

From the Directors



This is an opportunity to introduce ourselves as the new directors of the International Migration Institute since the retirement of Robin Cohen in September. Oliver Bakewell works on the changing relationship between migration, diasporas and global development; social theory and migration; and the boundaries between 'forced' and 'voluntary' migration. Hein de Haas's research focuses on migration theory and the reciprocal links between migration and broader processes of human development and globalization. We are sharing the responsibility for steering IMI through the next phase of its development, building



on the strong foundations laid by Robin and our founding directors, Stephen Castles and Steven Vertovec. We are delighted that Robin will continue to be working with IMI as he leads the Oxford Diasporas Programme.

We are also very pleased to announce two successful bids for further research funding at IMI. Our growing body of work on the drivers of international migration can now be extended into the area of high-skilled migration thanks to nearly US\$1 million from the Arthur P. Sloan foundation. And the MacArthur Foundation, which has funded much of our African migrations work in the past, has awarded us US\$400,000 to explore 'normal' practices of mobility in the context of the ongoing crises in the African Great Lakes region. Both of these grants are testament to IMI's growing reputation for rigorous and ground-breaking research. They will allow us to develop our thinking in areas in which IMI is becoming known for its expertise.

Oliver Bakewell and Hein de Haas

International Migration Institute helps to develop European research agenda

The International Migration Institute has a strong reputation for its work on the drivers and dynamics of migration (see for example its research projects 'Determinants of International Migration' (DEMIG) and 'Theorizing the Evolution of European Migration Systems' (THEMIS)). It was this reputation that prompted the European Science Foundation (ESF) to invite IMI to convene a strategic workshop on the determinants of migration processes at the University of Oxford on 29–30 September 2011.

Migration is an intrinsic part – both cause and consequence – of broader social and economic change and development processes. Conceptualizing migration in this way is crucial in order to advance migration research, because it enables us to embed research on migration into other research fields, and to connect migration theory to broader social theory.

ESF and IMI both recognize the need for migration processes to be examined using a better integration of social science methods. This shared understanding led to the creation of a two-day workshop involving approximately 40 early/mid-career and senior migration scholars.

On the first day of the workshop, participants analysed issues of conceptualizing and framing migration processes, with a particular focus on migration determinants, aspirations and capabilities, migrant networks and migration system dynamics, and the role of states and policy in migration processes. On the second day, participants examined methodological approaches to studying migration. Topics included causality, integrating qualitative and

quantitative methods, and designing multi-method and multi-level research methodologies.

The workshop was sponsored by the European Science Foundation and received additional support from the Oxford Martin School at the University of Oxford. The outcomes of this workshop will play a role in the development of a European-level research agenda for international migration.



Research continues in Africa with funding from MacArthur

Mobility in the African Great Lakes Region

The MacArthur Foundation has awarded IMI a grant of US\$400,000 to study the complex interrelationships between patterns of migration and displacement in the context of violent conflict.

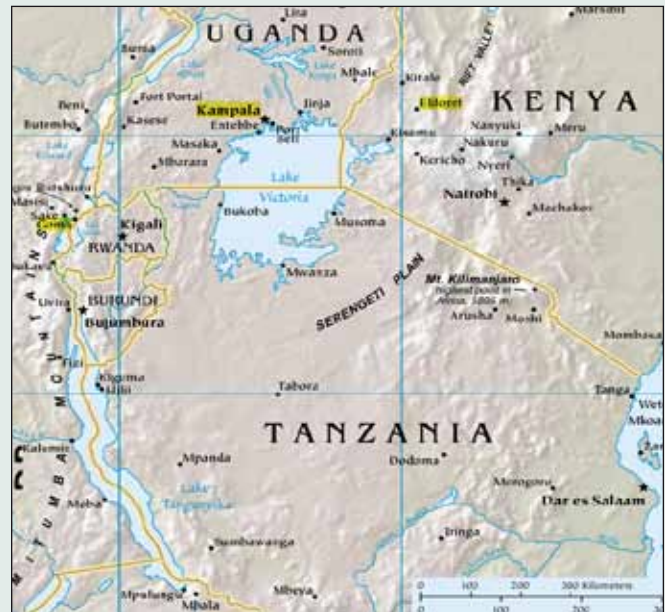
This study will focus on the Great Lakes region of Africa, which has been immersed in conflict for many years. The movement of people in the region is often analysed primarily as a process of displacement, with little consideration of other 'normal' reasons for moving, such as a jobs, education or marriage. Policy responses tend to focus on solving this displacement, often by returning people to their place of origin, but such responses frequently fail to recognize the complex mix of motivations for migration. This can result in people wanting to resist such interventions.

