

Does natural increase enhance international migration?

The case of Latin America and the Caribbean, 1970-2010.

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Background and research questions

Figure 1. Sixty years of great transformations in the sign and intensity of net migration rate.

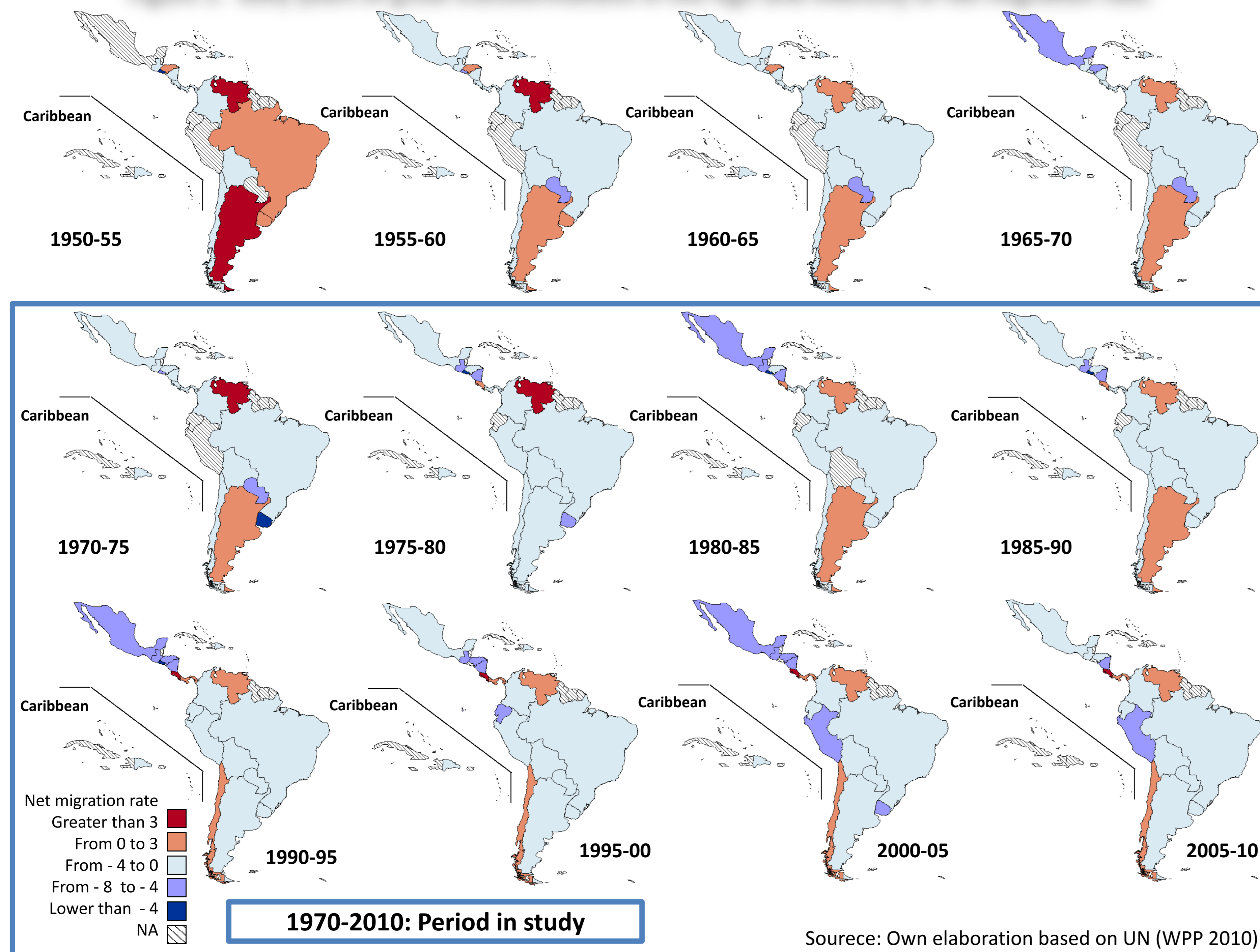
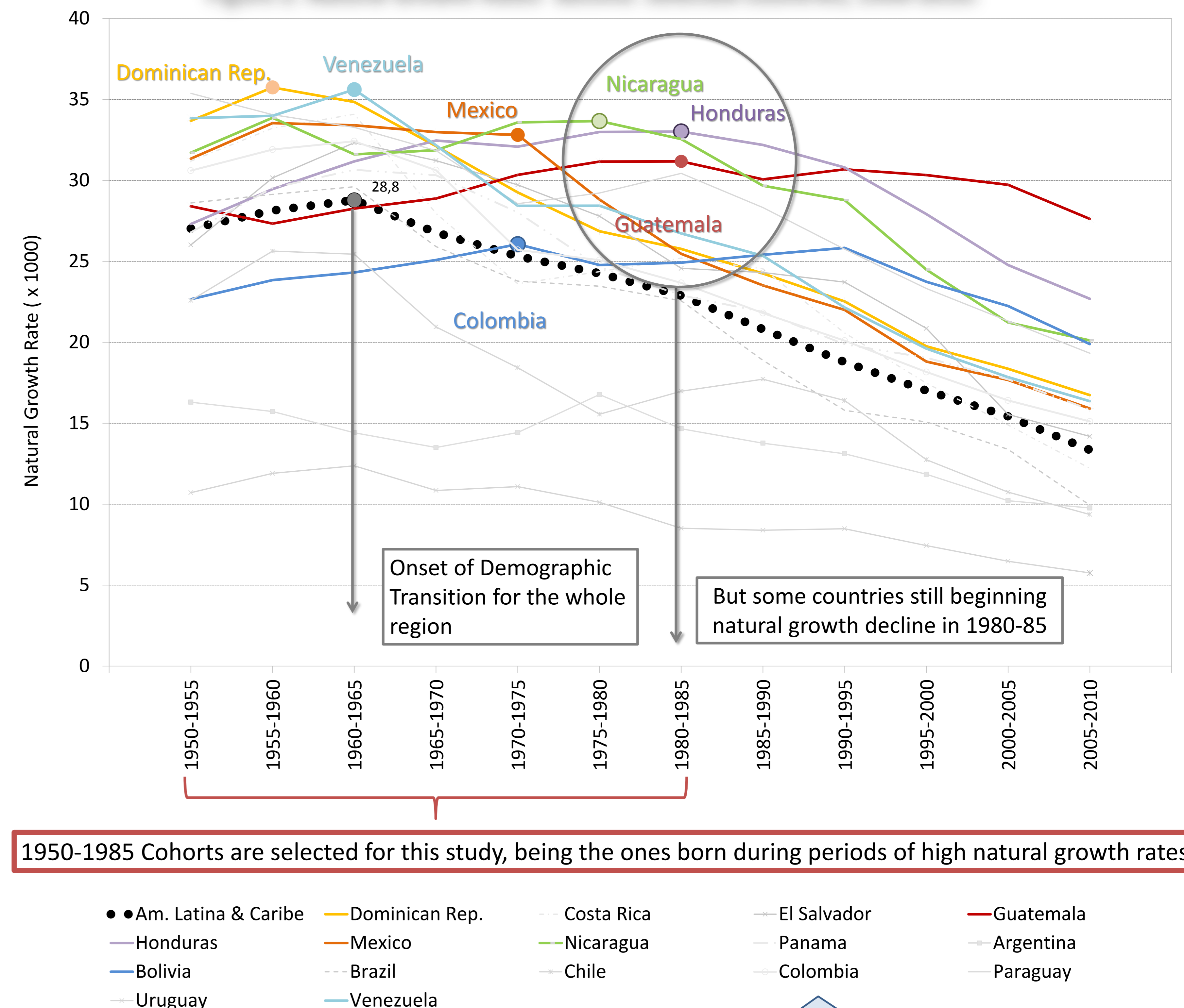
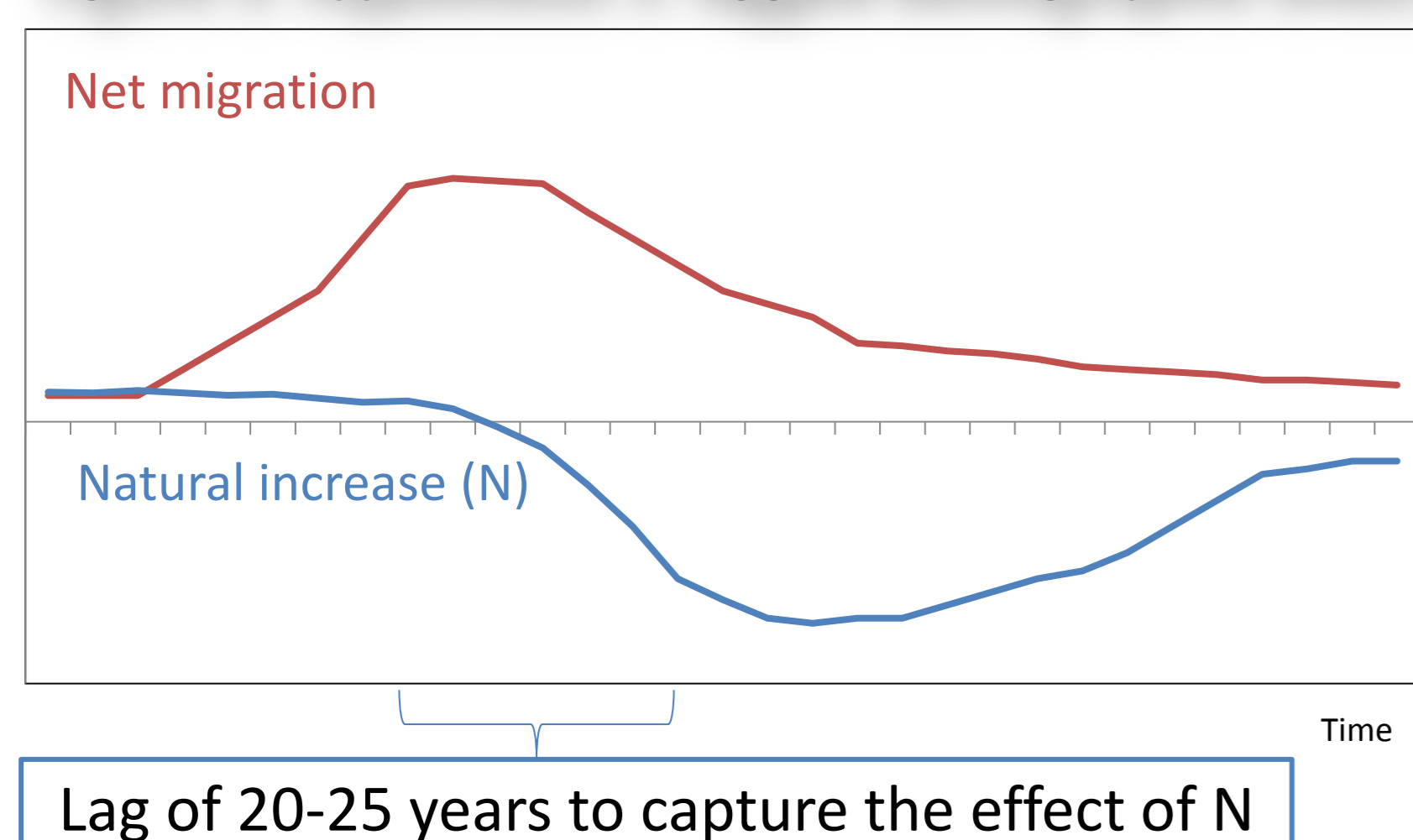


