Why is it important to know about diasporas?

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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 IMMigration 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