
drifted apart and forever?



Migration, diminishing intergenerational returns and elderly health in China

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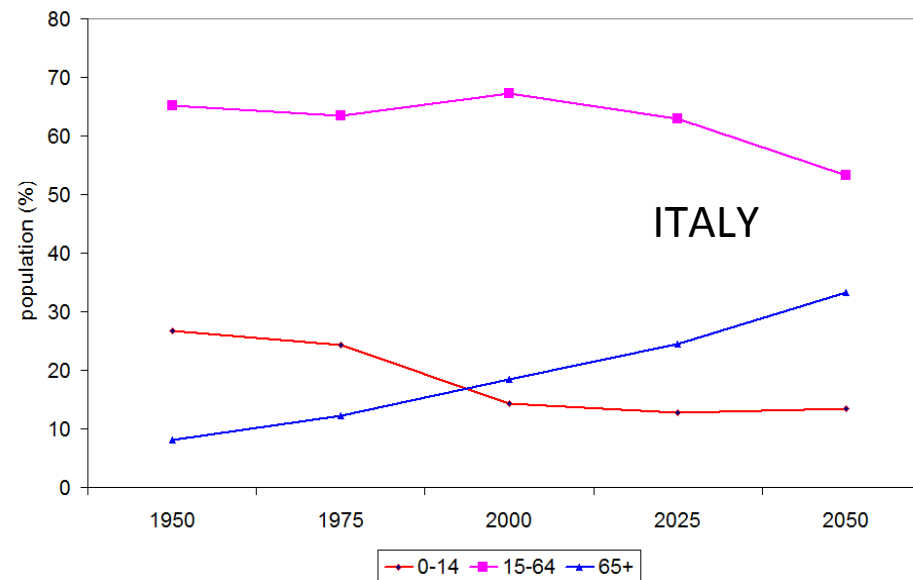
