MIGRATION OF AFRICANS

Realities, Governance and Development



EDITED BY

ỌLÁYÍNKÁ ÀKÀNLE

Migration of Africans

This page intentionally left blank

Migration of Africans: Realities, Governance and Development

EDITED BY

ỌLÁYÍNKÁ ÀKÀNLE

University of Ibadan, Nigeria and University of Johannesburg, South Africa



United Kingdom – North America – Japan – India – Malaysia – China

Emerald Publishing Limited
Emerald Publishing, Floor 5, Northspring, 21-23 Wellington Street, Leeds LS1 4DL

First edition 2027

Editorial matter and selection © 2027 Ọláyínká Àkànle.
Individual chapters © 2027 The authors.
Published under exclusive licence by Emerald Publishing Limited.

Reprints and permissions service
Contact: www.copyright.com

No part of this book may be reproduced, stored in a retrieval system, transmitted in any form or by any means electronic, mechanical, photocopying, recording or otherwise without either the prior written permission of the publisher or a licence permitting restricted copying issued in the UK by The Copyright Licensing Agency and in the USA by The Copyright Clearance Center. Any opinions expressed in the chapters are those of the authors. Whilst Emerald makes every effort to ensure the quality and accuracy of its content, Emerald makes no representation implied or otherwise, as to the chapters' suitability and application and disclaims any warranties, express or implied, to their use.

British Library Cataloguing in Publication Data
A catalogue record for this book is available from the British Library

ISBN: 978-1-80791-645-9 (Print)
ISBN: 978-1-80791-644-2 (Online)
ISBN: 978-1-80791-646-6 (Epub)



INVESTOR IN PEOPLE

To God Almighty – The Alpha and The Omega

To my darling wife – Dr. Olufunmilola Esther Akanle

To my son – Mr. Emmanuel ImoleOluwa Akanle

To my daughters – AnjolaOluwa Elizabeth Akanle and AraOluwa Stella Akanle

This page intentionally left blank

Contents

About the Editor *ix*

About the Contributors *xi*

Acknowledgement *xv*

Chapter 1 International Migration Realities, Governance and Development of Africa: The Context and Structure *1*
Ọláyínká Àkànle

Section One: The Migration, Governance, Integration and Development

Chapter 2 Migration Governance and Development in Africa *11*
Olaitan Tope Bada and Ọláyínká Àkànle

Chapter 3 When Borders Fade: Rethinking Migration and Regional Integration in Africa *43*
Olusegun Israel Olaniyan

Chapter 4 Religion and In-Migrants' Socio-Economic Integration in Cameroon *63*
Nanche Billa Robert

Section Two: Labour Migration, Wellbeing and Online Practices

Chapter 5 Locating Namibia in Southern African Cross-Border Migration Discourse: Welcoming or Keeping Out? *89*
Kolawole Emmanuel Omomowo

Chapter 6 Understanding Senegalese Skilled Migrants' Online Practices Oriented Toward the Homeland *109*
Ibrahima Amadou Dia

Chapter 7 Female Labour Migration and Wellbeing of Households in Africa: Lived Experiences From Nigeria *127*
Adefolake Olusola Ademuson

Section Three: Forced Migration, Transnationalism and the Left-Behind Phenomenon

Chapter 8 Dynamics of Forced Migration in Burkina Faso: The Case of Internally Displaced Persons in the Centre-North Region *147*
Tebkieta Alexandra Tapsoba

Chapter 9 'Migrating Without My Family Has Been a Challenge': Relationships of Nigerian Transnational Families *165*
Ọláyínká Àkànle and Patience Charles Nathan

Chapter 10 International Migration and Development in Nigeria: Experiences From Left-Behind Spouses *187*
Abiodun Tunde Ojuri and Ọláyínká Àkànle

Chapter 11 Optimising the Intersectional Realities of International Migration, Governance and Development of Africa *207*
Ọláyínká Àkànle

