



# Experiences of Diversity within the Context of an Emergent Transnationalism

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A personal note...

'immigrating' to Australia for the  
second time

[in the late 1960s and, now, more  
than forty years later]



## A 'Thought' Experiment...

What differences would I encounter if immigrating to Australia for the first time in the current period?



The Context transformed

...Australians are likely to know more about where I came from, and I am likely to know more about Australia.



## HOW?

Due largely to global forces, connections and imaginations

Resulting from greatly increased mobility of:

- people and cultures
- money and capital
- technology and innovation
- media and images
- ideas and ideologies
- hopes and desires

**everyone is affected by these mobilities, but in way that are uneven**



People are mobile for a wide variety of reasons:

Migration  
Employment  
Education  
Refugees  
Tourism  
Trade

...leading to demographic shifts, especially in cities  
(creating global cities) but also in regional towns



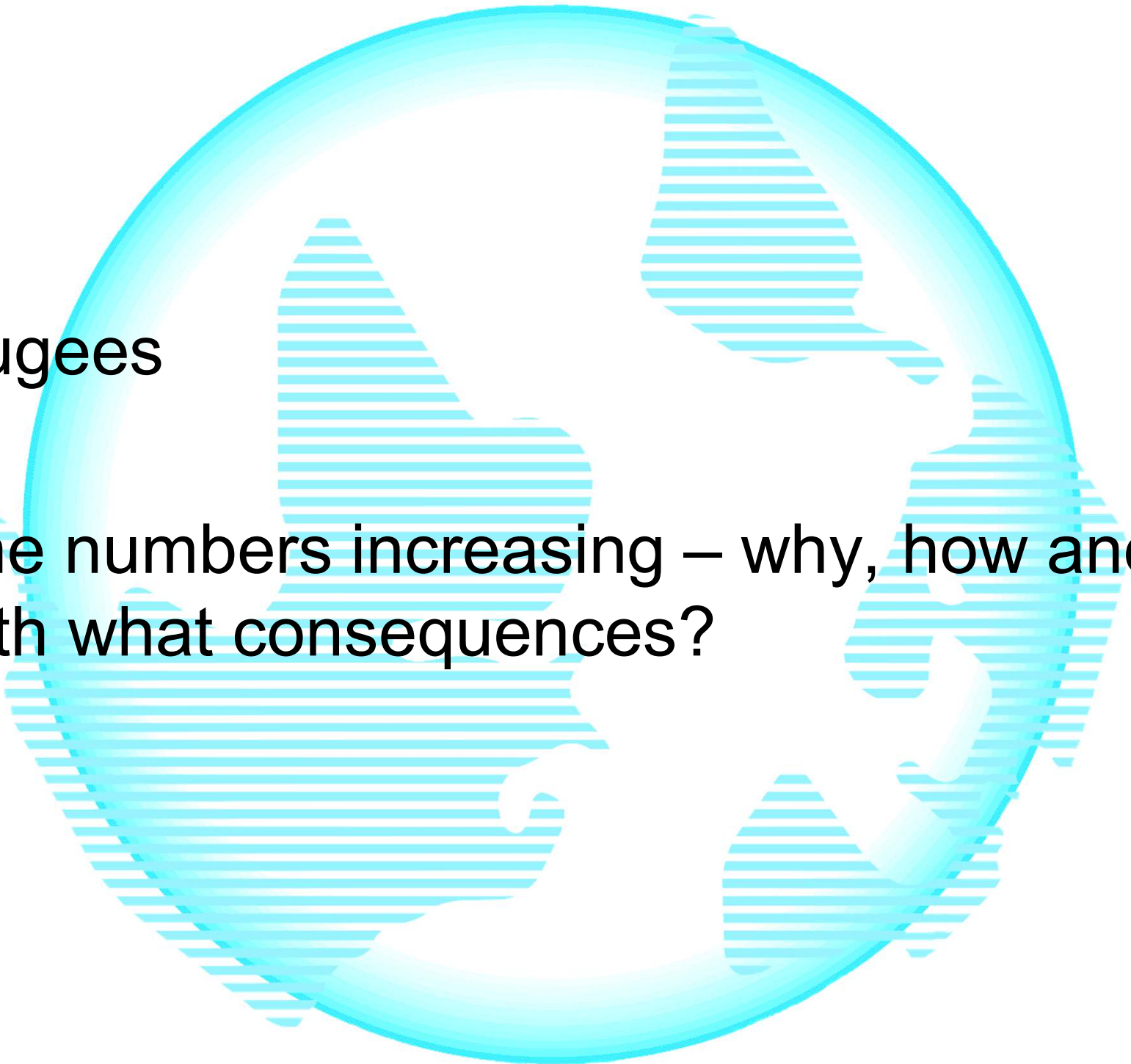
## New dimensions of global migration

networked migration  
growth in refugee numbers  
immigration shopping  
undocumented migration  
skilled migration  
temporary migration  
unskilled contract workers

