Chinese Head Tax Project: Updates

Amy Kim

September 6, 2023

New Data?!
○○○○○

Misc. History
○○○○○

Immigration Inflow
○○○

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?

New Data?! HK Harbormaster Reports

- Extremely detailed records of each 'passenger' ship (1870-1895) to depart **and** arrive in Hong Kong – name, of ship, number of passengers, destination port(s)
- Starting in 1895, still have aggregated number of emigrants/immigrants departing to/arriving from each port
- All years are scanned, but data doesn't seem to be digitized anywhere :(

New Data?!
○●○○○

Misc. History
○○○○○

Immigration Inflow
○○○

Departure Records

- Counts number of passengers on "Chinese Passenger Ships cleared by the emigration officer, Hong Kong" (1895 Departures Record)
- Potential issues:
  1. Might include non-Chinese outbound passengers? (Likely minimal – crew counted separately, table specifies emigration)
  2. How to consider 'transfers', i.e. passengers travelling to different destination via Canada, or to Canada via US
  3. How much of emigration to Canada was out of Hong Kong?
- Answer to (3): likely most – out of 1,831 registrations in 1895, I can match 1,632 to ships departing from HK. Essentially all other registrations came from US (1895 Matching Example) (But would need to verify for other years)

New Data?!
ooooo

Misc. History
ooooo

Immigration Inflow
ooo

Return Records

- Counts number of passengers on "Vessels bringing Chinese Passengers to the Port of Victoria, Hong Kong, from Places out of the Chinese Empire" (1895 Returns Record)
- Potential issues:
  1. How much of passenger traffic was into Port of Victoria (ans: approx 99.9% in 1895)
  2. Does this include non-immigrants like merchants, temporary travellers? (ans: seems like no – table described as reporting passengers "...brought to Hong Kong from places to which they had emigrated")
  3. 'Transfer' issue likely less problematic – no reason to return from less convenient place, since easy to leave North America
  4. How much of return immigration from Canada was into Hong Kong? (ans: again, less of a problem than for emigration – McKeown (2010): "Migration data, however, suggest that migrants were much more likely to return via Hong Kong than to depart this way.")

New Data?!
○○○●○

Misc. History
○○○○○

Immigration Inflow
○○○

1895 Accounting Exercise

- 3,714 departures from Hong Kong to Canada
- 1,831 registrations in Canada (49%)
- 2,353 returns (470 'excess' returns beyond 'rejections')

I can also do this with individual ships! E.g. the Empress of China departed HK on 1/23/1895 with 71 passengers. On 2/13/1895, 41 Chinese immigrants were recorded in the Register as having arrived on the Empress of China (implies 30 were rejected, or otherwise never recorded?). Can I proxy rejections like this? On 3/28/1895, the Empress of China returned to HK with 65 passengers. Can I proxy return migrants like this (65 - 30)?
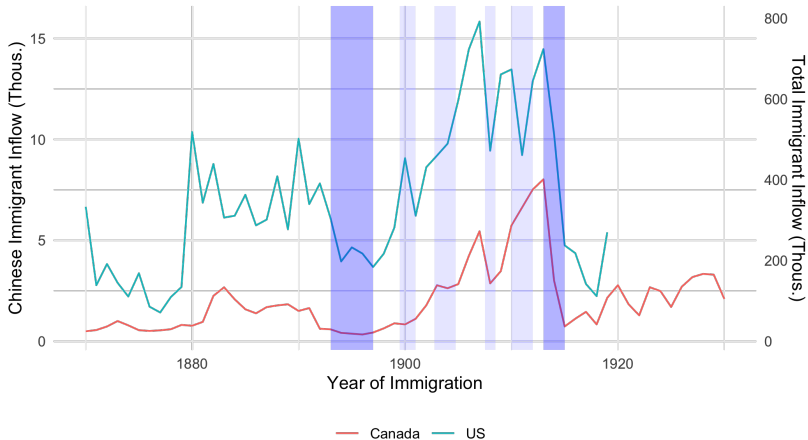
Goals with this Data

- Digitize summary tables (total emigration to Canada, total return migration from Canada by year)
- Use number of emigrants out of HK as a separate outcome variable for Time Series regressions (in addition to number of immigrants into CA)
- Use number of return migrants into HK as separate outcome variable
- Would having individual ship records be helpful? Accounting exercise seems more illustrative as an example than useful as a finding.

