PSC 431.01: Politics of Global Migration

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Course Description

The elective and forced migration of peoples within countries and across national boundaries will constitute one of the fundamental challenges of transnational relations and domestic politics in the 21st Century. In preparation for these challenges, this course explores recent and contemporary population movements from a multidisciplinary perspective. Geographical coverage will include Asia, North and Central America, Africa, and Europe. Attention will be devoted to policy issues surrounding economic and political migration; i.e., the relationship between state policy as a factor promoting or inhibiting migration, immigration, emigration, adaptation, and transmigration as well as the impact of population movements on public-policy making, health and development, and values in receiving and sending countries.

Course Objectives

Students should develop awareness of global migration patterns, pressures, processes, and implications; understanding of how population movements are related to the emergence of a world mobility system that involves intensified competition for skills and an expanding flow of people across national boundaries in ways that challenge the geopolitical framework of nation states; familiarity with the arguments and issues behind current debates and conflicts over migration policies and policies that impact migration; and individual and group analytical and problem-solving skills.

Course Conduct

Class sessions will be conducted in seminar format, with emphasis on student presentations, questions, and involvement based upon the assigned reading about the topic under discussion.

Course Requirements and Assessment

Mid-term examination or 3-page film review: 20%
Team Debates (2): 20%
Partner project 1: 20% (includes 5-page written report)
Partner project 2: 20% (includes 5-page written report)
Class participation: 20%

Required Reading

Course Pac available at UC Bookstore
Course Outline and Reading Assignments

28 Jan  I. Introduction

30 Jan-1 Feb  II. International Population Movements: An Overview

* N. Wade, “Genes Tell New Story on the Spread of Man” (1999);
  “New Weight for View Africa Was Human Cradle” (2000)
* Angier, “Man vs. Woman: In History’s Travel Olympics, There’s No
  Contest”
* United Nations, International Migration and Development: The
  Concise Report, pp. 41-44
* P. Koehn, “Introduction to Contemporary Cross-National Population
  Movements” pp. 1-9, 15-19

4-8 Feb  III. Migration Theory

* M. Weiner, “On International Migration and International Relations”
  for Understanding Migration” (1999)

IV. Economic Migration

11-20 Feb.  A. Rural-urban issues (Lucia video – 90 min.)

* N. Shrestha, “Institutional Policies and Migration Behavior”
* L. Wong, “China’s Urban Migrants – The Public Policy Challenge”
  (1994)
* “Migrant Labor: At the Flocrum of Social Change” (1997)
  Chinese” (1999)
* E. Rosenthal, “Harsh Chinese Reality Feeds a Black Market in
  Women” (2001)
22 Feb  B. *Environmental “refugees”*

* A. Suhrke, “Environmental Degradation and Population Flows” (’94)
* E. Eckholm, “China Shifts on How to Resettle Million People for Giant Dam” (1999)

25 Feb  C. *South-North movement (Desounen video)*


27 Feb  D. *Professional/skill migration*

* T. Oommen, “India: ‘Brain Drain’ or the Migration of Talent?”
* A. Myerson, “With Techies Logged on Abroad” (1998)
* L. Alvarez, “Congress Backs Big Increase in Visas for Skilled Workers” (2000)

4 March  E. *Transnational networks and circular migration*

* A. Findlay, “Skilled Transients: The Invisible Phenomenon?”

6 March  F. *Globalization and Global cities*

* R. Skeldon, “Of Migration, Great Cities, and Markets”
* S. Sassen-Koob, “Notes on the Incorporation of Third-World Women into Wage Labor Through Immigration and Off-Shore Production” pp. 143-161
* *Bread & Roses (film)*
8-13 March  G. Gender and family issues

*Sisters and Daughters Betrayed (video, VT09831)
*M. McConahay, “The Baby Trade” (1990)
*S. Sengupta, “Sending Babies to China” (1999)
*P. Hondagneu-Sotelo & E. Avila, “I’m Here, but I’m There: Meanings of Latina Transnational Motherhood” (1997)
*C. MacKinnon, “Can Fatherhood Be Optional?” (2001)
*J. Varoli, “American Lion Seeks Russian Lioness” (2000)

H. Porous boundaries; undocumented migrants; state policy & attempts to control inflow

15-29 March *M. Boyd, “Family and Personal Networks in International Migration”
*S. Daley, “New South Africa Shuts the Door on its Neighbors” (’98)
*E. Rosenthal, “New U.N. Issue: North Koreans Seeking Haven” (’01)
*M. Landler, “Study Depicts Mainlanders in Hong Kong as Nightmare” (1999)
*M. Ogito, “Change in Laws Sets Off Big Wave of Deportations” (1998)
*US Looks to Tighten Borders with Mexico, Canada” (2001) and “Vast US_Canada Border Suddenly Poses a Problem” (2001)

