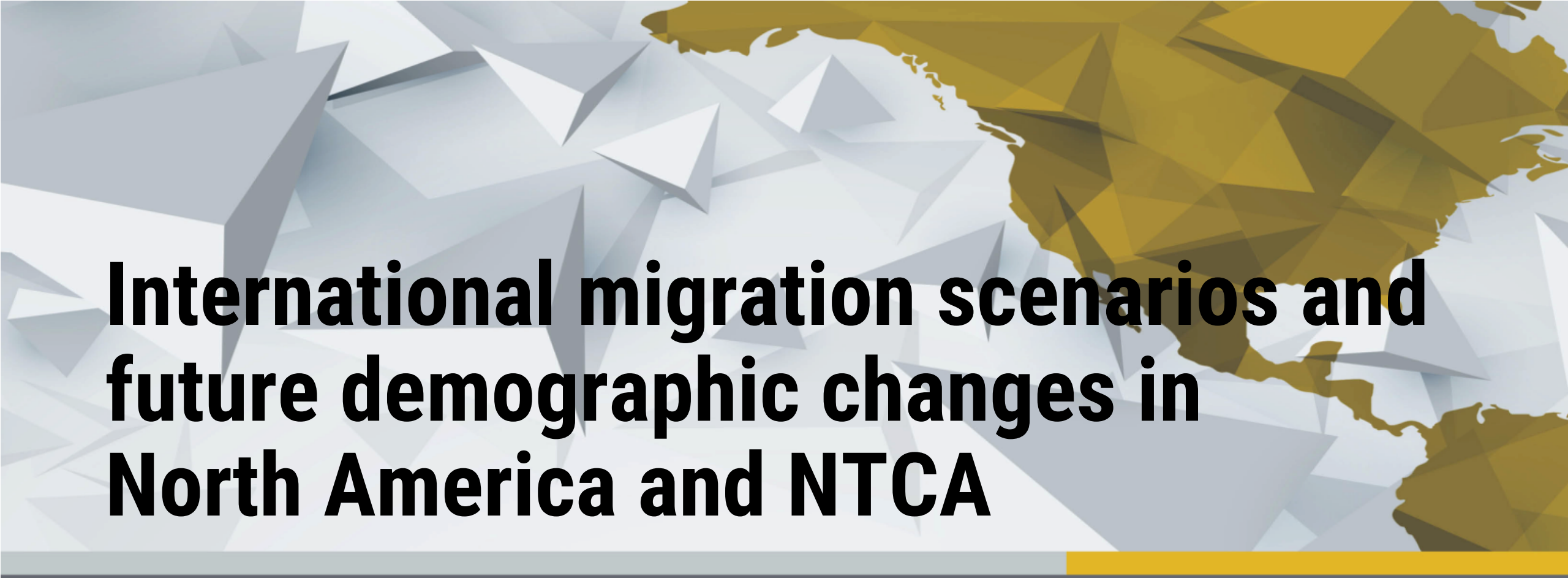

International migration scenarios and future demographic changes in North America and NTCA

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A MIGRATION SYSTEM IN THE MAKING

Demographic dynamics and migration policy in North America and the Northern Triangle of Central America

