

From the Director



Like so many other people worldwide, we all are glued to our screens watching the dramatic images of the popular uprisings in the Middle East and North Africa.

We have special reasons to be involved in the area. Some members of staff

have long-standing research interests in Morocco. Libyan—Italian international relations are the concern of another colleague. Some of our most valued research collaborators are from the region. We are in dialogue about holding a major conference in Egypt.

Naturally, as migration specialists we see these stirring and complex events through our mobility-tinted lenses. Are the frustrations and anger of those in the street partly driven

by the economic downturn in Europe and the drying up of employment opportunities there? Will the destabilisation of the area lead to more undocumented migrants and refugees? Or is this fear manipulated, particularly in Italy, for political purposes? How will the evacuation of contracted workers, some as far afield as South Korea, be managed, and will the departure of Egyptians and sub-Saharan Africans radically affect the economies and societies of the sending countries? To these questions we can as yet supply only very limited and superficial answers. We need to get our pencils sharpened and our thinking caps on.

This is a moment to thank two of our staff who are moving on. Emanuela Paoletti is following her dream to work for an international agency in Tunisia, and Alan Gamlen is returning to New Zealand to take up a much coveted position in Wellington. We wish them both well and will keep closely in touch.

Robin Cohen

New Publications by IMI Staff

- **New blog from Hein de Haas.** In his personal blog, IMI Senior Research Officer Hein de Haas adds his voice to the debate on the current unrest in the Middle East and North Africa: <http://heindehaas.blogspot.com/>. He draws attention to the risk of African migrants becoming an easy target for racist violence in Libya. In a joint post with Emanuela Paoletti he counsels against alarmist predictions concerning the number of migrants coming to Europe, and advocates for a humanitarian approach to the crisis.
- **Working paper on Italy and Libya.** Emanuela Paoletti has written a paper with Ferruccio Pastore entitled 'Sharing the Dirty Job on the Southern Front? Italian—Libyan relations on migration and their impact on the European Union'.
- **Immigrant Integration Policies.** Evelyn Ersanilli has published an article with Ruud Koopmans: 'Do Immigrant Integration Policies Matter? A Three-Country Comparison among Turkish Immigrants', *West European Politics* 34(2).



- **Engaging Asia: The Role of the Diaspora.** The Asia:NZ foundation, a non-profit apolitical organisation dedicated to building New Zealand's links with Asia, has published key research by Alan Gamlen on engaging diasporas. 'Diaspora communities can represent a huge asset for their origin countries', says the report. 'By fulfilling their responsibilities to citizens abroad and addressing their needs, governments of migrant-sending countries can mobilise their loyalties. And loyal diaspora groups can contribute a great deal to their homelands, as investors or investment catalysts, as beach-heads into new markets, as experts with connections to global centres of excellence, and as ambassadors willing to use their international influence on their homelands' behalf. By the same token, through "building" a New Zealand diaspora in Asia, and engaging more strategically and coherently with diaspora groups already there, New Zealand can deepen its economic, political and social engagement with Asia.'



Imagining Europe from the Outside (EUMAGINE)

EUMAGINE is a collaborative European research project in which IMI is a partner. The aim is to investigate the impact of perceptions of human rights and democracy on the migration aspirations and decisions of 18–39-year-olds in Turkey, Morocco, Senegal and the Ukraine.

During this second year of the project we have been developing a questionnaire to help us measure the perceptions that people have of the human rights and democracy situation in their own country and in Europe. Questions cover perceived freedom of speech, corruption, the work of elected politicians, and economic possibilities.

In all four countries of study two pilot studies have been completed. The IMI team consisting of Hein de Haas and Evelyn Ersanilli, together with the International Peace Research Institute in Norway (PRIO), have designed the project-wide questionnaire and sampling strategy. The quantitative data collection started in February 2011 and should be finished by the summer. In-depth interviews will be conducted in the next phase.

