Destination Matters:
how do poverty and social protection influence migration outcomes?

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Outline

- Aims
- Methods
- Context
- Empirical results
  - Migrant characteristics
  - Poverty profile
  - Social Protection
- Conclusions and Implications

Aims

- to explore the extent to which destination affects migrant 'type'

- to better understand the interactions between migration and social protection (formal and non-formal) in order to inform initiatives that can help migrants make the most of their migration experiences;

- to collect information on Malawian labour migrants. Very little is known about the nature of migration from Malawi in terms of migrant characteristics and migration outcomes

Methodology and Datasets

- a survey of 201 Malawian return migrants from the UK

- a survey of 150 Malawian return migrants from South Africa

- a qualitative survey of 20 current Malawian migrants residing in Johannesburg

- Further work ongoing with Malawian migrants in JoBurg post-xenophobic attacks

Migrant characteristics

- UK-migrants:
  - from smaller families
  - have less children
  - stay longer (due to the high cost of migration and the high opportunity cost of return);
- SA-migrants:
  - from larger households
  - significantly more children (on average)
  - more likely to be older males.

Educational differences

Level of Education	UK	SA	Total
None/primary	6	118	124
	3%	78.7%	35.4%
Secondary	81	30	111
	40.5%	20%	31.7%
Tertiary/technical	82	2	84
	41%	1.33%	24%
Graduate/professional	31	0	31
	15.5%	0	8.9%
Total	200	150	350
	100%	100%	100%

Poverty status *pre* and *post* migration
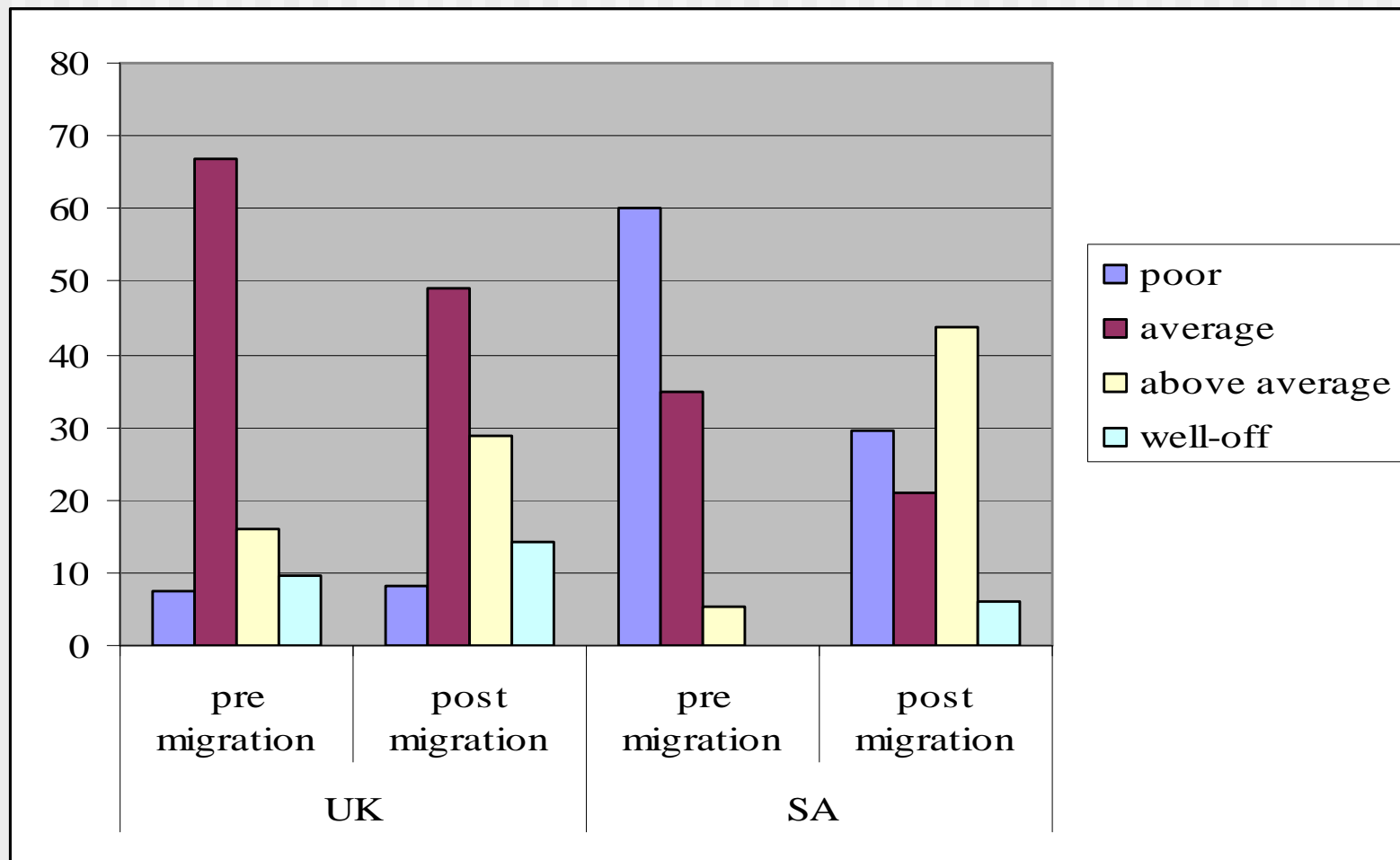
Migration as Social Protection

