

# Trans-national working and living in the 21<sup>st</sup> century: an Australasian perspective on the new paradigm

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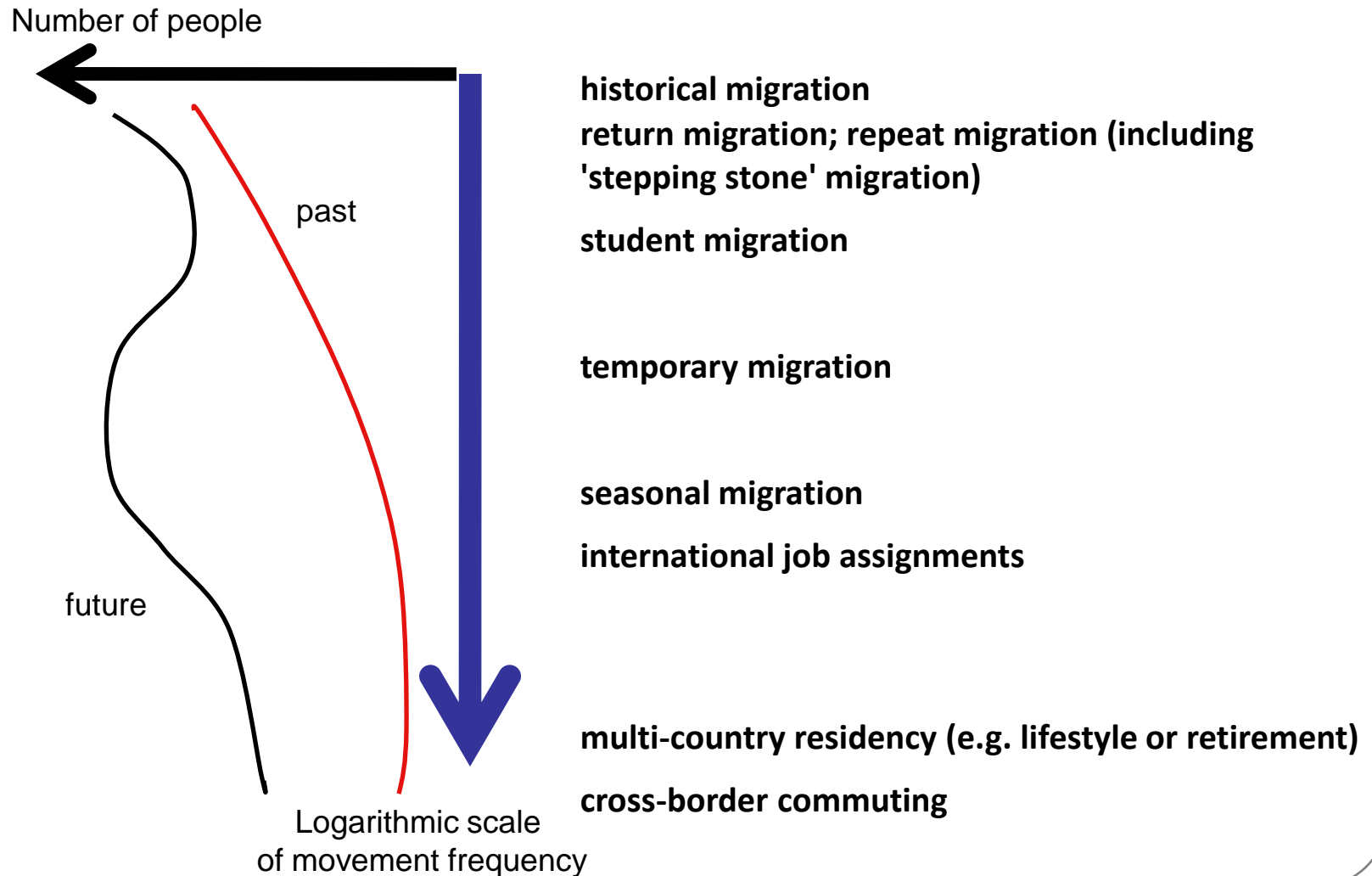
**New Zealand**

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# Measuring migration over the life course

- Far more than 3% of the world population have been/are/will be migrants.
- Time spent abroad is not as easy to measure as
  - The stock of foreign born at one point in time
  - The arrivals and departures during a given period
- Permanent and temporary migration are not opposites: there is a *continuum* of migration types
- A global economic downturn will lower mobility, but the long-term upward trend will re-emerge

# The migration continuum in terms of the frequency of border crossings



# Temporary migration in Australia and New Zealand

## • Australia

- Temporary (long stay) business visa for skilled workers: started in 1997/98 with 31,000 people, now more than double
- Foreign students reached close to 200,000 in 2005
- More than 100,000 young people on working holidays

## • New Zealand

- More than 115,000 people were issued a temporary work permit in 2006/07; more than twice as many people than those issued permanent residency
- But New Zealanders are highly mobile too: One in seven lives abroad

