OPENING SPEAKER – Hon. Michael Woodhouse

Michael Woodhouse was first elected to Parliament in 2008 as a National List MP based in Dunedin. During his first term in Parliament, he was a member of the Transport and Industrial select committee, the Health select committee and the Finance and Expenditure select committee. Following the 2011 General Election, Michael was made the Senior Government Whip – a position he held until his appointment as Minister of Immigration, Minister of Veterans’ Affairs and Associate Minister of Transport in January 2013. In May 2014, Michael was also appointed Minister for Land Information. After the 2014 General Election, Michael was reappointed Minister of Immigration and appointed Minister of Police and Workplace Relations and Safety.

Before being elected to Parliament in 2008, Michael was the Chief Executive Officer of Mercy Hospital Dunedin, a position he held for 7 ½ years. Prior to that Michael held senior management positions with ACC, where he was instrumental in implementing ACC’s Elective Services Contracting framework and at Dunedin Hospital in change management, revenue and planning roles.

Invited International Speaker – Maria Schiller

Maria Schiller is a research fellow at the Max Planck Institute for the Study of Religious and Ethnic Diversity in Göttingen, Germany. Maria holds a PhD in Migration Studies from the University of Kent and an MA in Social and Cultural Anthropology from the University of Vienna. Her research interests include migration and immigrant incorporation, urban diversification and urban life, immigrant policy-making and implementation, bureaucratic institutions, immigrant mobilization and governance networks. Her research uses qualitative methods and often takes a comparative approach. Based on ethnographic research in the Netherlands, the United Kingdom and Belgium, her PhD thesis analyzes how local diversity policies become defined in bureaucrats’ practices and whether these practices reflect a purported shift away from multiculturalism.

Invited International Speaker – Max Nathan

Max is an economic geographer with a background in public policy. His research focuses on urban economic development, especially the economics of immigration and diversity, innovation systems and tech clusters, and public policy for cities. He is a Deputy Director of the What Works Centre for Local Economic Growth, a collaboration between LSE, the Centre for Cities and Arup, that aims to improve the use of evidence and impact evaluation in local economic development. He is also a Senior Research Fellow at the National Institute of Economic and Social Research. Max has over 15 years’ public policy experience in think tanks, consultancy and government, most recently at DCLG as an ESRC-DCLG Senior Policy Adviser. Max also co-founded the Centre for Cities, where he ran the research programme for the Centre’s first three years.
Overview

Established in the 1990s as an annual event to disseminate publicly funded research on international migration and demographic change, the Pathways, Circuits and Crossroads conference (usually referred to as the Pathways conference) is hosted this year by the CaDDANZ research team (Massey University and the University of Waikato), and the Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment.

The ‘face’ of New Zealand is changing rapidly as a consequence of the settlement of migrants from all over the world, temporary and circular international immigration, growing ethnic diversity, population ageing, changing fertility patterns and urban growth. The Pathways conference offers an exciting array of local and international speakers to discuss how New Zealand can better respond to these demographic changes in order to maximise the benefits associated with an increasingly diverse population. The topics include:

- Migration and business
- Immigration, circulation and settlement of migrants
- The socio-economic impacts of diversity
- (Super)diversity: cities, institutions and politics
- Superdiversity and commonplace diversity
- Regional trends and diversity
- Migration and inequality

The Venue

Westpac Stadium is a major sporting venue in Wellington and was officially opened in January 2000. Due to its shape and silver coloured external walls, it is colloquially known as ‘The Cake Tin’ throughout New Zealand. The stadium was built in 1999 on former railway land and has a capacity of 34,500. It was built to replace Athletic Park, the city’s old rugby stadium, which had fallen into disrepair. Westpac Stadium is home to the Wellington Phoenix soccer team, the Wellington Lions ITM rugby team and the Super Rugby Hurricanes. The stadium hosts international and national sporting events, including One Day test cricket, and was the venue for the recent Super Rugby final between the Hurricanes and the Highlanders. However, the venue also hosts events such as Armageddon, the Food Show, the Home and Garden Show and the Royal Edinburgh Military Tattoo. The day after this Pathways conference, the Stadium celebrates its 15th birthday with an open day that is also part of the Capital’s 150th anniversary event, see http://www.wellingtonnz.com/discover/things-to-do/events/capital-150th/

