From Migrant Surveys to Migrants’ Stories:

Reflections on Research On and In Southern Africa
• Started in 1996
• Funded originally by CIDA, later by UK DfID (and others)
• Network of partners in eight countries
• Research, training, policy components
• Research on changing cross-border flows within the region post-apartheid
Major SAMP Surveys, 1996-2006

- Migrants’ attitudes and perceptions
- South Africans’ attitudes towards (im)migrants
- Migration and Remittances (MARS)
- Migration and Poverty (MAPS)
- Large-scale, nationally representative surveys of 1000+ households in each country
The Joys of SAMP

Advantages of multi-partner approach:
– Multi-national networking and partnerships
– Regional scale and scope
– Interdisciplinarity

Advantages of a large-scale, quantitative approach:
– Representative sampling
– Cross-country comparability
– Evidence base for policy-makers
Some Limitations

- Multi-partner, multi-national network approach can be unwieldy and expensive
- Team-designed survey instruments can be lengthy and “blunt”
- Quantitative, survey-based approach limits scope for qualitative, “thick description”
- Regional comparability rather than in-depth, local case studies
My Role in SAMP

Gender advisor and analyst:

- Gender mainstreaming of the project
- Gender input into research planning, including survey and sampling design
- Gender analysis of survey findings
- Gender analysis of policy and legislation (e.g. South Africa’s 2002 Immigration Act)
How I spent my 2007-8 sabbatical

• Doing gender analysis of MARS survey results
• Writing SAMP Policy Series monograph *Gender, Migration and Remittances in Southern Africa* (forthcoming)
• Other projects (IDRC Ecohealth and CIDA Urban Food Security)
• “Accidental research” on migration
Main gender findings from MARS

- Increase in female migration, especially among younger women
- High proportions of widows, abandoned and single women among female migrants
- Male and female migrants’ remittances vital in meeting basic household needs
- Female-migrant sending households poorer than male-migrant sending households
- Particular importance of remittances for female-headed households
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<tr>
<th>Household Type</th>
<th>Lesotho</th>
<th>Mozambique</th>
<th>Swaziland</th>
<th>Zimbabwe</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Male Migrant-Sending (%)</td>
<td>Female Migrant-Sending (%)</td>
<td>Male Migrant-Sending (%)</td>
<td>Female Migrant-Sending (%)</td>
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<td>Female Centred</td>
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<td>42.8</td>
<td>10.7</td>
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<td>0.7</td>
<td>4.0</td>
<td>17.6</td>
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<tr>
<td>Nuclear</td>
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<td>18.6</td>
<td>24.1</td>
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<td>Extended</td>
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<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Country</td>
<td>Mean Male Migrants</td>
<td>Median Male Migrants</td>
<td>Mean Female Migrants</td>
<td>Median Female Migrants</td>
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<tr>
<td>-------------</td>
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<td>Lesotho</td>
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<td>R9,600.00</td>
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Sample of slips dropped into my mailbox, Sept 2007 – March 2008
False Bay Echo
classified ads
November 1, 2007
Zim’s loss, SA’s gain

Skilled workers flock across the border to earn a living and support their families back home, write Jocelyn Newmarch and Percy Zvomuya
The Accidental Researcher

- Personal encounters with African migrants
- “Data” flowing unsolicited into my mailbox
- “Employment wanted” ads in local papers
- Media coverage of migration issues
- Border police vans on the highway
I am a 26 year old lady and I came from Zimbabwe. I came here to South Africa some two months ago.

I had to leave Zimbabwe because of the economic hardships that I was facing whilst there in Zimbabwe. I was just in the process of enjoying my career there as a teacher but the money I was earning after a month was only equivalent to a 10 rand so I couldn’t budget the money and it wasn’t enough to buy basic food stuff for only a week for me and my two year old daughter. So I had to come here for a better learning, where my husband was working since February 2005.
“I decided to leave my home country because teachers were constantly harassed by the CIO officers deployed in schools to spy on the teachers. Anonymous calls were received of threats to stop politically minded teachers. When we had a strike in May-June some teachers were beaten. And more threats that all schools would be visited by the military police. I decided it was high time to leave.”

(40-year-old Zimbabwean woman)
“We live on the border with Ethiopia and were often under attacks from the Ethiopians…. My father was already here in South. So for fear of us being made to join the fighters my father asked me and my 2 brothers to join him.”

(16-year-old Somalian male)
“Currently where I’m staying now, my South African neighbours do not like me at all. Sometimes when I greet them they ignore or they answer in a very low voice. Generally some of the South African people do not enjoy seeing us in their country and I have a feeling that they do not like us, especially most South African women.”

(26-year-old Zimbabwean woman)
“Some South Africans treat us good but others are radical. They call us all sorts of names like “makwerekwere”. They accuse us of taking their jobs and women.”

(27-year-old Zimbabwean male)
“They are very hostile and often attack and rob us. Even in the streets they stop us and ask for money. We are also ridiculed and beaten for no reason. The coloureds and the Xhosas are the problem. They break into our shop and steal our goods…. But others are friendly and compassionate, they even come to warn me if the robbers intend to attack us.”

(16-year-old Somalian male)
“I stay in a house in Woodstock where I pay R80 [about $10] a week. I share the room with seven other women. Each of these women also pay R80 per week. It’s not comfortable in this house, but there is security, although one or two of the women steal from others.”

(60-year-old Zimbabwean woman, cross-border trader)
“At the house I stay, there are women from different African countries…. It’s like we are at a boarding school. We love each minute we are together, and miss each other terribly when we go back to our homes. We cross-border traders help each other very much. Sometimes when one fails to sell her stuff well, and finds herself with no money to go back home when her time is up, we all help her. We are a family.”
“Last but not least I will go back home when the Mugabe regime is over. I love my country – Zimbabwe.”

(Zimbabwean male, no age given)

“So I like Malawi better and I will die in Malawi. That is why I am slaving to prepare for a better future with my family.”

(44-year-old Malawian male)
Helping hands: A foreign national, who was severely beaten at the Makause informal settlement in Primrose, receives medical attention following xenophobic attacks on Monday. President Thabo Mbeki on Monday reiterated his call for an immediate end to the attacks, which have left 22 people dead.
(Werner Beukes, Sapa)
Wiped out in SA

PEARLIE JOUBERT
CAPE TOWN, SOUTH AFRICA
Oct 05 2008

A Somali mother and her three children were killed in their shop in Tambo village near Queenstown last week. This was barely a month after they decided to leave a Cape Town refugee camp and reintegrate themselves into the community.

On the advice of government mediators Saida Mohamed and her children, aged 13, 10 and eight, left the Youngsfield refugee camp for what they hoped would be safer residence in the Eastern Cape. Mohamed's remaining family members, still in the Blue Waters refugee camp outside Muizenberg, now expect to be deported to Somalia, a country in the grip of civil war.

(Mail and Guardian newspaper)
Methodological Reflections

• Analytical, practical and personal advantages of employing “mixed methods”
• Advantages to using community insiders as RAs
• Benefits to RAs themselves
• Benefits to respondents?
• My own “insider-outsider” status
• Allowing for serendipity and spontaneity
• “Rapid-response” research
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