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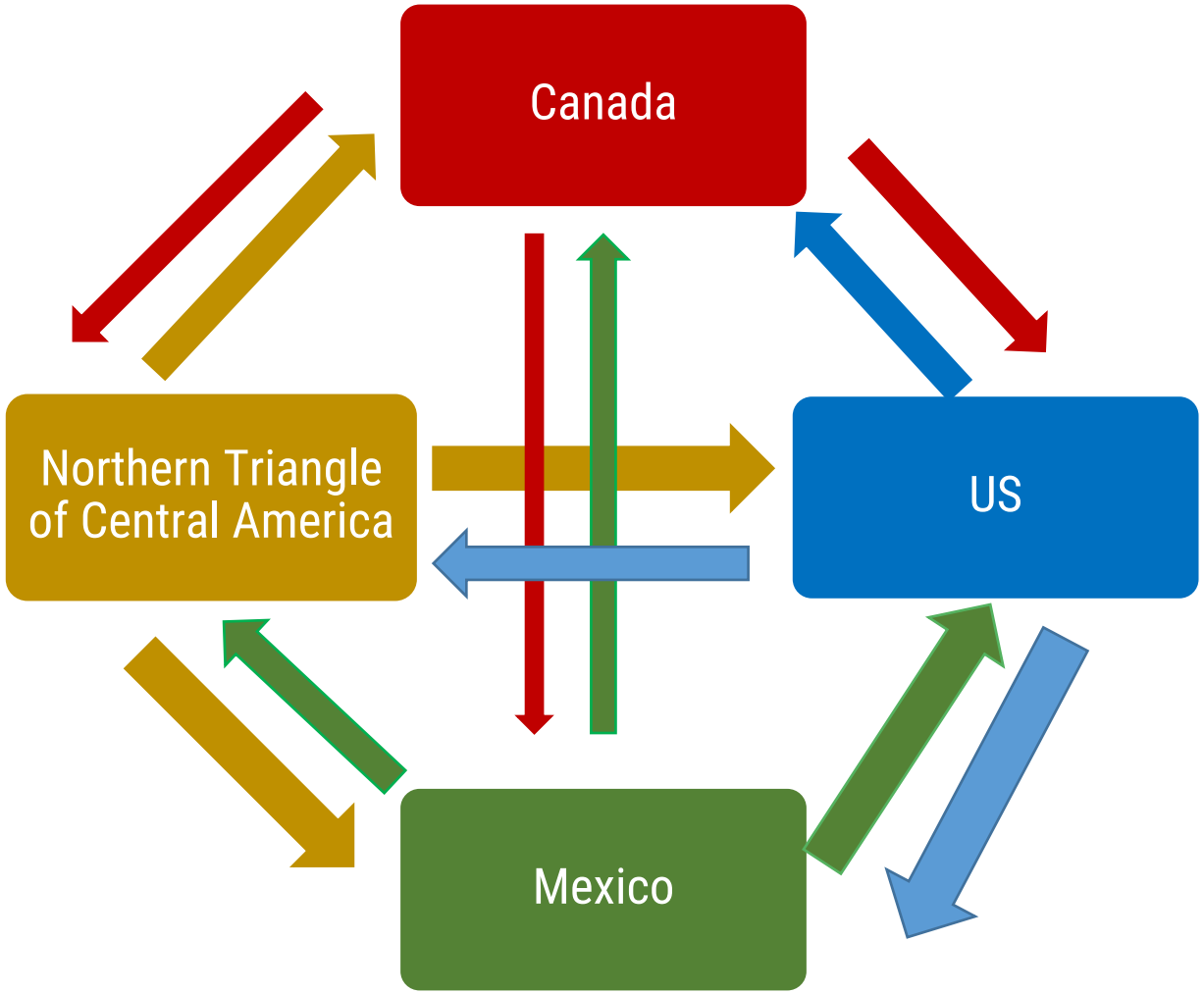
A migration system in the making?



The demographic effects of international migration in North America and the NTCA

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International migration

- Affects population size, distribution and composition
- Impact on demographic dynamics to address the problems caused by population aging
  - Well studied since the 1990s for developed countries: Europe, and traditional immigration countries (US and Canada)

Bongaarts, 2004; Canales, 2015; Coleman, 2008; Lesthaeghe, Page, & Surkyn, 1991; Passel & Cohh, 2017; Philipov & Schuster, 2010; Plane, 1993)

- Does not offset population aging, but sustains population growth and changes age structure

(Beaujot, 2002, 2003; Coleman, 2002, 2008; Lutz & Scherbov, 2002; Paterno, 2011; United Nations, 2000; Zaiceva & Zimmermann, 2016)

- Immigration policy encourages or discourages migration flows
  - Canada explicitly acknowledged potential demographic effects since the late 1980s setting target of annual newcomers equivalent to 1% of the population

