

## [ecn310/course-project-migration] Guidance from Professor Pearson (Discussion #2)

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[@ecn310/migration](#) Here is the information that Professor Pearson shared with me for the project.

Project statement (this is for the whole project, there are details below about the specific elements he thinks you can help with.

- During the Great Migration, many Blacks left the South for better opportunities in manufacturing centers across the U.S. There initially were large returns to migrating, but over time Black upward mobility declined in many of these destinations. This was due to several factors including the responses of Northern cities to the arrival of Black migrants as shown in Derenoncourt (2022) and import competition which decreased wages and increased unemployment rates. During this time, Black out-migration rates to the North fell while Black in-migration rates to the South increased. This period also saw increased inflows of white migrants from the North to the South, particularly to parts of the sun belt region. This project seeks to first document several patterns and how they differ by race including: 1.) from where and when did Black and white migrants leave the North, 2.) the factors that pushed Black and white migrants to leave, 3.) where and when did Black and white migrants from the North arrive in the South, and 4.) the factors that attracted Black and white migrants from the North to Southern destinations. Second, the project aims to study the how these inflows shaped several different outcomes and how the effects differ for Black and white migrants. We will likely start with exploring how these arrivals impacted voting patterns and labor market outcomes but may explore other relevant outcomes as we learn more about the context.

The data work to be done:

- Define the South as: TX, OK, AR, LA, MS, AL, GA, FL, NC, TN, and VA
- Data: use IPUMS USA subsamples
- Generate graphs to show the timing of increased migration flows to Southern states in the U.S. Create maps to show where non-Southern migrants went in the South over time and to show the areas in the non-Southern states where they left.
  - number of non-Southern born living in the South in each decade from 1950-2020
  - percent of non-Southern born living in the South in each decade from 1950-2020
- Generate maps:
  - non-Southern born population share at the commuting zone or metropolitan level for the Southern states in each decade from 1950-2020
    - can use birthplace variable to identify non-Southern born
    - geographic variables in the IPUMS data include metarea, metro, met2013. David Dorn has info/resources on consistent sub-state geographies: <https://www.ddorn.net/>
  - non-Southern out-migration rates (percent of population that moved to the South) at the commuting zone or metropolitan area level for the non-Southern states
    - can use backwards looking questions like migmet5 (metropolitan area of residence 5 years ago) in IPUMS USA data

- can also use data on county-county migration flows from Census:  
<https://www.census.gov/topics/population/migration/guidance/county-to-county-migration-flows.html>

He didn't give me any literature to start with yet; I'll add that as soon as I get it.

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