

Women on the Move



Magnitudes, Trends and Impacts of the International Migration of Women

Francois J. Bourguignon
Sr. Vice President and Chief Economist
The World Bank

United Nations, New York
September 14, 2006

BACKGROUND

- Migration scholars, especially in the area of economics, have ignored the gender dimension of migration for too long.
- The World Bank initiated a research program on the International Migration of Women in mid-Dec 2005.
- Purpose: to enhance the understanding of migration by introducing a gender perspective.
- Today we present some preliminary findings and hypotheses...

Outline

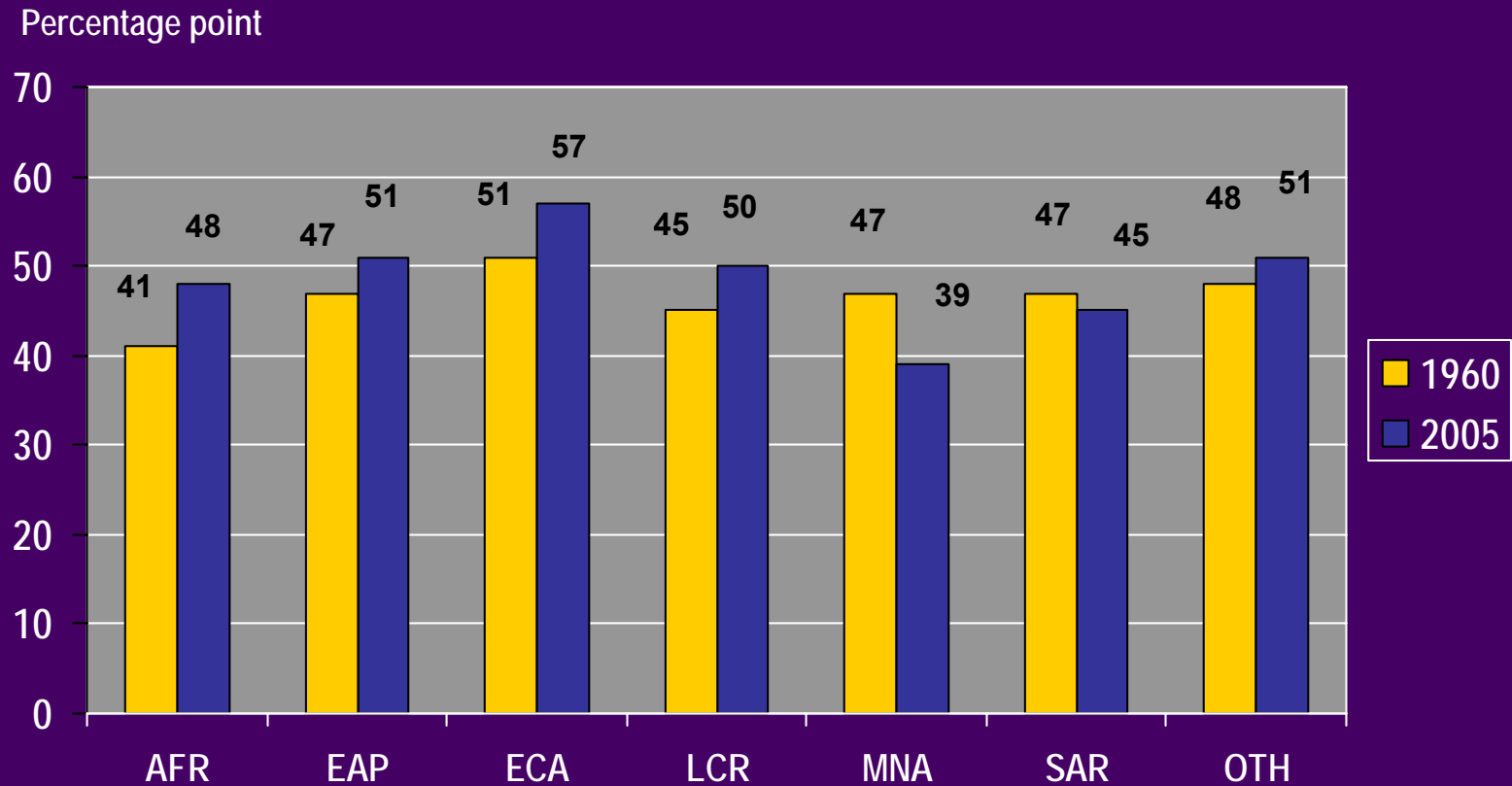
1. Magnitudes and stylized facts
2. Gendered determinants of migration
3. Gendered impacts of migration
4. Some possible policy implications
5. Future work

1. Magnitudes and stylized facts

- About 3 percent of the world's population are migrants. Of these, almost half are women
- There has been a small feminization of the migrant stock: from 47 % in 1960 to almost 50% 2005
- The degree of feminization of the migrant stock differs by region

1. MAGNITUDES — Stylized facts

Degree of feminization of migrant stock by the region with largest changes from 1960-2005



Source: UN, 2005

2. Gendered determinants of migration: some hypotheses

- Stock of migrants (networks?) and migration to the U.S.

Male stocks \Leftrightarrow \uparrow male migration , \uparrow female migration

Female stocks \Leftrightarrow \downarrow male migration, \downarrow female (Guzmán, 2006)

- U.S. border enforcement

\downarrow female migration, but no impact on male migration

- Differential role of education in Mexico-U.S. migration

Education \Leftrightarrow \uparrow female migration to non-agricultural jobs, but no impact on male migration (Richter and Taylor, 2006)

3. Gendered impacts of migration

Impacts on output and labor force participation

Departure of male migrant from household in Mexico ⇒

↓ cash crop

↓ subsistence agriculture

↓ wage work

— departure of female has no such effects

(Pfeiffer and Taylor, 2006)

3. Gendered impacts of migration

Remittance behaviors and use of remittances differ between men and women

Female remitters:

- send over longer time periods
- send larger amounts to distant family members
- may have different impacts on origin household expenditures

Female recipients:

- may have different expenditure patterns

4. Some possible policy implications

In origin countries...

No recruitment policies for nurses

↓ *migration of nurses (majority are women)*

Access to financial services by women

- Ensure that women are financially literate
- Increase women's access to financial services
- Encourage financial intermediaries to provide services to women
- Reduce transaction costs for sending remittances for all migrants

4. Some possible policy implications

In destination countries...

Limited labor market participation for spouses ⇔

↓ *Participation for tied migrants (majority are women)*

Border enforcement?

Data is the key to intelligent policy

- Ensure that gender-disaggregated data on migrants are collected in censuses and surveys

Future work

WORLD BANK — RESEARCH VOLUME IN MAY 2007

- Includes work on remittance, gendered determinants of migration, and labor market insertion of migrants

PRIORITY AREAS FOR FUTURE RESEARCH

- Economics of trafficking
- The links between female migration, access to financial services, development impact of remittances
- South-South and internal migration of women