Registration Information

A registration table will be set up in the Member’s Lounge of the Westpac Stadium and will be open on Thursday 23 July (8–9am) and Friday (8.30–9am). There is no registration fee for this conference. In order to collect your conference folder please bring along your confirmation email and present to registration staff who will also issue you with a name badge. It is possible to leave and return during the two days but name badges must be displayed at all times while attending the conference.

Bathrooms are located opposite the entrance to the Member’s Lounge.

Internet access will be available and the password will be displayed at the registration desk.

Car parking vouchers are provided by request only and can be collected from the Function Centre Office on Level One on production of your confirmation email.

Catering is provided as requested on your registration form. We thank the EEO Trust, NIDEA, CaDDANZ and PANZ for sponsoring the conference morning and afternoon teas.

All participants are invited to complimentary drinks to be held between 5–6pm on Thursday 23 July. Dinner is by private arrangement.
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<td>9.15 – 9.45</td>
<td>Keynote Address: Minister of Immigration, Hon. Michael Woodhouse</td>
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<td>9.45 – 10.15</td>
<td>Immigration in the context of MBIE’s wider policy goals and objectives</td>
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<td>New Zealand’s investor migrants: Decision making and experiences</td>
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<td>Migrant entrepreneurs – What makes a successful migrant business?</td>
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<td>Understanding the Christchurch rebuild workforce: A baseline measure</td>
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<td>Vulnerable migrant workers in New Zealand. What do we know?</td>
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SESSION FOUR

Diversity Impacts
Chair: Paul Spoonley (Massey University)

The economics of cultural diversity: What have we learned?
Invited International Speaker: Max Nathan (London School of Economics and National Institute of Social and Economic Research, United Kingdom)

4.15 – 4.30
Response and Discussion

4.30 – 4.50
An outline of CaDDANZ research
Jacques Poot (University of Waikato)

4.50 – 5.00
Response and Discussion

5.00 – 6.00
Drinks

Friday, July 24, 2015

SESSION ONE

(Super) Diversity: Cities, Institutions and Politics
Chair: Robin Peace (Massey University)

9.00 – 9.45
A post–multicultural era? Diversification, cities and the politics of diversity
Invited International Speaker: Maria Schiller (Max Planck Institute, Germany)

9.45 – 10.00
Response and Discussion

10.00 – 10.20
Superdiversity in Aotearoa: Institutional responsiveness to diversification
Paul Spoonley (Massey University)

10.20 – 10.30
Response and Discussion

10.30 – 11.00
Morning Tea
Sponsored by CaDDANZ

SESSION TWO

Superdiversity and Commonplace Diversity
Chair: Judi Altinkaya (Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment)

11.00 – 11.20
The legal and policy implications of superdiversity: Case study on democracy and electoral laws
Mai Chen (Superdiversity Centre for Law, Policy and Business, University of Auckland)

11.20 – 11.40
Commonplace diversity. So what?
Angélique Praat and Robin Peace (Massey University)

11.40 – 12.00
The Balmoral shops: Bridging the gap between knowing and doing
Trudie Cain and Carina Meares (Auckland Council)

12.00 – 12.30
Response and Discussion
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<td>Jacques Poot and Louis Wright (University of Waikato)</td>
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<td><strong>Towards a Social Atlas for New Zealand</strong></td>
<td>Natalie Jackson (Massey University) and Lars Brabyn (University of Waikato)</td>
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<td><strong>Working on Wall Street or relaxing on the Riviera? Age-related impacts of income and wellbeing on regional migration</strong></td>
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<td>Philip Morrison (Victoria University of Wellington)</td>
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<td><strong>Revisiting income inequality within and between New Zealand’s regions: Analysis of 1986–2013 Census data</strong></td>
<td>Dave Maré (MOTU)</td>
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Abstracts

