

From the Director



This will be my last Director's note (I'll be retiring in September), so this is an opportunity to thank all who have helped to lighten my load. In my first draft of this note I began listing everyone, but having reached 26 people at Queen Elizabeth House, the Oxford

Martin School and IMI, I decided it would be invidious to name names, especially if I managed inadvertently to forget someone. However, I cannot resist mentioning Briony Truscott, who is the stalwart of IMI's administration. She is admirably calm under pressure and is the guardian of our institutional memory, while deftly juggling our complex flow of finances.

It is also fitting to welcome warmly our incoming leadership, Hein de Haas and Oliver Bakewell, who have bravely agreed to shoulder the task of co-directing the Institute, even though they have to combine the task with considerable research and teaching responsibilities. Drs de Haas and Bakewell are well known as migration scholars and they will bring youthful energy and fresh ideas to our evolving programme.

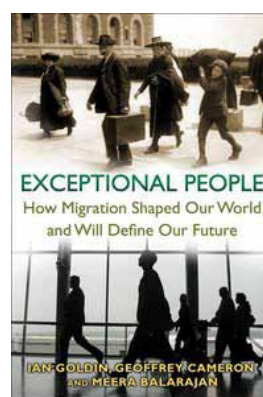
I'll be continuing my responsibilities as Principal Investigator on the Oxford Diasporas Programme, a University-wide programme led by IMI, but I'm also looking forward to some more leisure – travelling, playing with grandchildren and going to all those lectures and exhibitions I failed to get to before. I shall look back on my period at IMI with fondness and a modest sense of achievement.

Robin Cohen

New Publications by IMI Staff

- The International Migration Institute has joined with Edward Elgar Publishing to produce several research collection volumes. Two will be out in 2012: *Migration and Culture*, edited by Robin Cohen and Gunvor Jonsson, and *Migration and Global Governance*, edited by Alan Gamlen and Katharine Marsh. Designed for the library market, these retail at £260 and £240 respectively, but IMI Newsletter readers are entitled to a 20% discount. Email sales@e-elgar.co.uk.
- There have been 12 new papers published in the IMI Working Papers series since the last newsletter. Six of these form the first substantial outputs of one of our research projects, the Determinants of International Migration (DEMIG). They look at the effectiveness and effects of immigration and emigration policies as well as the role of relative deprivation in global migration.
- IMI Senior Researcher Oliver Bakewell has written a book chapter entitled 'Migration and Development in Sub-Saharan Africa'. The book, published by Lynne Rienner, is titled *Migration in the Global Political Economy*. It is edited by Nicola Phillips, Professor of Political Economy at the University of Manchester.

Exceptional People



IMI is a member of the Oxford Martin School. The School's Director, Ian Goldin, has written a book published by Princeton University Press: *Exceptional People: How Migration Shaped Our World and Will Define Our Future*. IMI Research Associate Alan Gamlen, Director Robin Cohen and Associate Director Stephen Castles assisted in the preparation of the book.

Throughout history, migrants have fueled the engine of human progress. Their movement has sparked innovation, spread ideas, relieved poverty, and laid the foundations for a global economy. In a world more interconnected than ever before, the number of people with the means and motivation to migrate will only increase. *Exceptional People* looks at the profound advantages that such dynamics will have for countries and migrants the world over. Challenging the received wisdom that a dramatic growth in migration is undesirable, the book proposes new approaches for governance that will embrace this international mobility.

<http://press.princeton.edu/titles/9301.html>

Social Theory and Migration Workshop

On 28 April 2011 IMI organised a workshop to stimulate new conversations between researchers working in the field of migration studies and those specialising in social theory. A full workshop report will be published shortly.

Session one comprised a general overview of critical realism and post-positivist social science based on a paper by Justin Cruickshank. Session two examined the application of post-positivist theory to the study of migration. Ewa Morawska described her own 'neo-structuration' model. Session three focused on the implications of adopting critical realism for the conduct of research. Theodore Iwsifidis examined the applicability of critically realist oriented qualitative methodologies in migration studies.

A number of themes recurred throughout the day, including emergence, social becoming, systems, agency, micro and macro level analysis, and causality.

There was considerable enthusiasm for developing post-positivist approaches which could be applied to migration research. However, there was no consensus that critical realism yet provided a theoretically and methodologically robust approach.

The next step is to explore how we can apply post-positivist theoretical approaches in more concrete migration studies. We are considering focusing on migration systems at a second workshop in spring 2012.

Oxford Diasporas Research

The Oxford Diasporas Programme (ODP) was launched with a special lecture and drinks on 1 June attended by over 100 people.

