

Migration from settlement areas in England and Wales: assessing evidence for a social gradient

*Migration, Race and Population
Dynamics*

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Internal migration and ethnic differences/similarities

- Why of interest?
 - Minority 'self-segregation' and 'White flight'
 - Concerns over selective migration leading to increased spatial segregation (e.g. residential)
- What do we know about the migration behaviour of ethnic groups in the UK?
 - Differences between ethnic groups' migration patterns can largely be explained by their current socio-demographic composition (amount of migration) and urban location (distance migrated).
 - Characteristics of migrants similar for each ethnic group. Highest propensity for: 20–29 year olds, renters, highly qualified, without LLTI, students, unemployed and those with more professional occupations (Finney and Simpson 2008; Simpson *et al.* 2008, Stillwell and Hussain 2008).

Migration and social class

- Greater income relates to improved economic means to migrate
- Counterurbanisation and suburbanisation is by those who can afford to make such moves
- Therefore there is a selectivity to migration by social class

Background and rationale

- ‘Immigrant settlement areas’ (aka ‘concentrations’, ‘gateway cities’, ‘ports of entry’ (Frey 1994, 1995; Musterd and Andersson 2005; Liaw and Frey 2007)).
- In GB, we know that minorities who have origins in immigration in the second half of the 20th Century are deconcentrating to suburban and rural locales. Spatial assimilation of immigrants over time.
- But motivations in question: White flight and self-segregation?; competition in the labour market?; or ‘natural’ mobility over the life course?; industrial restructuring?

