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CONSOLIDATED REPLY QUERY ON MIGRATION STUDIES

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The Migration Studies query aims to support students' orientation and professional careers in the field of migration. This consolidated reply is a synthesis of the views and recommendations received from experts. The responses address the limitations of the existing migration studies programmes and put forth several recommendations to enhance them for the benefit of students and practitioners. A number of additional courses have also been suggested to enrich the list of substantial courses on migration (see Annexure).

REGIONAL IMBALANCE

The key issue that emerges through the responses is that while migration is often a topic of discussion and dissertation at universities, it seldom forms a programme in totality. Migration related modules are often studied within courses like Anthropology, Demography/Population Studies, Development Studies, Economics, Geography, History, International Relations, Political Science, Public Policy, Social Work and Sociology. Wherever there are separate courses on migration, they are largely well planned, but the scope of the programmes is often affected by their location. Several experts, in fact, note the asymmetry in the topics and availability of courses related to migration studies in different regions.

On one hand, in developed countries, topics of international migration, refugees and irregular migration are emphasized more. On the other hand, in developing countries issues of non-resident citizens, diaspora and skilled emigration find more limelight. For instance, in Asia discussions around migration issues focus on transnational migration, temporary migration, the feminization of labour migration, the role of commercial brokers, international marriage migration, migration and development, and the role of information and communication technologies in migration. However, academics have to rely largely on journal papers and the research conducted by colleagues working at their universities to shape modules on Asian migration issues. The Asia-Pacific region is one of the main source regions of migration and therefore it has been suggested to introduce more courses on Migration Studies in this area.

These discrepancies also exist in other parts of the world. For instance, only a few academic programmes on migration exist in Africa and the Middle East.

IMPROVING EXISTING PROGRAMMES

In order to improve existing programmes, a few respondents suggest encouraging interventions through robust and evidence-based research. A well-planned curriculum, for instance, may include a combination of Social Sciences and Humanities research methods training, including but not limited to quantitative and qualitative methods, multi-sited research¹, participatory action research and research ethics training.

It has also been noted that some courses are quite narrow in scope and tend to focus only on specific aspects of migration. Issues of internal migration and its various forms like circular, temporary and seasonal migration, in particular, do not get adequate emphasis.

To enhance the curriculum coverage of programmes on migration, topics such as socio-economic dimensions, and issues of exclusion, economy, entitlements and livelihoods in the context of a changing socio-political space should be incorporated.

Furthermore, a wide range of theoretical frameworks—including assimilation/integration, ethnicity, identities, superdiversity, globalization, transnationalism—have been recommended, noting that critical perspective on these theories should also be imparted.

Other areas that should be considered in course design include migration and development, geopolitics, territorial governance, refugee studies, transnational religion, diasporas and postcolonial theory. The impact of migration on legal and regulatory measures, socio-economic indicators, livelihood patterns, policy implementation, and politics are other important aspects that must be studied.

EMERGING AREAS IN MIGRATION STUDIES

URBANIZATION

Migration, especially internal migration, cannot be understood without understanding the emerging pattern of urbanization. However, the attention paid to the migration-cities nexus is insufficient, given the complexity and depth of the issue.

An increased focus on data analysis of migration and its linkage with urbanization has been suggested, especially in countries that are undergoing rapid urbanization. The impact of

¹ Multi-sited ethnography is a method of data collection that follows a topic or social problem through different field sites geographically and/or socially.

migration on urbanization of poverty, urban planning and development, and laws and regulations related to decentralization, housing, water and sanitation are other areas which need to be incorporated in curriculums. The nature of urban livelihoods and the ability of migrants to access them, the effectiveness of migration as a livelihood strategy, portability of rights and benefits for migrants', especially those belonging to minority and disadvantaged groups, and the legal and social rights of migrants at destination are also important in the context of urban studies.

CULTURE

Culture is another major factor that defines migration outcomes. The migration experience is an exchange of language, culture and knowledge. Cultural diversity is embedded in various aspects of daily life such as housing, education, health, and the use of urban (public) spaces. It should therefore be taken into account in the formulation of policies for building inclusive cities in source, destination and transit areas.

For instance, the notion of "square"—the well-known "piazza"—implies very different perceptions and usage of such a space by Italians and Europeans on one hand, and the Arab or African cultures on the other. Courses providing the necessary cultural and policy basis to students who may in the future become pivotal decision-makers at the local level would therefore be very useful.

