

DIRECTOR'S NOTE

Welcome to this first Migration DRC newsletter, a biannual review of news and information about the activities of the Migration DRC and its partner institutes. This is an exciting time for the DRC, with our research plan approved by DFID, and the first projects now starting to get off the ground.

As we are right at the start of our work, this first edition of the newsletter concentrates on forthcoming events and initiatives that are running alongside the work of the DRC. However, starting with the next issue, we hope the newsletter will develop into a forum for all our partners to share their research experiences and achievements. We look forward to receiving your contributions!

Richard Black

NEW RESEARCH INITIATIVES

IMISCOE

IMISCOE (International Migration, Integration and Social Cohesion in Europe) is an EU Network of Excellence, funded under Framework Six to the tune of 4.5 million euros. IMISCOE is one of only three networks selected for Social Science and funded during the first round. It is coordinated by the Institute for Migration and Ethnic Studies (IMES) at the University of Amsterdam, and includes 19 European partners.

The Sussex Centre for Migration Research (SCMR) is one of the largest IMISCOE partners, and will be responsible for coordinating work in two clusters, on 'causes and consequences: migration and development' (Richard Black) and 'Gender, age and generations' (Russell King). DRC partners interested in becoming involved should contact Richard or Russell.

More information will soon become available on the IMISCOE website, which is undergoing rapid expansion (<http://www.imiscoe.org/>).

- How coherent is UK and EU migration policy with policy on other development-related matters and how might a more holistic and longer-term approach to migration be beneficial to the UK and its development partners?

Written submissions and oral evidence have been collected from a number of public bodies, organisations and academics, and are available on the web at: <http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm/cmintdev.htm#reports>.

The Committee will hold its final evidence session in late April, and a report is expected in the summer.

WORLD SOCIAL FORUM

Dr Lyla Mehta attended the World Social Forum in Mumbai earlier this year from 16-21 January. She described it as a lively event, bringing together disparate worlds – the rural and urban, the rich and poor, the educated and illiterate. The voices of the poor and dispossessed got a hearing, alongside the voices of well-known activists, academics and students. A number of sessions were dedicated to issues around forced displacement, and speakers included Medha Patkar and Walden Bello. Lyla attended several sessions around the broad theme of water, an abiding interest with her. For details on the meeting see <http://www.wsfindia.org/anotherworld.php>

CONFERENCES/EVENTS

HOUSE OF COMMONS ENQUIRY ON MIGRATION

Since November 2003, Richard Black has been acting as Special Advisor to an inquiry on 'Migration and Development' being undertaken by the International Development Committee (IDC) of the UK House of Commons. The inquiry is focusing on three key questions:

- What is the nature of the relationship between migration and development (specifically, poverty reduction), and what determines the nature of this relationship?
- What can and should the UK and its partners in international development do to maximise the benefits and minimise the risks and costs of migration for poor people, developing and transition countries?

GLOBAL COMMISSION ON INTERNATIONAL MIGRATION

Prof Ron Skeldon attended the meeting of experts of the Global Commission on International Migration in Geneva over 20-21 January 2004. The principle objective of this meeting was to identify the main issues in migration to be addressed by the commission during its 18-month tenure. The experts attending the meeting included representatives of international organisations or commissions such as the European Commission, academics and members of independent think tanks.

The key issues discussed included labour migration, border management, human security of migrants and refugees, migration and development, migrant integration and adaptation, public information and education and international governance

and migration. For further details see: http://portal.unesco.org/shs/en/ev.php@URL_ID=3580&URL_DO=DO_TOPIC&URL_SECTION=201.html

DRC PEOPLE

Only a few months into our work, and we already have staff news to report. First, the good news: it is with great pleasure that we welcome on board our team in Sussex Adriana Castaldo as Research Officer.

Adriana will be working with Rachel Sabates-Wheeler, Barry Reilly and Julie Litchfield on the project on poverty, vulnerability and migration choice. She has a PhD in Applied Mathematics from the Naples in Italy. With a view to applying her technical skills to social concerns, she has since done a Master's in Economics and Econometrics from the University of Southampton in the UK. She joins us on May 4.

