



Transcomm News

The Official Newsletter of the ESRC Transnational Communities Programme

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Director's Foreword

Migration is currently high on the public agenda. Immediately upon taking up his post, for instance, the new Home Secretary, David Blunkett, announced plans to permit more skilled and unskilled worker migration to the UK. In Germany, a high-ranking commission has just proposed that the country should open its doors to 50,000 migrants. The European Commission, too, is undertaking several studies in order to reformulate migration policy. And in the media, hardly a week passes without articles, reports and editorials concerning labour migration, people trafficking and asylum-seeking.

The ESRC TransComm Programme is closely involved with research and analysis of numerous issues in this field. In addition to its several commissioned studies on migration-related themes, in March 2001 the programme co-organized an expert seminar on skilled migration together with the Institute for Public Policy Research, the International Metropolis Forum and the Home Office. Also in March 2001, the Programme was presented at the plenary session of a major Home Office conference called 'Bridging the Information Gaps: Research on Asylum and Immigration in the UK.' The Programme and its projects were also the focus of discussions with members of the Cabinet Office and Home Office by way of preparing their recent, groundbreaking report on 'Migration: an economic and social analysis.'

The TransComm Programme has been extended to March 2003. By the time of its closing events, the Programme's combined output will have significantly contributed even more to this most important area of public debate and policy.



Dr Steven Vertovec

