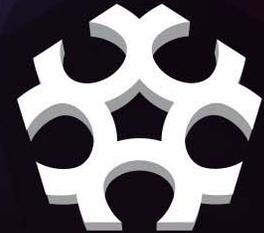Presentation for the State of Australian Cities National Conference
26-29 November 2013, Sydney

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Measuring the Changing Face in Global Sydney

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Introduction

- The global Sydney thesis has been argued in both international scholarship and local scholarship. Both streams of scholarship take an economic-centric approach to global Sydney and focus on its capacity of advanced producer services, in line with the global city discourse.

- One critique to the global city discourse is that it is economic-centric and has not tackled migration to the extent it should.

- Sydney is Australia's leading global city. There are more aspects of global Sydney than economic globalisation; Sydney is Australia's gateway city of growing global migration.

- This article employs a different perspective to approach global Sydney, and pays attention to its growing migration as a global city.

Migration in Global Sydney (1)

- **Increased Scale and Complexity**

  o Australian international migration has undergone significant transformations in terms of nature, composition, and effects (Collins, 2006; Hugo, 2006b, 2008).

  o One prominent change is demographic and cultural, referring to the growing scale and diversity of foreign born population in Sydney (Burnley, 2000; Hugo, 2008), and in particular, immigration flows from different parts of Asia (Burnley, 1998).

  o Not only is Sydney a gateway of permanent and temporary migration into Australia, but also a significant gateway through which Australians leave the country (Hugo 2006a, 2008; Hugo, Rudd, & Harris, 2003).

Migration in Global Sydney (2)

- **Spatial Settlement**

  o One viewpoint is that Sydney is bifurcating with growing migration – one increasingly dominated by low to medium-income non-English-speaking migrant communities in the west and southwest, and the other comprised of established inner affluent areas and predominantly English-speaking 'aspirational' areas on the metropolitan periphery (Healy & Birrell, 2003).

  o The other viewpoint is that the ethnic concentration in Sydney does not translate into high levels of ethnic segregation, but into a spatial assimilation that reflects an intermixing of different ethnic groups with each other and with the host society, a view of Australian multiculturalism as 'assimilation in slow motion' (Forrest, Poulsen, & Johnston, 2006; Poulsen, Johnston, & Forrest, 2004).

Migration in Global Sydney (3)

- **Social Polarisation and Spatial Inequality**

  o The global city – social polarisation thesis: polarisation between overseas-born residents and Australia-born residents (Baum, 1997), polarisation between new arrivals and local or long-standing migrants (Hugo, 2008), bifurcation between skilled migrants and unskilled migrants (Hugo, 2008).

  o Spatial inequality of migrant settlement: spatial bifurcation between the low to moderate-income non-English-speaking migrant communities, and the affluent and predominantly English-speaking communities (Healy & Birrell, 2003); spatial bifurcation between the skilled migrants and the unskilled migrants (Hugo, 2008).
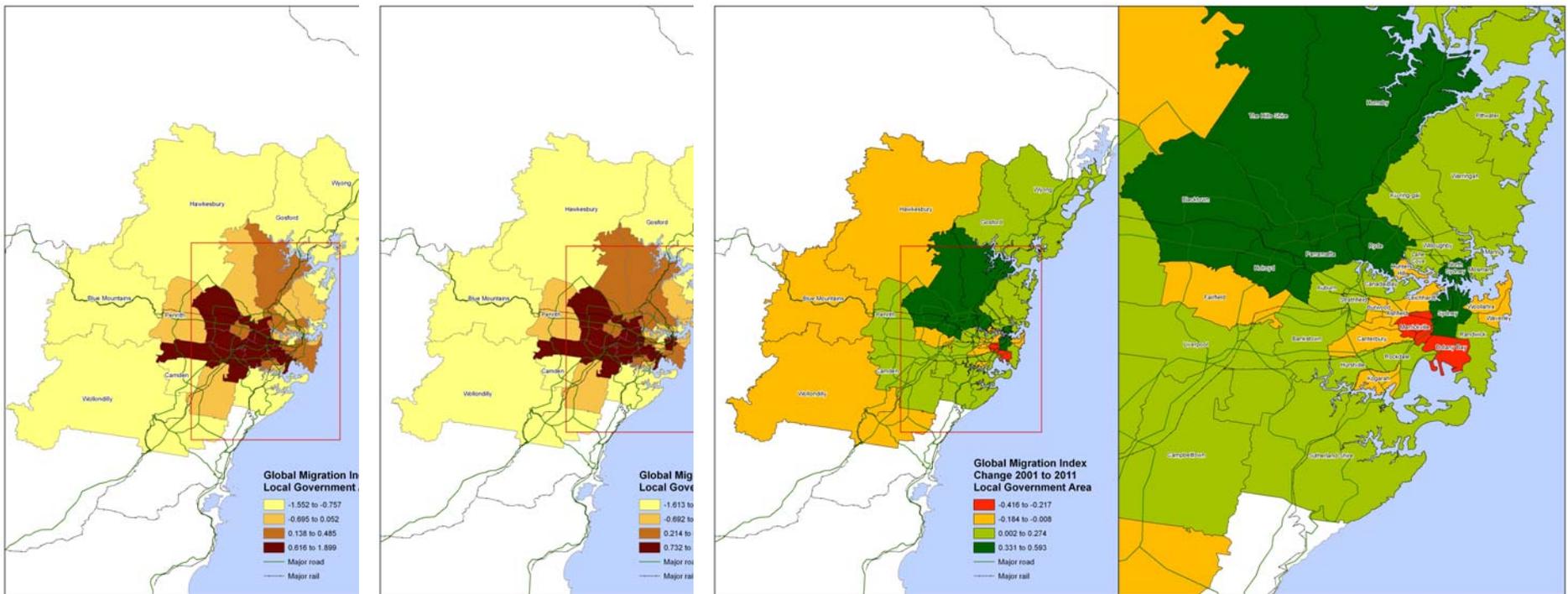
Methods

