DEMIG Conference

DETERMINANTS of INTERNATIONAL MIGRATION

What are the factors that shape migration patterns across the world and how do they interact with each other? How do changing levels of socioeconomic development affect shifting migration practices and directions? Are migration policies effective in controlling migration – or are trade, labour market or welfare policies in origin and destination countries more important? What theoretical approaches can help us to make sense of this complex array of determinants operating across different social, spatial and temporal scales?

The aim of this interdisciplinary conference organised by the International Migration Institute (IMI) is to advance evidence-based and theoretical understanding of determinants of migration processes. While there is a plethora of research on the social, cultural and economic impacts of migration, research on the determinants of migration has remained relatively under researched and under theorised. Although there is consensus that various contextual factors in origin and destination countries, policies and social networks all play some role in driving migration, there are conflicting views on their effects, relative importance and interaction.

In the absence of any general theory of migration that can tie together all these different elements, significant progress can be achieved by comparing – and if possible – integrating theoretical insights from different disciplines and fields of empirical research that specialise on particular themes and migrant categories. To advance this agenda, this conference aims to bring together migration scholars to discuss theoretical and empirical avenues for advancing the understanding of the drivers of migration processes.

Conference themes

1  The role of development in migration processes. How do economic and demographic transitions, as well as human development in origin and destination countries, affect patterns of immigration and emigration? Is Zelinsky’s (1971) model of the ‘mobility transition’ still useful for explaining contemporary and future migration? How do processes of development and social transformation affect people’s aspirations and capabilities and their decisions in terms of whether, when, how, where and for how long to migrate?

2  The role of states and policies in migration processes. How do states and their migration and non-migration (e.g., trade, labour market, welfare) policies in origin and destination countries affect the size, timing, duration, direction and composition of international migration? Are borders largely ‘beyond control’ or are migration policies relatively effective? How large is the effect of policies when taking into account other migration determinants?

3  Migration theories. Advancing migration theory is essential in building a shared body of generalised knowledge that can also serve as a guide for further research. How can different theories on the causes of migration be combined? To what extent do their conflicting underlying assumptions present an obstacle to such integration? How can we better connect migration theory to general theories of development and social change?
Despite increasing immigration restrictions, the volume of South–North migration is only increasing. Does this mean that migration policies have failed? How do migration policies precisely affect migration if we control for the many other factors that drive international migration? How do development processes affect migration? DEMIG is a major research initiative aiming to answer these questions by generating new theoretical and empirical insights into the way states and policies shape migration processes in their interaction with other migration determinants in destination and origin countries.

Objectives

The DEMIG project addresses the following question: how do migration policies of destination and origin states affect the size, direction and nature of international migration?

The effectiveness of migration policies has been widely contested in the face of their supposed failure to steer immigration and their unintended, counterproductive effects. However, due to methodological flaws and data problems, most evidence has remained largely descriptive, biased and inconclusive.

Existing studies on migration determinants tend to exclude crucial origin country migration determinants and relevant non-economic and policy variables. Therefore, it is unclear how migration policies affect migration flows when other forces driving international migration are taken into account.

More fundamentally, the contested nature of this debate reveals a still limited theoretical understanding of the multi-level forces driving migration international migration. For instance, development of origin countries is often presented as a solution to perceived immigration problems, while recent evidence suggests that development generally increases migration.

Although there is consensus that macro-contextual factors in sending and receiving countries and factors such as networks and policies all play some role, there is no agreement on their relative weight and mutual interaction.

To fill this gap, the DEMIG project aims to generate new insights into the way states and policies shape migration processes in their interaction with other migration determinants in receiving and sending countries. This will be achieved by embedding the systematic empirical analysis of policy effects into a comprehensive theoretical framework of the macro- and meso-level processes driving international migration.

The project compiles new migration and policy databases and provide empirical tests for general migration theory by exploring the complex links between human development and migration.

Methodology

DEMIG applies an interdisciplinary theoretical and empirical approach to the study of international migration centred on a long-term (‘longitudinal’), comparative research design. DEMIG is built around four research components:

1. Re-conceptualising migration and human mobility through the elaboration of a comprehensive theoretical framework on the multi-level forces driving migration processes.

2. Reviewing and theorising the effect and effectiveness of immigration and emigration policies.

3. Compilation of large-scale databases on country-to-country migration flows (DEMIG C2C), total in- and outflows (DEMIG TOTAL), migration policies (DEMIG POLICY), and travel visa requirements (DEMIG VISA).

4. Quantitative and qualitative tests of hypotheses derived in parts 1 and 2 to estimate the effects of sending and receiving countries’ policies on migration when controlling for the effects of other migration determinants.
European Research Council (ERC)
erc.europa.eu

DEMIG is core-funded by the European Research Council (ERC) under the European Community’s Seventh Framework Programme (FP7/2007-2013)/ERC Grant Agreement 240940. The ERC is the first European funding body set up to support investigator-driven frontier research. Starting Grants aim to support the creation of excellent new research teams to conduct pioneering frontier research in any field of science, engineering and scholarship. The ERC’s mandate is to award grants solely on the judgement of panels of scientific reviewers.

Oxford Martin School
www.oxfordmartin.ox.ac.uk

The Oxford Martin School is a unique interdisciplinary research initiative at the University of Oxford. It was founded in 2005. It was made possible through the vision and generosity of Dr James Martin (1933–2013). IMI is a member of the Oxford Martin School at the University of Oxford, and received additional funding from Dr James Martin (founder of the School) to match the DEMIG grant from the ERC. DEMIG has theoretical and methodological parallels with other IMI projects, with which there is close collaboration: Global Migration Futures, THEMIS and EUMAGINE.

International Migration Institute (IMI)
www.imi.ox.ac.uk

IMI is committed to developing a long-term and forward-looking perspective on international migration as part of global change. It aims to advance understanding of how migration shapes and is shaped by broader development processes. Founded in 2006, IMI is part of the Oxford Department of International Development. IMI aims to advance understanding of the multi-level forces driving current and future migration processes. It is investigating the way that human mobility is changing the face of global society. IMI research aims to provide an understanding of who is migrating, where to, why, and what impacts these movements have on both receiving countries and the societies left behind.

The Institute works with researchers and policy-makers in the global South and North to pioneer new theoretical and methodological approaches, and strengthen capacity for research. The core research activities of IMI fit within seven broad themes:

- African Migrations
- Migration and Development
- Migration and Environment
- Migration Futures
- Migration Policies and Governance
- Rethinking Migration Theory
- Transnationalism and Diasporas

IMI researchers are helping to create the next generation of migration scholars through teaching on the MSc in Migration Studies course and supervising doctoral research students.
KEYNOTE BIOGRAPHIES

Hein de Haas
Hein de Haas is Co-Director of the International Migration Institute (IMI), as well as an Associate Professor in Migration Studies and James Martin Fellow at the University of Oxford. He is also Professor of Migration and Development at the University of Maastricht. His research focuses on the links between migration and broader processes of development and social transformation, primarily from the perspective of migrant-sending societies. He did extensive fieldwork in the Middle East and North Africa and, particularly, Morocco. Hein de Haas has published widely on various issues including migration theory, migration and development, the determinants of international migration, the role of states and policies in migration processes, African-European migration and migration futures. He is co-author of the 5th edition of *The Age of Migration*, a leading text book in the field of migration studies. In 2009, he was awarded a Starting Grant by the European Research Council (ERC) for DEMIG (Determinants of International Migration), a five year (2010–2014) research project that aims to assess the effectiveness of migration policies.

Giovanni Peri
Giovanni Peri is the Director of the Temporary Migration Cluster. He is Professor of Economics at the University of California, Davis and Research Associate of the National Bureau of Economic Research in Cambridge, Massachusetts. He is Editor of *Regional Science and Urban Economics* and in the editorial Board of several Academic Journals in Economics. His Research, in the last ten years has focused on the impact of international migrations on labor markets and productivity of the receiving countries and on the determinants of international migrations. He has published in several academic journals including the American Economic Review, the Review of Economic Studies, The Review of Economics and Statistics, the Economic Journal and the Journal of European Economic Association. His research has been featured in recent years in popular blogs and in media outlets including the New York Times, the Wall Street Journal, the Washington Post and the Economist Magazine. He has received several grants in the past for the study of the impact of migrations from foundations and international organizations, including the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation, the World Bank, the Volkswagen Foundation and the Microsoft Corporation.