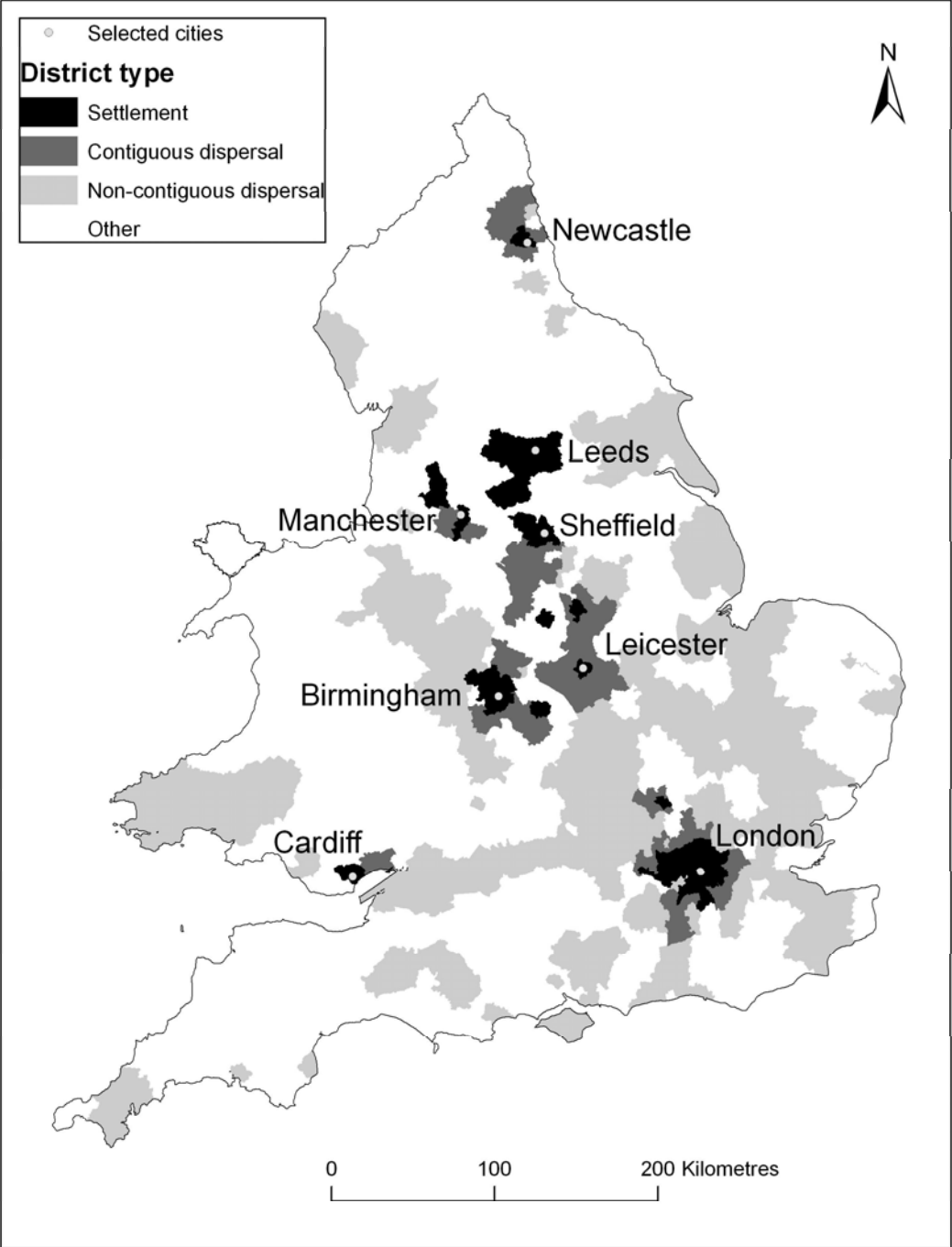
Research questions

Social gradient: ***a different probability of movement for those of professional socio-economic class than for those of intermediate or lower socio-economic class.***

1. Does a social gradient exist for the residential mobility of those who lived in settlement areas of England and Wales?
2. Is a social gradient associated with moves away from settlement areas and in particular towards other areas to which minorities have dispersed?
3. Is the social gradient, such as it exists, similar for each ethnic group?

Methods and hypotheses

- Social class proxy = National Statistics Socio-economic Classification (NSSeC)
- Area classifications: settlement, dispersal (2000-1)
- Hypotheses:
 - Those most likely to migrate from ‘immigrant settlement areas’ are those with the greatest economic resources.
 - If migration does vary by level of affluence then a social gradient may be apparent with respect to migration propensity and occupational class membership.
 - If such ‘affluent flight’ can explain ‘racial’ migration patterns, then a similar social gradient would be expected for each ethnic group, and a similar probability of migrating for people of common socio-demographic characteristics, irrespective of ethnic group.
- Logistic regression (age, gender, birthplace, NSSeC and ethnic group, and an interaction between age and sex)
 - ONS commissioned table based on area classifications



Key findings

- Clear evidence for a social gradient with respect to movement from settlement areas.
- For those who originated in settlement districts, the probability of moving was greater if in higher than lower occupational classes.
- Migrants were more likely to move *outside* their own (settlement) district, and to a non-settlement district, if in professional forms of employment.
- Where it exists, this social gradient is the case for all ethnic groups.