- The global migration index (GMI) was calculated for all the 43 LGAs across global Sydney in 2001 and 2011:

  o Percentage of foreign-born population (40%);

  o Total number of foreign-born population (30%);

  o Percentage of foreign-born population not from English-speaking countries (15%);

  o No one ethnic group is more than 25% of the foreign-born population (No, 15%; Yes, -15%).

- Z-scores for the indicators are calculated for standardisation of data. The final value for each LGA's GMI is the sum of the z-scores weighted.
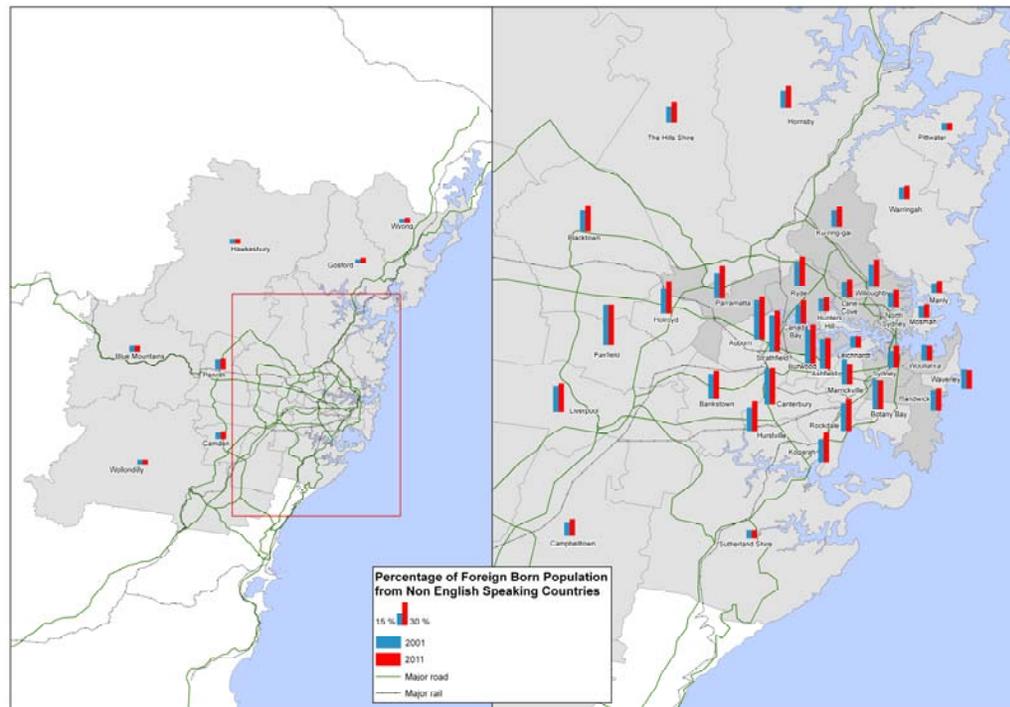
Results (1): Overall Growth

	Total Population	Total Foreign Born Population	Share of Foreign Born Population
2001	3,997,321	1,233,538	30.9%
2011	4,428,976	1,499,840	33.9%
2001-2011 Change	10.8%	21.6%	3%

