



International Migration Institute
James Martin 21st Century School
University of Oxford



Reflections on the immigration policies of African states

Oliver Bakewell

www.imi.ox.ac.uk

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 x extra-regional
- ⇒ Most African states receive large numbers of immigrants

What are immigration policies? How do they integrate?

Immigration policy

	Africa	Asia	Europe	Lat Am & Caribbean	N America	Oceania
Raise	1	4	2	1	1	2
Maintain	11	25	33	25	1	9
Lower	13	17	6	4	0	3
No intervention	27	1	2	3	0	2
..	1	0	0	0	0	0

Source: www.un.org/esa/population/publications/2006Migration_Chart/2006littMig_wallchart.xls

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

	Africa	Asia	Europe	Lat Am & Carib	N America	Oceania
Yes	11	14	33	10	2	5
No	14	17	6	12	0	0
..	28	16	4	11	0	11

Source: www.un.org/esa/population/publications/2006Migration_Chart/2006littMig_wallchart.xls

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