Migration Policy, Patterns and Implications

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Overview

- Patterns of Migration: from numbers to composition
- Migration policy: work and family
  - Towards temporary migration
  - Essential Skills: desirable and disposable
  - Post-study work visas
  - Family
- Implications: immigration and inequality
  - Education and exploitation
  - Low-status work
  - Family and wellbeing

Wednesday, May 29, 2019
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Permanent and Long-Term Arrivals, Departures and Net Gain/Loss, 1987-2018 (12 months ending June).

Data source: Statistics New Zealand. Chart prepared by author.
Permanent and Long-Term Arrivals and Departures according to citizenship, 1987-2018 (12 months ending June). Data source: Statistics New Zealand. Chart prepared by author
Composition of Recent Arrivals


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Implications: Immigration and Inequality

1. **Quantifying and Qualifying Inequality** Among Migrants (Friesen)

2. **Justifying Inequalities: Multiculturalism and Stratified Migration** in Aotearoa/New Zealand (Simon-Kumar)

3. **Legislated Inequality**: Provisional Migration and the Stratification of Migrant Lives (Collins)

4. **The Intersecting Electoral Politics of Immigration and Inequality** in Aotearoa/New Zealand (McMillan)

5. **Inequality and Adolescent Migrants**: Results from Youth2000 Survey (Lewycka, Peiris-John, and Simon-Kumar)

6. **Urban Diversity and Inequality** in Auckland (Terruhn)
Implications: Immigration and Inequality

“While inequality emerges between migrant and non-migrant populations both in sending and in receiving contexts, we propose that there are also inequalities amongst various groups of migrants defined by nationality, occupation or skill level, legal status and so forth, as well as inequalities within groups of migrants.”

Collins, Simon-Kumar, Friesen (2019: 3)

- Legal status multiplicity (Meissner 2018)
- Migration industry (Cranston et al. 2018)
- Gender, ethnic, class differences (Raghuram 2004)
Towards Temporary Migration

Legal status multiplicity

PERMANENT ESTABLISHED RIGHTS
- Electoral rights
- Reside indefinitely
- Labour market rights
- Access to social resources
- Family reunification

TEMPORARY – LIMITED RIGHTS
- Time-limited residence
- Employer-linked rights of residence
- Restrictions on family reunification and access to social resources

Citizenship

Permanent Residence

Work to Residence Visa

Post-Study Work Visa

Essential Skills Work Visa

Recognised Seasonal Employer Limited Visa
“The Government is committed to ensuring our immigration settings best support the economy and the labour market. These changes are designed to improve the skill composition of the SMC and ensure that it prioritises higher-paid and higher-skilled migrants.”

“Lower skilled, Essential Skills workers would take up employment in New Zealand with a full understanding that they would not be able to bring their family.”

“A maximum duration of three years provides a balance between giving lower-skilled Essential Skills visa holders the opportunity to transition to a higher skilled Essential Skills visa or obtain residence, while also ensuring that migrants with no pathway to residence do not become well-settled in New Zealand.”
### Essential Skills: desirable & disposable

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Skill band</th>
<th>ANZSCO skill level</th>
<th>Remuneration</th>
<th>Maximum duration of visa</th>
<th>Maximum number of visas</th>
<th>Eligible to support partner/child</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Higher-skilled</td>
<td>Any</td>
<td>$37.50 per hour or higher</td>
<td>5 years</td>
<td>Unlimited</td>
<td>Yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mid-skilled</td>
<td>1, 2, or 3</td>
<td>$21.25-37.49 per hour</td>
<td>3 years</td>
<td>Unlimited</td>
<td>Yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lower-skilled</td>
<td>4 or 5</td>
<td>Less than $37.50 per hour</td>
<td>12 months</td>
<td>Up to 3 years</td>
<td>No</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lower-skilled</td>
<td>Any</td>
<td>Less than $21.25 per hour</td>
<td>12 months</td>
<td>Up to 3 years</td>
<td>No</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Data Source: MBIE Migration Data Explorer. Chart prepared by author.
Education and Exploitation

The Migrant Workers Association is calling on the Government to provide amnesty to exploited migrant workers, students, and whistleblowers. Laura Walters looks at the country’s shameful migrant exploitation situation, which, in some cases, has been described as a form of modern slavery.

Modern slavery in NZ

As a migrant, do you feel bullied, threatened or intimidated by your employer?

- If you are a migrant worker you have the same rights as all other workers in New Zealand. It is not acceptable for your employer to
- The Labour Inspectorate and are here to protect you – even the right visa

Ask yourself:
- Do you feel bullied, threaten your employer?
- Is your employer refusing to travel tickets or money to
- Are you being paid less than
- Your wages being withheld to pay your own wages?
- Do you have to work long hours off for holidays?
- Are you being forced to work your employer?
- Has your employer threatened
- Does your employer restrict movement or access to a

You can help victims of misuse if you see something that is a person being bullied threaten

If you answered yes to one or you should seek help. You may exploitation

You can help victims of misuse if you see something that is a person being bullied threaten
Education and Exploitation

- Industry:
  Accommodation and hospitality (31%); Retail trade (16%); Education (15%); Administration (9%); Health care (6%)

- Median wage (after tax, 2015) = $14; Female $14; Male $13.5

- Low wages (less than $12.49 after tax):
  - Overall = 18%; Female = 21%; PTE = 22%; Philippines = 30%
Post-study work

Since Nov. 2018

- **Removal of employer assisted visas**
- **Up to three years for students at higher levels**
- **Reducing opportunities for exploitation**
- **What happens next?**

Family and Wellbeing

- 2012: Tier system for selecting parents
  - Economic focus on costs and benefits
  - Created different family rights dependent on wealth
    ✓ Tier 1: 18 month wait time, 6000 approvals in 2013/14
    ✓ Tier 2: 7 years wait time, 9 approvals total

- Closure of the Parent Category – 2016
  - To be re-opened?
  - Growth in the Grandparent/Parent Visitor Visa
    ✓ Temporary grandparenting, no access to public resources
Nationality of Visa Approvals for Parent/Grandparent Visitor Visa (left) and Parent Resident Visa (right), June 2008-April 2019. Source MBIE Migration Data Explorer. Chart prepared by author.
Restrictions of family sponsorship
- Lower skilled essential skills work visa holders
  - 2008-2019, 52% have been 30 years or older
- International students
  - 14,000 30 years or older annually since 2016

Planning for family amongst uncertainty
- Work migration can be a first step to family settlement
- Isolation can lead to increased stress and anxiety
- Maintaining relationships across distance
Conclusion

- Overall immigration numbers are only one dimension of migration patterns
- Growing diversity in composition and pathways of migrants
- Increasing inequality in immigration outcomes (Simon-Kumar 2019)
  - The Precarious Migrant
  - The Super-Diverse Migrant
  - The Permanent Citizen-Migrant