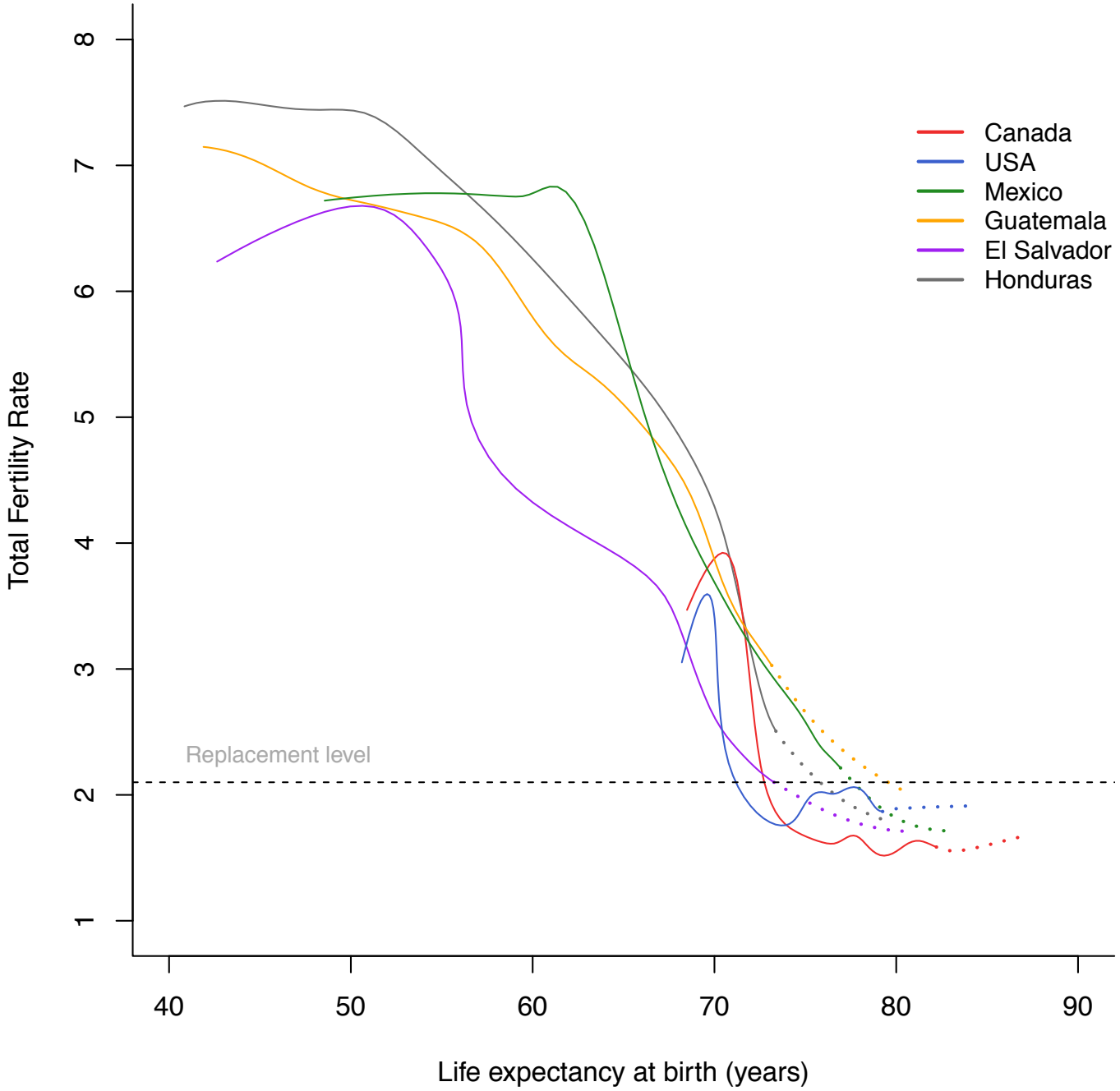
Data, Measures, and Methods

- UN World Population Prospects - 2017 revision
- Two prospective scenarios – with and without migration – by comparing the medium- and zero-migration variant from UN population projections
  - Projections assume medium variant of fertility and mortality

- Evolution of indicators and effect of migration
  - Life expectancy at birth (number of years that a newborn expect to live if the mortality conditions of her or his year of birth remains along her or his life)
  - Total fertility rate (average number of children that a woman will have if fertility conditions of certain calendar year remains along the resto of her reproductive period)
  - Ageing index (number of persons over 60 years old per hundred persons under 15 years old)
  - Total dependency ratio (number of dependent persons (<15 & >65) per hundred persons in labor ages (usually between 15 and 65))
  - Potential support ratio (number of persons aged 15-64 per hundred persons over 65 years old)

