



# Global Migration

*changing the face of the world in the 21st century?*

## Seminar

Given the current headlines about international migration, it would be easy to assume that there is a global pandemic of mobility.

In this presentation, Dr. Bakewell will step back from the 21st century view of the industrialized world and look at migration from a global and historical perspective. This shows that international migrants as a proportion of global population has remained remarkably constant over the last fifty years. Most international migrants remain within their regions of origins and the highest levels of migration arise from middle-income countries.

Many claim that migration from poorer regions, especially Africa, is a result of underdevelopment and propose investing in development as a means to reduce migration. Dr. Bakewell suggests that such arguments are fundamentally flawed and linking migration and development in such a manner is counterproductive.

Finally, Dr. Bakewell will argue that policy responses to migration that fail to take account of the interests and agency of the different actors involved - *including states, migrants and employers* - struggle to move beyond tokenistic parades of state power that give an impression of migration control, often at the expense of the livelihoods and lives of the poorest migrants.

## Biography

**Oliver Bakewell**

**Oxford University**

Research Officer at IMI

(International Migration Institute)



*Dr. Bakewell's research interests include the changing patterns of migration within Africa; the relationship between migration and development; the interface between migration policy and migrants' behaviour, in particular the attitudes towards and use of papers (passports, ID cards, visas etc.); forced migration, repatriation and humanitarian aid. He is working on the IMI's African Migrations Programme and the African Perspectives on Human Mobility Programme Foundation and conducting research in collaboration with colleagues in Nigeria, Morocco, Ghana and DR Congo.*

*He has a first degree in mathematics from the University of Cambridge and MSc and PhD in development studies at the University of Bath. He has been working with refugees and migrants for over fifteen years as both a researcher and practitioner. Prior to joining IMI, he was the Senior Researcher at INTRAC – the International NGO Training and Research Centre – where he was working on more general issues of development practice.*

*Dr. Bakewell has conducted research into cross-border movements between Angola and western Zambia and the self-settlement and integration of Angolan refugees. He has an ongoing research interest in the changing perceptions of the border and its impact on everyday life and mobility with the end of the war in Angola.*

**“While international migration will inevitably play a significant role in changing the face of the world in the coming century, I conclude that it may be no greater than the part it played in the previous one.”**

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