

Core Course #2 “Theories of Migration and Mobility”

This Core Course is part of the second block of the Doctoral Program of the nccr – on the move (Introduction to theories and concept). All Doctoral Students enrolled in the Certificate in Migration and Mobility Studies are expected to attend.

General Description

The Core Course presents a historical and interdisciplinary overview of theories that explain why people choose – or are compelled – to leave their places of residence and seek new ones. As regulatory mechanisms are paramount to shape migration dynamics, the course focuses on theories that address the role of public institutions in a context of transnationalism and globalization of power.

Requirements

Doctoral Students are expected to read the compulsory texts since they will be discussed during the course.

Date and place

The course takes place on Friday 15 February 2019 at the University of Neuchâtel, Rue Abram-Louis-Breguet 2, room 2.310.

Timetable of the course

9:30	<i>Economics of migration Part I: General introduction to the economics of migration</i> Prof. Alois Stutzer
10:45	Coffee break
11:15	<i>Theories of migration: an overview</i> Prof. Etienne Piguet
13:00	Lunch break
14:00	<i>Economics of migration Part II: The economics and politics of asylum processes</i> Prof. Dominik Hangartner
15:15	Coffee break
15:45	<i>Migration control and border regimes</i> Prof. Christin Achermann
17:30	End of the day

Economics of migration, Part I: General introduction to the economics of migration

Prof. Alois Stutzer, University of Basel

Abstract

This module provides an introduction to the key concepts on the economics of migration. A series of questions is briefly addressed. What is the economic perspective to individuals' calculus on whether to stay or move? What are the potential gains of migration and what factors put them at risk? What is the expected labor market impact of immigration? How does economic and cultural integration affect the potential gains from trade?

Compulsory Reading

Borjas, George J. (2015). "Migration, Economics of." In: James D. Wright (ed.) *International Encyclopedia of the Social & Behavioral Sciences*, Amsterdam: Elsevier, p. 433-439.

Additional Readings

Algan, Yann, Alberto Bisin, and Thierry Verdier (2012). Introduction: Perspectives on Cultural Integration of Immigrants. In: Yann Algan, Alberto Bisin, Alan Manning, Thierry Verdier (eds.). *Cultural Integration of Immigrants in Europe*. Oxford: Oxford University Press

Bodvarsson, Örn B., Nicole B. Simpson, and Chad Sparber (2015). Migration Theory. In: Barry R. Chiswick and Paul W. Miller (eds.). *Handbook of the Economics of International Migration*, Volume 1A. Oxford: Elsevier: 3-51.

Card, David, and Giovanni Peri (2016). Immigration Economics by George J. Borjas: A Review Essay. *Journal of Economic Literature* 54(4): 1333-49.

Theories of migration: an overview

Prof. Etienne Piguet, University of Neuchâtel

Abstract

No clearcut delineation can be made between voluntary and forced migration, but it is fair to say that most attempts at theorizing migration – in the sense of suggesting general frameworks of understanding based on regularities – address cases where potential migrants retain a fairly high level of agency and are not “forced” to move. However, with the growing salience of concepts such as “mixed migration” and “survival migration” and calls to go beyond the structure versus agency dualism in migration studies, a promising perspective of investigation opens up for re-embedding forced migration within a more general migration theory framework or within the even broader framework of a theory of social transformation, development and crisis. The aim of the course will be to pave the way by giving an overview of some of the main theoretical directions suggested by researchers of both voluntary and forced migration.

Compulsory Readings

De Haas, Hein (2014). "Migration Theory - Quo Vadis?" *International Migration Institute Working Papers* November 2014/100.

Piguet, Etienne (2018). "Theories of voluntary and forced migration." In Robert McLeman and François Gemenne (eds.) *Routledge Handbook of Environmental Migration and Displacement*, London: Routledge, p. 17-28.

Additional Readings

Brettell, Caroline B., and James F. Hollifield (2014). "Migration theory: Talking across disciplines." London: Routledge.

Cohen, Robin. (1996, ed.). "Theories of migration." Cheltenham: Edward Elgar.

Massey, Douglas S., Joaquin Arango, Graeme Hugo, Ali Kouaouci, Adela Pellegrino, and J. Edward Taylor (1993). "Theories of international migration: A review and appraisal." *Population and Development Review*, 19 (3): 431-466.

Piguet, Etienne (2013). "Les théories des migrations - Synthèse de la prise de décision individuelle." *Revue européenne des migrations internationales*, 29 (3): 141-161.