New Data?!
ooooo

Misc. History
●oooo

Immigration Inflow
ooo

Emigration from China: Larger Context

- 90% of emigration from China between 1840 and 1940 was to SE Asia (even higher after the 1880s)
- So even pre-regulation, Chinese immigrants to North America were a selected group (selected on what?)
- Tiny dips in overall/SE Asia emigration in Head Tax years – concerning? South China Emigration (McKeown 2010)

New Data?!
○○○○○

Misc. History
○●○○○

Immigration Inflow
○○○

Immigration to Canada
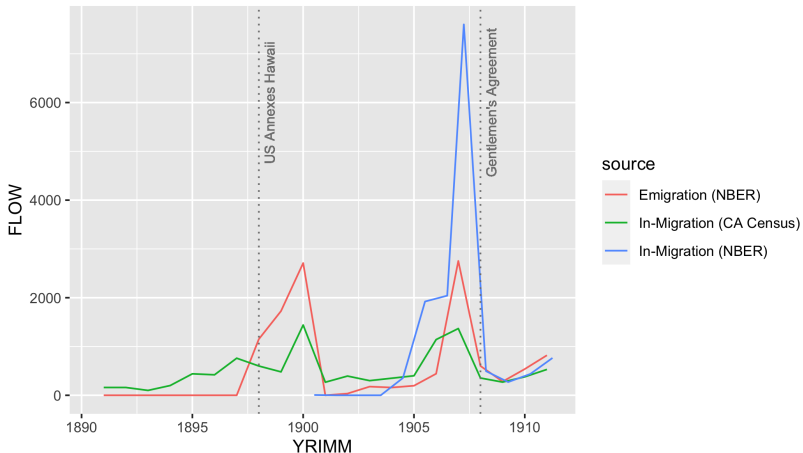
New Data?!
○○○○○

Misc. History
○○●○○

Immigration Inflow
○○○

Explaining the 1896-1913 Immigration Boom

- Coats, in Willcox (1931), explains this boom with a huge amount of foreign investment from Great Britain, ostensibly to fund agricultural production for its empire
- Basically identical to US pattern, except missing drops for some of the recessions

New Data?!
○○○○○

Misc. History
○○○●○

Immigration Inflow
○○○

Japanese Migration to Canada

New Data?!
ooooo

Misc. History
oooo●

Immigration Inflow
ooo

Explaining Spikes in Japanese Immigration

- 1906-07 spike easier – anticipation of 1908 Gentlemen's Agreement
- 1900 spike less clear – also shows up in emigration to US and in total emigration (mostly to Hawaii) but one year earlier in 1899. Possibily due to 1898 annexation of Hawaii and resulting instability – temporary substitution towards US/CA?
  All Japanese Emigration

Immigration Inflow: Regression Specification

Old Equation:

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

New Equation V1 (adding sending country population stock):

$$\text{FLOW}_t = \alpha + \beta_1 \text{TOTALIMM}_t + \beta_2 \text{GNPGROWTH}_t +$$
$$\beta_3 POPSTOCK_t + \sum_{\tau \in \mathcal{T}} \gamma_\tau^{FLOW} \mathbf{1}[TAX_t = \tau] \quad (2)$$

New Data?!
ooooo

Misc. History
ooooo

Immigration Inflow
o●o

Graphing γ_τ^{FLOW}'s for Various Countries [Eq (2)]

Inflow Regression Coefficients by Country (1880-1910)

New Data?!
○○○○○

Misc. History
○○○○○

Immigration Inflow
○○●

Immigration Inflow: Regression Specification 2
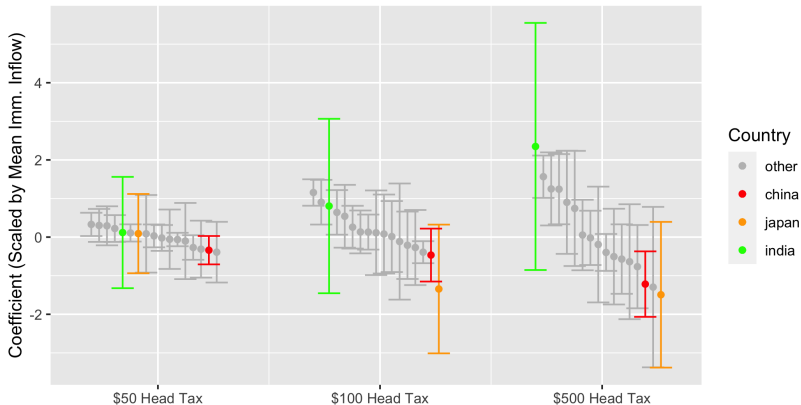
New Equation V2 (adding dummies for first two years of new tax):

$$\text{FLOW}_t = \alpha + \beta_1 \text{TOTALIMM}_t + \beta_2 \text{GNPGROWTH}_t + \beta_3 POPSTOCK_t +$$
$$\sum_{\tau \in \mathcal{T}} \left\{ \gamma_\tau^{FLOW} \mathbf{1}[TAX_t = \tau] + \phi_\tau^{FLOW} \mathbf{1}[TAX_t = \tau] \mathbf{1}[t - YEAR_\tau \le 2] \right\}$$
$$(3)$$

where $YEAR_\tau$ represents the first year where the tax was equal to τ. ϕ_τ^{FLOW} represents **additional** effect of the head tax in the two years following a change.

