



ESRC Centre on Migration,
Policy and Society (COMPAS)



COMPAS MIGRATION RESEARCH AGENDA 2011–2016



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DIRECTOR'S INTRODUCTION

Commonly misunderstood in policy formation and misrepresented in the public realm, migration constitutes an increasingly important driver of social change and a subject of contested debate inside and outside the academic world.

In the wake of the economic crisis of 2008, with geometries of global relations reset and financial balances of trade recalibrated, the study of migration is central to the analysis of a newly globalised economy and society.

At COMPAS the five clusters of research are designed to address all aspects of the migration process. Our 2011-2016 research programme considers the theorisation of the *flows and dynamics* of migration at local, national and global scales of analysis. New international divisions of labour emerge as economies grow more rapidly in some parts of the world than others. *Labour markets* restructure patterns of migration and create new transnational networks. Long term demographics of ageing populations in some places and demographic growth in others structure opportunities to migrate. However, migrant status varies internationally, reflecting our research focus on processes of *citizenship and belonging* that can be uneven. Sometimes this is a product of managed processes of migration, at other times because of a refusal to award rights to new arrivals. So alongside the increasing numbers of – and demand for – skilled and affluent workers, everyday life for some migrants is consequently characterised by their precarious

position in society. The connected flows of *irregular migration* and the links between migration and asylum have both formed important COMPAS research strengths.

The city becomes a crucible of migration dynamics; *urban change and settlement* is consequently at the heart of a new cluster of our work. In the emergent economies of the 'rising powers' the move to the mega city is central to new patterns of economic transition. At times of greatest vulnerability – in the early years, in ill health, after retirement and at times of labour market downturn – the provision of *welfare* may have once been calculated on a local or national basis but the growing significance of remittance economies, transnational links and contested membership of fiscally challenged welfare states changes this calculus. The link between migration and welfare is consequently a further focus of our research and the long term social and economic impacts of migration a major concern. We have also developed programmes of work that address the settlement of migrants in receiving societies, seeking to redefine the terms of debate through which *integration* is understood. We also address controversies around multicultural and cohesion consequences of the social changes associated with migration.

The complexity of the migration process confuses conventional categories of scholarship and undermines traditional imaginaries of the nation state. Migration challenges the border lines of academic disciplines that frequently reflect the growth of the university sector globally in the 19th and 20th centuries. Our work is consequently both multi disciplinary and interdisciplinary. We believe that migration is one subject through which the interdisciplinary is redefining the focus of the social sciences and humanities internationally.

So the research agenda laid out in this booklet is constantly changing. Much work has been completed at COMPAS. Other projects define our current focus but we also aim to reflect intellectual and social changes; our work is forward looking and a horizon of projects is now in development which is why future sustainability and fundraising forms part of the concerns reflected here.

Our work is primarily judged for the quality of its scholarship but our intended audience is not academic alone. We work directly with *migration policy* makers, employers, civil society organisations representing migrant interests and localities coming to terms with the social change generated by the migration process. We try to make all of our work accessible to this diverse range of interests through initiatives such as the *Migration Observatory*, a multi-media platform that makes available core data and analysis in text, video, audio and original formats.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Michael Keith".

Professor Michael Keith

FLOWS AND DYNAMICS

Global migration flows and the dynamics that drive, facilitate and inhibit migration are of key concern within this cluster of work.

Framed within investigation of the complex relationship between migration and social transformation, research in this cluster takes as a point of departure the need to view migration comprehensively as a process encompassing sending, transit and receiving regions. Cluster research seeks to understand the factors, networks and institutions that drive, facilitate or constrain migration; what migration goals, channels and impacts look like from sending country perspectives; and the dimensions of governance that shape migratory processes.

