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Cultural Organization



Permanent Forum of Arab-African Dialogue  
on Democracy and Human Rights  
*2009 Edition*

**Migrations in the Arab-African World**

**ABSTRACTS OF PRESENTATIONS ON  
MIGRATIONS IN THE ARAB-AFRICAN WORLD**  
**(ref. PFAAD 2009/03/ENG)**

Headquarters of the League of Arab States, Cairo, Egypt  
7 - 9 December 2009

**Tuesday 8 December 2009**

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**Session 1: 9.00 a.m. – 10.30 a.m.**

Moderator

**Abid Hussain** (India)

Professor Emeritus of the Indian Institute of Foreign Trade – IIFT

**Paul de Guchteneire** (UNESCO)

Paul de Guchteneire is Chief of the Section on International Migration and Multicultural Policies at UNESCO and Director of Publication of the International Journal on Multicultural Societies. Before coming to UNESCO he worked as epidemiologist at the Netherlands Cancer Research Foundation, and as Director of the Steinmetz Institute of the Royal Netherlands Academy of Arts and Sciences. He is a former President of the International Federation of Data Organizations (IFDO) and published several works on data collection and data analysis in the social sciences and on Best Practices for the use of Indigenous Knowledge for Development. Mr de Guchteneire has been teaching guest courses in the social sciences at the University of Leiden, the University of Ann Arbor and the University of Chicago. His current research programme focuses on the development of policies for migration management at the regional level, the impact of climate change on migration and on the issue of brain drain. Recent publications include a book on Democratic Governance in Multicultural Societies, a book on the 'Migration without Borders' scenario, and a book on Human Rights of Migrants.

**MIGRATION WITHOUT BORDERS, OPTIONS FOR FUTURE POLICIES**

International migration is characterised by a paradox. It is by nature an international process, but it is largely governed through national and often unilateral policies. Despite the complexity of migration patterns and the number of countries involved, there is very little cooperation between states. Several migration-related initiatives have nevertheless been taken over the last decade in the international community, particularly within the United Nations, with the aim of achieving greater coherence between states' migration policies. At the regional level, a surprisingly large number of regional economic communities have taken initial steps towards free human movement as part of the regional integration process, but only a few communities have actually succeeded in implementing free movement. My presentation will address some of the most important international initiatives and argues that, while multilateral discussions over migration issues are to be welcomed, they should pay attention to the centrality of human rights. Using the fate of the United Nations Convention on Migrant Workers' Rights as an example, it shows that migrants' access to human rights remains contested, which not only raises moral problems but also jeopardises a successful governance of migration. Finally, the introduction of the concept of free movement at the regional level is presented as a policy option that may provide fresh impetus to the difficult debate on migration policies.

### **Jorge A. Bustamante (Mexico)**

Jorge A. Bustamante is a Mexican sociologist with a Ph. D. from the University of Notre Dame, where he also holds an endowed chair (Eugene Conley Professor of Sociology) since 1986. He was also the founder and first President of *El Colegio de la Frontera Norte*, a research and degree granting institute, from its creation in 1982 until 1998. He published more than 200 articles in scholarly journals of the USA, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, Venezuela, Spain and Mexico, the majority of which deal with Mexican immigration to the USA and the US-Mexico border phenomena. He has been writing a weekly column in the editorial pages of *Reforma* of Mexico City since 2006, after having written a similar one in *Milenio Diario*, from 2000 to 2006, and *Excelsior* from 1984 to 1997. His research on international migrations was awarded by the President of Mexico with the *Premio Nacional de Ciencias* in 1998 and with the *Premio Nacional de Demografía* in 1994. He has been a faculty member of the University of Texas at Austin, El Colegio de México, the University of Notre Dame, the National University of Mexico and the Institute of Political Sciences of Paris. He was “Correspondant” for the OCDE-Sopemi for 10 years until 2004. He has been serving as Coordinator of the Committee of Social Sciences for the National Council of Advisors on Science and Technology for the President of Mexico since 1999. He was appointed UN Special Rapporteur on the Human Rights of Migrants in 2005. In 2005 the Permanent Committee of the Legislative Power of México produced a resolution nominate Dr. Bustamante for the Nobel Peace Prize. He is recipient of the 2007 Dubois-Johnson-Frazier Award of the American Sociological Association.