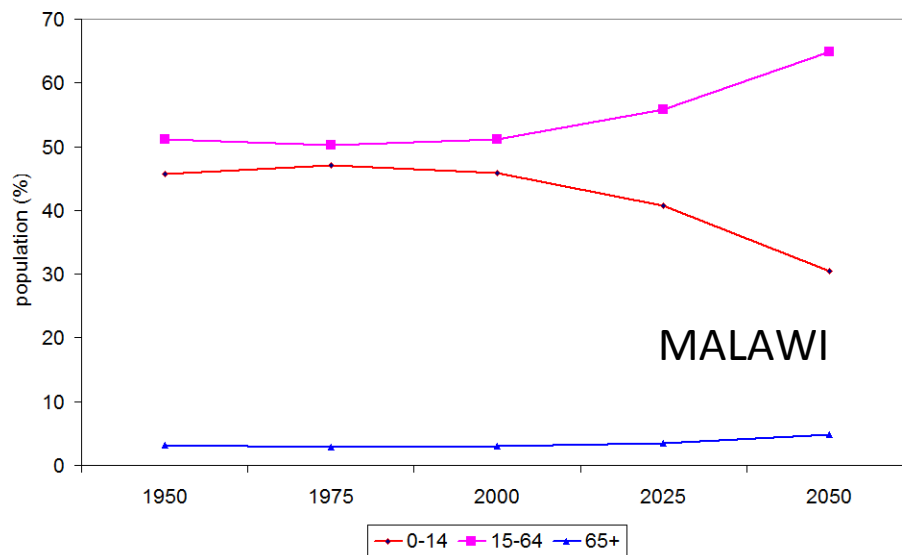
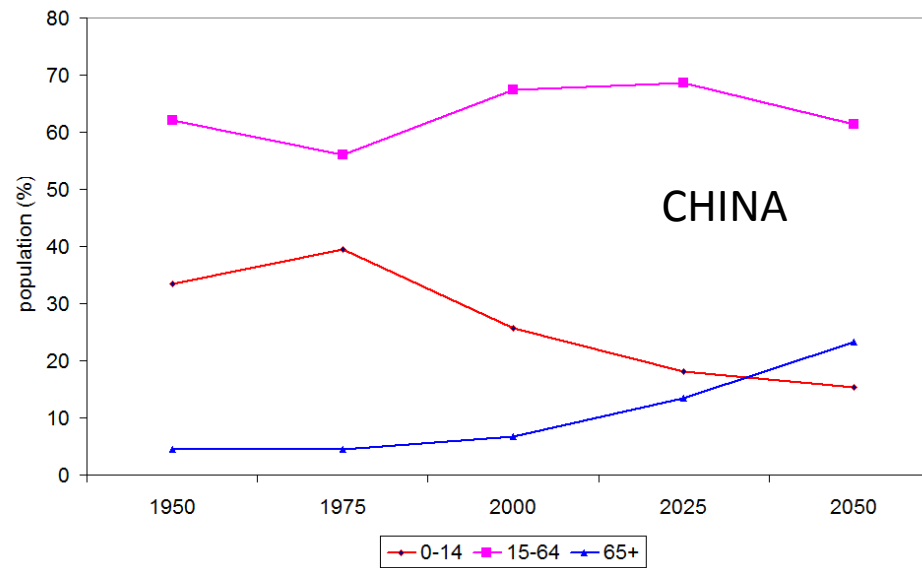
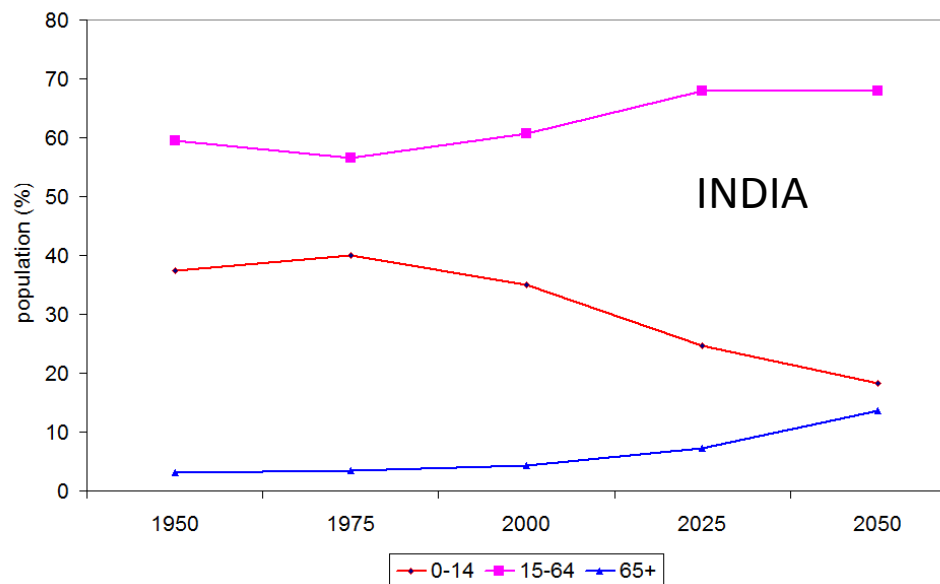
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