Reflections on the immigration policies of African states

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The sending/receiving divide

- Research and policy based on bipolar model
- Sending ↔ Developing - Africa
- Receiving ↔ Industrialised - Europe
Sending/receiving policies

• Sending issues
  – Impact of migration on development
  – Remittances
  – Brain drain/gain/circulation, etc.
  – Extra-continental emigration

• Receiving issues
  – Immigration control
  – Integration, multi-culturalism
  – Labour market impacts
Immigration in Africa

• Majority of African international migrants stay within continent
• West Africa – estimated regional migration $7 \times$ extra-regional

$\Rightarrow$ Most African states receive large numbers of immigrants

What are immigration policies? How do they integrate? ……. 
## Immigration policy

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<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Africa</th>
<th>Asia</th>
<th>Europe</th>
<th>Lat Am &amp; Caribbean</th>
<th>N America</th>
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Integration in Africa

• Relations between citizens rather than arrival of immigrants
  – Multiple language groups within borders
  – Post-colonial state building

• Literature on integration in Africa
  – Integration of refugees
  – (Re)integration of return migrants

• Social integration seen as unproblematic

• Policy vacuum within Africa
# Migration policies – integration of non/citizens

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Xenophobia

• Research and policy vacuum – with exception of South Africa
• Ethnic conflict used as rationale for violence
  – Depoliticising conflict
  – Removing obligations to intervene
• Sending and receiving states with different social, policy and normative frameworks
Concluding remarks

- Migration policy vacuum in Africa → infilling by external powers
- African experiences of immigration little understood
- Possibility of new approaches, models, lessons lost
- Need for basic research on migration policies across Africa