

# Global Disruptions, Migration and Demographics Trends

Anthonia Onyehialam<sup>1</sup> and Mike Woods, DGES, Aberystwyth University

## Background

We examine how disruptions - conflict, political (re)alignments & economic changes has affected the temporality & spatiality of global migration trends and the demography of places. With places been more connected through globalisation, the rippling effect of these changes puts them in a complex dynamic state of being. We present global, regional & national examples.

## Design, methods and approach

We review literature, quantitatively analyse secondary datasets and visualise them using an assemblage thinking framework.

## Global Disruptions

- Natural disasters, war and conflict e.g the Arab Spring, have disrupted many Middle East and Africa countries and forced a mass movement of people.
- Economic changes - The 60/70s boom attracted the movement of diasporic labour migrants into North America and Europe.
- Political Re(alignment)s – The EU and its expansion meant access to EU labour market, massive E to W migration with consequences for diasporic labour migrants. The dissolution of former USSR meant the redrawing of international boundaries and many natives became migrants without moving.
- Physical Barriers – Barriers set up by countries to limit migration have disrupted some migrant journeys, forcing them to settle in the most accessible community and changing the demographic configuration of these places.

## Disruptions, Migration and Demographics

Today we have 250 million migrants crossing national borders, an over 170% increase since 1960. 10% of these migrants are those forcefully fleeing disruptions. Since the Arab revolution in 2010, there has been a 4 times surge in forced migration (figure 1).

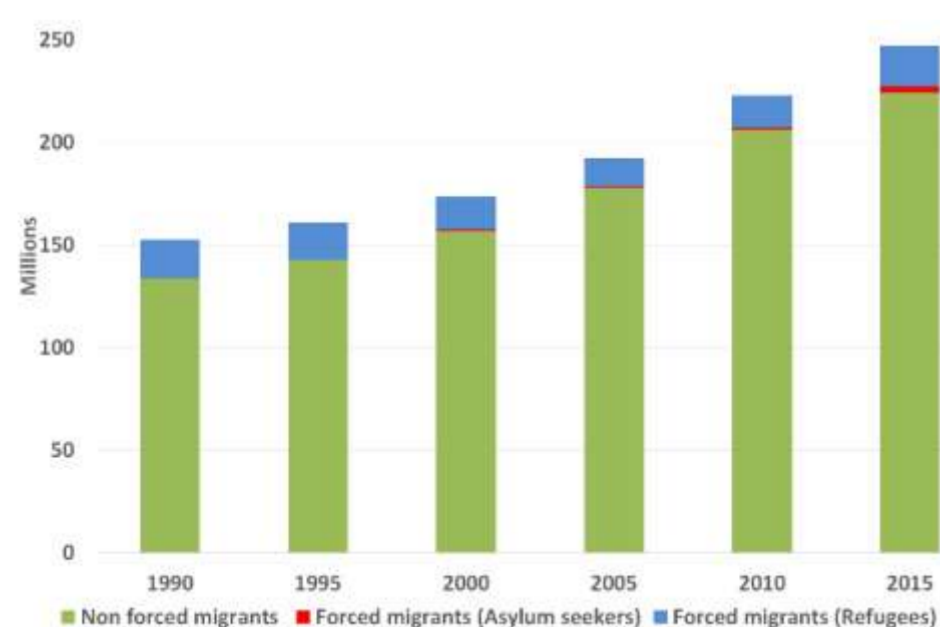


Fig 2: Trends in international migration

Europe and North America are key destinations of migrants. According to figure 2, for over 20 years the destination choices have persisted. The key attractions to the USA, UK, Germany are language, work opportunities, favourable resettlement policies for forced migrants and unrestricted investment opportunities within EU.