In this context, efforts should be made to understand migration within the framework of the individual biographies and social structures that it represents. A biographical approach to studying migration could add value to existing programmes.

CLIMATE CHANGE

Climate change vulnerability and migration is another emerging area, requiring more teaching and research. Evidence suggests that global environmental change impacts migration through its influence on a range of social, political, economic, technological and demographic drivers which themselves affect migration. Climate change is one of the more pronounced pathways through which global environmental change expresses itself.

One respondent notes that extreme weather events such as earthquakes, cyclones, droughts, floods, volcanic activities etc. are some of the main reasons for migration, especially in Asia-Pacific and Africa, but inadequate attention is paid to these aspects in curriculum design.

More research and an interdisciplinary and multi-stakeholder approaches are required to find solutions for the migration and global environmental change nexus. Universities can fill this gap by introducing courses on Environmental Migration, and Migration and Climate Change.

TECHNOLOGY

Technology also has a very strong role to play in ensuring mobility of services, education, health, innovation in housing, sanitation, portability of social security, etc. Therefore, digital empowerment of migrants should form an important focus area. For instance, social networks

greatly influence the choice of destinations and also help in connecting people, thereby facilitating the migration process.

OTHER AREAS

Issues such as gender, youth, ageing and sustainable development are topics that cut across all recommendations for improving teaching and research in migration. Furthermore, comparative migration research—including gender comparative research, city-to-city comparisons, and inter-regional research—as well as post-migration research have been suggested as important aspects that should be included in all Migration Studies courses.

Additional suggested topics of interest in the context of migration—not covered in the above discussion—are Ethics, Migration and Development, Migration and Media Studies, and Psycho-social Approaches to Migration.

ADDITIONAL COURSES

The respondents recommended the addition of 15 more courses to our preliminary list of courses on Migration Studies, out of which eight courses are from Europe, two are from Asia-Pacific, one is from the Middle East and Africa and four are online courses. The final list now comprises of 65 courses from across the world.

The final list of courses with links is in the annexure.

RESPONSES WERE RECEIVED, WITH THANKS, FROM:

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17. Sucharita Roy, Tata Trusts
18. Tora Saikia, Technical Expert, ICPP Project, GIZ India

ANNEXURE: LIST OF COURSES ON MIGRATION STUDIES

ASIA-PACIFIC²

1. Central University of Gujarat, India: [MPhil/PhD in Diaspora Studies](#)
2. Centre for Development Studies, India: [Research Unit on International Migration](#)
3. Chulalongkorn University, Thailand: [Asian Research Center for Migration](#)
4. Indira Gandhi National Open University, India: [Appreciation Course on Population and Sustainable Development](#)
5. International Institute for Population Studies, India: [Department of Migration & Urban Studies](#)
6. Jawaharlal Nehru University, India: [MA in Development and Labour Studies](#)
7. Jawaharlal Nehru University, India: [MPhil/PhD Programme, Centre for the Study of Regional Development](#)
8. Mahidol University, Thailand: [Mahidol Migration Centre](#)
9. Miriam College, Philippines: [MA in Migration Studies](#)
10. National University of Singapore, Singapore: [Asian Migration Cluster, Asia Research Institute](#)
11. Ruia College, University of Mumbai, India: [Post Graduate Diploma in Slum Studies And Development](#)
12. Tata Institute of Social Sciences, Mumbai and Aajeevika Bureau, India: [Certificate Course in Migration](#)
13. Tribhuvan University, Nepal: [MA/MPhil/PhD in Population Studies](#)
14. University of Colombo, Sri Lanka: [MA/MPhil/PhD in Demography](#)
15. University of Dhaka, Bangladesh: [Refugee and Migratory Movements Research Unit](#)
16. University of New South Wales, Australia: [Centre for Refugee Research](#)

EUROPE

17. Aalborg University, Copenhagen, Denmark: [MSc in Development and International Relations with a specialization in Global Refugee Studies](#)
18. Carl von Ossietzky University Oldenburg, Germany; Ahfad University for Women in Omdurman, Sudan; Makerere University Kampala, Uganda; Mbarara University of Science & Technology, Uganda; University of Nova Gorica, Slovenia; University of South Bohemia in České Budějovice, Czech Republic; University of Stavanger, Norway: [European Master in Migration and Intercultural Relations](#) (joint degree)

² For Asia-Pacific, departments and research centres that focus on migration and programmes with a migration component have also been included

