



Remaking Migration Theory: Intersections and Cross-fertilisations

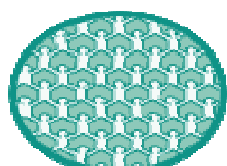
A two-day conference of the Population Geography Research Group of the RGS-IBG
and the International Geographical Union Population Commission

Jointly hosted by the University of Brighton and the University of Sussex

13 -14 May 2009

Jury's Inn Hotel, Brighton

Conference Programme



University of Brighton

US

University of Sussex
Sussex Centre for Migration Research

Welcome

Welcome to **Remaking Migration Theory**.

Theories of migration and population mobility have a substantive legacy of often being founded on dichotomous relationships, such as origin–destination, agency–structure, production–consumption, supply–demand, and economy–culture. Other binaries which fragment the study of migration include the divisions between internal versus international migration, forced versus voluntary migration, legal versus illegal, temporary versus permanent, developed versus developing world, historical versus contemporary, and so on.

Arguably, the resonance of these historical theorisations of migration are increasingly challenged by changing economic, societal and global conditions, such as the shrinkage of time–space distanciation by technological and communication advancements, and as borders and boundaries of nation states and political alliances are recast in dynamic global contexts. Skeldon's (2005) commentary in *Population, Space and Place* on the integration of theory in internal and international migration provides one valuable exemplar here, which clearly demonstrates the merit of the need to rethink how contemporary theorisations of migration can be (re)constructed.

Other recent academic contributions, sometimes external to 'Migration Studies', shed light on the emerging ways in which individuals, households and families move locally, within and between regions and nation states, and at a global scale, for instance the expanding academic discourses of mobilities and mobile societies. One decade on, Boyle *et al's.* (1998: 28) observation that: 'as the volume of international migration has risen, so too has the complexity, with a greater variety of population fractions becoming involved for an increasingly diverse set of reasons', continues to be pertinent for scholars of migration and population change. Such growing diversity, and the unfolding plurality, of contemporary migration flows and experiences will require new ways to capture the complexities and complications of population changes.

Notable accounts of such migration flows and experiences are often infused with social theories from other areas of the social sciences, for example new theories of families and households, employment and work practices, gender, sexuality and lifecourse, and performativity. It can be argued that Migration Studies have not fully embraced such social theories, and could more effectively engage with such academic discourses to deepen understandings of the ways in which populations move and change.

This two–day conference aims to explore the many ways in which different, yet possibly interconnected, forms of contemporary migration, for example internal and transnational migration, are being reconfigured in the developed and developing worlds, and how these shifts are being theorised by academics from different (sub)disciplines of academia.

The programme provides different opportunities to discuss how and why these shifting expressions of migration flows may have major implications for new theorisations of migration, via a combination of keynote presentations, contributions from discussants, and five paper sessions.

Darren P. Smith, Russell King, Rebecca Elmhirst and Ron Skeldon
Conference organizers

Conference schedule: Day 1

Wednesday 13 May

12.00-12.45	Registration open and arrival refreshments
12.45-13.00	Welcome and Introduction Darren P. Smith (University of Brighton, UK) and Russell King (University of Sussex, UK)
13.00-13.30	Keynote 1: Adrian Favell (Aarhus University, Denmark) Mobility, creativity, and security: limits of migration in the fast-lane, flat world Chair: Russell King (University of Sussex, UK)
	Session 1: Rethinking International Migration Chair: Darren P. Smith (University of Brighton, UK)
13.30-13.50	'Close to the King, Close to the Sea': entwining internal and international migration to Albania Russell King and Julie Vullnetari (University of Sussex, UK)
13.50-14.10	Immigrant geographies Jamie Goodwin-White (University College Dublin, Ireland)
14.10-14.30	'Mobility', 'immobility' and internationalisation: a case study of the relationship between internationalisation and mobility in research careers Louise Ackers (University of Liverpool, UK)
14.30-14.50	Theorising international student mobility Allan Findlay (University of Dundee, UK), Fiona Smith (University of Dundee, UK), Mairead Dunne (University of Sussex, UK), Russell King (University of Sussex, UK), Ron Skeldon (University of Sussex, UK) and Alistair Geddes (University of Dundee, UK)
14.50-15.10	DISCUSSANT Bill Gould (University of Liverpool, UK)

