Notes from Bellagio Working Meeting Thursday, April 24th @ 4:00 All scholars present except: Saunders, Klasen & Harttgen

1) Housekeeping

2) Overview – Migration’s changing age structure: a field building opportunity [Slide with 3 rings] Research on child outcomes, Scholars Data Research, Research on migration

Project to synthesize existing information – explore opportunity for impact= origin of this conference. Researchers think in terms of projects – not globally or strategy for funding for a wider/broader impact.

Idea: to craft something out of White Space
Getting children on the migration radar screen
Looking at policy for interventive opportunities

End Goals:

- Future of Children volumes -Is there enough credible research?
- Is there a foundation or need to forge a child centric migration agenda – Practical and research
- How to sustain Momentum? – Data needs and opportunities & Research and intervention agenda

Overall Objective

To assess the state of knowledge about migrant youth and children in academic research about migrant youth & children in developing countries/industrialized countries (mainly, but not limited to

Anticipated outcomes

- Development of a framework matrix to conceptualize relevant research topics
- Review existing academic literature
- Assess available data to study child and youth migration
- Identify key researchers

Child centric Questions

- How does migration influence well being of children & youth?
- - presumes modeling of the auspices of migration
- comparisons to non-migrants
- How do migrant children and youth fare in their host countries?
- comparisons to nonimmigrant youth at destination

Open to questions from Floor

What is the time frame of the project? (Tim)
Diff between initiative & project….no end time frame exactly
He feels much of the goals are low hanging fruit.

Use these two days to define how we want to organize this research.

Addressing Fugitives? Heather Joshi

Age composition? Very complicated to define

[General introductions were made]

Hania will have an estimate of how many children migrants there are in the world soon.
She is strongly opposed to a look at internal migration outlook, b/c it often equates internal migration to a low/poverty stricken group. They are not equals

Mark & Bob highlighted the need for discussion on internal migration.

Chris explained the FoC perspective and Marta explored the Jacobs connection.
Marta posed the idea that should we focus on education as the foray into the white space of child migration.
FoC will consider the international context of any one of these ideas.

Marta’s white board notes – insert

Hania stressed importance of clearly stating the meaning of children and youth in these papers and discussions.

David Lam- on internal migration- need to keep as part of the discussion because we know more about it and it is easier to look at the issue.

Miles – need an identification strategy..did migration improve that child’s wellbeing?
Can we answer any of our questions in principle? Is this feasible?

Jackie – concentrate on a few questions; i.e. is the migration forced or unforced?
Rights vs. well-being….a persons legal status is a huge predictor of asset building and security.
She is finding it difficult to follow on what we want out of this meeting.
Chris/Marta: we are stock taking. Not answering questions or building broader researching possibilities – until the right questions are asked.

John M.- which children are we talking about? Policy makers are concerned about current locales – are we? Patrick feels we should identify questions first, to direct the conversation this week.

Wendy: building assets for children might need to be the theme…

Marta: much of our direction will ripple into allocation of resources.

David: not who’s making the decision to migrate or why…but who is the winner / outcome of the move? When is the unit of analysis the ‘family labor supply’?

Charlie: try to separate the word migration from ‘problem’ or negative outcome. Migration, as an undertaking, often is a problem solving decision. A Positive thing.

Data collection are not always observable, long term answers can be hard to follow. Long term consequences can really only be addressed by interviewing adults who were migrant children.

April 25  
Friday at 9:00am

Andrea Rossi’s Paper:  
Marta Tienda’s presentation  
See Marta’s presentation posted on the site

Andréa’s response to comments:  
See presentation posted on the site

He stresses the expansion of the household…in a global world with communication easier & easier, and remittance payments made easier, households stretch from country to country now….  
Y=$ + N1  
This effect can be positive or negative.  
So the equation can be: Y = + -  
Or  
H= S H  
+ -  
E= S + H + W  
W= S  
N
Tim: Household decisions – whatever is best for the household. So it precludes the internal & international scopes. So policy can be directed towards children.

So, crossing the border is just a technical. So better to understand the decision, and how the different aspects impact the final result.

Hania presented her PowerPoint. Hania proves that South to North migration is paramount – that is where the action is in terms of numbers. Number of migrants increased from 57 million to 91 million in the High income developed countries – this is based on how the World Bank divides the world.