This cluster aims to:

- Analyse the relationship between migration processes and social, economic and political change, particularly in the context of global, regional, national and local disparities in human development and security
- Understand how migration dynamics play out at different levels, from individuals and households to regions and states as well as how these levels inter-connect with one another in different settings and locations
- Understand how the economic growth of emergent economies structures – and is structured by – dynamics of migration

Cluster research explores the practices, relationships, institutions and networks that shape experiences of life on the move, the strategies of migrants, and the ways in which transnational and diasporic connections are developed and maintained. Policies are among the factors shaping these dynamics, and engagement with stakeholders at national and international levels includes: the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), the UK's Department for International Development, the European Union and the Vienna-based International Centre for Migration Policy Development. Cluster researchers have strong partnerships with other research institutions, including the Refugee Studies Centre and the International Migration Institute at the University of Oxford, SRAI (CSDS), Delhi University, Universities in Beijing, Shanghai and Guangzhou, and the Turkey-based Migration Research Centre, Koc University, Istanbul in the wider global arena.

Further information on research projects can be found at: www.compas.ox.ac.uk/research/dynamics

CORE STRANDS OF WORK INCLUDE:

Migration transitions: Research explores how changes in migration patterns influence broader changes in society, and likewise how policy changes affect global flows. In particular we investigate these changing patterns at different levels – global, regional, national and local – and the interconnecting linkages between them. Work here includes research on forced migration, transit migration and irregular migration and the governance of these.

Diaspora and transnationalism: Cluster research looks at how diaspora and transnational networks have embedded themselves in the global political economy and shape new migration patterns. Work within this cluster investigates the relationship between diasporas and homelands and how this shapes migratory flows and social change. Research focuses on diaspora formation and engagement in conflict settings.

Rising Powers: Cluster research considers how the processes of development and social change in India and China generates new forms of globalisation and extensive flows of people; to the metropolitan centres of economic change, in 'south south' flows of culture and information and in reconfigured geometries of trade, influence and migration.





LABOUR MARKETS

This cluster analyses the socio-economics of international labour migration, particularly the economics and politics of labour shortages and the determinants of the demand for migrant labour.

The skills and labour of migrants are often promoted as of significant benefit to national economies. Yet there is also anxiety both at potential displacement of citizens from labour markets and the exploitation of migrants in low-wage sectors. All of this occurs in the context of global economic change and an increasingly international labour market. These tensions have implications for research methods and analysis as well as for policy.

This cluster aims to:

- Understand the role of migration in the economics, politics and sociology of labour markets at the macro and micro levels, both empirically and conceptually
- Examine the nature and determinants of employer demand for migrant workers in different occupations and sectors of the economy
- Explore the link between labour markets, immigration and public policy in international comparative perspective

Work at COMPAS investigates the link between labour and skills shortages, immigration and public policy. Increasingly, there is a focus within policy development on making labour migration policy responsive to the changing needs of the labour market. In the UK and in other countries there is a move towards using research to help identify shortages in the labour market and to assess the implications for labour immigration policy (see, for example, the work of the UK's independent Migration Advisory Committee on which COMPAS is represented). COMPAS research on employer demand is therefore directly relevant to discussions within the national, European and international arenas.

Further information on research projects can be found at: www.compas.ox.ac.uk/research/labourmarkets

CORE STRANDS OF WORK INCLUDE:

Labour shortages, immigration and public policy: An international comparative perspective: Cluster work explores the nature and determinants of labour shortages, the perceived demand for migrant labour and the increasing reliance of high- and middle-income economies on migrant labour. In particular we examine the feasibility and desirability of alternatives to immigration as a response to perceived labour and skills shortages. We investigate the relationship between labour shortages, immigration and public policy in an international comparative way.

Immigration control and the production of workers: We investigate the extent to which immigration laws and policy work with migratory processes to create certain types of workers and certain types of social and employment relations. We explore how age, ethnicity, stage of life-cycle, gender, and class contribute to this, and what it means for migrants' experiences of employment.

Care work: Care work is a sector where migration policy intersects with a range of other regimes (welfare, employment etc.) leading to unintended consequences, particularly demand for migrant labour. This strand of work is engaged with private and public social care provision, and has a particular focus on domestic work in private households. We are interested in exploring employment, caring and gender relations, and how they intersect in situations where migrants care for children and the elderly.



CITIZENSHIP AND BELONGING

The relationship between mobility, citizenship and the numerous ways in which people 'belong' forms the basis of all work within this cluster.