15.10-15.30

Refreshment Break

Session 2: Rethinking Internal Migration

Chair: **Rebecca Elmhirst** (University of Brighton, UK)

15.30-15.50

Reinventing internal migration studies in the age of international migration – the US context

Mark Ellis (University of Washington, USA)

15.50-16.10

The continued relevance of transition models in migration theory

Ron Skeldon (University of Sussex, UK)

16.10-16.30

Rethorising 'space' in sub-national family migration

Darren P. Smith (University of Brighton, UK)

16.30-16.50

Children and migration: challenging the adult-centrism of migration studies

Allen White, Caitríona Ní Laoire, Naomi Bushin, Fina Carpena-Méndez
(University College Cork, Ireland)

16.50-17.10

DISCUSSANT

William A.V. Clark (University of California Los Angeles, USA)

17.10-17.20

Break

17.20-17.50

Keynote 2: Keith Halfacree (University of Wales Swansea, UK)

Transnationalism coming home?: rethinking second homes and counterurbanisation in the era of mobility

Chair: **Darren P. Smith** (University of Brighton, UK)

18.00-19.00

Wine Reception offered by the *Journal of Ethnic and Migration Studies*

19.30-

Conference Dinner – Bill's (see directions)

Conference schedule: Day 2 Thursday 14 May

8.45-9.00	Arrival Refreshments
9.00-9.30	<i>Keynote 3:</i> Rachel Silvey (University of Toronto, Canada) Transnational Methods: Critical Global Ethnographies of Migration Chair: Rebecca Elmhirst (University of Brighton, UK)
	<i>Session 3: New Theoretical Insights</i> Chair: Bill Gould (University of Liverpool, UK)
9.30-9.50	Exploring the migration–mobility nexus Jytte Agergaard (University of Copenhagen, Denmark)
9.50-10.10	Intersectionality and diversity: How gender studies might fertilize the analysis of social inequality among migrants Hans-Joachim Bürkner (Leibniz Institute, Germany)
10.10-10.30	Migration, risk and uncertainty: theoretical perspectives Allan Williams (London Metropolitan University, UK) and Vladimir Baláž (Institute of Forecasting, Bratislava, Slovakia)
10.30-10.50	Adaptation and assimilation: an examination of rural-urban migrants in Wuhan, China Wenfei Winnie Wang (University of Bristol, UK)
10.50-11.10	DISCUSSANT Russell King (University of Sussex, UK)
11.10-11.30	Refreshment Break

Session 4: Rethinking Migrants In Place

Chair: **Darren P. Smith** (University of Brighton, UK)

- 11.30-11.50 Eritreans in cyberspace: mapping inter-diaspora connections
Emma Stewart (University of Strathclyde, UK)
- 11.50-12.10 Highly-skilled migrants' exceptionalism?
Masayo Nishida (European University Institute, Florence, Italy)
- 12.10-12.30 Continuity between outward and return migration: rethinking the distinction through British households returning from Singapore
Madeleine Dobson (Royal Holloway University of London, UK)
- 12.30-12.50 India, migration and development from a historical perspective
Jen Dickinson (University of Leicester, UK)
- 12.50-13.10 DISCUSSANT
Rebecca Elmhirst (University of Brighton, UK)

13.10-14.10 **Conference Lunch (Jurys Inn Hotel Restaurant)**

Session 5: Rethinking Migration and the Future

Chair: **Keith Halfacree** (University of Wales Swansea, UK)

- 14.10-14.30 Re-embedding the environment into migration theory
Etienne Piguet (University of Neuchâtel, Switzerland)
- 14.30-14.50 Socio-economic implications of international movements of human resources: a case study of professional Indian immigrants in the U.K.
Atreyi Majumdar (Gargi College, India)
- 14.50-15.10 Migration and ethnicity in contemporary Britain: myths and realities
Gemma Catney, Nissa Finney and Ludi Simpson (Uni. of Manchester, UK)
- 15.10-15.30 The Modifiable Ethnic Unit Problem (MEUP): defining and measuring ethnicity in an identity continuum
Pablo Mateos (University College London, UK)
- 15.30-15.50 Where do you come from? The changing nature of questions about migration in UK Censuses
Oliver Duke-Williams (University of Leeds, UK)
- 15.50-16.10 DISCUSSANT
Ron Skeldon (University of Sussex, UK)

