

Measuring impact and the most influential works in Migration Studies

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Abstract

Our paper offers an independent measure of the citation of published research in the field of migration studies. Using the *Google Scholar* citation database and *Ann Harzing* ranking software, we have created a list of the 100 most cited articles, books and authors in migration studies. Like any lists, this one also has some drawbacks but it reflects, in part, the value and influence of the work our colleagues in this fast growing field produce.

Keywords: measuring impact; migration studies; ranking academic work; journal articles; books; scholars; research.

Introduction

This issue wraps up the 12th volume of *Migration Letters*; a journey we have started with our colleague Elli Heikkila in 2003. Together we responded to a need for a letter-type journal publishing shorter pieces of research and scholarship in migration studies. Over the years, we believe that *Migration Letters* has offered an important venue for publication and support for the research which has seen an exponential growth in the last decade.

When we started, *Migration Letters* was the fifth or sixth journal with migration in the title, publishing twice a year and it was offering a new style, letter type, than the existing journals. Now, the number of journals covering migration studies has increased over a dozen as have the number of issues published by these journals. In today's digital world, huge databases appear regularly. Sifting through information available has become a more sophisticated and demanding task. Rankings and lists appear on a daily basis. Our goals is driven by our hopes that by recognising our colleagues' work and contributions to the field will support continued research. While we are aware of the dangers such lists can hold (missing important debates and critiques by those who we do not reference) that was not our goal or purpose and we apologize in advance to anyone we may have omitted. What we do here is to place migration scholarship on a transparent map without using commercial

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resources such as the lists generated by indexing companies. This also gives us an opportunity to look at where we stand in attracting influential researchers in the field to our journal: *Migration Letters*. We are proud to include work by Douglas Massey, Caroline Brettell and Thomas Faist in our journal.

In this exercise, we have used Ann Harzing's software extracting citation reports from Google Scholar database. We have used six keywords, immigrant, immigration, emigrant, emigration, migrant, migration to cover the broader field. We have not restricted the search to any specific period to identify historic record and we have included articles and books to reduce bias. Once we created our master list we removed items which were not related to human mobility as there is a rather rich literature on for example, bird migration and cell migration.

The top 100 most cited works are listed in the table 1. Table 2 presents the 100 most influential authors using the master list of migration studies (Table 2). The first table has four columns indicating authors, title of the work, year of publication and source if it appeared in a serial. Table 3 ranks the top 20 journals where the top 100 most cited works have been published.

Among the most influential works, there are some well-known historic studies that have a lasting influence on migration studies including Ravenstein's (1885) classic *Laws of Migration* and Lee's (1966) *Theory of Migration*, Todaro's (1969 & 1970) work on development and unemployment, Massey and colleagues' (1993) appraisal of migration theories, and Piore's (1980) famous *Birds of Passage*.

Table 1. Top 100 most cited works (articles and books) in Migration Studies

Authors	Title of the article or book	Year	Source
1-10			
JR Harris, MP Todaro	Migration, unemployment and development: a two-sector analysis	1970	<i>The American Economic Review</i>
S Castles, MJ Miller, G Ammendola	The Age of Migration: International Population Movements in the Modern World: New York: The Guilford Press.	2003	
A Portes, RG Rumbaut	<i>Immigrant America: A portrait</i>	2006	
JW Berry	Immigration, acculturation, and adaptation	1997	<i>Applied Psychology</i>
WI Thomas, F Znaniecki	<i>The Polish peasant in Europe and America: Monograph of an immigrant group</i>	1918	
MP Todaro	A model of labor migration and urban unemployment in less developed countries	1969	<i>The American Economic Review</i>
LA Sjaastad	The costs and returns of human migration	1962	<i>The Journal of Political Economy</i>
A Portes, RG Rumbaut	<i>Legacies: The story of the immigrant second generation</i>	2001	
S Sassen	<i>Globalization and its discontents:[essays on the new mobility of people and money]</i>	1998	
DS Massey et al.	<i>Theories of international migration: a review and appraisal</i>	1993	<i>Population and Development Review</i>