DAY ONE: Thursday 23 July 2015

Session One: State of the Nation

Stephen Dunstan and Michelle Schulz (Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment)

Immigration in the context of MBIE’s wider policy goals and objectives

The Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment (MBIE) was established on 1 July 2012. It brings together key parts of the public sector to provide joined-up economic policy advice and better integrated services, advice and regulation to support business growth. Our goal is to grow a high-performing economy with more productive firms across all sectors and a shift towards more productive sectors. As firms become more productive, wages will increase and lead to better social and economic outcomes for all New Zealanders. In this context, MBIE’s focus is on maximising the contribution the immigration system can make to the skills, knowledge, entrepreneurship and investment needed to achieve our economic growth objectives, and improve the social and economic outcomes for all New Zealanders. We also want to ensure that the immigration system continues to support the growth of key sectors such as our export education and tourism sectors. To achieve this, MBIE is investing in modernising the immigration system, and taking advantage of the coordination opportunities that exist between the immigration system, the education and welfare system, and government’s business-facing infrastructure.

Session Two: Migration and Business

Mary Adams and Natalie Ellen-Eliza (Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment)

New Zealand’s investor migrants: Decision making and experiences

Investor migrants are a high value migrant group with the potential to bring significant investment capital, commercial expertise and international business connections to New Zealand. Knowing more about their motivations, intentions and needs will help New Zealand attract the best high value investor migrants and provide better support once here. Recent research into the 2009 investor migrant policy sought to know more about investors’ migration experiences and investment decision making processes. The research found the New Zealand appeal is primarily lifestyle and climate, and that the practical logistics of applying and coming to New Zealand are smooth for most. In addition, investors are generally investing substantially more than immigration policy requires, and there is significant opportunity to make the most of investor migrants’ talents and networks. Research findings are being used to inform the Government’s Investor Migrant Attraction Programme.

Michael Eglinton (Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment)

Migrant entrepreneurs – What makes a successful migrant business?

Migrants contribute to New Zealand as employees but also as entrepreneurs, creating new firms and businesses. Little is known about migrant entrepreneurs and their businesses, however. This presentation looks at the characteristics of self-employed migrants, the common pathways from migration to self-employment, and the characteristics of those businesses. The project uses Immigration New Zealand’s administrative data and linked personal and business data from Statistics New Zealand’s Integrated Data Infrastructure.

Alice Cleland and Virginia Burns (Inland Revenue)

Understanding the Christchurch Rebuild Workforce: A baseline measure of their characteristics

In the rebuilding of Christchurch, the construction industry has become the largest industry in Christchurch and is driving strong employment growth in the Canterbury region. The purpose of this research was to understand the characteristics of the Christchurch Rebuild Workforce.

A three-phase study was conducted. Seventeen semi-structured interviews with subject matter experts (Phase 1); in-depth face-to-face interviews with 17 community interviewees (Phase 2); and 1000 computer-assisted
telephone interviews (CATI) with Business Owners and Employees involved in rebuild activity were conducted (Phase 3).

Key findings include: 1/3 were new businesses that had been established after the Christchurch earthquakes; 21% reported that they were struggling financially; 43% perceived the tax system to be fair; and there was a perception by some that others were not paying their fair share of tax.

The Christchurch Rebuild poses both challenges and opportunities for government agencies. For Inland Revenue, some of the challenges include how current and future risks are managed as the rebuild of Christchurch gathers momentum. The opportunities include considering how Inland Revenue and other government agencies continue to work together to provide services that best meet the needs of its customers.