About the Editor

Ọláyínká Àkànle (PhD) is a Professor, a Lecturer and a researcher in the Department of Sociology, University of Ibadan, Nigeria, a Senior Research Associate in the Department of Sociology, Faculty of Humanities, University of Johannesburg, Johannesburg, South Africa, and a Research Associate, Nigerian Institute for Social and Economic Research (NISER), Nigeria. Ọláyínká Àkànle is the recipient of Folke Bernadotte Academy, Swedish Agency for Peace, Security and Development, Sweden's Certificate of Achievement. Ọláyínká Àkànle's research interests cover Migration and Diaspora Studies. Ọláyínká Àkànle is an author, an editor and a co-editor of books including; *Ibadan Journal of Sociology (IJS), Youth Exclusion and Empowerment in the Contemporary Global Order: Contexts of Economy, Education and Governance* (Emerald Publishing, UK, 2022) and *Youth Exclusion and Empowerment in the Contemporary Global Order: Existentialities in Migrations, Identity and the Digital Space* (Emerald Publishing, UK, 2022).

This page intentionally left blank

About the Contributors

Adefolake Olusola Ademuson (PhD) is a Senior Lecturer in the Department of Sociology, Faculty of the Social Sciences, University of Ibadan. Her research expertise lies in Industrial Sociology and Gender Studies, with an impressive publication record in high-impact journals and book chapters. A seasoned researcher, Dr. Ademuson has presented papers at numerous conferences, both locally and internationally. She is married with children.

Olaitan Tope Bada is a postgraduate scholar is the Department of Sociology, Faculty of the Social Sciences, University of Ibadan, Ibadan, Nigeria. He has scholarly and professional background in Criminology, Sociology and Security Studies. He is currently a Research Fellow in the Department of Social Policy at the Nigerian Institute of Social and Economic Research (NISER). His works engage critical issues at the intersection of governance, crime, security and social development. His core research interests include social policy, criminal justice, law and social change, counterterrorism, streetism, delinquency and irregular migration.

Ibrahima Amadou Dia is the Director of the African Centre for the Study and Research on Migration, an African Union Commission's Centre devoted to strengthening studies, research, capacity building, training and policies on African migration. He earned a PhD in Sociology at the University of Geneva, a Master's in Development Studies at the Graduate Institute of International and Development Studies in Geneva, Switzerland, and a Master's in Sociology at the University Gaston Berger of Saint Louis, Senegal. He has a wealth of experience on migration issues from an academic and policy standpoint. He held several academic/research positions in Europe, North America and Africa. Also, as a staff member, an expert, an adviser and an international consultant, he has worked with various international organisations on migration issues and drafted national migration policies and action plans for African countries and beyond Africa. He has extensively published and advised government stakeholders and regional and international policymakers on migration and other social science topics. He has participated in several international migration-related funded research projects, academic conferences, policy dialogues and scholarly and professional associations.

Patience Charles Nathan is a Lecturer and a researcher in the of the Department of Sociology, Olabisi Onabanjo University (OOU), Ago-Iwoye, Ogun State,

Nigeria. He is also a doctoral candidate on the Doctor of Public Policy (DPP) programme of the Faculty of the Social Sciences, University of Ibadan, Ibadan, Nigeria. Her research interests include migration, development, public policy, gender, social inclusion and industrialisation. She engages in critical research and analysis contributing to academic and policy discussions. Her works emphasise teaching and knowledge dissemination, aiming for impactful scholarship. She collaborates actively in academic settings. She has published in numerous journals and books.

Abiodun Tunde Ojuri (PhD) is an experienced professional in the field of Sociology, with a PhD in Development Sociology at the University of Ibadan. His research centres on critical social issues such as international migration and diasporic systems, Kin/Social Networks and orphanages. He is a Principal Management Development Officer at the Administrative Staff College of Nigeria (ASCON), with key responsibilities in training, research and consultancy. He is an associate member of the Chartered Institute of Personnel Management (CIPM) with a Professional Diploma in Human Resource Management and published several research papers and attended local and international workshops and conferences.

