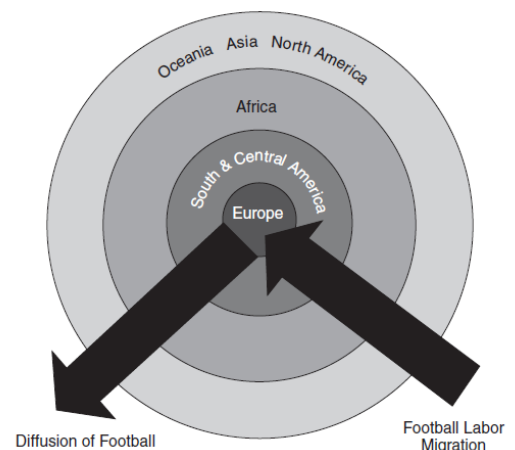


Week 2 – Athlete migration

- [Sport, migration & leagues](#) –
 - NOC – National Olympic Committee
 - Large shares of migrants play in sport leagues throughout the globe but especially in Europe and North America.
 - Pattern (movement of athletes):
 - Ice Hockey – Eastern Europe to US and Canada.
 - Baseball – Central America to US and Canada.
 - Basketball – Europe and Latin America to US; US to Europe.
 - Rugby: Pacific Islands to Australia and NZ.
 - Football - The rest of the world to Europe, and within Europe.
 - Cricket – All over the place
 - Netball: Jamaica to Australia/New Zealand market.
- [Motivations for player migration](#) –
 1. Quest for experience
 - A 'rite de passage'
 - Challenge
 - Personal and social development
 - England = 'field of dreams' in football
 2. Financial incentive
 - Financial security
 - 'Abroad is where the money is, and money is not unimportant in the world'
- [Critique of migration flows](#) – Literature on migration of athletes underscores negative aspects.
 - "Muscle drain" –
 - Negative effects on competitiveness of the local sports system.
 - Undermines the sporting capacity of developing countries.
 - Explains the "poor performance of developing countries in world sport events".
 - Wage dumping –
 - Low wages for players from developing countries.
 - Slavery and neo-colonialism –
 - Unethical nature of migration and exploitative aspects of transfers.
 - Football academies as neo-colonialist structures: constrain development, unequal distribution of the gains and decline in educational enrolment.
- [Historical perspective: change](#) –
 - Sport leagues used to be dominated by locals with a small number of 'imports'.
 - There were also movement constraints within and across sport leagues – 'retain and transfer' systems.
 - E.g. Roberto Clemente celebrated as one of the few Latinos in Major League Baseball.
- [Background: Freedom of contract issues in England](#) –
 - Legal rights and issues concerning movement between clubs and nations.
 - A history of club/player disputes.
 - Professional football est. 1880s.
 - One year contracts / retain and transfer.
 - Some players wished to move at the end of their contract despite the offer of a new one.
 - Independent Tribunal System established in 1978 to decide on an arbitrary fee to try to sort out disputes.
- [Europe and the Bosman ruling](#) –
 - 1990: RC Liege
 - Marc Bosman tried to negotiate a move to the French league.
 - RC Liege prevented the clearance.
 - Bosman began legal proceedings.
 - Belgian Civil Court ruled in his favour.

- 1995 – ECJ ruled illegal ‘any transfer fee claims on imposed on players moving, out of contract, from one EU country to another’.
 - Bosman initially went to court with an issue for free movement.
 - Impacted on all EU member nations.
- ‘Glocal’ tensions –
 - Can you still identify with a team that has almost exclusively international players on the field
- Consequences of player migration –
 - Quality of the League –
 - The concept of ‘feet exchange’
 - ‘Feet drain’
 - Impacts on the national team
 - Impacts on foreign players
 - Social issues –
 - Multiculturalism
 - Racism
 - Impacts on individual players
 - Commercialisation
- Power shifts: Salaries of European footballers –
 - Italy and Europe had huge growth between 1995 and 2001/02 season.
 - France and Germany also, not to the same extent as Italy and Europe though.
- African dreams in football –
 - European football academics set up in Africa
 - Unfulfilled professional aspirations = bleak future
 - Issue of human trafficking
- Summary –
 - History of draconian contractual arrangements
 - Difficult relationship between club owners and players
 - A series of interventions
 - Marc Bosman case radically altered this relationship
 - Significant impacts on labour migration
 - Players now have significant power
 - Not all make it to the top



Reading 2 – The World At Their Feet – Magee & Sugden 2002

- The global migration of footballers to and within the top professional leagues in Europe has greatly accelerated in the last decade.
- The English leagues, especially the Premier League, have experienced an associated and pronounced increase in foreign player migration.
- The globalisation of football and its labour migrants can only be considered as part of a multifaceted and multidirectional process.
- Reasons for the increase in foreign players:
 - The establishment of the Champions League + subsequent high levels of economic reward.
 - The Marc Bosman case that, introduced freedom of contract
 - Rapid upward surge in revenue accrued from the media and sponsors
- Although the presence of high-quality players could help the development of the English game, a flood of less gifted players from overseas had the potential to undermine grassroots football.
- Part of the game’s income was given to players as they sought remuneration for their services.
- There is relatively little movement across the borders of the home nations and the Irish Republic, whereas there is an influx of players from continental Europe and beyond.

- Although football has developed globally, Europe continues to be the core of its professional development, with Italy and Spain at the apex.
- With reference to the figure on the right, at present, the core consists of Europe, the semiperiphery of South and Central America, the periphery of Africa and the external arena of Asia and North America.
- A Typology of Football Labour Migration –
 - Mercenary – migrant who is motivated by earning capacity.
 - Settler – someone who has moved to English football and remained in England for a sustained period.
 - Ambitionist –
 - Someone who had the strong desire to achieve a professional football career.
 - Player who moves to English football because of a high preference of playing there.
 - Desire to improve his career by moving to a better quality league.
 - Exile – someone who, for football-related, personal or political reasons, opts to leave his country of origin to play abroad.
 - Nomadic cosmopolitan – someone who is motivated by a desire to experience different nations and cultures.
 - Expelled – player who is, in effect, forced to migrate to England.
 - Celebrity superstar – player who demands front-page coverage, as well as back-page exposure, and has become somewhat public property. E.g. David Beckham.
- It must be recognised that the category labels are not fixed.
- These categories have a shifting dimension dependent on the career stage of the individual player.