Citizenship is a legal status giving a right to enter, remain and not be deported from a state. It describes a relation to a state and to other citizens. Citizenship also indicates a subjective feeling of identity, and social relations of belonging to a 'nation' to a state and to a community. Increasing mobility and shifts in relations between states are opening up new spaces of contestation around migration and membership and between migration, legal status and rights. This research cluster addresses the (in)congruencies between citizenship and belonging and between nation and state, and addresses the consequences in theory and in practice.

This cluster aims to:

- Explore the politics, economics, law and ethics of citizenship, immigration status, rights and entitlements
- Examine the impact of immigration control and enforcement on migrants and on citizens
- Consider the possibilities and limitations of the language and practices of citizenship

Work in this cluster recognises that the categories of 'migrant', 'citizen' and 'non-citizen' are constructed and considers the implications of this for policy and practice. It engages with the theory and practice of 'rights', both citizenship and human rights, with a particular interest in issues such as trafficking, child migrants and deportation, which reveal tensions in and between state and civil society responses to non-citizens. It also explores the implications of citizenship policy and practice on citizens as well as migrants. Research can feed back into national level policy, particularly around citizenship and integration policies. But it is also of interest to a wide range of stakeholders, including those who are active around rights related issues that are not restricted to 'migrants'.

Further information on research projects can be found at: www.compas.ox.ac.uk/research/citizenship

CORE STRANDS OF WORK INCLUDE:

The challenges of enforcement for the liberal state: COMPAS research explores how states manage enforcement and deportation alongside a commitment to respect for human rights and the rights of the child. It also engages with citizens' responses to this.

Legal status and political citizenship: We are interested in the dynamic impacts of legal status on migrants and on their relations with citizens. We explore how age, ethnicity, stage of life-cycle, gender, and class intersect with legal status, and what it means for migrants' experiences and migratory strategies. We are also interested in how formal non-citizens make citizenship claims. What do formal and informal processes reveal about the state and society within which migrants make these claims?

Spaces between citizenship and belonging:

This UK focussed strand of work explores recent changes to citizenship debates and processes. It situates an analysis of debates on migrants' citizenship within broader UK concerns around cohesion, integration and national identity.

The economics and politics of migrant rights:

This strand of work engages with theoretical debates about the tension between human rights and citizenship rights, the determinants and comparative analysis of labour immigration policy, and the ethics of immigration control and restrictions on migrant rights.

URBAN CHANGE AND SETTLEMENT

This cluster of work recognises that often migration is a key element in city change and that new patterns of urban diversity pose social and political challenges on a number of different levels.

More than 50% of the world's population now live in cities and this is growing by the decade. This thematic cluster challenges assumptions around movement and settlement patterns. Cities in both the global North and the global South are experiencing new patterns of cultural and demographic super-diversity. Our study of migration incorporates an understanding of emergent urbanisms, processes of integration, and everyday social interactions of migrant and established communities, as well as how social relations are negotiated, modified, challenged and reproduced.

This cluster aims to:

- Explore how social relations and everyday interactions are developed, negotiated and modified, challenged and reproduced in civil society at the local and transnational levels
- Advance conceptual work on cosmopolitanism, multiculturalism and diversity; on local and transnational identities and community; and on everyday forms of civic engagement

- Explore the importance of particular city contexts for the integration of migrants and develop innovative methodologies for researching the lived experience of increasingly complex forms of settlement and diversity

Work within this cluster involves an interrogation of some of the key impacts of migration, for individuals and communities as well as for nations. In research, policy work and consultancy, we address the manner in which the convivial cosmopolitanisms of global cities sit alongside patterns of intolerance, challenging civil society organisations and governance stakeholders alike. We also work with social landlords, local government, strategic partnerships and regeneration companies to consider the interplay between rapid demographic change, programmes of city transformation and policy agendas around integration and cohesion. We are building a network of scholars and urbanists across both Europe and the rising powers of the global South to develop comparative research and policy analysis on these topics.

Further information on research projects can be found at: www.compas.ox.ac.uk/research/urbanchange

CORE STRANDS OF WORK INCLUDE:

Engaging with diversity: Research within the cluster deepens understanding of how immigrants and established communities engage with diversity, conflict and solidarity under changing circumstances and across class, gender, ethnic, faith groups and other social relations.

