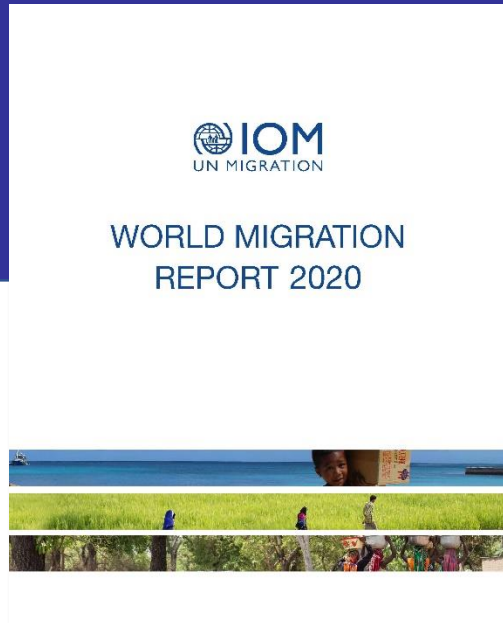


Infosheet No 4

MIGRATION RESEARCH AND ANALYSIS



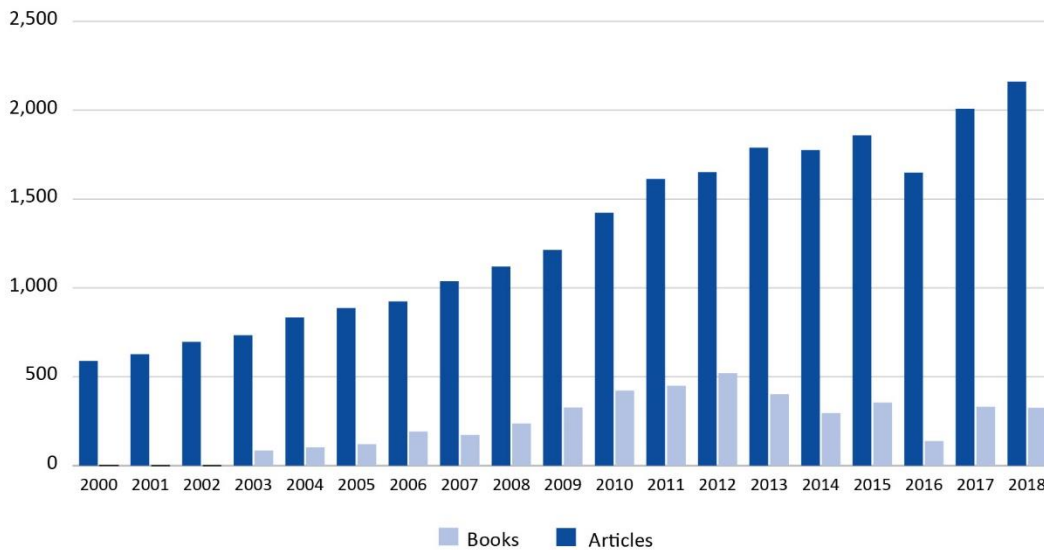
The evidence originating from rigorous analysis and research on migration is the prime source and starting point for migration policymaking. It is also fundamental to migration practitioners, students, scholars and the public, as they examine aspects of migration and how they might be changing. A key challenge for many is how to determine the relevance and quality of an ever-growing body of migration research and analysis. It can often be overwhelming to identify what is important,

and what should be afforded weight, when faced with virtual mountains of research output. This chapter is aimed in particular at those who would benefit from some broad guidance on this topic. It provides an overview of research and analysis on migration being undertaken and published by a range of actors – such as academics, governments, and intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations – by building on the foundational chapter of the same name in the *World Migration Report 2018*.

KEY POINTS

There has been an ongoing, sustained increase in the interest in migration as a topic over time, including by some of the major producers of research and analysis, reflecting the current salience of the topic globally.

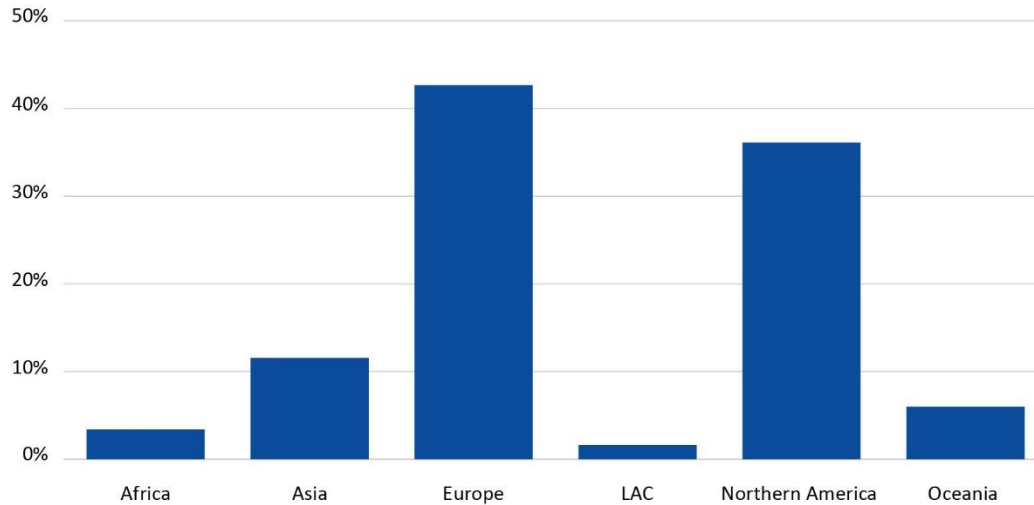
Number of academic publications on “immigration” or “emigration”



As part of this chapter we invited the chief editors of selected, leading migration journals to offer their reflections on their journal’s key contributions during 2017 and 2018. The editors’ responses are included in full in the chapter, and future editions of the world migration report will feature other journals. For this 2020 edition, the journals included are: International Journal of Migration and Border Studies, Refugee Survey Quarterly, International Migration, Migration Studies, Journal on Migration and Human Security, Revue Européenne des Migrations Internationales, Journal of Immigrant and Refugee Studies, and International Migration Review.

In this chapter we examined research and analysis output from a geographic perspective. Our examination of the selected journals and IOM publications for 2017 and 2018 showed that there are significant differences in author affiliation when published material is analysed by geographic region.

Distribution of primary academic affiliations of authors by selected journals in 2017 and 2018, by region



As we have commented elsewhere, this is undoubtedly related to research funding sources (direct and indirect), with most sources emanating from wealthier countries. More effort, on a sustained basis, is needed to better support research institutions and researchers in developing countries, including by confronting some of the structural impediments that exists to funding and capacity. Analysis of IOM’s own research publications confirmed anecdotal evidence that an important part of IOM’s role is its focus on research concerning parts of the developing world, especially in Africa. Even greater effort to support research in developing States, however, is warranted as the vast majority of countries around the world work toward the implementation of the Global Compact for Migration – endeavours that would greatly benefit from the input of academic and applied researchers.

Finally, we again encourage policymakers, practitioners, researchers and others to access and digest the great wealth of written material on migration with a critical eye. We also underscore the importance of activities and initiatives that bring together migration scholars, practitioners and policymakers, including through workshops, conferences, briefing sessions and related consultations. While it may be difficult at times to do so, bridging the gaps that exist between policy, practice and research when done thoughtfully can reap enormous dividends for all.

To read the report, please go to www.iom.int/wmr