

New Publication for Drs. Hourani and Sensenig-Dabbous on Migration Patterns and Policy Alternatives

By LERC Staff
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At the invitation of Dr. Tobias Schwarz of the Global South Studies Center (GSSC) of the University of Cologne Cologne, Germany, Dr. Guita Hourani, Assistant Professor, and Dr. Eugene Sensenig-Dabbous, Associate Professor, both of the Faculty of Law and Political Science and of the Lebanese Emigration Research Center at Notre Dame University, co-authored and presented a paper on migration patterns and policy alternatives at the conference "Transformations in the Global South – Taking Stock", from 27 to 29 May 2015.



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MIGRATION PATTERNS IN THE GLOBAL SOUTH, THE MIDDLE EAST AND NORTH AFRICA AS A REFLECTION OF POLICY ALTERNATIVES IN THE FIELDS OF SECURITY, LABOR MARKET, AND SOCIAL WELFARE PLANNING

by Guita Hourani & Eugene Sensenig-Dabbous (Lebanese Emigration Research Center, Notre Dame University, Lebanon)

Is it possible to distinguish between patterns of migration in the Global South and in the Global North? If so, which indicators should we choose to compare the two? Are the presence of a Northern style active labor market policy, a multi-stakeholder dialogue process, and a comprehensive social welfare system the proper benchmarks for assessing the success or failure of policy makers in these two parts of the world?

Migration and refugee patterns have traditionally been explained by examining the impact of push and pull factors. More recently, a network approach has become prevalent, highlighting the roles played by diaspora communities and extended families, linking the Global South and Global North. Accordingly, migrants and asylum seekers are no longer seen as mere objects of economic, security-related, ecological, or cultural developments, encouraging them to leave one region and migrate or escape to another. They are also studied as the subjects of their own fate, at least to the extent that the respective context allows them to be so.

The societies of the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) are currently in a state of turmoil, which has accentuated the already existing deficits on the part of their governments with respect to tackling population flows. Whereas the states of the Arab Gulf have attempted to tighten their control over the large numbers of migrant workers in their region and some countries in the Maghreb are cooperating successfully with the European Neighbourhood Policy (ENP) in order to better coordinate migration to the EU, countries like Egypt, Iraq, Lebanon, Libya, Sudan, and Syria have become transit routes for – as well as the source of – unregulated migration to the North. In this context, Turkey plays a special role as an aspiring EU member state. Although it is an important country of origin for labor migration to the EU and – more recently – has become a popular transit route for illegal migration to the West, its embeddedness within the European accession mechanism, the 'acquis communautaire', places it squarely within the logic of Northern policy development and thus outside the context of this assessment of the Global South. Turkey does illustrate, however, that a Middle Eastern country can develop, given adequate support and the appropriate policy parameters, in the direction of a Northern society based on rule of law.

Following Northern logic, any analysis of migration patterns would assume they are strongly influenced by declared governmental policy goals, corresponding legislation, and transparent implementation. Accordingly,

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Drs. Hourani and Sensenig-Dabbous presented a paper for panel session "Shifting patterns in immigration policies: comparing specific historical and regional contexts".

The paper which was presented by Dr. Sensenig-Dabbous was entitled *Migration patterns in the Global South, the Middle East and North Africa as a reflection of policy alternatives in the fields of security, labor market, and social welfare planning* and was well received by the international scholars who participated in the conference.

A brief of the paper was published in *Voices from around the World*, an electronic publication of the GSSC at the following URL: <http://gssc.uni-koeln.de/node/785>.