The level of competency of the essays is high, ranging from an acceptable soundness of scholarship to the sharply insightful. The essays uniformly demonstrate an awareness of the important literary artists in each ethnic group and usually in the notes for each essay are found, rather haphazardly, some important sources for further reading. Of the twelve essays, the most valuable seem to be the four relating to the German, Italian, Portuguese and Russian-American authors.

As a source book this volume could be used effectively by undergraduate students, for it supplies a good short introduction to the literature of each ethnic group; in a basic multi-ethnic American literature course it could supplement a strong anthology such as Faderman and Bradshaw’s Speaking for Ourselves. However, for the professional scholar the book has minimal value.

—Stewart Rodnon
Rider College


The summer, 1982, edition of the International Migration Review is a special issue. It contains eight articles which are revisions of papers presented at the Conference on Immigration and Ethnicity Theory and Research, held at Duke University in May, 1981. The purpose of this meeting was to assess the state of knowledge in the field, present new findings and ideas, and identify areas for future investigation. Special attention was given to the determinants of migration, the reception of ethnic minorities, and changes over time.

The first four articles focus on migration within the context of the controversy between equilibrium and structural theories. In the first article Wood recommends the household as the unit of analysis in migration studies. He contends that this unit of analysis permits an integration of structural and equilibrium (individual) theories. For Wood the study of households reveals the interactions between structural and behavioral factors that determine migration. The second article by Bach and Schraml criticizes Wood’s proposal. They conclude their paper by vaguely suggesting that other alternatives “constructed out of the principles of collective behavior” (339) be explored. Pessar’s article on out-migration from the Dominican Republic attempts to
illustrate the importance of the household as a unit of analysis in migration studies. Her analysis shows how households contribute to the migration process. Grasmuck’s article deals with the movement of Haitians to the Dominican Republic side of the island to improve their economic position. In sum, the first two articles discuss broad theoretical perspectives on migration and propose frameworks for analysis, while the third and fourth articles study specific migratory patterns. Wood and Pessar present a convincing case for analyzing migration in terms of the household.

Articles five through eight are concerned with varied interests. Cornelius discusses the study of undocumented immigrants in the United States. Referring to his experience with Mexican immigrants, he offers ways to increase the reliability and validity of interviews with these “unofficial” immigrants. Hechter et al., following the suggestion of Bach and Schraml, propose a rational choice theory of collective action among ethnic groups. They focus on the conditions under which collective action is apt to occur, and why it takes a particular form, but not another. Their article is highly theoretical. It would have been beneficial to the reader if this issue contained an article or two that used this approach with a specific group. Tienda stresses the importance of the structural perspective in her analysis of Mexican American occupational and educational status attainment. Interestingly, she found that close ethnic ties did not lower socioeconomic attainment. The last article by Hirschman provides an overview of recent studies of ethnic groups. Following Milton Gordon, he focuses on structural assimilation. Hirschman emphasizes the importance of population characteristics, opportunity structures, and institutional responses to minorities. He also presents a comparison of immigrants and minorities. While he doesn’t offer anything new, he does provide a review of old issues and he points to new areas for future research.

This issue of International Migration Review should be useful to those readers who wish to become acquainted with migration theory, or those who are interested in the specific topics (undocumented immigrants, Haitians, Dominicans and Mexican Americans) addressed by these writers. Those with different ethnic interests should still keep the International Migration Review in mind. It is likely that other issues of this journal contain articles relevant to their research.

— John P. Roche
Rhode Island College