

# *Oxford Symposium on Population, Migration, and the Environment*

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## **Conference Proceedings**

Symposium Facilitator: **Trevor Davies**, Emeritus Fellow, University of Reading, UK

Keynote Speaker: **Robert Rowthorn**, Senior Research Fellow, University of Oxford, and Emeritus Professor of Economics, University of Cambridge, UK

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### **Session 1: December 5, 2016**

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#### **The Political Economy of Mitigation and Adaptation**

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*Kerstin Roeder*

*Assistant Professor, University of Gothenburg, Germany*

*Wolfgang Habla*

*Associate Professor, University of Gothenburg, Germany*

Climate policies have very uneven effects on individuals in terms of their fiscal impact. While mitigation of climate change typically raises revenues, adaptation is costly to the taxpayer, and the more so the more distortionary the tax system is. Moreover, the benefits and costs of mitigation and adaptation vary across generations. In an OLG model with majority voting, we show that, even in the absence of international pollution spillovers and strategic considerations, neither mitigation nor adaptation can be expected to be set efficiently. The reason is that voters have incentives to use climate policy as an instrument for redistribution. These incentives depend on the underlying tax system, and we find that mitigation or adaptation may even be chosen inefficiently high in a political equilibrium with a distortionary income tax system, but not both simultaneously. A calibration of our model to the German economy reveals that both mitigation and adaptation are lower than their social optimal level.

#### **Climate Change Mitigation for Sustainable Development: China under the Paris Agreement**

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*Yuhong Zhao*

*Associate Professor, Faculty of Law, The Chinese University of Hong Kong*

China, the world's biggest greenhouse gas (GHG) emitter and second largest economy, has taken the lead to sign and ratify the Paris Agreement that will replace the Kyoto climate regime post-2020. The Paris Agreement requires all parties, regardless of their status as developing country or developed country, to prepare and communicate their nationally determined contributions (NDCs) to GHG mitigation, and take domestic measures with an aim to achieve the NDCs. China, a vocal representative of the developing countries, has advocated and successfully put in place the binary approach to the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities (CBDR) since the Rio Summit in 1992. Under the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (1992) and the Kyoto Protocol (1997), developing countries are not subject to any cap or control of GHG emissions while developed countries are imposed targets of economy-wide GHG emission cuts. Under the Paris Agreement, China's NDC promises a carbon peak by 2030 or earlier, increase of the share of non-fossil fuel in the primary energy mix to 20 percent, and a cut of carbon intensity by 60-65 percent by 2030 compared to 2005. This paper examines the mitigation strategies and measures China is taking to achieve its NDC including policy tools, legal instruments and market mechanisms, and investigates whether they will bring China onto the path to sustainable development.

## **The Financial Resilience and Sustainability of the Italian Big Cities after the Starting of Reform Process for the Implementation of Fiscal Federalism and the Reorganization of Territorial Governments of Extended Area**

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*Salvatore Villani*

*Assistant Professor, University of Naples Federico II, Italy*

*Michele Mosca*

*Associate Professor, University of Naples Federico II, Italy*

Large cities around the world are put under pressure from population growth, the frenetic global economic restructuring, and the growing risks resulting from climate change. Today more than ever, these cities need, therefore, governance models capable of balancing in an optimal size the economic issues with the social ones, and positively exploiting the tension that, especially at the metropolitan level, is created between effective and efficient decisions in order to find a balance between the principles of territorial differentiation and adequacy. There are also significant specificities that relate to the financing of large cities. The reason for these specificities is in the greater use of public resources (which involves an ever-growing spending), the need for a more substantial accumulation of physical and human resources, and in the disparity (nonidentification) between the land users (tourists, commuters, and so on) and the community of residents.

This paper intends to analyze the governance structure and finance of major Italian cities after the reform for the implementation of fiscal federalism and the enactment of the Law Delrio (Law 56/2014) on the metropolitan cities, the provinces, and the associations/mergers of municipalities. The Italian case, in fact, is emblematic, because the described process of reform, rather than following the principles established by the 2012 Congress of Local and Regional Authorities of the Europe Council, has been driven only by an unjustified obsession of having to achieve, at any price, a reduction of public expenditure. This obsession risks compromising the sustainability of the entire project of reorganization of territorial governments of extended area and the resilience of the Italian funding system of big cities, which is exposed also to the risks arising from an unfavorable economic cycle and to changes of the financing scheme established by the central government with the most recent Stability Acts.

