

**Department of Geography
Departmental Research Seminars 2014-2015**

Title: Highly-skilled Migration and the Illusion of Migration Control

Speaker: Professor Ronald Skeldon, Professorial Fellow in Geography, University of Sussex

Date and time: Thursday 27 November 2014, 12:30 – 1:30 p.m.

Venue: Room 10.25, 10/F, Department of Geography, The Jockey Club Tower, Centennial Campus

Abstract

This presentation will have four parts: patterns; consumption; production; and policy. The first part will look at who the skilled are and the part they play in international flows and to some extent, internal flows. The relative importance of the skilled in these flows will be examined and how that has changed over time. The second part looks at the consumption or the selection of the highly skilled and how governments have come to target this particular group. The various channels of entry for international movement of the skilled will be outlined and the implications of the emergence of highly mobile "transnational capitalist class" discussed. The issue of the supply and demand the global and national demands for skilled will be examined. The third section looks at production of the highly skilled: where they are trained and the implications for national and international flows, with student migrations a major theme. Finally, policy options within this mix of migrations will be examined with indirect policies seen as more important than direct policies. Unless governments have a vision where they wish an economy to go and implement strategies to achieve that vision, policies simply to attract the skilled are unlikely to succeed. The linkages between the less skilled and more skilled migration systems will be examined.