Demographic indicators are converging

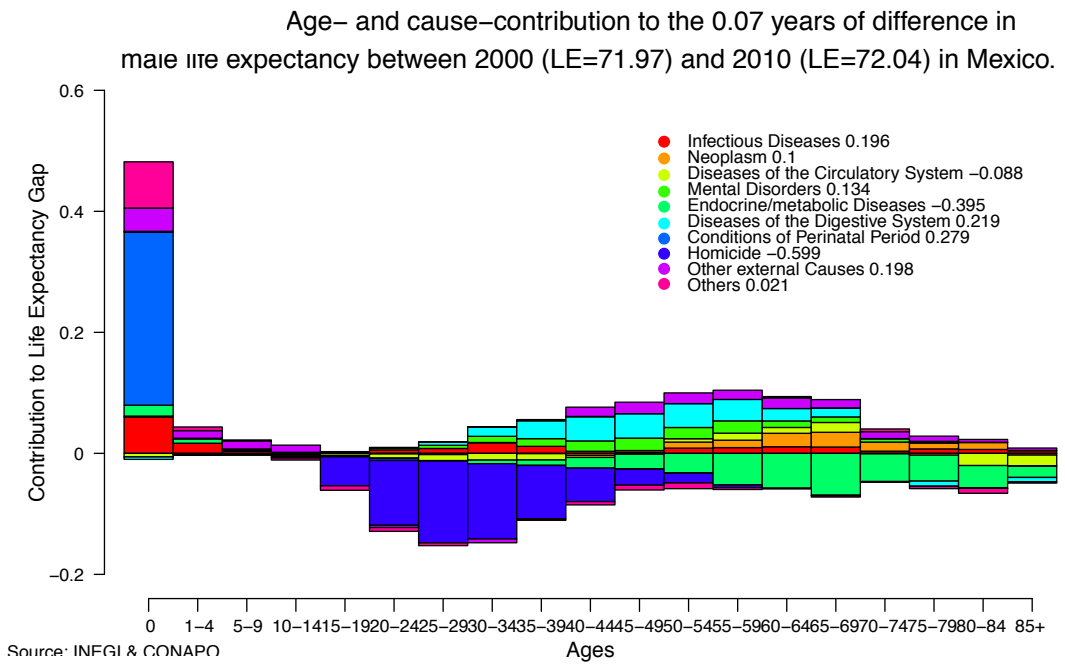
- Generalized aging process is expected, but at different speeds
- Different starting points in 1950 and time when replacement level threshold was crossed
  - 1972: United States and Canada
  - 2016: El Salvador
  - 2018: Mexico
  - 2029: Honduras
  - 2045: Guatemala



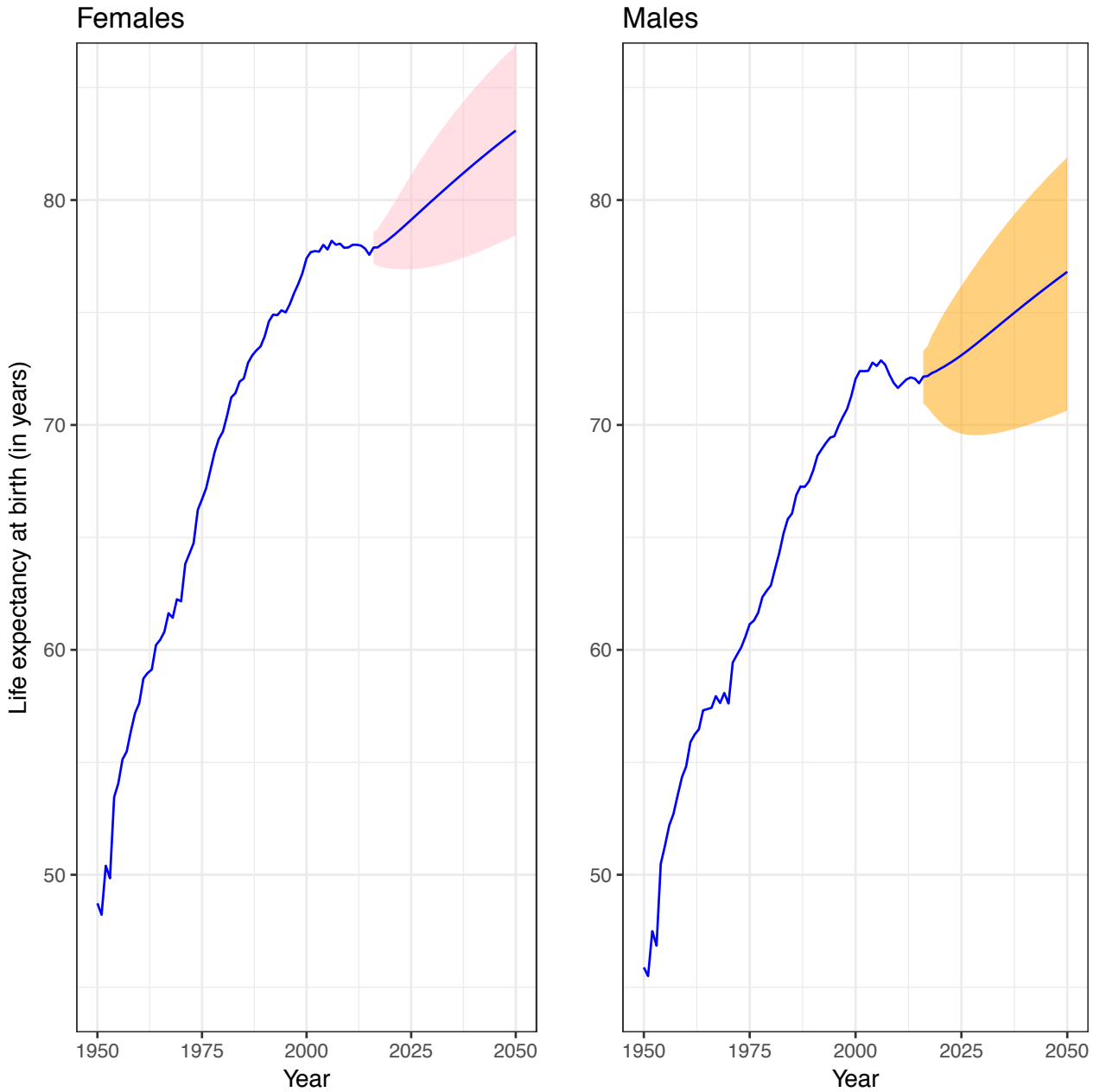
Source: UN, World Population Prospects, 2017 revision

