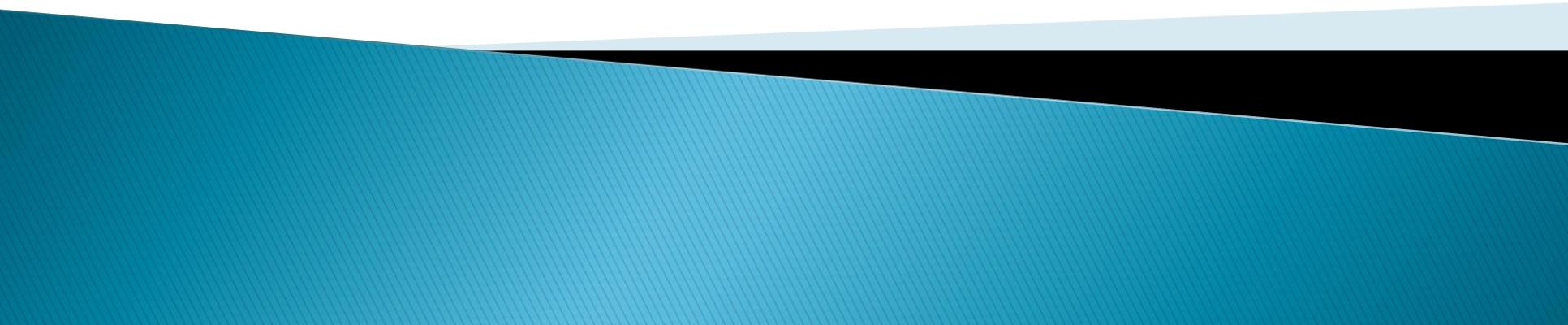


The economic impact of migration on pay, social cohesion and public service

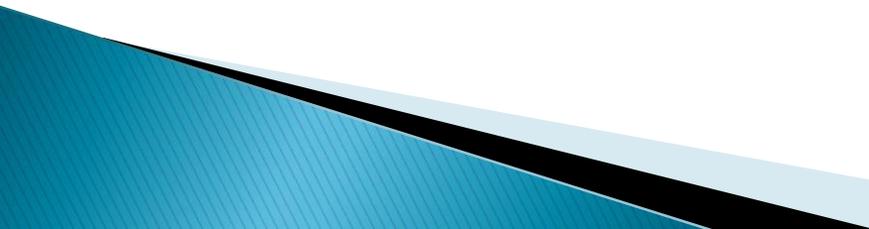
Professor Sonia McKay



Overview

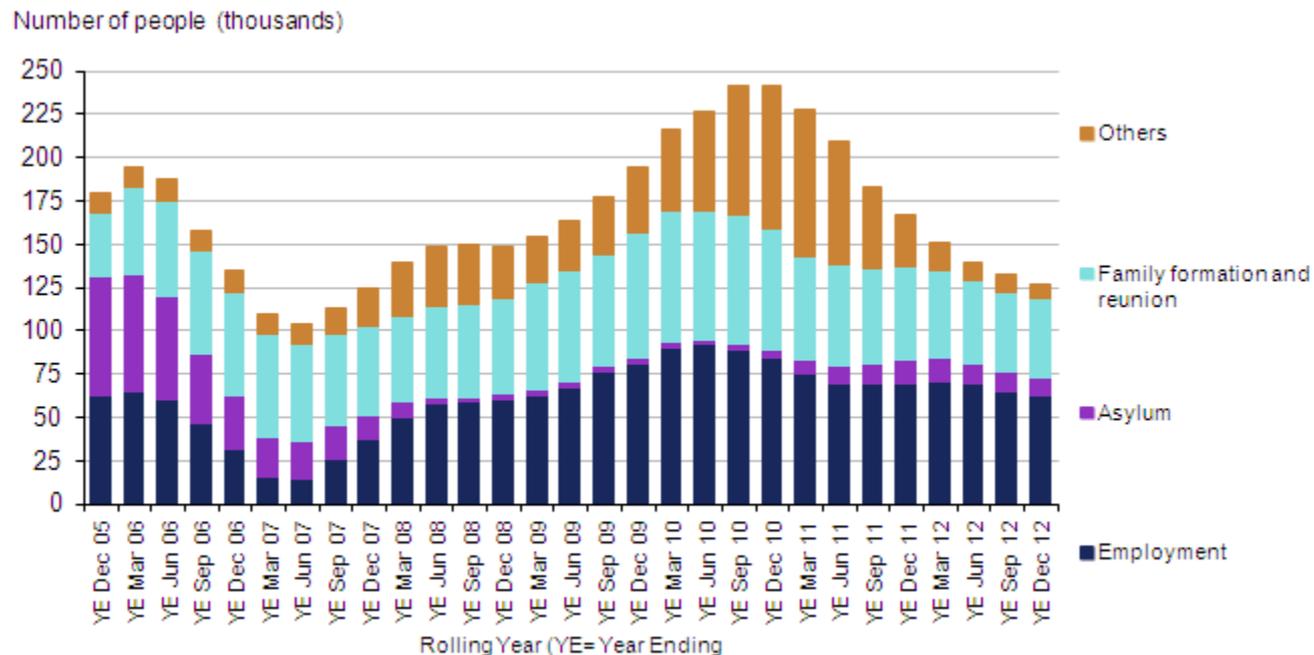
- ❑ Immigration to the UK is not new.
- ❑ Previous phases generally characterised as migration for settlement.
- ❑ With the exception of Irish immigrants who often engaged in circular migration, most movements of migrants to the UK came with a longer-term plan, if not to settle, at least to reside for a long period of time.
- ❑ 21st C migration – from all areas of the world:
- ❑ Formal study and work most common reasons for migration
- ❑ 45% intend to stay for one to two years