North to north = 53 million
South to north = 62 million } early equal
South to south = 61 million

North to South = only 14 million
153 countries contributed information to these categories.
Benchmark for migration flow is to have to left the country for 1 year.

Discussion after Marta and Andrea presented on Friday morning.

Tim: I like the way you are thinking. Making a decision. Doesn’t matter if national or international. There is a decision about moving the children. If support is there, then I move the children. Studies like Deaton’s and others. If grandmothers get small pensions, it supports keeping the children there. If there children are at risk, or if the services will be better, you move the children with you.

Andrea: Works from the assumption that policy makers don’t care about children.

Tim: That depends on the country.

Andrea: Mobility is getting easier. Some policy makers want a specific set of migrants, who can fill the need and come and stay. Crossing boarders is just a technical thing.

What we need to understand is how things impact on the results.

Tim: you can have a bigger impact if you understand why.

Andrea: Migration is a treatment. How can I change the coefficient?

Marta; suggests one more question and then break.

Andrea: looking at migration south to south- income effect is so big that you can’t see the other effects.
Hania: Migrants- 2000 and 2005 - Divided by World Banks categories. The number of migrants have increased in well developed courtiers. That’s why south to north migration is so important. The middle income has almost stayed the same and low income countries have gone down.

Survey about whether migrants are doing well doesn’t tell us much. It should be focused on keeping families together.

Internal migration- there is a lot of movement for everyone. We don’t have a lot of information about this.

Charlie: When thinking about migration, we take a theory and apply it to children. One of the main standards within the field is labor migration. Another is family migration. Jews from Eastern Europe is a good example of family. We need to think about the process where family migration comes into the equation.

Kathleen: In the US, family migration is really prevalent. So can’t really say that labor migration is the predominant reason.

Charlie: I am talking about reasons they are coming.

Hania: but the reason they are coming is really family. The family migration gets much more complicated because of things like adoption of migrant children of a migrant spouse by a national.

Kathleen: That was the issue I was going to raise. That family migration is complicated by other factors.

Kathleen: Jordan and Syria- the girls are being married off at 14 or 15 just to get them out of the house.

Miles: Policy maker might find of value: 3 ways of framing things

1. Point not sure of- profiles more important than magnitude. If a project were to put a number to the magnitude to this it would be a major contribution.

2. Frame the discussion around policy levers.

3. Need a causal understanding of the process.

Appreciated Marta’s remark yesterday that one objective is to take the literature and create a child development subfield. Maybe should go in the other direction. Take child development literature and make a migration subfield.
Andrea: In some situation, the debate is about should we allow or not allow people to come in. Any decision a policy maker is making will affect the people in the country. Should move from is migration good or bad to what can we do to make situations better.

If framing from the Child Development issue, the policy makers are weaker. If you go from the Migration issue, then you deal with stronger policy makers. From the child side, it would go to newspapers and magazines and then out of the picture.

Policy makers need a number. Not sure if we could get an accurate number. Need to move from a global estimate.

Miles: I think it needs to be more than a number. Need to have the story.

Marta:

- Research <

  Migration (migrant children) Children

- Policy <

Jacqueline: Migrants will often claim children who are abroad. Then policy makers will use that to claim that someone is eligible to be brought in as a child. They’ve supported them and are responsible for them according to the tax form.

If you have limited funds, all of this helps to decide who to send. If I can invest my funds into a child who is less likely to be removed. That’s where I’ll put the money.

We often work with fairly simplistic assumptions. People automatically think that keeping a family together is in the best interest of the child. You need to go beyond that and see if it really is the best thing for the child. Need to unpack the concept of wellbeing.

Andrea: If we give tax deductions for migrants who have children. Does it have an effect? Absolutely, but we have to give equal rights to migrants…same as citizens.

Rights are not negotiable in theory. If there are equal rights, it will impact the decision of people to immigrate.

We have to be careful moving to policy when the knowledge is not strong enough.

Marta: How policy makers use research is something that many of us wish we can control, but we can’t.
Mark: Scope of overall project: policy related advice on Child Centered Migration.

