



International Sociological Association

Research Committee on Sociology of Migration (RC-31)

## RC-31 Newsletter, Autumn 2012

### In this issue:

From the president	
Members' new books	2
Calls for papers	5
Other announcements	8
Recent articles	9
Research Committee Details	10

### From the President:

#### The irresistible quest for new concepts, theories and paradigms

by Marco Martiniello

Academia in general has become a worldwide market. Migration studies in particular have also become a worldwide market. Markets always imply competition for leadership or at least for an increase in each participant's share of that market. In nowadays' competition in the global migration studies market, as in other branches of the academic market, it is crucial to be intensively productive and highly visible. All of us, and our work, are regularly assessed, evaluated, monitored and our careers depend on the results of these exercises. The number of our publications matters. But the number of our publications in highly ranked international journals matters more. Being involved in the

local and national academic life matters. But travelling across the globe to be in the "academic places to be" in international migration studies matters much more. Raising money locally matters. But getting huge supranational grants matters more. Being in the local media matters. But being called as an expert in global media matters more.

Clearly, the ascent to academic leadership is steep in migration studies too. Gaining shares of the market is increasingly difficult.

Clearly, it is not enough to produce solid and serious research to do so. One has to make a buzz! One come to come up with something apparently new and flashy, be it a concept, a theory and (for the most self-confident) of us, a new paradigm in order to open all the gates and become a star on the global migration studies market. This is a reason why conceptual, theoretical and even paradigmatic fashions and trends develop constantly. This is fine! We all want to improve our understanding of the causes and consequences of the various forms of

human movements on earth. But many times, the so-called new developments in migration studies seem to be more aesthetic than substantial. For example, migration is apparently now too old-fashioned to be of any use – we need to replace it with a new mobility paradigm. Today people would not migrate anymore – they would be mobile! And we would need a new paradigm to make sense of the new forms of mobility. Of course, in this brief column, I can only oversimplify the issue but the point I am trying to make is rather simple. The rules of the migration studies global academic market stimulate us more to put “old wine in

new bottles” than to take the time to make new wine first and then to discuss where to store the wine. The first strategy potentially allows for more visibility and quicker on the academic migration studies market, while the second strategy probably closer to an interesting vision of “slow science” is certainly less rewarding at least in the short term.

Marco Martiniello  
FRS-FNRS and CEDEM –  
University of Liège (Belgium)  
RC-31 President

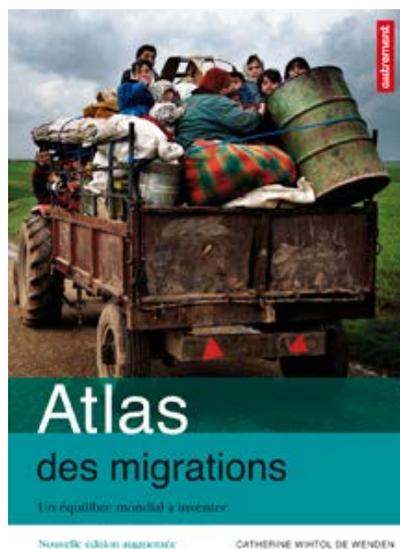
## MEMBERS’ NEW BOOKS

**Catherine Wihtol de Wenden**, *Atlas des Migrations: Un équilibre mondial à inventer* (new edition), Autrement, 2012 ([link to publisher](#))

3% de la population mondiale, soit 200 millions de personnes, sont aujourd’hui engagées dans une aventure migratoire. Le phénomène a pris une ampleur sans précédent, le profil des migrants s’est diversifié, les politiques nationales ne sont plus adaptées... C’est à l’échelle planétaire que cet atlas décrypte et analyse la crise et la complexité des enjeux. Contrairement aux idées reçues, les migrations s’effectuent massivement des pays du Sud vers d’autres pays du Sud : dans les pays voisins en Afrique, d’Afghanistan vers le Golfe ou le Pakistan ou d’Amérique centrale vers les Etats-Unis...

