



Internal Migration Eye - IMigE

Vol 2 Issue 2

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The Gendered Dimensions of Migration Conference

Read the [Storify summary](#)

View the [gallery](#) on flickr

View the [powerpoint presentations](#) on slideshare

Related resources are available on the dedicated [conference pages](#) at the [Migrating out of Poverty website](#).

New Conference Brief

[Gender and the Contemporary Migrant Journey](#)

More briefs available online at the [Migrating out of Poverty website](#).

Gender and Migration Research in the News

Md Anas Ansar published an article on [female migration in Bangladesh](#) in Migration News;

Syeda Rozana Rashid's article [Remittances that come with a price](#) looks at the social costs for women migrating from Bangladesh;

Anas Ansar and Isabelle Austin look at Bangladeshi female migrant workers in [Women on the Move](#) in the Dhaka Tribune;

Collins Yeboah is interviewed by the Ghana News Agency on CMS research into how [internal migration is a driving force for transformation](#) of gendered roles in Ghana.

Introduction

Welcome to Internal Migration Eye - IMigE - the newsletter of the Migrating out of Poverty Research Programme Consortium (MOOP).

Who we are

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. 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.

Key Contents

This quarter we highlight our recent conference, the Gendered Dimensions of Migration: Material and social outcomes of South-South migration. Discussions under four main themes - Gender Dynamics in the Labour Market; Labour and Mobility Regimes; Expectations and moralities surrounding remittances; and Images of Gender, Migration and Development - sought to examine how gender roles and expectations influence the factors leading to migration, male and female migrants' different experiences of migration, and the impact on migrants, their families and home communities.

Feedback

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.

The Gendered Dimensions of Migration Conference

Other Activities

Summaries of programme activities are available for:

Bangladesh
Ethiopia
Ghana
Indonesia
Kenya
Singapore
South Africa
Zimbabwe

A Good Read

[Labour recruitment, circuits of capital and gendered mobility](#)

Conference Blogs

Intern Alex Ma [reflects on the conference](#);

Gendered Dimensions of Migration Conference organiser Dorte Thorsen identifies the [gender and migration studies novelties](#) that emerged;

Kudakwashe Vanyoro, inspired by one of the conference keynote presentations, discusses the changes in gender roles brought about

[After the migrant leaves home](#)

Kate Hawkins highlights the ways [issues of migration, gender and sexuality](#) intersect, in her Gendered Dimensions of Migration conference blog

More blogs available at:

<http://migratingoutofpoverty.blogspot.co.uk/>

About us

[Migrating out of Poverty](#) is a seven-year research programme consortium (RPC) funded by the United Kingdom's Department for International Development (DFID).

It focuses on the relationship between regional migration, internal migration and poverty and is located in five



Gendered Dimensions of Migration Conference delegates

The Migrating out of Poverty international conference, Gendered Dimensions of Migration: Material and social outcomes of South-South migration, took place at the National University of Singapore 30 June - 2 July 2015. Researchers, policy analysts and civil society representatives looked at how gender shapes and is shaped by contemporary migrant journeys undertaken as a poverty reduction strategy within low and middle-income countries. In addition to academic papers, visual presentations, film and policy discussions were used to explore the four themes - Gender Dynamics in the Labour Market; Labour and Mobility Regimes; Expectations and moralities surrounding remittances; and Images of Gender, Migration and Development.

The following key points emerged: *Gender is a driver of migration* - while migration can lead to changes in gender norms, speakers also looked at the ways gender drives migration. Some speakers noted an increase in women migrating. However in some contexts this may be an outcome of changes in the organisation of local livelihoods.

The migration industry creates gender norms - gender shapes the regulations and policies which structure migration opportunities.

Intermediaries play a role in shaping the migration process - [Katherine Jones's presentation](#) explored how the gendered workings of agencies recruiting domestic workers for Jordan and Lebanon led them to advise clients not select workers with experience and social networks which would make them 'harder to control'.

Labour is shaped by gender - women and men are pushed into particular niches in the labour market as employment options are related to intersections of age, gender, sexuality, class, ethnicity and religion. [Joseph Teye's research](#) on migration for domestic work within Ghana demonstrated how the gendered division of labour functions in the sector.

