



North/South

In the face of declining populations and growing strains on labour forces, rich countries will become more and more dependent on immigration to maintain numbers. At the same time, as those parts of the world with growing populations become less habitable because of climate change, the impetus to move from South to North will increase. Just one of these factors on its own – either depopulation in the North or climate change in the South – could be enough to drive mass migration. Taken together they make it inevitable. Anyone who thinks the 21st century will not see the biggest global movement of peoples in history has not been paying attention.

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There is some evidence that women with PhDs are more likely to have children than those who have undergraduate degrees. This is presumably because having an academic career, though far from ideal, has become a more child-friendly option than some other professions. A recent report identified British women who were the first generation in their family to go to university as the cohort least likely to have children. That means second and future generations might be different: to be the child of a woman who went to university shows it is at least feasible to do both. The direction of travel is not only one way.

<https://archive.is/r8ZP5#selection-1595.0-1608.0>

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