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In the past decade, the concept of 'transnationalism' has entered the lexicon of migration scholars, embraced by those who are attracted to its attempts to capture the distinctive and characteristic features of the new immigrant communities that have developed in those receiving societies with large immigrant flows (Kivisto, 2001). *Transnationalism and New African Immigration to South Africa* takes on the formidable task of charting the interplay between the notion of transnationalism and contemporary migration. This is a good collection of essays, one of the finest of its kind that I have encountered regarding research on international migration in the Southern African region. The eight individual

contributions are, with only a few exceptions, not only of the highest quality – analytically rigorous and substantively compelling – but also topically varied and comprehensive. More importantly, *Transnationalism and New African Immigration to South Africa* challenges the way we think about the interface between the concepts of ‘transnationalism’ and ‘migration’. This book is an excellent resource to students (both graduate and undergraduate), educators, and researchers.

Three major themes are addressed in this collection of essays: first, the changing character of cross-border migration to South Africa; second, the value of the conceptual apparatus of transnationalism as an analytical tool to understanding contemporary migration; and third, the spatial reconfiguration and emergence of new migrant spaces in South Africa. The concise and very informative Introduction by the editors (Jonathan Crush and David McDonald) deals with transnationalism: as a conceptual tool in the analytic arsenal of migration scholars, to get to grips with new forms of African migration that are emerging, and with the idea of the construction of border-crossing social spaces. Utilising extensive empirical evidence, they argue that it is necessary to situate studies of international migration in the area of transnationalism. They offer a rationale for the utilisation of a conceptual framework of transnationalism to explain new forms of African migration to South Africa. I contend that this argument is correct because ‘transnationalism’, as a conceptual framework, provides an adequate basis for comprehending the dialectical interplay between homeland concerns and receiving society concerns, and the input this interplay has on immigrants (Kivisto, 2001). However, a crucial question that can be asked is: are all contemporary immigrants and migrants in South Africa transnational?

Sally Peberdy and Christian Rogerson examine the rise of African migrant and immigrant entrepreneurship in South Africa. They provide a detailed analysis of how these entrepreneurs are connected to strong informal and formal transnational networks of trade, entrepreneurship, and migration. Transnational networks rank among the most important explanatory factors of international migration. However, the debates around the issues of transnationalism, trade, and migration should also address the following issues and questions: How do these networks grow or stagnate? (Arango, 2000); What are the dynamics of cooperation and conflict within these transnational networks? (Portes, 1999); Why do other immigrants and migrants elect not to participate in these networks?

Stephen Lubkemann’s essay explores the emergence of a transnational migrant community that links the Machaze area of Mozambique with the Vaal townships of South Africa. He argues that through transnationalisation, polygyny has emerged as a strategy for dealing with broader political instability and economic insecurity. The notion of ‘transnational migrant spaces’ – an idea that treats the migratory process as a boundary-breaking process in which

two or more states are penetrated and become part of a singular new transnational space – has a heuristic value. The question that could be raised is: whether or not this transnational social space, that has been created, will prove to be little more than a phenomenon describing the immigrant generation. A corollary of the above question relates to the durability of these transnational ties with the passage of time (Kivisto, 2001). The deployment of ‘transnational polygyny’ as a coping strategy by migrant men is an important theme that merits further research attention. What would be the consequences of this on women and children? Does marriage matter (Waite, 1995) to these men? Who exactly benefits from this type of polygynous marriage? These are some of the questions that should also be addressed.

Cohen (in Dodson, 1998:12) writes: ‘Many studies of migration have dealt with women as a residual category, as those left behind ... women have been generally treated as dependents or family members. They were effectively the baggage of male workers’. Zlotnik (1995:229) adds: ‘...the extent of women’s involvement in international migration has generally been overlooked, mainly because women have been viewed as “dependents”, moving as wives, mothers or daughters of male migrants’. The above comments reflect the classical view of a women migrant that is embedded in the early models of migration. It has been an enduring view of women’s migration that, until recently, was taken as an absolute fact. However, such a view is not only misleading, but it also provides a false account of women’s migration that has been exclusively distilled from the experiences of male migrants. Theresa Ulicki and Jonathan Crush’s article, entitled ‘Gender, Farmwork, and Women’s Migration from Lesotho to the New South Africa’, is an important contribution to the burgeoning scholarship on gender, work, and international migration. It adds on to the collective effort aimed at correcting masculine bias in migration theorising. However, Pessar (1999) counsels that there is a need to develop theories and design research that capture the simultaneity of gender, class, race and ethnic exploitation. I believe that Ulicki and Crush’s work is a positive step in that direction.