Ronald Skeldon
Ronald Skeldon is a Professorial Fellow in the Department of Geography in the School of Global Studies at the University of Sussex. He is also Professor of Human Geography at Maastricht University in the Netherlands. After taking a BSc (Hons) in Geography at the University of Glasgow in 1967, he completed an MA and a PhD at the University of Toronto, with a dissertation on Migration in a Peasant Society: the Example of Cuzco, Peru. He became a Research Fellow at the New Guinea Research Unit of the Australian National University, later the Papua New Guinea Institute for Applied Social and Economic Research, in Port Moresby. He then joined the United Nations, initially as a census adviser in Papua New Guinea and later as a population expert based in Bangkok. He worked at the University of Hong Kong as a Professor of Geography. After working as an independent consultant based in Bangkok, working mainly for United Nations organisations, he joined the University of Sussex in October 2000. He spent time seconded to the Department for International Development (DFiD) as a Senior Research Fellow. He has continued to work as a consultant to international organizations, including the International Organization for Migration (IOM), the International Labour Organization (ILO), the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) and the United Nations Population Division. In 2013, he worked for the Bauhinia Foundation Research Centre in Hong Kong and, in 2014, is a Research Director in the Social Science Research Council of New York, Dissertation Proposal Development Fellowship Programme.
**Leo Lucassen**

Leo Lucassen studied Social and Economic History at the University of Leiden, MA (1985). In 1990 he was granted a PhD from Leiden for his dissertation on the history of Gypsies in the Netherlands 1850–1940. In 1989–1990 he was attached to the Law Faculty of the University of Nijmegen and in 1990–1991 to the Faculty of Social Sciences of the University of Leiden. Between 1991 and 1996 he worked as fellow of the Royal Dutch Academy of Sciences (KNAW) at the History Department in Leiden and in 1996 received the D.J. Veegensprijs of the Hollandse Maatschappij van Wetenschappen. In 1998 he moved to the University of Amsterdam (UvA) where he directed a NWO pioneer project on the assimilation of immigrants in the Netherlands. In the year 2002–2003 he was fellow of the Netherlands Institute for Advanced Study (NIAS) in Wassenaar. In 2005 he returned to Leiden, where he shares the chair of Social History with Professor Wim Willems. From September 2007 Leo worked as a professor of Social History at the Leiden History Department, while still retaining this role part-time, in September 2014 he moved to work as the director of research at the International Institute of Social History, Amsterdam.

**Douglas Massey**

Douglas Massey is the Henry G. Bryant Professor of Sociology and Public Affairs at the Woodrow Wilson School of Public and International Affairs at Princeton University. His research interests focus on concerns for the consequences of American city segregation for African Americans and Latinos of African ancestry, as well as, more broadly: international migration, demography, race/ethnic relations, social and economic inequality, Latin American studies (especially Mexican) and social research methods. His publications include: Brokered Boundaries: Creating Immigrant Identity in Anti-Immigrant Times (with Magaly Sánchez R. 2010); and Taming the River: Negotiating the Academic, Financial, and Social Currents in Selective Colleges and Universities (with Charles, C.Z., M.J. Fischer, and M.A. Mooney. 2009). Professor Massey has served on the faculties of the University of Chicago and the University of Pennsylvania. He is president of the American Academy of Political and Social Science (AAPSS).

**Filiz Garip**

Filiz Garip is Associate Professor of Sociology at Harvard University. Her research lies at the intersection of migration, economic sociology and inequality. Within this general area, she studies the mechanisms that enable or constrain mobility and lead to greater or lesser degrees of social and economic inequality. Her work has been published in leading academic journals. She is currently working on a book, which will characterise the diversity of the Mexican migrant population in the US. Garip received her PhD in Sociology and MSE in Operations Research & Financial Engineering both from Princeton University. She holds a BSc in Industrial Engineering from Bogazici University, Istanbul. Garip received the Harold W. Dodds Honorific Fellowship at Princeton, and was part of the Woodrow Wilson Society of Fellows. At Harvard, she has taught courses on migration and economic sociology, and has won the George Kahl Excellence in Teaching Award from the Department of Sociology. She is also the director of academic programming for the Undergraduate Research Scholars program at the Institute of Quantitative Social Science at Harvard. She serves as a consulting editor for the American Journal of Sociology. Garip collaborates with scholars in different fields including political science, computer science and statistics. Her research has been supported by grants from the National Science Foundation, the Clark Fund, Milton Fund, and the Harvard Center for Population and Development Studies, David Rockefeller Center for Latin American Studies, Harvard Academy for International and Area Studies, as well as a Junior Synergy Semester Grant from the Weatherhead Center for International Affairs.
PROGRAMME

Monday 22 September 2014

Drinks reception
18:00  Haldane Room, Wolfson College

Tuesday 23 September 2014
The role of states and policies in migration processes

Registration and coffee
08:00–09:00  Wolfson Auditorium building

Opening remarks
09:00–09:15  Hein de Haas (University of Oxford)

Keynote 1
09:15–10:45  Chair: Robin Cohen
The determinants of international migration: a theoretical and empirical assessment of policy, origin, and destination effects
Hein de Haas (University of Oxford)
Economic perspectives on immigration policies and their impact on flow and selection of migrants
Giovanni Peri (University of California, Davis)

10:45–11:15  Coffee break

Session 1: Historical approaches to the role of states
11:15–12:45  Chair: Oliver Bakewell

1  Economics, state policy and the compulsory return of migrants from the United States to Europe, 1850–1900
Hidetaka Hirota (Columbia University)

2  Unpacking the ‘colonial dummy’: an exploration of the role of decolonisation and origin country state formation in migration processes
Simona Vezzoli (University of Oxford)

3  European migration in the context of free movement of persons: German migration flows to Switzerland prior to the First World War and after 2002
Ilka Steiner (University of Geneva)

Lunch
12:45–14:00  Haldane Room, Wolfson College
### Tuesday 23 September 2014 (continued)

**The role of states and policies in migration processes**

#### Session 2: The effects of migration policies

**Chair:** Jørgen Carling

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<td>The importance of access policies in South-South migration: Ecuador’s policy of open doors as a natural experiment</td>
<td>Luisa Feline Freier (London School of Economics)</td>
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<td>What drives soft deportation? Understanding the rise in assisted voluntary return among rejected asylum seekers in the Netherlands</td>
<td>Arjen Leerkes (Erasmus University Rotterdam) and Eline Boersema (Research and Documentation Centre, WODC)</td>
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<td>The influence of migration policies in Europe on return migration to Senegal</td>
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**15:45–16:15**  
**Coffee break**

#### Session 3: The effects of skills-selective migration policies

**Chair:** Sorana Toma

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<td>On the efficacy of high-skilled migration policy</td>
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<td>Panacea for international labor market failures? Bilateral labor agreements and labor mobility</td>
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<td>Determinants of international migration: Evidence from US DV Lottery</td>
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**Drinks reception**  
**18:30–19:30  Wolfson College**

**Dinner**  
**19:30–22:30  Haldane Room, Wolfson College**
Wednesday 24 September 2014
Migration as part of development and social transformation

Keynote 2
09:00–10:30
Chair: Josh DeWind
Reflections on migration/development regions in the context of a transition to high mobility
Ronald Skeldon (University of Sussex)
Towards a global comparative long term migration model and the pitfalls of the modernization paradigm
Leo Lucassen (Leiden University and International Institute of Social History)

10:30–11:00 Coffee break

Session 4: Mobility and migration transitions
11:00–12:30 Chair: Simona Vezzoli
12 Albanian emigration in the context of crisis, economic development and rising inequalities
Mathias Lerch (University of Geneva)
13 From brain-drain to brain-gain: Interrogating migration, deskilling, and return migration in contemporary Nigeria
Bukola Adeyemi Oyeniyi (Missouri State University)
14 The ‘migration, livelihoods and development’ nexus: Evidence from the Brazilian Amazon
Alisson Flávio Barbieri, Gilvan Ramalho Guedes and Reinaldo Onofre dos Santos (Federal University of Minas Gerais)

