

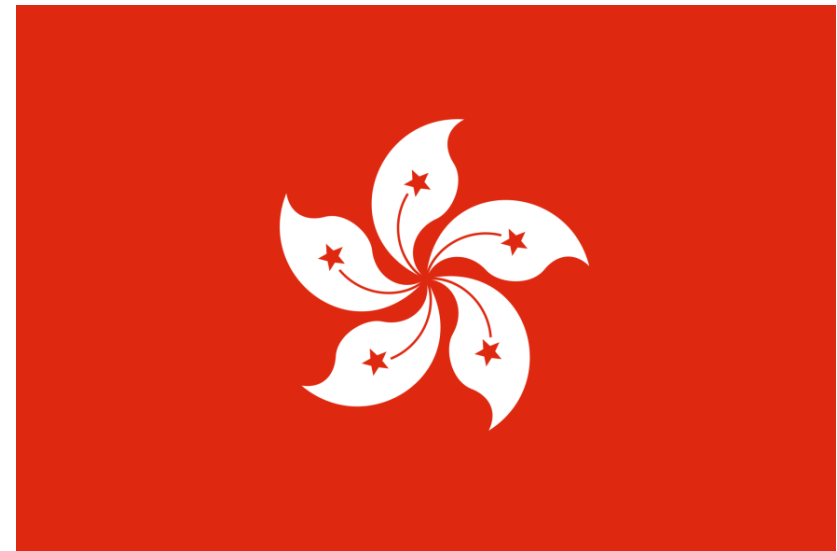
Emigration Attitudes and Public Support for Democracy in Hong Kong

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Hong Kong: Geography



Hong Kong: History

- 1841-1898: Britain seizes or “leases” the different parts of Hong Kong from China
- 1941-1945: Japan occupies Hong Kong and brutalizes its people
- 1984: Britain agrees to return all of Hong Kong to China in 1997, and China promises to implement “One Country, Two Systems” until 2047
- 1997: “Handover” of Hong Kong to China