16.10-16.20

Closing Remarks

Darren P. Smith (University of Brighton, UK) and **Russell King** (University of Sussex, UK)

16.20-17.00

Refreshments and poster session

New Research in Migration Studies

Theorising new forms of 'internal' student migration

Joanna Sage (University of Brighton, UK)

Gentrification, pioneer migrants and the 'coast'

Preena Shah (University of Brighton, UK)

Rethorising long-distance family migration in a global-city region

Jenna Truder (University of Brighton, UK)

Theories of non-migration and post-students: 'staying put' or 'moving on'

Amy Tucker (University of Brighton, UK)

(Re)making English market towns: the blurring of the urban/rural distinction

Craig Wheway (University of Leicester, UK)

ABSTRACTS

'Mobility', 'immobility' and internationalisation: A case study of the relationship between internationalisation and mobility in research careers

Louise Ackers
Liverpool University

This paper will explore how people that appear to be immobile by traditional categorisations are moving and experiencing internationalisation - focusing on the short stay end of the continuum - and will consider some of the gender / work life balance issues. The discussion will raise some of the policy implications in the context of mobile careers.

Exploring the migration-mobility nexus

Jytte Agergaard
University of Copenhagen, Denmark

Geographical analyses applying a livelihood approach to development in the global South are increasingly considering the importance of mobility and migration. Migration and mobility are seen as fundamental processes in facilitating income diversification and thereby creating multi-local livelihoods and social networks that add to households' livelihood portfolios. However, the terms migration and mobility are often used interchangeably and are seldom conceptualized distinctively. The main objective of this paper is to explore theoretically, analytically, and methodologically why this is the case and to discuss the advantages and disadvantages of distinguishing between the two concepts. The paper will draw on recent comparative work which analyses changing

Intersectionality and diversity: How gender studies might fertilize the analysis of social inequality among migrants

Hans-Joachim Bürkner

Leibniz Institute for Regional Development and Structural Planning, Germany

The paper deals with the necessity to develop new theoretical insights into community formation and contextual modes of social exclusion/inclusion. It is centred around the idea that adopting selected theoretical ideas about intersectionality and diversity from gender studies might help bridging an essential gap in understanding inclusion/exclusion cycles of migrant groups in West European societies. This gap can be described as a lack of recognizing specific intersectionalities as experienced by migrants. Intersectionality, defined as a summing-up and mutual self-reinforcement of variables of inequality in individuals and groups, tends to be neglected by members of migrant communities as well as by institutions of societal majorities. In a similar way, it has not been envisaged as a major point of analytical interest by migration studies, although there is scattered empirical evidence on the emergence of marginalized sub-groups within migrant communities. In a complementary manner, the idea of diversity, defined as a positive normative value which builds upon the recognition of intersectionality, has not been recognized as a potential trigger for a new analytical understanding of the multi-dimensional, context-related nature of social inequality. Based on a short discussion of prominent types of intersectionality within migrant communities in German cities, suggestions for developing a focused analytical framework are formulated.

Migration and ethnicity in contemporary Britain: myths and realities

Gemma Catney, Nissa Finney and Ludi Simpson
University of Manchester, UK

The ways in which themes of international migration, community cohesion and multiculturalism are perceived and debated in contemporary Britain are, in many ways, a direct product of the consumption of political, media and academic representations of these issues. However, evidence is often ignored or misused, meaning claims can propagate and become 'fact' quickly, without being challenged. This has led to the conception and development of unsubstantiated myths in much contemporary thinking about ethnic diversity. We are told, for example, that Britain is 'Sleepwalking to Segregation', and that both immigration and selective internal migration are leading to a more polarised society. However, is it the case that there is migration to avoid integration? Drawing on the results from a three year project funded by the *Leverhulme Trust* which has suggested greater integration, common migration pathways for all ethnic groups, and no support for self-segregation, this paper will engage with debates about contemporary migration to challenge many of the claims made about diversity and cohesion in Britain.

India, migration and development from a historical perspective

Jen Dickinson
University of Leicester

TBC

Continuity between outward and return migration: Rethinking the distinction through British households returning from Singapore.

