

Call for Papers

Invisible agendas? Return migration and the migration-development nexus

DSA Annual Conference Development's Invisible Hands

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Abstract:

Once viewed as a graphic indicator of the failure of development, migration is now seen as a potential contributor, or indeed, panacea for development with research particularly focusing upon the potential impact of remittances upon poverty alleviation and development in the Global South. In stark contrast, the issue of return migration, and its shaping of the migration-development nexus, has received far less attention. This said, perspectives on return migration have changed over a period of time. Traditionally seen as the 'natural' end of a migration cycle, return migration has been associated with the transfer of human capital back to home countries. Contemporary perspectives, which are informed by transnational approaches to migration, are more in favour of the *circulation* of skills, goods and ideas, and the creation of 'knowledge networks' which not only potentially contribute to development but also engender and support remittance flows as migrants seek to embed themselves in both home and host countries.

The issue of return migration is particularly addressed in debates on 'co-development' which attempt to bring the countries of the Global North and South together around issues of migration and development. However, critics argue that the respective agendas pursued by the Global South and North are somewhat contradictory such that while the former are interested in harnessing the developmental potential of migration, the latter are driven by a need to control migration in response to the perceived 'migration crisis' in the North such that they are more concerned with facilitating 'sustainable return' rather than a circulation of migrants.

It is within this broad context that this panel will seek to interrogate key theoretical and policy debates on return migration and the migration-development nexus. It will particularly focus upon the implications of the potentially divergent agendas of the Global North and South on return migration and the implications this has on the migration-development nexus as well as broader understandings of development and North-South relations.

Please send your abstracts by 11th July to:

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