

## EDITORIAL

# Letter from the Editors

This is the first issue of the 60th volume of our journal. Another year passed, and a new year has begun. From a migration perspective, the odds are that the year ahead of us will bring multiple events and challenges. There was a time, say, a few decades ago, in which politicians and journalistic observers seriously believed that the topic of international migration would soon lose its relevance: the international mobility of peoples would slowly but gradually come to a standstill and, consequently, the academic interest in the phenomenon would be strained and eventually petered out. A cursory glance at today's news sites and in-depth reports reveals that nothing could be further from the truth. International migration was, is, and continues to be omnipresent in our societies, both in the form of mobility across national borders or in the existence of transnational realities or in everyday conversations about the topic or in the realm of policymaking. And the world of social sciences continues to closely follow these processes.

The previous year was marked by a number of high-profile developments including the stand-off at the Polish-Belarusian border, the ongoing migratory movements around the Mediterranean, the flight of numerous Afghans after the fall of Kabul, and so forth. The precarious situation of, for instance, migrant constructors in Qatar, or refugees in their camps in and around Burundi, Eritrea, the Central African Republic, Sudan, Congo, Cox's Bazar, Lesbos Island, Somalia, Syria and Venezuela has drawn a lot of attention. The past year, like the previous one, was also characterized by the ongoing spread of the COVID-19 virus. Initially, it seemed that globalization was halted, and concomitant international migration paused, but its cessation was short-lived. True, the international mobility of people has been and is still restricted, but migration processes are evidently more complex. Many of the root causes, including economic disparities, violent conflicts, climate change along with others are still in place, resulting in continuous mobility in the world. The intricacies of these developments have been summarized in the IOM's latest edition of the *World Migration Report 2022*. *International Migration* as a leading journal on migration issues will also continue to address these issues in previous and future issues.

The previous year was also marked by several anniversaries. Think of the 70th anniversary of the 1951 Refugee Convention, the 60th anniversary of the International Organization for Migration and the 60th anniversary of the German-Turkish Recruitment Agreement—which marked the beginning of the 'guestworker' system, not only in Germany but also in multiple other Western European societies as well. Last, but not least, the current journal *International Migration* entered its 60th volume. The latter was celebrated by an extended editorial, a number of commentaries and a webinar about interdisciplinary scholarship and policy relevance in international migration (see issue 59:6).

The journal is in a good shape. The number of submissions continues to be high and allows us to select sharper on quality. The latter is reflected in our impact factor. In the past year, it increased to 1.946 (2 year IF; the 5 year IF is 2.037), while it continues to increase further. Last year, we published 91 articles on a wealth of topics, either in the form of stand-alone papers or as part of special issues or special sections. In 2021 alone, esteemed migration scholars and policymakers have contributed 18 commentaries on diverse timely topics ranging from the 1951 Convention to Chinese-African migration trends. These evidently quickly found their ways to a host of readers, partly promoted by our new Twitter activities (@IntMig\_Journal).

It is our primary task to maintain high academic standards and to cover issues related to international migration and the incorporation of migrants in host societies all over the world. In so doing, we have been able to stay at the forefront of academic research and debates. We pride ourselves on our efforts to reach out to what is often called 'the Global South' and to create productive exchanges between experts from different parts of the world. And, through our policy-relevant commentaries, we promote a dialogue and cross-fertilization between scholarly and policy-relevant research. In the year 2022, we will continue to do so.

With the publication of this first issue of 2022, we would like to take this opportunity to thank our authors and reviewers for their academic production despite ongoing difficulties due to the pandemic. We also thank the journal's international editorial board for their support to our activities and express our gratitude to the staff of Wiley for their continuous technical assistance. Last but not least, we thank the International Migration Organization for their sponsorship of *International Migration*.

With the start of this New Year, we end by expressing our best wishes to our readers, contributors and the scholarly community with the hope that the year ahead brings positive changes and better days for all.

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