A Spatial Comparison of Short and Long Term Migration Trends in China

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As Part of the Colby College Undergraduate Research Symposium on April 29th, 2005

Abstract
China’s floating population, those individuals who have migrated between counties or provinces for a period of longer than 6 months, accounts for 79 million individuals. If intracounty migration is also included, the number jumps to 145 million individuals or over 11% of the total population. The 2000 census data was then used to create the two variables that are used in this study.

Methods
This study uses data from the 2000 Census carried out by the National Bureau of Statistics of China and compiled on a county basis with geospatial information. The study measures the floating population using the 2000 Census data. For the years 1995-2000, the authors used the 1995 and 2000 China Population Censuses compiled by the National Bureau of Statistics of China and compiled on a county basis with geospatial information. This study greatly benefited from the invaluable help of Philip Nyhus. It also would not have been possible without the generous support of Philip Brown.

Results
Figure 1 and 2 are maps that show the distribution of short and long term migrants respectively. The higher the density of migrants, the higher the number of migrants in that county. The density of migrants is calculated as the number of migrants divided by the number of residents of the county. Figure 3 and 4 show the density of short and long term migrants. The results from figures 5 and 6 are similar, but include some important differences. Figure 5 shows the inner core of the population whereas figure 6 includes the more localized areas with long term migration traveling further distances to regions with higher growth potential or in areas filling in where short term migrants have vacated.

Discussion
This study greatly benefited from the invaluable help of Philip Nyhus. It also would not have been possible without the generous support of Philip Brown.

Literature Cited

Acknowledgements
This study greatly benefited from the invaluable help of Philip Nyhus. It also would not have been possible without the generous support of Philip Brown and the Colby College Department. The author thanks her colleagues for all their help in the study.

Figure 1: Short Term Migration
Figure 2: Long Term Migration
Figure 3: Short Term Migration Normalized by Population Size
Figure 4: Long Term Migration Normalized by Population Size
Figure 5: Short Term Migration by Province Normalized by Population Size
Figure 6: Long Term Migration by Province Normalized by Population Size