

## MASTERCLASS

### *Interdisciplinary approach to complex policy issues: A case of migration-development nexus*

JRC-SAS-INGSA Evidence and Policy Summer School  
6-8 September 2017

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# Objectives- a reminder

- **To use** the theme of migration and development to showcase the interdisciplinary and complex policy areas
- **To link** migration with wider social issues
- **To teach** how to form interdisciplinary and mix-method approaches to policy challenges, including collaborations both on the science and the policy sides, as well as across this divide
- **To exemplify** the benefits of mixed-method approaches in order to understand how to manage knowledge for policy and how to deal with knowledge overload.

# Outline of the masterclass

- Introduction
- *Why interdisciplinary and mix-method approach is needed for policy making (e.g. migration-development nexus)?*
- Plenary group question and answer session about interdisciplinarity and mix-method approach for policy making
- Discussions in pairs or small groups with flipcharts and infographics on the selected topics (based on readings advised before):
  - There is no single challenge as migration
  - Migration policies should not be reactive to yesterday's issues
  - Reducing vulnerability is crucial to the achievement of the 2030 Agenda as a whole
  - Remittances are the key aspects of the nexus between migration and development
- Reports of pairs or small groups
- Plenary summary discussion of the masterclass and brief joint report.

Let's start thinking out of the box...

### What do both groups need?

- Empathy and respect
- Comfort in dealing with uncertainty



### Scientists

- Sense of timing and rhythm of policy advice
- Open-minded
- Interested in working across disciplines



### Policymakers

- Asking the right questions
- Acknowledging the “lenses”



# Interdisciplinarity, transdisciplinarity & mix-method in complex policy issues

- The need for an interdisciplinary and mix-method synthesis (e.g. migration & development subject matters to many disciplines and the topic *per se* is interdisciplinary)
- To challenge a disciplinary blinkeredness & hesitations
- To see makro, meso and micro levels
- More interdisciplinarity in theory than in practice
- Dominant and less dominant discipline in the research process, pendind on the expertise of researchers and the nature of formulated objectives
- **In order to approach a complex policy issue, you need to design NEW INQUIRY PROTOCOL! → *Mix-method approach, also across disicplines might be very useful to make it.***

# Materials in the background

- ***Qual & Quant in a snapshot***- What's at our hands to start mix-method approach?
- ***Migration-development nexus***- two infographics.

## Infographic 1: MTT (Method, Technique, Tool)

Material prepared for the JRC-SAS-INGSA Evidence and Policy Summer School, 6-8 September 2017, Senec, Slovakia;

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*Basic methodological knowledge is important because we assess the quality of dataset mainly through its methodology (how it was collected).*

Research METHOD	Research TECHNIQUE	Research TOOL	Sampling
<b>QUALITATIVE</b> Method  <i>Qual</i>	Individual In-depth Interview (IDI): fully structured; semi-structured; unstructured	Interview scenario; interview instructions	Purposeful selection
	Focus Group Interview (FGI)	Interview scenario for a moderator	Purposeful selection
	Narrative Interview	Narrative questions (opening, middle, closing)	Purposeful selection
	Observation: participatory, non-participatory	Observation notebook instructions	Purposeful selection
	Biographical method (diaries in the past; blogs nowadays)	Diary/blog instructions	Purposeful selection
<b>QUANTITATIVE</b> Method  <i>Quant</i>	Structured questionnaire interview (survey)- interviewer asks questions	Interview questionnaire	Random (conditioned by the availability of the representative sampling base, e.g. national identification number database), sample selection and quota sampling; with <i>hidden populations</i> can be also purposeful selection
	Questionnaire (survey)- respondent fills in	Survey questionnaire	
	Survey auditorium-respondent fills in	Survey questionnaire	
	Postal survey-respondent fills in	Survey questionnaire	Purposeful selection (with pop-ups and dedicated websites); if email database available might be random
	Online survey-respondent fills in	Survey questionnaire	
<b>Between Qual and Quant</b>  (pending on the analytical indicators and categories)	Delphi Method: Panel of experts (forecasting)	IDI, FGI, Interview questionnaire, survey questionnaire	Purposeful selection
	Content analysis	Qual or Quant indicators	Purposeful selection
	Documentary analysis	Qual or Qual analytical categories	Purposeful selection
	Secondary data analysis	Qual or Qual analytical categories	Purposeful selection
	Research and grey documents overview	Qual or Qual analytical categories	Purposeful selection

Elaborated by: Izabela Grabowska.