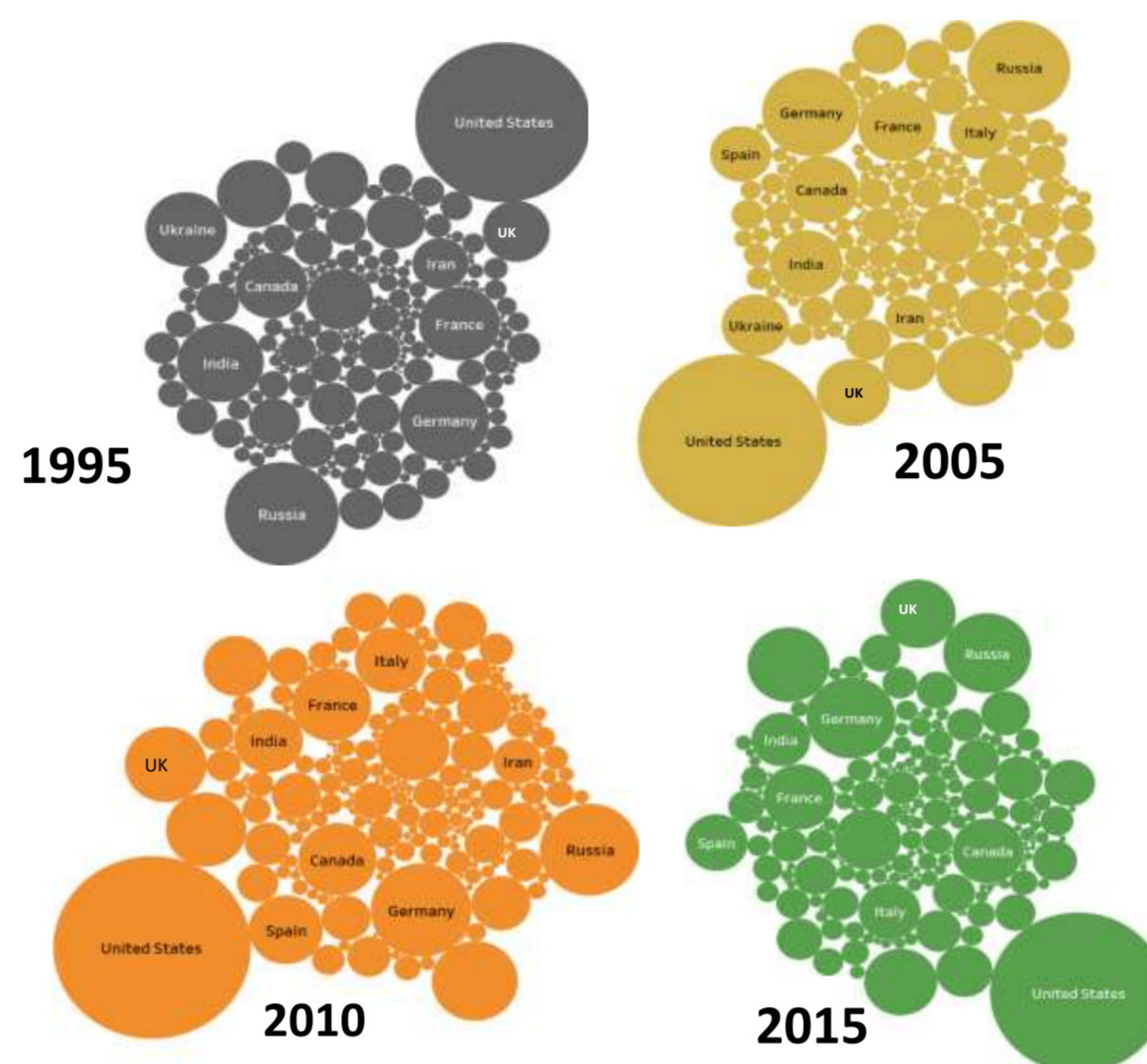


Figure 3: Spatiality of international migrant destinations

The percentage of female migrants fell from 49.1% in 2000 to 48.2% in 2015. Europe & North America hosts the highest. Though most international migrants are of working age, since 1990 to date, there has been a 63% rise in the number of migrants of retirement age (65+) (fig 4).

