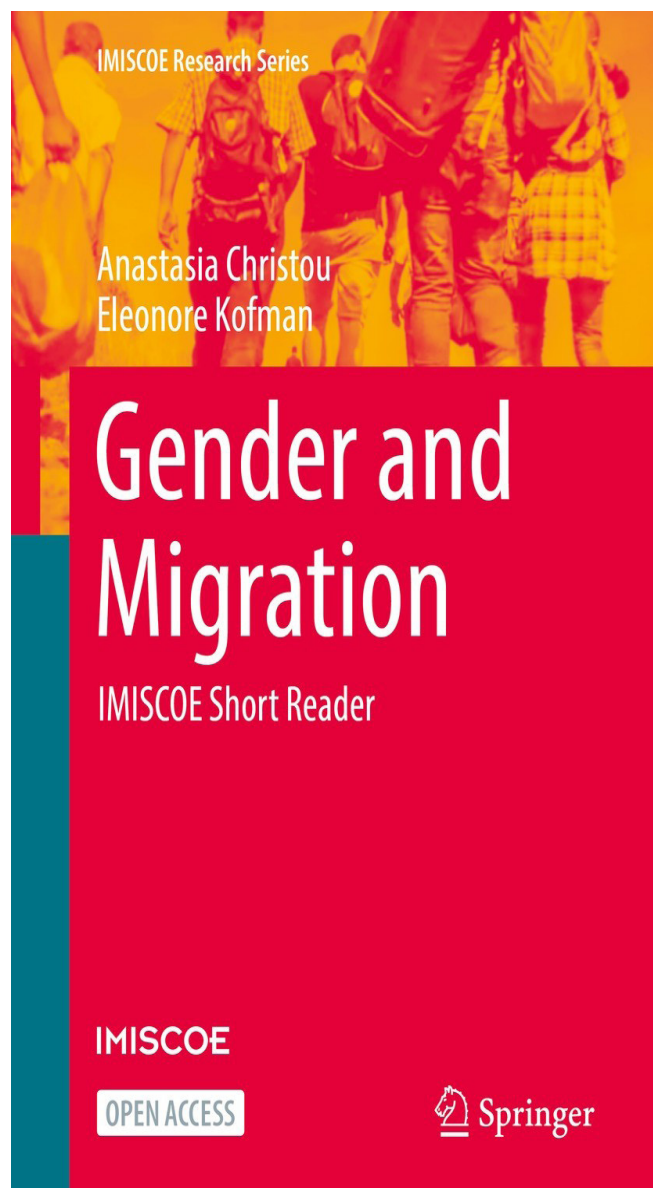


ROOTS & ROUTES

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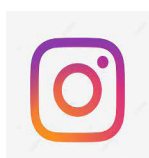
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Editor's Note



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Dear Readers,

Greetings!

A group of individuals having a shared ancestry or homeland who have now dispersed around the world is referred to as a diaspora. The act of moving to a new country or location, whether temporarily or permanently, is what defines migrants. Refugees are people who have crossed an international border in search of protection in another nation after fleeing war, violence, conflict, or persecution. These voluntary or forced migration changes the dynamics of movement and hence requires varied responses accordingly.

In this issue we share with you the issues that are associated with the diaspora, migrants and the refugees. The current edition presents the report of the webinar on objective 1 of the Global Compact for Migration (GCM), which took place in October 2021. Arathi Sundar prepared a comprehensive report on the webinar. The webinar highlighted the linkages between the GCM and the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). It focuses on the importance of GCM Objectives to achieve the SDGs. It discusses the existing challenges and opportunities in the field of migration data.

Additionally, the current issue presents a brief article by Benedict Kuol — “Pastoralism in the New Borderlands: Cross-border Migrations, Conflicts, and Peace-building.” The article argues that pastoralism is both a natural and human phenomenon, and it is quite difficult to monitor it within human-imposed boundaries. The issue also carries a book review titled “Gender and Migration,” written by Tawafuddin Azimi.

