Communist states closely regulated the movement of people through the use of household registration and internal passports. The collapse of Communism in the Soviet Union and Eastern Europe and the introduction of market reforms in China have eased the movement of people across domestic and international borders. Millions of individuals have changed their place or state of residence in the last decades, creating an ever-growing population on the move across the former Communist world and beyond.

Despite these changes in the scope and ease of population movement, states continue to regulate and monitor mobility in important ways. We pose the following questions about the role of state and non-state actors in regulating migration:

- What kinds of migration regimes currently exist and how have they changed from the Communist era?

- How do Communist and post-Communist states regulate population movement differently from other kinds of polities?

- How do international organizations and non-state entities interact with state actors in regulating migration flows?

- How do designations of legality and illegality impact population movement?

- How have changing borders affected migration regimes and transformed distinction between “internal” and “external” migrants and “legal” and “illegal” migrants?

- How have changing borders disrupted historical migratory patterns?

We also recognize the roles that individuals and groups play in defining migration patterns, often in opposition to the goals of the state. In thinking about these issues, we pose the following questions:

- How have migrants responded to these various migration regimes and what do their responses teach us about the lived experiences of migration?

- What strategies and tactics have individuals and groups used to subvert or maneuver around migration regimes?

- How have these strategies redefined common distinctions between forced and voluntary migrations; temporary, seasonal, transit and permanent migrations; and patterns of chain migration and migratory networks?

- How have communication technologies (Cell phones, social networking sites, Twitter, Skype) transformed imagined migration possibilities and movement patterns?