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Migration and Transnationalism - Migrating People, Migrating Culture: Optics, Methods, and Impacts

Transnational Involvement and Social Integration of the People from Former Yugoslavian Countries in the Area of Brno

My final essay will be written in the form of extended research proposal or introductory part of the research report. The topic will be transnational activities and social integration of the people from former Yugoslavia, or today's Slovenia, Croatia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Serbia, Montenegro, and Macedonia in the area of Brno. I find this topic interesting, important, and relevant because of the growing number of people from listed countries in Brno. By living here and participating in different social, economic, and cultural activities, they are influencing all these conditions of life in Brno and contributing to its multiculturalism. As we are living in globalized world which parts are constantly becoming more connected, it is important to understand that people living in immigrant societies are also influencing their societies of origin – again by contributing to their social, economic, cultural, and political fields. Therefore, in this case the idea is to do the research in order to understand, classify, and specify migration characteristics, consequences, and flows of people coming from former Yugoslavia to Brno.

In the context of topic focus will be put on self-identification of mentioned people. Precisely, we will try to find out if they are identifying more with co-citizens in Czech Republic, or co-citizens in their home country, or maybe with the members of the same ethnic group in Czech Republic or any other area. Moreover, we will try to find out the level of transnational activities and its influence on the overall level of their integration in Czech society. By transnational activities we understand events taking place in destination country such as cultural events with artists from their home countries, various meetings with other emigrants from home countries, or participation in politics of home countries, as well as activities directed towards countries of emigration such as money transactions, visits, and political participation there (Snel, Engbersen, and Leerkes, 2006: 289). We will also try to think about the transnationalism as a form of incorporation in the society of immigration. Influence of structural characteristics such

as educational level, material, social, and cultural capital on transnational activities and level of incorporation in society of immigration will also be researched.

Key ideas would be to define the structure of group of (trans)migrants from former Yugoslavia in Brno, examine their motives for moving to Brno, plans for the future (learning Czech language, studying at Czech universities, working after graduation), and in the frame of migration and transnationalism theories and previous researches try to analyze and anticipate future number and structure of groups of people coming from former Yugoslavia to live in Brno.

Concepts that will be used and analyzed in the essay are transnationalism, transnational activities, transnational involvement, transnational identifications, ethnic identification, social integration, social incorporation, assimilation, acculturation, transmigrants, transnational communities, transnational social fields/places/spaces, and structural vs. cultural integration.

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