Lunch
12:30–13:45 Haldane Room, Wolfson College
Session 5: The role of non-migration policies in migration  
Chair: Katharina Natter

15 Employment protection and migration  
Yasser Moullan (University of Oxford) and Rémi Bazillier (University of Orléans)

16 Is there a reverse welfare magnet? The effect of social policy in developing countries on international migration  
Edo Mahendra (University of Oxford)

17 The impact of land policies on international migration and transnational practices: The case of the Brasiguaios  
Marcos Estrada (University of Warwick)

18 Towards a new south–south model: The role of state policies and relative development levels in Chinese migration to Zambia  
Hannah Postel (Southern African Institute for Policy and Research)

15:30–16:00  
Coffee break

Session 6: The role of origin-country structural determinants  
Chair: Leander Kandilige

19 Post-accession youth labour mobility from Slovakia: structural and labour market perspective  
Lucia Mýtna Kureková (Slovak Governance Institute and Central European University)

20 ‘The roots are here, but the work is there’: Indigenous migration in an era of neoliberal globalisation  
Magdalena Arias Cubas (University of Sydney)

21 Climate variability and migration: Evidence from Tanzania  
Zaneta Kubík (Panthéon Sorbonne University) and Mathilde Maurel (CNRS, Paris)

17:30–18:00  
Bus shuttle to town for participants attending the conference dinner. Departing from Wolfson College Porter’s Lodge.

Drinks reception  
18:30–19:30  
Exeter College

Conference gala dinner  
19:30–22:30  
Exeter College
Thursday 25 September 2014
New theoretical and methodological avenues in migration research

Keynote 3
09:00–10:30
International migration in theory and practice: A case study
Douglas Massey (Princeton University)
Discovering diverse paths, linking fragmented ideas: An empirical approach to integrating migration theories
Filiz Garip (Harvard University)

Chair: Hein de Haas

10:30–11:00 Coffee break

Session 7: Conceptualising and measuring migration policies
11:00–12:45
Refining the political sociology of international migration: mechanisms of policy diffusion
David Scott FitzGerald (University of California, San Diego)
Growing restrictiveness or changing selection? The nature and evolution of migration policies
Katharina Natter, Hein de Haas and Simona Vezzoli (University of Oxford)
Controlling immigration?
Marc Helbling (WZB Berlin Social Science Center)
Selective implementation: Institutional constraints to the success of migration policies
Tobias G. Eule (University of Bern)

Lunch
12:45–14:00 Haldane Room, Wolfson College

Session 8: (Re)Conceptualising migration aspirations
14:00–15:45
The role of aspirations in migration
Jørgen Carling (Peace Research Institute Oslo)
Forced or voluntary migration? A relational approach to a theoretical divide
Maritsa V. Poros (University of East London)
Mobility, materiality and modernity: global expectations as determinants in Morocco and Tunisia
Francesco Vacchiano (Lisbon University)
Broadcasting migration outcomes
Oliver Bakewell and Dominique Jolivet (University of Oxford)

15:45–16:15 Coffee break

Closing panel
16:15–17:15
Chair: Mathias Czaika
ABSTRACTS

1  Economics, state policy and the compulsory return of migrants from the United States to Europe: 1850-1900  
Hidetaka Hirota (Columbia University)  
Tuesday 23 September 2014: Session 1: Historical approaches to the role of states 11:15–12:45  
This paper contributes to one of the conference themes, ‘the role of states and policies in migration processes’, by examining how economic concerns led to the formation of governmental policy that provided for the compulsory return of foreign migrants in the United States in the second half of the nineteenth century. Since the mid-nineteenth century, Americans expressed much frustration with foreigners’ poverty, especially that of those who entered public charitable institutions as paupers. Regarding these foreigners as unwanted consumers of citizens’ taxes that supported these institutions, some American states, such as Massachusetts and New York, developed passenger laws for prohibiting the landing of destitute foreigners and returning them to the place of departure. Massachusetts, in particular, also developed policies for deporting indigent aliens already in America to various parts of Europe, such as Liverpool and Irish port cities. These state-level policies developed into national immigration law in the 1880s. While the exclusion and deportation of destitute migrants remained in the provisions of national law, the federal government also developed policies for restricting the immigration of foreigners who came to the United States with labor contract signed abroad. Americans feared that as a result of job competition with such laborers who would be willing to work for lower wages than Americans, they would lose their jobs and economic independence. American immigration scholarship has long focused on federal immigration laws which developed from the 1880s onward, especially those based on racism, and tend to ignore earlier regulatory laws implemented by states. By tracing a series of state and federal immigration laws from 1850 to 1900, this paper demonstrates how economic concerns, such as immigrant poverty and American workers’ independence, guided the regulation of immigration to the United States and generated compulsory return migration to Europe.

2  Unpacking the ‘colonial dummy’: an exploration of the role of decolonisation and origin country state formation in migration processes  
Simona Vezzoli (University of Oxford)  
Tuesday 23 September 2014: Session 1: Historical approaches to the role of states 11:15–12:45  
Migration research has not fully examined how decolonisation, resulting in either independence or non-sovereign political status, and the ensuing state formation processes have impacted migration patterns. It is generally expected that the structural changes introduced by independence strengthen emigration patterns and that colonial ties affect uniformly and indefinitely migration destination towards the former colonial state. The first part of this paper explores the dynamics of independence and shows that, unlike commonly assumed, this moment does not necessarily coincide with the establishment of migration policies that constrain movement towards the former colonial state. By using four hypothetical models, we can begin to explain how the timing of decolonisation and migration policies may strengthen or alter existing migration patterns. By using the case of the three Guianas – the independent countries of Guyana and Suriname and the French department of French Guiana – the paper presents empirical evidence of how these structural changes have stimulated migration substitution effects that have influenced the timing, volume, composition and direction of migration from the three Guianas.

The second part of the paper argues that the structural changes introduced by decolonisation must be integrated with an examination of state formation processes to explain long-term migration patterns. The processes of state formation, which include political transitions, economic development strategies and
social transformations, play a key role in influencing migration after decolonisation. Empirical evidence of state formation processes in the three Guianas presents how governance, ideology, economic development and access to resources have influenced the timing, volume and composition of migration. However, these processes cannot be considered apart from the role of migration policies at destination, which have contributed to shaping these migration patterns, particularly in determining migration destination.

3 European migration in the context of free movement of persons: German migration flows to Switzerland prior to the First World War and after 2002

Ilka Steiner (University of Geneva)

Tuesday 23 September 2014: Session 1: Historical approaches to the role of states 11:15–12:45

The past 20 years, European integration has induced a shift from state-controlled manpower recruiting to a predominately market regulated migration (Braun and Arsene 2009; Favell 2008) as well as to an Europeanization of migration flows. Switzerland also underwent this shift, notably with the Agreement on the free movements of persons with the EU in 2002 (Avenir Suisse 2008). Nevertheless, prior to the First World War, the country was already characterized by a liberal migration policy, leading to substantial migration flows from neighbouring countries. However, literature often focuses on after 1945 and no study so far compared the two periods, which provide similar macro-contextual conditions for European migrants. This paper fills this research gap, in order to gain a better understanding of intra-European migration dynamics.

We question the preponderant role of the economy in shaping migration policy that “create concrete opportunity structures” (Haas 2011: 16) for European migrants. We argue that migration between Germany and Switzerland can, to a certain extent, be conceptualized as an extrapolation of internal migration, where the opportunity costs of international migration do not exceed the ones for internal migration anymore. The analysis of the period prior to the First World War relies on secondary literature and the historical statistical yearbook of Switzerland. Regarding migration flows since 2002, we explore a newly created longitudinal data base, which follows German residents between 2000 and 2012 and provides general socio-demographic characteristics, their motivations for immigration and duration of residence. Our paper first presents the evolution of Swiss migration policy and the country’s economic conjuncture since 1848 and their impact on German migration flows, pointing out the singularity of the two periods – i.e. 1848–1914 and 2002–2012 – considered in this research. Second, we discuss the migration dynamics by focusing on the aforementioned flow’s direction, composition and duration.