See EUMAGINE Project Paper 6A (Ersanilli, E., J. Carling and H. de Haas [2011] 'Methodology for quantitative data collection') for the final version of the questionnaire, together with the research guidelines and sampling guidelines.

www.imi.ox.ac.uk/research-projects/eumagine

Theorizing the Evolution of European Migration Systems (THEMIS)

The aim of this project is to refine the concept of a migration system by investigating the conditions under which the initial moves by pioneer migrants to Europe result in rapidly expanding network migration, and also the conditions under which this does not happen.

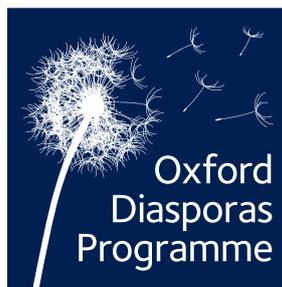
THEMIS is now in Phase 2. In the UK, the Netherlands, Norway and Portugal, semi-structured interviews are being carried out with members of migrant groups originating from Morocco, Brazil and the Ukraine. The findings of this research will be shared at a research workshop in Lisbon, and will help us to choose the most relevant location within each origin country where later stages of THEMIS research will be carried out. IMI will lead the collaborative THEMIS field research in the Ukraine.

Three Scoping Studies have been published by the IMI staff involved in this project, focusing on the patterns of Moroccan, Brazilian and Ukrainian migration to the UK. The studies consider the ways in which migration systems to the

destination countries have developed. They analyse national and local statistics and include interviews with key informants such as pioneer migrants and migrant associations.

Our partners in Oslo, Lisbon and Rotterdam have also been publishing Briefing Papers and Scoping Studies.

www.imi.ox.ac.uk/research/themis



Look out for the new website for this multi-centre research programme. It will go live in early March and will include: video interviews with researchers; audio files from recent workshops; and information about the 11 projects.

www.migration.ox.ac.uk/odp



New Doctoral Student

Valentin Danchev is working on the IMI research project 'Determinants of International Migration' (DEMIG). His research proposal is entitled: 'Interplaying Migrations: Exploring Spatial-Temporal Interactions of Migration Flows from Multi-Level Perspectives (The Case of African-European Mobility)'. He is supervised by Hein de Haas.

Dakar African Migrations Workshop

In November 2010, IMI and L'Institut fondamental d'Afrique noire (Cheikh Anta Diop University) organised the third African Migrations Workshop in Dakar, Senegal.

The workshop aimed to further strengthen migration research within Africa by bringing together scholars from across the continent and beyond, and discussing the contribution of African research to mainstream migration theory. It also provided a unique opportunity for participants from Africa and elsewhere to strengthen their scientific networks within and outside the continent, across the boundaries of linguistic and scholarly traditions.

Each day a new theoretical theme was introduced by a senior scholar, followed by related workshop papers. The themes were: Power and Migration; Revisiting Migration Theories; Migration Processes and Network Dynamics; and Identity and Belonging.

IMI Senior Research Officer Oliver Bakewell gave a keynote speech on theory and the study of migration in Africa. The workshop concluded with a roundtable where four senior migration experts reflected on the insights they had gained during the event. The workshop also included a mentoring session providing direct feedback on each workshop paper.

IMI is planning to edit a special issue of an academic journal which will include a selection of the workshop papers.

The presented papers and a synthesis report are available online: www.imi.ox.ac.uk/themes/african-migration/african-migrations-workshop-november-2010-senegal



African Perspectives on Human Mobility: Some Research Findings

This innovative project, which aimed to bring to the fore some African-based research on migration within the continent, is drawing to a close in 2011. Our partners in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), Ghana, Morocco and Nigeria designed research projects which looked at mobility relating to urban areas in Africa, with some focusing on immigration and settlement in secondary cities and others exploring the mobility of market traders in the capital cities.

