

# ROOTS & ROUTES

Vol 11, No. 4, April 2022

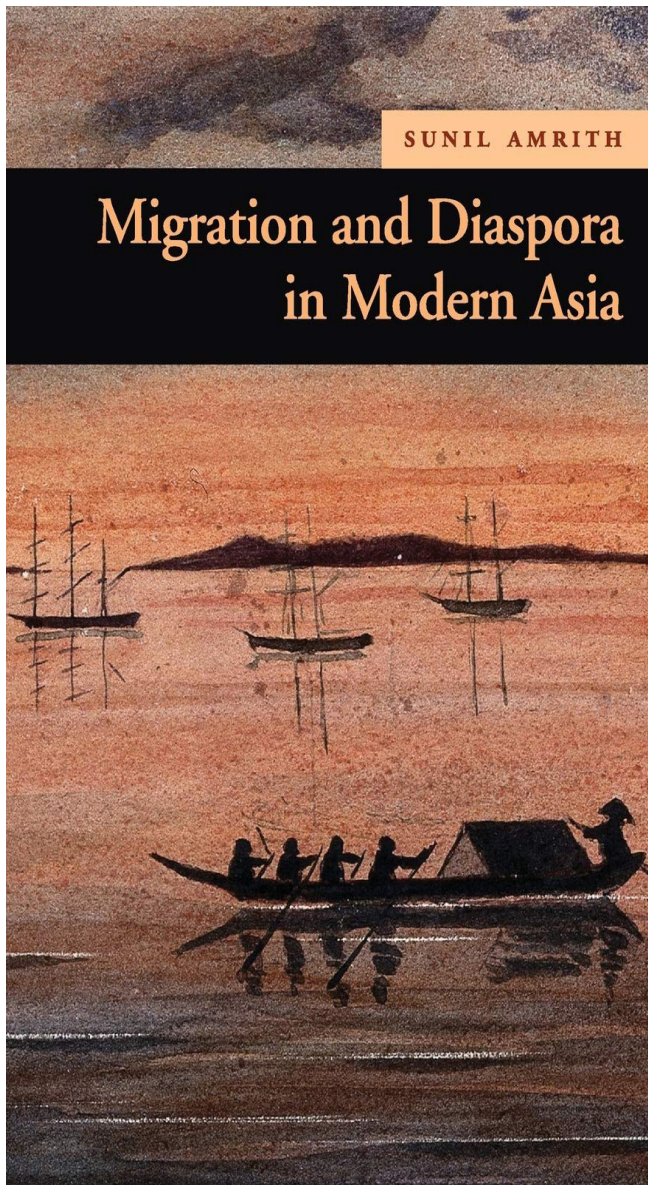


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GRADUATION CEREMONY  
Certificate Programme - Global Compact for Migration (GCM)

THURSDAY, 28 APRIL 2022  
15.00 - 16.30 (CET)  
18.30 - 20.00 (IST)  
09.00 - 10.30 (EST)

Guest Speaker:  
Professor Elizabeth Ferris  
Georgetown University

Scan QR Code | Register here: <https://bit.ly/gcm21-22> | Session language: English

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# Editor's Note



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Dear Readers,

Greetings!

The Global Research Forum on Diaspora and Transnationalism (GRFDT) together with other civil society organizations held a series of webinars throughout the year to discuss the implementation of the 23 objectives of the Global Compact for Migration (GCM). As a result, a number of reports have been prepared and published that can be accessed at The Migration News and one of them titled “Mitigating Drivers and Structural Factors of migration: the Gambian and Zimbabwe examples” compiled by Angelo Gianturco Colleta, an independent scholar, is included in this month’s GRFDT’s newsletter- ‘Roots and Routes’.

The issue also contains a keynote speech made by Dr. Elizabeth Ferris, a Professor from the Institute for the Study of International Migration at Georgetown University, addressing the celebratory conclusion of the webinar series.