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Table 1. *continued...*

Authors	Title of the article or book	Year	Source
11-30			
MJ Piore	Birds of passage	1980	<i>Cambridge Books</i>
A Portes, J Sensenbrenner	Embeddedness and immigration: Notes on the social determinants of economic action	1993	<i>American Journal of Sociology</i>
EG Ravenstein	The laws of migration	1885	<i>Journal of The Statistical Society of London</i>
ES Lee	A theory of migration	1966	<i>Demography</i>
GJ Borjas	The economics of immigration	1994	<i>Journal of Economic Literature</i>
O Stark, BH Blackwell	<i>The migration of labor</i>	1991	
RE Park	Human migration and the marginal man	1928	<i>American Journal of Sociology</i>
DS Massey, J Arango, G Hugo, A Kouaouci et al.	<i>Worlds in Motion: Understanding International Migration at the End of the Millennium: Understanding International Migration at the End of the Millennium</i>	1999	
R Alba, V Nee	<i>Remaking the American mainstream: Assimilation and contemporary immigration</i>	2009	
RS Parreñas	<i>Servants of globalization: Women, migration and domestic work</i>	2001	
R Alba, V Nee	Rethinking assimilation theory for a new era of immigration	1997	<i>International Migration Review</i>
P Hondagneu-Sotelo	<i>Gendered transitions: Mexican experiences of immigration</i>	1994	
C Suárez-Orozco et al.	<i>Children of immigration</i>	2009	
T Faist	<i>The volume and dynamics of international migration and transnational social spaces</i>	2000	
M Boyd	Family and personal networks in international migration: recent developments and new agendas	1989	<i>International Migration Review</i>
DS Massey, R Alarcón, J Durand, H Gonzalez	<i>Return to Aztlan: The social process of international migration from Western Mexico</i>	1990	
DS Massey, J Durand, NJ Malone	<i>Beyond smoke and mirrors: Mexican immigration in an era of economic integration</i>	2002	
Lisa Lowe	<i>Immigrant acts: on Asian American cultural politics</i>	1996	
GJ Borjas	<i>The labor demand curve is downward sloping: Reexamining the impact of immigration on the labor market</i>	2003	
NG Schiller, L Basch, CS Blanc	From immigrant to transmigrant: Theorizing transnational migration	1995	<i>Anthropological Quarterly</i>

Table 1. *continued...*

Authors	Title of the article or book	Year	Source
31-50			
J Mincer	<i>Family migration decisions</i>	1977	
S Castles, G Kosack	<i>Immigrant workers and class structure in Western Europe</i>	1973	
O Stark, DE Bloom	The new economics of labor migration	1985	<i>The American Economic Review</i>
S Castles, A Davidson	<i>Citizenship and migration: Globalization and the politics of belonging</i>	2000	
A Portes	The economic sociology of immigration	1995	<i>New York: Russell Sage Foundation</i>
MJ Greenwood	Research on internal migration in the United States: a survey	1975	<i>Journal of Economic Literature</i>
GJ Borjas	<i>Friends or strangers: the impact of immigrants on the US economy.</i>	1990	
E Boehmer	<i>Colonial and postcolonial literature: migrant metaphors</i>	2005	
NG Schiller, L Basch et al.	Transnationalism: A new analytic framework for understanding migration	1992	<i>Annals of The New York Academy of Sciences</i>
A Wimmer, N Glick Schiller	Methodological nationalism and beyond: nation-state building, migration and the social sciences	2002	<i>Global Networks</i>
D Card	<i>Immigrant inflows, native outflows, and the local labor market impacts of higher immigration</i>	1997	
L Quillian	Prejudice as a response to perceived group threat: Population composition and anti-immigrant and racial prejudice in Europe	1995	<i>American Sociological Review</i>
P Beerli, J Felsenstein	Maximum likelihood estimation of a migration matrix and effective population sizes in n subpopulations by using a coalescent approach	2001	<i>Proceedings of The National Academy of Sciences</i>
P Hondagneu-Sotelo	<i>Domestica: Immigrant workers cleaning and caring in the shadows of affluence</i>	2007	
GJ Borjas	<i>Heaven's door: Immigration policy and the American economy</i>	2001	
C Gordon, S Mailman	<i>Immigration Law and Procedure: Special Alert: the Immigration Act of 1990</i>	1991	
J Hollifield, P Martin, P Orrenius	<i>Controlling immigration: A global perspective</i>	2014	
I Light, E Bonacich	<i>Immigrant Entrepreneurs: Koreans in Los Angeles, 1965-1982</i>	1991	
G Kao, M Tienda	Optimism and achievement: The educational performance of immigrant youth	2005	<i>The New Immigration: An Interdisciplinary Reader</i>
GJ Borjas	The economic analysis of immigration	1999	<i>Handbook of Labor Economics</i>

