

# «The changing role of immigration in reversing depopulation before and after the Great Recession»

*Gabriele Morettini*

*Barbara Zagaglia*

Department of Economic and Social Sciences  
Faculty of Economics “G. Fuà”  
Università Politecnica delle Marche, Italy



WITTGENSTEIN CENTRE CONFERENCE 2021

«CAUSES AND CONSEQUENCES OF DEPOPULATION»

29 NOVEMBER – 1 DECEMBER

# Aim of the paper

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1. **Assessing the contribution of foreign immigrants in contrasting depopulation (Mitigating – Stopping – Reversing)**
2. **Assessing if the replacement effect of foreigners is temporary or enduring**

Unlike the prevailing literature, this paper investigates on a territory:

- Heterogeneous
- From a historical perspective, before and after the Great Recession
- In a context of strong demographic malaise

# The Marche and Umbria regions

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Italian regions consisting of inner areas, industrial districts, municipalities with prevalent agricultural economies, large cities, and coastal towns.

In these regions, the economic crisis has had a very strong impact (sharp reduction in per capita GDP, strong increase in nonperforming loans, high unemployment rates, etc.).

In these regions, very low fertility and low mortality are long-lasting.  
Here, Golini et al. (2001) found the highest percentages of municipalities with demographic malaise (81.8% in the Marche region and 86.9% in the Umbria region).



# Data and method

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## Data

Source: The Italian National Institute of Statistics

Data based on municipal population registers revised on the base of the census results as at 31 December 2018  
(Published and unpublished data)

## Method

Municipal level analysis

Groups of municipalities homogeneous  
by demographic malaise and socio-economic characteristics  
from Golini et al. (2001)

A set of varied indicators to capture different demographic aspects  
(population changes, gender prevalence, ageing, foreigners' mobility  
and localization, propensity to have a child)

Period: 1/1/2002-1/1/2017

MALAISE CATEGORIES	
Rate of natural increase (‰)	Malaise
$r \geq 5.01$	Intense dynamism
$2.01 \leq r \leq 5.00$	Moderate dynamism
$-2.00 \leq r \leq 2.00$	Zero growth
$-5.00 \leq r \leq -2.01$	Moderate malaise
$-10.00 \leq r \leq -5.01$	Intense malaise
$r \leq -10.01$	Strong malaise

# Demographic and socio-economic features of clusters

Cluster	Number of municipalities*	Demographic Malaise	Socio-economic features
<b>Marche</b>			
<b>a</b>	59	zero natural growth	industrial districts
<b>b</b>	29	zero natural growth	coastal areas and largest municipalities
<b>c</b>	51	moderate malaise	inland industrial municipalities
<b>d</b>	45	moderate malaise	municipalities with prevalent agricultural economies
<b>e</b>	32	intense malaise	mountain municipalities
<b>f</b>	12	strong malaise	small municipalities, mainly agricultural
<b>Total</b>	228		
<b>Umbria</b>			
<b>a</b>	30	zero nat. growth/ moderate malaise	industrial districts
<b>b</b>	26	moderate malaise	largest municipalities with prevalent service sectors
<b>c</b>	9	moderate and intense malaise	municipalities with prevalent agricultural economies
<b>d</b>	24	intense malaise	mountain municipalities
<b>e</b>	3	strong malaise	small, remote municipalities
<b>Total</b>	92		

