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RESEARCH

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Motivation

- Intergenerational transfers as a form of resource sharing is central component of human life course and deeply rooted in human evolution (e.g. food sharing and pooling found among hunter-gatherers, Gurven et al. 2015, Lee 2008).
- In evolutionary perspective meant as support and risk insurance in life phases of increased need and dependency (mainly childhood).
- In modern societies increasing transfers to the elderly.
- Intergenerational transfers flowing within families and kinship networks but also institutionalized via public channels.
- Empirical evidence for beneficial health effects of public transfer programs for e.g. Germany (Vogt and Kluge 2015), China (Huang and Zhang 2016) or the US (Gelber et al. 2018).



IS TRANSFER GENEROSITY ASSOCIATED WITH A LOWER RISK OF DEATH IN A SOCIETY?

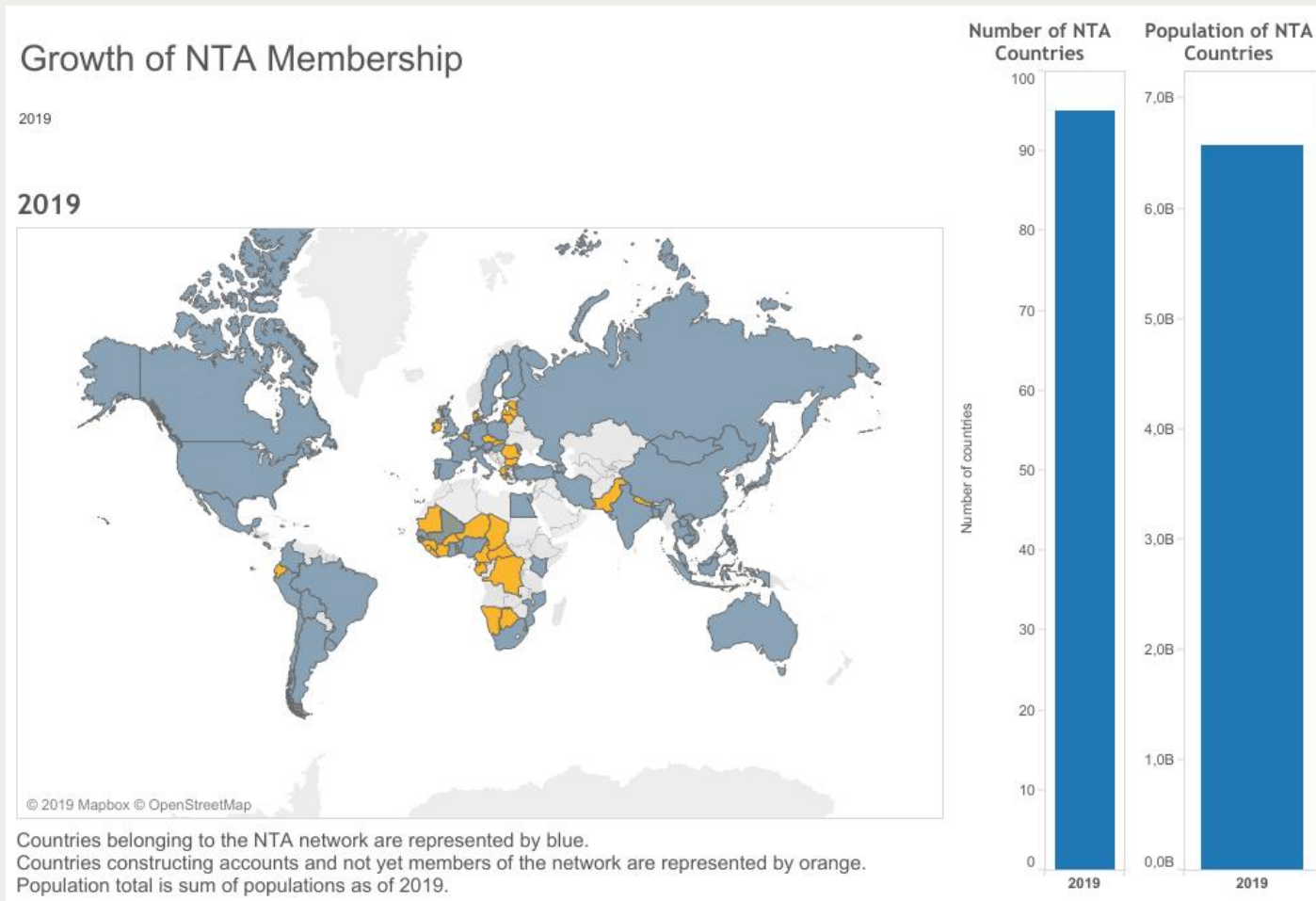
Data:

- National Transfer Accounts data offers country specific estimates of how average individuals finance their needs over the life course (consumption, savings, labour income, transfers by age).
- Private inter- and intrafamily transfers and public transfers.
- Transfers include provisions for food, home, private and public education, health, pensions, etc.



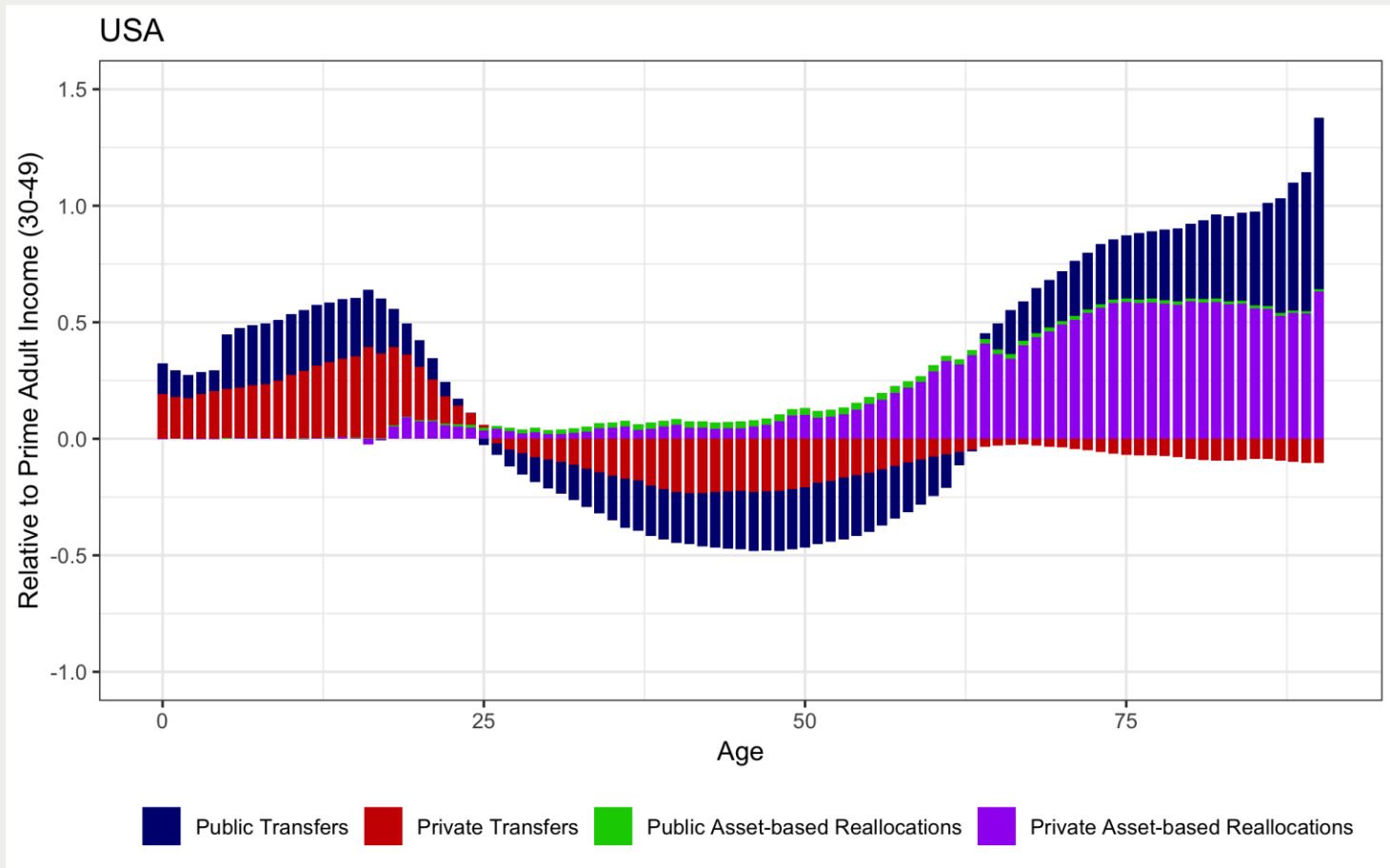
National Transfer Accounts (NTA) Project