*Children left behind are not always on the agenda in many countries, but in underdeveloped countries it is a big issue.*

Marta:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Counties</th>
<th>Left Behind</th>
<th>Migrant Children</th>
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<tr>
<td>Less Developed</td>
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<td>More Developed</td>
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Hania: Talked a lot about comparison groups but haven’t said how to get them. Migrant will move when the expected wages of origin are lower than expected wages of destination. Children are left behind because at least one parent is out of the country. Need to bring in the information we know about what happens to children when parents aren’t there. We think that countries should do something for the country where the parents have left to migrate, but it really depends on which children are worse off.

Couple of things we have to think about…see chart above. To what extent can country of origin request that certain things be done in the country of destination..not much..

Parent Absence:

--Orphans (role of state)
--“Left Behind”

Brian Nolan: Scope issue- fined it difficult to find progress in scope issues. We know cross board migration. Have difficulty measuring it but we know what it is. Need to define categories.

Marta: Would like to get a set of issues to talk about tomorrow instead of just march through the papers.

Jacqueline: Do we know what percentage of children left behind are not getting any remittances?

Andrea: We know what international migration is because it is crossing a border. We know because we assume it. Must be careful that assumption does not take over for definition.

Bob: Children left behind might be a policy issue to southern countries and not northern countries. There are different issues for different countries. Migration is a fact, not positive or negative. There are kids who do well migrating and kids who do poorly. The same can be applied to kids left behind.
There is a need for programs. There is a whole literature on programs that want to help kids who move around a lot. Need to look at programmatic interventions.

Chris P.: Policy makers are not one big lump. Different groups are going to have different programs. As researchers need to look at how we can bring evidence to them to use in policy development. Talked about the discussion about whether immigrant kids should get free health care. In NJ, most cases of TB come from immigrant children. This is the type of evidence that we should be bringing to the policy makers.

Stephan: Matrix: left behind and migrating children…migration children need to be unpacked a bit into their categories. Might want to think more about the wellbeing of migrating children than on those left behind in South south migration.

Kathleen: Reference groups: children whose parents are missing for other reasons and children whose parents haven’t migrated.

A child whose parents migrate could be a way of taking care of children. They are not abandoning them.

Policy and policy audiences: In terms of outcomes for children it doesn’t matter very much if children are crossing the border or not. But policy makers, it matters.

Patrick: Liked the point of building on child literature. Age is really important in the research. It makes a big difference.

John: Children left behind- it has been assumed that parents left them, but it could have been by a sibling or other family member.

Foreign ministries are very concerned about those left behind and remittances made by migrants. And they are also concerned about development goals.

Children and migrant children also differ in unmeasured able characteristics.

Wendy: Delineated differences between the ministries and who will think this issue is Need to frame these questions and information to get the attention of the ministry.

Brian Barber: Psychological points: There are elaborate literatures on child psychology and developmental psychology that deal with these issues.

Shouldn’t automatically presume that migration is a risk for children. But there are difficulties. There are language and culture changes. Parents who don’t speak the language and children who have to be the ones to step in and translate.

Peter: Reinforce comments from Brian Nolan about scope. 2 issues that have come up during discussion are -Size of the problem & Definitions. Marta’s suggestion about getting a number on the problem is a good one. What are the determinants and how can
we use our understanding of the determinants. We have to have an understanding of the process. If we want to keep the focus on children than I don’t think the economic model is the best way to go. If there isn’t a clear sense of the project, then we can’t be putting questions into surveys.

John: Question: Brian Barber, I was wondering if what you just said is saying that this project is just bending the wheel.

Brian Barber: Yes, I am somewhat saying that. There is vast literature there. I wouldn’t say that the wheel is being recreated at all, but that there is a lot there than can be used.

Marta: I reviewed many of these studies and dismissed them because they were not focused on the kinds of questions that we are asking about policy development.

Andrea: We don’t have single indicators to tell us if migration is good or bad for children. Age needs to be a variable because each year has an impact. Each year is important. You have to consider the differences in different cultures. Like a 10 year old in Africa is much more developed than a 10 year old child in Italy for many reasons.

**Chris’ Presentation:**

*See presentation posted on the website*

**Stephan presented his responses to Chris’ comments:**

*See presentation posted on the website*

He discussed UNICEF 2007 data source – dimensions of well-being

Discussion:

Patrick: comparative survey with micro level data is usually good with details but not w variables…so the logistical surveys seem more appropriate. Don’t worry about selectivity when you have comparison information.