## **Policy Evaluation of an Economic Stimulus to Stabilize Nurse Employment**

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*Mary Crea-Arsenio*

*Research Associate, McMaster University, Canada*

*Andrea Baumann*

*Associate Vice-President of Global Health, McMaster University, Canada*

Government initiatives are tied to political cycles making it difficult to evaluate the impact of a policy over time. Additionally economic cycles are important determinants of policy outcomes. In a publicly funded healthcare system, decreased government spending can result in organizational downsizing through hiring freezes, and underemployment or unemployment. In Canada, the government of Ontario made a multiyear investment (2004-2012) to stabilize the health professional workforce. The employment stimulus focused on increasing the number of health personnel generally, and full-time employment for nurses more specifically. The driver for this change was the precarious nature of the nursing workforce over the past two decades and the lack of stability and continuity of care for patients.

This presentation will report on an evaluation model that examined the effectiveness of a government stimulus to increase full-time employment for new nurses in the province of Ontario, Canada. It will present a comparative analysis of nurses who participated in the policy and those who did not participate and who entered the employment market between the years 2007 to 2012.

The study involves the use multiple data sources which allow for confirmatory analysis. Primary data was validated by secondary data sources. The study population included six cohorts of new nursing graduates (2007 to 2012). Two weighted semi-parametric regression models were used to estimate the effect of participation in the policy on the probability of a nurse being employed full-time. Results demonstrate higher full-time employment rates for new graduate nurses who participated, compared to those who did not participate. While the degree of participation in the policy may vary from year to year, this research demonstrates the effectiveness of the policy over time.

It is recognized that this study is not causal, as other factors can influence employment, such as changing economic cycles, seasonal variations, and growth in demand for health care. Nonetheless, the study demonstrates that full-time employment increased during the subsidy period. Policy impact over time is difficult to measure, however, this evaluation has provided insight into issues of tracking full-time employment, as well as participation in a policy by both employers and new graduates. Human resources for health have become an important topic for discussion, due to the recent Ebola outbreak. Countries will have to maintain highly trained cadre of personnel. This is one approach by governments to stabilize a workforce, and this evaluation demonstrates it was effective.

## **Environmental Challenges and Community Health: A Case Study on Stakeholder Collaboration and Community Engagement in Kibera in Nairobi, Kenya**

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*Chiahsin Chen*

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*Emmanuel Mutisya*

*Researcher, United Nation University Institute of Sustainability and Peace*

Kibera in Nairobi is the largest informal settlement in East Africa. Environmentally, Kibera is heavily polluted by soot, dust, and wastes. In the open sewage routes, the common use of flying toilets and human and animal feces contribute to contamination of the informal settlement. These contaminations have caused severe health risks to local residents. The rapid growth of population is also a key driver to environmental challenges. Several international and domestic organizations have been involved in the improvement of Kibera in terms of public and environmental health in the past decades. Umande trust is a right based agency to improve access to water and sanitation services, and it also plays an significant role while organizations intent to initiate develop programs in Kibera. Several researches have been conducted in Kibera, but there is seldom research has discussed on the role of Umande Trust in terms stakeholder collaboration in Kibera. Thus, the research objective is to identify the specific challenges in sanitation and environmental health in Kibera, and investigate the feasibility and challenges of stakeholder collaboration framework of Umande Trust in term of knowledge co-creation for improving community health as an empirical case study. Methodologies included literature review on public health policy and the development of Kibera informal settlement. Interview data included local key stakeholders, such as the director, local residents, and the manager of the Bio-center. In summary, this paper concluded that the research institutes or universities play a critical role by networking and integrating multiple disciplines, and local organizations such as Umande Trust play a crucial role in the process of knowledge co-creation, co-production, and action with involvement of the local community at each stage. Finally, capacity building of the youth will bring transition power to the community and sustain the program on the ground in a long-term consideration.

