

Special Session (SS39) on: The Economic Geography of Cross-Border Migration

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The aim and scope:

The Handbook on THE ECONOMIC GEOGRAPHY OF CROSS-BORDER MIGRATION contains a series of high-quality, authoritative scientific contributions on cross-border migration, written by a carefully selected group of recognized migration experts from various countries. Cross-border migration has in recent years become an important and intriguing issue, from both a scientific and policy perspective. In the 'age of migration', the volume of cross-border movements of people is structurally rising, while the nature of cross-border migration flows – in terms of determinants, length of stay, effects on sending and host countries, and legal status of migrants – is changing drastically.

There is an extant literature on international migration, both articles and books. But the economic-geographical analysis of migration has received far less attention. There is an increasing need to address in a more pronounced analytical way the motives for cross-border migration and the socio-economic implications for sending countries and regions, the locational choice determinants of cross-border migrants, and the manifold economic-geographic consequences for host countries and regions. The complexity of migration decisions and their local or regional impacts call for a systematic typology of migrants (motives, legal status, level of education, gender, age, singles or families etc.), while push factors in the place of origin and pull factors in the destination place also prompt the need for a careful scrutiny. Clearly, the impacts of emigration for sending areas and of immigration for receiving areas prompt the need for a solid analytical framework and reliable empirical evidence. And finally, the policy dimensions of cross-border migration need to be studied from a broad socio-economic and geographical perspective.