MOST INFLUENTIAL WORKS IN MIGRATION STUDIES

Table 1. *continued...*

Authors	Title of the article or book	Year	Source
51-70			
DS Massey, KE Espinosa	What's driving Mexico-US migration? A theoretical, empirical, and policy analysis	1997	<i>American Journal of Sociology</i>
US Immigration	Naturalization Services	1999	
JW Berry	A psychology of immigration	2001	<i>Journal of Social Issues</i>
R Rouse	Mexican migration and the social space of postmodernism	1991	<i>Diaspora: A Journal of Transnational Studies</i>
DS Massey	Social structure, household strategies, and the cumulative causation of migration	1990	<i>Population Index</i>
RH Adams, J Page	Do international migration and remittances reduce poverty in developing countries?	2005	<i>World Development</i>
GJ Borjas	<i>The economic benefits from immigration</i>	1994	
M Zhou	Growing up American: The challenge confronting immigrant children and children of immigrants	1997	<i>Annual Review of Sociology</i>
KL Wilson, A Portes	Immigrant enclaves: An analysis of the labor market experiences of Cubans in Miami	1980	<i>American Journal of Sociology</i>
RG Ziegler, RN Hoover, MC Pike et al.	Migration patterns and breast cancer risk in Asian-American women	1993	<i>Journal of the National Cancer Institute</i>
A Portes	Immigration theory for a new century: Some problems and opportunities	1997	<i>International Migration Review</i>
A Treibel	<i>Migration in modernen Gesellschaften</i>	2010	
C Joppke	<i>Immigration and the nation-state: the United States, Germany, and Great Britain</i>	1999	
M Lamont, M Lamont	<i>The dignity of working men: Morality and the boundaries of race, class, and immigration</i>	2009	
JS Phinney, G Horenczyk, K Liebkind et al.	Ethnic identity, immigration, and well-being: An interactional perspective	2001	<i>Journal of Social Issues</i>
P Nicholas, D Genova	Migrant "illegality" and deportability in everyday life	2002	<i>Annual Review of Anthropology</i>
S Grasmuck, PR Pessar	<i>Between two islands: Dominican international migration</i>	1991	
R Chami, C Fullenkamp, S Jahjah	<i>Are immigrant remittance flows a source of capital for development?</i>	2003	
GJ Borjas, RB Freeman, LF Katz, et al.	How much do immigration and trade affect labor market outcomes?	1997	<i>Brookings Papers</i>
R Brubaker	The return of assimilation? Changing perspectives on immigration and its sequels in France, Germany, and the United States	2001	<i>Ethnic and Racial Studies</i>

