Commentary: *Well-being of Migrant Children and Youth in Europe* by Harrtgen and Klasen

This is an interesting and far reaching paper that focuses on North-North and South-North migration. The paper covers a wide range of topics though I think it is a bit difficult to follow the logical flow of the manuscript. One of the issues the authors point to is the social, economic and educational disparities between migrants and natives within a country. We see such differences in most countries of the world also when one looks at natives who are ethnic minorities when compared with the majority population. How much of the disadvantage is a function of migration rather than linguistic or ethnic differences?

So too, the focus of this paper as well as that of Rossi is on lower income migrants but it would be interesting to expand this section on higher income migrants who move with technical skills (e.g., information technology, medicine, nursing, etc.). What are the outcomes for their children (both those left behind and those who migrate with their parents)? Are there any data on high income migrants?

In the section on illegal migration, it would be interesting and worthwhile, I think, to talk about both the challenges and some of the strategies in documenting illegal migration. For example, Robinson and his colleagues working with the UNHCR, have developed a methodology to document illegal migration from North Korea into China.

Turning to the table on page 35-36, I think that it is an excellent start but it also strikes me that a number of things could be added. For example, under the section on Education, I would add: engagement with school. Under Standard of Living I would add: self-assessed socio-economic status. Under Health, I would add: mental health and participation in health risk behaviors. And, under Social Cohesion I would add: connectedness with other adults.

Turning to the table on page 38, the authors note a number of factors; however, it would be good to have them referenced. I was left wondering what the data is on the impact of dropping out of school is a function of mother’s but not father’s migration. On looking at health status as a function of migration there is a curious but very relevant trend that tends to be seen at least in the United States and that is that the longer they are in the United States, the more likely they are to have acquired the same patterns of health risk behaviors (e.g., cigarette smoking, age of sexual debut, etc.) as natives and what we also see is a decline in health status between first, second and third generation youth as a function of participating in health risk behaviors.

In the section on education, the authors speak to low educational attainment being transferred from one generation to the next among migrant families. Is the same true for high education attainment? For example, in the United States we saw the migration of more highly education Vietnamese adults after the war with Vietnam and many of the children of those immigrants went on to achieve high educational attainment. Was that a function of social and educational opportunity or was it a function of their parents’ antecedent educational status?
In the section on social exclusion, I was left wondering if the discrimination experience is *defacto* or *dejure*? Again, ethnic minorities are always disadvantaged and so to what extent is the disadvantage experience by migrants unique?

Also in this section there is a brief but interesting discussion on children with disabilities. The authors reference exclusionary school systems such as those in Germany where children with special health care needs are in unique facilities. It would be very interesting to compare with countries such as the United States where social integration of children with disabilities has been the law for at least 20 years. What do we know about the differential impact of children in those two systems? There has been a substantial literature written on those issues.