In April’s newsletter, you will also find a detailed analysis of the interactive webinar on the International Migration Review Forum (IMRF) Roundtable 4 that took place on the 9th of February 2022. The 4th Roundtable focused on tackling the Global Compact for Migration (GCM) objectives 1,3,7,17 and 23 and the analysis was compiled by Riza Franchesca Regala, who is a senior undergraduate student at Ateneo de Manila University, Philippines.

Finally, the issue offers an insightful review by Atul Kumar Gupta, a PhD scholar, of Migration and Diaspora in Modern Asia (2011). The book was written by historian Sunil S. Amrith and investigates how migration has shaped history and the narratives across Asia.

We hope you will enjoy reading our new issue of Roots and Routes. If you have any comments or suggestions, the GRFDT team would be delighted to hear them and can be reached through email [editorinchief@grfdt.com](mailto:editorinchief@grfdt.com).

Happy Reading!

Indriga Valiukaite

## GCM Report

# Mitigating Drivers and Structural Factors of migration: the Gambian and Zimbabwe examples

During the COVID-19 Pandemic (2020-2021) the Global Research Forum on Diaspora and Transnationalism (GRFDT) held a series of webinars to address the Global Compact for Migration (GCM) together with the collaboration of the civil society organisations. In November 2021, as part of their efforts for disseminating knowledge and experiences on diaspora and migration, the GRFDT, together with the Gambia National Youth Council (NYC) and the Global Zimbabwe Diaspora conducted a webinar dedicated to the second objective of the GCM through two cases examples, the Gambian and Zimbabwe experiences from national experts' views and analysis: Mr. Lamin Darboe, a scholar from the University of Sussex dedicated to spearheading social change and former chair of NYC, and Dr. Paul Matsvai, the President and Chief Executive Officer of the Global Zimbabwe Diaspora, discuss the adverse drivers, structural factors of migrations for both Gambia and Zimbabwe, and more importantly, how to mitigate them.

More information about the GRFDT mission and work can be found at its website [grfdt.com](http://grfdt.com).

### **The GCM Objective 2 :**

The Global Compact for Safe, Orderly, and Regular Migration is an intergovernmental agreement signed in 2018 that covers “all dimensions of international migration holistically and comprehensively”. Objective 2 centers around the necessity of “*minimizing the adverse drivers and structural factors that compel people to leave their country of origin*”. Each region and country face different challenges that need to be contextualized.

### **From rural to urban and beyond migration in Gambia**

Mr. Darboe stressed from the beginning the critical importance to understand the drivers and cultural factors of migration under the Gambian context. Even

though he recognizes there are several historical and cultural reasons behind the movement, he emphasized the country's economic condition as the main factor for it. On one hand young migrants, either regular or irregular, flee to fulfill their employment and educational needs, both responding to economic opportunities, but on the other hand, he stressed there are other factors as well. The speaker explained how Gambian youth have a culturally imposed responsibility to economically support the elderly, which further pushes migration numbers. Another cultural driver responds to family unification, women leaving the country to be reunited with their husbands.

The speaker then moved forward and discussed the political situation of his country of origin, where hostilities have been an additional factor for Gambian migrants. With historically high mobility numbers in the African region, especially to mineral-rich countries, Gambians are now seeking to reach the Mediterranean coast aiming to cross over to European countries.

In summary, Mr. Darboe describes how migration is culturally engrained in the young population, disregarding between low skill or high skill migrants who find in fleeing their country the only way to support their families and achieve a better life.

### **Controlling the Gambian Migration root causes**

*“Gambia is one of the remittance depending countries in the African region”* which makes the Gambian diaspora a strategic player. Diaspora organizations are claiming their space in Gambian politics, engaging directly in policymaking. This, together with the civil society, has represented a proactive approach to demand alternative solutions, mostly to control irregular migration, the speaker said. Migration information centers in the Gambian youth population have been providing a comprehensive view on migration risk, alternative job, and educational opportunities in the country, how to move safely within the regular means, and even

access to funding for young enterprises. If migration cannot be stopped, at least migrants should have all the information they need to make an informed decision. Mr. Darboe mentions how the diaspora has helped the Gambian economy establishing business in the private sector and providing new jobs opportunities for their co-nationals.