But Stephan was saying that selectivity isn’t useful for policy issues. But quasi-matching would be useful b/c we have the variants somewhere.

Hania: she was expecting a lot more information on children. The idea that the host country has programs to indoctrinate the children into their culture, language, etc.

Several good studies in France, some in Sweden. She likes Brian’s term “Culture of Distance” don’t wait for the perfect survey. Spain has admitted 4 million migrants in 5 years….it was absent from the paper. So many governments have bad policies, that you wouldn’t need very much data to support a change in policy.

“What is the impact of Migration?” Patrick re-iterated. The current data sets the stage, motivates some change..not answers the entire question. (UNICEF report)

Miles: As one of the Co-authors of the UNICEF report – just getting some facts on the table is important. If you make them comparable – they really get attention really fast. Now, what is the next step – it opens a window to have work like this to get attention.
Segue: into a comment made by Stephan that didn’t agree with him. It would be a pity if immigration study gets bogged down on the discussion about who is an immigrant. He pushed back on that idea/comment.

One another point he made: on other data sets – would like finer age backgrounds, be careful because you won’t get information that you want when you slice it down. He would like to see large data sets. Perhaps we should use the Census data sets. British data sets links longitudinally. Also, briefly he emphasized that self selection might not be a bad issue. Depends on the casual issues.

Bob: commented on the report card vs. the research – report cards on good for advocacy, but not so much for policy makers.

Question: Health, Behavior of School Age Children data set – can we get access? It’s huge. Marta commented that she tried, but got no response.

Tim: Data point: panels aren’t very good for studying immigrants….
He asked Hania if she ever checked to get the larger data set of IPONES. She answered that the information comes from the Census tracts. IPONES is the data set is huge.
His point: generally Adults move for work…but generally the immigrant families do get income support, more than we think.
Bob says yes, it is dependent on presence & need. Yes, Access isn’t really the issue. Does legal status impair the access to the help? Not really – issue is presence. Language issue is not that great either.

Stephan: # of illegal children, b/c usually they have some type of status.
Hania: In France, almost every school has illegal children. And it is the entire family which is illegal. In US, undocumented children are covered up to 12th grade for education…Supreme Court decision.

Jackie: too simple to say that in Europe that all children have access to health care.
As a matter of eligibility – access to education is much easier. Huge access in the area of Health care for migrant children. She has charts that she can share that illustrate how restrictive/eligibility of access in Europe.

Brian: contrast between statistics and research should not be the headline. EU presidents in 2006 stated a social inclusion agenda in theory. But is it on the Map? They could use some more indicators. There are some that they are trying to extend to children.

Heather: pick up a theme that is very difficult- emigration or return migration or out migration- people don’t know how many children are leaving let alone how or why. We shouldn’t be ignoring the flows of migration away from a country.

Migration into European countries is going up- Number of children born to foreign born parents is increasing. Will it fill the numbers from decrease in non-foreign born births?
Kathleen: MPI been doing a lot of work on migration policies. Several countries are turning away from migration and saying no we want you to stay.

Patrick: Tricky with migrant students b/c of crack down – but then it impacts the statistics in a positive way, b/c the numbers of immigrants are lower.

John: Left Unicef 6 years ago & agrees with Stephan about his approach. It all helps frame what you are doing. Some research can be risky b/c advocacy can drown out the data. Problems on ranking on differences that outcomes reflect variety of different things ~ we need to say more about migrant children, in where they come from.

Tim: 5/5/2005 new EU indicated that you could work anywhere in the EU. But certain countries differed on how people they brought people. Citizens of EU countries, but each country has different regulations. They cannot establish themselves however in another country easily.

Hania: the question are immigrants doing similarly in every country? Or are there different experiences in different countries?

Kathleen: EU is now phasing in 2009 & 2012 need to remove the restrictive element between countries. So that citizens of the EU can move about freely.

Jackie: within EU if you are a long term resident – you can live in another country for 3 months. However they are still working on the right to work and establish themselves. Hot issues: what is a threat to national security? That is a reason to remove these citizens. Problem in Romanian’s, especially children. Member states don’t necessarily have rights to exclude – but they also interpret the removal laws differently.

