Bringing Emigration Policies into the Global Migration Picture

Most current accounts of global migration and its regulation tell a story of unbridled migration flows and of the sovereign states that are trying to contain them. The main protagonists in this story are immigration restrictions, policies that aim to select the 'wanted' immigrants, or policies that seek to prevent the abuse of asylum, or family reunification policies. Additionally, the focus is on policies that seek to prevent or combat unauthorized migration, on border control, identification policies, detention, etc. This story of destination states trying to control migration flows is complemented by a reference to the burgeoning efforts in various international organizations to develop a multilateral approach to migration--efforts that have not yet been very fruitful.

Two essential dimensions are missing from this picture. First, bilateral agreements between destination countries and emigration countries have received insufficient attention. To the extent that they are studied, the focus remains on bilateral agreements as part of an effort to control immigration, rather than as a truly bilateral effort to regulate mobility. This fixation on immigration control is understandable: it is the destination states that want something, and who set the agenda for negotiations, while the emigration states scramble to get the best possible deal. However, in general, the relative lack of interest in bilateral agreements points to a bias, a selective emphasis on immigration states and an under-appreciation of the efforts of emigration states. This is the second dimension that this project seeks to address. Which efforts, policies, actions, rules and regulations do emigration states adopt and perform? How do emigration states seek to facilitate, regulate, or control the transboundary movement of people?

This project attempts to answer these and other related questions. It seeks to shift the focus away from immigration policies, or the policies that try to control immigration. Instead, it proposes a systemic analysis of *emigration* policies. Such a shift complements and completes the overall picture of global migration governance. Emigration states are as much a part of the overall development of regulation and governance of international mobility as immigration states.

As a general backdrop, this project draws on recent scholarship on the governance and management of international migration by authors such as Pecoud and Geiger. Moreover, it also connects with scholarship that examines diaspora-related policies, as well as with scholarship that examines how states use nationality to expand the non-territorial boundaries of their political communities by making their nationality more accessible and imbuing it with more practical value.

This project hopes to illuminate global migration (law) scholarship along three lines. First, it will highlight a significant degree of creativity on the side of the various regulatory actors, as they seek to control emigration. Second, it shows how, as immigration control is privatized and outsourced, emigration states seek to step in, in pursuit of influence and control. Finally, it presents indications that global migration governance involves more (regulatory) actors than previously considered. Together, these insights contribute to a new perspective on global migration governance.