We invite readers to participate and share their experiences with us to have a meaningful engagement. You can communicate with us through email at editorinchief@grfdt.com. We wish you happy reading and look forward to your suggestions and comments. Happy Reading!

Feroz Khan

Data driven migrant policy requires collecting and utilizing accurate and disaggregated data: GCM Objective 1

An in-depth interactive webinar discussing the 1st objective of the Global Compact of Migration (GCM) as part of the ‘GCM sessions’ was held in October 2021. The session was organised by the [Migrant Forum in Asia](#) (MFA), the Global Research Forum on Diaspora and Transnationalism ([GRFDT](#)), [Cross Regional Center for Refugees and Migrants](#) (CCRM), [International Institute of Migration and Development](#) (IIMAD), and [Metropolis Asia Pacific](#) (MAP). The panellists who hailed from different sectors such as academia, non-profit and human rights organisations, as well as regional organisations were Ms. Estrella Lajom, a migration and diaspora expert representing ‘[The International Data Alliance for Children on the Move](#)’ (IDAC) of UNICEF; Ms. Sina Smid of the UNHCR, Prof. Irudaya Rajan, international migration expert and the Chair of International Institute of Migration and Development as well as Chair of the [Global Knowledge Partnership on Migration and Development](#) and Prof. Binod Khadria from prestigious Jawaharlal Nehru University in India. The panel was moderated by Ms. Paddy Siyanga Knudsen of GRFDT.

The Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration (GCM) is an intergovernmental agreement, prepared under leadership of the United Nations. The objective of the organisation is to cover “all dimensions of international migration in a holistic and comprehensive manner”. Signed in Morocco in 2018 the GCM has 23 objectives. The GCM’s first objective is to ‘Collect and utilize accurate and disaggregated data as a basis for evidence-based policies.’

The significance of data in informed policy making has been championed by the development sector in the recent years. The UN’s Sustainable Development Goals and their implementation have further emphasised the importance of data in the policy sector. The 2030 SDG agenda to ensure no one is left behind must include migrants. However, collecting data is a cumbersome task, even more so when it comes to migrants. Collection and disaggregation of data cannot be performed by governments alone, and hence international rights

organisations, NGOs, and civil society must come together to achieve this. Disaggregated data is data that has been broken into relevant categories like age, gender, and other demographic indicators to provide a clear understanding of the subject at hand in order to make targeted and tailored policy decisions. Disaggregated migration data will guide policy makers to better understand the nature of migrants, their journey and their vulnerabilities to inform targeted policy decisions.

Child migrants as a significant subgroup of migrants

Starting off the discussion Ms Estrella of IDAC spoke about child migrants. To put the issue into focus she shared that 1 in 8 migrants are children. With children forming a significant the migrant population, data on them and their condition in the host country will help understand the experience of immigrants in host countries. She further shares that 2 in 5 people living in displacement is a child. It has steadily increased. Twice as many children are displaced within national borders than that are displaced across the border. Additionally, she states that children of different genders also face a difference in experiences as migrants. To showcase the dire lack of data on migrants, Ms. Estrella states that

“4 in 10 countries with data on migrants do not provide reliable data on age of the migrants. 9 in 10 countries that have conflict induced displacement does not disaggregate data by age”

Emphasising the need for data on child migrants, she states that, studying how children move will also help inform adult migration. She shares that the International Data Alliance for Children on the Move (IDAC)—a cross-sectoral global coalition comprised of governments (including experts from national statistical offices and migration-relevant line ministries), international and regional organizations, NGOs, think tanks, academics, and civil society intends to build capacities of national governments to collect data on children on the move. The main objective of IDAC launched in March 2020

is to improve statistics and data on migrant and forcibly displaced children with the goal to support evidence-based policymaking that protects and empowers them. The IDAC now has 18 member states which it intends to increase.

