

Center for the Study of International Migration, UC Los Angeles  
Seminar for Comparative Social Analysis, UC Los Angeles  
Center for Comparative Immigration Studies, UC San Diego  
Berkeley Interdisciplinary Migration Initiative, UC Berkeley  
Global Migration Center, UC Davis

## ***Moved by Modernity: How Development Shapes Migration in Rural Ethiopia***

Thursday, January 29, 2025 | 12:00PM - 1:30PM Pacific Time  
Will be held in person (Bunche 10383) and via Zoom (This Event May Be Recorded)



### **Kerilyn Schewel**

Kerilyn Schewel is an assistant professor of sociology at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. Her research examines the root causes of human migration and immobility, with an emphasis on the themes of gender, youth, education, rural development, and climate change. She has carried out extensive qualitative and mixed-methods fieldwork in Ethiopia. Her work has been published in *Social Forces*, *International Migration Review*, *Population and Development Review*, among other journals, and her first book is *Moved by Modernity* (Oxford University Press, 2025).



**MOVED BY MODERNITY**  
How Development Shapes  
Migration in Rural Ethiopia  
KERILYN  
SCHEWEL

In this groundbreaking study, Kerilyn Schewel draws on extensive fieldwork in Wayisso, a rural Ethiopian village, to examine how generations of families adapted their aspirations, livelihoods, and migration strategies amid their country's tumultuous pursuit of modernization. Their stories offer rich insights into what development actually looks like in rural societies--and why it so often fuels both internal and international migration. Interweaving life histories, survey data, and ethnographic vignettes, *Moved by Modernity* explores how key forces of social change--political reform, education, market expansion, and foreign investment--reshape both aspirations and capabilities to migrate. Schewel shows that those who leave Wayisso are not fleeing poverty; they are often more educated, better connected, and actively seeking modern lives. Meanwhile, the poorest households remain behind, unable to migrate--trapped by the very forces assumed to push them out.



**Discussant: Nick Tinoco (Sociology, UCLA)**

**[Register Here](#)**

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