Figure 2. Natural Growth Rates' decline. Selected countries, 1950-2010.



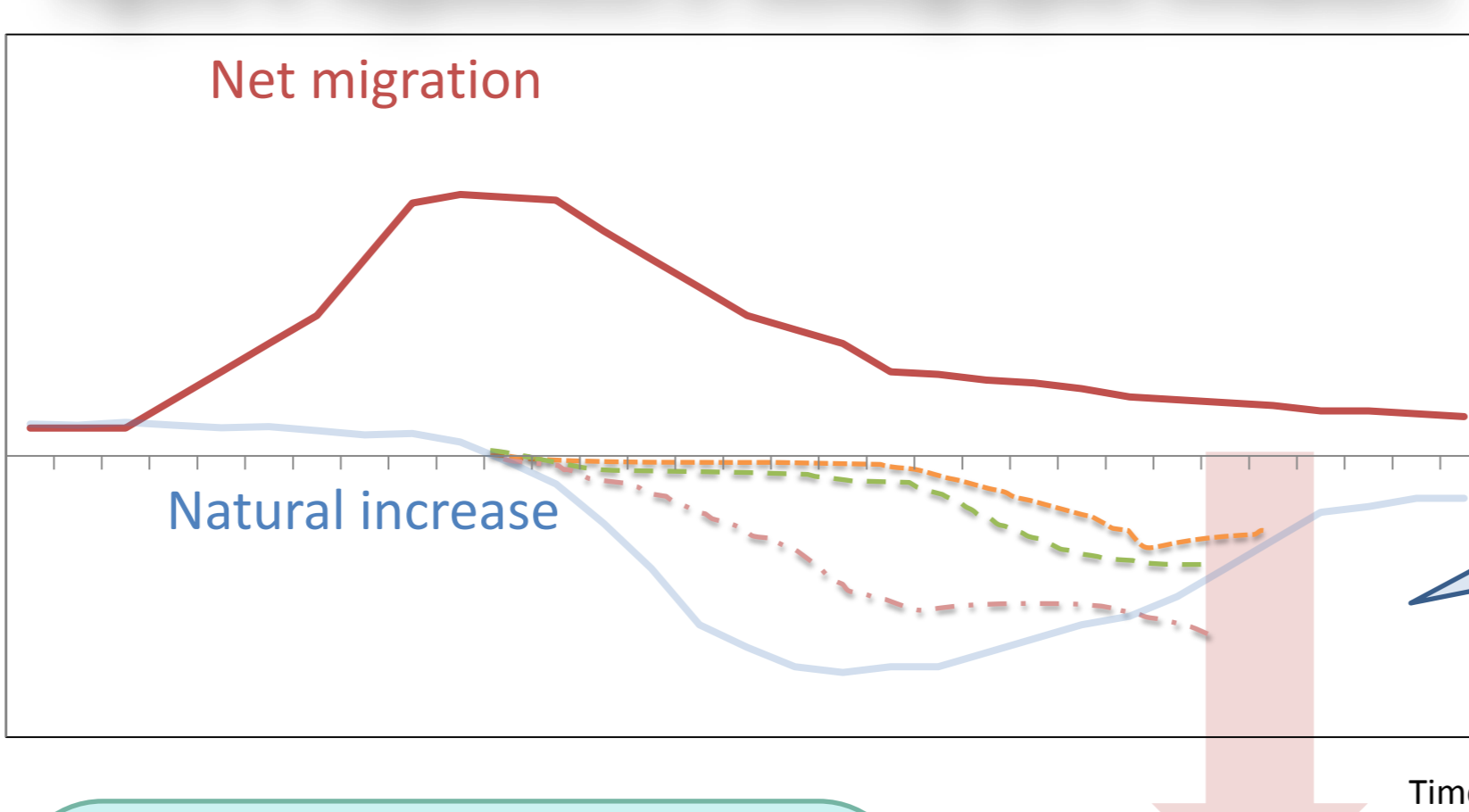
Hypotheses

Figure 3. Hypothesis 1: lagged demographic effect



Cohorts born during periods of high growth could increase the migration intensity once the said cohorts reach the typical age for migration ...

Figure 4. Hypothesis 2: Demographic inhibitors



BUT this effect is never direct and could be inhibited by other economic and social processes (Salinari & De Santis 2011; De Haas 2010).

- Urbanization
- Increase of production
- Industrialization
- (increase of arable land/food)

What are the economic and social processes that inhibited the effect of natural increase on net migration?

What was the role of the first Demographic Transition (DT) in Latin American migration of the last four decades?

