

*Institute for the Study of International Migration (ISIM)*

The Institute for the Study of International Migration (ISIM) has an established research and teaching programme on migration and development and on governance of international migration.<sup>1</sup> Over the last several years the project was supported by grants and contracts from the Cooperative Housing Foundation (CHF), the German Marshall Fund of the United States (GMF), the Hewlett Foundation, the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB), the International Development Research Center (IRDC), the MacArthur Foundation, the Rockefeller Foundation, the World Bank Group and the United Nations Division for the Advancement of Women.

The Institute conducts policy-relevant research and convenes workshops and conferences on international migration. It undertakes comparative analyses of international migration issues, including various bilateral, regional and multilateral approaches to the study of migration and refugee policy. In addition, the Institute seeks to stimulate more objective and well-documented migration research by convening research symposia and by publishing a peer-reviewed interdisciplinary journal, *International Migration*. These activities provide opportunities for the dissemination of research findings and sharing of research in progress. The ISIM faculty offers graduate courses on migration and development, migration in the Americas, refugee and humanitarian emergencies, refugee law and policy, immigration law and policy, as well as undergraduate courses on the effects of displacement, poverty and structural violence on forced migrants and immigrants, and integration challenges of transnational migrants in Europe and Northern America.

The aim of the Institute for the Study of International Migration is to provide factual and balanced information to help inform policy discussions and to provide policymakers with options for improved policy responses. Two of the five research areas of the Institute are discussed below.

- **Migration and Development.** The work of ISIM in this area focuses on ways to increase the developmental impact of migration on source countries of international migrants. In particular, this programme examines the impact of worker remittances on economic and social development, the role of return migrants and expatriate communities in stimulating economic growth, democratization and respect for human rights, the impact of migration on demographic trends, the role of migrant women in the development of their home countries and the effects of migration, development, and anti-trafficking and anti-child labour initiatives on children's status and well-being. The projects of ISIM recognize that different forms of voluntary labour and forced migration affect development in home and host countries.
- **Global Management of International Migration.** A second programme area focuses specifically on the management of international migration. The topic of migration is increasingly part of bilateral, regional and multilateral agendas of governments. ISIM advises governments and international organizations on the most effective mechanisms to increase cooperation in managing migration. ISIM has provided policy research support to the Global Commission on International Migration, which issued its report in 2005.<sup>2</sup> ISIM has also contributed research on the legal framework of international migration to a project organized by the International Organization for Migration (IOM) with support from the Government of Switzerland.

The Institute reaches out to researchers from universities in the United States of America to foster exchange of research and to undertake cooperative projects. Ms. Susan Martin, Director of ISIM, served as President of the International Association for the Study of Forced Migration. ISIM provides secretariat services to the association. Ms. Martin is also on the steering committee of the Migration Network of Jesuit Universities. She has also contributed to past and ongoing activities of the Global Forum on Migration and Development (GFMD).

Ms. Elzbieta Gozdzia, Research Director of ISIM, served two terms as Secretary and Contributing Editor of the Society for Urban, National, and Transnational Anthropology (SUNTA) and is an executive committee member of the Committee on Immigrants and Refugees (CORI) in the American Anthropological Association. She is editor of *International Migration*, one of the few peer-reviewed, interdisciplinary journals in the field of migration.

#### A. ACHIEVEMENTS RELATED TO MIGRATION AND DEVELOPMENT

In 2008, ISIM completed the following publications:

- *Mexico-U.S. Migration Management: A Binational Approach* (Escobar Latapí and Martin, 2008) with chapters on the causes, impacts and policy responses to migration in Mexico and the United States.
- *Migration in the Lusophone World*, based on a conference held at Georgetown University, with chapters on migration from Mozambique and Cape Verde to Portugal and South Africa.
- Publications on the impact of gender and education on migration patterns, including *A Gendered Assessment of the Brain Drain* (Docquier, Lowell and Marfouk, 2008); *Remittances by the Highly Educated* (Lowell, 2008); *Gender-Specific Determinants of Remittances and Gender-Specific Remittance Mechanisms* (Lowell and Orozco, 2006); and *Women, Migration and Development* (Martin, 2007).