Olusegun Israel Olaniyan is a Lecturer in the Department of Sociology at Ladoke Akintola University of Technology (LAUTECH), Ogbomoso, Oyo State, Nigeria. He is also a doctoral researcher in the Department of Sociology, Faculty of the Social Sciences, University of Ibadan, Ibadan, Nigeria. His research interests cover sociology of development, conflict and border studies, security studies, climate change and African identity and development. He has strong capabilities in quantitative and qualitative methods of data collection and analysis. He has published in local and international journals.

Kolawole Emmanuel Omomowo holds a PhD in Sociology degree from the University *of the* Western Cape, South Africa. He is currently a Senior Lecturer at the Department of Social Sciences, University of Namibia, where he teaches social theory and social policy in society. Dr. Omomowo is a research associate of Labour Resource and Research Institute (LaRRI), Namibia, where he has participated in policy crafting studies such as trade unions perspective on National Minimum Wage and National Employment Policy III for Namibia. His research interest is focused on social policy, development, sociology of work and political economy.

Nanche Billa Robert is an Associate Professor at the Department of Sociology, Anthropology and Social Sciences for Development at the University of Maroua-Cameroon. His research has focused on poverty, income inequality, inclusive societies and urban sociology. He has published over 10 articles on the determinants of urban poverty and equally other articles and book chapters on environmental and agricultural organisations, human rights abuse and social movements, protest march restrictions and the use of the social media in security crisis. He has an on-coming book on the determinants of urban poverty and is currently working on questioning the feminisation of poverty.

Tebkieta Alexandra Tapsoba (PhD) is a Lecturer and a researcher at the Higher Institute of Population Sciences (ISSP) at Joseph Ki-Zerbo University. She holds a PhD in Development Economics from the Centre for Studies and Research on International Development (CERDI) at Clermont-Auvergne University. Her research focuses on migration, remittances, conflicts and forced displacement. She is an associate researcher at the Laboratoire d'Economie d'Orléans (LEO), a member and mentor of the Association for the Advancement of African Women Economists (AAAWE) and a member of the African Network on South-South Migration. She has participated in several research projects, including the Migration for Development and Equality (MIDEQ) project, which brings together 12 countries organised into six migration corridors, and more recently the TRANSFORMER project, which focuses on migrant and internally displaced women in Burkina Faso.

This page intentionally left blank

Acknowledgement

I acknowledge the inspirations received from all migrants, social and kinship networks of migrants, migration organisations, agencies, institutions, countries and stakeholders across the world to embark on the preparation of this book. I appreciate the commitment of authors/contributors and anonymous peer reviewers who made this book possible. Thank you all.

This page intentionally left blank

Chapter 1

International Migration Realities, Governance and Development of Africa: The Context and Structure

Ọláyínká Àkànle

University of Ibadan, Nigeria
University of Johannesburg, South Africa

The Context

This chapter provides introduction and background to the book. It sets the stage for the entire book. This book gives special insights into crucial intersections of the complex lived experiences that concern the migration of people (realities); the systems, processes, institutions, structures and rules that moderate the migration (governance); and the implications of the migration for people's capability and ability to access opportunities to improve their quality of life and enhance life chances (development) in Africa. This book adopts political economy and critical orientations to effectively explore migration landscapes of Africa as a major migration cluster and space. Understanding migration of Africans is very important as the continent is increasingly shaping migration systems globally and as the continent is being affected by migration systems and dynamics across the world. Hence, understanding migration in the context of Africa is important as the continent is a major migrant-sending, migrant-receiving and transit one (Kyei et al., 2017; Moyo et al., 2021). Understanding migration in the context of Africa provides an avenue to unearth how continental relations and global political and economic relations affect people's lived experiences, migration governance and development in Africa. This book demonstrates the real experiences of Africans within the migration environment and draws attention to the necessities of more effective governance and the importance of more effective appropriation of migration for development of the continent. This is very important because migration is both objective and subjective, but ultimately consequential for development.

