Revisiting Global Immigrant Gateways:
Hyper-diverse, Established and Emerging Turnstiles of Human Settlement

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International Migrant Stock as % of the Total Population

Source: UN, Population Division, Trends in International Migrant Stock: The 2015 Revision
Where are the Major Urban Immigrant Destinations of the World and What Do the Tell us?

- Metropolitan areas of over 1 million people
- Number of foreign-born residents and countries of origin
- Based on Census data from over 50 countries at the Metropolitan Scale, since 2000
- Immigrants are increasingly larger portion of urban populations, especially in the developed world

Literatures: Global Cities; Globalization from Below; Immigrant Gateways; Immigrant exclusion/inclusion
Data Challenges

• Data collected irregularly, often by decade, and different years
• Defining urban areas consistently
• Different definitions of foreign-born or migrant stock
• Not all countries publish data on the foreign-born at the sub-national scale
Gateways

- Critical entry points that draw from a wide range of sending countries
- Facilitate cultural exchange and must address immigrant inclusion
- Nodes for the collection, circulation, and dispersion of goods, capital and people.
- Some are Global Cities, most provide important globalizing links, especially with countries of origin
- Localities of opportunity but also exclusion, vulnerability, and segregation
U.S. Gateway Typology

Figure 1. Share of immigrants living in named gateways, by type 1900 to 2014

Source: U.S. Census Bureau Decennial Censuses accessed via www.NHGIS.org, 2014 1-year ACS

Singer, 2015
Hyperdiversity

• A gateway in this study has at least 11% of the total population is foreign-born,
• (2) no one country of origin accounts for 25% or more of the immigrant stock
• (3) immigrants come from all regions of the world.
Toronto 2.5 million Foreign Born, 46% of the total population.

Vancouver 913,000 Foreign-born, 40% of the total population.
Country of Birth of Foreign Born in Copenhagen, 2015

- 39% Other Countries
- 10% Turkey
- 7% Pakistan
- 5% Iraq
- 4% Poland
- 3% Germany
- 3% Morocco
- 3% Iran
- 3% Sweden
- 3% Lebanon
- 3% Yugoslavia
- 3% Norway
- 2% China (including Hong Kong and Macau)
- 2% United Kingdom
- 2% Somalia
- 2% India
- 2% Philippines
- 2% United States
- 2% Other Countries
Turnstiles

• A rotating cast of immigrant labor often allowed in temporarily or without authorization.

• Immigrants regularly move through these urban turnstiles, often in highly precarious and temporary conditions.

• This would include immigrants and refugees, and it is likely their numbers are growing.
Permanent Temporariness
Established

- Established (or Continuous) cities that have been attracting immigrants for a half-century or more. These would include the obvious cities such as Los Angeles, London, Hong Kong, or Buenos Aires
Emerging Gateways

• There also are Emerging gateways, that saw their growth in the 1990s onward, as globalizing trends reorganized the world map and countries experiencing labor shortages set up mechanisms to recruit foreign workers.
Foreign-Born in Shanghai

Country of Birth of Foreign Born in Shanghai, 2015

- Japan
- United States
- South Korea
- France
- Germany
- Canada
- Australia
- United Kingdom
- Singapore
- Others
Metropolitan Areas With At Least 1 Million Foreign Born

Source: https://gum.columbian.gwu.edu/
Gateway Cities with over 1 Million Foreign-born

Cities Dropped:
- Moscow?
- Singapore

Cities Added:
- Abu Dhabi
- Kuwait City
- Madrid
- Johannesburg

In these 22 cities are over 45.5 million foreign-born residents which represents 18% of the Foreign-Born Stock in 2015 according to the United Nations. Nearly, one-in-five immigrants are in these cities.

Metros of nearly 1 million foreign-born

Buenos Aires, Mecca, Vancouver
84 million immigrants or 34% of the foreign-born stock in 2015
The Globalization, Urbanization & Migration (GUM) site is an on-going collaborative research site and network oriented towards gathering empirical data at the urban-level to measure immigration in cities around the world. Professors Marie Price and Lisa Benton-Short are the principle investigators, based in the Department of Geography at the George Washington University. We have received funding from the GW Center for the Study of Globalization. As far as we know, there is no other source where urban-level data on immigration is available for global cities.

GUM currently has information for more than 150 metropolitan areas (over 1 million in population) and it draws data from more than 50 countries. The data sets, pie charts and maps available on this site, allow researchers to add to their understanding of the impact of globalization and immigration on cities. How cities navigate immigrant-driven cultural diversity will shape local and national policy debates in the years ahead. To better inform these debates, we have developed this website to make the urban level data available to the public. We invite scholars and policy makers to contribute their work and urban-level data to GUM to better inform policy discussions and research on urban-level immigration. If you use data from this site, please reference it as Globalization, Urbanization & Migration.

http://gum.columbian.gwu.edu. If you would like to add data to this site, please contact us.