



Global Changes and Gendered Responses: The Feminization of Migration from Georgia

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Presentation overview

- Causes and consequences of the feminization of migration
- Reasons for exploring the feminization of migration from Georgia
- National-level migration trends in Georgia
- The feminization of migration as a social process



Feminization of migration: regional variation

- Women dominate migration flows from some Asian countries
- Migration from North Africa is still a male-led process
- Regional differences potentially related to women's education and social status



Feminization of migration: causes

- Labor market changes in migrant destination countries
- More female-headed households in migrant-sending countries
- Increasing restrictions on immigration, deportations

Feminization of migration: consequences

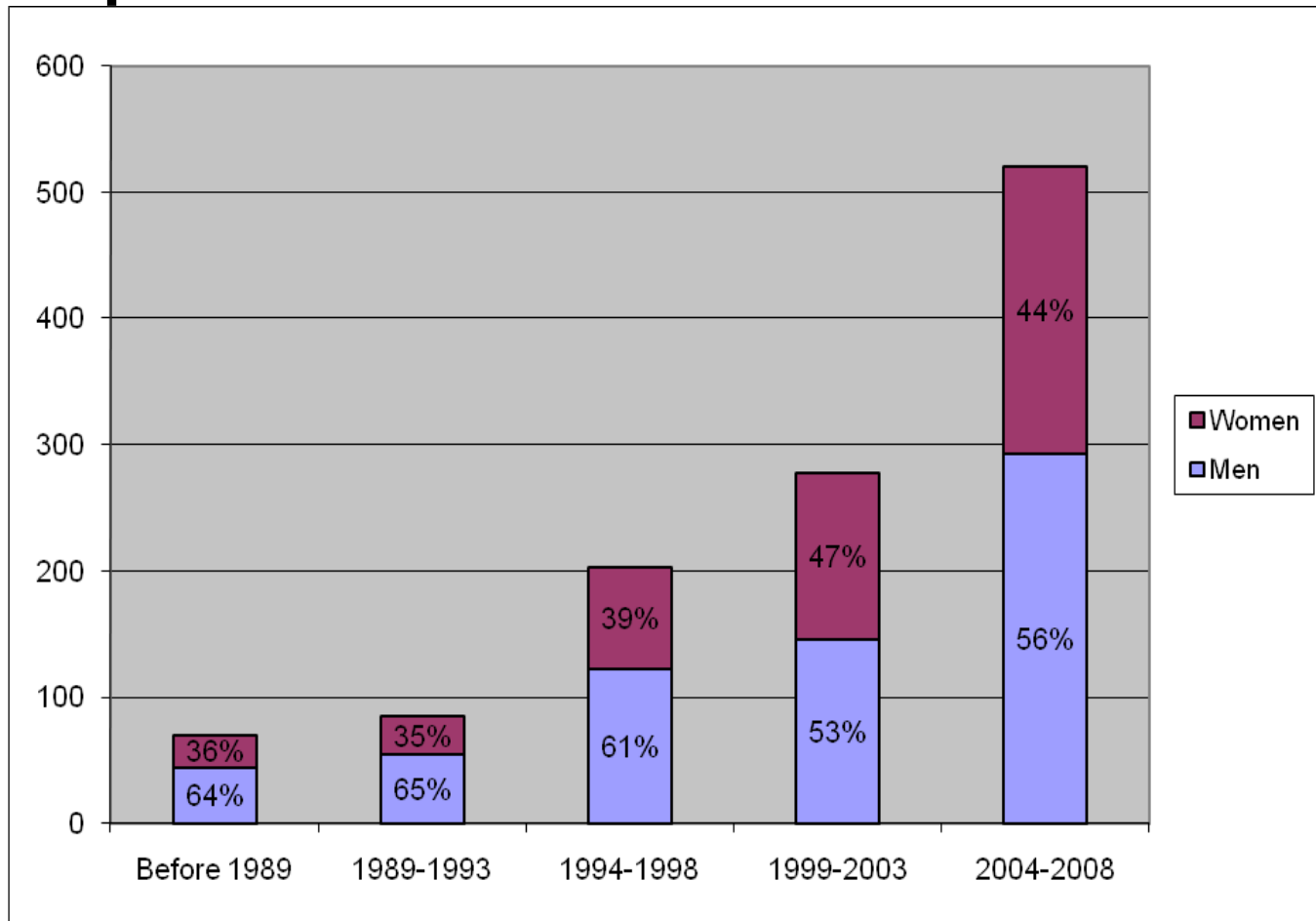
- Migration may bring increased social status for women
 - Freedom from family supervision
 - Exposure to more egalitarian cultures
 - Increased earnings → more household authority