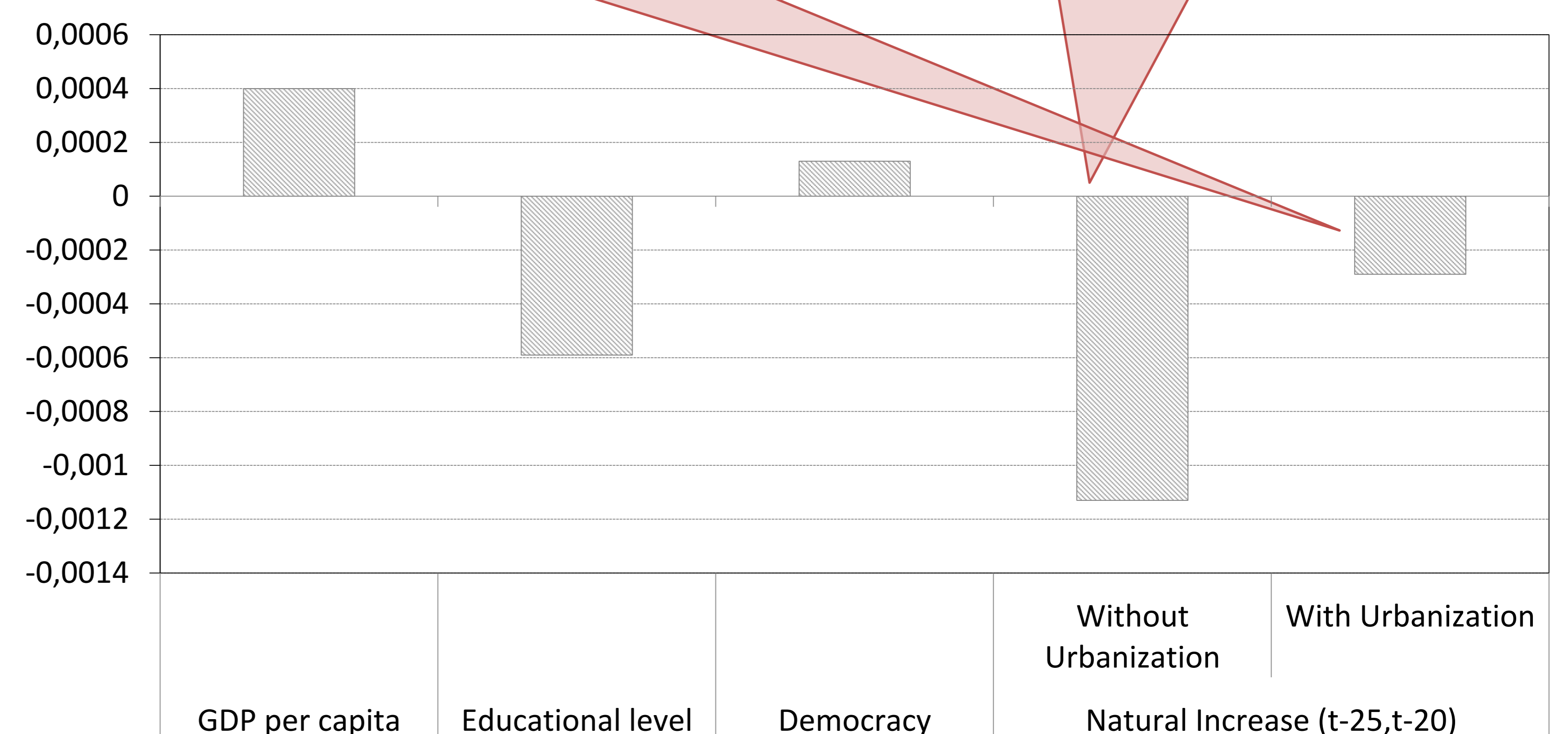
Source: Own elaboration based on UN (WPP 2010).

Highlights

Figure 6. Most significant determinants of net migration(model4).

But the intensity and speed of the Latin American urbanization has certainly inhibited the effect of demographic growth on international migration. Without it the effect would have been 4 times greater.

Natural increase from initial-intermediate stages of an accelerated DT (1960 and 1980), had a negative effect on international migration in the last decades.



Migration is mainly an economic driven phenomenon, but it is also a consequence of development, as it can be seen from the effect of educational expansion and aspiration generalization (Sen 2000).

Political instability of the 70s and the 80s, when 12 out of the 16 countries in study suffered dictatorships.

Results from multivariate macro-panel model

Figure 5. Results from Prais – Winsten regression models (PCSEs). Latin America & Caribbean, 1975-2010.

log(Net Migration Rate)	model 1	model 2	model 3	model 4
N (t-25, t-20)	-.00037*	-.00103	-.00034*	-.00113*
GDP per capita	.00032†	.00037*	.00035*	.0004*
Democracy (Freedom House Index)	.00014*	.00015*	.00012	.00013†
Average years of schooling (>15 years old)	-.00089***	-.00067*	-.0008**	-.00059*
% Urban population	.00087*	-.00048	.00077*	-.00055
r_GDP pc (growth rate)	.000046	.0001		
% GDP due to Industry	.000074	.00015		
%Urban Pop.*N (t-25, t-20)		.00087*		.00084*
%GDP_Industry*N (t-25, t-20)		-.00017		
r_GDPpc * N (t-25, t-20)		-.000056		
Cons.	-.0016377	-.000685	-.00157***	-.00067
R ²	.889	.892	.884	.884
AR(1)	.1372352	.1344651	.1510679	.1605554
N _i	16	16	16	16
N _t	7	7	7	7
N total	112	112	112	112

† p < 0.10; * p < 0.05; ** p < 0.01; *** p < 0.001

Source: Own elaboration, based on data from UN (WPP2010), Quality of Government data set (2011), Maddison Time Series (2004).

Methodological note: Estimations for macro panel with dummy variables for every country (own intercept). Panel corrected standard errors robust to heteroscedasticity were estimated and an autoregressive term of first order was introduced to deal with autocorrelation. The coefficients here presented are standardized.

Only urbanization seems as a significant inhibitor of demographic effect of migration.

References:
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