

COMPAS Update No. 5

Please find below the latest COMPAS update on all our recent research activities, events and publications, as well as the plans that are in the pipeline. We hope you find these email updates useful. New contacts can [subscribe](#) to our mailing list on-line. If you wish to be taken off the list simply [click here](#) and enter your email address, or if your email address changes then [click here](#).

Events

- The **COMPAS Annual Conference on Irregular Migration** was held on 7th and 8th July. Proceedings were disrupted by news of the London tube and bus bombings. However, a wide range of academics, policy makers and practitioners had come from far and wide so the event continued somewhat sobered by concerns for those affected and conscious of the impact this would have on the wider migration debate. Participants explored and debated the nature, dynamics and challenges of irregular migration and full reports of all the sessions will be available on our website soon.
- ICAR (Information Centre on Asylum and Refugees), King's College London and COMPAS co-organised a series of training workshops in May and June for postgraduates entitled: **'Researching migrant populations'**. The course focussed on methods training specific to migration studies and aimed to encourage the exchange of information and ideas between expert academics, policymakers, practitioners and students. They were extremely well received and a full report can now be found on our website: [link](#)
- On 14th June, COMPAS, Oxfam and the Refugee Studies Centre held an event called **'A New Asylum Paradigm?'** An expert group of scholars, NGOs and policy-makers were brought together to consider recent and proposed changes to the global refugee regime. Is a new asylum paradigm emerging? What do the range of proposals and initiatives amount to in practice, and what are their political, legal and human implications? A report on the proceedings is forthcoming.
- The COMPAS Seminar Series starts again in October on the theme of **'Racism and new immigration theories and practices'**. This series, which is open to all, will go back to the usual time of Thursdays, 2pm to 3.30pm in the seminar room at the Pauling Centre, 58a Banbury Road. The full list of speakers are still to be confirmed but will be advertised on the website shortly - [link](#)

Research Highlights

- **The migration-asylum nexus: the Somali and Sri Lankan Tamil diaspora (MAST)** project is currently exploring relations among Sri Lankan Tamil and Somali migrants. These groups arrived at different times and through different migration channels. The project examines how the timing and means of migration shape both their prospects in the UK and the degree of transnational engagement with their homeland. Balancing the demands of life in the UK with those of people in the homeland is one of the study's key themes. Interviews among Somali individuals and community organisations have been conducted by Anna Lindley and Fatuma Abdulahi, while Nicholas Van Hear has been interviewing Tamils and consulting their community organisations. While there are significant similarities and differences between the two groups, one recent feature of both is the growing importance of

immigration from other EU countries to the UK of Tamils and Somalis who have gained citizenship of an EU state. This 'regrouping' may hold important implications for the Tamil and Somali communities both in the UK and transnationally.

- As part of Programme One – 'Sending Contexts', a new project entitled **'Emigration Dynamism and Social Transformation in Northeast China'** aims to examine three inter-related issues: (1) Migration agents, who have been widely recognised as key facilitators but who have so far been subject to very limited conceptualisation; (2) Exit controls by the state, which not only shape particular migration flows but also shed light on state-citizen relations in the era of globalisation; and (3) Linkages between out-migration and dramatic social transformation in the region, particularly the privatisation of state-owned enterprises which has led to massive lay-offs and widened social inequality. Anthropological fieldwork is now underway while the project also draws on methodologies and theories from sociology, political science and institutional economics. Its first phase will be completed by the end of 2005.
- Following the initial seminar on **'The Role of Migrant Health and Social Care Workers in Ageing Societies'** the Migration Management programme is developing this area of work in collaboration with Professor Susan Martin at the Institute for the Study of International Migration (ISIM) at Georgetown University, Washington. Subject to funding, this project will examine the role of migrant health professionals, as well as lesser skilled health and social care workers in the context of ageing societies and workforces. The project will be led jointly by Sarah Spencer and Susan Martin who will work on comparative projects in UK and Ireland and US and Canada respectively. Susan Martin recently completed a SSRC/ESRC visiting fellowship at COMPAS which gave the team an opportunity to finalise the project's scope and methodology and meet with potential user groups and funders.

Publications

- Spencer, S., 2005, **The Challenge of Integration in Europe**, Chapter in *Managing Migration: A Policy Agenda for Economic Progress and Social Cohesion* (forthcoming), Migration Policy Institute, Washington ([link](#)). For more information and to download the chapter [click here](#).
- Spencer, S., 2005, **'Gypsies and Travellers: Britain's Forgotten Minority'** in *European Human Rights Law Review*, Issue 4.
- Ruhs, M., 2005, **Designing viable and ethical labour immigration policies**, Chapter 10 in *World Migration 2005*, International Organization for Migration (IOM), Geneva. [Click here](#) for further information and to download chapter.
- Ruhs, M., 2005, **Managing the Immigration and Employment of non-EU Nationals in Ireland**. "Blue Paper" (Policy Paper) published jointly by TCD's Policy Institute and COMPAS is now available. [Click here](#) for further information.
- Van Hear, N. and K. Koser, 2005, **'Asylum migration: implications for countries of origin'**, in G Borjas and J Crisp (Eds), *Poverty, International Migration and Asylum*, Basingstoke: Palgrave Macmillan.
- Over the past quarter there have been eight new working papers published by COMPAS staff and associated students. The most recent ones include: **'Deserving**

of Decent Work: The Complications of Organizing Irregular Workers Without Legal Rights by Nicole Silverman, **'The Realities of a New Asylum Paradigm'** by Liza Schuster and **'Immigrants and the Politics of Governance in Barcelona'** by Davide Però. For the full list and downloads [click here](#).

- [Click here](#) to view a list of academic publications by staff since COMPAS started.

Vacancies

RESEARCH OFFICER (RSII) Applications are invited for a new Research Officer to join the research team within the Migration-Asylum Nexus research programme, although the post-holder will also be expected to contribute to other COMPAS research programmes, in particular Integration and Social Change ([click here](#) for programme descriptions). Candidates should be social scientists with a relevant doctorate and a strong research and publication record on asylum and asylum policy in the UK and the European Union, particularly on recent developments. For more information please see: <http://www.compas.ox.ac.uk/about/vacancies.shtml>

COMPAS will also be advertising for a new **Research Assistant** very shortly, to work on projects within the Migration Management Programme. Please keep an eye on the following website (<http://www.isca.ox.ac.uk/index.html>) or the COMPAS website for further details.

Our website is constantly updated so please continue to check for updates on the centre's work there. For an overview of what has been happening over the past year then take a look at the 'COMPAS Review 2004/5' – [click here](#) for more information.

With best wishes,

Emma

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