#### **DIALECTICS OF INTERNATIONAL MIGRATIONS AND HUMAN RIGHTS**

In reference the case of Mexican and Centro-American immigration to the United States an analysis is made of an apparent contradiction between constitutional definitions of nationals and foreigners (immigrants and the social inequalities that derive from such definitions as acts of sovereignty and the way this enters in a dialectical contradiction with the sovereign decisions of adherence to international treaties that accept human rights regardless of national origin. A globalization process is discussed in a long term dynamics of international relations where the dialectical contradiction between international migrations and human rights takes place. Data on a US immigration policy of residential police raids disrupting family relations and violating human rights is analyzed.

**Session 2: 11.00 a.m. – 12.30 p.m.**

Moderator

**Pierre Cornillon (France)**

Honorary Secretary-General and  
former Secretary-General of the Inter-Parliamentary Union

#### **Toyin Falola (Nigeria)**

Toyin Falola, Ph.D., Fellow of the Nigerian Academy of Letters and of the Historical Society of Nigeria is a Distinguished Teaching Professor and the Frances Higginbotham Nalle Centennial Professor in History at the University of Texas at Austin. He is the author of numerous books, including *Violence in Nigeria: The Crisis of Religious Politics and Secular Ideologies* and *Nationalism and African Intellectuals*, both from the University of Rochester Press. He is the co-editor of the *Journal of African Economic History*, Series Editor of Rochester Studies in *African History and the Diaspora*, Series Editor of the *Culture and Customs of Africa* by Greenwood Press, and Series Editor of *Classic Authors and Texts on Africa* by Africa World Press. He has received various awards and honors, including the Jean Holloway Award for Teaching Excellence, the Texas Exes Teaching Award, the Chancellor's Council Outstanding Teaching Award, the Cecil B Currey Award for his book, *Economic Reforms and Modernization in Nigeria*. He is the 2006 recipient of

the Felix E. Udogu Africa Award, the 2006 Cheikh Anta Diop Award, the 2007 Amistad Award, and the 2007 SIRAS Award for Outstanding Contribution to African Studies. For his distinguished contribution to the study of Africa, his students and colleagues have presented him with a set of three *Festschriften*, two edited by Adebayo Oyebade, *The Transformation of Nigeria: Essays in Honor of Toyin Falola* and *The Foundations of Nigeria: Essays in Honor of Toyin Falola*, and one by Akin Ogundiran, *Precolonial Nigeria: Essays in Honor of Toyin Falola*. His memoir, *A Mouth Sweeter Than Salt*, captures his childhood and received various awards. He has an honorary doctorate from Monmouth University, USA.

### **INTERNAL MIGRATIONS, DISPLACEMENT AND REFUGEES IN AFRICA**

This contribution takes the position that, conceptually, "uprooted migrants" are part of a new diaspora that the era of globalization, shifting cultural identities, and labor dynamics are complicating beyond the legacy of slavery, abolition, and colonialism. Africans have always been on the move, ever since the time they created civilization and scattered it around the continent and elsewhere. Important issues for discussion on this subject should include those on migration and shifting identity; hybridity and transculturation, the impact of Western and Asian settlers in Africa, trans-national struggles and ideas, and the African diaspora in other continents. Other major issues include those with regard to refugees, the representations of migrations in literature, films, and media, exile and homecoming narratives, sociological issues such as crime, juvenile delinquency, unemployment, family structures, gender and generational disparities, and memoirs of migrancy. This essay examines population movements, conflicts and displacements in Africa within the framework of three interrelated themes, namely: i) historical perspectives on migrations and conflicts; ii) population displacements and national development; and iii) the state and the crisis of managing internal displacements.