Global migration and the future of cities: Research analyses the impacts of international migration flows on urban space and urban governance, including how city administrations might better plan for and manage their changing populations and communicate with their citizens about these issues.

Urban transformation and neighbourhood change: Programmes of urban regeneration and city change can have a significant impact on residential patterns. Work at COMPAS brings together issues of neighbourhood change, gentrification and migration.

Ethnography, diversity and urban space: This strand of research explores new modes of enquiry that can address the challenges of increasingly complex and diverse transnational urban spaces, including new visual methods, innovative forms of collaborative research and the use of emerging digital platforms.



WELFARE

This cluster addresses the relationship between migration and welfare provision in ‘receiving’ and ‘sending’ countries.

The development of welfare states in Europe reflects, in part, the differentiation of rights to welfare provision on the basis of immigration, nationality and residence status. At the same time, it has entailed a dependence on migrant labour in service provision. Contemporary processes of restructuring of welfare states and of migration in turn have implications for the needs of migrants, their access to service provision and positioning as providers of welfare. These dynamics raise major challenges for rethinking the national boundaries of welfare state citizenship, transfers from the global South to the North, the basis of welfare rights and the divisions of welfare at the transnational, national and local levels.

This cluster aims to:

- Explore the ethical and practical challenges arising from the tension between universal entitlement to welfare in European states on the basis of need and the entitlement of migrants on the basis of national or local belonging
- Explore the interacting impact of migration, ethnicity, faith, gender, age, length of residence, language and other factors on the needs of differing categories of migrant for welfare services

- Examine the restructuring of care provision, the dependence on migrant care labour, and the implications for divisions of gender, race/ethnicity and citizenship
- Consider the implications of emigration for the capacity in source countries to deliver health and social care for those who remain

Work within this cluster uses political theory, social policy, demography, law and sociology to investigate the relationship between migration and welfare provision and draw out implications for national, local and international policy. It engages with complex debates that in practice underpin contentious, life altering decisions on resource allocation in both sending and receiving states. For instance, the implications for ‘sending countries’ through the transfer of professional and lower skilled care labour from the global South to the North, impacting on ways in which the welfare needs of their populations are addressed. This cluster also drills down into the operation of institutions and practices – like the impact of ‘cash for care’ schemes on the employment of migrant care workers.

Further information on research projects can be found at: www.compas.ox.ac.uk/research/welfare

CORE STRANDS OF WORK INCLUDE:

Welfare provision in European cities: The challenge is the tension between entitlement on the basis of need or belonging poses at the municipal level.

The rationale for limiting the entitlements of migrants to services and to family reunion: In the context of international legal obligations and the priority attached to the individual, social and economic benefits of equality.

The marketisation of social care and the employment of migrant care workers: The restructuring of the provision of care for older people, positioning of migrant care workers in care markets; implications for the social divisions in which care labour is embedded; and conflict of rights between care givers and older care users.

The impact of migration on health, the extent to which migrants are able to access services and impact in turn on their health status and behaviour.

The significance of irregular immigration status on capacity to access health and education services and the implications for service providers.

The implications of the global care chain for the care needs of older residents ‘left behind’ including use of remittances to purchase substitute care services.



CROSS-CUTTING RESEARCH THEMES AND ACTIVITIES

COMPAS structures its research around five key multi-disciplinary clusters. However, this structure is flexible to allow COMPAS staff to draw on the advantages of working as a centre. At times this includes: taking up themes that cut across each of the clusters; sharing (inter-) disciplinary perspectives; and contributing to collaborative activities and projects, such as 'The Migration Observatory' and postgraduate research work in migration at MSc and DPhil level.

