

DEMIG Conference

# DETERMINANTS of INTERNATIONAL MIGRATION

23–25 September 2014 | Wolfson College, University of Oxford

Key note speakers include

Stephen Castles  
(University of Sydney)

Filiz Garip  
(Harvard University)

Douglas Massey  
(Princeton University)

Ronald Skeldon  
(University of Sussex)

## CALL FOR PAPERS

What are the different factors that shape migration patterns across the world and how do they interact with each other? How do changing levels of socio-economic development affect shifting migration practices and directions? Do migration policies have a significant impact on people's migration decisions – or are trade, labour market or welfare policies in origin and destination countries more important? What theoretical approaches can help us to make sense of this complex array of determinants operating across different social, spatial and temporal scales?

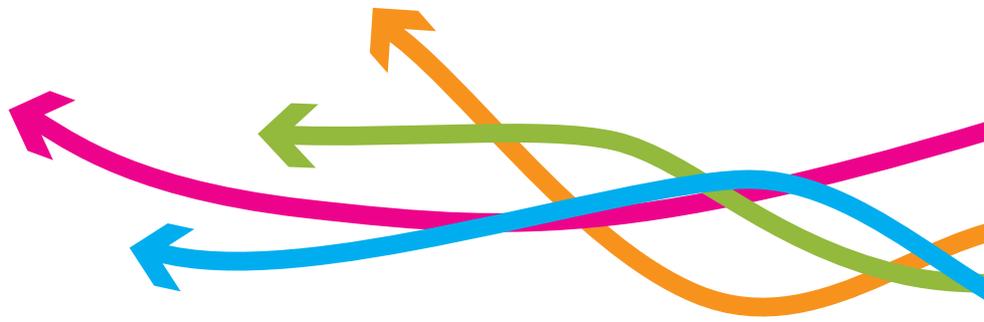
The aim of this interdisciplinary conference organised by the International Migration Institute (IMI) is to advance evidence-based and theoretical understanding of such determinants of migration processes. While there is a plethora of research on the social, cultural and economic impacts of migration, research on the determinants of migration has remained relatively under-researched and under-theorized. Although there is consensus that various contextual factors in origin and destination countries, policies and social networks all play some role in driving migration, there are conflicting views on their effects, relative importance and interaction.

In the absence of any general theory of migration that can tie together all these different elements, significant progress can be achieved by integrating theoretical insights from different disciplines and fields of empirical research that specialise on particular themes and migrant categories. To advance this agenda, this conference aims to bring together migration scholars to discuss theoretical and empirical avenues for advancing the understanding of the drivers of migration processes.

We invite contributions investigating the determinants of migration, and particularly those on:

- 1 The role of development in migration processes.** How do economic and demographic transitions, as well as human development in origin and destination countries, affect patterns of immigration and emigration? Is Zelinsky's (1971) model of the 'mobility transition' still useful for explaining contemporary and future migration? How do processes of development and social transformation affect people's aspirations and capabilities and their decisions in terms of whether, when, how, where and for how long to migrate?
- 2 The role of states and policies in migration processes.** How do states and their migration and non-migration (e.g., trade, labour market, welfare) policies in origin and destination countries affect the size, timing, duration, direction and composition of international migration? Are borders largely 'beyond control' or are migration policies relatively effective? How large is the effect of policies when taking into account other migration determinants?
- 3 Migration theories.** Advancing migration theory is essential in building a shared body of generalised knowledge that can also serve as a guide for further research. How can different theories on the causes of migration be combined? To what extent do their conflicting underlying assumptions present an obstacle to such integration? How can we better connect migration theory to general theories of social change and development?





## Submissions

We welcome theoretical and empirical (both quantitative and qualitative) contributions. Empirical papers should have clearly stated theoretical aims and research questions, thereby explicitly serving to make a broader conceptual argument. We particularly encourage submissions on origin country determinants, and interdisciplinary papers that go beyond traditional conceptual and empirical divides between scientific disciplines. We also welcome papers covering overarching issues that straddle the themes.

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Abstracts of up to 300 words maximum to be submitted by **15 February 2014**

Notification of acceptance to be made by **1 April 2014**

Submission of full papers in English required by **18 July 2014**

Submissions should be sent to [demig@qeh.ox.ac.uk](mailto:demig@qeh.ox.ac.uk)

For further information about the conference, registration and funding, please visit [www.imi.ox.ac.uk/projects/demig/2014-conference](http://www.imi.ox.ac.uk/projects/demig/2014-conference)

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## The DEMIG project

This conference is organised as the culmination of the DEMIG project – The Determinants of International Migration: A Theoretical and Empirical Assessment of Policy, Origin and Destination Effects. This five year project (2010–2014) aims to generate new theoretical and empirical insights into the way states and policies shape migration processes in their interaction with other migration determinants in sending and receiving countries. Empirical analyses are conducted on the basis of large-scale databases on country-to-country migration flows (DEMIG C2C), total in- and outflows (DEMIG TOTAL), migration policies (DEMIG POLICY), and travel visa requirements (DEMIG VISA) compiled by the project team.

For more details see [www.migrationdeterminants.eu](http://www.migrationdeterminants.eu)

## Funders

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