### **Babacar Sall (Senegal)**

Doctor in sociology, Babacar Sall is editor of the collection *Sociétés Africaines et Diasporas* since 1992. From 1993 to 2006, he is a teacher at the *Ecole des Hautes Etudes en Sciences Sociales* (Paris). He becomes an expert for the European Union for questions of migrations from 2007 to 2009. He is in charge of evaluating projects and collaborates in several studies about Europe and other countries. He is the expert charged of migratory affairs for the OCDE between 2003 and 2008. In parallel, since 2002 and until 2006, he is also coordinator at UNESCO in the programme of protection of immigrant workers rights and their families in Africa. In his early career, he is an expert in a private company on socio-economic projects for African migrants then project evaluator for the *Groupe de Recherche et de Réalisations pour le Développement rural en Afrique (GRDR)*.

### **IMPEDIMENTS TO THE PROTECTION OF MIGRANT WORKERS' RIGHTS IN SEVERAL AFRICAN COUNTRIES: NIGER, CAMEROON, BENIN, GABON AND SOUTH AFRICA**

Migratory movements have expanded unprecedentedly in Africa. In West Africa alone (except Nigeria) nearly 40% of the population no longer resides in their locality of origin. In the receiving countries this leads to many problems prejudicial to migrant workers, such as exclusion, xenophobia and discriminatory laws and regulations.

My paper analyses the obstacles to State ratification of the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families in sub-Saharan Africa, drawing on the national legislation of some African countries such as Gabon, Niger, Cameroon and Benin. It also shows that the protection afforded at the national level is weak not only as a result of public policies, but also because indigenous workers' unions often regard migrant workers as a threat.



**Session 3: 2.30 p.m. – 4.00 p.m.**

Moderator

**Alexei Vassiliev** (Russian Federation)

Director of the Institute for African and Arab Studies, Russian Academy of Sciences

**Ayman Zohry** (Egypt)

Ayman Zohry (Ph.D. University of Sussex) is an Expert on Migration Studies based in Cairo, Egypt. He is the founding president and president of The Egyptian Society for Migration Studies (EGYMIG). Following his early interests in Arab and Egyptian demography (1987-1998), Dr. Zohry's research interests have shifted increasingly to the study of migration. His current research interests include migration and labor circulation, international migration, migration policies in the Middle East and North Africa, and Europe.

**TAKING STOCK: A REVIEW OF THE EXISTING IMMIGRANT COMMUNITIES IN EGYPT**

Egypt has been an area of international migration (migration from the eastern and the north-eastern Mediterranean countries to Egypt). In the past, foreigners were coming to Egypt while Egyptians rarely migrated abroad till the mid 1950s. Since the Naser's revolution in 1952 till mid 1970s Egypt was almost a closed country. By 1975, Egyptians started to migrate extensively to the Arab Gulf countries – and Libya – after the announcement of what is known by the open-door economic policy which was associated with lifting all barriers related to Egyptian emigration. In recent years Egypt has become a major immigration and transit country; non-citizens in Egypt come from at least 30 different countries. This paper surveys Egyptian immigration. The study focus mainly on refugees, using as examples the largest populations from Palestine, Sudan, Ethiopia, Somalia and Iraq, because they form the majority of migrants to Egypt. The study primarily concerned with the policies of the Egyptian government and the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), which decides refugee status in Egypt.