Session Three: Immigration, Circulation and Settlement

Judi Altinkaya (Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment)

*Here for good?*

This session outlines New Zealand’s Migrant Settlement and Integration Strategy (2014) which drives a whole of Government approach to settling migrants well. It will set out the collaborative effort to retain migrants with the skills New Zealand needs for economic growth, identify how success is measured, and discuss some of the challenges to achieving success.

Wendy Searle (Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment)

*Vulnerable migrant workers in New Zealand. What do we know?*

Temporary migrants play an important role in the New Zealand labour market, participating in both skilled and unskilled work. However, the vulnerability of this workforce has received increasing attention recently as concerns are raised about the exploitation they may face and the vulnerable position in which their migrant status might leave them. To inform its work and ensure that migrants are lawfully employed and not exposed to workplace exploitation, the Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment is conducting a programme of research on vulnerable migrant workers, with a focus on issues related to temporary migrants.

Richard Bedford (University of Waikato and Auckland University of Technology)

Charlotte Bedford (Independent Consultant on temporary migration schemes in the Pacific)

*"The RSE is just the beginning": Reflections on recent developments in managed temporary migration programmes for Pacific Islanders in New Zealand*

In July 2015 Horticulture New Zealand, with the support of the Government of Western Samoa, held their annual conference in Samoa for employers of seasonal labour under the RSE (Recognised Seasonal Employer) work policy. This was the first time the conference had been held in one of the main labour supply countries and the theme of the conference was: “The RSE is just the beginning”.

The RSE scheme has been widely praised internationally as an example of “best practice” for managed seasonal migration programmes. As it moves into the ninth year of operation, we reflect on some of the ways the scheme, and its associated Strengthening Pacific Partnerships (SPP) project, are contributing to developments in the islands and New Zealand that go beyond seasonal work opportunities per se. We also review progress with attempts to introduce RSE–type schemes to assist meeting labour demand in New Zealand’s dairy industry and, most recently, the consideration being given to a temporary migration programme for Pacific workers to assist with the rebuilding of Christchurch’s commercial centre. In both the islands and New Zealand there is evidence to support the claim that “the RSE is just the beginning” but there are also some tensions associated with the scheme that merit greater consideration if the it is to continue to be regarded as “best practice” for a managed temporary migration work policy.
Session Four: Diversity Impacts

Max Nathan (London School of Economics and National Institute of Economic and Social Research, UK)

The economics of cultural diversity: What have we learned?

Developed countries around the world are becoming more culturally diverse – by ethnicity, religion or language. Immigration is an important driver in this process, although not the only one. Diversity also has a spatial footprint, with cities seeing the largest changes, and ‘super-diversity’ emerging in some urban neighbourhoods. There is great public and policy debate about the economic and social implications of more diverse communities and cities, and the role of migration in particular. The research community has gradually turned its attention to these issues: a growing body of studies now explores the linkages between migrants or minority communities, and longer term, dynamic economic outcomes for firms, industries, markets, cities and countries. This presentation provides an overview of this emerging field: the economics of cultural diversity. It sets out a simple framework for thinking about ‘diversity effects’ on economic growth, reviews the empirics, and provides some high-level pointers for policymakers. While much of the evidence points to net economic benefits from diversity, there are still real challenges for policy design, and in managing any distributional impacts.

Jacques Poot (University of Waikato)

An outline of CaDDANZ research

MBIE has provided funding for a 2014–2020 research programme to investigate how New Zealand can best plan for, and benefit from, its increasingly diverse population. The study, entitled Capturing the Diversity Dividend of Aotearoa New Zealand (CaDDANZ – pronounced cadence) is conducted by a team of researchers from Waikato University, Massey University and Motu Economic and Public Policy Research in Wellington. The 2013 census revealed about 220 ethnic groups in New Zealand and there is also large diversity geographically. People from different cultural backgrounds often have different age structures, fertility, mortality, family structures, mobility patterns and preferences about where to live. Some researchers refer to this new reality as superdiversity. The CaDDANZ research is organised into 21 different projects that will include aspects of employment and economic impacts, ethnic identity in a family context, Māori perspectives, challenges and opportunities regarding diversity, and research on how people deal with aspects of diversity in everyday life. This presentation provides a broad overview of the research. Some key facts, figures and maps regarding cultural diversity will be discussed. Methodological issues regarding operationalizing the concept of diversity will also be briefly addressed. The website for the project is www.caddanz.org