In conclusion, it was said that “government and stakeholders need to move together in to address economic drivers”, and overall coordination could be a feasible solution to provide opportunities to young Gambia citizens.

### Unification of stakeholders, the challenge for Zimbabwe

Dr. Matsvai started his presentation with a quote from former UN Secretary-General Dr. Annan, which in his opinion applies to the Zimbabwe context: *migration exists to overcome adversity, and out of the desire for self-improvement.*

The speaker identifies negative migration drivers for Zimbabweans, including the low salaries within the country, even for high skill level jobs. This has made Zimbabwe look for other opportunities to meet its end needs. Thanks to the country’s official language, English, several international organizations across Africa have more easily demanded Zimbabwean labor.

As a structural factor, the toxicity in relationships between governmental parties is highlighted as the main challenge by the speaker. He continued stressing an imperative need to acknowledge a democratic

discussion, aim to develop strong institutions to rebuild Zimbabwe’s original potential.

*“There is a need of appropriation and plurality of the voices”*: Dr. Paul Matsvai

The proposed solution will have to be put by Zimbabwe above any leader, involving all stakeholders, including diaspora organizations, without making them partisans to any political party. A cluster-wise organization of the issue could present an optimal option to find common ground within the players, including the government.

The webinar ended with closing words from Prof. Binod Khadria, who detailed how GCM Objective 2 pushes scholars, governments, and other stakeholders to think about the goals to manage the identified migration drivers.

*Review of the GRFDT Webinar: GCM Objective 2: Minimize The Adverse Drivers And Structural Factors That Compel People To Leave Their Country Of Origin. Available at: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MsNnlFYJaQU> Speakers: Lamin Darboe and Paul Matsvai*

**Angelo Gianturco Coletta** is an Independent Scholar. He holds an Economy Bachelor, MA in Humanitarian Action and Peace-building, and Conflict Resolution Specialist with experience in sustainable development empowerment project for vulnerable women in Venezuela. He is currently working as a Humanitarian for women suffering from gender-based violence in urban settings. Email: [agianturco@me.com](mailto:agianturco@me.com)

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## Harnessing the Power of Data, Information, Social Protection, Ethical Media and International Cooperation in GCM implementation: IMRF Roundtable 4

An interactive webinar on the International Migration Review Forum (IMRF) Roundtable 4 took place on the 9th of February 2022. In line with the series of Migration Dialogues organised by the [United Nations Network on Migration](#), the 4th Roundtable focused on tackling the [Global Compact for Migration \(GCM\) objectives 1, 3, 7, 17, and 23](#). Bringing together over 800 registrants, including various stakeholders, the event was co-organised by the Office of the [UN High Commissioner for Human Rights](#) (OHCHR) and the [United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs](#) (UNDESA). The panellists hailed from different sectors such as academia, non-profit and human rights organisations, and regional organisations. The discussion was moderated by **Mr. John Wilmoth**, Director of the Population Division of the UNDESA.

Among the key aims of the webinar were to discuss the current state of affairs of these five objectives and to identify the priorities in regard to their further implementation. In addition to preparing for the upcoming IMRF, the webinar also served as an opportunity for the Member States and all other relevant stakeholders to discuss approaches towards achieving effective, principled migration governance for the benefit of all.

### Unjust realities in migration and the role of the GCM

The webinar commenced with a brief background leading up to the GCM and IMRF introduced by the event's moderator, **Mr. John**. This was followed by the opening remarks delivered by **Mr. Craig Mokhiber**, Director of the New York Office, OHCHR. He focused his speech on nuancing the realities of migration in today's times and brought attention to the fact that there is also an increasing number of migrants that are compelled to leave their homes due to a combination of reasons like poverty, lack of access to their rights, and the consequences of climate change. He also mentioned

that migrants are not inherently vulnerable; however, they can become vulnerable to human rights violations in the face of difficult situations in their countries of origin, transit countries, and countries of arrival. Reminding everyone that the COVID-19 pandemic has only exacerbated the problems, **Mr. Craig** pointed out that these realities bring to the forefront the GCM and its objectives.