COVID-19 exposed the lack of migration data

What began as a health crisis soon escalated into a migration crisis as stark images of migrants being stranded across the world and internal migrants walking over days to reach their homes hit the news. Most countries grappled with the challenge of bringing their citizens back home. Most of these countries did not know how many citizens lived abroad and which countries they lived in. The lack of accurate data on migrants was brought to light. Several cases of this nature were witnessed in the Gulf – South Asian labour migration corridor. This situation has demonstrated the need for data on migrants. Dr. Irudaya Rajan who worked with the Kerala (in India) government in their efforts to repatriate their citizens living across the world during the COVID-19 pandemic- states that India does not have data on its diaspora abroad. He stated that the governments data on migration numbers and migration corridors are **“guess estimates more than estimates”**. He goes on to share that Kerala was the only state in India which had data on how many expats from the state lived abroad and where they were put up. Adding to this Prof. Khadria emphasized on the perils on wrong data which would only lead to a false sense of confidence and wrong decision-making during catastrophic world events. He further urged that countries must be more transparent with the data that they have collected on migrants so far.

Progress in data collection

Following the signing of the GCM in late 2018, the COVID-19 pandemic which ravaged the world in the next 2.5 year has hampered the pace of data collection. Several organisations have collected data on migrants and displaced people over the years including several programs by the UN like the EGRIS Expert Group on Refugee and IDP Statistics data (set up in 2016), World Bank, regional organisations and NGOs.

The UNHCR's data transformation strategy goes

beyond simply collecting data to also collate data collected by partner agencies, regional organisations and systematically archived them to make it available to the academics, practitioners, governments, and NGOs as well as share some data with the public. Speaking about the UNHCR's Microdata Library- Ms. Sina the UNHCR's regional data curator in Thailand states that **“Peer learning and cross sharing of data information between countries is necessary to quicken the data collection process”**.

The UNHCR's Microdata Library containing microdata on persons of concern to UNHCR including refugees, asylum seekers, internally displaced people (IDPs), stateless people and others. Microdata are unit-level data collected through census, registration/administrative exercises, and surveys. All datasets also include comprehensive metadata and supporting documents such as survey questionnaires and analytical reports to further aid researchers who use this data. While this data is available for use within the UN and other partner organisations. The programme also has a front facing data library which is accessible to the public; currently this library has over 300 data sets.

Discussing the accuracy of available data on migrants. It was pointed out that UN stock data on migration and that of countries don't match. Discussing means of data collection, Prof. Rajan recommends the bottom-up approach to collect data. Ms. Paddy agreed and pointed out that including migrants in data collection process by speaking to them will enable us to understand their journey and their vulnerabilities will provide granular data that will translate to better informed policy decisions. Suggesting means of data collected, she commented that countries can begin data collection by recording people leaving their borders and use their consular network to register the entry of their citizens into other countries. Prof. Binod Khadria insisted that the primary task is to ensure data literacy. And organizations must begin by educating politicians and other stakeholders on the need for migration data and its use.

The session highlighted the linkages between GCM and SDGs and the significance of achieving GCM objectives to reach the SDG goals. Summarising Prof. Binod pointed out this session has helped in

understanding the limitations and challenges as well as the opportunities present in the field of migration data. Concluding, Ms. Paddy pointed out that countries should look at migrants as partners in development rather than looking at them as a burden. This will shift the mindset towards migrants and governments will begin collecting data.

Aarthi is a PhD research scholar at the Birla Institute of Technology & Science (BITS), Pilani, Dubai Campus. She is a Migration and Development researcher whose areas of interest are labour migration to the Gulf, migration policy, and migrant entrepreneurship. She can be found on twitter handle [@Aarthisundar](https://twitter.com/Aarthisundar).

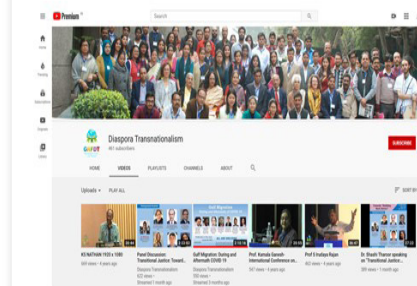
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Pastoralism in the New Borderlands : Cross-border Migrations, Conflicts, and Peace-building

Understanding the Contextual Problem

Pastoralism can be traced to millions of years in man's chronological order of events and in consideration of the Darwinian theory of evolution to the domestication of animals. Approximately 2 million years ago, soon after the dawn of Homo Erectus had commenced the domestication of plants and animals, proved by fossil evidences such as the fossil evidences of domesticated rice found accompanying the dead in Laos and Burma. The African species were believed to domesticate dogs as ice sheets melted globally, and settlements became more common. Evidence of domestication is common all-over East Africa.