DAY TWO: Friday 24 July 2015

Session One: Superdiversity

Maria Schiller (Max Planck Institute for the Study of Religious and Ethnic Diversity, Germany)

A post-multicultural era? Diversification, cities and the politics of diversity

Ongoing processes of diversification challenge policy makers and public officers to respond to a situation of super-diversity. In reaction to discourses of a shift against multiculturalism we witness a search for new policy frames and ideas. Diversity emerged as a new buzzword, but it is unclear whether the aim is to activate individual talents to make society more productive or to continue pursuing equality of ethnic and cultural minorities. Are diversity policies just continuing with the ideas and activities of previous multicultural policies under a new label?

In my presentation I discuss the changing character of policy–making on immigrant incorporation, focusing on the local level. Recent literature has emphasized the crucial role cities play in responding to the immediate pressures resulting from super-diversity, pointing out the interrelatedness of international, national and local-level policies and the importance to take into account both policy–making and policy–implementation. To date, however, we know little about the character of local–level diversity policies. I argue that diversity is not only a new name for policies of multiculturalism, but epitomizes a new character of policy–making and policy–implementation in the post–multicultural era, drawing on examples from three European countries.
Paul Spoonley (Massey University)

Superdiversity in Aotearoa: Institutional responsiveness to diversification

The rapid diversification of New Zealand in the last twenty years adds to earlier immigrant related diversification (the arrival of migrants from elsewhere in the Pacific) and explorations in diversity recognition by the state and its core institutions (bi-culturalism). This has been confirmed post the GFC by the increase in PLT arrivals and net gain, and the significant growth in key migrant and minority ethnic communities. This raises two important questions. The first is the responsiveness of key institutions to this new phase of diversification – and the degree to which they incorporate non-Maori ethnic diversity and the resulting engagement of these communities. The second is the question of what an overarching policy framework would look like as part of a best-settlement (the Treaty of Waitangi) and new era of globalisation phase.

Session Two: Commonsplace Diversity

Mal Chen (Superdiversity Centre for Law, Policy and Business, University of Auckland)

The legal and policy implications of superdiversity: Case study on democracy and electoral laws

There are numerous legal and public policy implications of superdiversity, including public sector capability and the new concept of cultural evolution. The Superdiversity Centre for Law, Policy and Business is researching the legal, policy and business implications for employment, discrimination and minority rights, transparent and anti-corrupt business culture, interface with Maori, Treaty and biculturalism, foreign direct investment and in education, health, criminal law, prisons, family and child law, adoptions, and burials. Specific research the Centre is doing with the support of the New Zealand Law Foundation shows that there is no English language requirement in our electoral laws for a person to vote or to be elected to Parliament, or to participate in local Government. There is already some accommodations for voters not understanding English in the Electoral Act, the Local Electoral Act and the Referenda (Postal Voting) Act. New Zealand has done more thinking on diversity issues with its electoral laws than other countries, but more needs to be done as superdiversity will increase issues especially in close-run elections. Some new migrants may come with no culture of voting in democratic elections and need extra guidance as to why it matters and what to do.

Angelique Praat and Robin Peace (Massey University)

Commonplace diversity. So what?