### Linking migration to sustainable development and drafting of evidence-based policies with reliable data

The panelist for [Objective 1](#) was [Colgate University's Professor Ellen Percy Kraly](#), who employed a scalar perspective in her presentation. She stated that the [UN Expert Group on Migration Statistics](#) is working to address not only the operational definition of international migration and temporary mobility but also primary and secondary topics of inquiry to promote its standard measurement and characterisation. According to her, such progress could allow for a better comparison of patterns and trends across regions and the GCM Member States.

**Professor Kraly** also mentioned that there exist both opportunities or priorities and challenges at each level in meeting [Objective 1](#). The priorities derive from the guiding principles of the GCM.

*"We have to be forward-thinking and should think about causes and consequences of migration in relationship to sustainable development. And finally, we need to think about a whole-of-government approach in order to really build capacity building within our countries, within our regions, and then ultimately within the international scale."*: **Professor Ellen Percy Kraly**.

### Making information accessible and available for and with every migrant

The next panelist was **Mimouna Esseyed** of the [Moroccan National Human Rights Council](#), who stated that their mandate is to promote and defend human rights. Their institution has been active since 1999, and they have several international partners within Africa and beyond. The bulk of her presentation tackled the situation and priorities in Morocco in relation to [Objective 3](#).

According to Ms. Esseyed, the first sub-objective entails developing a website compiling all available legal instruments for the reference of migrants. At present, there are several websites from different government agencies in Morocco and Africa which can serve as sources of accurate information, but having one designated platform would be a big help to all stakeholders. The second sub-objective is about the bilateral relations between countries. Morocco has presented a report to the African Observatory of Migration containing recommendations for [Objective 3](#), the most notable being the need to establish non-discriminatory registration systems and build capacity through consular services.

*“We believe that migrants should not be left out and should be considered as key actors of development, and should be fully integrated and join in the establishment of the policies that concern them, according to the Marrakech Compact.”: Ms. Mimouna Esseyed.*

### **Reducing migrant vulnerabilities in times of a global pandemic**

[Objective 7](#) was discussed by **Mr. Diego Morales**, who is the Director of Litigation and Legal Defense at the [Center for Legal and Social Studies](#) (CELS) based in Argentina. He pointed out that this objective is one of the most important in defining migration policy and human rights. Furthermore, he stressed the fact that states are committed to analysing their policies and practices to ensure that they do not foster further vulnerabilities for migrants. This comes hand-in-hand with their commitment to creating sound policies on assistance, health, gender, and labour.

On the subject of regularisation, he acknowledged that specific criteria are indispensable such that they pave the way for migrants to exercise their rights. However, these policies can also be oriented towards

criminalisation, and such is the situation in certain cases within Latin America.

Similar to the prior speakers, **Mr. Diego** once again underscored how the COVID-19 worsened the situation for many migrants. In general, events that transpired, including actions taken by military agents, revealed the state-led decisions taken contrary to the GCM objectives. At the end of his presentation, **Mr. Diego** requested to follow up commitments to the GCM to deal with the return and entrance of migrants in a regular fashion and to be able to accompany the guidelines set out in [Objective 7](#).

*“Guides have to be very clear and transparent, based on human rights and actually correspond to the particular situation of the migrants.”: Mr. Diego.*

### **Countering hate and moving towards more evidence-based public discourse on migration**

The fourth panelist was **Mr. Richard Wilson**, Director of [Stop Funding Hate](#), a campaign advocating for evidence-based public discourse and making hate unprofitable. Opening strong, he stated, *“Journalism can be a powerful force for good, but we can also lead to harmful narratives,”* and stressed how hateful messages contained in the media could translate to hate on the streets. This owes to the fact that hate has become a part of today’s media business model.

