

Introductory Lecture

What Is Globalisation?

Imperial College London
Global Health BSc
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Structure and Learning Outcomes

Lecture: By the end of this lecture, students should be able to:

- understand how globalisation is a contested concept
- list some of the main existing definitions of globalisation and understand the implications of these for Global Health research and practice
- explain why different actors may have different definitions of globalisation
- List the main dimensions of the recent wave of globalisation

Seminar: What is the evidence that globalisation is occurring?

Part 1 (15 min): plenary: what are the main 'dimensions' of globalisation?

Part 2 (30 min): in groups of 6, search grey literature and peer-reviewed literature online to identify evidence on globalisation. Each student group will be assigned one of the 'dimensions of globalisation identified in the plenary discussion.

Part 3 (15 min): Presenting 2 powerpoint slides with the evidence found, and argue why the group thinks this supports or refutes the claim that globalisation is occurring.

“Consuela has just lost her job in a Mexican factory where she assembled 120 computer CPUs each hour for a contract manufacturer. She and her coworkers were actually employed by an agency offering “just-in-time” workers. Her job was stressful and unhealthy, but the income was important to her family. When the 2008 global financial crisis spilled over into the real economy, she was dismissed with a severance that was scarcely one-tenth of the legal minimum. Her husband, one of the millions of undocumented workers in the United States and Canada, is afraid of losing his weekday job in agriculture and his weekend job as a gardener, as rising unemployment rates fuel antimigrant sentiments. With no access to medical care, he is concerned that his worsening lung infection could be tuberculosis, but he is afraid to mention this even to his friends. He and Consuela still text-message each other every day, but if his remittances continue to drop they will no longer be able to afford even basic mobile telephone service. Consuela has no way to pay the out-of-pocket costs for her three children's health care and schooling; partly because of the continuing fiscal policy constraints associated with a costly bailout of Mexican banks in the 1990s, Mexico's efforts to extend social insurance across the nation have yet to reach her. She will also have to move soon. The building in which she has a small apartment has been sold, and the entire block will be torn down and redeveloped for tourist condominiums and townhouses for the growing numbers of (primarily American and Canadian) retirees seeking an affordable place in the sun.”

Group exercise - 15 minutes to prepare

In groups of 6:

- find a definition of globalisation that your group agrees on
- list all the potential threats to Consuela's and her partner's health and
- discuss whether (and how) these could be affected by globalisation as you have defined it

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Globalisation a contested concept

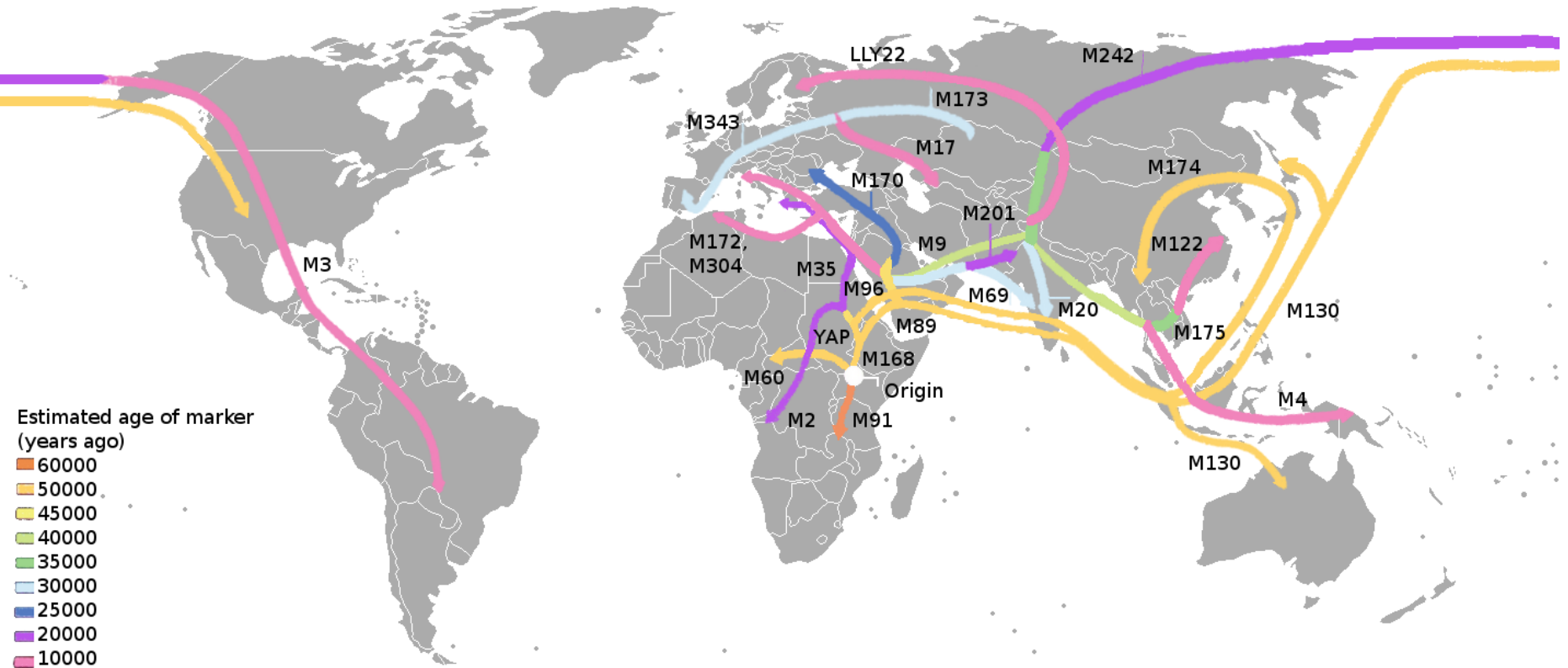
“There are few terms that we use so frequently but which are in fact as poorly conceptualized as globalization”