Table 1. *continued...*

Authors	Title of the article or book	Year	Source
71-90			
R Waldinger, R Ward, HE Aldrich et al.	Ethnic entrepreneurs: Immigrant business in industrial societies	1990	<i>University of Illinois at Urbana C.</i>
JG Altonji, D Card	The effects of immigration on the labor market outcomes of less-skilled natives	1991	<i>Immigration, Trade, and The Labor Market</i>
N Lemann	<i>The promised land: The great black migration and how it changed America</i>	2011	
MP Todaro	<i>Internal migration in developing countries</i>	1976	
GP Freeman	Modes of immigration politics in liberal democratic states	1995	<i>International Migration Review</i>
A Favell	<i>Philosophies of integration: immigration and the idea of citizenship in France and Britain</i>	1998	
C Suarez-Orozco, MM Suárez-Orozco	<i>Transformations: Immigration, family life, and achievement motivation among Latino adolescents</i>	1995	
T Faist	Transnationalization in international migration: implications for the study of citizenship and culture	2000	<i>Ethnic and Racial Studies</i>
AL Saxenian	<i>Silicon Valley's new immigrant entrepreneurs</i>	1999	
R Bauböck	<i>Transnational citizenship: Membership and rights in international migration</i>	1994	
N Papastergiadis	<i>The turbulence of migration: Globalization, deterritorialization and hybridity</i>	2013	
EJ Taylor	The new economics of labour migration and the role of remittances in the migration process	1999	<i>International Migration</i>
D Jacobson	<i>Rights across borders: Immigration and the decline of citizenship</i>	1996	
MR Rosenzweig, O Stark	Consumption smoothing, migration, and marriage: Evidence from rural India	1989	<i>The Journal of Political Economy</i>
CB Brettell, JF Hollifield	<i>Migration theory: Talking across disciplines</i>	2014	
P Beerli, J Felsenstein	Maximum-likelihood estimation of migration rates and effective population numbers in two populations using a coalescent approach	1999	<i>Genetics</i>
R Koopmans	<i>Contested citizenship: Immigration and cultural diversity in Europe</i>	2005	
JW Berry, JS Phinney, DL Sam, P Vedder	Immigrant youth: Acculturation, identity, and adaptation	2006	<i>Applied Psychology</i>
KW Chan, L Zhang	The Hukou system and rural-urban migration in China: Processes and changes	1999	<i>The China Quarterly</i>
D Bigo	Security and immigration: toward a critique of the governmentality of unease	2002	<i>Alternatives: Global, Local, Political</i>

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Table 1. *continued...*

Authors	Title of the article or book	Year	Source
91-100			
LA Brown, EG Moore	The intra-urban migration process: a perspective	1970	<i>Geografiska Annaler. Series B, Human Geography</i>
RS Parreñas	<i>Children of global migration: Transnational families and gendered woes</i>	2005	
GJ Borjas	Economic theory and international migration	1989	<i>International Migration Review</i>
C Menjivar	<i>Fragmented ties: Salvadoran immigrant networks in America</i>	2000	
MJ Greenwood	Human migration: Theory, models, and empirical studies*	1985	<i>Journal of Regional Science</i>
E Cantor-Graae, JP Selten	Schizophrenia and migration: a meta-analysis and review	2014	<i>American Journal of Psychiatry</i>
Polly Hill	<i>The migrant cocoa-farmers of southern Ghana: A study in rural capitalism</i>	1997	
D Card	Is the new immigration really so bad?	2005	<i>The Economic Journal</i>
T Hammar	<i>Democracy and the nation state: Aliens denizens and citizens in a world of international migration.</i>	1990	
DM Gould	Immigrant links to the home country: empirical implications for US bilateral trade flows	1994	<i>The Review of Economics and Statistics</i>

