

From the Directors



This Hilary (Spring) term at Oxford we are beginning the first phases of our two new projects: the Drivers and Dynamics of High-Skilled Migration, and Mobility in the African Great Lakes. As well as initial literature overviews and scoping visits, we are recruiting new staff to help us take these exciting initiatives forward. Keep an eye on our website to see who will be joining us.



In addition to these new projects, one of our existing projects is extending its reach into more geographical regions. IMI's Global Migration Futures team is taking its highly regarded scenarios

methodology into the Horn of Africa and Yemen. This development is a result of an invitation based on our reputation for facilitating the understanding and use of the groundbreaking futures methodology. You can read more in the article below.

Finally, we have some interesting events to look forward to. In March we are joining forces with the Refugee Studies Centre for a second workshop to examine the extent to which the Arab Spring has shifted migration dynamics and migration governance. This event is also supported by the Oxford Diasporas Programme. The following month we are organising a second 'Social Theory and Migration' workshop, with the University of Pisa, and in June there will be an expert workshop in Oxford looking at environmental change and migration. Outputs from all these events will be disseminated via our website and e-newsletter.

Oliver Bakewell and Hein de Haas

Global Migration Futures project (GMF) extends to the Horn of Africa and Yemen

IMI's innovative Global Migration Futures project, which explores future international migration drivers, patterns, and trends using a scenario methodology, is extending into a new region.

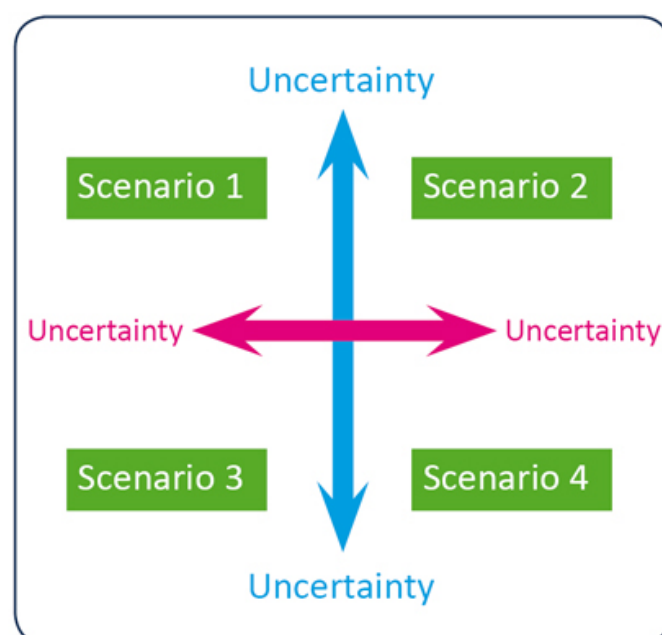
The GMF team (Hein de Haas, Ayla Bonfiglio and Simona Vezzoli) has already worked with a network of migration stakeholders and experts from governments, international organisations, civil society, academia, and businesses to develop migration scenarios for North Africa and Europe.

For the next year, the team will be developing scenarios on future migration in the Horn of Africa and Yemen through a partnership with the Regional Mixed Migration Secretariat (RMMS) at the Danish Refugee Council.

The team has disseminated an online survey to more than 100 migration experts and stakeholders working in the region. The survey aims to identify respondents' perceptions about present regional migration dynamics as well as anticipated migration drivers, patterns, and trends.

Insights from the survey and background research will contribute to a workshop in April 2012 in Nairobi with 25 migration experts and stakeholders from governments, international organisations, businesses, the media, academia, and civil society. Participants will work together to develop scenarios on future migration in

the Horn of Africa and Yemen. They will be active contributors to the production of knowledge as well as 'users' of scenarios in their future work.



Following in their footsteps? Ukrainian migrants in the UK and the Netherlands

The aim of the THEMIS project ('Theorizing the Evolution of European Migration Systems'; 2010–2013) is to take a radical look at current thinking on migration dynamics. It is sometimes suggested that migration patterns evolve following a certain trajectory: individuals start to move from one country to another, and over time, more people join them: once a critical mass is reached, that migration flow expands rapidly. But there is little hard evidence to back up this theory.

The international project team is trying to find out what makes people decide to migrate, why some of those initial moves result in the formation of significant migration systems, and why some migration processes simply tail off or stagnate. They are looking at four destination countries – the UK, Norway, the Netherlands and Portugal. Between January and June 2011, the team collected data from 360 interviews with Moroccan, Ukrainian and Brazilian migrants in these four countries.

The data gathered by the International Migration Institute (IMI) and Erasmus University Rotterdam (EUR) reveals that migration flows from the Ukraine to the UK and the Netherlands have stagnated in recent times. This is in marked contrast to the case of Portugal, which has become an increasingly popular destination for Ukrainian migrants.

