



***Not Two-to-Tango, But Three-to-Samba:
Dilemmas of the “Transit Countries” in Migration Diplomacy***

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This paper seeks to advance the burgeoning field of migration diplomacy, which has primarily examined the interplay between migration and foreign policy through the lens of “transit” countries in the Global South. It aims to underscore the agency of involved nations - whether they are sending, receiving, or transit countries -- and to explore the dynamics of power asymmetries among these nations, particularly in the context of transit countries. In the complex landscape of migration diplomacy, transit countries often navigate multifaceted challenges as they are simultaneously linked to both origin and destination countries of migrants who traverse borders step by step. The debates presented throughout this paper examine the intricate dilemmas faced by transit countries, -specifically focusing on the cases of Mexico, Morocco, and Turkey over the past fifteen years. Through a comparative approach, this paper underscores the necessity for a nuanced understanding of transit migration dynamics and migration diplomacy, emphasizing that the interplay among transit countries, origin countries, and destination countries is not merely a bilateral affair but rather a tripartite engagement that necessitates comprehensive policy frameworks and complex diplomatic processes.

Ahmet İçduygu earned his PhD in Demography from the Australian National University and is currently a full professor at Koç University, holding positions in both the Department of International Relations and the Department of Sociology. He is also the Director of the Migration Research Center at Koç University (MiReKoc). Prof. İçduygu has held visiting professorships at prestigious institutions, including Stockholm University, the University of Warwick, European University Institute, and the University of Pennsylvania, among others. An elected member of the Science Academy in Turkey, he serves as editor-in-chief of the scholarly journal *International Migration*. His research and

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