In 2005 Sudan saw the Comprehensive Peace Agreement, which would facilitate the creation of a new nation South Sudan, the world's youngest country. It meant an international demarcation body was facilitating the creation of a border between the countries. This posed a major concern as several factors, such as natural resources and key trading stations, had to be considered. The stakeholders had a headache considering events such as the Indian/ Pakistan riots in 1945, which saw the deaths of one million individuals due to careless demarcation of boundaries.

The fears of the international monitoring community mishandling the process were confirmed in the war for Abyei and Heglieg (Panthou). It saw the deaths of hundreds of troops on both sides, an international mandate's intervention, and the creation of a demilitarized area manned by United Nations troops. The conflict was not limited to the areas of Abyei and Panthou but encompassed nearly the entire border region. The most common tactic was shelling and air rides complemented by the use of tribal militia. The conflict can therefore be attributed to the negligence of the international community.

Catalysts and Facilitators of the Conflict

Tribal militias and movements were a major theme in the conflict as the war turned into a 'cold war' model. The victims became the tribes and communities settled in the border region as they were turned into pawns of both systems. Pastoralist communities whose destination of origin, despite seasonal migration, is Sudan were transformed into militias, the 'Darfur militia model.' The most dreaded was the Popular Defense Forces, an alias of Janjaweed Arab militia in Kordofan state and northern sector in South Sudan.

The South supported several entities in a civil war that started as a result of complaints by a branch of the Sudan People's Liberation Movement/Army in North Sudan. Entities allied to the people's movement, such as Sudan Liberation Army, were also provided with military logistical support and bases (Garang, 2011). Allegations of civil war support were believed to spark support for the opposition in the first South Sudanese civil war as Sudan turned to militia commanders of the South who served their interests. Therefore, accusation, espionage, and sabotage were the themes of bilateral relations.

Tribes provided their sons to militias and movements backed by the South and North Sudan, many of whom were settled in the border region of the two countries. The tribes include; Misserya Humor, Baggara Rizaygat, Al Ahamda, Hiemid, Sabaha, Nuzi, Dar Mirahib, Kinana, and Felata, all whose destination of origin was Sudan. Nuer of Unity state, Dinka Ngok, Dinka Malwal, Jur Mathiang, and Nuba of Kordufan mostly served southern interests, to mention a few of the allies of the people's movement. We can therefore conclude the border war created communal rifts.

The areas in the border region disputed are; Renk in Upper Nile, Magenis, Kaka Town, Baharel Arab, Kafia Kingi, and Abyei box (Abyei and Heglieg). These areas are heavily militarized, with regular fighting between militias and the people's movement. The United

Nations is a crucial player as an oversight body and peacekeeper in nearly all the disputed areas. The civil wars have revolved within these regions complemented by international powers who have a stake in natural resources such as iron, uranium, Gum Arabica, uranium, gold, and oil.

Natural resources have encouraged further fighting in the border region termed as 'Golden Triangle' by many observers. A region that presumably encompasses the wealthiest piece of land in Africa, covering six states in greater Sudan. A focus on oil led to a study in the regions of Abyei and Panthou(Heglieg), which saw a confrontation between the armies of the nations heavily backed by first-world countries. The fighting hit world headlines and sparked nationalistic feelings in both countries, similar to Pakistan and India. The media thus was a catalyst in the border war.

Solution to the Seasonal Crises

Despite the existence of a United Nations Mission in the Abyei box- the United Nations Interim Security Force in Abyei- constant human rights abuses by militias continue to exist. The demilitarized zone has very few United Nations troops to man the vast territory and has seen the persecution of civilians by northern militias. Illegal gas and oil extraction are also taking place under the mandate within the Abyei box. The motivation of militias in the areas is natural resources, specifically oil and gas reserves; thus, a displacement and an ethnic cleansing attempt are in play.