Migration of Africans, 1–8
© 2027 Ọláyínká Àkànle
Published under exclusive licence by Emerald Publishing Limited
doi:10.1108/978-1-80791-644-220261001

Migration is also an inherently political process that is often shaped by dominant narratives (Akanle, 2018; Triandafyllidou, 2025) and can never be effectively annexed for the development of Africa without effectively unpacking the governance architecture and understanding people's real lived experiences as migration realities on the continent. While there has been some attention to drivers, flows, remittances, inequalities and other related issues in the migration of Africans (Kleist & Thorsen, 2016; Kyei et al., 2017; Moyo et al., 2021), there has been insufficient attention to the complex, complicated and aggregated intersection of practical lived experiences and the governance and development implications of migration in Africa.

Hence, more of existing works have considered the role of borders in migration and management in the context of intra-regional migration (Moyo et al., 2021), the implications of hope, aspirations, certainties and uncertainties and the implications for mobilities, immobilities and inequalities on the continent (Kleist & Thorsen, 2016), trends, flows, drivers and challenges in Africa (Kyei et al., 2017) and dynamics and impacts of international migration in the West African sub-region (Teye, 2022). As a major continent in the global south, even though Africans are among the most migratory people globally (Akanle, 2024; Akanle & Ola-Lawson, 2022), there are not enough works on the intersection of current realities and lived experiences of Africans, the governance system and the development impacts of migration on the continent. This is a major gap in knowledge, and this should not continue. The gap that exists in the knowledge landscape needs to be closed so as to be able to effectively govern and integrate migration into the development calculus of Africa and the world at large.

This book, therefore, goes beyond coverage and depth of existing works and approaches migration of Africans within broader intersections of geographies (global and continental contexts) and current real national issues and experiences, including climate change, modern slavery, identity crisis, forced migration, gambling, female labour migration, youth migration, and migration and the left-behind phenomenon. This book is effectively situated within very strategic scholarship, development and governance frameworks in manners that have the capacity to assist stakeholders in the migration ecosystem to efficiently govern migration and optimise it for development in Africa and globally. This book contributes towards an aggregated understanding of the tripod of realities, governance and development through real experiences of Africans on the continent and outside the continent as they traverse migration spaces and systems and exercise their agency in the context of international migration.

This book goes beyond existing migration analysis and logics to deploy the theoretical lens of not only the political economy of migration but also critical migration studies to decentre the west and unpack African agency.

While the political economy of migration enables authors of chapters in this book to examine and demonstrate how economic issues and power relations between Africa and power centres of the west shape migration and development

on the continent, adoption of a critical migration framework contextualises and queries western-centric narratives that have beclouded original African realities and have under-emphasised African migration actors and agency. The theoretical lens of the chapters give a more balanced and more nuanced reflection of the realities of migration governance and development in Africa by demonstrating how African actors shape and reshape international migration in complex, dynamic and evolving social, economic and geopolitical systems.

At this period in history when international migration is among the most pressing and most vexed issues globally, especially in western countries like North America, the European Union (EU) and United Kingdom (Triandafyllidou, 2022; Triandafyllidou et al., 2024), there is an urgent need for a book such as this that examines and documents the current realities of Africa. This book offers fresh and current perspectives in understanding migration in the context of Africa, a continent not, hitherto, sufficiently captured in migration studies. This book provides very relevant insights into migration experiences, governance and narratives from Africa as an important way of unpacking, de-centring and de-hegemonising migration and development studies by bringing narratives and discourses from the global south to the fore (Triandafyllidou, 2025).

