

Labour Migration and Social Work: Challenges and Perspectives

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thesis

1. migration and mobility are the result of life-strategies which lead to a multi-local conduct of life
2. labour migration is not an exception but a main reason for migration and mobility in modern societies
3. multi-local conduct of life leads to new challenges for the social life of people, which need to become better understood in their consequences for social work
4. social work practice and research needs to focus more on the wide range of work and migration/mobility issues to understand better the multiplicity of life-strategies in modernity, to develop better support structures for those in need

overview

_introduction

_migration and mobility

_work and migration

_social work and migration

_conclusion

introduction

_migration

- nation-state: migration and mobility as an exception
- globalized world: migration and mobility as a condition of the modern world

_work and migration

- labour migration as a core issue of modern societies
- 21st century: age of migration (Castles/Miller/Haas 2013)

_challenges

- nation-state perspective: regulation and control of (labour-)migration
- migrants perspective: access to the labour market, socialization, workplace integration,

migration and mobility

_multi-locality (Geisen 2014a)

- migration is often understood as international migration
- mobility is perceived as well as moving within a country and as moving across borders

_temporality (Lucassen/Lucassen 1997)

- migration is perceived as permanent
- mobility is perceived as short term or within time limits

_social practice (Hoerder 2001, Geisen 2010, Kasinitz et al 2008)

- migration is perceived as an exception, settledness as the social norm
- mobility is perceived as a normality in modern societies

migration and mobility

_international and internal migration (Cox/Geisen 2014)

- perceived as qualitatively different modes
- perceived as different in their social, cultural and economic relevance
- many migratory experiences are shared equally by both internal and international migrants

_wide understanding of migration (Page Moch, 1997, p. 43)

- migration as a change in residence beyond a communal boundary
- inclusive view of geographical mobility recognizes the interconnections among regional, national, international, and transoceanic migrations and the necessity of considering them as a whole
- mobility practices and experiences are learning processes for migration

migration and mobility

_migration is a type of geographical mobility (Cox 2014; Geisen et al 2013)

– mobility

- encompasses a wide range of social practices, including long distance and boarder crossing commuting, tourism, travelling, occasional or regularly work-stays , being sojourner at one others place
- means keeping one's place as a home and leaving temporally

– migration

- *moving*: change in residence beyond communal boundaries
- *settlement*: new place of living
- *social and economical*: develop new live-strategies
- *emotional*: making home at a new place

migration and mobility

_challenge of belonging (Bakewell 2008)

- migration: belonging to 'one' nation state becomes precarious and new belonging is developing
- mobility: belonging stays within the limits of the nation-state

_challenge of recognition

- migrants are recognized as different and treated not-equal
- mobile people are recognized as identical and treated as equal

_challenge of difference

- migration does produce ambivalence
- mobility does secure distinctness

work and migration

_relevance of work and labour

- modern societies are labour-societies
- individual and social production and reproduction

_structural and historical conditions

- world market for labour-force (Potts 1988)
- basis: division of labour on a global scale
- migration as a process by which the access to the needed labour force becomes organized by the nation states (suppliers and receivers)

work and migration

_migrants perspectives on migration

- to earn one's livelihood
- to support family members
- to realise (family-)projects
- to secure family income

_migrants risks

- 3D jobs: dirty, dangerous, demanding/difficult/demeaning
- health and accident issues
- difficulties in workplace integration
- non-documented migrant workers

social work and migration

_social work (Cox/Geisen 2014)

- undertaken at the intersections of personal, social justice and political issues in everyday life (Salomon 1997)
- is well-placed to understand and support migrant peoples' engagement with complex emotions, experiences, in their loss of and re-building social relationships
- is well-placed to work with them to challenge marginalization, oppression and exclusion and to achieve recognition of their human rights and rights to social justice (IFSW and IASSW, 2013; Humphries, 2008);

_migration and mobility are at the centre of social work

- social workers engage with individuals, families and groups
- *have* social relationships within their networks of communities and societies

social work and migration

_perception of social work and migration

- special issue of social work, e.g. on refugees and newcomers
- core issue which is influencing social work practice in general

_the migrant situation at the labour market

- barriers in the access to the labour market
- higher ratio of unemployment
- challenges of workplace integration

_migrants need of social work

- social support for social problems in general
- social support workplace integration

conclusion

1. migration and mobility are related to each other, migration is a special type of geographical mobility
2. social problems, often resulting in both, migration and mobility issues are at the core of social work research and practice
3. in a labour and migration society workplace integration is a challenge for companies and migrant workers and they need support from social work professionals
4. social work research on labour migration and workplace integration is limited so far and there is an urgent need to better knowledge on these issues to improve social work theory and practice

Thank you very much!