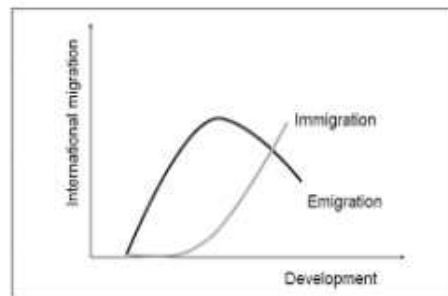
## Infographic 2

### MIGRATION-DEVELOPMENT NEXUS

**Highly contested research and policy topic:** 500,000 Google and 115,000 Google Scholar results; **Some key selected scholars and experts:** S. Sassen, T. Faist, N.N. Sorensen, N. Van Hear, D. Kapur, P. Levitt, N. Glick Schiller, H. De Haas, O. Bakewell, et al.

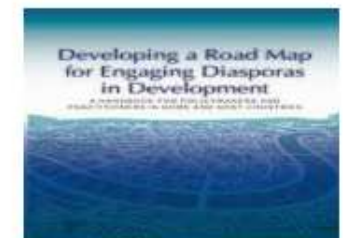
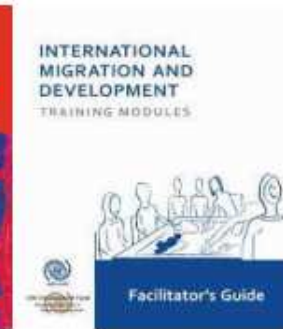
#### *Migration as a tool for development (?)*

**Key topics:** (1) Evidence and policy options; (2) Transnational optic and complex interconnections (macro, meso, micro); (3) Migrants as development agents (diaspora organizations; individual ordinary migrants as agents of change; bottom up approach); (4) Migration and human development; (5) Migration remittances (economic, social including cultural & political: flow, transfer, circulation, reverse remittances); (6) Dark side: environmental change, human and land exploitation, corruption, dysfunction of international aid; (7) Case studies (of countries, areas, organizations, individuals); (8) New approach & alternative agenda.



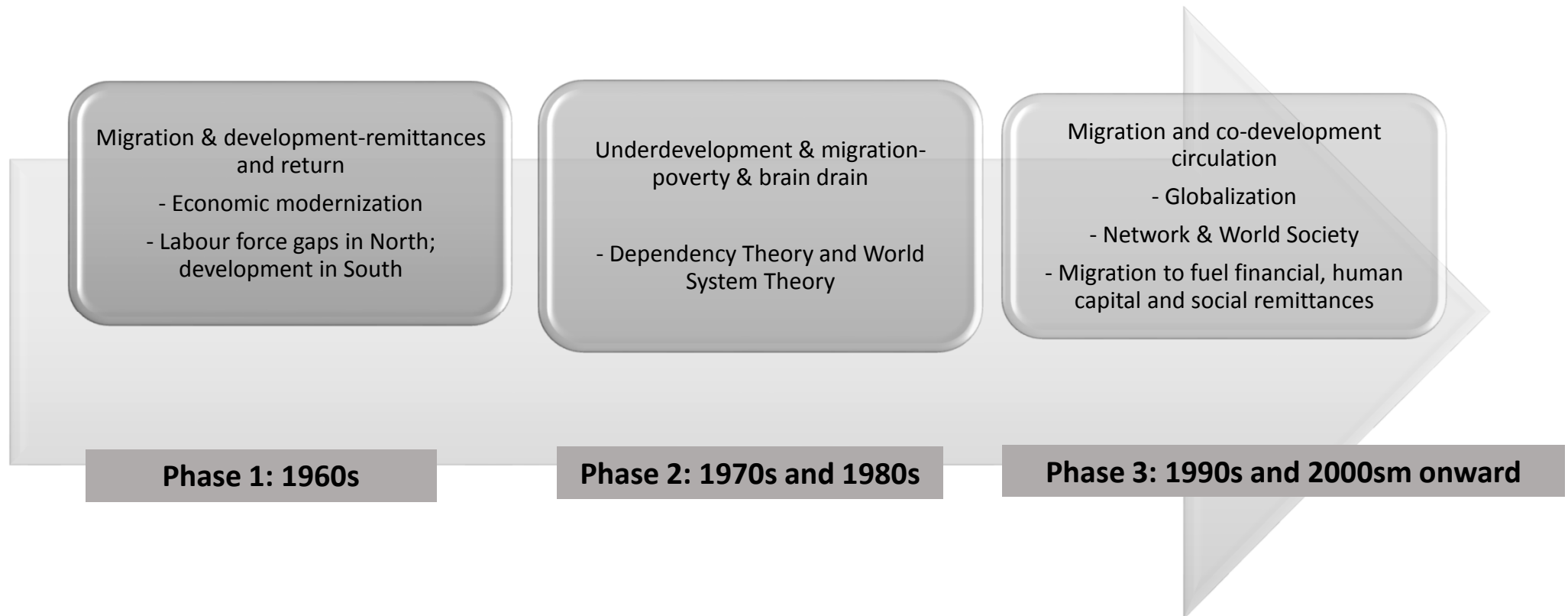
Source: De Haas (2009).