- Support from migrant to home remains very high even after 2 years (remittances)
- Support from home to migrant is significantly higher for SA-migrants (reflects poverty profile)
- Use of financial support at home different:
  - UK – land; housing; education; business; debt
  - SA – basic needs; housing ; farming; children; livestock

Poverty (not policy) as a predictor of destination

- Poverty dictates flow: income differentials define migration opportunities for potential migrants
- Occupation/education/ family demographics
- Legal entry status is not a significant factor in determining migration or labour market engagement

Legality

	UK returnees		SA returnees	
	Arrival	Departure	Arrival	Departure
Undocumented	2.5	26.8	0	51.2
Documented	97.5	73.1	100	48.4
Entry	70.6	49.2	100	34.9
Illegal workers	64.7	36.3	98.7	21.4
Not working	5.9	12.9	1.3	13.49
Right to Work F/T	14	16.9	0	13.5
Other	12.9	6.9	0	0

What determines positive outcomes - country of migrant effect?

- Why are some migrants able to achieve a positive change during migration and others not?
  - Effect of Initial Status on outcomes (increased income)
    - Marital status, and age, education, wealth – no effect
    - Illegality doesn't work against you

- If fixed effects and legal status does not significantly effect migration outcomes, what does?
  - Length of stay
  - Social protection – asset building and social networks

Length of Stay (UK)

Length of stay and change in income status (%)

|	0-1yr	2-3yrs	4-5yrs	>6 yrs
Declined	16%	16%	5%	10%
The Same	31%	27%	24%	10%
Improved	53%	57%	71%	80%
Total	100%	100%	100%	100%

Social Protection Portfolio at destination

- Market-based SP: most migrants has none
- Employment-based:
  - 53% of UK migrants and 28% of SA migrants across 1st and last jobs
  - Legal status does not determine nature of job contract
  - Right to work $\neq$ employment-based SP
- Informal Social Protection

Informal Social Protection

- Informal SP index:
    - 1) a) # of types of social support given in the UK/SA

        b) # of types of social support received in the UK/SA
    - 2) Number of groups in the UK/SA
    - 3) Number of types of financial, physical and social assets in the UK/SA and Malawi
- Formal and informal SP work together

