

## Critical Acclaim for *The Migration of Labor*

“Migration has been one of the most important social processes in economic development, both during the nineteenth century and currently. The present work takes a modern view of the theory of migration. It is both sophisticated and insightful; multi-faceted and simple; and full of originality. It places the analysis of migration in the perspective of modern economic theory and at the center of economic development. The book is a must for development economists.”

Irma Adelman, University of California, Berkeley

“I am quite enthusiastic about this book. Of all the scholars currently engaged in work on the economics of migration, Stark is not merely one of the most distinguished and prolific, he is unusually sensitive to the various nuances and complexities of the migration decision, much more than the usual writers on migration as a human capital investment in perfect riskless labor market environments.”

Pranab Bardhan, University of California, Berkeley

“Migration, internal and international, has now moved from the periphery to the center of discourse by top-ranking economists. This is in no small measure due to the contributions of Oded Stark. This is a book to be studied and savoured.”

Jagdish Bhagwati, Columbia University

“This book is the distillation of a decade of research by Oded Stark and his colleagues. Their ideas on the causes and consequences of migration, especially in less developed countries, is nearly a new subdiscipline in economics. The basis of decisions to migrate has been expanded from a simple comparison of the real income expected by the migrant at the source and destination to include intra-family exchanges such as remittances, exchanges that extend the unit making decisions beyond the migrant. Many surprising insights, not irrelevant to policy, emerge from the highly original analysis in this book.”

Ansley J. Coale, Princeton University

“The book is a creative achievement, opening a new field of study: migration and the interaction of the migrant with his family. It will be of interest not only to specialists in migration but also to all students of human behavior.”

Zvi Griliches, Harvard University

“This is to date the definitive study of migration problems in developing countries. Its substantive content and methodology are unsurpassed, illuminating some of the most important issues in development studies.”

Gerald M. Meier, Stanford University

“No one has done more or better research on migration in developing countries than Oded Stark. This book brings together a decade’s research dealing with every aspect of migration in developing countries.”

Edwin S. Mills, Northwestern University

“The economic theory of migration was recently enriched by placing the family, rather than the individual, at the center of the migration decision. In Oded Stark’s work the new approach receives imaginative elaboration and fruitful applications to analyses of migration in LDCs and of international migration.”

Jacob Mincer, Columbia University

“For the past decade Oded Stark has run a most imaginative and productive program on labor migration. This book pulls together in one place much of the fruit of that effort. It is an invaluable collection of essays for anyone interested in this important subject.”

Dwight H. Perkins, Harvard University

“If the test of originality is the derivation of surprising conclusions from obvious premises, this is a highly original book. In it Oded Stark presents a rich variety of elegantly argued models of migration. Each throws some new light on widely observed phenomena.”

Paul Streeten, Boston University

“The Migration of Labor is one of those rare books in economics that sustains a vision of an interconnected topic with uniformly high analytical rigor. Migration decisions cannot be understood through the lens of competitive individuals – families and friends count and markets fall in ways that force significant innovations in economic methodology to model. Oded Stark provides these innovations while explaining the deeply personal motivations about why people move.”

C. Peter Timmer, Harvard University

“Throughout the book, Stark challenges received wisdom and presents new ideas and insights into migration behaviour, its causes, and its role in the development process. Given limited space, it is impossible to do justice here in conveying the breadth and originality of the work. ... One of the most enjoyable aspects of the book lies in the ingenious ways in which Stark traces through the links between behaviour in different markets...Forceful writing style. ... A judicious partitioning of the material into appropriate sections.... The book is stimulating, insightful, and frequently persuasive. ... A powerful body of thought on labour migration in developing countries.”

*The Economic Journal*

“This collection summarizes the work over a decade of one of the most insightful and productive contributors to a rapidly growing body of literature. ... The writing style is dense and the ideas intricately reasoned. ... An important collection. ... Scholars of the many varied facets of migration analysis will find here much of value.”

