

DIASPORA KNOWLEDGE FLOWS IN THE GLOBAL ECONOMY

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Background and research interests



- Information Technology
 - ▣ Digital divide, ICT4D
- Knowledge Management
 - ▣ Globalization
 - ▣ Knowledge economy
 - ▣ National Innovation Systems
- Business Networks
 - ▣ Informal, Internet-based, ethnic, Diaspora

Brain Drain



- Definition :
 - ▣ The flight of human (intellectual) capital resulting from emigration
- Unidirectional
 - ▣ Most in need often suffer the most. Developing world to developed world (North/South)
- Serious problem around the world
 - ▣ More African scientists and engineers working in the U.S. than in entire continent of Africa
 - ▣ The loss due to brain drain in Africa is estimated to be over \$4 billion annually

Dealing with brain drain

- **Remittances** - financial flows to developing countries reached a peak of \$338 billion in 2008, representing up to 20% of GDP in some countries (World Bank, 2010).
- **Restrictions** – policies that restrict immigration and emigration
- **Return** – programs and incentives to lure expatriates back home
- **Reparation** – levying taxes on rich countries who recruit and employ highly skilled immigrants
- **Retention** - improvement of salaries of academics, scientists, technologists and professionals.

Most attempts to stem the flow of human migration have had limited success.

The 'diaspora option'

- Goes beyond remittances
- Recognizes the basic human right to migrate
- Transfer of 'know-how' and competencies to home country
 - ▣ Economic development
 - ▣ Stimulate political debate
 - ▣ Strengthening of civil society
 - ▣ Enabling and encouragement of education
 - ▣ Emancipation of woman and minority groups in home country

Turning the tide: From brain gain to brain circulation



- Anna-Lee Saxenian – ‘The New Argonauts’
 - ▣ Taiwanese, Chinese, Indians, and Israelis in Silicon Valley
 - Highly skilled migrants circulate between the U. S. and developing countries
 - Creation of new technology businesses and economic development in home countries

- Meyer and Wattiaux (2006) –
 - ▣ research on ICT-enabled diaspora networks

Diaspora Knowledge Networks

- UNESCO – International Migration program
 - ▣ contribute to the promotion of brain gain through the use of ICT
 - ▣ develop mechanisms and effective tools to improve co-operation links and knowledge sharing
 - ▣ strengthen diaspora networks
 - ▣ improve access to ICT for diaspora populations.
 - ▣ Diaspora Knowledge Network (DKN) project was initiated in 2005 to address these goals and to develop both quantitative and qualitative measures of social solidarity. Over 150 diaspora networks identified on the Internet.

China - government strategies

- Estimated population of OCPs (Overseas Chinese Professionals) in the world is about 1 million with high concentration in North America;
- More than 200 registered associations of these OCPs registered by the OCAO (Council for Overseas Chinese Abroad Office);
- Policy (*wei guo fuwu*) has been set up in the late 1990s promoting linkages with talents in the diaspora
- 5 ministries and a high number of provincial governments agencies as well as parastatal entities are involved in programs and activities with highly skilled expatriates;
- Short term visits, collaborative projects between OCPs and home academic communities, senior expatriate scientists lectures in China, occasional technical advice, local recruitments through big fairs or more selective encounters are part of the many activities displayed by the diaspora and counterparts in China.
- Return of the 'sea turtles'

The case of Cape Verde



- ▣ Sub-saharan African country

- ▣ Diaspora
 - Most live in Massachusetts; also in Portugal, Italy, France, and Brazil

- ▣ BSC/UniCV protocol and exchange
 - Student and faculty exchange
 - Sister City project – Skype, teleconferencing

Cape Verde

The Republic of Cape Verde is an island country, spanning an archipelago located in the North Atlantic Ocean, off the western coast of Africa, opposite Mauritania and Senegal.

Area - 4,000 km².

Population - over 500,000.

Capital of Cape Verde is Praia.

Discovered and colonized by the Portuguese in the 15th century.

Cape Verde attained it's independence from Portugal in 1975.



Cape Verdean diaspora in the US

Country	Cities	Numbers	Origin Islands
	Boston	180,000	
	Brockton	25,000	
	New Bedford	20,000	
U.S.A.	Providence	30,000	Fogo
	Pawtucket	10,000	Brava
	Bridgeport, Connecticut	1,500	Santo Antao
	Waterburg	800	Sao Nicolau
	Orlando, Florida	600	
	San Francisco, California	5,000	
	New York	2,000	
	Total	274,900	

Cape Verdean Development

- ❑ Continues to outperform the average sub-Saharan African countries when it comes to real gross domestic product (GDP)
- ❑ Graduated from least developed country status in December 2007.
- ❑ Economy is service-oriented, with commerce, transport, tourism and public services accounting for more than 74 per cent of GDP in 2006.
- ❑ Improving its position as a tourist destination. Its tourist industry is expanding rapidly – by 12.7 per cent between 2000 and 2003 and by 15.6 per cent between 2004 and 2007, according to the Millennium Institute.
- ❑ As a consequence of its sustained progress, Cape Verde graduated from least developed country status in December 2007.
- ❑ Infrastructure - in 2005, 54.9 per cent of the population had access to a land phone line, 36.2 per cent had access to a cellular phone and 3.6 per cent had computers with an internet connection.
- ❑ Trade - Although the main trading partners in 2007 were Portugal, the Netherlands, and France. Cape Verde is seeking to strengthen co-operation with Brazil and China.

Cape Verdean Networks and Partnerships

- Mobility Partnership with the European Union . Economic Community of West African States
- Community of Countries Speaking Portuguese Languages(CPLP)
- Collaboration between by the Instituto das Comunidades de Cabo Verde, the European Commission and the government of Portugal, and the International Organization for Migration (ICM) the DIAS de Cabo Verde (DIASpora for the Development of Cape Verde) has as its mission the strengthening of key development sectors in CV.

Research Agenda



- Social informatics approach to diaspora research
 - ▣ Action research
 - Ethnographic approaches
 - ▣ Social Network Analysis
 - Network visualizations
 - Measures of centrality, density, betweenness, etc.
 - ▣ Textual mining of social network sites
 - Facebook
 - LinkedIn