\* Territorial revision considered

Source: our elaboration on Golini et al. 2001

# Population changes by citizenship

	1/1/2002-1/1/2009				1/1/2009-1/1/2017				1/1/2002-1/1/2017				
cluster	Italians*	Foreigners	Total		Italians*	Foreigners	Total		Italians*	Foreigners	Total		
a	16606	24915	41521		-8863	13509	4646		7743	38424	46167		Reversing effect
b	-5936	39281	33345		-27959	28859	900		-33895	68140	34245		Reducing effect
c	-2097	13790	11693		-10403	5243	-5160		-12500	19033	6533		
d	-3416	3899	483		-5588	1274	-4314		-9004	5173	-3831		
e	-2618	3665	1047		-5217	1100	-4117		-7835	4765	-3070		
f	-641	393	-248		-844	95	-749		-1485	488	-997		
Marche	1898	85943	87841		-58874	50080	-8794		-56976	136023	79047		Reinforcing effect
a	2221	13993	16214		-7888	4329	-3559		-5667	18322	12655		
b	-2735	41860	39125		-20537	19680	-857		-23272	61540	38268		
c	-300	867	567		-842	-21	-863		-1142	846	-296		
d	-1291	4218	2927		-3993	990	-3003		-5284	5208	-76		
e	-156	84	-72		-190	12	-178		-346	96	-250		
Umbria	-2261	61022	58761		-33450	24990	-8460		-35711	86012	50301		

