

## **Gender Ratios and Global Migrations: A Progress Report**

Beginning with the academic year 2007-2008, and with funding from the Immigration History Research Center, Minnesota Population Center, University Office for International Programs and from the Russell Sage Foundation, this project initiated research on the fascinating question of why some migrations included few men or few women while other are completely gender balanced. What have been the causes and consequences of migrations in which males and females participated in such differing proportions? And why has a transition occurred across the twentieth century from male-dominated to gender balanced international migrations

An interdisciplinary group composed of Trent Alexander, MPC, Katharine Donato, Vanderbilt University, Donna Gabaccia, IHRC, and AnneMarie Steidl, University of Vienna, continued to carry their research forward during 2008-2009, assisted by graduate students Johanna Leinonen and Elizabeth Zaroni. Much of the year was devoted to completing the writing of a first scholarly article (currently under review), the preparation of a proposal for a book (to be written by Katharine Donato and Donna Gabaccia ) for the Russell Sage Press, and the planning of a scholarly panel for the Social Science History Association. In June 2009, Donna Gabaccia hosted a meeting of the research team at the Russell Sage Foundation in New York. The group welcomed critique of their work from an interdisciplinary group of invited guests that included Marcela Cerutti, Centro de Estudios de Población. Argentina, Belinda Dodson, Geography, University of Western Ontario; Nancy Foner, Sociology, Hunter College and CUNY; Shelley Lundberg, Economics, University of Washington; Adam McKeown, History, Columbia University; Robert Margo, Economics African American Studies, Boston University; Rachel Murphy, Sociology, Oxford University; and Joel Perlmann, Levy Institute, Bard College and Krista Perreira, Public Policy, University of North Carolina. The group agreed to pursue planning for a conference in the years ahead; the conference focus on the consequences of male-predominant and gender balanced migrations.

In November 2009, Trent Alexander and Donna Gabaccia will present recent research findings to the Global REM Seminar. Later that month, the group will present three papers at the Long Beach, California, meeting of the Social Science History Association: "Explaining Variations in Gender Ratios among International Migrants: The View from IPUMs," "Gender and the 'Laws of Migration': A reconsideration of nineteenth-century patterns," and "It's Just Not

Normal: Global Perspectives on the Gender Dynamics of International Migration in the 19th Century” With assistance from Graduate R.A. Johanna Leinonen, Katharine Donato and Donna Gabaccia will begin to write a book tentatively titled “How Many Women? How Many Men? Gender Balance and International Migration. “