La figure du migrant est aujourd’hui plus féminine, plus urbaine ; de plus en plus de pauvres partent à la recherche d’un travail et de conditions de vie meilleures. Autre trait remarquable : l’argent envoyé par les migrants vers leur pays d’origine (transferts de fond) dépasse aujourd’hui les aides au développement et contribue à l’essor de pays émergents. Dernier point : les pays développés vieillissants auront besoin de l’apport de migrants pour maintenir leur courbe démographique. Au-delà de certaines situations dramatiques et des débats nationaux sécuritaires, les migrations, productrices de richesses et de développement, sont devenues une question clé pour l’équilibre mondial.

En chiffres, en faits et en cartes, cette référence indispensable a été intégralement mise à jour et comprend plus de 30 nouvelles cartes : migrations culturelles (religion et tourisme), « seniors au soleil », murs aux frontières de l’Europe, conséquences des révolutions arabes, question turque....



**Catherine Wihtol de Wenden** (editor): *Anatoli*, N° 3, septembre 2012 : « La Turquie au carrefour des turbulences migratoires : Hier et aujourd'hui » (disponible [ici](#))

La Turquie, pays d'émigration vers l'Europe, est devenue une terre d'immigration et de transit. Istanbul a ainsi vu sa population tripler durant ces trente dernières années, et de plus en plus de « maisons de la nuit », construites illégalement pendant la nuit, sont apparues pour abriter les migrants. Avec la chute du rideau de fer, l'Asie centrale et le sud Caucase sont devenus des régions de migrations de voisinage, compte tenu des proximités linguistiques et religieuses. Si les frontières turques se sont donc ouvertes à l'Est, elles se sont refermées à l'Ouest, afin d'éviter que les migrants en transit en Turquie ne parviennent à rejoindre la Grèce. Le fleuve Evros, qui sépare les deux pays, est ainsi devenu un enjeu de litiges et la Grèce a menacé l'Union européenne de construire un mur si celle-ci ne l'aidait pas davantage à contrôler ses frontières.

**Yelena Sadovskaya**, *Chinese Migration to Central Asia at the Beginning of the 21<sup>st</sup> Century*, Lambert Academic Publishing, 2012 (in Russian; [link to publisher](#))

The book offers a summary of some of the recent research on the linkages between Chinese economic expansion and migration to the five former Soviet republics of Central Asia: Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan, and offers an in-depth case study of Kazakhstan, China's key partner in the region. The book covers the 20 years following 1991, when Central Asian republics gained sovereignty, with historical insights as well as a short- and mid-term prognosis.

The current period of Chinese migration to Central Asia started in late 1980s with a rapidly growing flow of petty traders. Although petty trade still plays an important role in Kazakhstan and Kyrgyzstan, from 2004 onwards a number of significant joint infrastructural projects emerged (including in energy, transportation, construction and telecommunications), bringing about growing numbers of Chinese labour force to the region.

The book explores some of the key causes of migration from China to Central Asia and identifies predominant migration patterns, including economically motivated migrations such as for labour, trade and entrepreneurship. The book then discusses economic and social implications of Chinese migration for the receiving countries, including its impact on local labour markets and businesses, as well as its social and cultural influences.

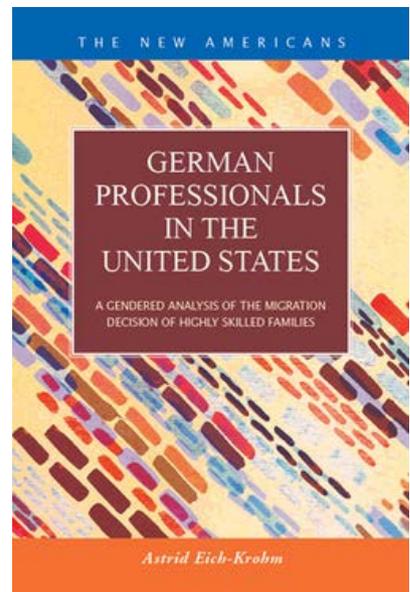
The author considers the study of Chinese migration within the migration-development framework and argues that Chinese economic presence, and particularly its investment and trade policies as well as labour migration, are beneficial for the social and economic development of the receiving countries in Central Asia. The comparative perspective adopted in the book helps explore the similarities and differences in China's policies and migration in the region, specifically between Kazakhstan the rest of Central Asia, Kazakhstan and Russian, and Central Asia and the rest of the former Soviet Union. The book also highlights the regionalization of economic relations between the Xingjian-Uyghur Autonomous Region, the north-western region of China, and Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan. The book concludes by outlining opportunities and challenges of Chinese economic presence and migration to the region.