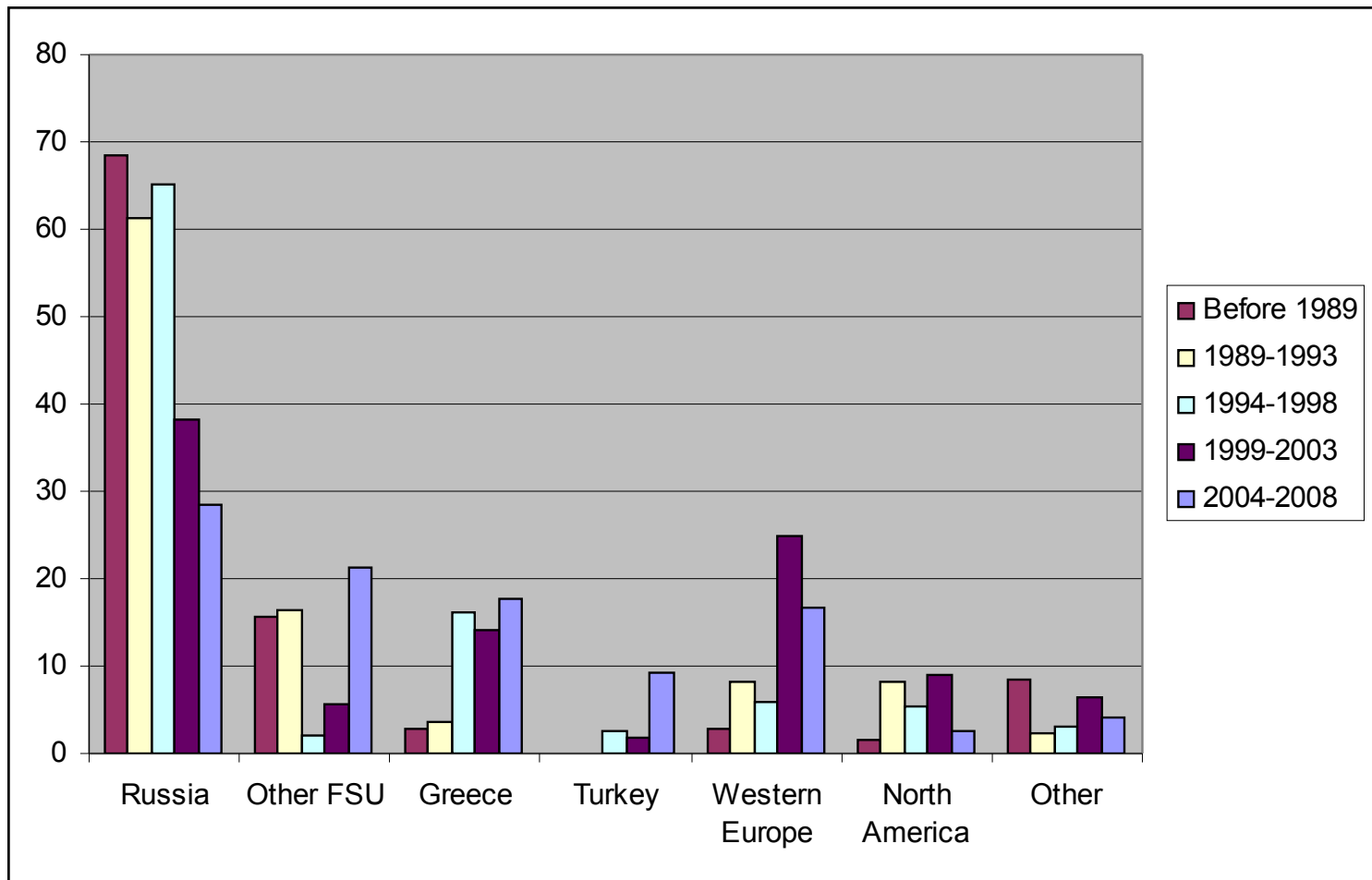
Specifics of the Georgian case

- Recent, dramatic change in migration patterns
 - Little international migration in Soviet period
 - Migration to Russia in the 1990s
 - Expansion of migration and diversity of destinations today
- History of political turmoil, violent conflict, and internal displacement