Figure 1 – Relationship between international migration and development.



Material prepared for the IRC-SAS-INGSA Evidence and Policy Summer School, 6-8 September 2017, Senec, Slovakia; Masterclass: Interdisciplinary approach to complex policy issues: A case of migration-development nexus

# Infographic 3: History of migration-development nexus



*Material prepared for JRC-SAS-INGSA Evidence and Policy Summer School, 6-8 September 2017, Senec, Slovakia;*

*Masterclass: Interdisciplinary approach to complex policy issues: A case of migration-development nexus*

**Source: Vermeulen (2012).**

# Podcast: Inderdisciplinarity & mix-method (8:30)

- [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hWbGXwtcN2g&feature=em-upload\\_owner](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hWbGXwtcN2g&feature=em-upload_owner)

Why interdisciplinarity and mix-method are needed for  
the research-policy dialogue  
(e.g. migration-development nexus)?

# Some arguments on the blackboard

The lack of migration data creates a significant blind spot in the context of current economic and social realities. The migration flows following the 2004 and 2007 EU enlargements have shed additional light on manifest shortages of migration data. With current migration data we have difficulty answering crucial questions: how many migrants left, who left, how did migrants select their destinations, how did migrants fare at their destinations, why and when did they move, how many returned and to what extent does back-and-forth migration occur today, as well as whether and to what extent legal migration affects irregular migration (Santo Tomas, Summers & Clemens 2009).

In their complex and pioneering analysis on available international migration data sources in OECD countries, Dumont and Lemaitre (2005) find that data on both flows and stock do not accurately reflect the global scale of migration. Neither do data on movements reflect the scale and size of migration, mainly due to the lack of global comparability among these kinds of data. Moreover, data are not comparable due to internationally differentiated definitions of 'immigrant'. Dumont and Lemaitre (ibid.) evaluate both the pros and cons of three key data sources identified as relevant

We know more about movements of 'toys and textiles, of debt, equity and other forms of capital, but not cross-border movements of people' (Santo Tomas, Summers & Clemens 2009: 7).

In the last few years big data sets on migration have been trickling out, but only in 2012 did the World Bank released a major one... Our factual knowledge has advanced more in the past few years more than in the previous fifty, but even so much our data still stops at 2000 (Collier 2013: 38).

How to ask policy-research questions?

# Policy-research question?

- Avoid a 'journalism trap' that you ask a question in order to prove your or your boss's pre-assumed hypothesis
- Ask question when you are astonished by some social phenomena which trigger your work
- Research questions can come from both observation, own experience, intuition (induction) and they can be based on the available knowledge (deduction)
- Avoid asking normative, value-loaded (that something is good or bad) questions; try to be objective in asking policy-research questions

# Policy-research questions and mix-method

- The way you ask research-policy questions might determine the use of a method (or a mix-method approach)
- Questions: how many, what are the relations/correlations, what is the impact determine the use of quantitative method
- Questions: why, what is the mechanism determine the use of qualitative method
- Questions: what are the causes, motives, outcomes, who- might determine the use of a mix-method approach

*Some of us learn from numbers but some of us learn from life stories*  
(Putnam 2015).



Masterclass's assumptions to work with  
in pairs or groups

# Please select your assumption to work with

1. There is no single challenge as migration
2. Migration policies should not be reactive to yesterday's issues
3. Reducing vulnerability is crucial to the achievement of the 2030 Agenda as a whole
4. Remittances are the key aspects of the nexus between migration and development.

Source: UNESCO MOST 2017.

## Guidelines to the discussions & reporting in groups (policy makers and scholars)

- Go for the assumption you have selected while preparing to this masterclass
- Join in pairs or small groups: Combination of scholars and policy makers
- You will get the template to the task
- Prepare to report your pair/group activities and outcomes in the plenary session at the end of this masterclass
- Put the outcomes of your group work on the flipchart.

