Gendered Moves

Carina Meares
Avril Bell
Robin Peace
Massey University
Introduction

Integration of Immigrants programme
http://newsettlers.massey.ac.nz

FRST funded 2007-2012

Economic integration of immigrants

Policy focus
Social justice

gender
Outline

Context (Carina)

Literature 2006-2008 (Avril)

Future Directions (Robin)
From ‘add women and stir’ to gender and migration

‘Add women and stir’ and ‘immigrant women only’ approaches

Gender, difference and the household economy

Gender constitutive of the migration process
Gender & economic migration research, 2006-8

Policy agendas
- are we making effective use of the migrant human capital resource?

Social justice agendas
- are migrants treated equitably or exploited & disadvantaged?
- does migration improve the lives & well-being of migrants?
The specifics....

Migrant characteristics
  – Human capital
  – Family relations

Migrant strategies
  – Social networks
  – Entrepreneurship
  – Managing home-work responsibilities
  – Negotiating gendered identities

Contexts of reception
  – Gendered labour market
  – Immigration policy
  – Geographical context
  – Racism & discrimination
Describing & explaining

Quantitative work
- The big descriptive picture
- Raises ‘how’ and ‘why’ questions that these methods can’t answer
- Explanations typically around human capital differentials
- Context of reception typically taken as a given

Qualitative work
- Enables a focus on migrant aims & subjective experience (to get to some social justice issues)
- Explores the ‘how’ and ‘why’ questions in complex ways that can bring characteristics, strategies & context all into the frame
Why do we need more research?

We know very little
Everywhere is different
Gender effects are complex and varied
Research routes

- Intersectional studies
- Multi-method studies
- Multi/-inter-disciplinary studies
- Meta-synthesis of existing studies
- Under-told stories
Future prospects for New Zealand

• Track new migration policy
• Increase migrant-centric research
• Focus on migrants & communities of arrival / reception
• Gender-based analyses