4 The importance of access policies in South–South migration: Ecuador’s policy of open doors as a natural experiment

Luisa Feline Freier (London School of Economics and Political Science)

Tuesday 23 September 2014: Session 2: The effects of migration policies 14:00–15:45

South–south flows make up almost half of all emigration from developing countries and roughly a third of international migration worldwide. Nevertheless, international migration theory has focused on explaining south–north migration and has left the dynamics of south–south flows largely unexplored. This paper argues that one key to understanding intercontinental south–south migration is the interplay of immigration policies, and more specifically of access policies, of northern and southern countries. Some migrants from developing countries, who face severe restrictions to reach their preferred destinations in the north, move to accessible destinations in southern regions, either because this opens up opportunities for onward migration to northern countries, or because these countries are relatively attractive in their own right. This paper examines Ecuador’s extreme visa policy liberalization of 2008 as a natural experiment to test the impact of the de facto opening of borders of a Latin American country on south–south migration from Asia, Africa and the Caribbean. Complementary qualitative findings throw light on the characteristics and motivations of recent extra–continental immigrants in Ecuador.
Deflection into irregularity? The (un)intended effects of restrictive asylum and visa policies

Mathias Czaika (University of Oxford) and Mogens Hobolth (University of Copenhagen)

Tuesday 23 September 2014: Session 2: The effects of migration policies 14:00–15:45

Recent research into the impact of restrictive immigration and asylum policies has found a considerable deterrence effect reducing the number of persons claiming asylum, that is as rules and procedures are tightened fewer applications are received. However, restrictive asylum policy might also push potential and rejected applicants into an irregular status. This paper investigates to what extent the deterrence effect of asylum policy is counterbalanced by such a ‘deflection into irregularity’. We analyse this question drawing on a new large dyadic dataset detailing asylum and visa policy as well as forced and irregular migrant flows to 29 European states in the period 2001 to 2011. We find that restrictive asylum policy does, as expected, reduce the number of persons claiming protection. But there is also a significant deflection dynamic at work. Our estimates suggest that a ten percent increase in asylum rejections raises the number of (apprehended) irregular migrants by on average about three percent, and similarly, a ten percent increase in short-stay visa rejections leading to a five percent increase in irregular migration.

Explaining the rise in voluntary return among rejected asylum seekers in the Netherlands

Arjen Leerkes (Erasmus University Rotterdam)

Tuesday 23 September 2014: Session 2: The effects of migration policies 14:00–15:45

Although governments have difficulty ensuring the voluntary or forced return of the rejected asylum seekers, there seems to have been a notable increase in such return in a number of countries, including the Netherlands. Among asylum seekers rejected in the Netherlands in 2005 11% had left demonstrably left the country by 2011. For those rejected in 2009, 34% had already left the country by 2011, i.e., after three years.

This paper examines the causes of this increase in return, focusing on recent increases in ‘voluntary return’ via the International Organisation for Migration. We ask whether the increase in return has been caused by changes in the composition of the asylum population, by changes in relevant political and/or economic conditions in countries of origin, or by changes in the Dutch asylum and return policy. Multilevel logistic regression analysis is conducted using a unique dataset on all asylum seekers rejected in the Netherlands in the period 2005–2001. The dataset includes variables varying on the individual level (such as age, sex, family composition, the duration of the asylum procedure), as well as variables varying on the country-year level (human rights and safety in the country of origin, GDP per capita, and policy measures, including forms of ‘return facilitation’). To our knowledge no other quantitative studies have looked at the determinants of voluntary return among rejected asylum seekers. Furthermore, a growing number of studies examine the effects of policy on immigration, but these largely focus on deterrence. The present analyses also examine to what extent governments may impact migration decisions via other mechanisms, i.e., via reducing the costs of migration (return facilitation) or via social norms (i.e. via the perceived procedural justice of the asylum procedure).
The influence of migration policies in Europe on return migration to Senegal
Marie-Laurence Flahaux (University of Oxford)
Tuesday 23 September 2014: Session 2: The effects of migration policies 14:00–15:45

Over the past decade, return migration has generated increasing policy and public attention. It is often believed that African migrants travel to destination countries and generally do not return home. Policy makers in European countries have adopted policies designed to encourage or force African migrants to return. European countries have also designed policies intended to control access and stay of migrants in their territory. These policies have become increasingly restrictive over time towards most categories of African migrants, and they are sometimes invoked to explain the reluctance of migrants to return, since they prevent circulation. Due to the lack of data however, the influence of the different migration policies on return migration remains poorly understood.

This paper aims to fill this gap by analysing transnational and biographical data of the Migration between Africa and Europe (MAFE) surveys as well as data of the DEMIG POLICY and DEMIG VISA databases, which cover major changes in migration policies across a large range of destination countries. I implement event history logistic regressions to study the effect of migration policies on the return of Senegalese who migrated to France, Italy and Spain between 1960 and 2008. The results reveal that the policies aiming at controlling the stay and encouraging or forcing the return of migrants do not significantly affect return, but that Senegalese migrants are less likely to return when the entry restrictions have become important. This suggests that barriers intended to reduce the flow of African migrants actually prevent those who are already in Europe from returning. The results show that the preoccupation of migrants is not only the return, but also the possibility of a new migration after the return.

Immigration policies and migrant entry channels: a theoretical and empirical investigation
Alessio Cangiano (University of the South Pacific)
Tuesday 23 September 2014: Session 3: The effects of skills-selective migration policies 16:15–18:00

The role, effectiveness and outcomes of immigration policies have attracted increasing attention in the recent migration literature. However, existing studies have only partially explored how immigration policies contribute to shaping the compositional breakdown by channels of entry of migration flows and the settlement and re-migration patterns of different categories of migrants. This is partly ascribable to conceptual challenges, e.g. the difficulty to analyse within an integrated framework distinct and often uncoordinated policy strands for the governance of labour, family, humanitarian and other types of flows. Yet, empirical gaps are also prominent, e.g. European data sources that keep track of the immigration status on entry and enable a comparison of migratory patterns vis-à-vis immigration regulations are rare.

This paper attempts to address these knowledge gaps. It begins by providing a conceptual basis for understanding how immigration policies influence the composition of in- and out-migration flows, resulting in category-specific patterns of settlement for migrants entering via different immigration routes. The role of selectivity mechanisms (e.g. operating in points-based systems, demand-driven labour admissions and pre-entry ‘integration’ requirements) and of different sets of economic and social rights granted to migrants admitted via different immigration routes is highlighted. In the second part of the paper this framework is used as a lens for a comparative analysis based on the 2008 Ad-Hoc Module on migrant workers of the EU Labour Force Survey and looking at: i) the changing composition of the migrant population by immigration status on arrival over time and across countries of destination, and ii) the patterns of settlement of different categories of migrants (operationalized on the basis of the household composition and the acquisition of citizenship). This is supplemented by a review of recently released national data on re-migration by previous main reason for immigration. A final discussion reflects upon the links between openness of the admission system, states ability to control different types of migration flows and the degree of temporariness/ permanency.
On the efficacy of high-skilled migration policy

Christopher Parsons and Mathias Czaika (University of Oxford)

Tuesday 23 September 2014: Session 3: The effects of skills-selective migration policies 16:15–18:00

Despite the almost ubiquitously held belief among developed country policy makers that increasingly selective immigration policies, whose aim is to attract highly skilled workers, meet their desired aims; to date there does not exist a judicious assessment of such claims. Such avenues of investigation have been stymied by a lack of suitable data coupled with fears of omitted variable bias since no doubt highly skilled workers are motivated to migrate for a whole raft of reasons other than receiving countries’ immigration policies.

In this paper, we examine the efficacy of high-skilled migration policies and investigate which types of policy are effective in attracting high skilled workers, while accounting for myriad other potential migration determinants in order to try and establish a causal effect from policy to international mobility. To this end, we combine a unique new collection of annual bilateral high-skilled immigration flows, based on register and administrative data for 14 receiving countries, including the top four receivers, namely the United States, Canada, Australia and the United Kingdom; with a new database comprising indicators for 23 unilateral high-skilled specific migration policies in addition to detailed dyadic migration policy variables based on the constituent components of bilateral labour agreements.

Our empirical model is based on the most recent advances in the economics literature i.e. a micro-founded derivation of the gravity model of international migration, one consistent with the underlying Random Utility Model (see Beine et al 2014), which suitably accounts for multilateral resistances to migration (Bertoli and Fernández-Huertas Moraga 2013), a notion akin to spatial substitution (de Haas 2011). Importantly, in order to better isolate the causal impact of policies on migration, we further include myriad characteristics of receiving countries, which are potentially important determinants, which include measures of education, crime, health and standard of living.

