The determinants of international migration
A theoretical and empirical assessment of policy, origin and destination effects

www.migrationdeterminants.eu

European Research Council (ERC)
Starting Grant
2010-2014
EC’s Seventh Framework Programme
Support for Frontier Research
DEMIG research team

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“the ability to control migration has shrunk as the desire to do so has increased. Borders are largely beyond control and little can be done to really cut down on immigration” (Bhagwati 2003: 99)

“There is no major migration control crisis” (Brochmann & Hammar, 1999)

*Contested* effectiveness of policies reveals a limited theoretical and empirical understanding of
- the determinants of international migration (in general)
- the role of states and policies (specifically)
Research gaps

Migration determinants literature

- Bias towards income and demographic factors
- Receiving-country bias
- Weak theorization of migration determinants
- Limited operationalization of policy variables
- Failure to specify the relative magnitude of policy effects
- Largely ignore knock-on (‘substitution’) effects of restrictions

**Aim:** Generating new theoretical and empirical insights into the way *states* and *policies* shape migration processes in their interaction with other migration determinants.
1. What has been the nature and structure and evolution of global migration in the 1950-2010 period?

2. How can shifts in global migration patterns be explained from processes of development and social transformation in origin and destination countries?

3. What has been the nature and evolution of immigration and emigration policies in the 1950-2010 period?

4. What are the effects of migration policies and border regimes on the (i) volume, (ii) timing, (iii) duration, (iv) direction and (v) composition of international migration?
DEMIG Methodology

Interdisciplinary, multi-method

I. Elaboration of a **theoretical framework** on migration as intrinsic part of development and social transformation

II. Conceptualizing the effectiveness and effects of **migration policies**.

III. Creation of **longitudinal databases** compiling bilateral migration flow, visa and migration policy data

IV. Empirical studies on the role of states and policies in migration processes
   - **Quantitative tests** applying a double comparative, longitudinal design (multiple origin groups to and from multiple destinations)
   - **Qualitative case studies** and comparisons to assess the role of states in migration processes
DEMIG Databases

• **DEMIG C2C**: bilateral flows by country of residence (COR), citizenship (COC), birth (COB); 34 countries, 1946-2011, ≈50,000 dyads.

• **DEMIG TOTAL**: Total immigration, emigration and net migration, citizens and foreigners, 163 countries, from 1820.

• **DEMIG POLICY**: 6,500 migration policy changes, 45 countries, 1946-2013, coded by (i) policy area; (ii) policy tool; (iii) migrant category; (iv) geographical origin; also covers emigration policies

• **DEMIG VISA**: Global panel (196*196 countries) of bilateral entry visa and exit permit requirements, 1973-2014.
DEMIC Databases

Working Papers

Paper 87, March 2014

Compiling and coding migration policies
Insights from the DEMIG POLICY database
Hein de Haas, Katharina Natter and Simona Vezzoli

DEMIC project paper 16

The research leading to these results is part of the DEMIG project and has received funding from the European Community’s Seventh Framework Programme (FP7/2007-2013) ERC Grant Agreement 240940.
www.demigproject.org

This paper is published by the International Migration Institute (IMI), Oxford Department of International Development (ODID), University of Oxford, 3 Mansfield Road, Oxford OX1 3TB, UK (www.imi.ox.ac.uk). IMI does not have an institutional view and does not aim to present one. The views expressed in this document are those of its independent authors.

Working Papers

Paper 88, March 2014

Uncovering international migration flow data
Insights from the DEMIG databases
Simone Vezzoli, Mario Villares-Varelo and Hein de Haas

DEMIC project paper 17

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DEMIG working papers

www.migrationdeterminants.eu

Working Papers
Paper 32, April 2011
The determinants of international migration
Conceptualising policy, origin and destination effects
Hein de Haas

Working Papers
Paper 36, July 2014
Growing restrictiveness or changing selection? The nature and evolution of migration policies
Henn de Haas, Katharina Netzer and Simone Vezzali

Working Papers
Paper 86, April 2014
The Effect of Visa Policies on International Migration Dynamics
Mattheos Kondakis and Hein de Haas
DEMIG
Determinants of International Migration

Main results and insights
The nature and evolution of global migration
The nature and evolution of global migration

The nature and evolution of global migration

The nature and evolution of global migration

EU25 and US immigration, yearly, 1960-2010

Is migration really diversifying?

The determinants of international migration
The determinants of international migration

Netherlands

GDP growth (2 yr lagged average)  Net immigration
The determinants of international migration

The determinants of international migration

The determinants of international migration

‘Migration transition theory’

The determinants of international migration

Inequality and social security in origin societies


Relative deprivation and aspirations

The nature and evolution of migration policies
Policy gaps

Distinguishing migration policy effectiveness and effects

Sources:

The nature and evolution of migration policies

Average yearly change in migration policy restrictiveness

The nature and evolution of migration policies

Visa restrictiveness of OECD countries for African nationals

Source: DEMIG VISA database. See Marie-Laurence Flahaux and Hein de Haas (2014 forthcoming) Migration from, to and within Africa: The role of development and states. DEMIG Working Paper
The nature and evolution of migration policies
‘Substitution effects’