The question arises to what does ‘commonplace diversity’ offer as a description, analytical lens or political aspiration in diverse New Zealand contexts? Urban landscapes, particularly cities, have been theorised both as places of isolation and segregation and as places of possibility to connect with diverse others, or at least find a niche where difference is not demonised. Ethnographic studies in diverse neighbourhoods, such as Hackney, note how in super diverse conditions, difference becomes ‘common place’ or unremarkable as people go about their daily lives (Wessendorf, 2014). However, such studies situated within the emerging field of everyday multiculture have been criticised for overlooking the role of structural determinants of social behaviour (e.g., racism) on one hand and focusing on ‘happy’ or ‘convivial’ interactions on the other. This presentation offers some thoughts on the usefulness of ‘commonplace diversity’ for understanding and negotiating difference in New Zealand contexts.

Carina Meares and Trudie Cain (Auckland Council)

The Balmoral shops: Bridging the gap between knowing and doing

Ethnic precincts, or clusters of co-ethnic businesses, are relatively new additions to Auckland’s retail landscape and there is much we do not yet understand about them. The Ethnic Precincts in Auckland research project, focused on the Balmoral Shops and funded by the Research and Evaluation Unit (RIMU) at Auckland Council, was developed to address this gap and to inform the development of effective social and economic policy. The research builds on and extends previous scholarly work in three main ways and these are the focus of our presentation: the methods we used; the results that stem from these; and the ways in which the project is bridging the gap between what we know (research) and what we do (strategy, policy, practise). We begin with an overview of the four methods: an analysis of electronic spending data; an intercept survey (n=297); and in-depth, qualitative interviews with 30 shoppers and 31 business owners in the precinct. Cumulatively, these
methods provide a holistic understanding of the social, economic and spatial role that the precinct plays in the local community and beyond. Our focus then shifts to the contribution the research makes to two areas of knowledge: the idea of networks and the role they play for co-ethnic and other business owners; and the characteristics of the centre’s two distinct catchments. Lastly, we reflect on the context within which the research was conceptualised and developed and the innovative partnerships that have come to characterise the project, in particular the nascent alliance with the newly-established Balmoral Chinese Business Association.

**Session Three: Regional Trends and Diversity**

**Cath Taylor** (Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment)

*Immigration outcomes of international tertiary students*

The purpose of this research is to track the immigration outcomes of international students who study at a tertiary level in New Zealand. The analysis takes cohorts of international students and tracks their outcomes after they finish studying. The outcomes include whether international students gain a work or resident visa and whether they stay in New Zealand. The type of institution the students are studying at, the level of study, field of study and their nationality are all investigated in relation to these transition rates.

**Jacques Poot and Louis Wright** (University of Waikato)

*Does the power of diversity in governance apply to schools? Exploratory evidence from New Zealand*

Given the growing cultural diversity of many cities and countries around the world, considerable research effort has been devoted in recent years to measure the impact of such diversity on the performance of organisations. Specifically, researchers have been testing the paradigm of the “power of diversity”: diverse teams are expected to be more resilient and to outperform homogenous teams on average. Much of the research has focussed on the private sector and narrowly defined performance measures such as productivity and innovation. We focus instead on primary schools in New Zealand. By law, all public and integrated schools are governed by Boards of Trustees (BoTs). Using Ministry of Education data on the demography of BoTs, staff and students in 2013, we investigate by means of regression modelling the potential relationship between ethnic diversity of a BoT on school performance as measured by national standards in 2013. We also take into account the size of the school, the socio-economic decile of the school and the region the school is located in. We find that, while the ethnic diversity of primary school children and BoTs has been growing fast, there is considerable heterogeneity in schools’ experiences. Partial correlations between school size, decile, location and outcomes are relatively significant and robust, but those between BoTs ethnic diversity and outcomes are as yet inconclusive. Suggestions are given for further improvements in this line of research.

**Natalie Jackson** (Massey University)

**Lars Brabyn** (University of Waikato)

*Towards a Social Atlas for New Zealand*

New Zealand is one of few developed countries that does not have an online Social Atlas. This paper outlines our plans to develop such a resource in collaboration with Statistics New Zealand. Funded by MBIE under the auspices of the CaDDANZ project, the Social Atlas will provide an interactive platform comprising maps, graphs and tables that will eventually connect with Statistics New Zealand data releases to update automatically. Also envisaged are links to special topic and geo-coded themed reports that will be drawn from the academic community.