Madeleine Dobson
Royal Holloway, University of London, UK

Outward and return migrations are often treated separately in migration research, with the latter generally neglected in favour of the former. This neglect tends to be based on assumptions that return is different from out-migration – specifically, that it is easier or more natural. This paper instead highlights points of continuity between outward and return migration as identified through research on the everyday lives of returned British households. It presents accounts of how both adults and children experience and negotiate return, with a particular focus on their domestic spaces, belongings and practices. Research at this level reveals not just the difference of the return experience but also how migrants create points of continuity across the outward-return dichotomy by transporting elements of ‘home’. This paper therefore suggests that such a distinction can be blurry and that a better understanding of return might enable a productive rethink of its relationship to out-migration.

Where do you come from? The changing nature of questions about migration in UK Censuses

Oliver Duke-Williams
University of Leeds, UK

Questions about migration and nationality have appeared in various forms in British Censuses since 1841, and a variety of new questions are proposed for the 2011 that extend the scope of information that is gathered about migrants, both internal and international. This paper reviews these past and future questions, exploring the changing nature of these questions and the way in which they may be interpreted. How do these questions enforce dichotomous views of migration experiences, and how do they suggest the ways in migrants have (or appear to have been) viewed by the state?

The paper also explores the sorts of data that may be delivered from new questions on migration and mobility, and examines whether the results may offer a shift away from previous binary representations of migration, and permit quantitative analyses that challenge or extend existing theory.

Reinventing internal migration studies in the age of international migration – the US context

Mark Ellis
University of Washington, Seattle, USA

As of 2000, the US housed approximately 35 million foreign-born people. At the same time it contained over 70 million US-born people living outside their state of birth. One could reasonably argue that the impact of these US-born movers on the economies, cultures, politics, and environments of the states and localities in which they now reside is as profound, if not more so, than that of immigrants. Yet internal migration within the US gets only a fraction of the scholarly attention that immigration does when it comes to interest in the impact of population movement. Why is this case? How did it come to be? To understand the vitality of immigration research one has to look beyond numbers to the pressing issues that the rise in cross-border flows has brought to the fore. Labor market competition, ethnic divisions of labor, citizenship rights, multiculturalism, border security, and transnationalism are some of the topics sparked by immigration's rise and which have garnered widespread popular and academic interest. If internal migration research, at least in the US context, is to regain a larger share of the investigative spotlight it must - and I believe it can - show that population movement within the country is as consequential for economic, cultural, environmental, and political transformations as immigration has been and continues to be. This paper suggests a few ways for the study.

Theorising international student mobility

Allan Findlay, Fiona Smith and Alistair Geddes
University of Dundee, UK

Russell King, Ron Skeldon and Mairead Dunne
University of Sussex, UK

This paper theorises the diverse drivers of international student mobility, using the empirical lens of UK students engaging in diploma mobility to the USA, Ireland, Australia, France, Germany and the Czech Republic. The study compares the insights of a human capital model with those of a cultural capital perspective. The paper concludes that in favouring a cultural capital perspective, some researchers are in danger of creating a new binary between human capital and cultural capital models. In place of this false dichotomy the researchers point to the importance of strong evidence-based research as the basis on which to build a sound theorisation of international student mobility.

Mobility, Creativity, and Security: Limits of Migration in the Fast-Lane, Flat World

Adrian Favell
Aarhus University, Denmark

When we think of people to put a face on the most rarefied lifestyles and possibilities of globalisation – or at least the era of rampant globalisation that perhaps ended with the economic crash of 2008 – we often think of architects, art and design professionals, IT innovators, the global cream of the “creative class”. Life for them in the “fast lane”, “flat world”, mythologised by the likes of writers like Thomas Friedman, Richard Florida, or Tyler Brûlé in the FT, is one meant to conform to the frictionless ideals of the perfect global economy: of limitless social and spatial mobility, mobility as creativity, and creativity as the heart of economic development. Drawing on a mix of examples from my studies on international high skilled mobility, intra-EU migrations, and creativity in East Asia, I explore the human and social limitations of these idealised fictions of global mobility, and the kinds of policy logics that are sometimes built on them. I also explore the relationship of mobility and creativity to the very different, but also everpresent, political logic of security, that in the US in particular has cut across these global, free moving dreams. The presentation builds a case for taking seriously the empirical study of movers, and forms of mobility, that are often pigeonholed by sociologists (if less so geographers) as atypical “elite” migration peripheral to the main concerns of scholars of migration and immigration.

