

The *Danish Institute for International Studies (DIIS)* has the pleasure of inviting you to a seminar with **Ronald Skeldon** and **Ibrahima Amadou Dia** on:

**From Brain Drain to Brain Gain?  
Sending Country Perspectives on Skilled Migration and Development**  
**Monday, 2 March 2009, 15.00-17.00**  
Danish Institute for International Studies  
Main Auditorium  
Strandgade 71, ground floor, 1401 Copenhagen K

### **Background**

Highly skilled migration from developing to Western countries is often conceptualised as brain drain and as detrimental for development. However, recent research and policy development challenges mainstream assumptions of brain drain, insisting that skilled migration is a more complex phenomenon. Firstly, there is evidence that brain drain is occurring as much within developing countries as from these countries. Secondly, the mobility of highly skilled migrants cannot be seen in isolation from other types of migration. Rather, skilled migration reflects various scenarios which can be conflicting or complementary: temporary migration, permanent settlement, diaspora, loss, waste, gain, or circulation.

This DIIS migration seminar takes stock on recent practices and policies on highly skilled migration, addressing a range of questions: How can skilled migration and its possible development effects be conceptualized? What are the causes, forms and effects from the perspective of sending countries in Asia and Africa? And, finally, what are the concerns and hopes?

**Ronald Skeldon** is Professorial Fellow in Geography at Sussex University, UK, and Honorary Professor at the University of Hong Kong. He is a distinguished scholar on international migration and has also worked as a consultant to international organisations, such as the International Organization for Migration (IOM), the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS) and OECD, the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development. Skeldon has published a range of articles on skilled migration as well as the book *Migration and Development: A global perspective* (Longman, 1997).

**Ibrahima Amadou Dia** is Researcher at the Department of Sociology at the University of Geneva, Switzerland, and is finalizing his PhD on international migration of highly skilled workers. Dia has worked as a consultant to international organisations, including the International Labour Organization (ILO), IOM, and UNAIDS, on various aspects of international highly skilled migration and has published widely on the subject.

### **Programme**

- 15.00-15.10 **Introduction**  
[Nauja Kleist](#), Project Researcher, DIIS
- 15.10-15.40 **Skilled Migrations in a Global System: Consequences for Development**  
[Ronald Skeldon](#), Professorial Fellow, University of Sussex, UK
- 15.40-16.10 **Highly Skilled Migration and the Development of the Homeland in Sub-Saharan Africa: Perceptions, Practices and Concerns**  
[Ibrahima Amadou Dia](#), Researcher, University of Geneva, Switzerland

16.10-16.20 **Coffee Break**

16.20-17.00 **Discussion**

Chair: *Nauja Kleist*, Project Researcher, DIIS

This is the first of three seminars in the 2009 Migration Seminar Spring Series. The series critically explores visions and practices concerning migration and development. This relates not only to remittances but also to how migration and its effects are attempted to be governed – for instance in relation to highly skilled migration, diaspora organizations, sending-state policies, and conflict. Based on cutting-edge research and ongoing policy involvement, the seminars present current policy development as well as migrant responses and practices, questioning common sense assumptions and presenting new perspectives.

### **Practical Information**

The seminar will be held in *English*.

Participation is *free of charge*, but *registration is required*. Please use our [online registration form](#) no later than **Friday 27 February at 12.00 noon**.

Please await confirmation by e-mail from DIIS for participation.

Sincerely,

### **Danish Institute for International Studies (DIIS)**

The Conference Section  
Strandgade 56  
DK-1401 Copenhagen K  
Denmark  
Ph. (+45) 32 69 87 51  
Fax (+45) 32 69 87 00  
E-mail: [event@diis.dk](mailto:event@diis.dk)  
Web: [www.diis.dk](http://www.diis.dk)

Feel free to forward this invitation to others with a potential interest in the seminar.  
For other public DIIS meetings, please visit our website on [www.diis.dk](http://www.diis.dk).

If you did not receive this invitation directly from DIIS and wish to receive invitations to future events at DIIS, please use the following link: [www.diis.dk/sw7899.asp](http://www.diis.dk/sw7899.asp)

If you no longer wish to receive invitations directly from DIIS, please send an e-mail about this to [event@diis.dk](mailto:event@diis.dk) (and please remember to state your name and organisation).  
Please note that DIIS is not responsible for invitations forwarded to you by others.