ISP and length of stay (UK)
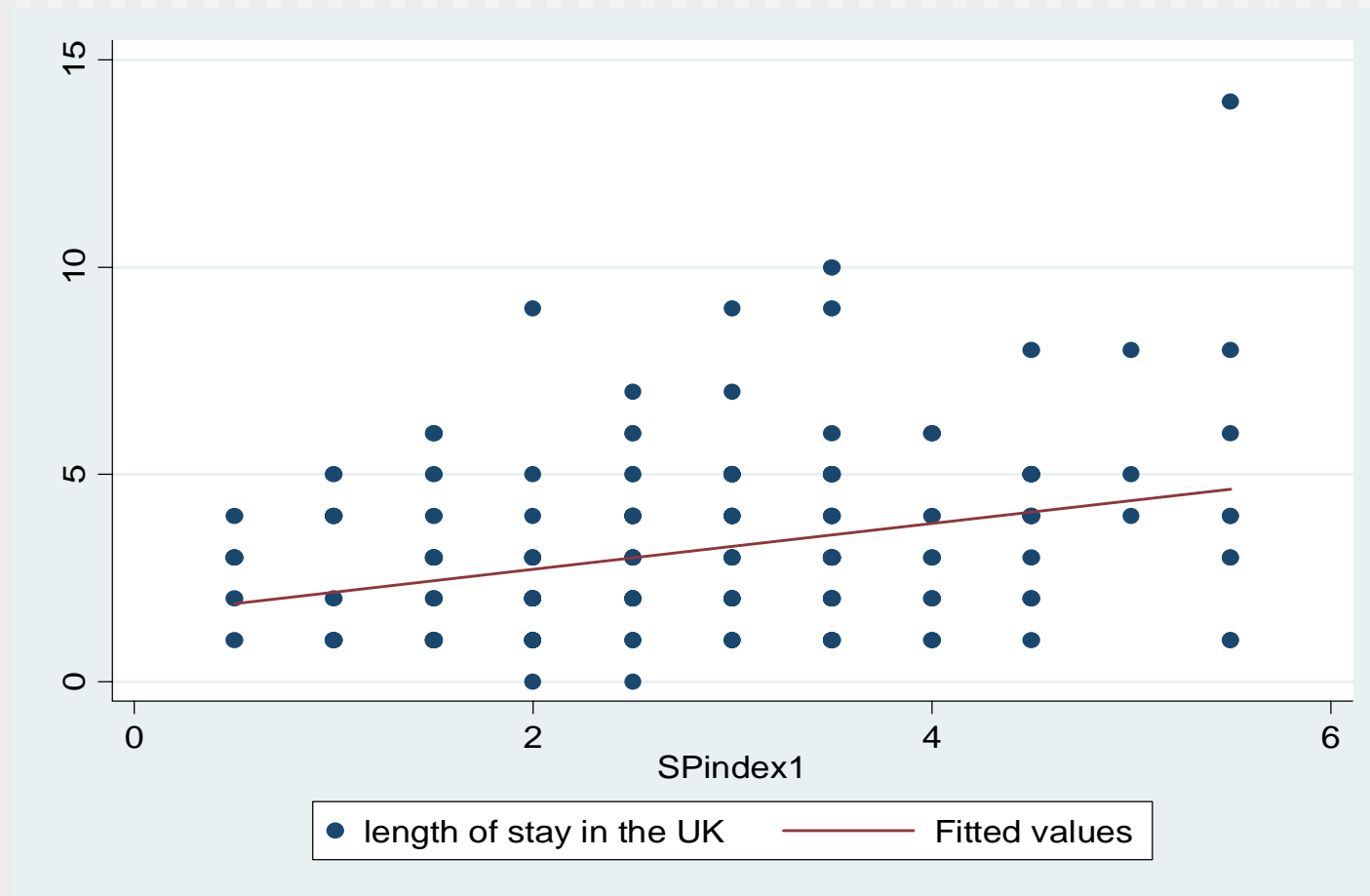
Results

Dependent: change in income	UK-migrants		SA-migrants	
	1	2	3	4
	Beta	Beta	Beta	Beta
Constant		0.151 (0.389)	-0.558* (0.330)	-0.663* (0.383)
Informal Social Protection + length at destination				
Informal SP Index	0.038 (0.088)	-0.108 (0.135)	0.256** (0.106)	0.378** (0.156)
Length of migration (years)	0.192** (0.061)		0.078 (0.515)	
Time dummy 2: (base:<=2) > 2 years		-0.139 (0.510)		0.670 (0.595)
SPindex * time 2		0.297* (0.170)		-0.194 (0.220)

Results II

- Country selection effects? Yes.
- But, no obvious selection effects on initial status
- Depending on the country there is a time-effect or an SP effects on positive outcomes.
- In the case of UK-returnees this time effect works through SP portfolios

Conclusions

- Characteristics of migrants S-N and S-S are very different
- Poverty as a constraint on destination choice
- Legal status is not as important as we may think
- Distance to destination predicts relative importance of informal SP and length of stay in achieving positive outcomes
- Informal and formal social protection work together

Implications

- Care should be taken when pooling migrant data
- 'Legality' as a single variable is of limited use
- Illegality does not work against you
- Remittances and asset accumulation is the dominant risk-management strategy for migrants
  - Facilitate easy remittance flows
- Determinants of positive outcomes depends on distance to destination (history of migration), cost of travel
- Build up migrant networks