Gaining a better understanding of the underlying processes of migration is essential if we are to find more effective ways of helping societies to emerge from prolonged conflict and move towards sustainable development.

IMI staff working on the new project (Oliver Bakewell and Ayla Bonfiglio) will collect data in the Democratic Republic of Congo, Kenya, and Uganda, in partnership with regional academic institutions. The data and its subsequent analysis will be discussed at a regional workshop with key stakeholders including policy makers and representatives from states, civil society, international NGOs and donors.

The project will develop new insights into the underlying dynamics of migration which will be extremely valuable in terms of policy design in this and other geographical locations. The research will benefit those affected by conflict as it improves the quality of interventions to address displacement and post-conflict rehabilitation.

Principal Investigator Dr Oliver Bakewell, Co-Director of IMI, said: 'Everywhere else in the world, people are seen to move for love, learning and adventure (among many other things). However, in the African Great Lakes, we only hear about refugees and internal displacement; there is very little analysis of the patterns of mobility that will continue in both war and peace. This grant from the MacArthur Foundation will enable IMI to address this research gap. It provides an exciting



opportunity to build on IMI's now extensive body of research into African migrations, which includes the MacArthur-funded African Perspectives on Human Mobility project (completed in 2011), and IMI's series of African Migration Workshops.'

African Perspectives on Human Mobility

Visit the URLs below to read the findings from this recently concluded programme of work also funded by the MacArthur Foundation. The project focused on alternative conceptions of human mobility in the Democratic Republic of Congo, Ghana, Morocco and Nigeria. You can also access some of the datasets.

- Programme web page (see case studies for country reports and datasets): www.imi.ox.ac.uk/research-projects/african-perspectives-on-human-mobility/african-perspectives-on-human-mobility
- Final synthesis report: 'Migration, Mobility and the African City': www.imi.ox.ac.uk/pdfs/research-projects-pdfs/aphm-pdfs/aphm-synthesis-report-2011
- Policy briefing on collaborative research: IMI Policy Briefing 10: www.imi.ox.ac.uk/pdfs/research-projects-pdfs/aphm-pdfs/pb-11-10-africa-based-migration-research-experiences-from-a-collaborative-programme

MacArthur
Foundation

The John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation supports creative people and effective institutions committed to building a more just, verdant, and peaceful world. Through the support it provides, the Foundation fosters the development of knowledge, nurtures individual creativity, strengthens institutions, helps improve public policy, and provides information to the public, primarily through support for public interest media.

New Publication: Bakewell, O. (2011) 'Conceptualising displacement and migration: Processes, conditions, and categories', in K. Koser and S. Martin (eds.), *The Migration-Displacement Nexus: Patterns, Processes, and Policies*, Oxford: Berghahn Books.

Funding boost to understand drivers of global migration

The International Migration Institute has been awarded a grant of nearly US\$1million to advance research into the drivers and dynamics of high-skilled migration.

The grant, awarded by the New York-based Alfred P. Sloan Foundation, will fund a three-year study that complements and enhances existing research at IMI on migration determinants. The goal is to improve understanding of the factors that drive high-skilled migration and the role of policy in this type of migration. A key focus of the research will be on the drivers and dynamics of the mobility of students and academics within the global South and North, including increasing migration to developing countries. International surveys among students and longitudinal data analysis of migration flows will form an important part of the research activity.

Lead applicant Dr Hein de Haas, Co-Director of IMI and James Martin Fellow, said of the grant, 'This is a tremendous opportunity for gaining new insights into high-skilled and student migration, a fast-growing form of migration affecting all countries around the globe. It is a testament to IMI's ongoing success in raising funds for conducting cutting-edge research on international migration processes.'

High-skilled and student migration are among the fastest growing migration phenomena in the world, but we have little knowledge about the effectiveness of policies to attract the 'best and brightest'. This is an important area of research that aims to help inform government policy.

The global character of IMI's research was a compelling factor in garnering support from the Sloan Foundation, which has an interest in better understanding international markets for scientists and engineers. 'Each nation tends to be interested only in its own policies and to track only aggregate flows through its own borders', said Sloan Program Director Daniel L. Goroff, 'but an individual's migration decision depends on conditions in both the sending and receiving countries. The bilateral and longitudinal data that IMI will compile can therefore provide new insights about the determinants of high-skilled immigration.'



