The purpose of this thesis is to 1) discuss the push and pull factors of African immigration (migration theory) to Finland and Sweden, 2) compare the African immigrants resident in both countries in terms of flows, stocks and trends, 3) describe and compare the immigration policies of the two receiving countries and try to see how they do affect African migration, and 4) discuss the case of Ghanaians in Finland. Africa is just one sending region.

Official opinion has tended to turn against immigration and refugee flows into most Western industrialised nations in the 1980s, and increasingly so in the 1990s, especially with reference to non-European immigrants.

The availability of reliable statistical data coupled with the fact that neither Sweden nor Finland is a traditional immigration country for Africans, but have an evidence of their increased number in the 1990s, provide a formidable base for such a study.

The analysis is conducted using the latest relevant national and international sources. The works of Hammar, Weiner, Castles, Castells and Massey are worthy of citation. African migration has been put into global perspective. SPSS and Population Analysis Sheet (PAS) were employed. Snow-ball and participant observation methods were used in a sample survey study of Ghanaians.

The analogy between immigration policies and immigrant policies are important in drawing a border line between the State perspective and the immigrant perspective. In both countries, there is no link between population policy and immigration policies. The latter rather than push and pull factors in Africa determine flows, stocks and trends. Controlling immigration and controlling the labour market are not defined. Sweden would require foreign labour sooner than Finland as emigration is increasing rapidly.

Globalisation and multiculturalism are impossible without migration and African migration into the Nordic region is a challenge to each country and to human rights. Perhaps black people are conceived of as a threat in international migration and therefore more studies on race and ethnic relations are required. Women and immigrants are sidelined in migration research. Not many open questions and debates in immigration policies are observed in Finland and media monologue rather than dialogue is pursued vigorously. Globalisation propelled Ghanaian propensity to immigrate to Finland. Are they here to stay? Most of them could not tell.