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# Diverging trends in educational & labour market outcomes of young Australian migrants with different origins?

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# 1<sup>st</sup> question: Origin

Educational & labour market outcomes of cohorts of male & female young migrants in Australia who come from different countries of origin, comparing them with outcomes of young native Australians.

## **2<sup>nd</sup> question: Trend**

changes in educational & labour market outcomes across cohorts of 1st- & 2nd-generation migrants and/or across origins.

**Hypothesis 1A:** Migrant gradient on educational and labour market performance of young people vary with country of origin in a way broadly similar to what is observed in other OECD countries. Specifically, young people with the origin in Asian countries will outperform young people of European background, and these will outperform young people of Middle Eastern background



**Hypothesis 1B.** Female migrants do better than male migrants, both in education and labour market, irrespectively of their origin countries and their gender roles and rules.

**Hypothesis 2A:** Migrant gradient on educational and labour market performance has increased across cohorts of 1<sup>st</sup> & 2nd generation.

**Hypothesis 2B:** Gradients of specific origin countries have diverged across cohorts.

**Hypothesis 2C.** Gap in education performance between female migrants & male migrants have increased in the younger cohorts (more than natives).



- **Data:** Longitudinal Surveys of Australian Youth (LSAY)
- Survey participants (cohort) enter study when they turn 15 years & contacted once a year for 10 years.
- First survey; 1995, 1998, 2003, 2006, 2009

**Gross results of origin for school performance (math, reading, completed high school, university):** migrants from New Zealand, South Europe, Western Asia & Northern Africa, & Oceania worse than native students, while migrants from North America, Eastern and Western Europe, Eastern and South-Eastern Asia and Africa better as natives





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	Maths top quartile	Reading top quartile	Completed high school	Attending university
Africa	-0.21 <sup>*</sup>	-0.12	0.58 <sup>*</sup>	0.22
UK & IRL	-0.21 <sup>***</sup>	-0.22 <sup>***</sup>	-0.03	0.10
Latin America & Caribb	-0.22	-0.06	1.22 <sup>*</sup>	0.20
NZ	-0.22 <sup>**</sup>	-0.26 <sup>***</sup>	0.04	-0.06
South Europe	-0.41 <sup>***</sup>	-0.41 <sup>***</sup>	0.43 <sup>**</sup>	0.40 <sup>***</sup>
Oceania	-0.41 <sup>***</sup>	-0.51 <sup>***</sup>	1.71 <sup>***</sup>	0.46 <sup>*</sup>
W Asia & N Africa	-0.52 <sup>***</sup>	-0.59 <sup>***</sup>	1.21 <sup>***</sup>	0.86 <sup>***</sup>
Australia	Ref.	Ref.	Ref.	Ref.
North America	0.03	0.03	0.35	0.56 <sup>**</sup>
West Europe	0.08	-0.02	0.23	0.28 <sup>*</sup>
East Europe	0.10	0.12	0.57	0.40 <sup>*</sup>
Central & Southern Asia	0.16 <sup>*</sup>	-0.03	1.17 <sup>***</sup>	1.27 <sup>***</sup>
SE Asia	0.29 <sup>***</sup>	0.10	1.11 <sup>***</sup>	1.28 <sup>***</sup>
Eastern Asia	0.87 <sup>***</sup>	0.52 <sup>***</sup>	1.65 <sup>***</sup>	2.25 <sup>***</sup>

Controlled for migration generation, sex, parent mixed origin, parental occupational status, parental education, regional distribution, language spoken at home, indigenous status

## **Explanations origin differences in educational performance:**

- visa selection does not apply to all origins in same degree: Asian↑; NZ↓, no visa; ↓ UK less stringent admission; Africa & Middle East↓, refugee.
- cultural differences in learning & completion.
- quality differences of schools & universities?

## **Gross results of origin for labor market outcomes (unemployed; full-time; income; professional)**

- All migrants less likely in FT employment age of 20.
- Some origins more unemployed: Oceania, W Asia & N Africa, SE & East Asia.
- High income: East Asia, NZ
- Prof. job: East Asia, Central & S Asia

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	Unemployed	In FT employment	Bottom income quartile	Top income quartile	Manag/Prof occup
Africa	0.07	-0.20	-0.49	0.36	0.09
Australia	Ref.	Ref.	Ref.	Ref.	Ref.
Central & Southern Asia	0.44 <sup>**</sup>	-0.65 <sup>**</sup>	0.37	0.28	-0.01
East Europe	0.30	-0.67 <sup>*</sup>	-0.52	0.35	0.42
Eastern Asia	0.51 <sup>**</sup>	-0.78 <sup>**</sup>	-0.52	0.27	0.58 <sup>*</sup>
Latin America & Caribb	0.52	-0.93 <sup>**</sup>	0.53	0.33	-0.71
North America	0.15	-0.75 <sup>**</sup>	0.01	-0.08	-0.04
NZ	0.46 <sup>**</sup>	-0.34 <sup>*</sup>	-0.19	0.47	0.08
Oceania	0.71 <sup>**</sup>	-0.61 <sup>*</sup>	-0.52	-0.45	-0.50
SE Asia	0.58 <sup>***</sup>	-0.78 <sup>***</sup>	-0.18	0.19	0.08
South Europe	0.22	-0.31 <sup>*</sup>	-0.16	0.14	0.15
UK & IRL	0.32 <sup>**</sup>	-0.32 <sup>**</sup>	-0.27	-0.22	-0.18
W Asia & N Africa	0.57 <sup>***</sup>	-0.44 <sup>*</sup>	-0.28	0.21	0.39
West Europe	0.16	-0.40 <sup>*</sup>	0.02	0.10	-0.22

Controlled for migration educational level, generation, sex, parent mixed origin, parental occupational status, parental education, regional distribution, language spoken at home, indigenous status

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- Unemployment higher in many origins groups: Oceania, W Asia & N Africa, SE & East Asia
- All migrants less likely in FT employment age of 20
- No income & prof. jobs differences between origins anymore.
- Explanation FT: migrants more higher education & less working than natives.
- Unemployment (spell): unpaid family business?



**Hypothesis 1A accepted:** Migrant gradient on educational performance of young people vary with country of origin in a way broadly similar to what is observed in other OECD countries.  
BUT: Unemployment & FT employment origins differences deviate from origin differences in educational performance, especially Asian

## **Systematic change over time & generation:**

Only early educational performance improved for 2nd generation migrants across cohorts.

### **Possible explanation?**

More selective migration policies affecting more recent cohorts.

BUT: why not 1st generation; why only early education, not labor market? Rejection hypothesis 2a.

## **Systematic change over time & origin**

- Educational performance & achievement: only Central & South Asia (+)
- Labor market: no trend

–Rejection hypothesis 2b. Stable origin effects

–Rejection visa selection explanation origin differences



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	Maths top quartile	Reading top quartile	Completed high school	Attending university
Female* Migrant	-0.22**	-0.26***	-0.25	-0.23
Trend	0.06***	0.08***	0.12***	0.04
Female* Migrant *	0.06***	0.06***	-0.02	0.05
Trend				
Female	-0.34***	0.47***	0.73***	0.67***

- Female migrants lower early performance than males
- Female migrants performance improves in younger cohorts, more than males (native & migrants)

No female improvement for  
labor market outcomes in  
younger cohorts

Hypothesis 2C accepted

## **2 general conclusions:**

- Origin is important characteristic of migrants, which can not easily be explained by other factors & which is stable over time.
- Only female early educational performance improves in younger cohorts. Others stable over time.