2014 Umbrella Revolution



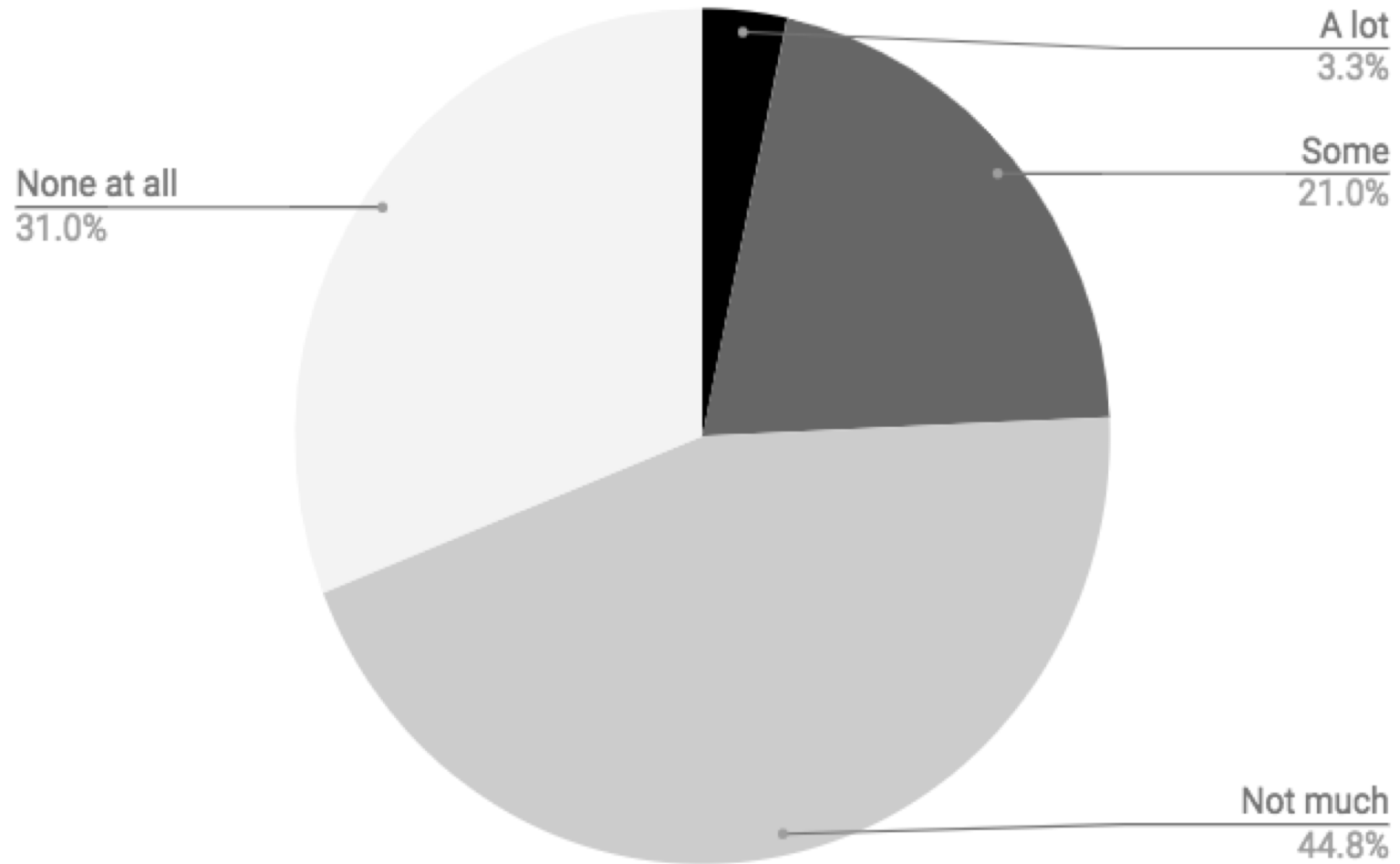
Theory

- *Exit, Voice, and Loyalty* (Hirschman 1970)
- In Hong Kong choices are:
 - emigration
 - protesting authoritarianism at home
 - or acquiescing to authoritarianism at home
- If only one choice possible, we want to see if democracy support variable has positive (exit), negative (voice), or no (loyalty) effect on pro-emigration attitudes

