

Give Us Your Best and Brightest: The Global Hunt for Talent and Its Impact on the Developing World. Devesh Kapur and John McHale. : Center for Global Development, 2005, 246 pp. \$22.95

Reviewed by Richard N. Cooper, Foreign Affairs, March/April 2006

This book, a judicious combination of facts, theory, and informed conjecture on a growing but complex phenomenon about which too little is known, addresses the migration of well-educated workers from poor to rich countries. In a productive interdisciplinary collaboration, the authors -- a political scientist and an economist -- gather information on the scale of such migration and on the policies of the principal receiving countries (Australia, Canada, Germany, the United Kingdom, and the United States) toward skilled foreign workers. They also discuss the positive and negative impacts on the sending countries, paying special attention to the complex effects of the remittances that these workers send to their countries of origin (which reached an estimated \$160 billion in 2004, nearly three times the amount of total official foreign assistance). The book rejects the notion that such migration should be restricted but concludes with a review of policies that could be adopted by receiving countries, sending countries, and international organizations to enhance the contributions highly skilled immigrants make to the development of the countries that they leave.