Notes on the transcription process

- The transcription took place between Dec 2015 - June Aug
- It was manually and checked
- For each transcription we created a list of observation in order to clarify the main assumptions/clarification made during this process. They are available in each excel files.

Main Data Structure

- Period: 1493-1539
- Total Travelers: 19,372
- Information about the origin: 100 %
- Information on occupation: 100 %
- Information on final destination: 95%

Information on Destination (Cities)

Information on destinations

- **Total destinations:** 621
- Identified with coordinates: 541 (87.11%)
- Unclear coordinates: 40 (6.5%)
- Non-Identified destination : 40 (6.5%)

Identifying unclear destinations

- Sometimes destination referred to a general places such as country or rivers (e.g. Indias, Tierra Firme). In these cases, when we have information we identify the centroid. Otherwise, we leave this destination to be defined.

- We use current coordinates. That is, we don't collect information on cities/places that changed location along the time.

Colonial Settlements in 1495

Colonial Settlements in 1500

Total Travelers

10 200 600
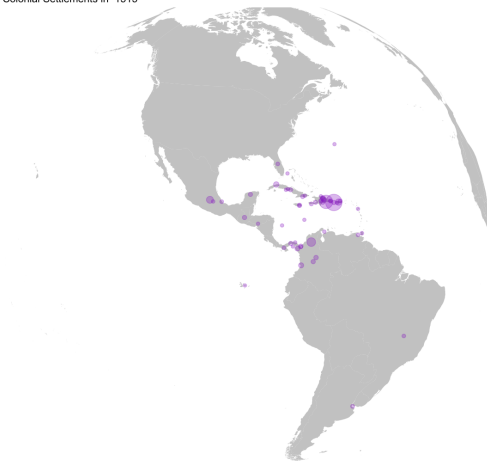100 500 1000

Colonial Settlements in 1505

Total Travelers
10   200   600
100   500   1000

Colonial Settlements in 1510

Total Travelers

| | 10 | | 200 | | 600 |
| | 100 | | 500 | | 1000 |

Colonial Settlements in 1515

Total Travelers
- 10
- 100
- 200
- 500
- 600
- 1000

Colonial Settlements in 1520

Total Travelers

	10		200		600
	100		500		1000

Colonial Settlements in 1525
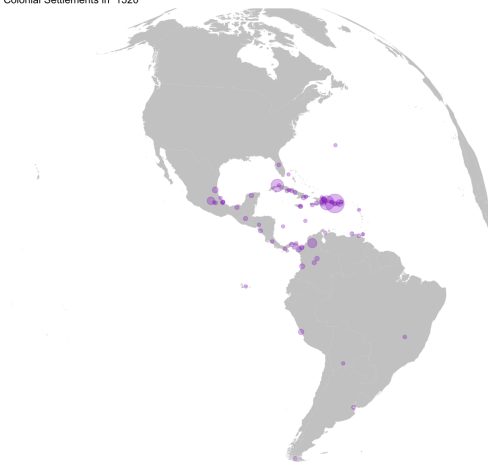
Total Travelers

Colonial Settlements in 1530

Total Travelers

10   200   600
100   500   1000

Colonial Settlements in 1535

Total Travelers

10   200   600

100   500   1000
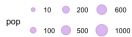
Colonial Settlements in 1540

Total Travelers

Colonial Settlements 1 years after first traveler

Colonial Settlements 2 years after first traveler

pop
- 10
- 100
- 200
- 500
- 600
- 1000

Colonial Settlements 3 years after first traveler

Colonial Settlements 4 years after first traveler

pop

- 10
- 100
- 200
- 500
- 600
- 1000
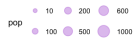
Colonial Settlements 5 years after first traveler

Information on Occupation

Mapping occupation into human capital

We found 274 different occupations or social status
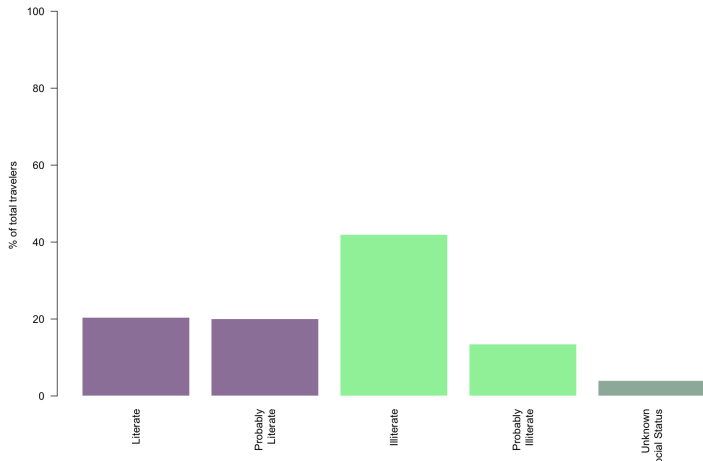
Mapping occupation into human capital - Example