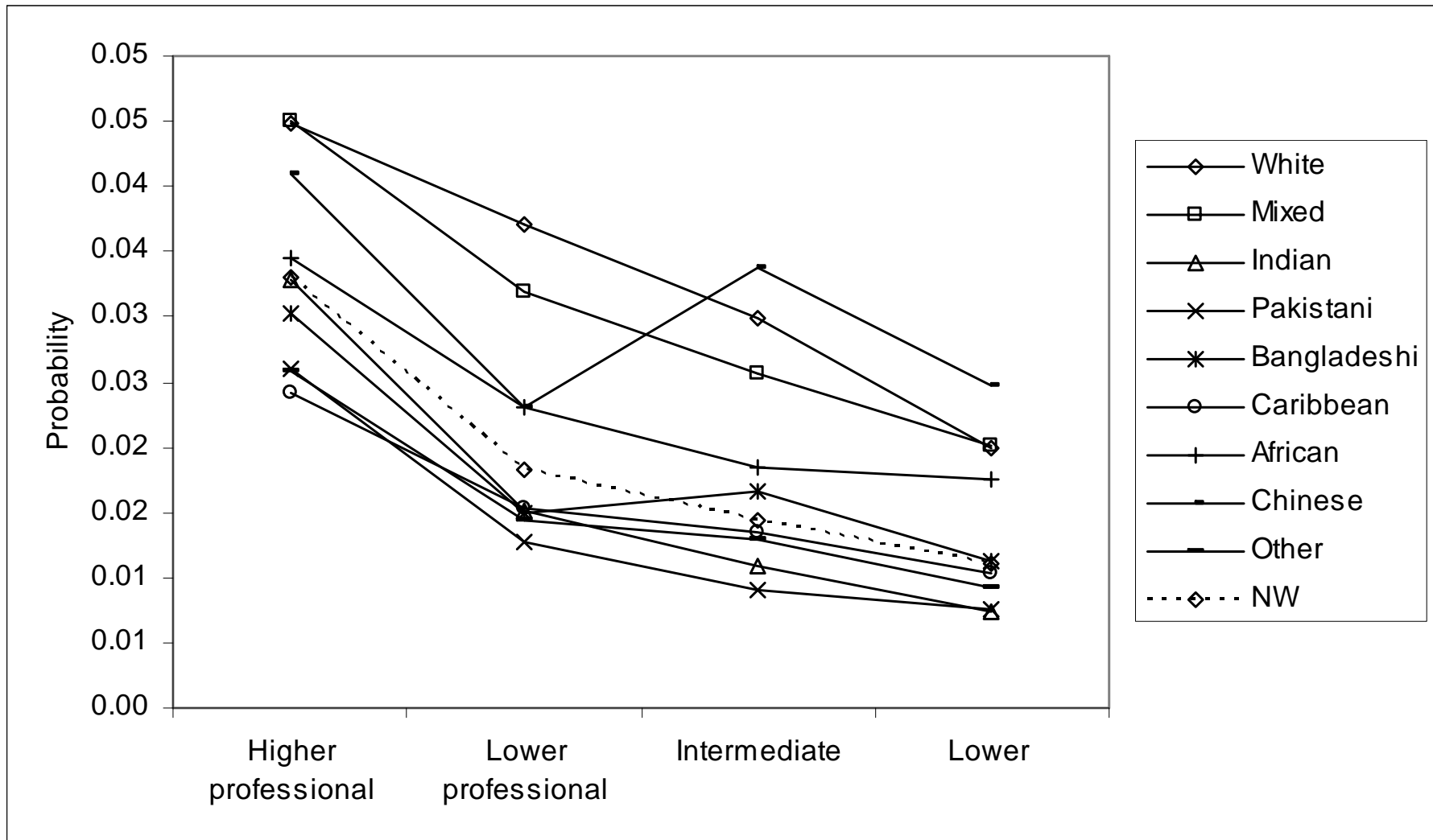
1: Move vs no move

2: Move outside own district vs move within own district

3: **Move to non-settlement district** vs move to another settlement district

4: Move beyond a contiguous dispersal district vs move to a contiguous dispersal district

Model	White	Mixed	Indian	Pakistani	Bangladeshi	Caribbean	African	Chinese	Other	Non-White
1	41.13	27.87	52.31	26.28	14.74	22.85	14.41	23.84	19.77	32.47
2	26.86	27.88	31.04	53.73	39.04	25.91	15.54	3.60	19.69	29.70
3	-18.52	-5.37	8.04	-3.59	-9.41	0.02	15.87	-19.83	17.48	4.94
1*2*3	48.91	50.65	89.60	79.19	47.46	49.30	46.30	9.04	57.80	67.42
4	1.87	6.06	7.03	-11.02	-1.96	3.96	7.95	6.95	-2.15	2.41



Graphed probabilities for Model 1*2*3: Move to non-settlement district.

Key findings (cont.)

- England and Wales as a whole: social gradient consistent for most ethnic groups – so little evidence for distinct migration behaviour for different groups.
- London was shown to have a distinct pattern of migration.
- Evidence of a reverse social gradient when London was modelled separately.
- Less affluent Whites in a settlement district in London were more likely to move to a non-settlement district than were Whites in higher NSSeC classes.

Conclusions and policy implications

- The movement from minority concentrations is of minorities, not only of the White population.
- To a significant extent, each ethnic group's internal migration in the UK can be explained by counter-urbanising and suburbanising patterns.
- Most of the reasons for movement of the White population also apply to minorities, who are also moving out of their own concentrations. Thus 'White flight' is an inappropriate term in all these areas (and many others).
- The movement is socially differentiated: aspirational moves may be further than moves motivated by lack of local housing. This is so for both Whites and minorities.

- *Migration, Race and Population Dynamics* project:

<http://www.ccsr.ac.uk/research/mrpd/>

- Working paper on social gradient research:

<http://www.ccsr.ac.uk/publications/working/2009-02.pdf>