## **Anti-Malaria Treatment Policy, Migration, and the Spread of Disease**

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*Kurt Schaefer*

*PhD Candidate, University of California, Davis, US*

This research seeks to understand how international trade and migration patterns affect the global spread of malaria and parasitic resistance to anti-malarial drugs. Treatment of vector-borne diseases like malaria generates both positive externalities—by reducing disease transmission—and negative externalities—by increasing drug resistance. In an attempt to manage these externalities, many countries have instituted various treatment policies, such as heavy subsidization of high-quality combination therapies or restrictions on the use of low-quality drug formulations. However, countries and their policy choices do not exist in a vacuum. Infections and drug resistance acquired in one region can spread to others through human and entomological migration. In this research, I use an instrumental variables approach to empirically estimate the rate at which infections spread internationally.

I construct a longitudinal dataset for 98 countries from 2000–2014 that includes annual observations on malaria treatment policies, disease prevalence, bilateral trade flows, and migrant stocks. Using this data, I exploit inter-temporal variation among countries in the uptake of treatment policies to measure the dynamic impact of policy on epidemiological outcomes. I then use the “within” variation from these estimates as an instrument to measure the impact of exogenous shocks to endemicity in one country to epidemiological outcomes abroad.

My first-stage estimates illustrate the complex tradeoffs policymakers must navigate to manage infectious disease. Subsidization of high-quality combination therapies dramatically reduces the spread of malaria in the short run, but has no impact on antimicrobial resistance. On the other hand, restrictions on low-quality drugs increase infections in the short run, but delay the onset of antimicrobial resistance. In the second stage, I find that trade flows and migrant stocks are statistically and economically significant predictors of disease outcomes. These results highlight the importance of global and multi-sector solutions in the fight against infectious disease.

## **Knowledge and Prevention Practices Related to Health Risk Among Sandstone Quarry Workers in Rural Rajasthan, India**

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*Absar Ahmad*

*Research Assistant, Giri Institute of Development St, India*

Quarry or small mine workers are continuously exposed to health risk. This study aimed to assess the knowledge and practice regarding prevention of health risk among quarry workers in rural Rajasthan, India.

**Data and Methods:** A descriptive cross-sectional study was conducted among the quarry workers (n=218) in Karauli block of Karauli district, Rajasthan, from May to September 2014.

**Results:** Mean age and BMI of the miners were 41 years (95 percent CI: 39.6-42.6) and 19.4 kg/m<sup>2</sup> (95 percent CI: 19.1-19.8). Majority of the workers (43 percent) were illiterate and involved in substance use (86 percent). More than half belonged to scheduled caste and 43 percent started work in the mine before age 15. Only 16 percent were using safety devices while working, whereas percent were aware of occupational disease resulted of mining. About 83 percent named TB as an occupational disease of mining. Sources of information were personal health (56 percent), and it affected lungs (89 percent). That diseases were caused by dust is universal knowledge among miners. Eighty-three percent of miners reported chronic cough as a symptom of said occupational disease, followed by shortness of breath (69 percent) and chest pain (63 percent).

**Conclusions:** The data suggest noncompliance with use of dust-preventive methods, despite good knowledge of occupational disease.

## **Al-Za'atari Syrian Refugees Camp: Toward Exploring the Morphological Settlement Patters and their Influences on the Efficiency of the Settlement**

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*Ola Samarah*

*Masters Graduate, German Jordanian University, Jordan*

As refugees lose their sense of spatial identity, they try to adapt by recreating their lost community through the revival of rituals, religion, defense, lifestyle, prestige, and climate. Population displacement theory deals with settlements as a form of socio-cultural action, rather than passive reaction to the sudden influx of refugees. Literature suggests that formal camps' planning affects the efficiency of provided services, infrastructure, safety, and refugees' health. The study explores the morphological spatial patterns at Al-Za'atari Syrian Refugee Camp, in North Jordan, Al-Mafraq, in addition to the driving engines behind the shifted emerging patterns and their influence on the efficiency of the settlement.

