

Prospects in Migration Theory: What is next?

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Migration theory is dominated by models that are often contradictory and focused on a limited range of causal factors. This pattern leaves a significant gap in understanding human mobility and its repercussions. The current challenges and debates over human mobility warrants more sophistication than what commonly used push-pull framework. Building upon the seminal review by Massey and colleagues¹ and our work on insecurity, our panel seeks to create space for a comprehensive dialogue between and among proponents of often contradictive theoretical models of and for migration. Specifically, we seek scholars to join us as we bring powerful, well-tested frameworks for modelling migration together with newer approaches that are focused on less well-represented themes that include the role of states and governing agencies²; migrant aspirations³ and the critique of neo-liberalism⁴. "Cultures of migration" drawing on the cumulative causation model⁵; gained some mileage however it is far from being a comprehensive model. Not so main stream interventions such as conflict model lack empirical backing yet although developing plausible arguments (Sirkeci and Cohen, 2016)⁶. From another angle, gender and migration nexus has not yet been integrated well into migration theory despite significant growth in the volume of research in this field (Donato et al., 2006)⁷. Moving beyond the dominance of perspectives from receiving countries, our panel also recognises the contributions of scholars from the global South and builds toward a more practical model of human mobility.

We invite contributions focusing on review of theories and models, discussing these models using empirical evidence, qualitative and quantitative alike, and/or examining the methodological implications of the existing models and the paucity of comprehensive models.

Instructions for Authors

Please send your abstracts (200-300 words) including your name, affiliation and email address of author(s) by email to: sirkeci@regents.ac.uk

Deadline: February 10, 2019

¹ Massey, D. S., Arango, J., Hugo, G., Kouaouci, A., Pellegrino, A., & Taylor, J. E. (1993). Theories of international migration: A review and appraisal. *Population and Development Review*, 431-466.

² Massey, D. S. (2015). A missing element in migration theories. *Migration Letters*, 12(3), 279.

³ Carling, J. (2014). The role of aspirations in migration. *Determinants of International Migration*, International Migration Institute, University of Oxford, Oxford, 2325.

⁴ Cohen, J. H., & Sirkeci, I. (2016). Migration and insecurity: rethinking mobility in the neoliberal age. In: *After the Crisis, Anthropological thought, neoliberalism and the aftermath*. London, New York: Routledge, 96-113.

⁵ Fussell, E., & Massey, D. S. (2004). The limits to cumulative causation: International migration from Mexican urban areas. *Demography*, 41(1), 151-171. Cohen, J. H., & Sirkeci, I. (2011). *Cultures of migration: The global nature of contemporary mobility*. Austin: University of Texas Press.

⁶ Sirkeci, I., & Cohen, J. H. (2016). Cultures of migration and conflict in contemporary human mobility in Turkey. *European Review*, 24(3), 381-396.

⁷ Donato, K. M., Gabaccia, D., Holdaway, J., Manalansan IV, M., & Pessar, P. R. (2006). A Glass Half Full? Gender in Migration Studies 1. *International migration review*, 40(1), 3-26.

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