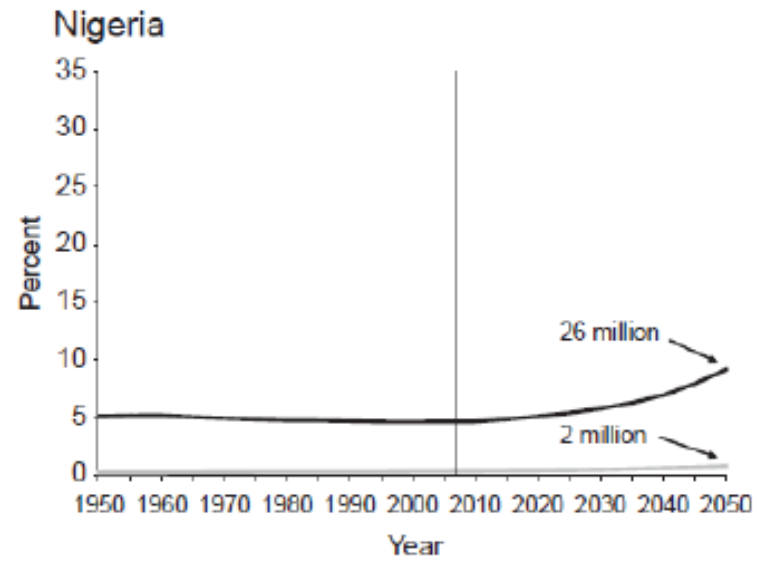
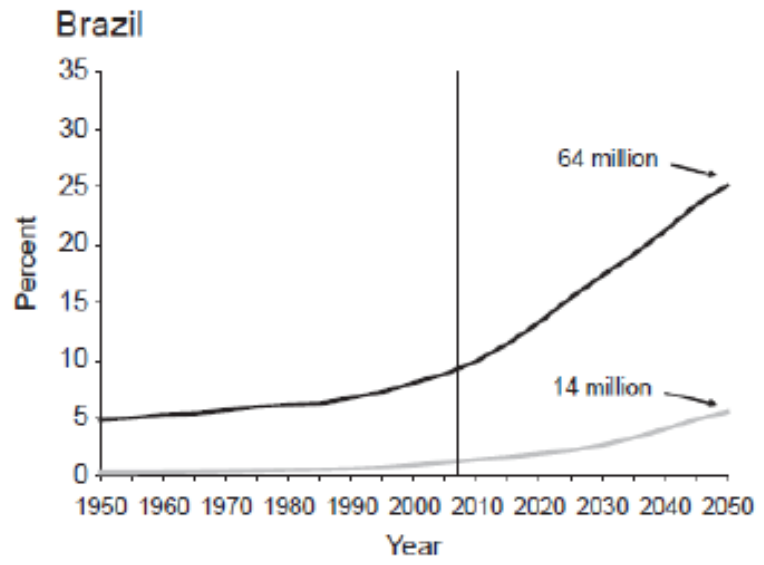
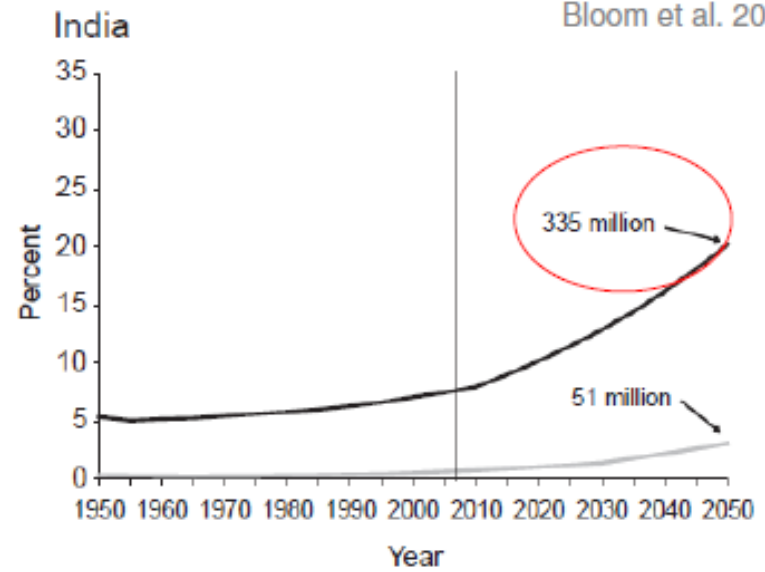
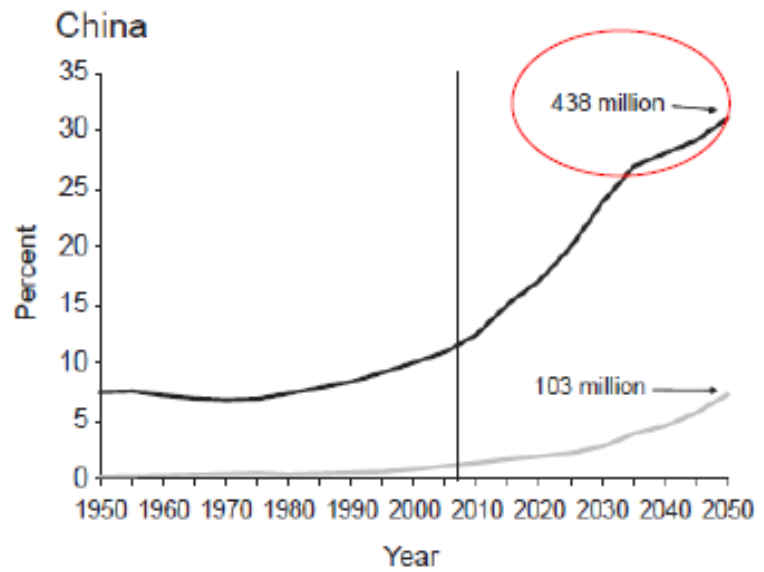
future population composition