A mixed method approach was followed. The qualitative research explored the camp's morphological spatial patterns. It utilizes a convenient sample of archival aerial maps and photographs, in addition to field notes and photos. Moreover, face-to-face interviews with camp mobilizers explored the driving engines behind the shifted settlement patterns. Also; a cluster stratified random sample was used to collect quantitative data through a structured questionnaire. Outcomes indicated that refugees are gradually transforming the formal public spaces at the cluster level to private ones as an extension to the shelter domain. Such spatial shifts appear to be driven by a combination of physical, social, socio-spatial drivers, and past socio-spatial experience. These spatial shifts from the formal grid are influenced by refugees' social values and territorial behavior.

Statistical analysis suggested that the driving engines behind the spatial shifts are: safety concerns, cultural concerns, religious reasons, lifestyle, prestige, ethnicity and origin, improved infrastructure, improved access to services, and micro-climate. Such attributes influence the total efficiency of the settlement.

## **Sustainable Refugee Settlement Design: A Call for a Collaborative Consortium**

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*Susan Stocker*

*Independent Researcher, US*

Having made a moral argument for the design/construction of sustainable refugee settlements, I advocate for an international consortium to design sustainable refugee housing within consciously-urban settlements. Such settlement designs would be consciously designed to be what refugee expert, Kilian Kleinschmidt, already calls the “cities of tomorrow.” Instead of the environmental degradation usually associated with refugee settlements, these sites could have the promise of enabling technology transfer to their respective hosting countries, modeling sustainable practices both in the built environment and, where possible, in agricultural use.

Last spring quarter at the University of Oregon, I taught “The Philosophy of Sustainable Architecture,” in which we focused on refugee housing. We evaluated numerous extant designs of design-competition caliber. We also read “Still Standing?,” an anthology whose essays evaluate what was rebuilt after disasters. Conclusion: improved vernacular techniques work best. This is because foreign technologies used in shelters built by outside contractors who do not leave their skills behind are not readily adaptable. However, slightly-improved, stronger vernacular designs, made with locally produced materials, were used in subsequent adaptations. But there is a place for ready-made pop-up designs as well.

We are now making policy choices about another forced migration that will have equally long consequences. Ideally, we achieve mutuality with our emigrant communities: Aristotle suggests that this is the highest expression of the moral life. Even though mutuality can only be sustained with a few, the polity is to be one among friends, or those whom we can wish well. We have a future to build together on a planet whose carrying capacity is already under challenge.

## **Internal Migration in Bangladesh: A Comparative Analysis of Coastal, Environmentally Challenged, and Other Districts**

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*Bimal Kanti Paul*

*Professor, Kansas State University, US*

*Avantika Ramekar*

*Student, Kansas State University, US*

The primary objective of this study was to determine spatial patterns of contemporary internal migration in Bangladesh. Guided by the environment-migration nexus, we expected to find that in recent years, migration into coastal and environmentally challenged districts would be significantly lower than other districts of the country. The data used in this study to test this hypothesis were drawn from the latest Population and Housing Census of Bangladesh. The census defined internal migration as the movement of persons outside their district of origin for a period of six months or more; we examined movement from 2006 to 2010. Of the 64 districts of Bangladesh, 19 are coastal districts, nine are classified as environmentally challenged, and the remaining 36 are other districts. Migration rates in the three types of districts were compared, but no statistically significant differences were found. This implies that the internal migration occurring in Bangladesh during the study period was not caused solely by environmental factors but by interactions of many interrelated environmental, economic, social, demographic, and political factors. Based on this, recommendations are outlined for the Bangladesh government.

## **Delayed Marriage in China: The Influence of Social Forces and Individual Characteristics**

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*Ming Zhao*

*Graduate Student, New York University, US*

Marriage in contemporary China is no longer identified as early for the social changes in economy, culture, education, and policy. To further examine the timing of marriage in China, I apply event history analysis to the 2010, 2012, and 2013 Chinese General Social Survey. Following Yu and Xie’s study (2015), I perform cohort analysis and use the same measure of the cohort to justify and enrich their findings. Based on both nonparametric and parametric analysis, I find, first, college, compared to primary school education, always delayed marriage at early ages for urban men while accelerate their marriage

at later ages. However, until recently, such effect became significant for rural men. Second, primary school education began to significantly postpone marriage as age advanced for urban men in the most recent cohort, although it had decreased marriage risk for rural men for long time. Third, basically, provided that educational levels were higher than primary school, it tended to delay women's marriage. Taken together, recently, primary-school men and college women, regardless of urban or rural, were more likely to delay marriage. Yu and Xie (2015) suggest that the traditional hypergamy norm contributes to this trend, but an alternative perspective can be that the hypergamy practice is unconscious which is engendered by the imbalanced sex ratio, the improved status of women, and the trend of delaying marriage itself.

