Talouskriisi ajoi romanialaiset siirtolaiset liikkeelle

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INTRODUCTION

Why migration matters?

→ The Age of Migration

‘There can be few people in either industrialized or less developed countries today who do not have personal experience of migration and its effects; this universal experience has become the hallmark of the age of migration.’ (Castles, Miller, 2003)

→ Most of the societies and countries affected by migration as sending countries, transit countries or destinations countries, or few of this dimensions at the same time.
Linkages and interaction in between migration and almost all global, national and local issues and the other way around:

- the economical crisis and the sending countries/destination countries migrant households wellbeing etc; the ‘brain drain’ phenomena; national economies and national development and remittances; the labor markets and migrant workers etc.

- Multiculturalism, diversity and dynamism. The death of multiculturalism?

- Women on the move; gender selective migration and labor (ex. the so-called ‘maid’s trade’). Minorities and vulnerable groups on the move.


- New times, new forms of migration need for New understandings and new lenses.
  - circular migration, temporary migration, not anymore ‘A→B’ migration paths,
  - transnational spaces and living, transnational families, diasporas.
AIMS AND METHODS

- The multifaceted experiences felt by the Romanian migrants and their households, in the context of the economical crisis.

- Looking specifically at the role of migration processes and the economical crisis in shaping the migrants and households conditions and roles.

- Using a feminist approach and analyzes migration and the migration experiences in the context of migrants gender, class, ethnicity, class and legal status and stands for rethinking human mobility in the context of fundamental rights and freedoms.

- Voices of migrants in migration research (Hrzenjak, 2011)
METHODS


- Participants: Romanians and Romanian Roma migrants; first migration to South Europe in 2006, second migration to Finland and other Nordic countries after 2008. Men and Women, most of them ‘outsiders’ of the labor market in Finland or with short-term working relations.

- Opportunities and challenges: I as a: ‘Romanian’, ‘we versus them (the Finns)’, ‘we, migrants’, ’non-Roma’, ‘non-Roma woman’, ‘Finnish resident’ researcher (‘la noi tiganii’; la romani’).
A. Migration patterns

- Fall of the communism in Eastern Europe around 1989.
- The visa liberalisation in 2004 and the EU enlargement in 2007.
- 19th and the 20th centuries Romanian Roma fled to the Western and Northern countries. The ‘asylum seekers problem’, the migrants’ flood’.
- Central and South Europe have been first and main migration countries. During the last years the high numbers of migrants + the anti-immigration policies and human rights abuses+ the economical crisis in these countries, pushed the migrants to find new destinations.
- Romania as an emigration country; officially 10 per cents of the population lives in another EU country, but the actual numbers are higher (temporary and circular migration, seasonal work etc).
- The Romanian and Romanian migrants in South Europe: domestic workers, agricultural workers (‘the Romanians berry pickers in Spain’), construction workers, day labourers and helpers; street workers (musicians, bottles and metal collectors and other street activities); informal workers.
B. Hit by the crisis


(Romanian Roma woman B 1, Kenttäpäiväkirja.)
When I first left to Spain in 2004, I worked in agriculture as oranges and other fruits and vegetables pickers. It was good, the season was quite long and then we had many hours of work. The employer arranged accommodation close to the farms, so we could actually save money and send to ones left at home. But one year, when I came back from Romania I didn’t get a job anymore. Someone else took my work. Romanian woman, A 2, Kenttäpäiväkirja)

Italiassa oli kerjäläisiä joka kadunkulmassa. Ihmiset olivat myös varsin tympääntyneitä kerjäläisiin. Siksi sinne ei voinkut enää jäädä. …Keräsín ennen metallia ja tölkkżejä, mutta ennen kuin lähdin [Espanjasta], espanjalaisetkin alkoivat kerätä niitä. Puhumattakaan muista siirtolaisista, kaikista niistä afrikkalaisista ja marokkolaisista, jotka veivät meidän työmme. Ei sinne enää voinkut jäädä! (Romanian Roma man, B2 , Kenttäpäiväkirja)
B. Hit by the crisis

- Precarization of work, deterioration of work conditions, even more, *informalization* of work.

- Loss of job, loss of salary, working poor, loss of social status.

- Deterioration of housing, health and overall wellbeing.
A. Less remittances

Before coming to Finland, I was in Spain, playing street music. My wife was with me, she was working as a housekeeper from time to time, when she found work. Our children were in Romania with her mother. We would send every second week money for the daily needs: food, shoes and clothes for the children, sweets and in winter time for wood. Kids are kids, they ask and you cannot always tell them that there are no money. Moreover, from time to time one of them gets sick so they need money to go to the doctor and buy medicine (Romanian Roma man, B 3, Kenttäpäiväkirja.)