Peter: Beware
1) Looking at migrant vs. non-migrant there are broad changes being undertaken, especially in Australia.
2) Are there indicators that you want there that aren’t there now?
3) Quantitative vs. Qualitative data: suggests that you need to segregate info by aggregate differences. We need to be more nuanced in the way we want to use other information.

Miles: echoing the importance of diversity….that is something that a policy making can address. Is there an opportunity of administrative eye to the data to be used for research purposes? Canadian data: access to immigrants, what visa they came under linking it to income tax information. He thinks there is a province/Manitoba brought census data to health care data also.

Idea of the quality of opportunity – adopting this view can address the steepest of data.

Andrea: EU, natural experiment – moving from international immigration to internal migration just b/c they are ‘moving’ the border. Another China – Hong Kong. “We didn’t cross the border, the border crossed us” David Lam
Huge studies on unaccompanied minors….less studied of accompanied minors…space for additional research?
Also, what about Child Agency? We might want to treating child as agents, instead of a result of a household decision. Our discussion is on Micro data…should expand.

Chris was thinking of micro-macro.

Charles: pay as you go programs: they are not sustainable. (i.e. Pension programs)
Welfare issues are generally a sign as compassion programs. The strains in Society are not long in coming as the impact of restrictive immigration policies.

Stephan: the idea is shifting towards immigration euphoria to a much bigger package.
More immigration of the skilled (choosing more) vs. open low skilled labor.
Kathleen pointed to the Swedes as an example of a country doing this.

David: Univ of Minnesota data set, he uses it frequently….from 30 countries now.
All standardized. What you learn is both internal and internationally – they move more with smaller children, than older (12 & over). Very accessible. Public use data.

Tim agrees that this is a rich data set; they go house to house and knock on doors.
Not great economic data – but living together info. Time is offering to get it on the Board Meeting agenda on 5/15 if folks here drop him a note. They are putting another 30 up.
The Goal is from 1960 forward.

Wendy shared with the group a table of stats on girls from 10-14 living with one or no parent (national Data) in 9 countries:

Heather: the report card as a table which can have an impact on policy makers.
In England there is a report card on schools and it is impacting internal migration.

Brian: start with something the policy makers can focus on – research.
Kathleen: No child left behind policy had an impact on all schools and positively kept the pressure on schools to continue to help immigrant laden area/schools.

Mark: Swedish system includes immigrant info in the school census data. Can Swedish colleagues bring something to bear on this?
Hania highlighted the privacy issues.
Perhaps tomorrow we can focus on research issues.

Marta:
Why do some immigrants fair better than others? Culture behavior story behind the income stories.
Comparative stories lend additional information.
No Child Left Behind Policy has both good & bad implications – but there is a dual language issue in play here…and somehow we are blaming children rather than the instructors.

We can impact Integration issues for children.
Where might this field go? What would on website be your 2 primary policy issues & 2 primary research issues? This will fuel tomorrow’s discussions.
Let’s try to narrow down our terrain tomorrow.
For FOC we would like to be policy driven.

**Saturday at 9:00am
April 26: **

**Tim Smeeding’s presentation**
See presentation posted on the website

**Wendy Baldwin’s presentation**
{Data came from the Household Register for all households screened for possible participation in the DHS.}
See presentation posted on the website

**Patrick Heuveline’s Presentation**
Forthcoming

**Charlie Hirschman’s presentation**
See presentation posted on website

**Hania Zlotnik’s presentation**
See presentation posted on website

Hania: Wants to get a clear answer from whatever research we do that Migration is good. Governments come with strong idea that migration is bad and need to stop it.
Development Cause: health- measured via mortality, Education measured my completion of school.

Groups of children: children under 5 questions health and survival. Age 5-12, primary school are they in school. Then teenage children: transition to adulthood begins, do they migrate to marry or to go to school? Youth: most children age 18 but for some 15 and some 21. Could be varied by majority in different countries, more likely to be employed, married, have children of their own

Questions:
Children: What is health status? Children left behind: Are they no worse off than children with parents?
Countries want to foster circular migration: bring the workers in and send home when finished working.

Children who have migrated: Do they do better than children of origin?

Marriage: nutritional status, health

Young children: questions about socialization. A If they don’t have the language of destination, how will they acquire it?

Primary School: Are they likely to go to school or likely to drop out?

Teenagers: Health, language transition?

