

ERSA REGIO Lecture

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Points for discussion

Dr Maria Abreu
University of Cambridge

Summary

Skilled migration is key to understanding spatial productivity differences (static and dynamic).

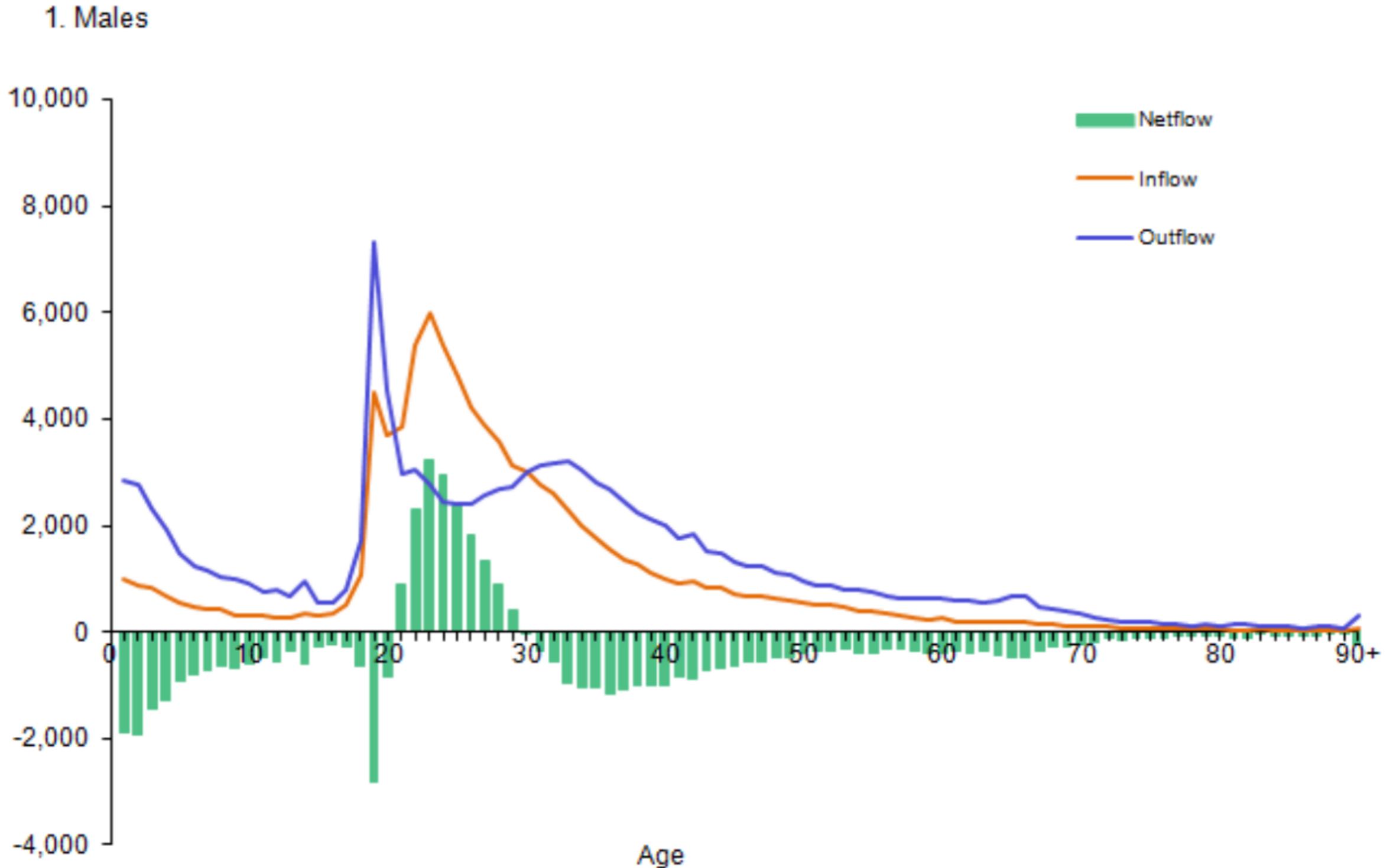
Important variable for policy design in city planning, industrial policy, higher education.