The book incorporates research conducted by the author or under her supervision in 1993-2011, including analysis of official statistics, expert interviews and applied sociological surveys, some of which have been pioneering for the region. The socioeconomic and historical analysis offered in the book is supported by original Chinese sources. The book contains tables, graphs, diagrams, schemes and photos, and is supplemented by an extensive bibliography.



**Astrid Eich-Krom**, *German Professionals in the United States: A Gendered Analysis of the Migration Decision of Highly Skilled Families*, LFB Scholarly Publishing, 2012 ([link to publisher](#))

This book examines the stay/return decision of highly skilled migrants in the context of globalization and brain drain vs. brain circulation. Economic reasons are considered the main factor for professionals to move with limited influence by the spouses, the tied migrants. The analysis of qualitative interviews with 38 German families who moved temporary to the United States show that the interests of the spouse, cultural curiosity about a global world, and the work itself are equally important to economic gains. Women's progress in education and paid work, have changed the role of the tied migrant and its influence on the settlement or return decision.



Astrid and several other RC31 members have contributed chapters to another book:

*International Handbook of Migration Studies*, (edited by Steven J. Gold and Stephanie J. Nawyn), Routledge, forthcoming in November 2012 ([link to publisher](#))

**Nikolai Genov & Tessa Savvidis (eds.)** *Transboundary Migration in the Post-Soviet Space: Three Comparative Case Studies*, Peter Lang, 2011 ([link to publisher](#))

The collective monograph contains the results of an empirical project conducted in Armenia and Georgia as well as in Moscow (as the favorite destination of migrants from the South Caucasus) from 2008 to 2010. The book is the first contribution to comparative research in the migration-intense post-Soviet space, and covers the complete cycle before, during and after migration. The survey focused on such relevant issues as national migration profiles including age and gender stratification, «brain drain» and «brain waste», return potentials, remittances, child separation, migration perception, and personal experiences in Moscow and other destinations. As results the field studies confirm the international trend of feminization in migration and a high awareness of the ambivalent nature of migration among two cohorts of migrants from Armenia and Georgia in Moscow and six cohorts of returnees in the respective countries of origin.



**Contents:** Nikolai Genov: Global City and Regional Periphery - Challenges of Out-Migration from South Caucasus to Moscow - Gevork Poghosyan: Out-Migration from Armenia - Irina Badurashvili: Out-Migration from Georgia to Moscow and Other Destinations - Galina I. Osadchaya: Migrants from Armenia and Georgia in Moscow - Tessa Savvidis: Comparing Out-Migration from Armenia and Georgia.

## CALLS FOR PAPERS & PARTICIPATION

The **Race, Ethnicity, and Immigration Network** of the **Society for the Advancement of Socio-Economics (SASE)** invites abstract proposals for papers and panels at next year's annual meeting in **Milan** at the Università Degli Studi di Milano, June 27–29, 2013. Next year's meeting theme is “States in Crisis”.

The online system will begin accepting proposal abstracts in early November. The Race, Ethnicity, and Immigration network invites proposals for papers, panels, and authors-meet-critics sessions that address the processes, patterns, and changes related to socio-economic aspects of race, ethnicity, and immigration. The network seeks to develop a forum for theory and research on these processes and welcomes research from diverse disciplinary, theoretical, and methodological perspectives. Please visit the SASE website ([www.sase.org](http://www.sase.org)) for more information about the meeting and to submit a paper or session proposal online.

