Chinese Head Tax Project: Updates

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Research Question

How does an increase in fixed migration costs (in the form of a nationality-specific flat 'head tax' at the time of entry) affect selection into immigration?

Data Issues

Ferenczi and Willcox (1929)

- Immigration by country and year only starts in 1900 (no pre-period data for Head Tax)
- Census data is mostly similar in shape, but differs significantly at times `All Countries` `Belgium` `Japan`

Time Series Emigration Regressions à la Hatton and Williamson (1994)

- Essentially missing any origin country data for China (wages, population, industrialization)
- Don't have annual Chinese population in Canada – okay to impute between decennial censuses?
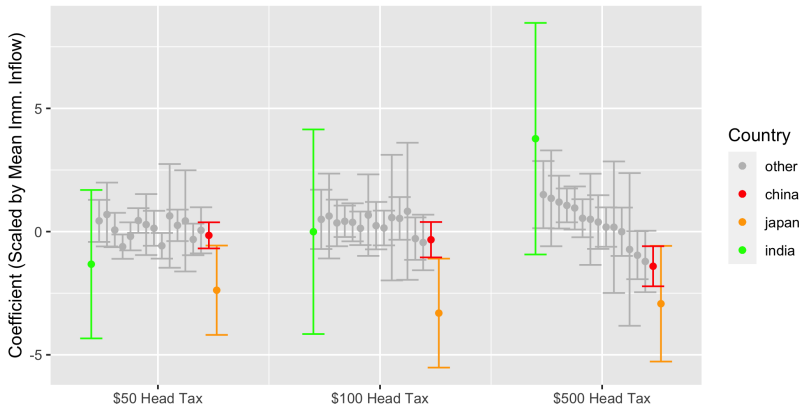
Immigration Inflow: Regression Specification

$$\text{FLOW}_t = \alpha + \beta_1 \text{TOTALIMM}_t + \beta_2 \text{GNPGROWTH}_t +$$
$$\delta_1 t + \delta_2 t^2 + \sum_{\tau \in \mathcal{T}} \gamma_\tau \mathbf{1}[TAX_t = \tau] \quad (1)$$

- Same as regression from last time, 1880-1910 to cut out WWI

Graphing γ_τ's for Various Countries [Eq (1)]

Inflow Regression Coefficients by Country (1880-1910)

Countries (L to R): India, Belgium, Australia/NZ, France, Poland, Russia, Italy, Denmark, Norway, Germany, Switzerland, Sweden, West Indies, Austria/Hungary, Finland, China, Japan
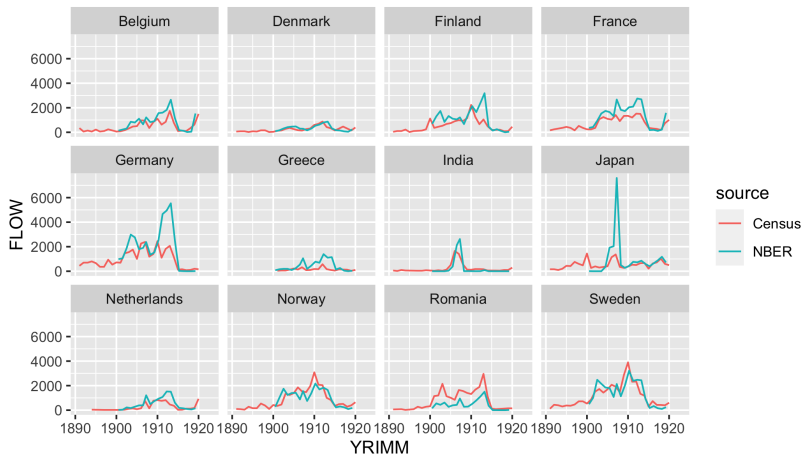
Immigration Inflow: Sig. Effects on Japanese Immigration?

	CHIFLOW^R (Register)	CHIFLOW^C (Census)	JAPANFLOW^C (Census)	CHIFLOW^C (Pre-1908)	JAPANFLOW^C (Pre-1908)
			Dependent variable:		
	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)
$50 Tax		−453.700	−383.200	−96.840	−56.450
		(399.800)	(242.300)	(294.200)	(187.600)
$100 Tax	−695.100	−599.000	−867.000**	−283.200	−1,089.000***
	(834.500)	(604.800)	(366.500)	(353.100)	(225.100)
$500 Tax	−6,989.000***	−1,607.000**	−810.100*	−1,188.000**	−1,620.000***
	(1,006.000)	(669.300)	(405.600)	(471.200)	(300.500)
Observations	38	41	41	28	28
Adjusted R^2	0.747	0.675	0.430	0.730	0.833

Note: *p<0.1; **p<0.05; ***p<0.01

Census Inflow w/ Japanese Imm.

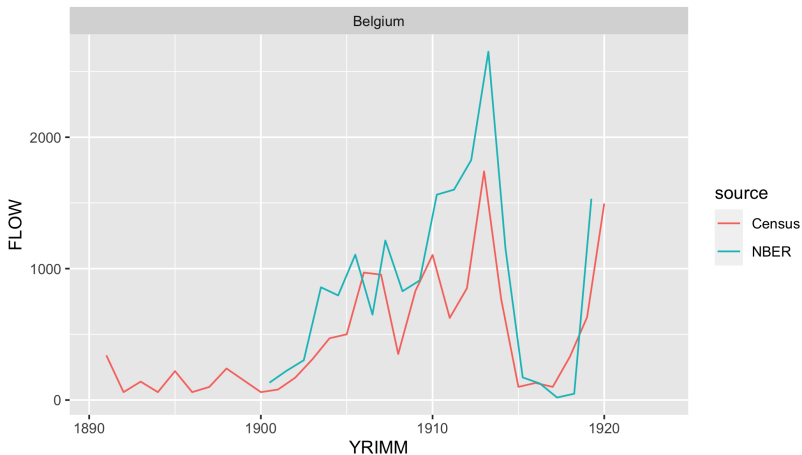# NBER vs. Census Immigration Data

NBER vs. Census Immigration Data: Belgium

NBER vs. Census Immigration Data: Japan

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