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## Session 2: December 6, 2016

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### **Environmental Recollection and Cultural Identity — Lest the Brazilian Quilombola Resistance Becomes Only a Memory**

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*Clarissa Marques*

*Professor, University of Pernambuco, Brazil*

*Rogério Mendes*

*Professor, UFRN*

The abolition of slavery in Brazil (1888) did not put an end to the need for resistance of the black community in the face of difficulties encountered in the process of territorialization. However, the remaining of territories for the traditional peoples still face barriers, including the stand of the Government which is commonly characterized by the tendency to define what is human and what is natural. This contrast is clear in the case of Bombas quilombo, São Paulo-Brazil. Formed on the second half of the 19th century by runaway slaves, its dense forest served as a refuge from persecution and housed an environmentally sustainable subsistence agriculture. It is an example of the so-called quilombo communities that strengthen the cultural identity of the Brazilian people and environmental recollection. In 1958, the area was legally transformed into a touristic public park. The permanency of the quilombo became illegal for environmental purposes, highlighting the social and cultural invisibility of Brazilian quilombos. It was a clear example of intolerance and a lack of awareness on the importance of cultural identity, including the preservation of the environment. The government insists on depriving the community from basic needs, such as electricity, water and road access to surrounding cities. Plantations are also prohibited in defense of the environmental protection of the park. Thus, this article stresses the need to analyze the quilombos in relation to concepts like ancestry, ethnicity, territoriality, and collective identity as environmental values. In conclusion: 1. The permanency of these communities in the territories where slaves were originally hidden empowers their cultural identity; 2. Quilombo territorialization does not prevent environmental protection, furthermore, it is part of the Brazilian environmental recollection; 3. Bombas quilombo highlights the public institutions behavior which opt for a dualistic interpretation between what is human and what is natural.

### **Defending Fundamental Human Rights through the Constitutional Protection of the Environment**

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*Normawati Hashim*

*Deputy Dean (Research and Industrial Linkages), MARA University of Technology, Malaysia*

Among the recent developments that have taken place globally is the environmental crisis. The impact of the environment degradation has resulted with people living in an unhealthy environment. Environmental risk factors have caused diseases and injuries. The deterioration of the environment has financial and economic implications. These have affected the quality of life of human beings and society. Hence, a measure is needed to reduce or overcome the crisis of the environment. One way is to impose a constitutional duty and responsibility to protect the environment. This is done by inserting an expressed provision in the Constitution itself or by reading constitutional provision liberally to implicit protection of the environment. As the Constitution is a living instrument, it needs to be read and interpreted innovatively. The active role of the judiciary is needed. One of the active jurisdictions is India. The constitutional framework enables the Indian apex court to read the relevant constitutional provisions harmoniously in evolving jurisprudence on the protection of the environment as part

of the right to life under Article 21 in its Constitution. Malaysia, whose provision under Article 5(1) is similar, may adopt the same approach, with some modification to accommodate the Malaysian needs. This study aims at developing a jurisprudence to constitutionally recognise protection of the environment as fundamental rights to life. Based on a qualitative research method, it will examine the progressive development in India to confirm the importance of providing constitutional acknowledgement on the constitutional right to protect the environment. The outcome of the study is the formation of a proposed jurisprudential framework on defending fundamental human rights through the constitutional protection of the environment. The projected model is useful not only to Malaysia, but also to other parts of the world.