Co-Organizers:

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Conference: “**Wars for rights/Wars against rights? Globalization and crisis of democracy**”  
March 24-25-26, 2013, Minori (Salerno) – Amalfi Coast – Italy; Workshops languages: English – French – Italian – Spanish

After the collapse of the USSR, the old bipolar system was replaced by a growing interdependence of economic and political factors, which are generally managed through a global governance as a tool to correct economic imbalances, to solve local conflicts and protect human rights. In the last decades Western Democracies engaged in several wars with historically peripheral countries changing the power balance on a worldwide scale. These armed interventions were presented to the public opinion as humanitarian actions to promote security and democracy and to protect human rights. At the same time, this process has been followed by a global transformation of the traditional relationships between State and Market, Civil Society and Political Society, Citizenship and Nationality. Furthermore, the dismantling of Welfare State systems, the radical change of labor relations and security policies on migration led to progressive deprivation of social guarantees and rights. All these dynamics were exacerbated by the current global crisis. In such a context, new popular resistances developed in the last years, starting a strong cycle of struggles claiming access to elementary democratic rights. Therefore, we propose to discuss and investigate the relations between the transformation of democracy, inside and outside the West, and human and social rights.

Paper submission and discussion relative to the following issues:

- 1) New Global Wars
- 2) Transformation of labor relationships and global crisis
- 3) Popular Resistances

The deadline for proposals submission is December 20, 2012. Email your proposals with your complete contact information to [mdebiase@ulb.ac.be](mailto:mdebiase@ulb.ac.be) –[g.d.c.@inwind.it](mailto:g.d.c.@inwind.it) or [giovanni dellacerra@hotmail.it](mailto:giovanni_dellacerra@hotmail.it) :

- personal data
- biographical sketch including institutional affiliation
- paper titles (max 20 words)
- paper abstracts (max 300 words)

**Congress of the Swiss Sociological Association**, June 26-28 2013, University of Bern; theme: "Inequality and Integration in Times of Crisis". The organizing committee welcomes proposals for plenary sessions (deadline 15 January) and workshops (parallel sessions – deadline 30 November). More information: [here](#).

**Sri Lankans on the Move: An International Conference on Migration (ICSOM)**, Colombo, Sri Lanka, January 23-25, 2013. Migration has been an important element of the Sri Lankan social fabric for centuries. In colonial times, the Tamils from Sri Lanka migrated to Malaysia for work in the public and private sectors. After Independence, the Burghers migrated to Australia, and since then there have been waves of external migration as a consequence of changes taking place in Sri Lanka as well as in response to opportunities opening up overseas. From 1983 onwards population displacement caused by ethnic conflicts and war became a major trigger for legal and illegal migration to Europe, North America and India. Currently over 20 per cent of the Sri Lankan workforce is employed abroad, and they are a primary source of foreign exchange earnings for the country. Migration can be either permanent or temporary. It is caused by multiple factors and has impacted on the lives of many Sri Lankan men, women and children. Migrant remittances are a vital source of foreign exchange to the Sri Lankan economy. Migration is, for some, a strategy for moving out of poverty, and a means of social mobility and empowerment. For others, migration can denote a loss of care and support with wide ranging consequences. However, in the worst cases it is merely a survival strategy. The Conference aims to bring in a corpus of multidisciplinary scholars to present their work on migration, and to make sense of this complicated landscape. The outcomes of the Conference will feed into the discourse on migration and policy analysis and programme development. Deadline for submission: **15 November 2012**. More information available [here](#).

**Studia Humanistyczne AGH** (Contributions to Humanities AGH) invites contributions for a special issue on: „Polish History, Society and Culture - View from the Outside”. The Editorial Board warmly welcomes scholarly contributions from all interested in and working in the field of Polish history, society and culture (including literature, history of art and art criticism, international relations, challenges of immigration and emigration) to be published in an upcoming edition of the Journal. Papers from abroad are especially encouraged. The Editors are convinced that a view from the distance will highlight multiple aspects of Polish history, society and culture, essential parallels and influences, neglected so far. All submissions should be directed to: [studiahumanistyczne@agh.edu.pl](mailto:studiahumanistyczne@agh.edu.pl) by **15th November 2012**. “Studia Humanistyczne AGH” is a peer-reviewed journal; all submitted manuscripts are reviewed by two anonymous referees. The Editors will be pleased to discuss possible articles for consideration. For indications concerning the editorial requirements visit our [website](#).  
On behalf of the Editorial Board  
Łukasz Krzyżowski  
Managing Editor