\* Net of foreigners who have acquired Italian citizenship

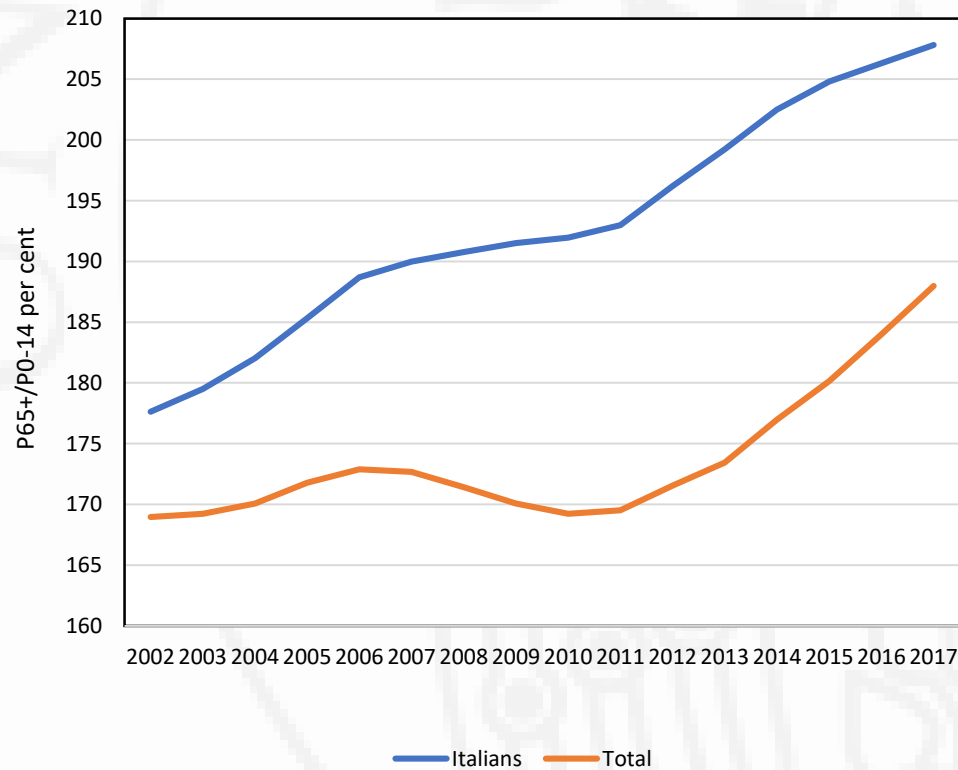
# Foreigners' flow directions

## Transfer of residence by types and clusters - Foreigners

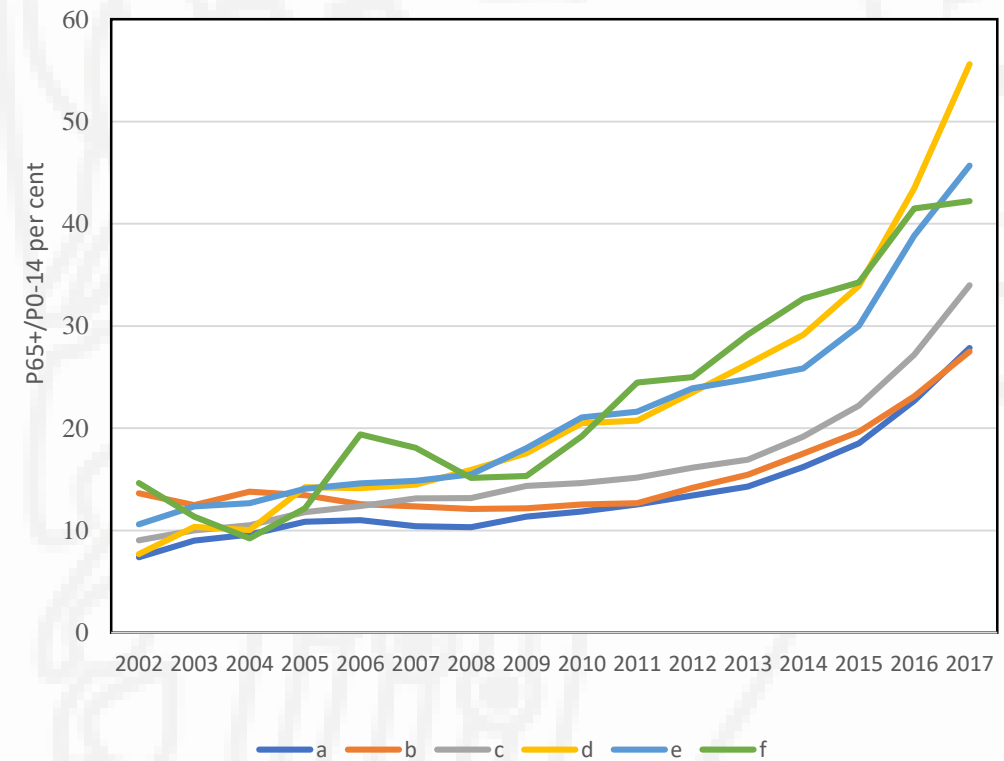
Clusters	2002-2009				2010-2017			
	Enrolled		Deleted		Enrolled		Deleted	
	Italy	abroad	Italy	abroad	Italy	abroad	Italy	abroad
a	50.4	49.6	73.6	26.4	58.6	41.4	67.7	32.3
b	34.3	65.7	72.6	27.4	47.7	52.3	63.5	36.5
c	45.0	55.0	72.7	27.3	54.4	45.6	65.7	34.3
d	45.5	54.5	73.6	26.4	52.9	47.1	69.4	30.6
e	40.5	59.5	73.6	26.4	49.1	50.9	64.9	35.1
f	48.2	51.8	69.7	30.3	53.3	46.7	73.0	27.0
Marche	41.7	58.3	73.0	27.0	52.3	47.7	65.6	34.4
a	38.4	61.6	73.1	26.9	55.3	44.7	69.8	30.2
b	27.9	72.1	71.7	28.3	45.0	55.0	65.4	34.6
c	43.7	56.3	78.5	21.5	57.0	43.0	65.6	34.4
d	36.2	63.8	71.2	28.8	51.0	49.0	66.1	33.9
e	39.7	60.3	72.4	27.6	61.7	38.3	77.7	22.3
Umbria	31.6	68.4	72.2	27.8	48.2	51.8	66.7	33.3