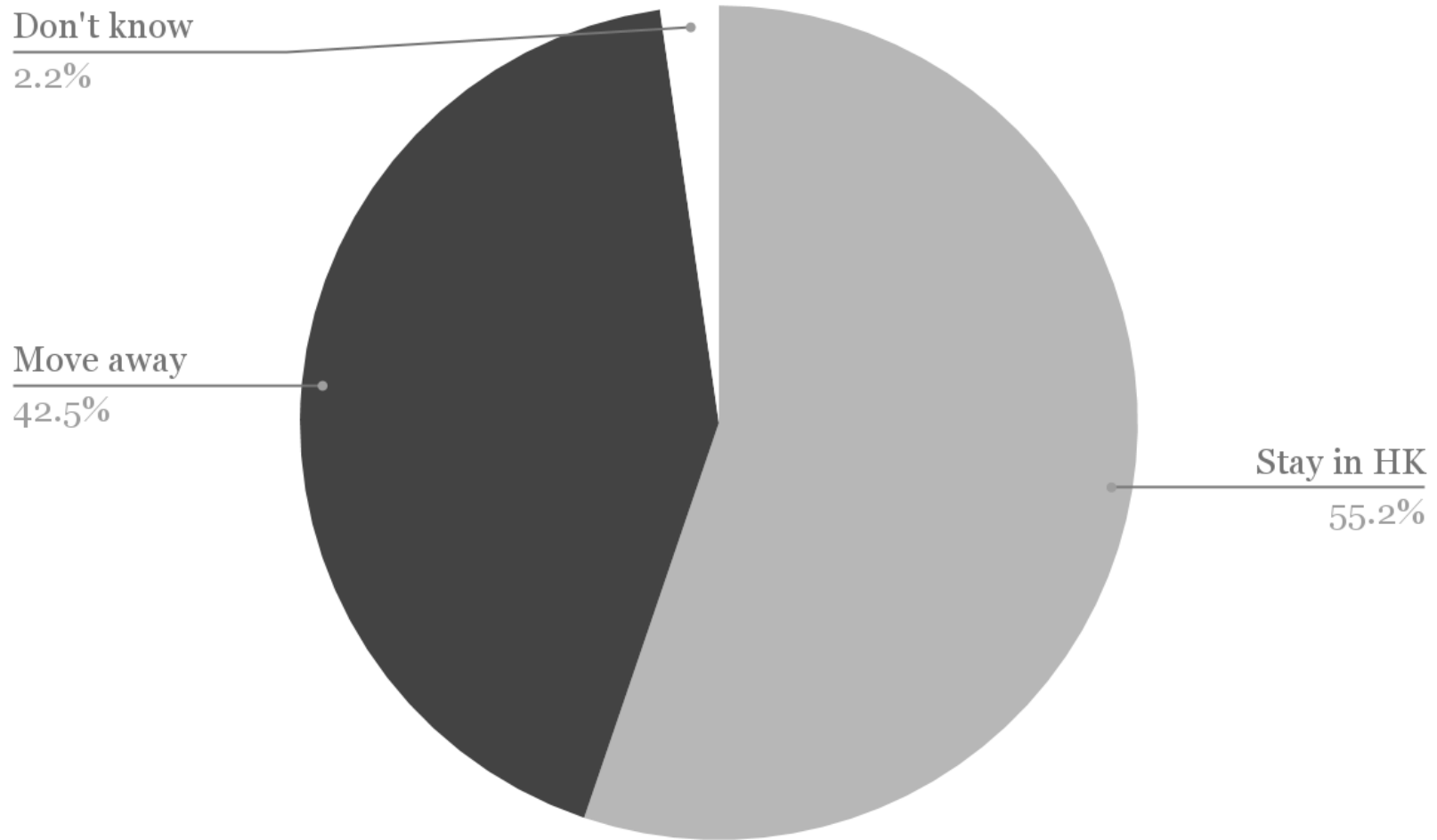
Data

- Asian Urban-Wellbeing Indicators survey
- August 2015
- CATI interviews in Cantonese, Mandarin and English
- 1,508 age/gender quota-sampled Hong Kongers aged 18-65

