

Chinese “Paisanos” in Guadalajara, Mexico: Rethinking South-South Migration Flows

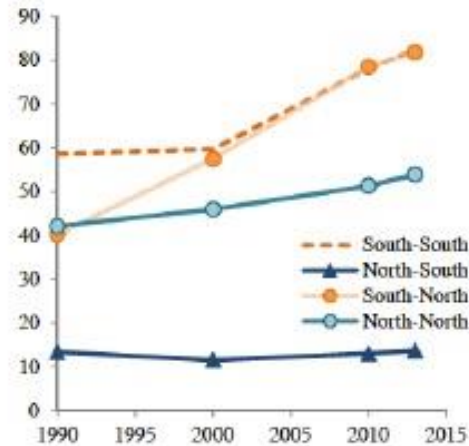
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What Explains Global Migratory Flows?

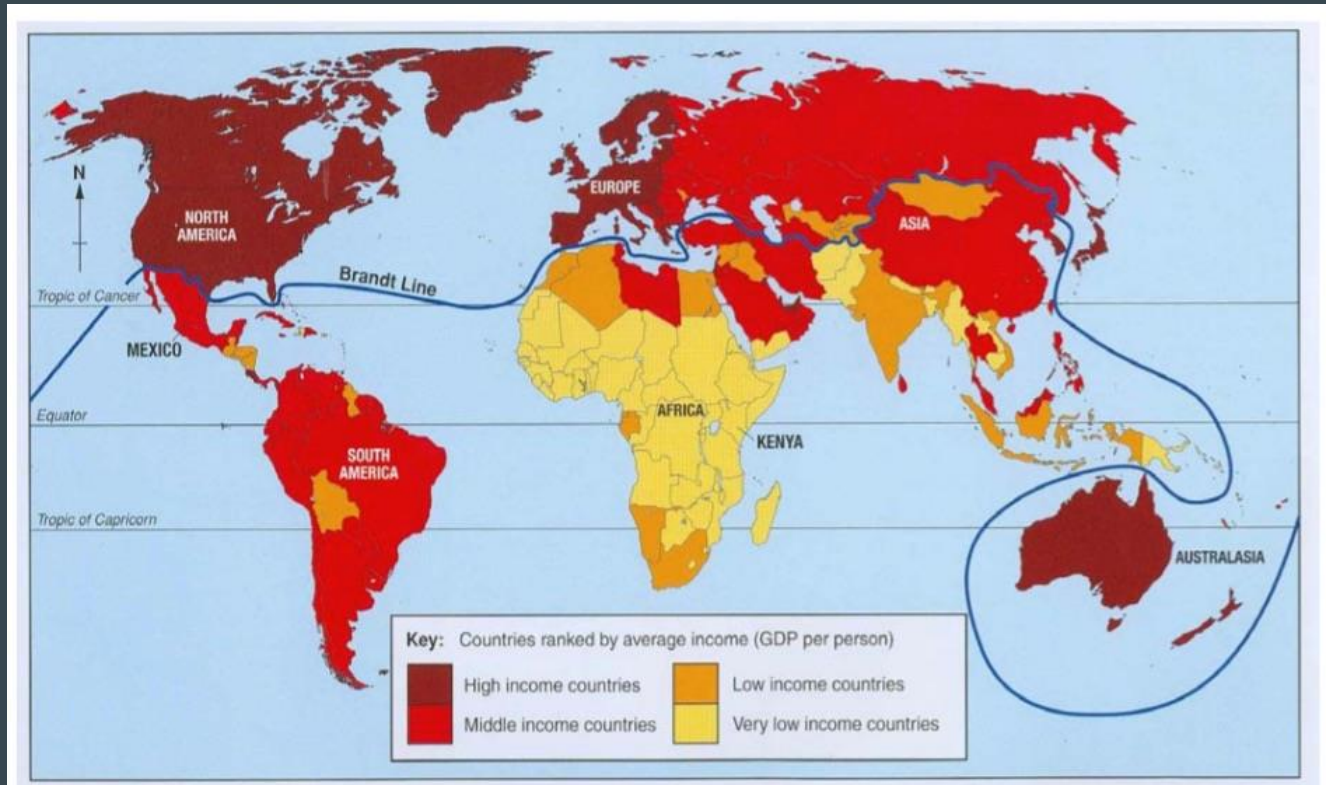
As South-South Migration continues to grow at a more rapid rate than South-North Migration we find ourselves underprepared to understand the reasons, process, and outcomes of what appears to be an increasingly relevant global phenomenon.

Figure 2.1 International Migration by Origin and Destination, 1990-2013 (millions)



Source: United Nations, Department of Economic and Social Affairs (2013). Trends in International Migrant Stock: The 2013 Revision-Migrants by Destination and Origin (United Nations database, POP/DB/MIG/Stock/Rev. 2013/Origin).

The Brandt Line: Establishing the Global North and Global South



RESEARCH QUESTION:

What are the processes and mechanisms that initiate and perpetuate, or give continuity to, long-distance South-South Migration Flows?

South-South Migration

What do we know?

80% intra-regional

Back-and-forth seasonal labor and
transit route migration



WHY PEOPLE MIGRATE

Neoclassical Economic Model

World Systems Theory - Capitalist economic development uproots people and drives them to emigrate

Migrants as Rational Actors - Individuals pursue personal gains and capital accumulation

Global Cities - urban centers in developed countries with high concentrations of wealth.

HOW MIGRATION IS OPERATIONALIZED

Transnational Migration Literature

1. Transnational migrants establish networks
1. Transnational migrants are mobile
1. Transnational migrants are successful through capital accumulation

I Argue For:

A push to emigrate by China's development, a pull to immigrate by Guadalajara's economic growth, and social connections as the fundamental mechanism that facilitates international migration

RESEARCH DESIGN

THE CASE OF CHINESE IMMIGRATION TO
GUADALAJARA, MEXICO

Selecting China

Selecting Mexico

Selecting Guadalajara

Timeframe: *2000-2015*

3 MONTHS OF ETHNOGRAPHIC RESEARCH

Participant interviews: 30 semi-structured interviews, predominantly using Mandarin, thematic analysis.

Participant observation: immersion, observation, and integration

INEGI and IMN statistics

El Informador newspaper articles

Variables: economic inclusion, social inclusion, political inclusion.

GUADALAJARA, MEXICO



FOUR LEVELS OF ANALYSIS

1. Chinese Restaurant and Shop Workers
1. Upwardly Mobile Chinese “Paisanos”
1. Transnational Migrant Organizations
1. Chinese Youth



CONCLUSIONS

Rethinking South-South Migration

1. Social Networks Matter
 1. Immigrant Success Ensures the Perpetuation of the Migratory Flow
 1. Expansion to New Markets and Locations
 1. Long-Distance South-South Migration Has Patterns of South-North Migration
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IMPLICATIONS AND FUTURE RESEARCH

POLICY AND STATE APPROACHES

Determining effective immigration policies for upward mobility and inclusion

Global South states become better receiving societies for ALL immigrants

FUTURE RESEARCH

Return to this case with a longer timeframe

More cases of long-distance South-South Migration

GLOBAL IMPLICATIONS

Globalization can occur from the bottom-up and can be driven by individual actors

Opportunities exist in unexpected ways in pockets of development found throughout the Global South

Should we reconsider what we think of the South-North Divide?



International Interactions Emerge From the Local Field