When we still worked in agriculture in Spain, we could save some money, send them home and bought a washing machine a TV and so on. Once the crisis started to be felt, all our saving plans ruined! We were barely able to survive ourselves and send some money on children’s birthday’s (Romanian Roma woman, A 3, Kenttäpäiväkirja.)
B. Shrinking families

My wife would call all the time and ask why don’t I send any money, since they didn’t have anything back home. I tried to explain that it was just so hard to make any money, that I barely made for my everyday food. It seemed that she couldn’t understand or trust me (Romanian man, B 4, Kenttäpäiväkirja).
THE FAMILIES AND HOUSEHOLD CRISIS

- Decrease in the level of remittances, lower investments or purchases back home

- Deterioration of family relations, less contacts, less calls and visits back homes versus longer periods of time being abroad; Less opportunities to bring the family members to the emigration country.

- More pressure for both spouses to migrate and leave the children in the care of extended family members, grandparents or older children; ‘care drain’.
PALATAKO VAI OLLAKO PALAAMATTA?

A. ‘Back home, it’s crisis too!’

- En ole ikinä harkinnut paluutta Romaniaan! Mitä minä siellä tekisin? Siellä kriisi on vielä pahempi; Romania on ollut jatkuvasti kriississä Ceausescun jälkeen. Jään mieluummin tänne etsimään töitä tai lähden jonnekin muualle. (Romanian Roma man, B 5, Kenttäpäiväkirja.)

- When the crisis started and I was left without a job, I started to think what to do? Feeling lonely and sad I was thinking that it might be better to go home, at least to be at home, next to the children and wife. But my wife would remind me the reality: what will we do all home, winter is coming, we need wood, we need…. (Romanian man, B 6, Kenttäpäiväkirja)
B. Same dreams, further mobility

I knew that quit many of my neighbours in Romania have started to go to the Nordic countries. Most of them were sending money back home and one family even bought a second hand car in Romania, after migrating to Finland. It was then, when I decided that I have to try my luck in Finland as well (A Romanian Roma man, B7, Kenttäpäiväkirja).

We still didn’t manage to build a ‘room’ of our own. We live with his family, but it is never like having your place. What we made in Spain we used month by month. We bought the land for the house, but still we need to built it. That’s why we came to Finland, to make some money to live and to built ‘a room’ if we manage (A Romanian Roma woman, A 5, Kenttäpäiväkirja).
B. Same dreams, further mobility

- New mobilities.

- Mistrusting the capacity of the country of origin to absorb and support ‘returnees’.

- The circular migration practiced by the Romanian and Romanian Roma migrants discussed, provides the migrant households with small and short term income and investments and not long-term, sustainable income. Therefore, the need for ongoing, circular migration processes.
A. IDENTITY, DIASPORA AND IDENTITY IN FINLAND

 Outsiders; ‘stranieri’ = from outside, strangers; very often Roma identify themselves as ‘the Romanian strangers’ not the Roma strangers/foreigners.

‘we are all Romanians, that’s what matters’.

Appearances and being: long skirts, usually a scarf (changing in behavior might create problems in the community ‘from the time she started to migrate to the West, she forgot to use the skirt and turned to jeans’); ‘we came here to beg and then we go’.
A. IDENTITY, DIASPORA AND IDENTITY IN FINLAND

Gypsyness, otherness, stigmatization, panic, criminalization
Very much emphasized in the media and the public opinion: ‘the beggars’, ‘the gypsies’, ‘begging, as human condition that doesn’t fit to the Nordic welfare model’, ‘ante-portes’

Racialized exclusion in the home country as well as in the destination country
‘we don’t need anything else, then a place outside of the city, where we can sleep and then come to the city and beg. We don’t want to disturb anyone, but just to make some money and send back home (A 7)’
UUSI MAA, VANHAT HAAVEET JA ONGELMAT: OTHERNESS, INSECURITIES AND INEQUALITIES

B. SOCIO-POLITICAL DISCOURSES AND SPACES IN FINLAND

- The Nordic welfare model versus the ‘EU tourists’; Humanitarian migrants?

- Hierarchy of rights?

- Responsibility relies on the country of origin → The migrants shouldn't become a burden for the host state → Go home!; ‘Nationalizing poverty’, National poverty it a priority

- The welfare model as source for restricting immigration policies? Ex. policies and discourses developments.

- ’Maassa maan tavalla’ (SDP, 2010); Raise of nationalism and populism.
The ‘outsider problem’

If all non-white people living in Europe would move back to their countries of origin, the crimes will reduce in Europe with tenths of percent’s / Mikko Ellilän / 2007.
DISCUSSION

- Minorities and vulnerable groups at risk.

- A need for intersectional (considering dimensions such as: ethnicity, gender, status in the countries, class ) and transnational ‘lenses’ in studying the migrants conditions and processes.

- Emigration countries → transit countries → destination countries; holistic and interconnected processes and impacts.

- Crisis and disasters in one part of Europe affect households and wellbeing in other parts of Europe / world.
Sources


Hamburg: Institute of International Economics.