Source of data: calculated from the UN World Population Prospects, 2008 revision (<http://esa.un.org/unpp/>)

share of elderly (%)

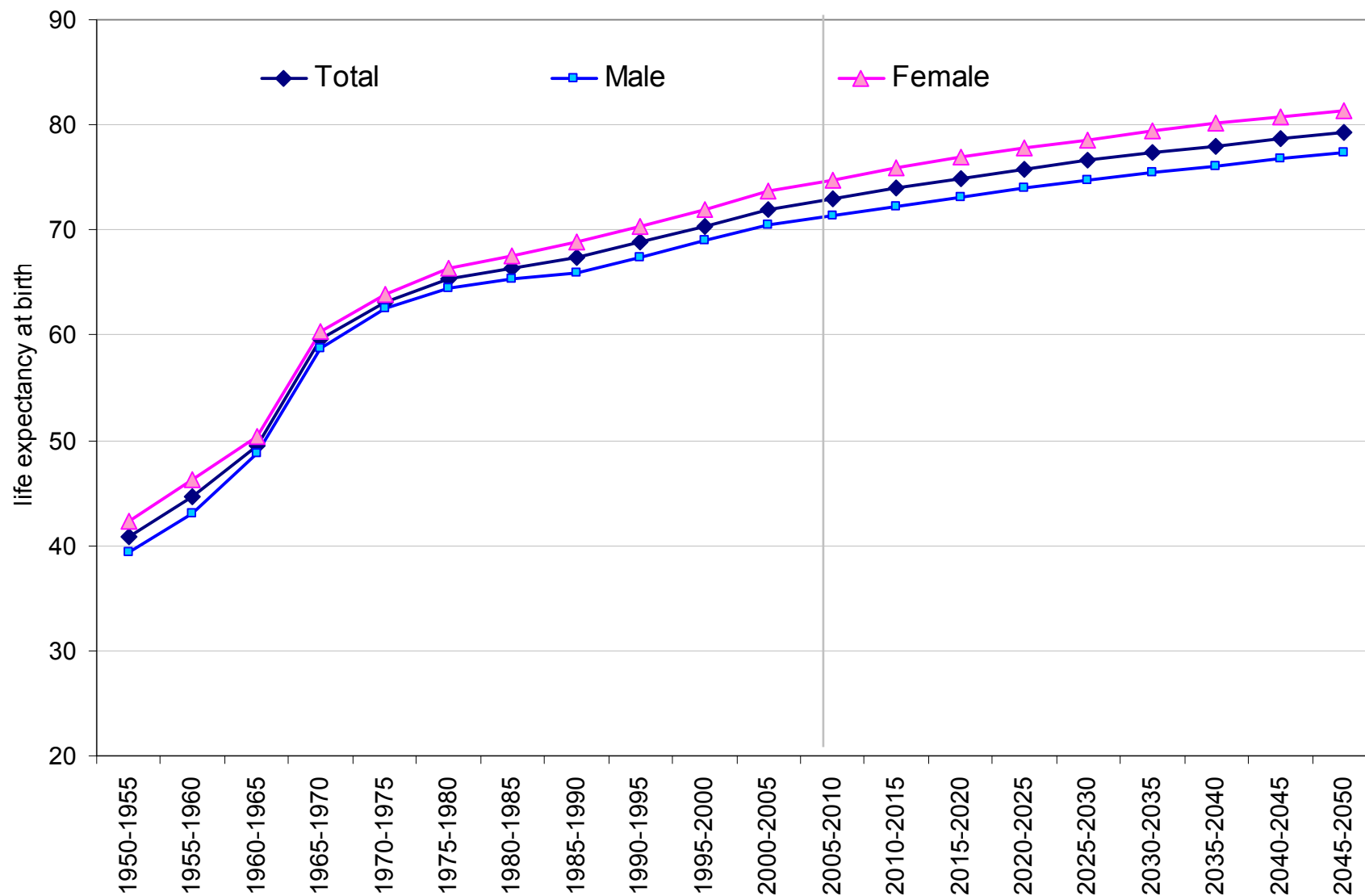
Bloom et al. 2008



Source: Authors' calculations based on data in UN, *World Population Prospects 2006*.