Anthony Giddens

“[Globalisation is a] perception that the world is rapidly being moulded into a shared social space by economic and technological forces and that developments in one region of the world can have profound consequences for the life changes of individuals and communities on the other side of the globe”

Held et al. (1999)

How old is globalisation?



The Rise of Globe-Talk

- *globalisaatio* (Finnish)
- *bishwavyapikaran* (Nepalese)
- *luan bo'ot* (Timorese)

Quiz: Which one “major” language does not have a word for globalisation?

The Rise of Globe-Talk

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Quiz: Which one “major” language does not have a word for globalisation?

Swahili

Defining globalisation

Some culs-de-sac

- globalisation as internationalisation
- globalisation as liberalisation
- globalisation as universalisation
- globalisation as westernisation

Definition culs-de-sac:

Globalisation as Internationalisation

- [Globalisation Index Worldmap](#)

Definition culs-de-sac :

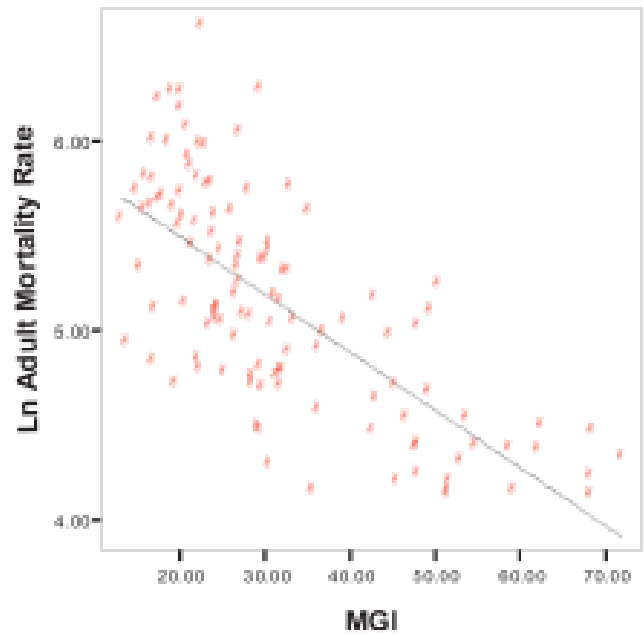
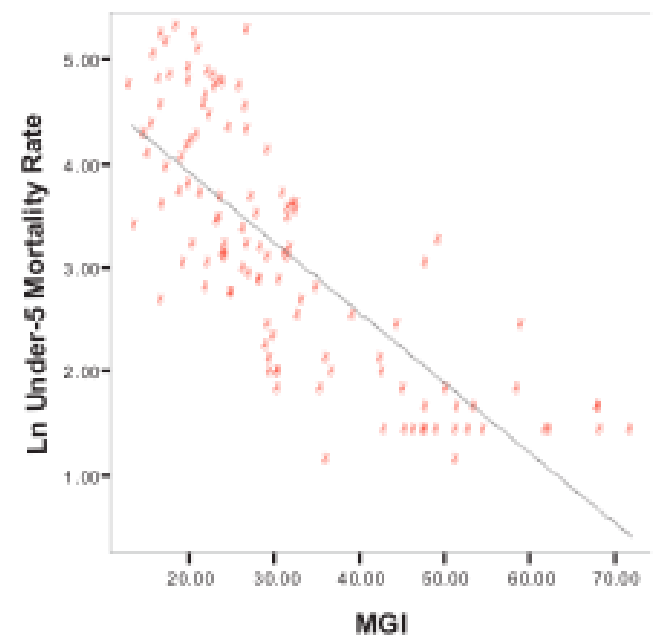
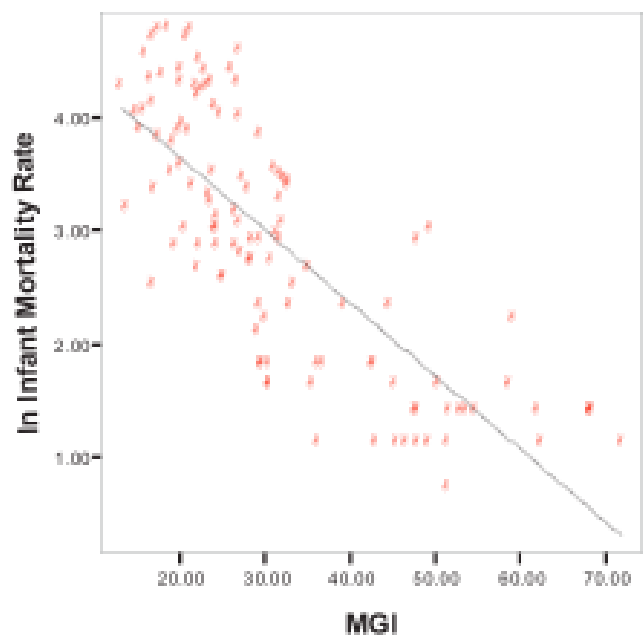
Globalisation as Internationalisation

Martens et al (2010) study on a possible association between globalisation and health:

- Index of globalisation
 - Maastricht Globalization Index
- Mortality
 - Infant, under-5 and adult (age 15 – 65)
- Control for confounders
 - Income and growth, water quality, health financing, education, smoking etc.

Definition
culs-de-sac

Globalisation as
Internatio-
nalisation



Significant negative correlation for all three,
ie. Countries with a higher MGI had lower
mortality

Figure 2 Scatterplots and linear regression between the Maastricht Globalization (MGI) and the selected mortality indicators.

Definition culs-de-sac: Globalisation as Internationalisation

Possible framework: 4 patterns – (1)

1. Vicious cycle (low globalisation, high mortality)
 - e.g. Ghana (limited economic globalisation but committed to privatisation and cuts, poorer health)
2. Health-lopsided (low globalisation, low mortality)
 - e.g. Peru (health improvements before SAP, then slowed)

Definition culs-de-sac: Globalisation as Internationalisation

Possible framework: 4 patterns – (2)

3. Globalisation-lopsided (high globalisation, high mortality)
 - e.g. Egypt (increasing integration since mid 1970s, but poor health persists; SAP high unemployment)
4. Virtuous cycle (high globalization, low mortality)
 - e.g. Netherlands, UK etc. (health improvements in recent decades accelerated by global integration)

Defining globalisation

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- **globalisation as liberalisation**
- globalisation as universalisation
- globalisation as westernisation