Panacea for International Labor Market Failures? Bilateral Labor Agreements and Labor Mobility

Steven Liao (University of Virginia)

Tuesday 23 September 2014: Session 3: The effects of skills-selective migration policies 16:15–18:00

Do Bilateral Labor Agreements (BLAs) facilitate the cross-border mobility of low-skill workers? BLAs have been recently touted as an example of formal international cooperation that can lead to “triple- win,” in which migrants, the receiving country, and the sending country can all reap the economic benefits of higher cross-border labor mobility while avoiding the political costs. Yet, few studies have offered systematic evidence linking international agreements and higher cross-border labor mobility.

Theories of international institutions would expect BLAs to promote bilateral labor mobility by reducing market failures due to communication, commitment, and coordination problems. However, unlike Preferential Trade Agreements (PTAs) or Bilateral Investment Treaties (BITs) that reduce costs of cross-border flows, BLAs shift costs instead to migrant workers and receiving country employers.

As a result, I argue that the mobility of BLA-regulated labor workers, the relatively low-skilled, will decrease due to BLA-induced migration costs while high-skilled mobility will increase due to positive BLA externalities. To test the competing hypotheses, I fit a Bayesian generalized linear mixed model with the effect of BLA conditional on worker skill level to an unique skill-level Overseas Filipino Worker (OFW) dyadic flow dataset covering the period 1992 to 2009. I show that low-skill OFW mobility is on average 0.5% lower while high-skill OFW mobility is 1.2% higher when BLAs exist. The paper contributes to the sparse but emerging literature that examines how international migration is regulated under formal international cooperation.
D11 Determinants of international migration: Evidence from US DV Lottery
Keshar M Ghimire (Temple University)
Tuesday 23 September 2014: Session 3: The effects of skills-selective migration policies 16:15–18:00

International migration is conceptualized as a two stage process. In the first stage agents form willingness to migrate on the basis of expected gain or loss from the move and in the second stage actual migration occurs conditional on agents’ ability to overcome the relevant cost and policy constraints. The framework is then used to estimate the impact of a number of potential determinants of international migration on ‘national willingness to emigrate’ by using data from an ‘experimental set up’ provided by US Diversity Visa Lottery. A dynamic panel data model is specified and robust Arellano-Bond GMM estimators are calculated. Results indicate a strong influence of political and civil liberties along with per capita GDP in people’s willingness to migrate.

D12 Albanian emigration in the context of crisis, economic development and rising inequalities
Mathias Lerch (University of Geneva)
Wednesday 24 September 2014: Session 4: Mobility and migration transitions 11:00–12:30

This paper examines the social demography underlying the unabated trend in international migration from post-communist Albania, which has come as a surprise in a context of declining population pressure and strong economic growth. Using retrospective data from the Living Standards Measurement Survey 2008, we describe trends in short- and long-term migration over the last two decades. We then model the changes in selection of first migrants in a longitudinal, multivariate and geographic perspective. Our results confirm a role for the demographic and economic drivers of mobility, as well as its diffusion across regions, social strata, and within communities. But this does not explain the unabated trend in the propensity to emigrate. Financial crisis, together with the attractive force provided by the regularization of the status of Albanians abroad, provoked a peak in outflow in the end of the 1990s, which inflated the cumulative causation of migration despite economic growth. We also found evidence for persistent short-term migration among the lower social strata, and increasingly among the highly skilled.

D13 From Brain-Drain to Brain-Gain: Interrogating migration, deskilling, and return migration in contemporary Nigeria
Bukola Adeyemi Oyeniyi (Missouri State University)
Wednesday 24 September 2014: Session 4: Mobility and migration transitions 11:00–12:30

Using two governmental policies in Nigeria between 1986 to 1993 and 1999 to 2007, this paper examines how non-migration policies in country of origin influence migration decisions, stimulate different layers of migration, and affect aspirations of migrants in country of destination. Between 1986 and 1993, Nigeria under General Babangida implemented IMF’s Structural Adjustment Programmes (SAP) – an economic policy, which thrived on the deregulation of the agricultural sector, privatization of public enterprises, and devaluation of the national currency among others. SAP, on the short term, achieved its economic objectives; it, on the long term, stimulated the flight of highly skilled Nigerian professionals. Under President Obasanjo between 1999 and 2007, Nigeria also implemented the National Economic Empowerment and Development Strategy (NEEDS), an economic policy that focuses on strategy and policy directions rather than programmes and projects. As studies have shown, SAP weaned national and international migratory trends. At the national level, migratory trends were rural–urban, urban–rural, rural–rural and urban–urban. At the international level, armies of skilled personnel like engineers and technicians left for the Gulf States, while corps of professors, doctors and nurses headed for the UK, USA, Canada and the West in general. Invariably, while SAP led to many years of intellectual and technical personnel depletion, the implementation of NEEDS is bringing about a gradual return of some of Nigeria’s citizens who had fled the country during the SAP years.
As this paper seeks to show, while the migratory trends associated with currency devaluation, job-losses and increasing informalization of hitherto formal jobs cohere with Wilbur Zelinsky’s claim that the nature or type of development in a country informs migratory patterns that results from such a country, the evidence from SAP implementation in Nigeria and, as Deborah Potts also found in the case of Ghana, confirmed that migratory trends associated with SAP was not increasing exponentially from urban to urban or from rural to urban as claimed in Zelinsky’s critical rung of the mobility transition where urban-to-urban migration surpasses the rural-to-urban migration, and where rural-to-urban migration continues but at waning absolute or relative rates. The evidence from SAP implementation in Nigeria shows increasing movements from urban to rural and rural to urban migration and not Zelinsky’s complex migrational and circulatory movements within the urban network, from city to city or within a single metropolitan region.

At the international level, returned Nigerian migrants (similarly Ghanaians) noted that labor-related policies, visa categorizations, and foreign certificate classifications impact negatively on migrants whose qualifications/skills were demeaned/devalued in destination countries, forcing migrants to accept jobs that were not commensurate with their qualifications/skills, a situation that is fueling return migration. As this paper concludes, while non-migration policies like SAP weaned internal migration and the development of ‘behind-the-counter’ or ‘black market’ nationally, similar policies breed deskilling in countries of destination.

14 The ‘Migration, Livelihoods and Development’ nexus: Evidence from the Brazilian Amazon

Alisson Flávio Barbieri, Gilvan Ramalho Guedes and Reinaldo Onofre dos Santos (Federal University)
Wednesday 24 September 2014: Session 4: Mobility and migration transitions 11:00–12:30

Contemporary population mobility has shown complex patterns even in remote areas of developing countries. For instance, internal and international migration and circulation in the Brazilian Amazon have been affected by a diversity of factors such as globalization, expansion of international market-oriented activities, infrastructure building, and migration networks. While “traditional” approaches such as the neoclassical economics and historical structuralism have advanced explanations for determinants and consequences of such movements, we discuss how population mobility into, within, and from the Amazonia over time may be explained by the changing demographic composition, their access and diversification of sources of income, welfare and livelihoods, as well as development stages of frontier settlements. We review the extant literature to inform an empirical analysis for the municipality of Machadinho, in the Southern Brazilian Amazon. The data is from a unique panel of plots and their related households based on field surveys carried out in 1985, 1986, 1987, 1995 and 2010. The methodology consists of the integration of these datasets through GIS (Geographical Information System), descriptive analysis, and the identification of profiles of livelihoods, household lifecycles, and population mobility using latent class models. Finally we discuss how the results suggest the need of a theoretical framework to better understand how distinct mobility strategies in rural frontier settings reflect temporal contingencies related to stages of frontier development.

