

# Selected Theories of Migration

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Migration

- Migration requires an interdisciplinary approach

- No single, coherent theory widely accepted by social scientists. Models
- Sociology, political science, law, economics, demography, geography, psychology and cultural studies
- Ernest Ravenstein
- Migration is closely connected with "push-pull" factors
- Push factors such as low wages, high unemployment rates, lack of health care and pull factors such as: high wages, low unemployment incline people towards leaving their countries of residence.

# 1. Neoclassical Economics Theory

- Why international migration occurs?
- Best-known approach presenting sources of international migration
- Rational individuals migrate: They calculate costs and benefits- positive net return
- Assumptions:
  - Main cause of international migration is the differences in wages and employment conditions between a sending-country and a receiving country.
  - Influenced by labor market mechanisms. Not directly by insurance market, capital market
  - Can be controlled by the government through regulating labor markets in both sending and receiving countries

## 2. The New Economics of Migration

- Families, households and other culturally defined units of production and consumption are those who count in analysis for migration research (not individuals)- household decision unit of analysis (Oded Stark)
- Considers conditions in a variety of markets, not just labor market. Access to credit and insurance markets
- A wage differential is not a necessary condition
- International migration does not necessarily stop when differences in wages disappear.
- Governments are able to change the size of migration flows through regulating labor markets

# 3. Dual (or Segmented) Labor Market Theory

- Ignores micro-level decision
- Migration is not caused by push factors in sending countries but by pull factors in receiving countries
- Main cause of international migration is a structural demand within advanced economies for both highly skilled and lower
- International labor migration is largely demanded-based skilled workers.
- Recruitment practice rather than wage offers,
- Links immigration to the structural requirements of modern industrial economies

# 4. Network Theory

- Continuation of migration decreases risks, easy to find jobs
- Ethnicity, religion, race, identity
- a concept of migrant networks

# 5.The Worlds System Theory

- Penetration of capitalist economic relations, richer industrial market economies into non-capitalist or pre-capitalist societies.... Decision to migrate
- Immigration as a natural consequence of economic globalization and market penetration across national boundaries.
- Search for land, raw material, labor.... mobilizes labor to meet the needs of capitalist countries
- Dependency of “periphery” to the “core”