



## Migration

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### What is it?

Migration refers to the process of people moving from one place to another. This movement can occur within one country (internal migration) or across countries (trans- or international migration) and refer to permanent settlement, seasonal, or circular movement (e.g., returning to the country of origin). A range of factors contributes to migration, from economic, political, to social (IOM, 2011) as well as environmental. People migrate in order to find better work, education, and income opportunities, make lifestyle choices, escape poverty, war, or persecution (e.g., refugees).

### Who uses the concept?

Migration is studied by scholars from many disciplines, including sociologists, anthropologists, economists, political scientists, and communication researchers. In communication studies, researchers have focused, among other things, on how migrants use new communication technologies to stay in touch with family and friends or to engage in political advocacy. They have also looked at media consumption by migrants and how the media portray migrants in their societies of settlement.

### Fit with intercultural dialogue?

Migration intersects with intercultural dialogue as people on the move need to be able to relate to locals, institutions, and political decision-makers and vice versa. Intercultural dialogue, broadly defined, can enable locals and migrants to engage with their similarities and differences productively, which includes understanding the means and modes of communicating that shape those similarities and differences.

### What work remains?

Migration is part of globalization processes and needs understanding from interdisciplinary perspectives. Research on the role of the media in constructing migrants and shaping interactions between locals and migrants is important as these processes are consequential in an interconnected world in which the fear of difference remains high and is instrumentalized for political purposes. Researchers need to explore more how new technologies enable migrants to engage in political, sociocultural, and economic processes, connect with other migrants, and create a sense of belonging.

### Resources

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