15 Employment Protection and Migration

Yasser Moullan (University of Oxford) and Rémi Bazillier (University of Orléans)
Wednesday 24 September 2014: Session 5: The role of non-migration policies in migration 13:45–15:30

We argue in this paper that labor market institutions, and more particularly employment protection (EPL), are an important determinant of migration. Using a bilateral migration database, we empirically show that the employment protection differential has a negative impact on bilateral flows. Contrary to popular wisdom which assumes that migrants look for a more protected market, we show that migrants tend to move to countries where employment protection is close to that of their country of origin. Relative preferences over wages or employment, or a distinct impact on wages and employment may explain such results. We also show that these effects are stronger for high-skilled workers.
16 Is there a reverse welfare magnet? The effect of social policy in developing countries on international migration

Edo Mahendra (University of Oxford)
Wednesday 24 September 2014: Session 5: The role of non-migration policies in migration 13:45–15:30

This paper investigates the plausibility of reverse welfare magnet. Established migration theories have discussed, albeit implicitly, the role of social policy in the migration dynamics of developing countries. However, most empirical studies have focused more on the effect of the welfare state in receiving countries on immigration, typically to test the welfare magnet hypothesis. This ‘receiving country bias’ leaves a huge gap in migration literature where sending countries’ perspective, especially those of the developing world, is largely absent. Combining bilateral migration data (DEMIG-C2C) and public expenditure data (SPEED-IFPRI) between 1985 and 2011, I analyse how different social policy (public spending on education, health, and social protection) influences migration flow by employing gravity model. Since social policy is likely to be endogenous to migration flow, I conduct an instrumental variable approach to infer causality. I use the intensity of IMF programs in-effect (Dreher, 2006) as instrument for social policy.

This paper finds evidence of reverse welfare magnet which is often neglected in standard gravity model. Social policy in developing countries, especially public spending on health and social protection, is found to be migration-reducing. However, education spending is not found to be a significant reverse welfare magnet. I also introduce measures of welfare magnet (direct effect from receiving partner) and multilateral welfare magnet (spatial effect of other receiving partners) as controls. The results are robust even after we address the issues of multilateral resistance and presence of zeros. This paper provides empirical support for the prediction of new economics of labour migration. That is, through the provision of better livelihood security, social policy in developing countries changes the risk profile and opportunity costs faced by migrants – creating ‘natural buffer’ to migration – and results in lower migration flow. Better provision of social policy by developing countries could be essential in managing international migration.

17 The Impact of land Policies on International Migration and Transnational Practices: The Case of the Brasiguaios

Marcos Estrada (University of Warwick)
Wednesday 24 September 2014: Session 5: The role of non-migration policies in migration 13:45–15:30

The article presents an analysis of the role of ‘national’ land policies in the mass immigration of Brazilians to Paraguay. It also examines the creation of transnational practices and the formation of Brasiguaios identity. Immigration from Brazil to Paraguay was influenced by the Brazilian and Paraguayan national land policies of the 1960s and 1970s. Yet changes in these policies stimulated a reverse migration. Findings from research conducted in the landless camp Antônio Irmão-Brasiguaios (Brazil) demonstrate that these immigrants and their descendants have developed transnational practices in navigating their lives upon the Brazilian-Paraguayan border. These practices have, in turn, shaped the identities of present-day Brasiguaios as a transnational group.
18 Towards a new South–South Model: the role of state policies and relative development levels in Chinese migration to Zambia

Hannah Postel (Southern African Institute for Policy and Research)

Wednesday 24 September 2014: Session 5: The role of non-migration policies in migration 13:45–15:30

Migration scholars have begun to investigate how multilevel mobility determinants shape migration processes, especially the roles of relative development levels and state policies. However, most literature still focuses on archetypal low-skilled migration to high-income countries; this framework neither fully nor accurately describes newly emerging South–South migration. This paper attempts to fill this void through an analysis of Chinese migration to Zambia. This recently accelerating trend demonstrates significantly different characteristics from the South–North paradigm, especially in terms of relative development levels and policy priorities. China's relatively advanced economy affects the motivations, composition, and behavior of migrants to Zambia. Rather than focus on enforcement as in typical Western countries, Zambian immigration policy attempts to improve domestic welfare through admitting educated, investment-focused newcomers. Many aspiring Chinese migrants fit this niche, as demonstrated by extremely high admission rates (under 1% of Chinese work permit applicants were rejected in 2012). The lack of both enforcement and migrant welfare provisions makes Zambia a relatively blank slate where it is possible to gain a unique perspective into sending country migration policy. Since many Chinese migrants move to Zambia under the auspices of state-owned enterprises, this opportunity is even more illustrative. Extensive fieldwork has yielded quantitative data on recent permit trends and survey responses targeting both employment practices of Chinese companies and individual motivations for migration. A Migrant Integration Policy Index-inspired evaluation of the Zambian immigration system in conjunction with perspectives from government officials and immigration consultants serve as a qualitative background. Though many underlying motivations are similar across migrant groups, different development levels and policy priorities warrant modification of the standard model to better describe South–South migration. By closely examining Chinese migration to Zambia, this paper attempts to broaden the focus of the migration field to include newly evolving South–South trends.

19 Post-accession youth labour mobility from Slovakia: structural and labour market perspective

Lucia Mýtna Kureková (Slovak Governance Institute and Central European University)

Wednesday 24 September 2014: Session 6: The role of origin-country structural determinants 16:00–17:30

Slovakia persistently faces one of the highest youth unemployment rates among the EU member states and it also experienced large outflows of youth migrants after its accession to the EU. This paper analyzes the impact of structural factors on propensity of youth migrants to migrate and on the profiles of migrants across different regions in Slovakia. It merges macro-level labour market and economic performance indicators at the regional level with a unique micro-level dataset about migration intentions of graduating students collected at the height of country's emigration wave and before the world economic crisis. It evaluates relative importance of structural, labour market and individual factors in affecting migration choice of highly educated youth. The analysis shows that labour market conditions and indicators of structural change at the level of regions are significant predictors of propensity to migrate among the graduating students, net of regional earnings levels, individual characteristic and personal perceptions about the ability to find work in the country. In addition, the region of origin shapes the profiles of migrants in important demographic characteristics, the countries of destination and the sectors of employment abroad. The paper links these findings to massive and harsh adjustments that affected different Slovak regions disproportionately during the process of transition and contributed to mismatches between the emerging job opportunities and qualifications of labour force. It contributes to understanding the role of sending country structural factors and broader non-migration policy framework, in addition to economic conditions, on migration choices of well-educated youth within Europe.
20 The roots are here, but the work is there’: Indigenous migration in an era of neoliberal globalisation

Magdalena Arias Cubas (University of Sydney)

Wednesday 24 September 2014: Session 6: The role of origin-country structural determinants 16:00–17:30

The migratory system between Mexico and the US has a long history, however its magnitude and composition has changed significantly in recent decades. While Mexicans have migrated as farmworkers for decades, increased border enforcement has made it more difficult and costly for new migrants to cross the border. In this context, more farmworkers now come from Mexico’s less prosperous south, which is home to a large percentage of its Indigenous population. While increasing rates of Indigenous migration are part of wider transformations in Mexico and the US, Indigenous social reproduction has become intrinsically linked to particular forms of mobility and emigration. In particular, ‘low-skilled’ and ‘irregular’ migration has emerged as a growing phenomenon influencing and reshaping Indigenous communities. This paper analyses the phenomenon of Indigenous migration in the era of neoliberal globalisation using a social transformation framework. This paper aims to situate Indigenous migration as part of wider transformations occurring in the context of neo–liberal globalisation; and uncover the developmental potential of migration for Indigenous migrants given the conditions under which migration currently takes place. In particular, it will analyse the impact of interrelated social, economic and political phenomena on the well–being of Indigenous migrants and their relatives in communities of origin and destination. These phenomena include: neoliberal reforms in Mexico, the securitization of the US border, and the development of Indigenous migrant organisations. This paper will reflect on the initial findings of my PhD project within the larger ARC-funded ‘Social Transformation and International Migration in the 21st Century’ research project. This includes fieldwork conducted with Indigenous farmworkers in California and with returned migrants or migrants’ relatives in Oaxaca.

21 Climate Variability and Migration: Evidence from Tanzania

Zaneta Kubik (Pantheon Sorbonne University) and Mathilde Maurel (CNRS, Paris)

Wednesday 24 September 2014: Session 6: The role of origin-country structural determinants 16:00–17:30

We analyse whether Tanzanian rural households engage in internal migration as a response to weather–related shocks. We hypothesize that, when exposed to temperature and precipitation shock and a consecutive crop yield reduction, rural households use migration as a risk–management strategy. Our findings confirm that for an average household, a 1% reduction in agricultural income induced by weather shock increases the probability of migration by 3% within the following year. However, this effect is significant only for the two middle quartiles of wealth distribution, suggesting that the choice of migration as an adaptation strategy depends on initial endowment. What is more, the proposed mechanism applies to households whose income is highly dependent on agriculture, but is not important for diversified livelihoods.

