

FOREIGN WORKERS IN ISRAEL: GLOBAL PERSPECTIVES, by Israel Drori.
Albany: State University of New York Press, 2009.

With over 3% of the world's population currently working outside their homeland, labor migration is quickly becoming one of the global economy's key attributes. Since the late 1980s a considerable amount of research has been conducted that deals with labor migration, focusing as such on both migrants' experiences in their new places of residence as well as state policies geared towards them. For the most part, studies have treated these topics separately, often missing important points of intersection. Drori's book is a bold attempt to juxtapose these two perspectives and illustrate the impact national – and, to a lesser degree, local – state policies have on labor migrants' everyday lives in Israel. In so doing, he seeks "to depict the large, macro-evolution of working immigration policies, on the one hand, and, on the other, zooming in, seeking to understand differences between industrial sectors employing foreign workers and how on the micro-level of existence different cultural patterns appear" (p. xi).

Following a short introduction (Chapter 1), which presents its aims and objectives, the book puts labor migration in Israel in a global context (Chapter 2). Using transnationalism as a theoretical framework, it argues that the entry of hundreds of thousands of labor migrants to the country in the past two decades has not only affected the structure and composition of its labor market, but further presented a fundamental challenge to the state's historical ideological basis and overarching identity as a Jewish haven. Governmental policies over the years, it is argued, have failed to meet both the economic and ethnic identity challenges (threats as Drori refers to them) that resulted from the mass arrival of non-Jewish in-migrants. The reason for this failure according to the book lies in the focus of policies on "regulatory aspects associated with controlling the cycle of entry and exit" (p. 15) of labor migrants. Drori suggests a dual analysis of the failure, namely the structural forces driving labor migration as well as the local Israeli context within which state and non-state stakeholders have been operating, simultaneously accepting and challenging these policies.

In Chapters 3 and 4 Drori traces the roots of two sets of state policies, namely those related to the legal entry of labor migrants and those geared towards their binding to specific employers (*Hesder Hakvula*), and examines the inherent failures in both. More importantly, he argues that the policies' failure to regulate migrants' entrance and protect them while in Israel, created an administrative vacuum, which was quickly filled by a variety of non-state actors, including employers and their powerful interest groups, placement agencies as well as non-governmental organizations. And while the former are described as greedy, profit-driven individuals who seek to "redirect governmental policies in accordance with their own interests" (p. 64), the latter quickly became gate-keepers of normative practices (p. 180) and

remain indispensable in providing migrants with the most basic services, including food, shelter and pro-bono legal protection. Nevertheless these non-state aides, some unintended consequences of state policies include captive labor, dehumanization, undocumented aliens, the emergence of a dual labor market, and ad-hoc deportations.

Chapters 5 through 8 examine three legal migrant groups and their respective employment experiences in different industrial sectors in Israel. Despite considerable differences between the groups, Filipino caregivers, Thai farm workers and Rumanian construction workers have all been subjected to rigid employment systems, which strictly monitor and regulate their everyday lives. The deficiencies embedded in the weak policy framework, Drori convincingly argues, perpetuates a strong dependency of migrants on their personal employers, subsequently leading to daily cases of human rights' abuse including "abysmal housing conditions, low levels of job safety, insufficient medical care, exploitative wages, physical abuse, and illegal deportation" (p. 150).

The last substantive chapters (9 and 10) examine the case of illegal migrants and the evolution of the state policy aimed towards them—deportation. It is in this most far reaching measure that the author sees the victory of the national identity challenge over the economic challenge. Ironically, Drori contends, the 2003-4 "closed sky" policy and the mass deportation effort efficiently orchestrated by the newly created Immigration Police catalyzed the realization among Israeli bureaucrats that the decade long policy towards migrants is a colossal failure. Rather than diluting the illegal migrant population, "policy makers have come to realize that the employers who consistently engage in the illicit trade of human labor are the major cause for the expansion of the phenomenon" (p. 166).

The book is highly informative and well-written. Its use of multiple research methodologies, including policy analysis, in-depth interviews, direct observations and extensive use of secondary materials, makes it a rich and complex account of labor migration in Israel since the early 1990s. Drori aptly moves between macro analysis policy issues and micro discussions and snapshots of migrants' working life in the Jewish homeland.

Yet, despite its breadth and astuteness, there remain some theoretical and more substantive limitations in the text. Theoretically, the book relies on transnationalism as a conceptual framework for understanding labor migration. While the transnational approach is undoubtedly important in analyzing migration under globalization, earlier theories are equally important. Thus, a more thorough discussion of the neoclassical or, alternatively, the dual labor market theories of migration would have strengthened the book's key argument concerning the economic rationale driving Israel's labor migration policies. And since migrants' transnational practices are seldom discussed in the book, it is not always clear whether transnationalism makes the most useful lenses in the said case. As well, for a book that relies heavily on

policy analysis, there is little discussion of the theoretical underpinnings of policy (p. 26). Still, the book makes an important contribution to the burgeoning academic literature on labor migration in Israel and will no doubt become a key text in courses on migration policy.

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LANDSCAPE, TOURISM AND MEANING, edited by Daniel C. Knudsen, Michelle M. Metro-Roland, Anne K. Soper and Charles E. Greer. Hampshire, UK: Ashgate Publishing, 2008

Landscape, Tourism and Meaning is one of only a few publications that combine issues of landscape and tourism. The purpose of this book is to re-theorize tourism and the research perspective of the book relies on one of the oldest concepts of geography, that of landscape analysis. Although the authors choose to deal with it in depth, there is a feeling that landscape research did not occupy a very significant role in geographical research in the past and perhaps geographers missed an opportunity to explore new research areas through this method. Landscape analysis is very useful in the study of political processes but this approach has not been adopted by geographers. Thus, though there is nothing new in the adoption of landscape perspective for human-derived processes, this volume is quite refreshing in its application of a landscape research perspective to the study of tourism.

Landscape, Tourism and Meaning is divided into eleven chapters that examine the interconnections between identity and landscape on the one hand, and landscape and tourism on the other. The chapters range in scale from regional to national, personal to political and from local residents to international tourists. But the focal points with each chapter are the multiplicity of interpretations and meanings. The chapters cover eight case studies from across the world, which are used to demonstrate the extent to which landscape theory and tourism practice come together within the realm of various countries, regions and cities. However, it is disappointing that an actual segmentation into four parts does not exist in the book itself, as it is logical to break up the eleven chapters into these four parts (as it is explained in the introduction) according to their main focus.

The first two chapters, which could be combined into one: "Landscape, tourism, and meaning: An introduction" (by Daniel C. Knudsen, Anne K. Soper and Michelle M. Metro-Roland) and "Landscape perspective for tourism studies" (by Charles Greer, Shanon Donnelly and Jillian M. Rickly) explore the various philosophical perspectives to the study of landscape, and survey both post-modern notions to the study of landscape and the more traditional approaches: the cultural landscape tradition, the ecological perspective to the study of landscape, the envi-