However, he also drew attention to much that is left to be done to realise this objective. Fortunately, he said that every organisation with an advertising budget could play a role in countering xenophobia and racism in the media. He rounded off his intervention by stating, *“The more that they [organisations] put checks in place to ensure that their advertising is supporting ethical media rather than hateful clickbait, the more this will help to counter anti-immigrant sentiment and make a reality of the vision outlined in [Objective 17](#).”*

### **Enhancing International Cooperation to achieve GCM objectives**

**Mr. Martin Seychell**, the Deputy Director-General of International Partnerships at the [European Commission](#) focused on the [European Union](#)’s (EU) progress on [Objective 23](#). **Mr. Martin** opened his presentation with

the following words, *“the EU believes that the global challenges we face in today’s world require effective multilateral approaches based on solidarity, human rights, and on a rules-based international order.”* In line with this, he stated that the EU migration policy reflects this approach. He expounded that the EU is presently working towards forming partnerships with countries of origin, transit, and destination. It is also working on a comprehensive framework based on a system of burden sharing, as evidenced by its [New Migration Pact](#) introduced in 2020.

Further, as part of the COVID-19 pandemic response, the EU has only reaffirmed its commitment to international cooperation and a multilateral response together with the UN. The EU continues its partnership with the UN for capacity building supporting GCM Champion countries. It has also promised to allocate at least 10 percent of its financing instrument to actions supporting

safe and dignified international migration.

To conclude, the webinar had been very informative and instrumental in enabling discussions that lay down the path towards International Migration Review Forum 2022. The webinar successfully presented a review of GCM Objectives 1,3,7,17, and 23, and highlighted the practical hurdles and new challenges faced in the implementation of these objectives.

**Riza FranchescaRegala** is a senior undergraduate student at Ateneo de Manila University, Philippines with a background in European Studies and International Relations. She currently serves as the Asia-Pacific Regional Focal Point at the Migration Youth and Children Platform – Major Group for Children and Youth: a network of young leaders under the auspices of the United Nations General Assembly.

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## Migration and Diaspora in Modern Asia' by Sunil Amrith

Sunil S. Amrith. (2011). *Migration and Diaspora in Modern Asia* (New Approaches to Asian History). Cambridge: Cambridge University Press. ISBN: 9780511985706, 206 pages.

The book '*Migration and Diaspora in Modern Asia*' is written by Sunil Amrith and comprises five chapters. Historian Sunil Amrith has demonstrated various migration patterns across South and Southeast Asia. He attempted to articulate how migration has shaped history and the narratives and how human mobility has played a significant role in allowing ideas of nationhood and nationality to spread across Asia. This book encompasses 150 years of history of the people on the move. This book also raises questions on the freedom of migrants, cultural consequences of mass migration, and the process of formation of multiple Asian diasporas. The author discusses changing regulation and governance of migration over time and notes that migration history provides a tool for thinking about Asia in new ways.

Amrith has broadly discussed and delineated the various mobility patterns from the densely populated regions of South Asia. Amrith tries to highlight the nineteenth century as a period of the mobility revolution in Asia through this book. Amrith also periodises migration history, which he has categorised into four phases starting with the **first phase** from 1850 to 1930, the peak of Asian migration. The **second phase** is marked from the year 1930 till World War Two, which witnessed the disintegration of the system of inter-regional migration that had developed in the 1850s. The period from the 1950s to the 1970s, categorised as the **third phase**, witnessed the emergence of new nation-states in Asia. This era saw a reduced level of international migration. The **fourth phase** started in the early 1970s with further

internal and international migration expansion with restrictions that became widespread because of rising new destinations across the world, the oil boom in gulf countries, and urban revolution across the South Asian nations that attracted migrants.