Andrea: Can be an interesting job that migrants are able to perform in destination countries. If you can approve that education is increasing among migrants, then it can show that they are doing better than government.

Tim: think we ought to think about time frames and priorities. Would like to answer all of these questions, but don’t think it can be done in the time that we would like to see it done. (Charlie, that was wonderfully comprehensive) Think we need to prioritize.

Marta: next steps is something we are trying to prioritize. Data is a means to an end not an end in itself. Research community has become stymied by limits of data. Capitalizing on migration by investing in youth. Maximize positive and minimize the cost.

Migrations always demonized. We usually presume that the migrant children are worse off. Where do we stand in terms of a shorter term deliverable? 3 things keep being mentioned, health, education and economic wellbeing. What is not being mentioned is psychosocial wellbeing.

Patrick: Takes a long time to focus. Feels like we are chasing too many things. Need to focus. We have a better chance of getting something quick if we focus. Thinks child left behind is important. They make it hard for family to move so worker goes and family is left behind.

Marta: We’ve restricted even legal immigrants. We always blame the immigrants. If we are going to balance the scale of the positive and negative: need to understand where they are coming from.

Kathleen: Parents will compare to what would have been if they hadn’t migrated, while children will very quickly begin comparing themselves to their peers.

After Break:
Miles: See handout - Discussion framed toward the OECD policy maker as opposed to international.

What is the advantage to the people in this room? Child Development perspective

Heather:
Referred to her position paper on the web

David: Open questions – referred to economics and family migration. He thinks the parents can make the decisions for their children.
Do different family members take children’s interests into account more than others? i.e. mothers vs. fathers? Would like to review that research question more.
Policy: draw distinction between internal vs. external migration, do you encourage family migration or not? Access to social programs – one issue is whether the net gain is greater than net loss. Access to benefits: trade of in public opinion for the generosity of social welfare system

Brian: overarching question: how do child migrants fare? (benchmark)
What are the key factors that help them do better or worse? They are research questions & policy questions.
Supports the child left behind – it is a bite sized amount to deal with.

John: Next Steps & Identify key researchers:
  1) Publication – don’t focus on just FoC, missing out on an enormous audience.
  2) Submit papers to other journals, establish partnerships
  3) Cited a World Bank article
  4) Read carefully – David’s position paper & discussion
  5) Return migration, institutional restraints are also next steps
  6) Compare age profiles – it can compare internal & international migration via this venue

Peter: Research challenges- developing a list of indicators, child perspective is important. Migration is an event. Australian policy makers say that they only have one question: What works? What kinds of interventions are we talking about? When? Immediately after people have arrived or wait a while until they settle in. Do we want to center on the child or the parents for services? In Australia Real benefits for migrants come from the new surveys funded by government that want certain information. What seems to be the obvious might not be.

Tim: 1) Hand out 2) Use IPONE it’s there. 3) Demographers from different countries here should talk to the Rockefeller foundation and they can fill in the handout from Miles with a little money. Ireland and US- Born here you are a citizen. If you want, the 4 here could write a quick proposal.
Brian N: OCD recently produced profile of immigrants from the 20th century. But doesn’t include children. It isn’t any one thing you do to migrants. It’s how your data is structured.

Charlie: A lot of presentations are works in progress instead of finished products. Think about a broad audience for papers like the ones in the website library- http://crew.princeton.edu/migration/ Eurozine: a publication online that we might want to think about. Lam Pritchard- not represented here, but has a lot of information. His position is that human migration is a human rite.

Kathleen: MPI based in the US but data is worldwide. Wanted to make that correction. With the exception of Mark Collinson, there is no one here from the south. That has to be corrected if we are to move forward.

Chris P.: given that we don’t know answers yet, it seems better to almost use a different language when we talk about this. We know a lot about parental investments. Think about how we need to capitalize or maximize investments. It maybe that we don’t. I don’t know if we are in a place where we can talk about interventions yet. We need to know if they are falling behind, etc. first. Need to get the information down first. Where do we stand? I don’t think we really know the answer yet. The other thing that is important is that we don’t need to get the policies down? Do policies defer across migrant and non-migrant. Conceptually, we need to separate the child left behind definition…migration, orphaned, abandoned. What are the affects of parent absence needs to include why the parent is absent.