27 March  Mid-term examination
V. Political Migration

1 April  A. Root causes


3-5 April  B. Official refugees, asylum seekers, nonreturnees, and classic diasporas

* J. Kifner, “How Serb Forces Purged One Million Albanians” (1999); DePalma, “Kosovo Family’s Journey from Torment to Torment” ('99); Gall, “Gypsies and Others Said to Draw Kosovar Fury” ('99)
* R. Cohen, “Diasporas, the Nation-State, and Globalisation” (1997)

8 April  C. Internal displacement and colonization by population resettlement

* Wilkinson, “Western Hemisphere’s Worst Humanitarian Crisis” ('00)
* E. Eckholm, “Remaking a Vast Frontier in China’s Image” (1999)

10-12 April  D. “Durable solutions”

1. Local integration; third-country resettlement

* E. Hall, “Vocational Training for Women Refugees in Africa”
* B. Whitaker, “Changing Opportunities: Refugees and Host Communities in Western Tanzania” (1999)

2. Repatriation

* J. Rogge, “Repatriation of Refugees” (1994)
* “Welcome Back to the Living Hell” (2001)
N. Kanhema, “Eritrea: at Last…” (2001)

15-17 April  E. State policy and attempts to control inflow

*J. Brinkley, “New Protection for Refugees from Right-wing Oppression” (1999)
*A. Chardy, “‘Special Circumstances’ Can Keep INS Detainees in Custody” (2001)
*J. Forero, “Prosperous Columbians Flee, Many to US, to Escape War” (2001)
**“America’s Refugee Admissions Decline” (1997)

VI. Migrant Rights, Treatment, Responses

19-24 April  A. Rights & treatment in receiving countries/cities

*H. French, “‘Japanese Only’ Policy” (1999)
*M. Ojito, “Report Says Immigrants are Jailed with Convicts” (‘98); Ojito, “Judge Allows Suit on Abuse v. Officials of I.N.S.” (‘98)
*E. Nieves, “Calif Calls Off Effort to Carry Out Immigrant Measure” (1999)
*S. Greenhouse, “US to expand Labor Rights to Cover Illegal Immigrants” (1999)
*B. Crossette, “Testing the Limits of Tolerance as Cultures Mix” (’99)
26 April  B. Global migration and migrant health

*I. Kickbusch & K. Buse, “Global Influences and Global Responses: International Health at the Turn of the 21st Century” (2001)
**“For Many Immigrants, Health Care Underground” (2000)

29 Apr-3 May  C. Economic, social, and political adaptation

*Korean Americans (video) VT10841 (50 min)

1. Enclaves

2. Bicultural and transnational competence
*When East Meets East (video, 2000) VT10843 (53 min)
*P. Koehn, “Economic Adjustment and Social Adaptation”
*M. Hopkins, “Becoming Bicultural” (1992)
*E. Schmitt, “For 7 Million People in Census, One Race Category Isn’t Enough” (2001)
*Koehn and Rosenau, “Dimensions of Transnational Competence”

3. Underclass assimilation
**“Culture Eroding Ethics” (1996)

4. Naturalization, citizenship, and transnational participation
*S. Sachs, “Pressed by Backlog, US Rethinks Citizenship Test” (’99)

6-8 May  D. Migrant contributions

1. Development in receiving/sending countries?
*L. Guarnizo, “Emergence of a Transnational Social Formation and the Mirage of Return Migration among Dominican Transmigrants” (’97)
*S. Russell, “Remittances from International Migration”
*T. Weiner, “Mexico Seeks Lower Fees on Funds Sent from US” (’01)
*F. Khan, “Mobilizing the Resources of Migration” (2001)
*N. Snyder, “Enduring Separation: Psychological Consequences of Mexican Migration to the United States” (in press)
**”Wages & Squalor for Immigrant Workers” (’99); P. Zielbauer, “Utica Welcomes Refugees as Hope for Prosperous Future (’99); P. Belluck, “Short of People, Iowa seeks to be Ellis Island of Midwest” (2000); E. Schmitt, “To Fill in Gaps, Shrinking Cities Seek a New Wave of Foreigners” (2001)

2. Transnational understanding & relations

3. Strength in diversity?

VII. The Search for Innovative and Effective (Policy) Approaches

10 May  A. Constructing fences or opening borders?
*J. Carens, “Aliens and Citizens: The Case for Open Borders”
*S. Sachs, “Changes Called Likely in Policy on Immigration” (2001)
*Burke, “Now Is Time to Keep US from tearing at the Seam” (2000)

10 May  B. Burden sharing

15 May (10:10-12:10)
C. International rapid-reaction force
*J. Pomfret, “Agencies Caught between Battling Factions” (1997)

D. Community healing & peacebuilding

E. Global Refugee Corps (GRC)