

MIGRATION RESEARCH GROUP
Hamburg Institute of International Economics



Workshop on
Interdisciplinary Approaches
to Migration Theory



June 13, 2005, Hamburg

This one-day workshop on interdisciplinary approaches in migration research brings together a small group of experts from economics, sociology and political theory. It aims to explore options for combining conceptual, theoretical and methodological approaches from these three disciplines. The main focus of the discussion will be on the possibilities for applying economics approaches to modelling migration decision-making, integration, and policy.

Questions addressed include:

1. Why has economics remained relatively screened from interdisciplinary exchange in migration research? Is there a necessary trade-off between theoretical rigour and models that do justice to social complexity? What do economists/sociologists have to gain from interdisciplinary research?
2. What forms could such interdisciplinary research take? "Borrowing" theories and concepts from other disciplines? Use of complementary methodologies? Or full methodological "integration" (e.g. economic modelling of social interactions)?
3. What sorts of applications of interdisciplinary approaches to migration theory exist? How should we evaluate them?
 - Economic modelling of networks, social capital, cumulative causation
 - Sociological or political science use of methodologies from economics / econometrics

The workshop has two goals:

- The discussion should feed into the MRG's 4-year research project "KnowMig", funded by an EU Excellence Grant. Please see migration-networks.org for details of the project.
- Papers could be published as a special issue (journal still to be decided)

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Programme

9.30 Introductory remarks (Thomas Straubhaar, Christina Boswell)

9.45 Session One: Theoretical Perspectives on Interdisciplinary Research

Chair: Thomas Straubhaar

Introductory overview: Christina Boswell, Dragos Radu

Discussant: Michael Bommès

10.45 – 11.00 Coffee Break

11.00 Session Two: Economic Modelling of Social Interaction

Chair: Michael Bräuninger

Paper 1: *Herd and Network Effects in Migration Decision-making*
Gil Epstein

Paper 2: *Schooling, Segregation, Migration Background and Student Achievements: Assessing the Social Multiplier Link*
Horst Entorf

Discussants: Philip Muus, Michael Bräuninger

12.30 – 13.30 Lunch

13.30 Session Three: Social Capital and Migrant Networks

Chair: Tim Fallenbacher

Paper 1: *Bridge Over Troubled Water? Migration, Social Capital and the Welfare State*
Gert Svendsen/Gunnar Svendsen

Paper 2: *Migrant Networks and Migration Decision-making*
Sonja Haug

Paper 3: Systems and networks (tba)
Michael Bommès

Discussant: Peter Mueser, Tim Fallenbacher

15.30 – 16.00 Coffee break

16.00 Session Four: Economics in Political Science

Chair: Thomas Straubhaar

Paper 1: *Political Economy Approaches to Migration Policy*
Gary Freeman

Paper 2: *States as Clubs? Towards an Economic Understanding of Citizenship*
Holger Kolb

Discussants: Grete Brochmann, Thomas Straubhaar

17.30 Closing discussion: Conclusions, special issue

Chair: Christina Boswell

18.00 End

List of Participants

1. Michael Bommers
Institute for Migration and Inter-cultural Studies (IMIS), Osnabrück University
2. Christina Boswell
Migration Research Group, HWWA
3. Michael Bräuninger
Department of International Economics, HWWA
4. Grete Brochmann
Institute for Social Research, Oslo
5. Horst Entorf
Department of Economics, Technical University of Darmstadt
6. Gil Epstein
Department of Economics, Bar-Ilan University, Ramat-Gan
7. Tim Fallenbacher
Migration Research Group, HWWA
8. Gary Freeman
Public Policy Institute, Austin University, Texas
9. Sonja Haug
Federal Agency for Migration & Refugees (BAMF), Nuremberg
10. Holger Kolb
IMIS, Osnabrück University
11. Katja Michaelowa
Department of Trade and Development, HWWA
12. Philip Muus
Institute for Migration and Ethnic Relations (IMER), University of Malmö
13. Peter Mueser
Department of Economics, University of Missouri-Columbia
14. Dragos Radu
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15. Melanie Schmickler
Department of Sociology, University of Freiburg i. Br.
16. Sabina Stelzig
Migration Research Group, HWWI
17. Elena Stirbu
Migration Research Group, HWWA
18. Thomas Straubhaar
HWWA/HWWI
19. Gert Svendsen
Department of Political Science, University of Aarhus
20. Gunnar Svendsen
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21. Florin Vadean
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