Growing cultural polarisation, possible contribution to cultural grievances (Norris and Inglehart, 2019).



Mile End, Montreal. Source: MTL Blog (mtlblog.com).

Internal migration moves into and out of London, year ending June 2013 (males)



Source: Office of National Statistics, Internal Migration Release.

Why do graduates move?

Economic factors:

Earnings, career progression, cost of living.

Amenities:

Cafes, theatres, shops, architecture, green spaces, weather.

Culture:

Social networks, diversity, values, political views.



Bath, Somerset.

Probit regressions for migration from university location

Variable	All	Top grades	Onward migrants	Return migrants
Earnings	0.016 ^{***}	0.026 ^{***}	0.034 ^{***}	-0.026 ^{***}
House prices	-0.018 ^{***}	-0.018 ^{***}	-0.018 ^{***}	-0.063 ^{***}
Unemployment	0.010 ^{***}	0.001	-0.007 ^{**}	0.045 ^{***}
Rainfall	-0.011 ^{***}	-0.009 ^{***}	-0.013 ^{***}	-0.028 ^{***}
Temperature	-0.010 ^{***}	-0.008 ^{***}	-0.000	-0.017 ^{***}
Population density	-0.006 ^{***}	-0.007 [*]	0.006	-0.134 ^{**}
Heritage index	0.005 ^{**}	0.010 ^{***}	0.012 ^{***}	0.022 ^{***}
Extraversion	0.012 ^{***}	0.015 ^{***}	0.022 ^{***}	0.020 ^{***}
Agreeableness	0.012 ^{***}	0.010 ^{***}	0.011 ^{***}	0.016 ^{***}
Conscientiousness	-0.042 ^{***}	-0.042 ^{***}	-0.067 ^{***}	-0.003
Neuroticism	-0.008 ^{***}	-0.008 ^{***}	-0.006 ^{***}	-0.014 ^{***}
Openness	0.005 [*]	0.010 ^{***}	0.013 ^{***}	-0.006
Obs	85,422	54,443	58,401	32,551

Additional findings

Graduates move for reasons other than jobs and cost of living - heritage and values matter.

Inequalities in skills are not just due to migration:

Learning enhanced by agglomeration - from pre-school level.