PA Photocall: Postgraduate students at the Said Business School in Oxford

The International Migration Institute is a member of the Oxford Martin School, an interdisciplinary research initiative addressing global future challenges. IMI is committed to developing a long-term and forward-looking perspective on international migration, seeing migration as part of broader processes of global change and development.

The new grant will enable IMI to collect and make available to the public unique data, and to generate evidence-based research to the benefit of the global research and policy community.

Besides the Principal Investigator Dr Hein de Haas, key research staff includes IMI researchers Dr Mathias Czaika and Simona Vezzoli.



**ALFRED P. SLOAN
FOUNDATION**

The Alfred P. Sloan Foundation is a philanthropic, not-for-profit grantmaking institution based in New York City. Established in 1934 by Alfred Pritchard Sloan Jr., then-President and Chief Executive Officer of the General Motors Corporation, the Foundation makes grants in support of original research and education in science, technology, engineering, mathematics and economic performance.

New Publication: Cohen, R. and G. Jónsson (eds.) (2011) *Migration and Culture*, Cheltenham: Edward Elgar. The theoretically challenging and comparative accounts represented here are part of a new wave of thinking which illustrates the meaning of migration and its profound cultural implications.

IMI Visitor Sally Khallash



Sally Khallash, a PhD candidate at the Copenhagen Business School and a Futurologist at the Copenhagen Institute for Future Studies, has been a Visiting Study Fellow at IMI from October to December 2011.

During her time in Oxford, Sally has lent her scenario expertise to IMI's Global Migration Futures project and worked on her doctoral research, which applies the scenario methodology to study high-skilled labour migration in Europe.

In early 2012, Sally will give a lecture on her doctoral research as part of IMI's lunchtime seminar series, and will publish an IMI working paper. Sally's enthusiasm to study migration and her futures perspective are a welcomed addition to the IMI team.

Staff news



Congratulations to IMI Research Officer Evelyn Ersanilli, who has been appointed as the new Departmental Lecturer as of January 2012. We say goodbye and good luck to Jamie Goodwin-White, who is taking up a post at the University of California, Los Angeles.



We are pleased to welcome Olivia Sheringham to IMI. Olivia is a Research Assistant and will be working with Robin Cohen on his creolization project as part of the Oxford Diasporas Programme for two years. She has just completed her PhD at Queen Mary, University of London.

Finally, we say goodbye to Gunvor Jónsson, who is now focusing on her PhD at the School of Oriental and African Studies (SOAS) in London.

Ukrainian migrants in the UK

IMI's research project 'Theorizing the Evolution of European Migration Systems' (THEMIS) is now in its fourth phase. In September 2011 IMI's Agnieszka Kubal and Rianne Dekker of Erasmus University Rotterdam presented a joint THEMIS team paper at the International Migration, Integration and Social Cohesion (IMISCOE) Research Network 8th Annual Conference in Warsaw. The paper was entitled 'Structure, Agency and Inter-Wave Dynamics: Ukrainian Migrants in the United Kingdom'.

The conference was about the 'Dynamics of European Migration Space: Economy, Politics and Development', with a focus on the impact of migration on development in the new EU member states and their direct Southern and Eastern neighbours. The paper formed part of Workshop 15: 'Ukrainian migration to the European Union: overview of research practices, methods and theories'. One of the objectives was to discuss the existing research on Ukrainian migration to the EU, in order to feed into the development of a State-of-the-Art to define the main research areas to be included in a proposal submitted by the end of 2012.

The IMISCOE Research Network unites 27 established European research institutes in pursuit of studies under the themes of international migration, integration and social cohesion in Europe.

MSc in Migration Studies: January Application Deadline

The interdisciplinary MSc in Migration Studies is jointly offered by the School of Anthropology and the Department of International Development. The course draws on the intellectual resources of its two parent departments and the three world-renowned migration research centres at Oxford (COMPAS, IMI and RSC). Lectures and tutorials are given by leading scholars from across these units and the University. The programme allows students to explore human mobility in a historical and global perspective, and to address the complex relations between global political economy, migratory experiences, and government and social responses. The deadline for applications is 17 January 2012. Successful applicants will also be eligible to apply for a number of scholarships (www.migration.ox.ac.uk/Msc-Migration-Studies.shtml).

Keeping in Touch: Don't forget that IMI has a Facebook page and a Twitter presence; if this is your thing, why not keep up to date through one of these social media channels? <http://www.facebook.com/pages/International-Migration-Institute/187648027939712> <http://twitter.com/#!/IntMigInstitute>



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