

## INTERNATIONAL MIGRATION STUDIES IN THE 21ST CENTURY: DEVELOPMENTS

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### **Abstract:**

Many of the researchers note that it wasn't until the 1970s that the majority of the major immigrant nations began undertaking migration studies, and that this is when migration patterns began to change substantially. The globalization of international migration patterns and the subsequent implementation of restrictive entrance rules in European Union nations from the mid-1970s have prompted a shift in the focus of academic enquiry. More than a third of the people living in the nations that constitute the Gulf Cooperation Council are immigrant workers. There is no opportunity for discussion of ideas like citizenship, integration, or participation because of the strict nature of the migration regulations that are based on the kafala system (for example, sponsorship). Over nine million individuals in Africa have been displaced from their homes or have moved within the continent as a consequence of conflicts and extreme poverty. Traditional migration theories that pit forced migration versus voluntary migration are challenged by the fact that forcible migrations usually result in economic mobility as a coping strategy. This fact makes it more difficult to apply standard categories and assumptions to the investigation of current modifications to global migration patterns. This paper is an incredible effort to evaluate how research on international migration has progressed in the twenty-first century.

**Keywords:** Citizenship, Conflicts, Exterme poverty, Globalization, Migration. Globalization.

### **1. Introduction:**

The large variety of regions analyzed, including “North America, Europe, Asia, and Africa, together” with the variety of academic fields represented, which include anthropology, geography, and sociology, provide a comparative perspective. Most of the major immigration countries didn't begin conducting migration studies until the 1970s, and since then, migration patterns have shifted dramatically, as many of the writers point out. Since the 1970s, when restricted entrance laws were first implemented in European Union nations, the globalization of international migratory patterns has also contributed to a shift in the focus of academic enquiry <sup>[1]</sup> this reorientation was brought about due to the globalization of international migration flows. To begin, whereas migration interactions (including such "France-North Africa, Germany-Turkey, and Gulf nations-Arab countries") have long formed the backbone of the global migration framework, we are now seeing the geographical diversity of migrant flows. This is in contrast to the traditional model, which has been based primarily on migration routes. Countries in Europe that had been major sources of emigration are now acting as host nations for a growing number of immigrants. These countries include Italy, Spain, and Ireland. Second, there has been a significant shift in the qualitative nature of migration patterns. Recent migrants have created a wide range of activities, from the business sector to small corporate operations (such as an ethnicity entrepreneurial) and highly educated professionals, whereas the majority of migrants formerly worked in menial occupations in the manufacturing sector. This diversification has occurred even though the majority of migrants worked in unskilled

jobs in the manufacturing sector. Third, the development of the legal framework has resulted in an expansion of the categories used to discuss immigration (legal versus illegal, refugees versus asylum seekers, etc.).<sup>[2]</sup>

Over the past twenty years, there has been a fundamental shift in the geography of international migration, leading to new concerns within migration studies. Although the majority of techniques have concentrated on migration and communities of migrants in industrialized nations, the emergence of South-South or East-West migration poses a challenge to some of the research that is centered on “the North”. The dissolution of “the Soviet Union” has resulted in the reopening of long-dormant migration routes that connect former Soviet countries to the Middle East.<sup>[3]</sup> Along these routes, pilgrimages, commercial operations, and forced migrations coexist. Various circulation means have been established, and new migration poles, such as Dubai and Damascus, have appeared in recent years. Circular migration, global religious networks, pilgrimage, and the so-called “suitcase trade” are just some of the themes that have sparked a new line of enquiry thanks to the influx of migrants. The social and geographical dynamics of migration are receiving more attention alongside the topic of integration. In addition to being one of the most significant migratory systems in the world, the Arabic Peninsula serves as an interesting and difficult case study. More than 80 percent of the population in the United Arab Emirates comprises migrants.

In contrast, among the states that make up the Gulf Cooperation Council, the migrant population accounts for more than one-third of the overall population. Due to the stringent nature of the migration rules, which are founded on the kafala system (for example, sponsorship), there is no room for discussion about concepts such as citizenship, integration, or participation. As a result of ongoing wars and widespread poverty, Africa is home to more than nine million people who have been forced to flee their homes or relocate inside the continent. Forcible migrations frequently result in economic movement as a coping technique, which calls into question traditional migration theories that pit forced migration against voluntary migration. As a direct result of this, conventional classifications and hypotheses are less and less applicable to the study of recent shifts in patterns of international migration.

## **2. Migration on a Global Scale and the Difficulty of Maintaining Social Cohesion**

The establishment of significant migrant communities, primarily in metropolitan centers in industrialized countries, has contributed to the social change that has occurred over the previous several decades. This is the case even while mobility and circulation are on the rise. The agenda for studying the effects of assistance on the cultures receiving it has expanded to include a longer time period and a generational viewpoint.<sup>[4]</sup>

In a rather ironic turn of phrase, the social repercussions of migrants' “presence” in host countries have been studied less often than their “absence” in sending nations. However, suppose we are truly interested in understanding the complicated concepts of integration and social cohesion. In that case, we will need to incorporate into our research the consequences migration has had on European societal structures.