Immigrant geographies

Jamie Goodwin-White
University College Dublin, Ireland

Immigrant geographies are increasingly central to the immigrant incorporation literature. New concerns over the movement of non-white immigrants into non-urban areas have been appended to older emphases on the threat to integration posed by continued residence in concentrated immigrant cities. The extension of these settlement concerns to the children of immigrants pointedly implicates problematic racial geography tropes of ghettos and the nation. This paper suggests that these two anxieties are actually both about the potential demographic threat of cities to concerted anti-nationalist imaginings of the static urban spaces of difference – and the failure to theorize spaces as processural instead of as staged stable markers of immigrant progress. As such, it traces historical ideas of immigrants, cities, race, and the nation; attempts to separate the spatial and social components of immigrant incorporation, and argues for more empirical attention to emerging and historic immigrant geographies and critical urban spatiality.

Transnationalism coming home?: rethinking second homes and counterurbanisation in the era of mobility

Keith Halfacree
University of Wales Swansea, UK

TBC

'Close to the King, Close to the Sea': entwining internal and international migration to Albania

Russell King and Julie Vullnetari
University of Sussex, UK

This paper argues for an integration of theoretical and classificatory approaches to the two fields of internal and international migration, hitherto kept practically separate from each other in the burgeoning interdisciplinary arena of migration studies. The first part of the paper will set out some analytical frames for combining internal and international migration, including path diagrams and conceptual cross-fertilisation. The second part will use a Hägerstrand-inspired life-path analysis and a new economics of labour migration framework to exemplify the combination of different types and scales of migration in post-1990 Albania, where the scale and intensity of both emigration (mainly to Greece and Italy) and internal migration (mainly to Tirana) have been of a magnitude not seen elsewhere in Europe. Our analysis demonstrates how closely the two forms of migration are linked, both in the macro-dynamics of regional population change and in individual and family biographies of mobility and survival.

The Modifiable Ethnic Unit Problem (MEUP): defining and measuring ethnicity in an identity continuum

Pablo Mateos
University College London, UK

There has been a surge in population and migration studies research on ethnic minorities over the last decade, partly arising from an increase in the availability and comparability of population statistics by ethnic group, especially following the round of censuses at the turn of the Millennium. Although these efforts have helped to broaden our understandings of today's increasingly multicultural societies, use of such data implies a grasp of far-reaching ontological and epistemological issues.

Delineating the ethnicity of a population sub-group is difficult in both conceptual and measurement terms, because ethnicity remains one of the most contested and unstable research concepts in science. Ethnicity is socially constructed and relates to several dimensions of a person's identity, and as such is inherently contextual and transient. Inappropriate taxonomies of ethnicity can lead to contradictory results, and the outputs of classification are sensitive to the implied "size and extent" of each ethnic group. In this paper we term this the "Modifiable Ethnic Unit Problem" (MEUP), drawing a parallelism with Openshaw's well known "Modifiable Areal Unit Problem (MAUP)", and suggest that this is fundamental to identity politics.

This paper presents a series of illustrative instances of "a-spatial ethnic Gerrymandering", and attempt to summarise its causes and consequences. It then proposes an alternative approach to researching the ontology of ethnicity based on the origin of surnames and forenames. It is argued that this better reflects the complex dimensions of ethnicity and can be more flexibly adapted to the particularity of each study, and as such that it presents a way of better managing the effect of MEUP.

Socio-economic implications of international movements of human resources with special reference to a case study of professional Indian immigrants in the U.K.

Atreyi Majumdar
Gargi College, India

A growing number of people no longer remain in their countries of birth for diverse reasons rendering international migration a global phenomenon involving sending, destination and transit countries and numerous groups of migrants. India's diaspora population around the world is estimated at around some 20 million - the third largest in the world, after China and U.K. There is little doubt that as development accelerates in the era of increasing globalization, migration pressures will intensify in the decades ahead as the fundamental cause of migration is a gap in living standards between one country and another. The increasing movements of human resources across different countries will entail far-reaching socio-economic changes in both the sending and receiving countries, deserving of serious attention at all levels. This paper attempts to assess the impact of people's movement from India to the U.K. on the basis of a small survey of a professionally advanced and well-off section of immigrants of Indian origin settled in the U.K. The survey was based primarily on direct interview entailing considerable interpersonal communication and lasted from January 2001 to December 2001.