Robin Cohen introduced the key speaker, Professor Khachig Tölölyan from Wesleyan University. Professor Tölölyan is founding editor of the 20-year-old journal *Diaspora*. His own experience as the child of Armenian refugees from Turkey attracted him to the study of diasporas. He spoke on 'Diaspora Studies: Past, Present and Promise', exploring the contradictions and complexities of three 'formative binaries' – between dispersion and diaspora, the subjective and objective aspects of the diasporic experience, and the differences between home and homeland. Tölölyan also gave a seminar on 'Diasporas and Security Issues' as part of the IMI Seminar Series.

The first working paper associated with the programme ('Creating and Destroying Diaspora Strategies', by Alan Gamlen) is now out, in the IMI Working Paper Series.

You will also find the first multimedia items on the ODP website (www.migration.ox.ac.uk/odp/multimedia.shtml), including audio files from a workshop on Refugees' Diasporic Memories, and video interviews with researchers working on the programme.



Using Scenarios in Academic Research



Arnoldo Matus Kramer explaining his use of the scenario methodology to study adaptations to climate change

The International Migration Institute's Global Migration Futures (GMF) team organized a panel event in May that brought together scholars across the University of Oxford who are employing futures methodologies in their academic research.

Futures (and in particular scenario) methodologies allow researchers to develop imaginative and compelling insights about future global challenges and effective policy responses.

Trudi Lang (Institute for Science, Innovation and Society) spoke about how organizations have used scenarios to create knowledge communities; Arnoldo Matus Kramer (Environmental Change Institute) discussed his use of scenarios to learn about a Mexican community's ability to adapt to climate change; and IMI's Hein de Haas explained how the GMF project has used scenarios to look at future international migration. The panel was chaired by Line Bonneau from the Institute for Science, Innovation and Society. James Martin, founder of the Oxford Martin School, gave the opening and concluding remarks. Podcasts and presentations from the event are now available on our website.

<http://www.imi.ox.ac.uk/events/using-scenarios-in-academic-research-to-study-the-future>

Economic Change, Social Challenge

In April 2011, the NORFACE Research Programme on Migration and the Centre for Research and Analysis of Migration (CREAM) at University College London organised an interdisciplinary conference on migration. NORFACE - New Opportunities for Research Funding Agency Co-operation in Europe - is a partnership between fourteen research councils to increase co-operation in research and research policy in Europe. NORFACE funds IMI's THEMIS project (Theorizing the Evolution of European Migration Systems).

IMI was well represented at the April conference. Robin Cohen spoke about the experience and challenges of qualitative, comparative and multi-sited data collection in relation to the THEMIS project. Hein de Haas and Mathias Czaika presented some of the work from IMI's DEMIG project (the Determinants of International Migration) on the role of internal relative deprivation in global migration. In a session on migration flows, Agnieszka Kubal, Hein de Haas and Oliver Bakewell gave a presentation on 'Migration systems, pioneers and the role of agency'. Finally, Thomas Lacroix spoke on Integration, transnationalism and development in a French-North African context.

North Africa in Transition

The 'Arab Spring' with its revolutions and subsequent crises has sparked much debate at the International Migration Institute. We have been thinking about how political change in North Africa and the Middle East is influencing different forms of migration and mobility. We have found that, contrary to European media reports perpetuating the 'myth of invasion', there has not been a major increase in migration from North Africa to Europe in response to the popular uprisings, and most people fleeing the conflict have returned home or stayed in the region.

To further explore these issues, we joined the Refugee Studies Centre on 6 May 2011 to host a workshop for academics, practitioners and policy makers, focusing on 'North Africa in Transition'. Participants reflected on the need to distinguish which patterns of mobility precede, are transformed by, or are a result of these recent uprisings. Discussion also covered the blurring of migration categories and the implications for refugee protection, as well as the role of the recent unrest in forcing people to remain or become involuntarily immobile.

Particularly in Libya, the dramatic unfolding of events has uprooted people and compelled them to return home, turned existing migrants into refugees, and constrained the movement of other populations – sub-Saharan migrants in particular – for whom mobility has traditionally been a key strategy for improving their lives. The final issue to emerge during the workshop was xenophobia and racism, in particular in North Africa towards sub-Saharan migrants, and in Europe towards North and sub-Saharan African migrants.

Given this context of social and political change sweeping across the Arab world, it was exciting for IMI's Global Migration Futures team to plan its second stakeholders' workshop in the stimulating environment of the city of Cairo. Just a week after the 'North Africa in Transition' workshop in

Oxford, the team flew to Egypt to discuss the future of global migration with individuals from civil society, government, international organizations, academic and business backgrounds. The workshop was held in partnership with The Hague Process on Refugees and Migration and hosted by the Center for Migration and Refugee Studies at the American University in Cairo.