Defining globalisation

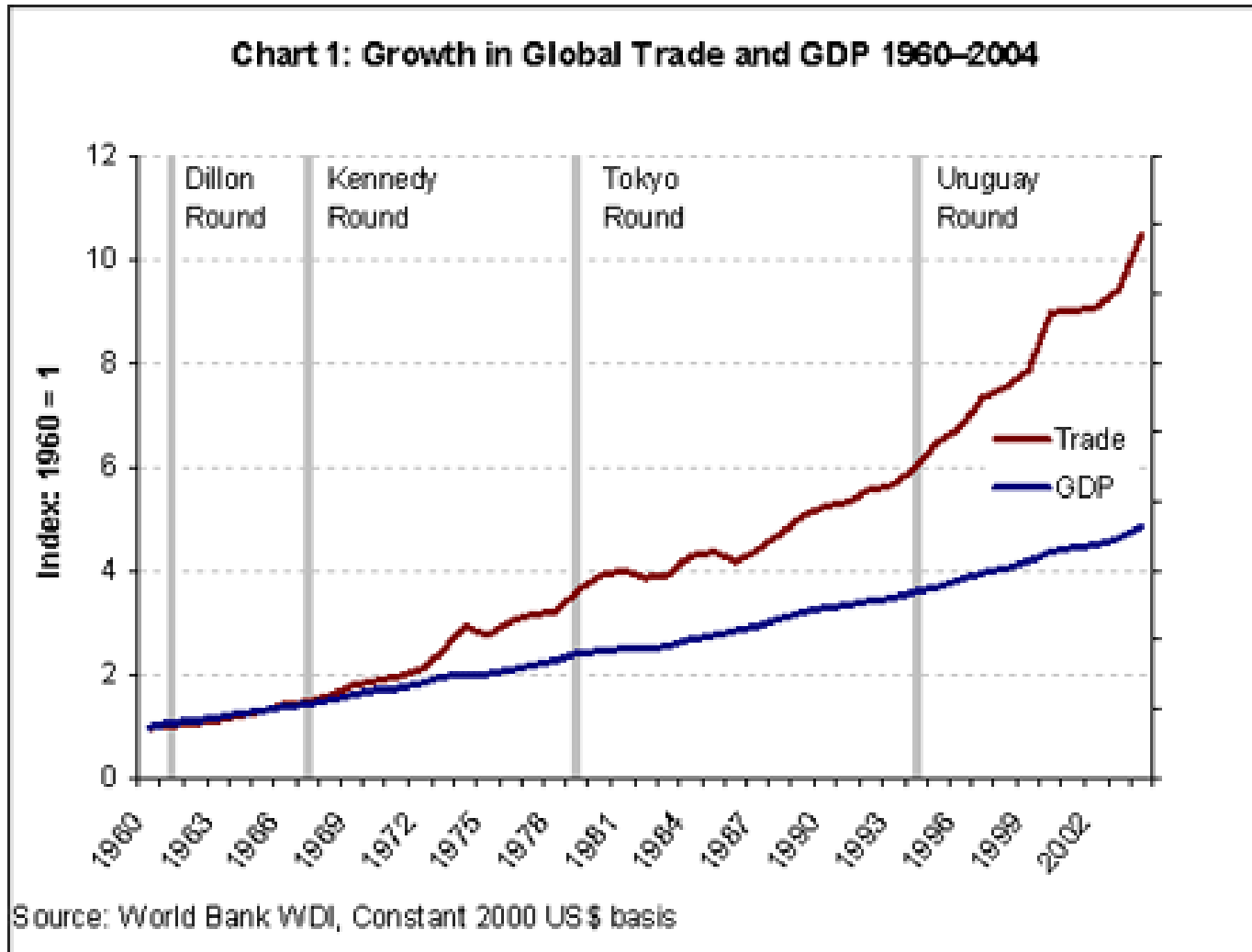
Some culs-de-sac

- Globalisation as liberalisation – some economic changes:
 - Expansion and integration of markets
 - Decline in absolute poverty
 - Increased inequalities
 - Economic restructuring