Economics of migration, Part II: The economics and politics of asylum processes

Dominik Hangartner, University of ETH Zurich

Abstract

The first part of this module focuses on the political repercussions of refugee migration. Building on theories of realistic group conflict and contact hypothesis, we will explore how the potential for interaction between natives and refugees conditions electoral responses. The second part of this module looks at the economic consequences of asylum policies on refugees and their host communities. In particular, we will focus on the impact of key parameters of the asylum process including wait times, labor market access, and geographic allocation.

Compulsory Reading

Dinas, Elias, Konstantinos Matakos, Dimitrios Xefteris and Dominik Hangartner (2019, forthcoming). "Waking Up the Golden Dawn: Does Exposure to the Refugee Crisis Increase Support for Extreme-Right Parties?", *Political Analysis*.

Marbach, Moritz, Jens Hainmueller, and Hangartner, D. (2018). "The long-term impact of employment bans on the economic integration of refugees." *Science advances*, 4(9): eaap9519.

Additional Readings

Bansak, Kirk, Jeremy Ferwerda, Jens Hainmueller, Andrea Dillon, Dominik Hangartner, Duncan Lawrence, and Jeremy Weinstein (2018). "Improving refugee integration through data-driven algorithmic assignment." *Science*, 359 (6373): 325-329.

Golder, Matt (2003). "Explaining variation in the success of extreme right parties in Western Europe." *Comparative Political Studies*, 36(4): 432-466.

Hainmueller, J., Hangartner, D. and Lawrence, D. (2016). "When lives are put on hold: Lengthy asylum processes decrease employment among refugees." *Science advances*, 2(8): e1600432.

Scheve, Kenneth F. and Matthew J. Slaughter (2001). "Labor market competition and individual preferences over immigration policy." *Review of Economics and Statistics*, 83(1):133-145.

Steinmayr, Andreas (2018). *Exposure to refugees and voting for the far-right: (unexpected) results from Austria*. Working Paper.

Migration control and border regimes

Prof. Christin Achermann, University of Neuchâtel

Abstract

This module looks at the question of regulation and control of migration from an interdisciplinary and critical migration and border regime perspective. Such a perspective invites i) to go beyond the exclusive focus on nation-states as regulatory instances of migration and mobility by taking into account the complexity of the manifold actors (within and outside the sphere of the state, including migrants themselves, but also migration researchers) shaping migratory phenomena; ii) to pay particular attention at these actors' practices constituting the migration and border regimes by looking at what specific people do within, with or against legal and political regulatory frames; iii) to consider power relations and inequalities; and finally iv) to denaturalize notions such as 'the state' and 'the border' when researching migration and mobility.

Compulsory Readings

Eule, Tobias G., David Loher and Anna Wyss (2018). "Contested control at the margins of the state." *Journal of Ethnic and Migration Studies*, 44(16): 2717-2729.

Tsianos, Vassilis and Serhat Karakayali (2010). "Transnational Migration and the Emergence of the European Border Regime: An Ethnographic Analysis." *European Journal of Social Theory*, 13(3): 373-387.

Additional Readings

Cvanjer, Martina, Gabriel Echeverría and Giuseppe Sciortino (2018). "What Do We Talk when We Talk about Migration Regimes? The Diverse Theoretical Roots of an Increasingly Popular Concept." In Pott, Andreas, Christoph Rass and Frank Wolff (eds.) *Was ist ein Migrationsregime? What Is a Migration Regime?*, Wiesbaden: Springer VS, p. 65-80.

De Genova, Nicholas (2013). "Spectacles of migrant 'illegality': the scene of exclusion, the obscene of inclusion." *Ethnic and Racial Studies*, 36(7): 1180-1198.

Horvath, Kenneth, Anna Amelina and Karin Peters (2017). "Re-thinking the politics of migration. On the uses and challenges of regime perspectives for migration research." *Migration Studies*, 5(3): 301-314.

Pott, Andreas, Christoph Rass and Frank Wolff (2018). "Was ist ein Migrationsregime? Eine Einleitung", in Pott, Andreas, Christoph Rass and Frank Wolff (eds.) *Was ist ein Migrationsregime? What Is a Migration Regime?*, Wiesbaden: Springer VS, p. 1-16.

Walters, William (2015). "Reflections on Migration and Governmentality." *Movements. Journal für kritische Migrations- und Grenzregimeforschung*, 1(1): 1-25.