## **US Nuclear Experiments and the Bikinians: The 'Nuclear Nomads' Revisited**

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*Martha Smith-Norris*

*Associate Professor, University of Saskatchewan, Canada*

Between 1946 and 1958, the United States conducted 23 large nuclear explosions at the Bikini Atoll in the Marshall Islands. Rooted in the discipline of history and based on extensive archival research (and field visits to the Marshalls), this paper investigates the immediate and long-term effects of these Cold War policies on the people of Bikini and their atoll. It finds that although these nuclear tests allowed the United States to bolster its nuclear arsenal and study the effects of radiation on human beings, these experiments contributed to the displacement of the Bikinians from their atoll and the destruction of their homeland. To draw attention to their plight and gain compensation from US government, the islanders fought back, using a variety of methods, including petitions, hearings, and lawsuits. While this resistance resulted in a number of financial settlements, to date Washington has failed to live up to its fiduciary obligations and supply enough funds to adequately compensate the Bikinians for their displacement and the extensive health and environmental damages caused by the US nuclear testing program.

## **Critical Role of Energy Conservation in Addressing Climate Change**

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*Peter Love*

*Adjunct Professor, York University, Canada*

Climate change is one of the most important environmental issues facing mankind. The overwhelming scientific evidence compiled by the International Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) has concluded that human activities are responsible for the recent changes in the climate. Less understood is that 66 percent of the world's man-made greenhouse gas emissions come from the production and use of energy. These trends will only get worse as the world population grows. More of this population lives in urban centers, and as average incomes continue to expand, so does energy consumption.

While moving away from carbon-emitting sources of energy will be required, it is also critical that emphasis is put on finding ways to use less energy. A recent International Energy Agency report concluded that two-thirds of the economic potential for conservation remains untapped. This presentation will focus on identifying the challenges and benefits of energy conservation, analyzing the different types of conservation, and discussing the role of individuals, companies, institutions, and governments in achieving the full potential.

## **Why Do International Regimes on Refugee and Migrant Rights Fluctuate in Europe?**

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*Henry Carey*

*Associate Professor, Georgia State University, US*

The European Union itself has never implemented the various UN Dublin regimes on migration and refugee review (asylum hearings in country of entry). Mass movements of refugees and migrants from the Middle East and North Africa have liberalized (one million in Germany in 2015) and retrenched rapidly (Hungarian walls and criminalization of migrants). The EU Volte-Face in 2016 with the \$6 billion EU aid pact with Turkey restricted emigration. However, after an initial decline, record numbers of boat people still arrive. Refugees in Turkey avoid persecution but lose their right to asylum in any country. What explains the incoherence in implementation and non-compliance with European and international law? This paper

reviews changes in policies over time and tests hypotheses when humanitarian issues are securitized to realist explanations (national interest and security trumping norms); or critical theory (double talk about refugees designed to camouflage long-standing, exclusionary policies, while migration is permitted by states with demographic labor deficits). Liberal and realist constructivism are alternatively framed as humanitarian or securitized narratives (belief in human rights of refugees and migrants or xenophobic or anti-immigrant discourses reflecting norm entrepreneurs under under-employment). However, commitment to European values remain, with cosmopolitan (global civil society pressure for legal norms competing with geopolitics); or liberal (international institutions can support liberal policies of free movements of people if the security communities remain liberalized) incentives at play.

The paper argues that contrary tendencies reflect undermining of supranational treaty and charter-based institutions and humanitarian values through inter-governmental, “democratic” Europeanization through bottom-up reactions to failing economies and terrorist threats. Transnational social and political movements transcend socialization when civilian states can no longer afford the material incentives in personal and human security in European civil societies. The paper will track public opinion toward refugee and migrant norms with economic outlooks and fears of terrorism.