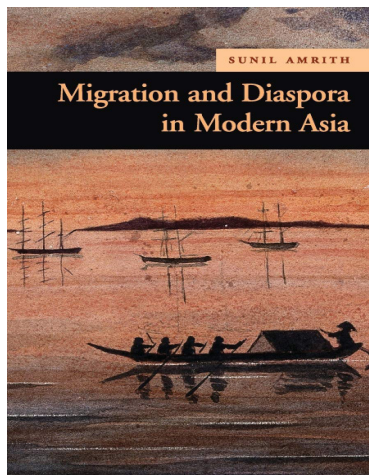


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Chapter one, '**Asia's Great Migrations, 1850-1930**', focuses on the significant flows of migration across Asia between 1850 to 1930. The author talks about the movement of thirty million people from India to present-day Sri Lanka, Burma, and Malaysia. Amrith also highlights the mass movement of about 19 million people from China to Southeast Asia and more than 30 million people from northern China to Manchuria. With

the advent of regular steamer services across the China Sea and the Bay of Bengal, migration flow soared in the 1870s. Amrith further discusses the pre-colonial movement of people across the port cities as captives and slaves followed by European expansion, which stimulated Asian mobility. The key component of this chapter is the argument that explains how this can be called a mobility revolution. Amrith has explained the argument explicitly by remarking on the societal transformations, the industrial revolution, transport, and communication. By the 1870s, another way of transformation was plantation-based production of commodities for export which was well established on Asia's frontiers. All these transformations facilitated the mobility revolution.

In the second chapter, '**The Making of Asian Diasporas, 1850- 1930**', the author emphasises the formation of the Asian diaspora within Asia. The author interprets the narration about diasporas by keeping in mind the relative proximity between homelands and destinations and the dominance of sojourning circular



migration<sup>[1]</sup>. This chapter also shows that Asians who moved between 1870 to 1930 took with them not only their skills, capital or labour power, but also ideas, cultural practices, sacred symbols, and ways of life. Amrith further states that mobility has brought a sense of difference in culture, even national distinction among the migrant community.

In the third chapter, ‘**War, Revolution, and Refugees, (1930-1950)**’, the author mentions three successive transformations which made millions of Asians move to other places. The first transformation was a global economic crisis. The second transformation was the reversal of migrant flows coincided with the war, which displaced tens of millions of Asians and the third transformation was a direct consequence of warfare. This was the period when migration had become the centre of all discussions regarding the cementing of the new borders. He further extends his argument by putting other causes into discourse like the great economic depression of the 1930s and disconnection, repatriations, and new imperial laws that restricted labor migration. Further, the author elaborates on the violence against migrants and minorities, war refugees in Southeast Asia, forced labours in the wartime Japanese empire, etc.

In chapter four, ‘**Migration, Development and the Asian city**,’ the author discusses the impacts of mass movements of Asians in post-war years. He has explicitly examined the effects after the formation of new national borders, which led millions of people to migrate to the other side and its close association with the development and urbanisation in newly born South Asian States like India; China; Pakistan; Sri Lanka; Burma; Philippines Indonesia and Vietnam. This new transformation of settlement and mass migration has created complex issues on citizenship. This phenomenon often referred to as ‘orphans of the empire<sup>[2]</sup>’ is the key revelation of this book based on the most recent research and publications in the relevant areas.

Chapter five, ‘**Asian Migrants in the Age of Globalisation**,’ is dedicated to Asian migration since the 1970s, the age of globalisation. This chapter identifies the contemporary “mobility revolution”<sup>[3]</sup> (p 4) that has pervaded Asia since the 1970s. This chapter

discusses several significant trends and themes such as the dimensions and ramifications of Asian urbanisation in the wake of contemporary globalisation; export of skilled labour and professionals to countries within and beyond Asia, the feminisation of Asian migration (p 205) as well as refugee movement.

Overall, this book is remarkable in terms of precise demonstration of the subject and justification of arguments. Consequently, the book has opened up potentially fruitful vistas for further multidisciplinary research and systematic study on the interconnectedness between migration, society, economy, culture, and politics. The author further points out the gap and methodologies for the scholars of South and Southeast Asian history. This book is a major contribution to the field of migration and diaspora in South Asia. Author Sunil Amrith’s engaging and deeply informative book crosses the vast terrain from the Middle East to India and China, touching the core aspects of state formation in Modern Asia, the drawing of imperial and national borders; development of new ideas about citizenship; states’ increasing concern with knowing and acting upon their populations. Through this book, Amrith has put his suggestions and regards for further studies in the field of migration and diaspora in Asian history. It would be beneficial for scholars who intend advance their studies in this domain.