- **Literate:** lawyer,viceroy,
- **Probably Literate:** major, sheriff, high-rank soldier
- **Illiterate:** shoemaker, rancher, weaver
- **Probably Illiterate:** miners, salesperson,low-rank soldier

Human Capital for the first travelers
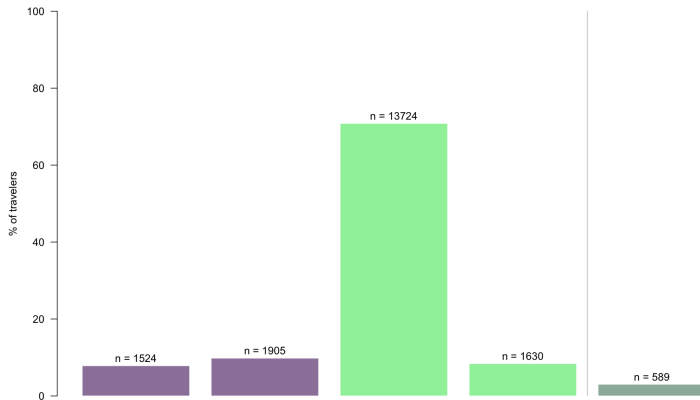
Human Capital in the Colonial Settlements in 1495

Share of Literates
0.4 0.6 0.8 1.0

Total Travelers
●10 ●200 ●600
●100 ●500 ●1000
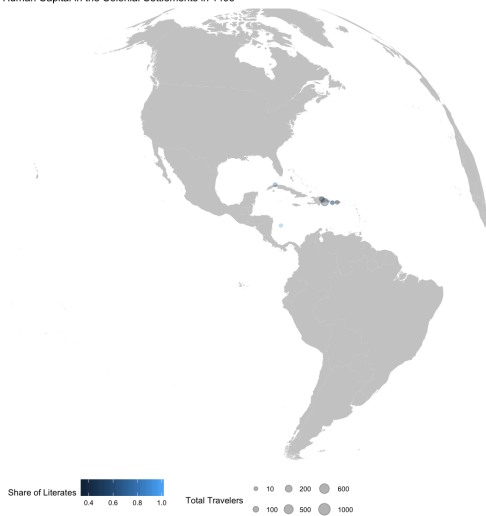
Human Capital in the Colonial Settlements in 1500
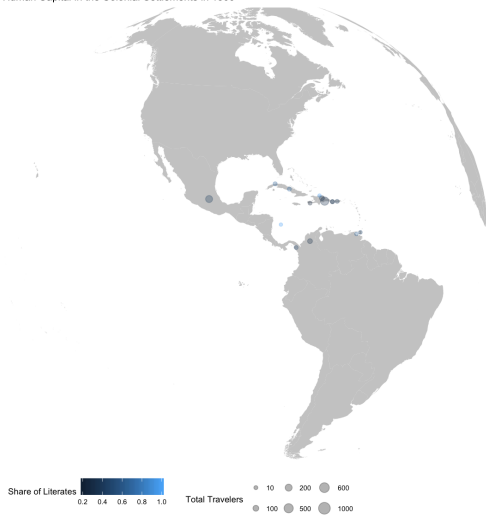
Human Capital in the Colonial Settlements in 1505
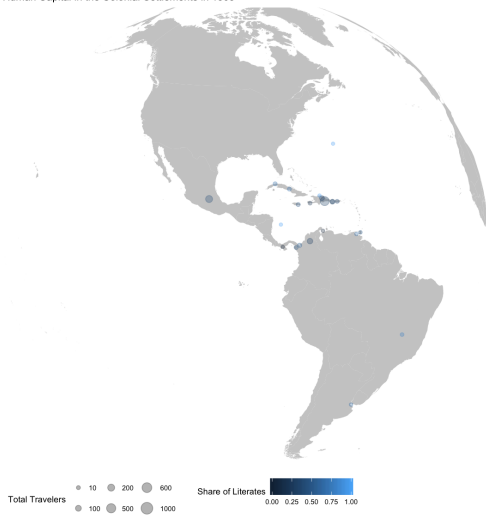
Human Capital in the Colonial Settlements in 1510
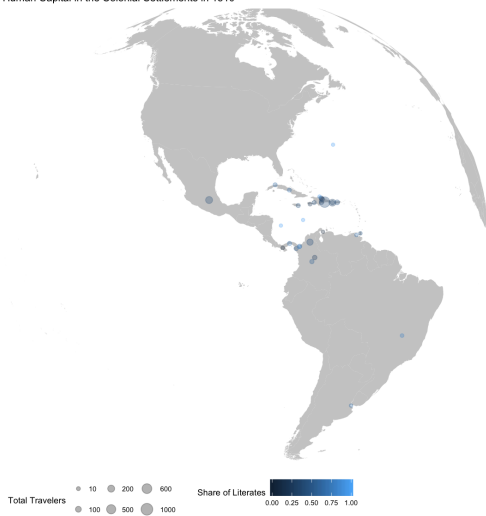
Human Capital in the Colonial Settlements in 1515
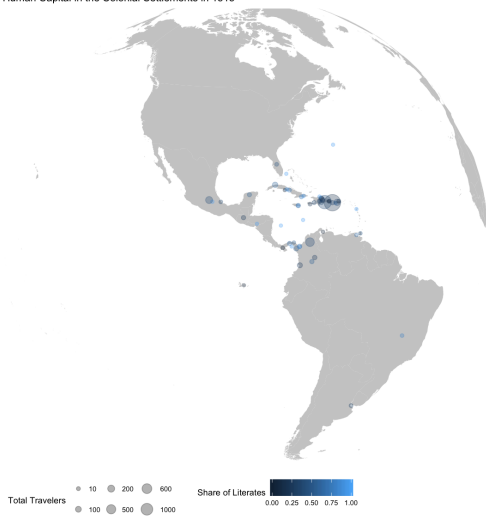
Human Capital in the Colonial Settlements in 1520