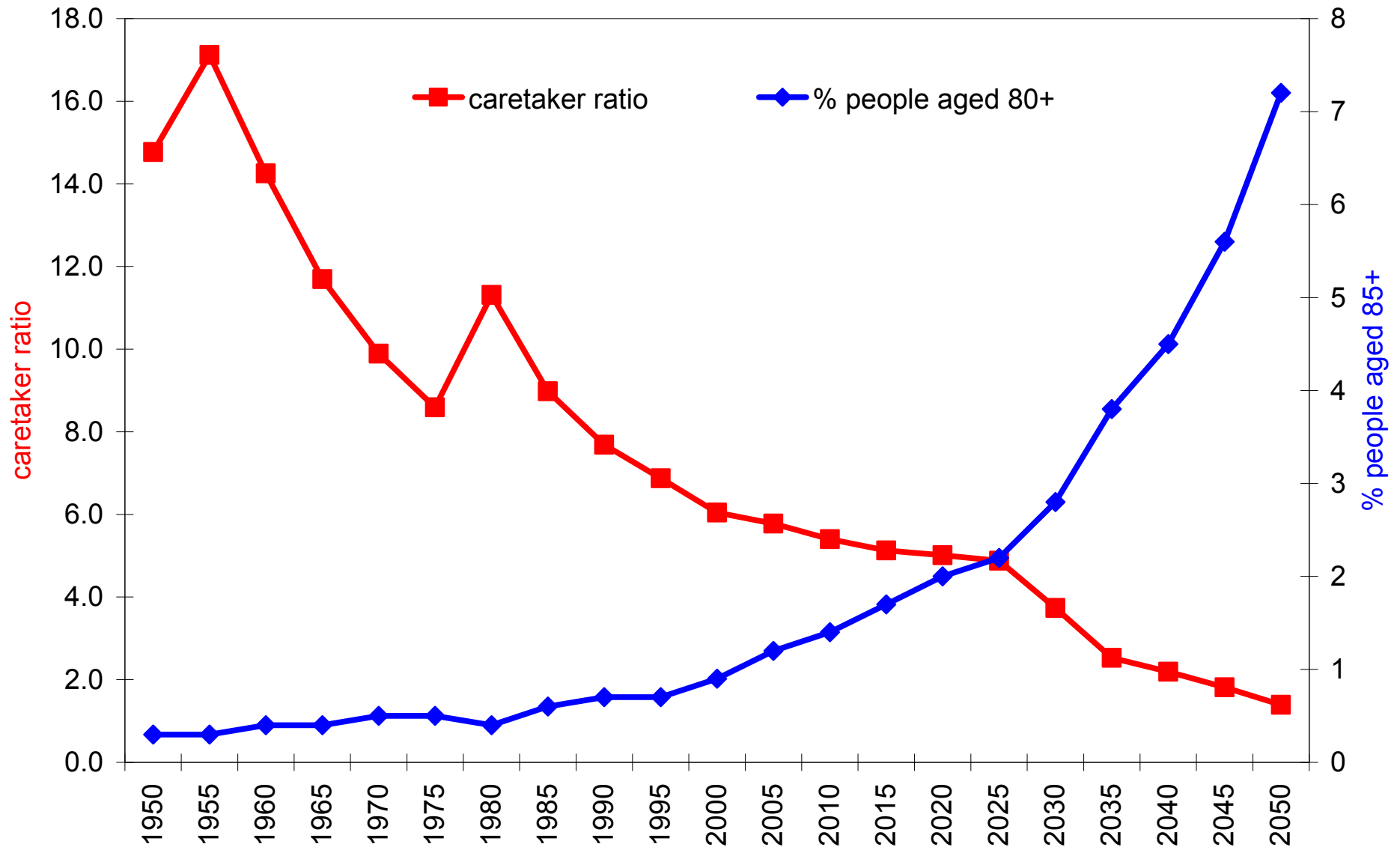
Note: 60+ trendline is black; 80+ trendline is gray).