[1] J. Schneider and B. Parusel (2015) have defined circular migration as “A flexible form of repetitive movement between different destinations”.

[2] Robert Cribb and Li Narangoa, ‘Orphans of Empire: Divided Peoples, Dilemmas of Identity, and Old Imperial Borders in East and Southeast Asia’, *Comparative Studies in Society and History*, 46, 1 (2004): 164-187.

[3] Sunil Amrith has marked the period from 1870s to 1930s as Mobility Revolution’.

**Atul Kumar Gupta** is a PhD scholar from Banaras Hindu University, Varanasi. He has been awarded Junior Research Fellowship by University Grants Commission, India. His areas of interest include – History of Migration and Diaspora in various countries, South Asian migration, Study of displacement and Forced migration, Indenture system, Maistry System in Burma, and Contemporary Indian History. [Facebook](#)

# The Essential Role of Academic Research and Civil Society Action in Taking the Migration Agenda Forward

*Keynote address to the graduation ceremony of the Certificate Programme on the Global Compact for Migration, in which students from over 50 countries participated in 23 sessions on each of the 23 GCM objectives<sup>1</sup>*

*Elizabeth Ferris  
Institute for the Study of International Migration  
Georgetown University  
28 April 2022*

Thank you for this opportunity to address the graduation ceremony of the online Certificate Program on the Global Compact for Migration. I understand that you have engaged in 23 thought-provoking sessions around each of the 23 commitments in the GCM – and I suspect that you know more about the GCM than many governments who have endorsed it! You are in a unique position as a cadre of academics and civil society organizations to support and monitor and observe and analyze what is going on with the GCM in the years ahead. And I'm sure that you are well-prepared to follow developments closely with next month's International Migration Review Forum (IMRF). Congratulations to each of you for completing this rigorous course on one of the most important issues of our time.

You know – I was involved in the very beginnings of the GCM, working at the UN in 2016 for a year to help prepare the Global Summit on Refugees & Migrants and to draft the UN SG's [report](#) 'In safety and dignity: addressing large movements of refugees and migrants.' I remember how we talked – listened really – to so many meetings with governments, UN agencies, and civil society organizations. While the idea of a Global Compact on Responsibility-Sharing for Refugees was an idea floating around in early 2016, it was the efforts of civil society groups, migrants' and diaspora associations, and a few governments that led to the idea of developing a compact on migration.

Working on the precursor to the GCM and the GCR was a wonderful experience and a learning opportunity

<sup>1</sup> This initiative was jointly organized by the Cross-Regional Center for Refugees and Migrants (CCRM), the Migrants Forum in Asia (MFA), the International Institute for Migration and Development (IIMAD), Metropolis Asia-Pacific (MAP), and the Global Research Forum on Diaspora and Transnationalism (GFRDT).

to see from the inside view on how these initiatives emerge. It has been gratifying to watch from further afield as the GCM was negotiated and finally adopted in late 2018. And like everyone, I am curious to see the results from the International Migration Review Forum in a couple of weeks. Civil society groups played an essential role in shaping the GCM – as [Stefan Rother](#) points out, civil society participated in what he calls 'invited events' – consultations organized by others -- but also developed their own fora for crystallizing the issue – what he calls 'invented events.' Both of these types of civil society engagement served to strengthen the GCM. Overall, I think the GCM is a brilliant document, particularly given the lack of global frameworks on migration and I am in awe of the facilitators who so carefully negotiated the sometimes contentious issues of upholding migrants' rights and governments' concern with managing – controlling borders. Without civil society input at every step of the way, I wonder what kind of document we could have ended up with.