Total Travelers
- 10 200 600
- 100 500 1000

Share of Literates
0.00 0.25 0.50 0.75 1.00

Human Capital in the Colonial Settlements in 1525

Total Travelers

● 10 ● 200 ● 600
● 100 ● 500 ● 1000

Share of Literates

0.00 0.25 0.50 0.75 1.00
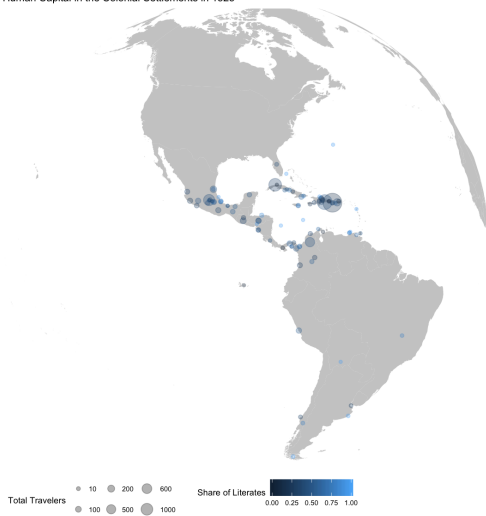
Human Capital in the Colonial Settlements in 1530

Human Capital in the Colonial Settlements in 1535

Total Travelers

○ 10 ○ 200 ○ 600
○ 100 ○ 500 ○ 1000

Share of Literates

0.00 0.25 0.50 0.75 1.00
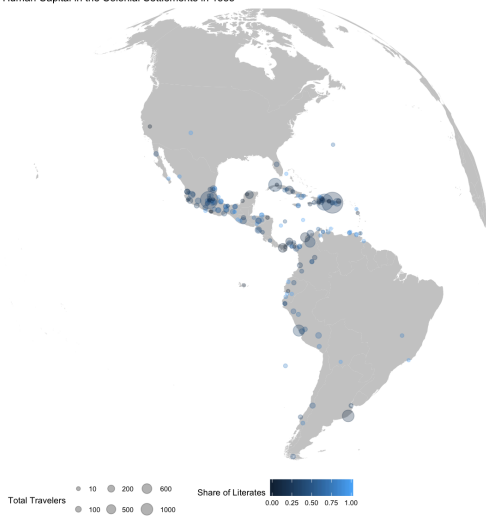
Human Capital in the Colonial Settlements in 1540