*Choice*

“This volume is a collection of Stark’s published and unpublished essays ... Many are co-authored, but all bear the imprint of Stark’s inquisitive and imaginative mind. ... The field of theoretical migration research has benefited significantly from Stark’s challenging and often unique insights. ... Stark has constructed creative formal models. ... He has broadened the range of inquiry beyond simple rationalistic, individualistic decisionmaking and private benefit/cost economic calculations.”

*Population and Development Review*

“Oded Stark’s *The Migration of Labor* focuses primarily on migration within less developed countries and in particular on rural to urban migration. The basic ideas and the richness of the analysis can be applied, as they are done in this book, to international migration. ... Stark has a very fertile mind and is a dedicated scholar. ... The most important contributions of Stark’s research on migration are well represented in the volume – in particular, his two basic models of “asymmetric information” and “relative deprivation”.... These are provocative models designed to challenge conventional wisdom regarding migration decisions. They make us think about the assumptions taken for granted for so long in migration research, and they offer a wide range of new and interesting testable hypotheses.”

*Economic Development and Cultural Change*

“During the past dozen years, important alternatives to traditional economic and demographic theories have been advanced, and many have taken hold. A central figure in this literature is Oded Stark, who pulls together much of his work in this volume. ... [T]he collection is atypical in the themes’ going together very nicely, and the articles themselves are written with clarity and precision. *The Migration of Labor* should be regarded as a cerebral firework display. Each section elicits flashes of insight and dazzling argumentation to produce conclusions rarely apparent at the outset. There is important new insight into the migration process, and most chapters are enjoyable, thoughtful contributions. ... Stark advances the microeconomic theory of migration and makes some of the first attempts by economists to model family concerns. ... Stark is in the vanguard of economists’ attempts to model family decisions at a more refined level while still retaining parsimony and clear empirical implications. ... All told, Stark’s book contains great richness and insight. He is terse and usually mathematically formal. But each chapter also contains clear prose that enables the reader who wishes to skip technical detail to grasp central arguments and to benefit from the book. In short, Stark is both formal and highly readable – a rare combination among economists.”

*Contemporary Sociology*

“This book is a collection of 28 papers. ... Although the analysis is primarily theoretical, with only seven papers undertaking any empirical work, the models are of considerable interest to empirical researchers. This is because the analysis never loses sight of the real world behavior it seeks to illuminate, and Stark is very clever at modeling essential features of labor migration in simple yet revealing ways. Even the purely theoretical papers typically use as their starting point empirical patterns uncovered by previous research, and the models developed by Stark often yield surprising new implications in addition to explaining the regularities already known to exist. ... [T]his volume contains an impressive body of work on labor migration. Stark’s analysis is consistently inventive and insightful providing a rich array of implications for empirical researchers to explore. These papers also reveal a natural progression in Stark’s thinking about migration: questions or criticisms that crop up when reading an early paper are often addressed in a subsequent paper.”

*Regional Science and Urban Economics*

“In this novel and creative work, Oded Stark broke away from the perfect market and expected income differential theorization tradition and places the interaction between the migrant and his/her family at the centre of all issues concerning internal and international migration. The book, about the complexities underlying the migration decision and strategic human behavior, offers valuable insights on the intellectual and policy contexts of migration research. ... I find reading this book enlightening and insightful not only because of my migrant origin but also of the challenge it places upon those of us who are all too easily swept into a regurgitative mode of research. This book should be a required reading for students in any migration course. It should also be read by those engaged in population and migration planning. It carries a message of importance to policy planners of all nations, developed and developing. It is also a pleasure to read for those who have become detached from migration economics since their graduate days. The book is of fairly high analytical content. In most places, the concepts are carefully spelled out and well documented. The diagrams are clear, the writing style is lucid, and the contents is logically and systematically treated. ... [T]he editing team at Blackwell should be applauded for the quality of production of this book.”

*The Annals of Regional Science*