In other areas, key trading centers fuel conflict, especially in Upper Nile and Baha ghazel region. Key trading centers such as Rank and Magen is are custom entry and exit points and greatly contribute to South Sudan's Gross Domestic Income. Local militias are utilized, unlike Abyei and Panthou; offshoots of the people's movement are utilized to cause havoc. Thus, a significant concentration of fighting occurs in this town considering the South Sudanese civil war, which started in 2013, called custom metropolis centers.

Pastoralism can be considered the root cause of conflict and is co-related with all economic and social causes of war. Considering the traditional routes of northern Arab tribes such as the Rezigat and Misserya through Dinka and Nuer territories, the Sudan regime exploited

these phenomena to acquire vital strategic areas in the contested areas by creating regional militias from these communities. The same militias are also utilized to support allies in the South Sudan civil war, such as fighting in key trading centers such as Renk and Melut.

Pastoralism, a natural and human phenomenon, is difficult to monitor in a human-imposed boundary. Traditional rivalries such as the Dinka and Misserya rivalry have taken the state angle and seen the use of modern weapons and trained personnel such as the Sudan People's Liberation Army commandos. This has led to devastating consequences for both parties. Several international organizations, such as the International Organization for Migration and the United Nations Mandates, are breeding a truce, working with the states to attain a permanent ceasefire.

An international, governmental and community effort looks like the only viable solution for the pastoralist' and militia induced conflict in the six states of Sudan and South Sudan.

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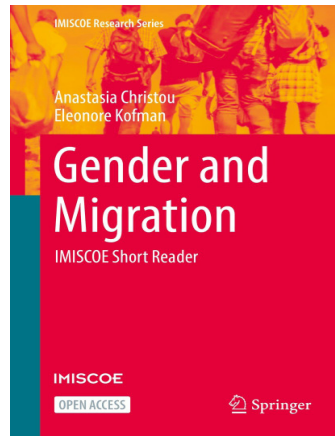
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Gender and Migration

by Anastasia Christou and Eleonore Kofman

The book 'Gender and Migration' is a study of two European scholars [Anastasia Christou](#) and [Eleonore Kofman](#) on feminisation of migration studies/ migration. The book is published on 08 March 2022 and focuses on recent trends in migration that is during the past thirty or so years. However, the study looks back to the general trends in migration in the colonial era. The book spans 126 pages and is divided into seven chapters. Appended at the end of each chapter is an exhaustive list of sources of the findings in the book.



The book analyses gender-disaggregated data on global migration, which is crucial to addressing the issue of gender equality in migration. The book discusses about Migration as a gendered process. There is a globalised division of labour on the grounds of gender. Gender stereotypes often deter women from exercising autonomy in career choices. The prevalence of such prejudices increases the vulnerability of women to human rights violations in host countries.

In the first chapter '**Gender and Migration: An Introduction**', the author describes the evolution of gender and development studies that prevailed up to the 1980s. The discussion includes the new concepts of feminisation of migration delineated by some important researchers in the field. However, the concept of feminisation was criticised as too simple by some other scholars. They were of the opinion that the issues vary in complexity in different geographical regions and historical periods. Subsequently, the scope and aims of the book, along with an overview of each chapter, are discussed.

In the second chapter '**Gendered Migrations and Conceptual Approaches: Theorising and Researching Mobilities**', important theoretical and

analytical paradigms are discussed. This includes the concept of intersectionality considered by many scholars as the main contribution made by new feminist scholars. The concept of intersectionality expresses the accumulated prejudices and discrimination occurring due to different factors like gender, caste, race, religion etc. This is quite pertinent to the study of the migrant individuals particularly of women and migrant ethnic groups (p.16). The chapter concludes with an analysis of research and ethical issues involved in migration studies.