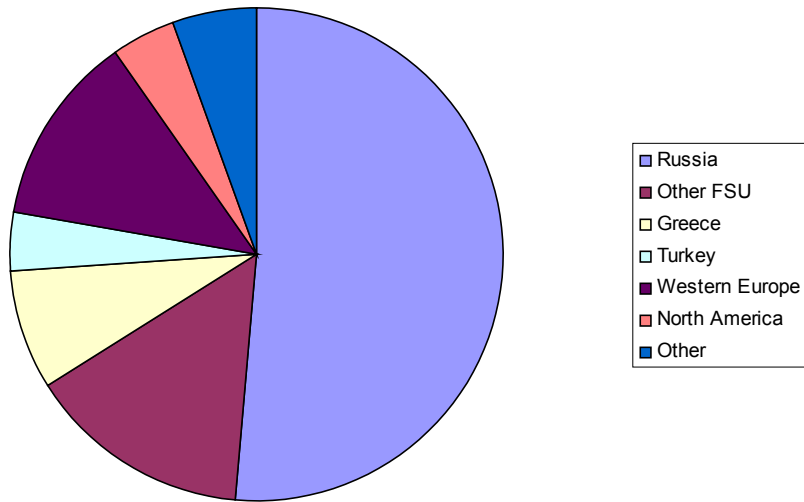
Male and female migration by year of departure



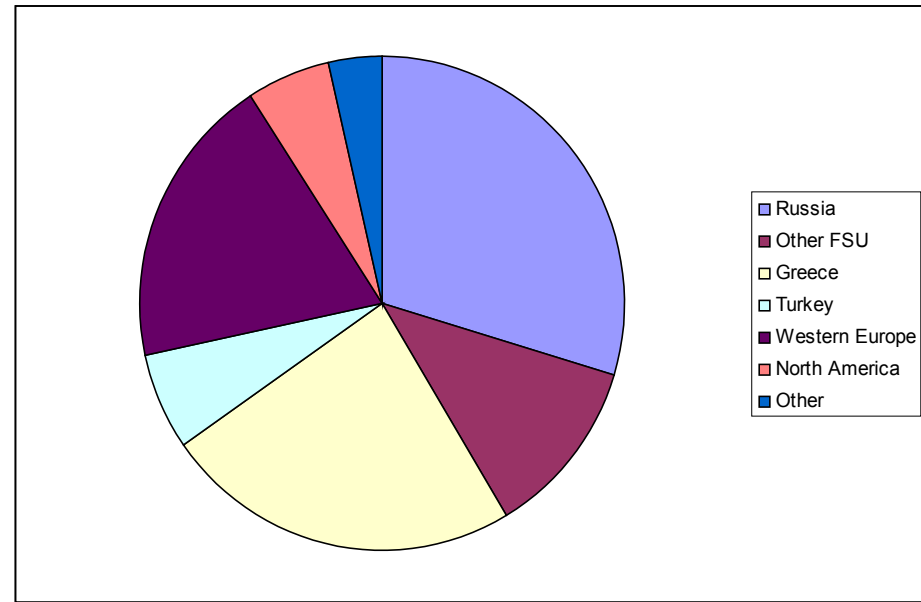
Migrants by destination and year of departure



Migrants by destination



Men



Women



Characteristics of female migrants

- Changing role of displacement
 - Displaced women played a big role in migration in the 1990s, less today
- Role of education
 - Migrant women are a highly educated population
- Role of divorce
 - Divorced women are more likely to migrate than married women

Negative perceptions of women's migration

- Male, 53, Dusheti, former migrant:

“Earlier, when men left to work in Russia, the mother stayed home and raised the children; today everything is backwards and the next generation is left without mothers. A father can't give such attentions to children, such as they need, and so children are left without supervision.”

Women's migration as feminine sacrifice

- Female, 53, Tbilisi, former migrant:

“We in Georgia...have a cult of the child. A mother will do anything for her child. The mother and child, that is everything. She will do anything so that her child will live well, will have a good education, she'll buy him an apartment, where he can live with his family. For this, mothers will do anything.”

Men's migration as personal benefit

- Female, 58, Tbilisi, mother of migrant

“It's better [for him] to have [work], to be making something of himself, and to be earning money. So he's someone, he's a full person. That's how it is for him...It's not just about money and about work. It's also about getting to see another country...You can learn something from that



Conclusions

- Complex interplay between global and local factors
- Limitations to the transformative potential of women's migration