

ИНСТИТУТ ЗА ЕТНОЛОГИЯ И ФОЛКЛОРИСТИКА С ЕТНОГРАФСКИ МУЗЕЙ - БАН

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**FROM PRE-MODERN *KURBET* TO POST-MODERN TRANSNATIONALISM. THEORETICAL AND
METHODOLOGICAL REFLECTIONS BASED
ON A CASE STUDY**

Vassilis Nitsiakos

Abstract

In this paper the author questions the validity of concepts such as “migration” and “transnationalism” for the understanding of migration in a specific Balkan ethnographic context, that of the Albanian-Greek frontier. Instead of the term “migration” he adopts the term “transborder mobility”, deconstructing nationalist approaches to this mobility which has been a diachronic process in all the Balkans. An attempt is also made to deconstruct the notion of “transnationalism”, which seems to obscure rather than illuminate the actual process of population mobility across the national border taking place in this area. He argues that ethnicity and the process of boundary construction in the context of the transnational space formed after the 1990s are more useful conceptual tools in analyzing and understanding what is going on in this area.

MIGRATION AND COLLECTIVE FORMS OF SUPPORT OF THE BIRTHPLACES AT THE CASE OF ALBANIANS FROM MACEDONIA

By Ivaylo Markov

Abstract

Labour migration among Albanians from Republic of Macedonia are a mass phenomenon – during last ive decades tens of thousands of people have left their native areas seeking proit in Western European countries in order to make better their living standard. Remittances sent by migrants are important sources of income for their relatives in place of origin.

Most surveys examining the effects of migration mostly deal with remittances spent for food, clothing, housing, education, and health services. Investments in family-based business activities often are other accent of analyses. However in proposed paper I would like to pay attention to issues of community-based or collective remittances. In theoretical literature collective remittances are seen as donations turned into investments of public interest. Various community projects inanced through collective remittances have taken place in the localities with high rates of migration. What distinguishes these projects is namely the collective benefit or good they provide.

The paper examines different forms of such local projects based on collective remittances and mutual community engagement in Albanian villages in Macedonia. With such resources people urbanize their villages, seriously ill people or people hit by some disaster are also supported. Questions about the existence, uses and impacts of collective remittances are analyzed in relationship to the broader discussion of remittances and development.

MIGRATIONS, MIGRANTS AND COMMUNITY MYTHOGRAPHY CONSTRUCTION

(Based on biographical narratives of Bulgarians from Hungary)

Veneta Yankova

Abstract

This exposition is an attempt to answer questions such as: How do Bulgarians in Hungary remember and “imagine“ their migrant background? How and with what images the migrant and migration exist in individual, family and collective memory? The author attempts to highlight processes that develop in a biographical track of time: understanding the specific life events, real people and ancestors towards the construction of a community mythography. The pattern of an indicative trend is marked in terms of developing the cultural memory of community: the transformation of a former labour migrant - gardener into an iconic image and moral model for the post-immigrant generations.

**MIXED MARRIAGES AS A REASON FOR AND A CONSEQUENCE
OF THE CONTEMPORARY BULGARIAN EMIGRATION TO EUROPEAN AND NON-EUROPEAN
COUNTRIES. STRATEGIES FOR CO-EXISTENCE**

Yelis Erolova

Abstract

This article discusses bi-national marriages as a reason for and a consequence of the contemporary emigration of Bulgarian citizens. The main research questions are focused on the importance of bi-national marriage in terms of migration, strategies for coexistence in mixed families and the participation of marriage migrants in the maintenance of transnational social networks. The author uses empirical material from European and non-European countries to illustrate how bi-national marriage motivates the desire of migrants for permanent migration, changing their original attitudes; how spouses maintain the balance between cultural differences and similarities; the extent to which Bulgarian marriage migrants keep the bond with their home country and in what direction. Mixed marriages disperse the family-kinship network beyond the territorial and political boundaries, creating transnational links that are essential and crucial for the preservation and development of the ethnic and cultural identity of the Bulgarian migrants through which they constantly „recognize“ themselves while living abroad.

**BULGARIAN CHRISTIAN CHURCHES IN LONDON
AND CROSSING OF BOUNDARIES**

Mila Maeva

Abstract

The paper focuses on the role of Christian churches and religion among the Bulgarian emigrants in the UK for the practical and emotional integration of newcomers in the multicultural British society. The author shows how the Christian denominations are ethnically/nationally bound by defining them as “Bulgarian” and turning them into emigration institutions. Despite their positive role in the emigration process, the Christian churches have a dual significance for the Bulgarian community in the UK. Religion builds ethnic boundaries locking emigrants within (or perhaps trapping them) the “Bulgarian” and deprives them of the possibility of social and cultural integration in Britain.

RURAL-URBAN MIGRATION AND THE NEW MAN
(ACCORDING TO THE EXAMPLE OF DIMITROVGRAD AND THE METALLURGICAL INDUSTRIAL
ENTERPRISE “KREMIKOV TZI”)

Biljana Raeva

Abstract

The intensive processes of industrialization and urbanization in Bulgaria, which began in the late 40s of the twentieth century, coincided with attempts to transform society according to the prescriptions of socialism. The rural-urban migration goes under the sign of the desire of the ruling Communist Party to create a so-called “New Man”. The cultivated attitudes and forms of behaviour aimed not only to impose the ideological assumptions for the person under socialism, but also supported the adaptation of the influx of peasants into the cities to the urban lifestyle and work in industrial enterprises. One of the methods to achieve this was by controlling the demands for consumption of the migratory flows of people.

This paper focuses on the construction of two sites with symbolic meaning for socialism – “the first socialist town in Bulgaria” Dimitrovgrad (late 40’s – early 50’s) and the Metallurgical industrial enterprise “Kremikovtzi” (early 60’s), including the changes in the official discourse on the theme of migration from the 70’s – 80’s. Besides marking the stages of industrialization in the country, Dimitrovgrad and “Kremikovtzi” reflect trends in the socialist urbanization. With the help of research methods such as discourse analysis of texts from the local and national press, as well as propaganda literature, the use of caricature as a historical source, presenting excerpts from interviews with residents of Dimitrovgrad and former workers in Kremikovtzi, the author reveals the expectations (at times, conflicting) of both sides – the party-state and the migrants on the results of migration. The managers wanted to see inspired builders of socialism, while people who had chosen as the end point of their settlement (this included seasonal migrations as well) the two sites of the study were driven by different motives – from supporting the system to searching for personal gain as profit-seeking and acquisition of Sofia residence.

**THE TURKISH IMMIGRANT COMMUNITY IN FRANCE.
A BIBLIOGRAPHIC REVIEW OF ACADEMIC LITERATURE IN FRENCH**

Valentina Sharlanova

Abstract

The author provides a bibliographic review of the studies on the Turkish immigrant community in France which is the second destination for Turkish immigrants in Europe after Germany. In France the literature concerning them appeared much later due to their late arrival to the country. At the beginning the Turkish communities are mostly discussed for the big cities in France and primarily in comparison with other immigrant communities. Since the 90's of the XX century the Turkish immigrant community is already at the centre of research done by scholars from different social sciences – sociologists, historians, demographers, anthropologists. They focused on the main problems related to the ethnic, cultural and linguistic characteristics which distinguish immigrants from host societies. An object of study are also the changes taking place in the Turkish immigrant families in immigration context, identity formation of the second and third generation of this community, the role of individual members of the Turkish families in the process of their integration into the host society.

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