**Abdelhamid El Jamri** (Morocco)

Abdelhamid El Jamri, engineering consultant for development projects, holds degrees in economics and management from France, where he worked on questions related to employment policy, economic development as well as social and occupational insertion of migrants. In the framework of the construction of the European Union, he worked on different programs, notably on the economic development of south European countries. He undertook a number of transnational activities in order to allow companies and organizations to work together in the EU setting. Since the 1990s, he is an expert in economic development for the European Commission. In 2003 he was elected member of the expert committee in charge of monitoring the implementation of the United Nations Convention of the rights of migrant workers. He was elected Chair of this committee in April 2008. His expertise is specifically in the management of migratory flows at an international level; he conducted the European mission that set up the ANAPEC project in Morocco (regulation of migrations between Morocco and EU countries) and elaborated the operational program of CIGEM in Mali (Center for Management and Information on Migrations). In addition, he undertook many studies on this subject and has advised a number of governments and international organizations. In parallel to his professional activities, Abdelhamid El Jamri is very active in the civil society in Europe, in Arab countries and in Africa. He was co-organizer of the Civil Euromed Forum for many years and works on the capacity-building of civil societies in Africa and Europe in the fields of local development

and migrations. He is member of the Council of the Moroccan Community Abroad and chair of Working Group on “Administration, Users’ Rights and Public Policies”.

**NEW FORMS OF REGULAR MIGRATION: OPTIMIZING AND PROTECTING RIGHTS**

The concept of circular migration, developed recently by certain host countries, is often a compromise between the political and economic positions of host countries. For many years we have observed a dualized view of migration in these countries: politically speaking, migratory flows must be stopped or reduced to a minimum; economically, however, more migration to host countries is needed to meet significant labour demands and make the labour market more flexible. While the concept of temporary or circular migration has existed for many years, it is now often presented in a new form. This commendable initiative will allow stakeholders to engage in discussions on a more solid basis.

The development of new forms of temporary or circular migration demonstrates that migration cannot be stopped and is a natural and permanent occurrence that must be given attention in international relations. It is therefore important to reflect on these new forms and programmes of temporary or circular migration at this first meeting of the Permanent Forum of Arab-African Dialogue on Democracy and Human Rights, and to suggest ways of enriching these programmes and guaranteeing further the rights of migrant workers. This presentation will examine several initiatives aimed at access to rights, and enhancing legal migration and the role played by migrants in development.

**Session 4: 4.30p.m. – 6.00 p.m.**

Moderator

**Hugo Sada** (IOF)

International Organisation of La Francophonie

**Radhika Kanchana** (India)

Radhika Kanchana is PhD candidate at the Institute of Political Studies, Paris. The title of her research is “Guest workers in the GCC region: what is the role of 'Gulf Indians' as invisible actors in the forging of triangular relations with their home and host nations?”. She holds a prior degree in Master of Research at the same institute and a Master in International Relations at Syracuse University, USA. Her current interest areas include International migration, Foreign policy and the Gulf and South Asia regions.

**INDIAN ‘GUEST WORKER’ ENTREPRENEURS IN UAE’S PRIVATE SECTOR**

The expatriates’ presence in the Gulf countries is a well-known fact – since the successful take-off of oil production in the 1970s, there has been extensive labour migration responding to the import policy of these countries (the six Gulf Cooperation Council states (GCC) including Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, UAE, Bahrain, Oman and Qatar ) experiencing acute shortages in native supplies of labour force to meet the booming development and economic growth. Much of the public highlight is on only the blue collar-population of the migrant labour and misses the increasing success of expatriates in the domain of business activity.

This success story of the expatriate businessmen is especially true in UAE and in particular, Dubai, mainly because of the existing pro-business environment factor. Among the foreign expatriates in Dubai’s business scene, the Indians as a national group predominate and are the most visible (after/or even more than, the Iranians). In short, it is the present reality that Indian entrepreneurs have made well for themselves especially in the past decade and have become a presence of note in Dubai. Yet, little in the way of a detailed study on this group among the expatriate work force and

their potential role has been done and thus, it might make this presentation a relevant contribution at the workshop.