life expectancy at birth, China, 1950-2050



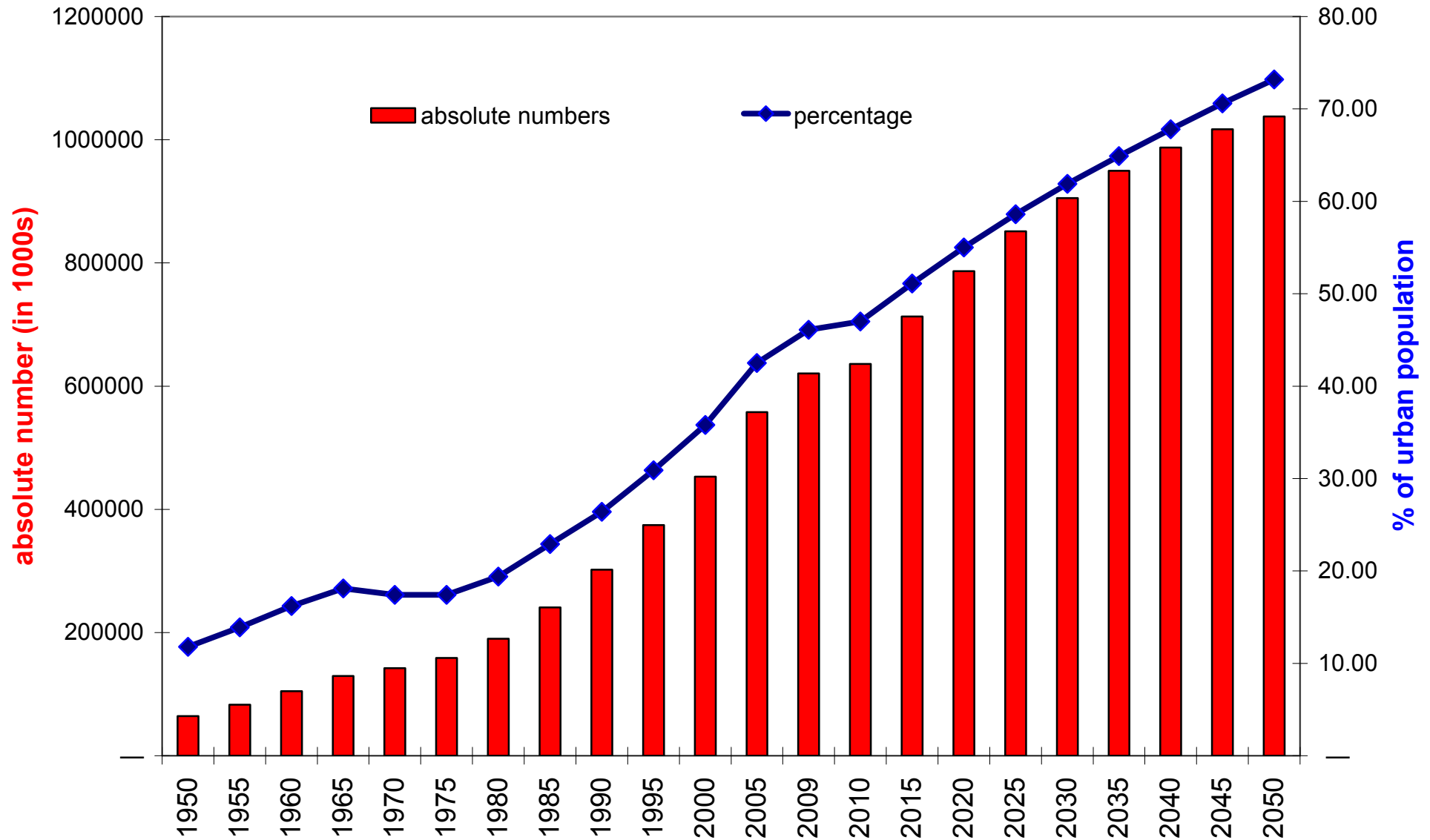
Source of data: calculated from the UN World Population Prospects, 2008 revision (<http://esa.un.org/unpp/>)

the rise of 80+ and caretaker ratio



Source of data: calculated from the UN World Population Prospects, 2008 revision (<http://esa.un.org/unpp/>)

urban pop growth in China



Source of data: calculated from the UN World Urbanisation Prospects, 2009 revision
(http://esa.un.org/unpd/wup/unup/index_panel1.html)

migration in China

- how many people are on move in China?
- how many people have moved from one residential (geographical) location to another in the last one year?
flow mostly from central/western to eastern regions
- how many people have moved alone, and with a family member?
- how many of those moved were males and females?
- how many people without a “hukou”?
- how many are floating in cities?

floating population

The long-term settlement intentions of the floating population if they had free choice (%)

	Total	Stay here forever	Going back home after earning some money	Moving to other places	Don't know	Others
All respondents	100	20.6	45.7	7.4	16.5	9.9
Respondents from Fujian	100	25.8	30.7	14.5	16.1	12.9
Respondents from other provinces	100	18.8	50.8	5.0	16.6	8.8

$N = 243$.

