Depoliticising Migration

DOI: 10.1057/9781137445933.0001

Mobility & Politics

Series editors: **Martin Geiger** (Carleton University, Canada), **Parvati Raghuram** (Open University, UK) and **William Walters** (Carleton University, Canada)

Global Advisory Board: Michael Collyer, University of Sussex; Susan B. Coutin, University of California, Irvine; Raúl Delgado Wise, University of Zacatecas; Nicholas De Genova, Goldsmiths, University of London; Eleonore Kofman, Middlesex University; Rey Koslowski, State University of New York; Loren B. Landau, Wits University; Sandro Mezzadra, University of Bologna; Alison Mountz, Wilfrid Laurier University; Brett Neilson, University of Western Sydney; Antoine Pécoud, University Paris 13; Ranabir Samaddar, Calcutta Research Group; Nandita Sharma, University of Hawaii at Manoa; Tesfaye Tafesse, Addis Ababa University; Thanh-Dam Truong, Erasmus University

Human mobility, whatever its scale, is often controversial. Hence it carries with it the potential for politics. A core feature of mobility politics is the tension between the desire to maximize the social and economic benefits of migration, and pressures to restrict movement. Transnational communities, global instability, advances in transportation and communication, and concepts of 'smart borders' and 'migration management' are just a few of the phenomena transforming the landscape of migration today. The tension between openness and restriction raises important questions about how different types of policies and politics come to life and influence mobility.

Mobility & Politics invites original, theoretically and empirically informed studies for academic and policy-oriented debates. Authors examine issues such as refugees and displacement, migration and citizenship, security and cross-border movements, (post-)colonialism and mobility, and transnational movements and cosmopolitics.

Titles include:

Antoine Pécoud
DEPOLITICISING MIGRATION
Global Governance and International Migration Narratives

Nicos Trimikliniotis, Dimitris Parsanoglou, and Vassilis S. Tsianos
MOBILE COMMONS, MIGRANT DIGITALITIES AND THE RIGHT TO THE CITY

Chris Rumford
COSMOPOLITAN BORDERS

Mobility & Politics
Series Standing Order ISBN 978–1–137–34594–3 hardback
(*outside North America only*)

You can receive future titles in this series as they are published by placing a standing order. Please contact your bookseller or, in case of difficulty, write to us at the address below with your name and address, the title of the series and the ISBN quoted above.

Customer Services Department, Macmillan Distribution Ltd, Houndmills, Basingstoke, Hampshire RG21 6XS, England

DOI: 10.1057/9781137445933.0001

palgrave pivot

Depoliticising Migration: Global Governance and International Migration Narratives

Antoine Pécoud
Professor of Sociology, University of Paris 13, France

palgrave macmillan

DOI: 10.1057/9781137445933.0001

© Antoine Pécoud, 2015
Foreword © Alison Mountz, 2015
Softcover reprint of the hardcover 1st edition 2015 978-1-137-44592-6

All rights reserved. No reproduction, copy or transmission of this publication may be made without written permission.

No portion of this publication may be reproduced, copied or transmitted save with written permission or in accordance with the provisions of the Copyright, Designs and Patents Act 1988, or under the terms of any licence permitting limited copying issued by the Copyright Licensing Agency, Saffron House, 6–10 Kirby Street, London EC1N 8TS.

Any person who does any unauthorized act in relation to this publication may be liable to criminal prosecution and civil claims for damages.

The author has asserted his right to be identified as the author of this work in accordance with the Copyright, Designs and Patents Act 1988.

First published 2015 by
PALGRAVE MACMILLAN

Palgrave Macmillan in the UK is an imprint of Macmillan Publishers Limited, registered in England, company number 785998, of Houndmills, Basingstoke, Hampshire RG21 6XS.

Palgrave Macmillan is the global academic imprint of the above companies and has companies and representatives throughout the world.

Palgrave® and Macmillan® are registered trademarks in the United States, the United Kingdom, Europe and other countries.

ISBN: 978–1–137–44593–3 PDF
ISBN: 978-1-349-49589-4

A catalogue record for this book is available from the British Library.