Correlation Between Human Capital from the First travelers and the new comers
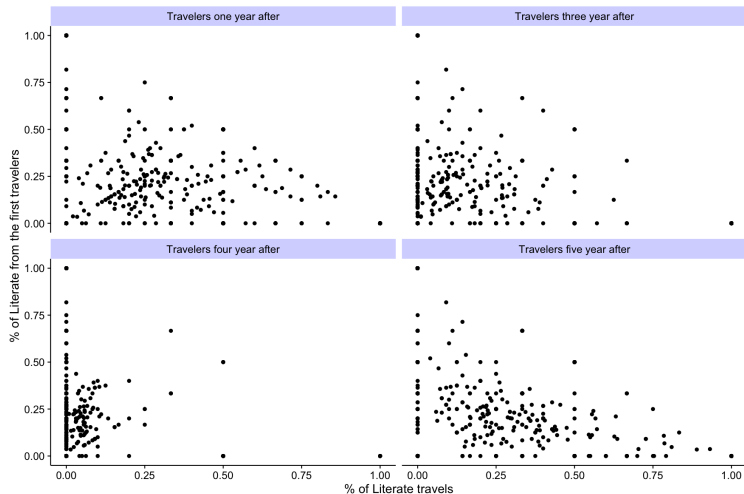
Table 1: Determinants of Human Capital Level of First Colonizers

	Dep. Var: % with Skills (all years)	Dep. Var: Majority with Skills	Dep. Var: % with Skills (first 5 years)
	(1)	(2)	(3)
Log. Temperature	-0.034	-0.061	-0.030
	[0.045]	[0.086]	[0.044]
Log. Precipitation	-0.042	0.162	-0.037
	[0.133]	[0.217]	[0.134]
Log. Distance to Coastline	-0.035	-0.015	-0.024
	[0.040]	[0.064]	[0.040]
Log. Ruggedness Index	0.204	0.327	0.118
	[0.129]	[0.208]	[0.124]
Log. Distance to River	0.146	0.095	0.127
	[0.089]	[0.108]	[0.088]
Log. Distance to Lake	0.043	0.090**	0.039
	[0.027]	[0.040]	[0.027]
% Fertile Soil	0.000	-0.000	0.000
	[0.001]	[0.002]	[0.001]
Observations	123	123	123
R-squared	0.078	0.098	0.055

Notes - Robust standard errors in brackets.* Significant at 10%, ** significant at 5%, and *** significant at 1%.

Table 2: Development and Human Capital Level of First Colonizers

Dependent Variable: Log. Night-light 2010 per capita

	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)
% with Skills (all years <=1540)	0.556**	0.544**	0.640***	0.597***	0.597***	0.597***
	[0.213]	[0.217]	[0.212]	[0.209]	[0.117]	[0.150]
Geographic Variables	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Climate Variables	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Fertile Soil	No	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Distance to River	No	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Distance to Lake	No	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Colonization Period FE	No	No	No	Yes	Yes	Yes
Observations	123	123	123	123	123	123
R-squared	0.063	0.099	0.137	0.168	0.168	0.168

Notes - Robust standard errors in columns 1 to 4. In column 5, robust standard errors clustered at grid cells of 8 degrees × 8 degrees. In column 6, robust standard errors clustered at grid cells of 10 degrees × 10 degrees. * Significant at 10%, ** significant at 5%, and *** significant at 1%. Geographic Variables include: distance to coastline and Ruggedness Index. Climate Controls: Average temperature from 1961-1980 and average precipitation from 1961-1980.

Table 3: Development and Human Capital Level of First Colonizers - Robust I

	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)
Dependent Variable: Log. Night-light 2010 per capita				
% with Skills (all years <=1540)	0.590***	0.486**	0.546**	0.455**
	[0.209]	[0.215]	[0.248]	[0.192]
Log Total Colonizers 1 year	-0.049			
	[0.087]			
Log Total Colonizers 5 years		-0.110**		
		[0.051]		
Geographic Variables	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Climate Variables	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Fertile Soil	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Distance to River	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Distance to Lake	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Colonization Period FE	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Colonizer Route Order	No	No	Yes	No
Pre-colonial pop density	No	No	No	Yes
Observations	123	123	123	98
R-squared	0.170	0.209	0.238	0.309

Notes - Robust standard errors in brackets.* Significant at 10%, ** significant at 5%, and *** significant at 1%. Geographic Variables include: distance to coastline and Ruggedness Index. Climate Controls: Average temperature from 1961-1980 and average precipitation from 1961-1980.