Recently, ISIM was involved in the following research activities:

- Establishment of the Research Consortium on Remittances in Conflict and Crisis, which has stimulated research on the impact of remittances and transnational communities in Haiti, Somalia, Sri Lanka and Sudan, and hosting a meeting on research methodologies, which brought together researchers from more and less developed regions to discuss potential collaborations.
- Ongoing projects on the mobility of health care professionals and social care workers, temporary workers programmes and trafficking in persons.
- A forthcoming report by a nine-person team from Canada, Haiti and the United States for the Inter-American Development Bank on the contributions of Haitian transnational communities to health and educational development in Haiti.
- The journal *International Migration* has recently included articles on transnational families, migration and HIV/AIDS, migration and child labour, return and circular migration, gender and migration, remittances, emigration and foreign policy responses to migration of source countries.

## B. ACHIEVEMENTS RELATED TO GOVERNANCE

In the area of migration governance, ISIM undertook the following:

- Organized a major symposium in October 2007 at Georgetown University's Law Center to examine the role international human rights might play in strengthening the domestic protection of the rights of non-nationals.
- Provided expert support to the Global Forum on Migration and Development by: (a) moderating the session on the Civil Society Day at the Brussels Global Forum in 2007; (b) organizing a preparatory experts' meeting to discuss background papers prepared for the Manila Global Forum in 2008; (c) preparing background papers on policy coherence, rights of migrants and irregular migration for the Civil Society Days of the Manila Global Forum; (d) preparing a background paper on policy coherence for the Manila Global Forum; (e) participating in the Civil Society Days and the Global Forum in Manila, Philippines, and (f) serving as Rapporteur for Session 3.2 on Policy and Institutional Coherence on Migration and Development within Government at the Global Forum in Manila, Philippines on 27 October 2008.
- Presented the research agenda stemming from the Global Forum at a symposium organized by the Center for Migration Studies and the International Organization for Migration.
- Published a paper on global governance issues in the Proceedings of the 101<sup>st</sup> Annual Meeting of the American Society of International Law.
- Participated in three major projects on global governance organized by the University of Toronto and the International Organization for Migration (with Mr. Randall Hanson and Mr. Jobst Koehler), Oxford University (with Mr. Alexander Betts) and the University of Albany (with Mr. Rey Koslowski).

## C. ONGOING AND PLANNED ACTIVITIES ON MIGRATION AND DEVELOPMENT

- Migration from Mexico to the United States. ISIM plans to continue its partnership to conduct binational research on migration between Mexico and the United States with three partner institutions in Mexico: Universidad Iberoamericana, Centro de Investigaciones y Estudios Superiores en Antropología Social (CIESAS) and Centro de Investigación y Docencia Económicas (CIDE). Having just published the book *Mexico–U.S. Migration Management: A Binational Approach* (Escobar Latapí and Martin, 2008), ISIM will update the data and analysis on migration patterns, characteristics and impacts on both countries with annual meetings and shorter publications.
- Migration in the Caribbean and Central America. ISIM expects to continue its research and disseminate the findings of previous research on the impact of migration on countries in the Caribbean. Future research will focus on the impact of remittances and transnational communities on Haiti.
- Migration and India. ISIM is advancing its research in India by establishing working relationships with Indian academic institutions, including the Research Programme on International Migration at Jawaharlal Nehru University (JNU), the Institute for Social and Economic Change (ISEC), the American Institute of Indian Studies in New Delhi (AIIS), the Centre for the Study of Developing

