

Babes- Bolyai University in Cluj-Napoca

Sociology and Social Assistance Faculty in Cluj-Napoca

Domain: Sociology

PhD THESIS

INTERNATIONAL MIGRATIONS AND URBAN PLANNING

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Summary of the PhD Thesis

As structure, the PhD thesis has an introduction and five chapters with subchapters and conclusions. Within the thesis, there are 22 tables and 21 graphics, models and figures.

The fact that generated the topic of the thesis is represented by the migration phenomenon that has developed for many centuries and, certainly, it will go on. For ages, its forms have been changed, the directions of the migration flows, the intensity of its manifestation as phenomenon, etc. By its amplitude, complexity and effects, migration generates a great interest for the theoreticians, debates and controversies for both politicians and other levels of society. Migration, as it exists nowadays, is a phenomenon with a fast dynamics due to the important geo-political and economic changes that are taking place at international level. We consider that empiric research on this subject is necessary because it reveals new sides of this phenomenon.

At the level of the Romanian society, the migration phenomenon has its own particularities and evolutions. Against important psycho-affective sacrifices, very many Romanians are working abroad. The migration of those working abroad after the Romanian revolution, has been increasing. It has become a phenomenon with great socio-economic and cultural dimensions. Taking into consideration what has been said before, the Romanian migration could represent an analysis reference for the migrations in Europe.

In the overall part of the herein thesis, there has been included the first sociology research that refers to both „Ravenstein`s laws”, the analyses regarding the Polish migration and the modern theories of the cumulative causes, neoclassic, social and structuralist approaches of the

international migration. The theories referring to globalisation, transnationalism, multiculturalism, cumulative causes and cultural inputs belong to the interpretation process of migration. The paradigms proposed by these theories have a bigger or smaller interpretative value, but all have enriched the sociology domain.

The first chapter presents the concepts of migration, globalisation, multiculturalism, transnationalism, migration culture and the most important theories of migration as well. The brief history regarding the migration flows reveals a rich history of the migration movements of populations beginning with the XIX-th century up to nowadays. At present, migrants from the member countries of the European Union, Asia and America try to find a work place in Europe. The economic motivation of the present migration is the most important aspect if we consider the fact that, at its basis, there is the migrants` desire of both having a better paid work place in order to have a better living and helping their family members who remained in the country by remittances.

In the first chapter there are synthesized the policies of the European states regarding migration: the Treaty from Amsterdam (1999), the Program from Tampere (1999), the Program from Hague (2004), the Green Card (2005), the Program from Stockholm (2010). By the model of wide and integrated approach regarding the free movement throughout the member states, it is pointed out the regulation of the migration rights of all citizens. Some Governments from the destination countries adopt measures that restrict the work right on the territory of their countries, and some of the states, that supply work force to the West European market, promote policies of encouraging their citizens to come back home.

The economic migration of the Romanians to countries of the European Union, especially to Italy and Spain, have brought many benefits to Romania as follows: the development of the origin areas of the migrants, the increase of remittances, the lowering of the unemployment pressure on the domestic work force market, the reducing of poverty, the transfer of new organizational cultures, the development of the migrants` abilities of setting up a business and the use of the financial resources in their origin country under direct investments.

The parents` migration and the evolution of the relationship, between children and parents is a complex topic that has been studied and researched. Once the parents are abroad, their

children are looked after by their relatives or/and need to take care by themselves. The statistics data supplied by the General Departments of Child`s Protection, show that, in the last years, in Romania, more than 80.000 children have had their parents left abroad to work.

The second chapter emphasizes both the interpretative paradigms, that have valued the idea of integrating the rural environment into the urban one, including the modernisation of the former, and the traditional ones that demonstrate that the urbanisation restricts the richness and the variety of the cultural life specific to the rural environment.

The theories of urbanisation mention that, on long term, urbanisation has a bigger impact on the economic and human development because the economic increase by industrialisation determines the urban population increase. In Romania, the process of urbanization of the rural environment has spectacularly been increasing since 1956. Valuing the origin of the Romanians is an obligation for sociologists and ethnologists because it supports the effort of keeping the national identity. Going back to rural must happen in the same time with recognising the elements of the modern society. The problems of both the environment and the outskirts areas are becoming more important within the social debates regarding the urbanization, modernization and industrialization. As far as the modernisation and rural urbanisation processes are concerned, there can be mentioned the following aspects: the interest of the rural inhabitants to look for work place not only in industry, tourism, transport, but also in agriculture, that, for centuries, has been their traditional work sector.

The concept of multiculturalism has been analysed in the community premises, from the perspective of the ethnical cohabitation under the circumstances of the fast mobility of the social stakeholders, that happens for either the economic reasons (demand of work force on certain markets in Western Europe, the need of finding better paid work places for the natives that have serious economic difficulties) or political ones.

The third chapter presents the interpretative paradigm, the methodological context and the design of the research together with revealing the topic and the criteria for the comparison. In some other words, the research in the field wants to reveal, from qualitative and comparative point of view, some aspects of the migration process from the Romanian rural environment. In order to achieve the proposed methodological measure, it was decided that the overall objective

of the empiric research is represented by revealing a correlation between temporary migration to work of the rural inhabitants and the level of the urban development of the settlements they belong to.

