



### Research outline

The focus of the Migration Industry research in South Africa is on the multiple actors and institutions that together make it possible for an individual to migrate. These include border control agencies, skills training centres, health testing and certification centres, recruitment agencies and brokers, aid agencies, as well as faith based organisations and NGOs - that together make it possible for an individual to migrate. By understanding how migrants and brokers connect with networks of agencies and individuals involved in facilitating migration, our understanding of the negotiations and power relations that facilitate and control migration is improved.

### Research question and aim

The fundamental question informing the work is whether the mode of recruitment and emplacement is related to migrants' economic and physical security. That is, when accounting for other variables (e.g., pre-migration wealth, education, age, gender, and skills) does the formation of the industry used by migrants affect the economic outcome of their journeys. The study aims to identify the facilitative and constraining roles that brokers play in the journeys that migrants embark on to fulfil their and their families' visions of their 'imagined selves' and how migrants perceive and navigate different opportunity structures in their own societies and abroad.

### Potential contributions of this research

This study will contribute to existing knowledge on Ethiopian entrepreneurs in Johannesburg's inner city and Zimbabweans employed as domestic workers in the residential suburbs of Johannesburg and the multiple actors and institutions that make it possible for these groups of migrants to migrate. It will provide policy recommendations that are oriented towards improving the potential of migrants to access labour markets and formalisation of labour migration regulation.

### African Centre for Migration & Society

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