Agnieszka Kubal (IMI) and Rianne Dekker (EUR) have been using the information that has been gathered by the THEMIS project to investigate the role of pioneer migrants in setting in motion migration dynamics. Do the initial migrants to a destination country influence others from the origin country to follow in their footsteps or do they actively discourage them? What exactly is the

role of this relationship between old and new migrants in the evolution of migration systems?

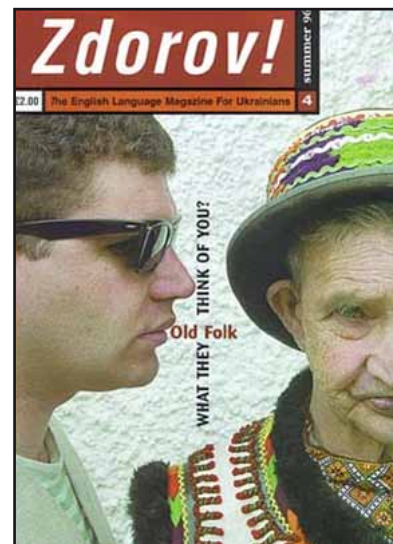
The researchers carried out hour-long interviews in Ukrainian or Russian with 70 Ukrainian migrants to the UK and the Netherlands. Interviewees included people old enough to remember how the relationship between settled and newcomer migrants has developed over the years. The first wave

of Ukrainian migrants arrived in the two destination countries after the Second World War (1945), and the second wave started to arrive after Ukrainian independence (1991).

The team discovered that the first Ukrainian migrants to the UK and the Netherlands were most likely to encourage family and close friends to join them subsequently. Over the years this group of migrants adapted to the destination countries' environments while sustaining and developing their specific diasporic identity. When the 'new' Ukrainians started arriving in the UK and the Netherlands after 1991, they experienced a rather ambiguous reception from the settled pioneers.

The differences between the two groups in terms of socio-economic, generational or class background prevented the settled migrants from identifying with the newcomers and – ultimately – stopped them from helping the newcomers settle within their London community. So the new wave of migrants who have arrived since 1991 seem not to have joined in with the pre-existing community structures set up by the pioneer Ukrainian migrants of 1945. This has led to two Ukrainian communities living next to each other, side by side, for over 20 years and contributed to the reduction of further migratory movements.

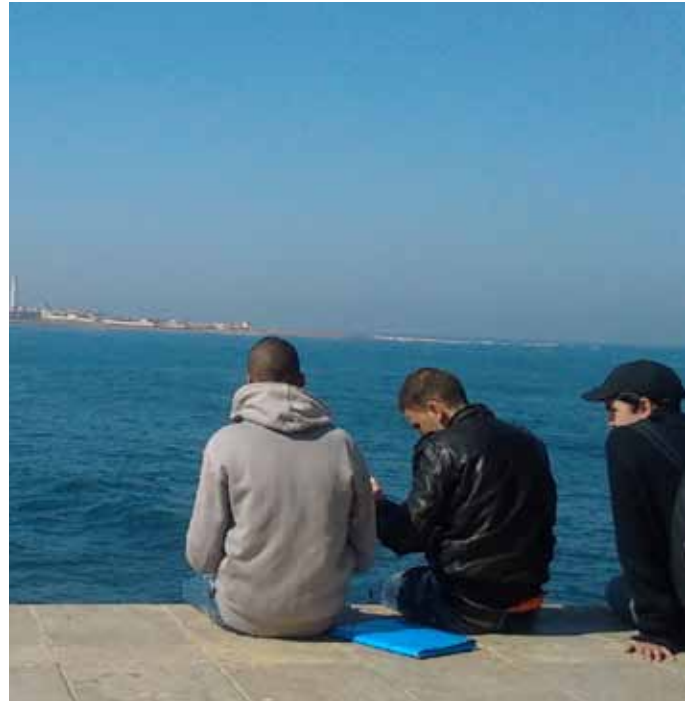
The question of whether initial migrants encourage others to follow in their footsteps, eventually creating an expanding migration system, is not easily answered. We might expect that the presence of settled migrants would provide an easy route for newcomers to find help and acceptance on arrival, encouraging the establishment of an expanding migration system. In the case of the Ukrainians in the UK and the Netherlands, the reality proved to be the reverse. The research reveals the complex cultural, generational, and socio-economic differences between the different migrant cohorts. Our evidence indicates that the relationship between settled migrants and newcomers can be one of the factors that influences subsequent migration dynamics – but in this case it contributed to the stagnation of migration rather than encouraging its growth.



