



## EDITORIAL

# New year message from the editors

The first year at the helm of *International Migration* was a year of adaptation on different levels. We launched our stewardship of *International Migration* with the aim of achieving several key objectives: (i) increasing the journal's global inclusivity and reach; (ii) emphasizing our multi-disciplinary and interdisciplinary approach to migration studies; (iii) creating space for academics, practitioners and policymakers to engage with emergent themes or current global events affecting migration; and (iv) reaching out to and increasing the involvement of scholars from the "Global South". Fulfilling these aims is part of an ongoing process that will further increase *International Migration's* visibility and impact within migration scholarship and policy circles.

In 2021, at *International Migration's* 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary, we will continue to work to ensure *International Migration's* position as a leading journal in migration studies. While the introduction of the "Commentaries" section for academics and practitioners to discuss emergent or reoccurring issues was a key achievement in 2020, the editorial team persists to actualize the objectives outlined above in the year ahead. In line with this, a call for special issue proposals was launched in late 2020 to attract innovative migration scholarship around key issues engaging with new methodologies as well as increasing contributions from scholars from the Global South. It is also necessary to note that, in 2019, *International Migration's* impact factor increased to 1.274 and the editorial team endeavours to raise it further by working to ensure the continuous and quick dissemination of academic knowledge and policy-engaged research.

In 2020, two special issues, one engaging with Catherine Dauvergne's seminal book *The New Politics of Immigration and the End of Settler Societies* and the other examining Chinese migration to Europe, were published. In 2021, *International Migration* anticipates the publication of special issues concentrating on a variety of regions and migration trends including one on the Venezuelan refugee crisis in Latin America and another one on outward migration from African countries. We will also continue with the "Book Review" section to contribute to ongoing debates and discussions, especially focusing on new publications by younger scholars from the Global South.

The year 2020 has witnessed great changes with the COVID-19 pandemic resulting in major shifts in migration trends and work practices. Several of the commentaries published in 2020 focused on topics relating to the pandemic taking account of its effect on labour migration, student mobility, refugee protection and forms of transnational solidarity. The commentaries in issue (5) were dedicated to discussing the US presidential election with an eye towards migration and the immigrant vote during the run-up to the elections in November and in issue (6) to climate-induced mobility. Our academically informed "Commentaries" enable the journal to engage with scholars and policymakers around topical and timely issues as evidenced by the very high number of downloads from around the world.

COVID-19 has also impacted the way the journal functions as contributing authors and reviewers struggled to adjust to the new realities of work during the pandemic. Despite these difficulties, as the *International Migration* editorial team, contributors and reviewers, we have persevered. 2020 has been a very tough year for a transition, and we are grateful for all the support received during this process. We thank contributors and reviewers who, despite the difficulties the pandemic has imposed on their lives, continue to contribute to academic production. We thank the international editorial board for their support during this transitional period, and we are very grateful to

the staff of Wiley for their constant technical assistance. We also thank the International Migration Organization for their long-standing sponsorship of *International Migration*.

We end with conveying our best wishes for 2021 to our readers, contributors and academic community at large. We hope that the year ahead will bring positive changes and better days for us all.

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