

Thursday, December 7th at 6:00PM
Blow Hall - Board of Visitors Room

Examining Migration: Why do People Move and What Should be Done About It?

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Migration is a multidimensional phenomenon that takes place at different geographic levels. The wide range of domestic and international motives, known as “push” and “pull” factors, play a vital role in an individual’s choice to migrate. Stereotypes lead migrants to believe that moving to a more developed part of the world is always beneficial. This type of ignorance can lead to irrational decision making and harm to both the receiving country and the individual. One result of this kind of migration is a concept called a brain drain, where a country sees many highly-skilled workers emigrate and a loss in human capital occurs. Economic development hinges on a country’s access to human capital and a brain drain thus hinders development. Examining the factors behind migration can lead to policy that can solve the issue of loss of human capital in the source country. As a consequence of this loss, nations must focus on their education systems to train new workers to replace those who left. A key group that needs to be educated is women; however, cultural roles and opinions have made it incredibly hard for women to go to school. In the future, women stand to be a key factor in raising the economic prosperity of developing nations, but without easing the access to education for women countries stand to lose more as the brain drain continues. Gender inequality is a kind of push-pull factor for the migration of women to foreign countries. When women do not have access to the workforce due to this lack of education or are not treated well, they will sometimes choose to migrate in search of a better life for themselves or their families. Often, these women do not have accessible and legal ways to migrate, so they are forced into human trafficking situations. While there have been efforts to define and model these factors that cause human trafficking and other migration issues, it is necessary to further research and understand them in order to form effective and sustainable solutions to the human trafficking crisis. Such crises have affected developed countries, who thus far have been unable to design effective immigration control policies.