

The Complexity of Large-scale Migrations from South Asia to the Gulf.

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Oil-rich countries in the Arabian Gulf have for decades been prime destinations for migrants from South Asia. The sponsorship-based temporary migration systems in the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) countries are among the largest receivers of labor migrants in the world; and migrants from large countries in South Asia, such as India, Pakistan, and Bangladesh, dominate these migrations.

In this chapter we discuss and nuance the following dimensions of South Asian migrations to the Gulf: (i) the complexity of migration patterns and trajectories; (ii) the variety of drivers and motivations for migration; (iii) the distribution of migrants in local labor markets; and (iv) the facets of protracted temporariness of the migrations and temporary residence in the Gulf.

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