Doesn't seem to make much of a difference for these regressions (data cut too thinly).

Emigration from Japan
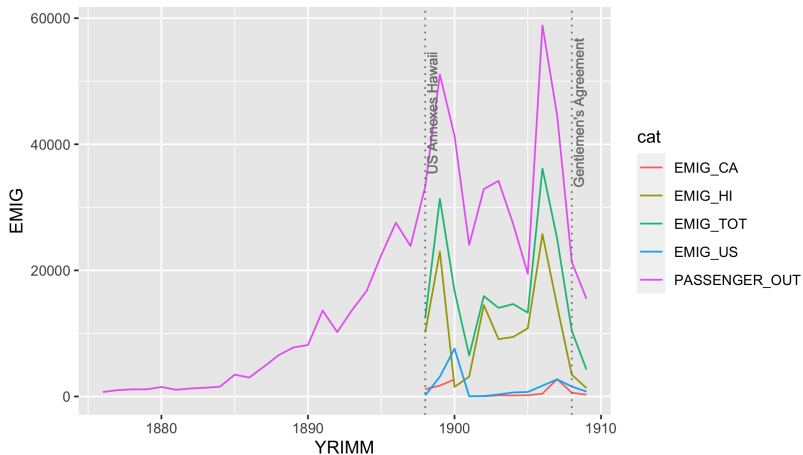
XVIII.—RETURN of CHINESE PASSENGER SHIPS *cleared by the Emigration Officer, Hongkong, during the Year ending the 31st day of December, 1895.*

No.	Date Cleared.	Ship's Name.	Tons.	Nationality of Ship.	Master's Name.	Whither Bound.	Adults M.	Adults F.	Children M.	Children F.	Total.
1	January 3	Sikh, str.	1,736	British	J. Rowley	Victoria, B.C. / Tacoma, U.S.A.	30 / 1	... / ...	... / ...	... / ...	31
2	,, 4	Chelydra, str.	1,574	,,	R. Cass	Straits Settlements	428	125	14	11	578
3	,, 5	Bormida, str.	1,499	Italian	E. De Negri	,,	314	134	18	15	481
4	,, 8	Lightning, str.	2,124	British	K. H. Sundberg	,,	281	108	10	12	411
5	,, 8	Oceanic, str.	2,440	,,	W. M. Smith	San Francisco	22	1	...	...	23
6	,, 8	Celebes, str.	1,600	Dutch	M. de Wyn	Straits Settlements	68	21	1	3	93
7	,, 9	Azamor, str.	2,005	British	P. Gibson	,,	142	23	6	4	175
8	,, 12	Marquis Bacquehem, str..	2,740	Austrian	G. Wallusching	,,	291	65	6	8	370
9	,, 17	Kutsang, str.	1,495	British	G. H. Bowker	,,	232	83	11	8	334
10	,, 23	Empress of China, str.	3,003	,,	R. Archibald	Victoria, B.C. / Vancouver, B.C.	20 / 51	... / ...	... / ...	... / ...	71
11	,, 23	Catherine Apcar, str.	1,734	,,	J. G. Olifant	Straits Settlements	153	25	7	3	188
12	,, 25	Gaelic, str.	2,691	,,	W. G. Pearne	Honolulu / San Francisco	161 / 10	5 / ...	2 / ...	1 / ...	179
13	February 2	Wing Sang, str.	1,517	,,	d'A. de Ste. Croix	Straits Settlements	97	18	...	2	117
14	,, 5	City of Peking, str.	3,129	American	W. Ward	San Francisco	21	...	...	...	21
15	,, 6	Bisagno, str.	1,499	Italian	E. Barabino	Straits Settlements	115	3	1	2	121
16	,, 11	Maria Valerie, str.	2,644	Austrian	B. Vidas	,,	142	39	2	6	189
17	,, 12	Arratoon Apcar, str.	1,392	British	J. E. Hansen	,,	333	51	11	14	409
18	,, 14	Orestes, str.	2,846	,,	J. Puiford	,,	410	3	1	1	415
19	,, 19	Chelydra, str.	1,574	,,	R. Cass	,,	819	59	23	5	906
20	,, 19	China, str.	2,401	,,	W. B. Seabury	San Francisco	105	...	1	...	106
21	,, 20	Empress of India, str.	3,003	,,	O. P. Marshall	Victoria, B.C. / Vancouver, B.C.	64 / 235	... / ...	... / ...	... / ...	297