# Ageing

## Ageing index in the Marche region



## Ageing index for foreign residents in Marche clusters

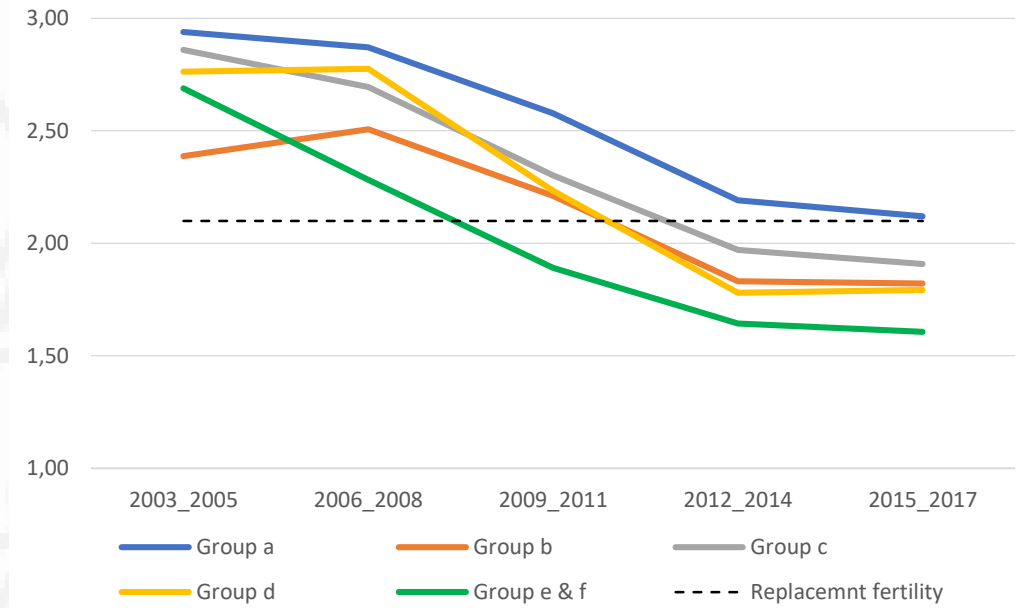




# Propensity of having a child to foreign women (1)

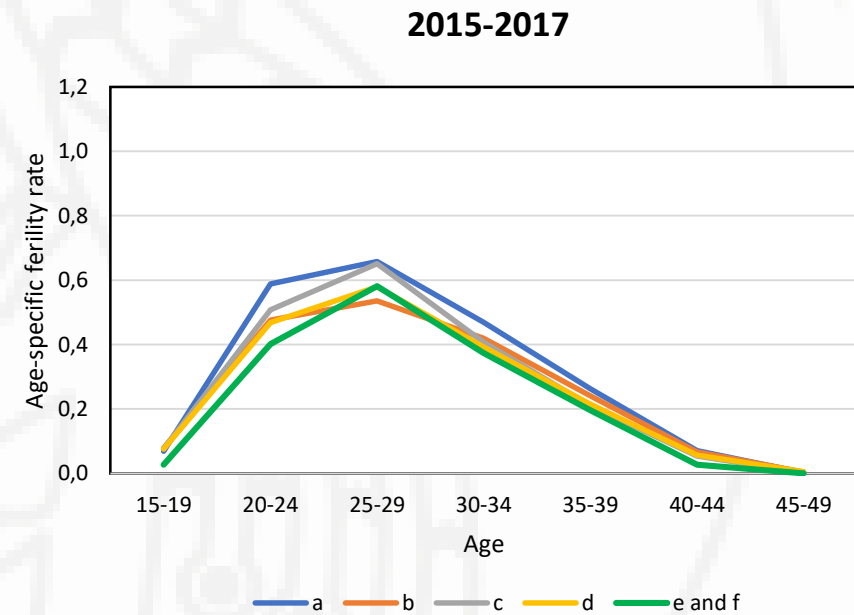
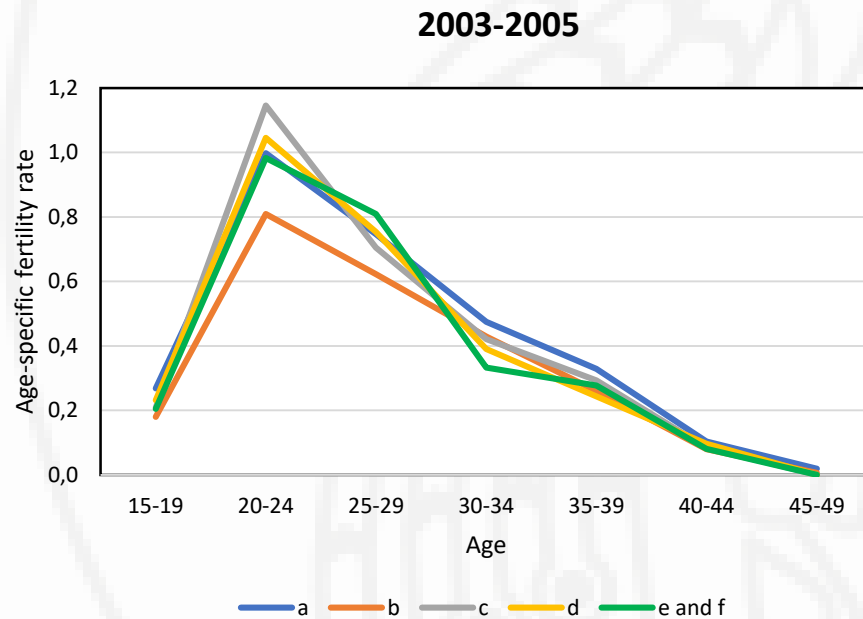
TFR in Marche clusters

