

E-Newsletter

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IMI: Researching International Migration in the 21st Century

OCTOBER-DECEMBER 08

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Photo credit: Gunvor Jónsson 2006

IMI Workshop at the Metropolis Conference, Bonn

Tuesday, October 28th

Bonn - On Tuesday, October 28th, 2:30pm-6:00pm, IMI is convening the workshop 'Immigration Experiences of Developing Countries' (workshop no. W11-28). The workshop aims to explore how states of developing countries are dealing with immigration and how they develop policies to "manage" migration and integrate immigrant populations. One of the workshop's objectives is to compare these policies in developing states with those adopted by prosperous 'receiving countries'.

Presenters are:

- Ahmet Içdüygu from Koç University, Turkey;
- Piyasiri
 Wickramasekara,
 International Labour
 Office, Switzerland;
- Mpilo Shange-Buthane, Consortium for Refugees and Migrants in South Africa (CoRMSA);
- o Oliver Bakewell, IMI, UK.

For the Metropolis Conference's workshop schedule, visit www.metropolis2008.org

IMI is part of Oxford University's <u>Department of</u> <u>International Development</u> (<u>ODID</u>), and the <u>James</u> <u>Martin 21st Century School</u>.

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Director's Note

2008 has been a very busy year for the International Migration Institute. Our staff numbers have doubled, and we have worked on a range of projects and collaborative initiatives designed to further the understanding of African migration, the relationship between migration and development, and the dynamics of global migration.

This issue of the IMI's e-Newsletter provides an overview of the Institute's current and past activities, an introduction to IMI's new website and the new African Migrations research tools, upcoming events, and updates on our project activities. We hope you find this e-newsletter of interest and we invite you to visit our website frequently for up-to-date information on events and research opportunities.

Stephen Castles, Director IMI

New research tools at www.imi.ox.ac.uk

IMI launches new website and new tools to support African Migrations research

In December 2008 the International Migration Institute will launch its new and enhanced website. The site will present the main migration themes studied by IMI via easy-to-navigate pages with detailed information on the specific research activities, projects and publications. The site will also provide current information on IMI events and links to migration events hosted by partners and institutions worldwide. Of particular interest to researchers of African migrations are the two new tools supported by the African Migrations Programme: the *Researcher Directory* and the *Online Library*.

The **Researcher Directory** will provide:

- names of researchers, experts and institutions specialized in African migrations;
- areas of expertise and research interests;
- o contact information; and
- o publications.

The directory is continuously updated with new contacts. Researchers with an expertise in African migrations who are interested in being included in the directory should send a request to imi@qeh.ox.ac.uk. Researchers included in the directory will have the opportunity to update their own information.

International Migration Institute
researching international migration in the 21st century

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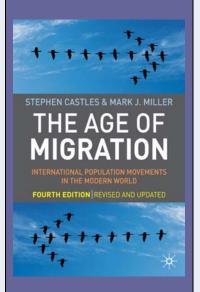
The *Online Library* contains detailed references to publications, articles, reports and unpublished documents on migration in Africa. For ease of use, most references are listed with abstracts. Users will be able to:

- o print the lists of references; and
- export references into their personal libraries (e.g. BibTex, EndNote, PDF, XML (MODS), RIS).

Book Alerts:

The Age of Migration: International Population Movements in the Modern World, 4th Edition

by **Stephen Castles** and **Mark Miller**, published by Palgrave MacMillan in the UK and by Guildford Press in the US, will be available in January 2009 and can be ordered in advance at www.palgrave.com or at www.quilford.com.



Irregular migration from West Africa to the Maghreb and the European Union: An Overview of Recent Trends

by **Hein de Haas** and published by IOM is available in an electronic format at www.iom.int.

To purchase a hard copy, please visit the <u>IOM</u> <u>publications page</u>.

For the **French version**, also published by IOM, visit www.iom.int or click here.



The IMI team is steadily expanding the contents of the online reference library. At the time of the launch, the library will include more than 900 references covering numerous aspects of African migration (e.g. gender, health, development and internal migration), with large sets of references for a number of countries, such as Burkina Faso, DR Congo, Egypt, Ghana, Ivory Coast, Mali, Morocco, Nigeria, Senegal and South Africa.

The IMI encourages researchers and other visitors to use the website and its tools as a point of reference in pursuing research on African migration. Since the purpose of these tools is to support researchers, the IMI team welcomes comments and suggestions to make them more useful and strongly encourages researchers to submit information on new publications and migration centres that should be included in our databases.

