

Book Review:

Christine Inglis, Wei Li, Binod Khadria (eds.) **The SAGE Handbook of International Migration** (First Edition). London: Sage. 2019. 9781412961752, 688pp.

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International migration is a global phenomenon with increasing scope, intensity, and impact. While migration is not an alternative to advancement, it can be a good factor for progress when supported by appropriate policies. The increasing complexity of migratory patterns, as well as their influence on nations, migrants, households, and societies, have all led to international migration that concerns the global community. The book on 'International Migration' by *Christine Inglis, Wei Li, and Binod Khadria* is a valuable contribution to the study of migration. The handbook explains international migration comprehensively by covering four major themes with 42 chapters that present the status of migration studies in the broadest sense, comprising migrant settlement policies and practices that attempt to control migration activities.

The first part of the handbook deals with the disciplinary perspective of international migration. It highlights that in the past, migration used to be analyzed from the viewpoint of its patterns and the reasons for migration. With the advancement of the social sciences, this view has changed significantly, and many unexplored areas of migration patterns have begun to be studied by researchers. All of the disciplines discussed in this section of the guidebook begin with a brief history of the subject and its relevance to migration. After the foundational knowledge has been well described, the discussion progressively moves to the present state of that discipline and its relevance to migration. This section, however, fails to address the interdisciplinary impact of migration, which is crucial because the causal effect of migration on one area could lead to influence on another. For example, if migration increases economic activity in a country's nation, it may also increase the country's crime rate³.

The discussion on migration moves further by explaining theme 2 of the handbook, which describes the historical and contemporary flows of migrants. This section, with three general chapters and ten chapters, gives an overview of the different regional migration systems. The first three chapters, including the chapter of *Hoeder's* historical overview, details the international and regional flows prior to the mid-twentieth century, before the migration system took shape. While *Martin's* contemporary chapter highlights the changes, describes the patterns, and searches for the reasons behind migration since the mid-twentieth century, the

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³ Migrants and Crime in Sweden in the Twenty-First Century. *Society*, 57(1), 9-21.



chapter by *Kofman* exclusively discusses the feminization of migration trends, transnational families, and gendered migration and refugee research. The other ten chapters deal with regional migration flows covering all continents with permanent human settlement in Africa, Asia, Australasia, and the Pacific region, including Europe and the North and South Americas. Even though all of these chapters are immensely beneficial, does this historical analysis of past migration patterns and reasons have any effect on future migration scenarios? If so, how should the relevant governments and policymakers respond while devising their laws and policies? Unfortunately, the handbook does not address this critical topic.

The handbook moves further by explaining the Theme 3 of the handbook, which is titled “Theory, Policy, and Factors Affecting Incorporation.” In this section, the author focused on detailing immigrants’ experiences and how they interact with the rest of the people in the host nation. The term “incorporation” was employed by the author to characterize this relationship, while the terms “assimilation,” “multiculturalism,” and “transnationalism” were used to describe how immigrants assimilate into the host country. This part opens with *Alba and Nee’s* chapter, in which they discuss the roots of the ‘assimilation’ paradigm, which is based on the belief that migrants, not the receiving community, are responsible for changing themselves. The ‘multicultural’ paradigm highlighted the significance of reforming receiving countries’ institutions to adapt more flexibly to migrants’ practical and cultural demands and objectives. Besides that, ‘transnationalism’ is founded on the concept that migration and even permanent residency in a country does not always mean severing ties with one’s homeland or with members of one’s society residing in third nations.

The remaining seven chapters in this section examine in more detail the specific areas of social life that are of considerable importance for the way migrants are incorporated into their host countries. Starting with “economic motivation”, which is frequently cited as a major reason for emigration, has been explored in the chapter entitled “Migrant entrepreneurship and transnational links” by *Rath, Salano, and Schutjens*. The authors have argued whether entrepreneurship involving migrant ownership of enterprises is a way of avoiding exclusion and discrimination in the labor market or a means of achieving economic success. *Heath & Lessard-Phillips*, in their chapter entitled, “Inequality and the Structure of Educational Opportunity and Institutions”, highlighted the complexity involved in establishing the extent to which migrant children experience equality of opportunity. *Wright and Viggiano* in their chapter on ‘language and incorporation’ show that knowledge of the receiving society’s language has a significant influence on individual access to the institutions of the wider society. The spatial location of migrants and their families within specific areas of the country and its cities were explored by *Kaplan* in his chapter entitled, “Spatial Concentrations and Ghettoes”, in which the author emphasized that incorporation can be facilitated through the provision of services targeting the needs of a migrant group, whether it be school catering for specific language groups or health and social welfare services. In the chapter “The Role of Religion in Migrant Incorporation’, the author *Martikainen* argued that how religion affects migrant incorporation is still an area where substantially more detailed data is needed to answer the diverse issues surrounding religious affiliation and identity.