Table 4: Development and Human Capital Level of First Colonizers - Audiencias and Colonizer Effect

Dependent Variable: Log. Night-light 2010 per capita

	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)
% with Skills (all years <=1540)	0.587***	0.555***	0.586***	0.841***
	[0.212]	[0.192]	[0.199]	[0.275]
Log Dist. Audiencia before 1540	0.047			
	[0.048]			
Colonial settlements without an official Audiencia at foundation		-0.809***		
		[0.237]		
Number of years without an official Audiciencia			-0.058**	
			[0.022]	
Geographic Variables	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Climate Variables	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Fertile Soil	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Distance to River	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Distance to Lake	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Colonization Period FE	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Colonizer Route FE	No	No	No	Yes
Observations	123	123	123	123
R-squared	0.178	0.229	0.201	0.571

Notes - Robust standard errors in brackets.* Significant at 10%, ** significant at 5%, and *** significant at 1%. Geographic Variables include: distance to coastline and Ruggedness Index. Climate Controls: Average temperature from 1961-1980 and average precipitation from 1961-1980.

Table 5: Development and Human Capital Level of First Colonizers - First Travelers

	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)
	Dependent Variable: Log. Night-light 2010 per capita
Majority with Skills (>75) (all years <=1540)	0.404***					
	[0.129]					
% with Skills (first 5 years <=1540)		0.602***				
		[0.212]				
% with Skills (first 1 year <=1540)			0.468**			
			[0.186]			
% with Skills (all years <=1540) - First 10 colonizers				0.583**		
				[0.227]		
% with Skills (all years <=1540) - First 20 colonizers					0.555**	
					[0.224]	
% with Skills (all years <=1540) - First 30 colonizers						0.566**
						[0.218]
Geographic Variables	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Climate Variables	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Fertile Soil	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Distance to River	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Distance to Lake	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Colonization Period FE	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Observations	123	123	123	123	123	123
R-squared	0.167	0.168	0.156	0.160	0.155	0.159

Notes - Robust standard errors in brackets.* Significant at 10%, ** significant at 5%, and *** significant at 1%. Geographic Variables include: distance to coastline and Ruggedness Index. Climate Controls: Average temperature from 1961-1980 and average precipitation from 1961-1980.

Table 6: Development and Human Capital Level of First Colonizers - Reallocating Regions

Dependent Variable: Log. Night-light 2010 per capita

	Approach 1 (1)	Approach 1 (2)	Approach 2 (3)	Approach 2 (4)
% with Skills (all years <=1540)	0.563** [0.237]			
Majority with Skills (>75) (all years <=1540)		0.335** [0.133]		
% with Skills (all years <=1540)			0.529** [0.229]	
Majority with Skills (>75) (all years <=1540)				0.315** [0.133]
Geographic Variables	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Climate Variables	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Fertile Soil	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Distance to River	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Distance to Lake	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Colonization Period FE	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Observations	123	123	123	123
R-squared	0.155	0.148	0.151	0.143

Notes - Robust standard errors in brackets.* Significant at 10%, ** significant at 5%, and *** significant at 1%. Geographic Variables include: distance to coastline and Ruggedness Index. Climate Controls: Average temperature from 1961-1980 and average precipitation from 1961-1980.

Table 7: Development and Human Capital Level of First Colonizers - Robust Non-Overlapping

	Dependent Variable: Log. Night-light 2010 per capita		
	10km buffer no overlapping (1)	20km buffer no overlapping (2)	30km buffer no overlapping (3)
% with Skills (all years <=1540)	0.577**	0.648***	0.605**
	[0.227]	[0.221]	[0.274]
Geographic Variables	Yes	Yes	Yes
Climate Variables	Yes	Yes	Yes
Fertile Soil	Yes	Yes	Yes
Distance to River	Yes	Yes	Yes
Distance to Lake	Yes	Yes	Yes
Colonization Period FE	Yes	Yes	Yes
Observations	117	112	108
R-squared	0.150	0.177	0.139

Notes - Robust standard errors in brackets.* Significant at 10%, ** significant at 5%, and *** significant at 1%. Geographic Variables include: distance to coastline and Ruggedness Index. Climate Controls: Average temperature from 1961-1980 and average precipitation from 1961-1980.