The change of environment for the educated and skilled people from India had a dramatic effect on their lives along with that of the two nations. The early Indians in the U.K. were not true immigrants, intending to become permanent settlers in a new homeland but were sojourners, temporary residents in a strange country, planning to return to their homeland when their task was accomplished. The main non-economic outcome of sojourning is a high degree of internal solidarity. The ethnic and regional associations are strong, mutual assistance is widespread (i.e. this does not imply these communities are unified). The other effects pertain to the creation of multi-centered families in place of uni-centered ones, separation between near and dear ones, emergence of parachute kids with concomitant stress and strain and ruination of health as manifested in chronic diseases like diabetes, high blood pressure etc., apart from widespread depression. The creation of isolated pockets of immigrant settlements - 'ethnic enclaves' strongly rooted in the country of origin, has led to social conflict and tension at times. Immigrants' loss of identity and roots has led to a decline in the status of self and spouse.

However, all the respondents agreed that they were economically much better off after migration than before even after remitting sizable money to their families at home. Of the \$166.9 billion migrants' remittances to the developing world in 2005 as per the World Bank estimates, nearly \$22 billion went to India alone, enabling the migrants to retain close links to their homeland and thereby spurring further migration through network formation, while acquiring skills abroad. Although Britain is an old immigration country as far as India is concerned, yet remittances from the former play a vital role in recycling money to the latter till date. However, the results of the survey regrettably revealed that the inflow of foreign exchange at the household level augmented conspicuous consumption and unproductive investment exacerbating migration propensity through demonstration effects of superior consumption pattern on the community as a whole.

The respondents further reported occupational degradation and institutional racism at work. They also harped on the huge cost of relocation in an alien setting - both monetary and psychic. These effects are independent of the other economic effects at the macro-level like outflow of skills from the country of origin resulting in a loss of human capital, gains to the host country in the form of supply of necessary labour at cheap rates and in terms of a change in the demographic structure in favour of a youthful and healthy population (relatively speaking) necessitating lower demographic investment than for an ageing population, emergence of very lucrative, small businesses based on close community co-operation providing advice and finance to the would-be entrepreneurs in 'ethnic enclaves' in an increasingly multi-cultural society etc..

Highly-skilled migrants' exceptionalism?

Masayo Nishida
European University Institute, Florence, Italy

In contemporary society, two diametrically opposite discourses are being shaped concerning immigrants. The foreign-born population is bifurcated into “undesirable” and “desirable,” according to their potential contribution to the interests of the host society. The prospective is often approximated by migrants’ skill levels, and the initial division affects how immigrants are treated subsequently. Low skilled migrants frequently encounter anti-immigrant sentiment at both policy and social levels; highly skilled migrants are generally welcomed. I argue that this bipolarized view is dubious. In prioritizing individual interests, highly skilled migrants are no different from low skilled migrants. Both groups desire the right to live and work at a place of their choice for occupational, economic, or family reasons, and be legally protected by relevant governments. Only highly skilled migrants are largely condoned with their individualistic and transnational demand. Dualism in perception of migrants is a social construction, one that permeates and reinforces inequality.

Re-embedding the environment into migration theory

Etienne Piguet
University of Neuchâtel, Switzerland

From Ravenstein to Lee, all the founding fathers of migration studies have mentioned the natural environment – and most often atmospheric climate – as an important determinant of human migration behaviour. While migration theories gained in coherence and complexity over the third quarter of the 20th century, environmental variables disappeared almost completely from sight in favour of economic and political explanations of displacement. Only in very specific fields of studies such as the economics of amenities and migration, research on retirement migration, and studies on rural-urban migration in developing countries, did the environment retain a certain explanatory power. As a result, one can currently consider that, in most of the disciplines of the social sciences, environmental conditions are not considered as salient determinants of migration decision-making.

The outlook is quite different in environmental sciences, especially since the emergence of climate change studies as a buoyant field of inquiry: many environmentalists take as an – often undemonstrated - article of faith that environmental deterioration and out-migration are fundamentally interrelated. The 1993 forecast by Norman Myers of 150 million environmental refugees by the end of the 21st century was followed by countless estimations in this vein and by the branding of new terminologies such as "environmental migrants", "climate refugees", etc...

