

Re-imagining Migration

A Learning Arc of Revealing Questions

Moving Stories

We all have a story of migration - what is my story? What is yours?

- In what ways do stories of migration help us understand who we are?
- What can we learn from the many visible and invisible stories of migration around us?
- How can we approach the sharing of stories of migration with understanding and compassion?

Understanding Migration

Life Before Migration

Where do we humans come from?

- Where do humans come from and what is our shared story?
- How do we know about our ancestors who migrated around the planet over the last seventy thousand years?
- How is our shared human history shaping our lives today?

What was life like before the journey (ours or others)?

- How did people live their lives before migration (theirs or others)?
- What values, cultural practices, communities enjoy what challenges did they experience?
- How does life before migration connect with our lives today? What is similar, what is different?

Why do people leave their homes?

- In what ways do societal, political and environmental forces influence the decision to migrate?
- In what ways do the more intimate personal contexts motivate people's decisions to leave their homes?
- What happens to those who stay and how do they relate to those who leave?

The Journey

What do people experience as they move from one place to another?

- In what ways are people's migration journeys similar and different from one another?
- How much control do migrants have over their journey and what are the choices and dilemmas they face during their journey?
- What do these journeys reveal about human nature?

How do borders impact people's lives?

- What is the purpose of borders?
- How do the visible and invisible borders that people encounter shape their lives?
- How can borders work in an ethical way?

Ambiguous Status: Who is responsible for people in the in-betweens?

- What are the rights of people on the move with ambiguous status (people who are not clearly recognized by the State)?
- Who is responsible for people on the move with an ambiguous status?
- How should nations decide who can settle and who cannot?

An Ecology of Adjustment

What are the conditions in the new land?

- How might the environment in the new land help or hinder newcomers' inclusion?
- How do newcomers come to understand the new land and their place in it over time?
- How might newcomers and the receiving community balance their identities, cultural values, and world views as they interact with one another?

What are the public stories of migration?

- What messages about migration are people hearing through media and thought leaders?
- How can we assess whether available public stories about migration are reliable and representative?
- How do stories of migration influence how people think and (re)act?

How do local cases of migration relate to global patterns?

- In what ways do particular cases reflect the bigger picture of human migration over time and around the globe?
- What can we learn from other narratives about migration to help us to inform our perspective?
- What are the universal and unique qualities of successful integration?

Turing to Action

How can we take action toward more inclusive and sustainable societies?

- What issues related to migration do we care about and why?
- What can we learn from the ways individuals and groups have addressed issues of migration in the past?
- How might we use our voice and spheres of influence to create and sustain inclusive and welcoming communities?

The Re-imagining Migration Learning Arc was developed by Veronica Boix-Mansilla, with Adam Strom, Carola Suárez-Orozco and Marcelo Suárez-Orozco.

You can learn more about our work on our website: www.reimaginingmigration.org