This is particularly important because international migration is increasingly playing key roles in moderating and determining personal, group, national, continental and international governance and development. Yet, southern and African migration experiences, governance and narratives remain insufficiently captured in the literature. Inclusive and decentred study of international migration is so important today that it is impossible to comprehend existentialities of people, nations and continents without an extensive understanding of the roles international migration is playing beyond hegemonic and popular constructs, especially from the centre/west. This is due to the unique, contextually deep, and strong penetrativeness of dynamics, trajectories, manifestations and impacts of international migration in southern countries and continents, including Africa. International migration is playing major roles in shaping the world today, and it will definitely play a crucial role in shaping the world in the future, thus necessitating the need to leave no region behind in capturing crucial experiences as they manifest in migration realities, governance and development. The world is seriously impacted by international migration, and this is bound to accelerate globally in the future. However, while works have bourgeoned, and continue to evolve, on the multiplicity of issues, dynamics, consequences and ramifications of international migration across the world, especially in the mostly receiving countries of the west, more works are needed on African countries to aid sustainable understanding.

As Africa increasingly continues to be a key context of international migration as a migrant sending, transit and receiving continent, more current works, like this, are needed to understand contemporary migration on the continent.

Structure of the Book

This book is strengthened with a mixture of relevant continental, regional and country-specific chapters. This positions the book as a very comprehensive, current and cross-cutting book on the subject. The more localised chapters give contextually original and nuanced insights, as case studies, for strategic focus on Africa as a continent of interest in the global south. Chapters are organised in thematic sections for coherence and seamless structure. The book is organised around key themes and arguments using sub-headings to cluster chapters by local and continental levels within every theme. This enables the creation of a more coherent yet robust narrative around the broader issue that draws out several themes under a wider overarching logic. This makes the core narrative easy to follow, particularly within the organised context of the theoretical lens of Political Economy of Migration and Critical Migration Studies. The book is structured into three inter-related sections. After this Introductory chapter is Section One titled *The Migration, Governance, Integration and Development*. This is followed by Section Two titled *Labour Migration, Wellbeing and Online Practices*. Section Three is the last substantive section, and it is titled *Forced Migration, Transnationalism and the Left-Behind Phenomenon.* These three sections are then followed by a Concluding chapter.

Under Section One, there are three substantive chapters. The chapters address issues that affect the continent generally and Cameroon as a demonstrative case in Sub-Saharan Africa. This section starts with the chapter on *Migration Governance and Development in Africa* by Olaitan Tope Bada and Ọláyínká Àkànle. The chapter answers the question of what is the nexus of migration, governance and development on the African continent? The specific issues through which this chapter answers the ultimate research question are: historiography of migration, prevalence of migration, root causes, drivers and flows of migration, and migration governance and development in Africa. This chapter adopts a comparative approach to provide original insights and real experiences across African countries to understand and explain migration realities on the continent within the remit of development, paying close attention to the centrality of migration governance. This chapter is particularly important as it contributes, significantly, to knowledge on the usually taken-for-granted, and under-researched, scale and implicated nuances of migration of Africans, even when Africa is creating and maintaining noteworthy footprints on the international migration spaces of the world.

Chapter 3 is on *When Borders Fade: Rethinking Migration and Regional Integration in Africa* by Olusegun Israel Olaniyan. In the chapter, the author demonstrated that the prominence of migration has increased tremendously in recent times, as the world now experiences larger numbers of migrants than at any other time in history. With the introduction of free movement policies across ECOWAS states, coupled with the intense political instability, insecurity and poor social and economic conditions present in most African states, it is not hearsay that the continent will likely witness an unprecedented migration rate in the years to come. With these issues conspicuously looming, what implicature

will this have on African borders and social stability? Could the free movement of people across regional blocs foster new economic opportunities, or would a new migration pattern emerge? With various regional integration efforts like the African Union (AU) and African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA), how do we rethink borders in the context of African Migration amidst these efforts? These are the very strategic questions answered in the chapter.