Building on the first stakeholders' workshop in The Hague last year, in Cairo participants refined four 'scenarios' describing future international migration in Europe and North Africa. Participants also discussed major factors likely to affect future patterns of mobility including technological change, the rise of new economic powers, demographic shifts, environmental change and xenophobia. In September 2011, the Global Migration Futures team is holding a workshop to examine in greater detail the implications of each of these key future issues for international migration.

- For abstracts and a full report of the 'North Africa in Transition' workshop, visit our website: www.imi.ox.ac.uk/events/north-africa-in-transition-mobility-forced-migration-and-humanitarian-crises
- For further information about IMI's Global Migration Futures Project, visit: www.imi.ox.ac.uk/research-projects/global-migration-futures-1
- For personal commentary from Senior Research Officer Hein de Haas on North African issues, visit his blog: <http://heindehaas.blogspot.com/>



The Global Migration Futures team with some of its stakeholders in Tahrir Square, Cairo, during a demonstration in favour of religious unity.

Congratulations

IMI would like to congratulate the first class of the new MSc in Migration Studies (2010-11): Saba Ahmed, Grant Budding, Suzana Carp, Shevy Corzen, Beryl Delaney, Eliza Galos, Bhoomika Joshi, Jee Lim, Caitilin McMillan, Aleksandra Radyuk, and Travis Wentworth.

The students have distinguished themselves by their valuable contributions to a wide range of challenging courses and tutorials and their intellectual engagement at seminars and other events in the Migration Oxford community. We have learned a great deal from their presence here this academic year, and wish them all the best in their future endeavours.



Staff news

Sadly Gunvor Jónsson is leaving IMI in September, but for the good reason that she has got a place and a scholarship to do her PhD at the School of Oriental and African Studies (SOAS) in London. She will have a chance to work on the country she has got to know and love, Mali, with one of the leading scholars in the field. We will still see her in Oxford from time to time too as she will largely be resident here. We offer our congratulations and good wishes.

Congratulations too to Agnieszka Kubal, who has been promoted to Research Officer.

It is with much regret we say goodbye to Thomas Lacroix, who is moving back to France. He has been appointed to a prestigious Centre National de la Recherche Scientifique research position at Migrinter (University of Poitiers), where he will start a new project on the relationships between transnationalism and integration. His work will focus on Moroccan, Vietnamese and Spanish migrants in France. We will be finding ways in which Thomas will continue to collaborate with IMI in the future.

Publication Details

This newsletter is a product of the International Migration Institute of the University of Oxford, UK. IMI is part of the Oxford Department of International Development (ODID), and a member of the Oxford Martin School.

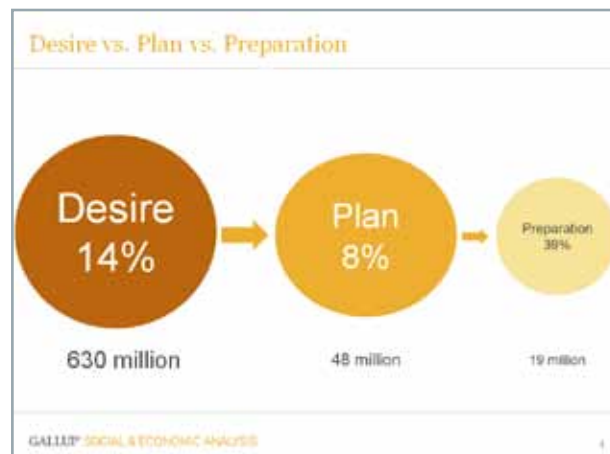
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The World's Potential Migrants



In June Neli Espiova and Andrew Rzepa from the polling organization Gallup visited IMI. They presented data from the three most recent waves of the annual Gallup World Poll. Since 2006 the World Poll has included a section on migration aspirations and intentions that is asked in 148 countries. The World Poll data showed that even though an estimated 14% of the world's population (i.e. 630 million people) would like to move to another country, only 8% of these plan to migrate within the next 12 months and only 3.12% (i.e. 19 million people) have started making preparations such as applying for a visa.

The gap between desire and preparation for migration is particularly pronounced among people with no more than elementary education (only 2.5% of those who desire to migrate have made preparations). People who are employed at their level least desire to migrate; however, those who do desire to leave are more likely to have made preparations than people who are not working or who are underemployed. These results can help us understand the gap between migration aspirations and actual migration.

See Gallup White Paper: www.imi.ox.ac.uk/pdfs/the-worlds-potential-migrants

Keeping in Touch



Don't forget that IMI has a Facebook page and a Twitter presence; if this is your thing, why not keep up to date through one of these social media channels?



<http://www.facebook.com/pages/International-Migration-Institute/187648027939712>

<http://twitter.com/#!/IntMigInstitute>

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