### **Elena Ambrosetti (Italy)**

Research Scientist in Demography at the Faculty of Economics and the Department of Science of Ageing - Sapienza University of Rome. In 2005/2006 she received a PhD degree in Economics and Demography with honors from the *Institut d'Etudes Politiques* in Paris. She wrote her thesis on "Fertility Transition in Egypt" under the supervisor of Philippe Fargues (European University Institute, Florence). In 2007/2008 she was Lecturer at the Mediterranean University (France), where she taught Demography, Sociology of Labour and Sociology of Organizations. In 2006/2007 she was post doctoral research fellow at the *Institut National d'Etudes Démographiques* (INED) in Paris, with a research grant of FAO. During her PhD she was also research fellow at the INED and visiting scholar at the *Centre d'études et de documentation économiques, juridiques et sociales* (CEDEJ) in Cairo and at the Social Research Center at the American University in Cairo. Her main fields of interest are demography of the Middle Eastern countries, population ageing, social exclusion and its demographic implications, gender issues and migration in the Mediterranean area.

#### **RESPECT OF BORDERS, RESPECT TO BORDERS IN THE MEDITERRANEAN REGION**

The concept of border is very often understood as a sovereignty and territorial competence limit within a State; migrants indeed, do not think about the concept of state border, but about the different ways of crossing it in a licit or illicit way.

Migrants link two countries crossing a number of other countries to reach their final destination therefore passing several borders. This could be defined as a multilateral link instead of as a bilateral one. At the same time, borders should be defined at least at a bilateral level; they indeed remain to States and they were defined as a result of diplomatic or post-conflict agreements.

In a context in which the EU domestic physical border devaluation goes with a foreign border self-protection faced by international migrations, the importance of border areas is constantly increasing. The EU borders are, by definition multilateral and institutionally agreed: but they are frequently managed as a national or military affair.

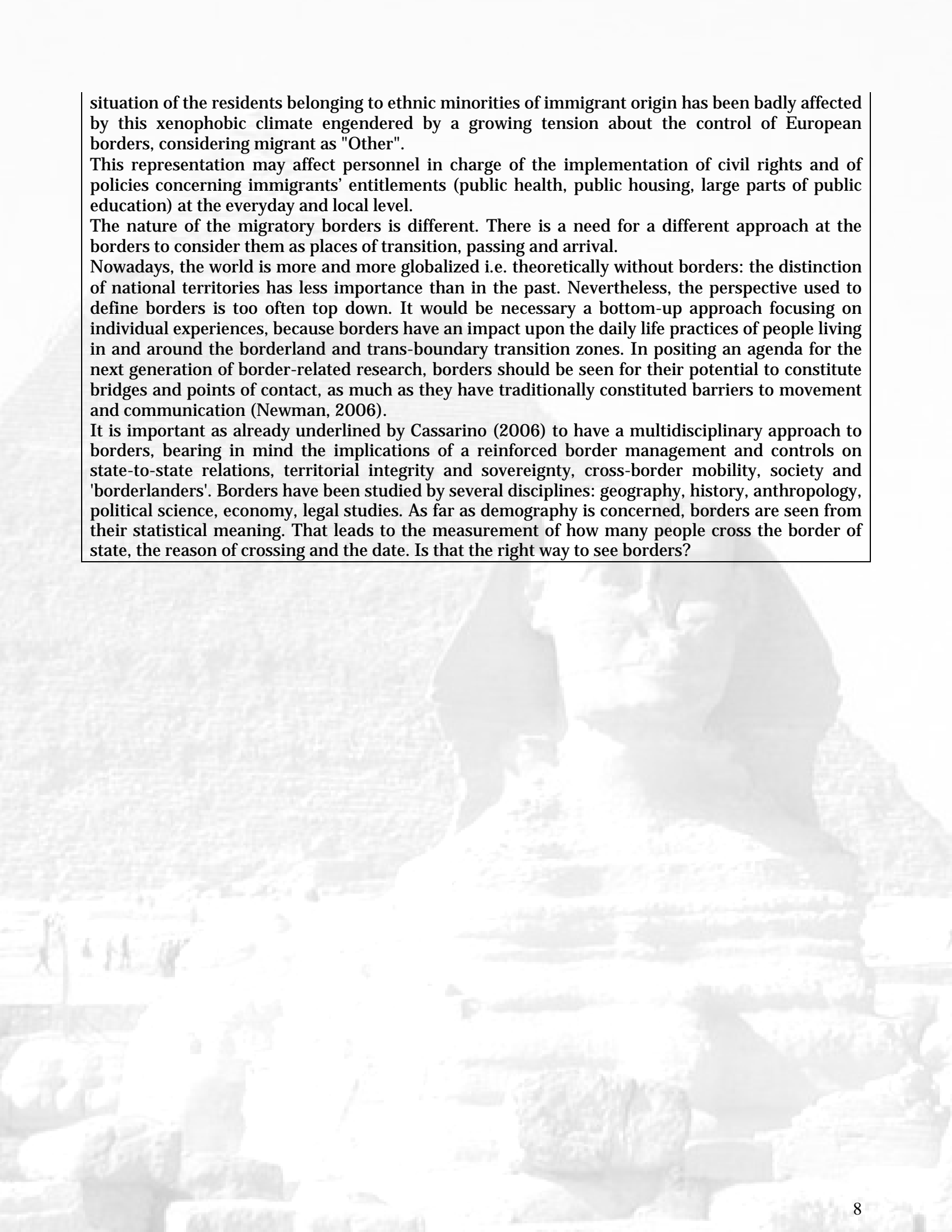
Today, the apparent periphery of the EU, its outer fringes in the East and throughout the Mediterranean, can be considered a central space of negotiating European politics and identifications vis-à-vis the world - as the world is confronting the gates of Fortress Europe by way of the global movements of flight and migration. This encounter provokes and enforces the Europeanization of national governance of borders, mobility and citizenship. In its Europeanised, enlarged, multi-local and flexible form, the border has become the prominent site of an acute contest of diverse claims of inclusion and exclusion.

