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Modest expectations : causes and effects of migration on migrant households in source countries

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Propositions accompanying the dissertation

Modest expectations
Causes and effects of migration on migrant households in source countries

by Jessica Hagen-Zanker

1. You can't escape your family. Families influence the decisions of (potential) migrants and continue being important after migration has taken place.

2. Having self-interested motives or indirectly benefiting from sending remittances, can go hand in hand with altruistic considerations of migrants.

3. Transfers from the family staying behind to migrants are vital to making migration a successful investment strategy.

4. Many Chinese immigrants joining the US gold rush ended up working on the railways instead of becoming instantly rich. This shows that migration is often not a quick gain, but a long term investment.

5. Migration theories are often viewed as competing but in fact complement each other and proponents should migrate between theories more often.

6. If actual migration flows were key, or their social impact for that matter, more papers and articles would be about internal instead of international migration.

7. The theories on the motivations to remit are explicit and hard. This is why they are appealing to some and appalling to others.

8. Migration internalises globalisation.

9. Crossing borders is a non-event as long as you've got the right passport. (based on Gazmend Kapllani "A Short Border Handbook")