Marta: Migrant youth as a segment of all youth or of migrants. Is it seen as a problem or a solution? Synthetic paper writers: summarize what we know, canvas available data and feasibility, who are the people we can identify to do some of this research. These are open issues. If you know people from the south, let us know. Just because they aren’t here doesn’t mean that they weren’t identified. There may be more in-depth information about one thing than the other. Concerned about John’s comment that Future of Children is not widely read. Who is our audience?

Stephan: Issue of focusing on the left behind- literature is more clearly developed. Will be a complicated and broader research than others. But it will also be more focused on by many.

Heather: Children left behind may be because of the policies in the receiving countries.

Andrea: the left behind is the entry point to start talking. There is a missing political demand for south to south migration. Counter factual: interested in income effect of remittances. Divorce: father is supposed to send money to the father. Can be used as a counter factual.
Tim: $110 or 100 Euros a month. Look at it and see what a difference it would make in a month. If you understand that, then you understand why the parents would leave the children or you can make the decision to bring the children if it would be better for them.

Jackie: That might just be a little too simple. Nervous about talking about how these families should make these decisions. We live in an anti-immigrant climate. Can’t be blind to that. Have to be careful about making an argument about why some families should be separated and some shouldn’t.

POLICY:

Jackie:
What we bring to the table as a group and research initiative is where Migration and children meet.

1) We are primarily looking at domestic policy. Even though it is international it comes down to domestic policy. There is a bit of a gap between norms of legal framework and social research.
2) There is an interesting paradox - exclusion and inclusion issues
3) How do the domestic legal commitments that states have taken on map on to real access? We don’t actually know to what degree different nations have access. 18 is a legal limit in most domestic law. So is important.
4) What’s the difference between the national and local or regional policies? Just looking at national might not be enough. There are differences between national and local. If we want to understand how children are doing, we need to map this really carefully.
   
   A. We need to go back to deconstructing a child’s perspective. Do we mean what a child says or what adults are saying is in the best interest of a child. If an adult, who? Policy makers? Parents?
   B. Circular versus permanent…how this plays into children. Decisions parents make about income and social/economic standards?

Kathleen: Need to differentiate between Circular, temporary and permanent. Wants to mention the importance of the sort of gray papers here. They can be really strategic in getting the message across. Need to identify the supportive allies in governments who could help to get the message across.

Hania: Focus on upcoming meeting is the Cairo program of action. Would be willing to transmit information if you want it transmitted. There are other events happening at the UN. They are high level and maybe people could come and hear what is being done.
Peter: Get adults to express what they think is in the interest of the children is important, but the child perspective is even more important. There are limits to the ages you can talk to children, and most children of immigrants are very young. But from 8 year or so up, we can talk to the children.

Jackie: There is some interesting discussion of how to get to the voice of the child. Researchers trained children to interview and they were more easily able to get to the children.

Kathleen: The women’s commission has done some of that too.

Tim: Should ask college students too who have migrated for education to see what they think.

Kathleen: It might be useful to take a sort of inventory of where interventions would be useful.

End of discussion- next group

Brian B: It’s not just the issue that some immigrants move for and receive improvement. The point still is that many if not most youth survive very well. Agree that youth perspectives are important mostly because we often miss the boat on what is of most concern to them.

Simon Sommer: Literature he prepared was completely different from what was discussed here. See presentation posted on the website

Bob: Information acquisition and data collection

Language deficiency: this is a stunningly complex field. Over the past few days we’ve touched on a wide field of issues. He hears a whole army of variables, but doesn’t hear a frame work that brings it all together.

Age of migration has a huge impact on whether someone sounds different or not.

Hard to reach, hard to identify, illegal and undocumented migrants. Not only in the US. What are the unique issues that these people face?

Sees a central research question and a search question. Search: What is known about the laws, policies, and regulations that impact the outcomes for immigrants? Research: What are the factors that lead to successful adaptation for migrant children and youth?

Mark: Much of what I was going to say has been covered.
The fact that children have a range of exposures that can be considered migration has been brought up.

Likes the idea of left behind. It covers a lot of the issues that we have discussed. Who’s dying, who’s been born, what are they dying from?

We know so little about circular migration because it falls out of the data sets. Need to do more to bring in stakeholders from the countries that I am representing. Would probably be a different kind of meeting.