

## SHARING MIGRATION EXPERIENCE

### Editorial

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Since migratory activities are part of human existence and movement of people is a part of the movement of nature, migration is a phenomenon so complex that it is manifested in various forms not only in all branches of humanities and social sciences but also in the sciences of living and inanimate nature in general. We can hardly treat complex phenomena, such as migration, in an irrefutable, or undeniable way. Even the question of movement and immobility is a matter of the viewer's point of view. Particularly in the field of anthropology and ethnology, we can best share more or less well-informed judgments, ideas and experiences, which represent their bearers and predominantly make a message about them. Apart from the data presented on migration, there are interesting indications in the texts that suggest why the person who talked about migrations has decided to testify in some way how individual people present themselves by force of the migration, where they try to find their social position and why.

European sociability is currently extremely messy and unpredictable for professionals and even more for people who do not want to study it but need to know a little about it to be part of it. It is full of uncertainties and moral challenges, some of which result from everyday interactions of individuals, but perhaps, even more, are mediated by the Internet and other communication channels that are part of everyday communication with the world as well as face-to-face interactions.

Diversified and unpredictable European sociability is a source of uncertainty, groping, and doubts about the way to follow. Clear polarization and radical attitudes simplify the situation, giving the feeling of something being done. They seemed to clean the air for some time and show who is "really" who. The current discussions about migration seemed to allow this clear polarization, and this is probably one of the reasons why migration cases have been so widely commented. They are an effective tool for the self-representation of people involved in discourse allowing incorporation into clearly defined groups and articulation of collectively shared interests. Networking and coalitions through migratory discourse have proven to be more effective in the past few years than through at least significant ecological issues, healthcare issues, social care, and other important issues that would unify and

polarize the population of Europe in a different way. The discussion on migration has been much more effective in representing different views of the single European coalitions on a whole range of more or less pragmatically established agendas that have been tackled over the long term in Europe. As Saskia Sassen shows, the themes, like migration, can emerge and become invisible again, depending on the context.<sup>1</sup>

The submitted contributions respond to this polarizing discourse only vicariously. Their goal is not to bring any “objective judgments”. Anthropologists or ethnologists will never dispose of them. The aim is not even to support some pro-migration or anti-immigration ideas. Most texts, in particular, show that migration is changing actors who are moving and who remain in place. It changes at the same time the messages that these actors give us about themselves and about the world in which they live their lives, and it is fascinating to discover what they wanted to say with these messages and what they did not want to say about themselves.

The opening text of Markéta Hajská *Economic strategies and migratory trajectories of Vlax Roma from Eastern Slovakia to Leicester, UK* is a comprehensive study of the pre-migration, migration and post-migration activities of the Vlax Romani originating in Slovakia. It shows how migration can be spontaneous, impulsive, and difficult to predict. Markéta Hajská perceives here the full range of possibilities how migration can change the social situation in source and target areas. In particular, it correctly describes that the migration group in new environments needs information and functional literacy for its survival. The newly created status of “intermediary”, which is made up of Romani from longer residency experience in the UK, is a good example of the flexibility of Romani families. Another such example is the accommodation of some Vlax Romani to the new situation by partially or completely covering their costs by earning regular jobs. Markéta Hajská shows us a discourse about it in the Romani community. The text shows the diversity of response to changing conditions. Similarly, the study by Jan Červenka *Language Consequences of Migration of Romani Speakers from Slovakia to Great Britain and Back: the Change of Paradigm of Town Names in Two Romani Dialects* shows this diversity manifested in the language where the Romani adapt new toponyms, names of newly visited cities in the UK.

The refugee fleeing to Europe were particularly discussed in the last decade of the 21<sup>st</sup> century. Given that these types of migration are dynamically changing due to the social situation in the world, I am wondering if at this point we have a sufficiently good conceptual apparatus to describe these types of migrations. From this situation, the path leads only through intense study and discussion of individual cases and work with the empirical material. We should realise that the testimonies of the academicians on these migrations are of various quality and are written with numerous intentions. Attentive reading and study of the context, however, will bring us closer to understanding these phenomena. We are glad that we can contribute by three texts to this discussion: that of Myrto Tsilimpounidi and Anna Carastathis *The ‘Refugee Crisis’ from Athens to Lesvos and Back: A Dialogical Account* the Greek

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<sup>1</sup> <http://kingsreview.co.uk/articles/interview-saskia-sassen/>. Visited: December 17<sup>th</sup>, 2017.

migration environment; and that of Stylianos Kostas *Irregular vs. Illegal Immigration: Setting the Definitions. An Overview of European Practice* discusses meanings of terms irregular migration and migrants. The following text by Boris Divinský *Soros' Migration Plan – A Myth or Reality?* scrutinizes the catastrophic plot scenarios that accompany current migration to Europe.

There are also some news from international conferences and book reviews concerning main theme of this issue at the end of the volume. We hope the reader will find the contents of this special issue interesting and enriching.

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