The current context

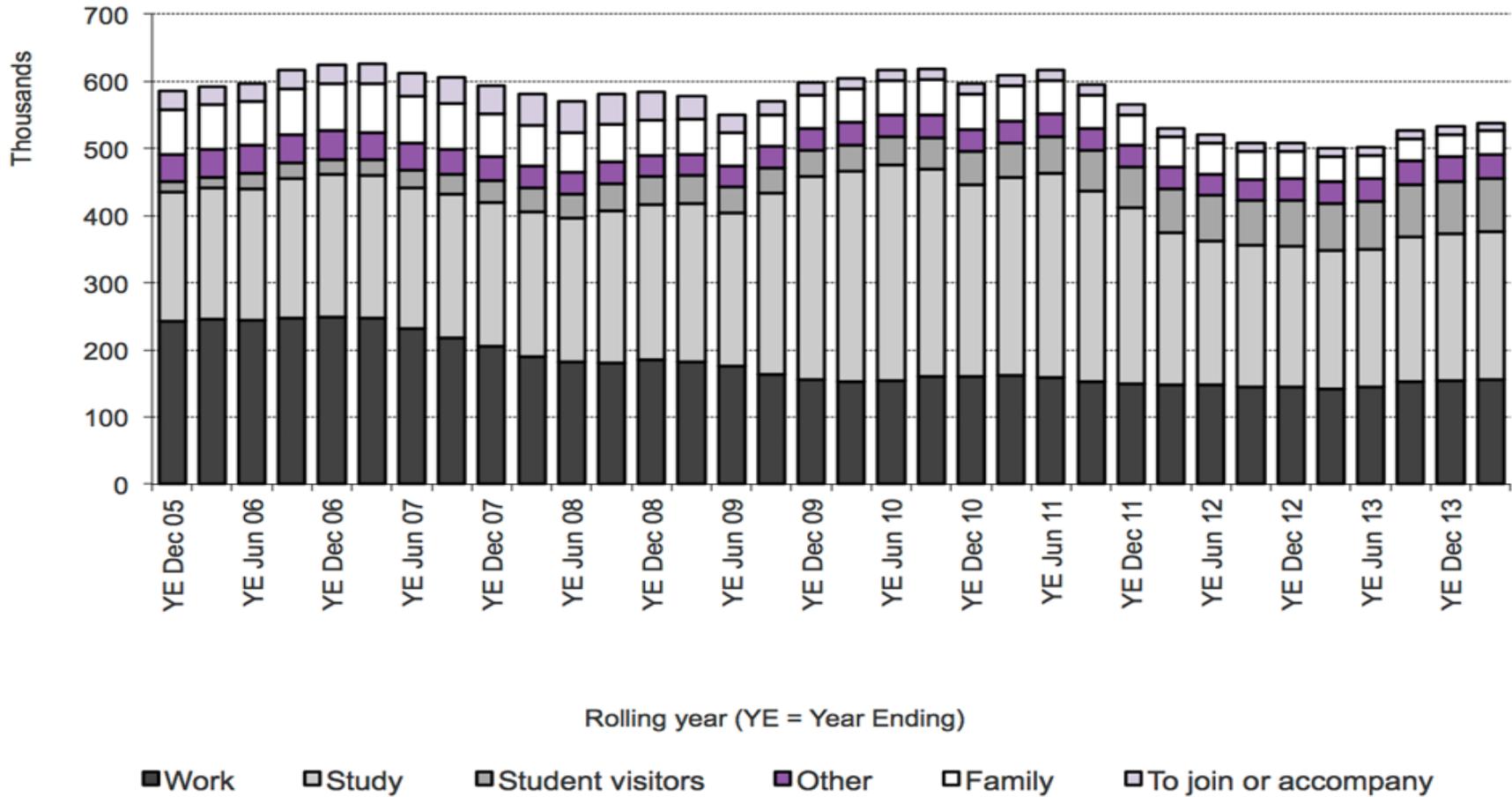
- ▶ Tightening of policies on migration and on border control – identity cards, biometric data, employer sanctions; bonds, health provision limited; checks on landlords
 - ▶ A continuum of restrictions on refugees, asylum seekers and economic migrants;
 - ▶ Feeding into a racist discourse that has included ‘British jobs for British workers’ and Brexit;
 - ▶ Increase of racist attacks since Brexit;
- 

Reasons for migration

36% study; 36% work; 12% family



Long term trends in visas issued by reason



Impact on pay

- ‘On wages, there is an emerging consensus that recent migration has had little or no direct impact overall, but possibly some–small– negative impact on low–skilled workers (and perhaps some positive impact on skilled workers).’
- They find ‘strong evidence that migration has a positive impact on productivity and GDP per capita’.
- ‘Reducing worker inflows would reduce overall employment (more or less one for one, since there would likely be no significant impact on native employment), would increase (by small amounts) wages for some low–paid groups, and would significantly reduce overall GDP per capita and productivity’.

Portes and Forte, 2016

Impact on social cohesion

Employer sanctions:

‘Between July and the end of September 2013, 90 workplaces were raided of which 71 are identifiable by name as Indian, Bengali or Chinese restaurants or takeaways. Sanctions, in the form of raids on workplaces appear, in the UK, to be falling almost entirely on minority ethnic owned businesses’. (Bloch et al., 2014: 3)

New definitions of who is ‘British’ and who has a right to be here

Impact on public services

Education:

Over a quarter (28%) of the 194,190 academic staff in UK universities are non-UK nationals

Health:

The majority of NHS staff are British – but a substantial minority are not. Around 132,000 report a non-British nationality. This is around 12% of all staff for whom a nationality is known.

Commons Briefing papers CBP-7783, November 2016



NHS staff from outside the EU (%)

	Asia	Africa	Other
Doctors	11.9%	2.7%	1.4%
Nurses	5.4%	2.5%	0.7%
Clinical support	2.7%	1.9%	0.7%
Infrastructure support	1.8%	1.3%	0.7%