- Project aim: to improve understanding of how population growth and changing population age structure influence economic growth, gender and generational equity, public finances, and other important features of the macro-economy.



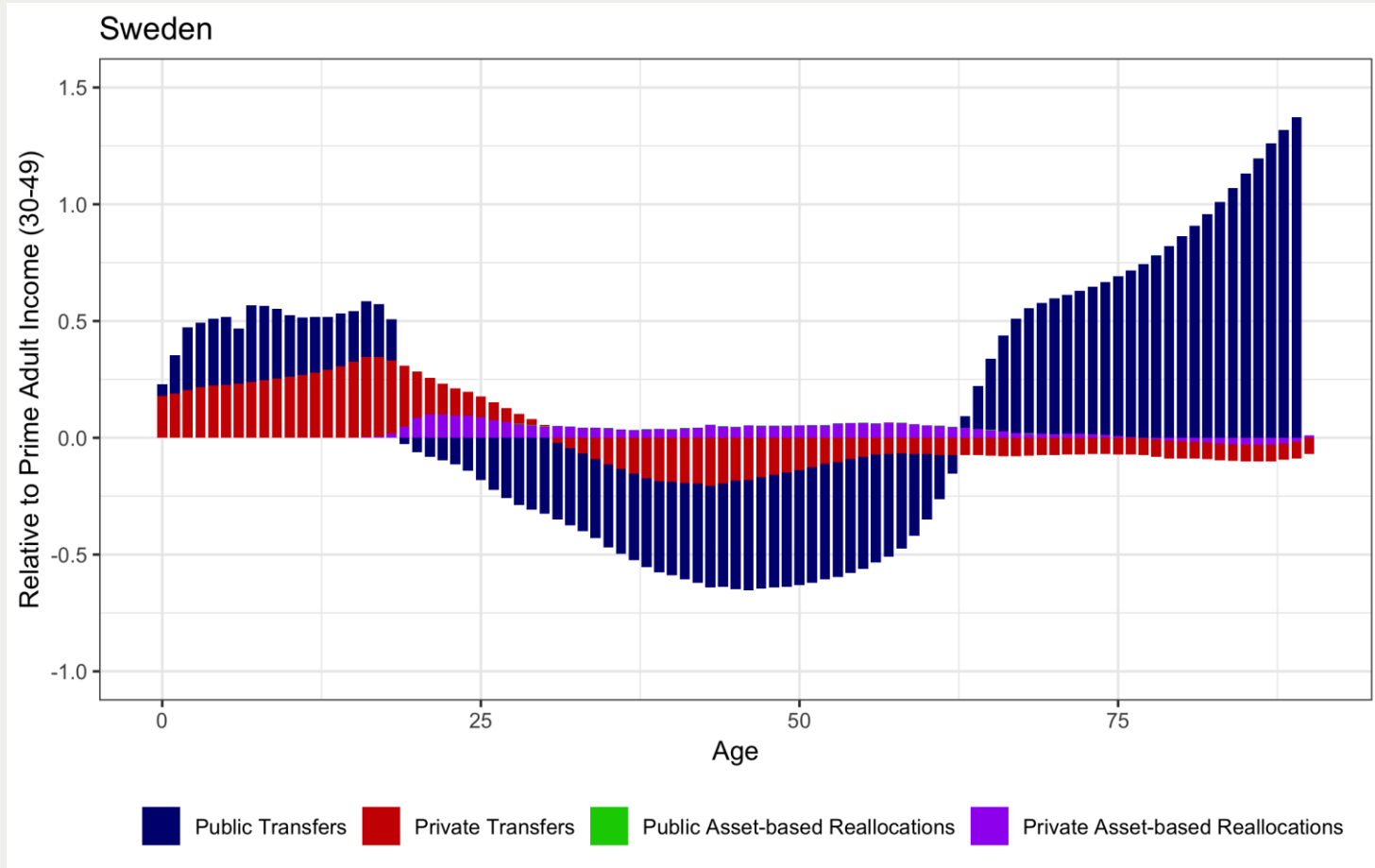


Selected NTA Transfer Profiles



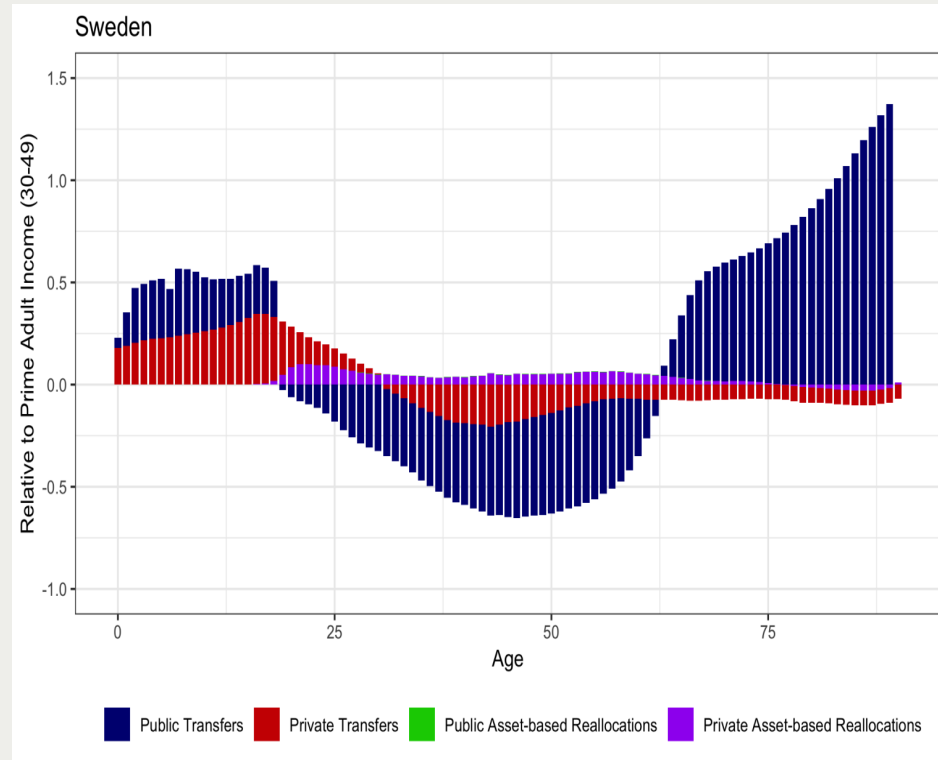
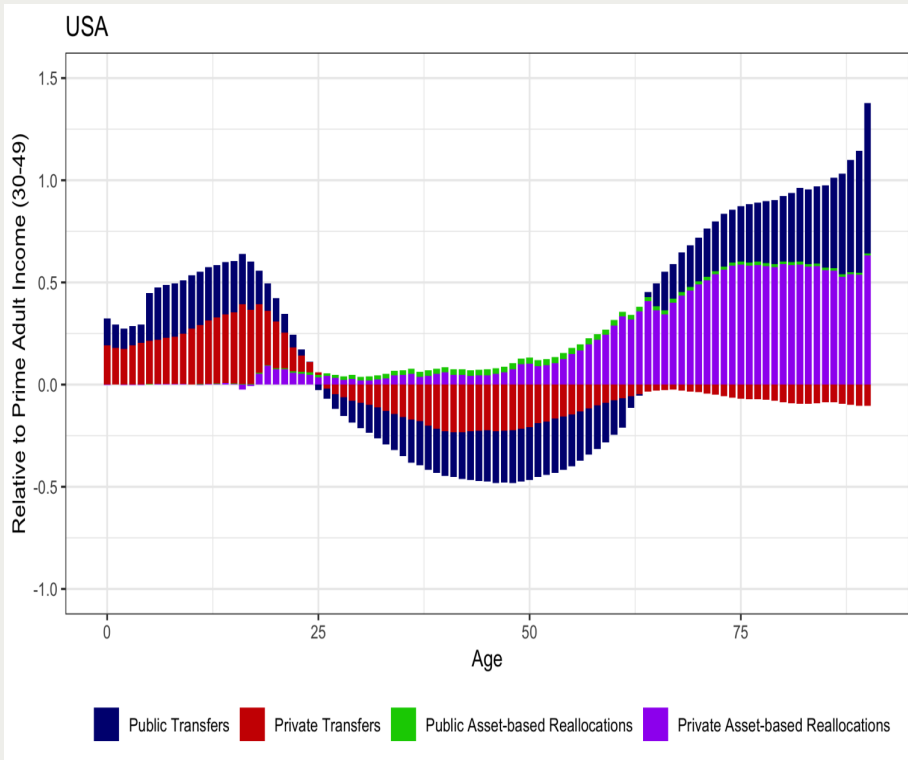