Chapter three '**Gendered Labour**', concerns with empirical studies of gender patterns of migrant labour. Different categories of migrants like labour migrants, family migrants, asylum seekers, refugees and students are available in the labour market. The argument of the authors is that, especially among [unskilled and highly skilled](#) categories, women form a substantial portion. This tendency is exemplified in the hospitality sector where relatively unskilled labour is in demand and in academic and professional services where highly skilled labour is required (p. 36). Some studies are focused on women who are new entrants to Information Technology and engineering sectors which have been similar to considered as male bastions.

Chapter four '**Transnational Families, Intimate Relations, Generations**', discusses aspects of family migration. Family migrations tend to disrupt gender roles. For example, the temporary separation of the spouses which results from many instances of family migration could lead to women spouses getting more responsibilities of bringing up children and hence greater say in the family. This could be termed as an instance of women empowerment. Children of migrant parents who happen to stay either with the mother or the father naturally suffer from the absence of one of the parents.

The trauma experienced by some of such children can lead to psychological stress and its attendant physical and mental consequences. Such problems involved in family migration like international intimacy, sexual relationships and the status of children born out of such relationships are now areas of empirical studies and are quoted in detail in this chapter (p. 63).

In chapter five, **‘Gendering Asylum’**, the authors discuss the relatively new phenomenon of women taking initiative in migration to European countries. To cite an instance, while males formed the major portion of the **‘Gastarbeiter’** (guest workers) from Turkey, the migrant labour from India was mainly composed of women. The Turkish guest workers gradually brought their women to Germany and made family settlements. In the case of Indian and other migrant laborers who were mainly women serving in care homes and hospitals, male members followed women. The 1951 Refugee Convention conceptualised refugees mainly as males and so the issue of women becoming refugees on their own was sidelined (p. 79). Attempts are being made to rectify this skewed perspective. The second part of the chapter examines the recent migrant refugee crisis caused by conflicts in South Asia, Sub Saharan Africa, North Africa and the Middle East, especially Syria. The first flow of North African and West Asian refugees consisted of mainly men and this gender factor led to the creation of an impression in European societies about the cowardly men fleeing from their homeland who would pose threat to the safety of European societies (p. 83). However, after 2015, as more and more women refugees started knocking at European doors, this prejudice slightly waned.

In chapter six **‘Engendering Integration and Inclusion’**, the authors discuss the issue of the integration of the migrant population. Integration of migrants into host societies is a long and complicated process which requires concerted efforts from the host societies and the migrants to accommodate each other successfully. Successful integration can be defined as ‘upward social mobility, no residential segregation, intermarriage, and the potential for equal participation in politics and public activities. Unlike assimilation, integration does not imply losing the culture of the

country of origin but actually being able to sustain it while also adapting to a new city’ (p.96). The authors then discuss the issues of integration discourses (p.101) and examine the efforts on the part of the immigrants to challenge discrimination in society and in the workplace and seeking political participation as fully integrated members of European societies.

In the conclusion, the authors highlight the importance of understanding the history of gender and migration; how the new perspectives of feminization and intersectionality have evolved is also highlighted. Finally, the implications of Covid-19 pandemic, [Brexit](#) and [Black Lives Matter](#) are also mentioned as issues which will have influence on gender and migration studies.

The book is the fruit of an endeavor to study the issue of migration from the perspective of intersectionality and feminisation. The researchers cite various authorities to substantiate their viewpoints and as sources of the data cited in the study. The paper as well as the sources cited is useful in the study of recent trends in migration. In the backdrop of globalisation and the all-pervasive Internet, the new perspectives which are foregrounded in this discourse will be useful in gaining insights into several hitherto ignored features of the phenomenon of migration.

The book aids research on migration studies grounded in intersectional ties which incorporate the social, political and sexual identities of persons in determining the multidimensional effects of migration on them.

Tawafuddin Azimi is currently pursuing MA in Human Rights and Politics in the School of International Relations, Mahatma Gandhi University, Kerala, India. He has completed his BA in Law and Politics from Bamyán University, Bamyán Afghanistan. He is a voracious reader who has profound knowledge of Gender and Politics.

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