Source: survey results.

Source: Zhu, Y (2007) China's floating population and their settlement intention in the cities: Beyond the Hukou reform. *Habitat International*. 31(1): 65-76.

Zhu's argument is clear...

“ temporary nature of the floating population is a result of not only the Hukou system, but also the combined effects of the intrinsic demand of the industrial society for temporary migrants, the household strategy of migrants to diversify and maximize economic opportunities and spread economic risk, and certain conditions of the current stage of development”

Characteristics of Chinese rural migrants: a comparison table.

Item		Population (per cent)			
		Urban permanent	Floating (migrants)	Rural permanent	
Age	0–14	17.05	19.11	26.40	
	15–24	12.54	18.76	14.46	
	25–34	19.17	30.73	18.99	
	35–49	26.23	20.42	20.88	
	50–59	10.59	5.41	8.76	
	60+	14.42	5.56	10.51	
Education	Illiterate	6.5	10.3	19.2	
	Primary school	13.5	24.2	38.2	
	Junior secondary school	35.9	52.2	36.9	
	Senior secondary school	44.1	13.3	5.7	
Marital status	Single	17.6	20.3	19.4	
	Married (first marriage)	73.6	73.2	71.7	
	Married (remarriage)	2.0	2.4	1.7	
	Divorced	1.7	0.7	0.7	
	Widowed	5.2	3.4	6.6	
Working hours per week	40–49 hours	Total	78.6	37.6	NA
		Male	78.5	37.3	NA
		Female	78.7	37.9	NA
	>50 hours	Total	17.8	56.9	NA
		Male	18.4	58.3	NA
		Female	17.1	55.3	NA

NA, not available.

Source: State Statistical Bureau (2001).

Source: Wong, DFK et al. (2007) Rural migrant workers in urban China: living a marginalised life. *International Journal of Social Welfare*. 16: 32-40.

impact of out-migration on elderly in China

- impact substantial, through changes in household structure and living arrangements (Guo et al., 2009)
- high % living alone, in empty nest, skip generation households (Du et al., 2004)
- impeded all forms of intergenerational exchange (King & Vullnetari 2006; Wilson 2002)
- evidence of elderly loneliness and abandonment (Du et al. 2004)

Unstandardised regression coefficients predicating the depression of older rural Chinese adults in 2003

Variable or measure	Model 1		Model 2	
	β	SE	β	SE
Depression at Wave 1	0.19***	0.03	0.19***	0.03
Socio-demographic variables at Wave 1:				
Age	-0.01	0.02	-0.01	0.02
Female	0.36	0.23	0.39	0.23
Married	0.20	0.30	0.20	0.30
Education	-0.08	0.26	-0.06	0.26
Income (log + 1)	-0.11**	0.04	-0.12**	0.04
Total number of children	-0.08	0.07	-0.14	0.07
Living with offspring at Wave 1 ¹	-0.44	0.31	-0.47*	0.31
Living with others at Wave 1 ¹	-0.41	0.38	-0.36	0.38
Functional health difficulties at Wave 1	0.22***	0.02	0.22***	0.02
Started to live alone (Wave 1–Wave 2)	1.41***	0.39	1.43***	0.39
Change in functional health difficulties (Wave 1–Wave 2)	0.24***	0.02	0.24***	0.02
Inter-generational support at Wave 1:				
Monetary support	0.01	0.08	-0.02	0.08
Instrumental support	-0.14*	0.07	-0.11	0.07
Emotional cohesion	-0.29**	0.08	-0.29**	0.09
Total number of migrant children at Wave 1			0.20*	0.09
R^2	0.32		0.33	
Sample size	1,237		1,237	

Notes: 1. Reference category is living alone. 2. With 1, 1,171 degrees of freedom. SE: standard error.

Significance levels: (1,235 degrees of freedom) * $p < 0.05$, ** $p < 0.01$, *** $p < 0.001$.

Living arrangement:

Living alone (%)	18.7
Living with offspring (%)	51.4
Living with other relatives (%)	29.9

Design:
Longitudinal study

Location:
Anhui (high
out-migration)

Final sample:
1,237 (2nd wave)

Dependent variable:
Psychological wellbeing
(life satisfaction &
depression)

Source: Guo, M et al. (2009)

conceptual framework (draft)

Migration-related factors determining health and wellbeing of elderly dependents