Selected NTA Transfer Profiles





Selected NTA Transfer Profiles





NTA Transfer Generosity

Total age specific transfers as the sum of total public and private transfer in- an outflows by age per country

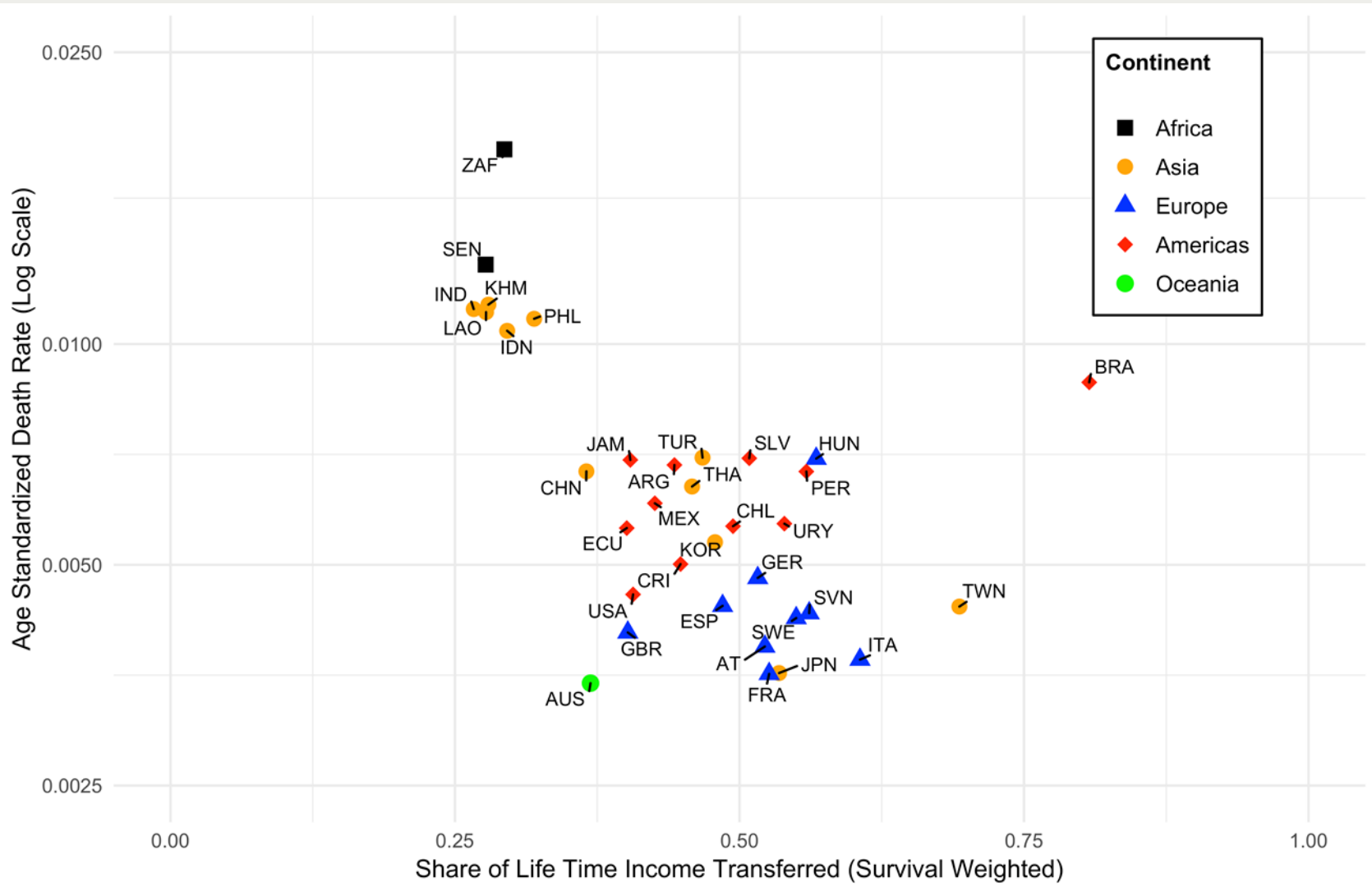
$$\tau(a)_i = \tau(a)_i^{g+} + \tau(a)_i^{f+} - \tau(a)_i^{g-} - \tau(a)_i^{f-}$$

Transfer generosity as the sum of total, survival weighted, transfers over age relative to survival weighted lifetime labor income (S(a)=Life table survivorship Lx for country i)

$$g_i = \frac{\sum_{a=0}^{90+} \tau(a)_i^+ \bar{S}(a)}{\sum_{a=0}^{90+} yl(a)_i \bar{S}(a)}$$



Results





Results controlling for GDP

	Log of Age Standardized Mortality (1)	Log of Age Standardized Mortality (2)	Log of Age Standardized Mortality (without Brazil) (3)
Constant	-5.81*** (0.15)	-3.18*** (0.40)	-3.59*** (0.41)
Log Share of Lifetime Income Transferred	-0.88*** (0.16)	-0.27** (0.14)	-0.43*** (0.14)
Log GDP per capita		-0.24*** (0.04)	-0.21*** (0.03)
Adjusted R-squared	0.47	0.77	0.81

Standard errors in parentheses
*** p<0.01, **p<0.05, *p<0.1

Country specific GDP per capita retrieved from Worldbank (2018) and Taiwan Statistical Office (2018).



Discussion

- Macro level finding that needs further exploration.
- Pattern may be explained by transfer sharing generosity of resources.
- Also possible that transfer generosity is indicator for general willingness to support each other and for general pro-sociality.
- Motivations for giving transfer are related to motivations of giving social support (altruism, exchange, reciprocity).
- Social support itself beneficial for health.



Conclusion

- New approach to look at sharing generosity on a population level.
- Pattern despite very different transfer regimes (e.g. public, private arrangements, remittances).
- Disregard of time transfers in current analysis -> next step to include aspects that are more related to social support and cultural/social differences.
- Need to explore relationship on individual level -> ongoing research.
- Transfer generosity very comprehensive but decomposable in items and specific age needs.