Gendered precarity - Many presentations touched on the fact that migrants are often pushed into jobs that would be shameful for their families if they did them at home. [Keynote speaker, Trond Waage's film](#) 'Les Mairuuwas' depicted the dynamics among migrants from the Central African Republic working in northern Cameroon and between the migrants and the local Fulani population. Maria Platt's analysis of temporary migrants in Singapore found that debt-financed migration creates greater insecurity. However men and women's debt pathways differed.

Remittances - Issues of who sends money home, to whom and how much were all discussed. [Patience Mutopo](#), in her paper *Reflections on Gender Patterns in Zimbabwe*, explained that in Zimbabwe men remitted more than women, with the latter tending to remit soft goods. [Rozana Rashid's presentation](#) on Gendered Practices and Expectations of Remittances found that in Bangladesh more women tended to remit and female migrants sent

regions across Africa and Asia.

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.

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

The School of Global Studies, University of Sussex, UK

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more than men. Meanwhile Pamungkas A. Dewanto discussed the notion of [the Remittance Hero in Indonesia](#). *Migration changes family life* - issues of debt, infidelity and masculinity were explored in Dipesh Karel's film *When Ram Left Home*, while keynote speaker Deirdre McKay looked at the role of information communication technologies in facilitating family contact transnationally.

One of the conference's closing messages was that while more large scale survey research is needed to build a knowledge base, qualitative methods including ethnographies, and visual and participatory research techniques are also required to help paint a more vivid picture of migrant life.



Keynote Speaker Trond Waage (l) with Conference organiser Dorte Thorsen (r)

New conference brief

[Gender and the Contemporary Migrant Journey](#) is the summary overview of the discussions at the Gendered Dimensions of Migration: Material and social outcomes of South-south migration conference.

[Download Gender and the Contemporary Migrant Journey](#)

Other Activities

In addition to conducting research, partners in the Migrating out of Poverty Consortium present their work to a variety of non-academic audiences including policy makers, civil society - including migrant organisations - the media and the general public.

Research Director, Priya Deshingkar, presented oral and [written evidence](#) based on Migrating out of Poverty research findings to the UK All-Party Parliamentary Group (APPG) on Population, Development and Reproductive Health in January 2015. The APPG has now produced a report, [Population Dynamics and the Sustainable Development Goals](#), which contains recommendations intended to draw attention to the role of population dynamics in achieving sustainable development. Recommendation no. 9 advocates that they 'Champion universal access

to health care and remove unnecessary barriers, particularly for young people and migrant workers.'

The Centre for Migration Studies held workshops in Accra and Tamale on 23 and 30 July 2015 respectively to disseminate findings of their research to policy makers and a major migrant sending community in Ghana.

The Asia Research Institute (ARI) at the National University of Singapore held their annual Asia Trends symposium on 2 July 2015, consisting of a photographic exhibition and panel presentations. This year's theme was 'En route to the Departure Hall'.

For full details of our programme activities and plans in each region take a look at our country programme briefing notes, available for [Bangladesh](#), [Ethiopia](#), [Ghana](#), [Indonesia](#), [Kenya](#), [Singapore](#), [South Africa](#) and [Zimbabwe](#).

A good read - selected by Dorte Thorsen

Labour recruitment, circuits of capital and gendered mobility: Reconceptualizing the Indonesian migration industry by Johan Lindquist *Pacific Affairs* 83:1:115-132

During the last decade there has been a marked shift in the structure of migration from Indonesia with the deregulation of the transnational labour recruitment market and a broader attempt across the region to regulate migrant flows in the wake of the Asian economic crisis. In this process, hundreds of Indonesian labour recruitment agencies have come to function as brokers in an increasingly government-regulated economy that sends documented migrants to countries such as Malaysia and Saudi Arabia. Based primarily on fieldwork on the island of Lombok, one of the major migrant-sending areas in Indonesia, the article considers the gendered aspects of this state-market relationship by focusing ethnographic attention on the initial stages of recruitment, as informal labour brokers deliver migrants to formal agencies. The article describes how capital increasingly flows "down" towards female migrants and "up" from male migrants — i.e., men must go into debt while women do not pay (or are even offered money) to travel abroad — thus highlighting the gendered dimensions of the current economy of transnational migration. The article argues for a renewed focus on the migration industry as a way of reconceptualizing Indonesian transnational migration in the context of contemporary forms of globalization.

[Download the paper](#)



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