Despite the difficulties that immigration might cause in receiving nations, it is essential to recognise the role that immigration has played in the historical development of receiving-country civilizations. New immigrant populations assist to redefine the conversation on identity construction, not only in Europe but all around the world. The idea of citizenship and the idea of belonging to a specific country is being called into question by factors like as the long settlement of Asian immigrants in the "Middle East" and the emergence of a second generation in countries like the Gulf States or Israel. The EU's stringent immigration laws have transformed transit nations like the "Maghreb States" into immigrant nations, raising concerns about the new arrivals' economic & social standing. These states include Morocco, Algeria, and Tunisia.<sup>[5]</sup>

Perhaps one of the most fundamental challenges that research on global migrations is presently encountering is the shift from studies concentrating on migration to wider assessments focused on the nexus between global migration and the civilizations that host migrants. No one—the government or researchers—asked about integration for migrant workers as long as they were thought of as “guest workers.” In most European nations, the process of family reunion has been made possible due to the regulation of migratory flows in the middle of the 1970s.

Social cohesion and the rise of anti-immigrant sentiment are issues brought up by the fact that certain members of the cultures that welcome immigrants consider a substantial settlement as a danger and a challenge. This mindset has recently emerged in countries worldwide that have opened their borders to new immigrants.<sup>[6]</sup> The academic community is still engaged in a heated discussion on integration and social cohesion. This is partly due to the several migratory movements that emerged during the 1980s, which have contributed to the diversity of these movements.

### **3. Where does one Begin when Moving from Immigration to Circulation?**

For the last two decades, new migration theories and methods have been developed to account for the wide range of people and organizations participating in the process. These new approaches have been developed to: Even though the majority of studies have, for a considerable amount of time, been concentrating on immigration laws and the numerous ways immigrants are integrated into receiving communities, study views have been expanded in various sectors. Although globalization (including financial transactions, the trading of commodities and services) has been addressed at length, little thought has been given to conceptualizing the interweaving of social and symbolic links across national boundaries. The personal and professional spheres of people who travel and retain connections in a globalised society are two such examples.<sup>[7]</sup>

The traditional divide between “departure and host nations” is losing some significance since many countries are simultaneously becoming transit countries, host countries, and departure countries. It has a significant bearing on the debate around the connection between immigration and maintaining social cohesion. This partnership must be envisaged not just from the transmitting & recipient nations' perspectives, but also from the transiting countries' perspectives. Various associating agreements negotiated by the authorities of the EU & third

nations —considered to be transit nations — sometimes contain a component on the regulation of migration flows, such as the Barcelona Process, which was launched in 1995. Both of these processes took place in 1995. Migration pathways are becoming increasingly complicated as a direct result of the development of immigration and asylum regulations that are more restricted. When it comes to the study and comprehension of migratory patterns, transit countries are playing an increasingly important role. The research considers this third dimension and combines the entire migrant route, including the nations that serve as transit stops.<sup>[8]</sup>

It is becoming clearer that the complexity of modern global migration movements exceeds the scope of this largely causal paradigm. We need to go beyond anthropological ideas in which communities and cultures are seen as being in space; Migration is no longer just the process of relocating to a new area.

The paradigm of “circulation” results in a blurring of the boundary between locations being sent to and spaces being received, as well as the ideas of “settlement and return.” The “migration” does not necessarily mean uprooting oneself from one site and establishing oneself in a new one; rather, migration refers to moving about from place to place.

The discussion on transnationalism is still fraught with contention. Even while circulation and back-and-forth movements are becoming more common, establishing immigrant communities within the setting of national states is still the predominant approach. “Two primary components are associated with the relationships forged and maintained between migrants and their communities of origin. To begin, migration is frequently the consequence of a community or family strategy to improve their income or to minimize the risk of their wages fluctuating.”<sup>[9]</sup> These goals can be accomplished through several different means. Therefore, there is a requirement for robust bilateral interactions between migrants and nonmigrants “to ensure social control and the sending” of remittances back to their home countries. Second, accomplishing such objectives necessitates a continuous flow of resources, information, and people to guarantee the system's continued operation and preserve its integrity. The establishment of transnational networks, therefore, requires robust local anchoring, not only in the cultures that are giving information but also those that are receiving it. It is common to practice building resources locally and distribute them later internationally. Whenever social capital serves not only as a localised but also a transnational propagation belt, migration takes place. This allows for greater interaction between people in different locations. The development of transnational activity then necessitates the establishment of various forms of a migrant community settlement.