Migration aspirations and decisions

EUMAGINE is a research project funded by the EU. The International Migration Institute is one of the partners. The project aims to investigate the impact of perceptions of human rights and democracy on the migration aspirations and decisions of 18–39-year-olds in Morocco, Senegal, Turkey and the Ukraine. This three-year project will come to an end in December 2012.

The survey has now been carried out in 16 of the different research areas in the four project countries. The project teams are now conducting in-depth interviews with people in the research areas. They have already completed in-depth interviews with staff of embassies, international organisations, NGOs and migrant organisations. Project teams will be able to compare their views and perceptions with those of the people interviewed in the research areas. The University of Antwerp, which is coordinating the project, has organised four workshops to provide training for coding qualitative data in Morocco, Senegal, Turkey and the Ukraine. The coding of the gathered data will be finished in March 2012. The next consortium meeting will take place in Rabat, Morocco, in April 2012.



The relationship between environmental change and migration

Increasingly, academics and policy makers are interrogating the complex relationship between environmental change and migration. There is growing awareness that environmental change is one of many factors which shape migration flows, and that it tends to affect migration more indirectly than other factors such as economic and political conditions.

The key challenge is how to integrate the largely separate fields of environmental and migration studies. While many researchers looking at migration make assumptions about the nature, complex causes, and impacts of environmental change, many researchers studying environmental change base their migration projections on outdated push-pull migration models.



The International Migration Institute is organising an expert workshop as part of its Global Migration Futures project to explore and develop improved concepts and methodologies to understand the reciprocal relationship between environmental change and migration. The workshop is supported by the Oxford Martin School. The outcomes will support the development of the Global Migration Futures project's scenarios on future international migration for various regions across the globe.

Participants will include early/mid-career and senior researchers as well as policymakers working on issues of migration, resource scarcity and environmental change and climate sciences.

The workshop will draw on lessons learned at two workshops in September 2011: the International Migration Institute/European Science Foundation workshop in Oxford ('New Approaches for Researching the Determinants of Migration Processes') and the Global Migration Futures stakeholders workshop in the Azores. The event will be structured as a series of roundtables on the key questions and issues that lie at the centre of environment/migration debates.

There will be a second event in Oxford October 2012 to launch the report based on insights from the workshop. In addition we will disseminate aspects of the discussion via podcasts on our website.

Read more about the Global Migration Futures project on the IMI website: www.imi.ox.ac.uk/research-projects/global-migration-futures-1

IMI has published a working paper on the theme of environmental change and migration looking at some African case studies: Jónsson, G. (2010) 'The environmental factor in migration dynamics: a review of African case studies' (Working Paper 21). You can download it for free from www.imi.ox.ac.uk/publications/working-papers.

IMI Co-Director Hein de Haas contributed to a major 2011 UK government report on future migration and environmental change. Read more on our website: www.imi.ox.ac.uk/news/hein-de-haas-contributes-to-major-uk-government-report-on-future-migration-and-environmental-change

Migration in times of uncertainty



IMI's Mathias Czaika has written a paper on the role of uncertainty and risk perceptions in the decision-making process about migration. This paper, an output of the 'Determinants of International Migration' (DEMIG) project, outlines a 'migration prospect theory', which aims to explain short-term fluctuations of migration

flows as a consequence of expectation-based adjustment about future economic prospects. It is available to download for free.

www.imi.ox.ac.uk/publications/working_papers

IMI E-lectures launched



The International Migration Institute is putting a series of video lectures online. The first is 'Beyond Migration and Development', a lecture by Professor Ronald Skeldon (University of Sussex) at the International Migration Institute, University of Oxford, 23 February 2012.

www.imi.ox.ac.uk/news/imi-e-lectures-online-videos

Migration Studies journal



Migration Studies is a new multi-disciplinary refereed journal from Oxford University Press, edited by IMI Associate Alan Gamlen.

The journal will publish work that significantly advances our understanding of the determinants, processes and outcomes of human migration. It invites papers that contribute to a core scholarly

discipline or sub-discipline, while engaging with migration research in other disciplines. Please send submissions or expressions of interest to migration.studies.oup@gmail.com, after consulting the style guide which you can find at <http://nandosigona.wordpress.com/>

Staff news



We are pleased to welcome Dominique Jolivet to the International Migration Institute. Dominique works on the EUMAGINE project ('Imagining Europe from the Outside').

After nine years experience in international business, Dominique worked at the University of Almeria (Spain) for three years in multiple positions including project assistant in the Cooperation and Volunteering Secretariat, and as a research assistant in geographical mobility, integration and working conditions of migrants in Andalusia. The Moroccan EUMAGINE team (led by Mohammed Berriane, Mohammed V University) was also involved in the latter project. Dominique's most recent work experience is related to a social intervention project in an NGO focused on human trafficking and prostitution in The Hague (the Netherlands).

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



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