Colloque de la **Chaire de recherche en immigration, ethnicité et citoyenneté (CRIEC)** et du Laboratoire UMR Pacte de l'Université Grenoble II dans le cadre des Vingt-cinquièmes Entretiens Jacques Cartier :

« **Immigration et Diversité Ethnoculturelle. Espaces Urbains et Communauté Politique** »

Les 19 et 20 novembre 2012, Salle Marc Bloch, Institut des sciences de l'Homme, Lyon

La question de l'immigration ne cesse de susciter en Europe de nombreux débats au niveau social et politique avec une sollicitation des milieux de la recherche pour éclairer les diverses faces d'un problème complexe. La situation démographique de plusieurs pays d'Europe marquée par une stagnation et un vieillissement de la population rend nécessaire un recours à l'immigration afin d'assurer une réponse aux besoins du marché du travail. En même temps la situation de crise économique qui s'est développée depuis 2008 suscite des inquiétudes quant à l'insertion économique potentielle des immigrés et à la crispation des nationaux vis-à-vis de ce qu'ils perçoivent comme une menace. La montée en puissance des partis populistes dans l'ensemble de l'Europe témoigne de ces difficultés. La question de l'intégration des immigrés et de leurs descendants se pose aussi avec acuité. Que les politiques d'intégration aient été inspirées par le modèle républicain à l'œuvre en France ou par le modèle multiculturel expérimenté au Royaume Uni et dans divers pays nordiques, elles ont eu un niveau de réussite limité et elles doutent de leur bien-fondé face à la persistance d'un taux de chômage très élevé chez les descendants des immigrés, de phénomènes de concentrations résidentielles qui vont en s'aggravant et de poussées de violence urbaine imprévisibles et signes d'une crise de la sociabilité et de la citoyenneté.

Face à cette situation, le Canada offre un tableau différent. L'immigration y est pensée comme un facteur de développement du pays. Un Canadien sur six est né à l'étranger. A Toronto 40% des habitants sont nés à l'étranger; la proportion est de 21% dans la région métropolitaine de Montréal, et l'immigration contribue dans une proportion de 50% à la croissance démographique du pays et dans des proportions voisines à sa croissance économique. Si les conflits violents entre nationaux et étrangers sont relativement rares, on observe pourtant des phénomènes préoccupants d'exclusion sociale touchant les immigrés et leurs descendants. Il convient donc de questionner l'apparente réussite de la politique canadienne en matière d'immigration et d'intégration. La sélection de la population immigrée à partir d'un système de points est-elle la clé du succès ou a-t-elle des failles et des effets pervers ? Le multiculturalisme inscrit dans la constitution du pays, critiqué aujourd'hui sur les deux rives de l'Atlantique a-t-il été un facteur d'intégration citoyenne ou un simple moyen de faire cohabiter des populations de culture différente en réduisant au maximum les contacts entre elles ?

Les questions à discuter entre chercheurs peuvent se regrouper en quatre grandes thématiques :

- Politiques publiques en matière d'immigration et effets de leurs principales options sur les potentialités d'intégration
- Territoires, travail et communauté politique: défis et transitions liés à la gestion de la diversité culturelle dans le domaine du travail et dans le domaine politique.
- Urbanité et concentration ethnoculturelle: atouts économiques, plus-value culturelle ou tensions sociales?
- Mise à l'épreuve des modèles d'intégration

Pour assister au colloque, **l'inscription est obligatoire** : [ici](#)

**Programme** : [www.criec.ugam.ca](http://www.criec.ugam.ca); **Pour information** : [criec@ugam.ca](mailto:criec@ugam.ca)

Message from **Mohammed Bamyeh**, editor of *International Sociology Review of Books*:  
“Since assuming my position as the new editor of ISA's *International Sociology Review of Books* (ISRB) earlier this year, I have been exploring ways to enhance the journal's usefulness to ISA members and the international community of sociologists it serves. To that end, I am very interested in hearing from you and/or your group's members if they have any proposals for themes, debates, or materials of particular interest that they would like ISRB to highlight. ISRB reviews books, but also regional or local debates, as well as non-book materials (audio-visual materials, blogs, zines, etc.) that could be of interest to an international community of sociologists. I should also mention that we are *especially* interested in reviews of materials available in languages other than English.” Please see the ISRB website [here](#), and you can contact Mohammed directly via email at [mab205@pitt.edu](mailto:mab205@pitt.edu).