Period	Cluster				
	a	b	c	d	e & f
2003-2005	2.94	2.39	2.86	2.76	2.69
2006-2008	2.87	2.51	2.69	2.78	2.28
2009-2011	2.58	2.21	2.30	2.23	1.89
2012-2014	2.19	1.83	1.97	1.78	1.64
2015-2017	2.12	1.82	1.91	1.79	1.61



# Propensity of having a child to foreign women (2)

## Age-specific fertility rates in Marche clusters



# Contribution of foreign immigrants to malaise

Annual natural growth rates (averages)

	1/1/2002-1/1/2009					1/1/2009-1/1/2017			
cluster	Total	Malaise	Italians	Malaise		Total	Malaise	Italians	Malaise
a	1.20	zero growth	-0.32	zero growth		0.01	zero growth	-0.98	zero growth
b	-1.80	zero growth	-6.16	intense		9.96	intense	-5.33	intense
c	-2.38	moderate	-5.91	intense		-5.94	intense	-8.11	intense
d	-4.74	moderate	-6.96	intense		-8.68	intense	-10.38	strong
e	-3.54	moderate	-10.28	strong		-9.99	intense	-11.75	strong
f	-16.22	strong	-14.07	strong		-15.04	strong	-17.81	strong
Marche	-1.56	zero growth	-2.36	moderate		-7.37	intense	-6.45	intense
a	-1.66	zero growth	-3.14	moderate		-2,69	moderate	-4.68	moderate
b	-2.01	moderate	-3.40	moderate		-3,02	moderate	-4.88	moderate
c	-5.31	intense	-6.51	intense		-6,36	intense	-7.90	intense
d	-5.34	intense	-6.74	intense		-6,07	intense	-7.90	intense
e	-13.25	strong	-15.23	strong		-11,01	strong	-13.25	strong
Umbria	-2.27	moderate	-3.67	moderate		-3,24	moderate	-5.13	intense

# Conclusions

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- In 2002-2017, foreign immigrants gave an essential contribution to depopulation in the Marche and Umbria regions, but contribution was:
  - Territorially diversified
  - Temporary (unstable and exposed to exogenous shocks).
- Because of the economic crisis, foreign immigrants moved primarily towards no malaise areas, amplifying the existing demographic gaps.
- Targeted and differentiated policies are needed:
  - Stabilization policy for the foreign population component
  - Cohesion policies for the autochthonous population component (for instance, SNAI policies)
  - Social and family policies matter for both foreign and autochthonous populations.
- Policies must be place-based designed.

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**Thank you for your attention!**