As a result of the many tenuous connections between those migrants who have already settled and the host society, solidarity networks play a significant role in adapting migrants. On the other hand, the solidarity networks are not equipped to handle all of the issues that the newcomers are confronted with, particularly the legal limits. The formation of transnational networks is becoming more challenging in the current political climate in Europe, which is marked by increasingly restrictive regulations towards immigration and asylum.<sup>[10]</sup>

There are currently a “growing number of newcomers living in Europe” who have a status that is unstable and provisional, which places them at a disadvantage. Different levels of access to resources tend to perpetuate existing social inequities for those unable to profit from transnational networks, such as young women living in isolation or illegal migrants. One facet of this growing circulation is the participation of “migrants in the development projects in their country of origin.”

#### **4. The Connection between Migration and Development:**

The focus of migration experts over the last two decades has shifted increasingly toward the role that immigration plays in driving economic expansion. Along with the development of transnational studies, it has allowed for a closer look at migrants as active participants in the migration phenomenon in both their home and the host countries. As a result of collaboration between these two disciplines, this research could be conducted. Researchers in the field of migration studies have known since the 1980s that migration plays a significant role in economic growth and development. However, it wasn't until the 1990s that major international development institutions like "the World Bank, the International Monetary Fund (IMF), and the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD)" started to take migration, particularly in the form of remittances, into account.<sup>[11]</sup> This was in addition to things like FDI, loosened trade restrictions, help, and better administration.

Rather than trying to control "unwanted migration" (also known as unwanted immigration), developed countries should focus on preventing migration rather than trying to control it. To that goal, international development assistance should be channelled toward lowering the likelihood of conflict and relieving poverty in the main nations that give help. The disparities in population and wealth that are considered to spur economic migration are thereafter recognised as a priority for development. Several methods are used to achieve this goal. In order to lessen the number of individuals who are compelled to escape their home nations in search of safety, development is seen as something that improves political security, regard for democracy, & human rights. The industrialised countries want to spark socioeconomic and political change via their development plans and the mechanisms of globalisation (including but not limited to free trade, capital, and the liberalisation of the economy).<sup>[12]</sup> The premise upon which the debate on the migration-development interface rests is predicated on drastically reducing migration, especially the phenomenon known as "unwanted immigration." Although there may be a temporary uptick in migration as a consequence of development (the so-called "migration hump"), the overall perspective is predicated on the theory that migration is caused by socioeconomic disparities in regards to development difficulties and geopolitics. It follows that the complete reflection is predicated on the idea that migration is caused by differences in living standards, even if the migratory bulge does not materialise.

Some nations and international organizations are working toward using migration as a tool for development, which they believe could serve as an alternative to the more traditional development assistance. This oversimplified picture is criticized in the following way: our research “carried out over the previous twenty years has brought attention to two important facets of migration and development.” First, it is important to note that migration does not



always negatively impact development. Second, there is an almost 100% chance that efforts to curb migration by fostering economic growth in countries of origin will be unsuccessful. Migration is an essential component of every society, and countries with low rates of population mobility and low rates of economic growth are likely to share both of these characteristics.<sup>[13]</sup>

Regarding this particular point, “other criticisms can be answered. To begin, more than half of all migrant movements take place between countries” of lower socioeconomic development (often known as "South-South migration") rather than between LDCs and countries of higher socioeconomic development (i.e., South-North migration). Second, economic disparities aren't the only thing pushing people to migrate; transnational networks and a wide variety of other sociohistorical factors are also major contributors. Third, poverty reduction among all of a country's citizens is not a necessary consequence of economic growth. Inequalities frequently worsen due to economic development, which does little to alleviate or eradicate poverty. Fourth, remittances tend to alter consumption patterns in sending societies. This might result in increased emigration as people try to keep up with or gain access to the new consumption levels.

There is a new kind of migrant emerging as a consequence of the interplay between their home & host regions; these "go-between" migrants play an important role in fostering economic growth and social progress in their own countries. It is no longer sufficient to evaluate migration and actions of migrants solely from either the country of origin or the country of the host but rather from the perspective of the relationship between both spaces.<sup>[14]</sup> The study of migration can assist us in adopting a more holistic perspective on issues about development. It can accomplish this goal by posing a challenge to more traditional macroeconomic models and illuminating the function “of networks generated by new agents such as local groups, families, and local communities.”