As you know, this has been and is a state-led process – governments are in the driving seat – in adopting the GCM and in implementing it. From the beginning, there was a recognition that the 23 commitments are non-binding. We all know that if a binding instrument had been proposed, it would never have gone through. But having the 23 commitments means that governments can pick and choose which to implement.

As we move forward – to the IMRF and beyond – I think the role of civil society & academics will be even more crucial. I was disappointed to see in the latest version of [IMRF Progress Declaration \(v. 3\)](#) of 26 April 2022, there are only 3 references to civil society and only one to academia (and, as might be expected 33 references to states). The GCM itself has more references to academia (7) and civil society (5) and its very first commitment is a call for more data, analysis and research.

[Elsewhere](#) I have suggested that the 23 objectives of the GCM could be an agenda for research – and I'm sure after your participation in this online course, you can also think of particular research projects on each of

the 23 issues. In the lead up to the IMRF – and beyond -- I'd like to offer five suggestions for civil society and academic engagement with the GCM going forward.

- I urge researchers and civil society organizations to play a robust monitoring role. Look at what governments have committed to do and monitor if and how well they are living up to their commitments. (For example, see the Voluntary GCM [reports](#) submitted by some states and keep an eye out for the [pledges](#) that are to come). Governments are under pressures from lots of groups on migration issues and they need to feel pressure from their constituencies to do the right thing. Very early in my career I worked with a civil society organization in Geneva, including on advocacy on refugee issues. I remember a UNHCR staff member, a friend, calling me and asking for civil society groups to protest what was happening around a particular refugee repatriation. "We're getting all kinds of pressures from governments," he said, "we need counter-vailing pressure from NGOs to be able to resist their most draconian suggestions."

- I'm a researcher, so perhaps my second suggestion is obvious. We need more research - both basic research and policy-oriented research. In particular, I highlight the need to understand how individuals and households make the decision to move – what are dynamics in the family, how does the intersection of economics, demographics, personal and political factors play out in these decisions, how does this change over time? I'm partial to comparative and longitudinal analysis – how do 2 governments or two municipalities or two recruitment agencies respond to migration and what explains the similarities and differences? We know that migration is dynamic – most people don't migrate and stay put forever. We need more than just snapshots of migration at one particular point in time. We need to look at migration dynamics over several years. We also need new types of data to analyze these dynamics, including big data which looks at social media, GIS and other forms of data.

- A third challenge for the field as a whole is how to integrate rigorous academic analysis with the lived experiences of migrants. Too often researchers see migrants as the objects of study but don't include them in the research process itself – except to occasionally sprinkle first person stories in their books and articles. Stories are important but migrants can use their lived experiences as research tools. In this regard, I think much more can be done with migrant-led organizations to participate in policy-making but also to lead on

research.

- Fourth, we need to unpack the issue of migration drivers and particularly mixed migration (which means different things to different people). We live with an international legal framework that draws sharp distinctions between migrants and refugees – those who move for economic reasons and those who move because of persecution or conflict. This binary framework doesn't always meet the needs of today's migrants, but it's unlikely to change even though we know that the borders between the two are often fuzzy. And they are going to get even fuzzier as awareness grows about the importance of environmental and particularly climate drivers of mobility.

- Finally, I encourage civil society and academics to seek to fill some of the gaps in the GCM – for example, the issue of regularization of unauthorized migrants didn't make it into the GCM. The issue of detention, particularly of children, was contentious throughout the negotiations and we need more good evidence on alternatives to detention. The GCM provides important commitments but most are very general statements that need further work to be translated into effective policies -- such as the need to develop more pathways for safe, regular and orderly migration. Of course, this has to be context-specific: safe pathways for migrants from Niger and from Honduras will be different.

Civil society organizations and academic researchers have important roles to play in ensuring that the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration becomes a framework that guides policy and practice – and not just in beautiful words – to serve the needs of governments, migrants, and the many organizations that work on these issues. I hope you feel that the course you have just completed provides you with the expertise and the tools to play your role in making this happen. The issues around migration are simply too important to leave to governments alone.

# GRFDT Publications

