

## Research Agenda

The migration of an individual usually involves a range of actors including their own social networks, brokers, border control agencies, training and certification institutions and even NGOs and religious organisations. These entities, collectively are known as the “migration industry”. This project examines the functioning of the migration industry to improve our understanding of their role in facilitating migration, travel and transitions, dis-aggregated by gender, generation and ethnicity. An improved understanding of the infrastructure that facilitates migration enables us to make suggestions to reduce exploitation and maximize benefits of migration.

## Main Research Questions

- How does migration brokerage intersect with gender, ethnicity and age both in terms of shaping migration flows and impacts within the household?
- How do brokers and private employment agencies recruit, move and deploy Ethiopian workers, both men and women, in the Gulf States, and the Republic of South Africa and Europe?
- How do migration industry actors organize overland migratory journeys from Ethiopia to the Gulf States, Europe and the Republic of South Africa.
- What are the social and cultural underpinnings of the relationship between migrants and brokers; how is power and control shared between them; how is this affected by gender, ethnicity and age?

## Objectives

- To investigate how selected migration industry actors engage in the recruitment, mobility and placement of Ethiopian workers in the Gulf States as well as overland and stepwise migratory journeys towards the Republic of South Africa and Europe by taking into account gender, ethnicity, generation and power relations between actors facilitating and controlling migration.
- To explore the role of the migration industry in organizing migratory departures from Ethiopia and crossing state borders.
- To highlight the context in which the practices of brokering and smuggling emerge and migrants’ collective practices of mobilizing material and financial resources and know-how to survive high-risk migratory journeys to Europe, the Gulf States and the Republic of South Africa.
- To examine the socio-political and economic logics that shape the engagement of government and non-government agencies such as brokers in planning, promoting and organizing the migration processes.

## Potential Contributions of this Research Project

The research will help to dis-aggregate not only the degrees of exploitation, coercion and deception involved at each stage and the role of brokers in that but also the role that brokers may play in helping migrants with integration in transit points, access to other sources of help such as access to the labour market at various stages of the migration process. In addition to that the research aims to monitor the flow of money and the role of migration intermediaries in that and it also documents the experience of brokerage from migrants’ own perspectives. All information and evidence obtained will be dis-aggregated by gender, generation and ethnicity. The findings of this research will inform migration policy and practice for the Government of Ethiopia and other national and regional organizations working on migration.