You can search our library of hib	liographies using the form below. The "Keywords" field allows
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For additional information on the African Migrations Programme, visit the IMI website. To be added to the Researcher Directory, email imi@qeh.ox.ac.uk and to add a reference to the online library, contact Simona Vezzoli at simona.vezzoli@qeh.ox.ac.uk.

In-Focus:

African Migration Workshop, Rabat November 26-29, 2008

From November 26th-29th the Faculty of Letters and Social Sciences of the University Mohammed V Rabat - Agdal will host the International Migration Institute's second African Migrations Workshop.

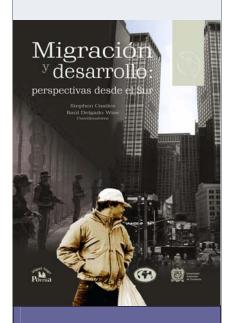
This year the workshop theme is 'African migration research: methods and methodologies'. The programme includes sessions on qualitative methods, applied quantitative and mixed methods, techniques used in multi-sited studies, methodologies and methods for studying vulnerable migrants and innovative methods introduced by early-career African migrations scholars.

The workshop is part of the IMI's African Migrations Programme, whose goal is to encourage research on African migrations through collaboration with universities and research centres in Africa. The workshop offers a valuable opportunity for researchers from all regions of Africa to meet and present new research findings. The workshop not only provides a forum for the exchange of ideas but it also aims to build capacity among African researchers. The participants include many early early-career scholars who will be presenting their work both to peers and senior researchers, who will be able to offer constructive criticism and mentoring support. The previous workshop proved effective in promoting collaborative efforts that surpass geographic and linguistic barriers and contribute to producing greater understanding of migration dynamics in the continent.

Twenty early-career researchers from 16 different countries will present their studies and elaborate on the methodology and methods they applied. The sessions will provide the opportunity for in-depth discussions on the challenges encountered by the researchers during their studies, the solutions they have developed and an analysis of how such choices have affected the research outcomes.

The programme also includes the presentation of four papers highlighting migration trends in the four African countries involved in IMI's research programme on African Perspectives on Human Mobility: the Democratic Republic of Congo, Ghana, Morocco and Nigeria.

The workshop's conclusions will be published in a report that will be made available on the IMI's website and that will provide useful information for further African migrations research. For last year's report, please visit www.imi.ox.ac.uk.



Now Available Online:

Migration and Development: Perspectives from the South

edited by Stephen Castles and Raúl Delgado Wise and published by IOM. To download or to purchase a hard copy, visit the IOM website or click on www.iom.int.

Spanish version, published by Miguel Angel Porrúa, available now. To order click <u>here</u>

ACLS' African Humanities Program Fellowship competitions, deadline December 1st, 08

The African Humanities Program of the American Council of Learned Societies (ACLS) has announced fellowship competitions in Ghana, Nigeria, South Africa, Tanzania, and Uganda for the academic year 2008-2009.

For more information, visit www.imi.ox.ac.uk or the African Humanities Program's pages:

http://www.acls.org/grants/ Default.aspx?id=3210

Future announcements of this type will be posted on the IMI website. If you have an event to publicise, contact Briony Truscott at briony.truscott@qeh.ox.ac.uk.

UPDATES:

IMISCOE Conference on Theories of Migration and Social Change, July 1-3, 2008

This conference in Oxford brought together forty-five migration scholars to explore how theories of migration and social change are connected. The event aimed to help develop new theoretical approaches that can explain the very diverse interactions between migration and broader processes of social and economic transformation in different contexts.

Participants reviewed existing theories, analysed the empirical evidence and identified avenues for future research around six broad themes:

- theories of global mobility and immobility;
- o relationships between different types of migration, in particular internal and international movements;
- gender in the migratory process;
- o internal dynamics of migration processes;
- o the structure-agency dialectic in migration;
- o transnational migrant activities and organisations, and their significance for societal participation in both receiving and sending countries.

The participants acknowledged the existence of significant variation of migration patterns and processes in different contexts. A key question for debate across the different themes was about the level at which it might be possible or desirable to

develop useful theories. For some participants the search for general theory leads back to whereas over-simplifications, others aspired to build up comparative data to develop more robust generalisations. Overall, consensus was reached on the need for more historical analyses which compare contemporary migrations with those of the past. This approach is essential in order to show continuities and changes over decades or even centuries and help to develop and test new theoretical insights.