Emerging Challenges

- High mortality in age-group 15-55 mainly due to homicides and diabetes.
- It would speed the aging process in Mexico and NTCA

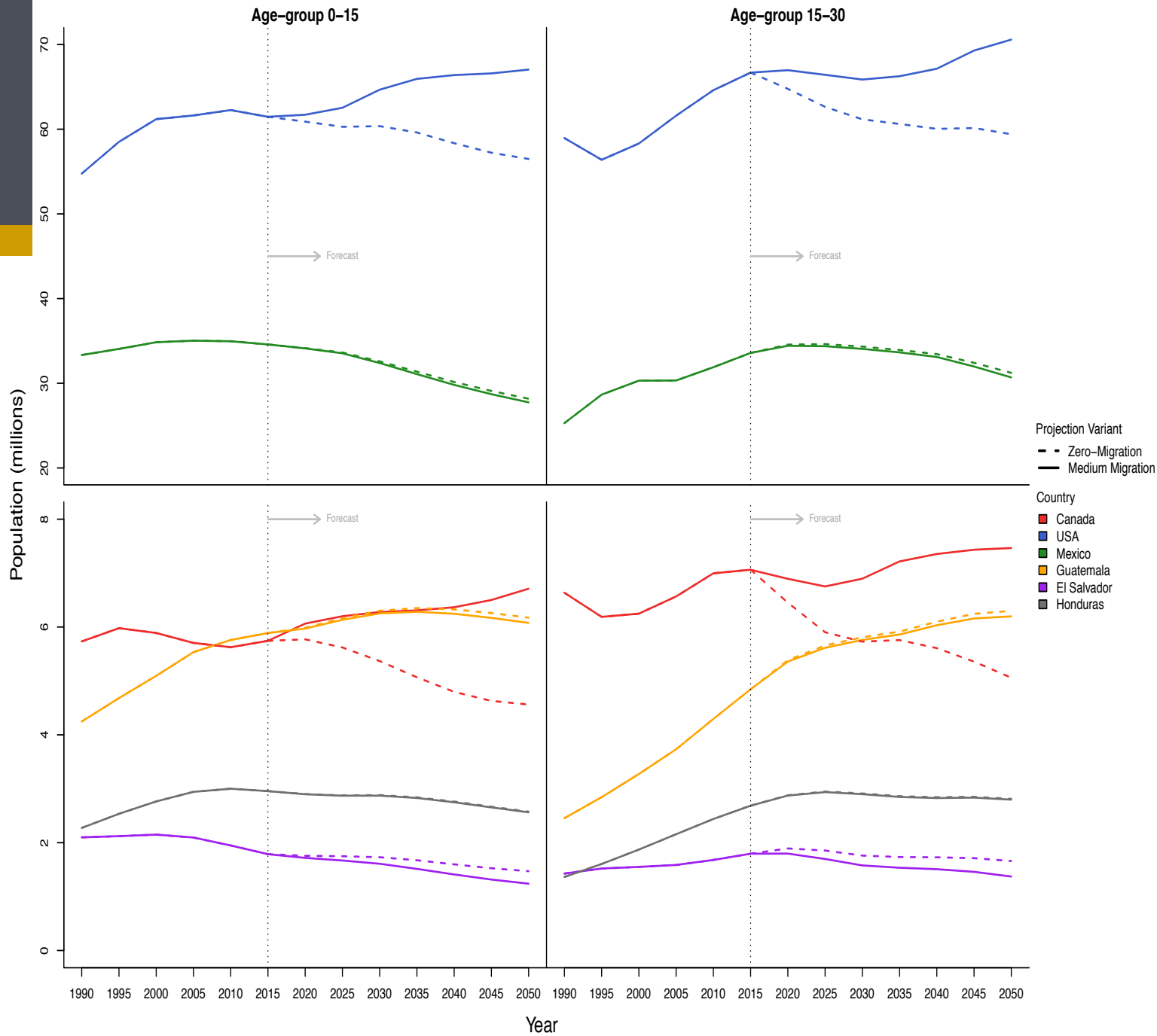


