

Quantifying International Migration

Data on stocks and flows of international migration are necessary to understand migrant patterns and trends and to monitor and evaluate migration-relevant international development agendas. Many countries do not publish data on migration flows, and those that do, use a range of definitions and collection systems preventing effective comparisons. In this seminar, Professor Guy Abel will outline two approaches that have been proposed to quantify bilateral migration flows between all origin-destination country pairs. The first covers a range of indirect estimation methods, based on changes in migrant stock data published by the World Bank and the United Nations. The second uses weighted estimates of observed migration patterns from over 3 billion Facebook users. For both approaches, Professor Abel will provide an overview of the estimated global migration flow patterns, as well as the techniques that have been developed to attempt to validate and compare the accuracy of the results.