The purpose of this paper is not to enter the – now exhausted – debate on these concepts but, first, to describe and try to understand the status of environmental factors in migration theories since Ratzel and Ravenstein and, second, to tentatively explore how environmental factors can be re-embedded in migration theory.

Theorising new forms of 'internal' student migration

Joanna Sage
University of Brighton, UK

The paper seeks to retheorise the internal migration of students in UK cities and towns. It is shown that the traditional student housing life-path is increasingly being contested by students, in favour of alternative forms of residence, and in line with the actions of institutional actors to supply new residential experiences. It is argued that this is giving rise to new geographies of students in British university towns and cities, and changing the way that students act as migrants. The paper draws upon empirical material from a case study of studentification in Brighton and Hove, UK, to connect with new theoretical ideas of migration processes, mobility and lifestyle formation.

Transnational methods: critical global ethnographies of migration

Rachel Silvey
University of Toronto, Canada

In recent decades, as scholars of migration have become increasingly focused on the growth of transnational and women's migration, our methodological toolkits have expanded. Specifically, in this paper I will focus on three methodological transitions that I view as particularly crucial for continuing work in migration studies: i) multi-sited global studies that span the work and homes lives of migrants in host and home countries as well as the spaces in-between (e.g., airports, immigration counters/offices, embassies, labor training centers and agencies, transport vehicles and bus stations in transit to and from airports, crisis centers, government and NGO support and training centers at home and abroad); ii) critical ethnographic methods that include multi-scale analytical attention to the political-economic and geo-historical contexts of particular "cultures" of migration; iii) approaches to migrant identities that refuse simple binaries of exploitation vs. empowerment, and instead examine the trade-offs, negotiations, and normativities around gendered power that are struggled over in relation to women's increasing transnational mobility. In this paper, I illustrate each of these methodological approaches with examples drawn from current work on transnational migration.

Rethorising 'space' in family migration

Darren P. Smith
University of Brighton, UK

This paper emphasises the need for scholars of family migration to retheorise the way that 'space' and the 'family' is in the migration processes. It is argued that studies of family migration have tended to overlook the importance of familial and spatial differentials in understanding the diverse outcomes of family migration. This is particularly important in light of the profound changing societal contexts tied the residential relocation and redistribution of families, and connected to processes of reurbanisation, counterurbanisation, exurbanisation and gentrification. It is also argued that there is a pressing need to extend the narrow lens which has been focussed on partnered families and to consider 'other' types of family that are engaged in contemporary processes of family migration.

Eritreans in cyberspace: mapping inter-diaspora connections

Emma Stewart
University of Strathclyde, UK

Recent accounts of international migration have been enriched by the concepts of transnationalism and diaspora, by challenging the notion of spatial fixity as well as temporal permanence. Nevertheless, with a few exceptions, empirical research has tended to be delineated along traditional binary divisions. In the study of diaspora, for example, case studies have focused upon specific groups in exile or examined links to the home country. What is missing from these accounts is an appreciation of the wider social fields in which migrants engage. Drawing upon the responses of over 500 Eritreans to an online survey the paper aims to map the diverse geographical inter-connections maintained between the diaspora, beyond the locus of the home/host context. The discussion uncovers the diverse and multiple international networks maintained by the diaspora. It is therefore suggested that investigations of diaspora populations should continue to move beyond the origin and destination

Rethorising long-distance family migration in a global-city region

Jenna Truder
University of Brighton, UK

Theories of long-distance family migration have tended to emphasise the positive returns to movements of the family. Migration is often viewed as being motivated by the benefits associated with moving for new employment or career opportunities. In this paper, I challenge these theoretical assumptions by drawing upon empirical findings from a study of family migration into Old Town in Hastings, South-east of England. It is shown that a social grouping of DFLs (Down From London) are moving into the case study area in conjunction with aspirations to downsize, and acquire new employment practices and work-life balances. Central to such decision-making processes are intentional quests for different expressions of 'loss' in both economic and cultural terms. The findings suggest that dominant theoretical understandings of family migration may need to be rethought in light of changing societal practices.

