Chinese Head Tax Project: Updates
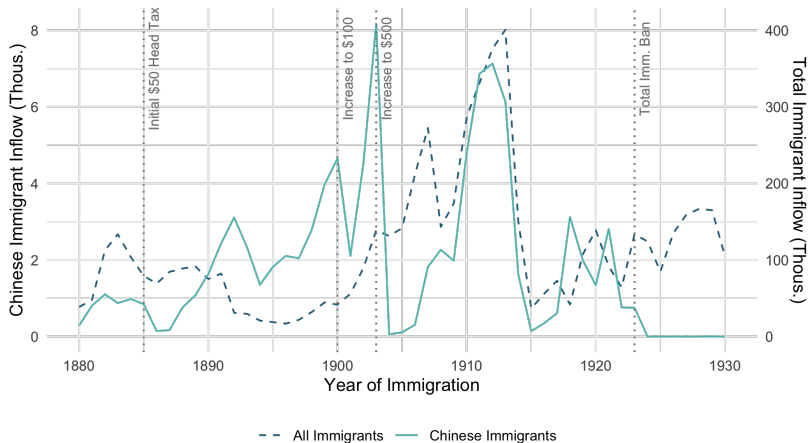
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Research Question

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?

Immigration Inflow: Updated Figure

Immigration Inflow: Regression Specification

$$\text{CHIFLOW}_t = \alpha + x_t'\beta + \delta_1 t + \delta_2 t^2 + \sum_{\tau \in \mathcal{T}} \gamma_\tau \mathbf{1}[TAX_t = \tau]$$

- TAX_t is tax paid in year t ($50 tax is omitted for Register; $0 tax is omitted for Census)
- x_t includes total immigration inflow + economic condition (GNP growth)
- (quadratic) time trend seems necessary Normalized Chinese Inflow but complicates coeff interpretation – exclude constant?
- Count years of change as lower head tax (e.g. categorize 1885 as $0 head tax since established in July 1885)
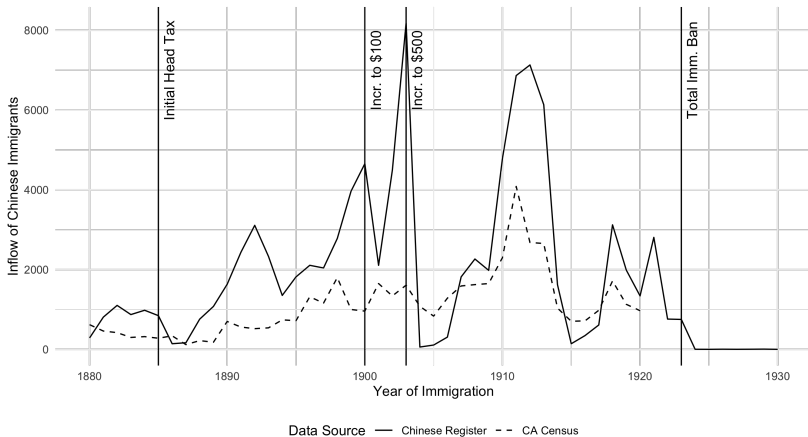- Dissipation of effect within a few years?
- Standardize variables?

Immigration Inflow: Regression Results

	Dependent variable:				
	$CHIFLOW^R$ (Register)	$CHIFLOW^C$ (Census)	$JAPANFLOW^C$ (Census)	$CHIFLOW^C$ (Pre-1908)	$JAPANFLOW^C$ (Pre-1908)
	(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.

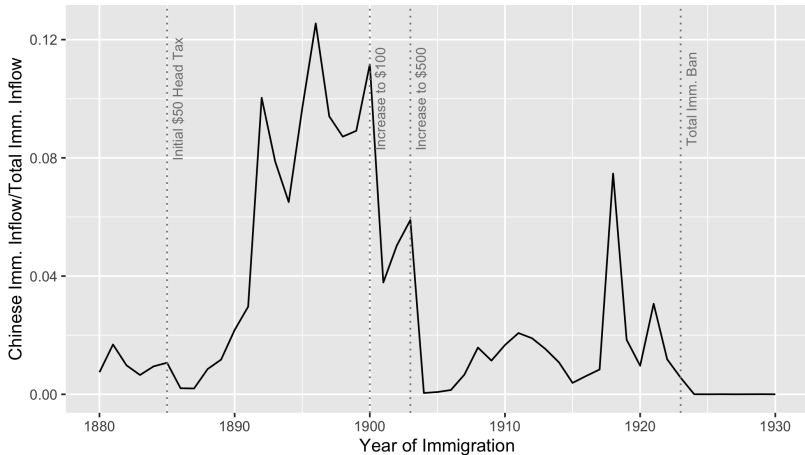# Immigration Inflow: Old Figure

Chinese Immigration Inflow as Fraction of Total

Immigration Inflow with Census Data