

The most promising research to go beyond the ad hoc comparisons just described is by Courgeau whose work involves inferring distance-decay functions from average size migration defining areas for some countries<sup>1</sup>. Extending Courgeau's methods to more countries seems justified with the results produced so far, although work needs to be done on the stability of distance-decay functions over time. In regard to the last point, the association of migration and distance in the United States may have changed over the last 15 years or so, a time when intra-county moves have declined as a proportion of all moves, implying a change in the overall distance-decay function. (Larry Long (1988) – *Migration and residential mobility in the United States*, Russell Sage Foundation, New York, pp. 277-278)

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<sup>1</sup> Daniel Courgeau, 'Migrations et découpage du territoire', *Population* 28 (May-June 1973) : 511-536 ; 'L'intensité des changements de catégorie de commune', *Population* 30 (January-February 1975) ; and 'Comparaisons des migrations internes en France et aux Etats-Unis'.