Theories of non-migration and post-students: 'staying put' and 'moving on'

Amy Tucker
University of Brighton, UK

Cooke (2008) recently argues that limited previous research 'has focused on the decision not to move', and calls for more research to accurately identify 'tied migrants' and 'tied stayers' (see also Little and Hisnanick, 2007; Swain and Garasky, 2007). Indeed, theories of non-migration are not well developed in scholarship on mobility and population change (for exceptions see Hammar *et al.*, 1997; Fischer *et al.*, 2000). This paper examines a social grouping that is increasingly 'staying-put' in many university towns and cities of the UK, namely 'university graduates' (post-students). It is argued that theories of non-migrant graduates need to more fully embrace the social and cultural factors (intentionality) that encourage non-migration, as well as the economic factors which are often over-privileged in political and policy discourses. It is asserted that there is also significant merit in theorising the impacts of post-students on wider urban changes, such as community cohesion, local housing markets and labour markets.

Migration, risk and uncertainty: theoretical perspectives

Allan Williams
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Risk and uncertainty are prevalent in discourses relating to migration. Migration is seen as informed by risk and uncertainty, and to generate or ameliorate risks and uncertainty, whether for migrants, non-migrants in the sending communities, or populations in destination countries. Risk and uncertainty are pervasive, although to different degrees, in all forms of migration – whether as refugees, asylum seeking, regular or irregular migration – and at different stages of the migration cycle. Yet, there is little *explicit* theorisation of risk in migration studies, a research gap that is addressed in this paper.

First, we explore the distinction between uncertainty and risk. Then we examine how risk has been theorised in a number of disciplines, including economics, psychology and sociology. These theories are differentiated in several ways, but especially in terms of the extent to which they understand risks and uncertainty to be real or socially constructed, and also whether they stress individualism or collectivism. Arguably, a coherent theory of risk provides a basis for a more unified approach to the fragmented field of migration research.

Adaptation and assimilation: an examination of rural-urban migrants in Wuhan, China

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Research on the subject of adaptation and assimilation primarily focuses on the experiences of international migrants. Such attention is significantly lacking for internal migrants. Since the 1980s, rural-urban labour migration has given rise to large and sustained population flows across China; however, the dichotomy of urban and rural societies have put rural migrants at a significant institutional, economic, and social disadvantage in cities. In addition, rural migrants often have to face both linguistic and cultural barriers in their destination cities. How do rural migrants adapt themselves to city life? What are the key factors contributing to their adaptation and assimilation process in a completely new environment? These are the major research questions this paper seeks to answer based on a survey conducted in Wuhan, China in 2008. Conceptually, this study hopes to extend theories of assimilation in migration research.

(Re)making English market towns: the blurring of the urban/rural distinction

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English market towns are places that are being promoted as niche places to live within rural England (Powe and Gunn, 2008; Richardson and Powe, 2004). Contemporary migration within these settlements is reflected by complex, individual decision-making. On one hand, migration to market towns appears to be based on easy access to road communications, on the other, family and unplanned moves were relatively common during fieldwork in three English market towns. The paper focuses on experiences of those moving to market towns and rather than utilising binary categories to describe migration into English market towns. In order to achieve this, I describe a fieldwork programme undertaken within Leicestershire, Northamptonshire and Norfolk, detailing the experience of investigating rural gentrification. I consider the case towns to be 'hybrid' in character. The extent a town could be considered 'hybrid' was dependant upon the morphology, remote either rural or urban. Hybridity was considered through the lens of lifecourse, an approach that attempts to disrupt outdated age categories that once formed the basis of social order and stratification (Hunt, 2005).

Children and migration: challenging the adult-centrism of migration studies

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Theoretical understandings of migration are frequently dominated by adult-centric discourses which tend to invisibilise children's roles. This means that the experiences of migrant children and youth are overlooked, resulting in partial understandings of migration processes, migration decision-making and migrants' experiences. We argue in this paper that inherent assumptions about the nature of childhood intersect with hegemonic concepts of migration to construct migrant children in particular ways, which results in inadequate, partial and fragmented conceptualisations of children who migrate. Migration either is assumed to be something that adults do or, if it does involve children, is regarded to be inherently problematic and to be important first and foremost within the context of adulthood. We argue here, drawing partly on developments in social studies of childhood, for a re-theorisation of migration towards more children-centred conceptualisations and a recognition of the diversity and complexity of migration flows.

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