19. Linköping University, Sweden: [MA in Ethnic and Migration Studies](#)
20. London School of Economics, UK: [MSc in International Migration and Public Policy](#)
21. Malmö University, Sweden: [MA in International Migration and Ethnic Relations](#)
22. Middlesex University London, UK: [MA in Migration, Society and Policy](#)
23. Pompeu Fabra University, Spain: [MA in Immigration Management](#)
24. Queen Mary University of London, UK: [LLM in Immigration Law](#)
25. Queen Mary University of London, UK: MA in [Geography, Cities and Cultures](#), or [Global Development Futures](#)
26. Queen Mary University of London, UK: [MSc in Migration, Culture and Global Health Policy](#)
27. School of Advanced Study, University of London, UK: [MA in Refugee Protection and Forced Migration Studies](#) (distance learning)
28. SOAS, University of London: [MA in Migration and Diaspora Studies](#)
29. SOAS, University of London: [MSc in Migration, Mobility and Development](#)
30. United Nations University-MERIT and Maastricht University, Netherlands: [MSc in Public Policy and Human Development: Migration Studies \(specialization\)](#)
31. United Nations University-MERIT and Maastricht University, Netherlands: [Migration Management Diploma Programme](#)
32. Université Lille III, France: [Master Erasmus Mundus MITRA – Médiation interculturelle: identités, mobilités, conflits](#)
33. University College Cork, Ireland: [MA in Migration - Contemporary Migration and Diaspora Studies](#)
34. University College Dublin, Ireland: [MSocSc in Global Migration & Cultural Differences](#)
35. University College London, UK: [MSc in Global Migration](#)
36. University of Amsterdam, Netherlands: [MSc in Sociology: Migration and Ethnic Studies](#) (track)
37. University of Amsterdam, Netherlands; University of Deusto, Spain; University College Dublin, Ireland/University of Latvia, Latvia/University of Osnabrück, Germany: [Master in International Migration and Social Cohesion](#) (joint degree)
38. University of Birmingham, UK: [MA/PGDip/PG Cert in Migration, Superdiversity and Policy](#)
39. University of Copenhagen, Denmark: [MA in Advanced Migration Studies](#)
40. University of Kent, UK: [MPhil/PhD in Migration Studies](#)
41. University of Leicester, UK: [MA in Migration Studies](#)
42. University of Liège, Belgium: [Master's in Sociology - Immigration Studies](#)
43. University of Oxford, UK: [International Summer School in Forced Migration](#)
44. University of Oxford, UK: [MSc in Migration Studies](#)
45. University of Oxford, UK: [MSc in Refugee and Forced Migration Studies](#)
46. University of Southampton, UK: [MA in Transnational Studies](#)
47. University of Sussex, UK: [MA in Migration Studies](#)

48. University of Valencia, Spain: [International Master's in Migration](#)
49. Utrecht University, Netherlands: [MSc in Migration, Ethnic Relations and Multiculturalism](#)

MIDDLE EAST AND AFRICA

50. Lebanese American University, Lebanon: [MA in Migration Studies](#)
51. Tel Aviv University, Israel: [MA in Global Migration and Policy](#)
52. The American University in Cairo, Egypt: [MA/Graduate Diploma in Migration and Refugee Studies](#)
53. Université Cheikh Anta Diop de Dakar, Senegal: [Master – Migrations Internationales Relations Interculturelles](#)
54. University of Ghana, Ghana: [MA/MPhil/PhD in Migration Studies](#)
55. University of Witwatersrand, South Africa: [MA/PhD in Migration and Displacement](#)

NORTH AMERICA

56. Columbia University, USA: [MPH in Forced Migration and Health](#)
57. DePaul University, USA: [MS in Refugee and Forced Migration Studies](#)
58. Ryerson University, Canada: [MA in Immigration and Settlement Studies](#)
59. The City University of New York, USA: [MA in Liberal Studies: Migration and Global Cities](#) (track)
60. University of California, San Diego, USA: [MA in Latin American Studies with Concentration in International Migration](#)
61. University of San Francisco, USA: [Master in Migration Studies](#)

ONLINE COURSES

62. European University Institute: Why do people Migrate? ([Part 1](#) and [Part 2](#))
63. United Nations University-MERIT and Maastricht University: [Comparative Migration Policy](#)
64. United Nations University-MERIT and Maastricht University: [Introduction to Migration Studies](#)
65. United Nations University-MERIT and Maastricht University: [Migration and Remittances Effects](#)