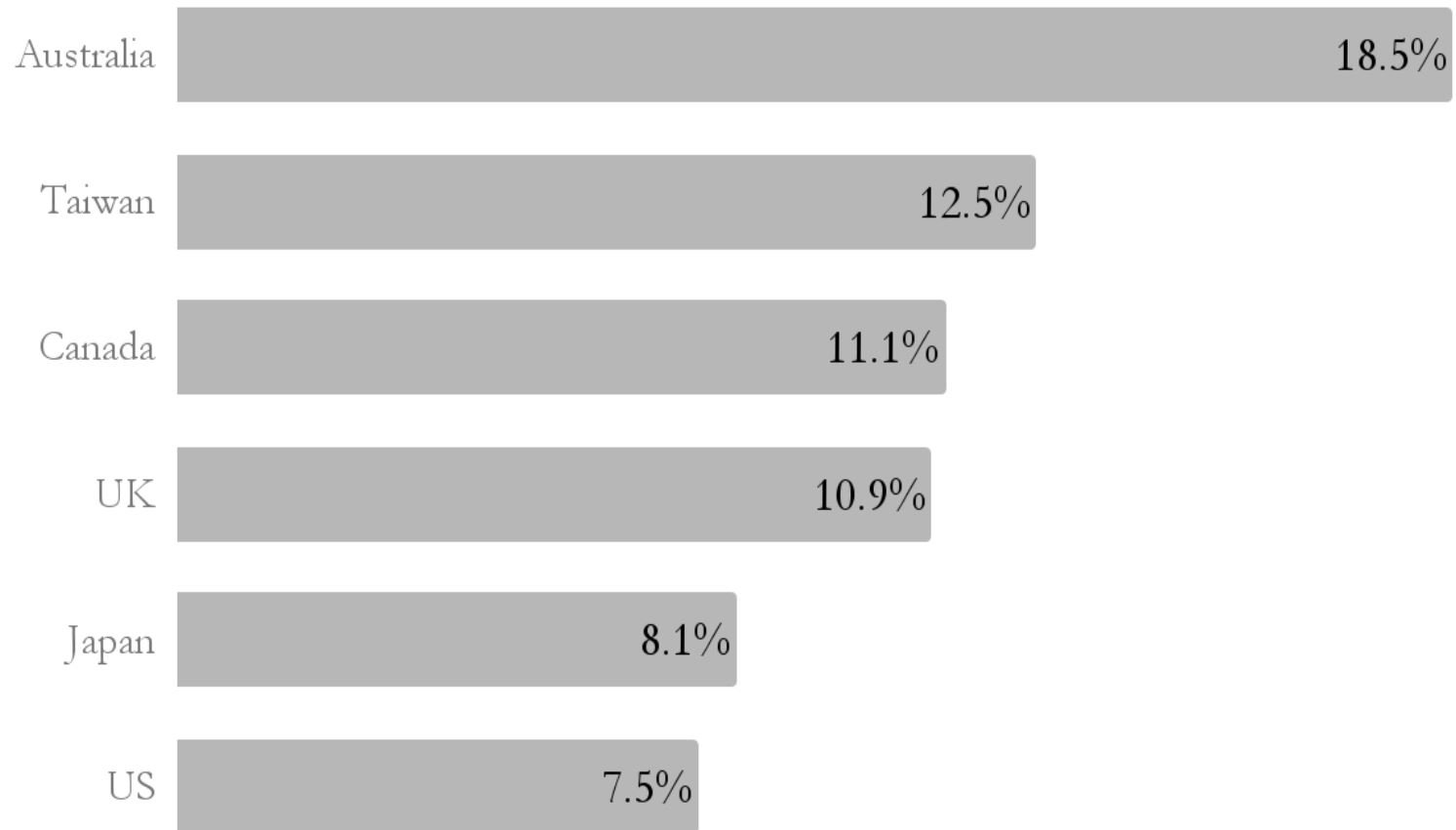
Hong Kongers' Perception of Political Efficacy



Hong Kongers' Attitudes toward Emigration



Hong Kongers' Preferred Country of Emigration (top 6)



Key Variables

- Freedom Score: Freedom House score of ideal place of residence (HK or abroad)
- Dissatisfaction with quality of HK Government
- HK worse place to live
- Family Abroad
- Christian
- Woman
- Education
- Income
- White Collar
- Age

Table 1. Regression Models of Propensity to Exit in 2015

	b	SE	Exp(B)
Freedom Score	.096 **	.010	1.101
Government Dissatisfaction	.481 **	.112	1.618
Hong Kong Worse	.981 **	.116	2.668
Family Abroad	.575 **	.179	1.778
Christian	.273	.179	1.314
Women	-.124	.149	.883
Education	-.174 *	.081	.841
Income	.024	.067	1.024
White Collar	.010	.187	1.010
Age	-.489 **	.066	.613
Constant	-10.396 **	.864	
<u>Nagelkerke R2</u>	.481		
χ^2	535.161*		
Degrees of Freedom	10		
N	1218		

Source: Hong Kong subset of 2015 Asian Urban-Wellbeing Indicators.

Note: Equations for Propensity to Emigrate estimated with bivariate logit. All indicators are dummy variables except for Freedom Score (range = 16 to 99), Government Dissatisfaction (1 to 4), Hong Kong worse (1 to 5), Education (1 to 5), Income (1 to 5), and Age (1 to 5). *p<.05, **p<.01.

Conclusion

- Indicators of support for democracy (Freedom Score, Government Dissatisfaction, and HK Worse) suggest that is powerful motivator of pro-emigration attitudes
 - positive coefficient, so data analysis supports “exit” interpretation of Hong Kongers’ situation
- Family abroad increases pro-emigration views, but increased age and education decrease willingness to leave