

Preface

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In its August 2012 report, the Expert Panel on Asylum Seekers noted that ‘the evidence on the drivers and impacts of forced migration is incomplete, and more intuitive than factual. As a result, the policymaking process is forced to rely on partial and largely qualitative information, rather than a solid base of measurement and analysis. Addressing this gap in evidence and knowledge is a priority’. The expert panel went on to recommend that a research program on irregular migration be established in support of the development of a stronger evidence-base to inform policy deliberations. The expert panel envisaged that, among other things, the program would ‘focus on the drivers and determinants of irregular migration, including why people decide to leave their home countries, how they travel between source, transit and destination countries, and the irregular and regular migration pathways used by asylum seekers’ (Expert Panel on Asylum Seekers, 2012, p. 46).

The Australian Government agreed to all 22 of the panel’s recommendations, including the establishment of an irregular migration research program. As part of the research program, an occasional paper series was established, with the initial paper, *Establishing an evidence-base for future policy development on irregular migration to Australia*, being the overarching ‘lead’ paper for the series (Koser & McAuliffe, 2013). This paper was designed to help identify gaps in knowledge and research in the Australian context by comparing it to international research, and to make recommendations about how to fill these gaps, drawing on international experience. The paper was the template for the research program, helping guide the program managers and advisers as they commissioned empirical research on irregular migration to Australia.

Just over five years later, this book compiles occasional papers commissioned under the irregular migration research program established in response to the expert panel's recommendation. The papers selected for inclusion provide empirical research and analysis on aspects of irregular migration, and have been ordered according to the migration cycle, with contextual chapters provided initially, followed by chapters on migrant decision-making, migration processes, return migration and finally future-focused migration thematic chapters.

The idea for this book came out of a November 2014 research workshop on irregular migration hosted by The Australian National University's Crawford School of Public Policy in partnership with the Department of Immigration and Border Protection. The ANU-DIBP research workshop was the second under this unique joint collaboration and it brought together researchers and policymakers as well as international and Australian members of the department's research advisory groups (listed below).

After two stimulating and intense days of discussions on research proposals under development, updates from researchers who were then in the field, analysis of administrative data as well as final presentations of research findings, there was a sense that the collaboration was bearing fruit, but that the research gains needed to be shared more widely. It seemed fitting that a book proposal be submitted to ANU Press, in the hope that by bringing selected papers commissioned under the research program together in one book, a wider audience would be reached. The editors and contributors as well as the research advisory group members are hopeful that this objective will be achieved as we seek to make a contribution to an under-researched and often misunderstood aspect of international migration.

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Our acknowledgements are also due to members of both advisory bodies established to support the irregular migration research program, listed below (as at June 2015). We are particularly grateful to the more active members who provided ongoing advice and played a critical role in reviewing occasional papers and other work, including Md Jalal Abbasi-Shavazi, Gervais Appave, Richard Bedford, Tim Hatton, Peter Hughes, Khalid Koser, Maryanne Loughry, Aloysious Mowe, Kathleen Newland and Anna Triandafyllidou. We have been deeply saddened by the passing of our colleague and friend Graeme Hugo, who was an active member of our advisory group as well as a contributor to this volume. Assistance from Janet Wall and University of Adelaide staff in finalising chapters by Professor Hugo is gratefully acknowledged.

Irregular Migration Research Advisory Group

- Professor Mohammad Jalal Abbasi-Shavazi, Professor of Demography, University of Tehran and Adjunct Professor, Crawford School of Public Policy, The Australian National University
- Thomas Albrecht (Observer), Regional Representative, United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees
- Joseph Appiah, Chief of Mission, Australia, International Organization for Migration
- Andrew Goledzinowski AM, Ambassador for People Smuggling Issues, Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade
- Professor Tim Hatton, Professor of Economics, Crawford School of Public Policy, The Australian National University
- Peter Hughes, Program Visitor, Regulatory Institutions Network, School of Regulation, Justice and Diplomacy, The Australian National University
- Lisa King, Director, Strategic Communications, Joint Agency Task Force, Operation Sovereign Borders
- Dr Maryanne Loughry, Associate Director, Jesuit Refugee Service
- Marie McAuliffe, Sir Roland Wilson PhD Scholar, School of Demography, The Australian National University
- Fr Aloysious Mowe, Director, Jesuit Refugee Service
- Ashton Robinson, Assistant Secretary-General, Middle East, Africa and Transnational Issues Branch, Office of National Assessments

- Rachael Spalding, First Assistant Secretary, Strategic Policy and Planning Division, Department of Immigration and Border Protection (Chair)
- Janice Wykes, Assistant Secretary, Policy Research & Statistics Branch, Department of Immigration and Border Protection

Previous members

- Dr Derek Bopping, then Director, Intelligence Analysis Unit, Customs and Border Protection Service
- Professor Stephen Castles, Research Chair in Sociology, University of Sydney (resigned membership)
- Craig Chittick, then Ambassador for People Smuggling Issues, Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade
- Mark Getchell, then Chief of Mission, Australia, International Organization for Migration
- Professor Graeme Hugo, Director, Australian Population and Migration Research Centre, University of Adelaide
- Chris O’Keeffe, then Director, Strategic Communications, Joint Agency Task Force, Operation Sovereign Borders
- Dr Wendy Southern (former Chair), then Deputy Secretary, Policy and Programme Management Group, Department of Immigration and Border Protection
- Mardi Stewart, then Director, Strategic Communications, Joint Agency Task Force, Operation Sovereign Borders
- Rick Towle (Observer), then Regional Representative, United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees
- Janice Wykes, then Assistant Secretary, Policy Research & Statistics Branch, Department of Immigration and Border Protection

Irregular Migration Research International Reference Panel

- Gervais Appave, Special Policy Adviser to the Director General, International Organization for Migration
- Professor Richard Bedford, Professor of Population Geography, National Institute of Demographic and Economic Analysis, University of Waikato

- Professor Supang Chantavanich, Director, Asian Research Centre for Migration, Chulalongkorn University
- Professor Lakshman Dissanayake, Department of Demography, University of Colombo
- Professor Khalid Koser, Extraordinary Professor of Conflict, Peace and Security, Maastricht University
- Professor Susan Martin, Director, Institute for the Study of International Migration, Georgetown University
- Marie McAuliffe, Sir Roland Wilson PhD Scholar, School of Demography, The Australian National University
- Kathleen Newland, Director of Migrants, Migration, and Development and Refugee Protection Programs, Migration Policy Institute
- Rachael Spalding, First Assistant Secretary, Strategic Policy and Planning Division, Department of Immigration and Border Protection (Chair)
- Professor Anna Triandafyllidou, Director, Global Governance Programme, Robert Schuman Centre for Advanced Studies, European University Institute.

Previous members

- Dr Jeff Crisp, Research and Evaluation, United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, Geneva (resigned membership)
- Dr Wendy Southern (former Chair), then Deputy Secretary, Policy and Programme Management Group, Department of Immigration and Border Protection

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