Back to Slides

1895 CA Chinese Register Summary by Conveyance

|	CONVEYANCE	REG_Year	REG_Month	REG_Day	PORT	NUM_Arrived
19	Empress Of China	1895	2	13	Vancouver	22
20	Empress Of China	1895	2	13	Victoria	19
21	Empress Of Japan	1895	2	13	Vancouver	1
22	City Of Kingston	1895	2	15	Victoria	1
23	City Of Kingston	1895	2	18	Victoria	1
24	Sailing Ship	1895	2	20	Victoria	1
25	Empress Of China	1895	2	26	Vancouver	3
26	Empress Of China	1895	2	28	Vancouver	2
27	Empress Of India	1895	3	12	Vancouver	67
28	Empress Of India	1895	3	12	Victoria	45

Back to Slides

1895 HK Immigration Records

XIX.—RETURN of VESSELS *bringing* CHINESE PASSENGERS *to the Port of Victoria, Honghong, from Places out of the Chinese Empire, during the Year ending 31st December, 1895.*

No.	DATE ARRIVED.	SHIP'S NAME.	TONS.	NATIONALITY OF SHIP.	MASTER'S NAME.	WHERE FROM.	ADULTS.		CHILDREN.		TOTAL.
							M.	F.	M.	F.	
1	January 1	Lightning, str.	2,124	British	Sundberg	Straits Settlements	347	16	1	...	364
2	,, 1	Pekin, str.	2,134	,,	Langborne	,,	86	3	3	...	92
3	,, 1	Machew, str.	996	,,	Anderson	Bangkok	43	...	...	...	43
4	,, 2	Empress of China, str. ...	3,003	,,	Archibald	Victoria, B.C.	53	...	...	...	261
						Vancouver, B.C.	203	5	...	...	
5	,, 3	Oceanic, str.	2,440	,,	Smith	Honolulu	155	...	...	...	311
						San Francisco	132	9	10	5	
6	,, 4	Cheang Hye Teng, str. ...	923	,,	Scott	Straits Settlements	352	11	6	4	373
7	,, 5	Devawongse, str.	1,057	,,	Perks	Bangkok	96	...	...	...	96
8	,, 6	Loo Sok, str.	1,020	,,	Jackson	,,	72	...	...	...	72
9	,, 6	Phra Chula Chom Klao, s.	1,012	,,	Morris	,,	68	...	...	...	68
10	,, 9	Teucer, str.	1,803	,,	Riley	Straits Settlements	329	21	16	4	370
11	,, 10	Ceylon, str.	2,637	,,	Baker	,,	529	26	10	8	573
12	,, 10	Choy Sang, str.	1,194	,,	Young	,,	580	9	...	...	589
13	,, 14	Victoria, str.	1,992	,,	Panton	Victoria, B.C.	41	...	...	...	61
						Tacoma, U.S.A.	20	...	...	...	
14	,, 14	Kong Beng, str.	862	,,	Pigot	Bangkok	120	...	...	...	120
15	,, 14	Guthrie, str.	1,494	,,	Helms	South Australia	21	...	...	...	101
						Queensland	34	...	...	...	
						New South Wales	26	...	...	...	
						Melbourne	12	...	...	...	

Back to Slides

Emigration from South China (McKeown 2010)

Back to Slides
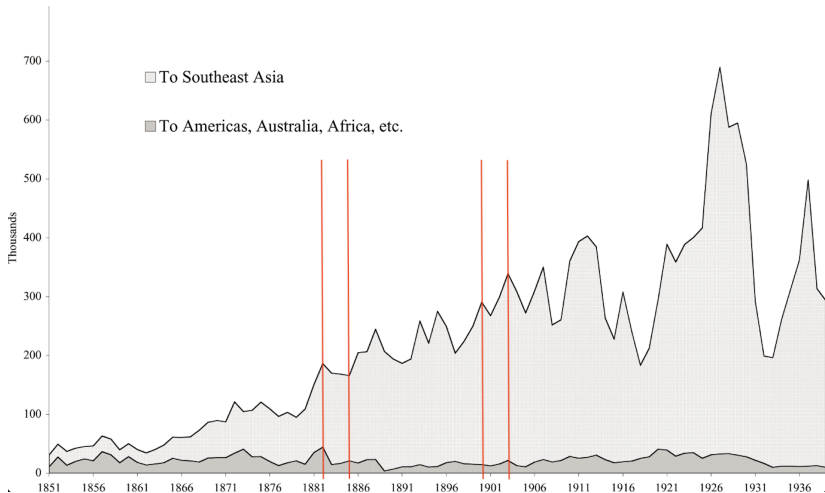
Graphing γ_τ^{FLOW}'s for Various Countries Old Version [Eq (1)]

Inflow Regression Coefficients by Country (1880-1910)