A catalog record for this book is available from the Library of Congress.

www.palgrave.com/pivot

DOI: 10.1057/9781137445933

Contents

Series Editors' Foreword vi

List of Acronyms viii

1 Introduction 1

2 At UNESCO 6

3 'Global Migration Governance' and the Need for Shared Narratives 13

4 Introducing International Migration Narratives 26

5 Why Read IMN? 47

6 Constructing a Federating Discourse 62

7 Ordering Migration 77

8 Depoliticising Migration 95

9 Conclusion 124

References 128

Index 142

DOI: 10.1057/9781137445933.0001

Series Editors' Foreword

Politics and profits nourish the ever-thickening haze of infrastructures and discourses of migration management. *Depoliticizing Migration* showcases a more benign-seeming series of migration-related narratives that do not at first glance seem to capitalise on the hysteria, fear, and politics driving migration industries and policies.

Building on several years of experience as a researcher at UNESCO, Antoine Pécoud goes to the heart of international organisations that produce migration narratives in order to understand why they have turned recently to the treatment of migration as another development issue – a problem in need of a solution. Noting that 'IOs are institutions that talk and publish massively', Pécoud analyses 3000 pages, a cottage industry, of reports and statistics crafted to bring order to the chaotic field of human mobility. In exploring how international organisations design narratives to order the world, Pécoud identifies a proliferating series of definitions, typologies, organising principles, and budget lines that characterise contemporary forms of migration management. The presentation of these data inevitably calls for the collection of more data. Pécoud proposes a new term to capture the bread and butter technocratic discourses of these proliferating industries and experts: International Migration Narratives (IMNs). By IMNs, he refers to the shared narratives that have emerged in post–Cold War management discourses created to orient a policy-minded audience to migration as a problem that can be catalogued and then solved.

DOI: 10.1057/97811374459330002

Pécoud queries the authorship and audiences of these reports, while analysing their content and power to forge shared languages and viewpoints to govern mobility. In so doing, he confronts the simultaneous evasion of and capitalisation on the politics of migration. This depoliticising of migration, in fact, becomes the paradoxical force driving its contemporary governance through bureaucratic infrastructures and discourses. Put another way, Pécoud takes 'global governance' to task for bureaucratising, subsuming, and precluding political debate about mobility through detachment, ambivalence, and technocratic governance.

With the publication of Pécoud's book, the *Mobility & Politics* Series confronts some of the powerful forces driving the institutional migration industry that designs and capitalises on migration narratives. The brilliance of Pécoud's contribution is its exposure of the politics of erasing politics, as though governing migration is something achievable by cutting through the politics of mobility to get to the zone where governance operates through its own seemingly objective logic.

Alison Mountz, Wilfrid Laurier University
Member of the Mobility & Politics Global Advisory Board

The series editors:
Martin Geiger, Carleton University
Parvati Raghuram, Open University
William Walters, Carleton University

DOI: 10.1057/97811374459330002

List of Acronyms

GCIM	Global Commission on International Migration
GFMD	Global Forum on Migration and Development
GMG	Global Migration Group
HDR	Human Development Reports
HLD	High-Level Dialogue on International Migration and Development
IAMM	International Agenda for Migration Management
ICMC	International Catholic Migration Commission
ICMPD	International Centre for Migration Policy Development
IGC	Intergovernmental Consultations on Migration, Asylum, and Refugees
ILO	International Labour Organization
IMN	International Migration Narratives
IO	International Organization
IOM	International Organization for Migration
ICRMW	International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families
NGO	Non-Governmental Organization
OHCHR	Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights
PICMME	Provisional Intergovernmental Committee for the Movement of Migrants from Europe
RCPs	Regional Consultative Processes
SID	Society for International Development
UN	United Nations

DOI: 10.1057/9781137445933.0003

UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNESCO	United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization
UNHCR	United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees
WESS	World Economic and Social Surveys

DOI: 10.1057/9781137445933.0003

palgrave pivot

www.palgrave.com/pivot