## • Temporary migration is often a precursor to permanent residency

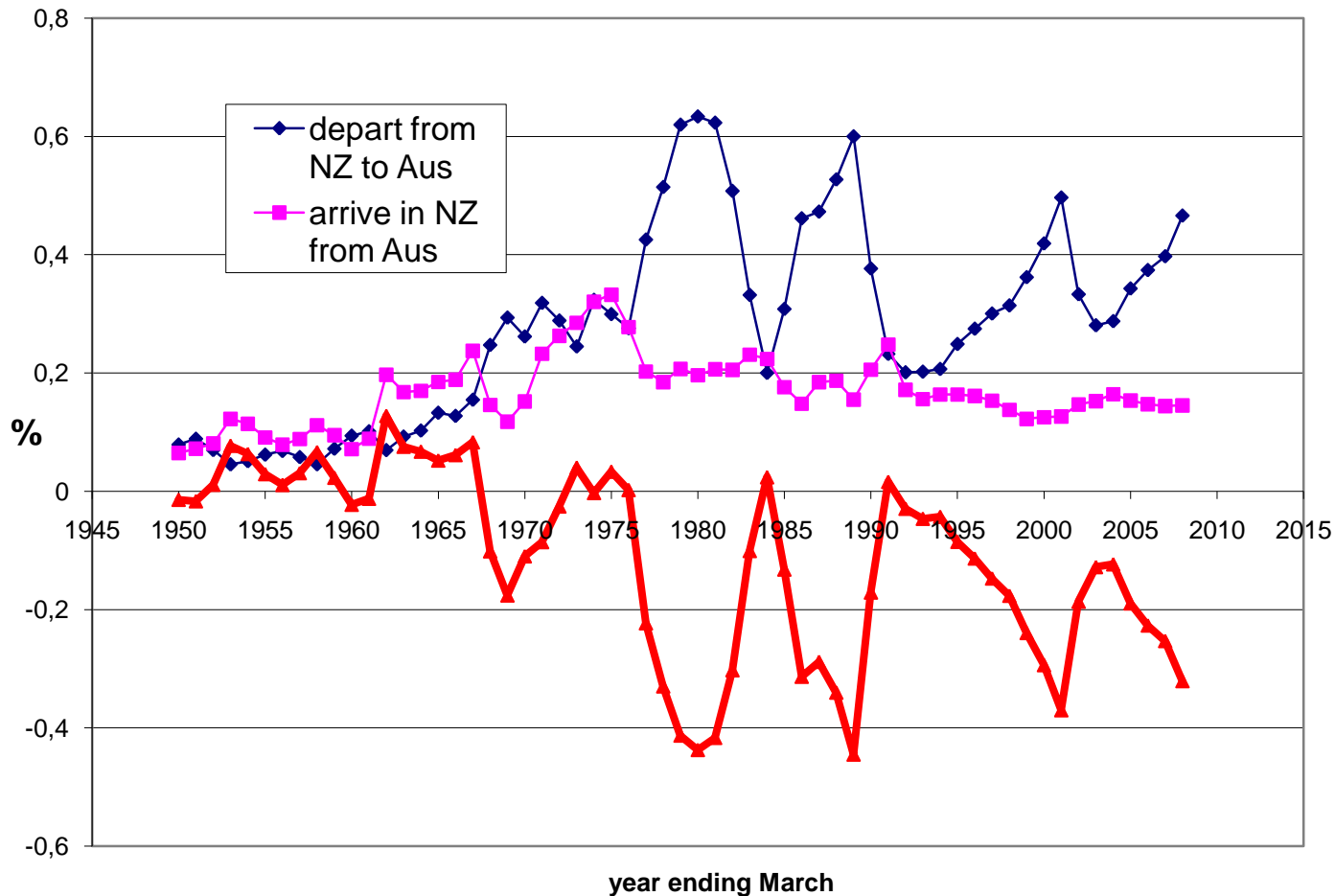
- 9/10 of New Zealand "settlers" and 1/3 of Australian "settlers" had previous temporary visas