Table 2. Top 100 authors of the most cited works in Migration Studies

Rank	Name	<i>Citation Score</i>	Rank	Name	<i>Citation Score</i>
1	A Portes	15074	51	E Boehmer	1282
2	MP Todaro	11064	52	C. Blanc-Szanton	1239
3	DS Massey	10985	53	L. Basch	1239
4	GJ Borjas	10728	54	A Wimmer	1221
5	S Castles	9275	55	D Card	1204
6	JW Berry	6555	56	L Quillian	1202
7	EJ Taylor	6402	57	C Gordon	1133
8	JR Harris	6377	58	S Mailman	1133
9	G Ammendola	6305	59	J Hollifield	1128
10	MJ Miller	6305	60	P Martin	1128
11	A Kouaouci	5541	61	P Orrenius	1128
12	A Pellegrino	5541	62	E Bonacich	1126
13	G Hugo	5541	63	I Light	1126
14	J Arango	5541	64	G Kao	1113
15	O Stark	4784	65	M Tienda	1113
16	RG Rumbaut	4735	66	KE Espinosa	1099
17	F Znaniecki	4273	67	R Rouse	1075
18	WI Thomas	4273	68	J Page	1071
19	NG Schiller	4000	69	RH Adams	1071
20	R Alba	3923	70	M Zhou	1062
21	V Nee	3923	71	KL Wilson	1038
22	LA Sjaastad	3795	72	A Hildesheim	991
23	S Sassen	3473	73	AH Wu-Williams	991
24	J Durand	3272	74	AM Nomura	991
25	MJ Piore	3180	75	DW West	991
26	J Sensenbrenner	3097	76	JF Rosenthal	991
27	EG Ravenstein	3055	77	LN Kolonel	991
28	ES Lee	3005	78	MB Hyer	991
29	P Hondagneu-Sotelo	2970	79	MC Pike	991
30	C Suárez-Orozco	2670	80	PL Horn-Ross	991
31	MM Suárez-Orozco	2670	81	RG Ziegler	991
32	T Faist	2531	82	RN Hoover RN	991
33	BH Blackwell	2453	83	A Treibel	970
34	RE Park	2178	84	C Joppke	954
35	MJ Greenwood	2079	85	M Lamont	952
36	P Beerli	2029	86	G Horenczyk	948
37	J Felsenstein	2029	87	K Liebkind	948
38	RS Parreñas	2013	88	Paul Vedder	948
39	JS Phinney	1782	89	D Genova	931
40	M Boyd	1644	90	P Nicholas	931
41	H Gonzalez	1640	91	PR Pessar	927
42	R Alarcón	1640	92	S Grasmuck	927
43	NJ Malone	1632	93	C Fullenkamp	917
44	Lisa Lowe	1615	94	R Chami	917
45	CS Blanc	1540	95	S Jahjah	917
46	L Basch	1540	96	LF Katz	912
47	J Mincer	1538	97	RB Freeman	912
48	G Kosack	1513	98	R Brubaker	903
49	DE Bloom	1478	99	R Waldinger	894
50	A Davidson	1457	100	R Ward	894

Table 3. Top 20 Journals where the articles in the top 100 works in Migration Studies have appeared.

Rank	Title
1	<i>The American Economic Review</i>
2	<i>The Journal of Political Economy</i>
3	<i>Applied Psychology</i>
4	<i>Population and Development Review</i>
5	<i>American Journal of Sociology</i>
6	<i>Journal of The Statistical Society of London</i>
7	<i>Demography</i>
8	<i>Journal of Economic Literature</i>
9	<i>International Migration Review</i>
10	<i>Global Networks</i>
11	<i>Anthropological Quarterly</i>
12	<i>Annals of The New York Academy of Sciences</i>
13	<i>Journal of Social Issues</i>
14	<i>Diaspora: A Journal of Transnational Studies</i>
15	<i>Annual Review of Anthropology</i>
16	<i>Ethnic and Racial Studies</i>
17	<i>The China Quarterly</i>
18	<i>Journal of Regional Science</i>
19	<i>American Journal of Psychiatry</i>
20	<i>The Economic Journal</i>

Conclusion

Every ranking has its flaws and our ranking is no different. Our list refers to works cited or published online and therefore those pieces from outside the digital world are not included. However, it still measures the popularity of on-line work published in migration studies and gives us a sense of the way in which themes have developed over time. It is clear that early research (dating to Ravenstein’s writing in the late 19th century) was focused on defining and modelling migration as a process that is derived in response to what many assumed was the natural development of market systems and labour opportunities before all else. Through the 20th century the focus of research shifts from a concentration on drivers of migration in general to the outcomes migrants (and in particular international migrants) could expect to encounter as they settled; the stories movers told of their sojourns; specific issues like discrimination, gender, and generations and more. Finally, we note that by the end of the 20th century there is a shift toward new concepts (globalization and transnationalism) and the rise of multidisciplinary discussions of migration theory.

We have included two additional lists. The first notes the popularity of the authors who contributed to the papers ranked in table 1 while the second notes the journals that are most often referenced in our list. There are certainly others working on migration who have made important and substantial contributions to research on human mobility, nevertheless, our list notes some of most

influential contributors across several fields (economics, sociology and history to name just a few).

We hope that migration studies will continue to grow and mature and that we can continue to add many new names, voices and journals to our lists in the future as new and innovative researchers joining our ranks with novel ideas in the near future. Of course we also hope to see more of them appearing in the pages of *Migration Letters*.

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