22 Refining the Political Sociology of International Migration: Mechanisms of Policy Diffusion

David Scott FitzGerald (University of California, San Diego)

Thursday 25 September 2014: Session 7: Conceptualizing and measuring migration policies 11:00–12:45

Scholars of international migration increasingly analyze the role of states in shaping migration flows and the determinants of those state policies. However, explaining policies simply by examining processes within a particular country (e.g. Tichenor 2002), or comparing policies in different countries without examining their influences on each other (e.g. Brubaker 1992), would miss the essential role played by “policy convergence” (Busch and Jörgens 2005), “transfer” (Dolowitz and Marsh 2000), and “diffusion” (Dobbin et al. 2007).

Institutionalist scholars seek to understand the mobility of policies across national and organizational units. Despite advances in understanding these processes, fundamental questions remain about the mechanisms and conditions under which they operate and the relative causal weight of diffusion as an explanation.
for policy variation (Chorev 2012). This paper draws on an analysis of ethnic selection in immigration and nationality laws in 22 countries in the Western Hemisphere from 1790–2010, as well as on country and international organization case studies, to make three major contributions to a political sociology of immigration policy diffusion. First, the construction of an immigration policy database of unprecedented temporal and geographic scope is combined with in-depth archival work. This methodology reveals broad patterns of policy diffusion and a fine-grained assessment of the strength of distinct mechanisms of diffusion relative to each other. Second, it show cycles of interaction between external influences on policies and processes that were internal to the nation-state, rather than privileging a priori the importance of either diffusion or internal factors. In doing so, it establishes the foreign policy conditions under which diffusion tends to be more consequential for policy making. Third, by analyzing power asymmetries as an axis that cuts across all mechanisms of diffusion, it identifies a little-known mechanism of effective policy leverage by weaker states and establishes the conditions under which this mechanism is most likely to operate.

23 Growing restrictiveness or changing selection? The nature and evolution of migration policies

Katharina Natter, Hein de Haas and Simona Vezzoli (University of Oxford)

Thursday 25 September 2014: Session 7: Conceptualizing and measuring migration policies 11:00–12:45

Drawing on a new database (DEMIG POLICY) comprising over 6,500 migration policy changes in 45 countries, this paper analyses the nature and evolution of migration policies over the twentieth and early twenty-first century. The findings challenge the common assumption that migration policies have become increasingly restrictive over the past decades and instead demonstrate that since 1945, migration policies have been consistently dominated by less restrictive changes. This trend is robust across a large number of countries, but differs across different types of policy and migrant categories. While entry and integration policies have generally become less restrictive, border control and, since the 1990s, exit policies, have become more restrictive. Instead of a growing restriction, the essence of post-WWII migration policies has been an increasing sophistication through the development of increasingly specific policy instruments targeting particular immigrant groups. While policies towards migrant categories such as irregular migrants and more recently also family members have often become more restrictive, a larger number of – generally less visible – policies targeting high and low-skilled workers, students and migrants from specific origins have become less restrictive. Migration policies should therefore be understood as a tool of migrant selection rather than as an instrument affecting numbers.

24 Controlling immigration?

Marc Helbling, Liv Bjerre, Friederike Römer and Malisa Zobel (WZB Berlin Social Science Center)

Thursday 25 September 2014: Session 7: Conceptualizing and measuring migration policies 11:00–12:45

While immigration rates have increased in most Western states and lead to fierce political debates, we know surprisingly little about the capacities of states to control migration flows. So far most studies focused on individual cases due to a lack of data to compare immigration policies across a large number of countries. This paper presents first insights from the Immigration Policies in Comparison project. This project aims to create a set of sophisticated quantitative indices to measure immigration policies in all OECD countries and for the time period 1980–2010. This dataset will allow investigating to what extent more restrictive policies lead to lower immigration rates and how important the effect is compared to socio-economic aspects that might attract or deter migrants. Differentiating between internal and external regulations and control mechanisms as well as requirements, conditions, associated rights and security of status it will be possible to study which dimensions of immigration policy play a particular role. While high requirements might deter immigrants, a generous policy that attributes many economic and political rights to immigrants might attract more.
25 Selective implementation: Institutional constraints to the success of migration policies

Tobias G. Eule (University of Bern)
Thursday 25 September 2014: Session 7: Conceptualizing and measuring migration policies 11:00–12:45

This paper looks at two factors that shape the success of migration policies in managing migration that are often overlooked: institutional constraints within the state bureaucracy and local political interventions into the implementation of migration policies. This is based on ongoing empirical ethnographic research conducted in German immigration offices, as well as a just started comparative research project on the facilitation of post-border migration control in Germany, Switzerland, France and Sweden. Previous studies suggest that effectiveness of migration policies are determined by both the relative autonomy of migrants in avoiding state control, and by the extent to which migration policies are ‘destined’ to fail and state authorities tolerate uncontrolled or irregular migration flows. This paper will add a perspective from ‘inside the black box’ of migration management to this debate. It will show how in Germany, attempts to attract highly-skilled migrants as well as debates on the forced removal of irregular migrants are shaped by local political interventions and institutional constraints as much as national law. This results in high levels of variation between different local settings, and thus helps to shape a very uneven intranational flow of immigration.

26 The role of aspirations in migration

Jørgen Carling (Peace Research Institute Oslo)
Thursday 25 September 2014: Session 8: (Re)Conceptualising migration aspirations 14:00–15:45

This conceptual paper seeks to engage with migration theory by examining the nature and functions of aspirations in migration processes. I argue that aspirations play a pivotal role in all migration, but in different ways. Aspirations are elusive, however, both theoretically and empirically. People’s general aspirations in life form part of the background to migration desires; such desires can also be described as migration aspirations, which are the focus of this paper. This conviction that migration is preferable to staying can be understood as an attitude, which helps us raise several epistemological issues. Is the desire to migrate an enduring state of mind, or a context-specific speech act? Do migration aspirations, conceived of as attitudes, comparatively evaluate places, or culturally constructed projects? Does migration have intrinsic value, or is it simply a means to an end? Addressing such questions and relating them to the factors that inhibit or facilitate actual migration can shed new light on how we conceptualize and empirically analyse the determinants of migration. It can also help understand the relationships between force, choice and mobility. In conclusion, I propose an aspirations-centred model of migration, in which observable outcomes—in the form of mobility and immobility—are interpreted as products of three interlinked processes.

27 Forced or voluntary migration? A relational approach to a theoretical divide

Maritsa V. Poros (University of East London)
Thursday 25 September 2014: Session 8: (Re)Conceptualising migration aspirations 14:00–15:45

Although many scholars have acknowledged the ambiguous distinction between voluntary and forced migration for some time, empirical research and the policy discourse on these ‘types’ of migration remain stubbornly divided. There are those who tend to study only refugees or ‘forced’ migration flows while others tend to study ‘voluntary’ migration such as labour migration. I explore a possible bridge to this divide by making the case for a relational approach to migration. The bridge is not an ideological one but rather based in the very reality of migration as both voluntary and forced. More importantly, that empirical reality is understood not only as existing in relation to the lives of individuals and individual migration flows, but also as part of larger networks of relations that are involved in the migration process. These networks of relations are not limited to interpersonal ties. Importantly, they also include ties to, for example, organisations, such as in the workplace and education, international organizations, including those that serve displaced persons, and states and state officials. A relational approach to migration avoids the pitfalls of studying migration
as types by focusing instead on the relations themselves. This paper, thus, seeks to advance theory on the determinants of international migration.