# Seasonal work schemes

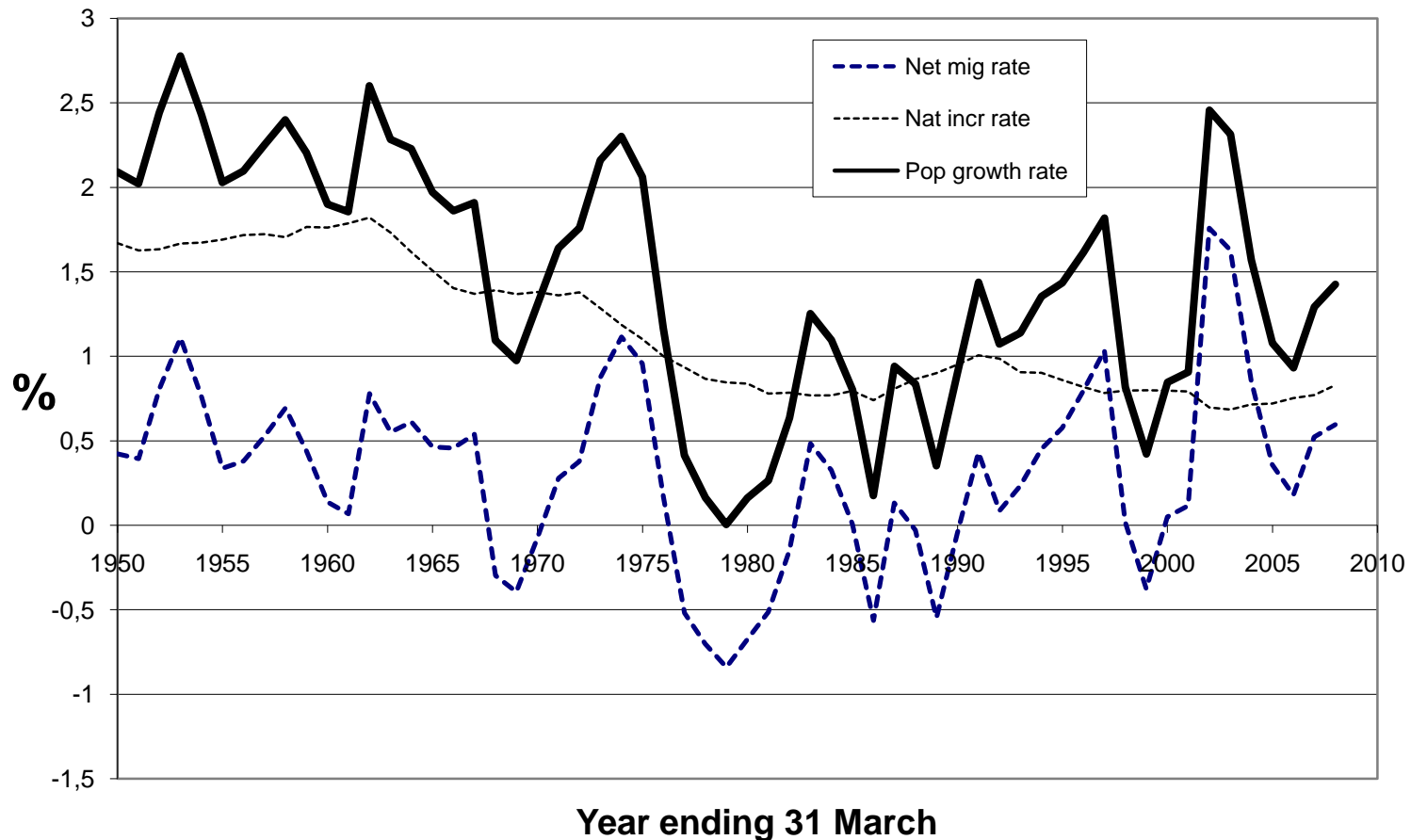
- New Zealand: Recognised Seasonal Employer (RSE) Scheme
  - Pacific migrants are 15% of foreign born
  - Up to 5,000 nationally at any one time
- Australia: Pacific Seasonal Worker Pilot Scheme
  - Pacific migrants are 3% of foreign born
  - 2,500 spread over three years
- Both countries:
  - Focus on Pacific only, for example: Papua New Guinea, Tonga and Samoa (NZ only)
  - Both schemes have multiple objectives: development aid and overcoming specific seasonal shortages in unskilled labour supply

# Another form of temporary (and permanent) migration: the free population movement between New Zealand and Australia, 1950-2008

Migration rates as a % of the NZ population



# Migration volatility and New Zealand population growth 1950-2008



# Longitudinal measurement of residency spells

- New Zealand examples

- Of 24,068 migrants arriving for *permanent* residency in 1998, 18% spent more than half of the following six years *outside* New Zealand
- Of the migrants who went abroad at least once after arriving in New Zealand, 15.7% stayed away for *more* than 6 months
- As at December 2003, 19% of the 1998 cohort left and never returned

- Australian examples

- Of 80,074 NZ migrants and 21,466 UK migrants arriving for permanent residency between August 1999 and July 2002, about 30% had *left* Australia *permanently* by July 2005.
- Of 32,380 temporary migrants from NZ, 49.4% *prolonged* their stay beyond the initially stated intention
- Of 87,268 temporary migrants from UK, 14.8% *prolonged* their stay beyond the initially stated intention

# Case studies of links between travel and migration, using Australian data

- After 2001, new visa-free New Zealand migrants lost generally eligibility for labour market-related social security
- Using “difference in differences” econometric models with UK migrants as a “control group”, it can be shown that subsequent NZ migrants in Australia maintain somewhat stronger ties with their home country
- International migration triggers a series of visits to the home country for replenishment of depleted “relationship capital”
- Travel frequency is inversely related to distance and transportation costs and positively related to the psychological cost of separation
- At greater travel frequency, trips become shorter but total time spent back home increases

# Conclusion

- International travel and migration reinforce each other
- The distinction between the two is becoming increasingly blurred
- The focus of policies is predominantly on worker migration, but should also include
  - Internationalization of higher education
  - Growing incidence of cross-border retirement
- This offers challenges for a wide spectrum of policy domains