Defining globalisation

Some culs-de-sac

Growth in global trade, 1960 - 2004



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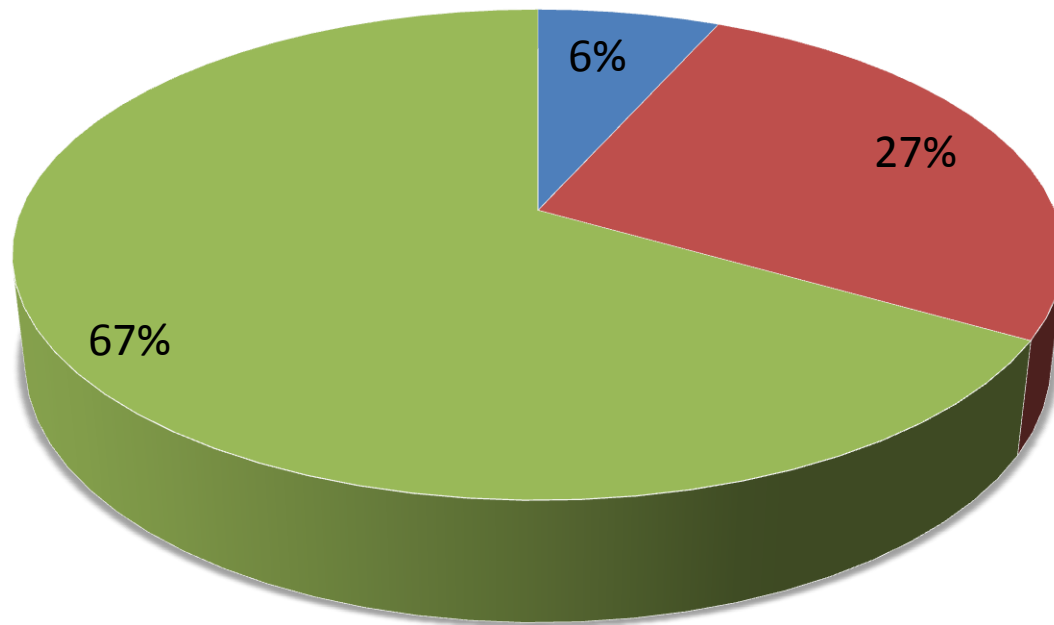


Globalisation as a new identity?



Preferred Citizenship, Global Health BSc students 2011

■ World citizenship ■ Single national citizenship ■ Multiple national citizenship



Globalisation as a new identity?

Who identifies as a global citizen?

	Yes	No
Argentina	21	79
Brazil	13	87
Canada	34	66
Chile	15	85
France	23	77
Germany	36	64
India	28	72
Indonesia	11	89
Italy	41	59
Japan	25	75
Korea, Rep. of	30	70
Mexico	27	73
Nigeria	23	77
Russia	31	69
Spain	19	81
Sweden	30	70
Turkey	18	82
United Kingdom	31	69
United States	28	72

Note: Figures show percentages of respondents identifying (or not) as global citizen. *Source: Environics International (2002)*

Globalisation - changing identities?

Geographic identities 1981–1999/2000

		1981			1990			1999/2000		
Region	N*	Local	National	Supra-national	Local	National	Supra-national	Local	National	Supra-national
Sub-Saharan Africa	2				53	32	16	52	38	11
Middle East and North Africa	1				45	46	9	42	45	12
South Asia	1				52	39	9	42	53	5
East Asia and Pacific	3				51	46	4	58	37	5
Latin America and the Caribbean	3				44	42	14	45	39	16
North America	2	67	7	27	49	36	16	47	35	18
Western Europe	18	63	28	9	61	28	10	63	28	9

		1981			1990			1999/2000		
World Bank income groups	N*	Local	National	Supra-national	Local	National	Supra-national	Local	National	Supra-national
High-income	22	64	25	11	59	31	10	62	28	9
Upper-middle-income	3				56	33	11	57	33	10
Lower-middle-income	3				53	39	8	41	48	11
Low-income	2				51	35	15	50	42	8

Note: Figures indicate percentages of respondents self-identifying as local, national, and supranational. * Denotes number of countries surveyed.

Sources: EVS 1981,1990, 1999; WVS 1990/1, 2000 (European Values Surveys and World Values Surveys).