28 Mobility, materiality and modernity: global expectations as determinants in Morocco and Tunisia

Francesco Vacchiano (University of Lisbon)
Thursday 25 September 2014: Session 8: (Re)Conceptualising migration aspirations 14:00–15:45

In a recent article on migration and social transformation, Stephen Castles argued for “the need to embed migration research in a more general understanding of contemporary societies”. This call seems to be relevant well beyond the unquestionable need to theorize contemporary human mobilities. If migration has been a normal aspect of social life throughout history, every epoch may have configured some peculiar patterns of mobility, based upon time-related forms and reasons. Observed from the so-called “sending countries”, contemporary reasons seem to take up some specific features, which are representative of a sort of “global form of life” with hegemonic traits. Whereas people have normally explained their desire to move as a search for a better life, criteria against which ‘better life’ is defined today are influenced by standards whose origin is situated in a wider field of models and values. In countries like Morocco and Tunisia, for instance, young people frequently associate their desire to migrate to the possibility to live a “normal life”, described through a series of “life conditions” that configure a truly “modern” social and personal status. If material achievement through consumption is conceived as the primary source of visible success – a sort of “material citizenship” that enables to think to oneself (and to be deemed) as different – circulation across borders is regarded as the primary way to “become first class” (Ferguson) in a world in which movement represents one of the clearest forms of social power.

Drawing from a fifteen-year research in anthropology and psychology between the Maghreb and Europe, this contribution analyses the impact of hegemonic global values in Morocco and Tunisia, transforming mobility from a “way to have” to a “way to be”. In this sense, alongside the structural factors normally evoked to explain migration, I propose to consider global expectations (that is: the desire to be “modern” through movement, consumption and self-construction) as important determinants to understand the contemporary migration drive.

29 Broadcasting migration outcomes

Oliver Bakewell and Dominique Jolivet (University of Oxford)
Thursday 25 September 2014: Session 8: (Re)Conceptualising migration aspirations 14:00–15:45

This paper is based on the findings of the THEMIS project that explores how the migration of people at one point in time affects subsequent patterns of migration to the same area. It focuses on the feedback processes: the social mechanisms that link migration experiences across time and space. Drawing on data from the THEMIS origin and destination datasets, this paper looks at the role of migration narratives disseminated through publicly visible examples – broadcast media and the internet – in shaping attitudes to migration, aspirations and decision making. In the case of Ukrainians moving to Portugal in the early 2000s, the scale of the movement rapidly became a subject of public debate, ensuring that stories about migrants were seen in newspapers and television and heard on the radio. As a result the impact of earlier migration was seen far beyond social networks. Likewise, a Brazilian soap opera that ran a story line with Brazilians studying in the Netherlands increased the profile of the Netherlands as a potential destination country from Brazil. The news of the economic crisis in Europe and its impact on the employment prospects for migrants has also been widely disseminated in origin countries, changing people’s imaginations of Europe and their interest in migration. This paper shows how this type of social mechanism stands apart from the idea of normative pressure or influence carried through social networks: it is a more nuanced mechanism, which may become normative only when it creates new conditions in which migration (or the rejection of migration) is broadly perceived as a social requirement.
### PARTICIPANTS

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<td>Leander Kandilige</td>
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<td>Jonathan Katz</td>
<td>University of Chicago</td>
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<td>Albert Kraler</td>
<td>International Centre for Migration Policy Development</td>
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<td>Zaneta Kubik</td>
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<td>Leo Lucassen</td>
<td>Leiden University &amp; International Institute of Social History</td>
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**Keynotes:**
- Keynote 1: Hein de Haas
- Keynote 2: Jonathan Katz
- Keynote 3: Filiz Garip
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<th>Participant</th>
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<td>Mette Lyhne-Hansen</td>
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<td>Hannah Postel</td>
<td>Southern African Institute for Policy and Research</td>
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<td>Zane Rozenberga</td>
<td>Office of Citizenship and Migration Affairs, Ministry of Interior of Republic of Latvia</td>
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<td>Martin Ruhs</td>
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<td>Maria Villares</td>
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<td>Harriet Winfrey</td>
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GENERAL INFORMATION

IMPORTANT NUMBERS

Wolfson College Porters Lodge
24-hour general enquiries, support, and emergencies call: +44 (0) 1865 274083

DEMIG conference queries
Project Co-ordinator, Claire Fletcher:
+44 (0) 7528 036453

Emergency Services
If you are at Wolfson College contact the Porter’s Lodge in the first instance: +44 (0) 1865 274083
They will be best able to help liaise with the emergency services, as well as potentially find immediate support from college first aiders or University security services.
Dial 999 if you are away from the college and need emergency assistance, whether fire/police/ambulance.
You be asked by the operator which of these services you need.

COMPUTER INFORMATION

Wifi access
All delegates will be provided with an individual wifi access code for use. If you are staying at the college the details will be given to you at check-in. Day delegates will receive their log-in details at the conference registration desk.

Printing services
The Oxford Print Centre
36 Holywell Street
Oxford, OX1 3SB
Open Monday-Friday 9.00-17.00
+44 (0) 1865 240409
www.oxford-print-centre.co.uk/

GETTING AROUND

Taxis
The Porters can book a taxi for you, on request. To make a direct booking, some example local companies are:
001 Taxis: +44 (0) 1865 240000
Royal Cars: +44 (0) 1865 777333

Parking
Daytime free parking is very limited in Oxford. Public transport, including the Park and Ride schemes, are recommended. Some parking is available at the college, which may be booked in advance via the Porters Lodge. You may park on the streets around the College overnight from 18.30 until 08.00 for free.
SHOPPING
Main areas are in Oxford City centre – focused along Cornmarket Street, Queen Street and the High Street, including the Westgate and Clarendon shopping centres, as well as the historic Covered Market.

Blackwell’s Bookshop (academic and educational materials), 48–51 Broad Street, might be of interest.

Chemist / pharmacy
The nearest chemist / pharmacy is located on Woodstock Road.
Woodstock Road Chemist
59 Woodstock Road
OX2 6HJ
Open Monday–Sunday 9.00–19.30
+44 (0) 1865 515226
Other chemists are located in Summertown or Oxford city centre.

PLACES OF INTEREST
Oxford Tourist Information office is at 15–16 Broad Street. +44(0) 1865 252200.

Official Public Walking Tours of Oxford depart daily outside of the Tourist Information Centre and cost £8.50 per adult. The two hour walks depart at 10.45 and 13.00. Details for booking are online: http://www.visitoxfordandoxfordshire.com/official-tours/Public-tours-general-info.aspx

A variety of ‘free’ walking tours also depart along Broad Street, as do the City Sightseeing Oxford tour hop on hop off buses. Tickets can be purchased on the bus.

RESTAURANTS & DINING OUT
If you are staying on in Oxford, there are a wide variety of restaurants, bistros, cafes and pubs. The nearest restaurants to the college are in North Parade Avenue and in nearby in Summertown, Jericho and Oxford city centre.

The conference team will be happy to provide suggestions, and some are listed below. You may also wish to consult the Oxford-based Daily Info website: www.dailyinfo.co.uk/venues/restaurants
VENUE DETAILS

Wolfson College
Linton Road
Oxford OX2 6UD
+44 (0) 1865 274083

Accommodation
Accommodation will be provided in modern ensuite single rooms at Wolfson College. Additional accommodation for a small number of participants will be provided at the Linton Lodge hotel, a two-minute walk from the College. You will have been advised if you are staying here.

11-13 Linton Road
Oxford OX2 6UJ
+44 (0) 845 373 0879

Arrival drinks: Monday 22 September 2014
For those participants arriving in Oxford on Monday, a casual drinks reception will be held in the Haldane Room at Wolfson College from 18:00 onwards.

Dinner and drinks reception: Tuesday 23 September 2014
Drinks will be served from 18:30 onwards at Wolfson College, followed by dinner in the Haldane Room at Wolfson College at 19:30.

Conference gala dinner and drinks: Wednesday 24 September
Formal dress is not required. Minibuses will be available to take participants into the city centre for the Gala dinner to be held at Exeter College.

Turl St
Oxford OX1 3DP
+44 (0) 1865 279600

Buses will depart from 17:30 onwards outside of the Wolfson College Porter’s Lodge and will make several trips in time for the drinks reception, which will commence at 18:30.
Oxford map

1. Wolfson College
2. Linton Lodge Hotel
3. Exeter College
4. Gloucester Green Bus Station
5. Oxford Train station

View online at http://bit.ly/DEMIGMap
DETERMINANTS of INTERNATIONAL MIGRATION

DEMIG Conference

www.migrationdeterminants.eu

erc.europa.eu

www.oxfordmartin.ox.ac.uk

www.imi.ox.ac.uk