Source: Figure 2 Canudas-Romo, García-Guerrero & Echarri (2014)



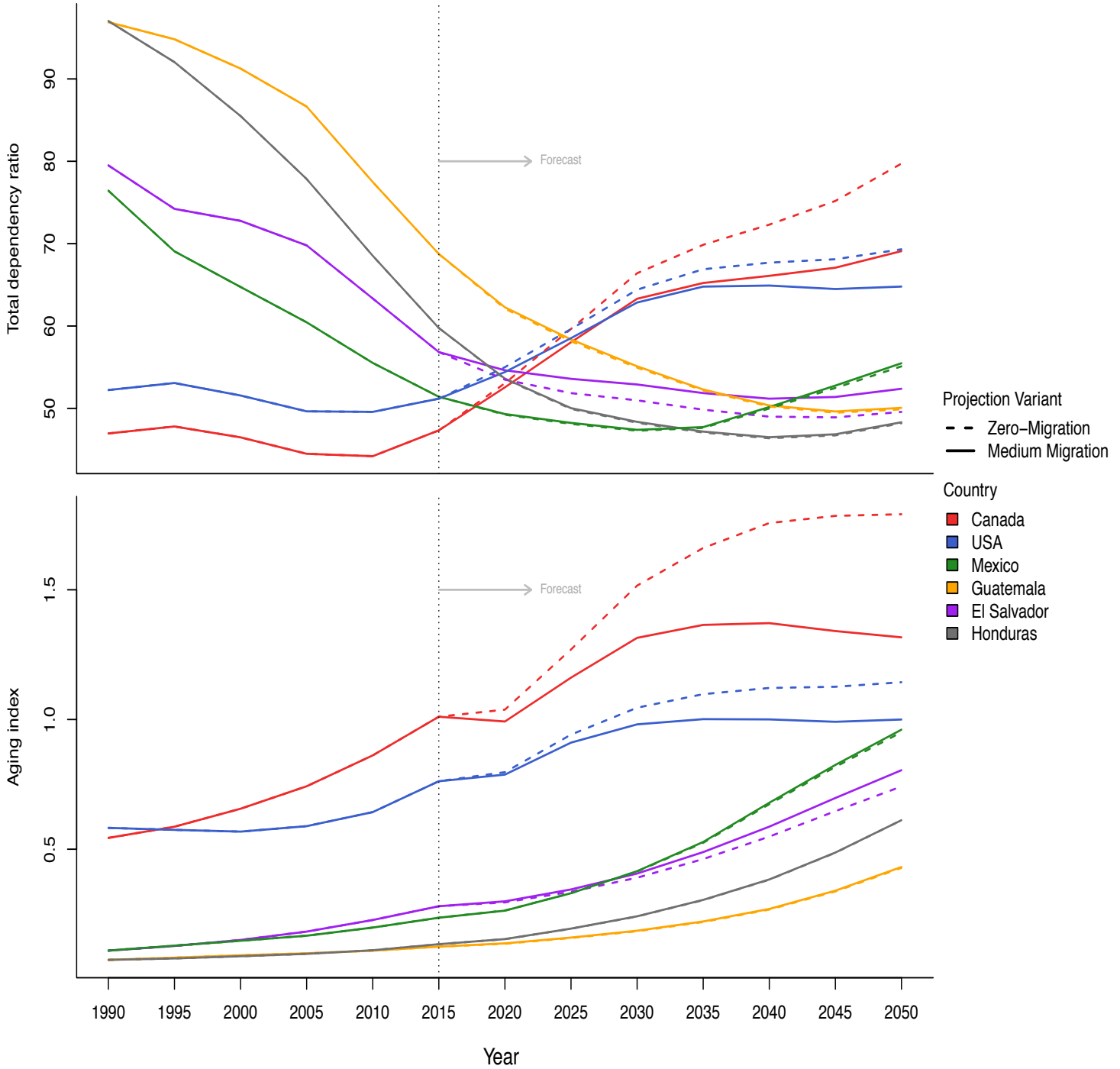
Different age structures are linked to different migration patterns

