: Future Directions for Research and Policy



How do children fare in migrant families?

■ Education:

- Single-parent households: children fare worse, but
- Migration results in greater expenditure on children's education
- Net effect found to be positive



Looking Ahead: Future Directions for Research and Policy



What is the impact of male migration on girls and boys?

- *Pakistan:*

- Migration has a positive impact on education and health, and the increase is substantially greater for girls than boys--school enrollment increased by 54% for girls, only 7% for boys.

- *El Salvador:*

- Findings similar to those in Pakistan



Looking Ahead: Future Directions for Research and Policy



Emotional Impact on Children

- Anecdotal evidence: children with absent parents have more emotional and interpersonal relations problems, particularly when mother is absent



Looking Ahead: Future Directions for Research and Policy



- However, studies in Indonesia, the Philippines and Thailand find limited impact;
 - Philippines: children are more likely to be sad or worried about their family when mothers rather than fathers are absent;
 - Other studies: children growing up without mother are more likely to be severely depressed, especially if the mother left when they are young
- Research
 - Are results similar in other parts of the world?



Looking Ahead: Future Directions for Research and Policy



Implications

- A targeted information campaign to make parents aware of the potential negative consequences of migration can improve the family decision-making process regarding migration;
- Measures to help children from migrant households cope with these issues should be considered



Questions?