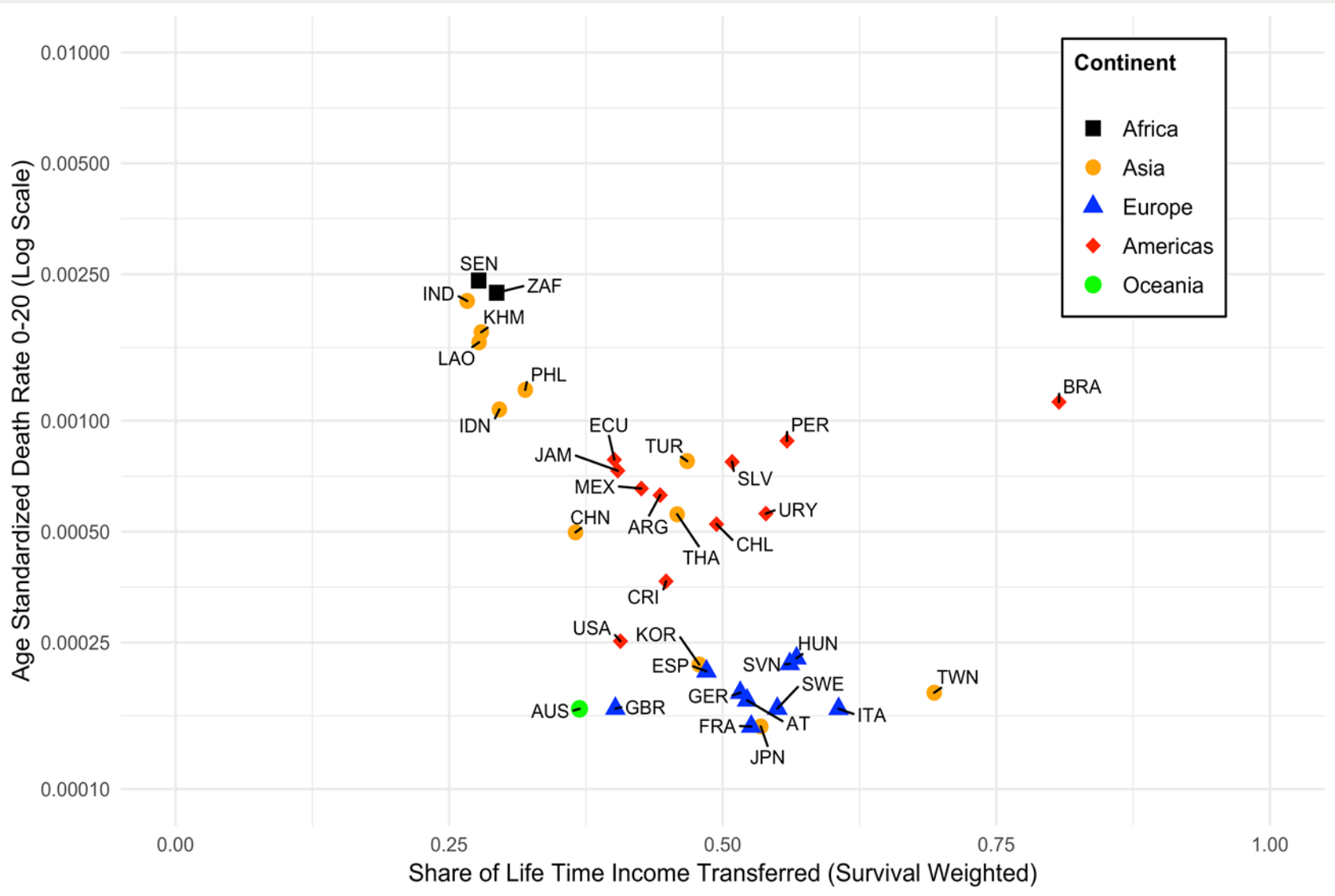
Thank you very much!

Questions or comments?

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Results for the young





Results for the elderly