- Societies (CSDS) and the Calcutta Research Group. Meetings are scheduled with each of these institutions in December 2008. ISIM seeks to advance current research on the impact migration from India has had on economic and political institutions in both India and receiving countries.
- Child labour and migration from developing countries. ISIM is designing a project on the effects of development initiatives, including educational programmes, to reduce child labour, particularly those that result in irregular migration and human trafficking.
- Remittances. ISIM plans to continue its work on the role of remittances in war-torn countries, disaster-prone regions and fragile states. ISIM proposes to continue to serve as Secretariat to the Remittances in Conflict and Crisis Consortium. Research by ISIM in this area focuses on the Americas, including Haiti (as described above). Following the example of Haiti, ISIM plans to investigate the extent to which remittances are used in restoring homes and livelihoods after disasters in other countries in the region.
- Mobility of highly-skilled migrants. ISIM has been undertaking a multi-site study to examine migration of health care workers from Jamaica, the Philippines and Poland to Canada, Ireland, the United Kingdom and the United States. The study has examined patterns of recruitment and the networks through which health professionals and social care workers migrate. The work of ISIM on the international mobility of scientists and engineers, with particular focus on information technology, points to the importance of the linkages established between migrants and home country institutions and businesses.
- ISIM also plans to finalize research, undertaken in conjunction with students at the law center, dealing with the effects of United States and Central American anti-gang initiatives on international migration, return, reintegration and human rights.

#### D. ONGOING ACTIVITIES ON MIGRATION GOVERNANCE

The programme of ISIM focuses on two aspects of migration governance: (a) the legal and normative framework, and (b) the organizational mechanisms for managing international movements of people. Existing international law provides useful contributions to a normative and legal framework regarding: (a) the powers and responsibilities of individual states to manage movement of people across borders; (b) the rights and responsibilities of international migrants, and (c) state cooperation in managing international movement of people. Nevertheless, gaps in international law and norms remain, and tension between facilitation of international migration and control of “undesirable” movements (particularly related to security concerns) continues to cause problems for governments, which are finding it difficult to maintain an appropriate balance. ISIM plans to continue its focus on the intersection of international human rights law and anti-terrorism laws targeting immigrants. Working with the Catholic Legal Immigration Network (CLINIC) of immigration practitioners around the country, an ISIM research team has already analysed the right to respect for family life in international human rights law.

Regarding organizational mechanisms for migration management, the work of ISIM will continue to focus on governance at the multilateral, regional and national levels. The Global Forum on Migration and Development, following the work of the Global Commission on International Migration, the Berne Initiative and the United Nations High-level Dialogue on International Migration and Development, have become important venues for inter-state dialogue. The work of ISIM regarding the Global Forum falls into three areas. First, ISIM proposes to continue to provide expert assistance to the GFMD, with the aim of helping to ensure that the discussions are informed by the best research and analysis. Second, ISIM

will continue to monitor, assess and analyse the impact of the Global Forum on the migration debate and on developing policies aimed at improving migration management. Third, ISIM will bring the Global Forum discussions to a broader audience through the participation of its faculty and staff in other relevant forums. For example, Dean Alexander Aleinikoff from Georgetown University Law Center chairs, and Susan Martin is a member of the Commission on International Migration convened by the World Economic Forum. The first in-person meeting of the Commission was held in Dubai, United Arab Emirates, in November 2008 and its deliberations will continue into 2009. ISIM will also help ensure the dissemination of the Global Forum background papers and reports through *International Migration*.

Further, ISIM will continue its work on national-level governance of migration. Responsibility for managing migration rests primarily with nation-states. Regardless of what types of regional or global governance systems are likely to develop, the national level will continue to be the most important one in managing movements of people. Since a new administration is taking office in the United States, ISIM will pay particular attention to United States policies on international migration as defined by the new administration.

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#### NOTES

<sup>1</sup> ISIM currently pursues research in five areas, two of which focus on migration and development and governance of international migration. The other three research areas not discussed in this review include: forced migration and humanitarian emergencies, integration of immigrants and immigration law and policy.

<sup>2</sup> For the report, see <http://www.gcim.org/en/finalreport.html> (accessed 25 February 2009).

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