The conference programme was based around a keynote paper and substantive papers prepared by experts on the six themes. The papers were debated at length during the conference sessions. Most of the papers presented at the conference are available on the IMI website and they will be revised for publication as an edited volume.

This event was jointly organised by IMI and the ESRC Centre on Migration, Policy and Society (COMPAS) and funded by IMISCOE and the John Fell Fund at Oxford University.

New IMI Project

On October 1st 2008, the project *Transatlantic* dialogue on migration and development issues: Lessons from the Mexico-US and Morocco-EU experiences was launched by the IMI, thanks to the generous funding of the German Marshall Fund of the United States (GMF). Through this project, the IMI aims to facilitate a North/South transatlantic exchange of information on migration and development by bringing together scholars, civil society and policy-makers with experience in migration between Morocco and the European Union and Mexico and the United States. By combining discussions and direct field observations of the differential impacts of migration, the project aims to increase the understanding of migration realities on the ground. To achieve these objectives, this initiative promotes:

- frequent exchanges of information through policy briefs,
- a study-tour consisting of a seminar, a visit to Mexican communities of high emigration in the region of Zacatecas, and a workshop for the discussion on the costs and benefits of current migration policies.

For additional information on the programme, the work plan and updates on the project's activities, visit www.imi.ox.ac.uk.

HAVE YOU READ...

IMI regularly publishes papers and reports in the Publications section of its website. IMI encourages researchers, practitioners, policy makers, and all others to freely download copies of its reports and working papers. Below are four papers published recently:

Oliver Bakewell. <u>Keeping</u> them in their place – The ambivalent relationship between development and migration in Africa

Oliver Bakewell. <u>In</u> <u>search of the diasporas</u> <u>within Africa</u>

Hein de Haas. <u>The myth</u> of invasion – The inconvenient realities of African migration to Europe

Gunvor Jónsson.

<u>Migration aspirations and immobility in a Malian</u>

<u>Soninke village</u>

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Transnational Migrant Organisations (TRAMO): Phase Two

The TRAMO project has entered its second phase with the mapping of all migrant organisations in the British cities of Birmingham and Slough and the Borough of Ealing. The mapping exercise has led to the creation of a database of migrant organizations, from which thirty Polish and Indian organisations committed to cross-border activities or networks have been selected for further research. The analysis of the survey will lead to the identification of the characteristics of these transborder organisations and an analysis of the contextual factors that have influenced their formation. For more information on these activities, visit the TRAMO project pages on the IMI website or contact Thomas Lacroix at Thomas.lacroix@qeh.ox.ac.uk.

MacArthur Partners meet at Workshop to discuss research strategies - September 22-24, 2008

The <u>African Perspectives on Human Mobility Programme</u>, supported by the John D and Catherine T MacArthur Foundation, is being led by the IMI in partnership with the following four African institutions:

- University of Lubumbashi, DR Congo
- Centre for Migration Studies, University of Ghana
- Mohamed V University, Rabat, Morocco
- University of Ibadan, Nigeria

The first phase of the programme is now underway with each of the research

teams producing a paper which profiles current migration trends in their country based on a systematic analysis of migration literature. These outputs will be published as working papers on the MacArthur pages of the IMI website early next year.

The empirical research phase will begin in early 2009. Representatives from country team met in Oxford in September to discuss issues relating to the proposed research projects with a particular focus on the methodological aspects. The proposed research will be presented at IMI's upcoming African Migrations Workshop in Rabat in late November.



Top left to bottom left: Peter Quartey and Mariama Awumbila, Centre for Migration Studies, University of Ghana; Stephen Castles, IMI; Germaine Ngoie Tshibambe, University of Lumumbashi, DR Congo; Hein de Haas and Sally Winiarski, IMI; Mohamed Aberghal, Mohamed V University, Morocco; Gunvor Jonsson, IMI; Adejumoke Afolayan and Mohammed Iliya, University of Ibadan, Nigeria; Mohamed Berriane and Lahoucine Amzil, Modamed V University, Morocco.

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Disclaimer - This e-newsletter is not meant to be an exhaustive source of information. It rather provides information that is relevant to IMI's work. Should you have information on additional relevant initiatives (i.e. programmes, scholarships, etc.), you are encouraged to contact IMI's staff at imi@qeh.ox.ac.uk. IMI reserves the right not to promote initiatives that do not fit within IMI's scope of work. The views and opinions expressed by third parties to whom IMI has provided links do not necessarily reflect those of IMI. IMI does not give out or sell its subscribers' names or e-mail addresses to third parties.