- Mexico & NTCA: marginal decrease
- Canada & US: sharp increase (larger increase for US than Canada)
- First-time migrants (15 to 30): already decreasing in Mexico, Honduras and El Salvador



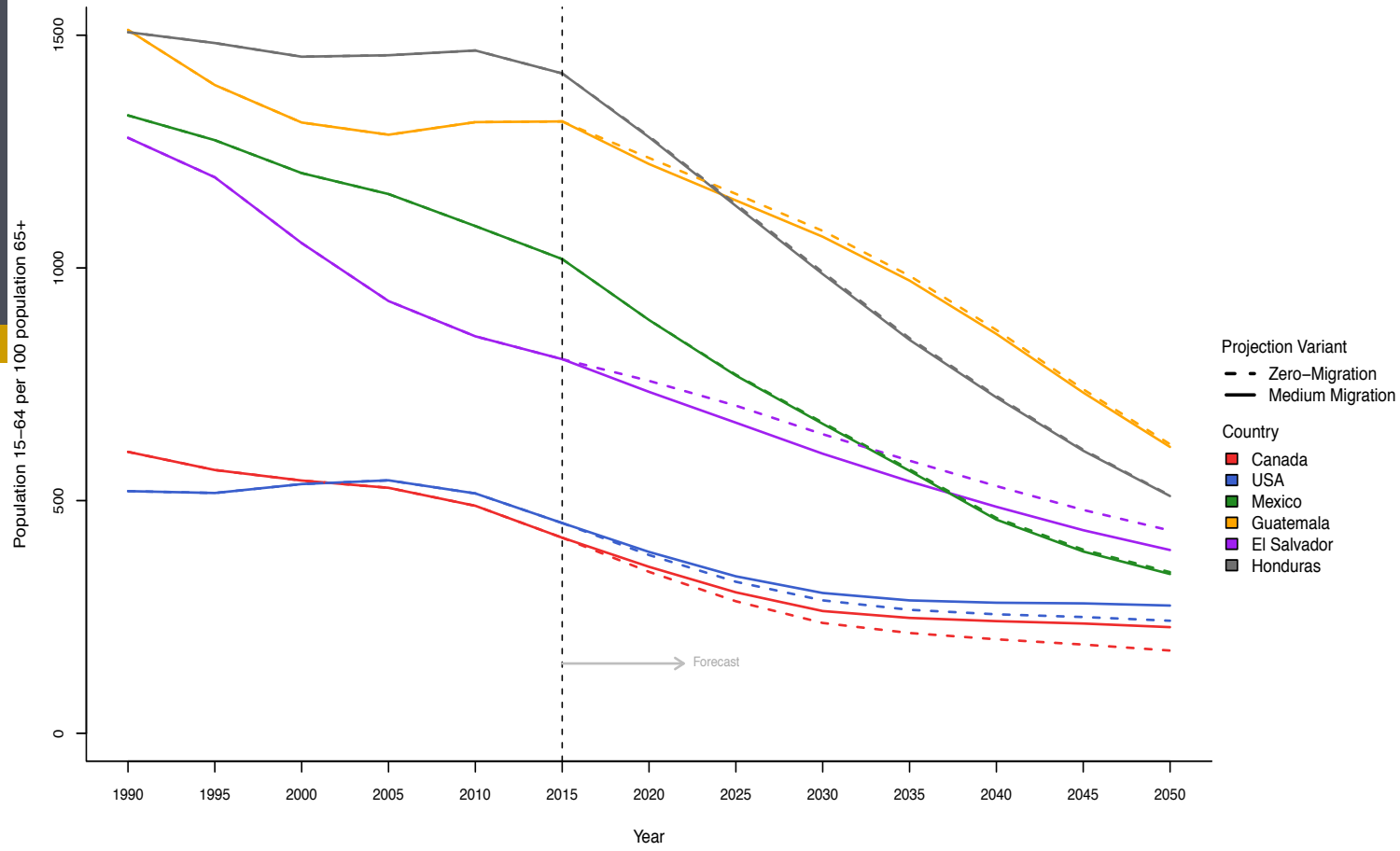
Changes in age-structure impact the relation between different age groups