### **The Rise of Border Security in the Face of Climate-Induced Migration**

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*April Humble*

*Junior Researcher, The Earth League – Climate Service Centre, Germany*

In an unprecedented time for mankind when anthropogenic climate change threatens to impact, alter, and destabilize both Earth and human systems worldwide, we are entering another unprecedented human-driven phenomenon: the sealing off of great swathes of geographical territories, through the rise of border securitisation. The former has been predicted to cause great instability and insecurity, from an environmental, social, and political perspectives worldwide, resulting in increased flows of human mobility across the globe. The latter is a symptom of borders becoming a national security issue and the “migrant” being conceptualised as a threat, resulting in an attempt to “securitise” our borders, and the inhibition of movement for the undesired. Since 9/11, incidents of border securitisation have more than tripled, and border control technologies now exist on every inhabited continent. Crucially, areas with concentrated incidents of hardened borders are often found in environmentally and politically fragile regions, such as the Middle East. This leads to suggest that the crossing point of increasingly fortified borders in a warming world could present a very toxic mix. Despite climate change, climate-induced migration, human mobility, borders, and border security all receiving increased attention in recent years in the academic, political, and public realms, the nexus of these remains surprisingly unexplored. This leaves great questions unanswered. What will border security mean for climate-induced migration? Are there alternatives for those on the move? How are governments framing the issue? What does this mean for human security? And is the refugee crisis and what is happening in Syria right now a taste of what is to come?

### **The Other in *Folkhemmet*: New Populism and the Hermeneutics of Violence in Multicultural Sweden**

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*Wiktoria Michałkiewicz*

*PhD Candidate, Jagiellonian University, Poland*

In 2015, Sweden took in more asylum-seekers per capita than any other nation in Europe (according to Eurostat), which confirmed the country’s leading role in answering global challenges and reintroduced the image of Sweden as a welcoming and humanitarian country. On the other hand, the same year, the populist party of the Sweden Democrats has grown to be the largest (Yugov for Metro) or the second largest (Aftonbladet/Inizio) party in the country, and the incidents directed against minorities have grown in numbers, including the arson attacks that have hit several facilities intended to house asylum seekers. Might there be a connection between the rhetoric and the actions? What influence does the image of Sweden as seen by the Sweden Democrats have on the escalation of violence? How does the language turn into practice?

Taking into consideration the slippery relationship between majorities and minorities in the age of globalization as described by Ajrun Appadurai (2006), I would like to examine the case of Sweden as a state, where the dividing line is drawn between the vision of the past embedded in the metaphor of *folkhemmet* and the present in which “the fear of small numbers” becomes a trigger not only to radicalization of political rhetoric, but to direct actions.



## **Quo Vadis, Italy? Current Dilemmas in the High-Skilled Labour Related Migration**

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*Cristina Ionita*

*PhD Student, Alexandru Ioan Cuza University, Romania*

*Irina Croitoru*

*Assistant Professor, Gr. T. Popa University of Medicine and Pharmacy, Romania*

The present paper aims at providing an overview of national high-skilled labour immigration policy system in terms of policy change (i.e. laws, regulations etc.) and policy restrictiveness/openness. Section I tracks the evolution from a sending to a receiving type of country. Section II discusses the currently adopted (demand-driven) framework, including the main admission policies (i.e. quotas, shortage lists, student/job-seeker programs, labour market tests) as well as post-entry policy instruments (i.e. bilateral agreements on double taxation, diploma recognition, pension portability) and post-entry incentives (i.e. family reunification, permanent residency/citizenship/naturalisation, spousal work rights etc.). Section III provides information on the main actors involved in the policy adoption (political parties/coalitions, trade unions and, if possible, NGOs). Section IV considers the potential implications for the Italian economy (i.e. effects on the natives' income, local economy etc.). Section V enlists insights on the (preliminary) conclusions (in a summarised version) of the system adopted, emphasizing the differentiation between the European Union and non-European Union (third country) origin of the labour force.

**Clarifying remarks:** The present (working) paper is part of the project undertaken by the “Gh. Zane” Institute of Economic and Social Research (Romanian Academy – Iasi Branch) in order to explain the brain drain phenomena among the Romanian highly-qualified medical labour force. During the implementation of the questionnaire (addressed to the undergraduate students at the “Gr. T. Popa” University of Medicine and Pharmacy – Iasi and still undergoing since, a sample of close to 500 was collected), it was revealed that Italy was one of the main destinations for individuals who intend to migrate in the upcoming period. Consequently, it was decided to further pursue the topic with the hope of creating a series of case studies (which will include UK, Spain, Netherlands, Sweden, Finland, France, Germany, and Switzerland) and cross case studies (UK-Italy/Spain; Italy-Spain etc.).