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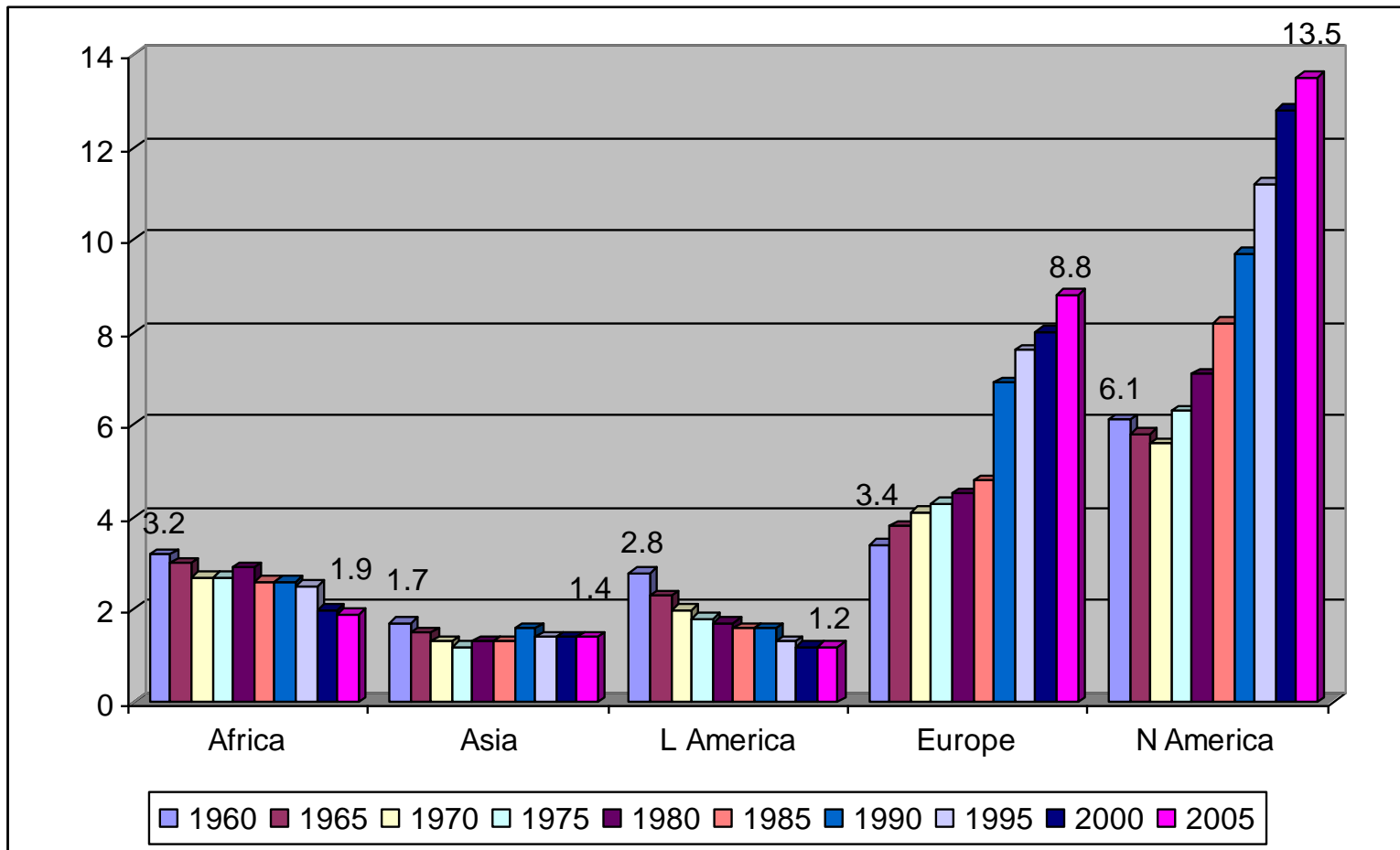
Definitions of Globalisation

Preventing oversimplifications

- territorial geography continues to have importance alongside the new supraterritoriality
- the global is not logically contradictory to the local
- globalization is not intrinsically a culturally homogenizing process
- global relations have spread unevenly across regions and social sectors, so that people experience globality to different extents
- globalization is a thoroughly political question, significantly empowering some and disempowering others

Globalisation as a constraining force?

International migrants as percentage of population, 1960 to 2005



A Critique of Globalisation: as a constraining force?

Liberalising flow
of capital and goods

...VS...

restricting (some) movement
of people
?

Globalisation

Not as an intensification but as a shift in the nature of the social space?

What are the links between Globalisation and health? (next lecture)

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