The next chapter is Chapter 4, titled *Religion and In-Migrants' Socio-Economic Integration in Cameroon* by Nanche Billa Robert. According to the chapter, religion has long been considered as the glue that holds society together because it provides the basis for social solidarity. Many functionalists have considered religion as a source of identity, a supra-empirical explanation that makes suffering bearable, a feeling of security and assurance for migrants who find themselves in other parts of the world. However, no adequate attention has been paid to how differing religious groups vary in integrating and in relating to the local population. This work examines how a common membership or shared belief like religion facilitates the integration and social relations of in-migrants in Maroua. Data was collected using snowball sampling, a non-probability chain-referral technique. It was discovered that Muslims relate and are more integrated in Maroua than Catholics and Catholics relate and are more integrated in Maroua than Protestants and Protestants relate and are more integrated in Maroua than Pentecostals. Animists are less integrated and more in a conflictual relation. Statistically, in-migrants' social relations and integration in Maroua depend on Religion. The findings suggest that Muslim migrants are more likely to experience stable socio-economic progress due to stronger social capital and community solidarity. However, the socio-economic activities of the Catholics, the Pentecostals and the Protestants suffer because they lack the cultural capital that the Muslims enjoy.

The next section is Section Two. The section engages with the issues of Labour Migration, Wellbeing and Online Practices. Like others, the chapters in this section are very timely and very important as Africans continue to be key players in shaping and determining migration processes, dynamics, patterns, flows and outcomes in governance and development terms. The first chapter in the section is by Kolawole Emmanuel Omomowo. In his chapter titled *Locating Namibia in Southern African Cross-Border Migration Discourse: Welcoming or Keeping Out?* Kolawole Emmanuel Omomowo argues that international migration in Namibia is rooted in the historical nature of cross-border labour migration in the Southern African region. The discovery of gold and diamond and the development of the mining industry around their extraction define labour movement in the colonial-apartheid period(s). Labour recruitment institutions and labour policies and practices, such as the migrant labour and contract labour systems were developed to facilitate the supply of labour to the mines, even across national boundaries. The chapter, therefore, reviewed the discourses of migration in Southern Africa from the context of Namibia.

Understanding Senegalese Skilled Migrants' Online Practices Oriented Towards the Homeland by Ibrahima Amadou Dia is Chapter 6. The objective of the chapter is to provide an understanding of how Senegalese skilled migrants in

Geneva, Switzerland, use the internet in relation to their homeland. Like many migrants, they are torn between the desire to preserve their identity and the desire to be global citizens through international migration and transnationalism. Are they using the internet to maintain solidarity and reciprocity, to overcome the loneliness and suffering underlying the migrant life experience or to contribute to homeland development? The next chapter is by Adefolake Olusola Ademuson on *Female Labour Migration and Wellbeing of Households in Africa: Lived Experiences From Nigeria.* The chapter investigates female labour migration and wellbeing among households in Africa, focusing on lived experiences from Nigeria. Findings of the chapter revealed that the major reasons for female labour migration are education, employment and marriage reunion. Hence, female labour migrants contribute excessively to household wellbeing in Nigeria through providing support to local households by reducing household poverty, increasing business growth and development of households, asset and wealth accumulation, provision of funds for education, health care and also providing finance for business and livelihood support and opportunities. However, female labour migrants face several challenges such as emotional difficulties, discrimination and violence and poor integration into destination countries.

The next section is Section Three, titled *Forced Migration, Transnationalism and the Left-Behind Phenomenon.* The first chapter in the section is on *Dynamics of Forced Migration in Burkina Faso: The Case of Internally Displaced Persons in the Centre-North Region* by Tebkieta Alexandra Tapsoba using data from a qualitative survey conducted in the Centre-North region of Burkina Faso, the chapter presents the migration trajectories of Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) with findings showing that IDPs move several times before settling in a host community. The choice of these 'intermediate' destinations is linked to economic, social and security reasons and geographical and cultural proximity.