Sub-Saharanans in North Africa are routinely described and analysed as transit migrants, assuming they will move into Europe as soon as they have the chance. In contrast, research by the Moroccan team in the city of Fes found that what for many migrants was going to be a mere stop-over tended to turn into several years of settlement. The sub-Saharan migrants were relatively well educated, some studying and others working or actively looking for employment.

The DRC team conducted research in Lubumbashi at the centre of the country's mining industry. Despite the insecurity and the challenges of living in the DRC, Lubumbashi is a significant destination for immigrants from many different African countries who come to work in the informal sector; and more recently, for Chinese migrant workers.

The studies in Ghana and Nigeria explored the mobility of African market traders, who are increasingly travelling to the Middle East and China in search of cheap goods, and playing a critical role in stimulating the flood of Chinese goods into African markets. The studies showed very little evidence of these short-term trading movements leading directly to longer-term settlement in China or other destinations. Continued mobility is essential for the traders' livelihoods.

The research raises important challenges to the conceptualisation of migration in different contexts. The studies on mobile traders suggest that it is misleading to describe these people as migrants, although much of the literature uses the term 'migrant trader'. The study in Fes found that the Europeans had evaded categorisation on a par with other immigrants, being described as 'lifestyle migrants'. Yet, their fundamental reasons for moving include economic opportunities and following life choices that are not possible at home – in the same way as any other migrants.



Maliens in a gold forge in Lubumbashi, DRC



A Chinese restaurant in Lubumbashi, DRC

See www.imi.ox.ac.uk/research-projects/african-perspectives-on-human-mobility for final reports.

Refugees' Diasporic Memories

On 18 February 2011, the International Migration Institute and the Refugee Studies Centre co-hosted a one-day seminar on Diasporic Memories and the Politics of Democratisation, as part of the Oxford Diasporas Programme (ODP). The seminar was attended by scholars working in Europe, South East Asia, Latin America, North Africa, and sub-Saharan Africa.

Little is known about how the memories of diaspora communities are formed, and what role they play. The seminar set out to examine the following questions: How are individual people's memories processed in exile to produce a collective diasporic memory? How are the memories of diaspora communities transferred to the origin country? How does this process of memory transfer impact

public opinion, civil society and democratisation in both origin and host countries?

The seminar concluded that it was important to examine diasporic memories for the following reasons:

- They act as records of those who may have been marginalised or excluded from history
- They play a role in creating new national narratives during processes of state-building
- They provide insight into recent conflicts and identity politics.

A final report will be available on www.migration.ox.ac.uk/odp

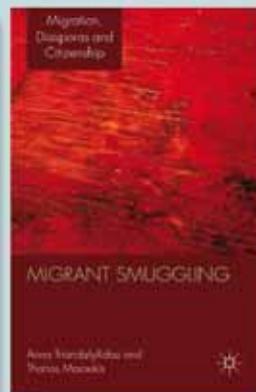
Migration, Diasporas and Citizenship

Series Editors: Robin Cohen, University of Oxford and
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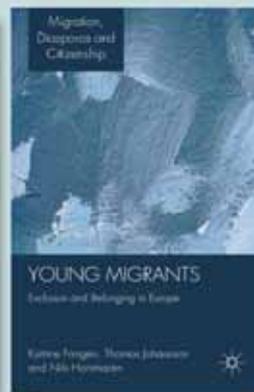
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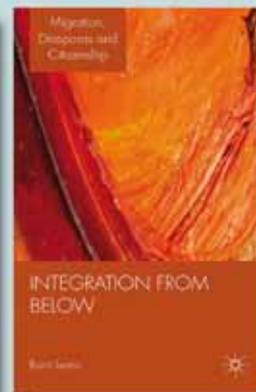
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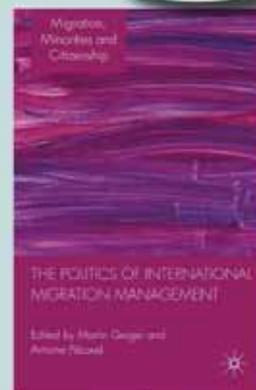
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