

Migration as a Solution of Human Mobility and Globalization

A global conversation with Roberto Forin

Roberto Forin is an expert in his field. He graduated in Political Sciences at the University of Pavia, Department of African Studies. He has also done an MA in Human Rights and Conflict Management at Sant'Anna School of Advanced Studies, in Pisa and an MSc in Migration Studies at the University of Oxford, Department of International Development.

On today's conversation we have talked about mobility and globalization that are critically engaged with the problematization of migration. Forin has followed three main issues: the current problematization of migration; the resulting migration policies adopted under containment and global issue. What we already know is that migration is a problem because migrants will take all our new jobs and will take advantage of our welfare systems. This will emerge into a problem of security but on the other hand is not only a European problem, it is also the main problem in the US: in particular migration from Mexico. In order to understand better why migration is so polarized, Forin has explained us the Myths of migration.

The first migration Myth is: we live in times of unprecedented mass migration. The debate over south-north migration tends to one-sided consequences, from the side of the countries that receive migrants. In the last years EU immigration has increased quite effectively, the same happened in a slightly way in the US but in these countries most of the migration is internal. While looking on the outflow, the data shows that the migration to the US has decreased, while it has increased in Asia and Africa. After the explanation of this myth the question "who is the other?" came naturally to our minds. There are some migrants who look more migrants than others, apparently. We are talking about migrants who are rejected from the Country in which they arrived: previously, Italians were this kind of migrants, because they were considered undeserving migrants. This former information gave from Forin let us think about who we were and who we are now. And we should apply this thought to the other migrants too.

The second myth is: immigration restrictions reduce migration. Is that true or not? In order to understand if this second myth is true or not, it is enough to take a look at the case study of Mexican immigration to the US. We can find three different categories of migrants: legal immigrants, temporary immigrants, and illegal immigrants. In particular, temporary migrants, before the visa Schengen were quite high, but at the end of the 60s plummeted completely. On the other side legal migration remains stable and the illegal one rocketed substituting the temporary migrants. So the answer to the question if the second myth is true or not, is no. Restrictions interrupt circulation migration, create illegality and push migrants toward more dangerous routes.

The third migration myth is: immigration policies have become more restrictive. As we know, the formation of European Union has led to the free movement. Simplifying the mobility for businessmen and students. But for some other countries immigration has become more restrictive: as in the African countries. As a conclusion for this myth, I would say that policies are about selection rather than numbers and have become less restrictive for most groups.

The fourth migration myth is: development in poor countries will reduce emigration. In fact analyzing "push factors" like: few services, lack of job opportunities, unhappy life, poor transport links, wars, shortage of food; and "pull factors" like: access to services, better job opportunities, more

entertainment facilities, better transport links, improved living conditions, hope for better way of life, family links. We understand that higher development will lead higher immigrants, in the short run, while in the long run, high development leads to the reduction of emigration. So, only initially development leads to more migration.

The fifth migration myth is: migration leads to a 'brain drain'. That means brain that goes away: students. The vision of migration for the brain drain was quite negative in 2005 but in 2009 was much more optimistic. In conclusion to all these myths we can say that migration has considerable benefits for origin society.

Following on his explanation Forin talked about the migration myths according to the De Haas article, he focused on how migration can effect to the current world and community and also some approaches in the migration. They are the Paternalistic approach, Containment approach, and hot-spot approach.

According to the first approach, mobility is normal for the wealthy, international elite, but it is a symptom of failure among the poor people. The second approach is coming from the sum of the first three migration myths mentioned before. Following this approach, are given three points such as control mobility, root causes and influence aspirations. After that, Forin talked about the Khartoum Process and the Valletta Summit under the changing dynamics and new challenges. The Khartoum Process is a platform for political cooperation among the countries along the migration route between the Horn of Africa and Europe. The Valletta Summit on Migration, also called the Valletta Conference on Migration, was a summit held in Valletta, Malta, on 11–12 November 2015, in which European and African leaders discussed the European migrant crisis. The summit resulted in the EU setting up an Emergency Trust Fund to promote development in Africa, in return for African countries to help out in the crisis. That was a very interesting part when we talked about the migration. The third approach he gave us is hot-spot approach and its area. As part of the immediate action to assist frontline Member States, which are facing disproportionate migratory pressures at the EU's external borders, in the European Agenda on Migration presented in May, the European Commission proposed to develop a new Hotspot approach.

Then, our colleagues asked some questions like: is migration a problem to be solved? Is migration a threat to our future? And are we facing a migration crisis? Answering to these questions, we also talked about the bad results in migration such as Growing inequality, Conflict, insecurity, urban violence and the good results such as Rising educational standards but diminishing educational returns because educated youths (often sons of indebted parents) migrate in search of better livelihood opportunity.

At last but not least he focused on human mobility as a problem or a solution for our future: Problem or solution "for whom"? What we think is that Migration is nor a problem nor a solution. Forin, after giving us a positive idea of a (global) governance: "Since you are all soon to become global governance experts, don't let politicians fool you on migration!!" he finished his speech. That has been a fruitful conversation for us as global governance student.

Elettra Schininà and Melani Pereira