

***Growing up in motion: migration and Transition to Adulthood
among female immigrants in Spain.***

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Short Abstract

Transition to Adulthood (TA) defines youth as a stage in which youngsters acquire several adult roles. For those aged to experience these changes migration represents an occasion to switch the scenery of these transitions increasing opportunities to achieve their goals.

Both phenomena have a similar age-specific distribution in the range of 20 to 35 years old, which leads us to talk about an age-congruity between both. Which are the events that have already happened by the time of migration? How do the TA events predict the age at migration? How does age at migration predicts the age of other TA events? It is possible to observe among migrants the same trend of postponement and enlargement of TA duration that has been registered for non migrants? Using data from the Family, Fertility and Values Survey carried in Spain in 2006 we will describe the mainstream sequence of events defined by first cohabitation in a union, first job, completion of schooling, entry into parenthood, leaving parental home and migration.

The population group of concern is the women that immigrate into Spain between the ages of 20-30 years. Comparisons may be stated considering them against Spanish females of the same cohort that did not migrate. Special attention would be paid to the events of TA that took place before and after migration, computing the time distance among them for those that have completed TA. Other descriptive measures of incidence and spread in time of TA will also be considered.

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Distances between sequences would be computed using Optimal Matching Analysis to continue the analysis with cluster method for classification of different life courses. In addition, to model the age at each event of TA considering some individual characteristics as covariates (region of origin, age at migration, cohort) we will perform Cox Proportional Hazard Models.

Extended Abstract

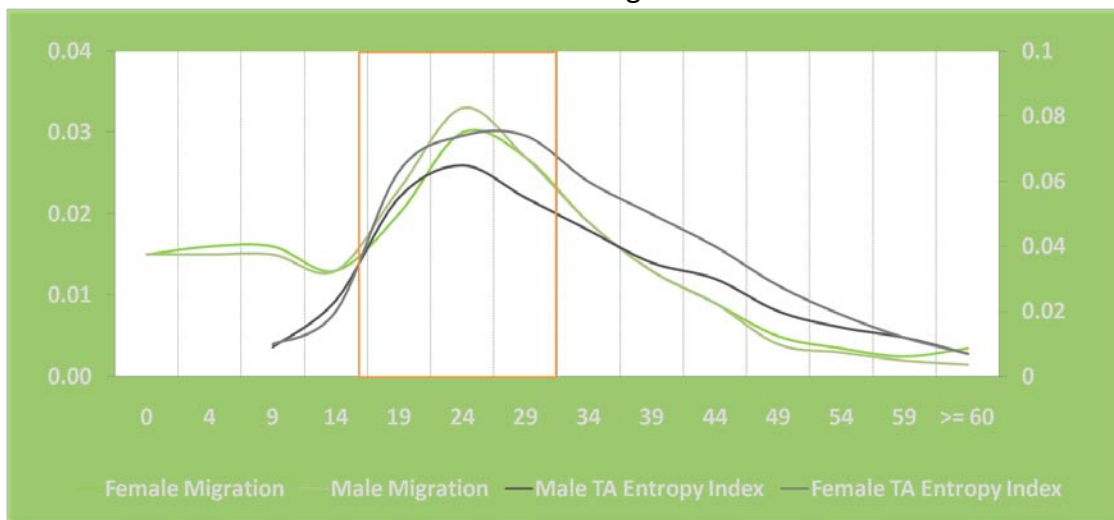
It has long been observed that people are more likely to migrate inside a country or abroad during youth (Thomas 1930s; In: Lee 1966). In most of the cases because they face a lower cost of migration considering that young people are mainly single, without long term proper jobs and they do not live in their own household. Recently Mc Kenzie (2009) stated that young people aged 12–24 account for 1/3 of the flow and 1/4 of the stock of international migrants to developing and developed countries in 2000.

Transition to adulthood (TA) like migration defines a dynamic life stage, among the 15 – 30/34 years old, in which youngsters experienced a set of transitions related to the acquisition of various adult roles, including the transition from school to work, transitions to financial and independence, residential independence, partnership and parenthood (Furstenberg et al 1976; Fussel 2006; Corijn & klijzing 2001).

For those aged to experience these changes migration represents an occasion to switch the scenery of these transitions increasing opportunities to achieve their goals (Furstenberg, Rumbaut & Settersen 2005).

To summarize a review of research results of studies on TA of migrants and non-migrants (“stayers”) carried out in different countries we present the following graph showing the age pattern of international migration through age-specific migration rates and a summarize measure of TA (Entropy Index).

Figure 1. General Age Pattern of the Transition to Adulthood in “Stayers” and of International Migration.



Source: Non real data. Based on a review of results published in recent researches on TA and International Migration Age Pattern. Furstenberg 2005; Fussel 2006; Vieira 2008; Mc Kenzie 2009.

Both phenomena, migration and TA, have a similar age-specific distribution in the range of 15 to 30 years old, which leads us to talk about an *age-congruity* between both.

Those young migrants that change the scenery of their TA can differ from those that did not in the pace and time of their TA or in the sequence in which they experience the events that includes the TA.

Research questions

Which are the events that have already happened by the time of migration? How do the TA events predict the age at migration? How does age at migration predicts the age of other TA events? It is possible to observe among migrants the same trend of postponement and enlargement of TA duration that has been registered for non migrants?

Data and Methods

Using data from the Family, Fertility and Values Survey carried in Spain in 2006 we will describe the mainstream sequence of events defined by first cohabitation in a union, first job, completion of schooling, entry into parenthood, leaving parental home and migration. The population group of concern is the women that immigrate into Spain between the ages of 20-30 years (a sample of 490 females). Comparisons may be stated considering them against Spanish females of the same cohort that did not migrate (around 9000 female sample).

Special attention would be paid to the events of TA that took place before and after migration, computing the time distance among them for those that have completed TA. Other descriptive measures of incidence and spread in time of TA will also be considered.

Distances between sequences would be computed using Optimal Matching Analysis to continue the analysis with cluster method for classification of different life courses (Billari 2001; Billari & Piccarreta 2005). In addition, to model the age at each event of TA considering some individual characteristics as covariates (region of origin, age at migration, cohort) we will perform Cox Proportional Hazard Models.

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