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Katharine Charsley · Marta Bolognani ·
Evelyn Ersanilli · Sarah Spencer

Marriage Migration and Integration

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Katharine Charsley
School of Sociology, Politics and
International Studies
University of Bristol
Bristol, UK

Evelyn Ersanilli
Department of Political Science
University of Amsterdam
Amsterdam, The Netherlands

Marta Bolognani
Bristol, UK

Sarah Spencer
Centre on Migration, Policy and Society
University of Oxford
Oxford, UK

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*We dedicate this book to our families and those of the wider project team,
and all that they have gone through during the life of this project.*

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Some chapters or sections of chapters are based on work which has appeared as articles—although they have been updated and analyses revised on the basis of newly available information. We are grateful to the journals for permission to reuse the sections that remain unchanged. These publications are:

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Ersanilli, E., & Charsley, K. (2019). A Good Match? Education, Labour Market Position, and British South Asian Transnational Marriage. *European Sociological Review*, 35(1), 133–146.

Spencer, S., & Charsley, K. (2016). Conceptualising Integration: A Framework for Empirical Research, Taking Marriage Migration as a Case Study. *Comparative Migration Studies*, 4(1), 1–19. (license: <https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/4.0/>).

Charsley, K. (2018). ‘A First Generation in Every Generation?’ Spousal Immigration in the Casey Review and Integrated Communities Strategy Green Paper. *Discover Society* (<https://discoversociety.org/2018/05/01/a-first-generation-in-every-generation-spousal-immigration-in-the-casey-review-and-integrated-communities-strategy-green-paper/>).

About This Book

Spouses constitute one of the largest categories of migrant settlement. In Britain and elsewhere in Europe, concern is increasingly expressed over the implications of marriage-related migration for integration. In some ethnic minority groups, significant numbers of children and grandchildren of former immigrants continue to marry partners from their ancestral 'homelands'. Such marriages are often presented as particularly problematic: migrant spouses forming a 'first generation in every generation' inhibiting processes of individual and group integration, impeding socio-economic participation and cultural change. Immigration restrictions likely to impact particularly on such groups have thus been justified on the grounds of promoting integration. The evidence base to underpin this concern has, however, been surprisingly limited, and characterised by differing and often partial understandings of the contested and politicised concept of integration. This book provides the first sustained empirical evidence on the relationships between marriage migration and processes of integration, focusing on two of the largest British ethnic minority groups involved

in these kinds of transnational marriages—Pakistani Muslims and Indian Sikhs. The book draws on both quantitative and qualitative data to compare transnational ‘homeland’ marriages with intra-ethnic marriages within the UK. Using a distinctive holistic model of integration, we examine processes in multiple interacting domains, covering topics including employment, education, social networks, extended family living, gender relations and belonging. The wide-ranging findings, which often challenge ‘common sense’ assumptions, enhance understanding of the relationships between marriage-related migration and the complex processes covered by the term ‘integration’, providing much needed new grounding for both academic and policy debates.

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About the Authors

Katharine Charsley is Professor of Migration Studies in the School for Sociology, Politics and International Studies at the University of Bristol. Before moving to Bristol in 2009, she taught at the Universities of Edinburgh and Oxford. She was PI on the ESRC ‘Marriage Migration and Integration’ project. Her main research interests are in gender, the family and migration, particularly in the field of cross-border marriages. She has published widely, including over twenty articles and two previous books: the ethnographic monograph *Transnational Pakistani Connections: Marrying ‘Back Home’* (Routledge, 2013), and an edited collection *Transnational Marriage: New Perspectives from Europe and Beyond* (Routledge, 2012). She convenes an international research network on Marriage and Migration.

Marta Bolognani is an Independent Scholar who taught at the Lahore University of Management Sciences (LUMS) between 2006 and 2008, was head of the Sociology, Criminology and Popular Culture department at the University of Wales Institute, Cardiff (UWIC) 2008–2009, and

then focused on research at the University of Bristol, working on Muslim political participation in the UK, return migration, and marriage migration. She was the convenor of the Pakistan Studies group 2005–2007 and the General Secretary of the Muslims in Britain Research Network 2010–2012. She has published several articles and book chapters on British Pakistanis, the monograph *Crime in Muslim Britain* (I.B. Tauris, 2009) and edited *Pakistan and its Diaspora* (Macmillan, 2012, with Stephen Lyon). She currently works as a psychoanalytic psychotherapist in her private practice in Bristol.

Evelyn Ersanilli is Senior Researcher at the Department of Political Science at the University of Amsterdam. Her research focuses on migration policy development and immigrant integration, in particular citizenship, identity, migrant families. She holds a Starting Grant from the European Research Council (ERC) for the RIGHTS project (2018–2023), a project taking a novel approach to the issue of low skilled migrants' rights by examining the influence of the governments of origin countries. She is also a Co-Investigator in the MOBILISE project; "Determinants of 'Mobilisation' at Home & Abroad: Analysing the Micro-Foundations of Out-Migration & Mass Protest". Evelyn Ersanilli obtained her Ph.D. in Sociology from the Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam. She previously worked at the Department of Sociology at the Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam, the International Migration Institute at the University of Oxford and the WZB Berlin Social Science Research Centre.

Sarah Spencer is Director of Strategy and a Senior Fellow at the Centre on Migration, Policy and Society (COMPAS) at the University of Oxford, and was Director of its Global Exchange on Migration and Diversity from its inception in 2014 until 2019. She is Chair of the Board of Directors of IMISCOE, the European network of migration research institutes and scholars, and a member of Kellogg College, Oxford's most international graduate college. Sarah's research interests focus on integration theory and governance, on irregular migrants, human rights and equality issues, on which she has published widely including most recently in the *Journal of Immigrant and Refugee Studies*, *Journal of Ethnic and Migration Studies*, *American Behavioural Scientist*

and *European Human Rights Law Review*. A co-edited volume with Anna Triandafyllidou, *Migrants with Irregular Status in Europe: Evolving Conceptual and Policy Challenges*, will be published by Springer in 2020. Sarah was awarded her doctorate at Erasmus University Rotterdam, has an M.Phil. from University College London and took her first degree in sociology at the University of Nottingham. Beyond the academy, Sarah was a co-founder of the network of equality and human rights organisations in Britain, the Equality and Diversity Forum (now 'Equally Ours') and its Chair for ten years; a Commissioner and Deputy Chair of a statutory body, the Commission for Racial Equality; Programme Director at the Institute for Public Policy Research; and Director of the human rights NGO, Liberty. She has twice been seconded into the Cabinet Office strategy unit to contribute to studies on migration policy and has been a member of government Taskforces and advisory bodies.

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