

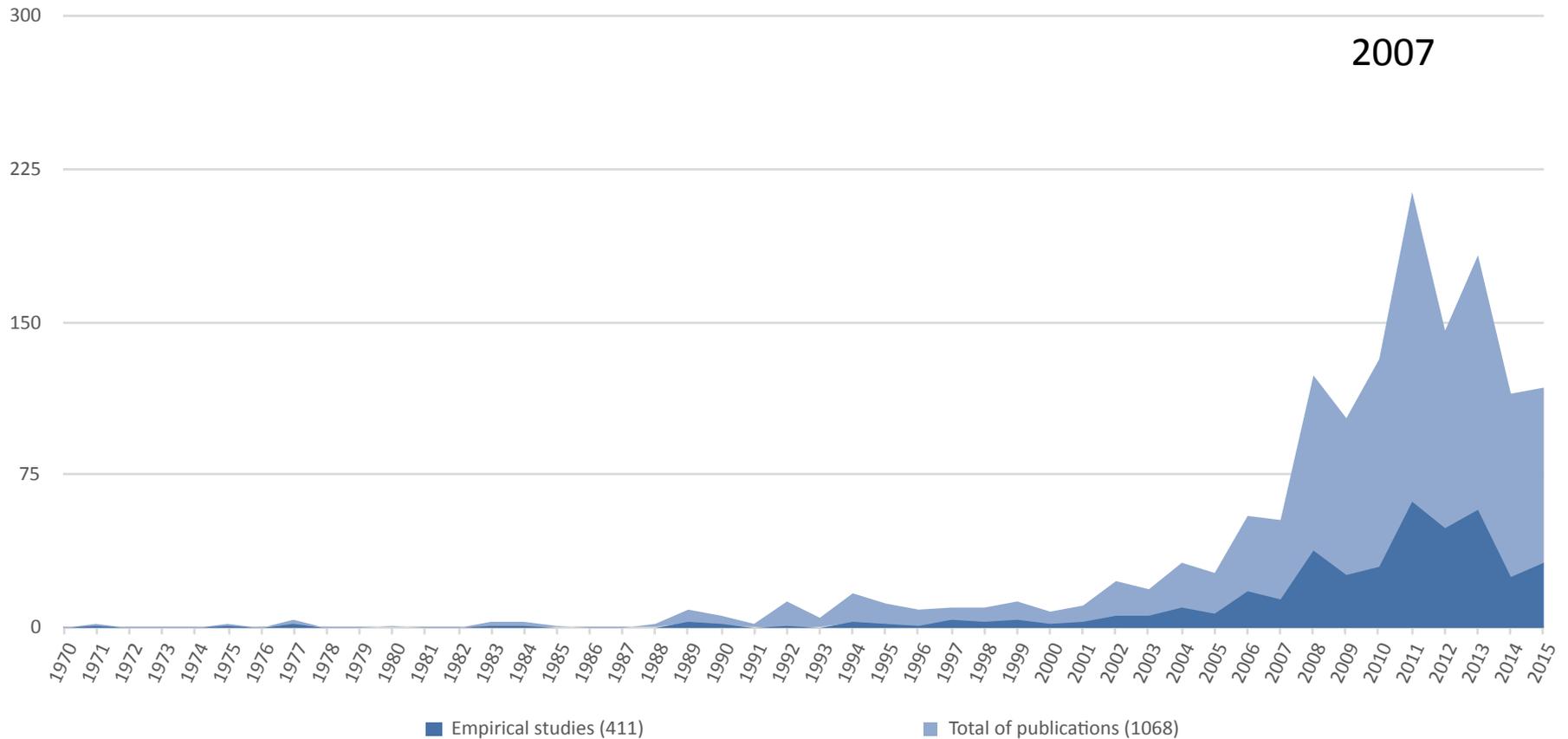


“As climate change continues, environmental degradation will rise, promoting out-migration. Migrants will most likely come from Least Developed Countries (...); as a result, there may be more legal and illegal attempts to enter DCs, which may ultimately lose control over incoming migration. ”

