

The Economics and Politics of International Labour Migration

Optional Paper, Hilary Term 2010
MPhil Migration Studies, ISCA
MPhil Development Studies, QEH
MSc Forced Migration, RSC
University of Oxford

Lecturer:

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Office hours:

Mondays, 9-10am, 11 Bevington Road, top floor

Time and place:

Hilary Term (Weeks 1-8), Mondays, 2:00-3:30pm
COMPAS boardroom, 58 Banbury Road, Oxford OX26QS

All students are encouraged to attend the COMPAS seminar series on “The impacts of diasporas”, Thursdays in Hilary Term, 2:00-3:30pm, see

<http://www.compas.ox.ac.uk/news/latest/article/date/2010/01/the-impact-of-diasporas-connection-contestation-convergence/>

Objective:

The objective of this Paper is to familiarise students with some of the most important contributions of economics and political science to the analysis of international labour migration. At the end of the lectures, students should have a thorough understanding of:

- the scope, usefulness and limitations of economic and political science approaches to analysing international labour migration and its regulation
- the major insights of – and debates in – existing research on: the determinants, processes, and impacts of international labour migration on receiving countries, migrants and their countries of origin; the relationship between migrants, markets and the state including discussions of political economy, ethics and rights; the blurred line between “voluntary” and “forced” migration; and on government’s policy responses to regular and irregular migration

Lecture slides:

Lecture slides (handouts) will be distributed at the beginning of each lecture.

Reading materials:

The key readings for each lecture are indicated in this handout. The lecture slides will also contain a list of further readings. All key readings will either be available online or kept as hardcopies in the ISCA library.

Outline of lectures with key readings

OVERVIEW

Week 1:

Trends, determinants and processes of international labour migration

Martin, P. (2005) "Migrants in the global labour market", Paper prepared for the Global Commission on International Migration (www.gcim.org), Geneva

Massey, D. et al (1993) "Theories of International Migration: A Review and Appraisal", *Population and Development Review* 19(3): 431-466

Castles, S. and M. Miller (2009) *The Age of Migration*, Fourth Edition, Palgrave, Basingstoke and New York (chapter 1, www.palgrave.com/products/title.aspx?PID=278611)

For discussions of recent migration trends, see *International Migration Outlook 2008* by the OECD; and *World Migration 2008* by the International Organisation for Migration (IOM); and *Human Development Report 2009* by the United Nations Development Programme

Week 2:

Regulating international labour migration: States, markets and rights

Freeman, G. (1999) "The decline of sovereignty? Politics and Immigration restrictions in Liberal States", in *Challenge to the Nation-State*, ed. by C. Joppke, OUP

Meyers, E. (2000) "Theories of International Immigration Policy – A comparative analysis", *International Migration Review* 34(4): 1245-1282

Freeman, G. (1995) "Modes of Immigration Politics in Liberal Democratic States", *International Migration Review* 29(4): 881-902

Bhagwati, J. (2003) "Borders Beyond Control", *Foreign Affairs*, [January/February 2003](http://www.foreignaffairs.com/January/February_2003)

IMPACTS, INTERESTS AND POLICIES

Week 3:

Immigration and the state

Ruhs, M. (2008) "Economic research and labour immigration policy", *Oxford Review of Economic Policy* 24(3): 1-29; also see other articles in this volume of OxREP

Borjas, G. (1999) "The economic analysis of immigration", in *Handbook of Labor Economics*, Volume 3A, edited by Orley Ashenfelter and David Card, North-Holland, 1999, pp. 1697-1760 [for those interested in more technical discussions]

Cornelius, W. et. al eds. (2004) *Controlling Immigration: A Global Perspective*, Stanford University Press (see especially introduction and conclusion)

House of Lords, Economic Affairs Committee (2008) *The economic impact of immigration*, available at http://www.parliament.uk/parliamentary_committees/lords_economic_affairs.cfm

Week 4:**Emigration and the state**

Ostergaard-Nielsen, E. ed. (2003) *International Migration and Sending Countries*, Palgrave Macmillan (see especially introduction and conclusion)

Rosenblum, M. (2004) 'Moving beyond the policy of no policy: Emigration from Mexico and Central America', *Latin American Politics and Society* 46(4):91-126

World Bank (2005) *Global Economic Prospects 2006: Economic Implications of Remittances and Migration*, World Bank

Zolberg, A. (2007) "The Exit Revolution", in *Citizenship and those who leave. The Politics of emigration and expatriation*, edited by Nancy Green and Francois Weil, University of Illinois Press

KEY ISSUES**Week 5:****Labour shortages and immigration policy**

Anderson, B. and M. Ruhs (2010) "Migrant workers: who needs them? A framework for the analysis of shortages, immigration and public policy", chapter 2 in Ruhs, M. and B. Anderson (2010) *Who needs migrant workers? Labour shortages, immigration and public policy*, Oxford University Press (August 2010)

Migration Advisory Committee (2008) *Skilled, Shortage, Sensible. The recommended shortage occupation lists for the UK and Scotland*, MAC, London (see especially chapters 4-8)

Veneri, C. (1999) "Can occupational shortages be identified using available data?", *Monthly Labour Review* 122: 15-21

Waldinger, R. and M. Lichter (2003) *How the Other Half Works: Immigration and the social organization of labor*, University of California Press (especially chapters 1,2, and 8)

Week 6:**Irregular migration**

Joppke, C. (1998) "Why Liberal States Accept Unwanted Immigration" *World Politics* 50 (2):266---93.

Tapinos, G. (1999) "Clandestine Immigration: Economic and Political Issues", in OECD (1999) *Trends in International Migration*, OECD

Heyman, J. (1999) *States and illegal practises*, Oxford and New York (see especially introduction)

Ruhs, M. and B. Anderson (2010) "Semi-compliance and illegality in migrant labour markets: An analysis of migrants, employers and the state in the UK", *Population, Space and Place* (June 2010)

Week 7:**Temporary migration programmes**

Ruhs, M. (2006) "The potential of temporary migration programmes in future international migration policy", *International Labor Review*, 146 (1-2): 7-36

Castles, S. (2006) "Guestworkers in Europe: A Resurrection?", *International Migration Review* 40(4): 741-766

Pastor, M. and S. Alva (2004) "Guest workers and the new transnationalism: Possibilities and realities in an age of repression", *Social Justice*, 31(1-2): 92-112

Xinying Chi (2008) "Challenging Managed Temporary Labor Migration as a Model for Rights and Development for Labor-Sending Countries", 40 N.Y.U. J. INT'L L. & POL. 497, 514-16

OECD (2008) *International Migration Outlook 2008*, Paris (see especially Editorial and Part II)

Week 8:**Migrant rights: economics, politics and ethics**

Ruhs, M. and P. Martin (2008) "Numbers vs. Rights: Tradeoffs and guest worker programmes", *International Migration Review* 42(1): 249-265

Ruhs, M. and H-J. Chang (2004) 'The Ethics of Labor Immigration Policy', *International Organization* 58(1): 69-102.

Carens, J. (1996) 'Realistic and Idealistic Approaches to the Ethics of Migration', *International Migration Review* 30(1):156-170.

Gibney, M. (2004) *The Ethics and Politics of Asylum*, Cambridge University Press (see especially introduction and chapter 8)