KNOMAD Seminar

International Migration: Trends, determinants and policies

Thursday, October 4, 2018
12:30pm-2pm
Room MC13-121

Speaker

Hein de Haas
Professor of Sociology and Migration Studies at the University of Amsterdam

Welcoming Remarks

Michal Rutkowski
Senior Director, Social Protection and Jobs Global Practice, World Bank

Chair

Dilip Ratha
Head of KNOMAD, Lead Economist, Migration and Remittances, Social Protection and Jobs Global Practice, World Bank

Abstract

What have been the main trends and drivers of international migration over the last century, and to what extent have migration policies been effective in shaping the volume, direction, timing, and selection of immigration and emigration? This paper reviews the insights on migration trends, determinants and policy effects gained through the DEMIG (Determinants of International Migration) project. Questioning popular perceptions of accelerating international migration, the increase in global migration has remained proportional to the increase in world population. The main migratory shifts in the second half of the twentieth century have been directional, particularly through the decline of
Europe as an area of origin and the emergence of Europe and the Gulf as new global destinations. This shift in migration movements towards Europe has been associated by an overall liberalisation of migration policies, which have increasingly focused on the selecting of migrants rather than controlling numbers per se. Most rules around legal entry, stay and exit of migrants have been relaxed, but a combination of visa and border control policies have served to prevent the entry of asylum seekers and other ‘unwanted’ migrants. Our analysis shows that it would therefore be excessive to conclude that borders are ‘beyond control’ (cf. Bhagwati 2003), and that migration policies are generally effective. Yet several ‘substitution effects’ limit or undermine the effectiveness of migration controls by (1) redirecting migration through other geographical routes and destinations (spatial substitution), (2) diverting migration through other legal and unauthorized channels (categorical substitution), (3) “now or never” migration surges in anticipation of restrictions (intertemporal substitution) and (4) discouraging return and interrupting circulation (reverse flow substitution). These expose fundamental policy dilemmas as well as the importance to look beyond migration policies. Our results show the importance of accounting for the complex and often counterintuitive ways in which structural social, economic, and political factors affect migration in mostly indirect, but powerful ways that largely lie beyond the reach of migration policies.

RSVP and add to calendar: [LINK]

Dial-in and WebEx information provided below.

Hein de Haas is Professor of Sociology and Migration Studies at the University of Amsterdam. Between 2006 and 2016, he was a founding member and director of the International Migration Institute (IMI) at the University of Oxford. He is also Extraordinary Professor of Migration and Development at the University of Maastricht / United Nations University. His research focuses on the linkages between migration and broader processes of social transformation and development in origin and destination countries. His theoretical and empirical publications cover a wide range of issues, including migration determinants, migration policies, the development implications of migration, transnationalism and rural-urban transformations. He did extensive fieldwork in the Middle East and Africa and, particularly, in Morocco. De Haas is co-author (with Stephen Castles and Mark Miller) of The Age of Migration: International Population Movements in the Modern World, a leading text book in the field of migration studies. For further info and publications, see [www.heindehaas.org](http://www.heindehaas.org).

Michal Rutkowski is the Senior Director for Social Protection and Jobs – overseeing the World Bank’s work in developing systems that protect the poorest and vulnerable from crises and shocks, and supporting private sector-led growth. Until July 2016, he was the Director for Multilateral Organizations, and prior to that the Country Director for the Russian Federation and the Resident Representative in Moscow for three years. Mr. Rutkowski joined the World Bank in 1990. He was a country economist for the Russian Federation between 1995-1996, and after taking a brief leave from the Bank, returned as Sector Manager for social protection between 1998-2004, where he led a team of professionals working on pensions, labor market and social assistance
reforms in 28 countries of Central and Eastern Europe and former Soviet Union, as well as in Turkey. Mr. Rutkowski’s published work covers issues on labor markets and social security. He was a core team member of the World Development Report “Workers in an Integrated World” - the World Bank’s annual flagship research publication - in 1995.

Dilip Ratha is Head of KNOMAD and Lead Economist of Migration and Remittances team at the World Bank. Mr. Ratha is currently working to lower remittance fees and provide innovative financing solutions for people, businesses, and governments. Over a career spanning three decades in academia, private sector and the World Bank, he has worked extensively on migration and innovative financing for development, including remittances, diaspora bonds, and prediction of sovereign credit ratings. His TED Talk “The hidden force in global economics: sending money home,” has 1.3 million views. He is the founder of KNOMAD, co-founder of Migrating out of Poverty Research Consortium, and the brain behind Africa Institute for Remittances. According to a 2008 New York Times article about his life and work, “No one has done more than Dilip Ratha to make migration and its potential rewards a top-of-the-agenda concern in the world’s development ministries.”

External participants please email: Malkiatsingh@worldbank.org
or call 202-473-7711
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-Light lunch will be served-
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