Migrants in Contemporary Russia
Context of Reception and Socioeconomic Position

Russia’s 12 million migrants tie it with Germany for second place behind the United States in migrant stock. However, there is scant research on how immigrants are perceived by the native-born Russian population, the correlates of different perceptions, and where migrants fit in Russia’s socioeconomic structure. Data from surveys conducted in 2011-2012 indicate that Russian public opinion on migrants is divided: many perceive them as an economic and, especially, cultural threat, yet most view them neutrally and some positively. Lower socioeconomic status is associated with more hostility toward migrants. In fact, the migrant population is characterized by high levels of human capital, higher rates of employment, marriage, and fertility, and better health. They may experience wage discrimination, but based more on ethnicity than on nativity status.

Overall, migrants’ contributions to Russia’s economy are likely to grow in importance, and the government should bolster policies that combat anti-migrant sentiment on the part of the native born population.

Thursday, March 2nd, 2017
12:00pm—1:30pm
Sociology Conference Room
BEH S 315

Catered lunch will be provided. We request your RSVP to angela.midgley@soc.utah.edu by Monday, February 27th.