## **5. Reconciling the Fields of Study of Refugees and Migrants:**

In the earliest attempts to construct a broad theoretical model on refugee difficulties, the primary emphasis was placed on push factors as an explanation for refugee flows. More recently, studies have emphasized international relations' role in generating refugee flows. Even though push forces and international politics are essential concerns for comprehending refugee movements, relatively little focus has been placed on the dynamics that refugees generate. “The length of time spent in exile and the variety of interactions with the communities that provided shelter have contributed to the formation of particular settlement patterns and secondary movements.”<sup>[15]</sup>

Different types of refugee migration and resettlement patterns have been identified and studied from the 1970s. These categories include urban refugees, camp inhabitants, and self-settled refugees. In view of the severe lack of safety and resources that urban refugees in the main cities of the Third world face, researchers from all over the world have lately shown an increased interest in this issue. Although research has been conducted to examine the distinctions between urban refugees and those who live in refugee camps, “the transition of

refugee camps into urban areas has not been researched, except for a few specific situations. The traditional difference between people living in refugee camps” and people seeking shelter in metropolitan areas is mostly an operational one that international organizations developed. This classification fails to provide an accurate understanding of the development of refugee camps and the activities that refugees have built for themselves. Even in situations where they are physically separated from the outside world, refugee camps are not considered to be secure environments. For example, they could connect to a more extensive environment through mobility or transnational relationships, like remittances. The terms "urban refugee" and "camp dweller" are frequently used in conjunction with the location of the person's residence. Still, they are rarely considered in conjunction with refugees' temporary or permanent spatial practices. Mobility is an essential practice that needs to be considered since it elucidates the complementarities between various urban places and their links. In addition to the daily migrations, short- and long-term migration, enforced relocation, etc., which many refugees in camps experience, they also experience other levels of mobility. They also create several extra-camp activities (commercial, ideological, social, and social).

Mobility and migration need to be understood in the context of their distinct periods. Throughout a longer period, the population of a refugee camp shifts as some refugees leaves the camp to find new homes elsewhere and as other refugees arrive there for several reasons. When a people are forced to live in exile for an extended period (such as in the examples of the Afghans or the Palestinians), “each generation of refugees has a unique relationship to the camp in response to particular socio-historical circumstances.” Due to “individual” routes, the line between people living in urban refugee camps and those living in camps might become increasingly blurry. To gain access to a wider variety of services, many refugees will spend their entire lives moving back and forth between living within and outside the camps. Different waves and groups of refugees are hosted, temporarily or more permanently, within the refugee camps.

In addition, new immigrant settlements develop in the colonies and the regions immediately around them. Researchers have recently focused on examining the relationship between transnationalism and refugees. The state has been brought back into most of these assessments of transnational refugee operations, and the government's role in influencing migrants' networks has been addressed in a more thorough fashion as a result of these studies. These studies have contributed to bringing the state back into the conversation. State policies towards refugees continue to be one of the essential aspects in the knowledge of refugee movements, the socioeconomic position of refugees, and the viability of mobile networks in both the countries that are sending refugees and the countries that are receiving them. State policies toward refugees continue to be one of the most important factors to consider when trying “to understand refugee movements,” the socioeconomic standing of refugees, and the viability of mobile networks in both the countries that are the source of refugees and the countries that take in refugees. Investigating the categories of migrants who were turned away and refugees who were not recognized, these policies are designed to encourage secondary migration movements of people looking for a better life for themselves and their families. The difference among forced & voluntary migrating is not necessarily important because of the high likelihood of a

second forced relocation in the form of labour migration as a coping strategy for those who have already experienced one.<sup>[16]</sup>

It doesn't matter if they're in "Africa, Europe, or the Middle East; an increasing number of migrants find that they don't fit neatly into any of the categories that have been established for them: refugee vs. economic migrant, urban refugee against camp dweller, legal versus illegal. These muddled concepts complicate both the field of refugee studies and the field of migration studies."<sup>[17]</sup>

The study of international migration is likely to be met with great difficulty in the years to come. To begin, a class of migrants known as "illegals" has emerged as a result of migration's growth and diversity, as well as the stringent migration & asylum laws prevalent in the majority of large immigrant & transit nations. This disadvantaged and oppressed group of migrants is challenging many of the assumptions underlying the various theories of migration. Second, researchers have been forced to reevaluate concepts like "sending countries" and "receiving countries," as well as "permanent settlement" and "temporary migration," as a result of increased circulation, radical shifts in the geographic location of migration flows, and the advancement of transnational. All of these factors combined have led to an increase in international migration. Third, migrants and migrant organizations have established their socioeconomic tactics both in the states where they have settled (for example, ethnic business) and in the countries from which they came (e.g., development-oriented NGOs). "This adds to a new category of migrants, including new socio-political players such as NGO leaders and political activists, small business owners, and other new entrepreneurs." Fourth, the dramatic rise in the number of people fleeing their homes as refugees over the past two decades has given rise to several distinct types of refugees and refugee situations. These range from refugees and asylum seekers recognized by the UNHCR to unrecognized refugees and migrants in refugee-like situations who are fleeing widespread violence or political instability. The traditional divide between migration forced on people and migration that individuals choose is becoming increasingly difficult to discern due to secondary migration's role in coping mechanisms.<sup>[18]</sup>

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