The "Europeanization" of borders reveals itself to be a significant factor in the evolution or involution of Italian migration policies and politics. Indeed, migration into Italy contributed to a growing concern at a European level about frontiers.

There are two significant features of migration processes in Italy: rapid influxes of substantial numbers of migrants and, among these immigrants, a high proportion of undocumented persons; Italy attracts illegal immigration more than other countries due to the difficulty of controlling such extensive borders and above all because of the size of its informal economy.

However, Italian legislation changed profoundly and produced immediate consequences on security, perpetuating the stigmatization of illegal immigration by fixing severe punishments for people who encouraged or favoured clandestine immigration.

Unfortunately, too often this feature contributed to the politicization of the migratory phenomenon and the growth of the anxiety towards flux control and the popular tendency to represent migrants as a socio-cultural problem without appreciating the complexity and variety of migrations. The



situation of the residents belonging to ethnic minorities of immigrant origin has been badly affected by this xenophobic climate engendered by a growing tension about the control of European borders, considering migrant as "Other".

This representation may affect personnel in charge of the implementation of civil rights and of policies concerning immigrants' entitlements (public health, public housing, large parts of public education) at the everyday and local level.

The nature of the migratory borders is different. There is a need for a different approach at the borders to consider them as places of transition, passing and arrival.

Nowadays, the world is more and more globalized i.e. theoretically without borders: the distinction of national territories has less importance than in the past. Nevertheless, the perspective used to define borders is too often top down. It would be necessary a bottom-up approach focusing on individual experiences, because borders have an impact upon the daily life practices of people living in and around the borderland and trans-boundary transition zones. In positing an agenda for the next generation of border-related research, borders should be seen for their potential to constitute bridges and points of contact, as much as they have traditionally constituted barriers to movement and communication (Newman, 2006).

It is important as already underlined by Cassarino (2006) to have a multidisciplinary approach to borders, bearing in mind the implications of a reinforced border management and controls on state-to-state relations, territorial integrity and sovereignty, cross-border mobility, society and 'borderlanders'. Borders have been studied by several disciplines: geography, history, anthropology, political science, economy, legal studies. As far as demography is concerned, borders are seen from their statistical meaning. That leads to the measurement of how many people cross the border of state, the reason of crossing and the date. Is that the right way to see borders?