The last two chapters in this section shift the focus away from migrants to considering ways in which their experience of incorporation is influenced by the host society and its institutions. As explored by *Tsalapatani* in her chapter on “Citizenship”, she highlighted that although the legal status of a citizen is very significant, but there are other dimensions, such as social and



political citizenship are also required to be considered when discussing how citizenship affects an individual's incorporation. The final chapter in this section by *Solomos*, entitled "Racism and the Age of Super-Diversity", draws attention to how migrant experiences of racism negatively affect their incorporation into society. As the author argues, understanding of racism has changed in recent decades, and there is an ongoing discussion about how racism has shifted from color-coded racism to a broader form that includes exclusions that operate through ideas of ethnic or cultural differences. In this context, he stressed the need for more research to investigate how and why race remains important in the context of growing super-diversity.

Finally, theme 4 of the handbook has five chapters in which the focus is on the policymakers who face challenges relating to varied aspects of migration and their impact on the migrant's countries and societies. In this regard, the first chapter, "Remittances and Migrants: Altruism, Insurance, Investment, and Development," authored by *John Connell and Richard Brown*, concentrates on a challenge that is primarily a concern of sending countries and discusses how migration has affected emigrants' homelands through remittances and their impact on development. The chapter encourages readers to consider challenges not addressed by the researchers, such as emerging reverse flows of remittances from origin countries to destination countries, such as those sent by families to their children studying in developed destination countries to pay for tuition and other living expenses in the destination countries. On the other hand, *Jean Michel Lafleur's* chapter on "migration and state concerns about immigration and the wellbeing of its citizens" focuses on a variety of issues that a state has in safeguarding and optimizing the welfare and well-being of its residents living abroad.

The chapter by *Howard Duncan*, "Trends in International, National, and Local Policies on Migrant Entry and Integration," shifts our focus to the receiving nations' responses to the difficulty of managing immigrants' entry and integration. The chapter discusses how receiving nations are becoming convergent in their views that policy should be developed through multilateral procedures including all countries rather than unilateral ways involving a single country. Despite the projected optimism in *Duncan's* chapter, the global trends indicate that the receiving nations differ in their openness to the huge and growing number of asylum seekers from across the border. *Kathleen Newland and Suzan Fratzyke's* chapter "Refugees and Asylum Seekers" focuses on how nations are using multilateral solutions to handle the issues connected to the refugee flow. It emphasizes the far-reaching effects of large-scale refugee movements on global economic and political growth, security, and stability. The chapter also emphasizes the harsh truth that, in many countries, without the right to work, refugees and asylum seekers are in danger of falling into poverty, resulting in growing social, economic, and psychological consequences. The handbook's last chapter, "Migration and the States' focus on human trafficking as a security issue," by *Heli Askola*, addresses this rising worldwide concern. The chapter discusses existing international human trafficking regulations and offers a critical assessment of how the nexus of migration and exploitation has been framed as a security issue rather than a concern for the safety of migrants.

In conclusion, it is among the best books on international migration currently available. When we examine the guidebook thoroughly, we realize that over 50 writers, each of whom is an expert in their field, authored it. Even though each author has contributed to the best of their knowledge, the book looks fragmented and unaligned. While one author discusses Europe, the other discusses Asia, which makes full comparison difficult in such a situation. Moreover,

the book does not address the subject of migrants who have temporarily or permanently resided in one nation but, in the event of a crisis, seek to relocate to a third country for a certain period; in such circumstances, how does the third country react to such migrants? Similarly, the book does not address the issues that the migrant-receiving state confronts in preserving the rights of its citizens. Lastly, for migrants' integration into the host countries, some key areas that the handbook was expected to include, e.g. factors such as job opportunities, safety, and social security aspects (Asian migrants prefer to visit the Gulf countries and European nations for such reasons).

Despite this limitation, among others, the book provides an interdisciplinary approach that covers practically every dimension of migration, and this is a novel concept. The book is written understandably and contributes significantly to the discussion of short- and long-term migration, a phenomenon that is becoming increasingly important as migration now affects almost every nation-state, whether as a country of origin, a transit country, or a destination country for migrant workers. It is thus suggested to a wide variety of readers, particularly those desiring to acquire insight and enhance their knowledge in this area, specifically researchers and policymakers.

