Overview of workshop

- Introduction to return: measuring sustainability
- Forced return to Jamaica
- Promoting return: the experience of return schemes
- Transnationalism: an alternative to return
Return: some context

- Post conflict return of refugees
- Voluntary return of (legal) economic migrants
- Return of failed asylum-seekers and irregular migrants
Return: some context

Assisted: Return of failure, Return of retirement

Non-assisted: Return of conservatism, Return of motivation
Return: some figures

Over 10 million post conflict returns 1995-2005
- Over 4 million Afghanistan alone

Perhaps one third of legal economic migrants eventually return
- Historical experience of southern Europe
- Return to Poland since economic downturn

Return of failed asylum seekers, irregular migrants
- Around 16,000 per quarter in UK since 2006
- Growing proportion of non-Asylum cases
Who is interested in return?

- **UK government**
  - Return of illegal entrants, overstayers, foreign criminals

- **Individual migrant**
  - Return when migration ‘project’ complete
  - Minimise negative impact when return ‘forced’

- **Country of origin**
  - Return of skilled people
What is sustainable return?

For UK government:
- Zero re-emigration
- Or desire to re-emigrate no greater than non-migrants
- Measure one year after return

For individual migrant:
- Individual socio-economic status/fear of persecution no worse than non-migrants
- Measure one year after return

For country of origin:
- Aggregate socio-economic conditions and levels of violence no worse than before
- Measure one year after return
What is sustainable return?

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What influences the sustainability of return?

- Profile of returnees?
  - Type of migrant, years abroad, experience abroad, legal status

- Return assistance?
  - Return grants, training, employment reinsertion, other assistance

- Return context?
  - Re-insertion assistance, political/economic environment

- Public policy in host countries?
Return sustainability in Sri Lanka

- Elements of sustainability:
  - High desire to re-emigrate
  - Many returnees have no reliable income
  - Some examples of arrest, mistreatment, and threats from non-state sources
  - Some in sub-standard accommodation

- Relevant factors
  - Issue of comparability to general population?
  - Further analysis pending
Return sustainability in Kosovo and Bosnia

- **Elements of sustainability:**
  - High desire to re-emigrate
  - Many returnees poor, but not unlike rest of population

- **Relevant factors:**
  - Young men, forced to return and unable to get to own home most likely to wish to re-emigrate
  - Those forced to return less re-integrated
  - Those with secure status abroad, or who returned without assistance felt most insecure
  - Home context more significant than assistance
Return sustainability in Ghana and Cote d’Ivoire

- Elements of sustainability
  - Evidence of investment by returnees in business activities
  - No comparison data for non-returnees

- Relevant factors:
  - Profile of returnees: work experience abroad, contact maintained with home country whilst abroad, accumulation of savings
  - Return context important: business environment
  - Education and training not relevant
  - Return assistance not relevant
Task

- For your region/country:
  - What is the scale of return that is of policy interest? Over what time period has it occurred?
  - What scope is there for monitoring individual returnees? Who could do this? What would be the most interesting questions?
  - What context can this return best be compared to? What comparative data exists?
What is sustainable return?

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