



Web



Twitter



Blog



Internal Migration Eye - IMigE

Volume 1 Issue 1

In this issue

New Research

Working Paper 10 'Financing Migration, Generating Remittances and the Building of Livelihood Strategies'

Working Paper 11 'Social Polarisation and Migration to Johannesburg'

Working Paper 12 'Internal Remittances and Poverty: Further Evidence from Africa and Asia'

News

Consortium partners celebrate International Women's Day 8 March 2014

[read more](#)

Migrating out of Poverty partner ACMS convened a panel discussion Comparative perspectives on regional migrant labour regimes at Wits University, Johannesburg, South Africa on 19 March 2014

See the speakers and presentations on the webpage

[read more](#)

Global Development Network conference parallel session 'Internal

Introduction

Welcome to the first edition of Internal Migration Eye - IMigE - the quarterly newsletter of the Migrating out of Poverty Research Programme Consortium. Migrating out of Poverty is a DFID-funded consortium of six research institutes based in Africa, Asia and Europe working together to conduct research on the links between migration and poverty. The core partners are the African Centre for Migration and Society (ACMS), the African Migration and Development Policy Centre (AMADPOC), the Asia Research Institute (ARI), the Centre for Migration Studies (CMS), the Refugee and Migratory Movements Research Unit (RMMRU) and the University of Sussex. Our research aims to deepen the understanding of migration within and between developing countries in order to better equip migrants, organisations supporting them, and policy makers, with evidence to inform their efforts to reduce poverty.

According to UNDP, around 740 million people in the world are internal migrants and approximately another 90 million have moved within their developing country regions. They move because doing so seems better than the alternatives available to them. Yet, origin and destination communities and various political authorities often see migration as a problem or the result of policy failure, and even a proportion of the migrants themselves experience disappointment. Despite the large numbers involved, internal and inter-developing country migration attract less research effort than does international (especially South-North) migration. This is a shame because they are critical to the interaction between migration and poverty: compared with international migration, they typically entail lower initial costs and more accessible sources of information, and thus are far more accessible to poorer and less favoured members of society.

This newsletter aims to update you on the new research published under the programme in the 'Migrating out of Poverty New Research' section, and to highlight interesting work by other researchers in what we call 'A Good Read'. This quarter we bring you research on Indonesian domestic workers in Singapore; a discussion on Internal Remittances and Poverty: Further Evidence from Africa and Asia which builds on earlier work to reveal the importance of internal remittance flows, and

migration dynamics in Africa and Asia:

Implications for poverty reduction and development' will feature papers on Indonesia, East Africa and Ghana based on Migrating out of Poverty research.

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Partners

Refugee & Migratory Movements Research Unit at Dhaka University, Bangladesh

Centre for Migration Studies at the University of Ghana

African Migration and Development Policy Centre in Nairobi, Kenya

The Asia Research Institute at the National University of Singapore

The African Centre for Migration and Society at the University of Witwatersrand, South Africa

University of Sussex

Jacqueline Borel-Saladin's examination of the accuracy of the argument that migration by unskilled workers leads to polarisation between job sectors as the migrants fill low wage jobs;

If you have any comments about this edition, or about the newsletter in general, please contact Angela Haynes, Migrating out of Poverty's Research Uptake Manager at angela.haynes@sussex.ac.uk.

Migrating out of Poverty new research

'Financing Migration, Generating Remittances and the Building of Livelihood Strategies', Maria Platt, Brenda S.A. Yeoh, Grace Baey, Khoo Choon Yen, Theodora Lam, Dhiman Das and Miriam Ee, Asia Research Institute



Consistent with the on-going feminization of migration in the Southeast Asian region, Indonesian women represent a significant proportion of those employed as domestic workers in Singapore. While it is often assumed that transnational migration acts as a pathway to 'a better life', little research has been done to critically ascertain if, and how, such migration works to alleviate poverty and promote long-term livelihoods. There is also a need to better understand the impacts of debt-migration i.e. migration enabled by borrowing from recruitment agents or other intermediaries and this case study presents an opportunity to do so. This research, which draws upon a quantitative survey (n=201) and qualitative in-depth interviews (n=30) with Indonesian domestic workers based in Singapore, works towards filling these gaps by exploring the migration trajectories of these women...