The overall objective generated the following specific ones: to analyse the changes that occur in the urban structure of the origin settlement along with the development of new local modernisation projects of the employed Romanian migrants; to identify the activities that the migrants could/did initiate in their origin settlement; to show how the sector of activity, that they have worked temporarily, makes them implement the experience they got abroad in their origin settlement; to reveal the research subjects` opinion regarding the support of the Romanian legislation and local authorities to achieve their projects.

The methodology of sociologic research allows to approach scientifically some social issues that are interesting for specialists and wide public, for example the international migration for labour. Within our empiric research, we chose a qualitative approach. Thus, we considered that we may find out more about the behaviour of the migrants coming from the rural environment, that we can contribute to provide more accurate aspect of the theory of migration, that we can build better the hypotheses of work, the variables, the dimensions and the indicators of our research.

In addition, it is described the way of collecting data and the proper research in the field. We explained the criteria that represent the basis of choosing the methods of research, the way of collecting, processing and interpreting the data. We revealed the importance and the role of non participating observation within the sociologic research, we described both the structure and the way of making an interview and the criteria of building an interview guide as well. We chose the comparison within the empiric research taking into consideration that in sociology we compare entities that seem similar. Within the research in the field, we analysed the migration movement in two rural settlements in North and South of Transylvania.

In the first stage of the research in the field, we proposed to observe the phenomenon of migration from/to rural environment, as external observers without occurring in the development of events, but mentioning the data in the observation sheet. On this basis, we could set the connexions and interrelationship that exists between people and their activities in the two

settlements where the empiric research took place. In qualitative sociological approach, life story helps us better understand and define social relations, membership of a group, in our particular case, the group of international migrants for employment, and the interactions between social actors. Taken as a whole, a life story can explain or confirm a certain experience of life through his moral or social context. Moreover, a story includes some social-historical configuration useful for social and human sciences researcher, especially sociologists, which is why I included it in research.

In the next stage, we built an interview guide, less accurate and nondirective, in order to collect as many data as possible from the social stakeholders and members of the local community. The guide was used in our investigations in order to make the interview for the subjects of our research.

The interview guide was the basis of our discussions with the subjects of our research. It has 27 questions and it was created as a research tool in order to approach more aspects related to the experience of the international migration for labor.

The research in the field, undergone in the case that the migration movement is still developing, made us use the “snowball” method in order to select the subjects of the research. The empiric research helped us to reveal not only the opportunities that the international migration for labour offers to the subjects of the research, but also its problematic aspects. It also supported us in comparing the impact of the international migration for labour in two rural settlements in Transylvania.

The fourth chapter synthesises the results of the research, verifies the created hypotheses and reveals the limits and directions of the research. The here in research study shows the following: investment in houses and the increase of the daily comfort represent the main objectives of the subjects involved in the migration flow for labour; the building and modernisation of the houses in Sălaj and Sibiu county are not ostentatious, having an exaggerated living space; the small business that the migrants have in Romania are facing an unpredictable market and legislation.

The fifth chapter focuses on the interview of the paper type quality of life. From a sociological perspective, life story is a method that helps us better understand and define social relations, membership of an individual in a group, in our particular case, the group of

international migrants for employment, and and their interactions with other social actors. Taken as a whole, a life story can explain or confirm a certain life experience through its context or social moral. As stated by. R. Atkinson (2006), a story of life can help the researcher to define the individual's place in the social order and the process is carried out this order. It helps explain how individuals understand events and social movements, political causes which were the basis of them or how perceive members of a group, of a generation or cohort Social certain events or shares.

There are sufficient reasons that the entrepreneur migrants be suspicious as far as the business that they want to initiate or have already made, to be profitable on long term. Saving money, the migrants change the urban aspect of the area and generate changes in power relationship in the origin settlement. Due to migration, the up-and-down movement on the work force market discourages the investors who offer work places in the rural environment that are less paid than the ones in Spain, Italy, Germany, etc. The advantages of a new life standard got by migration makes people migrate again. But this can not solve the problems of the rural or urban community. Finally, we can mention that it has a civilising role on those involved in.

As far as the future limits and direction of the research are concerned, we consider that all the researches are their own limits, more or less, but all can bring an added value to the domains they belong to. As our empiric research was centered on the migration from the rural environment, for sure, at alarger extent, making the same research in other rural areas of the country may reveal other elements that can be added to our conclusions. Beginning from the here in research, we suggest to compare either the nowadays` Romanian rural migration with the migration on the neighbour countries, or the present Romanian migration with other forms of migration existing in last centuries in other countries.

In the future, new objectives and reasons will restructure the financial energy and resources of the subjects of the here in research, but also of other people who have worked abroad for longer or shorter periods of time. We believe that their effort will become concrete at the community level. It is important to say that the migration process, that is still developing, offers a vast and dynamic study area, it reveals the expectations of the contemporary society, the values and attitudes that the migrants are to promote.