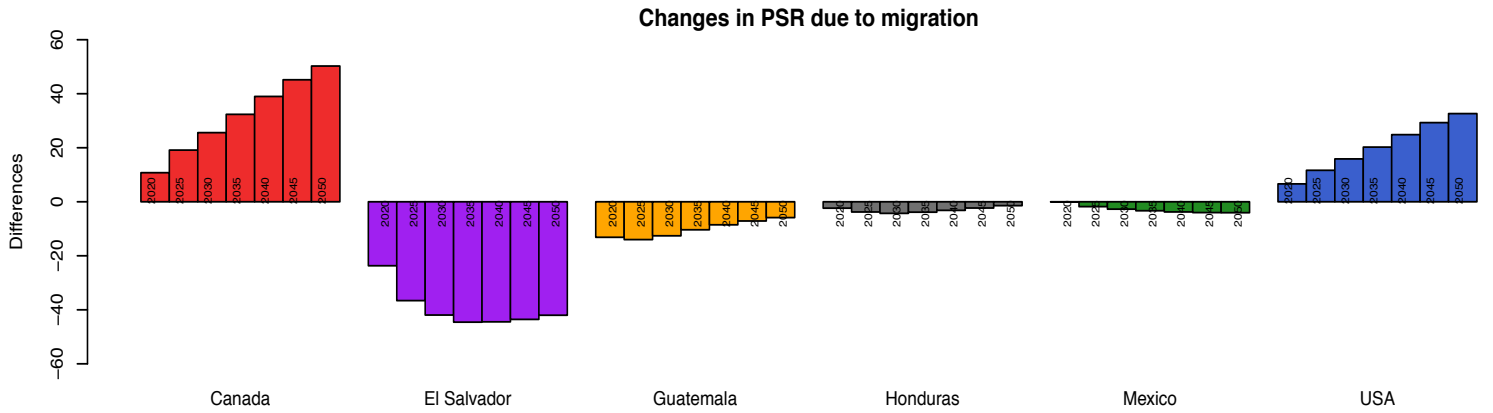
- Increase in TDRs for Canada and US (and Mexico post-2035) is not driven by increases in young population
  - Contrary to Guatemala, regardless of migration
- Canada is going through aging process at fastest rate without migration, followed by the US
- NTCA countries are aging at different rates
  - Migration has earlier and more visible effect in El Salvador



Burden on working-age population: PSR

- Migration slows down aging process in Canada and US, but accelerates it in the other countries.
- Canada increases its potential support more than US due to migration
- The largest loss in the PSR due to migration occurs in El Salvador





What does all this mean for the migration system?

In summary

- Convergence in fertility below replacement, higher life expectancies, and an overall aging process in the NA-NTCA region

- Future migration may slow down the aging process in Canada and US, have a small effect in Mexico, and speed up aging process in El Salvador

- Population sizes and decrease in young age groups for main sending countries: unlikely that migration from Mexico and the NTCA will reach observed historical peak

Discussion

- Predicting long-term migration flows is risky, but the age of rapid increase of immigration is coming to an end in the US (Hanson & McIntosh, 2016)
- NA-NTCA not a closed system: other origins and destinations are important
- Medium-variant assumes projected levels will remain constant to recent levels
  - Close-to-zero net migration rate in Mexico might be driving small projected differences
- Future profiles might change
  - Projections do not take into account changes in age composition of migrants, educational attainment, return migration, heterogeneity within countries
- Central American countries are not a homogenous group

Discussion

- Immigration policy can shape net migration rates, flow sizes, and the composition of the flows.
- Demand for migrant labor will continue and may even rise for particular occupations and sectors of the labor market due to aging process
  - Aging population may regard immigration as a way of slowing down the decrease in PSRs and of meeting the growing demand for certain types of jobs

Final thought…

Decrease in population growth and in demographic pressure, in main sending countries may represent an opportunity to manage migration flows, recognizing regional dynamics and linkages

Thank you

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