Retirement Transition Migration: Implications for Rural Development

Aileen Stockdale, Lorna Philip & Marsaili MacLeod

a.stockdale@qub.ac.uk

Anglo-American-Canadian Quadriennial Rural Geography Conference: Brandon University, Canada (July 2011)
Outline

To what extent does RT in-migration represent an asset to rural destination areas?

• Life course migration and retirement transition
• Economic & Social Impacts
• Data
• Migrant characteristics & motivations
• Findings
  
  \textit{Impact 1}: entrepreneurial activity & job creation
  \textit{Impact 2}: local expenditure
  \textit{Impact 3}: social impacts - volunteering

• Conclusion
Life Course Migration

- Relationship between migration & age
- Migrant life course stage
- Mid-life as a new stage in migration (Wulffe et al., 2010)

“.. The family life-cycle perspective on adulthood as a staged progression through an orderly sequence of life events has given way to a life course perspective that emphasises the variability of timing and sequencing of life events ..... “

(Geist & McManus, 2008: 283).
Retirement Transition

- *Retirement transition* concept – expectation of retirement acts as a catalyst for change
- Bridging jobs (Green, 2006; Marshall et al., 2001; Yeandle, 2005)
- Business start-ups (Loretto & White, 2006)
- Middle-aged in-migrants (Oughton et al., 2003)
- 0.5 jobs per migrant (Serow, 2003)
- 1.9-2.4 jobs (Bosworth, 2008; 2010)
- Retiree attraction programmes
Social Impacts

- High rates of participation & volunteering

“they [over 50s] are active in volunteering, as members of civic organisations, in giving assistance to others, ... and stay active in these activities during a long period in late adulthood”.

(Fortuijn et al., 2006: 363)

“Older people are important generators of social capital and play critical roles in maintaining strong communities”.

(Warburton & McLaughlin, 2005: 726)
Mid-life (50-64 yrs) Migration

- Migration in peripheral & remote rural areas
- Above average national rates of in-migration by 50 and over age cohorts (Census)
- Household surveys (650) & interviews (33 + 12)
- Mid-life = 141 households
Characteristics & Motivations (n=141)

- Empty-nesters
- 60% retired (early retirement)
- 2/3 urban-rural (Radnor differences!)
- 46% actual/ impending retirement
- 27% quality of life
- Interviews: fulfil residential or quality of life aspirations
- 1/4 had relatives in area
Impact 1: new businesses & job creation

- 60% retired
- 13% self-employed (v 26% younger cohort)
- 18% in-migrants owned a business (v 31% others)
- 51 businesses (v 93 by others)
- Only 12 owned by mid-life (supposed retirement transition) migrants!
- Agric; accom & food; arts & crafts
- Only 19 jobs created (1.58 per business v 3.78 others)
‘[I]n the first number of years that I came to live here I operated just a small human resource consultancy business but that was just me. And I can think of two other people that have come to live here that are working on their own from home. But not employing anybody…’.

‘So we’ve got our cousin - the chef and one of the commi chefs is another cousin. One of the barmen is our cousin who lives up the road there and the rest are just local people’.
## Impact 2: Local Expenditure

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>All households</th>
<th>In-migrant households</th>
<th>Retirement transition in-migrant households</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Main food shop</td>
<td>50%</td>
<td>43%</td>
<td>49%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Milk</td>
<td>74%</td>
<td>70%</td>
<td>74%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Petrol/ diesel</td>
<td>50%</td>
<td>44%</td>
<td>43%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Post Office</td>
<td>51%</td>
<td>45%</td>
<td>41%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Impact 3: Social Impacts

- Volunteering: 25% in-mig V 16% others
- 28% mid-life/retirement transition
- High in Glens (57%), Bute (38%)
- 1/3 positions of responsibility

- Social/ fundraising
- Community/ parish council
- Special interest
- Local charity/ voluntary group
‘the majority [of volunteers] are older people themselves. I would say fairly newly retired people .... I would say that most are in that fifty to seventy-ish bracket.’

(Radnorshire voluntary organisation)

‘If I’m answering your question honestly, it probably is a predominance of older, maybe nearly retired people or people who have retired early. From fifty up [who volunteer for us]’.

(Glens of Antrim voluntary organisation)
Conclusion

- Mid-life rural in-migration
- Limited *retirement transition*
- Instead early retirement dominates
- Limited new businesses/ job creation
- Patronage of local shops - no differences
- Social impacts (*& Big Society*)
- Long-term impacts
  - ageing in place
  - absence of family support
  - implications for delivery of services
Retirement Transition Migration: Implications for Rural Development

Aileen Stockdale, Lorna Philip & Marsaili MacLeod

a.stockdale@qub.ac.uk

Anglo-American-Canadian Quadriennial Rural Geography Conference:
Brandon University, Canada (July 2011)