The second chapter in the section (Chapter 9) is by Ọláyínká Àkànle and Patience Charles Nathan with the title *'Migrating Without My Family Has Been a Challenge': Relationships of Nigerian Transnational Families.* The chapter is based on a qualitative study conducted to examine the transnational lived experiences of families within the broader framework of family relations of migrants, left-behind spouses and left-behind children. Understanding transnational family relations in the context of migration is very important for robust comprehension of implications of international migration beyond the common narratives that pigeonhole migration governance mostly within the economics and politics of it. This chapter contributes new empirical data-driven knowledge to current migration research efforts to enhance mastery of nuanced intermingling of sustainable and fair migration, functional family relations, global inequality and effective migration governance. Adopting an exploratory research design and Transnational Family Theory, data were gathered from 50 research participants through interviews with Nigerian migrants abroad, Left-behind spouses and children in Nigeria. Destination countries of the Nigerian migrants (spouses) abroad are Canada, the United States of America, the United Kingdom, the EU, the Middle East, Australia and Africa. Findings suggest that while international migration provides economic and other opportunities, for

migrating spouses, Left-behind spouses and Left-behind children, international migration also has serious emotional, increased responsibilities and other sensitive relational implications for transnational family members.

In Chapter 10, Abiodun Tunde Ojuri and Ọláyínká Àkànle explore *International Migration and Development in Nigeria: Experiences From Left-Behind Spouses.* The authors interrogate and narrate the domains of experiences of left-behind spouses while comprehending the functionalities and dysfunctionalities within international migration. The developmental functionalities included transference of practical business ideas, enhanced funding of the children's education, achieving work-life balance, reduced emotional strain and pressure to cook and remittances. Cases of divorce, abandonment and emotional stress were the dysfunctionalities.

The whole sections and chapters were followed by Chapter 11, which is a concluding chapter. The chapter draws overarching insights from the sections and chapters in the book. The Conclusion makes profound affirmative statements as major contributions to knowledge for the benefit of scholarship, policy and practice in context of migration, governance and development in Africa. The Conclusion also emphasises and demonstrates key and relevant take-aways from the book. The chapters in the book collectively improves understanding of current realities of international in African context, demonstrate the state of migration governance on the continent and point towards the impact of international migration on the development of African countries. In the context of south-south migration and south-north migration, chapters in this book, through the multiplicity of cases and definitively unique experiences, illuminate the complex and dynamic nature of migration of Africans, the migration governance ecosystem and the domains of impacts of migration on countries on the continent.

References

Akanle, O. (2018). International migration narratives: Systemic global politics, irregular and return migrations. *International Sociology*, *33*(2), 161–170.

Akanle, O. (2024). *Background country report on Nigeria within the migration system of West Africa* (p. 30). In: MEMO Complex Migration Flows and Multiple Drivers in Comparative Perspective The MEMO research partnership is led by: Toronto Metropolitan University (TMU) Canada Excellence Research Chair in Migration and Integration. Supported by Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada.

Akanle, O., & Ola-Lawson, D. O. (2022). Diaspora networks and investments in Nigeria. *Journal of Asian and African Studies*, *57*(7), 1310–1324.

Kleist, N., & Thorsen, D. (2016). *Hope and uncertainty in contemporary African migration*. Taylor & Francis.

Kyei, R. K. O., Kadje, D. M., Kandilige, L., Abutima, T. K., Obour, P. B., Osiki, O. M., Mwanji, J., Owusu, K., Teye, J. K., Schapendonk, J., & Gyan, S. E. (2017). *Migration and development in Africa: Trends, challenges, and policy implications*. Lexington Books.

Moyo, I., Laine, J. P., & Nshimbi, C. C. (2021). *Intra-Africa migrations: Reimaging borders and migration management*. Taylor & Francis.

Teye, J. K. (2022). *Migration in West Africa*. Springer.

Triandafyllidou, A. (2022). The global governance of migration: Towards a 'messy' approach. *International Migration*, *60*(4), 19–27.

Triandafyllidou, A. (2025). De-centering migration governance: The role of narratives. *Journal of Ethnic and Migration Studies*. https://doi.org/10.1080/1369183X.2025.2544077

Triandafyllidou, A., Bivand Erdal, M., Marcchetti, S., Raghuram, P., Sahin Menkutek, Z., Salamońska, J., Scholten, P., & Vintila, D. (2024). Rethinking migration studies for 2050. *Journal of Immigrant & Refugee Studies*, *22*(1), 1–21.