[Read more](#)

Internal Remittances and Poverty: Further Evidence from Africa and Asia

Andy McKay and Priya Deshingkar 'Internal Remittances and Poverty: Further Evidence from Africa and Asia' Migrating out of Poverty Working Paper 12

Despite the fact that the number of internal migrants globally is at least 740 million, nearly four times the number of international migrants, there is hardly any discussion on internal remittances and their potential to reduce poverty. Families that 'send' internal migrants are, on average, poorer than those of international migrants, and the receipt of remittances, even if smaller in amount than international remittances, has the potential to improve standards of living and overall wellbeing with possible multiplier effects for origin areas. Building on earlier work on Ghana and India, this paper examines secondary data from household surveys for six countries in Africa and Asia (Nigeria, Rwanda, South Africa, Uganda, Bangladesh and Vietnam)... [Read more](#)

Social Polarisation and Migration to Johannesburg

Jacqueline Borel-Saladin, Migrating out of Poverty Working Paper 11

Cities in South Africa have experienced an increase in internal and regional migration coupled with a transformation in the occupational structure of the urban workforce. Social polarisation theorists argue that the decline in the manufacturing industry has led to a rise in high-wage, high-skill employment and low-wage, unskilled jobs in urban areas, creating a growing divergence between sectors. Proponents of the social polarisation theory also argue that unskilled immigrants often fill the increasing number of low-wage jobs. Evidence to corroborate the social polarisation theory is, however, weak... [Read more](#)

A good read

Brenda SA Yeoh, Heng Leng Chee & Grace HY Baey (2013) The Place of Vietnamese Marriage Migrants in Singapore: Social reproduction, social 'problems' and social protection, Third World Quarterly, 34:10, 1927-1941, DOI: 10.1080/01436597.2013.851959

Abstract

While the literature on 'global care chains' has focused on the international transfer of paid reproductive labour in the form of domestic service and care work, a parallel trend takes the form of women marriage migrants, who perform unpaid labour to maintain households and reproduce the next generation. Drawing on our work with commercially matched Vietnamese marriage migrants in Singapore, we analyse the existing immigration-citizenship regime to examine how these marriage migrants are positioned within the family and nation-state as dependants of Singaporean men with no rights to work, residency or citizenship of their own. Incipient discussions on marriage migrants in civil society discourse have tended to follow a 'social problems' template, requiring legislative support and service provisioning to assist vulnerable women. We argue for the need to adopt an expansive approach to social protection issues, depending not on any one single source - the state, civil society and the family - but on government action to ensure that these complement one another and strengthen safety nets for the marriage migrant... [Read more](#)

Guy Michaels and Ferdinand Rauch (2013) Resetting the Urban Network: 117-2012

Abstract

Do locational fundamentals such as coastlines and rivers determine town locations, or can historical events trap towns in unfavourable locations for centuries? We examine the effects on town locations of the collapse of the Western Roman Empire, which temporarily ended urbanization in Britain, but not in France. As urbanization recovered, medieval towns were more often found in Roman-era town locations in France than in Britain, and this difference still persists today. The resetting of Britain's urban network gave it better access to naturally navigable waterways when this was important, while many French towns remained without such access... [Read more](#)

Loren Landau (2012) 'Communities of Knowledge or Tyrannies of Partnership: Reflections on North-South

Research Networks and the Dual Imperative' Journal of Refugee Studies, December 2012, Vol.25(4), pp.555-570

Abstract

Networks and north–south partnerships have become prerequisites for much forced migration research funding. The objectives vary but usually include levelling the scholarly playing field, improving research quality, building southern capacity and relaying southern perspectives to northern policymakers. Reflecting on a decade's work in Southern Africa, this article suggests such initiatives often fall short of their objectives due to both mundane reasons and fundamentally unequal resource endowments and incentive structures. Moreover, by pushing southern researchers towards policy-oriented research, filtering the voices heard on the global stage, and retaining ultimate authority over funding and research priorities, these networks risk entrenching the north–south dichotomies and imbalances they purport to address. While inequalities are rooted in an intransigent global political economy of knowledge production, the article nonetheless concludes with a series of practical steps for improving southern-generated research and future collaborations... [Read more](#)



Migration out of Poverty Consortium

Arts B
University of Sussex
Brighton BN1 9SJ
United Kingdom

Tel: +44 1273 873 535
www.migratingoutofpoverty.dfid.gov.uk
email: migrationrpc@sussex.ac.uk

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