

Editorial

The field of international migration studies is undergoing an extraordinary process of transformation. International migration not only remains a crucial issue for states, societies and fellow citizens but also has increasingly dominated debates in academic, policy and public agendas in every part of the world, including both the “Global North” and the “Global South”. This development has renewed interest and enthusiasm in producing and disseminating a wide range of knowledge assembled through academic and policy-related research. In a time of unprecedented mobilization of public and private resources to tackle challenges of migration, the importance of bringing this growing body of knowledge to the attention of academia, policymakers, and the general public has increased significantly. Beginning with the first issue of 2020, we aim to respond to this challenge by offering a new understanding and structure to the editorial stewardship of *International Migration*.

We are delighted and honoured to take on the role of editors of *International Migration* in its fifty-ninth year. As new stewards of the journal, we aim to support meticulous scholarship in the field, while also promoting new and understudied lines of inquiry that might reconfigure and expand our understanding of international migration. With these aspirations in mind, we thank the journal’s outgoing editor, Howard Duncan, for helping to ensure a successful editorial transition and for his dedication to the Journal during the last few years. We are also grateful to the International Organization for Migration and to Wiley, for giving us this opportunity to contribute to the field through such a well-established journal.

The academic field of migration studies has developed significantly over the last four decades. It has grown not only in terms of research projects, publications, and other activities but also with the growing demand for reliable information and expert knowledge, given the increasing politicization of international migration. Hence, the field has expanded beyond academia to the fields of politics and policymaking and, even further, to the media and public opinion. Given the growth, relevance and obligation of migration studies, we think that a journal like *International Migration* should take a broad and comprehensive approach that aims to create a wider platform of knowledge production, knowledge circulation and knowledge utilization for a diverse audience. This is a multi-faceted task. First, *International Migration* will continue to aim at being an attractive outlet for academics by promoting high-quality scholarly knowledge production that realizes high impact. Second, while maintaining academic standards, we will encourage the dialogue between scholarly and policy-relevant cutting-edge research, as such dialogue and cross-fertilization appear to be extremely relevant to create productive exchanges between the Global North and Global South, the global and the local, and academia and policymakers. Third, the Journal will continue to emphasize multidisciplinary and interdisciplinary approaches to migration studies, as well as the methodological diversities.

The new editorial understanding and structure intend to encourage the thematic and methodological exploration of important questions in the study of migration; hence, to regularly invite special issues addressing theoretical, analytical and empirical gaps in the literature. For this reason, the editors will be active, not only in inviting well-known and established scholars to contribute to the Journal, but also in approaching mid-career and younger scholars who are ambitiously and strongly

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committed to the field. In addition to these special issues, the editors plan to launch a new section to the Journal for critical “Commentaries” and “Book Reviews”. The commentaries aim to address the gap between the rapid changes of the policy field and the relatively measured reflectiveness of academic production, by providing a lively forum for discussion on ongoing and urgent policy-relevant matters. We believe that the section will provide for an ongoing conversation between the research and policy sides of international migration

In closing, we look forward to working with and exchanging views with you as author, reviewer or reader, to bring about new achievements to International Migration. We welcome you all to share your thoughts and suggestions to continue growing the Journal’s impact and visibility over the coming years.