Bourdieu (in Stolcke, 1995: 1) states : ‘Everywhere ... the immigrant calls for a complete rethinking of the legitimate basis of citizenship and the relationship between the state and the nation or nationality’. Maxine Reitzes and Sivuyile Bam’s work contributes to the debates on this theme. They argue that the boundaries of inclusion and exclusion have been redrawn in 1994. They then examine the implications of this process for relationships between South Africans and immigrants in the Winterveld area. While this article focuses on citizenship, immigration, and identity construction, associated processes are also examined, namely the role of civil society in immigrant adaptation, the dynamics of citizen and immigrant conflict, and the socioeconomic adaptation of immigrants. This essay is a significant contribution to the literature that deals with the connection between anti-immigrant sentiments, nationalism and related constructs, such as ethnicity, and citizenship. There is a substantial

amount of empirical and theoretical work that has been done in this area focusing on Western and Eastern European societies (See Schnapper, 1994; Kurthen, 1995; Knudsen, 1997; Pettigrew, 1998, Hjern, 1998). This theme, regarding the relationship between national sentiments and reactions towards new immigrants is of growing importance. I argue that to better comprehend the contemporary anti-immigrant sentiment in South Africa, and the rhetoric of exclusion that underpin this, it would be necessary to look at how it manifests itself in other international contexts.

The effects of intergroup contact and how it may affect change has always intrigued scholars. These scholars have primarily been concerned with efforts to promote contact with the idea that this may break down barriers to racial integration and adaptation of immigrants. David McDonald examines the process of interaction between citizens and non-citizens. He also addresses the issue of both the type and kind of contact between these two groups. He raises the following questions: What kind of contact is taking place between citizens and non-citizens in South Africa? Would more direct contact help to alleviate anti-immigrant attitudes and behavior? Should the government of South Africa be thinking about ways to promote more direct contact in its professed concerns about xenophobia in the country? Although McDonald's research was not designed to test the 'contact hypothesis', it is, at least, fair to add these few questions to the ones he addresses: namely: To what extent is intergroup contact shaped by propinquity and personal characteristics? (Sigelman, *at.al.*, 1996.) Would the promotion of childhood contact, rather than adult contact, not help in efforts to foster positive attitudes towards immigrants? Finally, there is the issue of causal direction. In other words, does 'contact' influence attitudes, or is it the other way round? Sigelman and Welch (1993) contend that the latter question cannot be definitely resolved without longitudinal data.

Belinda Dodson and Catherine Oelofse look at the vexed question concerning the relationship between material circumstances and xenophobic sentiments. They argue that in a context of material poverty and high unemployment, competition for jobs can fuel xenophobia and related violence. The 'competition argument' – the thesis that xenophobia stems from an intensive rivalry between migrant and indigenous groups – has both been validated and rebutted. However, Wimmer (1997) has argued that the intensity of hate and conflict need not depend on real competition on the job market, but on the 'perception' of threat. It seems more probable that ethnic conflicts as well as xenophobic movements are waged not over individual goods but over collective goods. In other words, the critical issue here is not the competition over individual goods (e.g. houses, jobs, etc.), but the competition over collective goods. The above idea does not, however, invalidate the 'competition argument'. The idea expressed by xenophobes that 'foreigners take away our jobs' must still be taken into serious consideration.

The final article, by Brij Maharaj and Vadi Moodley, examines the geography, character and impacts of New African Immigration to the Durban region. In this short article, the authors address the biographical profile of these 'new' African immigrants (many of whom are unauthorised migrants), their economic motivations, and the emergence and strengthening of transnational ties within this community of immigrants. The question of why Durban has suddenly attracted the new African migrants needs further investigation. Any explanation that accentuates economic motives alone cannot be sufficient in addressing the perennial question: why do people migrate? In addition, if there has been an emergence and consolidation of transnational ties within this immigrant community, then, what are the possibilities for this to trigger 'chain migration'? What would be the demographic impacts of this situation regarding the population composition of Durban?

In conclusion, this book has something for everyone interested in immigration, and the stories it tells reach well beyond South Africa's national boundaries. Scholars, across disciplines, will learn a tremendous amount about contemporary immigration in South Africa, and why the patterns of earlier migrant groups do not always hold true for the present day. On a different note, I have no idea why pages 93, 96, 97, 100, 101, 104, 105, and 108 are missing.

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Brenner, Robert. *The Boom and the Bubble: The US in the World Economy*. London. Verso. 2002. (xv + 303 pages).

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Completed in mid 2001, this book has proven remarkably prescient in its predictions as to the unsustainability of the current growth regime in the United States. Drawing on historical theories of long waves, this book explores the dominant trajectory of the US economy, the extent to which earlier systemic crisis were partially resolved, and the current crisis of adjustment. In the introduction, Brenner provides an overview of the implications of the Asian financial crisis and associated knock-ons for the US economy, and the place of the US within the global financial system. In response – as it has done repetitively since then – the US Federal Reserve lowered interest rates, to resolve a growing credit crunch and a long-term crisis of consumer demand. The aim was, quite simply, prop up share prices and – interrelatedly – to increase the paper wealth of US households, in order that the latter could borrow and spend more. This led to a renewed spurt of stockmarket speculation, revived consumer spending, and a temporary stay of execution. In effect, the bubble of over-inflated share prices and unsustainable borrowing was further reinflated enabling the US economy to avoid a full blown recession – in effect, to defy gravity just that much longer. Since then, the Fed has continued to inflate the bubble to dangerous proportions. Major falls in share prices since mid-2000 have 'sent the wealth effect into reverse', resulting in ongoing cutbacks in output and investment. Nonetheless, in each case, share prices have partially rebounded through interest rate cuts, and renewed bouts of speculation.