The Migration Observatory

The Migration Observatory is a multi-media platform that provides independent, authoritative, evidence-based analysis of data on migration and migrants in the UK, to inform media, public and policy debates, and to generate high quality research on international migration and public policy issues. The Observatory's analysis involves experts from a wide range of disciplines and departments at the University of Oxford. The Migration Observatory launched in April 2011: www.migrationobservatory.ox.ac.uk

Cross-cutting themes

The following themes cut across each of the five clusters of research:

- **Migration Policy** – COMPAS does not have a political stance and is therefore able to provide impartial evidence to inform a more balanced debate and better policy making. COMPAS has worked with a number of Governments at national, European and international levels to understand the policy implications of its research and provide evidence during the policy development process
- **Interrogating Integration** – Work at COMPAS emphasises the two way processes of change, both of migrant cultures and the places, people and societies characterised by new arrival. In this fashion our research challenges how stakeholders and governments define the normative goals of integration, describe the patterns of social and economic change associated with migrant arrivals and formulate policy in response to these new trends

- **Understanding Irregularity** – Diverse projects at COMPAS cover a range of EU and non-EU countries and investigate issues such as irregular flows and border crossings, residence and employment, the behaviour or incidences by which migrants become irregular. Such research highlights practices that potentially undermine the well-being of individuals and the security of societies, the integrity of institutions and the values of democracy

RESEARCH IMPACT AND TEACHING

Research users: COMPAS establishes reciprocal relationships with research users, from project inception to final dissemination, in order to identify and target key evidence gaps. We also aim to effectively communicate high quality research findings within and outside the academic world. This is accomplished by: organising events of different scale and scope (such as international conferences, academic seminars and policy briefings), presentations at user events, written publications (including academic articles, policy reports, and briefing sheets), consultancy, media work and the centre's website (www.compas.ox.ac.uk).

Funding: COMPAS has agreed with the University of Oxford a five year business and research plan from 2011 to 2016. COMPAS has received core funding from the Economic and Social Research Council (ESRC) from 2003 and this will continue until 2013. Between 2008 and 2010 COMPAS successfully bid for over £3m of further research funding. This includes being awarded project funds from bodies such as: the European

Commission, Joseph Rowntree Foundation, Barrow Cadbury Trust, the Nuffield Foundation, Unbound Philanthropy, Diana Princess of Wales Memorial Fund and Leverhulme. We are always developing projects and ideas for future research and looking for associated funding. COMPAS has a good track record of collaborative projects and is keen to develop partnerships with other research units and funding bodies.

Study: The University of Oxford offers an MSc in Migration Studies, involving COMPAS staff. For further information on the programme please see www.compas.ox.ac.uk/study. COMPAS also welcomes students with relevant doctoral projects that they wish to develop in migration studies. To inquire about pursuing doctoral research at COMPAS please contact graduatestudies@compas.ox.ac.uk. We are also actively developing short courses and new academic programmes for those interested in migration studies.

COMPAS STAFF

The core staff of COMPAS includes social scientists and migration policy experts from a variety of disciplines. For full biographical details and lists of collaborators, please visit: www.compas.ox.ac.uk/people

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'The mission of COMPAS is to conduct high quality research in order to develop theory and knowledge, inform policy-making and public debate, and engage users of research within the field of migration.'

To receive regular updates on COMPAS research activity, events and publications please register online to our mailing list:

www.compas.ox.ac.uk/about/subscribe

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The Economic and Social Research Council is the UK's leading research and training agency addressing economic and social concerns. The ESRC aim to provide high quality research on issues of importance to business, the public sector and government. The issues considered include economic competitiveness, the effectiveness of public services and policy, and our quality of life. The ESRC is an independent organisation, established by Royal Charter in 1965, and funded mainly by government.

Photograph Acknowledgements

All images within this brochure are from the COMPAS Photo Competition 2009 and 2010.

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Cover	Bharat Patel, 'Waiting', 1st place 2010
02	Agnieszka Rydzik, unnamed, shortlisted 2010
04	Antanas Martinikus, 'My Family Plus and Minus', shortlisted 2010
05	Travis Wentworth, unnamed, shortlisted 2010
06	Juliet Davies, 'The Divide', 2nd place 2009
08	Tawhid Bahrain, 'Migrant', shortlisted 2010
09	Besym Can Zirh, 'Hackney Boys', 3rd place 2009
10	Monica Alcazar, 'Latin American Elderly Project Dance Class', shortlisted 2010
12	Dionysis Kouris, 'Kouris', shortlisted 2010
13	Sam Strickland, 'Jeneba Kamara (5 yrs) Sierra Leone', 2nd place 2010

