

# Core Course #1 “Theories and Concepts on Migration”

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

## General Description

This Core Course presents an overview of theories and concepts that seek to explain why people move across borders, provides an appraisal of data collection and statistical data production to measure migration, and discusses how and why this movement is regulated by nation-states and other types of actors 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. The compulsory readings (pdf) can be downloaded [here](#).

## Date and place

The course takes place on Friday 28 October 2022 at the University of Neuchâtel, Rue Abram-Louis-Breguet 2, room 3.416, and on WEBEX <https://unine.webex.com/unine-fr/j.php?MTID=m16bfb0e68fbff58ae07251e8d88008b6> (password: NCCR).

Doctoral students are asked to register [here](#) until 13 October.

## Timetable of the course

09:30	<i>Theories of Migration: An Overview</i> Etienne Piguet, University of Neuchâtel
11:00	Coffee break
11:15	<i>Measuring Migration: Concepts, Traditional Approaches and New Developments</i> Philippe Wanner, University of Geneva
12:45	Lunch break
13:45	<i>Global Governance of Migration</i> Sandra Lavenex, University of Geneva
15:15	Coffee break
15:30	<i>Migration Control and Border Regimes</i> Christin Achermann, University of Neuchâtel
17:00	Final Apéro

## 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 Reading

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 (2022). "Migration theory: Talking across disciplines." London: Routledge.

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

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

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.

Van Hear, Nicholas; Oliver Bakewell & Katy Long (2018) "Push-pull plus: reconsidering the drivers of migration", *Journal of Ethnic and Migration Studies*, 44:6, 927-944.

## Measuring Migration: Concepts, Traditional Approaches and New Developments

Prof. Philippe Wanner, University of Geneva

### Abstract

Migration is a phenomenon that can take different forms, sometimes lasting for a long time or, on the contrary, being quickly followed by a return or re-emigration to a third country. Moreover, the populations involved in a migration process are sometimes difficult to identify and the measurement of flows is subject to numerous difficulties, particularly when the migration is not legal. In this context, our presentation aims firstly to define what is meant by "migrant" and to highlight the different dimensions of migration. Secondly, to show how migration flows can be measured, and what are the recent developments concerning the estimation of these flows.

### Compulsory Reading

Wanner, Philippe (2020). "Collection and Analysis of Quantitative Data in the Field of Migration. Past Trends, Current Status and Future Prospects". NCCR on the Move, Working Paper no 27.

### Additional Readings

Willekens, Frans., Douglas S. Massey, James Raymer & Cris Beauchemin (2016). "International migration under the microscope, Fragmented research and limited data must be addressed". Science.

Ahas, Rein, Siiri Silm & Margus Tiru (2017). "Tracking Transnationalism Originating in Estonia through Mobile Roaming Data", Estonian Human Development Report 2017.

## Global Governance of Migration

Prof. Sandra Lavenex, University of Geneva

### Abstract

This course gives an introduction into the institutional architecture of international migration governance at the global, regional and transregional/bilateral level. The focus is on the specificities of international migration as a multi-sectoral, cross-cutting phenomenon which stands in tension with the principle of state sovereignty and the implications this has on international cooperation and collaborative institutions. At the end of the class students will have an overview of the main venues for international cooperation on migration and have a better understanding of the reasons why global migration governance often fails.

### Compulsory Reading

Lebon-McGregor, Elaine (2020). A History of Global Migration Governance: Challenging Linearity. IMI Working Paper

### Additional Readings

Kainz, Lena Kainz and Betts, Alexander (2021) Power and proliferation: Explaining the fragmentation of global migration governance, *Migration Studies*, 9:1, 65–89

Lahav, Gallya and Lavenex, Sandra (2012) 'international migration', in W. Carlsnaes, T. Risse and B.A. Simmons (eds), *Handbook of International Relations*, New York: Sage, 764–774.

Lavenex, Sandra (2019) Regional migration governance – building block of global initiatives?, *Journal of Ethnic and Migration Studies*, 45:8, 1275-1293

Lavenex, Sandra (2020) The UN Global Compacts on Migration and Refugees: A Case for Experimentalist Governance?, *Global Governance: A Review of Multilateralism and International Organizations* 26:4, 673-696.

## 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 Reading

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.

### 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.

FitzGerald, David Scott (2020). "Remote control of migration: theorising territoriality, shared coercion, and deterrence." *Journal of Ethnic and Migration Studies*, 46(1): 4-22.

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.

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.

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