## OTHER ANNOUNCEMENTS

**Job: Senior Research Officer**, University of Essex – Department of Sociology  
You will work as part of a team on the research project 'Migration Histories of Turks in Europe' (LineUp), which is funded by the NORFACE (New Opportunities for Research Funding Agency Co-operation in Europe). This international collaborative research involves partners from the UK, Germany, and Netherlands. This project started in 2010 and aimed at collecting data on the complete genealogies of Turkish families in Europe and Turkey and to interview a selected number of family members of these genealogies. The unique research design of this study starts in the sending regions in Turkey and collects information on 2000 migrant and non-migrant Turkish families, basic socio-economic data on 20000 family members and about 6000 personal interviews. The study focuses on migration patterns of the Turkish immigrants in Europe and investigates transmission of resources, behaviour, and values across multiple generations. The Turkish families are selected by screening five high migrant-sending regions in Turkey.

We are looking for an enthusiastic post-doctoral researcher with the knowledge, skills, and experience to play a full and active part in the final part of this project, in which data analysis and publication are the main activities. The main task of the successful candidate will concentrate on publishing research papers in international leading journals on the '2000 Families' data. You will also organise meetings, and liaise with the partners.

A doctorate in sociology, economics, demography or a related social science discipline and high-level skills in organising and analysing complex data from large scale surveys are essential. Experience in publishing in leading international peer reviewed journals with a record of academic publications is required.

This research is administered by the University of Essex and it is hosted in the Department of Sociology. The candidate should start in January 2013 or as soon as possible after this date.

Salary: £30,122-£35,938 per annum; Closing date: **18 November 2012**

For more details: [link](#)

**Manashi Ray** received a grant from the “Faculty Research and Development Fund” at West Virginia State University for the research project “Food, Family and Migration” among Burmese Refugees at Battle Creek, Michigan, U.S. for 2011-12. Manashi was also an invited international workshop participant on “Diaspora and Development: South Asian Diaspora Engagement in South Asia,” at the National University of Singapore, September 27 - 28, 2012 (organized by Institute of South Asian Studies). Title of the paper: “The latent power of Networks: the routes of re-migration of returnee entrepreneurs from the United States to India in the 21st century”

## RECENT ARTICLES

### **Miloslav Bahna**

2012. “Intra-EU migration from Slovakia: an evaluation of new economics of labour migration and migrant networks theories” *European Societies* (article available [here](#))

### **David Bartram**

2013. “Migration, return and happiness in Romania,” *European Societies* (article available [here](#))

### **Paolo Boccagni**

2011. “From rapport to collaboration... and beyond? Revisiting field relationships in an ethnography of Ecuadorian migrants”, *Qualitative Research*, 11(6): 736-754 (article available [here](#))

2012. “Rethinking transnational studies”, *European Journal of Social Theory*, 15(1): 117-132 (article available [here](#))

2012. “Practising motherhood at a distance: Retention and loss in Ecuadorian transnational families”, *Journal of Ethnic and Migration Studies*, 38(2): 261-277 (article available [here](#))

### **Lilach Lev-Ari**

2012. “North Americans, Israelis, or Jews? The Ethnic Identity of Immigrants’ Offspring”, *Contemporary Jewry* (article available [here](#))

## RESEARCH COMMITTEE OFFICERS

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Visit the [RC-31 web site](#).

MEMBERSHIP dues are \$20 for a four-year period: to join, visit the ISA web site [here](#).

## SUBMIT YOUR ANNOUNCEMENTS!

(Not only announcements – there is also scope for longer pieces in the form of op-eds, etc.)

Send submissions for the next issue to David Bartram, [d.bartram@le.ac.uk](mailto:d.bartram@le.ac.uk)