Unintended consequences of immigration restrictions

1. Categorical substitution (category jumping)
2. Inter-temporal substitution (‘now or never’ migration)
3. Reverse flow substitution (interrupting circulation)
4. Spatial substitution (spatial diversion)

The role of states and policies in migration processes

‘Substitution effects’

*Unintended consequences of immigration restrictions*

1. **Categorical substitution** (category jumping)

The role of states and policies in migration processes

Working Papers
Paper 84, February 2014

Deflection into irregularity?
The (un)intended effects of restrictive asylum and visa policies

Mathias Czaika and Mogens Hobolt

DEMIG project paper 15
The role of states and policies in migration processes

Working Papers
Paper 84, February 2014

Deflection into irregularity?
The (un)intended effects of restrictive asylum and visa policies
Mathias Czaika and Mogens Hobolth

DEMIG project paper 15

Working Papers
Paper 95, July 2014

Fifty years of Maghreb emigration
How states shaped Algerian, Moroccan and Tunisian emigration
Katherine Netter

DEMIG project paper 21
The role of states and policies in migration processes

‘Substitution effects’

Unintended consequences of immigration restrictions

1. Categorical substitution (category jumping)

Substitution effects’

Unintended consequences of immigration restrictions

1. Categorical substitution (category jumping)
2. Inter-temporal substitution (‘now or never’ migration)

Immigration from Suriname

How the Dutch government stimulated unwanted migration from Suriname

How the Dutch government stimulated unwanted migration from Suriname

How the Dutch government stimulated unwanted migration from Suriname

How the Dutch government stimulated unwanted migration from Suriname

It’s now or never !!!

‘Substitution effects’

Unintended consequences of immigration restrictions

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2. **Inter-temporal substitution** (‘now or never’ migration)

‘Substitution effects’

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The role of states and policies in migration processes

Working Papers

Paper 89, April 2014

The Effect of Visa Policies on International Migration Dynamics

Mathias Czaika and Hein de Haas

DEMIG project paper 18

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The role of states and policies in migration processes

Effects of travel visas on circulation of migrants

Source: Mathias Czaika and Hein de Haas
The role of states and policies in migration processes

Working Papers

Paper 89, April 2014

The Effect of Visa Policies on International Migration Dynamics

Mathias Czaika and Hein de Haas

DEMIG project paper 18
The role of states and policies in migration processes

Working Papers
Paper 89, April 2014
The Effect of Visa Policies on International Migration Dynamics
Mathias Czaika and Hein de Haes

Working Papers
Paper 93, July 2014
The influence of migration policies in Europe on return migration to Senegal
Marie-Laurence Flahaux
‘Substitution effects’

Unintended consequences of immigration restrictions

1. Categorical substitution (category jumping)
2. Inter-temporal substitution (‘now or never’ migration)
3. Reverse flow substitution (interrupting circulation)

‘Substitution effects’

Unintended consequences of immigration restrictions

1. Categorical substitution (category jumping)
2. Inter-temporal substitution (‘now or never’ migration)
3. Reverse flow substitution (interrupting circulation)
4. Spatial substitution (spatial diversion, ‘waterbed’ effects)

‘Substitution effects’

Unintended consequences of immigration restrictions

1. **Categorical substitution** (category jumping)
2. **Inter-temporal substitution** (‘now or never’ migration)
3. **Reverse flow substitution** (interrupting circulation)
4. **Spatial substitution** (spatial diversion, ‘waterbed’ effects)

The role of states and policies in migration processes

The need to move beyond immigration policies .....
The role of states and policies in migration processes

Working Papers

October 2014

Is there a reverse welfare magnet? The effect of social policy in developing countries on international migration.

Edo Mahendra

DEMIG project paper
The role of states and policies in migration processes

Working Papers
October 2014

Is there a reverse welfare magnet?
The effect of social policy in developing countries on international migration.

Edo Mahendra

DEMIG project paper

Unpacking the 'colonial dummy'
The role of decolonisation and origin country state formation in migration processes

Simona Vezzoli

DEMIG project paper

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The effects of policies and border regimes on migration

DEMIG papers testing substitution effects

- Mathias Czaika and Mogens Hobolth (2014) *Deflection into irregularity? The (un)intended effects of restrictive asylum and visa policies*. DEMIG #15

Colonial ties and the role of origin states

- Simona Vezzoli (2014) *Unpacking the 'colonial dummy': The role of decolonisation and origin country state formation in migration processes*. DEMIG working paper
• We cannot say that migration policies have generally failed
• Immigration policies are about selection rather than numbers despite political rhetoric suggesting the contrary
• Immigration restrictions have real, but limited effects on migration, which is rooted in structural development trends
• The effectiveness of immigration restrictions is significantly undermined by (1) categorical, (2) inter-temporal, (3) spatial, and (4) reverse flow substitution effects
• Destination and origin states mainly influence migration through *non-migration policies*. 
Future research avenues

- More sophisticated measurement policy effectiveness and substitution effects using new data
- Extending databases in historical depth and global coverage
- The implementation of migration policies
- The effects of non-migration policies
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