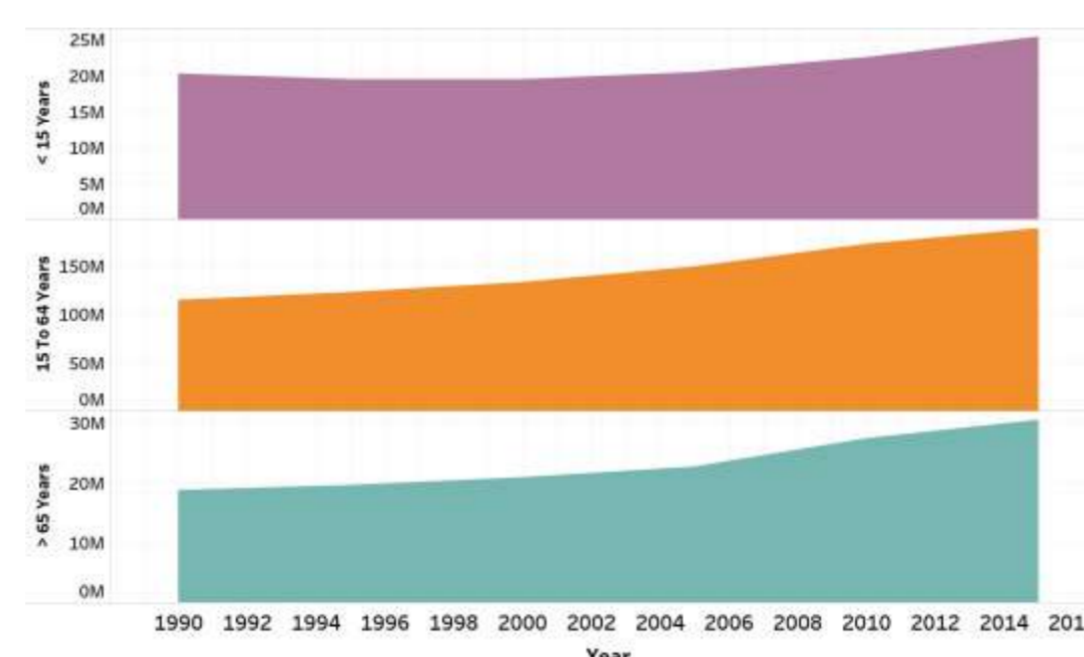


Figure 4: Age structure of Migrants 1990 - 2016

Europe is the largest sender of 65+ age migrants (6.2 million in 2010). The key destinations for 60% of this population are EU states followed by USA, Canada, Australia and NZ (fig 5). This coincides with countries attractive for retirement migration and the EU cluster is a reflection of the enlargement of EU and lifting of investment restrictions for EU states. There are also regional clusters between former USSR states and migration into Africa may be return migrants.



Figure 5: Migration patterns of 65plus migrants

## Regional Migration – The EU

After 2004 EU enlargement, there were 4 million additional EU intra migrant stocks. There was an E to W migration (fig 6). Ireland, UK and Sweden having no EU migrant restriction at that time became an attractive destination for eastern EU migrants. Ireland was also a key destination to diasporic migrants from Brazil, Pakistan and Russia working in agriculture and meat factories during its economic boom. EU expansion meant restriction in employment.

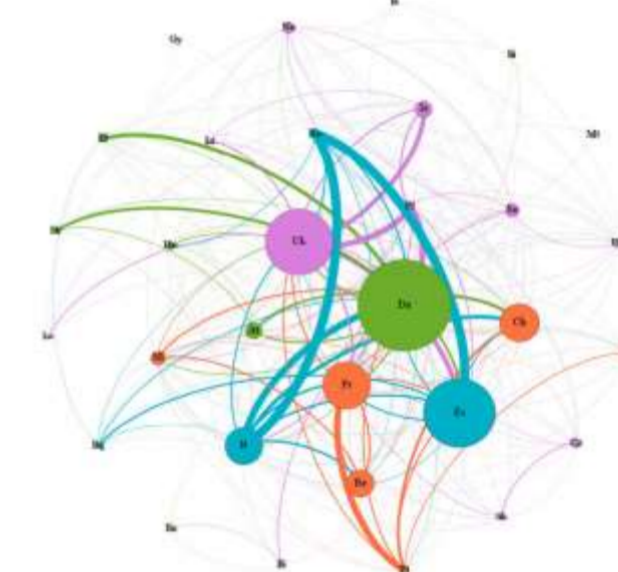


Fig 5: EU Intra Migration post 2004 Enlargement

The presence of the diasporic labour migrants and the Eastern Europeans changed the demographic configuration of Irish communities. They set up shops and cultural events



## Conclusion

Though disruptions happen locally, they have a rippling effect that justifies migration that alter the demographic configuration of both origin and destinations.

## Reference and Data Sources

1. Trends in International Migrant Stock: The 2015 Revision, UN Population Division
2. OECD Migration Statistics
3. Baláz, V. and Karasová, K., 2017. Geographical Patterns in the Intra-European Migration before and after Eastern Enlargement: The Connectivity Approach 1. *Ekonomicky Casopis*, 65(1), p.3.