
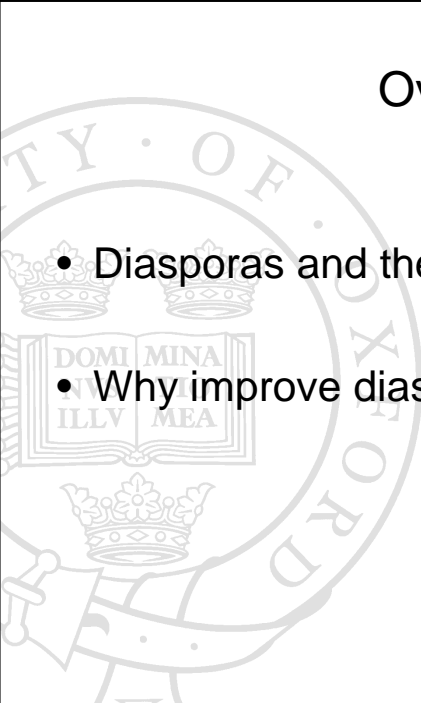


## Why is it important to know about diasporas?

Alan Gamlen  
University of Oxford  
[alan.gamlen@ouce.ox.ac.uk](mailto:alan.gamlen@ouce.ox.ac.uk)

CES 2008 Seminar,  
Measuring Population Movement and Integration  
in a Globalized World



## Overview

- Diasporas and their data
- Why improve diaspora data?

## Diasporas and their data

- Defining 'diaspora'
  - Dispersion, homeland, group identity
- Evaluating existing data
  - Census: reliable
  - Snowball: valid

## Why improve diaspora policies? (1)

- Statistics=policy: why make diaspora policies?
- Obligations
  - Arguments against diaspora policies
    - Non-preference, non-interference towards emigrants
    - But emigrants ≠ outsiders or dissenters; bilateral relations ≠ closed
  - For diaspora policies
    - Meet own obligations to emigrants
    - Enforce emigrants' obligations

## Why improve diaspora policies? (2)

- Interests
  - Imperatives
    - How to optimize diaspora's impact on – or role in - public good?
    - What are diasporas doing, and what are states doing to diasporas?
  - Opportunities
    - Migration and development: remittances, investments, knowledge transfers, political influence

## Why improve diaspora policies? (3)

- Global migration governance
  - Migration policy typically equated with **IM**migration policy
  - Global migration governance thought to concern sending/receiving state relations, or state immigrant relations
  - But state-diaspora relations are also an important aspect of how migration is governed

## Conclusions



- Important to study diasporas because better policies needed
- National level: need to study diaspora identities / activities
- Supra-national: need to study conduct of sending states