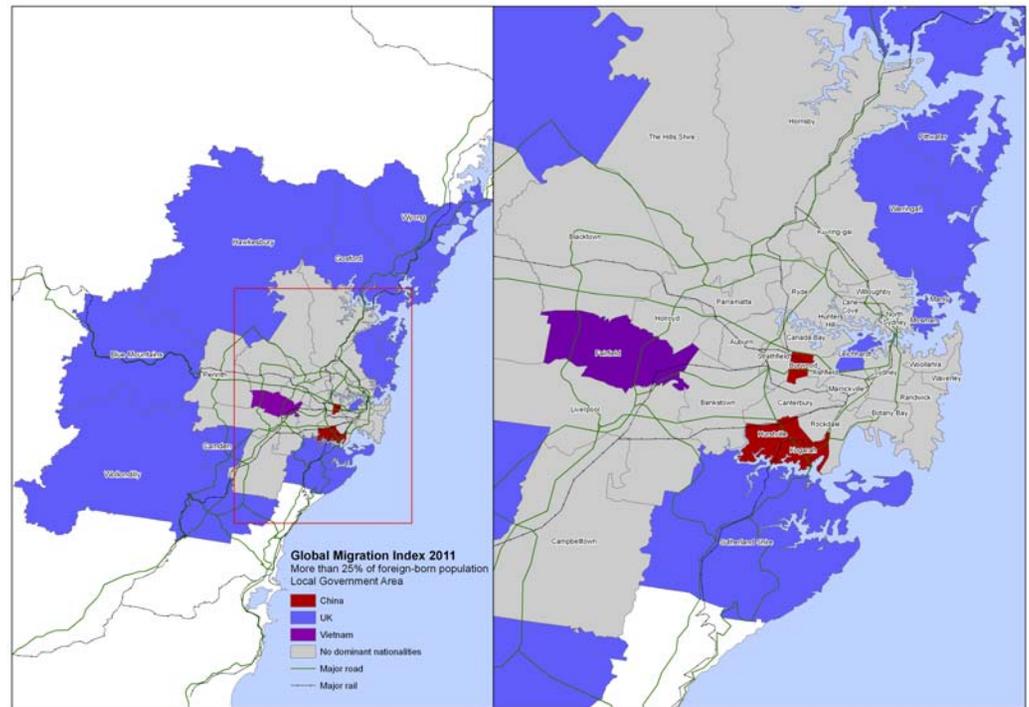# Results (2): Spatial and Temporal Patterns

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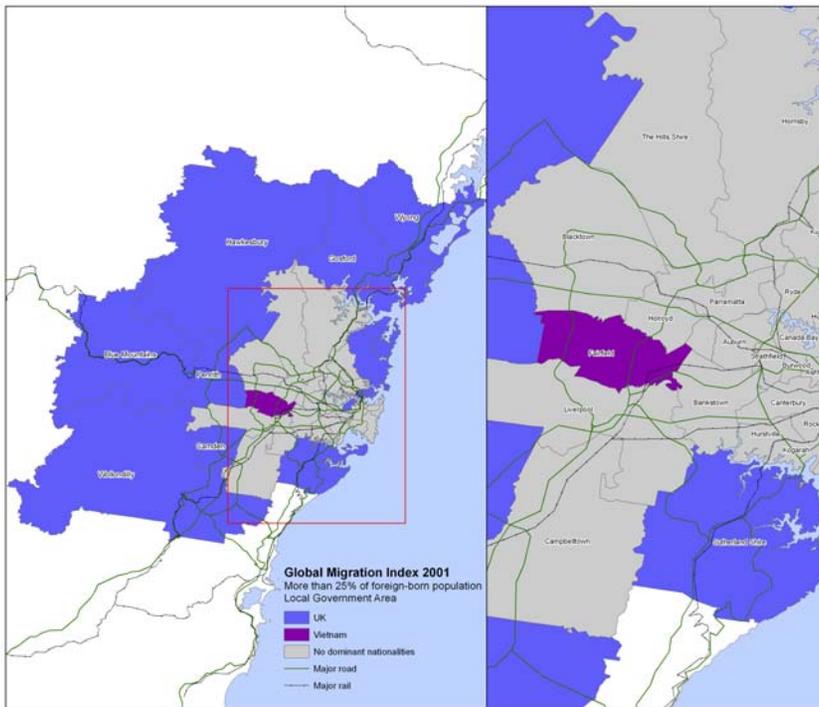# Results (3): Ethnic Concentration

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Discussion: Bifurcating or Intermixing?

- Global Sydney was becoming more multicultural with growing migrants in 2001-2011.

- The southwest and west communities were traditionally known for high degree of multiculturalism. This high multiculturalism was strengthened with increased ethnic concentration in 2001-2011. In the same period, communities in north Sydney and central Sydney also indicated significant increase in multiculturalism. There seemed to be a northward and eastward movement of multiculturalism across global Sydney.

- A bifurcating structure of high multiculturalism in west and southwest areas, and predominantly English-speaking communities in inner areas and on the fringe still remained in global Sydney, as evidenced in 2001-2011. However, the bifurcating structure was increasingly intermixed with different ethnic groups.

Conclusion

- They findings contribute to the scholarship on increased scale and complexity of migration and its spatial settlement in global Sydney. They offer new insights into the spatial pattern of migrant settlement, and help resolve the scholarly debates whether it is bifurcating or intermixing. This study ascertains a bifurcating structure of ethnic concentration with increasing ethnic intermixing in global Sydney.

- It requires further research to unpack the interrelationships between the spatial settlement of migration, and social polarisation and spatial inequality.