**Session Four: Migration and Inequality**

**Arthur Grimes** (MOTU)

**Judd Ormsby** (University of Auckland)

*Working on Wall Street or relaxing on the Riviera? Age-related impacts of income and wellbeing on regional migration*

Are the young or the old more willing to trade off income against other aspects of wellbeing? We examine this question using migration decisions to demonstrate the trade-offs that people make. Our theoretical model
suggests that younger individuals should more readily sacrifice non-pecuniary aspects of wellbeing when making migration decisions. Part of the reason for this outcome is that the young have a longer investment horizon than their older counterparts. They may also face borrowing constraints that reduce their ability to smooth consumption by drawing from their future higher wages. As a result, younger workers trade off non-pecuniary aspects of wellbeing (i.e. they end up living in a less ‘happy’ location) in order to increase their current (and possibly future) consumption. Older individuals (and especially retired individuals) then shift to where life satisfaction (subjective wellbeing) is high since the requirement to generate income is less of a constraint.

To test our hypothesis, we employ Australian HILDA unit record panel data which includes data on both income and wellbeing covering 13 years with 9000 people in the balanced panel and 37,000 in the unbalanced panel. We study these people’s movements both across and within Australia’s 13 Major Statistical Regions; the dataset includes more than 5,500 inter-regional and 4,000 intra-regional moves. Our results enable a better understanding of migration patterns, and of the importance placed by individuals on income versus subjective wellbeing over the life-cycle.

Philip S. Morrison (Victoria University of Wellington)

The loneliness of the long distance migrant

Migrants typically exhibit higher levels of loneliness than members of the host society even after controlling for contributing factors. Loneliness has been defined as ‘being alone and not liking it’, and as such can be associated with depression at the personal level and social exclusion at the social. International migrants are especially vulnerable because the distance moved is usually associated with a severing of face to face ties with friends and family in the country of origin. A change in culture, however subtle, can add further additional obstacles to making new friends. A substantial literature shows that loneliness can be viewed as an inverse measure of connectedness and as such could potentially serve as a proxy measure for the extent and depth of social networks among migrants, and possibly as a guide to their level of social capital and successful settlement into New Zealand.

I estimate discrete and ordinal models of loneliness in which migration by duration of residence is entered as a characteristic of the respondent. (Just under one quarter of 8000 respondents to the 2012 New Zealand General Social Survey were born outside New Zealand and over 60 percent had arrived since 1990 and almost 45 percent since 2000.) I find that loneliness tends to rise among migrants as time since arrival increases in spite of the fact that loneliness falls with age and that the average age of migrants increases with duration. The paper makes three contributions to the literature. Firstly, it highlights loneliness as an indicator of social connectivity and as such may be a potentially useful supplementary indicator of migrant settlement. Secondly, the paper highlights the importance not just of identifying social connections in order to account for loneliness but how their quality and frequency differ between migrants and hosts. Thirdly, I temper this last point by showing that poor health and low standards of living are by far the most important correlates of loneliness in both migrant and host populations.

David C Maré (MOTU)
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Revisiting income inequality within and between New Zealand’s regions: Analysis of 1986–2013 Census data

This study updates and extends Karagedikli et al.’s (2000) analysis of the 1981–1996 distribution of real income among New Zealand males within and between Regional Council regions using five-yearly census data. We examine changes in the real personal income distribution within each region, and also the evolution of differences between regions, showing the strength of convergence or divergence between regions. We highlight the nature of changes in the income distribution for employed people, and how this contributes to overall distributional changes. The study confirms a long-run increase in income inequality everywhere, but with modest changes since 2001. More recently, distributional patterns in Auckland and Wellington have diverged from those in other regions of New Zealand.