# New Inquiry Protocol to tackle complex policy issues

Material prepared for the RIC-SAS-IRGSA Evidence and Policy Summer School, 6-8 September 2017, Seves, Slovakia;

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## Template to pair/group work

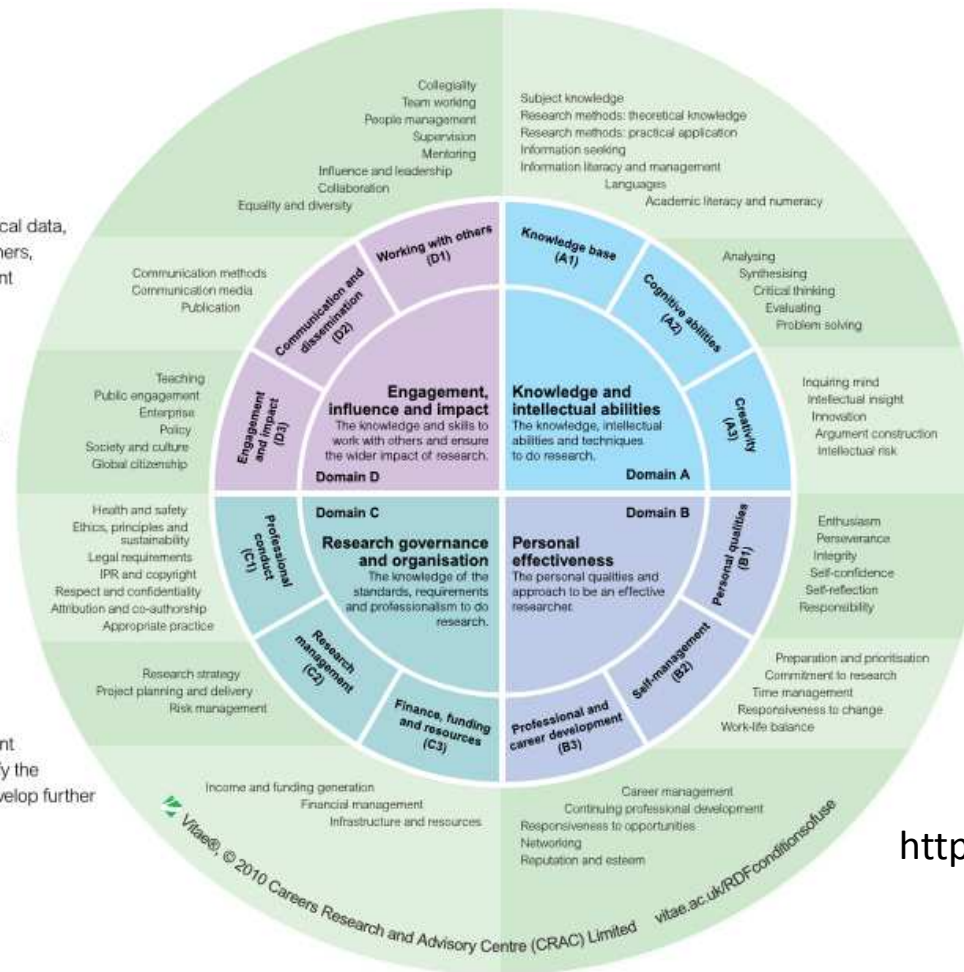
Names of participants	
Assumption selected (4 assumptions given in the masterclass outline) as an example of a complex policy issue	
Formulation of evidence- policy questions (general and detailed)	
Suggested data sources	
Proposed mix-method & interdisciplinary approach	
Arguments in favor/against mixed- method and interdisciplinary approach	

# To develop your skills- Vitae

## Structure

The RDF has been created from empirical data, collected through interviewing researchers, to identify the characteristics of excellent researchers expressed in the RDF as 'descriptors'. The descriptors are structured in four domains and twelve sub-domains, encompassing the knowledge, intellectual abilities, techniques and professional standards to do research, as well as the personal qualities, knowledge and skills to work with others and ensure the wider impact of research. Each of the sixty-three descriptors contains between three to five phases, representing distinct stages of development or levels of performance within that descriptor.

The RDF has been incorporated into a downloadable Professional Development Planner to enable researchers to identify the areas in the framework they want to develop further and to create an action plan.



<https://www.vitae.ac.uk/>

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Thank you

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