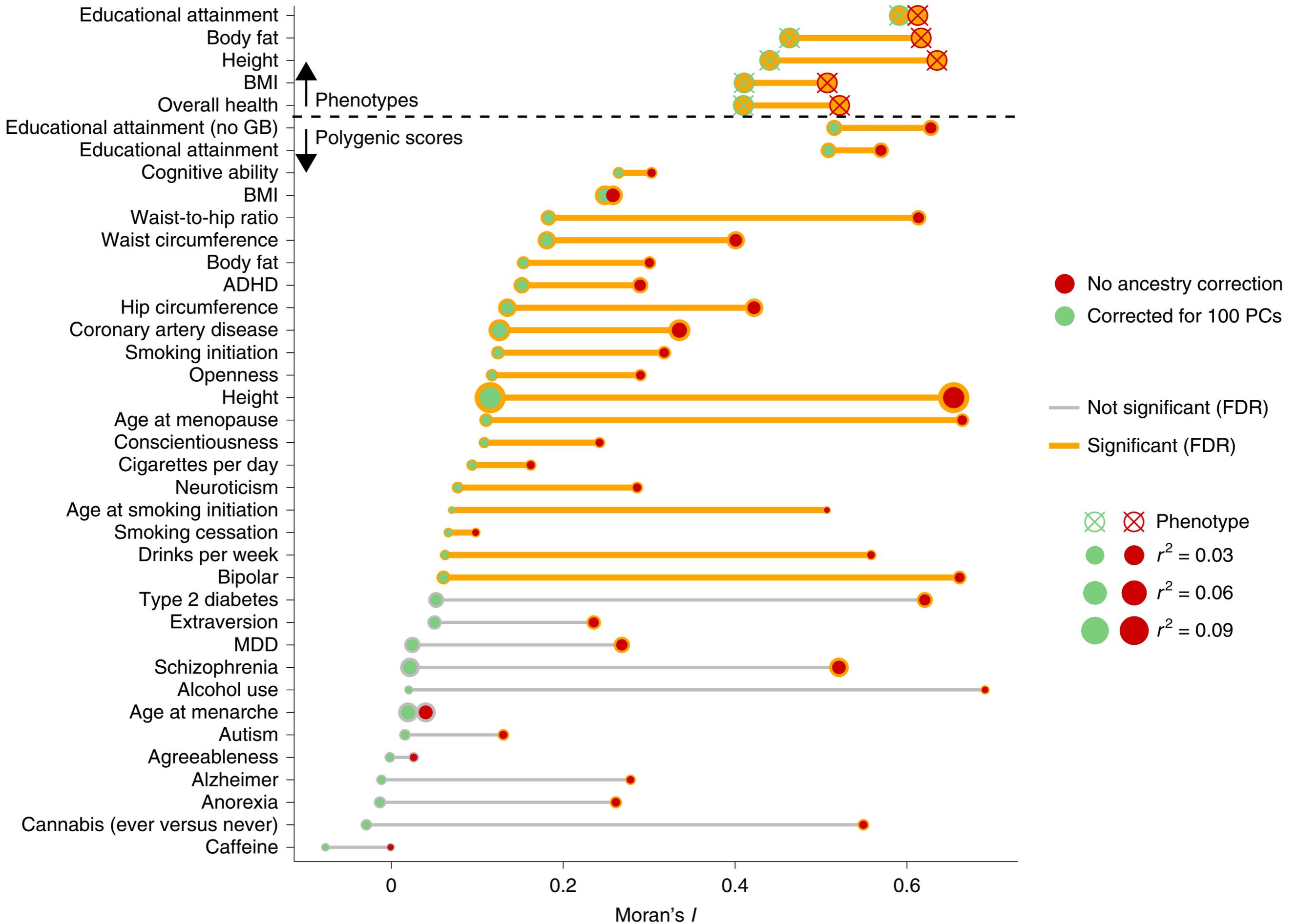
Inequalities in lifelong learning and training opportunities.

Differences in the demand for skills - rather than supply.

Genetic correlates of social stratification in Great Britain

Abdel Abdellaoui ^{1*}, David Hugh-Jones², Loic Yengo ³, Kathryn E. Kemper ³, Michel G. Nivard ⁴, Laura Veul¹, Yan Holtz³, Brendan P. Zietsch ⁵, Timothy M. Frayling⁶, Naomi R. Wray ^{3,7}, Jian Yang ^{3,7}, Karin J. H. Verweij¹ and Peter M. Visscher ^{3,7*}

Human DNA polymorphisms vary across geographic regions, with the most commonly observed variation reflecting distant ancestry differences. Here we investigate the geographic clustering of common genetic variants that influence complex traits in a sample of ~450,000 individuals from Great Britain. Of 33 traits analysed, 21 showed significant geographic clustering at the genetic level after controlling for ancestry, probably reflecting migration driven by socioeconomic status (SES). Alleles associated with educational attainment (EA) showed the most clustering, with EA-decreasing alleles clustering in lower SES areas such as coal mining areas. Individuals who leave coal mining areas carry more EA-increasing alleles on average than those in the rest of Great Britain. The level of geographic clustering is correlated with genetic associations between complex traits and regional measures of SES, health and cultural outcomes. Our results are consistent with the hypothesis that social stratification leaves visible marks in geographic arrangements of common allele frequencies and gene-environment correlations.



Policy implications?

More radical policies on graduate migration:

- Preferential fees and writing-off of loans to stay in local area.

- Regional migration policies - with regional quotas.

Policies that cross thematic boundaries:

- Mental health and lifelong learning.

- Skills and infrastructure development (e.g. broadband).

More focus on the demand for skills:

- Skill ecosystems - regional policies, greater role for industrial associations, workplace innovation, schools.



Better Use of Skills in the Workplace

**WHY IT MATTERS FOR PRODUCTIVITY
AND LOCAL JOBS**

ILO (2017) “Better use of skills in the workplace”: includes *Innovation Workplaces* case study from the East Midlands.