## **Fathoming the Depths of Global Governance: A Lesson from the Arctic Council**

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*Margherita Paola Poto*

*Postdoctoral Researcher, Jebsen Center for the Law of the Sea, Norway*

*Lara Fornabaio*

*PhD student, Universita' di Ferrara, Italy*

The present contribution will investigate some of the dynamics in the globalised system. The analysis will start from a sketch of the global governance phenomenon and will scrutinise its critical aspects. The globalisation movement will be analysed through the lens of its opponent, the counter-movement of alter-globalisation, where instances – different from the market-driven logic – prevail. Here the protection of sensitive areas, such as our natural resources, plays a major role. After the critical analysis of the globalised world, the scrutiny will shift to the meaning of governance, as juxtaposed to government, as well as to the non-state actors that can play a role in this system. These actors shall have certain features: transnational and flexible toward external relationships and in their internal mechanisms. The role of the Arctic Council will therefore be analysed through the lenses of good governance and some concluding propositions on possible ways to re-launch its role as a platform of new ideas, peaceful resolutions, and environmental protection will lead the article to an end.

## **Jumping in the Stream: Feminization of the Central Asian and Central American Migration Corridors**

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*Jessica Willis*

*Doctoral Student, University of New Hampshire, US*

While there is a great deal of literature on Mexican and Central American immigration to the United States, as well as studies on immigration within the former Soviet Union, there is little comparing the two. Hence, this paper compares the Central

Asian migration corridor to the oft-debated Central American migration corridor, if not only to observe the differences and similarities, but also to see what policy makers and academics in the United States can learn about migration narratives from other migration patterns. Specifically, whether the conditions that led to the feminization of the Central American migration stream are present in the Central Asian migration corridor.

The researcher theorized that feminization of the Central Asian migration corridor is unlikely, since migrants from Central Asia are unlikely to remain in their receiving locales because the bureaucratic systems in place allow for easy border movement. This, in turn, eliminates the need for migrants to remain in the receiving locale beyond the terms of their employment. This is the opposite in the Central American migration stream, which does not allow for easy trans-border movement. This means that there is an incentive for male Central American migrants to bring their wives with them when they immigrate or ask their wives to relocate to the United States after they have settled into their receiving locale. The data analyzed herein support the assertion that women are unlikely to join the Central Asian migration stream, mostly due to bureaucratic factors supplemented by social and economic inputs. Thus, the data suggest that the driving force for the lack of women in the Central Asian migration corridor now and for the foreseeable future is the way in which current bureaucratic systems reinforce their traditional roles.

### **Strategic Interactions in Migration Decisions in Rural Mexico**

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*Ruben Rojas Valdes*

*Ph.D. Student, University of California at Davis, US*

*C.-Y. Cynthia Lin Lawell*

*Associate Professor, University of California at Davis, US*

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Given the economic significance of migration and its relevance for policy, it is important to understand the factors that cause people to migrate. We contribute to the literature on the determinants of migration by examining whether strategic interactions matter for migration decisions. There are several reasons why a household's migration decisions may depend on the migration decisions of its neighbors, including migration networks and information externalities. Using instrumental variables to address the endogeneity of neighbors' decisions, we empirically examine whether strategic interactions in migration decisions actually take place in rural Mexico.

We use data from the Mexican Rural Households National Survey. This survey has a representative sample of rural households in Mexico from 80 communities in 14 states along three rounds. It contains – among many other variables – data on the working activity and migration of the members of 1765 households, reported retrospectively, which allows us to construct an annual household-level panel data set over the years 1990 to 2010. Since climate, weather, and environmental conditions may affect agriculture and migration decisions, we also use data on local weather, climate, and environmental conditions as well.

We estimate reduced-form models of a household's decision to have a member engage in migration to the US and within Mexico. Our results show that there is a significant and positive own migration strategic effect. In our base case specification, an increase of 0.1 in the fraction of neighbors with migration to the US increases a household's probability of migration to the US by around 5.9 percentage points, while an increase of 0.1 in the fraction of neighbors with migration to other states within Mexico increases a household's probability of migration to other states within Mexico by around 6.3 percentage points. We also find that strategic interactions vary nonlinearly with village size.