Reuveny & Moore (2009) in Social Science Quarterly

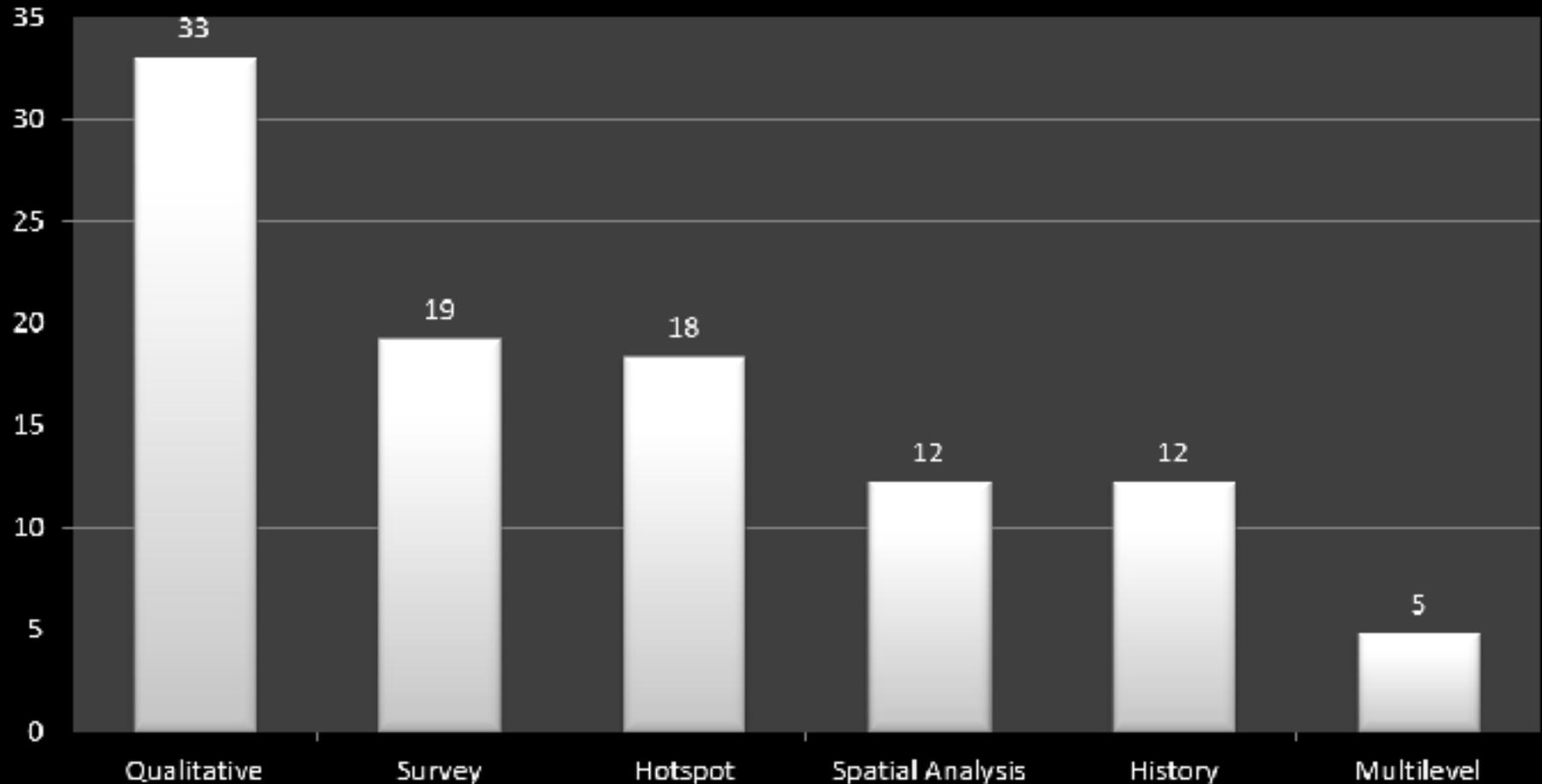
Publications on migration and environmental change

Source: Climig, Institute of Geography, University of Neuchâtel 1970 - 2015



Percentages of methods used in case studies (1970-2015)

Source: Climig, Institute of Geography, University of Neuchâtel



IPCC forecasts related to migration (2014)

➤ Direct impacts

- Tropical hurricanes (intensity)
- Droughts (severity)
- Sea level rise

➤ Indirect impacts

- Climate Change > Conflicts > Migration > Conflicts

Tropical hurricanes & heavy rains

- The link between such events and (long distance – long term) migration is *weak*
 - Victims are poor and not mobile
 - The majority goes back as soon as possible
 - Significant migration takes place if the society is highly dependent on the environment AND if human action exacerbates the disaster
 - **KEY MESSAGE 1 : Mostly short term / short distance**
 - **KEY MESSAGE 2 : Multicausality. NO “NATURAL” DISASTER**