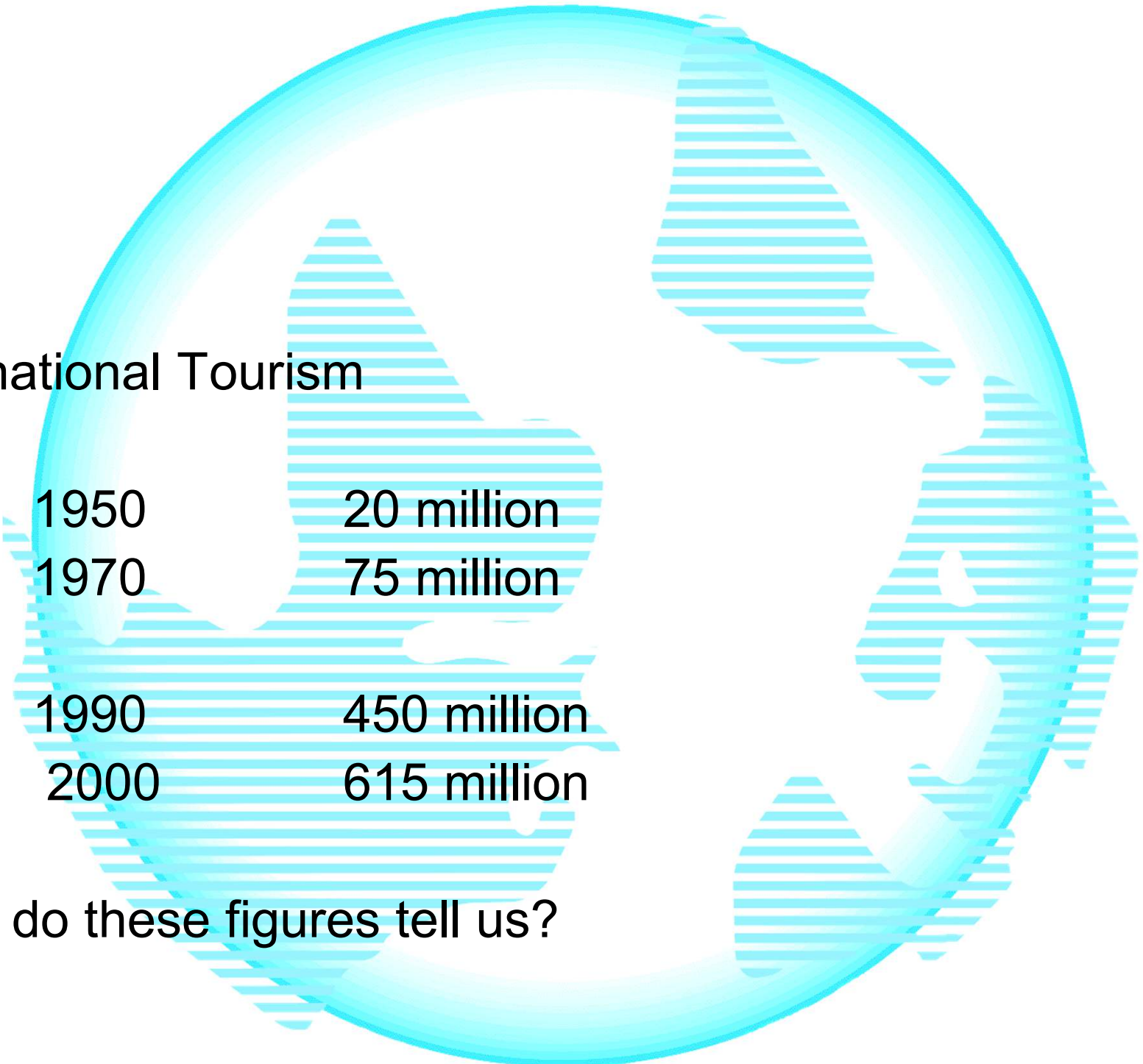
...migrant experiences transformed, with regular and dynamic connectivities with friends and family at home, and elsewhere

# Refugees

The numbers increasing – why, how and with what consequences?







## International Tourism

1950	20 million
1970	75 million
1990	450 million
2000	615 million

What do these figures tell us?



## Internationalization of student mobility

increase in mobile students (from 300,000 in 1970 to 2.1 million in 2005)

expected to be 5.1 million by 2025

commercialization of educational services

changing demography of campuses

study abroad and tour programs



## consequences of increased mobility

diversification of communities

cultural exchange

hybridization of cultures


new patterns of global interconnectivity

Shifting notions of citizenship and belongingness

'Place Polygamy' (U. Beck)

cosmopolitan lifestyles

potential of global citizenship



population pressures in cities  
commodification of cultural practices  
dangers of homogenization of cultures  
recovery and maintenance of cultural traditions  
development of new consumerist desires  
[‘we are all global performers now’]  
cultural fears and reactions  
new cultural conflicts (Jihad vs McDonaldization)  
remittances and brain drain



Cultural Diversity as:

as a norm vs. an exception

How our educational policies and practices still presuppose cultural diversity as exceptional?



From assimilation to integration to pluralism

Driven by:

Moral and political ideologies

Popular and policy anxieties

The need by the state to manage cultural diversity



## An emergent transnationalism

...a condition in which, despite great distances and notwithstanding the presence of national borders, certain kinds of relationships have been globally intensified.

...something like a transnational public space has rendered any strictly bounded sense of community or locality obsolete.

...communities have become transnational, sustained by a range of modes of social organization, mobility and communication.

... the new transnational imaginary has de-centred attachments, of simultaneously -being 'home away from home', being here and there.

..this has led to greater fluidity of styles, social institutions and everyday practices.

...Re-constitution of localities



If our localities are becoming re-constituted by global forces, connectivities and imagination, then what implications does this have for educational policy and practice?

...some tentative ideas.