However, it is with some sadness that we also have to report a departure: Richmond Tiemoko is moving on to a new post as Director of the African Regional Sexuality Resource Centre (SRSRC) at Action Health Incorporated in Lagos, Nigeria, from 1 May 2004. Richmond has been at SCMR for three years, during which time he has worked on projects on return to West Africa and of refugees from the UK. He has also co-authored an exploratory paper on the possibility of a longitudinal survey of immigrants in the UK. We recognise that this is a great opportunity for Richmond, and wish him and his family all the best in their new home.

Stephen Kwankye of the Regional Institute for Population Studies (RIPS), Ghana, was recently awarded his doctoral degree in Population Studies from the University of Ghana. His thesis was titled 'Female Adolescent Sexuality, Contraceptive Use and Reproductive Health in the Central Region: A Case Study of Cape Coast and Mankrong'.

UPCOMING DRC EVENTS

Proposed Workshop on Temporary Worker Schemes in the UK and their Impacts on Pro-Poor Policy

June 2004, University of Sussex, Brighton, UK

Historically, there has been much scepticism about temporary worker schemes with concerns that they effectively create a 'reserve army of labour' in which the social costs of education and welfare are displaced to developing countries. Meanwhile, measures to ensure the return of workers at the end of temporary contracts are seen by some as contrary to principles of human rights. However, the balance of costs and benefits is not clear cut, with significant flows of remittances and the potential for positive impacts on human capital formation and trade holding out hope that the net balance for developing countries could be favourable.

In this context, a one-day workshop is proposed to ask what have been the impacts (or, what are the likely impacts) of UK temporary worker schemes for developing countries. It will focus on low-skill recruitment in particular (for agriculture, food processing, hotel and catering and the care sector), and ask what adjustments to existing schemes could be recommended that would enhance outcomes for developing countries, and specifically for the poor. The workshop will also explore whether temporary worker schemes can be

extended to new countries or sectors in a way that could be designed at the outset to benefit sending countries (and especially the poor) as well as the UK.

Workshop on Sustainable Return in Albania

September 2004, Korçë, Albania

In 2002, a pilot study in Bosnia and Kosovo explored the sustainability of return migration of refugees and asylum-seekers based on a small, non-representative sample survey of returnees.

Building on this study, this workshop will bring together researchers and policy-makers working on the Balkans and elsewhere in Central and Eastern Europe to consider in more depth the sustainability of return of refugees and failed asylum-seekers in this region, and the applicability of the findings of the pilot study. In particular, the workshop will represent a vehicle for stimulating discussion between SCMR and regional fora over differing conceptualisations of the sustainability of return, and aim to identify appropriate existing surveys through which return to Albania and other states in the region can be monitored over time.

The workshop precedes the Second International Conference on Albanian Migrations, to be held in Korce in southern Albania on 16-17 September 2004. This workshop is hosted by CESS, and builds on a previous conference held in Sussex in September 2002. All are welcome!

RECENT PUBLICATIONS

Rogaly, Ben and Abdur Rafique, 2003, 'Struggling to Save Cash: Seasonal Migration and Vulnerability in West Bengal, India'. *Development and Change* 34 (4): 659-681.

Rogaly, Ben, Daniel Coppard, Kumar Rana, Abdur Rafique, Amrita Sengupta and Jhuma Biswas, 2003, 'Seasonal Migration, Employer-Worker Interactions, and Shifting Ethnic Identities in Contemporary West Bengal'. *Contributions to Indian Sociology* 37 (1 and 2): 281-310.

WHAT'S NEW?

The Migration DRC has a brand new website (<http://www.migrationdrc.org>). Work on the website was handled by Metadesignworks Ltd, with Henrik Hilker designing the pages and Lyndsay Maclean-Hilker writing content. Do write and tell us if you would like to see anything added to the website, be it migration-related news, links to relevant sites, or upcoming conferences or events.

The DRC is developing a training plan, with the assistance of Richard Kemp and Ajay Barai at a private consultancy called Aspiral Learning. The plan is to be tabled at the partnership meeting over April 5 and 6 at Sussex, and once finalised, will be available on the DRC Migration website.

The South Asian Migration Resource Network, which was established in 1999, is now launching its website, with financial support from DFID. Watch this space for more information.