Droughts

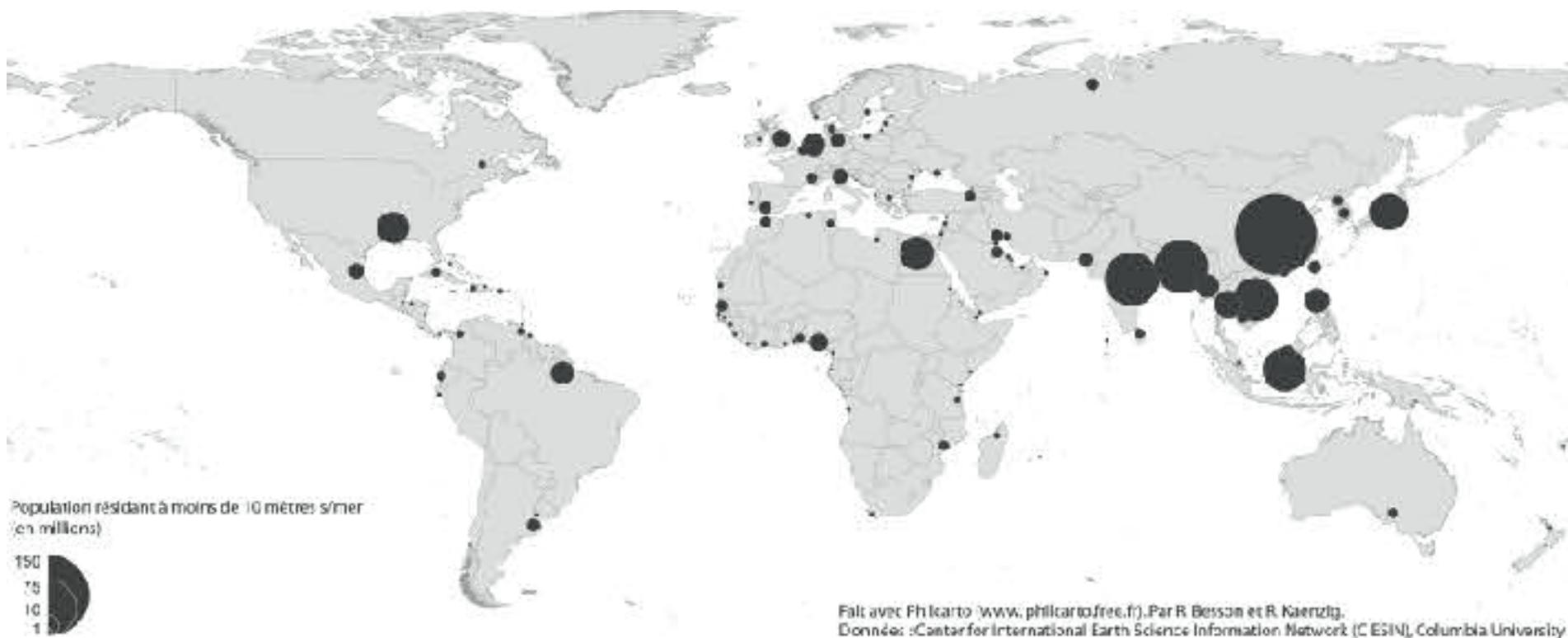
- Some striking cases of « desperate » drought-migration
- No mechanical/natural link
 - Droughts and famine are « man-made » (SEN)
 - In Mali, the drought of the middle eighties has *diminished* long-distance emigration – because of a lack of funds for the trip
 - Migration is sometime a form of adaptation to environmental uncertainty
 - **KEY MESSAGE 3: Migration is not a « threat »**

“Expanding opportunities for mobility can reduce vulnerability (...). Changes in migration patterns can be responses to both extreme weather events and longer-term climate variability (...)”

IPCC – 2014 (WG-2 – chap. 12)

Sea level rise

- The probability of large migrations caused by an increase in sea level is considerable. Contrarily to hurricanes and droughts, this phenomenon is irreversible.
- Localized previsions can be made of the number of persons under threat.



Sea level rise

- Again... SLR is « man-made ».
- The process is slow and allows for adaptation: beach feeding, walls of protection, etc.
- Protection measures can be efficient but they are expensive.
- **KEY MESSAGE 4 : The number who will actually be displaced or forced to migrate will depend on the level of investment and planning.**

Conflicts > Migration

Some observers hold that environmental change inevitably leads to a vicious circle of conflict and migration.

Studies show that political, economic, and social factors remain the main drivers: Syrian refugees are not climate refugees !

- **KEY MESSAGE 5 : Migration and conflicts are both multicausal. They should not be « naturalized »**

Conclusion 1 (forecasts)

- Climate change will negatively impact on populations livelihoods, especially on poor populations.
- Combined with other factors, climatic changes in certain regions of the world might trigger significant population displacements in the future.
 - KM1 : Population displacements are always the results of multicausal processes.
 - KM2 : Most displacement will be internal rather than international and short rather than long distance.
 - KM3 : Migration can be a way to cope.
 - KM4 : Policies and investment will have a huge impact on the number of people who will actually be displaced.

Conclusion 2 (theory)

- Monocausal concepts such as “climate refugees” or “climate migrants” are scientifically unfounded.
- Migration linked to environmental change should not be treated as a specific topic or a subfield of study. The issue should be reembedded within forced migration theory, migration theory in general and social theory.

Conclusion 3 (policy)

- “As climate change continues, environmental degradation will rise, promoting out-migration. Migrants will most likely come from LDCs (...); as a result, there may be more legal and illegal attempts to enter **DCs, which may ultimately lose control over incoming migration.** ”
 - Reuveny & Moore (2009)
- The situation is severe because of CC but there is no reason to panic about “climate refugees” and raise walls against them.
- It is time for a collective and serious effort to forecast and plan these future challenges and to act on the causes of climate change.

